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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JUNE 24 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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BELIEVE IN INDIA'S MAGIC: BADSHAH 10 VIVACITY

CAPSULE

HARYANA EX-CM OP CHAUTALA TO WALK FREE
New Delhi: Former Haryana Chief Minister OP Chautala, who is serving a 10-year prison term in a teacher recruitment scam case and is out on parole, will be freed from Tihar jail as the Delhi Government has granted a six-month remission of sentence, officials said.

MONSOON LIKELY TO ELUDE DELHI TILL JUNE
New Delhi: Delhi is unlikely to receive monsoonal showers till the end of June and the maximum temperature in the city is predicted to hover around 40 degrees Celsius till then, according to the IMD.

KARNAM MALLESWARI IS SPORTS VARSITY'S 1st VC
New Delhi: India's first female Olympic medalist Karnam Malleswari has been appointed the vice-chancellor of Delhi Sports University, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

PRASHANT KISHOR MEETS PAWAR FOR 3RD TIME
New Delhi: Political strategist Prashant Kishor met NCP supremo Sharad Pawar on Wednesday, a day after leaders of eight Opposition parties gathered at Pawar's residence and discussed various issues facing the country.

INDIA PROUD OF ITS OLYMPIANS: PM MODI
New Delhi: On the occasion of Olympic Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is proud of the contributions made to sports by athletes who have represented the country at the Olympics over the years.

J&K political future hinges on all-party meet outcome

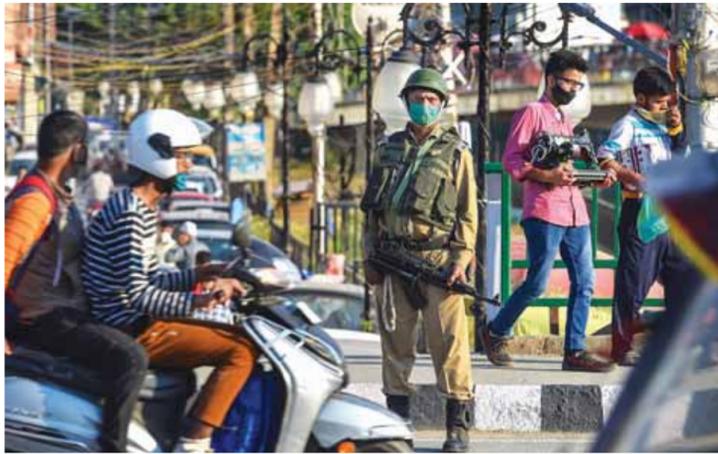
Centre to break ice with J&K leaders today

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The return of political normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir and conduct of elections will largely depend on the outcome of the crucial all-party meet convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the leaders of the Union Territory in New Delhi on Thursday.

Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti arrived in Delhi on Tuesday. Though the meeting is taking place in the national Capital, the security has been beefed up all across the Union Territory of J&K. A high alert has also been sounded along the Line of Control and the International border to prevent any misadventure from anti-national elements at this crucial juncture.

After the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, it is for the first time that more than one dozen leaders from the region, including four former Chief Ministers and four Deputy Chief Ministers, would be sitting together under the



A security official stands guard ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with political leaders from Jammu & Kashmir, in Srinagar on Wednesday. This will be PM Modi's first interaction with all the mainstream political parties of Jammu & Kashmir since August 5, 2019, when the Centre abrogated the States special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories: J&K and Ladakh

same roof with the Prime Minister to share their opinions and give suggestions to kick-start the stalled "internal" dialogue process.

Now the question arises in the absence of any concrete agenda of the meeting, whether the Central Government would be able to break the ice or the mainstream leaders would return home empty handed.

Inside reports suggested the Central Government is keen on pushing the agenda of timely completion of process of delimitation of Assembly constituencies so that Assembly polls can be organised in due course of time. Voices have been raised in support of restoring the statehood of Jammu & Kashmir as part of biggest confidence building

measure. The same demand has been raised by the leaders from both the regions and the Union Government too is committed to grant statehood to J&K at an appropriate time.

Sources said that while the Centre may agree to restore statehood to J&K minus Ladakh, it will not bring back Article 370 at any cost.

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Delta Plus variant cases double in 24 hrs in India

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Karnataka on Wednesday joined the list of States reporting infectious Delta Plus variant of Covid-19, a mutated version of highly contagious Delta variant, taking the total number of reported cases to 46 across the country, more than doubling a day after the reported 22 cases on Tuesday.

Maharashtra tops the list so far with 21 cases followed by Kerala and Madhya Pradesh which are already on alert. The Centre has issued them advisory amid concerns over likely third wave of the pandemic in the country in the next few months. Presently, the



A medic collects a swab sample from a man for Covid-19 testing in New Delhi on Wednesday

Delta Plus virus is prevalent in nine countries across the world — the US, the UK, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, Poland, Nepal, China, and Russia. However, the Delta variant has been detected in 80 countries.

Detected for the first time in India and now known as "Variant of Concern", experts fear that the virus may be lurking in more parts of India, for which genome sequencing is the key to detect these cases. They said it is just a matter of time when more cases will trickle in from other States.

Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar Karnataka on Wednesday confirmed the two cases, one of which is from Bengaluru, while the other is from Mysuru. He said that the information has been shared with the Union Health

Ministry and a further course of action is being planned.

The Minister said the State Government is monitoring the emergence of new variants and it has decided to set up six genome labs in the State. "Wherever we have a suspicion, we are doing genomic sequencing. We are doing random checks of five per cent of the total samples checked."

The strain has been tagged as a "Variant of Concern" by the Centre. "The new Delta Plus variant of the coronavirus is extremely transmissible, and even walking next to a Covid-19 patient who is a carrier of this variant without a mask may lead to the spread of infection," AIIMS director Randeep Guleria said to a news channel.

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Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	3,00,82,030 (+54,147)
DEATHS:	3,92,012 (+1,321)
RECOVERED:	2,90,56,333 (+68,854)
ACTIVE:	6,21,859
MAHA:	58,97,587 (+10,066)
KERALA:	28,42,248 (+12,787)
K'TAKA:	28,19,465 (+4,436)
TN:	24,43,415 (+6,596)
DELHI:	14,33,366 (+588)

Once bitten, twice shy! Akhilesh's no to Cong, BSP ties

SP keeps door open for small caste-based parties in UP

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

With the political activities gathering momentum in Uttar Pradesh and main political players scouting for allies, Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav ruled out alliance with big players like the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Congress, but kept the door ajar for the small caste-based parties.

Having burnt the fingers in 2017 UP Assembly polls and 2019 Lok Sabha elections by forging alliance with the Congress and the BSP respectively, Akhilesh ruled out any tie-up for the Uttar Pradesh election next year and said his party would join forces with like-minded smaller parties.



"Those who want to defeat the BJP, I appeal to them to help the Samajwadi Party," he added.

"My experience with big parties is not good, I will not get into any alliance with them," Akhilesh said. Ruling out a "Bua-Bhatija" repeat act after his 2019 alliance with BSP flopped, Akhilesh admitted that a few BSP leaders were in touch with him.

On the Congress, he said the party was too weak in UP to beat the BJP. "We did not have a good experience with them in 2017 — we gave them over 100 seats but we could not win. The people of UP have rejected the Congress," said Akhilesh, sidestepping a question on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's mission to rebuild the Congress in the State.

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Captain returns home without audience with party high command

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh was given a deadline to fulfil all pre-poll promises by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) three-member panel, the senior Congress leader returned to Chandigarh without meeting the Gandhis — Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, party vice-president Rahul Gandhi, and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi — commonly addressed as the party high command.

On the other hand, Rahul continued meeting the party leaders from Punjab for the third consecutive day, including State Congress president Sunil Kumar Jakhar, Rajya Sabha member Partap Singh Bajwa and Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal. Rahul also met Punjab party affairs in-charge Harish Rawat, who apprised him of panel's meeting with the Chief Minister.

At the same time, taking strong note of the recent statements by the Congress MLA and firebrand leader Navjot



Singh Sidhu, the high command may also summon the former cricketer soon. Notably, the Chief Minister lodged strong objection against Sidhu's "two families taking advantage in the State" remarks, regarding which the high command has also sought details.

Pressure seems to be mounting on Capt Amarinder with the party high command taking a tough stand, and conveying it to the CM that he has to fulfil all the promises made to the people before the State goes to 2022 polls.

Even as Rahul continued to meet the State party leaders, especially those criticising the Chief Minister, a rendezvous with Capt Amarinder was not on his list.

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India meets Taliban on and off to secure its interests

Qatar envoy confirms Indian officials' meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As part of New Delhi's bid to secure reconstruction investments in Afghanistan amid ongoing US troops' withdrawal and likely formation of a new power structure, Indian officials have been meeting Taliban intermittently, including in Doha, but have kept the talks away from public glare.

Qatar's special envoy for counter-terrorism and conflict resolution Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani has been on record stating that India was engaging with the Taliban.

According to reports, Indian officials and Taliban have been in intermittent contact at different levels. India is also pushing for a comprehensive ceasefire in Afghanistan amid reports of violent onslaught of Taliban to take over the provinces of that country.

The US has planned a complete withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan by



Afghan militiamen join Afghan defense and security forces during a gathering in Kabul on Wednesday

September 11. This will end nearly two decades of American military presence in the war-torn country.

At a webinar organised by the Arab Center in Washington DC on Monday, the senior Qatari diplomat said that he believed the Indian side was engaging with the Taliban as the group could be a key component in the future of Afghanistan.

The Taliban and the Afghan Government are holding direct talks in the Qatari capital city Doha to end the war

Banks recover 40% losses from Choksi, Nirav, Vijay Mallya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Assets worth ₹9,041.5 crore, representing 40 per cent of the total loss to the banks due to the PNB credit fraud case involving diamondaire Mehul Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi besides liquor baron Vijay Mallya have been handed over to the public sector banks. These assets were seized by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as part of the money laundering probe against them.

The alleged siphoning off funds by the trio has led to a combined loss to the public sector banks to the tune of ₹22,585.83 crore.

"Due to the cooperation and help extended by ED, public sector banks have already recovered ₹1,357 crore by selling the shares earlier. Thus, the banks shall be realising total amount of ₹9,041.5 crore through sale of a part of assets attached/seized by ED under the provisions of PMLA," the agency said in a statement.

The ED attached/seized assets worth ₹18,170.02 crore which included assets worth ₹969 crore located in foreign countries.

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Dawood's nephew Iqbal Kaskar held by NCB in drugs case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mohammed Rizwan Iqbal Hasan Shaikh Ibrahim Kaskar, nephew of Karachi-based underworld don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar, was on Wednesday arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in connection with a drug-related case. Armed with a production warrant, the NCB picked up Iqbal from Thane prison — where he has been lodged for past five years — and taken to the NCB headquarters for questioning. After several hours of questioning, Kaskar was placed under arrest.

Kaskar's name had cropped during the interrogations of several accused arrested in connection with the seizure of drugs made in central Mumbai. Detailed report on P5

Guv meddling in House affairs: WB Speaker to Birla

PNS ■ KOLKATA

With the relationship between Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee continuing to deteriorate in the wake of his regular talk about the worsening law and order situation, Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee has reached out to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla accusing Raj Bhavan of regular "interference" in the proceedings of the House.

In a virtual meeting, the Bengal Speaker has accused the

Governor of needlessly withholding the Bills passed in the State Assembly.

"I told the Lok Sabha Speaker about the excessive interference of Governor Dhankhar in parliamentary democracy and the functioning of the Assembly. Despite being passed by the Assembly, several Bills are lying with the Governor as he has not signed them. This is unprecedented in the history of West Bengal's parliamentary democracy. Such a thing has never happened before," he said.

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Offers galore to end job hesitancy

Indigo offers 10% discount on airfare, McDonald's 20% on meal for vaccinated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From discounts in flight tickets, waiver on car servicing charges and free mobile charge to heavy rewards are being offered to get people vaccinated. In a move to dispel vaccine hesitancy, rumours and myths surrounding the Covid-19 jabs, corporate sectors, business class and elected representatives are throwing in a little something extra to reward those who have gotten their shot or encourage those who are dragging their feet.

IndiGo airline, India's largest domestic budget air carrier, is offering 10 per cent discounts on flight tickets to those who get vaccinated; McDonald's is offering a 20 per cent discount on meals; an MLA is offering free mobile recharge while another MLA is offering reward of ₹10 lakh for the village that achieves 100 per cent inoculation; Central Bank of India Ltd is offering higher interest on deposits from recipients of at least one dose; boAt is offering 25 per cent discounts on its product; and Beer Cafe's offer gives its consumers a 10 per cent discount on their first job, and 20 per cent on the second one.

In the national Capital's Saket, Select CITYWalk is offering various "encouragement packages" for inoculated

consumers. The list is long. To claim the discounts, people must show their vaccination certificates issued by the Government.

IndiGo airline, India's largest domestic budget air carrier, has launched a Vaxi Fare scheme, giving a 10 per cent discount on airfare on single, return and multiple journeys across India for passengers who are vaccinated with either first or both doses of Covid-19 vaccines. IndiGo airline is the first airline to offer such a discount to domestic passengers. The catch is that only limited inventory is available under the offer.

In Gurugram, Hotel Le Meridien is offering a 30 per cent discount on the total bill at their restaurant, latest recipe, while Hyatt Regency in the city



has a "buy one, get one free" offer during their Sunday brunch and on select spirits at their lounge and restaurant, Kitchen District. It is also giving a discount on spa sessions.

In Delhi, special discount is being offered by Delhi's Zaika's restaurant located in Yamuna Vihar, to those who have taken vaccines against corona.

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Different shots given to six in jab mix-up in J'khand

Palamu (Jharkhand): Six people in Jharkhand's Palamu district were administered Covishield vaccine as their second dose against coronavirus on Wednesday, though they had received a shot of Covaxin as the first, an official said.

This happened because of a mistake, but the change in the vaccine will not have any significant negative effect on them, Chief Medical Officer of the district, Dr Anil Kumar Singh, said.

"Those six people went to a community health centre at Hariharganj to receive their second dose of Covaxin. However, they were given Covishield due to lapse on the part of the employees there," Singh said.

They will be under observation for 24 hours. The six will have to take the second dose of Covishield, the official said.

After the mix-up was noticed, there was a commotion at the centre and police personnel have been deputed at the spot. Chhatrapur Sub-Divisional Police Officer Ajay Kumar said that police and civil officials reached the spot and brought the situation under control. **PTI**

Adani group to operate Navi Mumbai Int'l airport

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Government on Wednesday approved a change in ownership of the company from M/s GVK Airport Developers Limited to M/s Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) to develop and operate the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) in the adjoining Thane-Raigad region.

At its weekly meeting, the State Cabinet - presided over by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray - gave a go ahead to AAHL to be the new concessionaire for the prestigious greenfield airport being developed as a public-private partnership (PPP) project.

Earlier, the airport was to be developed by GVK which was running the Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL). However, the MIAL was taken over last year by AAHL and the same was

approved by the Directorate of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India, SEBI, CCI and finally the CIDCO, which is overseeing the mega-project.

With the state government's approval, the Gautam Adani-headed AAHL becomes the biggest private airport operator running several major airports like Mumbai, Navi Mumbai (proposed), Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Lucknow, besides three more likely in the near future. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEHL), the AAHL now has a majority stake in the new airport, with 26 percent belonging to the AAI.

Being developed on 1,160 hectares of land, Mumbai International Airport is expected to become operational in 2023-2024. When opened, it will become the country's leading airport over the next decade for both domestic and international flights.



Local villagers board a boat to cross Mundeswari river to reach North Batora Island, after a bamboo bridge collapsed due to flood, in Howrah on Wednesday **PTI**

Raj CM: New mining blocks will be identified to generate employment, strengthen economy

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday asked the Mines Department to identify new mining blocks in the State and prepare a plan for allotment through e-auction.

He said that there is immense potential for development of mining sector in Rajasthan.

Gehlot was reviewing the Mines and Geology Department through video conference.

He directed that a new mineral policy should be prepared soon for the development of the mineral sector in the State so that there is more ease in investing and working in this sector.

K'taka launches 2,500 smart classrooms, distributes Tablet PCs to 1.55 lakh students

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday rolled out initiatives to promote digital learning and bridge the digital divide in higher education at a cost of about Rs 195 crore.

The initiatives include distributing Tablet PCs to 1.55 lakh students amounting to Rs 163 crore; creation of 2,500 smart classrooms at Rs 27.77 crore; and development of a learning management system (LMS) at ₹4.04 crore, an official release said.

"The programme is beneficial in moulding the future of the students. Smart classes will include projectors, white board, Android box, UPS and internet facility which will facilitate both teaching and learning," the Chief Minister was quoted as saying by his office in a release.

Despite the impediment caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, he said the government has made efforts to scientifically implement the digital learning programme in

government higher education institutions thereby bring about a complete change in the higher education sector in the State.

The release quoted Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan, who holds Higher Education portfolio, as saying that the Tablet PCs would be given to first-year students of 430 government first grade colleges, 1st and 2nd year students of 87 government polytechnic colleges, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year students of 14 engineering colleges. **PTI**

In jungle raj, safety of women in God's hands: Priyanka slams UP Govt

New Delhi: Hitting out at the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh over the issue of crime against women, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said that in "jungle raj" women's safety is in God's hands.

The Congress general secretary alleged that such crimes are being committed against women in Uttar Pradesh which would make "one's soul tremble", but the Government is "sleeping".

"In Mathura, goons who had been harassing a girl for a year entered her house and threw her from the terrace. A girl, troubled over being teased, ended her own life in Hamirpur," she said in a tweet in Hindi. "In jungle raj, the safety of women is in God's hands," Priyanka Gandhi added.

Her attack on the government came after three men barged into the house of a 17-year-old girl on Tuesday and allegedly threw her off the second floor of the building. **PTI**

Two gang-raped in J'khand's Khunti

Khunti (Jharkhand): A minor girl and a young woman were allegedly raped by four persons at a place in Khunti district, about 40 km from here, a police officer said on Wednesday.

Khunti Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar told **PTI**, raids were on to nab the culprits who were allegedly involved in the crime. According to the complaint lodged with the police, four persons on two bikes abducted the duo at knife-point near Netaji Chowk when they were returning home after shopping on Tuesday evening. **PTI**

J&K political...

From Page 1

Commenting on the possible outcome of the meeting, political analyst Prof Hari Om observed, "The constituents of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration have raised the bar too high for the Prime Minister to concede anything under the prevailing circumstances".

Prof Hari Om said those who are battling in support of restoration of Article 370, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, will come out of the meeting empty handed.

Prof Hari Om said, "The mood of the nation is against any

concession as any U-turn on the part of New Delhi would be construed as a major concession to Pakistan. The demands put forth by the Gupkar Alliance - Article 35A, Article 370, full State status, reunion of Ladakh with J&K and special status - are extraordinary demands. Pakistan is also parrotting the same agenda to pin down India. "None of the five demands could be conceded by the PM without the approval of the Parliament or without amending the Indian Constitution. Besides, his Government has to render the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019 (Act No. 34 of 2019) unreal and ineffective and only the Parliament could do it", commented Prof Hari Om.

Offers galore...

From Page 1

Under the scheme, a discount of 20 per cent will be given on food items. After the unlock, the restaurant is again started offering the discount.

DTH service provider Dish TV is offering free "one day worth of entertainment" to its customers after they upload the details of their vaccination on the company website.

A BJP MLA Vishnu Khatri in Madhya Pradesh has announced that free mobile recharge will be done for all the people in his constituency who get vaccinated by June 30. Before Khatri, Sitasharan Sharma, MLA of Hoshangabad Assembly, had announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh for the village that achieves 100 per cent inoculation. In Sitasharan Sharma's assembly constituen-

cy, there are 40 villages under a total of 23 gram panchayats.

The fast food giant McDonald's is offering a 20 per cent discount on meals. McDonald's India - North and East has launched the "We Care" initiative. It is aimed at encouraging McDonald's customers to join the fight against Covid and get themselves vaccinated. The initiative, launched through McDonald's mobile app, will offer special deals, like discounts on burgers, to the customers post their vaccination. McDonald's customers can avail the limited time offer by uploading their vaccination certificate on McDonald's mobile app under the "Got Vaccinated" tab, along with basic details. Restaurants and hotels brands have also recently come up with special offer to provide vaccinations to customers with lucrative offers.

BharatPe is running an instant cashback offer for its six million merchant partners, if they upload their vaccination certificates on the app.

The Beer Cafe's offer gives its consumers a 10 per cent discount on their first jab, and 20 per cent on the second one.

The Chaayos tea chain is offering tea on the house for those who have taken their first jab. boAt has an attractive offer for those who have received the Covid vaccine. They can take advantage of a 25 per cent discount offer on boAt products. People who avail this offer will also receive a free mask from the brand.

Colorbar, a beauty brand has come up with the #CBCares initiative to spread awareness about the Covid vaccination drive. One can become a part of this initiative by sharing a picture of them-

selves getting vaccinated, for which they will be get Colorbar vouchers worth Rs 500.

Jaan Vision, an organisation in Rajkot district of Gujarat, is providing free food to those who get vaccinated. A car workshop in Mehana, Gujarat is forgoing labour charges on car servicing and offering a 10 per cent discount on car accessories to vaccinated individuals.

SoftBank-backed grocer Grofers a month's subscription to its loyalty program, and home appliances maker Godrej extended product warranties. State-run Central Bank of India Ltd is offering higher interest on deposits from recipients of at least one dose.

Recently, Soni community in Gujarat offered gold nose pins for women and hand blenders to men after vaccination.

Delta Plus variant cases double...

From Page 1

However, Guleria said that right now, the spread of Delta Plus variant is limited in India and we need to continue to be cautious. On Tuesday, the Union Health Ministry had announced that 22 cases of Delta Plus variant have been detected in India. The cases of Delta Plus have been found in genome sequenced samples from Ratnagiri and Jalgaon Districts of Maharashtra; Palakkad and Pathanamthitta Districts of Kerala; and Bhopal and Shivpuri Districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Recently, World Health Organisation (WHO) Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan had warned that the Delta variant is "well on its way" to becoming the dominant variant globally. However, Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director-Bone Marrow Transplant Program, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon, stressed "on knowing the infectivity rate of Delta plus variant and chances it can evade the fully-immunised person." Mask, vaccination and genomic surveillance are the cornerstone for prevention, he tweeted.

