

OPINION 8
RESISTANCE TO COUP
BLEEDS MYANMAR

MONEY 10
SENSEX, NIFTY SETTLE
AT LIFE-TIME HIGHS

AVENUES 12
HYBRID LEARNING
IS WAY FORWARD

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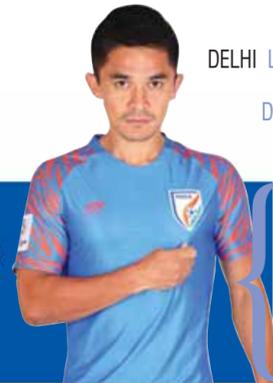
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INDIA HOLD
ON FOR A
VITAL POINT
14 SPORT

Caution thrown to winds, experts fear early relapse



People flout social distancing norms at a market in Jammu on Tuesday PTI

Massive vaccination only hope to delay or prevent Covid 3rd wave, say virologists

visibly upset Union Health Ministry on Tuesday warned the public that as the country is dealing with highly transmissible variants now, containment, social distancing need to be more stringent.

NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul said at a Press conference here that the Government is keeping an eye on the Delta Plus variant, and the vaccination process in India is expected to scale up. However, he warned people should maintain social distancing. "Responsibility and discipline are two important things for unlocking. Virus transmission is very low right now. Cluster cases should be contained. We are dealing with a highly transmissible variant this year than we were in 2020, hence we need to exercise greater caution and strictly abide by Covid appropriate behaviour," he said.

Continued on Page 11

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES:	2,96,28,566 (+58,471)
DEATHS:	3,79,563 (+2,501)
RECOVERED:	2,83,77,284 (+1,04,360)
ACTIVE:	8,60,045
MAHA:	59,24,773 (+7,652)
K'TAKA:	27,77,010 (+5,041)
KERALA:	27,48,205 (+12,246)
TN:	23,78,298 (+11,805)
DELHI:	14,31,498 (+228)

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As lockdown restrictions have ended in several parts of the country and people have started flocking to markets, shopping malls and public places, bypassing Covid-protocol, including social distancing norms, health experts and virologists fear it may bring closer Covid-19 third wave.

They said while it is not easy to predict when the third wave will come, it is important to increase vaccination and ensure that people follow social norms to limit the scope of transmission and mutation of the virus.

They feared that the country may see a super surge in Covid-19 caseload sooner or later unless vaccination coverage is spread at a rapid pace before new variants arrive. The

Delta Plus variant of interest, not 'variant of concern': Govt

New Delhi: The new Delta Plus mutation of coronavirus is "a variant of interest", not "a variant of concern", the Government said on Tuesday. "Delta variant played a major role in the second wave. An additional mutation of this variant, known as Delta Plus,

has been detected and submitted to the global data system. It has been seen in Europe since March and was brought into the public domain two days ago on June 13," NITI Aayog's Member Health, Dr VK Paul, said at a Health Ministry Press meet.

LJP wide open: Chirag, Paras try to pull strings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The rival factions of the LJP went in overdrive on Tuesday to gain the upper hand in keeping the party organisation on their side. While Pashupati Kumar Paras-led faction removed Chirag Paswan from the post of the president of the party, Chirag hit back by expelling Paras and four other rebel MPs from the party.

While it's clear that the anti-Chirag move has the blessing of both Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the BJP leadership, Chirag is hoping that Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah will come to his rescue. "After all Chirag battled for the BJP in the Bihar Assembly polls, which spoiled his relation with the BJP. Now it's up to the PM and the HM to find a solution to this crisis. Chirag may be isolated but he carries the legacy of Ram Vilas Paswan. People of Bihar will never forgive those who betray him in his hour of crisis," said a leader close to Chirag.

In his first reaction after his uncle Paras ousted him as the leader of the party in the Lok Sabha with the support of four others MPs, Chirag likened the organisation to a mother who should not be "betrayed".

He also shared on Twitter a letter he had written to him on March 29 that highlighted Paras' alleged indifference to the party's agenda and conduct against its interests, and had urged him to fulfil his responsibilities to it and their family following the death of LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan. With the Paswan family

Paras-led group removes Paswan as LJP chief; Chirag expels them from party, looks to Modi, Shah for help



A view of the posters of rebel leaders of Lok Janshakti Party, painted black by Chirag Paswan supporters, outside party office in Patna, on Tuesday PTI

and the party controlled by it now split down the middle only eight months after the death of Chirag Paswan's father, the two warring groups are now rallying the members of its organisation to their cause as both factions claim to represent the Lok Janshakti Party.

While the party MPs have sided with Paras, the group headed by Chirag Paswan called a virtual meeting of the party's national executive in

which 41 of 76 members were present, its Bihar unit working president Raju Tiwari said.

It was unanimously decided to expel the five MPs from the LJP for their "anti-party" activities, he told reporters.

It was a hurriedly called meeting, Tiwari said, claiming that many other members also extended their support to the decision and expressed faith in Chirag Paswan's leadership. Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

US COVID-19 DEATHS HIT 6,00,000

Washington: The US death toll from Covid-19 topped 6,00,000 on Tuesday, even as the vaccination drive has drastically brought down daily cases and fatalities and allowed the country to emerge from the gloom and look forward to summer.

TWITTER APPOINTS CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER

New Delhi: Twitter on Tuesday said it has appointed an interim Chief Compliance Officer and the details of the official will be shared directly with the IT Ministry soon.

CRIMINAL CASE CLOSED AGAINST ITALIAN MARINES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the closure of criminal proceedings in India against two Italian marines, accused of killing two fishermen off the Kerala coast in February 2012, and asked the Kerala High Court to oversee the apportionment of ₹10 crore compensation to the heirs of the victim.

GOLD HALLMARKING MUST FROM TODAY

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday said mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts will come into force from June 16 in a phased manner and initially will be implemented in 256 districts.

UP REDUCES NIGHT CURFEW BY 2 HOURS

Lucknow: The UP Government on Tuesday decided to give relaxation of two more hours during the night 'corona curfew' across the State from June 21 with the improvement in the Covid-19 situation. From next Monday (June 21), the night curfew hours will be effective from 9 pm to 7 am.

Anyone can walk in for on-site Co-WIN booking, vaccination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prior booking and pre-online registration are now no longer mandatory for Covid vaccination. "Walk-ins are allowed. This means, anyone aged 18 years or more can directly go to the nearest vaccination centre, where the vaccinator performs the on-site registration and provides vaccination in the same visit, for Covid vaccine," Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Health Ministry said, "The facilitated registration through the Common Service Centres on Co-WIN is just one of the many modes of registration on Co-WIN."

The facilitators such as health workers or ASHAs also mobilise beneficiaries in rural areas and those residing in urban slums, for on-site registration and vaccination direct-



ly at the nearest vaccination centers. The Ministry also said that the facility for assisted registrations through the 1075 Help Line has also been operationalised.

"That, all the above modes, specifically operationalised for rural areas, are functional and enabling equitable access to vaccination in rural areas, is evident from the fact that, as on 13.06.2021, out of the 28.36 crore beneficiaries registered on Co-WIN, 16.45 crore (58 per cent) beneficiaries have been registered in the on-site mode," the Ministry said. Continued on Page 11

State has blurred line between 'right to protest', 'terrorist activity': HC

Court grants bail to 3 activists arrested in Delhi riot case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing brazen misuse of the UAPA against dissenters, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted bail to student leaders and activists arrested as accused in the Delhi riot cases.

"We are constrained to say, that it appears that in its anxiety to suppress dissent and in the morbid fear that matters may get out of hand, the State has blurred the line between the constitutionally guaranteed 'right to protest' and 'terrorist activity'. If such blurring gains traction, democracy would be in peril," the bench of Justices Siddharth Mirudal and Anup J Bhamhani said.

Making scathing remarks against the authorities for mis-



File photo

use of the UAPA against students, the court underscored that the right to protest peacefully without arms is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(b) of the Constitution and has not been outlawed yet. The court's observations came while it granted bail to feminist organisation Pinjara Tod activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha in separate orders.

The court's remarks will come as a vindication for those

who have been raising questions on the vicious crackdown against student activists for raising a finger at police for misusing the provisions of the UAPA to implicate innocent persons in the Delhi riot cases.

The court observed that making inflammatory speeches, organising chakka-jams, etc, were common in the face of widespread opposition to Governmental or parliamentary actions. Continued on Page 11

Israeli embassy blast: NIA announces ₹10L for suspects' identity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday announced a reward of ₹10 lakh each for providing information to help identify two suspected individuals, as captured in CCTV footage when explosives material was being planted outside Israeli embassy here.

The case relates to an explosion near Israeli embassy here earlier this year.

"Any information in this regard leading to identification and arrest of the suspected individuals will be rewarded with cash of ₹10 lakh on each suspect," the NIA said in a statement.

The NIA also shared the drive where one can access the pictures and videos of the two suspects. Those willing to help further the investigation can visit <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18km mCvFFXm8bXQov19bxye8qcr0zLqFr?usp>. Continued on Page 11

11 suspended BSP MLAs to form party

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

With Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh around the corner, as part of a new political manoeuvring, 11 suspended MLAs from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have decided to float a new political outfit before the elections.

The new party will be formed under the leadership of Lalji Verma, who was recently expelled from the party.

Earlier, nine MLAs suspended from the BSP met SP chief Akhilesh Yadav at Samajwadi Party office in Lucknow on Tuesday. This meeting sparked the speculation that the rebel MLAs might join the SP and contest the upcoming Assembly elections as Samajwadi Party candidate.

Shravasti MLA Aslam Raini, who was suspended from the BSP after he rebelled against the party during the Rajya Sabha elections held in November 2020, told the media here on Tuesday that all the 11 rebel MLAs of BSP will form a new political party and Lalji will be the leader.

He said another expelled BSP leader Ram Achal Rajbhar is also with them.

"We will make Lalji the head of our party. All the 11 MLAs are united now. Right now we are short of one MLA, due to which a new party is not being formed immediately and if one more MLA comes, then we will form the party immediately," Raini added.

He said the name of the new party would be decided by Lalji. Continued on Page 11

Senior citizen benefits for green lungs

75-yr-old trees to get ₹2,500 pension/annually in Haryana

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the Manohar Lal Khattar Government in Haryana will dole out pension to trees older than 75 years, recognising them as living entities and not just an economic commodity.

Old-age is inevitable and Government-backed pension schemes for senior citizens are a common practice in various countries and Indian States to ensure financial stability and security to people post-retirement. However, the Haryana Government, however, went a step ahead to identify, protect

and provide financial aid to the old trees on its land.

Under its pension scheme named "Pran Vayu Devtaa Pension Scheme", any tree that has attained an age of 75 years or more will be given ₹2,500 per year as a token of honour for the service it has rendered to humanity and the environment. The State Government will also give "heritage" status to the trees that are over 75 years old.

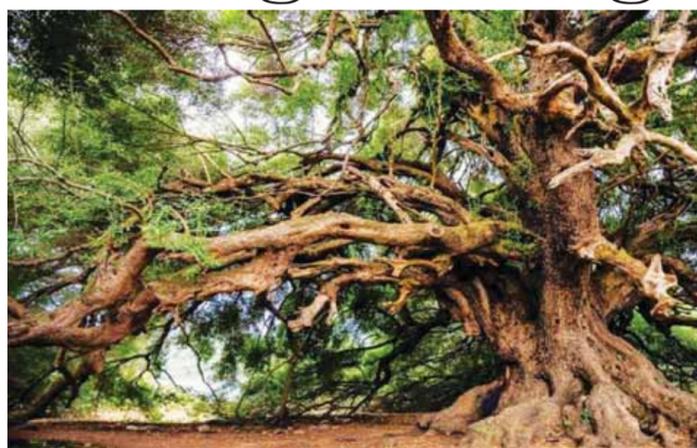
Not only this, the pension amount under the scheme will be increased in the ratio as provisioned in the old age pension scheme in the state.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had announced the

tree pension scheme on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5. The scheme acknowledges how the decades-old trees function as critical habitat for a wide array of species in ecosystem.

According to the State's Forest Department, there are at least 2,500 trees in Haryana that have attained an age of 75 years or more.

To put in place a legal mechanism to identify, inventurise, protect and conserve such old trees, the Forest Department has also prepared draft Haryana (Declaration, Protection and Preservation) Heritage Tree Rules 2021. Continued on Page 11



BJP central leadership exploring to find BSY's Lingayat successor

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

As Karnataka Chief Minister ABS Yeddyurappa musters support from "Lingayat" seers and within the BJP legislative party, the BJP central leadership explores options before it to settle succession line in the State without having to annoy the Lingayat strongman.

A day before BJP general secretary Arun Singh embarks on a three-day probing mission to Bengaluru, Yeddyurappa has painted a "united" picture of

BJP Karnataka unit saying "there is no confusion in the State BJP on the issue of leadership".

To fortify his position, the Chief Minister has also drawn strong backing from influential 17 seers of Lingayat mutts in the State who carry a lot of political weight.

Irrespective of the Chief Minister's assertion, Singh, who is Karnataka-in-charge, has been tasked to consult various factions and "explore" possible alternative in the State. Continued on Page 11

Vehicles flagged off to provide free medicines to children

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With a resolve to protect the children during the possible third wave of corona, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched a scheme to provide free medicine kits to those up to 18 years. On this occasion, he flagged off the medicine distribution vehicles.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that when many states are struggling with the second wave, Uttar Pradesh has been able to control the spread of the virus.

He said that the possibility of a third wave has been expressed by experts and in such a situation, the state government has started preparations with a comprehensive action plan. "This is a four-phase strategy. Cleanliness, sanitisation, fogging and providing pure drinking comes under the first phase. Parents of kids below 12 years will be vaccinated in the second phase. The process of construction of 100 PICU beds in all the medical colleges of the state is being done on a war-footing in the third phase while in the fourth phase, children below the age of 18 years with symptoms of COVID-19 have been divided into four categories (0-1 year, 1-5 years, 5-12 years and 12-18 years). Different types of medicine kits have been pre-



Chief Minister flags off a truck carrying medicine kits

pared for each category. Free medicine kits are being distributed to more than 50 lakh children through this programme," the CM said.

Paying tributes to people who died of COVID-19, the chief minister expressed condolences to the bereaved families on behalf of the state government. "Between April 23 and 24, as many as 6,200 positive cases were reported in Lucknow itself, but the figure came down to 19 today. There are 19 districts where there is not a single positive case. There are 45 districts where positive

cases have come in the single digit. There are some districts where only one positive case has come up," CM said.

Yogi called upon the monitoring committees to conduct village-village and door-to-door surveys and provide medicine kits to symptomatic people. "If someone is Covid positive, they should be kept in home isolation. If there are no arrangements in the homes, they should be kept in the quarantine centres, panchayat ghar or schools," the CM said.

He added that more than 72,000 monitoring commit-

tees were functioning in the state. ASHA and Anganwadi workers, ANMs, village heads and Revenue department personnel associated with the monitoring committees deserve praise as they have played an important role in making villages Covid-free.

The CM said that the corona pandemic is not over yet, so people have to follow all the protocols. "If a person has Covid symptoms, they must get the test done and start treatment. Everyone must take the vaccine job on their turn," the CM said.

Mission June: Half the target achieved in state till date

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, 'Mission June' campaign aiming to inoculate one crore people of the state in one month, achieved half the target within 14 days of its launch. By June 15, over 51 lakh doses of vaccine were administered to people under the campaign, taking the total jabs given to beneficiaries to more than 2.34 crore.

Officials maintained that the current vaccination pace in Uttar Pradesh was the highest in the country leaving behind Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Kerala amongst others.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Amit Mohan Prasad informed mediapersons in Lucknow on Tuesday that various agencies of the state government had administered 51 lakh doses of Covid vaccines till June 14, aiming to scale the massive target of one crore doses in a month. The official felt that the target would be achieved by the end of this month. The state government is focused on the steep target ostensibly to prevent a possible third wave of corona infection through widespread vaccinations. Chief Minister Yogi



Adityanath asked officials to accelerate the pace of the vaccination campaign. "The target is to vaccinate 10 crore people by the end of August and hence there is a need to intensify the vaccination campaign. For the purpose, new vaccinators must be trained," said Yogi addressing a high-level Covid review meeting in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Till date, Uttar Pradesh has administered more than 2.34 crore doses of vaccine across the state, of which around 1.95 crore were given the first jab while 38.36 lakh people were administered both the doses. Besides, various measures have been initiated by the UP government to achieve greater immunity quickly. The latest in the list include special booths for drivers and street vendors which were started from June 14, special pink booths for women and guardian special booths for parents of children under 12 years of age.

Opp corners govt over death of journalist, demands CBI probe

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh hit out at the BJP government after a journalist of a news channel, Sulabh Srivastava, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Pratapgarh on Sunday night.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra dashed off a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath demanding a CBI enquiry into the incident and stringent action against the notorious liquor mafia in the state. Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati also demanded strict action against the culprits in the case on Tuesday.

Sharing a copy of a letter sent to Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday, Priyanka tweeted, "The tragic incident that happened with journalist Sulabh Srivastava in Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh) shows that the rule of law has come to an end. It is necessary that there should be a CBI inquiry into the matter, financial assistance to the family be given and a decisive blow to the nexus of liquor mafia and administration be dealt with."

Samajwadi Party chief and former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav also raised questions on the law-and-order situation in the state. "The suspicious death of a TV journalist in an alleged accident in Pratapgarh is extremely sad. Heartfelt tribute! The BJP government should hold a high-level inquiry in this matter and tell the family and the public why security was not given to them even after the journalist expressed the possibility of murder at the hands of the liquor mafia," Akhilesh said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, BSP chief Mayawati also demanded strict punishment against the guilty.

"The terror of liquor mafia in UP is not hidden from anyone, who brutally murdered a TV journalist in Pratapgarh district by exposing them, which is very sad. The government should ensure strict punishment to the guilty by conducting a fair and credible inquiry into the incident, this is the demand of BSP," the BSP chief said. Television news journalist Sulabh Srivastava was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Pratapgarh district on Sunday. The deceased had earlier written to ADG Prayagraj, Prem Prakash two days back perceiving threat to his life and demanded security from the liquor mafia who he said were unhappy with his reporting.

Initially Pratapgarh police dismissed the journalist's death as an accident, however on Monday, they registered a case of murder against unknown persons and started investigating the matter. Meanwhile, ADG Prayagraj, Prem Prakash claimed that a woman and a male constable were deployed in the security of the family of Sulabh Srivastava. He also assured that the demands of the family would be considered regarding the case and if the family wanted an SIT from a different district, then that would be done.

Pratapgarh DM Nitin Bansal said that a recommendation has been sent to the government for ex gratia for the family of the deceased journalist. "Taking serious note of the death of journalist Sulabh Srivastava in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Press Council of India chairman Justice Chandramouli Kumar Prasad has taken suo motu cognisance in the matter," the Council said in a statement in Hindi on Tuesday.

Akhilesh: SP to forge alliance only with smaller parties for 2022 assembly polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief and former UP CM Akhilesh Yadav said that his party would go for alliance only with smaller parties, including his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav-led political outfit, for the 2022 assembly polls. Yadav said his party won't forge any alliance with bigger parties like the BSP or Congress any more. He also demanded that the members of Shree Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust step down pending enquiry.

"The SP will not forge any alliance with big parties; our leaders believe that small parties should be taken together. We are already in alliance with RLD, Mahan Dal, and an outfit of the Chauhan community headed by Sanjay Chauhan. You have seen the fate of the alliance with the BSP and Congress during earlier elections," he said.

On the family feud, the SP chief said: "Shivpal Yadav is my chacha (uncle) and the party has already decided to not field a candidate from Jaswant Nagar



against him. Shivpal ji has his own party and hence it will be an alliance. I have sought blessings from Lalu ji and it will definitely be a boost for us. Neta ji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) has health issues and if his health allows, he will also play an active role in the UP Assembly polls."

Yadav expressed confidence of winning the polls next year and thanked the people for supporting the party in the recent panchayat elections. "I want to thank

the people of UP for their support during panchayat elections. The BJP government misused the official machinery, yet it could not deter people from voting for the SP candidates. We are going to form the next government in 2022," he claimed.

The SP chief said many BJP MLAs are unhappy with CM Yogi Adityanath over Covid management in the state. He also spoke on the change of mind regarding the Covid vaccine. Earlier,

Akhilesh had referred to it as the "BJP vaccine".

"When I had said 'BJP vaccine' there were trials going on and many experts had also raised questions. The government, on the other hand, failed to provide free vaccines to people. I want the poor and needy to get vaccinated first, I will take it at last," he said.

On the Covid handling by the Yogi Adityanath government, Akhilesh Yadav said: "The BJP abandoned people during the pandemic as people were desperate for oxygen and hospital beds. Many died waiting for ambulances. Teachers who were forced to go on panchayat election duty died due to corona while many policemen also lost their lives."

He also targeted the BJP government for failing to complete the Purvanchal Expressway even after four-and-a-half years. "Even after four-and-a-half years, the BJP government has not been able to complete the Purvanchal Expressway which was started by the Samajwadi Party government," he added.

Conspiracy to defame UP govt: Adityanath on Rahul remarks

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for what he said was a conspiracy to defame the ruling dispensation in Uttar Pradesh and create a communal divide by setting a fake narrative.

Rahul Gandhi had made some remarks from his Twitter handle about an incident in which a viral video of Ghaziabad district showed an elderly Muslim man being compelled to chant 'Jai Sri Ram' and his beard being cut.

In the police probe, it turned out to be a conspiracy hatched allegedly by a local SP leader. Three persons, including two Muslim youths, have been arrested while three others are being searched for by the Ghaziabad police who said

"YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF FOR SPREADING TOXICITY IN THE SOCIETY DESPITE THE TRUTH BEING PUT OUT BY POLICE"

it was a nefarious design to wedge a communal rift in the society. In his reaction on Tuesday, the CM attacked the Congress leader, saying: "You should be ashamed of yourself spreading toxicity in the society despite the truth being put out by police."

Yogi (Rahul Gandhi) have never followed the teachings of Sri Ram of sticking to truth but shame humanity and insult the people of UP for the greed of power," Yogi tweeted.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Notified that I have changed my name from Akram to Mohammad Akram for all purposes. Mohammad Akram S/o Munna 475/83 Kadam Rasool, Iradatnagar, Daliganj, Niralanagar, Lucknow.

सूचना

मैं रामावती पत्नी श्री शिवविलास त्रिवेदी नि 0 याम करहिया, घाटमपुर कानपुर अपने पति एवं हमारी सभी विवाहित पुत्रियों एवं उनके परिवार सहित अपने पुत्र प्रकाश त्रिवेदी एवं पुत्रवधु लक्ष्मी त्रिवेदी के गलत आचरण के कारण सम्बन्ध विच्छेद कर अपनी चल अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल कर रही हूँ। इनके किये कार्यों हेतु हम उत्तरदायी नहीं होंगे। एएस-नुजुमा व श्रीमती समीना रिजवी 628/एस-39 शक्तिनगर, इन्दिरानगर, लखनऊ

सूचना

हमने अपने पुत्र अली फैजान व पुत्रवधु रोशनी मुराद को हमारे साथ गलत आचरण के कारण अपनी सम्पत्ति चाल अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल कर सम्बन्ध विच्छेद कर लिया है, वे हमसे 17-02-21 से अलग रह रहे हैं। इनके किये कार्यों हेतु हम उत्तरदायी नहीं होंगे। एएस-नुजुमा व श्रीमती समीना रिजवी 628/एस-39 शक्तिनगर, इन्दिरानगर, लखनऊ

Suspended BSP MLAs to form new political outfit, meet SP president

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh round the corner, politics has heated up with reports of 11 MLAs suspended from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) deciding to float a new political outfit before the polls. All the suspended BSP MLAs have also decided to form a new party under the leadership of Lalji Verma, recently expelled by the party.

Meanwhile, nine MLAs suspended from BSP met the Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Tuesday. Of the total 18 MLAs in the BSP, nine were suspended and two expelled. The BSP is on the verge of a major split and it is also speculated that very soon, all the rebel MLAs would join the SP and fight the upcoming assembly elections as SP candidates. The BSP also has no Muslim MLA now.

Shravasti MLA Aslam Raini, who was suspended from the BSP after rebelling against the party during the Rajya Sabha elections held in November 2020, told mediaperson here on Tuesday that all the 11 rebel MLAs of BSP would form a new political party and Lalji Verma would be the leader.

He said along with Lalji Verma, another expelled BSP leader Ram Achal Rajbhar is also with them. "We will make Lalji Verma the head of our party. Eleven MLAs are united now. Right now, we are short of one MLA, due to which a new party is not being formed immediately. If one more MLA comes, we will form the party," Raini said. He added that the name of the party would be decided by Lalji Verma.

Earlier in the morning, six MLAs reached the SP office and later, three more MLAs joined in. After the meeting, all of them left the office from the back gate of the SP office.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the SP and BSP had an alliance. The SP won five seats while BSP won 10. The alliance was called off soon after the elections.

Meanwhile, Akhilesh Yadav said that the entry of rebel MLAs would give a big boost to the SP. The rebel BSP MLAs who met Akhilesh included Aslam Raini, Aslam Ali, Mujtaba Siddiqui, Hakim Lal, Sushma Patel and Hargovind Bhargava.

Girl ends life after obscene pic shared on social media

Lucknow (PNS): Unable to withstand the embarrassment after a youth posted her objectionable picture on social media, a teenage girl ended her life by hanging herself at her home in Etah district on Monday night.

As per reports, Durvijay or Baghwala police station area clicked an objectionable picture of the victim and tried to take

advantage of her. When she refused to give in to his lascivious demands, he threatened to upload the picture on social media. When the girl still did not budge, the miscreant uploaded her picture on the net. On Sunday, the girl's photo was noticed by her brother, who in turn informed their parents. Soon, the girl too learnt about the incident and was so

frustrated that she locked in a room of her home at Baghwala area and hanged herself. As the news of her death spread, senior police officials rushed to the spot. Later, an FIR was registered against Durvijay alias Kallan and he was arrested. SSP Uday Shankar Singh said prime facie, it appeared to be a case of an affair gone sour.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 158/2021

It is notified for the information of general public that the timing of following special trains at below mentioned stations are revised to run as under:

Train No. 02511 Gorakhpur-Kochuveli Tri-Weekly Special train w.e.f. 17.06.2021 (Date of Departure from originating station)

Station	Existing Time Table		Revised Time Table	
	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
Wadankancheri	09:16	09:17	09:01	09:02
Thrisur	09:32	09:35	09:20	09:23
Irinjalakuda	09:54	09:55	09:45	09:46
Chalakudi	10:02	10:03	09:53	09:54
Angamali	10:22	10:23	10:08	10:09
Aluva	10:33	10:35	10:20	10:22
Ernakulam Town	10:58	11:00	10:42	10:44
Ernakulam Jn.	11:20	11:25	10:55	11:00
Cherthala	11:59	12:00	11:39	11:40
Alappuzha	12:27	12:30	12:02	12:05
Ambala Puzha	12:49	12:50	12:16	12:17
Haripad	13:14	13:15	12:36	12:37
Kayankulam	13:43	13:45	13:08	13:10
Kollam Jn.	14:32	14:35	14:02	14:05
Kochuveli	-----	16:20	-----	16:05

Train No. 02521 Barauni-Ernakulam Jn. Weekly Special train w.e.f. 21.06.2021 (Date of Departure from originating station)

Station	Existing Time Table		Revised Time Table	
	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
Wadankancheri	09:16	09:17	09:01	09:02
Thrisur	09:32	09:35	09:20	09:23
Irinjalakuda	09:54	09:55	09:45	09:46
Chalakudi	10:02	10:03	09:53	09:54
Angamali	10:22	10:23	10:08	10:09
Aluva	10:33	10:35	10:20	10:22
Ernakulam Town	10:58	11:00	10:42	10:44
Ernakulam Jn.	-----	11:30	-----	11:30

CPROT-70 Chief Passenger Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Do not travel with flammable items in trains

NATIONAL SUGAR INSTITUTE
An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution
Government of India

Kalyanpur, Kanpur
Dated- 15.06.2021

Notice Inviting Tender

Director, National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, on behalf of President of India invites Sealed Tenders for purchase of "Molasses tank & Condensers" from Indian Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers firms of the Central/State Government Organization/Autonomous Bodies/ Public Sector Units/ Private units having prior experience of undertaking such work.

