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CORONA ORPHANS:
KIDS OF A LESSER GOD

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AGAIN BECOMES SAFE HAVEN FOR TERRORISTS: WH

AVENUES 12
E-LEARNING
HAS POTENTIAL

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No compromise on Article 370, 35A: Gupkar leaders

They say ahead of all-party meet called by Modi on June 24

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Striking a discordant note ahead of joining the all-party meet convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on June 24, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Tuesday announced they will attend the meeting but there can be no compromise on Article 370 and 35A, which granted special status to the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir.

The PAGD leaders, who assembled at the residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah, discussed the contours of the agenda of the June 24 conclave.

After the meeting was over, chairman of the PAGD alliance Dr Farooq Abdullah told reporters, "Mehbooba Mufti, Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, and I will attend the all-party meeting called by the PM. We hope to keep our agenda before the PM and Home Minister".

Dr Abdullah said, "Our stand is clear and all of you know what our stand is. There is no need to repeat the same.



National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti with other members during a media address after a meeting of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), in Srinagar, on Tuesday PTI

Since New Delhi has invited the leaders individually, we have decided that all those invited will attend the meeting and put forth their points on J&K."

The chief spokesperson of the PAGD and CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami said they will not ask for moon during the meeting with the PM. "We will seek something that is ours and will remain

ours," he said.

Tarigami said they will go to Delhi and represent the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. "We will put forth the aspirations of people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh in the meeting. Whatever is possible within the Indian constitution is what we are going to seek. We will not put our signature on their agenda, we will

agree to the agenda which is in the interest of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh," said Tarigami.

PDP chief Mehbooba said during the meeting with the Prime Minister on Thursday, she will press for the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was "snatched away from us".

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53L jabs day after record 86L

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after India recorded a milestone of 86 lakh vaccination in a day, numbers slumped drastically on day two of the implementation of "revised guidelines for Covid-19 jab drive" with just around 53.4 lakh people vaccinated as per the Government data available till 10pm.

According to the Union Health Ministry, on the second day of the new phase of Covid-19 vaccination, more than 53.4 lakh vaccine doses were administered on Tuesday till 10 pm with Uttar Pradesh recording highest single-day vaccine coverage by administering 7.96 lakh doses.

Other States, like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, which reported a sharp surge in vaccination on

June 21, showed poor performance on Tuesday.

Since the launch of the nationwide vaccination drive, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have administered first dose to more than 10 lakh beneficiaries of the age group 18-44 years, said a

statement from the Government.

Overall, more than 29.35 crore (29,35,04,820) vaccine doses have been provided to States/UTs so far, through the Centre Government of India (free of cost channel) and through direct state procurement category.

More than 2.14 crore (2,14,90,297) Covid vaccine doses are still available with the States/UTs to be administered

while more than 33,80,590 vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by the States/UTs within the next 3 days, said the Government.

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Covaxin shows 77.8% efficacy in phase 3 trials

New Delhi: Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has demonstrated 77.8% efficacy in phase 3 trials, reported ANI quoting sources. The Hyderabad-based firm had earlier submitted the trial data to the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Indian drug regulator. The expert panel has approved the trial data, which was conducted on 25,800 subjects, as per reports.

Schools will re-open only after significant portion of population is vaccinated: Govt

New Delhi: Anticipating a third Covid-19 wave in October, the Government on Tuesday said schools, shut since March last year due to the pandemic, will only re-open once a significant portion of the population has been vaccinated against coronavirus.

Delta + prevalent in Maha, Kerala, MP but Covaxin, Covishield effective: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the WHO said the existing Covid-19 vaccines are showing reduced signs of efficacy against the Delta variant of coronavirus, the Government on Tuesday alerted that the Delta plus variant is prevalent in Maharashtra, Kerala and MP in India and 8 other countries.

However, it asserted that both Covishield and Covaxin are effective against the new mutation. It said it would shortly come out with the extent of their effectiveness.

As a precautionary measure, the Union Health Ministry has issued an advisory to the three State Governments to keep a vigil on the new mutated virus which is

said to be more virulent. Delta plus, also known as AY.1 variant or B.1.617.2.1, is considered to be the most dangerous variant of Covid-19.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a Press briefing here that India is among the nine countries where the Delta plus mutation of the coronavirus has been found so far. However, he underlined that it is currently a "variant of interest" and has not yet been classified as a "variant of concern".

Of the 22 cases of Delta plus variant of the coronavirus detected in India, 16 have been detected in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri and Jalgaon while others are from parts of Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

NEPAL SC QUASHES 20 MINISTERS' APPOINTMENT

Kathmandu: In a major blow to beleaguered Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the appointment of 20 Ministers by him was unconstitutional, invalidating his two recent Cabinet expansions after the dissolution of the House of Representatives. **P8**

BJP'S SILENCE HURTS, SAYS CHIRAG PASWAN

New Delhi: "Hurt" at the BJP's silence while he battles challenges from within his party, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan said on Tuesday his relations with the saffron party cannot remain "one-sided" and he will consider all possibilities about his future political steps if attempts to corner him continue.

BJP MP SEEKS NUSRAT'S LS DISQUALIFICATION

Badaun: BJP's Badaun MP Sanghamitra Maurya has written to the Lok Sabha speaker, demanding disqualification of TMC MP Nusrat Jahan for allegedly giving a false affidavit over her marital status to Parliament.

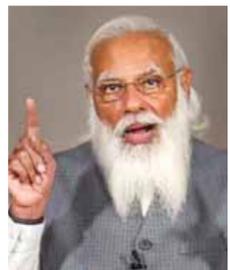
Centre-State 'bhagidari' helped States raise extra ₹1.06L cr in 2020-21: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The "successful Centre-State bhagidari", said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, has helped States raise an extra ₹1.06 lakh crore in 2020-21 and this, he said, happened despite the challenges thrown by Covid-19 pandemic. States were able to raise an extra ₹1.06 lakh crore in 2020-21 by implementing a set of reforms that allowed them to borrow more from the Centre, Modi said in a blog titled "Reforms by Conviction and Incentives".

He wrote in his blog that 23 States availed of additional borrowings of ₹1.06 lakh crore out of a potential ₹2.14 lakh crore. "This significant increase in availability of resources was made possible by an approach of Centre-State bhagidari," he wrote.

The Prime Minister said the Covid-19 pandemic has come with a whole new set of challenges to Governments



across the world in terms of policy-making. India is no exception. Raising enough resources for public welfare while ensuring sustainability is proving to be one of the biggest challenges, he said.

"In this backdrop of the financial crunch seen across the world, do you know that Indian States were able to borrow significantly more in 2020-21?" Modi sought to say.

"When we formulated our economic response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we want-

ed to ensure that our solutions do not follow a 'one size fits all' model. For a federal country of continental dimensions, finding policy instruments at the national level to promote reforms by State Governments is indeed challenging. But, we had faith in the robustness of our federal polity and we moved ahead in the spirit of Centre-State bhagidari," Modi wrote detailing some paragraphs in his blog.

"In May 2020, as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package, the Government of India announced that State Governments would be allowed enhanced borrowing for 2020-21. An extra 2 per cent of GSDP was allowed, of which 1 per cent was made conditional on the implementation of certain economic reforms," said the Prime Minister.

Modi said this nudge for reform is rare in Indian public finance.

Continued on Page 11

SC refuses to interfere with Class XII assessment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to interfere with the assessment scheme propounded by both the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) for evaluation of Class 12 students, whose board examinations have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The top court rejected the objections raised by a parents' body as well as students and said that it is not possible to have a second guess approach with regard to various aspects of the assessment scheme.

A special bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari said, "We accept the scheme as propounded by both the boards — CBSE and CISCE".

Continued on Page 11

No more flash sales

Discount sales on e-commerce sites fine as it benefits consumers: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Putting aside apprehensions over the seasonal discount offers, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Tuesday made it clear that discount sales that benefit consumers will continue but flash sales that seek to exploit market would be hit under the proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules, 2020, on which the Government has sought public comments by July 6.

Ministry's Additional Secretary Nidhi Khare on Tuesday made it clear that the Ministry "will not regulate" the trade on e-commerce platforms. And the e-commerce players need not be anxious about the proposed changes in the rules. "We will take action on fraudulent flash sales if we receive any complaints or



CCPA (Central Consumer Protection Authority) can take suo motu cognizance," she said.

Khare added that the Government will not seek disclosure of flash sales from e-commerce players to regulate the fraudulent sale of goods and services but will take appropriate action as per the law on consumer complaints. "We are not going to seek disclosure of flash sales. We are with sales that benefit maximum consumers. If someone wants to complain, there should at least be a provision," Khare said.

Continued on Page 11

Jet Airways to take wing as NCLT clears resolution plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Tuesday approved the resolution plan of Kalrock Capital and entrepreneur Murari Lal Jalan to revive the grounded airline Jet Airways.

The NCLT has given 90 days to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) to allot slots to the airline. The decision marks the first step in what could be the return of India's oldest and largest private airline. Following the NCLT's approval, shares of Jet Airways hit the 5 per cent upper circuit on the National Stock Exchange.

As per the NCLT order, the DGCA will take the final decision on the allotment of slots to the airline.

Continued on Page 11

Captain wins trust of party, gets 6 months to fulfil poll promises

Cong panel not happy with open revolt by Sidhu

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The Congress' three-member panel constituted to resolve the infighting in Punjab party unit on Tuesday gave Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh virtually six months to keep the promises his party made before the 2017 elections, that were not fulfilled during past four-and-a-half years.

The deadline came during his three-hour-long meeting with the panel, led by Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Punjab party affairs in-charge Harish Rawat, and former MP JP Aggarwal.

At the same time, the panel



also took a strong note of party MLA and former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu's "two families taking advantage in the State" remarks after "miffed" Chief Minister lodged a strong objection to such statements that too at a time when the efforts are on to resolve the issue.

In fact, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was also not happy with the former cricketer's latest statements.

Continued on Page 11

HC stays Lakshadweep order to remove beef from school kids' meal

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In a serious setback for the Lakshadweep Administration, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday stayed till further orders the operation of two controversial orders issued by the UT on May 21.

Chief Justice Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chali stayed the orders issued by the Lakshadweep Administration to shut down the dairy farms operated by the administration and to remove beef and related items from the noon meal served to children in the island schools. Resident of one of the islands who filed a public interest litigation (PIL) had stated that order was passed with a malicious intention to change the food habits of the island inhabitants.

According to the petition-



er, this was a prelude to the implementation of the proposed Animal Preservation (Regulation), 2021, which seeks to ban slaughter of cows and consumption of beef and beef products.

These orders had caused wide resentment in the islands that saw massive protests and en masse resignation from the Lakshadweep unit of the BJP.

Continued on Page 11

It's not Third Front minus Cong: NCP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After two and half hours of confabulations among eight Opposition parties over the "need for preparing an alternate vision in the country", their leaders emerged to take great pains in refuting that it was a Third Front, it was a political grouping minus the Congress and its huddle was at the behest of NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

"It is being reported in the media that this meeting of Rashtra Manch was held by Sharad Pawar to unite anti-BJP political parties. This is totally incorrect. I want to clarify that this meeting took place at Pawar's residence but he didn't call this meeting," NCP leader Majeed Memon told the media after the meeting on Tuesday.

Former BJP leaders Yashwant Sinha and Shatrughan Sinha have founded the Rashtra Manch. Memon further said the



TMC leader Yashwant Sinha, NCP president Sharad Pawar and other leaders, in New Delhi, on Tuesday PTI

perception that there is going to be a big Opposition group excluding the Congress is wrong. "It is being said that Pawar is taking a big political step and the Congress has been boycotted. This is incorrect. There is no political exclusion. We have invited the leaders who subscribe to the ideology of Rashtra Manch in which leaders of all political parties could come. There is no political discrimination. I personally invited Congress members," Memon stressed.

Continued on Page 11

Yogi breaks bread with deputy on maiden visit to Maurya's house

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

What could be better than lunch to call it a political truce? This exactly happened on Tuesday when Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached the house of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya to have lunch. This was the first time Yogi had gone to a Minister's house in the last four and a half years.

The official explanation given was that he had gone to congratulate Maurya's son who got married recently, but in political circles this visit is seen as an attempt to scotch speculation that Yogi and Maurya are not on the same page.

Maurya's son Yogesh got married on May 22 amid Covid protocol. No leaders or Ministers from the Cabinet were invited to that marriage.



Yogi was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma, BJP's national general secretary organization BL Santosh, and RSS leader Krishna Gopal.

Politically speaking through this meeting a message is being sent among the party leaders and the adversaries that all is well between Yogi and Maurya.

Continued on Page 11

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Notice - This is to inform that gata no-254 /0.2560 he, village Kathara-3 is available for sale.

NOTICE

Notify that I have changed my name from Mohd. Arshad to Mohammad Arshad and my wife's name from Samrah Arshad to Samrah Khan for all future purposes.

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



SEJOY ANKET KUMAR 01 APR 1996 - 04 JUN 2021 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEJOY ANKET KUMAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH COMMAND HOSP (CC), LUCKNOW.

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



NAIK PINTU KUMAR 17 DEC 1986 - 06 JUN 2021 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK PINTU KUMAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 4001 FD HOSP.

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



HAVILDAR PANKAJ KUMAR 01 JUN 1995 - 04 JUN 2021 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR PANKAJ KUMAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH SHO JODHPUR.

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



HAVILDAR SARUK DILIP RAOSAHEB 12 APR 1989 - 13 JUN 2021 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR SARUK DILIP RAOSAHEB WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 616 EME BN.

WANTED

KRISHNA PAL SINGH PG COLLEGE TAMBOUR SITAPUR Required B.Sc. (Ag.) Dept Asst. Professor 1-Agronomy -01 2-Horticulture -01 3-Plant Pathology -01 4-Agriculture Extension -01 5-Agril Entomology -01 6-Agril Botany -01 7-Agriculture Economics -01 8-Animal Science & Dairing 9-Soil Science & Agril Chemistry -01 10-Computer Science-01 11-Physical Education -01 12-Agril English-01 B.A. Dept. Asst. Professor 1-Social work -02 Qualification : Phd / Net Interested candidate can apply for the post & send their resume, Educational documents photocopy & Recent 04 passport size photographs with registered Post of college camp office address B-8, Sector-C, Aliganj, Lucknow -226024 Manager-7084265999

Poll strategy: BJP leaders meet CM Yogi, ministers

BJP national leaders held a meeting with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his cabinet colleagues to chalk out the strategy for the 2022 UP Assembly elections amidst speculations of lack of coordination between the party and government. BJP national secretary (organisation) BL Santosh and UP incharge Radha Mohan Singh held an almost 3-hour meeting with the ministers and asked them about the progress of different departments and how they can project the same in the next sarkal patra (election manifesto).

Conversion racket: NSA invoked against accused

A day after the Anti-Terror Squad arrested two individuals in the alleged religious conversion racket, the police have now invoked the National Security Act (NSA) against the accused on the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Those arrested have been identified as Mufti Qazi Jahangir Alam Qasmi and Mohammad Umar Gautam by Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar. Both accused are the residents of Jamia Nagar in New Delhi.

According to reports, the properties of the accused will also be confiscated. On Tuesday, the ATS also got their police custody remand

presidents Vinay Katiyar, Laxmi Kant Bajpayi and Ramapati Shastri were also in attendance. BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh and secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal also attended the meeting. "The meeting fine-tuned the party's strategy for the 2022 elections which will be based on the government's achievements. The promises made during 2017 and how many of them were fulfilled were discussed in detail," source said. Only cabinet ministers were invited to the meeting. The sources told this reporter that the cabinet ministers were asked to prepare a report card of their respective departments so that the theme of the 2022 elections could be finalised. During his last visit to

Yogi to distribute loans worth over ₹2,500 crore

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will distribute loans to the tune of over Rs 2,500 crore to about 30,000 new MSME units in the online self-employment 'Sangam' programme being organised in the state capital on Wednesday, (June 23). The chief minister will also launch the online transformation of 'One District One Product, Common Facility Centre' scheme. He will also lay the foundation for common facility centres online. These centres will be constructed in nine districts. The state government is working with commitment to make India self-reliant and making people self-reliant by providing them employment was a top priority of the government, officials said.

A police team recovered her

Toddler sexually assaulted, dies

In a shocking incident in Bahraich, a one-and-a-half-year-old girl died after she was abducted and sexually assaulted by her neighbour. The victim went missing on Monday night and after a night-long search, she was recovered in a critical condition. She was taken to hospital where doctors pronounced her dead upon arrival. The accused was caught by locals and thrashed before being handed over to police. He tried to escape from police custody while being taken to court but was overpowered after being shot in the leg.

The toddler was sleeping in a courtyard on Monday night when the accused (30) picked her up and took her to a deserted school building and raped her. When the parents did not find the girl, they started searching for her. After hectic efforts, she was found profusely bleeding. The accused, who was also with the victim, was caught by the villagers and handed over to police. A case of murder was registered against the accused and he was also booked under POCSO Act.

Meanwhile in Lakhimpur Kheri, an 8-year-old Dalit girl was found dead. She was reported missing on Sunday afternoon. Her body was recovered from a cane field in the Pasgava area. While her family alleged that she was killed after being raped, police suspected that the girl was murdered after she resisted sexual assault. A case of murder was registered in this regard. The girl and her grandmother had gone to a field with their goats on Sunday. "In the afternoon, the girl said she was returning home. But in the evening, I was informed that she didn't reach home. We started searching for her and later found her dead," her grandmother said.

body from a cane field outside the village. The police said the victim was strangled to death by her trousers. A panel of three doctors conducted the autopsy and the final report was awaited. "The autopsy report will ascertain sexual assault," SSP Vijay Dhull said. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police arrested a youth from Bijnor and rescued a kidnapped minor girl. Reports said that the cops were probing the kidnapping of a 15-year-old girl, a resident of Nib Sarai village. The girl went missing on Monday morning. The girl's elder sister told the police that she came in contact with a person through social media. She suspected his involvement in the case. An FIR was registered against the accused, identified as Tanzeel Ahmed (19). The cops reached Bijnor on Tuesday morning and raided a house in Anisha Nangli village under Seohara police station limits and rescued the girl. The girl is a student of Class VIII while the accused is a carpenter.