Flagging the concern, Dr Arvinder Singh Soin, chairman, Medanta Transplant Institute said that the Delta Plus - a variant of concern, is more transmissible and could even escape vaccines. "We will continue to learn more about it. For now, remember that new variant or old, Covid-appropriate behaviour stays the same," Soin said in his tweet.

India meets...

From Page 1

His remarks came while replying to a question during a discussion on the theme "Looking towards peace in Afghanistan after the US-NATO withdrawal".

"I see the reason behind having a dialogue or talks or reaching out to all parties in Afghanistan but it is important to keep in mind that we are in a critical stage at this time, and I think if any meeting is going to take place, it should be for a major or main reason, which is to encourage the parties to solve their differences by peaceful means," al-Qahtani said.

Recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made two stop-overs in Doha during his visits to Kuwait and Kenya.

In his talks with senior Qatari leaders in Doha, the issue of

Afghanistan was discussed. Jaishankar also held talks on the issue with US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad who was also there in the Qatari capital. The Government is yet to react to the Qatari diplomat's comments. Earlier this month, MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that India is in touch with various stakeholders in Afghanistan in pursuance of its long-term commitment towards peace, development and reconstruction of that country.

In what could be a summing up of the Indian concerns on the Afghan issue, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had last week said that the Taliban's relentless pursuit of power through violence has created an uncertain environment in Afghanistan and the situation in the country is "fluid" at this point in time.

MPDL LIMITED
(Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)
Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Uria Industrial Complex, Raipur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Unit No. 12, GF, Magnum Tower-1 Sector - 58, Gurugram, HR 122011 (INDIA) Phone : +91 11 29218542-46 ; Fax : +91 11 29218541 Email: isc_mpd@monnetgroup.com; Website : www.monnetgroup.com CIN-L71022DL2002PLC019540

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 29th June, 2021 at the Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moh, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and financial year ended on 31st March, 2021.

This information is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com)

By order of the Board of Directors
MPDL LIMITED
(Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)
Anurag Singh Rathore
Company Secretary

Dated : 23.06.2021
Place : New Delhi

Captain returns home without audience with...

From Page 1

Meanwhile, Rahul continued his one on one meetings and met Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar, Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal and Rajya Sabha MP Pratap Singh Bajwa mainly to take a first-hand feedback of the prevailing situation and ground realities in the state after the infighting escalated.

Downplaying the ongoing crisis in the State party unit after meeting Rahul, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) president Jakhar said the main issue under consideration is how to make the party come together for the next Assembly elections and emerge victorious.

Once bitten, twice shy! Akhilesh's no...

From Page 1

He said the SP was targeting 350 of UP's 403 seats in the crucial election that is widely seen as a test of voters' pulse ahead of the 2024 national election, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP will seek re-election and a third straight term in power.

"The BJP is going to lose the upcoming UP elections... they failed the people of UP in the biggest test of their leadership. People were abandoned by the Government. The so-called double-engine government - at the Centre and in UP - is going in different directions," he said.

The former Chief Minister downplayed the "Modi factor" and its potential impact on the UP campaign, flagging the infighting and dissidence against Yogi Adityanath over the past few months. Referring to Modi's close aide AK Sharma settling for a party post after much hype about his UP assignment, Akhilesh remarked, "Dilli wale log usko mantra nahin bana paye , unkp

uttar Pradesh mein vote kaun dega " (Delhi couldn't even make him Minister, who will vote for them)". The BJP would defeat the BJP in UP, he quipped.

Targeting the Yogi Government's handling of the Covid crisis in the State, especially in the second surge, Akhilesh accused the Government of hiding the true figures of deaths. The SP chief also sought to explain a controversial remark that he made on "not taking the BJP vaccine", a reference to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin that was cleared for use while still in clinical trials.

"I had only refused to take the vaccine initially because it had not completed all the trials," Akhilesh said to allegations that his comments added to vaccine hesitancy in UP. On when he planned to take the shot, he kept it open-ended and said: "I have told the UP government that if it is able to vaccinate all the poor free of cost by Diwali, I will take the vaccine." He dismissed the risks involved in delaying vaccination.

"I had Covid in April and scientifically, am safe for three months at least," he said, asserting that his father and former Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav had been vaccinated.

Banks recover 40% losses...

From Page 1

"As on date, out of total attached/seized assets of ₹18,170.02 crore under provisions of PMLA, assets worth of ₹329.67 crore has been confiscated and assets worth ₹9,041.5 crore, representing 40 per cent of total loss to the bank have been handed over to the public sector banks," it said.

The quantum of the attached and seized assets represents 80.45 per cent of the total bank loss pegged at Rs 22,585.83 crore.

The investigation by the ED has proved that substantial part of these assets were held in the names of dummy entities/trusts/ third persons/ relatives of these accused and these entities were proxy of these accused to hold these assets, it said.

Extradition requests have been sent against these persons to the UK and Antigua and Barbuda. The extradition of Vijay Mallya has been ordered by the Westminster Magistrates Court and confirmed by the UK High Court. Since Vijay Mallya has been denied permission to file appeal in the UK Supreme Court, his extradition to India has become final.

The Westminster Magistrates Court has also ordered the extradition of Nirav

MY MONEY SECURITIES LTD.
Regd. Office : 10-A, UNDERHILL LANE, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-54
Ph : 011-23924241, 23930655
CIN : L67120DL1992PLC047890
EMAIL ID : mymoneynews@outlook.com

NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Wednesday the 30th day of June, 2021 at its Registered office at: 10-A Under Hill Lane, Civil Lines, Delhi-110 054 to consider and approve the Audited financial results of the company for the quarter and financial year ended 31st March, 2021.

By Order of the Board
Sd/-
Sanjay Sachdev
Whole Time Director
DIN: 00350518
ADD : 10-A, Under Hill Lane, Civil Lines, Delhi -110054

Ashnoor Textile Mills Ltd.
Regd. Office : Beharampur Road, Village Khandsa, District Gurugram, Haryana-122001
E-mail: atril_delli@yahoo.com
Phone: 91 0124 4809756
CIN: L17229DL1984PLC033384

NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, inter-alia, to consider and approve Audited Financial Results of the company for the Quarter / Year ended March 31, 2021.

This information is also available on Company's website at www.ashnoortext.com and also on the website of BSE, i.e. www.bseindia.com.

By the order of Board
Sd/-
Suneel Gupta
Managing Director
DIN-00052084

Office of the Executive Engineer Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam R-1, Raj Nagar, Near Hint Chouraha, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002

E-Tender Notice
E-Tender Notice No. 623/Nivida/122 Dtd. 17/06/2021

Online percentage rate short term e-tender for "Supply of manpower equipped with required T&P for Operation of Gates of Primary Treatment Works, Maintenance of various Screens and Horticulture work under 270 cusec Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Scheme" is hereby invited in two bid system on behalf of Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 21/06/2021. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their bids, duly filled, online latest by 01/07/2021 up to 17:00Hrs. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum technical Bid (Pre-qualification Bid) of E-tender shall be opened on 02/07/2021 at 15:00Hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR

Mail ID : sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com
e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION No SENC (RAND B) /04/ 2021-22
No. 1506 Dtd.11.06.2021

- The Superintending Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Building works as detailed in the DTCN on the eligible class of contractors.
- No. of works : 02 (Two) (Road Works).
- Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-
- Class of contractor : "A" Class and "Special" Class
- Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids From 25.06.2021 to 17.00 Hours of 09.07.2021.
- Date of opening of Technical Bid 13.07.2021 at 11.00 Hours.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
- Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur

OIPR : 34035/11/0004/2122

Guv meddling in House affairs: WB Speaker to Birla

From Page 1

Supporting the Speaker's contention, senior TMC MLA Tapas Roy said, "Biman has done the right thing by bringing it to the notice of the Lok Sabha Speaker so that even he can see how democratically our Governor has been working."

Reacting to the issue CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty, however, held both the sides guilty of failing to accommodate each other. "During our times also we had a Governor

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that DINESH KUMAR/ SADHANA (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBGUR00002438075 located at Flat No 108, 1ST Floor, Tower 10, Pyramid Urban Homes II, Sec 86, GURGAON.

The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated JUNE 19, 2021 informing that PYRAMID URBAN HOMES has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: June 24, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited
Sd/-

Office of the Executive Engineer Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam R-1, Raj Nagar, Near Hint Chouraha, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002

E-Tender Notice
E-Tender Notice No. 623/Nivida/122 Dtd. 17/06/2021

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Sd/-Superintending Engineer Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur

OIPR : 34035/11/0004/2122

like Gopal Krishna Gandhi who was known for his partisan ways... still Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee accommodated with him and such peculiar situations were avoided," he said.

However Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said the Governor was stopping only those Bills which are not worthy to be passed. "The TMC is trying to bulldoze its way with certain Bills... the Governor is only exposing the party's lawlessness."

'Centre has shot down doorstep ration delivery'



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said that the Central Government has rejected a proposal for doorstep delivery of ration in the city. "This is the first time in the history of India that we have a Prime Minister who quarrels this much," Sisodia added. Attributing this to a letter from the Union Government to the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi Government, Sisodia said, "On Tuesday, there was a letter from the Centre to the Delhi Government that the proposal for doorstep delivery of ration has been rejected. We had not sent any proposal. It is the State Government's right to decide how to distribute ration." Briefing reporters virtually, Sisodia said that the PDS falls under the ambit of the State Government. "Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had made an announcement of a scheme to deliver ration. The Centre had earlier suggested the removal of the term 'Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar

Ration Yojna' from the scheme, which the Delhi Government had accepted immediately. But now, in a letter addressed to the Delhi Government, the Centre has rejected the scheme entirely," Sisodia said.

Reading the letter from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution, Sisodia said, "The Central Government has cited reasons like pricing, verification of addresses, mobility in narrow lanes and multi-storey houses where the poor live and accommodating change of addresses etc in the rejection letter.

These are blatant excuses by the Central Government. One of the reasons given in the letter is how will the delivery of ration be ensured if the vehicle carrying it breaks down or gets stuck in traffic. Such excuses are very unbecoming of a Prime Minister in the 21st century. If pizza, clothes and food can be delivered all around the country, why not ration for the poor?"

Kejriwal also tweeted on the issue and said, "We received a disparaging letter from the

Central Government citing senseless reasons to stop the doorstep delivery of ration to our people.

Delivery of ration might get hindered due to vehicles being stuck in traffic or because people live on the third floor in buildings are some reasons cited in the letter by the Central Government. Our country, in the 21st century, has reached the moon but PM Modi is stuck on the third floor. Quarrelling with everyone around, whether it is on twitter, with Lakshadweep, Mamata didi, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi Government, the farmers, businesspeople, and even the Chief Secretary of West Bengal.

How will our nation develop if all our Central Government does is fight constantly? The doorstep delivery of ration is for the people of our nation, there is no need to add obstructions here."

"PM Modi has left all his work and has resorted to just fighting and obstructing the work of State Governments. Why has PM Modi adopted such a quarrelsome nature? In 75 years of Indian history, it is perhaps the first time that we have a PM who fights all the time.

Sometimes with the CM of West Bengal or with the CM of Maharashtra or even with officials of States on Facebook or Twitter. Seems like the PM wakes up every morning and makes a list of who to fight with everyday," Sisodia said.

Delhi gets sports univ with Olympian as V-C



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government appointed renowned weightlifter and Olympic medalist Karnam Malleswari as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi Sports University (DSU) on Wednesday.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia welcomed Malleswari, India's first woman Olympic medal winner as the first VC of DSU on International Olympic Day.

"Our dream of launching Delhi Sports University is coming true. It gives me great pride that Olympian Karnam Malleswari will be the first Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University. We discussed the vision of the Delhi Sports University today," Kejriwal tweeted.

Speaking on her appointment, Sisodia said, "It is my

greatest pleasure to announce the appointment of the first VC of DSU. Our purpose is to build and create athletes in our country who will make our nation proud. We want to create an atmosphere where sports flourish and bring our players to a level where they bring at least 50 medals each year so that we can finally host Olympic 2048 in the nation."

Sisodia added, "The intention of building a world-class sports university is not to generate jobs but to provide a space for individuals to finally build their athletic talent. Through DSU, we want to nurture and foster talent so that we can say at least 50 Olympians are proud alumni of DSU. The university will also provide state-of-the-art sports facilities. Our goal is to prepare international medal winning champions in at least 10 sports."

Sisodia also stated that the

degree a student will receive upon graduation from DSU will be equivalent to degrees in mainstream courses.

Karnam Malleswari said, "We should start visiting schools once they reopen and conduct a talent hunt for students interested in sports. There are many children who take keen interest in sports but due to lack of any infrastructure, are unable to pursue their athletic dream. We will identify students, and match their athletic skills to the sports they are apt for."

The Delhi Assembly had in 2019 passed a Bill to set up the DSU, which will offer graduation, postgraduate and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports. The DSU will streamline sports facilities and bring the sports talents under their ambit to prepare them for world-class competitions.

9 illegal farmhouses in Aravalli range demolished

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A team of the Municipal Council of Sohna demolished nine illegal farmhouses built on the Aravalli mountain range at Raisina village of Gurugram on Wednesday.

The demolition was carried out under Section 4 of the Aravalli Notification which says that the hills cannot be used for any purpose other than a plantation. This was done in compliance with a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order of December 2020, which instructed that all such establishments built on the Aravalli range of Gurugram be razed by January 31. A similar drive against unlawful structures in Manesar had been conducted on January 29 by the forest department of Gurugram.

According to the officials, the drive began at 1.00 pm and

it took several hours to raze the nine illegal structures with the help of earthmovers. Apart from the municipal council officials, 100 police personnel were also present on the spot.

"Earlier a demolition notice was served to the owners of these illegal structures. Two of the farmhouse owners claimed that they had some legal documents for their properties so we have given them two days to produce those papers. More action against such illegal structures will be taken next week after an appointment of a duty magistrate," Praveen Raghav, an official of the Municipal Council of Sohna said.

As per a recent forest department survey, there are at least 500 such farmhouses built illegally on the Aravalli range in Gurugram and these are concentrated in areas like Gwal Pahari, Gairatpur Bas, Sohna and Manesar.



PICTALK



BJP national president JP Nadda pays tribute to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his death anniversary at the BJP HQ, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri

Construction workers get ₹10K dole from building Board

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (DBCWWB) granted Covid relief disbursement of ₹10,000 each to 1,825 construction workers on Wednesday.

The Delhi Government had already disbursed ₹5,000 each to 2,17,039 construction workers as Covid relief disbursement this year. This relief comes as an additional benefit for construction workers who have been hit hardest by the outbreak.

The DBCWWB decided to disburse the money to those construction workers who were registered with the Board

before September 30, 2018, on the condition that if they renewed their membership they would be eligible for the benefits. Deputy Chief Minister and Labour Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia said, "I urge all construction workers who were members of the Board before September 30, 2018 to renew their membership with the Construction Board so that they are able to receive the benefits."

Sisodia added, "When the first lockdown was imposed due to the pandemic last year, the Delhi Government was one of the first governments to disburse relief to the 39,600 workers who were registered with the Board in the month of

March 2020."

After Sisodia took charge of the labour department in November 2020, inspections and mass registration drives were conducted in Delhi's labour offices.

On the basis of these inspections and registration drives, a series of reforms have been carried out in the labour department. "As a result of this, within six months the number of construction workers registered with the construction board has increased to 2.38 lakh," he added.

In addition to this, another reform in the registration process of construction workers has happened where the entire verification process has

been shifted online.

Sisodia said, "Earlier workers had to stand in long queues for hours to submit his/her application but now the entire process has been shifted online which helps the workers to quickly apply with the Government and not miss his/her daily wage."

"More than 10,000 construction workers will also receive the relief amount in the coming weeks. These construction workers belong to the poorest of poor section of the society and were one of the hardest hit during the Covid crisis. This relief disbursement comes as a much needed support during these difficult times," he said.

NDMC to organise Jan Suvidha Camp

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will organise a 'Jan Suvidha Camp' to address public issues and grievances in order to improve efficiency in the administration of its various services. The camp will be organised on the second and fourth Saturday of every month between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM to attend to the public issues and resolve grievances of the consumers without visiting any NDMC office.

"The Head of the Departments will be present virtually at camp to hear each registered grievance between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM and



every person would be given 10 minutes to present his/her grievance and to get the same redressed accordingly," the civic body said in a statement.

All that the residents have to do is to register their grievances at https://online.ndmc.gov.in/online_grv/ and after the registration; the complainant will get a Video Conference link on the next day (Friday) by 05:00 PM, it said.

Usha Sharma joins AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Congress councillor Usha Sharma on Wednesday joined the Aam Aadmi Party in the presence of Cabinet Minister and AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai.

Rai said that inspired by the work done by the Arvind Kejriwal Government in Delhi, hundreds of Congress workers have joined the party on Wednesday. The AAP leader further said that along with this, a lot of members from their Mahila Samarthan Yuva Sangathan have joined the party. He attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party, saying that they ruled the municipal corporations for 15 years and made it bankrupt.

Fake death certificate created to claim living doctor's life insurance policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

In a bizarre incident an attempt was made to claim the insurance policy of a doctor, who is alive and well, by furnishing a forged death certificate and slip of a cremation ground. The accused had even opened a fake bank account impersonating as the doctor's wife to claim the insurance amount, the police said. In connection with the incident an FIR under various Sections of the IPC was registered at the Sector-29 police station. A South City phase 1 resident Deepika Bhalla, stated in her police complaint that she was the nominee of her husband Dr Prashant Bhalla's PNB Met Life Insurance policy but somebody was trying to encash it fraudulently.

Haryana ex-CM OP Chautala to be freed after Delhi Govt's remission order

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has granted a six-month remission of sentence to former Haryana Chief Minister, OP Chautala, who is serving a 10-year prison term in a teacher recruitment scam case. The 86-year-old, Chautala is out on parole at present. On Monday, the Delhi Government had passed an order granting a six-month special remission to those who have served nine-and-half years of their 10-year prison sentence to decongest jails in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Chautala has already served nine years and nine months of his sentence, he is eligible to get out of prison," said an official.

According to a senior prison official, Chautala was jailed on January 16, 2013. "He was on emergency parole since March

26, 2020, due to the Covid pandemic and was scheduled to surrender on February 21, 2021. However, his parole had been extended by the High Court," he said.

"As on February 21, he had two months and 27 days of jail time left which will now be counted as remitted. He will be formally released whenever he surrenders before the jail authority," said the senior prison official.

"Convicts who are sentenced for seven years or more but less than 10 years, and are left with only five months to complete the sentence will get remission of five months. Convicts who are sentenced for five years or more but less than seven years, and are left with only four months to complete the sentence, will get remission of four months," the Delhi Government order stated.

ऐसी वाणी बोलिए, मन का आपा खोय औरन को शीतल करे, आपहुं शीतल होय

Govt. of Haryana

People of Haryana Remember Great Social Reformer & Mystic Poet

SADGURU KABIR SAHEB JI

on the occasion of his Birth Anniversary

24th June, 2021

Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

On this occasion people of the State can join the programme by visiting the link mentioned below

<https://youtu.be/I2ZuPVh3noE>

Date - 24th June, 2021
Time - 7:00 pm

Follow Covid norms to blunt 3rd wave: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday strongly felt that the number of cases in the third wave will not be to the extent that the health system comes under strain if people religiously follow Covid appropriate behaviour (CAB) and States wisely implemented containment strategies.

"At least 2.2 per cent of India's population has been affected by the disease so far. This should also make us wary of protecting the still vulnerable or susceptible 97 per cent population. We cannot let our guards down, hence, continued focus on containment is critical," Union Health Ministry Joint Secretary Lav Agarwal said at a media workshop organised by UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry on the need to bust myths about vaccines and vaccination and reinforce the importance of CAB.

"If we keep following containment and Covid appropriate behavior, then the third wave, even if it comes, will not have the number of cases that

'If vaccinated, you are protected for next 6/9 months from virus'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

If you have been vaccinated then likely chances are that you are protected from the coronavirus for the next six-nine months. This was stated by senior Union Health Ministry official Veena Dhawan at an event here.

She also said there was no evidence that supports interchangeability of vaccines' brands.

Responding to a question on the effectiveness of cocktail vaccines or mixing different vaccine doses, senior ministry official Veena Dhawan said as per the evidence available, the vaccines are not "interchangeable".

"A full analysis is yet to be made on the subject. Cocktail vaccination is not to be followed and we should take the same doses of the vaccine," she stressed.

On Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI), Dhawan said the first 30 minutes post vaccination are crucial.

"That is why people are

kept under observation. Serious or severe side effects

On day 3, Covid jab numbers remain less than day one figures

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Countrywide Covid-19 vaccination numbers continued to remain less than the day one figures. On Wednesday, the tally stood at 58.34 lakh vaccine doses till 7 pm in the evening as per the Union Health Ministry statement.

This is much less when compared to the first day of the revised phase of vaccination drive launched from June 21 when the country reported a record number of over 84 lakh shots administered to the citizens. On Tuesday also, the vaccination process covered only around 51 lakh people in the country.

"More than seven crore vaccine doses have been registered so far for those in the age group 18-44 so far," said the statement.

Overall the cumulative Covid vaccination coverage of the country crossed 30 crore (30,09,69,538), as per the 7 pm provisional report. At

least, 41,23,073 vaccine doses were administered as first dose and 68,903 vaccine doses given as second dose in the age group 18-44 years on Wednesday.

"Cumulatively, 7,02,11,075 persons across 37 States/UTs have received their first dose and a total 14,98,113 have received their second dose since the start of Phase-3 of the vaccination drive."

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have administered more than 10 lakh beneficiaries of the age group 18-44 years for the first dose of Covid vaccine, so far, said the statement.

Talking about the infection rate, the statement said that India has reported 50,848 new cases in the last 24 hours.

are mostly seen in the first 30 minutes," she added.

ED seizes Unitech's land parcels, ₹81.10 cr helicopter in money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 101 land parcels and one helicopter worth ₹81.10 crore in a money laundering probe against the Unitech Group.