The Tender document with complete details of equipments including technical specifications and other terms & condition can be downloaded from the website www.nsi.gov.in and e-procurement portal of the Government of India (e-procure.gov.in) Bids must be submitted on or before the 05.07.2021 upto 01.00pm. The Bids will be opened on the same day at 03:00 PM onwards.

(Yogesh Chandra Srivastava)
Administrative cum Purchase & Sales Officer

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006)
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110016

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), the premier fashion institute in India, has recently undertaken a new project of the Ministry of Textiles for development of a national knowledge portal titled "The Repository - Indian Textiles and Crafts (RTC)". NIFT is looking for highly motivated professionals with experiences in relevant areas for the following posts for the Project:

1. Technical Consultant (IT) # - 01 Post
2. Research Assistant (IT) - 01 Post
3. Assistant (IT) - 01 Post
4. Documentation and Metadata Creator # - 01 Post
5. Information Associate - 01 Post
6. Information Assistant - 01 Post
7. Research Associate - 03 Posts

The Terms of Reference (TORs) for the posts are available at <https://nift.ac.in/careers>
Last date to apply - 09-07-2021
Candidates who had already applied for the posts as mentioned in Sl. No 1 & 4 against the advertisement published in March 2021 need not apply again.

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow
SUMMONS FOR FILING OF REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 844 of 2020 DATE 11-2-21

KARNATAKA BANK LTD.
VERSUS
M/S. CLARION PROJECTS PVT. LTD. & ORS.

1. M/S CLARION PROJECTS PVT. LTD.
- THROUGH OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR SH. SATYA PAL SINGH AT: OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT: 8TH FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN, KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI-110003
2. SH. PIYUSH RASTOGI (DIRECTOR/GUARANTOR) S/O SH. LAXMI CHANDRA RASTOGI AT: H. NO. 14/1, JOPLING ROAD, LUCKNOW-226001
3. SH. DEEPIKA RASTOGI (DIRECTOR/GUARANTOR) S/O SH. NARENDRA KUMAR RASTOGI AT: H. NO. 14/1, JOPLING ROAD, LUCKNOW-226001
4. SH. PARESH RASTOGI, S/O SH. LAXMI CHANDRA RASTOGI AT: H. NO. 14/1, JOPLING ROAD, LUCKNOW-226001
5. SMT. NEETI RASTOGI (GUARANTOR) D/O SH. MAHENDRA KUMAR GUPTA AT: 803, ROHTAS COURT APARTMENT, GOKHALE MARKET, HAZRATGANJ, LUCKNOW
6. SMT. SONALI RASTOGI (GUARANTOR), D/O. SH. RAVINDRA KUMAR SHAH AT: H. NO. 14/1, JOPLING ROAD, LUCKNOW-226001
7. SMT. SONIA RASTOGI (GUARANTOR) D/O SH. MADHUKAR GUPTA AT: H. NO. 14/1, JOPLING ROAD, LUCKNOW-226001
8. M/S ROHTAS PROJECTS LTD. (GUARANTOR) THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR SH. PIYUSH RASTOGI REGD. OFFICE AT: 27/18, RAJA MOHAN RAI MARG, LUCKNOW-226001.

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 27-7-21 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Curbs to ease further from June 21

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Covid-induced situation gradually improving in Uttar Pradesh, the state government has decided to further ease the restrictions and allow markets to open till 9 pm from June 21. Restaurants, malls and eateries will also reopen with some riders. "Night curfew will be in effect from 9 pm to 7 am from Monday to Friday and markets will open for 14 hours from 7 am to 9 pm. Currently, the markets are allowed to open from 7 am to 7 pm. Also, restaurants, parks and eating joints have also been allowed to open with some restrictions from June 21," Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal said in a statement issued in Lucknow on Tuesday.

"From June 21, restaurants may open with 50 per cent capacity in every district of the state following Covid protocols, and permission has also been given to open all parks and street food joints. However, the government has given strict instructions for setting up of Covid help desks at all these places and it will be mandatory to enter the restaurants with masks on."

"Masks and sanitisers will continue to be mandatory in the shops and showrooms. Also, a register of visitors will have to be maintained with names, addresses and other details. Shops, vegetable markets will also be allowed to open till 9 pm," Sehgal said.



Unlock: Huge rush on a road in Lucknow on Tuesday

After a review meeting on Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave his nod to the proposal of handing out exemptions and opening up of markets after being told about marked improvement in the Covid situation. Yogi said that detailed guidelines regarding the new system should be issued soon.

Meanwhile, the recovery

rate in UP touched 98.3% as fresh COVID-19 cases came down to 340 on Tuesday while 1,104 patients recovered in the past 24 hours. There are now 7,221 active cases in the state. According to Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal, the overall positivity rate in the state was 3.1 per cent. On Monday, 2,57,135 samples were tested,

taking the total number of tests conducted in the state to 5,38,59,954.

On Tuesday, Lucknow recorded only 19 fresh cases while 34 patients recovered. However, there were 10 deaths while the active caseload reduced to 415.

Meanwhile, two black fungus patients succumbed at KGMU on Tuesday. KGMU

spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said the deceased included a 40-year-old woman from Lakhimpur Kheri and a 40-year-old man from Basti.

He said there were 15 patients admitted to KGMU, taking the total number of cases to 395. Surgery was performed on two patients while three patients were discharged in the last 24 hours.

9 IPS officers transferred

Lucknow (PNS): In another administrative reshuffle, the state government transferred nine IPS officers, including SSP of Meerut and five other district police late on Monday night. According to an official release, Meerut SSP Ajay Sahni was shifted to Jaunpur in the same capacity while Jaunpur SP Raj Karan Nayyar was removed and quartered at the DGP Headquarters. Similarly, SSP of Moradabad Prabhakar Chaudhary was posted as the new SSP of Meerut while Pawan Kumar, who was awaiting posting, was posted as Moradabad SSP.

Commandant of PAC in Agra Poonam will be the new SP of Amroha while her predecessor Suniti was shifted to the DGP Headquarters in Lucknow. Besides, Kaushambhi SP Abhinandan was posted as the new SP of Banda, replacing Siddharth Meena, who was appointed as SP, Railways, in Prayagraj. SP, Rules and Manuals, Radhe Shyam was made the police chief of Kaushambhi.

Woman raped by husband's acquaintance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The wife of a Dalit man was raped allegedly by his acquaintance at her house in Madaion on Monday night. The victim's husband used to address the accused as *chacha* (uncle). Police swung in action only after the news went viral on social media and launched a manhunt for the accused, who was later arrested. He was identified as Rachit of Madaion.

Reports said Rachit had good relations with the victim's husband who had a meagre income.

In due course of time, Rachit started frequenting the victim's house and developed a fancy for her. On Monday night, Rachit threw

a party and made the victim's husband drink to the gills. Later, he started touching the woman indecently.

The woman raised an alarm but her husband was barely able to open his eyes under the influence of liquor. The victim said she was intimidated and raped. "He tore my clothes and threatened to kill me and my husband," she alleged. She said the accused left the house around 1 am on Tuesday.

The woman later reached the police station where she faced a volley of questions by cops. As the news started doing rounds on social media, the police registered a case in this connection and later arrested the accused.

Cyber fraud: Woman duped of ₹93,600

Lucknow (PNS): An unidentified miscreant duped a woman of Rs 93,600 in the name of providing her Liposomal injection for her maternal grandfather. The complainant, Ankita Nidhi of Gomtinagar Vistar, needed the injection for her maternal grandfather who is battling with black fungus and admitted in a hospital in Ahmedabad.

Nidhi said that doctors had asked them to arrange the injections for 21 days for her. Since the injection was not available in adequate stock at drug stores, she sought help on social media. On May 14, she came to know from through Twitter that a person with the handle name @ShahHarshkumar had these injections in adequate quantity. Nidhi contacted the man and was asked to make the total payment to get the injection by May 16. "I had no option but to agree to his terms and conditions. I paid him the money though Google Pay on May 15. On May

16, when I called him, he did not attend the calls and later switched off the phone," she said. She said the miscreant also blocked her Twitter account also. "I complained to the cyber cell but was asked to lodge a case at the police station," she said.

In another incident reported in Gomtinagar Vistar, a man identified as Vijay Malik was duped of Rs 30,000. The fraudster could not do more damage as the credit card limit was exhausted after the first transaction. He alleged that the bank did not address his complaint and directed him to lodge a case with police. Malik said he got a call for registration of a job at a website. He said he was asked to pay Rs 100 as registration fee.

"I did the transaction through my credit card and when I entered the OTP, the transaction. I tried the second time but the transaction was declined due to lack of balance," he said. He said he complained

to the bank which had issued him the card but did not get any satisfactory reply.

SUICIDE

A Class IX girl student was found hanging at her house in Banthra on Monday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Anupama of Harauni. Reports said her father Devideen, with his wife and their son Bheemsen had gone to the forest cover with their cattle while the girl was home alone. Around 3 pm, Bheemsen returned home and found the doors bolted from inside, with Anupama not responding to repeated calls. He sought help from his neighbours and also called his parents who reached the scene.

Later, Anupama was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around her neck. The family failed to explain the reason even as police sent the body for autopsy.

Nutrition important to protect kids from infection

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Proper nutrition for children is important for protection from COVID-19 in the third wave as doctors feel this is the right time to put the kids on a balanced diet to help them fight any kind of diseases.

Head of Paediatric department, KGMU, Dr Shailly

Awasthi said children should be given a healthy home diet which is rich in protein, calories, and leafy vegetables as well as fruits must be included in it. Instead of externally sourced vitamins, the children should be given vitamins naturally, she said.

She also said that medical colleges have been to purchase the drugs to avoid any shortage.

About the possibility of black fungus in children, she said there have been no cases so far. "Since children have not been given steroids, there have been no cases of black fungus in them. Also, there is caution against the use of steroids and if all goes well and lessons learnt from the second wave, the black fungus cases would not come

up," she said. Dr Nishant Verma, also from the Paediatric department of KGMU, said that children should be given a balanced diet. "Although it is being said that the disease in children would be mild in the third wave, they must be given healthy food. The children should not be given food supplements but a balanced diet," he said. "Parents

tend to give their children various kinds of supplements to boost their immunity, but it is not advisable. The children have to be trained to eat a balanced diet and kids learn from their parents. In the initial days if you give them noodles, chips and chocolates, they will start having the same regularly, which is not advisable," he added.

Schools up to Class VIII to open for teachers from July 1

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The state government has allowed the opening of all schools for teachers from Classes I to VIII of UP Board and all other recognised boards from July 1. However, students will not be attending the classes. Assistant Director, Basic Education, PN Singh said that under the directions of the Basic Shiksha Parishad secretary in Allahabad, teachers of all UP Board schools can call the teachers from Classes I to VIII from July 1. "The students will not be attending the classes and teachers will be allowed to carry out the routine work," he said.

Singh said that as far as other recognised boards are concerned, the decision for the attendance of teachers would be taken by management committees of the respective schools. "The management committee of these schools will decide whether the teachers will attend the school or not. But students will not be allowed to attend even the private schools," he added.

Govt using tech to renovate Chaurasi Kosi Parikrama Marg in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is using state-of-the-art technology to renovate and beautify the 'Chaurasi Kosi Parikrama Marg' in Ayodhya. The Remote Sensing Applications Centre is playing a significant role in the state government's ongoing exercise to give Ayodhya a facelift.

On the request of the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation, mapping work has already been completed with LiDAR technology for the revival, renovation and beautification of the Chaurasi Kosi Parikrama Marg, officials said here on Tuesday. Subsequently, roads have been identified for widening and its report sent to the department concerned. It has been planned in a way that there will be no need to cut trees and demolish houses on the way unnecessarily. The Remote Sensing Applications Centre has

been set up to promote science and technology in UP. The government has entrusted the centre with many important responsibilities for the all-round development of the state. During the corona period, the centre has made significant contributions to the proper planning and management of the resources of the state with the use of state-of-the-art technology like remote sensing, GIS, GPS and LiDAR.

The mapping done by the centre in Ayodhya with LiDAR technology will give impetus to the plan launched to promote tourism. The administration will get complete information about the architecture of the Parikrama Marg. Furthermore, the GIS and GPR technology-based surface and underground utility mapping is also being done by the Remote Sensing Applications Center for the development of Moradabad Smart City. The mapping of underground water supply, sewerage lines and other underground lines is also going on at a rapid pace. Once completed, it will ensure smooth water supply to Moradabad. The data and maps prepared after mapping will be given to the technical staff of the departments related to the Smart City project through a mobile app. It will help in quick rectification of technical faults in underground pipelines. The Remote Sensing Applications Centre, which has been designated as the nodal agency by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, is also preparing the digital database of the PWD road routes in the state. It will be prepared and uploaded on the geoportal of the department through the mobile app. Besides, linking of the database for roads maintenance, reconstruction, budget and expenditure etc is underway so that information about the maintenance and reconstruction or widening of roads can be obtained.

Government lifts ban on transfer of state employees

Government lifts ban on transfer of state employees

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has lifted the ban on the transfer of state employees and announced the transfer policy for 2021-22 session on Tuesday. The ban was imposed in May 2020 due to the pandemic and as per the policy announced on Tuesday, the process of transfer and posting

of officers and employees in all departments will be completed by July 15. As per the policy, the IAS, IPS and PCS officers can also be given new postings. The orders issued by the state government said the transfers would be done on the basis of merit and through online process.

कोविड-19 के विरुद्ध मजबूत होती जंग

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय यात्री टीकाकरण बूय

16 जून, 2021 से प्रदेश के समस्त जिला अस्पतालों में

upid

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय यात्रा की सुगमता के लिए सरकार की पहल

पढाई, खेलकूद या रोजगार के कारण विदेश यात्रा पर जाने वाले ऐसे नागरिक जिन्होंने कोविशील्ड वैक्सीन की पहली डोज ग्रहण कर ली है, 28 दिन का समय पूर्ण हो चुका है परन्तु दूसरी डोज अवधि (84 दिन) से पूर्व विदेश यात्रा करनी पड़ रही है।

- विदेश जाने वाले यात्रियों हेतु विशेष टीकाकरण सत्र आयोजन के सम्बन्ध में कोविन पोर्टल में आवश्यक संशोधन किये जा चुके हैं।
- ऐसे लाभार्थी जिन्होंने टीके की प्रथम खुराक प्राप्त करते समय पासपोर्ट आई0डी0 नंबर का उल्लेख नहीं किया है, उन्हें द्वितीय खुराक के समय फोटो आई0डी0 युक्त पहचान पत्र दिखाना होगा।
- जिला प्रतिरक्षण अधिकारी/सक्षम अधिकारी द्वारा लाभार्थी के द्वितीय खुराक ग्रहण करने के बाद पासपोर्ट नंबर का उल्लेख करते हुए कोविड वैक्सीनेशन सर्टिफिकेट जारी किया जा सकता है।

ध्यान रखें : टीकाकरण के समय यात्रा से सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत करना होगा।

ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण करायें

कोविन पोर्टल के माध्यम से बुकिंग हेतु क्लिक करें

<http://selfregistration.cowin.gov.in>

समस्त जानकारियों हेतु सम्पर्क करें **104**

आइए ऐसी लहर चलाना उचित रखरख से कोविड को हराएं

सफाई भी - दवाई भी - कड़ाई भी

मिशन कोरोना का

Indian Bank

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Mahoba Branch: Feeder Road Mahoba Dist. Mahoba - 210427 Uttar Pradesh

Under (RULE - 8 (1)) of Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under 13 (12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the date against the borrower as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property /ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (e-ALLAHABAD BANK) for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned herein below.

The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name of Account	Name of Borrower/Mortgager (owner of the Property)	Description of the Charged/Mortgaged Property	Date of Demand Notice, Possession Notice & Amount outstanding
1.	M/s Bablu General Store Prop.: Sri Rajib Khan	Sri Shabbir Khan S/o Noor Khan	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Survey No-2 Fatehpur Bajariya/Kasara Sub-District mahoba, District Mahoba Area: 138.20 Sq. Mtr. Boundaries: East: House of Shyam Lal West: Plot Guman Ahirwar North: Rasta South: House of Imamuddin & Foundation Abdul Rajjaq	17.02.2021 15.06.2021 9,72,994.00 + int. & Others charges
2.	M/s Maurya Granite Stone Works Partner: 1. Sri Sanjay Kumar Maurya 2. Sri Surendra Kumar Maurya 3. Sri Sandeep Kumar Maurya	1. Sri Sanjay Kumar Maurya 2. Sri Surendra Kumar Maurya 3. Sri Sandeep Kumar Maurya	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Gata No. 1742 in Survey No. Gram-Kabrai Sub-District mahoba, District Mahoba Area: 1.826 Hectare Boundaries: East: Road West: Gata No. 1743 North: Chak Road South: Gata No. 1755 & 1754	17.02.2021 15.06.2021 6,81,855.00 + int. & Others charges

Place: Mahoba, Date : 15.06.2021

Authorised Officer Indian Bank

Administration gearing up to tackle Covid third wave

PNS ■ VARANASI

In order to face the possible third wave of COVID-19 outbreak, the district administration and the Health department have intensified preparations and in this order, separate wards are being made in hospitals for children.

The Health department has also released help line numbers 1077 and 0542-2720005 on which anyone can contact. The Health department has launched an awareness programme for the treatment of asymptomatic and COVID-19 positive children, Chief Medical Officer Dr VB Singh said, adding that there were three types of medicines in medical kit for the COVID-19 affected children from birth to 12 months, including two vials of paracetamol drop (100 gram per 100 ml), one vial of multivitamin drop and two packets of ORS.

According to Dr Singh, there are different prescriptions for giving the doses of medi-

A TOTAL OF 10,831 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS INFECTION TILL DATE FROM JUNE 1 LAST IN THE DISTRICT AND OUT THEM, 23 HAVE TESTED POSITIVE, INCLUDING FOUR CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS, EIGHT CHILDREN FROM 6 TO 8 YEARS AND 11 CHILDREN FROM 13 TO 18 YEARS

cines to children of various ages and it has been advised to parents to reach their nearest health centres for testing of their wards if the oxygen saturation was less than 94 per cent and they had symptoms of cough and high fever and had stopped taking milk or other diet, etc..

He said the required medicines would be made available by the health centres for the treatment.

A total of 10,831 children have been tested for novel coronavirus infection till date from June 1 last in the district

and out them, 23 have tested positive, including four children up to the age of five years, eight children from 6 to 8 years and 11 children from 13 to 18 years, ACOMO and District Surveillance Officer Dr SS Kannoujia disclosed.

He said the monitoring committee was regularly following-up these children and attention was also being paid to meet their health-related requirements. He said the mothers of these children were also being made aware of continuing breastfeeding during the COVID-19 infection.

15 test positive in VNS

PNS ■ VARANASI

The Varanasi district recorded a slight increase in COVID-19 cases on Tuesday. A total of 15 people tested positive for novel coronavirus infection during the past 24 hours, taking the tally of confirmed cases to 82,124, as per the figures released by the Health department on Tuesday evening.

With no COVID-19 death during the last 24 hours, the death toll remained at 770.

As many as 25 COVID-19 patients recovered during the past 24 hours, 24 in home isolation and one in hospital. With this, 81,108 COVID-19 patients have been cured in the district — 74,852 in home isolation and 6,256 in Covid hospitals.

The vaccination drive continued on Tuesday at 135 vaccination centres, including 87 for the beneficiaries above 45 years and 48 for the beneficiaries between 18 and 44 ages.

Vaccine doses were also administered at eight centres for the working employees aged between 18 and 44 years, at three centres for the parents

having children up to 12 years age and at two centres for working women.

Besides, a booth was opened at RTO office in Babatpur for vaccination of 100 drivers of commercial vehicles, including buses per day barring Sunday. A vaccination camp has been opened at the community health centre at Chowkaghat for vaccination of street vendors on the basis of token system.

In the meantime, the District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma inspected the vaccination centre at Madarasa Rahmania in Mandanpura, set up for weavers. He said the government had made the facility of free vaccination and hoped, the vaccine for children would be available soon.

He told the people at the camp about the benefits of vaccination and appealed people to beware of those creating confusion about vaccine.

He also visited at vaccination centre opened at Saroja Palace for the artists of the city. He also distributed 2000 ration kits among the artists. The ration kits were provided by Varanasi Vyapar Mandal.

SP-backed candidate wins election of Zila Panchayat member

PNS ■ VARANASI

Samajwadi Party-supported candidate Neelam has won the election of Zila Panchayat member on the Sector-IV seat of Chiraigaon block.

The female candidates registered victory on the three vacant seats of gram pradhan.

The Chiraigaon block Sector-IV member's seat of Zila Panchayat was reserved for women of SC category. As many as 13 candidates were in the election fray but Neelam, supported by the SP, emerged victorious by securing 4,914 votes against 1,816 votes polled by her nearest rival Ram Dulari who was supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Besides, the election was also conducted on three vacant seats of Gram Pradhan of Siristi gram panchayat in Chiraigaon block, Nandapur gram panchayat in Pindra block and Chittampur gram panchayat in Cholarpur block.

Three female candidates Kusum (990 votes), Prensheela (430 votes) and Sapana (858

votes) emerged victorious on these seats, respectively.

On two other vacant seats of gram pradhans of Dewura gram panchayat in Aarajilina block and Shivdasha gram panchayat in Chiraigaon block, Seema and Kiran Devi, respectively, were elected unopposed.

Neelam victory has been greeted by jubilation by the leaders of the main opposition party which is eyeing the prestigious seat of chairperson of Varanasi Zila Panchayat which is reserved for women of Other Backward Classes (OBC).

There are 40 seats in the Varanasi Zila Panchayat and support of 21 members is needed to grab this prestigious seat.

The SP leaders claimed that more than 15 candidates supported by it registered victory and it also has the support of independents who have been elected on more than 10 seats.

The main opposition party of the state wants to convey a message before the assembly elections by grabbing the Varanasi Zila Panchayat chairperson's post that the ruling party

has lost its significance even in the parliamentary constituency of the prime minister.

The BJP leaders also claimed that they would get the magic figure with the support of independents and like-minded parties to win the Zila Panchayat chairperson's post.

The BJP's Aprajita Sonkar was the chairperson of Varanasi Zila Panchayat before the election and thus, retaining this seat is a matter of prestige for it.

Besides, the ruling party also wants to convey a message by retaining the seat that it is popular even in the rural areas and among the farmers with the works done by the government at Centre and in the state.

Though, the schedule for the election of Zila Panchayat Chairman is yet to be announced by the State Election Commission, it is expected by the end of this month.

And so, the BJP and the SP have started their preparations to win this prestigious post.

Special facilities demanded for government employees teachers, who died of COVID-19

PNS ■ VARANASI

The local unit of Employees and Teachers Coordination Committee on Tuesday demanded special facilities such as pension, etc for employees and teachers who lost their lives during the pandemic to COVID-19.

With the same demand, a delegation of the UP Field Employees Federation also handed over a memorandum addressed to the chief minister.

A delegation of Employees and Teachers Coordination Committee reached the office of the district magistrate and in his absence; handed over a memorandum of their demands to ADM (City) Gulab Chand to be forwarded to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The delegation said that a big number of employees and teachers lost their lives during the pandemic because they were infection while discharging their duty and out of them, many were the only source of livelihood of their families. So, these families need to be paid additional attention by the government, the delegation added.



Members of the Employees and Teachers Coordination Committee handed over a memorandum of its demands to ADM, City on Tuesday

The government should give some additional facilities such as pension, etc to such employees and teachers; they demanded and hoped the government would pay serious attention to the demand.

They also made other demands in the larger interest of the families of these

employees and teachers.

The delegation consisted of Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra, Lav Kumar Singh. A delegation of the UP Field Employees Federation also handed over a memorandum of the same demands. It was led by Brijesh Kumar Singh.

TRIFED showroom inaugurated at Sarnath

PNS ■ VARANASI

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda inaugurated the 141st showroom of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) at Sarnath here on Tuesday through virtual platform.

As part of its initiatives to promote the livelihood of the tribal artisans through marketing and provide support to the tribal produce and products, TRIFED is expanding its retail operations across the country.

The function was also attended by Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh, TRIFED Chairman Ramesh Chand Meena, Managing Director Pravir Krishna and Special Advisor Padma Shri Dr Rajnikant.

It is the fifth outlet in the state.

The flagship store is categorised into attractive segments. There are dedicated



Special Advisor Padam Shri Dr Rajnikant showing a GI product at TRIFED showroom on Tuesday

counters for geographical identification (GI) products including textiles: sarees and stoles such as Banarasi Maheswari, Bagh, Chanderi, Kantha, Pochampally Ikkat, Muga Silk sarees and fabrics, ready-made garments for men, women, and children, exquisite tribal jewellery, metalwork, iron items, pottery paintings, Van Dhan (forest) natural produce, in this large store.

Celebrating the concept of

'India under One Roof', the showroom will showcase the best of authentic tribal handicrafts and handlooms from traditions from across all the states of the country and also feature natural, organic produce and products Van Dhan essentials and immunity boosters such as organic grains, spices, herbal teas, besides exquisite bell and metalwork items.

A special focus of the store in the opening days of the showroom will be on the exquisite customised gift corner and GI product collection featuring traditional kurtas, sarees, stoles, fabrics, Immunity boosters, sherbets, organic, dry fruits, etc.

"The empowerment of the tribal people is the main objective of TRIFED. All our efforts, be it in getting better prices for their produce, helping them add value to the basic produce, or enabling them to get access to larger markets, are targeted at achieving this. It is with this

in mind, that we are continuously working to expand our retail operations", said the MD Pravir Krishna, during the virtual inauguration of the latest Tribes India flagship store here.

From a single flagship store at Mahadev Road in New Delhi in 1999 to 141 retail outlets across India, the TRIBES India brand is growing rapidly. In its mission to empower the down-trodden tribal people, by promoting the economic welfare of their communities across India (through the development of marketing and the sustained up-gradation of their skills), TRIFED, as the national nodal agency for tribal welfare, had started the procurement and marketing of tribal art and craft items through its network of retail outlets under the Tribes India brand, he said, adding that TRIFED was committed to protecting and furthering the interests of the tribal communities across the country.