Public Notice

The general public is informed that I, Naseem Ullah S/o Late Rahmat Ullah R/o 100/48, Ganne Wali Gali, Aminabad, Lucknow, ousted my son Mazhar Mohammad due to mutual differences with him and all my movable and immovable property. Now onward he himself will be responsible for any action he takes in future. Naseem Ullah S/o Late Rahmat Ullah R/o 100/48, Ganne Wali Gali, Aminabad, Lucknow

DHFL National Office: HDIL Towers, B-Wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051. Branch office: Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited Dhiraaj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.

DEMAND NOTICE Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) Under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Table with 3 columns: Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s), Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date, Description of secured asset (immovable property). Rows include various borrowers and their secured assets.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act. Date: 23-06-2021 Place: Uttar Pradesh

यू पी 0 प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि 22-06-2021

कार्यालय : महाप्रबन्धक जोन-7, नूपीपीसीएलएल कारपोरेशन लि, लखनऊ, बंगला रोड, गौरीवाडी, गौरीवाडी, लखनऊ ई-मेल : gm_7@upprojects.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to change the timings of the following Trains effective from 26.06.2021 as per the details given below:-

Table with 4 columns: STATION, Existing Timings (Arrival, Departure), Revised Timings (Arrival, Departure). Rows include 01061 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Jaynagar Express Special, 02562 New Delhi-Jaynagar Express Special, 04005 Sitamarhi-Anand Vihar Terminal Express Special, 09454 Samastipur-Ahmedabad Express Special, 02564 New Delhi-Saharsa Express Special, 05115 Chhapra-Delhi Express Special.

Passengers are advised to please check the detailed Time-Table of above trains through RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

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Wheat purchase in state hits all-time high

Lucknow (PNS): In the Rabi marketing season 2021-2022, the Uttar Pradesh government has made the highest-ever purchase of wheat from the highest number of farmers. Wheat procurement in UP has increased eight times in Yogi Adityanath's regime, going up from 7.97 lakh MT in 2016 to 56.25 lakh MT, an all-time high, in the ongoing season. The sharp hike in procurement has benefited 13 times more farmers than the previous Samajwadi Party government in 2016. During the Rabi marketing season 2016-17, wheat was purchased from merely 1,66,073 farmers whereas in the 2021-22 season, over 12.88 lakh farmers benefited from the purchase despite the pandemic situation.

The Yogi Adityanath government has purchased more than 2.22 crore MT of food grains on higher MSP so far in its tenure which is 110 per cent more than the target. In comparison, during the erstwhile Akhilesh Yadav government, the total purchase of wheat from 2012 to 2017 was just about 94.38 lakh MT, only 42 per cent of the target. In the five years preceding 2017, the Samajwadi Party was in power in Uttar Pradesh and the total number of farmers who benefited from the wheat purchase was 19,02,098. In contrast, during 2017-21, the Yogi-led government in UP benefited more than 46,33,526 farmers. According to Commissioner of Food and Supply Manish Chauhan, there are several reasons behind the record wheat purchase this year. The increased number of purchase centres, the high MSP, no fixed time limit and transparency in procurement adopted by the government are the factors that contributed to the all-time high purchase. The Central government increased the MSP of wheat from Rs 1,925 in 2020-21 to Rs 1,975 in 2021-22.

Close to 8L people jabbed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh created a record of sorts as close to 8 lakh people were vaccinated in 24 hours even as 255 new cases of Covid were reported on Tuesday while 397 patients recovered.

Government spokesman Shishir Singh said that till 8 pm on Tuesday, 7.63 lakh people were vaccinated and the count could reach 8 lakh.

On June 21, the state had recorded 7,29,197 vaccinations. Till now, 2,63,22,777 vaccine doses have been administered across the state. "From July 1, the government has fixed a target to vaccinate 12 lakh people per day," the spokesman said.



At present, there are 3,910 active Covid cases in the state and 2,525 patients are in home isolation. "Today, no new cases

of infection were found in 16 districts while fresh cases in single digit were reported in 55 districts," Additional Chief

Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal said here on Tuesday. There were double-digit fresh cases in just two districts, including Lucknow where 28 patients were diagnosed with COVID-19. In the state capital, 10 patients succumbed while the active cases stand at 293.

The number of patients who have recovered from Covid in the state has gone up to 16,78,486. UP's Covid recovery rate has gone up to 98.5 per cent while the positivity rate is 0.1%.

Till now, 5,57,30, 488 Covid tests have been conducted in the state. In the last 24 hours, 2,44,275 tests were conducted.

Mycology Centre to come up at KGMU

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given its nod for the setting up of the first Mycology Centre at King George's Medical University to study all kinds of fungi and fungal diseases. KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said it would be the first such centre in the

state and 13th in the country. "ICMR will be funding for the infrastructure and KGMU has been selected because it has the maximum number of black fungus patients in the state," Dr Singh said. He added that molecular and genetic testing of the fungus would be carried out at the centre. "The levels of the antifun-

gals in blood will be tested so that their amount can be estimated to reduce their harmful effects," he said.

Dr Singh said the Mycology Centre would be set up in one of the wings of the Microbiology department of KGMU.

On Tuesday, there were two black fungus deaths at KGMU while 12 new patients

were admitted, taking the tally to 451. The deceased included a 52-year-old woman from Badaun and a 45-year-old woman from Bareilly.

Meanwhile, he said that KGMU has completed 20 lakh RT-PCR tests, the maximum in the country. He said that the credit for that goes to the entire microbiology team headed by Prof Amita Jain.

Paediatric units to make children feel at home

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The paediatric units being set up at city hospitals in view of the third Covid wave are equipped with projectors, cartoon characters on the walls and coloured bedsheets as doctors are of the view that such an environment would give a soothing feeling to the kids admitted there.

Nodal officer for Covid at Lok Bandhu Hospital, Dr Arun Tewari said they have prepared a 100-bed paediatric unit with several innovations. "We have tried to make it child-friendly. The interiors have been done in an attractive way with several cartoon characters and different kinds of images on the walls. The bedsheets are colourful and carry different kinds of pictures while toys have also been placed. The wall colours have been changed. The idea is to make the kids feel at home and give them a soothing feeling."

Dr Tewari said it was the idea of their paediatricians because a child is always inquisitive, curious and playful. "Children cannot be restricted because they want to roam around and explore their surroundings. Hence, the unit has been designed in such a way that the kids can get maximum pleasure from the surroundings," he added.

"These kinds of decorations are made in private clin-



ics by doctors but is a first for an ICU," he pointed out. When asked if they are also selecting the child-friendly staff, he said they have selected staff nurses who can take good care of the children because of their experience. "The small-sized ventilators have been installed and for big ventilators, the system has been made in such a way that the same can be used for adults by selecting a specific mode," he said.

Dr Tewari said the parents would also be allowed in the paediatric ICU. "It is for the same reason that parents of children under 12 years are being vaccinated with priority. If such children fall ill and are admitted to the ICU, their parents can take care of them without being bothered," he added.

Dr Shrikesh Singh from Ram Manohar Lohia Institute

of Medical Sciences said they have also planned a child-friendly ICU. "Ours will be a mixed ICU which will have both the adults and kids. There is no doubt about the fact that if the ward is meant for children, it should have some paintings as well as sculptures on the walls to make them feel at home," he said. "We will also install a projector to showcase movies and cartoons," he added.

Dr Nishant Verma from KGMU said they have created a 100-bed paediatric unit on three floors in the psychiatry building. "The unit has 50 ICU beds and 50 oxygen beds and each bed has a couch alongside for parents," he said.

He added that it is separate from the unit which they already have at the hospital. The first and second floors have oxygen beds and the ground floor has ICU beds.

Wanted dacoit lands in police net

Lucknow (PNS): A joint team of the Special Task Force (STF) and Sushant Golf City (SGC) police on Tuesday nabbed a wanted dacoit bearing a reward of Rs 25,000. The accused was identified as Mohammed Arif aka Cheeni of Ghaziabad. The police recovered a country-made pistol, two live cartridges, 40 precious stones and ornaments which were looted from SGC police station area.

Arif spent some time in Lucknow where his aunt lives and formed a gang of youth. He was named in several cases of crime and was sent to jail on a number of occasions. Lately, he and his aides had committed dacoity in a flat under SGC police station area on April 22.

Hospitals asked to formulate strategy to combat third wave

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash held a meeting with the representatives from private and government hospitals to chalk out a strategy in view of the third wave which is likely to impact children. He said that looking into this possibility, the medical colleges and hospitals should have PICU and NICU ventilator beds, senior & junior residents, equipment and required logistics ready. He said it was important to be prepared because it would help them deal with an emergency situation with ease. The DM said the entire

staff should be trained and those present in the meeting was informed that a virtual training was being organised by SGPGI and a hands-on training by KGMU.

He said the hospitals should inform if there is paucity of junior and senior residents and directed the CMO to provide for the required staff. He said that the hospitals should also make arrangements for oxygen.

KGMU representative said they have 100 beds, including 50 PICU and NICU beds, while the rest are oxygen beds.

SGPGI representative said they are making a 50-bed PICU

and NICU facility and have no problems regarding the staff or logistics.

At RMLIMS, a 50-bed facility is coming up but there is a shortage of senior residents. ERA's Medical College and Hospital representative said they have a 30-bed PICU and NICU facility and they are making arrangements for a 100-bed paediatric ward with 50 PICU/NICU beds and 50 oxygen beds.

Balrampur Hospital has made arrangements for a 50-bed paediatric ward with 20 PICU/NICU beds and 30 oxygen beds. The hospital also has a liquid medical oxygen plant.

Class XII student dies as SUV skids into river

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Class XII student died while seven of his friends had a narrow escape their SUV fell into the Gomti river in Nishatganj on the intervening night of Monday and Friday. The deceased was identified as Nikhil Gupta (17) of Para while his friends are Abdullah, Saurabh Singh, Shivam Singh, Vinod Pal, Gaurav Singh, Babu Gupta and Shivam Kumar.

Saurabh was in the driver's seat while the SUV is registered in the name of one Atul Gupta. As per reports, the group was going back to their homes in Para from Barabanki. On the way, they took the Gomti riverfront lane after reaching Samta Mulak crossing and reached Papermill Colony culvert around 2:30 am.

Inspector Pradeep Singh said the group reached the spot where Kukrail drain falls into the Gomti river. There was

an unfenced portion with a layer of moss on the road. "The SUV was moving at a high speed and Saurabh could not sense the danger ahead. As a result, the SUV skidded and fell into the river," he said.

"The windscreen of the SUV was broken by constables Anil Yadav and Nitin Sharma who rescued three youths, but they could not pull out the vehicle. Later, additional cops and divers reached the scene and a search operation was started, but in vain. The SDRF men were also called. However, four others swam to safety.

The SDRF team consisting of 18 personnel started the search operation using dragon cameras and located the SUV. They also traced Nikhil but he had died by then. The youths had gone to Shivam's house in Barabanki where they had a party and decided to return the same night.

Rizvi accused of sexual exploitation

Lucknow (PNS): A woman accused Shia Waqf Board member Wasim Rizvi of sexually exploitation and thrashing her husband on demanding an explanation. However, Rizvi released a video in which he claimed that the allegations were levelled because he sacked her husband, who was his driver, for conspiring against him.

Police said they have received a complaint against Rizvi and the veracity of the allegations was being ascertained. Earlier, the woman, along with some lawyers, reached Saadatganj police station to lodge a case in this connection. She said her husband worked as Rizvi's driver and he was thrashed by him and his men for seeking an explanation. She alleged that she was forced to submit to his wishes when her husband was sent out for some work. ADCP, West, Rajesh Srivastava said the police received the application and an investigation was underway. He said no FIR was registered in this connection.

छोटे उद्योगों की हो रही राह आसान स्थानीय हुनर से मिला रोज़गार व नई पहचान

**बैंकों के समन्वय से ऑनलाइन ऋण मेला में
31,542 एमएसएमई इकाइयों को
₹2,505.58 करोड़ का ऋण**

₹73.54 करोड़ की परियोजना

विश्वकर्मा श्रम सम्मान योजना के अंतर्गत निःशुल्क दूल किट वितरण

9 जनपदों में लागत के सामान्य सुविधा केंद्रों (सी.एफ.सी.)

शिलान्यास

ओडीओपी सी.एफ.सी. योजना के पोर्टल
(diupmsme.upsdc.gov.in)

शुभारम्भ

मुख्य अतिथि

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा
(वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से)
— जस्मिन्मयी उपस्थिति —

सिद्धार्थ नाथ सिंह

मंत्री, खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग, रेशम उद्योग, वस्त्र उद्योग
सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम, निर्यात प्रोत्साहन
एनआरआई तथा निवेश प्रोत्साहन, उत्तर प्रदेश

चौधरी उदयमान सिंह

राज्य मंत्री, खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग, रेशम उद्योग
वस्त्र उद्योग, सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं
मध्यम उद्यम तथा निर्यात प्रोत्साहन, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 23 जून, 2021 | समय : मध्याह्न 12:00 बजे | स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ
सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम तथा निर्यात प्रोत्साहन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

कार्यक्रम का लाइव प्रसारण
DD UP &
Youtube.com/DDNEWS
Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh

यूट्यूब एवं
UPGovtOfficial
CMOUttarpradesh
CMOfficeUP

सोशल मीडिया ऐप/वेबप्ले
को माध्यम से देख सकते हैं।

Investor-friendly policies attracting industrialists

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The investor-friendly policies of the Yogi Adityanath government are attracting a large number of industrialists from diverse sectors to invest in the state and textile sector is no exception.

According to the Textile department, big players in the Indian textile industry have invested Rs 8,715.16 crore in the last four years to set up 66 factories in the state. Of these textile factories, 12 have already been set up while construction of 18 others is underway and it will provide employment to 5,25,087 people. As many as 18 factories are expected to start production this year itself. Besides, the construction of 17 more textile factories is also expected to begin this year.

factories will start production next year.

The officials further pointed out that a total sum of Rs 645 crore was spent for setting up the 12 textile factories that have become operational. As many as 2,870 people have also got employment in the 12 units. "UP was synonymous with fear, perennial insecurity and risks for these industrialists four years ago. They were afraid of investing due to rampant crime and red tape. However, things changed rapidly after Yogi Adityanath took over as the CM in 2017. He succeeded in changing this common perception about UP through his massive crackdown against organised crime. In the changed environment, investors in India and abroad consider UP as one of the safest places for investment

and are investing as never before in different sectors including in textile, infrastructure, food processing, electronic manufacturing, real estate, and power and manufacturing sectors. The textile sector has emerged as the most preferred sector for investors," the officials said.

Meanwhile, with the setting up of these factories, Kanpur is emerging fast as a major textile hub. Kanpur Plastipack Limited has invested Rs 200 crore in Kanpur (Rural) while RP Poly Packs has invested Rs 150 crore in Rania for the production of polybags. GLKK Industries has invested Rs 25 crore in Ruma Kanpur for fabric production while Srishri Industries has set up a knitting factory in Kanpur (Rural). Furthermore, Gadgets Apparel

and Anilika Fabric have established garment and hosiery cloth factories respectively in Kanpur.

Similarly, Rajlakshmi Cotton Mills has set up a garment factory in Noida at the cost of Rs 50 crore apart from one in Kanpur while Kalyani Innerwear has established an inner garment factory in Ghaziabad. TT Limited has established a garment factory in Amroha at the cost of Rs 50 crore whereas Sunwin Textile has set up a lace fabrics factory in Badaun.

There are 28 more investment proposals related to setting up of textile factories, whose investors are yet to apply for land. Officials from the department are in touch with these investors and the land deal is likely to be finalised.

New political alliance in the offing ahead of UP Assembly polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A new political alliance led by the Bahujan Samaj Party and Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha comprising Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldeo Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and AIMIM is likely to include three more small political parties.

BSP chief Mayawati and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi have held several rounds of talks and the latter is coming to Lucknow next month. The alliance is likely to be formalised and the BSP supremo is expected to make the announcement. Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh are scheduled for early next year. Om Prakash Rajbhar had dropped hints about broadening the alliance on June 20. Rajbhar said he was trying to rope in several other parties, including TMC and Aam Aadmi Party to form an effective front to counter the BJP.

Patel's Apna Dal, Jan Adhikar Party and Chandrasekhar Ravan's Azad Samaj Party.

This Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha has announced to contest the 2022 UP Assembly elections against the BJP to represent the unheard Muslim-Backward and Dalit caste voices. The Apna Dal (Krishna Patel) is likely to quit the alliance as it is said to have cut a deal with the BJP. Its president Krishna Patel is likely to be nominated as the member of the UP Legislative Council. The Apna Dal (Sonela) led by Anupriya Patel MP, daughter of Krishna Patel, is already an ally of the BJP.

Ever since the entry of the AIMIM in Bihar elections in October last year, small caste-based political parties have been trying to get the caste arithmetic in their favour in eastern UP.

Although the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha and Owaisi in particular have been targeting the BJP, the presence of this alliance in Azamgarh and adjoining districts will directly affect the Samajwadi Party performance in the region. With the new alliance coming up with a combination of the extreme backward Muslim population, it will primarily dent the SP vote bank.

3 of family among 4 killed in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Four people, including three of a family, were found dead under mysterious circumstances in Rajpur Kesariya village under Dilari police station area of Moradabad.

Police recovered the bodies of Rajendra, his two sons and a servant from a small basement beneath a room of Rajendra Singh's house in the wee hours of Tuesday. The police sent the bodies for autopsy.

The deceased were identified as Rajendra (50), his two sons Harkesh (30) & Preetam (25), and their servant Ramesh (40). After preliminary investigation, police said Rajendra Singh used to make and sell illicit liquor. A year ago, 250 boxes of illicit liquor were recovered from his house and he was sent to jail.

After coming out, Rajendra Singh again started making hooch with his two sons. Even on the day of the accident, he was drinking illicit liquor in another house built near his house. In the meantime, Rajendra, his two sons and servants fainted one after another, probably after inhaling some poisonous gas. Rajendra's wife Phoolvati, who was sitting outside, reached there found

them unresponsive.

Phoolvati raised an alarm after which neighbours reached there and they also found it difficult to breathe. On being informed, the police reached the spot and pulled out the deceased. Moradabad SSP Pawan Kumar also reached the spot and called a team of forensic experts. Prima facie, it appeared that the four died of suffocation due to inhaling toxic gas released by half-dry dung cakes stored in the basement, the SSP said.