The attached land parcels are situated in Santacruz, Mumbai and are owned by the Shivalik Group. The helicopter is owned by King Rotors Air Charters Pvt Ltd., an associate company of Shivalik Group.

The ED probe revealed that Unitech Group had diverted 'Proceeds of Crime' to the tune of ₹574 crore to the Shivalik Group and in turn, the entities of Shivalik Group had purchased the land parcels and helicopter from this.

On March 4, the ED had conducted searches at 35 locations in NCR and Mumbai on the premises of Shivalik Group, Trikar Group, Unitech Group and Carnoustie Group.

"After analysis of seized records followed by the disclosures of various persons, the above diversion of Proceeds of Crime has been unearthed," the agency said.



3 fashion designers summoned to explain cash payments by leader

New Delhi: Famous fashion designers Manish Malhotra, Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Ritu Kumar have been asked by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear before it to record their statements in connection with some cash payments made to them a few years ago by a politician in Punjab.

An ED source related to the probe told IANS, "A notice has been sent to the three fashion designers to appear before the ED."

The source said that the three designers were paid in cash by the politician for designing the dresses for a wedding ceremony a few years back. "And there was no record of the cash transaction in their IT returns."

So they have been called to present their side," the source said. However, the source did not name the politician.

Malhotra, Mukherjee and Kumar are known for their designer collection in India as well as in other countries. Many corporates and Bollywood personalities wear dresses designed by them.

IANS

'NEP 2020 committed to equitable education to all'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday at the G20 Education Ministers' meeting said that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, envisages equitable and inclusive education for all, with special focus on children and youth, especially girls, from socially and economically disadvantaged groups who are more at risk of being left behind.

"NEP 2020 provides for early vocational exposure in middle and secondary school along with smooth integration into mainstream education. It aims that by 2025, at least 50 per cent of learners in the school and higher education system would have expo-

sure to vocational education. It also provides for vocational education to be aligned to skill gap analysis and mapping of local opportunities," said Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre at the virtual conference of G20.

India attaches great importance to the collaboration between G20 countries in the field of vocational education and training.

Dhotre reaffirmed the support of the Government of India to the collective efforts of the G-20 countries to develop strategies to ensure smooth transition from education to work.

A joint Meeting of Ministers of Education and Ministers of Labour and

Employment was also held virtually. G20 Ministers exchanged views on transitions from school to work. Sanjay Dhotre represented Ministry of Education in the meeting. Ministry of Labour and Employment was represented by MoS (Independent Charge) Santosh Gangwar.

"The member countries of G20, recognise the need to equip our youth well for a smooth transition into the workspace after completing their education.

This is especially important for learners from socially and economically disadvantaged population groups, who are more at risk of being left behind," said Dhotre.

Ramdev moves SC, seeks stay on cases on allopathy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev on Wednesday approached the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the proceedings in multiple cases lodged against him in various States over his remarks on allopathy and its treatment protocol for Covid-19.

In his petition, Ramdev sought the quashing of many FIRs lodged by Indian Medical Association (IMA) in Patna and Raipur branches and asked for a transfer of the FIRs to a Delhi court.

Ramdev has been booked under Sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 504 (intentional insult



with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and other provisions of Disaster Management Act, 2005 in many States based on the complaints by IMA chapters.

As per the IMA complaint, since over the last one year, Ramdev has allegedly been propagating false information on social media against medicated being used by the medical fraternity, Government of India, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other frontline organisations in treatment of Coronavirus infection.

Nadda hails Modi for fulfilling Mookerjee's goal of 'national integration'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the Nehru-led Congress Government of "ignoring" the demand for a probe into the death of Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS) founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Kashmir while demanding the removal of Article 370, BJP president J P Nadda on Wednesday complimented Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling Mookerjee's goal of 'national integration' by abrogating the special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

A day before the all party meet on J & K called by the Prime Minister, the BJP president said Mookerjee agitated against 'ek desh main do vidhan, do Pradhan and do nishan' system and removal of Articles 370 and 35 A. These aims of Mookerjee, he said, have been achieved by the Modi-government.

Mookerjee died in police custody in Kashmir on June 23, 1953 while protesting against the requirement of a permit for entry to the Kashmir valley.

Nadda said Mookerjee's mother had written to Nehru seeking a probe into the death of the BJS founder but the Congress government "ignored and pushed it under the carpet".

However, successive BJP governments at the Centre



have themselves not setup a probe leading to his death in Kashmir valley.

The BJP president said Mookerjee had died in "doubtful circumstances".

While paying tributes to the late leader who, he said, sacrificed his entire life for the nation, the BJP President said national integration as sought by Mookerjee was realised by Modi's "strong willpower" and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's "skilled strategy".

Modi led BJP leaders' tributes to the BJS ideologue on his 68th death anniversary.

"Remembering Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his Punya Tithi. His noble ideals, rich thoughts and commitment to serve people will continue to inspire us. His efforts towards national integration will never be forgotten, Modi tweeted.

Home Minister Amit Shah said Mookerjee sacrificed himself to safeguard India's identity and integrity, and saved the country from another division.

LPG can now be booked through CSC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To make it more accessible to every rural household, a new LPG connection can now be booked through the Common Service Centre (CSC). The CSC has taken the lead in helping Centre's Ujjwala beneficiaries in bookings for the refills.

Ujjwala scheme is one of the flagship programmes of the Modi Government to provide LPG gas connection to women of rural areas and especially to those from the weaker section of the society.

Linking the Ujjwala beneficiaries and also new connections through CSC digital kiosk can serve consumers close to their place of residence. CSC has so far done online booking for one crore Ujjwala beneficiaries.

"We have requested Oil companies to enable other support services through CSC as change in name, address, request for additional cylinder etc. Booking for new connection through CSC is still to be allowed by the oil companies through CSC and once these services are extended, CSC can provide all services to Ujjwala beneficiaries in villages," said CSC MD Dr Dinesh Kumar Tyagi.

Though the connection was provided by the government to women, however, refilling due to logistics still remained a concern. Many factors constrained the increase in delivery centres close to the place of residence.

MONIND LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Uda Industrial Complex, Raipur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone: +91 11 29218542-46; Fax: +91 11 29218541 Email: info@monnetgroup.com; Website: www.monnetgroup.com CIN: L5103CT1982PLC009717

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 23rd June, 2021 at the Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Financial year ended on 31st March, 2021. This information is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com).

By order of the Board of Directors
MONIND LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
Pria
Company Secretary

Dated: 23.06.2021
Place: New Delhi

204 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to be distributed among poor amid looming third wave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the anticipated third wave of Covid-19 that is expected in 6 to 8 weeks, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved allocation of 204 lakh tonnes of foodgrains at an estimated cost of ₹67,266 crore for extending the Pradhan Mantri Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to provide free ration to over 80 crore people, mostly poor, by five more months till November-

end. The free supply of grains will ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by the coronavirus, an official statement said.

Health experts have alerted state governments about the third wave of pandemic and have advised ramping up of the health facilities.

The approved monthly allocation of five kg foodgrains per person to 81.5 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act is for five more months between July and November this year. The second phase of PMGKAY was launched for May and June as the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country.

The sanction of around 204 lakh tonnes of additional foodgrains free of cost would entail an estimated food subsidy of ₹64,031 crore. As the Centre would bear the entire expenditure towards this scheme without involving States and UTs, an additional expenditure of about Rs 3,234.85 crore would be required for meeting the transportation and handling charges, as well as FPS dealers' margins, taking the total cost to ₹67,266.44 crore, an official statement said.

Early this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the nation had announced that the Centre's free food programme PMGKAY will be extended for five months till Diwali.

Five-kilo foodgrains per person per month is provided free of cost under the PMGKAY to 81.35 crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), it noted. This is over and above distribution of highly monthly subsidised foodgrain of 5 kg per person given at Rs 1-3 per kg via ration shops to poor beneficiaries covered under the NFSA.

The Food Ministry will decide on the allocation of wheat and rice.

It may also decide on the extension of the lifting/distribution period under Phase III and Phase IV of the PMGKAY as per operational requirements, arising out of adverse weather conditions like monsoon, snowfall, etc..

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.S. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)	1.	01/NOIDA/GM/SM(WC-9)/ET/2021-22, Name of Work- D/o Village (Basic & Infrastructure Facilities in Primary & Junior High School in Village Under Work Circle-9), Noida. Cost-Rs. 47.06 Lacs.
	2.	01/GM/SM(WC-4)/ET/2021-22, Name of Work- M/o Village (Necessary work in Parishadiy School Under Operation Kayakalp in Work Circle-4 Area), Noida. Cost-Rs. 33.78 Lacs.
	3.	02/CGM/SM(WC-1)/2021-22, Name of Work- C/o Required work in Primary and Junior High School in Village - Nayabans and Sector-11, 12 under Operation Kayakalp), Noida. Cost-Rs. 33.58 Lacs.

Which can be uploaded by date 05.07.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 06.07.2021 at 11.00 AM

General Manager
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC0258672358, V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001, Telephone: 0135-2763672-76, Fax: 0135-2760289, Website: www.uktenders.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)
TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. CCP-II/5/2021-2022
Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., Dehradun invites e-tender for following turnkey work:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Quantity (Km.)	Estimated Cost (₹)	MAAT for best three years out of last five financial years (in ₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of tender document including GST (₹)
1.	Construction of 33 kV line from 33/11 kV S/s Dwarahat to SPV Plant at Vill-Chhanagolu for power evacuation under block Dwarahat, Distt. Almora	3.5	1.359 CRORE	2.72 CRORE	2.72 LAKH	11 800
	Construction of 33 kV line from SPV Plant Mahantgaon to SPV Plant Rastogi Green for power evacuation under block Dwarahat, Distt. Almora	1.5				

Date & time of Prebid conference in online mode: 05.07.2021 at 12:00 Hrs.

Last Date & Time of online request for Tender and submission of tender in online & off line mode: 22.07.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs.

Date of opening of Part-I of tender in online & off line mode: 23.07.2021 at 15:30 Hrs.

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)
No.: 249/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Date: 22.06.2021

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Mask compliance still low in country despite being one of worst hit: Survey



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mask wearing compliance still remains low in India despite it being one of the worst hit by the second wave of Covid-19, according to findings of a survey.

The mask compliance at vaccination centres also remains low, as per the survey conducted by online social media platform LocalCircles.

"Despite the most lethal Covid-19 wave that any country in the world has experienced so far, India's mask compliance is still low as indicated by the survey finding where 67 per cent of citizens say there is limited or no mask compliance in their area, district, or city," it said. The survey received over 33,000 responses from citizens located in 312 districts of the country.

According to the survey findings, only 32 per cent of citizens in the survey note that there was limited mask compliance at the vaccination centre they recently visited.

Many respondents noted that their family members have gotten Covid-19 a few days after receiving vaccination at centres, citing the high possibility of some vaccination centres being superspreaders as some people were not even following masking protocols.

It is a major concern that requires an immediate action to make sure that such centres do not become superspreaders, as per the findings of the survey.

The survey tried to find out how people in cities and districts, including at the vaccination centres, are complying with wearing a face mask.

It also sought to find out if

people are wearing the right masks that give them protection, or are they wearing any mask just for the sake of it. Lastly, the survey sought to gather citizens' pulse if the state governments should make the wearing of masks outside home mandatory in districts with active Covid-19 cases.

It found that only 44 per cent of the Indians were wearing cloth masks which may not provide them with the needed protection against the highly transmissible variants like Delta.

The findings of the survey indicate that one in two Indians were wearing cloth masks that provide limited protection from Covid, it added.

Many Indians since 2020 have been using cloth masks, some even using ones made at home, assuming that they will provide the necessary protection from Covid-19 while that may not be the case with the new Delta variant, it said.

On the question whether the state governments should make wearing of masks outside home mandatory if a district has any covered cases, 91 per cent of the respondents okayed the proposal while 8 per cent decided against it.

BJP leaders to ensure vax, food in UP villages

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Embracing the motto of 'Sewa hi sangathan', the BJP has decided to send party workers, leaders and lawmakers to villages and ensure vaccination of local residents and to distribute rations among the needy. In the two-day meeting of the national BJP leaders with Ministers, the RSS and party workers, that ended on Tuesday, the BJP decided to contest the election under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Starting on the death anniversary of Jan Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on Wednesday, the fortnight-long programme will continue till his birth anniversary on July 6. As per the party's strategy, workers will reach every vaccination booth and set up a help desk to assist people. On June 25, they will go for a mega plantation drive to achieve a record breaking target of planting 30 crore saplings.

On June 27, BJP leaders will stay at every booth to listen to PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' and connect the public with the Central and State welfare schemes.



Earlier, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked all his Ministers to camp at every block from June 21 and inspect development and welfare works of the government and solve the problems of the people, if any. The ministers have already started camping in the blocks. BJP in-charge Radha Mohan Singh held a meeting with booth workers of booth number 292 and exhorted them to work for the welfare of the people and gave the slogan 'booth jeeta to sab jeeta'.

"The booth is the first step towards the victory of the party. If you can win the booth, you can win the election," Singh told workers. He also talked about the UP government's achievements and asked the workers to spread the good work done by the government.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with his Ministerial colleagues, paid floral tributes to founder of Jana Sangh Shyama Prasad Mukherjee at Civil Hospital on Wednesday.

After MPs, BJP MLAs too seek separate State in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After BJP MPs Soumitra Khan and John Barla it is now the turn of the saffron party MLAs to make demands for a separate State.

BJP MLAs from Dabgram-Fulbari and Naxalbari-Matigara Sikha Chatterjee and Ananda Roy Burman have raised their voices for a separate State comprising the North Bengal districts. Both Dabgram-Gulbari and Naxalbari-Matigara are the satellite townships of Siliguri — the largest city in North Bengal which is also called the gateway to the North East.

Backing Barla the BJP's Alipurduar MP, Chatterjee on Wednesday said that "neither the Left nor the Trinamool Congress Government have taken any measure to develop the backward regions of North Bengal and its people ... so the only way development can be achieved in North Bengal is by making a separate State here. ... If anyone raises a voice for a separate State it is

well within one's rights to do so because everyone has a right to develop in a democracy and our constitution declares that India is a democratic country of which we are the free citizens."

Roy Burman too backed Barla saying "the Alipurduar MP has done the right thing by demanding a separate State because from our long experience we have seen that the Government from Kolkata only takes care of the southern part of the State and leaves the northern part to starving State ... this cannot go on for long and the local people are gradually awakening to their cause of a separate State which is the only way through which their all-round development can be achieved."

Curiously Barla continued to raise his demands for a separate State the way he did before the BJP State president Dilip Ghosh rejected views that the saffron party had anything to do with such demands. "It is his private statement and the BJP has got nothing to do with it ...

maybe such leaders are making such statements out of frustration after seeing their workers being battered and their properties looted every day."

Refusing to withdraw his demand for separate State despite his party's "declared stance" against it and partly buttressing the argument of Ghosh the Alipurduar MP on Wednesday said "what else can I do as a BJP MP ... I am seeing the people of my party being hounded out by the Bangladeshi supporters of the Trinamool Congress ... here are several families who have come from Assam border in Cooch Behar district ... they have fled for their lives ... their properties have been looted by the Bangladeshi Trinamool men ... these are the sons and daughters of the soil and are being attacked by the foreign intruders backed by the ruling party ... this cannot be tolerated and so I have no other way but to raise my voice for a separate State ... I will take it to the Governor of Bengal and even New Delhi!"

Maha logs 10,066 new cases, 508 deaths



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

With not much of a change in the Covid-19 situation, Maharashtra logged 10,066 fresh infections and 508 deaths, even as 11,032 patients were discharged after full recovery from various hospitals in the State.

In a significant development, Maharashtra achieved a milestone as it crossed four crore Covid-19 tests. Of the 4,01,28,355 samples sent to various laboratories across the State so far, 59,97,587 have tested positive (15.01 per cent) for Covid-19 until Wednesday.

A day after the State recorded 9,043 infections and 482 deaths, the daily infections rose by 1043, while the deaths increased marginally by 26.

Of the total 508 deaths reported on Wednesday, 163 were new fatalities, while the remaining 345 were "old and unaccounted deaths" which have been added to the State's Covid-19 tally as part of the ongoing reconciliation process.

With 508 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in the state jumped from 1,18,785 to 1,19,303.

With 10,066 fresh infections, the total infections in the state rose from 59,87,521 to 59,97,587.

As 11,032 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 57,42,258 to 57,53,290. The recovery rate in the state rose from 95.90 per cent to 95.93 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the state dropped from 1,23,340 to 1,21,859. The fatality rate in the state rose from 1.98 per cent to 1.99 per cent.

Mumbai recorded 23 deaths and 863 infections. As a result, the Covid-19 toll in

the metropolis increased from 15,315 to 15,338, while the infected cases in Mumbai went up from 7,21,099 to 7,21,963.

Mumbai with 18,711 cases emerged as the first in the State in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the state, while Pune with 17,378 stood second, followed by Thane (13,059), Sangli (9543), Kolhapur (9142), Satara (7061), Ratnagiri (5615), Sindhudurg (5504) and Raigad (4571).

Currently, 6,58,863 people are in home quarantine while 4,196 people are in institutional quarantine.

6,02,163 people vaccinated in a day in State

PNS ■ MUMBAI

As many as 6,02,163 people were administered Covid-19 doses across Maharashtra on Wednesday, in what was described as the highest-ever number of vaccinations performed in the State.

Announcing this, State Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Dr. Pradip Vyas said: "Today we have bettered the performance of yesterday and have administered the highest ever number of Covid-19 vaccination doses in a single day in the State. As many as 6,02,163 doses were administered till 7 PM and the figure is likely to increase further".

Vyas went on to congratulate the district health authorities across the State. "Great work done by the district teams. Congratulations to all District teams," he said.

'Kerala is not a safe place for women'

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Late VKN, who enlightened Malayalam readers with his humorous stories and novels had described Kerala as a land of 'Poricha Vadhu' (Malayalam for Fried Brides). This was not to pepper his story with hilarity that VKN made use of this term.

The bursting of kerosene stoves and the immolation of newly-wed brides were routine events in Kerala's social life.

The last three days saw Vismaya, a final year BAMS student who was married off to an assistant motor vehicle inspector, dead in her husband's house allegedly as a result of physical and mental torture, Kiran, her husband, had demanded a limousine, 100 sovereigns and a 120 cents plot of land (worth ₹2 crore in local real estate market) to tie the nuptial knot. After two months of marriage, the bridegroom expressed his displeasure with the brand new Toyota Corolla car which was given by Vismaya's father Thiruvikraman as dowry.

"Life turned out to be hell

for her because of the physical assaults carried out by Kiran, his mother and sister. On Monday morning she was found dead under mysterious circumstances in her husband's house. My daughter would not commit suicide. She had great dreams. She dreamt of becoming an Ayurvedic doctor, specialize in Indian system of medicine and serve the poor," Thiruvikraman told *The Pioneer*.

Kiran and his family members assaulted Vismaya non-stop during the last three days of her life. The young lady had sent pictures of the injuries on her body to her brother along with the threatening words used by the husband. The 30 year old husband is heard telling Vismaya that he was not happy with the car given by her father and insisted that she ask her family members for a luxury car. "I am a Government officer and deserve more than this," were his catchwords throughout the two months-long ordeal.

Archana (24) at Thiruvananthapuram succumbed to burns she suffered

on late Monday night at her husband Suresh's house. A nursing graduate, Archana was confined to her in-law's house after the marriage and her husband was tormenting her parents for ₹3 lakh since the wedding function was over. According to neighbours, Suresh always stored diesel in the house since his marriage for reasons known only to him.

On Tuesday evening Suchitra (19) was found dead, hanging in her husband's house. Suchitra's wedding was solemnised on March 21 with Vishnu, a Government employee working in Uttarakhand. Sunil, father of Suchitra, told media that there was no possibility or reason for his daughter resorting to the extreme measure. The Police is yet to disclose anything about the death of Suchitra.

The Kerala State Crime Records Bureau in its report has stated that 65 brides were found murdered/dead under mysterious circumstances in the State during 2020-21. "The list is endless and we take note of these only deaths only if there is some sensational news

behind the deaths. Last year, Kerala men set new trends in how to murder young wives. Uthara, a young wife got killed in snake bite. Investigation revealed that her husband got her bitten by a deadly cobra to get rid of her after the honeymoon," said Prof V T Rema, women's activist and former principal of Government Arts College, Palakkadu.

She said though there were laws, the investigating agencies do not pursue the murders/deaths because of lethargy and inherent weaknesses.

"Kerala is not a safe place for women or girls. These heart-rending events prove beyond doubt that parents of girls should be vigilante against prospective bridegrooms," said the professor, known for her knowledge in philosophy.

At the time of going to Press, a widow whose daughter Priyanka was found dead in her house at Thiruvananthapuram following physical assault by her husband Unni Rajan Dev, son of late Malayalam film artist Rajan P Dev.

6,596 new cases in TN



People wait to receive the token for the Covid-19 vaccine at the Ramanathapuram healthcare centre in Coimbatore on Wednesday

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

There has been reasonable improvement in Tamil Nadu's relentless war against Covid-19, according to the release issued by the Directorate of Health and Preventive Medicine on Wednesday evening.

The State logged 6,596 new cases on Wednesday while the death toll of the last 24 hours showed 166 casualties. Both the new cases and fatalities were lesser than that of Tuesday which showed 6,895 and 194 respectively.

There were 52,884 patients undergoing treatment for the pandemic across the State as on Wednesday evening. The State

has not lowered its guard in testing people for the disease. More than 1.66 lakh persons were tested across the State while 10,432 persons came out of hospitals fully cured and rejuvenated, said the release. The death toll till date reached 31,746 while the number of laboratories with Covid-19 testing facilities shot up to 273.

Situation in the districts of Coimbatore, Erode and Tirupur (the industrial hub of the State) has improved. While Coimbatore which had topped the table of districts with highest number of Covid-19 cases showed 793 (the highest in Tamil Nadu), the districts of Erode (686) and Tirupur (419) recorded a dip in the number of new cases.