BHU discusses progress of online studies

PNS ■ VARANASI

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Vice-Chancellor Prof VK Shukla through a virtual platform in which various issues, including academic programmes, evaluation and other educational activities were discussed.

The meeting was attended by the directors of the institutes and deans of various faculties apart from other senior university officers.

In the meeting, the directors and deans apprised about the progress of online learning. They said that the reading materials were being uploaded on various mediums so that the students could study without any hassle from wherever they were.

During this, the members also expressed their views on the conduct of internal examinations in the university.

Registrar Dr Neeraj Tripathi, Dean of Students

Welfare Prof MK Singh, Chief Proctor Prof Anand Chaudhary and many other officers, including controller of examinations also participated in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the VC re-constituted the School Board of BHU. The VC himself would be its chairman while Prof Sanjay Srivastava from political science department (Faculty of Social Sciences) will be its vice-chairman.

The BHU Registrar will be member secretary. The other members of this 12-member committee are Prof SK Singh (education faculty), Prof Kaushlendra Pandey (Sanskrit Vidya Dharm Vigyan faculty), Prof BK Sharma (Institute of Agricultural Sciences), Prof SK Mishra (Institute of Science), Prof S Srikrishna (Institute of Science, SC/ST nominee), finance officer and principals of Central Hindu Boys' School (CHBS), Central Hindu Girls' School (CHGS) and Ranveer Sanskrit Vidyalaya.

Govt sanctions overbridges for Prayagraj

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

The Uttar Pradesh government has sanctioned overbridges for Prayagraj to facilitate people going to airport. The airport railway overbridge will cost Rs 284 crore.

To add more flights to the regular schedule, the civil aviation airport was shifted from Bamrauli to Jhalwa because the Bamrauli airport of Indian Air Force had given limited facilities for non-defence flights. This was done during Kumbh Mela when Cabinet minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' introduced a good number of flights from here for a better air connectivity of Prayagraj.

An overbridge was proposed to make the journey from the city to airport easy, and crores of rupees had been pumped into this project, but at the last stage the Air Force officials raised objections, and all the above investment went to waste.

In the absence of a bridge over the busy railway track of Prayagraj-Kanpur route, the journey to the new airport was quite cumbersome. Now this proposed 1.5 km-long four-lane overbridge will ease the traffic flow between the city and airport. The overbridge has been planned from Mahila Gram Vidyapeeth, situated between Chauphatka and Sulemsarai on Kanpur Road to near Kalindipuram. The bridge will be situated near Subedarganj Railway Station.

Yet another overbridge has been planned on the Kanpur Road to avoid market rush. It will be 600 metre long.

Blood donation camp held

Allahabad (PNS): United Group of Institutions (UGI) in collaboration with United Medicity Hospital, Prayagraj, Rotary Allahabad Midtown and National Service Scheme (NSS) UGI, Allahabad University (AU) organised a blood donation camp at the lush green campus of United College of Engineering and Research (UCER) here on Tuesday.

All the faculty members, officials and staff of UGI, United Medicity Hospital and United NSS participated in the blood donation camp.

As many as 30 officials including UGI Dean Sudhanshu Kanaujia, and head of Corporate Relations Centre (UGC) Dr Divya Bartaria donated blood in the camp.

Seven units of blood was donated in the camp. Speaking on the importance of blood donation, UIP principal Dr Alok Mukherjee said that donating blood was important as it could save someone's life.

He said such a noble act would help even those people who were facing health problems at the time of COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Mukherjee said that faculty members having lesser hemoglobin were not allowed to donate blood.

UGI Vice Chairman Satpal Gulati said that donating blood to save human lives was one of the noblest works which a man can do.

The blood donation camp was conducted under the supervision of trained doctors and nursing staff of United Medicity Hospital and principal of UIP. Students of UIP also extended their help and support to make the camp a suc-



Principal of United College of Engineering and Research (UCER) Prof HP Shukla, principal of United Institute of Technology (UIT) Prof Sanjay Sharma, principal of United College of Engineering and Management (UCEM) Prof KS Dubey along with other faculty members, officials and staff were present on the occasion.

IIIT Allahabad ranked 23rd by QSWU

Allahabad (PNS): he Indian Institute of Information Technology, Prayagraj has secured 23rd position in 2022 QS World University Ranking among Indian universities.

Notably, the QS World University ranking 2022 has been released by Quacquarelli Symonds recently, which is the most acceptable ranking agency world-wide. This year, IIIT-Allahabad provided a proud moment for the entire Prayagraj and Uttar Pradesh by getting a place in the QS World University ranking of Indian universities. Dr Satish Kumar Singh, Associate Dean Ranking and Accreditation of IIIT A on Tuesday said that this year from India only 35 institutes of repute like IISC Bangalore, major IITs, and Giant universities could get the place on this list.

Dr Singh further added that despite being a very young and IT-oriented institute with only three branches, four departments, and about only 70 full-time faculty members, IIIT-A had made a mark by securing 23rd position among all universities and institutions, which are ranked by Quacquarelli Symonds.

Congress leaders meet Sulabh's family

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

A team of Congress reached the deceased Sulabh Srivastava's house to console the bereaved family members on Tuesday.

Kanpur MLA Sahil Akhtar Ansari, who was leading the team, told the family that the Congress was with them in this hour of grief.

While providing financial help of Rs 1 lakh to Sulabh's wife, Ansari said that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had sent him.

UPCC general secretary Sushil Pasi, secretaries Devendra Kumar Srivastava and Jaikaran Verma, Congress district president Brijendra Kumar Mishra, former Youth Congress president Neeraj Tripathi, Dr VK Singh, Santosh Tiwari were also present.

On the other hand, Samajwadi Youth Brigade burnt the poster of the chief minister on Tuesday in protest

Scribes protest alleged killing of Sulabh



Allahabad (PNS): Journalists of Prayagraj gathered at Civil Lines crossing on Tuesday in protest against the alleged killing of electronic media journalist Sulabh

Srivastava of Pratapgarh. They also took out a candle march in the evening, demanding a high level probe into the whole incident, compensation to the family and a government job for the

widow of the deceased reporter. Holding placards in their hand to demand justice for the killed journalist, the scribes raised slogans near Civil Lines police outpost at the crossing.

against this incident and said that action was being avoided against the liquor mafia.

It may be pointed out here that a case of murder has been

registered on the basis of the written complaint made by Renuka Srivastava, wife of deceased journalist, in connection with the mysterious death

of her husband Sulabh Srivastava on Sunday night in Pratapgarh district.

The police are investigating but Sulabh's wife is adamant on

a CBI probe into the incident. She said that security should be provided to the entire family and strictest action should be taken against those who conspired the incident.

In view of the seriousness of the matter, policemen have been deployed at Sulabh Srivastava's house.

Sulabh Srivastava had gone to the Lalganj area late on Sunday evening for coverage of news after an illegal arms factory was unearthed.

He was later found injured on the road near a brick kiln at 10:30 pm after he left for his home in Sihadar Mohalla. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The family members allege that Sulabh was murdered because a day earlier, he had sent a complaint to ADG Prayagraj, citing the threat he was getting from the liquor mafia.

RPF recovers 140 turtles

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

The Railway Protection Force recovered 140 turtles of conserved species from an unclaimed bag placed beneath a general compartment seat of Faizabad-Lokmanya Tilak Saket Express train at Manikpur station.

The Railway authorities, besides the RPF and the GRP, keep on educating passengers and making them aware of unclaimed material.

The RPF personnel entered the train at Manikpur and enquired about the luggage and belongings of the passengers.

When they found no claimant of a black bag placed under the seat of a general compartment, they pulled it out and were surprised to see that it was full of turtles.

Later, when counted, 140 turtles were found in the bag.

Police record statements in hosp rape case

Allahabad (PNS): Police investigation is on in Prayagraj's Swaroop Rani Nehru (SRN) Hospital in connection with the alleged gang-rape of a girl during treatment.

The police questioned four people, including the doctor. After this the statement of all of them was recorded. So far, statements of eight people have been taken. Two-three employees are still left and their statements will be recorded soon.

In Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, a woman underwent abdominal surgery recently. Her brother has alleged that four doctors gang-raped his sister. A few days later, after the death of the girl, there was a ruckus. The Kotwali police registered a case on the orders of the higher officials and carried out an investigation. CO (I) Satyendra Tiwari was also included in the investigation. The hospital administra-

tion handed over the list of doctors and staff present at the time of operation and then the process of recording the statement started with interrogation. The statement of two accused doctors was taken on Monday. After this, on Tuesday, after questioning the nurse and another staff member, their statement was recorded.

Once again the police reached Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital and took the statements of four people including the doctor. All of them were present during the operation of the girl. During interrogation, they denied the allegations levelled against them. However, the police returned after recording their statement. In this way, the statements of eight people have been recorded so far. Police said that there are two-three more employees, whose statement will be recorded soon.

OEF employees protest against corporatisation of defence units

PNS ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of employees of Ordnance Equipment Factory (OEF), with black bands on their arm, staged a demonstration at the factory gate on Tuesday in protest against corporatisation of the defence units.

They were led by the Quila Mazdoor Union, OEF Mazdoor Sangh and OEF Employees Union. The agitation was staged on the call of their national leaders of INDWF, AIDEF and BPMS.

They also lodged their protest against the role of central chief labour commissioner as mediator in corporatisation of the defence unit.

Speaking on the occasion, leaders of Joint Forum PK Chatterjee, Samir Bajpai and Devendra Sharma played the role of central chief labour commissioner, saying he was determined to carry out corporatisation of OEFs under the pressure of the Union government by ignoring the commitment with all the three federations. This was wholly anti-workers and unjustified.

They said the workers would be compelled to intensify the movement and would not accept the corporatisation of OEFs under any circumstances.

The leaders said that the Union government was planning to hand over the management of OEFs to country's capitalists.

All the leaders and workers raised anti-government slogans during the demonstration. Prominent union leaders and workers present on the occasion were Zafar Ahmad,



OEF workers stage demonstration at the factory gate on Tuesday

Pioneer

Apurba Majumdar takes charge as OPF GM

Kanpur (PNS): The new General Manager of Ordnance Parachute Factory, Apurba Majumdar, took over charge on Tuesday.

Prior to taking over this charge he was Deputy Director General, Ordnance Board, Kolkata.

He was welcomed by additional general managers Sushil Sinha and Ashish Kumar.

Apurba Majumdar belongs to the 1989 batch of IOFS.

On his first day at the OPF, Majumdar flagged off the consignment of Indian Air Force for BMK-41 parachute and brake parachute of Jaguar to 16 Base Repair Depot, New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering, he said his top priority was to



The new General Manager, OPF, Apurba Majumdar being welcomed on Tuesday

should lean heavily on innovation and aptitude for the manufacture of various parachutes and the float which were exclusive defence products. He said OPF had to keep pace with technology so as to stand at par with the world.

He said keeping in pace with the current global scenario, it was highly essential to adopt the elevated production process. He said this as a team the OPF would constantly make rapid strides in the direction.

He said all positive steps would be adopted to improve the working ambience of the factory. Others present were RK Parasher, SK Sahu, Sudhir Tripathi and several others.

Mahendra Nath, Samir Bajpai, Shan Mohammad, Arvind Dwivedi, Shiv Kumar Pal, Neeraj Singh, Yogendra

Chauhan, Ajit Das, Mithlesh Prasad, Anil Gautam, Rohit Tewari, Pradip Gautam, Ehsan Hussain, Sanjay Gupta,

Shambhu Suman, KK Srivastva, Harpal Singh, Pradip Sharma, Sandeep Khanna and Akhilesh Singh Chauhan.

CDO inspects vaccination camp for divyangs

PNS ■ KANPUR

Chief Development Officer Dr Mahendra Kumar while inspecting the vaccination camp at Green Park Stadium on Tuesday said that for the facility of the physically challenged people, the administration had made special modifications at the stadium. He said this had been done keeping in view the basic problems faced by them. He said with special arrangements made for them more physically challenged people should come for vaccination at the centre.

Dr Kumar said this special camp for the physically challenged people had been started from June 14 and nearly 100 physically challenged people were coming for vaccination every day. He appealed that this number should be at least doubled by next week.

He said physically disabled people need not book their slots as under the provision all such persons on priority list would be vaccinated without any wait. The CDO said to assist these people, NCC cadets had been deployed and they would provide all possible help to them to reach the place where the vaccine was being administered. He said the cadets would ensure that the physically challenged people were safely escorted to the Green Park Stadium gate as well. He said the number of vaccination at Green Park Stadium was highly encouraging and said that more efforts were being made to ensure that the number increased in the coming times.

DM reviews progress of Covid vaccination

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar chaired the meeting of district task force in the Collectorate meeting hall on Monday and directed to complete the works on priority under MPLAD Scheme and Vidhaya Nidhi. Reviewing progress of Covid vaccination the DM directed the officials concerned to chalk out a plan and involve the social organisations in it. Giving tips to officials he suggested for setting up camps in villages after creating an atmosphere in the favour of vaccination. He made it clear



for better achievement vaccination centre incharge will be honoured. He directed the officials concerned to involve SHGs, Anganbadi centres, NYK, ASHAS, people's representatives etc to prepare an congenial atmosphere for vac-

ination and for considerable vaccination the centre incharges take the task on top priority. The meeting was mainly attended by CDO Srilaxmi VS, CMO Dr PD Gupta apart from the other officials concerned.

Dibrugarh-Chandigarh spl from July 5

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of passengers will run the 05903 Dibrugarh-Chandigarh weekly special train from Dibrugarh from July 5 till further orders on every Monday and 05904 Chandigarh-Dibrugarh weekly special train from Chandigarh from July 7 till further orders on. All coaches in this train will be of reserved class and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

DIBRUGARH-CDG WEEKLY: The 05903 Dibrugarh - Chandigarh weekly special train will from July 5 till further orders on every Monday leave Dibrugarh at 08.05 hrs, New Tinsukia at 09.00 hrs, Simalguri at 10.30 hrs, Mariani at 11.35 hrs, Furkating Jn at 12.45 hrs, Dimapur at 13.57 hrs, Diphu at 14.38 hrs, Lumding at 15.23 hrs, Guwahati at 19.35 hrs, Rangiya at 21.10 hrs, New Bongaigaon at 23.30 hrs,

Kokrajhar at 23.59 hrs, the second day from New Alipurduar at 00.57 hrs, New Cooch Behar at 01.25 hrs, New Jalpaiguri at 04.10 hrs, Kishanganj at 05.17 hrs, Katihar at 07.50 hrs, Naugachia at 08.39 hrs, Khagaria at 09.31 hrs, Barauni at 10.50 hrs, Samastipur at 12.10 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 13.00 hrs, Hajipur at 13.55 hrs, Sonpur at 14.07 hrs, Chhapra at 15.45 hrs, Siwan at 16.40 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 17.50 hrs, Gorakhpur at 19.40 hrs, Gonda at 23.20 hrs, the third day Lucknow at 02.35 hrs, Bareilly at 06.02 hrs, Moradabad at 07.43 hrs, Saharanpur at 11.10 hrs and Ambala Cantt at 12.35 hrs and will reach Chandigarh at 13.20 hrs.

CDG-DIBRUGARH WEEKLY: In return journey 05904 Chandigarh - Dibrugarh weekly special train will from July 7 till further orders on every Wednesday leave Chandigarh at 23.20 hrs, Ambala Cantt at 00.25 hrs, Saharanpur at 02.20 hrs, Moradabad at 05.33 hrs, Bareilly at 06.53 hrs, from Lucknow at 11.15 hrs, from

Gonda at 14.10 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 17.00 hrs, from Deoria Sadar at 17.56 hrs, from Siwan at 19.10 hrs, from Chhapra at 20.30 hrs, from Sonpur at 21.42 hrs, from Hajipur at 21.57 hrs, from Muzaffarpur at 22.50 hrs, from Samastipur at 23.57 hrs, on the third day from Barauni at 01.05 hrs, Khagaria at 02.05 hrs, Naugachia at 03.03 hrs, Katihar at 05.55 hrs, Kishanganj at 08.02 hrs, New Jalpaiguri at 09.50 hrs, New Cooch Behar at 12.10 hrs, New Alipurduar at 12.32 hrs, Kokrajhar at 13.44 hrs, New Bongaigaon at 14.50 hrs, Rangiya at 17.25 hrs, Guwahati at 19.45 hrs, Lumding at 23.05 hrs, Diphu at 23.40 hrs, the fourth day from Dimapur at 01.22 hrs, Furkating at 03.12 hrs, Mariani at 03.55 hrs, Simalguri at 05.05 from New Tinsukia at 06.50 hrs and reach Dibrugarh at 07.55 hrs. A total of 22 coaches including two of generator-cum-luggage van, one air-conditioned second class, one air-conditioned third class, 11 sleeper class, three general second class and one pantry car will be attached in this train.

FCI godown incharge found hanging

PNS ■ KANPUR

The FCI godown incharge posted in Kuthaund (Orai), Sunil Kumar Mishra, a native of Kanpur, was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in the godown on Tuesday morning.

Local residents said he was upset for the past several days. On Tuesday morning, when godown workers saw Mishra hanging, they informed the police. No suicide note was recovered from the spot.

Apart from Kuthaund Wheat Purchase Centre of FCI, Sunil Kumar Mishra was also given the additional charge of Rampura centre. For the past about one month, he was passing through mention tension but nobody would guess about his suicidal move.

SDM Jalaun Gulab also reached the spot and asked the police to carry out an intensive probe into the incident.

Station House Officer, Kuthaund, Arun Tewari said investigations were on as to what prompted Sunil Mishra to commit suicide.

He said godown incharge Sunil Mishra was a native of Kanpur and lived here in Ratanlal Nagar. He was temporarily living in Kuthaund godown campus, he added.

New hallmark policy stirs hornet's nest

PNS ■ KANPUR

The new policy of hallmark which comes into effect from June 16, 2021 has stirred the hornet's nest. The reason for this chaos among jewellers is that the number of unregistered jewellers is more than 85 per cent plus as compared to the registered ones who are hardly 15 per cent.

The Kanpur Jewellers Association is running from pillar to post to seek "help" from political corridors as it would not be true to claim that Kanpur sells the highest quantity of misbranded gold jewellery.

UP Sarafa Association president Mahesh Chandra Jain has dashed to Delhi, the national secretary of the All India Jewellers and Goldsmiths Association, Pankaj Arora, is still camping in Lucknow. It remains

to be seen if the government succumbs to the pressure of the lobby which stands by them in thick and thin.

Gold purchase in white and black is the best way of investment in the current times whereas second is the marriage when there is a gold buying spree. While the majority of women who flock the jewellers' shops are ignorant of gold quality and the majority pay for 22 karat but bring home 14 karat gold and feel very satisfied.

The Majority are lured not to seek a receipt to get a fat discount and that is the biggest trap in the gold and jewellery market.

Ironically, when one takes one's old gold to the jewellers one comes to know that it lacks the necessary purity. The funda in the yellow market is that all

old gold lacks purity and is as low as 14 per cent and after the removal of filth and dirt and the joints one hardly gets the true value of the gold.

Under the new hallmark rules, if any licensed jewellers misuses this license, the BIS will strip off their licence and charge them a fine.

Ironically, over 85 per cent of jewellers of Kanpur are unregistered. The BIS openly declares that people "need not be fooled by big brand names and highly advertised jewellers". The million dollar question is what is the guarantee that the Karatmeter is not tampered where it shows the gold sold by customer is not pure but the purchased one is of the desired karat.

The Kanpur jewellers are planning for a shutdown if the law is not put in abeyance till the "ripe time".



The State Minister for Child Development, Nutrition and Women Welfare, Swati Singh arrived for the inspection of Rajkivya Balgrah(girls), Swarup Nagar on Tuesday

Unidentified man killed in mishap

Kanpur (PNS): A motorcyclist was killed after being knocked down by an unidentified vehicle on the Ramadevi flyover under Chakeri police station on Tuesday morning.

Seeing him profusely bleeding, passersby informed the police which, during investigations, observed that the bike and laptop recovered from the possession of the deceased were stolen by him. Police have now included this point also in their investigation.

The identity of the youth could not be ascertained. On hearing about the incident, police immediately reached the spot and took the

injured youth to Kashiram Trauma Centre where doctors pronounced him dead.

After sending the body for autopsy, police tried to ascertain the identity of the deceased. When police tried to ascertain the identity of the basis of the bike registration number, the cops were stunned to learn that the motorcycle and laptop were stolen by him.

Ramadevi outpost incharge Jitendra Singh said the youth, after being knocked by an unidentified vehicle, may have hit the divider and sustained fatal head injury as he was not wearing a helmet.

'20 pc ethanol blending in petrol by 2025'

PNS ■ KANPUR

Subodh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary (Sugar & Administration), while inaugurating a webinar on 'Standardisation of Ethanol Plant Capacities and Models of Sugar Diversion' on Tuesday, at the National Sugar Institute here, said that India's net import of petroleum was 185 MT at a cost of USD 551 billion in 2020-21.

He said keeping in view the fact that about 98 per cent of the fuel requirement in the road transportation sector was currently met by fossil fuels and the remaining 2 per cent by biofuels, a successful E20 programme could save the country a substantial amount of revenue.

He said the country was in pursuit of achieving 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol by 2025 and thus many policy interventions had been made for expediting the setting up of ethanol units.

He said the current ethanol production capacity in India was of 426 crore litre derived from molasses-based distilleries and 258 crore litre from grain based distilleries and was proposed to be expanded to 760 crore litre and 740 crore litre respectively in the next years.

He said this would be sufficient to produce 1,016 crore litre ethanol required for ethanol blending in petrol and 334 crore litre for other uses by 2025.

NSI Director and organis-

er of the webinar, Prof Narendra Mohan, emphasised upon standardising the capacities and configuration of plant and machinery to higher productivity, lower cost of production, reducing the project cost and project completion time.

He presented various business models for producing ethanol from sugarcane-based raw materials like C&B heavy molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar, sugar syrup and also from rice, maize and through other feed stocks.

He said already there was an all time high blending of over 7.5 per cent during the current ethanol supply year and expected to achieve 8.0 per cent as a whole for the year.

He added that one had to look for round the year operations of ethanol plants using multiple feed stocks as per availability and economics.

Chinnapan N, vice-president of South Indian Sugarcane and Sugar Technologists Association, in his address said that biofuels like ethanol besides saving foreign exchange and economic sustainability to sugar industry could also help to generate employment, promote Make in India, Swachh Bharat, doubling of farmers' incomes and converting waste to wealth.

Sanjay Desai, managing director of Excel Industries, made a presentation on selection of plant and machinery to make ethanol units workable on different feed stocks.

He said initially, such a unit may cost more, maybe by 25-35 per cent, but then one was sure of operating it on cane juice, syrup, molasses or grains, thus, providing greater flexibility.

Sandeep Chichbankar, managing director, Of Covalent Engineering & Projects Pvt. Ltd., discussed details of various factors to be considered while selecting plant and machinery for reducing project cost and workability of various feed stocks without compromising on efficiency.

The joint organiser was the South Indian Sugarcane and Sugar Technologists Association and a large number of delegates from various sugar producing states participated in the webinar.

Timing of two trains changed

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration has changed the timings of 02511 Gorakhpur-Kochuveli triweekly special train and 02521 Barauni-Ernakulam weekly special train at the following stations and from the following dates. All the coaches in this train will be of reserved class and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

GORAKHPUR KOCHUVELI TRIWEEKLY:

The 02511 Gorakhpur - Kochuveli triweekly special train will from July 17 as per the changed timing depart from Wadakkanchery at 09.02 hrs, Thrissur at 09.23 hrs, Irinjalkkuda at 09.46 hrs, Chalakkudy at 09.54 hrs, Angamaly at 10.09 hrs, Aluva at 10.22 hrs, Ernakulam town at 10.44 hrs, Ernakulam Jn at 11.00 hrs, Cherthala at 11.40 hrs, Alappuzha at 12.05 hrs, Harippad at 12.37 hrs, Kayamkulam at 13.10 hrs, Kollam at 14.05 hrs and reach Kochuveli at 16.05 hrs. This train will, however, have stop-

page at the remaining stations as per the earlier timings.

BARAUNI ERNAKULAM WEEKLY: The 02521 Barauni - Ernakulam weekly special train will from June 21 as per the changed timings depart from Wadakkanchery at 09.02 hrs, Thrissur at 09.23 hrs, Irinjalkkuda at 09.46 hrs, Chalakkudy at 09.54 hrs, Angamaly at 10.09 hrs, Aluva at 10.22 hrs, Ernakulam Town at 10.44 hrs and reach Ernakulam Jn at 11.30 hrs. This train will, however, have stoppage at the remaining stations as per the earlier timings.

Farmers told to adopt modern techniques

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra told the farmers to adopt modern techniques to get more yield at less production cost. These views were expressed by him at a seminar organised in the meeting hall of the Commissionerate on Monday. In the seminar to discuss ways for more production, marketing and processing of the horticulture products the DC advised farmers to keep up with the times. Interacting with the farmers he opined that it was the wise step to produce



more with the use of less water for irrigation. He said that they should choose those crops which need less water. Referring to several industrial products which were based on crops and fruits he told them said to be in touch with the industries and produce such items which were required for

them. Emphasising over drip irrigation and other new techniques the DC appealed to farmers to adopt ways and get subsidy as per the provision. DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar advised the farmers to get more and more yield but not at the cost of the soil in the larger interest of future.

Blood donation camp organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIUN

A blood donation camp organised by the Blood Commando Foundation on Blood Donor Day was inaugurated by Principal, Government Medical College (GMC) Dr Dwijendra Nath. Dr Nath said blood donation saves lives of people. On the occasion he garlanded all 12 persons who donated blood and presented



certificates them to them. Prominent among those who donated blood were Mahendra Kumar, Shiv Kumar, Amit, Rashmi Shukla, Mohit Singh, Uma Tripathi, Vishal Gupta and Anoop Tiwari. Blood Commando Foundation Chairman Shubham Agarwal gave a message of humanity. Dr Manoj Verma, Dr Jitendra Mishra and Dr Ravindra Rajpoot were present on the occasion.

Virtual meet with shell suppliers held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) on Monday in the presence of General Manager Anjali Goyal held a virtual supplier meeting with all approved shell suppliers and its senior officers. A 'Manufacturing Guide for Quality Assurance of Complete Shell Assembly' was released on Monday to help locomotive shell manufacturers manufacture fault-free shells. This brand will make BLW a quality locomotive manufacturer. GM and senior officers of BLW while shar-

ing their views with all supplier participants gave information about further improvement in quality, strengthen the supplier-based relationship and promote all kinds of cooperation for the suppliers. In the meeting, focused discussion was held on various points like eligibility criteria and conditions etc. Along with it a discussion was held with suppliers on product and service requirements, procurement policies and procedures, delivery/payment terms, documents required etc. The GM suggested everyone to work as partners in manufacturing high-quality locomotives.



AFTER SUVENDU'S COMPLAINTS OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Guv writes strong letter to Didi, heads for Delhi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Governor on Tuesday wrote another strong letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on her "continued silence" and "inaction" over the post-poll "retributive bloodshed and violation of human rights" in the State.

The Governor who decided to leave for New Delhi late on Tuesday evening accused

the Chief Minister of "inaction" and apathy and wrote that the kind of violence the State was witnessing was "worst since Independence."