Meanwhile, a woman and her son were killed in a road accident on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura in the wee hours of Tuesday. Her husband and daughter were also injured in the mishap. The injured were first admitted to a nearby hospital but then referred to a hospital in Agra in view of their critical condition.

Ramesh Chandra was returning home in Indra Vihar locality of Delhi with his family following his daughter Kushboo's marriage at a 5-star hotel in Agra on Monday. Chandra was accompanied by his wife, son and a daughter in their car (Swift).

As soon as the family reached near Baldeo town, the speeding car hit a culvert and overturned.

Boy attacked by leopard

Lucknow (PNS): A 15-year-old boy was injured after a leopard entered a residential area in the Sitanagar area of Agra early Tuesday morning.

Police and forest officials reached the spot to trap the big cat while the boy's condition was said to be stable. Sumit Solanki (15) said he saw a leopard when he entered his house and was attacked when he tried to run away. "Later, the leopard strayed into a mango godown. Locals locked the godown from outside," claimed the district administration officials who reached the spot.

Meanwhile in Sonbhadra, local police and forest sluths

claimed to have arrested three smugglers under Karma police station area on Monday night and seized from their possession ivory worth over Rs 2.50 crore. The police said the team seized around 10.60 kg ivory from the smugglers.

SP Amarendra Prasad Singh said that on Monday evening, an informer tipped off police and forest officers that some smugglers were going to Varanasi with ivory. A trap was laid and three accused with ivory were nabbed, the SP said.

Those arrested were identified as Parameshwar Prajapati, Bhaiya Lal Maurya and Dharmalal Maurya.

Sanghamitra Maurya seeks disqualification of Nusrat

Lucknow (PNS): BJP MP from Badaun Dr Sanghamitra Maurya demanded the disqualification of West Bengal's TMC MP and actress Nusrat Jahan for allegedly giving a false affidavit in parliament and hiding her marital status. Maurya handed over a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recently.

The BJP MP demanded cancellation of Nusrat Jahan's Lok Sabha membership. In the letter, said that the TMC MP's conduct was indecent. "She has deceived her voters on the issue of marriage. The dignity of parliament has also been tarnished by her act," she stated in the letter.

She said that the matter should be sent to the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha for investigation. Maurya, on a day-long visit to her Lok Sabha constituency, said that Nusrat Jahan lied in the affidavit. "I have no interest in the TMC MP's personal life but with her affidavit where she has shown her marital status as married. Her name in the affidavit is Nusrat Jahan alias Noori Jain and her husband's name is Nikhil Jain. Now she claims that her marriage was not valid. You lied to the public and parliament. There should be an investigation into this matter and action be taken," Maurya said.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत जानपद पारिषद मण्डल
कक्ष सं 223 से 228, प्रथम तल
पारिषद भवन, यू.पी.एस.एल.डी.सी.ओ. परिसर,
विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर लखनऊ अति
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या
11/ECTC/2020-21 अघोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा
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तथा माना बीजक इत्यादि का विस्तृत विवरण
www.upptd.org पर देखा जा सकता है एवं
http://tender.up.nic.in साइट पर देखा एवं
प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा दिनांक
29.06.2021 को दोपहर 14:00 बजे तक साइट
पर डाला / अपलोड किया जा सकता है तथा
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रूप से निविदाये खोली जायेगी। अधीक्षण
अभियन्ता विद्युत जानपद पारिषद मण्डल,
उपग्रह एल.डी.सी.ओ. परिसर, विभूति खण्ड
गोमती नगर, लखनऊ पत्रांक 1886 दिनांक
22.6.2021 साइट हित में बिजली बचाएँ

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रान्समिशन
कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड निविदा
आमंत्रण सूचना (1) अल्पकालीन
ई-निविदा संख्या 32-वि.पा.मं.(प्र.)
ल/2021-22, विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड-प्रथम,
लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत नवनिर्मित विद्युत 400
के.वी. उपकेंद्र जेहदा पर विभिन्न प्रकार के
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हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है जिसे
www.tender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक
22.06.2021 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य
की अनुमानित लागत रु. 8.80 लाख का कार्य
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9,00,00,00, ऑन लाइन ई-निविदा करने की
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संख्या 33-वि.पा.मं.(प्र.) ल/2021-22, विद्युत
पारिषद खण्ड-द्वितीय, लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत
220 के.वी. कुशी रोड एवं 132 के.वी.
इन्डियनार उपकेंद्रों पर स्थापित 36 के.वी.
बैल्युम सर्किट ब्रेकर्स की ओवरहॉलिंग एवं
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आमंत्रित की गयी है जिसे
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यदि कोई होगा केवल वेबसाइट पर डाली
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मण्डल-प्रथम उ.प्र. पावर ट्रान्समिशन
कारपोरेशन लि.ओ.कक्ष सं-111 से 114,
भू-तल, पारिषद भवन, विभूति खण्ड-II,
गोमती नगर लखनऊ पत्रांक - 903 दिनांक
22.6.2021 साइट हित में बिजली बचाएँ।

PMO move against Bengal ex-CS cruel, heartless: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has strongly reacted to Centre's decision to take punitive action against former Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay for alleged insubordination (to the Prime Minister's Office) and dereliction of duty in the cyclone Yaas case.

Calling the central proceedings against Bandopadhyay for avoiding a meeting at Kalaikunda where he was asked to brief Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the damages caused by the super cyclone senior Trinamool Congress MP Saugato Roy on Tuesday said that "the actions taken by the Department of Personnel and Training which in all essence runs under the Prime Minister's (Narendra Modi) instruction is a proof of his cruelty and heartlessness ... this order has been passed to intimidate the upright officers like Alapan Bandopadhyay to stop them from working independently... such actions are a blow to the federal structure

of the country."

The action a "cruel and heartless one" at a time when "the former Chief Secretary has just lost his mother" Roy said.

Bengal Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said that the Centre was "unnecessarily" making it an ego clash of sorts "in a bid to show who is more powerful or 'look, I am more powerful than you' ... Such childish fights should stop."

The Centre had sent a "memorandum" of "charge sheet" service's Discipline Rules 1969 and the Retirement Benefits Rules 1958 — to be explained within 30 days of receipt — to the retired IAS officer.

It states "Shri Alapan Bandopadhyay, IAS (Retd) is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of the Article of Charge as is not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny the Article of Charge."

Bandopadhyay known for his integrity, merit and high literary talents was pulled up by the Centre for failing to

abide by the PMO directives requiring him to make a digital presentation of the damages caused by cyclone Yaas in a Prime Ministerial meeting — in the last week of May — at Kalaikunda off Kharagpur.

Bandopadhyay had gone there with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee but left along with her after she decided to leave the venue immediately after coming to know that Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari had too been invited in the meeting. She left the spot in a huff alleging protocol breach with Bandopadhyay in tow.

Subsequently the Chief Secretary was transferred by the central Home Ministry to Delhi. However he chose to

SC stays Bombay High Court verdict cancelling caste certificate of Amravati MP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to Lok Sabha MP Navneet Kaur Rana, the Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the Bombay High Court verdict cancelling the caste certificate of the independent lawmaker representing Maharashtra's Amravati constituency, reserved for scheduled castes. The Bombay High Court had on June 9 cancelled the caste certificate of Rana, saying it was obtained fraudulently using fabricated documents, and had also imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh on her.

A vacation bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari took note of the submissions of senior

Supplementary chargesheet filed in TRP scam case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant development, Editor-in-Chief of Republic TV was on Tuesday named as among the seven additional accused in a supplementary chargesheet filed in the much-discussed Television Rating Points (TRP) scam before a Metropolitan Magistrate's Court here.

In a 1,912-page supplementary chargesheet filed before the 37th Mumbai Metropolitan Court at Esplanade named Goswami and six other employees from Republic TV and Republican Bharat TV channels as accused for offences registered against them under Section 420 (cheating, Section 120-b (conspiracy), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 465 (forgery), 204 (destruction of evidence) and various other Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Apart from Goswami, six others named in the supplementary charge-sheet are Priya Mukherjee, Chief Operating Officer, Republic TV, Siva Subramaniam, Chief Financial Officer, Republic TV, Amit Mohan Dava, Sanjay Sukhdev Varma, Shivendra Mundherkar and Ranjit Walter.

With addition of seven names in the supplementary chargesheet, the total number of accused charge-sheeted in the alleged TRP scam has gone up to 22. In two charge-sheets filed earlier in the case on November 11, 2020 and January 11, 2021, the police had named 15 accused in the case.

Those charge-sheeted include the ex-CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) Partho Dasgupta and Republic TV CEO Vikash Khanchandani all of whom had been booked for alleged cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy, destroying evidence and criminal breach of trust etc.

In their three charge-sheets running into 22 accused in the TRP scam case, the police have said that the investigations in the case had revealed three kinds of tweaking of TRP data — including the panel homes where Bar-o-meters are installed by way of paying money to watch certain channels for specific time, placing of one television channel on two different frequencies by multi system Operators/Cable operators for one television channel and manipulation of television viewership data (metarule) received at BARC.

Govt hiding its face by suppressing Covid death toll, says Akhilesh

Lucknow (PNS): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday accused the Uttar Pradesh government of hiding the actual figure of deaths due to Covid.

He said the BJP government was actually trying to hide its face by doing that.

Yadav's remarks came a day after a report claimed that the death toll due to COVID-19 in 24 districts of Uttar Pradesh from July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 was up to 43 times higher than the official figures.

The findings were based on a comparison of the official death toll in these districts during the nine-month period with the excess deaths registered in the state's Civil Registration System (CRS). The mortality data was accessed through a Right to Information (RTI) application.

As on Monday, Uttar Pradesh's Covid death toll stood at 22,224 while the total number of cases was 17,04,476, according to a government bulletin. Yadav said that the BJP government has only scripted misery for the people of UP.

He said there is no end to the sufferings of people as law and order has collapsed while the BJP government is busy promising moon to the people.

In a tweet in Hindi, Yadav said, "According to information accessed through the Right to Information, it has come to light that the death toll in 24 districts of Uttar Pradesh in the nine months of the pandemic till March 31 this year is up to 43 times higher than the government figures. Actually, the BJP government is not hiding the death figures but its face," he said.

यू पी ओ प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.ओ
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का अंगन)
कार्यालय : महाप्रबंधक जे.ओ.-7, यू.पी.एस.एल.डी.सी.ओ. परिसर, लखनऊ
बी.या. तट, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ ई-मेल : gm_7@upprojects.org

पत्रांक : 1008/पी.सी.ओ.एल./महाप्रबंधक-7/ई-टेंडर दिनांक : 22-06-2021
पुनः अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एन.ए. द्वारा "CONSTRUCTION OF 100 BEDS GIRLS HOSTEL FOR K.G.B.V. CAMPUS AT MUSAFIRKHANA DIST. AMETHI" हेतु इस कार्यालय की अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना-21/UPPL/CLM-7/E-TENDER/2021-22 दिनांक-07.06.2021 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी थी। जो दिनांक-21.06.2021 को अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे खोली गयी। उपरोक्त निविदा में किसी भी निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिभाग नहीं किया गया है। अतः यह निविदा पुनः प्रकाशित की जा रही है। यह निविदा वेबसाइट http://www.tender.up.nic.in को पर्यटन पर दिनांक 24.06.2021 से दिनांक-01.07.2021 तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 01.07.2021 को अपरान्ह 1.00 बजे तक समर्पित/जमा किया जा सकता है। अतिरिक्त यह उरी दिन अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे अघोहस्ताक्षरी के अंतर्गत कार्यालय में खोली जानी प्रस्तावित है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें इत्यादि कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबंधक जे.ओ.-7
यू.पी.एस.एल.डी.सी.ओ., लखनऊ

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
By E-Mail/e-Despatch: E-Mail ID : serw_balasore@yahoo.in. Ph-No-06782/260318
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 293 for 2021-22.
Letter No. 2020 Tender, 17.06.2021

1. Name of the work :- Periodical Maintenance of PMGSY Road
2. Total No. of work :- 3 Nos. of work.
3. Estimated Cost :- From Rs. 101.15 lakhs to Rs. 195.16 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- 'B' & 'A' Class (of Odisha - P.W.D.) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities (as per annexure).
5. Period of Completion :- From 03 Calendar months for the work.
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender		Will be Intimated letter.
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	N.C.B. No. 293	01.07.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	01.07.2021 at 5.00 P.M.	01.07.2021 up to 07.07.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	01.07.2021 at 11.00 A.M.		

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR-25105/11/0007/2122

DMI Finance Private Limited
CIN - U65929DL2008PTC182749
Express Building, 3rd Floor, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

STATEMENT OF ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

S. No.	Particulars	₹ in Million	
		Audited Current year ending March 31, 2021	Audited Previous Year ended March 31, 2020
1.	Total Income from Operations	7,644.51	6,446.14
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	312.02	1,343.69
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	312.02	1,343.69
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	223.08	990.89
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	228.06	918.02
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	6,436.58	5,592.94
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	28,417.31	19,167.31
8.	Net worth	34,853.90	24,760.25
9.	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	19,975.17	25,888.85
10.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	—	—
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.57	1.05
12.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)		
	1. Basic:	0.35	1.78
	2. Diluted:	0.32	1.77
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve	81.21	81.21
14.	Debture Redemption Reserve	N.A.	N.A.
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.

Notes to the Financial Results:
1) Pursuant to Clause 52 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Audited standalone results for the year ended March 31, 2021 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meetings held on June 21, 2021. The above results for the year ended March 31, 2021 have been audited by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
2) The above results are an extract of detailed format of the Audited Annual Financial Results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. These financial results are available on the website viz. www.dmfinance.in and on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com).
3) The financial results have been prepared in accordance with requirement of Regulation 52 of (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as modified by Circular No. CIR/CFD/FAC/62/2016 dated July 5, 2016 read with CII/MD/DF/169/2016 dated August 10, 2016.
4) For items referred in sub clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 of (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE Limited (BSE) and can be accessed on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website i.e. www.dmfinance.in
5) There is no Debenture Redemption Reserve created as Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) registered with Reserve Bank of India are not required to create DRR for privately placed debentures.
6) Figures for the prior year / period have been regrouped and / or reclassified wherever considered necessary.
7) The Company has provided adequate disclosures related to COVID-19 while submitting financial statements to SEBI.

For DMI Finance Private Limited
Sd/-
Date: June 21, 2021
Place: New Delhi
Shivashish Chatterjee
Joint Managing Director

Justice Bhandari to take over as acting chief justice

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari will take over as the acting chief justice of Allahabad High Court on June 26 following retirement of Chief Justice Sanjay Yadav.

Chief Justice Sanjay Yadav was sworn in on June 13 this year and he will attain superannuation on June 25.

The Union Ministry of Law and Justice declared in its notification that after the retirement of Chief Justice Sanjay Yadav, Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari will take over as the acting chief justice on June 26, 2021.

After the retirement of Chief Justice Govind Mathur, Justice Sanjay Yadav was appointed as the acting chief justice of the Allahabad High Court and on June 13 he was sworn in as the chief justice, but for 13 days only.

Justice MN Bhandari was appointed as high court judge at the Rajasthan High Court on July 5, 2007 and was transferred to the Allahabad High Court on March 15, 2019.

His retirement is due on September 12, 2022.

Minister interacts with healthcare trainers

PNS ■ VARANASI

Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey visited the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) here on Tuesday to review the progress of healthcare training and interact with the trainers to understand the training methodology.

He has also interacted with the students enrolled in Covid Frontline Worker (basic care support) courses.

It was a productive and informative visit in presence of multiple dignitaries along with Orion Edutech officials (training partner).

Pandey said that launching training on a customised crash course programme in the healthcare sector was a great initiative taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"This programme aims to produce one lakh healthcare professionals to support staff shortage in the healthcare industry. Students will undergo OJT (on job training) after short training and stipend will be provided during OJT. Special care will be taken to maintain Covid protocol during the training," the Union minister said, wishing all trainees for successful completion of their training and working as healthcare professionals.

According to him, as COVID-19 has put the existing healthcare system under



Union minister MN Pandey interacting healthcare trainers at PMKK in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

extreme stress and the requirement of frontline workers in the country is more critical than before.

"Today, under the leadership and guidance of the prime minister on enhancing the capacity of Covid frontline workers across the country, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has decided to create skilled frontline professionals to support

the healthcare system. Orion Edutech is proud to be a part of the esteemed programme and contribute in the efforts to make a better and safer India," said the minister.

The PMKK Varanasi centre was launched as a model multi-skill training centre in 2015 and it was built as an aspirational and largest skill training centre in the country for promoting training on customised crash course pro-

grammes in the healthcare sector to train healthcare professionals in a fast-track mode. The centre has trained and placed more than 1,650 healthcare professionals till date. Keeping in mind its equipped centres and professional trainers, Orion intends to contribute its job-ready workforce to India's healthcare system through skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling initiatives.

The function was also attended by district coordinator of Skill Development Mission, Deena Nath Dwivedi, district manager Abhishek Singh, fellow (MSDE coordinator, IIM Bengaluru) Shubham, state engagement officer (NSDC) Prashant Katiyar, associated vice-president of Orion Edutech Somnath Acharya, general manager Abhijit Kundu and centre manager Anirban Biswas.

Ganga, Yamuna stable

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

The water level of Ganga and Yamuna was stable on Tuesday but if the release of water from the dams into the Ganga continues, the water level will start rising.

More than 3.31 lakh cusecs of water was released into the Ganga from Haridwar, Narora and Kanpur dams on Tuesday. Water has been released in Ganga continuously for the last three days. Due to this, there is a possibility of water entering the coastal kachhar in the coming days.

On the other hand, due to the spread of water on the sand of Sangam, the makeshift platforms were removed even on Tuesday.

The water level of Ganga stabilised on Tuesday and Yamuna's stream was also stable. People have breathed a sigh of relief from the fear of untimely floods, but the release of water from the dams still scares people.

The purohiths have been struggling for a week to remove the makeshift platforms and



other items from the Sangam. Due to the continuous release of water, people have started transporting goods to safer places. Dozens of shops and makeshift platforms were removed by Tuesday evening.

On the other hand, the difficulties are increasing due to the increase in the area of erosion in the Ganga at Phaphamau Ghat. According to Shaligram Pandey of Gangaputra Ghaatiya Sangh, if water continues to be released from the dams like this, there may be a danger of flood soon.