Pakistani smuggler killed as BSF foils narcotics smuggling bid in J&K

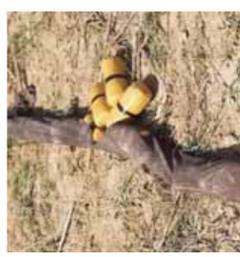
PNS ■ JAMMU

A narcotics smuggler was neutralised immediately after one of the alert jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) unearthed a sinister plot to smuggle narcotics worth ₹135 crore from the Hiranagar sector of Kathua district early on Wednesday morning.

The smugglers were apparently provided logistics support by the Pakistani rangers to smuggle the huge consignment weighing 27 kgs inside the Indian territory.

According to a BSF spokesman, "During the wee hours, a vigilant BSF troop thwarted a drug smuggling attempt by Pakistani smugglers on the Kathua border and seized about 27 kgs of heroin."

IG BSF Jammu Frontier NS Jamwal, who visited the location along the International Border (IB) told reporters that border troopers deployed near one of



the border outpost in Hira Nagar sector noticed some suspicious movement on IB from the Pakistan side and alerted its men. When the Pakistani smugglers came closer to the IB, they were challenged and fired upon.

"During a search of the area, the body of a Pakistani smuggler and 27 packets of heroin were found near the fence," said IG BSF. "We have gathered all the material evidence and soon we will lodge a strong protest with our Pakistani counterparts," he added.

NCB arrests Dawood's brother Kaskar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Incarcerated Mohammed Rizwan Iqbal Hasan Shaikh Ibrahim Kaskar, younger brother of Karachi-based underworld Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar, was on Wednesday arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in connection with a drug-related case.

Armed with a production warrant, the NCB picked up Iqbal Kaskar from the Thane prison — where has been lodged for the past five years and taken to the NCB headquarters here for questioning. After several hours of questioning, Kaskar was placed under arrest by the NCB.

Kaskar's name had cropped during the interrogations of the several accused arrested in connection with the seizure of drugs made in central Mumbai. Among other cases, the name of Kaskar, who is suspected of running his brother Dawood's realty empire and other businesses in Mumbai for the past couple of decades or so, figured in connection with the recent seizure of 15 kgs of Cannabis which was sent from Kashmir to Mumbai.

It may be recalled that on July 17, 2019, then 30-year-old Iqbal Kaskar and two of his aides were arrested by the Mumbai police in connection with extor-

tion-cum-organised crime. Kaskar was arrested at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here on Wednesday night, while his wife was trying to flee to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Based on the information provided by Rizwan Kaskar, the police had arrested two of his aides Ahmedraja Afroz Wadharia (24) and Ashfaq Rafique Towelwala (34) in connection with the same extortion-cum-organised crime case.

All the three arrested gangsters were allegedly involved in organised crime. Initial investigations have revealed that the three gangsters had handed extortion threats to several businessmen in the city.

Rizwan Kaskar's arrest was a fallout of the arrest and interrogation of Dawood's gang member Fahim Machmach, in an extortion case.

Machmach was arrested at the city international airport when he returned from Dubai on July 15, 2019. During the interrogation, Machmach told the police that it was he who introduced Ahmedraja Wadharia to Rizwan Kaskar and also to the members of the Chhota Shakeel gang.

Machmach's arrest came in connection with a dispute between traders deal-

ing with imported goods. In one of the taped telephonic conversations, Machmach handed out a threat to the complainant in June 2019 in an earlier case and told the latter not to seek money from Ashfaq Towelwala.

The police went to search Rizwan Kaskar's residence on the afternoon of July 17, 2019. In an effort to avoid his arrest, Rizwan Kaskar and his wife attempted to fly to Dubai, only to be arrested at the airport.

Iqbal Kaskar is Dawood's second relative to have been arrested in recent years. It may be recalled that Danish Parkar, nephew of the fugitive don Dawood, was detained and sent to jail by Nagpada police in March 2006 to ensure that he did not create any trouble.

The passport authorities had initiated a verification procedure suspecting that he had acquired a forged passport.

Danish, son of late Haseena Parkar, elder sister of Dawood Ibrahim, had been detained by Nagpada police under provisions of the Bombay Police Act, as a passport verification process was initiated in connection with the passport acquired by him. The detention was ensured against Danish creating any problem during the passport verification process.

Opening of tender for Central Secretariat buildings postponed again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has extended the last date of submission of bids and opening of technical bids for the construction of the first three buildings of the proposed new Common Central Secretariat from Wednesday to July 14. This is the second time the deadlines have been pushed in a week, with the earlier extension being from June 16 to Wednesday.

According to CPWD officials, the last date of submission of bids and opening of technical bids for the construction of the first three buildings of the proposed new Common Central Secretariat from Wednesday to July 14. The CPWD had invited bids for three new office buildings under the Common Central Secretariat along Rajpath at a

cost of ₹3,269 crore and ₹139 crore was set aside for five year's maintenance in April this year.

These new buildings will come on the plot where the Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts is currently located. The Modi Government's mega project to redevelopment of central vista and construction of a new parliament building has become a bone of contention as the opposition parties are demanding to scrap the project in view of the Covid pandemic.

The redevelopment of the Central Vista -- the nation's power corridor -- envisages a new parliament building, a common central secretariat, revamping of the 3 km Rajpath from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, new prime minister's residence and prime minister's office, and a new vice president enclave.

Hardcore woman Maoist surrenders before police in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A hardcore woman Maoist with a bounty on her head, who was wanted for involvement in 15 encounters, an incident of arson and four major offences, surrendered before the Gadchiroli police in eastern Maharashtra.

Identifying the surrendered Maoist as Anju Asaram Achala, a resident of Motha Zalia in Dhanora tehsil of Gadchiroli district with various aliases like Shashikala, Guni and Zuri (30), the police said that she had joined Tipagad Naxal Dhalam in 2006 as member and gone on to become the Tipagad Area Committee Member.

According to Gadchiroli police, she was personally involved in 20 crimes including 15 encounters. The Maharashtra Government had

announced ₹6 lakh as bounty against her arrest.

With her surrender, the total number of Maoists who have surrendered before the Gadchiroli police between 2019 and 2021 has gone up to 39. Those surrendered four Divisional Committee Members (DVCM), two Dalam Commanders, three Dept. Commanders, 29 Dalam Members and one Jan Militia Member.

A senior Gadchiroli police official said that "frustrated and fed up with life besieged with violence, Maoists were getting "attracted" to the surrender policy announced by the Maharashtra Government. The policy involves a rehabilitation programme.

Apart from intensified anti-Naxal operations, the Gadchiroli police undertake various kinds of civic action



Anju Asaram Achala, a hardcore woman Maoist with a bounty on her head, surrendering before the police at a function held in Gadchiroli district in eastern Maharashtra

programmes like Janjagran melawas, Rozgar melawas, Women Melawas and Village Visitations (Grambhet), "which deeply impact the minds of common people". Under the Grambhet programme, senior police officers visit the homes of relatives of Maoists who can

be persuaded to abdicate violence. "These activities contributed to the surrender of Anju Achala," the police official said.

"Simultaneously, we build a constant pressure upon the Naxalites to surrender before the police," the official said.



A peacock dances during the monsoon season, at Thondamuthur on the outskirts of Coimbatore on Wednesday

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PAPER WITH PASSION

The plus?

The Government seems to be at a crossroads in its tackling of Delta+ variant despite best intentions

Three steps the Union Government has taken in the last couple of days attest to a change for the better in its COVID-19 management policy. The first is the accelerated pace of vaccinations in the country. Over 8.3 million doses were given on a single day on Monday, the highest so far, beating the April 1 record of 4.8 million. In the first week of May, when the second wave of the pandemic was at its peak, single-day vaccinations hovered around 1.6 million. On Tuesday, however, the pace slowed down with some States experiencing a massive fall in the numbers. While the intention of the Government is honourable, to set a scorching pace to reach herd immunity at the earliest, it needs to ensure that the exercise does not become an event but is part of an organised, consistent process. Two, the Government has declared the Delta+ mutation as a Variant of Concern (VoC). The announcement came within hours of the Union Health Secretary saying the variant is only a Variant of Interest (VoI). Such an open contradiction of its Ministry may be unique for this Government, but it shows the latter is proactive and moving ahead with caution, having drawn flak for failing to recognise the Delta variant earlier.

Three, the Government has cautioned the States against unchecked opening up of the lockdown, recommending a close watch on adherence to safety protocols. In perhaps its first, comprehensive advisory to the States concerning Delta+, the Government has asked them to step up monitoring in the six districts

in three States where cases of the new variant have been detected, increase testing, contact tracing, and vaccination. However, this is only a bit of the task done. Vaccinations continue to be problematic. The Government does give daily data about the number of doses at hand, but transparency is needed about the doses expected from the Indian and foreign manufacturers and the numbers apportioned to the states. This will enable to streamline the vaccination process. There is now an obvious rush to get free vaccinations leading to a fear of a reduced rush for paid vaccinations in private hospitals. Is it the right time for the Government to take over the procurement and supply of 100 per cent of the vaccinations to rationalise the process? India is yet to nail the vaccine efficacy issue. If it is a case of the more mutations the lesser the efficacy, then the Government has to come clear on a big-picture approach than reactive ones. There are reports of Bharat Biotech releasing data of its third phase trial to the Government regulator, but somehow the company shuns transparency. Also, the campaign to remove vaccine hesitancy is still to go national, presently restricted to the imagination of village-level teams. The unlock remains an issue of grave concern, with neither the States nor the Centre coming with tangible mechanisms to prevent safety violations without affecting economic activity.

PICTALK



People with motorcycles travel by boats to cross the flooded Ganga river, at Kachchi Dargah in Patna

PTI

Red ball

The new, World Test Championship, format has accorded competitiveness to all cricket games, even against lesser names

The World Test Championship was launched to bring excitement back into the longest format of the game, vis-à-vis the faster T20 matches, across the globe. The inaugural season, which started immediately after the end of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 and concluded with the first ever WTC Final in Southampton between India and New Zealand on Wednesday, was the first ever multination ICC event which was played with the red ball. The idea to start the championship in the ultimate format was to give relevance to every bilateral series that is played as the points were awarded to each team after the end of every series and the top two teams with the maximum number of points by the end of a two-year cycle make it to the final and fight for the silverware. Ever since the WTC format came into act, the Test matches saw the rise in level of competitiveness. The teams now go for the kill in every game because a win would get them extra points as against a draw. Earlier, teams used to rest all format players for the red ball matches against the not-so-fancy opponents but now, under the new format, even after winning the series before all the matches are played, team's don't rest their main players and would rather start with the strongest possible eleven in all the matches.

The competitiveness that was missing from the Test matches was installed back into the game by this WTC championship and it has certainly added an extra flair in the bilateral matches. Now the matches against teams like Bangladesh and Windies also have the same relevance as that of the matches against Australia or England. However, there are still a few things that needed to be sorted out to make it even more interesting and worthy, like the number of points awarded after every Test match win should be the same, irrespective of the number of matches in the series. Every game should be offering equal points and not like a five-match Test series will offer 24 points per Test win as compared to 60 per win in case of two match series. That is quite unfair. There were discussions about if one game is enough to determine the winner, like in case of this year's championship, or the ICC should consider having a proper Best of Three final to get the winner.

Constitution, courts & a Prime Minister

Among a host of obstacles in the path, even with the President on his side, Nepal's Supreme Court has given Prime Minister Oli a rap on the knuckles



RISHI GUPTA

The ongoing political instability in Nepal has deteriorated with the Supreme Court's verdict on June 22. In a big blow to Prime Minister KP Oli, the apex court quashed the appointment of 20 new Ministers in the Oli Cabinet. These Ministers were appointed after Oli managed to crack a deal with a faction of the Janata Samajbadi Party led by Mahanta Thakur and Rajendra Mahto to support his minority Government. The acting Prime Minister, Oli, had appointed these Ministers, including two deputy Prime Ministers, on June 4 and 10. Meanwhile, these Ministers were appointed when the House of Representative stood dissolved, and the Supreme Court was examining a pile of petitions against the House dissolution on May 21. The Supreme Court has stoked the fanfare and enthusiasm among Oli's supporters for the second time in a row. On February 23, the court had quashed the unilateral move by President Bidya Bhandari to dissolve a functional Parliament and declaration of new elections in March and April. The first House was dissolved in December 2020 after Oli feared that his tussle with Maoist Party chief Prachanda would fall, which eventually happened in May.

However, Oli has been trying to play out the Constitution for months, using the President's Office. As a result, of this nexus between Oli and Bhandari, Nepal again stands at a crossroads similar to the days of the political transition from monarchy to democracy in 2006. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear hundreds of petitions filed against President Bhandari's decision to dissolve the House for a second time. While the hopes are high that the court may restore the House, it brings severe administrative challenges to the Government. At present, Oli is left with only five Ministers in his cabinet, including himself in charge of several portfolios. As per the Constitution, Oli should have continued with his previous Cabinet as no new appointment can be made under a dissolved House, or the Government in question has not faced the vote of confidence. However, the power-sharing between Janata Samajbadi



Party itself was based on new portfolios and one deputy premier.

As a result, Oli had asked his Ministers and loyalists in the Cabinet to resign *en masse*. However, amidst two back-to-back defeats in the apex court, the moral question for Oli has to be his resignation as for the last one year, he has merely been interested in the PMO for his political survival rather than focusing on COVID-19 and acting upon corruption charges levied on his fellow Ministers.

Unreliable Oli: Many in India believe that New Delhi facilitated the Janata Samajbadi Party's decision to support Oli. As a result, a long-term critic to India, Oli went on to record to say "differences with India have been resolved". If this is the case, India has taken the biggest strategic risk by trusting an untrustworthy Oli. For the last five years, Oli has been spitting venom against India's goodwill in Nepal. From raising the border issue to manipulating cultural and religious facts to suit his ultra-nationalistic outlook, he unilaterally included India's sovereign territory in a new political map of the country. However, even after everything seemed to be favouring



KP SHARMA OLI IS A PRODUCT OF POLITICAL EQUATIONS AND CALCULATIONS, AND HIS CORD FUNCTIONS AS PER THE POLITICAL SUITABILITY. THEREFORE, HOPING A FRIENDLY OLI WILL BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TASK FOR INDIA

India in Nepal, Oli once again alleged his claim on yoga as a Nepali practice and "not Indian". While Oli may still hold the powerful office in Nepal, India needs to think beyond him to keep open borders safe and prevent cross-border activities from affecting India's national security.

Oli is a product of political equations and calculations, and his cord functions as per the political suitability. Therefore, hoping a friendly Oli will be next to impossible task for India. On the other hand, China continues to benefit from political instability in the Himalayan country.

Before the second wave of COVID-19 had hit, India had supplied more than two million doses to Nepal. On the other hand, China promised to supply the second consignment of vaccines with four million doses. Meanwhile, the dragon has shown its unhappiness over media reports on the procurement. It exposes China's commercial intent in supplying the vaccines at about \$10 per dose (₹1186 Nepali) than its desired humanitarian intent. Meanwhile, Oli does not seem bothered with Chinese micro-management of Nepalese political affairs, its territorial expansion on the

Nepalese soil, brutal policies on Tibetan refugees living in Nepal and artificial humanitarian acts. The two large photographs of Chinese President Xi Jinping continue to grace the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website in Nepal at the cost of deteriorating relations with India.

Conclusion: The political instability in Nepal is the least desired by the people of Nepal under the current circumstances. Before Nepal, there are immediate challenges in terms of medical infrastructure, employment, economic development, infrastructure and leadership, which are clearly not on Oli's agenda. Therefore, while the people of Nepal await the court's verdict on the fate of Oli as Prime Minister, the latter himself should pave the way for a stable Nepal by resigning on moral grounds. Also, Nepal needs to understand that China may be a "big brother", but it is ill prepared to deal with dragon's ill-intended expansionist outlook where India is an "elder brother" it always needs. (The author is an ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at the JNU and Visiting Fellow at the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, Kathmandu. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THEY'RE OUR KIDS, GO TO THEM!

Sir — With regard to 'Corona's orphans: Kids of a lesser god', June 23, it is extremely pitiful that thousands of children in India have lost one or both parents in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. And the prospect of a surge of abandoned minors worries many. Heart-rending stories in the media and desperate calls for help on social channels reveal a devastating truth of our times.

The intention is good, the schemes are fine but how will orphaned children avail of these benefits? Can we expect small or adolescent orphaned children going to the Government departments, filling up forms, submitting certificates and availing of this scheme? The direction has to be in reverse.

Instead of orphans seeking help from the Government, it is the State machinery which should send its officials to meet these orphaned children, prepare details and arrange a smooth transfer of stipends and educational loans. The entire task devolves upon the State Governments, who will have to provide data to the Centre.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD

Sir — According to UNICEF, India has over 30 million orphan and abandoned children. Unfortunately, the existing Corona crisis is adding unknown numbers of orphans to the list. In times of crisis of this magnitude, some miscreants try to derive undue benefit by resorting to human trafficking, which surely is a blot on society. These unscrupulous people tend to hoodwink gullible persons, who are easy targets. Their sentiments are exploited for exorbitant sums of money. The business of child trafficking and criminal trading is rampant and must be dealt with an iron hand.

The National and State Commissions for Protection of Child are empowered by law to take legal action against such criminal activities. Social activists, NGOs, newspapers and the aware citizens must report and publicise such incidents so that timely action can be taken against those engaged in illegal activities.

Caution ahead



Delta Plus variant, a mutated version of the more aggressive B.1.617.2 strain that drove the second wave of infections in India, is undergoing additional mutation called K417N which could become a "variant of concern" if unchecked as the variant is causing a surge in cases. India would see a faster surge if aggressive COVID-appropriate behaviour is not followed and insisted upon. The Delta plus is a variant which is of same lineage as the Delta variant, with a slight change as there is one more mutation found, which could be a cause of concern because this mutation, the K417N, is something which may change the virus to some extent

as far as its infectivity is concerned.

The B.1.617.2 variant is characterised as being highly infectious. The spike protein is what helps the virus enter and infect human cells, and the K417N mutation has been associated with immune escape, or evasion, that leaves it less susceptible, or more immune, to the vaccine or any form of drug therapy. India should not take this virus casually as this virus is changing and changing to survive and infect more people, therefore we have to be ahead of the virus.

The UK did a very good job by having an aggressive lockdown for many months and when they started opening up, the new variant caused the surge in number of cases. What it means is we are also in a vulnerable situation and if we are not careful right now then three or four months from now, we will have a similar situation and that is why we need to be very aggressive; it is mutating, changing, new variants are coming up. With this danger of Delta Plus variant looming heavily, we have to tackle it on war footing.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

People must be made aware about the due process of adoption by the Government. The Central Adoption Resource Authority regulates the adoption of the orphaned, abandoned children. In fact, the whole process must be streamlined to avoid delays.

Recently, the SC also came to the rescue of those orphaned by the crisis and gave instructions to the Government about their protection. This critical issue must be addressed and headed so that they can get their rightful due a dignified life.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

A DAMP SQUIB

Sir — Despite much political excitement around an Opposition party, the Rashtra Manch meeting hosted by Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar in the Capital turned out to be a damp squib with a majority of the Opposition parties giving it a miss and many of them sending in sec-

ond-line leaders.

The NCP was subsequently at pains to explain that Pawar was only playing the host and did not organise the meeting. It also explained that there was no deliberate exclusion of the Congress. Other than the Congress, the DMK, the RJD and the BSP too did not send any representatives to the meeting.

It has been reported in the media that this meeting of Rashtra Manch was held by Sharad Pawar to unite anti-BJP parties is totally a showpiece rather than serving a desired purpose. Moreover, the meeting should not be misconstrued as a big political step taken by Pawar to exclude the Congress from any potential opposition grouping, pointing out that several Congress leaders were invited but they did not attend.

Chitra Krishnan | Vashi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Chiranjeevi garu, on behalf of the State Government, I thank you for your kind words of appreciation. The credit goes to team effort.

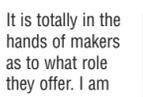


Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister
— YS Jagan Mohan Reddy



We will not raise interest rates preemptively because we think employment is too high, because we fear the possible onset of inflation.

US Federal Reserve Chair
— Jerome Powell



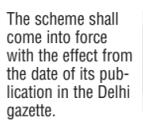
It is totally in the hands of makers as to what role they offer. I am known as a comedian and people have enjoyed my comic avatar for the longest.

Actor
— Sunil Grover



Read reports that England cricketers may not be able to have family members with them Down Under this winter.

Former England skipper
— Michael Vaughan



The scheme shall come into force with the effect from the date of its publication in the Delhi gazette.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor
— Anil Bajal



FIRST COLUMN

BACKWARDS AS 'FORWARD' IN UP

Rajbhar or otherwise, the names don't matter, but the point is to let the 'backwards' take the lead



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Is it a coincidence that the state presidents of all the major parties in Uttar Pradesh namely, Bharatiya Janata Party, Samajwadi Party, and Congress belong to the backward castes, or is it a compulsion that has pushed all the major players in UP to woo the backwards by projecting them as state presidents? It is a political reality that the party which will be able to garner the maximum support from the backwards will win Uttar Pradesh. The BJP state president, Swatantra Dev Singh, and the Samajwadi Party state president, Naresh Uttam, are Kurmi, an influential backward caste after Yadavs. The Congress state president, Ajay Kumar Lallu, is a Senthwar, another backward caste.

The results of the 2017 assembly elections and the 2019 general elections show the importance of the votes of the backwards in UP politics. "The BJP was able to win these elections only because it was able to stitch a social alliance between its core, upper caste, and middle-class base and the intermediary castes, constituting more than 50 per cent of the state's electorate," Nomita P Kumar of Giri Institute of Development Studies in Lucknow said. The forthcoming electoral battle in Uttar Pradesh represents a matter of survival for the four major players. After the BJP fared poorly in the West



Bengal assembly elections and got a drubbing in the state Panchayat polls, a message went down the political corridors that it is losing its sheen. A loss in UP would intensify the pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that could prove detrimental to the party in the 2024 elections.