The Governor wrote, "with heavy heart I am constrained to observe your continued silence and inaction over post poll violence, violation of human rights and dignity of women, destruction of property, perpetuation of miseries on political opponents—worst since Independence, ill-augurs for democracy ...

"In spite of your attention having been drawn to the enormity of situation, huge exodus of people in search of cover for life and destruction of property worth crores there has

only been stunning silence at your end and you did not deem it necessary to even deliberate this grave human tragedy in any of the Cabinet meetings so far ..."

The Governor was likely to meet Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi, Raj Bhavan sources said adding, he could also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind. Dhankhar would return to Kolkata on 18th noon.

The Governor's reactions came a day after his meeting with an "angry" delegation of the BJP MLAs led by State Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari who submitted a memorandum



on post poll violence that had "degenerated into communal attacks."

Adhikari had raised the issue of rampant attacks on the opposition workers particularly the saffron men post polls. "The political violence have now degenerated into communal attacks ... which can be seen from the incidents that took place at

Chandannagar (Hooghly) and Tiljala right in the heart of Kolkata ... this has to be addressed immediately ... the Government must take action before the situation spins out of control," he said after emerging from Monday's meeting with the Governor.

Soon after he met the Governor he tweeted "over 50 Opposition MLAs expressed serious concern at lawlessness and partisan stance of West Bengal Police and Calcutta Police and sought intervention as the situation was sliding."

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress sources said that the party was keeping a close watch on the situation in Delhi. "We won't comment now

Roy's friend Vijayvargiya may lose Bengal job

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After having faced a defeat in Bengal the BJP central leadership is thinking of replacing the party's observer for the State, Kailash Vijayvargiya with a new face.

Vijayvargiya might be replaced with either Bhupendra Yadav — a leader with proven organizational capabilities and with good personal relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi — or Union Minister Smriti Irani, a woman with Bengal connections.

Another reason for Vijayvargiya's removal could be his close relationship with ex-BJP national vice

president Mukul Roy, who, reversely defected to the Trinamool Congress last week after joining the BJP, leaving the Trinamool Congress in 2017.

In fact, Vijabargiya had been under constant attack from the Bengal party leadership including senior leader and former Tripura Governor Tathagato Roy.

Refusing to share the responsibility of BJP's defeat in the Assembly elections the State party leadership has blamed the national leaders under whose guidance and plans the polls were fought. Many of the State leaders have privately asked as to why the party failed to read the "Bengali pulse which is more intellectually and logically than communally driven."

but we are keeping close watch particularly after Suwendu Adhikari hinted

at some action being contemplated nationally," a TMC PM said adding "while the Governor needs face in his new party which he led to defeat in the elections."

कार्यालय परिशोधन प्रबन्धक सूचि-38
कन्दूरेशन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसिज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम
(3090 संस्कार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय: राज विला चण्डी तिराहा,
रावदसगंज-सोनमद्र
प्रधान कार्यालय: टी0सी0-38बी, विभूति
खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ 226010
फ़ोन नं 826/W-1/68
दिनांक 14.06.2021
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम, की ओर से
जनपद सोनमद्र के रावदसगंज-सोनमद्र
नगर पालिका परिषद में जल निकासी हेतु
नाला के निर्माण कार्य, अनु० लागत रु०
2978.45 लाख, हेतु दिनांक 28.06.2021
के अपनाने 17.00 बजे तक
ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, चक्र
कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 15.06.
2021 से दिनांक 28.06.2021 के मध्य
उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement
वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in>
से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा
ई-निविदा दिनांक 29.06.2021 को
अपनाने 03.00 बजे कार्यालय परिशोधन
प्रबन्धक, सूचि-38, सी0 एण्ड डी0
एस, उ०प्र० जल निगम, सोनमद्र में
खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य
रु० 20,000.00 + GST(18%) कुल रु०
23600.00 मात्र देय होगा।
निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण
विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupn.org
एवं प्रॉक्जोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in>
पर उपलब्ध है।
समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum)
<https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही
अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से
कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा।
निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे
उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर
अवलोकन करते रहें।

Much-awaited Rajasthan Cabinet reshuffle delayed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Though Congress rebel Sachin Pilot returned from Delhi to Jaipur after the 'promise' by the party leadership that his demands would be met soon, his bete noire Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has conveyed that nothing can be done for another two months as he is still undergoing post-covid recovery.

"In view of the post-Covid repercussions, as a precautionary measure on the advice of doctors, the Chief Minister is not able to meet people in person. All meetings and interactions are being done through video conference and video calls only. The doctors have

said that for a month or two, he should hold meetings with the video conference only," the Chief Minister's special officer on duty Lokesh Sharma said.

Gehlot's aide stated the pressure to go for a Cabinet expansion to accommodate Pilot and his candidates is likely to be put off for a couple of months.

In the meantime, MLAs expressing their loyalties to either sides have started publicly voicing their opinion in favour of or against Gehlot and Pilot.

One of the MLAs who had revolted with Pilot last year, Bhanwar Lal Sharma, indicated that he has switched sides since then and is loyal to the Gehlot Government.



"Nothing is going to happen for the next two months because the Chief Minister is not meeting people in person. I also wanted to become Chief Minister but sometimes we have to suppress our desires," quipped Sharma in Jaipur.

AICC general secretary incharge of Rajasthan Ajay Maken did not respond to phone calls and text messages. Maken had last week after meeting Pilot stated that very soon changes will be effected to resolve the political crisis in the State.

Gehlot has from the beginning resisted making the changes that his party leader-

ship had promised in Delhi to his former Deputy CM Pilot. Based on the promise that his camp would get better representation in the Government and party unit in Rajasthan, Pilot had called off his stirr including the latest last week after the intervention of Priyanka Gandhi when grapevine had it that he would leave the party just like his former party colleagues Jyotiraditya Scindia and Jitin Prasad did.

During his visit to Delhi last weekend Pilot could not meet either Congress president Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. Only AICC General Secretaries Ajay Maken and KC Venugopal met him.

Tharoor-led Parl panel summons Twitter officials on June 18

New Delhi: Days after the Centre issued a notice to Twitter, a parliamentary panel headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has summoned top officials of the micro blogging site to depose before it on Friday and give a representation on prevention of misuse of the social media platform.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology has summoned several social media giants, including Facebook and Twitter, on issues related to misuse of the platforms and protection of citizens' rights. According to a notice of the standing committee meeting on June 18, its

agenda is to "hear the views of representatives of Twitter followed by evidence of representatives of Electronics Technology on safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security in the digital space." The meeting notice was issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Earlier this month, the central government had issued "one last notice" to Twitter asking it to comply with the new Information Technology rules. Twitter and the Centre are at loggerheads on several issues for the last few months. PNS

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
निर्माण खण्ड-3, लो०नि०वि०, सुलतानपुर
पत्रांक : 201(3)1काम/2021-22 दिनांक : 10-6-2021
शुद्धि-पत्र
इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना सं०-71/4ए/2021-22 दिनांक 18.05.2021 द्वारा ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी थी, जो दिनांक 11.06.2021 को 12:00 बजे तक डाली जानी थी एवं दिनांक 11.06.2021 को 12:30 बजे खोली जानी थी, अब ये समस्त निविदायें दिनांक 17.06.2021 से दिनांक 25.06.2021 तक विक्रय की जायेंगी एवं दिनांक 25.06.2021 को 12:00 बजे तक डाली जायेंगी एवं दिनांक 25.06.2021 को 12:30 बजे खोली जायेंगी। शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेंगी।
अधिशासी अभियन्ता
निर्माण खण्ड-3, लो०नि०वि०,
सुलतानपुर
उ०प्र० 164640 दिनांक 14.06.2021
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Conservator writes to PM about Kerala's largest-ever forest loot

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The massive deforestation drive in Kerala's fragile forests that saw large scale illegal felling of rare varieties of trees recently took a new turn on Tuesday as a highly respected conservator of forests in the State known for his passion towards preserving nature writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the controversies.

Every day in the State is marked by disclosures of how priceless and rare breed of trees that command premium prices in global market are cut down by a cartel consisting of politicians, bureaucrats and brigands. The politicians consist of many CPI leaders who act as environmentalists during day time and change their roles to that of forest brig-

ands during night hours, according to P K Ramachandran, former head of the Kerala State Bio Diversity Board.

James Mathew, a Conservator of Forests who hang up his boots in 2019 and has more than three decades of experience in the forests of the State have written a heart rending letter to Prime Minister Modi asking for a CBI probe into the massive illegal felling of trees from the reserve forests as well as from de-notified forest land which was offered to the tribals on the condition that they would not touch the trees in the concerned land.

The CPI Ministers who were holding the forest and revenue portfolios in the previous Pinarayi Vijayan led Government (2016-2021) got government orders issued on 17-8-2017 and 24-10-2020 giving permission to cut down any trees from these patta lands



as well as forest land. "These Government Orders were against the prevailing Act and Rules which are in force since 1964. According to the law of the land, patta for revenue lands are issued as per Section 9 of the Kerala Land Assignment Rule 1964 which states that the Right of the Trees is vested with the Government. Though it is against the law to cut down any sched-

uled trees, the Government Orders permit to fell all trees except sandalwood," pointed out Mathew in his letter to Modi.

He further pointed out that even the payment of seigniorage as per section 10(3) of the Rules was only for the trees specially mentioned in the Act and not for the four trees mentioned in the schedule. This, Ramachandran, says is a slap on the face of the Government as its excuses and explanations have fallen like a pack of cards.

The Kerala Preservation of Trees Act 1986 restricts felling of trees in notified areas and there is restriction for cutting any trees in patta lands. Mathews explains listing all rules that as per Promotion of Tree Growth Act, lands assigned to Tribals and Cardamom Hill Reserve will not come under the definition of Non Forest Area.

Italian marines: India closes criminal cases in 2012 shooting

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the closure of all proceedings pending in India against the two Italian marines Salvatore Girone and Massimiliano Latorre, who were accused of killing of two Indian fishermen at Kerala coast in February 2012.

A Bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and MR Shah passed the order after the Central government informed the Court last week that an amount of ₹10 crores, agreed to be paid by Republic of Italy as compensation for killing the two Indian fishermen, has been deposited with the Registry of the top court. PNS

SPECIAL TRAINS
For the convenience of passengers Railways have decided to run the following Special Trains as per details given below:-

04137/04138 Prayagraj - Anand Vihar (T) - Prayagraj Superfast Humsafar Special Express (Tri-Weekly)

Train No. 04137	STATIONS	Train No. 04138
Arr. Dep.	↓ ↑	Arr. Dep.
-- 22:30	Prayagraj	06:20 --
00:35 00:40	Kanpur Central	03:25 03:30
06:05 --	Anand Vihar (T)	-- 22:35

Days of Run: 04137 Ex Prayagraj from 23.06.2021 (on every Monday, Wednesday & Saturday) and 04138 Ex Anand Vihar (T) from 24.06.2021 (on every Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday) to till further advice.
Accommodation: AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.

08103/08104 Tatanagar Jn. - Amritsar - Tatanagar Jn. Jallianwala Bagh Special Express (Bi-Weekly)

Train No. 08103	STATIONS	Train No. 08104
Arr. Dep.	↓ ↑	Arr. Dep.
-- 21:10	Tatanagar Jn.	21:10 --
06:30 --	Amritsar	-- 12:45

Days of Run: 08103 Ex Tatanagar Jn. from 21.06.2021 to 28.06.2021 (on every Monday & Wednesday) and 08104 Ex Amritsar from 23.06.2021 to 30.06.2021 (on every Wednesday & Friday)
Accommodation: AC 3 Tier Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.
Stoppages: Purulia Jn, Bokaro Steel City, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jn. Gomoh, Koderma, Gaya Jn., Rafiganj, Anugraha Narayan Road, Dehri On Sone, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Pundit Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Varanasi Jn., Shahganj, Faizabad Jn., Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Laksar Jn., Roorkee, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cant Jn., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar City and Beas stations
Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may 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 detailed Time-Table and Stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Visit RailMadad website:- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.

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Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
1309/2021
Serving Customers with a Smile

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Sultanpur-Amethi Circle, PWD, Sultanpur
E-mail Id- sepwdsuamethi01@gmail.com Date: 10.06.2021
No. 1536/1com-sul.A.Cir./2021-22 E-Tender Notice
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor, U.P., S.E. Sultanpur Amethi Circle P.W.D. Sultanpur invites online bids for the following works from the registered eligible contractors. Road work in UP PWD.

Sl. No.	Division Name	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lacs)
1	C.D.-3 Sultanpur	Construction of Ranipur Link Road	41.00	0.00
2	C.D.-3 Sultanpur	Construction of Jagdishpur Link Road	61.50	0.00
3	C.D.-3 Sultanpur	Construction of Ullahawa Link Road	81.00	0.00

The bid can be seen and downloaded online from 17.06.2021 and can be uploaded up to 12:00 Noon of 25.06.2021. The Technical bid shall be opened on 25.06.2021 at 12:30 afternoon.
All the conditions related to bid can be seen on <http://etender.up.nic.in>
Executive Engineer (R.K. Rajak)
Construction Division No.-3, P.W.D., Sultanpur
Superintending Engineer Sultanpur-Amethi Circle P.W.D.Sultanpur
UP-164638 Dt. 14.6.2021
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। For and behalf of Governor of U.P.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division-3, PWD, Sultanpur
E-mail Id- sepwdsuamethi01@gmail.com Date: 09.06.2021
No. 197/4A/2021-22 E-Tender Notice
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor, U.P., Executive Engineer C.D.-3, P.W.D. Sultanpur invites online bids for the following works from the registered eligible contractors. Road work in UP PWD.

Sl. No.	Division Name	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lacs)
1	C.D.-3 Sultanpur	Construction of Pure Gosai Ka Purwa (Mithnepur) Link Road	39.50	0.00
2	C.D.-3 Sultanpur	Construction of Barin Dewan (Domnepur) Link Road.	39.00	0.00

The bid can be seen and downloaded online from 17.06.2021 and can be uploaded up to 12:00 Noon of 25.06.2021. The Technical bid shall be opened on 25.06.2021 at 12:30 afternoon.
All the conditions related to bid can be seen on <http://etender.up.nic.in>
(R.K. Rajak)
Superintending Engineer Working as Executive Engineer Construction Division No.-3 P.W.D.Sultanpur
UP-164604 Dt. 14.6.2021
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) XII STP ROHINI SEC-25 ROHINI DELHI-110085
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
SHORT PRESS NIT No. 04 EE (SDW) XII (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money (EMD)	E-tender ID	Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1.	Supply Installation testing and commissioning of Floating Aerator at STP Sector 25 Rohini (Re-Invite)	Item Rate	75000/- Exempted vide	2021_DJB_204405.1	24.06.2021 03.05 PM

NIT along with all the terms and conditions is available on website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-
Advt. No. J.S.V. 110 (2021-22) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) XII

Curbs to ease further in UP from June 21

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Covid-induced situation gradually improving in Uttar Pradesh, the State Government has decided to further ease the restrictions and allow markets to open till 9 pm from June 21. Restaurants, malls and eateries will also reopen with some riders.

"Night curfew will be in effect from 9 pm to 7 am from Monday to Friday and markets will open for 14 hours from 7 am to 9 pm. Currently, the markets are allowed to open from 7 am to 7 pm. Also, restaurants, parks and eating joints have also been allowed to open with some restrictions from June 21," Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal said in a state-

ment issued in Lucknow on Tuesday.

"From June 21, restaurants may open with 50 per cent capacity in every district of the state following Covid protocols, and permission has also been given to open all parks and street food joints. However, the Government has given strict instructions for setting up of Covid help desks at all these places and it will be mandatory to enter the restaurants with masks on.

"Masks and sanitisers will continue to be mandatory in the shops and showrooms. Also, a register of visitors will have to be maintained with names, addresses and other details. Shops, vegetable markets will also be allowed to open till 9 pm," Sehgal said. After a review meeting on

Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave his nod to the proposal of handing out exemptions and opening up of markets after being told about marked improvement in the Covid situation. Yogi said that detailed guidelines regarding the new system should be issued soon. Meanwhile, the recovery rate in UP touched 98.3% as fresh COVID-19 cases came down to 340 on Tuesday while 1,104 patients recovered in the past 24 hours. There are now 7,221 active cases in the state. According to Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal, the overall positivity rate in the state was 3.1 per cent. On Monday, 2,57,135 samples were tested, taking the total number of tests conducted in the state to 5,38,59,954.



Pollution caused by tar deposited by sea waves at Juhu Beach in Mumbai on Tuesday

INDIA'S RAIL, ROAD AND WATER PUSH

₹450 cr seaplane services to boost tourism industry



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billed as "game changer" for the Indian maritime, civil aviation and tourism sectors, the Modi Government on Tuesday gave a major push to its ambitious seaplane services project that would span Delhi, Gujarat, Assam, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh among others. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard in the presence of Union Ministers Hardeep Singh and Mansukh Mandaviya. "This MoU between the two ministries will help in expediting the development of new water aerodromes and also operationalisation of new seaplane routes in India. This will give a big fillip to the provision of a new kind of tourism service in India," Puri said. A total of 28 seaplane routes and 14 water aerodromes in Gujarat, Assam, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep are in various stages of development at a

cost of ₹450 crore, Puri pointed out. Mandaviya termed it a game changer saying it will not only enhance seamless connectivity across the nation by promoting eco-friendly transportation through seaplanes but also give a boost to the tourism industry. The ambitious project will be carried out under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework through prospective airline operators. The Sagarmala Development Company Ltd (SDCL) under the aegis of the MoPSW will execute and implement the project while the MoCA would carry out bidding and select potential airlines operators based on their commercial consideration through bidding process, incorporating the locations/routes as identified by MoPSW and routes identified through bidding process in the UDAN scheme document. Seaplane services will be developed as a part of the RCN-UDAN initiative of the Civil Aviation Ministry. The MoCA will also provide funds/financial support in respect of water aerodromes awarded under RCS-UDAN

Army tests efficacy of dedicated freight corridor, runs special train

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As railways play a very important role in defence preparedness, the Indian Army successfully validated the efficacy of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) by running a special train carrying heavy tanks and other weapons.

The trial run was undertaken from Rewari in Haryana to Phulera in Rajasthan in Rajasthan on Monday. The recently developed DFC is aimed at providing faster movement of freight across the country.

Giving details of the special train, army officials said here on Tuesday the intricate and synchronised coordination by the Army with Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) and Indian Railways will significantly enhance the mobilisation capability of the Armed Forces.

These trials were part of the "Whole of the Nation Approach" for optimising



national resources and achieve seamless synergy among various ministries and departments.

Interactions by the Army with all stakeholders including DFCCIL & Indian Railways will now assist in leveraging the DFC and allied infrastructure into the mobilisation matrix of Armed Forces, they said.

Development of infrastructure at certain locations to support mobilisation and trials to validate move of defence owned rolling stock on Roll On-Roll Off (RO-RO) service is being formalised and modalities are being evolved.

These trials herald the first step in this process to pave the way for enhancing the operational readiness of Armed Forces. This initiative would set in place processes to ensure that military requirements are dovetailed in the national infrastructure development at the planning stage itself. In January this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 306 km Rewari - Madar section of the DFC on the Western corridor. Under the DFC, two corridors are being constructed, the Western DFC of 1,506 km and Eastern DFC of 1,875 km.

Maintain pace, adopt novel technology in highway construction, Gadkari tells NHAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday called for innovative technology in the area of roads and highways' construction.

Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, during a review meeting of the ongoing road highways and 22 Green expressways, directed the officials of Road Transport Highways Ministry (MoRTH) and NHAI to maintain the pace of highway making and keep on using new technologies for a durable road and highways infrastructure in the country.

Gadkari's deputy Gen VK Singh, MoRTH Secretary Girdhar Armane and top officials of the ministry and NHAI were present during the review meeting held at Transport Bhawan after two months due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

The meeting dwelt on how the government is making massive investments in the highway sector and the ambi-



tionous project of 22 new 'green highways' in the country. Sources said that Gadkari mentioned that the government is looking for ways to cut down the usage of key raw materials such as steel and cement in the construction of new roads and bridges.

The Minister also pointed that without compromising on quality, there was a need to reduce the cost of construction of roads and bridges.

Gadkari said the government officials should positively support new ideas. "We should accept successful practices of road construction in

the world and accept it in Indian scenario," he said. The union minister further mentioned participants to come up with innovations to reduce cost and volume of cement and steel in the construction of roads. "Reduce the use of steel and cement in construction of roads and bridges...I want to teach lessons to cartels of steel and cement companies," Gadkari said. He also reviewed the Bharatmala and Char Dham projects and appreciated the efforts being put to implement these ambitious projects.

Army pays homage to Galwan martyrs on 1st anniversary



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Army on Tuesday paid homage to 20 of its personnel, including the commanding officer, who died fighting the Chinese troops in the Galwan valley in Eastern Ladakh on June 15 a year ago. More than 40 Chinese soldiers also died in the clash but Beijing is yet to confirm the casualties.

In a related development, a statue of the deceased commanding officer, Colonel Santosh Babu of the 16 Bihar Regiment, was unveiled at Suryapet in Telangana by

Minister KT Rama Rao on the first anniversary of the clashes. Colonel Babu was from Suryapet, about 140 km from the state capital Hyderabad. The clash was one of the most serious ones at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the last 45 years. It took place during the stand-off in the valley. In fact, a series of face-offs started in May last year starting from the Pangong Tso (lake) and soon broke out in some other places. While the two armies disengaged from the southern and northern banks of the Pangong Lake in February this year, face-offs still continue for more than a year at Hot Springs, Gogra and the Depsang valley. The two sides have so far held 11 rounds of military level talks to defuse tension at the LAC with the last one in

April. Similarly, at least seven rounds of diplomatic level talks under the aegis of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) have also taken place to find ways to speed up the process of disengagement and de-escalation from the border. At present, more than one lakh troops from both the sides are deployed at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh leading to tension. The Fire and Fury Corps, responsible for guarding the Ladakh frontier paid homage to the martyrs of Galwan on the first anniversary of the violent clash. In a solemn ceremony, Major General Akash Kaushik of the Fire and Fury Corps laid a wreath at the iconic War Memorial in Leh on the occasion.

Sonia: Disengagement process with Beijing worked against India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the first anniversary of the Galwan valley clashes between troops of India and China, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday attacked the Modi Government saying the disengagement process with Beijing "appears to have worked to India's disadvantage". She asked the Government to take the nation into confidence on the issue.

In a statement, the Congress president noted that there was still no clarity on what caused the unprecedented clashes on

the borders. She urged the government to ensure its performance matched the commitment of the soldiers protecting the borders. "Having patiently waited for the government to come clean and inform the nation about the circumstances in which the unprecedented incident happened and reassure the people that the sacrifice of our brave jawans was not in vain, the Congress Party reiterates its concern that no clarity is yet available and the Prime Minister's last word on the subject a year ago was that no transgression had occurred," she observed.

pelagos of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The routes may be operated under the government's subsidised ude desh ka aam nagrik (UDAN) scheme. At the

moment, there is only one seaplane service operational in India — between Ahmedabad's Sabarmati riverfront and the Statue of Unity in Kevadia. As per the MoU, a Co-

ordination Committee comprising officials of several Ministries will be set up for timely completion of operationalisation of the seaplane services.

IndiGo plane tyre bursts while landing, crew, passengers safe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Passengers and crew members on board an IndiGo flight (6E 7979) had a lucky escape after one of the tyres of the plane burst during landing in Hubli in Karnataka on Monday evening. The plane has been declared aircraft on ground (AOG) by the authorities. The aircraft is currently being fixed at Hubli. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is currently conducting an investigation into the incident.

IndiGo flight had landed in Hubli from Kannur in Kerala when its tyre burst upon landing. In an official statement, the IndiGo Airlines said, "IndiGo ATR operating 6E-7979 from Kannur to Hubli reported Tyre Burst at Hubli upon arrival yesterday (Monday) evening. All passengers and crew are safe. Aircraft is currently undergoing maintenance checks at Hubli."

According to an official at the airport, the plane had touched down first 8.03 pm on Monday but due to cross wind, it took off immediately and went around. It landed again at about 8.35 pm. "Probably due to hard landing and cross wind, the tyre burst," the official said.

Govt accepts first death due to adverse impact of vaccination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday acknowledged the first death in India due to the adverse impact of vaccination since the drive's nationwide launch on January 16 and after inoculating over 26 crore people.

A report assessing 31 severe cases reported since the vaccine drive found that a 68-year-old man, fully vaccinated, died on March 31 due to anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) after being vaccinated on March 8. The man was administered Covishield. The National Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) committee under the Union Health Ministry has prepared the report. Of the 31 cases, 28 are deaths.

"This is the first death where causality has been established, with the vaccine resulting in an anaphylaxis reaction. But compared to the overall numbers, only a small number had a severe reaction. 31 cases were investigated and one death was due to a vaccine, and among anaphylaxis cases, only two were found to be product-related. Most anaphylaxis reactions are managed," said NK Arora, Advisor, National AEFI Committee. However, the panel was silent on whether the man who died will be given com-

pensation or not. According to data in the first week of April, the reporting rate was 2.7 deaths per million vaccine doses administered and 4.8 hospitalisations per million vaccine doses administered, the report stated. Of 31 cases, three cases were reported as "Anaphylaxis" or any severe reaction experienced by the person half an hour after the shot. Two of them were hospitalized and discharged but one died. Eighteen cases were found to be unrelated to vaccines and classified as "coincidental". There were two cases of hospitalisation linked to vaccines. In seven cases, there is no definite evidence to link the deaths to vaccines. In the case of two cases, there is not enough information. "Overall, the benefits of vaccination are overwhelmingly greater than the small risk of harm," the health ministry said. "More reporting of deaths and hospitalizations as serious adverse events did not automatically imply that the events were caused due to vaccines. Data from the first week of April shows the reporting rate is 2.7 deaths per million vaccine doses administered and 4.8 hospitalizations per million vaccine doses administered," the ministry explained.

Maha logs 9,350 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 infections remained at a low of 9,350 in Maharashtra on Tuesday, even as the daily pandemic deaths — inflated by 1,070 "old" and unaccounted fatalities — jumped to 1,458 in the State.

On a day when as many as 15,176 patients were discharged from various hospitals across the State after full recovery, the state logged 1,458 deaths — comprising 388 current deaths and 388 old deaths, as against the 1,592 deaths recorded on Monday.

The Covid-19 infections remained very much control in the State registered 9,350 fresh cases as against 8,29 cases recorded on Monday.

With the State health authorities having not made any effort to prevent the delayed death reporting by the department's officials at the district and corporation levels across the State, the state health authorities added 1,070 more "old" deaths to the state's calmative tally as part of the ongoing reconciliation process.

The state health authorities have been adding the previous unaccounted deaths to the daily fatality almost on a day-to-day basis for nearly six weeks now.

Between May 1 and June 15, a whopping 35,783 deaths have been recorded in the state, of which 18,847 old deaths have been added to the State's cumulative fatality tally, after reconciliation of figures.