Pawan Shukla and Diwakar Pandey said that hundreds of makeshift platforms and temporary shops had been removed from Sangam in a week so far.

According to the Irrigation Flood Control Room, the water level of Ganga in Phaphamau was recorded at 76.70 metre at 8 pm on Monday. It added that the Ganga became stable late in the evening. Similarly, the water level in Chhatnag reached 71.57 metre. In Naini, Yamuna was stable with its water level at 72.36 metre.

SP workers for waiver of water, house taxes

Allahabad (PNS): The workers of Samajwadi Party demanded waiver of electricity bills, water tax and house tax for one year of the COVID-19 period. They said the people would get a lot of relief if the taxes were waived.

They said that during the COVID-19 period, people were faced with a financial crisis and in such a situation they would face a lot of problems in depositing the tax and therefore, the government should waive all taxes in the interest of the public.

The SP workers also demanded waiver of interest on EMIs. They also demanded financial assistance of Rs 5,000 per month to the needy, including daily wagers, street labourers and e-rickshaw drivers.

In a meeting held at the SP city unit office, the workers said that businesses had come to a standstill during the Covid-19 period and it would take a long time for the businesses to get back on track. They said in such a situation, small traders should get financial help from the government.

The meeting was attended by SP city unit president S Iftikhar Hussain, Ravindra Yadav, Vijay Vaish, Israr Anjum, Mahendra Nishad, Moin Habibi, Dinesh Yadav, Narendra Singh, GS Yadav, S. Mohd Askari, Mashhad Ali Khan, Abdul Samad, Mohd. Shariq, Manju Yadav, Shahid Pradhan, SP Srivastava, Pappu Pasi, Ashish Pal, Ashok Maurya, Harish Chandra Srivastava, Rakesh Verma, Azhar, OP Yadav, Bhola Pal, Sunny Gupta, Aaqib Javed Khan, Tahir Umar, Shyam Yadav, Ritesh Prajapati, and Pankaj.

NDRF organises health camp at ghat

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the 'Arogya Se Aapda Prabandhan' programme, the personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are providing free medical facilities from Rajghat to Assi Ghat under the supervision of Dr Pankaj Gaurav and Dr Amit Nandan Tripathi.

In this direction, a medical health and awareness camp was organised by the NDRF's medical team on Tuesday on the direction of Commandant Manoj Kumar Sharma.

They offered free health check-up and distributed medicines, along with thermal screening and checking of blood pressure, oxygen level and diabetes etc at Hanuman, Dandi, Shivala, Rajendra Prasad, Dashashwamedh, Sankatha, Gangamahar and Scindia ghats.

Besides, masks and sanitisers were distributed to the underprivileged and needy people through water ambulances at various ghats including Manikarnika.

The medical team members also tried to dispel the misconceptions related to Covid vaccine through counselling and administered the vaccine to the people by



NDRF personnel checking health of people at Ganga ghat in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

following the Covid appropriate behaviour.

Due to the monsoon rains in the state, the water level of river Ganga has started rising so the NDRF team at Dashashwamedh

Ghat is keeping an eye on it and providing health facilities to the local people at the ghats through water ambulance. The NDRF team members said that the campaign would continue.

NSUI protests against Gangster Act slapped on 10 students



NSUI activists staging protest near BHU Gate in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

PNS ■ VARANASI

The activists of National Students Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of All India Congress Committee (AICC), on Tuesday staged a protest in Lanka against the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act slapped by police on 10 students of Hindu Hostel of Prof Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, formerly known as Allahabad University.

They said the state government should withdraw the police action against these innocent hostel inmates immediately and threatened to launch a state-wide agitation if the demand was not met.

The NSUI activists in scores gathered at the main entrance gate of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here and extended their support to the students protesting against action under which the Prayagraj Police had slapped Gangster Act on 10 inmates of Hindu Hostel of Prof Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University.

They raised slogans against the state govern-

ment for the action against hostel inmates.

The police slapped Gangster Act against 10 inmates of the Hindu Hostel in connection with a violent clash that took place in May 2020 even when none among them was present on the spot at the time of the incident, NSUI state leader Akhilesh Yadav said adding that at the behest of the government, the police were harassing these students and their guardians even in the present COVID-19 period.

NSUI district president Rishabh Pandey said even one year after the incident, the police personnel were conducting raids at their residences of these students

NSUI state general secretary Ranjeet Tiwari said the government and police were harassing these innocent students just to conceal their failures. He said the NSUI would not let the government and police play with the future of these innocent students and demanded the government withdraw the police action at the earliest.

NSUI activists Abhishek Giri, Krishan Mohan Shukla, Shivam Chaubey, Ajit Chaubey and Ashutosh Kumar Mishra joined the protest.

BHU VC releases two books on Ayurveda

Varanasi (PNS): Banaras Hindu University Vice chancellor Prof VK Shukla released two books on Ayurveda at a function here on Tuesday.

The book titled 'Integrated Ayurvedic Pain Management' has been written by Prof DN Pande while the other book, 'Ayurvedic Chikitsa Ke Vaidic Aayam' (Vedic dimensions of Ayurvedic medicine) has been penned by assistant professor Dr Rakesh Kumar Jaiswal.

Prof Pande is head of Sangyahan department in Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU while Dr Jaiswal is also from the same department.

The book of Dr Pande focuses on management of painful conditions through integrated approach and it covers the different concepts of pain in Ayurveda and allopathy apart from the assessment and diagnosis mentioned in both the systems of medical sci-

ence. In this book, both medical systems are discussed by different eminent authors.

In Dr Jaiswal's book, there are brief descriptions about the four Vedas, along with medicine and related subjects described in them.

This book is basically for the general public and doctors who have very little knowledge of Vedas.

Earlier, in the same faculty, a national webinar on 'Yogayurveda for Adaptation and Well-being' was organised under the aegis of the Swasthavritta and Yoga department on the occasion of 7th International Yoga Day celebrated with the theme 'Be with Yoga, Be at Home'. About 270 scholars from over 18 states participated in it.

Speaking as chief guest, Prof VK Shukla emphasised the importance of Yoga and Ayurveda in lifestyle disorders and health promotion.

Guest of honour and

Director of IMS BHU, Prof BR Mittal, threw focus on the importance of Yogic practices in daily life for physical and mental well-being in the present COVID-19 times while dean of the Faculty of Ayurveda, Prof VP Singh, stressed upon the importance of Yoga and Ayurveda for health promotion and prevention of diseases.

Among the other speakers, Prof KN Dwivedi from Dravyaguna department highlighted the importance of aha, vihara and vichara for well-being along with their curative perspective while Prof KS Dhiman from Shalakyata Tantra department threw light on the role of Ayurveda and Yoga in well-being.

Chairman of the webinar and head of Swasthavritta and Yoga department Prof Neeru Nathani emphasised the significance of golden rules of swasthavritta and yoga for adaptation and revitalisation.

17 test positive in Varanasi

Varanasi (PNS): Varanasi reported 17 more novel coronavirus positive cases during the past 24 hours, taking the tally of confirmed cases to 82,199, as per the figures released by the health department on Tuesday evening. With no COVID-19 death reported during the last 24 hours, the death toll remained at 773. As many as 17 COVID-19 patients recovered during the past 24 hours -- 15 in home isolation and two in hospitals. With this, 81,270 COVID-19 patients have been cured in the district so far -- 74,995 in home isolation and 6,275 in Covid hospitals. The vaccination drive continued on Tuesday at 143 vaccination centres.

Environment conservation programme ends

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

The 15-day programme on environment conservation organised by the economics department of Ishwar Sharan PG College came to an end on International Yoga Day on Monday.

It was a huge initiative for mobilising students, research scholars, their parents and grandparents along with the common people of the nearby areas towards tree plantation and environment conservation at their homes and villages.

The event also spread awareness through a series of online events like special lectures series, quizzes and photography competitions.

At the valedictory session of the

programme, the team of faculty members and students visited and inspired people of Balkaranpur village in Soraon by distributing 101 fruit saplings and had them planted by the villagers.

This was in line with the suggestion of Governor Anandiben Patel during the golden jubilee celebration of the college, and it was translated by infusing the motivation in the faculty members by principal of the college, Prof Anand Shankar Singh, to adopt a village and spread awareness about various government schemes and programmes among the villagers.

Dr Ajay Kumar Srivastava from the economics department promised to include and adopt more villages in the future after the COVID-19 outbreak

subsidised. Convener of the programme, Dr Ved Prakash Mishra, said that there would be more emphasis on awareness about literacy, health and cleanliness of the people of the villages.

Gram pradhan of Balkaranpur, Rita Sahoo, expressed her willingness and happiness for such future endeavours of the college.

Dr Harsh Mani Singh and Dr Garima Maurya along with the research scholars of the department also extended support in the successful completion of this programme.

The completion of Environment Conservation Fortnight was announced by Prof Anand Shankar Singh through an online program.

Restricted OPD to open in SSH BHU from today

PNS ■ VARANASI

The OPD of Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will start opening, along with those of Trauma Centre and Faculty of Dental Sciences, from Wednesday.

After the surge in COVID-19 cases during the second wave, the OPD services at this biggest hospital of the region were suspended. Being the largest hospital between Kolkata and Lucknow, a large number of patients not only from different districts of Purvanchal (eastern UP) but also from adjoining states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh come here for treatment. The decision to open the OPDs at SSH, Trauma Centre and Dental unit was taken at a meeting of the Covid care and monitoring committee of the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), BHU recently. The meeting, presided over by IMS Director Prof BR Mittal had passed several resolutions including opening of OPDs with a limited number of patients from June 23.

According to SSH Medical Superintendent Prof Kailash Kumar, it was decided that the number of registration for general specialty as well as super specialty would be 50 while the registration of patients for specialty clinics of general specialty departments would be restricted to 25 patients. He said

this registration would be done up to 11 am or earlier if the limit of registration was over and the capping of limits also included follow up cases.

According to the decision, the outdoor patients and their attendants should follow Covid appropriate behaviour while the indoor patients would be admitted only after furnishing RT-PCR negative report of sample collected within 72 hours prior to admission.

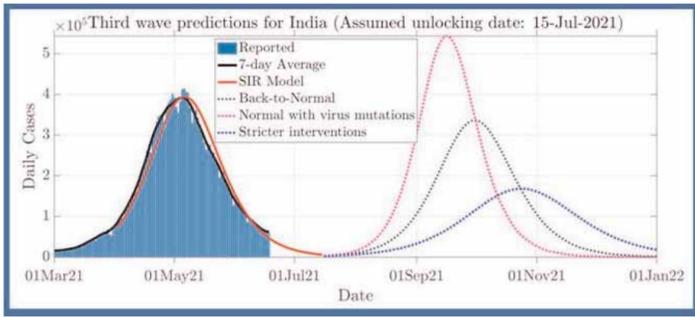
The operation theatres would be functional with only 50 per cent capacity but the Emergency OT would function as usual. The Special Ward 'A' would be made available for allotment to general patients as per rule while Special Ward 'B' would remain reserved for asymptomatic COVID-19 healthcare workers of the IMS BHU. The meeting also decided that the telemedicine OPD would continue and the consultant/ resident would collect/ return the mobile phone from Room No 116, NOPD Complex, on a daily basis.

The post-COVID-19 mucormycosis ward would be shifted to 5th and 2nd floors of the Centenary Super Specialty Block (CSSB) and an appropriate number of consultants and residents would be posted there by their respective duty roster committees. The 1st floor of CSSB building having 45 beds would be ready and reserved for COVID-19 associated mucormycosis patients.

Covid third wave peak expected around Sept-Oct: IIT-K study

PNS ■ KANPUR

A possible third wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in India is likely and it will peak between September and October this year, assuming India fully unlocks by July 12, says a study by Prof Rajesh Ranjan and Prof Mahendra Verma of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and their team, giving three scenarios. They said, "There is significant anxiety among policy makers and the public about the third wave. For the same, using the SIR model, we have constructed... three scenarios of a possible third wave using the epidemic parameters of the second wave. We assume that India is fully unlocked on July 15."



Third wave predictions graph of IIT-K professors

Pioneer

and in this case the peak would be lower than the second wave. Prof Rajesh Ranjan of physics department and Prof Mahendra Verma of aerospace engineering, along with their team at IIT Kanpur, provide daily COVID-19 forecasts in India on covid19-forecast.org. As per the assessment of the IIT Kanpur team, the second wave has waned significantly in almost every state except in some Northeast states like Mizoram, Manipur and Sikkim. The study notes that most-

ly the positivity rate is less than 5 per cent but Kerala, Goa, Sikkim and Meghalaya still have a positivity rate of more than 10 per cent. India's average daily case count has reduced significantly. As on June 19, it was 63,000 compared to the peak of about four lakhs. Most states have a daily Test Positivity Rate (TPR) less than the World Health Organisation recommended level (5 per cent). However, Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Meghalaya still have high daily TPR of more than 10 per

cent," they said. As per the study, India's daily Case Fatality Rate (CFR) has increased recently to 3.5 per cent but the cumulative CFR of the second wave is comparable to that of the first wave. "At present, the model does not include vaccination, which should decrease the peak significantly. Revised model with vaccination and with more recent data on the same is being worked out," the study says. Another study by IIT Kanpur on the third wave is expected to come by the end of this week.

Plea to promote organic farming

Kanpur (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has directed that all the agriculture universities of the state will focus on organic farming and take their research works to the agricultural fields. Krishi Vigyan Kendras will now be made better and fully equipped to promote organic farming in the current time so as to improve the profits of the farming community. This was stated by Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology (CSAUAT), Kanpur scientist Dr RK Kanaujia while addressing a virtual session on organic farming on Tuesday. He said despite the vast potential for organic production and marketing, its achievement on production, certification and export was low due to various reasons. He said the biggest drawback was lack of sufficient education on production with specific standards, lack of easily accessible information on organic methods, requirements and markets, lack of good consumer information on organic farming and organic food. He said the farm universities should extend help to farmers by holding interaction and provide information to farmers on how to switch over to organic farming. He said there was a need for an institutional approach and all farm universities of the state would be assigned a particular role in this drive.

He said the CSAUAT had decided to hold training and demonstration for skill upgradation under which farmers would be trained in soil fertility management, principles and practices of organic farming, organic input production technologies, use of natural resources etc. Dr Kanaujia emphasised on the awareness campaigns and said universities need to hold exhibitions to apprise farmers of the benefits of organic farming. He added that most of the organic inputs were produced locally reducing dependence on external inputs and the most widely used organic manure was vermicompost. He said the use of organic inputs reduced the input cost while the organically grown produce fetched additional price, leading to additional net income of the farmers.

Mau-BDTS spl to run on June 24 & July 1

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration in view of the long waiting list in the following special trains will be run for the convenience of passengers extend their running period. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved class and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention norms, CPRO PK Singh said. **BDTS-BARAUNI WEEKLY SPECIAL:** The 09005 Barauni Terminus (BDTS)-Barauni weekly special train will be run on June 25 for one trip. Likewise the 09006 Barauni-Bandra Terminus weekly special train will be run on June 27 for one trip. **UDHNA-DANAPUR WEEKLY:** The 09011 Udhna-Danapur superfast weekly special train will be run on June 28. The 09012 Danapur-Udhna

superfast weekly special train will be run on June 23 and 30 for two trips. **MUMBAI CENTRAL - SAMASTIPUR SPL:** The 09049 Mumbai Central - Samastipur special train will be run on June 24, 26, 28 and 29. The 09050 Samastipur-Mumbai Central special train will be run on June 23, 24, 26, 28, 30 and July 1 for six trips. **UDHNA-CHHAPRA WEEKLY:** The 09087 Udhna-Chhapra superfast weekly special train will be run on June 25 for one trip. The 09088 Chhapra-Udhna superfast weekly special train will be run on June 27 for one trip. **BANDRA TERMINUS-MAU SUPERFAST:** The 09099 Bandra Terminus (BDTS) - Mau Superfast weekly special train will be run on June 29. The 09100 Mau-Bandra Terminus weekly special train

will be run on June 24 and July 1 for two trips. **MUMBAI CENTRAL - BHAGALPUR SPECIAL:** The 09117 Mumbai Central - Bhagalpur special train will be run on June 25 for one trip. The 09118 Bhagalpur-Mumbai Central special train will be run on June 28 for one trip. **MUMBAI CENTRAL - BHAGALPUR SPECIAL:** The 09177 Mumbai Central - Bhagalpur special train will be run on June 23 and 30 for two trips. The 09178 Bhagalpur-Mumbai Central special train will be run on June 26 and July 3 for two trips. **RAJKOT-SAMASTIPUR SPECIAL:** The 09521 Rajkot-Samastipur special train will be run for two trips on June 23 and 30. The 09522 Samastipur-Rajkot special train will be run for two trips on June 26 and July 3.

CCSU V-C for continuous yoga practice

CORRESPONDENT ■ MEERUT

During the conclusion of the five-day-long yoga camp Vice-Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU), Professor Narendra Kumar Taneja, said yoga should be done not only on Yoga Day but daily. He said benefits of yoga come from continuous practice. By doing yoga the body, mind, intellect and soul are purified, he said. The yoga camp was organised by CCSU and Krida Bharti. Pro-Vice-



Chancellor Prof Y Vimala said yoga is a tradition of Indian life. Yoga Guru Swami Karmaveer Maharaj and Prasad Mahankar also spoke on the occasion. The yoga camp was conducted by Rajan. On the occasion Finance Officer Sushil Kumar Gupta, Prof AK Choubey, Prof Yogendra Singh, Prof Veerpal, Prof Mridul Gupta, Prof Alok Kumar, Manish Mishra, Dr Dushyant Chauhan, Dr Manoj Srivastava and others were present.

'Make preparation to meet the third wave challenge'

PNS ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh Child Rights and Protection Commission members Dr Sakshi Baijal and Dr Shuchita Chaturvedi, addressing the officials at collectorate on Tuesday, said in view of the apprehended third wave of COVID-19, every effort should be made for proper preparation to meet the challenge.