Senior BJP leaders confirm that the RSS and the BJP leadership have asked senior leaders to contest the elections. The Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, and Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Dinesh Sharma, who are members of the Upper House, will contest from Gorakhpur and Lucknow, respectively. For the Samajwadi Party it is a fight for its relevance. It secured only five seats in the 2014 general elections. It lost the 2017 assembly elections despite an alliance with Congress. In 2019, it lost again when it had an alliance with BSP. The party lost these elections under Akhilesh Yadav's leadership. There are reports that Akhilesh Yadav is not willing to forge an alliance with big parties but is ready to share seats with smaller caste-based parties. Samajwadi Party has almost finalized an alliance with the Mahan Dal, a small caste-based party that is popular among the backward Maurya, Kushwaha, and Saini castes. On the other hand, BJP too has started putting its house in order. Sanjay Nishad of Nishad Party and Anupriya Patel of Apna Dal (S) recently met Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The meeting is considered crucial in the backdrop of backward politics and BJP losing the Rajbhar support after Om Prakash Rajbhar of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party walked out of the National Democratic Alliance.

Rajbhar has formed 'Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha' - a conglomeration of small parties and the front will field candidates in the 2022 assembly elections. The Morcha includes Babu Singh Kushwaha's Jan Adhikar Party, Krishna Patel's Apna Dal, Prem Chandra Prajapati's BhagidariAndolan Manch, Baburam Pal's National Uday Party, Ram Sagar Bind's Bharat Mata Party, Ram Karan Kashyap's Bharatiya Vanchit Samaj Party, Anil Chauhan's Janata Kranti Party and All India Majlis-e-Muslimeen of Asaduddin Owaisi. Arun Rajbhar, son of Om Prakash Rajbhar, said that the Morcha will emerge as the king-maker. "We have the support of Backwards, MBCs, and Muslims. This is a very potent force which has the potential to topple the apple cart of big parties," he said.

(The writer is Executive Director (News), The Pioneer, Lucknow. The views expressed are personal.)

Fuel, healthcare, online businesses spur prices

The recovery process, the SBI says, needs a cut in fuel prices by tax rationalisation as otherwise non-discretionary spends will continue to get distorted and cause inflation



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The Indian economy may have started recovering with the pandemic unlock but galloping inflation, increasing healthcare expenses, and rising unemployment are major bane.

The global economy is to rise by four per cent and India would marginally benefit from it with some rise in exports. A World Bank report wants India to create 90 million jobs in non-agricultural organized sector - a Herculean task as most private sector offices are either closing down or slashing operations. Humanitarian crises, hunger deaths, and societal conflicts are growing.

Latest figures indicate 12.69 per cent inflation primarily on account of F2 - food and fuel. The fuel price rise is hitting every sector of the economy with nobody to correct it. The basic price of petrol remains still around ₹35.99 and over ₹65 are the central and state tax components. The edible oil prices have reached crisis points with a 62 per cent spike. Food Secretary Sudhansu Pande says. This follows withdrawal of edible oil from essential commodities list in September 2020

A State Bank of India report says that massive increase in healthcare, especially in the hinterland, steadily rising fuel prices, and online delivery of articles will increase inflationary pressure much higher on the one hand, while crowding out other consumer spending on the other, putting a big question mark on overall growth that is still being driven by consumption demand. Month-on-month increase in inflation on non-institutional medicines, x-ray, ECG, pathological and other clinical tests is taking a heavy toll not only in urban areas but even on the rural populace.

The SBI report has questioned the headline inflation figures announced by the ministry. It says that price movements convey important information about the scarcity of particular goods and services like health and medical care as of now. Health expenditure, which currently constitutes five per cent of overall inflation basket, may jump to at least 11 per cent. (It may be noted that health expenditure is around ₹6 lakh crore or five per cent of the private final consumption expenditure). This is likely to also result in a squeeze in expenditure on other items of discretionary consumption.

The daily increase of fuel prices is another bane. "And if we look at credit card spends since December, CPI computed inflation for the five-month ending April is higher than the CSO estimate on an average by 60 basis points and the higher oil prices had forced consumers to ration out discretionary spends in December," says SBI chief economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh. It means the actual inflation is 60 per cent more than the CSO figures.

The RBI has virtually given credence to the SBI finding as it estimates ₹2 lakh crore losses on economic output. It says that it may not reflect on GDP but there would be a considerable value loss across the economy. The SBI report clarifies it as the share of non-discretionary spend which has jumped to 59 per cent in April and 52 per cent in March and "this does not augur well".

The inflation is to further rise as the US has matched its interest rate rise. It would



THE RBI HAS ALREADY LOWERED ITS GDP PROJECTION TO 9.5 PER CENT FROM 10.5 PER CENT. IT HAD HOPED 18.5 PER CENT RECOVERY IN THE FIRST QUARTER, CONSIDERED LOW BASE GIVEN THE CONTRACTION LAST YEAR. IT IS NOW SCEPTICAL DUE TO THE SECOND WAVE OF LOCKDOWN THAT SEES DECLINE IN DEPOSITS, INDICATING HIGHER HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES, AND LOWER SAVINGS

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)



impact India as well as there would be commodity price-rise globally. The RBI upon the government's suggestion has suppressed interest rates but it will not help keep prices low. It will make it difficult for the RBI to manage the conflicting targets of inflation, exchange rate, and adequate liquidity amidst weak growth.

The RBI has already lowered its GDP projection to 9.5 per cent from 10.5 per cent. It had hoped 18.5 per cent recovery in the first quarter, considered low base given the contraction last year. It is now sceptical due to the second wave of lockdown that sees decline in deposits, indicating higher household expenses, and lower savings. Additionally, currency holding - cash - with the people decelerated to 1.7 per cent during April against a growth of 3.5 per cent last year.

It substantiates what the SBI says that extra expenses on households have increased manifold. Also, there has been an increase in use of online delivery platforms which is not considered by the NSO and if the NSO considers online prices, there will be 10-15 basic points (bps) impact on CPI inflation. The SBI says

that the online delivery adds to inflation. The RBI says that the increased healthcare and other expenses have impacted domestic demand. That is the reason of delayed recovery of manufacturing, core sector and other activities.

The recovery process, the SBI says, needs a cut in fuel prices by tax rationalization as otherwise non-discretionary spends will continue to get distorted and cause inflation.

The RBI has given another formula. It has gone a bit beyond and wants to partner with the private sector - in short a prescription for further denuding the PSUs. The recommendation should make the authorities rethink on privatisation.

Over the last few years, major PSUs have consistently increased payouts to the government despite a dip in their profitability. Since 2016, as per an official diktat they are paying a minimum 30 per cent of their profit after tax or five per cent of their net worth, whichever is higher, as dividend.

The 100 government companies declared a dividend of ₹71,857 crore during 2018-19, according to the CAG. In 2021,

the PSUs paid a dividend of ₹39,022 crore (against an estimated ₹34,717 crore), the RBI paid ₹99,000 crore dividend, and other banks paid ₹1,619 crore in 2020-21. In short, a major part of the government expenses are being funded by the PSUs. The government's efforts to sell PSUs are being stonewalled by a poor economy. It should rather change its policies to strengthen the PSUs.

Despite this the India remains an investment destination. A healthy flow of FDI into the country corroborates India's strength and attracts attention of global investors, the Confederation of Indian Industry says. Total equity, re-invested earnings, and capital rose 10 per cent to the highest ever \$81.72 billion during 2020-21.

The RBI expects recent government boost in capital expenditure to spur activity and investment. For all this, however, there has to be a major shift in policy thrust. While private investments must rise, the government must relook at strengthening PSUs to tide over the crisis that is beyond the capacity of the private sector. This would alone cut prices and boost demand.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

ON A DAY INDIA VACCINATED MORE THAN 84 LAKH PEOPLE, DELHI ADMINISTERED ONLY 76,259 OUT OF MORE THAN 11 LAKH DOSES AVAILABLE. WHY?

— UNION URBAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER HARDEEP SINGH PURI



HARDEEP JI: PLS FOCUS ON PROVIDING ENOUGH VACCINES FOR THE YOUTH, RATHER THAN JUST ABUSING ARVIND KEJRIWAL ALL THE TIME.

— DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER MANISH SISODIA

Aviation industry: Pandemic-hit Phoenix waiting to rise

Indian aviation is expected to incur \$4 billion worth of losses in 2021 and it is not easy to even out the operational costs before 2023

The COVID-19 pandemic has clipped the wings of the aviation industry the world over. In India, the lockdown banning air travel has hit this industry the worst. As a ripple effect, the tour and travel and the hospitality industry have also been hit.

Downsizing has led to people in these industries losing their jobs and a lucky few are working on half, reduced or meagre salaries. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) pegs the losses of the aviation industry at \$370 billion. Air travel is down 60 per cent. This has led to airlines shutting most of their operations. They continue to incur fixed costs without the grounded fleets not earning a dime. According to the Indian rating



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

(The writer is a columnist and a documentary film-maker. The views expressed are personal.)

agency ICRA, domestic passenger traffic between May and September 2020 was only 11 million in comparison to 70 million in 2019.

An aviation expert, PS Nair, says Indian aviation is expected to incur \$4 billion worth of losses in 2021. Nair says: "These losses are not easy to even out. A very careful and integrated approach is required to rejuvenate the aviation industry. Everything would depend upon the economic recovery of the country. But aviation stands a good chance, as it has no alternative. If you have to travel, you have to take a flight; virtual flight is not an option."

India is the seventh-largest civil aviation market in the world. It is the third-largest aviation market in terms of



domestic operations. The country has the potential to overtake the United Kingdom and become the world's third-largest aviation market in terms of handling air passengers within the next five years.

The best minds in the aviation industry recently had a brainstorming session under the aegis of the Air Travellers Association (ATA). GS Bawa, General Secretary, ATA, feels

that the recovery will take years, if not decades. The recovery is linked to Covid-19 vaccination programs and testing procedures worldwide. He feels operational costs would not break even before 2023.

PS Nair, the former CEO, Delhi Airport and founder-CEO of HIAL says that the industry has a good chance to bounce back as fundamentals of the country's economy are still favourable. For a few years before the pandemic, the aviation sector of India had registered a steady growth and India had overtaken Japan to become the third-biggest domestic market. Private investors were showing interest in developing the country's airports but Covid-19 struck and stalled everything.

Efforts are already on in the industry as well as in the government to make the turnaround possible. To encourage the development of the aviation industry, the government plans to invest up to \$1.83 billion and develop airport infrastructure and aviation navigation services by 2026. The Culture and Tourism Minister Prahad Patel is hopeful of early revival, saying the tourism and aviation industries will be back with a bang because the government is linking its vaccination program with the drive to revive the tourism sector. The government is also working on a uniform policy for travel and protocols for vaccinated travellers. The Minister recently launched the Confederation of Hospitality, Technology and

Tourism Industry, an industry body of travel and hospitality tech players like Airbnb, EaseMyTrip, OYO, and Yatra. The idea is to help small operators in the tourism sector.

Nair, however, feels optimistic because the country aims to open 100 new airports by 2024 of which 30 projects are already in progress. Plans are on to have 200 more airports by 2040. The infrastructure boost coupled with a rise in demand should see the Indian aviation industry flying high. "The Government must support the industry. If you increase the airfares, the demand may further come down, if you don't losses would mount," says Bawa.

On its part, ATA has a few recommendations for helping out the aviation industry. It has

asked the government to compensate airlines and airports to the extent of their operating losses and give them some tax relief. It wants a government package for maintaining operations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. This will improve passenger confidence. The traffic will improve bringing sustainability to the sector.

Bawa has also asked the government to relax the travel restrictions for those who have been vaccinated. "Restrictions like the RT-PCR tests and quarantines should not be mandatory for the travellers with both jabs," he says. The ATA has suggested that for inland travel, a pass with a fitness certificate can also be issued. "Yatra Setu" on the lines of "Arogya Setu" can be a good step in this direction.

Myanmar trial of Australian adviser to Suu Kyi still not set

Bangkok: The case of an Australian economist and adviser to Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi who like her was arrested when the military seized power in February remained in legal limbo Wednesday as a court considered where he should be

Myanmar's junta leader attends military conference in Moscow

AP ■ MOSCOW
The leader of Myanmar's military junta on Wednesday attended an international conference in Moscow, an appearance that reflected Russia's eagerness to develop ties with it despite international opprobrium. The military in Myanmar ousted the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, saying her party's landslide victory in elections last November resulted from massive voter fraud. It has not produced credible evidence to back its claim. Security forces have brutally suppressed widespread popular protests against the military takeover, killing hundreds of protesters and carrying out waves of arrests. The junta's leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, claimed in Wednesday's speech at the conference organised by Russia's Defence Ministry that it was trying to consolidate a democratic system in the country that has "degraded." On Tuesday, Min Aung Hlaing met with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who hailed strong military cooperation between the countries.



Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, left, and Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's armed forces Senior General Min Aung Hlaing walk past the honour guard prior to their talks in Moscow, Russia on Tuesday

"We pay special attention to this meeting as we see Myanmar as a time-tested strategic partner and a reliable ally in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region," Shoigu said at the start of the meeting. He added that "cooperation in the military and military technical field is an important part of relations between Russia and Myanmar" and praised Min Aung Hlaing for strengthening the country's military. Shoigu said that Russia would work to expand ties with Myanmar based on "mutual understanding, respect and trust."

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ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Sachin Mittal, Shyoo Ram Choudhary, H No- 61 D First Floor, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBJA00003779154	Flat No E808, E809, E804, E805, 8th Floor, Pink Pride, Khasra No 9, Village Jaisinghpura Bass Bhankrota Tehsil Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Jaipur- 303902	15-Apr-2021, Rs. 1,30,100/-	31/07/2020
2.	Abdul Nasir,reshma Nasir, House No-13 2190 Puli Banarani Street, Lakhi Gate Kantabser Shahrangpur, Saharanpur, A/c No:-LBDEL00002737510	Flat No 306, 3rd Floor, Tower B, Durva Greens, Plot No Gh 08a, Sec Chi- V, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 93,79,437/-	30/04/2018
3.	Abdussalam, Ehtesham Ahmad, 405 Saba Sahkari Awas Samiti Apartment, Plot No D 3 Sector 44, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBND00001820032	Kph-2-1201, Kensington Park-1, Jaypee Greens Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 41,13,238.3/-	31/10/2018
4.	Abinash Kumar, Anjani Kumari, F- 9/ 124- B, Kataria Sarai, Delhi, Haryana A/c No:-LBGUR00002437442	Flat No-14- 701, 7th Floor, Tower 4, Arawali Homes Sec 4, Gurgaon, Haryana	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 14,29,160/-	31/07/2018
5.	Ajay Bhatnagar, Rashmi, H No 336 Vasant Apartments, Old Delhi Road, Gurgaon, Uttaranchal A/c No:-LBGUR00001886624	Flat No. 401, Block- C2, 4th Floor, Vistas Unitech, Sector-70, Gurgaon, Gurgaon, Haryana	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 35,32,946.3/-	31/10/2018
6.	Ajay Giri, Sunita Giri, House No B 44 Chahel House Mansarovar, Colony Moradabad, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBGUR00001919445	Unit No-Idi-15-303, Kove Jaypee Greens Sports City, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 52,87,885/-	31/01/2017
7.	Ajay Giri, Sunita Giri, House No B 44 Chahel House Mansarovar, Colony Moradabad, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBGUR00001925884	Unit No-Idi-15-303, Kove Jaypee Greens Sports City, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3,91,700/-	31/01/2017
8.	Akashjain, Neha Jain, Flat No 1 1204, Aparna Sarovar, Grande Nalla Gandia, Hydrabad, Telangana A/c No:-LBDEL00002358175	Flat No C 1006, 10th Floor, Tower C, Vardhman's Springdale Tower A B C D, Sector-03, Dharuhera Distt Rewari, Rewari, Haryana	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 47,37,420/-	31/03/2019
9.	Alok Ranjan, Pinki Ranjan, U24 A/34 Gf Pink Town House Df Ph-iii, Gurgaon, A/c No:- LBGUR00003122066	Flat No-2101, 21st Floor, Tower A, Misty Heights, Plot No Gh-01 Sec-sports Cityadjoining Techzone-iv Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 61,35,841/-	30/09/2018
10.	Allokumar, Somashri Shahi, 6b 106 Plot No Gh-4, Aditya Garden City Sec-6, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBGUR00002436557	Flat No B 106, Ff Plot No 6/g-4 Sec 6, Aditya Garden City Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 16,38,043/-	30/11/2018
11.	Amresh Chandra Verma, Aarti Verma, Ke-15 Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBND00002074973	Flat No- C-503, 5th Floor, Block-c, Amritsar One, Nh-1 Shubham Enclave, Amritsar, Punjab	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 23,88,824/-	30/11/2018
12.	Amrishi Raz, Syeda Rana Jabeen, E-110-a 2nd Floor Backside Abul, Fazal Enclave-I, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00002416058	Flat No 1701, 17th Floor, Tower-c, Circuit Heights, Amuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Plot No- Gh-g4 Sec-25 Jaypee Sports International Y, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 31,74,927/-	31/01/2017
13.	Bhikam Chand Korwa, Poonam, Delhi Govt. Officer's Flat No- 505 Block No-2 Motia Khan, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001929242	Flat No-205, 2nd Floor, Tower-a5, Plot No-gh001, Sector-113, Unitechunihomes Phase-3, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 26,44,472.3/-	31/08/2018
14.	Aniruddh Singh, Priti Singh, Plot # 92 Madangiri Villagedr Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00003049213	Flat No 307, 3rd Floor, Tower-c, Bulland Elevates, Plot No Gh-3a, Sector 16c, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 39,92,544/-	31/10/2018
15.	Anjneya Ashwina Dbdardwaj, Kunwar Pal Sharma, Flat No 2104 Sant Sunder Dassi, Cghs, Plot No-21 Sector-12, Near Saminter National School Dwaraka, Delhi, A/c No:-LBND00003260734	Flat No 1508, 15th Floor, Block-A, Antriksh Vally, Plot No Gh-015d, Sector-01, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 60,54,457/-	30/04/2019
16.	Ankur Seth, Anshul Seth, 648 4th Floor, Chirag Delhi Near Shiv Mandir, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGUR00003106059	Flat No 1705, Tower A, 17th Floor, Misty, Heights Sec Sports City, Gh-01, Sector Adjoining Techzone 4, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 65,04,688/-	30/06/2018
17.	Arun Khanna, Anjana Khanna, M. Khanna And Co.(p) Ltd.,44 Uday Park August Kranti Marg, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001953921	Unit Reference No-gdi0162504, Garden Isles, Jaypee Greens Sector-133, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 70,37,745/-	30/09/2017
18.	Arvindverma, Sheetal Verma, 2c Pocket 3 Phase Imayur Vihar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001843006	Kgt-5 - 901, Knight Court, Jaypee Greens, Noida Sector 128, Noida Greater Noida Expressway, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 42,18,485.6/-	30/04/2018
19.	Arvind Kumar Mishra, Harendra Kumar Mishra, Shanti Mishra, 880/31, Laxman Vihar, Gali No. 1, Opposite Apna Enclave, Gurgaon, Haryana A/c No:-LBND00001939030	Flat No. Ld 1- 16- 503, The Kove Jaypee Greens Sports City, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 42,84,560/-	31/07/2018
20.	Aneesh Vij,shilpa Vij, 171-a Express View Apt Block Super, Mig Sector-93, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBND00002041768	Unit No Khr0221804, Krescent Homes, Wishtown Noida Jaypee Greens, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 93,44,615/-	31/12/2017
21.	Bhartiagarwal, Arpit Jain, 4 2nd Floor Siddhivihar Apitms115/1 Ward No-1desu Road, Delhi, Haryana A/c No:-LBGHZ00003070824	Flat No 604, 6th Floor, Tower A, Misty Heights, Plot No Gh 01, Sector Sports City Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 45,03,513/-	28/02/2019
22.	Bhaskara Manna, Bonny Amanna, Plot No 8/ 2 First Floore E, Block Nirajan Park Najafgarh, Delhi, A/c No:-LBGUR00003084308	Plot No 1901, 19th Floor, Tower A, Misty Heights Sport City, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 67,03,770/-	30/06/2018
23.	Braj Kishore Poddar, Smriti Mahajan, B 3/8 2nd Floor Ganga Triveni Apts Sec 9 Rohini, Delhi, A/c No:-LBND00002239710	Bc0b041206, Flat No 1206, 12th Floor, Tower-b4, Jaypee, Boulevard Court Pocket Gh-e Sec-19 And 22, Jaypee Greens Sports City East Mirjapur, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 9,21,304/-	30/09/2016
24.	Brijesh Kumar Bankoti, Sushma Bankoti, Flat No 127 Green View Apartment Sec 17g Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBGHZ00002187876	Flat No-2102 21st Floor Tower A, Unnati The Aranya Residency, Plot No Gh 02, Sector 119, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 44,33,359/-	28/02/2019
25.	Chandni Sharma, Ravi Kumar, House No-B-281, Sector-122, Gautam Buddha Nagar,uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBND00002964385	Flat No 1001, 10th Floor, Tower-g, Elegant Splendour, Plot No. Cp-gh-05c Sector-techzone-iv Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 41,91,959/-	31/12/2018
26.	Diwan Singh Panth, Janki Bisht, B-133 Maidan Gadi Vill, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001902227	Ks-3-19-602, Kasia Jaypee Greens, Sport City, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 40,92,548.3/-	30/06/2018
27.	Asharain Gupta, Manish Gupta, D 288 First Floor Sarvodaya Enclave, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00002002769	Flat No 102, 1st Floor, Ldi 19, The Kove, Jaypee Greens Sport City, Gautam Budh Nagar Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 29,44,587/-	30/11/2017
28.	Gaurav Sharma, Pradeep Kumar Sharma, 99, Alamanda Boulevard Point Cook, victoria, Victoria, A/c No:-LBDEL00001941892	Unit No Khr0231801, 18th Floor, Krescent Homes Jaypee Greens, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 51,93,757/-	31/10/2016
29.	Gauravsinh, Shalu Singh, 7/169 Geeta Colony, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00002891319	Flat No-1201, 12th Floor, Tower-d, Circuit Heights, Plot No-gh-g4 Sec-25, Jaypee Sports International Yeida Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 35,82,459/-	31/08/2017
30.	Gianender Singh, Jayanti, H No-1123 Ward No-23 Sonapat, Sonapat, Haryana A/c No:- LBGUR00002057318	Or - 53, Orchid Villa, Indus Satellite Greens, Satellite Greens, Indore, Madhya Pradesh	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 51,02,107/-	30/09/2015
31.	Gurdeep Singh, Shubjit Kaur, Ac-7 Ground Floor Ganga Ram Vatika Tilak Nagar, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBDEL00002299213	Flat No-2602, 25th Floor, Tower A2, Victory Ace, Pkt 2, Plot Gh 02, Sec-143, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 54,41,156/-	30/09/2018
32.	Hartinder Singh Bhatia, Maninder Kaur Bhatia, C-3248 Janak Puri, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00002234142	Gdi0113502, Flat No 3502, 35 Floor, Wishtown Noida Jaypee Greens, Garden Isles Tower, Gd-11, Sector 133, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 25,44,517.99/-	30/11/2017
33.	Hatinder Singh, Rajinder Kaur, Surjeet Fuel Depot, 3/13, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBND00001890258	Flat No. Ks3- 10- 204, Kasia Jaypee Greens, Sports City, Gautam Budhnagar Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 20,90,715.97/-	31/12/2017
34.	Hridayesh Kumar Mishra, Preeti, House No-13 A Block Gali No-7 Vidyapati Nagar, mubarakpur Dabas Sultampur Block-c, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBDEL00003217688	Flat No-1905, Tower-a, 19th Floor, Antriksh Vally Plot No Gh-15d, Sector-1, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 54,74,296/-	30/04/2019