During the last eight days alone, a staggering 10,898 deaths (June 8-407, June 9-400, June 10-1,522, June 11-2,213, June 12-1,606, June 13-2,288, June 14-1,392 and June 15-1,070) have been added to the state's cumulative tally. Meanwhile, with 1,458 deaths reported on Tuesday, the Covid-19 toll in the state jumped from 1,12,696 to 1,14,154.

The State, meanwhile, logged 9,350 infections, taking the total infections from 59,17,121 to 59,24,773.

As 15,176 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 56,54,003 to 56,69,179. The recovery rate in the State rose 95.55 per cent to 95.69 per cent. The total "active cases" in the state dropped from

1,47,354 to 1,38,361. The fatality rate in the state went up from 1.90 per cent to 1.93 per cent.

The infections came down to 161 which is the lowest since the early weeks of the break out of the pandemic in March last year, while the metropolis logged 14 deaths. As result while the infected cases in Mumbai went up from 7,16,190 to 17,16,351, while the Covid-19 toll in the metropolis increased from 15,202 to 15,216.

Pune with 17,623 cases continued to be remain first in the State in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the State, while Mumbai with 17,519 stood second, followed by Thane (14,032), Kolhapur (12,949), Sangli (10,668), Satara (7,713), Ratnagiri (7,321), Sindhudurg (5,548), Nagpur (4,735), Ahmednagar (4,705) Nashik (4,640) and Raigad (4,023).

Vaccine-deficient India now pins hopes on Novavax

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vaccine-deficient India is pinning hopes on Novavax's Covid-19 jab. The Government on Tuesday pointed out that the recently declared efficacy data of vaccine by the US-based company in a large trial is promising and that the clinical trials being conducted are in an advanced stage of completion in the country.

"The Serum Institute of India (SII) is preparing to produce Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine in the country," Dr VK Paul, Niti Aayog member (Health) said at a press briefing on Tuesday.

"What we're learning from data available in the public



domain is that this vaccine is very safe and highly effective. It'll be produced in India," said Dr Paul, adding that there will be some gap in production (of Novavax vaccine) for a while. "I am also hoping they would also start trials on children too," Dr Paul said. Covaxin from the stable of Bharat Biotech is already being tried on children. Novavax's vaccine candidate has partnered with the Pune-based vaccine manufacturer to produce 1.1 billion doses in India.

The two-shot vaccine was about 90% effective overall, and preliminary data showed it was safe, the American company said. That would put the vaccine on par with Pfizer's and Moderna's. Currently, under India's nationwide vaccination programme, Covishield and Covaxin are being provided to the citizens with Sputnik also making an entry recently.

Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine provides 100 per cent protection against moderate and severe symptoms of the disease and 90.4 per cent efficacy overall in phase 3 trials, the company claimed.

CEC Sushil Chandra stresses on error-free electoral roll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra on Tuesday underlined the importance of an updated and error-free electoral roll and said State chief electoral officers should make sustained year-round efforts to engage with new voters for registration, and other services like correction, change of address with existing voters.

Addressing a virtual conference of chief electoral officers of all States and Union Territories, he stressed the importance of such periodic review meetings for revamping back-end systems so that voter centric services can be delivered swiftly and efficiently on priority. According to an official statement, Chandra said such CEO review meetings would be institutionalised and organised more frequently.

The conference primarily focused on key thematic issues such as smooth, efficient and voter friendly services, update and purity of the electoral roll, integration of IT applications, extensive voter outreach program, media and communication strategy, expenditure monitoring, legal issues, EVM and VVPAT storage related infrastructure, and training and capacity building.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Family feuds

The bloodless coup against Chirag is not unique but such internal strife demeans politics itself

When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry, said William Shakespeare. Ram Vilas Paswan, eternal Dalit leader and *pater familias* of the Paswan family, would have had no qualms agreeing with the English bard. A father and son ganged up against the son of another father. The father and father are both brothers, their brood, first cousins. That in short is the bloodless coup that happened in that Bihar political family the other day, stripping Chirag Paswan of his position and power in his own party, the Lok Janshakti Party. Five of the party's MPs have formed a separate group led by Chirag's uncle and supported by his nephew. Chirag remains the lone MP, a victim of dynastic arrogance or political *naivete*. The how and why of what happened is of academic interest when the moot point is how family feuds and dynastic intrigues have straddled Indian politics from times immemorial. They were understandable in times of monarchies, but in democratic India? The Nehru-Gandhi family has had the dubious distinction — unless circumstances went against them — of having kept leaders unrelated by blood from the apex position — the party president. There is hardly any political party in hardly any State today that is not headed by a family. The tradition is derisively called dynasty politics. What is problematic of such arrangements is that the party, its politics and relationship with people and power is determined by the internal strife within the family. That demeans politics itself.



Chirag Paswan

The schisms and the backstabbing, strangely but consistently, are timed to happen before major political happenings, like an election, a leadership change or a Cabinet reshuffle in a State or at the Centre. It is said the Paswan saga was brewing for some time — the young man apparently oblivious to all of it — coming to a fruition just as rumours of a reshuffle in Delhi picked up. Not dissimilarly, other family feuds are changing tack, more for the better than worse unlike the Paswan affair, in Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The Mulayam Singh Yadav family is closing ranks, the patriarch trying to patch up differences between his brother Shivpal Yadav and son Akhilesh Yadav which spoiled Samajwadi Party's image in the State. The family of undivided Andhra Congress leader YS Rajasekhara Reddy is trying to expand its influence into Telangana as well. While YSR's son Jagan Mohan Reddy "rules" Andhra Pradesh, his daughter Sharmila Reddy will form a party of her own in Telangana. The "overlord" of Telangana, K Chandrasekhara Rao, is already trying to keep peace between son and political heir KT Rama Rao and nephew and organisational wizard T Harish Rao. These family pots can overflow anytime even as Karunanidhis of Tamil Nadu, Pawars of Maharashtra, Bangarappas and Deve Gowdas of Karnataka await the next chapter in their family sagas.

PICTALK



Hungarian football fans march towards the Puskas Arena in Budapest, Hungary

Resistance to coup bleeds Myanmar

State administration has shut down due to rail, health, bank and civil servants being AWOL and the country's economy has collapsed



ASHOK K MEHTA

Military coups, if successful, have instant rewards. Failure produces retribution of the worst kind. In stable democracies, the military is seen to be under civilian control and acting as per the Constitution. In totalitarian States like China, the military acts under the political guidance of the Chinese Communist Party — power flowing out of the barrel of the gun. Finding the right civilian-military balance is not easy in developing countries. The most recent power friction was in Mali, the Colonel's coup, enacted twice in six months, by the same Colonel. One of the Sudan coups was triggered by civil society. Coups were rampant in South America, then Africa and south-east Asia. Pakistan is a rare balance of military-civil authority where military has always (except a brief period after 1991) called the shots. In Turkey, the Ataturk design has been overturned and military put in its place, its constitutional rights abrogated. South Korea and Indonesia make interesting case studies in transfer of power to civilian authorities. There is no template for a coup, only an SOP. Countries under the Commonwealth have fared better in fixing the right civil-military equilibrium.

Myanmar is a unique case of military-guided democracy where the third coup has just crossed 135 days and follows a 2008 military-drafted Constitution designed to produce a "disciplined democracy" via the military-supported Union Solidarity Development Party. According to the UN Human Rights office, 873 civilians have been killed and approximately 5,000 protestors detained and Myanmar has gone from being a fragile democracy to "human rights catastrophe". Popular resistance to the coup has resulted in closure of State administration due to rail, health, bank and civil servants being AWOL and collapse of economy with criminal networks taking over underground markets. The junta claims law and order is under control, fewer protests and killings and military returning to employing non-lethal pacification methods. Dissent is less visible on the



streets and in military's estimate, resistance has peaked though it will not acknowledge this publicly.

The resistance, comprising a shadow National Unity Government, Civil Disobedience Movement and a People's Defence Force supported by at least four ethnic armed organisations, has not lost steam even after four months. Attacks on military and police posts in the border States of Shan, Chin and Karen have attracted brutal reprisals. Unless the junta is reined in, Myanmarese fear an implosion (civil war) or/and explosion that would produce hundreds upon thousands more refugees fleeing to Thailand, India and China. Sanctions by the international fora — instruments to regulate the behaviour of the military — have not worked. A regional process of conflict termination and dispute resolution has made no headway even in selecting the Asean envoy eight weeks after it held a meeting in Jakarta on April 24, which produced a wobbly five-point consensus — locating an exit strategy for the military based on constructive dialogue, release of all prisoners, ceasefire and restoration of normality. The UN, G7 and India,

among others, have supported the Asean peace initiative.

China has signalled its willingness to help if and when the regional process fails. Suspicion about Chinese hand in the coup is rampant in the country as Beijing's stakes are very high. Most of the arson is of Chinese assets which two months ago was estimated at \$37mn. Over the years, a love-hate relationship has developed between China and the military. But, more recently, China has established very productive relations with the NLD leadership. It is clear the junta will not allow the Chinese to meddle in its internal affairs, especially when anti-China sentiment is high and rising. This is a Godsend for military supreme Gen Min Aung Hlaing who has removed the retirement age of 65 for him to serve indefinitely beyond July.

The kangaroo court set up by him to try NLD leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, met for the first time on May 24 and again on Monday. Her lawyer Khin Maung Zaw said that she's being charged with "sedition and corruption to keep her out of the scene and smear her prestige" — euphemistically banning Suu Kyi and her party from poli-

tics and despatching her into oblivion is the junta's exit strategy for her. The UN rights office has called the charges absurd and bogus. In its latest report, the Asian Network For Free Elections monitoring group has said that the results of the 2020 general elections were by and large representative of the will of the people.

Gen Hlaing pines for the Thai model and is an ardent admirer of Thai Generals. He has an excellent backchannel with former General and now Prime Minister, PM Prayuth Chan-o-cha. Gen Hlaing has said elections will be held when the situation will permit.

At play are two exit strategies with different endgames. The regional process or Asean initiative seeks to restore the hybrid power-sharing model through a negotiated solution as exit for the military. The General's endgame is to debar NLD and retire Suu Kyi to ensure a USDP electoral victory. In the Burma coup, it is advantage Gen Hlaing.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)



THE RESISTANCE, COMPRISING A SHADOW NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT AND A PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCE SUPPORTED BY AT LEAST FOUR ETHNIC ARMED ORGANISATIONS, HAS NOT LOST STEAM EVEN AFTER FOUR MONTHS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAKE CARE OF STREET VENDORS

Sir — If at all there is any one group of financially backward communities in our country that has to be helped on a priority basis by any Government for that matter, it is certainly the street vendors' group whose life has been terribly thrown out of gear due to the COVID pandemic for the past two years. These people were just surviving on the money borrowed from unscrupulous moneylenders who used to recover their instalments from them on a daily basis, sometimes using force.

No Government, State or Central, has bothered about these small income earners during the lockdown because the powers-that-be just did not have the time to think about the existence of these poor people and neither did they have any record of such vendors at different locations. It is high time that all States should immediately arrange to go to the residences of these street vendors and identify them/collect their information/data by registering them on a particular website of the Government.

The Government has to create a basic data of these people along with their activities immediately on the particular website. It is really a good step by the RBI in advising banks to increase lending working capital loans of ₹10,000 to all the street vendors but then it is not a charity because public money is being used. Proper identification and follow-up of these loans by the banks/Government is very much essential so that the real, honest borrowers can be further financed to increase their businesses and income, raising their standard of living. After all, good money cannot be allowed to become bad money, whether through an individual or through a corporate head.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

G7 ALSO WORRIED ABOUT CHINA

Sir — The combined declaration proposed by the G7 nations during their 2021 meeting at the Carbis Bay summit reveals the joint worry of the developed nation about the rising new superpower, China. India is an invitee party at the G7 Summit, whose timing in June reminds India about the

COVID test fraud during Kumbh



Just days after a preliminary probe by the Uttarakhand Health Department suggested that many of the four lakh COVID test results issued during the Kumbh festival in Haridwar were fake, a detailed investigation shows that at least one lakh test reports were forged by a private agency. In one instance, a single phone number was used to register over 50 people while one antigen test kit (which has an exclusive number and is meant for single use) was shown to have tested 700 samples. The addresses and names were fictional.

Almost 530 samples were taken from "House Number 5" in Haridwar. Is it possible for a house to have over 500 residents? According to the investigation official, bizarre addresses

have been given: "House number 56, Aligarh; House number 76, Mumbai". The official added: "The phone numbers were fake, too. People in Kanpur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and 18 other locations shared the same phone number."

The sample collection agencies were tasked to conduct tests by the State Government after the High Court directed Uttarakhand to carry out at least 50,000 tests daily during Kumbh. The festival was held from April 1 to 30 in Haridwar. The four lakh tests during this period were conducted by nine agencies and 22 private labs. A majority of these were antigen tests. The State department also conducted its own tests through Government labs. Of the one lakh tests conducted by the agency under the scanner, 177 were "COVID positive", a positivity rate of only 0.18 per cent. In contrast, the positivity rate in Haridwar in April went up to 10 per cent. The agency was paid ₹350 per antigen test and higher for RT-PCR tests, which means the scam runs into crores. Test results by other agencies are also being probed now.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

bloody flashback of Galwan.

The G7 are also tensed with the rising power of China. This is the same condition with India also. The Galwan clash has completed over a year now. The irony is that both the emerging economies have failed over any viable solution to bring this border issue to an end. It becomes hard for India to counter China alone. For us, multilateral support is a must requirement. And G7 is one such platform that can advantage us.

We, both India and the G7 nations, have the same problems: The China issue, terrorism, climate change, and so on. A robust partnership between us and the G7 countries can bring about improved solutions for us and the other stakeholders.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

PRESERVING ENVIRONMENT IS A MUST

Sir — In the last few days, commendable action has been taken by the States. A few

days back, the Maharashtra Government passed an action plan to protect and preserve the trees that are older than 50 years in urban areas and these have been termed "Heritage trees". It seems to be the need of the hour. On the one hand, while the Centre is attempting to increase the forestation and decrease the desertification and increase the carbon sink area also, the Maharashtra Government's step seems to be allowing it although this is not a new concept.

Recently, the Rajasthan Government announced that it is going to set up a Vedic education and Sanskrit board. The very purpose of this board is to connect the knowledge of ancient Sanskrit scriptures with the learnings of Vedas and science in yoga. It's a praiseworthy step towards the education sector.

Mohit Rawal | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Having patiently waited for the Government to come clean about the circumstances in which the unprecedented (Galwan) incident happened...no clarity is yet available.



Congress interim president — Sonia Gandhi



What is needed from the new Israeli Government is to start acting on ending the occupation and settlement in Palestine.

Palestinian Prime Minister — Mohammed Ishtayeh

A film like *Gadar* cannot be released on OTT. It is a movie that was made to be watched around people.



Director — Anil Sharma



We lacked tranquility. We were unable to control possession and play faster, which they did.

Argentine footballer — Lionel Messi

I have printed the first *Real Quran*, how it should have been after Prophet Muhammad. I will send this copy to AIMPLB chief to study.



UP Shia Central Waqf Board member — Waseem Rizvi

Good together

Considering decades of bonhomie, Nepal would do well to embrace India and shun Chinese lies

The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal had one very strong element — mutual respect for the sovereignty and integrity of each other. With 70 years gone, the treaty has proved to be a milestone in bringing India and Nepal closer. However, the same treaty has time and again got the two neighbours face to face on certain issues. Does this make the bilateral relations strained? Probably not. It is because the present nature of India-Nepal relations is merely seen through the lens of politics. Understandably, Nepal stands very critical to geostrategic rivalry and competition between India and China, and often its location surpasses all other considerations. Yet, people-to-people ties between India and Nepal have stood firm. Further, the political instability in Nepal requires a people-centric approach. While the borders across South Asia are contested, such as India-Pakistan and India-China, India shares an open border with Nepal. Despite the large scale of risks involved, India has supported the idea that it is a gateway to people, culture and civilisation. By bringing these factors into account, the heated moments in India-Nepal relations may see an immediate resolution.



Meanwhile, there is another narrowed aspect of seeing the India-Nepal relations through the prism of social media. The hashtags #GoBackIndia #BackOffIndia during the 2015 earthquake and border disputes in the last two years were seen as defining moments that weaken the bond. However, if social media were to result in India-Nepal relations, China would be the only player in Nepal considering alleged paid pro-China social media campaigns. To date, Nepal has a vast digital divide. While affording high-speed internet is still a challenge, access to smart phones in southern Nepal (Madhesh) is yet to meet national parity. Therefore, India's longstanding people-to-people ties, especially those between India's Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and Nepal's Madhesh region, are a testimony to the brighter side. On the other hand, the looming hype of the rising status of China in Nepal has its proven short-term validity. Chinese interests in Nepal are primarily focused on handling pro-Tibet voices, encroaching Nepalese territory for an extended strategic depth and leasing out critical areas of interests within Nepal. To achieve these, China has one tool: fabricated facts, lies and social media manoeuvring.

ing the 2015 earthquake and border disputes in the last two years were seen as defining moments that weaken the bond. However, if social media were to result in India-Nepal relations, China would be the only player in Nepal considering alleged paid pro-China social media campaigns. To date, Nepal has a vast digital divide. While affording high-speed internet is still a challenge, access to smart phones in southern Nepal (Madhesh) is yet to meet national parity. Therefore, India's longstanding people-to-people ties, especially those between India's Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and Nepal's Madhesh region, are a testimony to the brighter side. On the other hand, the looming hype of the rising status of China in Nepal has its proven short-term validity. Chinese interests in Nepal are primarily focused on handling pro-Tibet voices, encroaching Nepalese territory for an extended strategic depth and leasing out critical areas of interests within Nepal. To achieve these, China has one tool: fabricated facts, lies and social media manoeuvring.



FIRST COLUMN

DESTROYING SOCIAL TABOOS

Odisha's Raja festival celebrates womanhood and calls to fight patriarchal notions on menstruation



N SOUMIK

Odisha is often considered as India's best-kept secret. The state is quiet about its bountiful nature, its scenic sea shore, mighty archaeological wonders, thick forests and lakes, a place where nature gets its salvation. It is also a state with a rich history of social consciousness and awareness, transferred from generation to generation through cultural festivals with embedded meanings. One of the most prominent festivals is the one that helps break the social taboo over the menstrual cycles in women. Amongst countless festivals of Odisha, the most pious one that celebrates the importance of womanhood is: Raja (pronounced: Raw-Jaw). A festival of young women that has been setting up an example by wiping out the long taboo on menstrual cycle of women. This festival empowers women as well as teaches the men to respect them. The festival is celebrated for three consecutive days with lots of enjoyment and festivities involved. It is generally observed during the second week of June. The first day is famously called 'Pahili Raja' (first Raja). The second day is called, 'Raja Sankranti' or 'Mithun Sankranti'. On this day the advent of Ashada (monsoon) occurs. The third day is called 'Basi Raja' (last Raja).



One day prior to the festival, the houses and kitchens are cleaned and the young girls prepare themselves for three days of festive proceedings. During these three days girls are not imposed to do any household work. They visit their friends' houses, eat sweets and enjoy together. They wear new clothes, especially saris, and adorn themselves with colourful 'bindi' and ornaments. Music is played in villages, dancing together, sharing food items and playing board games and singing lyrical folklores of Raja. Everywhere, variety of swings are decorated with flowers for girls to play. Savoury foods are served along with *paan* (betel leaf with stuffings), the most significant mark of Raja festival. This tradition has evolved with a mythology that people heartily believe. It is said that, Lord Jagannath's wife, Bhudevi, also known as Vasundhara; the goddess of earth, undergoes menstrual period during the three days of Raja. To mark her sacredness and to give rest to goddess Bhudevi, no agricultural practices are performed for these three days. It is believed that, during the peaceful three days, with the arrival of monsoon, the goddess Bhudevi quenches her thirst. Women are also advised not to walk with naked feet, not to cut or tear anything. Even though we live in the 21st century, menstruation is a topic still talked about in hushed tones and details shared in darkness. It will not be wrong to say that this topic has not gained the freedom to be accepted by the world. Some communities consider this phase as unholy and have made unscientific justifications to back their arguments. The renowned poet and activist, Judy Grahn said: "Menstrual blood is the only source of blood that is not traumatically induced. Yet in modern society, this is the most hidden blood, the one so rarely spoken of and almost never seen, except privately by women." Educated people also sometimes shy away from talking about it. Everyone must understand that it is an integral process of the female anatomy and it is absolutely healthy for women after certain age to undergo menstruation. There's nothing unholy about it. It is time for the country to adopt the call of the Raja festival of Odisha, which sends the message to break the meaningless social taboo and thus contribute to a changing world.

The author is pursuing graduation in BJB College, Bhubaneswar. The views expressed are personal.

Italian marines case proceedings closed

The closure of the marines' case sets a bad precedence for trying future crimes by foreigners on Indian soil in the Indian courts



J GOIKRISHNAN

Yesterday, June 15, the Supreme Court of India quashed the proceedings in the long-drawn Italian marines case (delete has)—has agreed with the Government of India for closure of the controversial Italian Marines case where in which two fishermen were shot down by two Italian soldiers from a foreign ship off the Kerala coast in 2012. The Narendra Modi government agreed to the for ₹10 crore compensation,— better termed as blood money in some quarters,— offered by the Italian shipping company at the International Arbitration tribunal. —sentence is not complete. This is not as simple and not a question of ₹10 cr. It has bilateral relationship issues involved.

Ironically, Irony is it was Narendra Modi who till May, 2014 kept raising the marines case, spoke on this case, accusing charging the then Congress government of allowing the marines to leave India and asking Congress President Sonia Gandhi (accusing of what) if that amounted to "defending the country's interest". He and promised to bring the two killer —two Italian marines before the India's courts/criminal law. Why this abject surrender to Italian Government's pressure?

While it appears so, it is far from either capitulation by India or the country happily agreeing to monetary compensation. The robust bilateral ties between India and Italy nearly became undone because of the tensions the case caused in Delhi and Rome. The Italian foreign minister had to resign after the marines were initially sent back to India while Italian envoy in Delhi was barred from leaving India after the marines refused to return following a furlough. The case came up when India needed Italy's help in probing the corruption charges in the AgustaWestland case and assistance in finalizing the EU investment agreement.

As someone covering a Home Ministry beat covering journalist for the past 11 years, I knew this case very well, and I am going to disclose the origin of this case. On February 15, 2012 around 5 pm, we journalists were in Union Home Secretary RK Singh's room at North Block. The same RK Singh who is now the Union Power Minister. It was a regular debriefing and while we were in a freewheeling chat, we journalists noticed a news break flashing in TV about the killing of two fishermen from a foreign ship off the Kerala coast. We alerted RK Singh and he just picked the phone and connected to P. Prabhakaran, then Director-General of Coast Guard.

Singh ordered the head of Coast Guard to seize the foreign ship and hand it over to Kerala Police. As a journalist, I along with my colleagues were as witnessing one of the rarest speedy actions of the Manmohan Singh regime. In no time, the Italian ship, Enrica Lexie, was seized by the Coast Guard and two Italian Marines were arrested by Kerala Police. They were Italian Navy soldiers - Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Gironi hired by the ship for security from sea pirates. They Italian soldiers were charge-sheeted for murder by the Kerala Police, and they landed in the trial court in Kollam district of Kerala in their uniform.

According to my information, the tussle between the ship and the boat, named Saint Antony, from Kerala started on the price of the fish. Normally SS ships usually buy purchase sea food and groceries from local fish from the boat-to stock groceries and meat. The fishermen in the boat and the sailors in the Italian ship argued, engaged in an argument leading to firing from



IT IS FAR FROM EITHER CAPITULATION BY INDIA OR THE COUNTRY HAPPILY AGREEING TO MONETARY COMPENSATION. THE ROBUST TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND ITALY NEARLY CAME UNDONE BECAUSE OF THE TENSIONS THE CASE CAUSED. THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TO RESIGN AFTER THE MARINES WERE INITIALLY SENT BACK TO INDIA WHILE THE ITALIAN ENVOY IN DELHI WAS BARRED FROM LEAVING INDIA AFTER THE MARINES REFUSED TO RETURN FOLLOWING A FURLOUGH

The author is a Special Correspondent of 'The Pioneer'. The views expressed are personal.



the marines. All kind of Much lobbying took place was going to settle this case, while the two accused killer marines were languishing in Kerala's local jail.

First, the Italian Embassy operated through the local Church. The two victims fishermen— Ajeesh Pink and Valentine Jelastine— were also Christians. Within two months their families of the two fishermen accepted ₹1 crore each and wrote to the pPolice and cCourt that they hadve pardoned the two Italian mMarines. The Italian Embassy, while providing legal help to the accused, also produced a letter from the families that "in the name of Jesus" they have pardoned the accused.

The Kerala Police objected saying that in criminal law, families have no role and their pardon cannot matter before laws of India. The Kerala High Court reminded that blood money system and obtaining pardon from the victims' families will never be entertained. Then lobbying started in Delhi and claims started floating that the incident happened in international waters and not in territorial waters. The Italians approached the Supreme Court, and Harish Salve was the lawyer complaining about the high-handedness of Kerala's prosecutors. At In the end of 2012, then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Altamas Kabir ordered the shifting of the case from Kerala and allowed the Italian marines to be kept in Delhi's Embassy. Soon CJI Kabir allowed them parole to visit Italy for Christmas celebrations. Shockingly, before the next hearing on April, 2013, the Embassy filed an affidavit that the two accused were not coming back to India. Then Janata Party President Subramanian Swamy intervened in the case seeking contempt of court proceedings against Italian Ambassador and there was a heated argument between CJI and

Swamy. Sensing danger, Italy returned the marines and kept them in their Delhi Embassy. Meanwhile, Harish Salve relinquished the case and his friend Mukul Rohatgi took up the case of Italian Embassy.

This time country was a facing Lok Sabha election heat and BJP and its Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi were accusing Congress and its President Sonia Gandhi for of reportedly surrendering India's interests before Italy. Modi was roaring in his speeches asking Sonia Gandhi all kinds of questions on this matter. Modi even Tweeted on March 31, 2014: "Italian marines mercilessly killed our fishermen. If Madam is so 'patriotic' can she tell in which jail the marines are lodged in?" Modi was outraged that expressing anger over putting the killer marines were lodged in Embassy guest house in Delhi instead of jail.

Modi became Prime Minister in May, 2014. As time passed, the advocates of the Italian marines' advocate Mukul Mukul Rohatgi became India's Attorney General and their marines' first advocate Harish Salve got Padma Bhushan an year later. In 2015, the anger was gradually fizzling out and the marines were allowed to go back to Italy, and in 2016, India agreed to contest the Italian petition at the ad-hoc tribunal constituted to settle disputes related to the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (which petition) at the UN Tribunal on international shipping matters even as the Supreme Court was handling the criminal case. Why did India agree for the international tribunal's and arbitrations when a criminal case was pending in Indian courts? The same thing happened in Vodafone and Cairn tax evasion issues when cases were going on in Indian courts. And in international tri-

bunals India lost the case ultimately after spending huge legal expenses running over millions of dollars.

In July 2020, as expected, the international tribunal ordered that India can only contest for compensation and criminal cases will be tried only in Italy. The Union government informed the Supreme Court that it had accepted the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration that the marines cannot be tried in India as they enjoyed immunity because they were exercising official duties when the incident occurred. The PCA said India was entitled to compensation for the loss of life of the fishermen and the marines' violation of the right of navigation.