They said in every district hospital there should be a PICU and proper arrangement of oxygen should also be made. Dr Baijal said all other medical needs should be arranged well in advance. She said the state had launched the drive against communicable diseases thus every effort had to be made to ensure there was no spread of any vector-borne disease. She directed the names of all children who were rendered orphans by COVID-19 and their details should be uploaded on the Bal Swaraj Portal and all efforts should be made so that they were given the benefits as per the state government announcement. She said the DIOS should ensure that the school fees of COVID-10



Members of Uttar Pradesh Child Rights and Protection Commission, Dr Sakshi Baijal and Dr Shuchita Chaturvedi holding a meeting at the Collectorate on Tuesday

Pioneer

orphans are condoned. She said children involved in beggary should be identified and efforts should be made to admit them in schools. She expressed satisfaction at the pace of work in this direction. Prominent among those who took part

in the meeting were CMO Dr Nepal Singh, DPO Abhay Kumar and various officials from the labour department. Earlier both visited Rajkiya Bal Grah in Swarup Nagar, Subhash Children Home and held interactions with the inmates.

Woman slashes wrist, throat at house of her paramour

Kanpur (PNS): Amid a high-voltage drama, a woman slashed her wrist and throat at the house of her paramour when the latter refused to marry her, in CTS Colony under Kalyanpur police station on Monday.

Local police reached the spot and sent the injured woman to Barasirohi community health centre and took her paramour into custody. Kalyanpur Inspector Veer Singh said the man and woman were already married and she was insisting him to marry her but he refused. He said this had upset the woman and she slashed her wrist and throat with a blade. Singh said efforts were on to arrive at a compromise on the issue.

According to reports, Shiv Nath Singh alias Kanhaiya, a native of Krishna Nagar in Gorakhpur, lives in CTS Colony in Kalyanpur with his wife and children. Some time ago, Shiv Nath had an affair with a local

woman and soon both decided to sacrifice their life for each other. When the issue came to the notice of Shiv Nath's wife, she strongly opposed her husband's move and this sometimes culminated into exchange of heated arguments between them. In a bid to cool down his wife, when Shiv Nath asked the woman not to meet him for a few days, she insisted for the marriage. On being refused, she threatened to commit suicide. Upset from the humiliation by his wife and paramour, Shiv Nath had migrated to his native place Gorakhpur and switched off his mobile phone. But after coming to know about his return to Kanpur on Sunday, the woman reached his house on Monday morning and staged a high-voltage drama, accusing Shiv Nath of cheating her. When the local residents tried to make her understand the situation, she slashed her wrist and throat with a blade.

Hallmarking to benefit customers: Ahmed

PNS ■ KANPUR

President of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, MP Ahmed, said on Tuesday that hallmarking would mainly benefit customers and expressed hope that it would bring in transparency in the trade. He said when one purchased hallmarking jewellery, the buyer was confident of the purity of the gold purchased. He said apart from this it also offered higher resale or exchange value of gold articles as quality standardisation led to price parity. Ahmed said the hallmark was certification and confirmation of the quality purity of gold and left no doubts in the mind of consumers. He said mandatory hallmarking safeguarded the consumer against lower karatage of

gold jewellery and ensured that customers were not misled. He added that the purity of hallmarking gold could not be contested by another jeweller when a consumer wanted to scrap it or exchange old jewellery. He said the consumer could, with all the details of the jewellery piece, take the seller of the piece to the court. Ahmed said currently hallmarking had been introduced in 256 districts, which had BIS-recognised assaying and hallmarking centres for gold jewellery and artefacts in 14, 18, and 22-carats and 20, 23 and 24-carat items would be covered over the next two phases. He added that BIS had granted liberty to jewellers to sell their karatage, if they had the necessary machinery and expertise to manufacture it. He advised the purchasers to look at the four signs of hallmarking on the gold articles with the help of a magnifying glass. He said the four signs were BIS Mark, purity in carat and fineness for gold, assay centre's identification mark and number, jeweller's identification mark and number. He said the customer should always take the bill of the purchases and verify that it mentioned hallmarking cost (not more than Rs.35 plus GST per piece for gold), net weight of the precious metal, purity in carat, and fineness, on the bill. He welcomed the step of the government and said it was meant to protect the interest of the customers which till date were ignorant of the purity of gold and purchased on the face value of the jeweller.

LIC introduces Shagun gift card

PNS ■ KANPUR

The Indian traditional pattern of social contact has since ages been the most popular method of gifts given in social functions. Keeping this aspect in view, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has decided to make this trend even more effective by introducing Personalised LIC Cards Services Ltd on RuPay platform. This will in fact be a prepaid gift card christened Shagun. This was stated by the Life Insurance Corporation of India Chairman MR Kumar. He said the main objective to introduce the Shagun gift card was to convert the cash market into a plastic market and then further change it into a gift card market. He said in near future this gift card would be promoted in a big way and the LIC in this way would extend further sup-

port to the Digital India Campaign. Kumar said the gift card was prepaid and facilitated space for messages and was completely ready to be handed over as a gift at any point of time. He said the card could be purchased from Rs 500 to Rs 10,000 and could be obtained easily and had a validity period of three years. He further said this gift card would be acceptable at all commercial centres and also had the facility of on-line purchase. He said this card up to Rs 5,000 was valid even "sans any contact". The chairman said some of the essential features of Shagun card were its transaction history, card balance and facility of being auto-linked to mobile app M-Passbook. He said keeping in view that it was a new feature introduced for the benefit of the masses, the LIC had decided to set up an in-

house customer support team which would be functional 24 hours a day and seven days a week. He said the LIC gift card Shagun was launched with the strong support of IDBI and through Ru-Pay platform. He said it would be available for sister concerns and internal use as well. He said in the coming days it would be available for giving gifts. He said a vigorous promotional drive would be launched so that this project reached the grassroots level, especially with the support of the LIC's huge infrastructure. He said the card could be used at any point of time and was pre-paid. Prominent among those present on the occasion were MDs, LIC Cards Services Ltd, CEO Rakesh Sharma, IDBI MD Dilip Absey, and NPCI MD and CEO and several others.

Man accuses father-in-law of deceiving him to marry transgender, lodges FIR

Kanpur (PNS): A man lodged an FIR against his in-laws and the mediator for misleading him to marry a transgender at the Kakadeo police station. He alleged the accused deceived him by keeping him and his family in dark about this fact at the time of the marriage. According to reports, the Shastri Nagar resident who married a woman of Panki area on April 28, came to know about his wife's condition when he tried to consummate the marriage. He said the genitals of his wife were not fully developed due to which she was unable to establish physical relations with him. During the medical examination, the report revealed that she was a transgender. Kakadeo Station House Officer Kunj Behari Mishra said "after the marriage, the bride was found uncomfortable in making relationships with the groom on the pretext of some health issues. Gradually, the man began to suspect something wrong and took his wife to a gynecologist for a medical check-up. To his surprise, he was informed by the doctor that his wife was a transgender". He then lodged the FIR with the police along with the medical report of his wife on Sunday. Police have registered the FIR under Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code against the bride, her parents and the mediator. The SHO said, adding that investigations were on in the matter.

DRM administers pledge to staff

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On International Yoga Day on Monday under the aegis of Personnel department, in Varanasi division and its major stations, training centres and diesel lobbies yoga programmes were organised on the theme 'Stay with Yoga, Stay at Home.' In the badminton court of Officers' Club in Lahartara under the leadership of DRM Vijay Kumar Panjiyar, principal branch officers, senior railway officers and their families did yoga practice. On the occasion the DRM while administering the pledge to officers and employees present there to adopt yoga said it improves physical and mental health and an individual works without stress. Describing yoga as necessary in the present environment, he said railway personnel by making yoga an integral part of their lives and keeping themselves physically and mentally healthy should ensure their active participation in uninterrupted train movement. During the yoga practice, the officers and employees did pranayama and other forms of yoga. Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Sameer Paul conducted the programme and proposed the vote of thanks. In addition to the Officers' Club located in Varanasi division, Zonal Training Centre, Ghazipur, Diesel Lobby Mau, Varanasi, Gorakhpur and Chhapra besides Railway Hospital Varanasi, DEMU shed Aurihar, RPF barrack Manduadih, all RPF posts and major stations yoga programmes took place. During the yoga practice, the rules for prevention from Covid-19 were followed, PRO Ashok Kumar said.



Two killed in mishaps

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Two persons died in road mishaps on Monday. Akhilesh Singh Yadav (18), a resident of Bhaunsod Balaay Pahad, going on a motorcycle on Mirzapur-Rewa highway died on the spot when was hit by an unknown vehicle at Dramondganj hillock under Halia police station. The victim was identified with the help of the documents of the motorcycle. The police took his body for completing the legal formalities. Besides, under Lalganj police station Abhishek Dwivedi (31), a resident of Banwari under Manda police station in Prayagraj, was injured when he was hit by a freight carrier while going on his motorcycle on Mirzapur-Rewa highway. Police reached the spot and was making arrangements to send the victim to a hospital but he died on the spot. The police took the body for completing the legal formalities. Meanwhile, in another incident, Ramasrey was taken back on finding his wife, Parvati (31), missing in Judvariya Dhurikar village under Madihan police station on Monday. He launched a search for her with the help of locals. Her body was found in a well. No case had been registered at the police station in this connection, last reports received here said. **MEETING:** A meeting of state level empowered committee under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission Scheme was held through the Zoom app on Monday which was presided over by chief secretary RK Tiwari. In the district it was attended by DM PK Laxkar, CDO Srilaxmi VS and PD DRDA Rishimuni Upadhyay. In it DPR for approval of cluster at Patehrakala was discussed. Under the scheme multipurpose building was to be constructed along with complex for skill development, 10 projects related to livelihood and minicenter for excellence by Horticulture department. As per the PD DRDA, other issues discussed were related to construction of a hall, kitchen, a community toilet etc.

Schools to reopen after maximum people get jab: Govt



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Anticipating a third Covid-19 wave in October, the Government on Tuesday said that schools, shut since March last year due to the pandemic, will only re-open once a significant portion of the population has been vaccinated against coronavirus.

The Government had last week also cancelled CBSE and ICSE exams for Class 10 and 12. An alternative marking system has been proposed, amended with suggestions from parents and students, and accepted by the Supreme Court.

"Schools require teachers and children to sit together. It gives the virus an opportunity to spread. We can only have this (re-opening of schools) when a large part of the population is protected," Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, said at a press conference on Tuesday here.

"Until it (the spread of the virus) is predictable it is hard to re-open," he said.

Dr Paul also warned against re-opening schools because of the declining trend in daily new cases, saying:

"The lull right now is because of restrictions. When they are removed cases may spike."

The re-opening of schools, colleges and other places of education will "always be under active consideration... but the overall guidance is to be cautious", he added.

Some states like Telangana have said they will re-open schools and colleges from July 1. Others, like Delhi and Kerala, have said they will continue with virtual classes for now.

"We should also remember that in many countries schools reopened then outbreaks were reported and they had to shut them down again. We don't want to put our children and teachers in that situation unless we have more confidence that the pandemic won't harm us," the government has been saying in the past few days.

The government has said next month's sero survey will include 14,000 kids over the age of six.

In a recently released sero-survey by the AIIMS, the seroprevalence, presence of virus-fighting antibodies

Covaxin shows 77.8 % efficacy in phase III trials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has shown 77.8 per cent efficacy in Phase III trials, according to sources in the Government's panel of experts which has reviewed the phase 3 clinical trial data of the country's indigenous Covid-19 jab. The phase 3 data will now be reviewed by the top drug regulator, Directorate of Controller General of India (DCGI).

The data will also be reviewed by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 23 June for approval. Once approved by WHO, India will be able to export Covaxin to many developed countries like the UK and the US.

The trial was conducted on 25,800 subjects, and the data submitted to the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) showed the vaccine was "well-tolerated". Covaxin had received emergency use approval (EUA) by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) in January 2021, and has been used to vaccinate the population since. However,



the WHO is yet to give it EUA approval, restricting its export to many developed countries like the US and the UK.

"According to the data submitted, Covaxin has shown 77.8 per cent efficacy in the last stage trials conducted on 25,800 subjects. It is almost the same as the interim efficacy," a member of the SEC on the condition of anonymity said. "The data shows the vaccine was well-tolerated."

The SEC, however, did not discuss changing the status of the vaccine from emergency use to full licensure, which means regular approval or marketing authorisation of the vaccine under normal circumstances, the sources said.

A panel of independent experts, SECI advises the DCGI on applications seeking approvals for new drugs, vac-

cines and clinical trials. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech had submitted the data to DCGI over the weekend.

In March, Bharat Biotech had announced an interim efficacy of 81 per cent from the trial, where participants received vaccine or placebo in a 1:1 ratio.

The company had then said the clinical trial will continue through to final analysis, to gather more data and to further evaluate the efficacy of Covaxin. The final data is known to be more accurate and reliable.

Besides Covaxin, Covishield, developed by AstraZeneca and manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India and Russia's Sputnik V are the other two vaccines being currently used in India.

against Sars-CoV-2, among children was found to be 55.7% across five study sites, in comparison to 63.5% among adults.

Last month, over 8,000

children and teenagers were found to be tested positive for Covid-19 in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar, accounting for about 10 per cent of cases in the district.

Children below 18 have not yet been cleared to receive a Covid vaccine, although Bharat Biotech has begun trials for 2-18 year old candidates with Covaxin.

7 who took AstraZeneca shots in Kerala develop rare neurological disorder

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seven persons—seven from Kerala in India and four from the UK—who received the AstraZeneca-Oxford Covid-19 vaccine, have developed a rare neurological disorder called Guillain-Barre syndrome, clinicians in India and England have reported in two separate studies.

The studies, published in the peer-reviewed medical journal *Annals of Neurology*, described an unusual variant of Guillain-Barre syndrome characterised by prominent facial weakness.

All the 11 cases were among people who had received that vaccine 10-22 days earlier. Seven cases were reported from a regional medical center in Kerala, India, where approximately 1.2 million people were vaccinated with the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine till April 22.

The cases occurred within two weeks of the first dose of vaccination. "Six out of the seven patients progressed to areflexic quadriplegia and required mechanical ventilatory support," said Bobby Varkey Maramattom, from the Department of Neurology, Aster Medcity, Kochi, Kerala.

"The frequency of GBS was 1.4 to 10 fold higher than that expected in this period for a population of this magnitude. In addition, the fre-



Four cases were reported from Nottingham, England, in which approximately 7 lakh people received the same vaccine

quency of bilateral facial weakness, which typically occurs in less than 20 per cent of GBS cases, suggests a pattern associated with the vaccination," he added.

Four cases were reported from Nottingham, England, in which approximately 700,000 people received the same vaccine. These were characterised by bilateral weakness with a paraesthesia variant of GBS occurring within three weeks of vaccination with the Oxford-AstraZeneca SARS-CoV-2

vaccine. "This rare neurological syndrome has previously been reported in association with SARS-CoV-2 infection itself. Our cases were given either intravenous immunoglobulin, oral steroids, or no treatment," said Jonathan Rhys Evans, Department of Neurology, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, UK.

"If the link is causal it could be due to a cross-reactive immune response to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and components of the peripheral immune system," wrote the authors of the report from England.

"We suggest vigilance for cases of bifacial weakness with paraesthesias variant GBS following vaccination for SARS-CoV-2 and that post-vaccination surveillance programmes ensure robust data capture of this outcome, to assess for causality," Evans said.

Be prepared for imminent 3rd wave: Rahul to Centre



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday warned the Government of an imminent third wave of the coronavirus pandemic and urged the Centre to prepare for it. But not before hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who, he charged, was busy with West Bengal polls when many died due to lack of oxygen.

"The whole country knows that a third wave will strike," Rahul said at a virtual Press conference during which he also released a "white paper" on the pandemic.

Rahul said the aim of this white paper on Covid-19 is not finger-pointing at the government but to help the nation prepare for the third wave of infection.

However, he criticised Modi for conducting election rallies for Assembly polls amid the second wave of coronavirus.

"In the second wave, many died needless deaths. We couldn't provide them oxygen cylinders. Prime Minister's tears cannot wipe the tears of families who lost family members. His tears cannot save them, oxygen can. But he did not take it seriously as his focus was on Bengal," Rahul said.

He also said that the government's management of the first two waves of the pandemic was "disastrous", adding

BJP: 'Gyani Baba' dishing out 'pearls of wisdom to PM'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a riposte to the Congress white paper on Covid-19 management, the BJP on Tuesday took a sharp jibe at Rahul Gandhi saying the "Gyani Baba" dishing out "pearls of wisdom" to the Prime Minister should introspect why Congress-ruled States caused the second wave of coronavirus, why they didn't accept vaccines initially and also share the actual count of deaths?

The BJP accused the Congress of "derailing" country's fight against the pandemic.

Union Minister and BJP leader Smriti Irani, who had defeated Rahul in Amethi in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, tweeted saying: "While Gyani Baba is dishing out pearls of wisdom to the Honourable Prime Minister, he may like to introspect on the following - Where did the second wave start? - Congress ruled states. Which states had a huge percentage of India's cases and

deaths? - Congress ruled states."

"State with the highest case fatality rate - Congress ruled state. States with maximum noise against vaccines creating vaccine hesitancy - Congress ruled states. States which had an astronomical positivity rate during the second wave - Congress ruled states", the Minister alleged.

She also said that it was the Congress-ruled states that demanded decentralisation of vaccine procurement and later did a "U-turn".

"Who demanded decentralization & then did a u-turn? - Congress. Which states did the worst in terms of vaccination yesterday even as the country created a world record? - Congress ruled states. It is darkness under the lamp," she said.

Making another attack on the Congress after Rahul released the white paper, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra the opposition party of twisting India's fight against Covid-19.

gested the ramping up of health infrastructure in the country as the Government was "not ready" during the first two waves of the pandemic.

that his intention was to provide the government "information and insights on what went wrong".

The Congress MP sug-

Judge recuses himself from hearing Narada case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Justice Indira Banerjee's recusal from hearing West Bengal post election violence cases, another judge from the State Justice Aniruddha Bose recused himself from the politically sensitive Narada case on Tuesday.

Later, the Supreme Court's new Bench comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheswari decided to hear on June 25 the appeals of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the state Law Minister Mooloy Ghatak against the June 9 order of the Calcutta High Court which had refused to take on record their affidavits on the CBI's transfer plea related to the Narada scam case.

The appeals, initially listed before a vacation bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Aniruddha Bose, were referred to another bench by Chief Justice N V Ramana during the day itself after Justice Bose recused from the hearing without citing any reason. The bench of Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheswari, to which the cases were referred, took up the matter in the afternoon. Justice Saran said that the matters are fresh for the bench and

they needed to go through the files before the hearing.