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : June 24, 2021
Place: Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Hisar Spinning Mills Limited

(CIN NO.L17112HR1992PLC031621)
9th K.M. Stone, Hisar-Bhiwani Road, V.P.O. Dabra (Hisar) 125005
NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and disclosure requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 29th June, 2021, to inter-alia, consider and approve the Company's audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended on March 31, 2021. The information is also available on the Company's website i.e., www.hisarspinningmills.com and also on the website of the stock exchange, where securities of the company are listed, viz. BSE Ltd. - www.bseindia.com. (Scrip code: 521068, Scrip Name: HISARSP).
By order of the Board
For Hisar Spinning Mills Limited
Sd/-
(Anurag Gupta)
Managing Director
Place : Hisar
Date: June 22, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all concern that Shri. Sharmal Sio Late Jaswant Singh R/o Vill Hoshiyarpur Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh was the owner of Residential Plot No H-19, H-20 and H-21, Sector-145, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. Shri Sharmal has expired on 26.04.2021. He had executed a registered WILL of said above plots in favour of shri shiva yadav S/o Shri Madan Pal Yadav R/o Vill Sorkha Jahidabad Sector-115, Noida U.P. vide WILL dated 03.09.2013 duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Gautam Budh Nagar UP in Book No. 3, Volume No 414 on pages 53 to 62 at Document No. 2272 dated 03.09.2013. Now the above plot are going to be transferred through the above WILL in favour of Shiva Yadav S/o Shri Madan Pal Yadav R/o Vill Sorkha Jahidabad, Sector-115, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh if any one has/have may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority Sector-6, Noida within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Shiva Yadav

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-I irrigation & GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India online percentage rae tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

1. NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/07 (ID No. 2021_IFC_204435_1) H.O.A:- 2711-Non Plan. Name of Work:- Repairing and Renovation of Khyala Bridge at RD 41490 and Raghubar Nagar Bridge at RD 42930 on Najafgarh Drain. E.C. Rs. 36,70,076/- period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 25.06.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M. respectively.)
2. NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/13 (ID No. 2021_IFC_204439_1) H.O.A:- 4515-Plan (RDB), Name of Work:- Improvement of main road at village Bagdola in Bijwasan Constituency. E.C. Rs 23,16,968/- period of Completion 30 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 25.06.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M. respectively.)

Note:-
1. Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
2. Amendment(s) alteration(s) / corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

Executive Engineer
Civil Division-I
Irr. & Flood Control Deptt.,
DIP/Shabdarth/0115/21-22
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Name: Unknown S/O: Unknown. Address: Unknown** was found unconscious on Footpath at Gate No. 03, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg, New Delhi and admitted to Lady Hardinge Medical College vide MLC No. 1125/21. During the treatment Doctors declared brought him dead on 19.06.2021. The body has been preserved in Lady Hardinge Medical College's Mortuary, Delhi for 72 Hrs. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 13A dated 19.06.2021 at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. The description of the dead male is as under:- **Age:** Approx 50 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Hair:** Long & black beard, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** White -blue colour checked T-shirt and red-blue print colour dhoti. If any one having any information about this dead male please inform undersigned.
SHO
P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi
Ph: 011-23366730, 8750870522
DP/284/NDD/2021

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division Doda Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), Jammu Power Development Department

Email: xenstdoda@gmail.com, Tel No. 01996-295112
e- NIT No: STD/Doda/Capex 21-22/08 of 2021, Dated 11.06.2021 INVITATION:-
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer, STD Doda, JPDC Jammu, hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for "Stabilization/Improvement of 33KV Khellani-Doda Line, 33 KV Marmat Line and adjoining taps by way of replacement of compromised insulators, installation of 33 KV isolator, setting right of jumpers and Guys etc." under the jurisdiction of Executive Engineer, STD Doda, JPDC Jammu.
1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
2. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:
A. Tender Document/Sale/Download Start Date:- 14.06.2021 10.00AM
B. Tender Document/Sale/Download End Date:- 05.07.2021 04:00 PM
C. e-Bid submission (start) date & time:- 14.06.2021 10.00AM
D. e-Bid submission (end) date & time:- 05.07.2021 4.00PM
Sd/- (Er. Jarnail Singh) Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division. JPDC, Doda.
No. DIP/J-1238-P/21 Dated : 22-06-2021

N K Textile Industries Limited

Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025
CIN: L17299DL1983PLC163230, Tel: +91 11 61119313
Email Id: n.ktextiles123@gmail.com, website: www.nktil.com
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the meeting no. 02/2021-22 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 30th June, 2021 (Wednesday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 5.30 PM to discuss the following agenda items:
i. To take on record the Audited Financial Results (Standalone and Consolidated) of the Company for the Financial Year ended on 31st March, 2021 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
ii. To discuss any other business with the permission of chair.
By Order of the Board,
For N K Textile Industries Limited
Sd/-
(Balbir Singh)
Director
DIN:00027438
Place: New Delhi
Date: 23.06.2021

Russia fires warning shots to deter UK warship in Black Sea

AP ■ MOSCOW
A Russian warship fired warning shots after the British missile destroyer Defender had ignored a notice against intrusion in Russia's territorial waters. It said that a Russian Su-24 bomber also dropped four bombs ahead of the British ship to persuade it to change course. Minutes later, the British warship left the Russian waters, the ministry said. The Russian Defence Ministry said it has summoned the UK military attache in Moscow to protest the British destroyer's maneuver. The UK Ministry of Defence did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The incident marked the first time since the Cold War that Moscow has used live ammunition to deter a NATO warship, reflecting growing risks of military incidents amid soaring Russia-West tensions. The Russian Defence Ministry said the Russian war-

Iran: 'Sabotage attack' on civilian nuclear center thwarted

Tehran: Iranian authorities have thwarted what they called a "sabotage attack" targeting a civilian nuclear facility near the country's capital, state TV reported on Wednesday, as details about the incident remained scarce. The attempted attack against a building belonging to Iran's Atomic Energy Organization "left no casualties or damages and was unable to disrupt the Iranian nuclear program," Iranian state television reported, adding that authorities were working to identify the perpetrators. Iranian media offered no details on the kind of attack, saying only that the move targeted a sprawling nuclear center located in Karaj city, just some 40 kilometers northwest of Tehran. When asked for comment, an Iranian official referred to the initial report by Nournews, believed to be close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they did not have authorisation to discuss the matter with media. AP

Warren Buffett resigns from Gates Foundation

New York: Warren Buffett is resigning as a trustee from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The announcement comes weeks after Bill and Melinda Gates announced that they were divorcing after 27 years of marriage but would continue to jointly run the foundation, one of the largest charitable foundations in the world. Gates was formerly the world's richest person and his fortune is estimated at well over \$100 billion. AP

Blast outside JuD chief Hafiz Saeed's house kills 3 in Lahore

PTI ■ LAHORE
A powerful car bomb exploded outside the house of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack mastermind and banned Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed here on Wednesday, killing at least three people and injuring 21 others. The blast took place at a police picket outside Saeed's residence at the BOR Society in Jauhar Town, resulting in serious injuries to some police officers guarding his house. The windows and walls of Saeed's house were damaged from the impact of the blast, Pakistani media reported. Inspector General of Police (Punjab) Inam Ghani said there could have been a "major loss" had there been no police picket outside the house of the high-profile personality, referring to Saeed. The 71-year-old radical cleric has been serving a jail sentence at the high-security Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore for his conviction in terror financing cases.

Oli: Yoga originated in Nepal, not in India

Kathmandu: Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has stoked yet another controversy by claiming that Yoga originated in his country, not in India, a view not shared by a leading expert here. Speaking at a function organised to observe the International Yoga Day on June 21 at the Prime Minister's residence in Baluwatar, Oli said that India was not even born as a separate country when Yoga originated in "this part of the world." "Yoga originated from this part of the globe. It originated from Uttarakhand, in particular, Nepal was the place of ori-

Delta variant 'greatest threat' to US' Covid-19 efforts: Dr Fauci

Washington: The highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus is the "greatest threat" to America's attempt to eradicate the pandemic, the country's leading infectious disease expert and White House Chief Medical Advisor Dr Anthony Fauci has warned. The variant, which was first detected in India, is more contagious and causes more severe disease than other circulating variants, he said on Tuesday during a White House Covid-19 response team briefing. PTI

Moody's cuts 2021 India's growth forecast to 9.6 pc

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday slashed India's growth projection to 9.6 per cent for 2021 calendar year from its earlier estimate of 13.9 per cent, and said faster Covid vaccination will be paramount in restricting economic losses to June quarter.

The US-based rating agency said high-frequency economic indicators show that the second wave of Covid-19 infections hit India's economy in April and May. With states now easing restrictions, economic activity in May is likely to signify the trough, it said in a report on India.

"The virus resurgence adds uncertainty to India's growth forecast for 2021; however, it is likely that the economic damage will remain restricted to the April-June

Govt liberalises guidelines for voice BPO industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday announced liberalisation of guidelines for other service providers (OSPs) and said that the move would position India as a strong global destination for voice BPOs.

The distinction between domestic and international OSPs has been removed.

A BPO centre with common telecom resources will now be able to serve customers located worldwide including in India. The easing of guidelines would lead to cost-saving and better utilisation for BPO companies. With removal of the distinction between domestic and international OSP centres, the interconnectivity between all types of OSP centres, is now permitted. "We have today extensively liberalised OSP guidelines... This revolutionary step will make India a global destination for BPOs," Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters.

UK HC rejects Nirav Modi's extradition plea

PTI ■ LONDON

Nirav Modi has lost the first stage of his extradition appeal in the High Court here, just over two months after the wanted diamond merchant's extradition to India was ordered by UK Home Secretary Priti Patel in the estimated USD 2-billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam case.

The case was before a High Court judge for a decision "on the papers" submitted for the appeal to determine if there are any grounds for an appeal against the Home Secretary's decision on April 16 or the Westminster Magistrates Court February ruling in favour of Modi's extradition to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering.

A High Court official confirmed that the permission to appeal was "rejected on paper" on Tuesday, which leaves the

DoT allocates 5G trial spectrum to MTNL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecom on Wednesday allocated the spectrum for 5G field trials to the state-owned telecom firm MTNL with C-DoT as its technology partner, according to an official source.

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea were given the spectrum in May to conduct 5G trials across select cities in India.

"(The) DoT has allocated spectrum to MTNL for 5G trials in Delhi. It will conduct trials in partnership with C-DoT," the official source told PTI. The state-owned telecom firm will conduct trials in the Najafgarh area of Delhi.

According to the DoT, 5G technology is expected to deliver 10 times better download speed than that of 4G and up to three times greater spectrum efficiency. The duration of the trials at present is six months. This includes a time period of two months for procurement and the setting up of the equipment.

NMDC another impressive performance in FY21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's largest iron ore producer, NMDC has produced 34.15 million tonnes and sold 33.25 million tonnes of iron ore during the financial year 2020-21. This is an 8% growth in production and 6% in sales from the 31.49 million tonnes produced and 31.51 million tonnes sold during FY 2019-20, achieved in an undoubtedly challenging year.

NMDC's turnover for FY 2020-21 is ₹15,370 crore against ₹11,699 crore during FY 2019-20.

Mask compliance still remains low in India despite most lethal Covid-19 wave: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mask wearing compliance still remains low in India despite it being one of the worst hit by the second wave of Covid-19, according to findings of a survey.

The mask compliance at vaccination centres also remains low, as per the survey conducted by online social media platform LocalCircles.

"Despite the most lethal Covid-19 wave that any country in the world has experienced so far, India's mask compliance is still low as indicated by the survey finding where 67 per cent of citizens say there is limited or no mask compliance in their area, district, or city," it said.

The survey received over 33,000 responses from citizens located in 312 districts of the country.

According to the survey findings, only 32 per cent of citizens in the survey note that there was limited mask compliance at the vaccination centre they recently visited.

LIC chairman inaugurates Go Live of e-PGS project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

LIC of India crossed another milestone today by embarking upon a new Centralized Web-based Work-flow-based IT platform for its Group Business operations. Chairman of LIC of India, MR Kumar inaugurated the Go Live of the project e-PGS in a formal ceremony held today at 10:30.

Hours at Yogakshema, Central Office, Mumbai in the presence of Managing Directors Vipin Anand, Mukesh Gupta, Raj Kumar and S Mohanty. Shri Rakesh Sharma, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of IDBI Bank received the first digital receipt, generated on new IT platform, to the Bank as Master Policy Holder in one of its group policies from the inaugural ceremony was joined online from 204 locations across the entire country.

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-II
JAL SADAN : LAJPAT NAGAR: NEW DELHI- 110024

STOP CORONA:-Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

NIT NO.04/S-II/2021-22
Press Tender

S.No.	Name of work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e-procurement solution
1	Augmentation of water supply in B-Block, NDSE -II by P/L 150mm dia Loop line across Ring Road by trenchless technology upto B-Block, NDSE-II under EE(S)II. (AC-42 Kasturba Nagar)	3303712/-	2021_DJB_204757_1 23.6.2021	13.7.2021 upto 2.00 PM

It is for publishing in the leading newspaper please. Further details in this regard can be seen at govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

ISSUED BY: P.R.O.(WATER)
Advt.No.J.S.V.135(2021-22)

(S.Ghulam Sajjad)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)II

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have revised the timings of the Special Trains on below mentioned stations as under :-

Train No. & Name	Station	Existing Time		Revised Time		Date
		ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	
08237 Korba - Amritsar Junction Special Express Train	Kosikalana	17:16	17:18	17:23	17:25	with immediate effect
02883 Durg - Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Special Express Train	Jhansi	02:10	02:20	02:15	02:25	

NOTE : The time-table at other stations of the above special trains will hold good.

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute, the passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & download Railmadad app.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PREMIUM MERCHANTS LIMITED

Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025
CIN: L51909DL1985PLC021077.Tel: +91 11 61119658
Email Id: premiummerchants123@gmail.com, website: www.pmltd.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the meeting no. 02/2021-22 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 30th June, 2021 (Wednesday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 4.00 PM to discuss the following agenda items:

- To take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Financial Year ended on 31st March, 2021 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
- To discuss any other business with the permission of chair.

By Order of the Board
For Premium Merchants Limited
Sd/-
Balbir Singh
Director

DIN:00027438
Place: New Delhi
Dated: 23.06.2021

UJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)

H.O. "UJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Behradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SG025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 471 Tender Notice Date: 23.06.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M) SHP, UJVN Ltd., Rishikesh, invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No.:- NIT No.02/EE(E&M) (SHP)/Rishikesh/2021-22
Name of Work/Supply/Service etc. :- "Supply, fixing and testing of vector surge protection relay and associated items in RPN SHP (2 X 750 kW Dunaon) in District Pauri Garhwal and Pilangad SHP (2x1125 kW) in Distt Uttarakashi"

Estimated Cost:- Rs. 6,27,760.00 (Including GST)
Date of availability of bid document on web site:- 23.06.2021
Last date for submission of Tender:- 24.07.2021 up to 17.00 Hrs.

For full & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from Nigam's website www.ujvn.com

Executive Engineer (E&M)(SHP), Rishikesh

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male namely Unknown, S/O Unknown, R/O Unknown, Age 35 years, Height 5', Complexion Shallow, Face Round, Built Medium, Wearing Red colour shirt, sky blue colour jeans pant and bare footed was found injured Near Wazirabad Bridge, Delhi on 31.05.21, during treatment he got expired. In this regard a case FIR No. 367/21 dated 01.06.21 U/S 279/337 IPC has been registered at PS Wazirabad, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may be kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO
PS: Wazirabad, Delhi
Ph.: 8750870131

DP/1290/N/21

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division Doda Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), Jammu Power Development Department

Email: xenstdoda@gmail.com, Tel No. 01996-295112, CIN No. U40300JK2013SGC003898

e- NIT No. - STD/Doda/Capex/2021-22/ 09 of 2021, dated: - 11.06.2021

INVITATION

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Doda - JPDC, hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for 'Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Survey, Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 1x3.15 MVA, 33/11KV Receiving Station at Bhalra, Bhalra in District Doda.' under the jurisdiction of Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division Doda, JPDC, Jammu.

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender document is available at website <http://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:-

A. Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date:- 14.06.2021 10.00AM
B. Clarification start and end date:- 14.06.2021 10.00AM to 16.06.2021 05.00PM
C. Tender Document Sale/Download End Date:- 07.07.2021 UPTO 04.00 PM
D. e-Bid submission (start) date & time:- 17.06.2021 10.00AM
E. e-Bid submission (end) date & time:- 07.07.2021 UPTO 4:00PM

Sd/- (Er. Jarnail Singh)
Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division,
JPDC, Doda.