And the Indian Government agreed to this curious order of the tribunal and now tells the Supreme Court to close all criminal cases as the "nation" has agreed to the International Tribunal proposal. Italy paid compensation of ₹4 crore each to two fishermen's families and ₹2 crore to the boat owner. Why did the Government of India agree to accept ₹10 crore and avoid criminal cases in India, akin to the blood money system? In India trial courts have to pass judgment including conviction of the accused and pass orders for compensation to victims. Accepting blood money and obtaining pardon for the accused from victim's family is valid in Arabic jurisprudence.

The Kerala High Court was right on the conduct of the trial but was over-ruled by the Supreme Court. The then Opposition party, BJP, did a u-turn after coming to power. Abad precedence has been set for the trial of any misdemeanor or crime committed by foreigners on Indian territory. How can we justify a foreigner killing an Indian in Indian terrain and allow his criminal trial to be conducted on foreign soil?

POINT COUNTERPOINT

REACHED AGATTI AND MET WITH THE OFFICIALS. INSPECTED AND REVIEWED THE STATUS OF VARIOUS ONGOING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. — LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATOR PRAFUL KHODA PATEL



WITNESSING A FURORE FOR OVER A MONTH NOW, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PROTESTING AGAINST CERTAIN DECISIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR. — LAKSHADWEEP MP PP MOHAMMED FAIZAL

Disturbing dissent in both national parties

While the BJP, as the ruling party at the Centre, can crack the whip, the Congress, being in the Opposition, does not have that luxury

Both the Congress party and the BJP — the two main national parties — are facing internal problems in the states where they rule. The basic difference between them is the Congress is on the decline while the BJP is growing to replace Congress of the latter's heydays.

Once proud of its exemplary discipline and organizational unity the BJP is at present facing internal feuds. It is not that other political parties have not seen their leaders working at cross purposes. But it makes news when this happens in BJP.

Why is it happening when the party is claimed to be passing through a golden period in its history? Although Narendra Modi has emerged as the strongest Prime Minister since the days of Indira Gandhi, the



KALYANI SHANKAR

The author is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.

second wave of the Coronavirus outbreak has dented his image though he continues to be popular. The vaccine policy, bed shortage, and oxygen shortage have added to the confusion. The Modi magic has not worked in the recent Assembly elections.

The first problem is that the BJP has admitted many defectors in poll-bound states. There is heartburn among BJP workers that while they have been slogging for years those who entered the party yesterday are getting the rewards. This is what has happened in UP, Karnataka, Assam and Uttarakhand.

In UP the stakes are very high. In 2017, the BJP won a massive majority. The dissidents have many issues. A.K. Sharma, a retired Gujarat cadre officer

who worked in the Prime Minister's Office has been made an MLC early this year. He is expected to be made a minister soon. The old-timers see him as a threat as he has the ears of the Prime Minister. Some dissidents are demanding a change of chief minister. There is also some strain in the relationship between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Modi.

As for West Bengal, the defectors from the Trinamool Congress are in the process of returning to the TMC starting with the BJP's big catch Mukul Roy. In the past, he had been a blue-eyed boy of chief minister Mamata Banerjee. There are rumblings in the local BJP unit about the poll strategy.

Governance in Karnataka is suffering due to internal feuds.



Chief Minister Yediyurappa is facing indiscipline and there is a demand for his replacement.

Dissidence in Tripura has once again reared its ugly head. A few MLAs, most of the Congress turncoats have been demanding Chief Minister Biplav Kumar Deb's ouster. In Rajasthan, former chief minister Vasundhara Raje is refusing

to heed the new state leadership. All these go to show that all is not well with the BJP at the local level. However, these are not beyond control.

The Congress is at present driven with simmering discontent, mutual bickering, and intraparty disputes. When the leaders are weak, naturally, the state units are emboldened to raise their voice.

Only last August some 23 leaders including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and B. S. Hooda had sent a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi seeking urgent reorganization of the party.

In Congress-ruled states of Punjab and Rajasthan rebels are demanding the removal of the chief ministers. Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Sidhu

has launched a scathing attack against Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. The high command has decided to accommodate both factions in party and government.

Rajasthan faced a rebellion last year when Sachin Pilot raised the banner of revolt against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot but he was pacified by the high command. Pilot is accusing the central leadership of not keeping its promises.

One by one 'Team Rahul' is getting dismantled. Two of Rahul's trusted lieutenants Jyotiraditya Scindia and now Jitin Prasads have joined the BJP. Sachin Pilot is debating whether to leave Congress. So is Milind Deora.

It is nobody's case that there has never been indiscipline and

factionalism in both parties. It is only a question of how soon these rebels are contained. While the BJP, as the ruling party at the centre, can crack the whip, the Congress, being in the opposition does not have that luxury. Today the Congress party's chances of acquiring power in New Delhi in the immediate future appear bleak, and therefore different factions can make credible threats to exit the organization. How it deals with the dissidents is to be seen.

New parties are born when people get disenchanted with the existing parties. But internal problems arise because the party men feel there is no future for them in that party. It is for the party leaders to manage the emerging competition among the factions.

Sensex, Nifty settle at life-time highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty rose for the fourth straight session to settle at fresh life-time highs on Tuesday as investors shrugged off concerns over rising inflation to focus on positive cues coming from global markets.

At the closing bell, the BSE Sensex quoted higher by 221.52 points or 0.42 per cent at a new peak of 52,773.05. The index also hit its all-time intraday high of 52,869.51 during the session.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty rose 57.40 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at a fresh high of 15,869.25. The NSE gauge too marked its life-time intraday high of 15,901.60.

On the Sensex chart, Asian

Paints was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 3 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, Infosys and HDFC Bank.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, Dr Reddy's, Titan, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finance and PowerGrid were among the laggards.

Of the 30 shares in the Sensex, 15 closed in the green.

Sectorally, BSE realty index rose the most with 1.55 per cent gains. It was followed by consumer discretionary goods, bank and FMCG indices.

In the broader market, smallcap and midcap indices outperformed the benchmark. Large cap index rose 0.35 per cent.

*Indian bourses

continued its gaining streak tracking optimism from global peers, which is despite the rising inflation concerns.

The global market is eagerly awaiting the two-day Fed policy meeting's decision to see if the central bank would signal any change in policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

He further said that domestic retail inflation jumped to 6.3 per cent in May breaching the RBI's comfort zone on account of higher food and energy prices, which is expected to ease due to the opening of the economy.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note, while Shanghai and Hong Kong were in the red.

Exports jump 69.35% to USD 32.27 bn in May; trade deficit at USD 6.28 billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports rose by 69.35 per cent to USD 32.27 billion in May, driven by healthy growth in sectors such as engineering, petroleum products and gems and jewellery, even as trade deficit widened to USD 6.28 billion, according to government data released on Tuesday.

Exports in May last year stood at USD 19 billion, and in May 2019 it was at USD 29.85 billion, the data showed.

Imports too grew in May 2021 by 73.64 per cent to USD 38.55 billion - leaving a trade deficit for the month being reviewed at USD 6.28 billion.

India's imports in May 2020 were at USD 22.2 billion. In May 2019, imports stood at USD 46.68 billion. Trade deficit in May 2020 stood at USD 3.15



billion.

Exports during April-May this year jumped to USD 62.89 billion, as against USD 29.41 billion in the same period last year.

Imports during April-May 2021 were recorded at USD 84.27 billion, an increase from USD 39.32 billion in the same two months of 2020. The trade deficit during the said period came in at USD 21.38 billion as against USD 9.91 billion in April-May 2020.

FinMin notifies concessional GST rate on Covid-related items, services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has notified the concessional rate of GST that will be applicable on Covid relief materials till September 30, 2021.

Also, a lower Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 5 per cent will be applicable for work contracts for construction, repair or maintenance of electric furnaces meant for funeral, burial or cremation of the deceased.

The earlier tax rate of this service was 12 per cent.

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state ministers, on June 12, had slashed tax rate on Covid drugs such as Remdesivir and Tocilizumab as well as on medical oxygen, oxygen concentrators and other Covid essentials.



The Finance Ministry's Revenue Department on June 14, notified the lower rates for 18 Covid-related supplies, like hand sanitiser, pulse oximeters, BiPAP machine, testing kits, ambulances and temperature check equipment.

These concessional rates would be applicable till September 30, 2021, it added.

The Council in its June 12 meeting had decided to reduce GST on Covid-19 drug Tocilizumab and black fungus medicine Amphotericin B to 'nil, from 5 per cent.

Shipping Ministry, Civil Aviation Ministry signs MoU

New Delhi: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India and Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India for development of Sea Plane services in India was signed today.

Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mansukh Mandaviya and Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Hardeep Singh Puri were present during the MoU signing ceremony held here today.

Signing of this MoU is a major milestone for making seaplanes project a reality very soon. This MoU envisages development of Non Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services within territorial jurisdiction of India under RCS-UDAN scheme of government of India.

May retail sales fall 79% from pre-Covid levels in 2019

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail sales in India last month declined 79 per cent from the sales recorded in the pre-Covid period of May 2019, according to a survey by Retailers Association of India (RAI).

The decline comes on the back of the lockdowns across states amid the second wave of Covid-19.

With sales down 34 per cent in May



2021, categories such as food and grocery fared better than categories like footwear (-86 per cent), beauty, wellness

and personal care (-87 per cent) and sports goods (-80 per cent) as compared to pre-Covid sales levels (May 2019).

Retailers across regions are reflecting a deep fall in sales with southern India at -73 per cent in May 2021 as compared to May 2019 pre-covid sales, eastern region at -75 per cent, while western and northern regions have indicated -83 per cent sales in May 2021 as compared to May 2019.

The RAI statement noted that many of the states have now slowly begun to open all forms of retail in a calibrated manner.

Commenting on the current state of the retail industry, Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India (RAI), said: "Retailers are looking forward to some improvement in the month of June with gradual unlocking.

No vesting period requirement under stock option scheme in case an employee dies: Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Tuesday relaxed the vesting period requirement under the employee stock option schemes of listed companies in case of death of an employee, a move aimed at providing relief to families of the deceased staff amid the



coronavirus pandemic.

The relaxation will be available to all such employees who died on or after April 1, 2020,

the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

The Share Based Employee Benefit (SBE) Regulation provides that there will be a minimum vesting period of one year in case of employee stock options and Stock Appreciation Rights (SAR).

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	15866.95	15901.60	15842.40	15869.25	57.40
ASIANPAINT	2970.00	3050.00	2960.95	3035.00	85.10
HDFCLIFE	681.35	694.00	680.30	693.85	12.15
AXISBANK	736.00	752.00	732.00	748.50	12.25
ICICIBANK	635.35	646.20	636.00	644.90	9.25
HINDUNILVR	2360.00	2395.00	2360.00	2393.90	33.90
BRITANNIA	3593.35	3640.50	3593.00	3631.00	39.75
SHRIIFE	991.80	1003.75	980.85	997.00	10.85
IOC	114.55	116.40	114.55	115.80	1.05
INFY	834.20	845.65	830.40	841.80	7.20
UPPL	1464.00	1476.00	1463.00	1474.00	12.20
ONGC	125.60	128.10	124.85	125.75	0.95
NESTLEIND	17646.00	17700.00	17511.00	17710.00	132.50
HDFCBANK	1486.00	1496.00	1474.80	1490.20	10.75
HEROMOTOCO	2885.00	3025.00	2972.30	3006.85	21.20
TATASTEEL	1170.00	1186.80	1160.00	1173.00	8.20
INDUSINDBK	1025.00	1050.00	1020.00	1031.60	6.70
TATACONSUM	718.00	724.10	715.40	718.20	3.45
EICHERMOT	2745.00	2787.00	2740.65	2758.20	13.25
SHREECEM	28300.00	28650.00	28213.40	28465.00	130.95
BHARTIARTL	541.00	543.65	535.40	541.65	2.30
KOTAKBANK	1775.00	1784.15	1766.00	1772.90	3.95
GRASIM	1495.00	1515.00	1488.00	1495.95	2.95
M&M	807.35	813.80	806.00	808.90	1.45
HDFC	2559.80	2559.80	2535.20	2543.00	3.80
HCLTECH	981.10	993.00	982.30	985.00	0.80
RELIANCE	2264.00	2274.90	2240.30	2244.00	-0.90
ITC	207.55	208.40	207.00	207.10	-0.20
MARUTI	7181.15	7228.85	7156.30	7165.00	-12.85
BAJAJ-AUTO	4155.00	4171.80	4131.10	4137.90	-9.50
ULTRACEMCO	6678.50	6746.05	6660.35	6663.05	-15.45
BPCL	485.00	487.25	480.80	482.50	-1.20
SBIN	429.20	432.80	428.00	429.20	-1.15
LT	1520.00	1523.70	1505.85	1510.20	-5.55
TECHM	1069.25	1093.00	1061.65	1065.00	-4.25
NTPC	118.20	118.95	117.60	117.10	-0.50
POWERGRID	259.55	251.20	247.05	247.60	-1.10
TCS	328.00	328.00	325.55	326.20	-14.35
SUNPHARMA	671.00	681.40	671.75	673.30	-3.40
BANFINANCE	6239.00	6239.80	6150.00	6157.95	-36.20
JSWSTEEL	728.00	732.40	717.00	724.60	-4.55
WIPRO	561.00	564.00	557.00	558.30	-3.60
TITAN	1748.00	1748.95	1719.60	1721.90	-12.90
CIFLA	975.00	978.85	967.15	968.25	-7.90
DREDDYT	5475.00	5483.05	5402.00	5410.00	-51.35
HINDALCO	391.00	396.35	390.00	391.00	-3.80
BAJAJFINSV	11949.00	12084.90	11765.00	11800.00	-126.15
TATAMOTORS	355.75	360.75	351.50	352.90	-3.95
COALINDIA	161.10	161.85	157.75	157.10	-2.25
ADANIEXPORTS	802.90	802.90	755.00	756.50	-11.95
DIVISLAB	498.00	441.35	428.20	431.90	-69.05

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	AGL
INFY	1467.00	1476.25	1463.50	1472.85	129.05
ADANIEXPORTS	1559.00	1572.90	1477.30	1538.05	10.10
TCS	3300.00	3300.00	3251.55	3262.45	170.50
WIPRO	562.00	564.00	557.35	557.85	99.95
HINDUNILVR	2364.00	2394.00	2361.10	2391.15	533.95
SHRIIFE	985.05	993.00	983.30	985.40	59.95
RELIANCE	2256.25	2274.50	2241.20	2249.70	3247.55
ASIANPAINT	2961.25	3048.95	2961.25	3041.85	3353.85
DREDDYT	5479.55	5479.55	5405.50	5414.90	4229.30
TATAMOTORS	356.00	360.65	351.20	352.65	7177.50
APOLLOPHO	1458.75	1517.65	1458.75	1494.50	1488.70
HDFC	2556.00	2559.00	2535.75	2544.00	1042.25
PIDILITIND	2132.00	2150.90	2120.45	2137.45	95.60
TECHM	1072.20	1092.40	1062.30	1066.90	303.40
DABUR	568.50	576.00	568.50	574.75	7.06
MARICO	495.00	511.70	494.60	506.60	530.00
TATASTEEL	1170.00	1186.40	1160.60	1174.65	645.00
CIFLA	977.90	978.65	967.30	969.00	168.30
BRITANNIA	3598.00	3639.00	3591.20	3630.10	728.00
EICHERMOT	2744.20	2786.00	2742.65	2763.20	391.00
MRF	82500.00	83300.90	81923.00	82848.60	2846.00
SUNPHARMA	679.00	681.55	671.70	673.20	4584.75
PAGEIND	30315.85	30315.85	30065.00	30072.50	37.55
TATAPOWER	124.90	125.65	121.75	122.10	1989.95
BHEL	67.15	72.00	67.00	69.65	69.70
BHARTIARTL	544.80	544.80	538.35	542.60	2230.00
GUJGAS	608.80	655.00	607.00	648.40	6718.70
IBULHSGFIN	301.00	312.40	300.40	308.75	635.00
JUSTDIAL	941.50	1024.45	941.50	1012.70	152.60
DIVISLAB	438.05	431.75	429.00	431.90	525.00
LUPIN	1190.00	1200.00	1183.10	1186.65	85.45
TITAN	1744.00	1748.00	1718.35	1723.50	70.95
RAIN	182.35	202.80	182.35	199.40	1524.00
BAJAJ-AUTO	4179.70	4179.70	4133.00	4138.05	166.20
SAIL	137.80	139.75	136.60	137.25	250.95
BANFINANCE	6250.00	6250.00	6151.15	6160.70	1851.10
ONGC	125.85	128.15	124.85	125.35	626.95
AXISBANK	735.00	751.95	732.40	750.75	346.70
METROPOLIS	3001.00	3038.80	2879.80	2889.00	656.40
GMRINFRA	26.95	31.20	26.65	30.60	680.00
ZEELE	220.80	234.35	218.65	230.50	610.00
IDEA	9.75	9.87	9.66	9.71	1436.00
ADANITRANS	2027.70	2065.85	2027.70	2043.60	570.05
ATGL	1467.35	1496.00	1467.35	1467.35	33.80
RVNL	33.80	34.00	32.50	32.70	115.45
IOC	115.45	116.35	114.60	115.70	2583.00
VENKYS	2583.00	2747.00	2583.00	2686.15	484.80
BPCL	484.80	487.20	480.90	482.05	1048.00
VOLTA	1096.00	1067.85	1047.05	1061.30	740.00
TATACHEM	740.00	753.55	738.50	744.15	778.65
AMARAJABAT	777.00	786.65	775.15	784.65	231.00
PHILPCARB	231.00	239.80	231.00	234.70	49.50
HFCAL	49.50	51.60	49.50	50.15	1082.00
AUNBK	1082.00	1088.00	1055.00	1059.50	808.00
M&M	808.00	813.55	806.45	808.55	63.60
NLCINDIA	63.60	64.70	63.20	63.40	233.00
PETRONET	233.00	245.10	232.40	233.15	1025.00
HAVELLS	1025.00	1031.25	1015.80	1017.80	274.00
VEDL	274.00	275.65	270.50	271.00	21.60
IOB	21.60	21.80	20.95	21.10	182.20
INDIACEM	182.20	191.40	182.20	188.70	991.25
RAMCOCEM	991.25	1029.00	991.25	1024.35	2808.00
PIIND	2808.00	2927.60	2807.55	2882.15	1165.00
TATAMATL	1165.00	1196.65	1154.30	1175.40	1223.00

Biden admin pushes plan to combat domestic terror

Washington: The Biden administration says it will enhance its analysis of threats from domestic terrorists, including the sharing of intelligence within law enforcement agencies, and will work with tech companies to eliminate terrorist content online as part of a nationwide strategy to combat domestic terrorism.

The National Security Council on Tuesday released the strategy plan, which comes more than six months after a mob of insurgents loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the US Capitol as Congress was voting to certify Joe Biden's presidential win.

A report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence found that domestic violent extremists posed an increased threat in 2021, with white supremacist groups and anti-government militias posing the highest risk, officials

said. The new strategy includes enhancing the government's analysis of domestic terrorism and improving the information that is shared between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Administration officials said the Justice Department had also implemented a new system to "methodically track" domestic terrorism cases nationwide within the FBI.

The Justice Department was also evaluating whether the administration should recommend Congress pass a specific domestic terrorism law, which does not currently exist. In the absence of domestic terrorism laws, the Justice Department relies on other statutes to prosecute ideologically motivated violence by people with no international ties.

But that has made it harder to track how often extremists driven by religious, racial or

anti-government bias commit violence in the US and complicates efforts to develop a universally accepted domestic terror definition. Opponents of domestic terrorism laws say prosecutors already have enough tools.

The Government's new plan also includes an effort to identify government employees who may pose a domestic terrorism threat, with a number of federal agencies working on new policies and programs to root out potential domestic extremists in law enforcement and in the military.

An administration official said the Office of Personnel Management was considering updating forms to assist in improving screening and vetting of government employees to make sure people who could pose a threat are identified before being put in sensitive roles. **PTI**

Suu Kyi confronted with sedition charge on 2nd day of trial

Bangkok: The trial of Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi entered its second day on Tuesday, with the prosecution presenting arguments that she incited public disorder and flouted covid norms, part of a package of charges the ruling junta is seen as using to discredit her and consolidate its control.

Suu Kyi and other members of her Government and party were arrested by the military after the February 1 coup, with criminal charges brought against some of the top figures on litany of charges that both their supporters and independent observers say are bogus.

The coup reversed years democratic reforms in Myanmar after decades of military rule and sparked widespread protests and international condemnation. **AP**

Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party had been due to start a second five-year term of office after winning a landslide victory in a general election last November.

Suu Kyi has not been seen in public since her arrest and her lawyers say they don't know exactly where she is currently being held. She has also had only limited time to consult with her legal team.

Tuesday's session was to cover a sedition charge brought against Suu Kyi, along with a second count of violating Covid norms. The sedition charge, which is sometimes described as incitement, calls for up to two years' imprisonment for anyone found guilty of causing fear or alarm that could cause an offense against the state or public tranquility. **AP**

REPORTS OF LEAK AT CHINA NUCLEAR PLANT

No abnormal environmental radioactive level in surrounding areas, says China

Beijing: China on Tuesday played down the reports of a leak at one of its nuclear power plants, asserting that there is no abnormal environmental radioactive level in the surrounding areas and the public "safety is guaranteed".

China's response came after CNN reported on Monday that the US government was assessing a report of a leak at a Chinese nuclear power plant, after a French company that partly owns and helps to operate it warned of an "imminent radiological threat".

The warning included an accusation that the Chinese safety authority was raising the acceptable limits for radiation detection outside the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong province in order to avoid having to shut it down.

"I want stress that based on the information we got from

competent authorities to date, the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant meets the requirements of the technical specifications and there is no abnormal environmental radioactive level in areas surrounding the power plant, so safety is guaranteed", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a

media briefing here. He parried questions on whether the Chinese authorities have raised the acceptable limits of radiation around the plant.

Zhao said China attaches high importance to nuclear safety. **PTI**

Hong Kong watching Chinese nuclear plant after leak reported

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's leader said on Tuesday her Government is closely watching a nearby Chinese nuclear power plant following a news report that it might be leaking.

The plant's operators have released few details, but nuclear experts say based on their brief public statement, the

facility might be suffering a leak of gas from fuel rods inside a reactor. Government data showed radiation levels in Hong Kong were normal on Monday night, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said. Data on Tuesday from the Hong Kong Observatory showed radiation still normal. **AP**

Iran presidential candidate urges better ties with West

Tehran: A prominent contender in Iran's presidential election appealed Tuesday for better economic and political relations with the West, his most extensive attempt yet to attract reformist voters just days ahead of the poll.

Former Iranian Central Bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati, among the seven candidates allowed on the ballot for Friday's vote, has no official ties to any political faction but is positioning himself as the likely candidate for moderate and reform-minded voters.

"Why should there be a barrier for peaceful co-existence?" asked Hemmati, while emphasising that an "improvement in global and regional peace" hinged on American good will and "trust-building" with the Islamic Republic.

Serbia, Kosovo restart EU-brokered talks, remain far apart

Brussels: The leaders of Serbia and Kosovo on Tuesday resumed EU-brokered negotiations aimed at resolving a long-lasting dispute that remains a source of tensions in the volatile Balkans.

But the meeting in Brussels between Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo's new Prime Minister Albin Kurti appeared to produce little progress in the negotiations that first started in 2011 and have been stalled since last year. "It was not an easy meeting, but it was important that it happened," said the EU's special envoy for the talks, Miroslav Lajcak.

"What is important for the European Union is that both leaders confirmed that there is no other way forward but to normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia."

Both countries have been told that they cannot hope to move forward in their efforts to join the EU before resolving the decades-old rift that exploded in a conflict in 1998-99, leaving more than 10,000 people dead and triggering a NATO intervention.

Kosovo, formerly a province of Serbia, declared independence in 2008 but Belgrade has refused to accept that. **AP**

Attacks target polio teams in east Afghan, 5 killed

Kabul: Gunmen on Tuesday targeted an anti-polio drive in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least five members of two vaccination teams in separate attacks, officials said.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks that took place in the city of Jalalabad, as well as in the nearby districts of Khoyani and Surkhrod, according to Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor in Nangarhar province.

Jalalabad is the provincial capital. Along with the five killed, at least four members of the polio vaccination teams were wounded, said Dr. Jan Mohammad, who coordinates the anti-polio drive for the country's east. Khogyani called the attacks cowardly, adding that two of

the wounded were in critical condition.

Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan are the only two remaining countries in the world where polio is endemic, after Nigeria was last year declared free of the virus.

In March, the Islamic State group said it shot and killed three women who were part of a polio vaccination team, also in Jalalabad, the capital of Afghanistan's Nangarhar province.

The IS affiliate is headquartered in eastern Afghanistan and while the Sunni militant group's numbers are believed to have gone down after recent government offensives and clashes with the rival Taliban, IS militants have lately stepped up attacks on minority Shiite Muslims. **AP**

EAM Jaishankar discusses bilateral cooperation with his Qatari counterpart

Doha: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday discussed bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional issues with his Qatari counterpart Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani during his second visit to the key Gulf nation in a week.

Jaishankar met Mohammed, who is also Qatar's Deputy PM, in Doha, a day after he discussed the global and regional issues, including the security situation in the Indo-Pacific region, with Kenya's top leadership.

"Good to meet DPM & FM @MBA_AlThani of Qatar in Doha today. Appreciated Qatar's solidarity during the Covid second wave. Discussed our bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional issues," he said in a tweet. Jaishankar arrived in Kenya on Saturday on a three-day visit to strengthen India's relations with the major East African country. He called on Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and handed over a letter

from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to him. Before visiting Kenya, Jaishankar arrived on his first bilateral visit to Kuwait on Thursday. He held "productive discussions" with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah on Thursday during which the two sides discussed a range of issues including health, food, education, energy, digital, and business cooperation.

US anti-virus software creator fights extradition from Spain

Madrid: Detained anti-virus software entrepreneur John McAfee testified in a Spanish court on Tuesday as part of his fight against extradition to the United States, where he is wanted on tax-related criminal charges that carry a prison sentence of up to 30 years. McAfee, 75, appeared from prison via videolink at a hearing in Spain's National Court.

Israel braces for unrest from right-wing Jerusalem march

Jerusalem: Hundreds of Israeli ultranationalists gathered Tuesday near Jerusalem's Old City ahead of a contentious march that threatened to spark renewed violence just weeks after a war with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

The planned march in east Jerusalem has posed a test for the fragile new government as well as the tenuous truce that ended last month's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas.

Palestinians consider the march, which usually winds through the Old City's Damascus Gate and into the heart of the Muslim Quarter, to be a provocation. Hamas has called on Palestinians to "resist" the parade, a version of which was held at the height of last month's unrest in the city and helped ignite the 11-day Gaza war.

Hundreds of Jewish nationalists gathered several hundred meters (yards) from Damascus Gate before the early evening march. Most appeared to be young, religious men, and many held blue-and-white Israeli flags. In the Gaza Strip, Hamas-linked Palestinians launched incendiary balloons into southern Israel, setting a series of fires. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

ISRAELI EMBASSY...