On being pointed out that earlier the top court had requested the high court to defer the hearing till it decides the appeals, the bench said that it would pass the same order urging the high court to postpone the scheduled hearing there on June 23 and wait for two more days. The bench then enquired from Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, and senior Advocates Rakesh Dwivedi and Vikas Singh whether they will be able to conclude the arguments on Friday. The lawyers answered in the affirmative.

Initially, the state government and the law minister had moved the top court with their appeals and later the chief minister filed her plea against the June 9 order of the high court.

On June 9, a five-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, hearing CBI's application for transfer of the Narada sting tape case from the special CBI court to the high court, had said it will decide later on considering the affidavits by Banerjee and Ghatak on their respective roles on the day of the arrest of four leaders in connection with the case.

India, US to start air drill from today in Indian Ocean region



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Indian Ocean has emerged as one of the most strategically important regions and China is flexing its maritime muscle there, the IAF will take part in an exercise with the US there for two days starting Wednesday.

Giving details here on Tuesday, IAF officials said as a strategic outreach exercise with the defence forces of friendly foreign countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), IAF and the US Navy will participate in an exercise to be carried out with Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group (CSG).

The Exercise in the area of responsibility of the Southern Air Command will see the IAF forces operate from bases under four operational commands and will include Jaguars

₹583 cr deal with Goa shipyard for 2 pollution control vessels

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to the Indian shipbuilding capabilities, the Defence Ministry on Tuesday signed a contract with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the construction of two pollution control vessels (PCV) for the Indian Coast Guard at a cost of about ₹583 crore.

The ships are being procured to significantly augment the capability of the Indian Coast Guard to

respond to incidents of oil spills at the sea and also boost the force's pollution response mechanism. These two vessels are scheduled for delivery by November 2024 and May 2025 respectively.

The defence ministry said the "special role ships" will be indigenously designed, developed and built by GSL. The acquisition will significantly augment the capability of ICG to respond to oil spill disasters at sea, it said.

and Su-30 MKI fighter jets, AWACS, AEW&C and Air to Air Refueller aircraft. The US CSG is expected to field F-18 fighters and E-2C Hawkeye

AEW&C aircraft. The exercise will be carried out south of Thiruvananthapuram, on the western seaboard, over two days.

UK posts liaison officer at Indian Navy's Information Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signaling the growing importance of India's maritime prowess and its significance in the Indian Ocean region, the UK on Tuesday posted a liaison officer at the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre (IFC). It is the key hub of maritime security information relating to the Indian Ocean.

The Indian Navy established the IFC-IOR in 2018 in

Gurugram to effectively keep track of the shipping traffic as well as other critical developments in the region under a collaborative framework with like-minded countries. Australia and USA have already deputed their officers to this centre.

The positioning of the British officer at the centre comes ahead of a planned visit to India by the UK's Carrier Strike Group, led by aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth.

"Lt Commander Stephen

Smith will be based full-time at the Centre, working directly with the Indian armed forces and fellow liaison officers from partner nations to enhance maritime domain awareness in the region," the British high commission said here on Tuesday.

Admiral Tony Radakin, Chief of Naval Staff of the UK, described it as a significant step towards maritime domain awareness by both India and Britain.

No relief from scorching heat, humidity for next 7 days: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Monsoon in large parts of northwest India would actually be delayed, quite contrary to the forecasts about its onset a fortnight earlier than its scheduled date or slightly before time. With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday saying that further progress of the monsoon into Delhi and parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab is "unlikely" during the next seven days, it is clear that even the usual onset date of June 27 would not be met in the region.

This also means there

would not be any relief from the scorching heat and humidity anytime soon.

India has received 37 per cent excess rainfall during the monsoon season so far. As per the IMD data, northwest India has received 71.3 mm rainfall against the normal of 40.6 mm rainfall during the period, a surplus of 76 per cent. Central India has registered 145.8 mm rainfall against the normal of 92.2 mm, an increase of 58 per cent. The southern peninsula has received 133.6 mm rainfall, which is 24 per cent more than normal, while east and north-east India witnessed 253.9 mm rainfall against the normal of 224.8 mm during the period.



On the advancement of the monsoon, the IMD said that further advance of southwest monsoon into remaining parts of Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi and Punjab is likely to be slow as large scale features are not favourable.

"The forecast wind pattern by the numerical models do not indicate any favourable condition for sustained rainfall over the region during the forecast period," it said.

"Southwest monsoon has so far covered most parts of the country except parts of Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab," it said.

"The salient feature of the monsoon in 2021 is its progress to eastern, central and adjoining northwest India earlier than normal (up to 7-10 days). However, further progress over the remaining parts of the country is unlikely during the next seven days," it said.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said light rains are likely in Delhi-NCR around June 26 but the region will have to wait for monsoonal showers.

The MeT office had earlier predicted that the wind system may reach Delhi by June 15, which would have been 12 days early. Normally, the mon-

soon reaches Delhi by June 27 and covers the entire country by July 8.

Last year, the wind system had reached Delhi on June 25 and covered the entire country by June 29, according to Skymet Weather, a private forecasting agency.

Maresh Palawat from Skymet Weather said chances are that Delhi will get monsoonal showers only around June end.

"Westerly winds have been blocking the advance of the monsoon into the remaining parts of northwest India for some days. These are expected to persist for at least one week," he said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

The bulwark

An Opposition front is seemingly in the making, but its united impact on the BJP remains to be seen

It is best to think of the meeting of like-minded parties and individuals convened by Sharad Pawar and Yashwant Sinha as being exploratory. For, the invitation issued for the meeting is not clear about the real purpose of the deliberations at this juncture, who all are expected to put up a united political front to confront the BJP and the scope of the political strategy. The meeting between Pawar and political strategist Prashant Kishor preceding the invite gave rise to speculations in the entire Opposition camp. There is also ambiguity about the status of the Congress in this scheme of things because the invite did not go to the party but to three senior leaders who are part of the 'G-23' group. Prashant Kishor clarified that what they will look for is not the Third Front model. Be that as it may, the meeting comes just as the political parties gear up for the next round of Assembly elections, including in Uttar Pradesh. The second wave of Coronavirus has left most parties, in power in one State or the other, scarred by exposing their inadequacies in handling the pandemic. Both are good enough reasons for the politicians to take stock of where they stand individually and what it means to shape themselves into a united forum to challenge the BJP in 2024.



There is enough on the table even for an exploratory meeting. The regional parties are strong in their respective States, but lack national presence or relevance. Most of the leaders, save a few,

do not have a national presence either. Many of them fight the Congress in regional politics. Some, like the YSRCP and the TRS, are partners with an umbilical rivalry. The true postures of these parties will become apparent in the next presidential election due next year. The national parties suffer from a shrinking area of influence even as they confront one another, like in Kerala, or are whipped by a regional force, like in West Bengal. Some of these parties are not even attending the meeting. Second, they will need to project a correct perception of their relations with the Congress. A non-Congress, anti-BJP bloc of regional parties is one thing. An anti-Congress, anti-BJP forum of regional parties is another. For, the latter, by definition, shares anti-Congressism with the BJP. The Congress, despite its dipping political fortunes, remains the fulcrum of anti-BJP politics, given that in both 2014 and 2019 it was the runner-up in upwards of 200 seats. It all depends on whether the Congress can retain Punjab and fare better in other States in the upcoming elections. The real issue, however, is coming up with an alternative to brand Narendra Modi's political narrative that has an equal resonance nationally and a post-pandemic economic agenda. What the exploratory meeting can afford not to do is wait for the law of diminishing utility to eventually kick in against the BJP.

PICTALK



Devotees offer prayers on the occasion of Bada Mangal, at Bade Hanuman Ji temple near Sangam, in Prayagraj

Fuel on fire

The Government should exercise fiscal discipline rather than exploiting oil prices to shore up revenue

While every graph of economic indicator is nose-diving, oil prices and inflation are defying gravity. This month, diesel also breached the ₹100-mark in Rajasthan. In seven States, petrol is selling for more than ₹100. This is indeed not a good sign for economy, which is reeling under severe recessionary pressures. Manufacturing is down, employment is low, and so is the purchasing power of the common man. The petrol-diesel prices put an extra burden on him. Oil prices push the prices further up as these have a cascading effect on economy. The Government is in no mood to relent. Moreover, volatility in the international market limits its options. These two factors are responsible for putting the fuel prices on fire. The prices were hiked 43 times this year. This has indeed helped the Government collect more revenue. The excise collection during April-November 2020 was at ₹1,96,342 crore, up from ₹1,32,899 crore during the same period in 2019. The central taxes increased from ₹10.39 in May 2014 to ₹32.9 in June 2021! This explains the dynamics of oil pricing. Before Modi



Government, crude oil price constituted two-thirds of the fuel price, now taxes have taken that spot. The central and State Government taxes account for nearly 54 per cent of its cost. The Government is justifying the high excise on petrol and diesel by saying that it needs money to spend on welfare schemes. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan concedes that it is problematic for people, though quickly adding that the Government spent ₹35,000 crore on vaccines. So, apparently the logic is that people who drive should foot the bill. But then it is not only the cars and bikes that consume petrol and diesel. The trucks that carry freight and diesel pump sets that push water into the fields also run on diesel. That was one reason that diesel was always priced less but that consideration has been done away with. This naturally translates into higher input costs for farmers and a higher cost of farm products. However, adjusting excise and other taxes could control the fuel prices. With the Opposition struggling, there are hardly any street protests. Each time, the increased new price becomes normal. The Government has done little to tighten its expenses. It has failed to avoid wasteful expenditure on projects of little value. Fiscal discipline is missing in the Government. The petrol price hike comes in handy.

Corona's orphans: Kids of a lesser god



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

Stung by the tragedy of one or both parents succumbing to the virus, thousands of children stare at an uncertain future, if they have one

Even as the country braces for the third Corona wave which experts feel would be tougher on children, the pandemic has already taken a toll. On June 1, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) reported in the Supreme Court more than 9,300 Corona orphans in India. These include more than 1,700 children who lost both the parents. The actual figure could be many times this number as the data is yet to be collected from across the country.

Unfortunately, as of now, the Government does not have a plan in place to rehabilitate these children. Let alone a plan, it has not even identified these children yet. Many children have been orphaned due to circumstances created by the pandemic. Many people lost their lives while going back to their hometowns during the lockdown. They carried children in their arms or dragged them on wheeled suitcases. Many never reached their destinations and the children were left in the middle of nowhere. Who can forget the pictures of a toddler trying to wake up her dead mother on a railway platform? Of course, these children would not figure in the Government data of Corona orphans.

The pandemic has already killed the dreams, aspirations and hopes of the Corona orphans. Their number is now in thousands, if not lakhs, after the second wave. Many people who succumbed to Corona could not even have the last word with their children. Some children are still waiting for their parents to return. They are fed on lies that their parents have "gone to work" and will "return with goodies". The day they find out the truth would be shattering for them.

Often, especially in the second wave, both the parents died within a few days of each other. The child was left alone without any support system to fall back upon. Even those survived by a single parent do not have the normal childhood left for them. The person who got them toys,



played with them, attended their PTMs is gone. A bleak future and hardships await them; the innocence all set to yield at the altar of the real world.

Corona took away the children's childhood as it did their innocence. Most people at a tender age wilt under pressure. If it is a child, the chances of her/his being altered for life are high. For children, losing parents is traumatic. Parents fulfil not only the needs of a child but give him a sense of security which is important in the growing up years. Most of the behavioural traits of the children get consolidated in the first seven years. Losing parents during that time scars children, changing their worldview forever.

It is the time when we, as a nation, need to step up our efforts to take care of such children. The parents cannot be replaced but, in the least, the child can be given a sense that there is someone who cares and provides him support. It could be his relatives, adopting parents, non-governmental organisations, or the Government itself.

The moot question is, what next for these children?



THE PERSON WHO GOT THEM TOYS, PLAYED WITH THEM, ATTENDED THEIR PTMS IS GONE. A BLEAK FUTURE AND HARDSHIPS AWAIT THEM; THE INNOCENCE ALL SET TO YIELD AT THE ALTAR OF THE REAL WORLD

Indeed, adoption comes up as the most natural way these children could be given a second lease of life. But there are some inherent dangers. The chances of fake adoptions are high. Child traffickers see it as an opportunity. Often, the children get adopted by traffickers and sold off.

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) handles adoptions in the country. Strict guidelines govern the process of adoption in India. Any adoption without following this process is illegal. It puts children at high risk. Many adopted children are exploited, trafficked and abused. Moreover, the adoption rate in India is rather low. Only around 4,000 children are adopted every year; so few children would find a family that way.

An abandoned child is an easy prey for traffickers. In this situation, it becomes the responsibility of each one of us to help a child in distress. At the least, one could call children's helpline number (1098) and inform the authorities about the child in distress. Or, one can also contact the district Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) or inform the local police sta-

tion. The CWC decides the fate of these children — whether the child needs to go to a long-term or short-term shelter or for adoption. The Prime Minister has announced that such children will get a monthly stipend once they turn 18 through a corpus fund of ₹10 lakh under the "PM-CARES for children" scheme. But the important question is how a child, says age two, survives 16 years to take that stipend!

Foster care is another option that can be explored and encouraged. The kith and kin of the deceased can take care of the child. But then that, again, is not free of problems. Many a time, the children end up working as domestic helps, their education stopped, their rights curtailed. There must be an agency to monitor such cases. There is an urgent need to tackle this issue on priority so that these children do not fall into the wrong hands. We, as a nation, have to think out of the box to help these children of a lesser god!

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AN UNCHARITABLE DECISION

Sir — We have only heard of insurance companies trying to find some loopholes in the claim applications and find some lame excuses to deny claims made against policies issued by them. It is shocking that the Central Government is trying to follow the tactics of such insurance companies to deny *ex gratia* compensation to the family of those who died of COVID-19 on the plea that this is not a one-time disaster and that such a huge payout will empty the disaster funds available with the Government.

While we have witnessed the Government defending the expenditure of more than ₹20,000 crore for the not-so-urgent and not at all necessary Central Vista project and a luxury mansion for the Prime Minister, the Government has denied compensation to the victims' families. What is the use of dumping the available funds in developing new infrastructure for medical facilities without paying the amount to the bereaved families that need immediate support in the absence of the breadwinner of the family?

The argument of the Government to deny COVID-19 compensation is uncharitable when it has taken decisions to give huge tax benefits to the corporates and also to write off non-performing assets in banks amounting to millions of rupees.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

BEFORE THE NEXT WAVE HITS

Sir — The strains of the third wave of Coronavirus would fall upon us during October, according to medical experts. So, it is the foremost duty of the States and the Centre to be prepared to combat it from all directions. Further, people should strictly follow guidelines, protocols and advisories issued by the authorities concerned. It is also suggested that stress should be on the production of vaccines, medicines and other healthcare facilities. Hopefully, this third wave may be outcast from the country without putting any deleterious impact on the health of people.

If the Government takes their advice and opens up schools, then what will hap-

Blue Dot Network versus Chinese BRI



The G7 Summit held recently in the wake of the COVID-induced crisis will be remembered for certain positive outcomes like adoption of the US-backed "Build Back Better World" plan to support middle and lower income countries in high-quality infrastructure. What is surprising is that it took several years to visualise and conceptualise a network akin to the Chinese model. In its quest to contain the overgrowing influence of belligerent China in the world panorama. Considering the emergence of Indo-Pacific as the centre of the rivalry between the US and China, there is an urgent need to explore alternative areas of collaboration. The Blue Dot Network (BDN) is one such area. The concept of BDN, envisaged under the Trump Administration in 2019

at the 35th Asean Summit in Bangkok and proposed in the recent G7 Summit under the auspices of the OECD, can serve as a counterweight to the Chinese BRI unveiled in 2013.

As China has acquired the dubious distinction for unsustainable debt creation in participating countries, this network can serve as a balancing act to curb the hegemonic designs of China. The BDN's objective is to assist smaller countries in developing quality infrastructure, to promote open and transparent investments, which was found wanting in the latter, as they did not adhere to international certification standards. Moreover, the BRI in the guise of economic and infrastructural development has put several participating countries of Asia and Africa in a debt trap. Sri Lanka and Pakistan are glaring examples of this.

The BRI's intention to develop deep sea ports in the Indo-Pacific region is also ambiguous. Australia pulled out of BRI in April 2021 on grounds of violation of territorial integrity. As one of the ardent critics of BRI, India must play a significant role in shaping a global discourse in order to counter China.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

pen? The issue is not just whether children get severe illness, it is about children easily becoming the link in the transmission chain in society. What is needed is a temporary restructuring of society where everything from travel, commerce, education, Government interactions, food supply and so on isn't hampered in the aftermath of the virus.

Krishnan Subramaniam | Kozhikode

OPERATE THE INTEGRATED VACCINE COMPLEX

Sir — It is perplexing why the Centre is still tightlipped over the reopening of the Integrated Vaccine Complex on the outskirts of Chennai in Chengalpattu for the production of antibodies for COVID-19 though there have been strong representations from the DMK-led Government and as well by Chief Minister MK Stalin himself during his recent meeting with Prime Minister

Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Handing over the unit on lease will not only enable commencement of production quickly and ramp up the vaccination drive for all age groups in the State, but also will help cater to the needs of other States. Meanwhile, it pains one to read media reports that this state-of-the-art unit, which is built in a sprawling area of 100 acres and which reportedly has a capacity to produce one billion doses of any vaccine annually, has been lying idle for years due to issues like shortage of staff, pending wages, and suchlike issues. At a time when people are scurrying for jobs, it is grossly unfair for a big vaccine-producing unit owned by the Central Government to have been quiescent for long.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

SOUND BITE

It (the Government) failed to learn from the lessons and response models of other countries which had been hit by the pandemic.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi

Easing measures at the border will happen as we see our communities increasingly become safe.



Canadian Health Minister — Patty Hajdu

#gotvaccinated. Join the fight back. Now loading: Antibodies...



Actor — Kartik Aaryan

I am humbled to have this opportunity of representing India at the Olympics for the third time, this time as team captain.



Hockey midfielder — Manpreet Singh

Way to go Team AP. More power to you. Congrats to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his inspiring leadership.