No. DIP/J-1236-P/21 Dated : 22-06-2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Jankey Bhallabh Soni, Prashant Kumar, N 1408 Prateek Laurel Sec 120, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBNOD00002374209	Plot No- C-8-06, Soni Palm City Sector- 32 32a Buddha Khara Village, Karnal, Haryana	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 46,93,051/-	31/10/2016
2.	Jatinder Kaur Kharbada, Harminder Singh, 13/7, C-Block 37 Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:- LBNOD00001946597	Flat No- LD 1 03, 1901, The Kove Jaypee Greens Sports City, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 40,31,697/-	31/03/2016
3.	Jitender Kumar Ahuja, Payal Ahuja, House No- 15 B, 1st Floor Blk Nit No- 5 Nr Garden, Faridabad, Haryana A/c No:- LBNOD00002206955	Flat No- 05B, 1st Floor, Block- K Amritsar One, Shubham Enclave, Gt Road Village, Daburji, Amritsar, Punjab	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 35,25,737/-	30/04/2019
4.	Kapil Kumar Jain, Sachin Jain, 66 Old Anarkali, Krishna Nagar Delhi-51, Delhi, New Jersey A/c No:- LBNOD00001932421	KRH 0122204, Wishtown, Krescent Homes, Jaypee Greens Sector-129, Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 69,83,709.7/-	31/10/2017
5.	Kautilya Srivastava, Kamal Narain Srivastava, E 25 Second Floor, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi, Haryana A/c No:- LBDEL000002443876	Flat No 1101, 11th Floor, Tower C, Circuit Heights, Plot No Gha G4 Sec- 25 Jaypee Sport Sinter National Yeida Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 32,77,437/-	30/04/2017
6.	Amitkumar, Geeta, 211 Bamnoli Village, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002058717	Flat No- 603, 6th Floor, Block B, Nikhil Park Royale, Mauza Chamrauli, Kharsa No 209, 210, Mauza Chamrauli, Taj Ganj Ward, Agra, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 44,19,723.93/-	31/08/2017
7.	Kumar Kundan, Kumar Sudarasan, 10 A 109 Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00003092569	Flat No 2005, Tower E, 20th Floor, Plot No Gh- 01, Misty Height S Sec- Sports City Adjoining Tech Zone- Iv Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 62,12,422/-	31/07/2018
8.	Manas Gandhi, Mahesh Kumar Gandhi, 6/15 2nd Floor Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001955058	Unit Reference No- LDI- 04 1201, The Kove Jaypee Greens City, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 48,71,811/-	31/10/2016
9.	Maneesh Tiwari, Nivedita Tiwari, Flat No- 202, Tower 10, Silver Citysec- 93A, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBNOD00001893983	Flat No- KRH0010402, Krescent Homes, Jaypee Greens, Sector-129, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 98,16,208/-	31/12/2017
10.	Manish Kumarjha, Jyothi Jha, 12/18 3rd Floor Ashoka Road Shipra Suncity Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBGHZ00002172686	Flat No 2001, 20th Floor, Tower D, Mascot Soho Manorath, Plot No Gh- 4b/1, Sector 16, Greater Noida West - Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 53,32,887/-	30/04/2018
11.	Mirza Ashraf Beg, Farooza Bano, Flat- 2602, Uae Alshikhham Fatema, Bnt Mobark Mirza Ash Ratbeg, Sharjah, Uae A/c No:- LBNOD00001880529	Flat No KM72A902, Kosmos Jaypee Green, Sec-129 And 134, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 50,41,117.6/-	31/03/2017
12.	Mohammad Ayoub Khan, Mohammad Ismail Khan, 32 III H Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBNOD00002043941	KS3-33-202, 2nd Floor, Kasia Jaypee Greens Sports City, Sector-128, Gautam Budh Nagar Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 38,66,014/-	30/09/2017
13.	Mohit Nakra, Shweta Nakra, H No D- 346, Sector- 47, Noida, A/c No:- LBNOD00001981408	KUBOO524011, Kube Jaypee Greens, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 84,69,062/-	31/10/2018
14.	Mukesh Jangpangi, Ganga Jangpangi, 370 Top Floor Chirag Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001918946	Appts No- 0403, 4th Floor, Tower B3, The Residences, Unitech GHP 0001, Sector- 117, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 43,70,285.1/-	31/05/2018
15.	Mukesh Jangpangi, Ganga Jangpangi, 370 Top Floor Chirag Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001929847	Appts No- 0403, 4th Floor, Tower B3, The Residences, Unitech GHP 0001, Sector- 117, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 52,938/-	31/05/2018
16.	Namrata Kataria, Avesh Kumar, C-311 312 Nayay Khand lind Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBNOD00002850869	Flat No 1104, 11th Floor, Tower- C , Bulland Calisto, Plot No Gh- 02B-1, Sector- 10, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 9,90,982/-	31/07/2018
17.	Naveen Kumar, Anita Rani, 100 Ground Floor Shakari Nagar Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBNOD00002279699	Flat No 2101, 21st Floor, Block K1, Imperial Greens, Plot No Gh 01B, Sector 16, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 42,96,165/-	31/12/2018
18.	Naveen Naveen, usha Rani, B- 69 Sewak Park Uttam Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002075979	Flat No- 1117-B, 11th Floor, Tower- 9, Chinar Homes, Kishanpurazirakpur, Zirakpur, Punjab	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 76,50,029/-	13/10/2014
19.	Neeraj Vats, Dbs Infosoft Solutions Pvt Ltd, Varsha Vats, 4/72 Ashok Mohalla Nanngli, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002055445	Unit NOKM00161705, Flat No. 1705, 17th Floor, Tower Km-16, Kosmos Wishtown Noida At Jaypee Greens Noida, Sector 128, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 54,53,928.4/-	31/07/2016
20.	Nirmal Sagar, Shiv Shankar, H. No-90P Nr. Uniworld Opp., of Mordenmart Sector- 41, Gurgaon, Haryana A/c No:- LBDEL00002028874	Flat No- T2-603, 6th Floor, IBD Belmont Park, Treasure, Kelod Halaindoret-2- 603, Indore, Madhya Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 95,48,293/-	30/09/2015
21.	Nisha Singh, Priyanka Harish Chawla, House No. 116-117, Top Floor Pocket- 3, Sector-25 Rohini, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002895023	Flat No F020403, 17th Floor, Tower F02, Sare Green Parc, Phase 2 Vill Wazirpur Mewka Sec 92, Gurgaon, Haryana	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 70,33,282/-	31/05/2019
22.	Pankaj Sood, Pooja Sood, H No-156 Durga Nagar Ambala Cantt, Ambala, A/c No:- LBGUR00002047143	Plot No 1, Street No 82 B-11, Second Floor, Sector- 82B, Vatika India, Gurgaon, Haryana	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 77,90,975/-	31/07/2018
23.	Parmanand, Luxmi, 181/3 Sec-10 Road, Gurgaon, Haryana A/c No:- LBGUR00001983343	1706 17th Floor, T16, Green Par C-2, Sector 92, Gurgaon, Haryana	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 69,00,784/-	31/05/2016
24.	Pawan Kumar Verma, Dhiraj Kumar, B-1449/115, Durga Puri, Street No-3 Shahdra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBDEL00001955386	Property No- FL3FU, A2-06-0606, Flat No. 0606, Tower-A2, Unitech Unihomes- 3, Sector-113 Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 21,04,155/-	31/05/2019
25.	Manish Raj, Pushp Lata Sinha, F-298, 3rd Floor, Lado Sarai, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002133789	Flat No 1218, 12th Floor, Tower C, 16th Park View Gaur Yamuna City, Pocket-3 Mirzapur Site, Sector 19, Ahmednagarayida Yamuna Expressway, B/h Raghvendra Mandir, Adhav Mala, Bholgaon, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 26,03,497/-	28/02/2017
26.	Pradeep Sharma, Sharda Sharma, J-626, Kartar Nagar- Block Near Viral Garga House, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002861126	Flat No A 22, 22nd Floor, Tower 9, Ryn, Plot No Gh-06A, Sector- CHI- V-greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 28,62,227.99/-	31/05/2019
27.	Pritpal Singh, paramjeet Kaur, 253, Gali No- 5 Bhol Nath Nagar Shahdra, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001218260	Flat No- 227 A, Type- B, Pocket- E, 6F, Ground Floor Type- Anand Nagri, Delhi, Delhi	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 9,95,551/-	30/04/2017
28.	Priyanka Jain, Rahul Jain, D1804 Anrapali Platinum Sec 119 Noida, G B Nagar, Noida, A/c No:- LBNOD00003091093	Flat No 405, 4th Floor, Tower D, Misty Heights, Plot No-GH-01, Sec- Adjoining Techzone- Iv Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 36,39,753/-	30/04/2019
29.	Raghavendra Madhu, Geetha Madhu, H No- 88 Flat No- B-2kh No 20/1 S/F Savitri Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002013530	BS204C0602, Flat No C602, 6th Floor, Tower- 4, Studios- II Jaypee Greens Sports City East, Pocket- Gh-04, Buddh Circuit, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 8,02,601/-	31/12/2017
30.	Raj Mohan, Lalitha Shanmugam, I-11 South Moti Bagh Nanakpuri, Delhi, A/c No:- LBNOD00002028820	Flat No 312-B, 3rd Floor, Tower- 6, Chinar Homes Sector- 20, Village Kishanpura, Chandigarh, Punjab	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 1,20,72,291/-	13/10/2014
31.	Rajat Rastogi, Samarath Rastogi, D-147 2nd Floor Prashant Vihar, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGHZ00001935524	Appartment No GD10252703, 27th Floor, Wishtown Noida, Garden Isles Jaypee Greens, Sector-133, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 28,91,391.5/-	31/10/2017
32.	Rajesh Kumar Singh, Brajesh Kumar Singh, Rz-729/A Ugf, Gali No 11 Raj Nagar Part- 2, Deep Parmarth School Palam Village, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGUR00002417418	Unit No 2006, 20th Floor, Tower B, Unnati The Aranya Residency, Gh-2, Sector 119 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 73,57,668.30/-	28/02/2019
33.	Sunit Agarwal, Neelam Agarwal, G-4/5 Ground Floor Rama Park, Mahan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, Haryana A/c No:- LBDEL00001981491	Unit No- 0701 Floor 7, Tower- 0D1, Block- 00D, Unihomes- 3, Sector 113, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01-Apr-2021, Rs. 14,22,109.16/-	31/03/2019
34.	Rajinder Singh, sharmila Devi, H. No.- 10, Gali No 02, Pataudi Road, Gurgaon, Haryana A/c No:- LBDEL0000386987	H No 10, Gali No-2, Pataudi Road, Delhi, Delhi	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 10,50,017.41/-	08/08/2014
35.	Rajinder Singh, Sharmila Devi, H. No. 10, Gali No - 2, Pataudi Road, Gurgaon, Haryana A/c No:- LBDEL0000386988	H No 10, Gali No-2, Pataudi Road, Gurgaon, Haryana	03-Apr-2021, Rs. 11,17,286/-	08/08/2014

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : June 24, 2021
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



Regional rules digital waves

ANANT ROONGTA says that localised content has been taking centre stage on OTT platforms

As the diversity in content takes centre stage, OTT as an industry has reached new heights. For the global entertainment scene, the past year has been a mixed bag. After rigorous turmoil, the industry partially got back on its feet because of the rise of OTT consumption. With the advent of work from home culture, coupled with outdoor restriction, streaming platforms witnessed a jump in subscription revenue. Interestingly, after a few years of launch, OTT platforms reached a new level of subscription revenue when compared to the broadcast industry which took years to gain the current levels. This, in turn, has provided an opportunity to not only experiment with content but also create something that resonates with the audience.

Wider growth

With hyperactive internet users and increased internet penetration in the country, studios and platforms are creating storylines inspired by people's behaviour in the region. The notable thing here is that the content is either dubbed in multiple languages with the scripts and references that make people connect with a show across the country or it is created for a specific region. A good example of that would be MX Player's *Samantar* that has a suspenseful storyline that any Maharashtrian could relate to. Such regional content is especially consumed in the native areas of the country amidst the digital progression and easy availability of smartphones at an affordable price.

Regional content creation has its advantages, an immersive storyline could potentially be created at 30-40 per cent lower cost with larger viewership. Consumption of regional content is expected to double, with over a billion of the population having a smartphone by the next decade. Currently, streaming services have more subscribers than people with a cable connection. As per a report by FICCI, regional languages will make up 60 per cent of television consumption by 2025 from around 55 per cent in 2020 and around 50 per cent of streaming video consumption from 30 per cent in 2019. Keeping the demand for regional content in mind, big media platforms like Amazon Prime Video, Zee5, Hotstar and Voot are keen on producing regional content for the masses.

Scope

Regional markets have a lot of potential and scope in the future because many of them are underserved, which means there's room for growth. Due to the increase in demand, marketers have realised that simply dubbing Hindi or English advertising into local languages will no longer suffice, therefore they have started including modest local language additions to their ads or are attempting to compose local language scripts in English. With digital platforms making significant progress in terms of content creation — as they seek new methods to thrill their audiences — local material will receive a significant boost, which will benefit regional cinema greatly.

Future of the digital era

The consumption of digital content has unquestionably expanded dramatically over time. People have been riveted to the screen for Marathi comedy, south-Indian action, Bengali crime thrillers, and romantic narratives in all languages, and OTT platforms have recently discovered that regional shows are attracting the most viewers. The consumption of regional material is expected to increase in the next few years, particularly on streaming platforms, as non-metro audiences continue to lead internet user growth.

(The author is managing director of a film studio which was set up in 1946.)

MELTING BOUNDARIES

Actors are no longer defined by the medium they most often dabble in. By TEAM VIVA

So many performers are today flexing their acting prowess with equal ease on, both, streaming platforms and films. Here is our pick of five of such versatile talents:

Mukul Chadda

Mukul left New York and a thriving career as a banker because his heart craved for a life in the arts. He arrived in Mumbai without a blueprint for his future but memories of doing theatre in college and attending classes at the Lee



Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute began to guide his choices. He soon found himself working in films like *Ek Main Aur Ekk Tu*, *Island City*, *I, Me Aur Main* et al along with shows like *Bichoo Ka Khel* and *Gurgaon*. He also played a jovial and rather clueless boss in the Indian adaptation of the popular American sitcom, *The Office*. This month, he is celebrating the release of an OTT series, *Sunflower* and the much-awaited film *Sherni*. In the former, which is a dark crime comedy, he plays a rather mercurial, short-tempered character and in *Sherni*, he portrays a rather unimaginative spouse who believes his wife's government job is a 'recession-



proof' meal ticket for life. Chadda is emerging as an actor who can effortlessly adapt to cinematic and OTT narratives without missing a beat.

Radhika Apte

From someone who made her debut in 2005 with a fleeting appearance in a now-forgotten film, *Vaah! Life Ho Toh Aisi!*, Radhika has grown enormously to become the unofficial queen of OTT productions and an acclaimed film actor, be it in commercial hits like *Badlapur* and *Anhadhun* or an independent film like *Raat Akeli Hai*. Many credit her with changing the scope and span of female performances in OTT shows. Her ability to exude both charisma and earthy simplicity has seen her churn out flawless performances in titles as diverse as *Manjhi - The Mountain Man*, *Parched*, *Phobia*, *Pad Man*, *Lust Stories*, *Bazaar*, *A Call To Spy*, *Stories by Rabindranath Tagore*, *Ghoul*, and *Sacred Games*. Along the way, she has scooped up various awards and also gar-

nered critical and popular appreciation.

Sayani Gupta

This graduate from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), is truly a new-age star whose unconventional choices have resulted in a very interesting creative journey. Sayani made her debut in 2012 in *Second Marriage Dot Com* but her breakout role was as the visually-challenged love interest of



Kalki Koechlin in Shonali Bose's acclaimed film, *Margarita With A Straw*. She gave another noticeable performance, as part of the ensemble cast, in Leena Yadav's *Parched*. In Anubhav Sinha's, *Article 15*, her wrenching histrionics gave the film much of its truthfulness. In films like *Axone*, *Jolly LLB 2*, *Fan*, and *Baar Baar Dekho*, her presence was unmistakable and each performance was different from the other. She also went on to command stardom in the OTT hit *Four more shots please!*. Sayani has

demonstrated time and again that, as an actor, she will never let herself be boxed in a specific genre or format.

Vikrant Massey

Vikrant's journey has been chequered and spans diverse platforms. Starting with the 2004 television series, *Kahaan Hoon Main*, he tried his best to adapt to the entertainment trends of the day by working in shows like *Dharam Veer*, *Balika Vadhu*, *Baba Aiso Varr Dhoondo*, and *Qubool Hai*. His debut film appearance in *Lootera* (2014), and then a role in *Dil Dhadakne Do* (2015) showed us a glimpse of the actor who has more potential than he has been given credit for. With 2017's critically acclaimed film *A Death In The Gunj*, he



showed what an accomplished actor he really is and even won a Filmfare Award nomination in the category of Best Actor - Critics. In the OTT space, he has carved a niche for himself with success stories like *Mirzapur*, *Criminal Justice* and in the second seasons of *Broken But Beautiful*. And bigger film roles are also coming his way, including the lead role opposite Deepika Padukone in

Chhapaak (2020) and a starring role in the recent *Ginni Weds Sunny*, opposite Yami Gautam.

Jaideep Ahlawat

For this FTII graduate, the success of his idol, Irrfan Khan, was a beacon in the dark years he spent struggling for meaty roles. In 2008, Jaideep made his debut in a short film *Narmeen* and went on to play many small parts till his role as Shahid Khan in *Gangs of Wasseypur* (2012) and as Khalid Mir in *Raazi* (2017) got him some much-deserved attention. But stardom and a Filmfare award came



with the Anushka Sharma-produced web series *Paatal Lok*. This performance truly heralded his arrival as a star who could lead a show as its protagonist. Even in an anthology like *Ajeeb Daastaans*, he stood out for his portrayal of a gay man who is unable to embrace his sexuality openly. Today he is being offered diverse roles in OTT productions as well as films. Even as Jaideep treads a path that was painstakingly carved by predecessors like Irrfan and Manoj Bajpayee, there is no doubt that he has already created a success story that is uniquely his own.

Since the pandemic has taken over, most of our lives have been consumed by the digital world. Be it work, entertainment or socialising, digital screens have become an indispensable part of everyday life.

Excessive screen time is putting an enormous strain on your eyes, which can be really harmful in the long run.

Want to combat increased screen time in easy and effective ways? Read on for five ways to give your eyes a protective detox from digital screens.

Use eyeglasses with BLU-cut lenses

This one is a must-have if you are part of the WFH team. If excessive screen time is absolutely unavoidable for you because of work, this is the solution for you. Eyeglasses with BLU-cut or computer lenses are an easy and effective way to protect your eyes. These lenses keep at bay the harmful effects of blue rays emanating from digital screens. These not only add protection and functionality to your work life but also undeniable style for the virtual meetings you attend throughout the day. Check out John Jacobs' high-quality yet affordable BLU eyeglasses range to balance out excessive screen time. Give your eyes the digital detox they deserve.

Reduce screen brightness on all devices

Adjusting screen brightness to suit the time of the day and your lifestyle is an easy way to reduce eye strain. Almost every digital device available today has settings for night mode and yellow light. These can be automated to custom timings and aligned with your schedule seamlessly. Lux is an interesting app available for android devices that allows you to customise and adjust your screen brightness. It has features like renowned blue light filtering with easy navigation guides and a smooth, simple interface.

Take frequent breaks from the screen

Sometimes, there is nothing more effective and relaxing for



Visual relief

Ever get a nasty headache in the middle of a workday? Do your eyes start watering while binge-watching your favourite series? TEAM VIVA is here with some helpful suggestions to help your sore eyeballs

your eyes than a good ol' fashioned coffee break! Give your eyes rest in between work meetings and assignments and chill with a cuppa. Listen to calming music or simply meditate on your day — but keep the phone down and let your laptop go to sleep for a 15-minute periodic break every now and then. This will not only boost your productivity but also combat watering or burning eyes that occur due to continuous and uninterrupted screen exposure. We love Country Bean's aromatic and innovative flavours for our much needed coffee breaks!

Increase the font size on your devices

A lot of what we do on our screens involves reading. Almost every digital device today has settings that allow you to adjust font size. Larger font size is essential to ensure that all the other measures you take for protecting your eyes work together in harmony. This helps you relax your eyesight and reduce the strain.

Techlicious' guide on how to increase text size on phones, tablets and computers is a handy read for this purpose.

Use The 20-20-20 rule



Here's a recommendation straight from the ophthalmologist's office! You must be wondering, what is the 20-20-20 rule? It recommends that digital screen users divert their attention from screens every 20 minutes and look at objects 20 feet away for 20 seconds. This one really works and is

advised as an add-on even when you wear computer eyeglasses and switch the night mode on in your devices. Download the Eye Care 20 20 20 app, it automates the process for you when you are working or watching something and makes it super easy to follow this useful tip. Balancing work, entertain-

ment and social life are essential. However, it's equally important, if not more, to take care of our health. Luckily, these simple hacks can help us all effectively combat the negative effects of increased screen exposure. Go on, give your eyes a better chance to last in the long run.

TRENDBLAZER



JOINING A SELECT LIST: VIDYUT

Actor **VIDYUT JAMWAL** has signed with the reputed Hollywood talent management agency Wonder Street, known to represent international action heroes such as Tony Jaa, Michael Jaa White and Dolph Lundgren.

"I'm excited to be associated with some of the hardest working people of Hollywood," Vidyut said, of his new association.

fairtalk

BADSHAH



"Yes. I truly believe in the power and magic of India, its culture, especially its music and instruments that so frequently end up being lost in this new digital age. It is our responsibility as representatives to keep this magic alive and represent this richness to the world and bring India on the world map."

dailytalk

AMIT MASURKAR



"*Sherni* was a difficult film to score because of the complex intersections in the story. I felt safe with Naren Chandavarkar and Benedict Taylor because I knew they would put the story and the theme first. They have the sensitivity and depth to understand a layered narrative."

JUST SOME TOUGH LOVE: DIESEL

Actor **VIN DIESEL** has spoken out about the reported feud between him and Dwayne Johnson.

The subject came to light in the July/August 2021 issue of *Men's Health* magazine, where Diesel opened up about Dwayne's involvement in the *Fast & Furious* franchise.

He said, "The role played by Johnson was a tough one to embody. I had a lot of tough love for him to get the perfect performance."



THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Union Cabinet Minister for Education, Government of India, Dr RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK says that YUVA will encourage a stream of authors who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge

What is the genesis of the YUVA: Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors?

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, in his *Mann Ki Baat*, on January 31, called upon 'youngsters to write about our freedom fighters, events associated with them and tales of valour during freedom struggle from their areas'. That provided us with the vision to launch the first-ever multi-lingual authors' mentorship scheme at the national level to provide a platform to the young writers to pen their thoughts on various known and unknown facets of the National Movement as part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* programmes.

What are the main salient features of the scheme?

Any young and budding writer below the age of 30 years (as of June 1, 2021) is eligible to participate in the ongoing 'all India contest'. It will end on July 31. The contestants can send their entry in any of the 22 languages listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution and English, provided their entry in any way relates to the National Movement. They need to send their entry in a maximum of 5,000 words, and if selected, through a well-structured Mentorship programme, the scripts will be developed by the authors into a full-fledged book. A total of 75 authors will be selected under the scheme, and on selection, they will be offered a scholarship of ₹50,000 per month for six months. Moreover, the National Book Trust, India, which is the Implementing Agency for the Scheme, will be publishing the books, and would also offer royalties to the authors, in original language as well as possible translated editions, as per its norms. So, the scheme is structured to provide a 360-degree exposure to the young authors to



the exciting world of writing, creating, ideating, editing, publishing, interaction with the national and internationally acclaimed authors, and seeks to open a door to a world of creative opportunities.

This type of scheme has not been attempted on a national scale before. How does it aim to encourage authorship and the writing aspirations of the Indian youth?

A nation's literature is an important way to chronicle a nation's journey through time. This scheme, in under-

standing the power of words, aims to encourage young writers to hone their craft so that they can optimise their potential and become thought leaders of the future. It aims to encourage authorship and the writing aspirations of the Indian youth by providing them an opportunity to present their work before the reading masses.

Since you are also an acclaimed author, how do you see the scheme?

As an author myself, I can attest to the fact that becoming a writer is a tough

process as it demands a lot of time and effort. This is even more so when there is a dearth of available opportunities that can acknowledge and hone raw talent. At the time when I started writing, there was no easy way to publish written work. It is with the knowledge that young writers across India face similar challenges, that we have introduced this scheme — to make authorship more accessible and to create a platform that many writers like myself did not get in the past.

How do you think this scheme will help young authors in the future?

I believe that this scheme will allow many young writers to publish their work and that I, in turn, will inspire them to work further on their writing skills. I think a majority of the young authors selected through this scheme will go on to inculcate a great literary acumen and will become prolific writers of the future. They will definitely put India on the literary map of the world and one or more of them might even win international awards like the Nobel Prize in Literature. I say so because I believe that the young writers of India are capable of both writings about history and creating history.

The core of the YUVA theme is India@75. What is the vision behind it?

The scheme is an opportunity for the youth to display their work on a prestigious platform, but it is simultaneously a chance for them to delve into the defining period of India's history. Since proficient writing requires voracious reading, this theme of the National Movement will encourage the young authors to learn about the freedom struggle, its celebrated heroes and their sacrifices for the nation. In the process, they might encounter unsung heroes, whose stories are yet to be written and they might write

these stories themselves. So the idea is to gift the youth the knowledge of their country's past in a way that also allows them to effectively contribute to it — by documenting history through their writing.

A crucial facet of the PM's YUVA scheme is its multilingual submissions. Can you highlight this aspect?

India's societal landscape is recognised the world over for its opulent diversity with regard to culture, traditions and value systems. But our country is especially well-known for its multi-linguistic character because many languages harmoniously coexist to create a varied linguistic panorama. And as each language is unique in its mode of description and vocabulary, we want to ensure that the perspectives and stories from across the country's multi-lingual fabric are portrayed in this scheme to create a rich narrative of India, its glorious past and its illustrious future. This will promote a much better understanding among various linguistic factions in contemporary times.

The scheme also includes NRI(s)/PIO(s). What is the idea behind this?