If someone is able to recognise the suspects, the person can send an email to "do.nia@gov.in", "info.nia@gov.in" or call phone numbers 011-24368800 and mobile number 9654447345.

A minor IED blast took place near the Israeli Embassy in the diplomatic area in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi on the evening of January 29. The case was handed over to the NIA on February 2.

No one was injured in the incident but some cars were damaged in the explosion that occurred about 150 metres away from the embassy on Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road in the high-security Lutyens' bungalow zone.

The move comes as the agency has not been able to take the probe forward as the masked faces of the suspects in the CCTV footage has made their identification difficult, sources said.

With the circulation of the photo grabs from the CCTV footage and the related videos could lead to information about the suspects, they added.

ANYONE CAN...

It added that out of the total 24.84 crore vaccine doses recorded on Co-WIN as on June 13, 19.84 crore doses or nearly 80 per cent of all vaccine doses had been administered through walk-in vaccination. The Ministry said from May 1 till June 12, out of the total 1,03,585 CVCs providing vaccination services, 26,114 are operated at the Sub-Health Centres, 26,287 at the Primary Health Centres and 9,441 at the Community Health Centres, amounting to 59.7 per cent of the total vaccination centres. All of these CVCs at the Sub-Health Centres, the Primary Health Centres and the Community Health Centres are in rural areas where people can directly walk-in for on-site registration and vaccination, it said.

According to the Ministry, out of the total 69,995 vaccination centres so far classified by States on Co-WIN as rural or urban, 49,883 vaccination centres, i.e. 71 per cent, are located in rural areas. The Centre said as per the data available on Co-WIN till June 3, the vaccination per million population in tribal districts was higher than the national average.

It said 128 out of 176 tribal districts were performing better than all India vaccination coverage.

SENIOR CITIZEN...

The draft rules assert that not only are trees essential for life by producing oxygen but as the longest living species on earth, they give us a link between past and present. At a large number of places in the State, the decades and centuries old trees are considered prominent landmarks and also memorial to historical figures or

national events.

Once a tree is notified as "heritage" in the State, any person or organisation that cut, fell or cause any damage to the heritage tree will be liable for punishment with a fine which may extend to Rs 500 or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or both, as per the provisions of draft Heritage Tree Rules.

VS Tanwar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Haryana told The Pioneer, "Pran Yau Devtaa Pension Scheme", a brainchild of Forest Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar aims at protecting old trees for their natural and cultural significance. Despite their significant role in the ecosystem, the decades-old trees are often overlooked in habitat conservation programmes."

Elaborating about the tree pension scheme, Tanwar said the pension amount of Rs 2,500 per year will be given to the owner of the heritage tree that is above 75 years old. This scheme would be applicable to all such trees on private and Government land up till the life period of that heritage tree. For instance, if such a tree is identified in panchayat land, then the sarpanch of the panchayat will be given the pension amount for the care and maintenance of the tree.

Similarly, for such trees in schools, the concerned principal will be given the said pension amount. For such trees in residential areas, the owner will get the said amount while on forest land, the concerned divisional forest officers will be given the pension amount for maintenance of old trees, he said.

On how the pension amount is proposed to be spent, the PCCF said the concerned authority or owner can use the said amount for beautification of the tree, installing information plates or grills, making sitting arrangements under the tree, treating the tree for fungal infection among other purposes.

As per the estimates, there are at least 2,500 such trees, which are 75 years old or more in Haryana. After the State Government gives final approval to the scheme, the Forest Department plans to carry out a fresh survey to identify such old trees and notify them as 'heritage' trees across the state, he added.

About the draft state's Heritage Tree Rules 2021, the PCCF said the draft rules have provisions, including criteria for declaring a tree as heritage tree, restrictions of felling of heritage trees, incentives for heritage trees and penalty for damaging such trees.

According to the proposed rules, a tree shall be declared as heritage tree if it is more than 75 years old which can be gauged from its profile and girth of trunk or as assessed by the old age villagers; a tree species which is reported for the first time in the state or is endemic or rare in nature; tree that has historical, mythological, religious, cultural signifi-

cance; or a curious cluster of trees like a set of banyan tree among other criteria.

For the protection and conservation of heritage trees, the rules also proposed that no concretization of base shall be permitted around the Banyan Tree and Peepal Tree below its crown and up to a diameter of ten meter in other tree species in the State.

Apart from launching the pension scheme for trees, the State Government has also planned to establish Oxy Vans or Oxy Parks, a concept envisioned keeping in view the severe crisis of medical oxygen during the second wave of Covid-19 in Haryana.

Talking about the initiative, the PCCF VS Tanwar said recognising the dire need to protect the trees and ecosystems, this initiative has been taken up to give back to nature. Oxy Van will be developed covering five to 100 acres of area in each cities and villages of the state.

The Chief Minister has announced to establish two Oxy Vans including one on 80 acres of land situated at old Badshahi Canal (also known as Mughal canal) covering a total length of 4.2 Kms in Karnal and another on 100 acres of land situated on bank of Ghaggar river in Panchkula district. The Oxy Van will have components namely Chit Van (forest of beauty), Paakhi Van (forest of birds), Antriksh Van (forest of zodiac plants), Tapo Van (forest of meditation), Arogya Van (healing/herbal forest), Rishi Van (Sapt Rishi), Panchvati (five trees), Sugandh Van (forest of fragrance) among others.

The State Government has proposed to utilise 80000 acre of panchayat land for development of Oxy Van in Haryana.

LJP WIDE OPEN: CHIRAG...

The group led by his paternal uncle claimed that a decision to remove Chirag Paswan, MP from Jamui, as party president was taken in an emergency meeting of the national executive in line with the principal of "one man, one post".

It was not shared as to how many members attended the meeting. A meeting of the party's national council will be called in five days to elect a new president, the group said.

Chirag Paswan is expected to address a press conference on Wednesday, with the battle for the control of the party likely to reach the Election Commission soon.

The Lok Sabha secretariat has recognised Paras' election as the leader of the party in the House.

In a tweet, Chirag Paswan said he made efforts to keep the party founded by his father and his family together but failed.

People are supreme in a democracy, he said and thanked those who have kept faith in the party.

The letter he had written to Paras, the youngest brother of his father, highlighted his uncle's unhappiness over a number of issues, including his elevation as the party president.

Chirag Paswan believes that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) has worked to engineer the split as it wants to finish him off politically following his strident campaign against the State's ruling party in the 2020 Assembly elections, sources close to him said.

By painting his uncle as "power hungry" whose conduct "hurt" his father when he was ailing, the young leader seeks to galvanise the LJP's core support of the Paswan community around him.

In his letter, he also said that Prince Raj, a party MP and his cousin who has sided with Paras, was allegedly blackmailed by a woman over the allegations of "sexual exploitation". While Paras ignored it, he asked Raj to go the police. There was no reaction from his cousin.

The BJP, the principal member of the NDA of which both the JD(U) and LJP are constituents, has officially maintained silence over the implosion within the party.

STATE HAS...

"Even if such activities cross the permissible line of peaceful protests, it would still not amount to commission of a 'terrorist act' or a 'conspiracy' or an 'act preparatory' to the commission of a terrorist act as understood under the UAPA," the order said.

Foundations of our nation cannot be shaken by a protest organised by a tribe of college students, said the order giving bail to Tanha.

"We are of the view that the foundations of our nation stand on surer footing than to be likely to be shaken by a protest, however vicious, organised by a tribe of college students or other persons, operating as a coordination committee from the confines of a university situated in the heart of Delhi," said the Bench cautioning against the frivolous invocation of the "extremely grave and serious penal provisions" under UAPA.

All the three persons were charged under UAPA for starting protests and road blocks during US President's Donald Trump's visit, leading to Delhi riots in February 2020.

BJP CENTRAL LEADERSHIP...

Interestingly, Singh granted Hubballi-Dharwad (West) MLA Arvind Bellad, who is identified with the anti-Yeddyurappa camp, an audience in Delhi on Monday before starting his Karnataka visit. Bellad asked Singh to suggest the Chief Minister

to call a legislative party meet immediately to settle all contentious issues, including that concerning the leadership. The BJP central leadership has been on a consultation spree with the visiting Karnataka leaders. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also met with Murugesh Nirani, Karnataka Minister for Mines and Geology, here last week. Nirani, known to be close to Shah, is a sugar and cement baron in the State.

According to reliable sources, Nirani, a "Lingayat" leader with quite political heft is among those considered as alternative to Yeddyurappa. Union Parliamentary Minister Prahlad Joshi, a Brahmin, State rural and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa, a backward "Kurba" and a long-time critic of Yeddyurappa, are also in the line to succeed the incumbent Chief Minister. Singh is scheduled to meet Cabinet Ministers and MLAs. He is also expected to take part in the State BJP core committee meeting. According to sources, the BJP general secretary will hold consultations with the dissident leaders, including tourism Minister CP Yogeshwar and Bellad, who have repeatedly visited Delhi last month, demanding the ouster of Yeddyurappa.

Singh will also participate in the State core committee meeting.

CAUTION THROWN TO WINDS, EXPERTS FEAR...

India had come into the grip of a second wave in April soon after the lockdowns were eased and people had moved out as the metros, shopping malls, offices and parks were gradually opened up.

It was in May and June that the cases had surged rapidly and health infrastructure was overwhelmed, health experts recalled. So far, just 3 per cent of the population in the country has received two doses of the vaccines.

What's worse, even over 50 per cent of the healthcare workers have not got the second dose of the jab.

Just at a time when the cases have started receding across the country, videos of huge crowds of shoppers have started doing the rounds on social media with many people seen wearing masks beneath their noses, posing a major risk of spreading coronavirus infection.

"We saw a footfall of 19,000 people in the first weekend after the mall reopened," said Arjun Sharma - Chairman of the Select CityWalk shopping mall in Delhi.

Eminent virologist Shaheed Jameel said it is not possible to predict the timing or magnitude of a third wave. It would majorly depend upon vaccine coverage, behaviour of the public following unlock and emergence of more infectious virus variants.

He further elaborated saying while vaccine coverage entirely depends on the Government policy on how it provides

vaccines, social norms depend on public understanding. Again even though we have no control on the emergence of infectious virus, that will also entirely depend upon public behavior and vaccination coverage that can ultimately ensure that virus does not transmit further and mutate. "We have lost so many people, our friends, relatives and dear and near ones and gone through very tough times. We need to be cautious," he said while Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, renowned cardiologist and a member of the Supreme Court of India (SCI) appointed National Task Force for Covid-19, said the third wave is looming large and discretion would be the better part of valour.

Dr Anurag Agrawal, medical researcher and the director of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology of the CSIR, said the super third wave will come if we go back to laxity that we had shown during the second wave and the variant mutate. "Let's see how many got recently infected and are hopefully temporarily immune at least," he said.

Echoing similar views, Dr Rahul Bhargava, head of Hematology Department in Fortis Hospital, Gurugram said it is important to vaccinate migrants also on priority basis as they are likely to come back to the cities with the virus because of the opening up of industry and business. "Key to prevent third wave is Covid appropriate behaviour along with vaccination and genome sequencing," he said. The latter will help in identifying which strain is prevalent in which area so that we can strategise implementation of masking and unlocking, said Dr Bhargava.

11 SUSPENDE...

Raini said. "We have no complaint with Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati, but we have serious issues with the behaviour of party's national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra."

In his meeting with SP president Akhilesh, Raini said they discussed the political situation of the State. "We were not there to discuss weather," he said.

Earlier in the morning on Tuesday six MLAs reached the SP office and later three more MLAs arrived. After the meeting, all of them left the office together from the back gate of the Samajwadi Party office.

When contacted, Akhilesh said these rebel BSP MLAs will strengthen SP's campaign to oust BJP in 2022. He threw enough hints to suggest that if rebel BSP leaders form a separate party then they will support SP.

The rebel BSP MLA who met Akhilesh included Aslam, Aslam Ali, Mujtaba Siddiqui, Hakim Lal, Sushma Patel and Hargovind Bhargava.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls SP-BSP had an alliance. The SP won five Lok Sabha seats and BSP 10. The alliance was called off soon after the Lok Sabha elections in May 2019.

HYBRID IS THE WAY FORWARD

A well-crafted solution can reduce the cost of learning substantially and also help to overcome problem of faculty shortage, says DR DEBASIS SANYAL

The education ecosystem has been going through major transformation for quite some time. Virtual education platforms have been making good inroads. It's not only complementing and supplementing classroom teaching, it independently has become an important platform for synchronise and asynchronies learning across wide range of users, from primary to higher education and training. This transformation is primarily due to (a) experimentation in virtual learning space and (b) change in demographic profile.

After 2007-08, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) became popular and many thought MOOCs will replace physical class room learning to a great extent. That did not happen though many of these courses have extremely rich content. The failure of MOOCs courses to maintain connect and excitement with the users over a sustained period have being held as the primary reasons behind the limited success.

Most students, after going through some initial modules, lost interest. Further users were less committed as it was free to those who did not opt for certificate or degree.

Things have changed with advent of AI, ML and other exponential technology. Continued experimentations in recent years have made learning using virtual platform more interactive, simple, flexible, easy to comprehend and cost effective. Disregarding age the

asynchronies learning modes have become very popular, from primary to higher education and training. As these modes also helps self-learners in problem solving and creative solutions, people are less dependent on physical sessions. Many short term physical training needs have thus reduced.

The new generations, Y and beyond, are much more technology savvy and also very independent in their thinking and behaviour. They demand more flexibility. Virtual learning platforms, specially asynchronies mode fits well to their behavioural framework.

These platforms, supported by AI, ML and other emerging technology helps users to get answer to their queries instantly. It allows users to go back and forth while they are learning, providing both fast and slow learners the much needed flexibility.

Education institutions by and large are involved in three things; transfer of knowledge, peer to peer learning, and teacher-student one to one knowledge transfer.

A significant part of 'transfer of knowledge' aspect will move to digital platform, specially in higher education. In primary and tertiary too synchronise and asynchronies learning will keep becoming more popular as it provides the much needed flexibility. It fits perfectly to the desire of the new generation to learn 'at any time' and 'at one own pace'. Popularity of BYJU, Unacademy are cases in point.

“ COVID HAS ACTED AS CATALYST. IT FORCED EVERYONE TO SWITCH FROM PHYSICAL CLASSROOM TEACHING TO ONLINE OVERNIGHT. RELUCTANT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SWITCHED TO VIRTUAL PLATFORM, QUICKLY ADOPTED AND STARTED APPRECIATING CERTAIN VALUES OF E-EDUCATION ”

However, peer to peer learning, which significantly contributes towards enhancing soft skills (team spirit, conflict resolution, leadership skills, etc.) will require physical contact. 'One to one interaction' between faculty and student, that helps in creative solutions and research outcome, will also need physical connect, though some part will take place online.

NEP 2020 envisage growth from 26 per cent to 50 per cent in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education. India have around 40,000 "brick-and-mortar" institution imparting undergraduate education. To double GER, a very layman calculation suggests establishing 40000 more undergraduate institutions! One may argue, that we could encourage existing institutions to expand, but would that extend our reach to every remote place across the country!

Land, faculty, finance and other resources to build required infrastructure, is fraught with challenges. India must use digital technologies to completely revolutionise traditional education content and delivery process. Going forward, we have to implement tech driven learning environment. Meaningful, innovative hybrid learning solutions of learning is what students will look forward.

Land, faculty, finance and other resources to build required infrastructure, is fraught with challenges. India must use digital technologies to completely revolutionise traditional education content and delivery process. Going forward, we have to implement tech driven learning environment. Meaningful, innovative hybrid learning solutions of learning is what students will look forward.

For better learning and research, institutions will surely thrive to explore meaningful blend of digital and physical learning synergy. A well

crafted hybrid- solution can reduce the cost of learning substantially and also help to overcome the problem of faculty shortage. Policy makers and institutions will see the merit of reducing, say engineering programme, from four years of physical contact sessions to three years by allowing students to complete the theoretical core courses online thereby reducing cost of imparting education. Many experimentation is already happening. We will experience more creative solution coming up. These solutions will go a long way in bringing into the learning ambit several more deprived students and at a much lower cost.

COVID acted as catalyst. It forced everyone to switch from physical classroom teaching to online teaching overnight. Reluctant students and teachers switched to virtual platform, quickly adopted and started appreciating certain values of online teaching and learning.

Thus, post-COVID will surely see a hybrid environment of coexistence of physical and virtual teaching learning platforms, reinforcing one another, to provide quality education and making learning more enjoyable. Thus traditional universities will have to transform into new kinds of entities, optimise their existing operations in a search to increased capability to impart quality education also and to achieve NEP target.

The writer is Director, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurugram

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.
— Mark Twain

Online crossword challenge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With cities across the country making a determined fight-back in the face of COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown, it was time to celebrate the indomitable human spirit. To mark a determined progress on the way to normalcy and pay tribute to the resilience of the human mind, an online crossword challenge was organised on June 13, 2021 at Patna.

The contest was divided into two categories — Student Category and Open Category. The event was conducted by Extra-C, a civil society initiative based in Patna.

Chief Operating Officer of Extra-C Amitabh Ranjan said the contest was hosted for an hour on the website www.crypticsingh.com and student category allowed students from schools and institutes of higher education to participate while the Open Category with a higher level of difficulty was opened to seniors.

Ramki Krishnan stood first in the Open Category and Aditya Vasu topped the Student Category. Col Deepak Gopinath (ret'd) took the first position among senior players in the

Open Category. Madhup Tiwari and Shahswat Salgaokar took the second and the third positions, respectively, in the Open Category. N Rengaswamy and Rahmat Ali stood second and third respectively among ACAD Senior contestants.

Christened ExACT (Extra-C Anniversary Crossword Test), the contest was held to mark the collective fight against COVID-19 and herald a movement towards normalcy post-lockdown. The event also marked the eighth anniversary of Extra-C, a civil society initiative at the forefront of providing learning-based fun activities.

Ranjan said many central and State school boards have collaborated with the organisation for promoting the mind game in schools affiliated to them.

Extra-C has an understanding with Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) for conducting crossword skill enhancing events among their students. Schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan too have been part of the events organised by Extra-C.

PhD programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra University, Hyderabad, announces the launch of its Fall intake for admission to its PhD Programme in Engineering, Applied Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences for the 2021 academic session. The last date for submission of applications for admission is June 30, 2021, for the September-October, 2021 session. The details of the full time PhD programme, qualifications, experience, etc., are available on the website: <https://www.mahindraeducation.com/programs/phd>.

Full-time PhD scholars will get an assistantship of ₹25,000 per month plus free boarding and lodging in the MU campus. They will have to mandatorily perform Teaching Assistantship of eight hours a week.



Up your English speaking game

While planning for the upcoming admissions, students must note key requirements to get into the university of their choice, one of which is an English-language test, says SRIKANT GOPAL

While the global pandemic may have temporarily dampened the spirits of students to pursue an education abroad, 2021 has brought a beacon of hope for all. With the recent rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and lifting of international travel restrictions, as life steadily tends back toward normalcy, so does the optimism of students.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Indian students apply for prestigious universities in countries like the United States, the UK, Canada and Australia. In addition, countries like New Zealand, Germany, Singapore and other destinations in Europe and Asia are fast becoming attractive education destinations for students.

While planning for the upcoming 2021 admissions cycle, students must note key requirements to get into the university of their choice, one of which is an English-language test. One important consideration for students when deciding which test to take is the global acceptability and reputation of the test, which enables them to pursue a variety of different opportunities in India and across the globe.

For over 55 years, the TOEFL® programme at ETS has pioneered new ways to assess English-language proficiency. The TOEFL

iBT® test is well-received and accepted by more than 11,000 institutions in over 150 countries because of its longstanding reputation in providing them with valid, accurate and reliable measures of English-language proficiency. The test enables students to exemplify their ability to succeed in an English-language environment and improves the overall candidature of the test-taker to get into their university of choice.

Confidence and success in English lends to more academic prospects which leads to a world of opportunity for furthering one's career at home or abroad.

The TOEFL iBT test is universally accepted in English speaking countries like the United States, Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the UK, and also universally by English-taught programmes at universities in non-English speaking countries. Some distinguished institutions — including Stanford University's graduate programs, University of Washington's graduate programs and Columbia Law School — only accept TOEFL scores as proof of English-language proficiency.

Institutions around the world rely on and prefer the TOEFL iBT test because it is specifically designed for the higher education

sector. The test comprises of 100 per cent academic content, meaning the types of questions students will encounter on test day simulate the communication experiences they will encounter at university (e.g., listening to a lecture, writing and supporting an opinion on a given topic, etc.). Therefore, once students arrive on campus, they can be assured that the skills they have learned and proven will set them up for success.

Students have the option to take the TOEFL iBT test in one of the hundreds of third-party test centres across India, or from the comfort of home, through the TOEFL iBT Home Edition. The tests are identical, aside from testing location, therefore students are encouraged to select the option that is most convenient and allows them to do their best.

The pandemic has created a new world bound by frequent changes where we must time and again adjust to a "new normal." It has disrupted education in a way we've never seen before. Nevertheless, there remains an ever-growing interest in pursuing university studies both abroad and at home for which the test is a gateway to immense opportunities.

The writer is Executive Director, TOEFL Program, ETS

Unlock new opportunities

The HR functions look pretty simple on the outside but in actuality it does not end with the recruitment of a candidate. A whole lot of work begins after the recruitment of an employee like on-boarding, resource allocation, resource management, compensation & benefits, performance management, promotions, employee engagement, and motivating strategies. All these tasks look and sound easy but are the opposites when performed at the organisational level and hence SAP HCM is the most widely used software across industries to streamline the HR processes.

SAP HR records all the data of an employee in an organisation from date of joining to date of leaving and stores all the important employee data such as designation, role, address, salary details, and more; thereby simplifying the HR's job. Owing to this, there is a huge demand for professionals with a degree or a certification in HR centric courses, with SAP HR or SAP HCM being one of them.

While there are multiple options available for the pursuit, here is a guide to make your choice a little simpler and quicker. The top five Online Certification Course for SAP HR.

Henry Harvin: The SAP HR course also known as Human Capital Management (HCM) offered by India's leading Ed-tech company — Henry Harvin takes you through the modules such as Personnel Administration (PI), Organisational Management (OM), Time Payroll, Time Management, Recruitment, Training and Event Management, and Travel Management.

This nine in one course is spread across 44 hours of live online interactive classroom sessions followed by regular bootcamps spread over the next 12 months and facilities to gain experience in organisational and time management, personal administration, payroll, travel management, and more. On successful completion, the participants are awarded a completion certificate by Henry Harvin.

SevenMentor: Unlock new professional career opportunities with SevenMentor Online SAP HR Training which also provides in-depth knowledge of SAP HR (HCM). It provides the opportunity to learn new skills through interactive discussion and experiential learning which pushes one's thinking and gives the chance to put what you are learning into practice.

Spanning over a duration of 90 to 110 hours, the course covers modules which are vital when it comes to analysing the performance of the HR functions for the organisation taught by professional trainers.

iClass Training: iClass Training provides real-time and placement focused SAP HR training in India which includes both the basic and the advanced level. The content of the course is thoughtfully compiled as per the student's requirements to achieve their career goals. By undertaking this course by iClass Training, the applicant will learn sap HR module introduction, Organisational Structure, Enterprise Structure, Organisational Management, Recruitment, Personnel Administration, Time

Management, Payroll, Personnel Development, Training & Event Management, SAP HR real time project and SAP HR placement training. This tailor-made course is delivered by certified experts and experienced working professionals with hands on real time multiple SAP HR projects knowledge and is split over day time classes, weekend training classes, evening batch classes and fast track training classes.

Grey Campus: SAP Human Resources (HR) has been designed and developed for managing people in a business organisation. In this course, one gains complete knowledge on all the modules of SAP HR, such as payroll and time management. These modules are used for generating and managing payrolls and managing time for time-sensitive jobs.

The primary objective of this Instructor-led Live Online Training is to help the aspirants in building SAP HR/HCM skills. Delivered by 100+ certified experts and professionals, this course gives one year access to class recordings to all the participants; thereby nurturing their skills for their dream jobs.

Multisoft Virtual Academy: SAP ERP-HR online training by Multisoft Virtual Academy acquaints participants with the capabilities and functionalities of SAP ERP software for managing human resource activities. After introducing candidates to the Enterprise Resource Planning concept and the SAP® software package, learners go on to understand the various HR phases and how these are facilitated with the software.

Bridging the networking gap

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has been providing a base for several of its students in starting unicorns or becoming entrepreneurs. The universities' students have been contributing towards the betterment of the society in an efficient, tech-savvy, and user-friendly way.

Taking this a notch higher, Ragul Ramachandran Uthama Singh (2017 graduate) from Electronics and Instrumentation Department, SRMIST, has made and launched a start-up application called Livathon. This app has been receiving a lot of appreciation from many celebrities and reputed personnel.

The Chennai-based lad began working on his application after completing his Masters in Business Management from



Ragul Ramachandran Uthama Singh

Brunei University, London. His app Livathon offers an interest/hobby-based networking of users in the location of their choice. It also offers a digital

diary-like blogging platform that serves as a digital profile/background of the user. Like social media users can blog, share photographs, and message users within the platform.

"The application will be ideal for aspiring artists, sportsmen, charity organisations, especially for people who have a passion for a particular subject such as music, writing, sports, arts, technology, etc. Such people can find and interact with like-minded people in the same locality to network," explains Singh.

Users can blog, share photographs about their passion/interest, and network with like-minded people to form a dance crew, a sports team, a running/cycling club, or just share ideas based on their interest.

Singh was inspired to create such an app during his master's programme. "I was told to come up with an idea for a start-up for my entrepreneurship management module. That is when I developed an app called a digital diary — a platform to record the thoughts of a user and share them with their family. This inspired me to develop Livathon diaries."

The ideation, patent, user interface, market research, and marketing are entirely handled by Singh while the technical side of the application is handled by an app development company called Trident Solutions, Chennai.

Singh's app has crossed over 2500 active users on the application so far within five months of its release on Playstore and App store. His app can be download at <https://t.co/Phs7ocsp57?amp=1>.



EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE

The growth of the tech-market is fuelled by data. The demand is high yet there are few professionals. Pursuing data and privacy is lucrative, says ATINDRIYA CHAKROBARTY

When it comes to most careers, the old ways of doing things crumbled rapidly ever since the pandemic set in. However, newer avenues have emerged equally rapidly. A host of new-age, off the beaten track and yet promising and lucrative career-opportunities have sprung up.

The pandemic made sectors like e-commerce, Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), artificial intelligence, ed-tech, agri-tech, Fintech, digital media, block chain achieve growth numbers in a year that was expected in a decade.

Success-stories of tech-giants during the pandemic are well known, as are stories of teenage crypto-millionaires. The start-up ecosystem is thriving and growing faster than ever.

Emerging technology is no doubt the most exciting area of work and career growth today. But what if you are not a techie? Do you have any future in these industries if you are a lawyer, administrator, corporate secretary or compliance expert? Here's a new area of work —Data and privacy.

This stellar growth of the tech-market is fuelled by data. Hence

the saying — Data is the new oil!

Opportunity-wise, data protection and privacy management professionals today are placed in a sweet spot. It is a time when the demand is high and growing massively, yet the supply is almost non-existent. This portends well for those who want to pursue data and privacy as a career.