Actor — Chiranjeevi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

NEED FOR HOLISTIC EDUCATION POLICY

An important position should be given to education, and particularly inclusion, in the scheme of things



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Gender disparity and non-inclusivity is a major hindrance in India's pursuit to achieve the 4th Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring quality education for all. India lags behind China and other BRIC nations in terms of inclusivity and participation in education. China in particular has near universal levels of enrolment in lower secondary and a majority completing upper secondary in most parts of the country. India has a smaller proportion of its population enrolled at secondary levels than Brazil, Russia, and China. The only region of the world with lower participation at secondary school level than India is sub-Saharan Africa. India witnesses a huge gender disparity and access to education in India remains widely problematic, with great variations between and within states, and large differences in participation between identifiable sub-populations like Scheduled Castes and Tribes, girls, and some Muslim communities. Nationally, there is a high initial enrolment rate in the first grade. However, about 30 per cent of them fail to complete Grade V (primary), about 50 per cent drop out before completing Grade VIII (upper primary), and 60 per cent do not finish Grade X (lower secondary). This is prevalent in northern India, particularly in the BIMARU states. Gender plays an important role in education in India. According to



the Census of India 2011, only 26 per cent of girls completed secondary education as compared to 50 per cent of boys. The Annual Status of Education Report (Rural), 2019 also found that preference is given to the education of sons in comparison to daughters, by enrolling the former in private schools, which are considered better than government schools in imparting education.

In India, both direct and indirect costs of schooling are high and the lower household incomes of the majority of the population makes participation in secondary schooling a big challenge. Household surveys show the poorest allocate less than five per cent of expenditure to education. Unsubsidised secondary schooling is not available to most rural households and is considered a prerogative only for rich urban households. The present globalized world and integrated economies have brought to the fore the core importance of education. It plays a crucial role in empowering individuals and pave way for transformation of the society at large. Education has a major role in making the youth improve their social standing by alleviating their poverty-ridden condition. One of the main measures of human development is access to education, and as the Human Development Report 2012 mentions, the growth in index is associated with growth in public spending on education. Therefore, a fundamentally important position should be accorded to education, and particularly inclusion, in the entire scheme of things. The importance of quality education and the urgent need of equality in education should be ingrained in the policy. As education is imperative for empowering people, equality and inclusivity have to be crucial for any education policy to facilitate and drive widespread social transformation in the society. The government should create a framework based on equality of condition, which has five dimensions of 1) resources; 2) respect and recognition; 3) love, care and solidarity; 4) power; and 5) working and learning. With equality of condition as a base, gender equality framework can be extended by adding the aspect of inclusion, which, in addition to parity, equity and equality, can become the pillars for achieving quality education for all. It is proposed that these four elements of the gender equality framework have to be guided by another framework — strategy, practices, resources and governance — to develop a holistic and integrated education policy.

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

Big Tech vs Governments: The road ahead

A few unaccountable and unelected corporations having the power to silence or amplify an opinion and directing a country's political discourse doesn't bode well



ANIL K ANTONY

Great corporations exist only because they are created and safeguarded by our institutions, and it is, therefore, our right and duty to see that they work in harmony with these institutions." These were the words of the 26th US President Theodore Roosevelt during his 1901 State of the Union address. "There is a widespread conviction in the minds of the American people that the great corporations known as trusts are in certain of their features and tendencies hurtful to the general welfare," he wrote before he used the Sherman Antitrust Act to break up monopolies including the largest railroad conglomerate, J.P. Morgan's Northern Securities, and the largest oil company, Rockefeller's Standard Oil.

The US since then has used updated antitrust legislatures to clip the wings of giants including AT&T and Microsoft which were deemed powerful enough to stifle free-market competitiveness. The extent of influence of Big Tech companies that drive today's internet-technology-driven world is much more profound.

None of us can imagine a life where we do not use one of their products. They have aided in the creation of a hyper connected planet where any individual with technical know-how, irrespective of other differences, can access the internet and find myriad avenues for acquiring knowledge, form communities, create or get access to digital products and services, and be a part of a global digital economy. They act as instruments of economic and social mobility for billions.

Their valuations also unsurprisingly increased with their rapid expansion. Currently, eight of the world's largest ten companies based on their market capitalisation are from this industry. They exceed the GDP of most nations. Some of their balance sheets have surplus cash greater than the reserves of most countries. Apple, for instance, has a valuation exceeding \$2 trillion, and cash reserves of nearly \$200 billion.

The growth of this sector has been immune even to the Covid-19 pandemic that wrecked economies as people's reliance on digital tools increased during lockdowns. This sector's growing prominence has also led to some of the great maladies of our time, including never-seen-before inequalities, and democratic recession.

Integration of Artificial Intelligence, and Automation into Big Tech products has cut down the need for new jobs, leading to jobless growth. The same platforms that disrupted mass communication have ironically been used by governments with authoritarian tendencies to further extend state control. They have also aided in the rise of many demagogues to power across the world.

As these tech titans continue their market conquests, run-ins with governments have become commonplace. The past year saw fronts opening across continents between these companies and various governments. Antitrust lawsuits are the biggest battlegrounds. Major Big Tech firms including Google, Amazon, Apple, Alibaba, Facebook, and Flipkart are facing multiple investigations across the United States, European Union, China, and India.

This is mainly because the Big Tech firms have evolved into the gatekeepers of the Internet. They have userbases in hundreds of millions. Customers and enterprises cannot access many markets without going through their tech infrastructure. These companies set up large barriers of entry, or promote unfair business practices that charge



OUR DIGITAL ECONOMY IS DRIVEN BY DATA AND ALL THE BIG TECH FIRMS DERIVE TREMENDOUS VALUE FROM THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THEIR MYRIAD USERS. WE SHOULD SEE MORE COUNTRIES MAKE LAWS THAT WOULD MANDATE THE BIG TECH FIRMS TO SHARE SOME OF THE WEALTH CREATED WITH THE MAIN CONTRIBUTORS, INCLUDING PUBLISHERS

(The writer is a tech entrepreneur, public policy commentator, and works on the Congress party's digital initiatives. The views expressed are personal.)



excessive platform fees, limit competition, and kill smaller businesses.

Very recently, five bills have been moved with bipartisan support in the US House of Representatives meant to prevent big tech firms from favouring their products and services through their platform over their competitors. These proposed laws could separate their primary platform from their other line of businesses. Interestingly, US President Joe Biden has named Lina Khan, a very vocal Big Tech critic, as the country's top regulator.

The EU has proposed a sweeping set of legislation through the Digital Markets Act (DMA) that has clauses to fine an offender up to 10 per cent of their annual global revenue for anti-competitive behaviour. Provisions are included to break up repeat offenders. Aspirants are vying to be modern-day Teddy Roosevelts on both sides of the Atlantic.

India in 2018 itself had banned e-commerce companies from selling products they have an equity interest in through their platforms. The latest CCI probes are based on allegations of them circumventing these laws through circuitous business structures.

Google and Facebook, meanwhile, locked horns with the Australian Government over a new law that requires these tech companies to pay news companies for any original content they share on their platforms. After an altercation that resulted in a week-long blockade of the country's news links on Facebook, local news publishers started receiving payments. These developments will have conse-

quential effects.

Our digital economy is driven by data and all the Big Tech firms derive tremendous value from the data collected from their myriad users. We should see more countries make laws that would mandate the Big Tech firms to share some of the wealth created with the main contributors including publishers. Upcoming technologies like Blockchain would enable micro-payments to be made to every person contributing value in cyberspace. Big Tech's unassailable influence was highlighted during the months following the 2020 US Presidential elections when Donald Trump and some of his most vocal supporters were locked out of all social media platforms in a united effort by Big Tech. What can happen to the all-powerful President of the United States could happen to anyone. Angela Merkel of Germany called Trump's bans 'problematic'.

The prospect of a few unaccountable and unelected corporations having the power to silence or amplify any voice or opinion based on their predilections and thereby directing a country's political discourse does not bode well for any democracy. Since then, Uganda banned Twitter before their Presidential elections, and Nigeria banned Twitter after the social media platform deleted a tweet of their President.

Twitter and the Indian Government are at loggerheads over its intermediary status. Tech platforms have created internal systems for flagging and deleting questionable content posted on their platforms. However, there are repeated altercations with

authorities. India could again take a leaf out of the EU, which through its newly proposed Digital Services Act (DSA) makes it mandatory for all platforms to reveal to regulators currently opaque areas of tech platform functioning including possible dissections of their proprietary algorithms, and requires clear-cut mechanisms on filtering or removing content. Penalties up to six per cent of the company's turnover, and even suspension of service await non-complying offenders.

The tech sector, whose role and impact would only increase with time, requires broad, standardized, holistic regulations including well-defined penalties. Policy ambiguity would only create avenues of Government overreach. Regulatory bodies and tax authorities could arbitrarily open probes based on individual whims and fancies.

India's ruling party and the Union Government have many a time been accused of using these very same platforms for spreading false narratives, and for the propagation of underhanded political practices. Our Parliamentary Committee of IT should take the initiative in creating watchdog institutions under their purview, comprised of domain experts, with independence and authority to check Government excesses in tech policy.

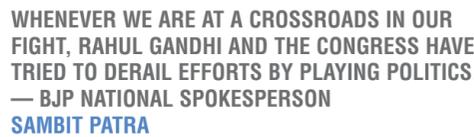
Institutions and regulations thus formed are essential to ensure that our markets and political processes remain free and fair, and our digital landscape remains safe places for open discourses, without being subjected to digital colonization.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

90 PER CENT OF PEOPLE WHO DIED...BIGGEST REASON WAS LACK OF OXYGEN. THE PM'S TEARS CAN'T WIPE FAMILIES' TEARS....
— CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



WHENEVER WE ARE AT A CROSSROADS IN OUR FIGHT, RAHUL GANDHI AND THE CONGRESS HAVE TRIED TO DERAIL EFFORTS BY PLAYING POLITICS.
— BJP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON SAMBIT PATRA



Sasikala planning a return to Tamil Nadu politics?

Age and circumstances are against her but she will not throw in the towel easily and will weigh her options to see how she can stage a comeback

Will V.K.Sasikala, a one-time close confidante of late Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalithaa, make a comeback? It is a question mark as politics is changing fast in the state. 'Chinnamma', as she was known, has had her ups and downs in the past four decades. She enjoyed power as Jayalalithaa's shadow but she never did understand that she was only the shadow, not Jayalalithaa. She took over the party and nearly became Jaya's successor in 2017 but the BJP spoiled her plans and she instead went to Parappana Agrahara jail in Karnataka for four years.



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

before going to the Bengaluru jail and thumped the memorial platform thrice with her palm vowing to avenge her enemies. Now, after her release and a month after the AIADMK lost power in the Tamil Nadu polls, she is all set to return to active politics. In a recent alleged, phone conversation with one of the party cadres, Sasikala confirms her plans to take the political plunge.

She has been sending confusing signals about her future. Significantly, 2021 is not 2017. Much has changed in the past four years. Her two hand-picked leaders -former chief ministers O.Panneerselvam (OPS) and E.Palaniswamy (EPS)—have captured the party and they do not want



her to return. Sasikala had been involved in separate power tussles with both leaders earlier.

The intensifying feud between EPS and OPS even after the electoral defeat and Sasikala's come-back plans are threatening to break the party again. EPS pipped OPS to the post of the leader of

opposition after a literal show of strength: the former had more legislators backing him. Sasikala, on the other hand, sees an opportunity in the two leaders' tussle to avenge her setbacks.

Though she cannot contest until 2027, there is no legal ban to head a party. It is a mystery why Sasikala announced her retirement from politics in March and why she wants to come back now. The timing she has chosen is also significant because the AIADMK is still struggling to come to terms with the loss of power. The cadres, especially EPS backers, are opposed to her emerging as a power centre once again. EPS is one of the big hurdles for her return to the AIADMK because he

senses a threat to his position in the party.

The 'leaked' audio clip of an alleged conversation between Sasikala and one of her supporters has gone viral, creating a flutter about her imminent return. In the clip she is heard saying, "we will for sure streamline the party...certainly, I will come". And this as well: "You don't worry at all. Sure. We will resolve all the problems in the party. I will come. I will definitely come. You take care and be safe." For now, she has sent enough signals to her supporters that she is ready and waiting. Will Sasikala achieve her ambition? Though age is against her, those who know her believe she will not throw in the towel easily and will

weigh her options to see how she can stage a comeback.

The second hurdle is her own corrupt image. Her first effort to float an outfit AMMK through her nephew, TTV Dhinakaran, flopped in the recent assembly polls even though he initially won the R.K.Nagar assembly by-poll in 2017. Now she wants to find a place for herself in politics.

Thirdly, there still are other cases against her pending in the courts. She is particularly troubled by a case involving the purchase of properties with demonetized currency. With a Union Government and the State Government hostile to her she is skating on thin ice.

Fourthly, according to insiders, Sasikala is in no

hurry as her target is the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. She wants to get back into the BJP's good books by that time and establish herself and her nephew as players by using her money power. She wants to do this either by dividing the AIADMK or expanding her nephew's AMMK. Being the backroom player and Jayalalithaa's shadow in Tamil Nadu politics since the 1980s, Sasikala knows the ins and outs of Dravidian politics. She and her family were called the "Mannargudi mafia" in Jaya's time.

Chinnamma's future hangs in balance for now. It depends on many factors. Where one week is long in politics, another three years is too long.

Sitharaman meets Infosys officials

REVIEWS TECH GLITCHES ON NEW I-T E-FILING PORTAL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday reviewed with Infosys officials the technical glitches that continue to mar the new income tax e-filing portal.

Sitharaman, along with Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj, CBDT Chairman Jagannath Mohapatra and other senior ministry officials, went point by point on the issues facing the new portal with officials of Infosys - the vendor which developed the site.

While there was no official word on what transpired at the meeting, a statement issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)



Sitharaman said "the technical glitches shall be addressed fast".

ICAI representatives attended the meeting on Tuesday.

The portal launched on June 7 continued to face glitches, including longer logging in time, inability to generate OTP for Aadhaar validation, non-availability of ITRs for past years.

Several stakeholders have

submitted written inputs highlighting the issues facing the portal as well as areas that need to be fixed.

The stakeholders have also highlighted weak user interface, inability to view old demand, grievances and intimation orders as the issues that need to be fixed. The ICAI in a statement issued after the meeting said that it has been asked to provide its continuous support and inputs to CBDT and Infosys, in resolving the issues, as early as possible.

"The Income Tax Department said the new portal was aimed at making compliance more taxpayer-friendly, however the technical glitches shall be addressed fast, for convenience of all," the ICAI statement

Sensex ends flat, retreats from 53,000-mark on profit-booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex ended on a flat note after scaling the 53,000-mark on Tuesday as investors booked profits at higher levels.

A depreciating trend in the rupee also weighed on sentiment, traders said. After touching a lifetime intra-day peak of 53,057.11, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 14.25 points or 0.03 per cent higher at 52,588.71, marking its third straight session of gains.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 26.25 points or 0.17 per cent to close at 15,772.75.

Maruti Suzuki, which was the biggest laggard in Monday's session, topped the Sensex gainers' chart on Tuesday with a jump of 5.25 per cent. L&T, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Titan, Tata Steel and Bajaj Auto were the other winners, advancing up to 2.20 per cent.

Rupee slumps for second day

Mumbai: The Indian rupee depreciated 27 paise to close at 74.37 against the US dollar on Tuesday in its second straight day of losses following a stronger dollar overseas and elevated crude oil prices. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened weak at 74.18 against the American currency, lost further ground and finally closed at 74.37, showing a fall of 27 paise over its previous close.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India, HUL, IndusInd Bank and Sun Pharma were among the major laggards, dropping up to 1.91 per cent.

Markets opened strong on the back of global cues and pick-up in the pace of vac-

Gold gains marginally to ₹46,213; silver declines ₹66,389

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Tuesday gained ₹45 to ₹46,213 per 10 gram, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹46,168 per 10 gram. Silver declined marginally by ₹86 to ₹66,389 per kilogram from ₹66,475 per kilogram in the previous trade.

PTI

BRIEFS

EU INVESTIGATES GOOGLE'S CONDUCT IN DIGITAL AD TECH SECTOR London: European Union regulators have launched a fresh antitrust investigation of Google, this time over whether the US tech giant is stifling competition in digital advertising technology. The European Commission said Tuesday that it has opened a formal investigation into whether Google violated the bloc's competition rules by favouring its own online display advertising technology services at the expense of rival publishers, advertisers and advertising technology services.

HARSH VARDHAN UNVEILS "MY JOYS AND SORROWS - AS A MOTHER OF A SPECIAL CHILD"

New Delhi: Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr HarshVardhan launched "My Joys and Sorrows - as a Mother of a Special Child", a book written by the widely published author Krishna Saksena, on Sunday. The Minister said the book is an epitome of the bravery and endurance of a mother, in the best tradition of Indian motherhood. The writer, a teacher by vocation, emotionally said that at this juncture of her life she is very much satisfied with the way she has been able to nurture her son Shiv.

INDIA, FIJI SIGN MOU FOR COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

New Delhi: India and Fiji on Tuesday signed an agreement for co-operation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar and Fiji's Minister of Agriculture, Waterways & Environment Mahendra Reddy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Fiji. The MoU was signed in a virtual meeting, an official statement said. The MoU will remain valid for a period of five years. Speaking at the event, Tomar said India has helped all the countries during the Covid pandemic under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The prime minister has focused on agriculture and the development of villages from the very beginning, he added.

India's crude output slips 6.3% in May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's crude oil output fell 6.3 per cent in May after state-owned ONGC produced nearly a tenth less due to cyclone "Tauktae", government data

showed on Tuesday. Crude oil production at 2.43 million tonne in May was 6.32 per cent lower than 2.6 million tonne output in the same month last year, according to the latest data released by

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the nation's biggest producer, reported a massive 9.63 per cent drop in output at 1.5 million tonne "due to conditions

created by cyclone Tauktae", it said. Severe cyclone Tauktae slammed the western coast last month disrupting economic activity. ONGC's main oil and gas producing fields are in western offshore.

Average return of small cap funds in last 1 year stands around 100%

IANS ■ MUMBAI

As a small cap and midcap funds continue their out-performance amid the pandemic, an ICICI Securities report has said that the category average return of small cap funds

have been around 100 per cent in the past one year. Small cap funds and midcap funds continue to outperform since last one year with category average return of small cap funds at around 100 per cent in the last one year," it said. Further, the

credit risk funds and medium-term funds are outperforming as a stable yield environment led to higher return in these higher YTM funds. Also, global funds have seen underperformance in the last one year as Indian markets have seen outperformance,

noted the report. Within large cap-oriented ETFs, Nifty Next 50 and Sensex Next 50 have seen outperformance over Nifty 50 ETFs since the last six months. Smart Beta ETFs like NV 20/Low Vol 30, Quality 30, among others have underperformed.