The scheme wants to give all people, who are rooted in India's culture and ethnic background, a chance to write about the country's national movement, its heroes and its history in general. And to ensure that Indians from across the world can participate and express their view about the country, this scheme has allowed submissions from PIO(s)/NRI(s). We should also never forget the crucial role played by the Indian diaspora community in furthering the cause and ideals of the national movement and identity.



DISABLED RECEIVE AID

A Samajik Adhikarita Shivir for distribution of aids and assistive devices to divyangjan under the ADIP Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, was organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in association with ALIMCO and District Administration Jamnagar at Dhanwantari Auditorium, near DKV Circle, Jamnagar, Gujarat.

A total of 6,225 aids and assistive devices valued at ₹3.57 crore were distributed free of cost to 3,805 divyangjan at Block/Panchayat levels by following the SOP prepared by the department because of the pandemic.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister, Gujarat, said, "The society which does not care about divyangjan is itself a disabled society. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the central government has implemented various welfare schemes in the interest of the country. In 2016, the 'Right To Person With Disability Act' was brought under the leadership of the PM, which not only provides more security but also ensures and protects the fundamental rights of the person with disabilities across the nation."

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot, said, "The Central government has released around 8.06 crore funds in Gujarat under scholarship program benefiting 2,808 beneficiaries. Around 709 railway stations, 10,175 bus stops and 683 websites have been covered under Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan. Looking at the interest in sports among the divyangjan of the country and their good performance in Paralympics, the Ministry has decided to establish five Divyangta Khel Kendra in different parts of the country."

Addressing the occasion, Anjali Bhawra, Secretary, DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, elaborated on the details of the schemes. She said that the government has taken several steps for employing divyangjan and skill training programmes are being conducted to empower them.

The high-end products which are to be distributed in the camp include 220 battery-operated motorised tricycles, 665 tricycles, 385 wheelchairs, 998 crutches, 621 walking sticks, 60 rollers, 185 smartphones, 437 smart cane, 40 daisy player, 24 braille kit, six braille cane, 856 MSIED kit, 165 ADL kit (for leprosy), 606 hearing aids, 765 artificial limbs.

Anjali Bhawra, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Person with Disability (DPEwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, Dr Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, D R Sarin, CMD ALIMCO were present virtually and Ravi Shankar, Collector, Jamnagar, also attended the function 'in person'.

Best Indian companies to work

SYNCHRONY BAGS 5TH PLACE

Synchrony, a consumer financial services company, has been ranked 5th among India's Best Companies to Work for in 2021 by the Great Place to Work Institute (GPTW). This recognition highlights Synchrony's efforts to create an environment that is caring, inclusive, collaborative, and innovative despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Synchrony has earned the coveted recognition for four consecutive years and the rank has gone up to 5th this year from 27th last year.

The company has more than 120 people with disabilities and more than 42 per cent women employees. In the face of the unprecedented pandemic, the company prioritised the health, safety, and wellness of employees, and quickly moved its workforce home. The company provided employees with assistance for the set-up of ergonomic office

space at home along with a comprehensive benefits programme. It also helped employees balance the new demands of work and life and stay motivated and focussed through virtual engagement activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Andy Ponneri, Senior Vice President and Business Leader, Synchrony India, said, "Being recognised as a Great Place to Work, especially in this challenging year, further demonstrates our commitment to being a company that puts people first and maintains a high-trust culture with a positive and empowering working environment. At Synchrony, our employees are our greatest asset and we are committed to supporting their wellbeing and success."

Recognising employees' continued desire to help others, Synchrony also launched its 'Gear Up Campaign', which leveraged employee, partner, and cardholder networks to make and distribute protective gear such as masks and face shields. Synchrony's Diversity Networks further promote an inclusive culture that celebrates individuality and fosters collaboration.

POWERGRID MAKES IT

The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has again been recognised as a 'Great Place to Work'

by the Great Place to Work Institute (GPTW), which is a gold standard for workplace culture assessment. It has been ranked 68 in the largest workplace culture study in the country through an objective and rigorous workplace culture assessment process.

POWERGRID has also won the recognition of being India's Best Employers in the Nation-Builders 2021 category. Figuring consistently in GPTW's Best Workplaces List is a testimony of its sound human resource management policies and employee-friendly approach.

Earlier, POWERGRID has also been recognised in the coveted Forbes Global Best Employers List.

India organises summit on green hydrogen initiatives

India hosted a two-day summit on Green Hydrogen initiatives involving the BRICS nations. The event was anchored by NTPC Ltd. The virtual summit brought the best brains, policymakers and major stakeholders from the BRICS nations deliberating and discussing at length the future of hydrogen

in the energy mix.

As the world rapidly moves to decarbonise the entire energy system, hydrogen is poised to play a vital role and build on the rapid scale-up of renewable resources across the world. Hydrogen, when produced by electrolysis, using renewable energy, is known as 'green

hydrogen'. It has no carbon footprint. This gives hydrogen the edge over other fuels to unlock various avenues of green usage. The summit aimed to address the challenges in terms of technology, efficiency, financial viability and scaling up. Green hydrogen blending up to 10 per cent may be adopted in CGD net-

works to gain widespread acceptance. Further scaling up with greening of hard to abate sectors (like steel and cement) through hydrogen is to be explored. Many countries have brought out their strategies and defined targets and roadmaps based on their resources and strengths.

International Yoga Day celebration



VIT-AP UNIVERSITY

International Yoga Day celebrations were held virtually on June 21 at VIT-AP University. Durga Shaktamma and Dandu Srinivasa Raju (Senior Faculties, Art of Living), Dr Uma Valli (Ayurvedic Physicians), Dr Agam Das Goswami (Faculty, VIT-AP University) attended as Resource Person for this celebration. Dr Uma explained the importance of Ayurvedic treatments. The Vice Chancellor of VIT-AP University, Dr S V Kota Reddy, Registrar Dr CLV Sivakumar, Live Club Coordinator, Dr CH Deepak, students, teachers and staff participated in the celebrations.

'The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated annually on 21 June since 2015, following its inception in the United Nations General Assembly in 2014'

tant developments of modern yoga in her inaugural address during the online camp organised at the corporate office of SPMCIL. She urged to adopt yoga regularly in daily life. Sunil Kumar Sinha, Director (HR) and Ajay Agarwal, Director (Finance) were also present online. Yoga sessions and various programmes were also organised in all the units of the SPM-CIL.

SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Over 100 students and staff of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) participated in the virtual lecture-demonstration, on yoga for immunity and wellness, held on the occasion

of International Yoga Day. A live demonstration was conducted by a yoga scholar from S-VYASA, Dr Rakshita Nayak.

SRM MCH & RC's Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical and Health Sciences) Lt Col Dr A Ravikumar said, "Self-discipline can help master the world, not in terms of being a ruler but understanding the meaning of life and knowing how to lead a healthy life. Good health should consist of being mentally, physically, and spiritually well. If one has a calm mind, the body will also be calm. This is what yoga teaches us — to control our body, mind and spirit."

The vote of thanks was presented by SRM MCH & RC's Dean (School of Public Health), Dr Padma Venkat.



Dr Vinay Sahasrabudde, President, ICCR, Ministry of External Affairs and Member of Parliament, releases a new edition of Gagananchal in New Delhi. Chief Editor of Laghu Udyog Samachar, GOI, Harendra Pratap and Editor of Gagananchal, GOI, Dr Ashish Kandhway and professor of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Dr Umapati Dixit were also present.

LIC crosses milestone

LIC of India crossed another milestone by embarking upon a new centralised web-based workflow-based IT platform for its Group Business operations. The Chairman of LIC of India, M R Kumar, inaugurated the 'Go Live' project, 'e-PGS', in a formal ceremony in the presence of Managing Directors Vipin Anand, Mukesh Gupta, Raj Kumar and S Mohanty. The inaugural ceremony was joined online from 204 locations across the entire country by all the zonal managers, executive directors in charge of central office departments, regional managers, unit heads and all employees of the Group Business Vertical of LIC of India.

The new technology platform is designed to provide centralised collection and payment accounting with a high level of bank integration through the host to host connectivity and provide very innovative features of seamless and integrated banking with automatic reconciliations. The new system, e-PGS, is capable of providing comprehensive self-servicing capabilities through a customer portal where corporate customers will be able to view their data, initiate actionable processes, lodge and track claims.

Some of the services will be launched on the green channel with end-to-end processing at the customer level itself without manual intervention

from the Insurer's Office. All the features and services will be launched in a phased manner spread over the next three months.

Vipin Anand, MD of LIC, informed that the new technology platform is designed to cater to the expectations of technology-intensive corporate customers and will change the face of customer service on a group business platform. The new system is capable of high-level integration with customers' technology systems for seamless transfer of data and services. LIC will soon launch a customer awareness campaign for new IT system capabilities so that the benefits can be reaped by all customers to save time and energy.

K S Nagnyal, Executive Director for Group Business informed that the Group Business Vertical of the corporation, which accounts for 77.69 per cent share of group business of the Life Insurance industry, will leverage the new IT platform for enhancing the customer experience at a world-class level and the same will support in marketing and servicing of group business operations. The Group Business vertical of LIC specially caters to various term insurance needs and retirement solutions for employers on the group platform. It is felt that the launch of a new IT platform marks the beginning of a new era in customer servicing for group business.

STAR WARS

the pioneer

NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | JUNE 24, 2021



Spain's Aymeric Laporte celebrates after scoring his team's second goal during Group E match between Slovakia and Spain at La Cartuja stadium in Seville

5 STAR SPAIN

La Roja save best for last as they beat Slovakia to finish second behind Sweden in Group E

AFP ■ SEVILLE

Spain finally have lift-off at Euro 2020 after a 5-0 hammering of Slovakia on Wednesday sent them through as runners-up in Group E, with Croatia their opponents in the last 16 on Monday.

Luis Enrique described his team as a bottle of cava about to be popped and they certainly exploded in Seville, where a scoring frenzy felt cathartic and could yet prove transformative for their chances in the knock-out stages.

Spain were even about to

progress as group winners until Viktor Claesson scored in the 94th minute against Poland to secure top spot for Sweden. Slovakia finish third and are out.

After two tension-filled draws against Sweden and Poland, Spain were left scrambling to qualify, with



Sweden's Sebastian Larsson, left, comforts Poland's Robert Lewandowski after the match

Luis Enrique admitting he would have taken any position in the group as long as it meant going through.

But Spain ran riot at La Cartuja, their early anxiety heightened by Alvaro Morata's missed penalty and then quickly eased by two dreadful mistakes by Slovakia's goalkeeper Martin Dubravka.

The first was an own goal that will surely go down as one of the strangest moments of the tournament before another Dubravka error allowed Aymeric Laporte to head in.

With the shackles off, Spain let loose in the second half as Pablo Sarabia, Ferran Torres and another own goal from Juraj Kucka confirmed an emphatic win, even if Croatia and Luka Modric will provide a much sterner test next week.

SWEDEN IS T

In the other Group E game, Sweden sent Poland home from the Euro 2020 with a stoppage time winner to make it 3-2 in one of the tournament's most exciting games.

Sweden appeared to be cruising after Emil Forsberg scored the second fastest goal in Euro's history a mere 82 seconds in, followed by a second-half breakaway strike.

But Poland's Robert Lewandowski, who hit the bar twice in the first half, narrowed Sweden's lead two minutes later with a curling shot from outside the edge of the penalty area, then got a second in the 84th minute to set up a thrilling finale.

Viktor Claesson got Sweden's winner in stoppage time.

Sweden now top the group and, in the knockout stage, Sweden will face one of the third-placed sides in Glasgow on June 29.



Croatia captain Luka Modric, center, celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against Scotland

Job done for England & Croatia

AFP ■ GLASGOW

England clinched first place in Euro 2020 Group D with a 1-0 win against the Czech Republic, while Luka Modric's rocket propelled Croatia into the last 16 as their 3-1 victory over Scotland eliminated their Covid-hit opponents on Tuesday.

Already assured of playing in the last 16, England made certain that the knockout tie will be played in front of their own fans at Wembley thanks to Raheem Sterling's first half winner against the Czechs.

England will face the second-placed team in Group F on June 29, with France, Germany, Portugal or Hungary all potential opponents.

At Wembley, the Czechs also knew they were sure to advance before kick-off, but their first defeat of the tournament left them in third place.

Their next opponent will be decided when the final two groups conclude.

Croatia leapfrogged the Czechs into second place with a commanding second half display featuring one of the goals of the tournament from Real Madrid midfielder Modric.

The 2018 World Cup runners-up will play Spain, who finished second in Group E — in Copenhagen on Monday.

Scotland's first major tournament since the 1998 World Cup ended in heartache as they failed to meet their target of reaching the knockout stages of an International competition for the first time.

Having started Group D by narrowly beating Croatia 1-0 before being booted off after a drab 0-0 draw against Scotland, England produced a slightly more cohesive display against the Czechs.

Southgate selected Jack Grealish to replace Mount and the Aston Villa midfielder provided a spark as his perfectly-flighted cross to the far post was headed in by Sterling in the 12th

minute.

Arsenal's 19-year-old winger Bukayo Saka, also given a surprise start by Southgate in place of Phil Foden, added pace and invention to the England attack.

But England couldn't find a killer second as Harry Kane's Euro goal drought extended to three games.

The Tottenham striker played the full 90 minutes for the first time in the tournament, but once again was a shadow of the player who finished as the Premier League's top scorer this season.

The Czechs could have snatched a draw that would have given them top spot, but Tomas Soucek and Tomas Pekhart shot just wide.

Southgate will take heart from England's solid defence. They have yet to concede a goal in the tournament, with Harry Maguire returning from ankle ligament damage to partner John Stones in central defence and shutting out the Czechs.

Nice guys do come 1st

Kiwis beat India by 8 wickets in final to win inaugural World Test Championship



New Zealand players celebrate with the winners trophy after their win in the World Test Championship final match against India in Southampton

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

India's revered superstars failed to dazzle on the 'D-Day' as New Zealand's canny operators and their classy skipper Kane Williamson deservingly walked away with the inaugural World Test Championship title after a composed eight-wicket win in the final that exposed multiple frailties in Virat

Kohli's team.

Just like that overcast morning at the Old Trafford two years back, India's batsmen fluffed their morning lines against a familiar opposition, albeit with the red Dukes, and were skittled out for 170 on the best day for batting in a game marred by inclement weather.

A target of 139 wasn't going to be difficult and Williamson (52 not out),

after a brilliant match as captain, played sublime drives in a short chase on a balmy reserve day which was used to compensate for two days of cricket being lost to rain.

There was the trademark serene smile on his face which widened following a hug from his mate Ross Taylor (47 not out) in a very low-key celebration for a team that is high-profile in

its own right. Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's two early wickets raised hopes of a twist in the tale but Williamson and Taylor doused them one patient stroke at a time.

Perhaps the cricket Gods wanted a course correction for Williamson and his men, who were left high and dry during that evening at the Lord's where twist of cruel fate and horrible rules robbed them of deserving glory in the 2019 World Cup.

That was not to be the case on Wednesday when their bowlers choked India, who seemed to be in pursuit of a draw to lay their hands on the glittering mace.

Williamson's pacers completely rejected their idea and ensured that a World Cup had one winner and the deserving one at that.

For Kohli, this is the third failure in big ICC events after the 2017 Champions Trophy and the 2019 World Cup.

He might just have one more shot, which is the T20 World Cup this year, and failing to win that could warrant some changes in the team hierarchy.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is worshipped because of three ICC trophies and it was ironical that India's abject surrender happened on the same date on which the revered former skipper won the Champions Trophy in the same country eight summers back.

Captain Kohli defends Indian team combination

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Skipper Virat Kohli defended India's bowling combination for the World Test Championship final, saying going in with a four-pronged pace attack was possible only with a fast-bowling all-rounder.

India fielded both Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja along with pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami.

Kohli asserted that there was nothing wrong with India's choice of bowlers as they needed to score more runs in order to let their spinners call shots.

"You need to have a fast-bowling all-rounder for that. We've been successful with this combination in different conditions. We thought this was our best combination, and we had batting depth as well, and if there was more game time, the spinners would have come into the game more as well," Kohli said at the post match presentation ceremony.

"We lost only three wickets (on Day one) but we could have got more runs if play had gone on without the interruptions. Today, the Kiwi bowlers executed their plans to perfection and pushed us back, and we were probably 30 or 40 runs short," he added.

Kohli yet again gave a huge thumbs up to the newly-introduced WTC and Test cricket in general, saying the longest format is indeed the heartbeat of International cricket.

"It's great for the game, the more the Test format is given importance (is better) and the Test format is the heartbeat of the international format. We're looking forward to the long summer ahead. We've got the squad and the quality to do something special."

Like a graceful leader, Kohli praised his worthy opponents in resolute Black Caps.

"They showed great consistency and heart to pull out a result in just over three days, sticking to their processes to put us under pressure. They deserved the win. The first day got washed out, and when play resumed it was difficult to get any momentum," he said.

Kiwi pacer Kyle Jamieson, who is Kohli's teammate at the RCB, got him out in both the innings and the India skipper said the tall fast bowler deserved to win Player-of-the-match award. "Jamieson is a quality cricketer. He hits really good areas with the ball and he's a gutsy batsman as well. He's had a great game and thoroughly deserved to be Man of the Match," he added.

Jadeja becomes No 1 Test all-rounder



New Delhi: India's Ravindra Jadeja on Wednesday dislodged West Indian Jason Holder as the world's top all-rounder in the latest ICC Test rankings.

Jadeja is two points ahead of Holder (384) while England all-rounder Ben Stokes is third on 377 points. Another Indian, Ravichandran Ashwin is at fourth with 353 points, followed by Shakib Al Hasan of Bangladesh (338).

Ashwin remained at second spot in the bowlers' rankings on 850 points, below Pat Cummins (908) of Australia. Tim Southee (830) of New Zealand is third.

Among the batsmen, there was no change in top-five with Indian captain Virat Kohli static at fourth on 814. Steve Smith of Australia continued to be the top batsman on 891 points, followed by Kane Williamson (886) of New Zealand and Marnus Labuschagne (878) of Australia.

England captain Joe Root (797) is at number five, followed by the Indian pair of Rishabh Pant and Rohit Sharma at joint at sixth on 747 points. PTI

Ramkumar one win away from Wimbledon

London: India's Ramkumar Ramanathan stood just one win away from his maiden Grand Slam appearance after he progressed to the final round of the Wimbledon Qualifiers with a straight-set win over Tomas Martin Etcheverry

Ramkumar, who gradually slipped out of the top-200 for lack of good results, beat his Argentine rival 6-3, 6-4.

The Indian Davis Cupper, now ranked 211, did not face a single break point in the match and broke Etcheverry, ranked 204, twice in the second round match that lasted 59 minutes.

The 26-year old now needs to beat Australia's 32nd seed Marc Polmans, ranked 152.

The closest he has come to qualifying for a major before this effort was in 2018 when he reached the third round of the Australian Open qualifiers.

Prajesh Gunneswaran and Ankita Raina have exited from Qualifiers. PTI

Call off Ashes if families can't accompany players: Vaughan

PTI ■ LONDON

Former England skipper Michael Vaughan believes the iconic Ashes series should be cancelled if families are not allowed to travel with the players for the four-month long tour of Australia due to strict Covid-19 protocols.

According to a report in the UK media, there is still uncertainty whether families of the visiting England players will be permitted to stay with them during the Ashes, beginning on December 8.

"Read reports today that England cricketers may not be able to have family members with them down under this winter. Quite simply if they can't they should call the Ashes off. 4 months away from your family is totally unacceptable. #Ashes," Vaughan wrote on his Twitter handle.

The report also drew a sharp response from former England captain Kevin Pietersen, who feels players



shouldn't be criticised if they decide to pull out of the series due to such restrictions.

"Any ENG player that pulls out of this Ashes, if they seriously can't see their families for FOUR MONTHS, has my full backing. Families are the most important part of a player's make up. And even more so in the current climate! FOUR MONTHS with no family on Ashes Tour?," he tweeted.

Cricketer Australia, however, on Wednesday said that a solution can be worked out and the tournament is still many months away.

"It's only June and England are not due to arrive until November," a CA spokeswoman told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. "We'll be going through the same process we did with India last summer."

England cricketers will not have their families with them for the upcoming tours of Bangladesh and Pakistan starting in September, before they participate in the T20 World Cup campaign from October.

Morgan insists historic tweets 'taken out of context'

London: Dismissing accusations of racism against him, England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan said the historical tweets, allegedly mocking Indians, were "taken out of context".

The English cricket system was shaken earlier this month after pacer Ollie Robinson was suspended by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for his racist and sexist tweets dating back to 2012-13.

Soon after, posts, in which Morgan and wicketkeeper batsman Jos Buttler used the word

'sir' to mock the Indians, started doing the rounds on social media.

"I don't really reflect on it a lot," Morgan told reporters ahead of England's white-ball series against Sri Lanka in Cardiff on Wednesday.

"If I call somebody 'sir' on social media, or anywhere around the world, it's a sign of admiration and respect. "If that's taken out of context there's nothing I can control or do about it. So I haven't actually looked into it," he added. PTI

Pandemic Games will show 'true Olympic values': Tokyo 2020 chief

AFP ■ TOKYO

The stripped-back Tokyo Games, held despite the ongoing pandemic, will highlight the Olympics' true values, Tokyo 2020 chief Seiko Hashimoto said as organisers mark a month to go.

The Games will be unlike any other, with overseas fans banned and athletes kept away from the public. Competitors have had to leave their families behind and spectators will be capped at 10,000 people.

But former Olympian Hashimoto said the restrictions were a chance to look beyond the usual pomp and celebration that accompany the Games, and to focus on the sport.

"In recent years when I was participating as an athlete, there were concerns that this (event) has become so huge," she told reporters. "The Games tended to end with extreme excitement,



IOC Vice President John Coates, second right, and Tokyo 2020 Olympics Organizing Committee President Seiko Hashimoto, right, listen to a brief as they inspect one of the Olympics venues in Tokyo

but because of that the original meaning and values... were not fully communicated," she added.

"This time, I feel that the true values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games are finally being discussed."

Hashimoto is a seven-time Olympian who competed at

both summer and winter Games, in speed skating and as a sprint cyclist.

She came to office after her predecessor, former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, resigned over a sexism row after he said women speak too much in meetings.