How does one prepare themselves for a career in data and privacy management? What qualification will you need?

Until recently, there were no professional courses dedicated to focussed skill-building and knowledge-development on data protection and privacy management. This is the gap that the Swiss School of Management, a leading business school in Europe and LawSikho, a leading legal edtech company stepped in to plug.

The 15-month MBA degree with a specialisation in data protection and privacy management has the Quality Certification label accreditation of the Swiss Federal Government. It is also fully accredited by IACBE, CHEA and the Department of Veterans Affairs, USA.

For working professionals, the biggest advantage of 15-month MBA course is that they can keep working. At the end, students will be able to work with teams like data protection & privacy and legal, regulatory to name a few

The course provides 24/7 access to learning through a learning management system, provides live online classes and doubt-clearing sessions with convenient timings for professionals, practical simulation based training, industry-projects, case-studies and MCQ-based conceptual and scenario-oriented training.

To get the degree, a student must submit a project, thesis or business plan. The degree is granted to participants who achieve 90 European Credit Transfer System, where 25 learning hours correspond to 1 ECTS credit point.

Unlike the regular two-year MBA courses, this primarily-online MBA course is only 15 months long, though it can be completed within 30 months. The course is intensive and meets the highest standards of business studies as is evident from the various global accreditations.

For working professionals, the biggest advantage is that they can complete this MBA course without having to abandon other professional and personal responsibilities. At the end of this course, students will be able to work with

teams like data protection & privacy, legal, regulatory, compliance, policy, business expansion, strategy, and operations. It would also be possible to pursue careers in marketing, sales and general management. They will also become able to handle data and privacy clients independently and remotely, on a freelance basis. Remote freelance work is an amazing opportunity for data & privacy professionals.

Empowering students through support on accessing client and recruitment opportunities with focus on tech, managerial, legal and business roles for start-ups and teaching how to secure remote freelance work is already embedded with the course plan. What's more, there's an opportunity to visit the SSM campus in Rome and interact with the industry in Italy and The Netherlands.

The course-fee is Euros 13,510. LawSikho and SSM has provided scholarships to 50 students so far and would offer more scholarships in the future based on a scholarship test.

The writer is Senior Associate, Marketing & Content, LawSikho

'Believe you can be successful'

In modern workplace, professionalism is must for positive attitude towards work and to climb corporate ladder, says DR AKHIL SHAHANI

Developing the right attitude towards your work can make a critical difference to your chances of success. It can help you deal with challenging circumstances, committing to professional goals, and in improving overall performance. The right attitude helps develop professionalism, which also helps in rising through the ranks in any organisation. As you move up to senior roles, it can be critical in managing your workload and in developing people management skills. Below are some ways to develop the right attitude at work.



Dr Akhil Shahani MD, Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management, Shahani Group

Self-belief: People will not believe in you if you do not believe in yourself. So, before attempting to convince others, you must have faith in your own abilities. Self-belief leads one to seek avenues for self-improvement. Above all, believe that you have the ability to be successful. For those of us who find ourselves doubting our abilities, it can sometimes help to fake this same self-belief! When faced with doubt, try to develop a counter belief that stresses on self-abilities and success.

Be self-reliant: Always remember that no one owes you anything, especially success. The responsibility for your self-growth and improvement lies with yourself. Seek avenues for self-improvement and advancement, while developing positivity towards your work. Avoid complaining or using a negative vocabulary when assessing your work. That said, do not hesitate to accept help or in helping others.

Commit to your goals: Setbacks are part of life and an inevitable part of any professional's journey. The only way to deal with such challenges is to commit to your goals despite the occasional roadblock which comes your way. As the saying goes: The road to success is paved with failure. Once you start seeing setbacks as temporary, the path to your goal will seem clearer and inevitable.

Focus on your work: For a professional, the work comes above all else. There can be many distractions, from social media to other disruptions. When faced with such disruptions, it is important to prioritise your work and develop a single-minded approach

towards your goal.

You are likely to finish your tasks with higher efficiency with optimum utilisation of your time. However, you must also keep time for family or other social commitments. A balanced approach is the healthiest way to treat your work and personal life.

Continuous learning: Learning is a continuous process that must go on irrespective of age or rank. Adopt a mindset of learning something new every day. In this volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity world, skills and knowledge that you developed in the past quickly can get obsolete in a very short time. **Collaborate with others:** Workplace collaboration is not just important for a smooth workflow, it is also necessary for your own development. Collaborating with others will help you develop a network. It raises your goodwill, which may come in handy later when you need someone's help. In a senior position, smart collaboration will also help you to work more efficiently and ensure your team's overall development.

In a globally connected world of humans and technology, every person has access to connect, communicate, collaborate and contribute to make the world a better place. At present, there is evidence that any new experience in any new country can certainly add value to the person's attitudes, perceptions and behaviors.

Every new experience broadens their perspectives and opens up a new world of possibilities. Notwithstanding the present challenges posed by the pandemic, the world is still full of possibilities and opportunities for the global adventurer. This concept is even more relevant when management and business students get exposed to global experiences.

When corporations across the world are connected, they look for professionals who understand these cultural, business, economic and political nuances. The way businesses are done in different geographies is influenced by the culture, language, traditions and unique practices of that region. An exposure to these subtleties can certainly enhance one's efficacy in dealing with these location-specific practices.

A multi-country, multicultural exposure can provide practical insights to the students regarding human interactions, become more open-minded and have a better understanding of other perspectives. It can also help in enhancing interpersonal skills such as communication, listening and

MINDIT

empathy.

Case studies of successful global managers clearly validate that professionals and managers with global exposure and experience tend to appreciate different cultures and different points of view and are more successful in creating conducive work environments where people can work in mutual collaboration and understanding. A fascinating study done by Cornell University validates the concept that exposure to multiple global cultures actually enhances one's problem-solving skills. Three

categories of people were chosen for this interesting experiment: one group that had lived its entire lifetime in one country, a second group that had a two-country exposure and a third group that had experiences in multiple countries.

All three groups were given the same problem—Dunker Candle Problem. The results were astounding, the group with the multi-country exposure was faster with their solutions in comparison to the other groups, validating that a multi-country exposure certainly helps enhance one's creativity and

problem-solving skills.

Corporates are continuously looking for relevant and qualified professionals who can be successful in any global environment. With more global exposure, these professionals have the ability to enhance their skills of adaptability and critical thinking. Global work can be understood as professionals working across different cultures, geographies and markets. This means that these professionals are dealing with the changing context of the environment and the stakeholders, resulting in ambiguity and complexity.

This poses unique challenges and can be addressed by a combination of 21st Century intelligences including global and

cultural intelligence, which is only possible when students are given an exposure to different international experiences.

The world today needs leaders and managers who can effectively lead across borders with unique skills to understand different cultures and work with openness and empathy, embrace diversity and plurality and accept inclusiveness. This calls for a global mindset which can help students who are exposed to global practices, appreciate, adapt and address different business challenges in different global and cultural environments.

The writer is Dr Christopher Abraham CEO-head, Dubai Campus, SP Jain School of Global Management



The Pearl Academy has announced scholarships for the children of COVID frontline warriors, teachers and those who have unfortunately lost their primary earning member due to COVID-19.

This scholarship programme is applicable to both, existing and new students. A 100% scholarship on all-inclusive fee will be provided to the wards of an individual who lost his/her life due to COVID-19 and was the sole breadwinner of the family.

A 20% scholarship on one year tuition fee will be offered to the wards of COVID frontline warriors (doctors, nurses, employees of municipal bodies, military, para-military, police etc). To extend gratitude to teachers for their relentless efforts throughout the pandemic, a 20% scholarship on one year tuition fee has been announced for the wards of teachers.

For eligibility criteria and guidelines, visit: <https://pearlacademy.com/admissions/dates-and-guidelines/>

For more information visit: <https://pearlacademy.com/covid-19-response/we-care-covid-scholarships/>

The Clark College, US invites applications for its

foundation grants to support well-qualified international students in their studies at the college.

Students who hold a minimum GPA of 2.5 are eligible to receive this award. The programme is open to both international and USA students.

Eligibility: The applicants are required to be enrolled and accepted by the college.

The applicants must be commencing their academic year in 2021.

Supporting documents: The students are required to present the following documents to the university: Letters of recommendation, Resume, All academic transcripts, Writing samples

Admission requirements: Students are required to score a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 to be admitted into any programme at Clark College.

Language Requirement: The applicants are required to attain minimum scores in the following English language proficiency tests: TOEFL – 85 IELTS – 6.5

How to Apply: The candidates are required to apply through the college application portal.

The candidates must log in to SmartSelect and apply for the opportunity.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this award scholarship is November 15, 2021.

- DATA ANALYTICS (SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT) AT RUBY CAPITAL**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/e062b8
Application deadline: June 24, 2021
- CONTENT MODERATION AT RIZZLE**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/42d314
Deadline: June 24, 2021
- REACTJS DEVELOPMENT AT GOODSPACE**
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/148f06
Deadline: June 24, 2021
- GRAPHIC DESIGN AT BRANDS OVER MOON**
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/125ce0
Deadline: June 24, 2021
- AUTISM THERAPY & DIAGNOSIS AT COGNIALE**
Location: Ranchi, Delhi, Jodhpur, Latur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/00e21e
Deadline: June 22, 2021
- CONTENT WRITING (PUNJABI) AT POLITICAL SAMPARK**
Location: Chandigarh, Mohali
Stipend: ₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/379cbd
Deadline: June 23, 2021
- FRESHER JOBS**
- CONTENT & E-COMMERCE MGT TRAINEE AT BLOOPTRIP ECOM CONSULTING**
Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/6a4bdf
Deadline: July 9, 2021
Skill(s): MS-Excel, Research and Analytics

IN BRIEF

APP THAT HELPS MASTER CONCEPTS

The Tata ClassEdge (TCE) has launched Studi, a direct-to-students learning solution, with a focus on planning, practice and concept mastery. The Studi has been designed to develop independent learners. Therefore, it focuses not just on what to study but how to study.

A key feature is the of the app is its Adaptive Planner.

Milind Shahane, CEO, TCE, said: "How much time should a child spend on a subject? How should he prepare for an upcoming class test? Which topics

does the child need to pay more attention to? Through the Adaptive Planner, we address these questions, and set the child on an efficient study path to achieve his learning goals."

A distinguishing feature is what the app refers to as the Big Idea — it's a short video at the beginning of every chapter that captures the main idea of the whole lesson.

Also, the practice sessions are not just a one-time instance at the end of every topic. They are spaced and repeated after each week so that children retain the concepts thoroughly. In addition to practice, self-tests are provided at periodic intervals to help gauge the confidence level of children at every step.



BENEFITS OF IT CERTIFICATION

The Pearson VUE released Value of IT Certification report which explores why candidates pursue IT certification and provided detailed insight into how certification benefits individuals and employers.

The findings were polled from 29,000 candidates who completed IT certification between November 2019 and October 2020. Key pointers:

- In 2020 IT certification grew

- 16% over the previous year.
- Online test delivery increased by more than 300%. Of the respondents who said that the impact of COVID-19 was a factor in earning a new certification (30%).
- 28% of all the certifications they earned in 2020 were in cloud computing representing a 164% increase (compared to Pearson VUE's previous Value of IT Certification survey).
- 61% of the candidates who

- hoped to advance or be promoted as result of taking their IT certification exams received a promotion by the time they completed the survey.
- Candidates had intrinsic benefits — increased confidence (91%), greater determination to succeed (84%), feeling respected by colleagues (76%), greater job satisfaction (76%), and greater autonomy at work (74%).

VIT-AP VSL teams up with Alpha Partners



The signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the VIT-AP School of Law (VSL), VIT-AP University and Alpha Partners, NCR of Delhi was held virtually by VIT-AP University on June 15, 2021.

Dr SV Kota Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of VIT-AP University signed the MoU and addressed the gathering. During his address, he highlighted that the university has committed to create a Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security and Law and other centres of excellence to encourage the research and practical application of law to future legal professionals.

He further added that the centres will work holistically to provide better solutions to the society and to provide legal empowerment to the people. This academic collaboration with Alpha Partners would help students to equip industry and practice ready in the areas corporate law, commercial law, real estate law, transaction services law, regulatory services law, dispute resolution, intellectual property law, labour and employment laws, compliance and regulatory laws.

Akshat Pande, Founder and Managing Partner, Alpha Partners after

signing MoU said that VSL and Alpha Partners recognise the value of mutual cooperation and are desirous of entering into this MoU to facilitate academic collaboration between the two organisations to promote academic research, capacity building, academic collaborative activities and placement activities.

Arvind Moorchung, Sr Consultant, Alpha Partners expressed his gratitude for signing in MoU with the VIT-AP School of Law and said knowledge sharing through exchange of resources between the two institutes, visiting lectures by Alpha Partners, organising research activities of mutual interest, collaborative seminar/webinar series, round-table discussions on contemporary developments of law which are of practical relevance will help students enhance their skills. Capacity-building programmes by providing inputs to law school curriculum, internships to the students, technical training to stakeholders, online professional courses and leadership development programs

Dr CLV Sivakumar, Registrar, VIT-AP University and Dr Benarji Chakka, Dean VIT-AP School of Law, students, faculty members and staff of the university witnessed the MoU ceremony.

No spot for Shardul, Mayank & Sundar in WTC

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Veteran speedster Umesh Yadav pipped Brisbane Test hero Shardul Thakur as the 15th member of the Indian squad that will take on New Zealand in the World Test Championship final starting here on June 18.

Umesh, along with Mohammed Shami, and Hanuma Vihari all of whom got injured during the Australia tour, were back in the 15 that needed to be announced as per ICC squad protocol.

Apart from Shardul, the notable names to miss out were Mayank Agarwal, and Washington Sundar, who were in the playing XI for the Test match against Australia.

England series hero Axar Patel also missed out.

The other big player to have missed out in the final squad is senior batsman KL Rahul, who was in fact Virat Kohli's opposition captain in the team's intra-squad practice game.

Rahul seemed in good touch during the game but a look at the squad will indicate that all those who were first choice during the start of the Australia tour are back in the mix. The Indian team management's policy since Kohli took over has been to honour the first choice players in the squad

Ball will swing even without saliva: Ishant



PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Senior India speedster Ishant Sharma believes that the ball will swing even without saliva during the World Test Championship final against New Zealand here and somebody from the team will need to maintain it through the match starting June 18.

The 32-year-old, a veteran of 101 Tests, is expected to lead the Indian bowling attack when the team takes on New Zealand in the marquee clash. "I think the ball will swing even without saliva and somebody needs to take responsibility to maintain the ball," Sharma said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Connected'.

"And if the ball is maintained well in these

conditions, then it becomes easier for the bowlers to take wickets in these conditions," he added but did not get into specifics.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has prohibited bowlers from applying saliva to the ball.

According to Sharma, who has 303 Test wickets to his name, adjusting to lengths is important in England.

"You need to train differently and adapt to the change. In India, you get the reverse swing after some time, but in England, the length is fuller because of the swing.

"So, you have to adjust to the lengths. It is not easy to force that and the weather here is cooler so it takes time to acclimatize to the weather," said Sharma.

"And the quarantine makes it difficult...The way you train in the gym and the training on the ground is very different, so you have to adjust to that and it takes time," he added.

Meanwhile, young India opener Shubman Gill said that to survive in England, the batters need to leave the loose balls.

"When I toured England with India A and the Under-19 team, everyone asked me to play a certain number of balls if I wanted to score runs. "But I feel, your intent to score runs should never go on the back seat and you should look to survive," said the 21-year-old, who has played seven Tests so far.

"When you are looking to score runs, the bowlers get to the back foot and you can put some pressure on the bowler. I think, at times to survive in England you have to leave the loose balls," he added.

and even if the reserves do well, it is understood that they get a chance only when a senior player gets injured.

Hence Umesh got preferred over Shardul, who had a half-century and seven wickets in the series winning Brisbane Test against Australia. Ravichandran Ashwin is the lone off-spinner and Ravindra Jadeja's return means that there was no place for Axar Patel.

Rahul and Mayank Agarwal are also currently not in the mix and would be considered only once the team management has given enough chances to both Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill. In case of Wriddhiman Saha, the ICC rule of being able to replace a wicket-keeper with a substitute keeper was reason for a look-in.

INDIA SQUAD:

Virat Kohli (captain) Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, M D Shami Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Umesh Yadav, Hanuma Vihari.

'Williamson available to lead NZ in WTC'

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Kane Williamson will be available to lead New Zealand against India in the World Test Championship final, head coach Gary Stead announced on Tuesday as he unveiled a 15-man squad for the marquee clash starting June 18.

Wicket-keeper BJ Watling, who too had missed the second Test due to a back injury, has also been named in the squad.

"Kane and BJ have certainly benefitted from their week of rest and rehabilitation and we expect them to be fit and available for the final," Stead said at a press conference after the team's arrival here for the WTC final starting June 18.

"Playing in a World Cup Final is a really special occasion and I know the guys are looking forward to getting into their work here in Southampton," he added.

Stead said their victory over England notwithstanding, it is going to be a tough challenge facing India.

"India are a world class outfit who possess match winners all through their line-up, so we're under no illusion about how tough they will be to beat," he said.

New Zealand will go into the clash with one specialist spinner in 32-year-old left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel and all-rounder Colin



de Grandhomme.

Will Young is their specialist batting cover, while Tom Blundell is the back-up wicket-keeper.

"We've gone with Ajaz as our specialist spinner after an impressive outing at Edgbaston and we believe he could be a factor at the Ageas Bowl," Stead said.

"Colin's been an integral member of our Test set-up for many years and it was great to see him return at Lord's after a long injury lay-off.

"He's a proven performer at the top level and we back him to do a job with the bat or the ball if called upon."

"With our squad being reduced, Heinrich and our second physio Vijay Vallabh will return home to New Zealand on June 16, along with Jacob, Rachin and Mitchell. We wish them well and thank them for their efforts," said Stead.

New Zealand Squad:

Kane Williamson (C), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Devon Conway, Colin de Grandhomme, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner BJ Watling and Will Young.



Seven year wait ends

Indian women return to Test cricket with clash against England

PTI ■ BRISTOL

A favourable record in England and "positive mindset" despite inadequate preparation time will spur the Indian women's cricket team when it takes on the seasoned hosts in its first Test engagement in nearly seven years here from Wednesday.

After multiple quarantines in India and UK, the Mithali Raj-led squad got little over a week to prepare for its first red ball game since November 2014.

Mithali was among the seven current players, who were a part of that victorious eleven against South Africa in Mysuru.

While experienced players like the skipper, her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Jhulan Goswami have not played red ball cricket at all in recent times, it will be an even tougher test for the younger lot who don't get to play first-class matches in domestic cricket.

There is a good chance that



17-year-old batting sensation Shafali Verma opens in the game alongside Mandhana.

England vs India
Live from 3:30 pm IST
STAR SPORTS 2 NETWORK

She goes into the game with no baggage and could well make a big impact at the top of the order.

The experienced trio of Mithali, Harmanpreet and Punam Raut will be expected to do the job in what will be challenging conditions for them also.

There could be some respite in store for the batters with England choosing Kookaburra over Dukes ball, which does more, for the game as the home team builds up to the Ashes Test against Australia later in the year.

It also remains to be seen if veteran pacers Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey would be able to bowl long spells, having not done so for a long time.

The spinners, who had a forgettable time at home in the limited overs series against SA, would be itching to make amends.

'Took advice of other cricketers to prepare for Test against England'

PTI ■ BRISTOL

India women's team captain Mithali Raj on Tuesday said she took advice of other cricketers to better prepare for the longest format ahead of the one-off Test against England starting here on Wednesday.

"I have played lesser Tests than ODI and T20, I would have liked more Test matches. I wouldn't really get down to thinking whether my game is evolved in this format, but the preparation has been very similar," Raj said at the match eve virtual press conference.

"And probably talking to many other cricketers, trying to get how they prepare for the longer format has helped

The visitors can surely take heart from their past record in England where they have not lost in eight games, having won two out of them.

England's star all-rounder and newly-appointed vice captain Nat Sciver is among the six squad members who played in

me to prepare for this Test match," said Mithali, without taking names of the cricketers, whom she had spoken to.

Raj said she would not want rookie players to be burdened with expectations and would advise them to enjoy the game.

"Well, we did brief them (players) about how the long format is played and clearly for someone who is making a debut, you don't want to burden them with expectations and responsibility.

"So, it is just that I would brief together as a team, support them on the field and they should just enjoy playing this format," the skipper added.

their last Test match against India back in August 2014.

The tourists had won that game in Wormsley by six wickets.

England remain the favourites to win the upcoming contest but Sciver expects India to play fearlessly.

India hold vital point

PTI ■ DOHA

India scored from an own goal by Afghanistan goalie as they ended their World Cup Qualifiers campaign with a 1-1 draw to book a berth in the next qualifying round of the Asian Cup here on Tuesday.

A howler by Afghanistan goalie Ovays Azizi handed India a 1-0 lead in the 75th minute but Hossein Zamani equalised in the 81st minute in a match marred by poor refereeing.

The two sides had also played out a 1-1 draw in the first leg match in Dushanbe in 2019.

It was an open and fast-paced game with the Afghans playing a more physical game in a match strewn with fouls and referee Ali Reda failing to discipline the players.

Both sides were almost equal in ball possession and India had 10 shots on target as against seven from Afghanistan. But the Afghans committed 16 fouls as against nine by the Indians. Three Afghan players were shown yellow cards as against one of India.

With seven points from



eight matches, India finished third in Group E behind toppers Qatar and Oman, and ahead of Afghanistan.

India under Igor Stimac ended the World Cup qualifying campaign with one win, four draws and three losses. Besides the win against Bangladesh in their previous match, the first leg 0-0 draw against Asian champions Qatar here in 2019 was the highlight of the campaign.

India dominated the early period with captain Sunil Chhetri having a go at the opposition goal in the 10th minute off a pass from Glan Martins but his left-footed shot from a difficult angle was col-

lected by the Afghan goalie.

The Afghans grew in confidence and were the better side in the later part of the first half and they had a few shots on target but none gave any difficulties to Indian custodian Gurpreet Singh.

Five minutes before the breather, Ashique Kuruniyan was on the clear on the top left edge of the box but his low cross failed to reach Chhetri with an Afghan defender clearing it.

Chhetri, who had scored twice against Bangladesh, could not repeat that performance and he was substituted in the 69th minute. Midfielder livewire Brandon Fernandes was also replaced in the 62nd minute.

The Afghans looked better early in the second session but India took the lead in the 75th minute.

Kuruniyan sent a high cross from the left which Suresh Wangim tried to reach for. Afghan goalie Aziz rose for what should have been an easy collection but the ball dropped down his hands and slipped in between his legs into the empty goal.

Sweden hold Spain to a goalless draw



AP ■ SEVILLE

The chances came and went but neither Spain nor Sweden managed to put any of them in the net.

Spain dominated possession and kept the pressure on the opposing area for most of the match but the Swedes held on for a 0-0 draw Monday at the European Championship.

Sweden managed only a few chances at La Cartuja Stadium, but they were some of the most dangerous ones.

Alexander Isak, who plays for Spanish club Real Sociedad, had a shot from inside the area hit the post after deflecting off Spain defender Marcos Llorente in front of the goal line.

Early in the second half,

Marcus Berg was inside the area with the ball coming his way, but he mishit his shot.

Alvaro Morata had Spain's best chance just a few minutes before Isak but his shot missed wide with goalkeeper Robin Olsen the only opponent to beat.

"Everyone can make mistakes, we all make them," Spain midfielder Pedri González said about Morata, who was booed by part of the Spanish fans. "He works hard for the team and that always shows on the field."

Morata had already missed some chances and been jeered in Spain's final warm-up match against Portugal, also a 0-0 draw.

Spain pressed until the end on Monday but kept misfiring. Olsen made a 90th-minute save off a header by substitute Gerard

Moreno, and he had already stopped another close-range header by Dani Olmo in the first half.

"The way we earned that point today, the entire team, the way the guys ran in the heat, it wasn't just me who earned this point," Olsen said.

"It was an incredible team effort. We didn't play our best game. It's not the most well-deserved point we've ever taken. But we battled. We showed that we wanted it." Spain ended with 75% of possession and had 17 total attempts, with five on target. Sweden missed the target on its four attempts.

"We played against a rival that decided to defend and tried to create some danger with long balls, and it actually had the chance the win the match," Spain coach Luis Enrique said.

"It's a disappointing draw for us."

Spain had failed to score in only one of its last 14 group matches at European Championships.

Sweden hadn't drawn any of its last 17 international matches, since a tie against Spain in qualifying for Euro 2020.

"If you come here and play Spain in 32 degree heat (90 degree F) and think you're going to out-play them, you're totally naive," Sweden coach Janne Andersson said. "I'm not at all ashamed of this point. If we want to take points from these types of teams, we have

to play this way."

In the other group match, Slovakia defeated Poland 2-1 in St. Petersburg.

Spain's matches at Euro 2020 are being played in Seville instead of Bilbao - the original host city for the continent-wide tournament - because of the high contagion rate of the virus in the northern city wouldn't allow for many fans to attend games.

Sweden, which hasn't advanced past the group stage at the European Championship since 2004, next faces Slovakia on Friday in St. Petersburg. The Swedes will also play in Russia

against Poland.

Both teams were without players because of the coronavirus. Spain lost captain Sergio Busquets and Sweden was without Mattias Svanberg and Dejan Kulusevski. They were all still in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 last week.

The entire Spanish team was vaccinated just days before its opening match.

Luis Enrique started with Rodri Hernández in Busquets' position, with youngster Pedri and Koke Resurrección alongside him in the midfield. The 18-year-old Pedri became Spain's youngest ever player at the tournament.



Christian Eriksen sent his first public message from the hospital on Tuesday, thanking supporters for their "sweet and amazing" well-wishes after his collapse at the European Championship.

Messi's Argentina draws with Chile



AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Lionel Messi scored a stunning free kick, repeatedly dribbled through the Chilean defense and created opportunities regularly for his Argentina teammates.

Despite Messi's intense performance, Argentina was held 1-1 by Chile in its Copa America opener. The game at the Nilton Santos stadium in Rio de Janeiro was also marked by a tribute to Argentine football great Diego Maradona, who died in November at age 60. Messi, who turns 34 this month,

might have one of his final chances of winning a title with Argentina at the Copa America.

Argentina appeared to be ready to start giving Messi what he craves. Coach Lionel Scaloni's lineup wasted three clear opportunities between the 16th and 18th minutes, one from Lautaro Martínez and two for Nicolás González.

And then Messi opened the scoring in the 33rd after a free kick that Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo couldn't stop despite getting a touch on the ball to his left. Argentina continued to pressure Chile, which was missing injured striker Alexis Sanchez.

But Chile transformed into a more attacking team in the second half and earned a penalty after video review. Arturo Vidal's shot from the spot was stopped, but Eduardo Vargas nodded into the empty goal to level the scoring in the 57th.

Messi continued to create opportunities until the end of the match, but his teammates showed the same difficulty to deliver goals as they did in the 2-2 draw at Colombia in a World Cup qualifier in Barranquilla last week.

The superstar also complained about the apparently irregular pitch at the stadium.

Chile's Vidal said getting a draw despite Messi's performance was a good result for his team, which is in transition with new coach Martin Lasarte.