Financial market data table including NIFTY 50, BSE 500, and NIFTY NEXT 50 indices, along with a Rupee vs Dollar chart and a list of top gainers and losers.

Political crisis worsens in Nepal

SC quashes appointment of 20 Cabinet Ministers

Kathmandu: The political crisis deepened in Nepal on Tuesday after the Supreme Court quashed the appointment of 20 Ministers by beleaguered Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, invalidating his two Cabinet expansions since the dissolution of the House of Representatives, according to a media report.

A division bench of Chief Justice Chandra Shumsher Rana and Justice Prakash

Kumar Dhungana said that Cabinet expansions after the dissolution of the House were unconstitutional and hence, the Ministers cannot discharge their duties, a report in the *Kathmandu Post* said.

With the order, there are only five ministers left in Oli's Cabinet, including the Prime Minister, it said.

The court passed the judgement on petitions filed on June 7 by six individuals, including senior advocate Dinesh Tripathi, demanding that the Cabinet expansions by the caretaker Government be quashed.

Oli, 69, who is heading a

minority Government after losing a trust vote in the House last month, expanded his Cabinet on June 10 and June 4, inducting 17 ministers, amid widespread criticism and the ongoing political crisis in the Himalayan nation. Three State Ministers were also appointed.

"The Supreme Court has issued an interim order asking not to allow the ministers appointed after the House dissolution to function," said senior advocate Tripathi.

The Supreme Court has cited Article 77 (3) in its ruling to quash the appointments. It states if the Office of the Prime Minister falls vacant after the

Prime Minister fails to win a vote of confidence or resigns, the same Council of Ministers shall continue to act until another Council of Ministers is constituted, the report said.

The development comes when the Supreme Court is hearing the case regarding the reinstatement of the House of Representatives, which was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari on May 22 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli.

Oli last week defended his government's controversial decision to dissolve the House of Representatives and told the Supreme Court that it is not

up to the judiciary to appoint a premier as it cannot undertake the legislative and the executive functions of the state.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 last year after President Bhandari dissolved the 275-member House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party.

In February, the Supreme Court reinstated the dissolved House of Representatives, in a setback to the embattled Prime Minister who was preparing for snap polls. **PTI**

Biden meet with Ghani to ensure Af never again becomes safe haven for terrorists: WH

Washington: US President Joe Biden is looking forward to a meeting with his Afghan counterpart Ashraf Ghani during which the two leaders will discuss ways to ensure Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for terrorist groups who pose a threat to America, the White House has said.

Biden would meet Ghani at the White House on Friday for the first face-to-face interaction ahead of the withdrawal of the remaining US and NATO forces from the war-torn country by September 11.

"The President looks forward to welcoming him to the White House for a meeting on

Friday. I expect their focus of their conversation will be to continue to discuss how we can work together to ensure that Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for terrorist groups who pose a threat to the US homeland," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Monday.

Their conversation will also be about how they can work together to continue to implement humanitarian assistance, other assistance that the United States remains committed to, even as the US works to draw down its troops from Afghanistan.

At the Pentagon, the Defense Department said that

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and the military leadership "are constantly looking at the pace we're going at, and the capabilities we have, and the capabilities that we're going to need throughout to complete the withdrawal.

Biden has directed the Pentagon to withdraw troops from Afghanistan by September 11 this year.

The high-level meeting between Biden and Ghani will take place as the Taliban insurgents have in recent weeks captured dozens of new districts in Afghanistan and both sides are said to have suffered heavy casualties. **PTI**

Pak won't host American bases as it may lead to 'revenge attacks': PM Khan

Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan has ruled out hosting American bases in Pakistan for military action inside war-torn Afghanistan, fearing it might lead to his country being "targeted in revenge attacks" by terrorists.

In an opinion piece in the Washington Post newspaper ahead of US President Joe Biden's meeting with top Afghan leaders at the White House later this week, Khan also questioned the efficacy of such US bases in Pakistan.

"We simply cannot afford this. We have already paid too heavy a price," Khan said, amid reports that the US continues to focus on Pakistan for a military base in the region.

Elaborating the reasons for not giving nod the US to have bases in Pakistan, which were earlier allowed after 9/11 to coordinate operations in Afghanistan, the prime minister said, "If Pakistan were to agree to host US bases, from

which to bomb Afghanistan, and an Afghan civil war ensued, Pakistan would be targeted for revenge by terrorists again."

According to media reports, the US used the Shamsi air base in Balochistan to carry out hundreds of drone strikes since 2008. The drone strikes focused primarily on suspected Al Qaeda operatives in mountainous tribal areas, but also crossed the border into Afghanistan.

"If the United States, with the most powerful military machine in history, couldn't win the war from inside Afghanistan after 20 years, how would America do it from bases in our country?" Khan asked.

Khan, however, underlined that Pakistan and the US have the same interests in Afghanistan: a political settlement, stability, economic development and the denial of any haven for terrorists. **PTI**

Come for a 'friendly' visit, not to probe rights violations in Xinjiang: China to UNHRC chief

Beijing: China on Tuesday politely declined UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet's call for a "meaningful access" to verify the "serious" reports of human rights violations in the restive region of Xinjiang, saying she is welcome for a "friendly visit" but not to pursue a probe with "presumption of guilt".

The US and the EU besides

other countries have accused China of committing a genocide against the minority Muslim Uygurs in Xinjiang and called for an international probe by human rights groups.

In her address to the 47th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday, Bachelet said, "I continue to discuss with China modalities for a visit, including meaningful access, to the Xinjiang

Uyghur Autonomous Region, and hope this can be achieved this year, particularly as reports of serious human rights violations continue to emerge."

China has been vehemently refuting allegations of internment of millions of Uygurs in mass detention camps, which were officially termed as education camps, in a bid to wean them away from religious extremism. **PTI**

Durable peace in Afghanistan requires genuine 'double peace': Jaishankar

United Nations: A durable peace in Afghanistan requires a genuine "double peace" both within and around the country, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the UN Security Council on Tuesday as he asserted the need for "zero tolerance" for terrorism including cross-border terror.

During a UN Security Council debate on the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Jaishankar also pressed for a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire in the war-torn nation to ensure immediate reduction in violence and protection of civilian lives.

"A durable peace in Afghanistan requires a genuine double peace. That is, peace within Afghanistan and peace around Afghanistan. It requires harmonising the interests of all, both within and around that country," he said.

"For enduring peace in Afghanistan, terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries must be

dismantled immediately and terrorist supply chains disrupted. There needs to be zero tolerance for terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including its cross-border one," he said in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

"It is equally important to ensure that the territory of Afghanistan is not used by terrorist groups to threaten or attack any other country. Those providing material and financial support to terrorist entities must be held accountable," he added.

Referring to last week's report of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the situation in Afghanistan, Jaishankar said the report is clear that intra-Afghan talks have not resulted in a reduction of violence in Afghanistan.

But on the contrary, violence has only increased, especially after May 1 as the country has been witnessing targeted attacks on religious and

ethnic minorities, girl students, Afghan security forces, Ulemas, women occupying positions of responsibility, journalists, civil rights activists and youth.

"It is therefore crucial that the international community and, in particular, this Council presses for a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire to ensure immediate reduction in violence and protection of civilian lives," he said.

The UNSG's report noted that the security situation in Afghanistan "continued to deteriorate". Between February 12 and May 15, the United Nations recorded 6,827 security-related incidents, a 26.3 per cent increase from the 5,407 recorded during the same period in 2020, it said.

India has been supportive of all the efforts being made to accelerate the dialogue between the Afghan government and the Taliban, including the intra-Afghan negotiations, Jaishankar said.

26/11 TERROR ATTACK: US court to hold in-person extradition hearing of Tahawwur Rana on Thursday

Washington: A federal US court is all set to hold on Thursday an in-person extradition hearing of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana, who is sought for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. A team of officials from India is believed to have arrived in the US for the proceedings that will take place in a federal court in Los Angeles. US District Court Judge in Los Angeles Jacqueline Chooljian in her order on April 5 had moved the in-person extradition hearing of 59-year-old Rana to India from April 22 to June 24. The United States government, in multiple submissions before the court, has made a declaration in support of the "United States' Surrebuttal in Support of its Request for Certification of Extradition." **PTI**

Palestinians, Jews clash in Jerusalem

Jerusalem: Palestinians and Jewish settlers hurled stones, chairs and fireworks at each other overnight in a tense Jerusalem neighbourhood where settler groups are trying to evict several Palestinian families, officials said Tuesday.

The threatened evictions fuelled protests and clashes in the runup to last month's 11-day Gaza war and pose a test for Israel's new governing coalition. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

NO COMPROMISE ON ARTICLE 370, 35A: GUPKAR LEADERS

She said earlier there was a suggestion that only Dr Farooq would represent PAGD in the June 24 meeting but now there is a consensus that all those who have been invited will go.

"We are not against the dialogue. My late father Mufti Muhammad Sayeed has always advocated dialogue for resolution of issues. I believe New Delhi should have released all political prisoners for creating an atmosphere for talks but it didn't," she said. "Now we will demand the release of political prisoners as there are many who are ill in jails. We will also seek immediate shifting of prisoners back to J&K jails from various Indian prisons," she said.

Another Gupkar Alliance member, Muzaffar Shah, said, "There can be no compromise on Article 370 and 35A."

After the Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A it is for the first time mainstream leaders from Jammu and Kashmir have been invited by the Prime Minister to discuss the political scenario without any pre-conditions.

Four former Chief Ministers National Conference president Dr Farooq, his son Omar Abdullah, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and PDP president Mehbooba have been invited for the talks along with former deputy Chief Ministers Tara Chand, Muzaffar Hussain Beig, Prof Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta.

Supremo of the Panthers party Prof Bhim Singh, JKAPNI party President Syed Altaf Bukhari have also received the invitation to attend the meeting.

students and also result in increasing the uncertainty until the exam of improvisation is conducted and the results are declared". The bench said that if students are given the option of internal assessment then as per the schemes, their results will be declared by July 31 and thereafter they can opt for improvisation, if their marks are less.

Therefore, the suggestions given cannot be accepted, the bench said, adding that the boards have taken a conscious decision to cancel the Class 12 exams, which is in larger public interest.

YOGI BREAKS BREAD WITH DEPUTY

The meeting assumes importance because a few days back Maurya had given a statement that the next Chief Minister of UP, if the BJP comes to power, will be decided by central leadership. This statement was seconded by another Maurya, Swami Prasad Maurya, who hinted that Assam like formula can be replicated in UP where election is fought under one's leadership and another leader becomes CM.

Sources in the BJP claimed that senior RSS leaders brokered peace between Yogi and Maurya. "The presence of Santosh and Krishna Gopal in that lunch-on meeting is a reflection of Sangh's efforts to bring a patch up," he said.

It is no secret that backwards, who form almost 32 per cent of the votes, are not happy with Yogi style of governance. They believe that Maurya, who is backward by caste, and was front runner for the post of Chief Minister in 2017, was sidelined in the last four and a half years. On many occasions the CM even held a review of the Public Works Department, the department held by Maurya, without informing the Minister. "Look at the timing of this lunch meeting. The media is already speculating about the blow hot blow cold relation between Yogi and Maurya and a smiling family picture will help in dispelling the doubt," the BJP leader said.

Later, the RSS leaders held a meeting with the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues in the BJP party headquarters which was attended by both Deputy Chief Ministers too.

SC REFUSES TO INTERFERE WITH CLASS XII ASSESSMENT

The bench also noted the submission of Attorney General KK Venugopal, assisting the court in individual capacity and also appearing for the Centre, that University Grants Commission (UGC) will issue directives to all the colleges and varsities that admissions be made after the declaration of results by all the boards -- CBSE, CISCE and State boards.

The top court, which dealt with all the major objections of the interveners -- Uttar Pradesh Parents' Association, and second compartment and private students -- said the scheme propounded cannot be doubted on the mere apprehension of manipulation of marks by the CBSE schools to favour their own students.

The bench rejected the submission of senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for UP Parents Association, Lucknow, that option to students for external examination as given in the CBSE's scheme should be offered at the very initial stage to both the school and the students and the results should be declared together.

It said after hearing the views of Venugopal, "We are of the view that this suggestion cannot be taken forward. This would result in denial of an option to the

CAPTAIN WINS TRUST OF PARTY

It has also been learnt that the matter has also reached the party's interim president Sonia Gandhi.

What is more, the final resolution to the prevailing crisis was also expected by the end of this week in terms of a new Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) with the likely change in party leadership in the State.

However, there is still uncertainty over the role the high command will decide for Sidhu, whose unremitting diatribe against his own party's Government and now against the Chief Minister is the key reason behind the formation of Kharge committee. Sources informed The Pioneer, that the Chief Minister has told the panel that Sidhu's statements are "unacceptable" and his continuous tirade would "dent" the party's poll prospects besides lowering the party cadre's morale.

Amarinder, during the meeting, raised strong objection to the fact that at the time when all out efforts were being made to resolve all the prevailing issues that too by the party high command, why Sidhu was going ahead criticising the Chief Minister, and the party with such comments.

It has been learnt that the three-member panel and the high command were also of the view that Sidhu should not have made a public statement.

explaining reforms undertaken by the States.

The first reform under the 'One Nation One Ration Card' policy required State Governments to ensure that all ration cards in the State under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) were seeded with the Aadhaar number of all family members and that all Fair Price Shops had Electronic Point of Sale devices.

The main benefit from this is that migrant workers can draw their food ration from anywhere in the country.

The second reform, the Prime Minister said aimed at improving ease of doing business, required states to ensure that renewal of business-related licences under 7 Acts is made automatic, online and non-discretionary on mere payment of fees.

Another requirement was implementation of a computerised random inspection system and prior notice of inspection to reduce harassment and corruption under a further 12 Acts.

This reform (covering 19 laws) is of particular help to micro and small enterprises, who suffer the most from the burden of the 'inspector raj'.

Modi said 20 States completed this reform and were allowed additional borrowing of Rs. 39,521 crore.

The third reform required states to notify floor rates of property tax and of water & sewerage charges, in consonance with stamp duty guideline values for property transactions and current costs respectively, in urban areas. This would enable better quality of services to the urban poor and middle class, support better infrastructure and stimulate growth.

HC STAYS LAKSHADWEEP ORDER TO REMOVE BEEF

The judges asked the administration to respond to a public interest litigation filed by a resident of the island within two weeks. It was while considering the PIL that the judges sought explanation from the administration.

The director, department of animal husbandry, Lakshadweep Administration, by an order dated May 21 had shut down the local dairy farms. The petitioner alleged that this was done with the ulterior motive of promoting dairy products of a manufacturer from Gujarat.

The petitioner challenged the decisions to shut down the dairy farms and change in the menu of meals served to school children "arbitrary and discriminatory" violating Article 14 of the Constitution. It was also argued that these decisions interfere with the traditional culture and food habits of the people, and violated their right to choice and preserve culture. Thus the orders were violative of right to privacy and right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, he contended.

53L JABS DAY AFTER RECORD 86L

The infection cases have also been on a declining trend. India on Tuesday reported 42,640 new Covid-19 infections over the past 24 hours. It is after 91 days that the country has reported daily cases below 50,000. The country's active case-load declines to 6,62,521, falling below 7 lakh-mark after 79 days.

Case wise, India also reported less than 50,000 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest in 91 days, in the last 24 hours, according to the Ministry data on Tuesday. With the fresh cases, the total tally of Covid-19 cases increased to 2,99,77,861.

The death toll has climbed to 3,89,302 with 1,167 daily fatalities, the lowest in 68 days; active cases fell below 7 lakh after 79 days, the Health Ministry said.

The country has been reporting below 1 lakh Covid-19 cases for the past two weeks. Active cases in the country have been falling sharply.

Covid-19 deaths and positivity rate have also dropped. Overall, it seems the peak of the Covid-19 second wave is behind us. Several States/UTs like Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana have started the

"We have sought complete details of his statement... We have asked for the official version... he has been talking to the media, but we have our own means of communication," said Harish Rawat after the meeting.

Amidst escalating tension in the State party unit over a slew of issues, Kharge panel also sought some clarifications from the Chief Minister over issues and problems raised by the party leaders, primarily the legislators and the Ministers, during previous meetings.

DELTA + PREVALENT IN MAHA, KERALA, MP

Besides India, the Delta plus variant has been found in the US, UK, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, Poland, Nepal, China and Russia. The Delta variant has been detected in 80 countries, he said. According to INSACOG, the Delta plus also shows stronger binding to receptors of lung cells and potentially reduced monoclonal antibody response.

It may also show resistance to existing treatment protocol for Covid. There are concerns over whether current vaccines will be effective against the Delta plus.

"Any variant's transmissibility and virulence decides whether it is a variant of concern or interest. Delta variant is found in 80 countries around the world, including India and it is a variant of concern."

"Delta plus variant has been detected in nine countries including India. In India, 22 cases of Delta plus variant have been found and it is in the category of variant of interest, (and) yet not a variant of concern," Bhushan said.

He said the Ministry has released an advisory on the kind of public health response that Maharashtra, MP and Kerala should initiate to address this issue which "presently looks fairly small in terms of number but we would not want this to assume significant proportions".

IT'S NOT THIRD FRONT MINUS CONG: NCP

His statement came amid heightened speculation about a Third Front, minus the Congress and led by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, taking shape to take on the ruling BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Leaders from TMC, SP, AAP, RLD and the Left parties participated in the meeting under the aegis of Rashttra Manch. The meeting was chaired jointly by Pawar and Yashwant Sinha along with election strategist Prashant Kishor to explore the possibility of a Third Front against the ruling BJP. Kishor, however, kept away from the meeting.

The Congress and the Shiv Sena were also invited but they refused to attend. The two along with the NCP share power in Maharashtra.

SP leader Ghanshyam Tiwari said, "The summary of today's meeting is that there is a need for preparation of an alternate vision in the country that is strong to address issues related to the common man. Rashttra Manch has appointed Yashwant Sinha, who is the convener, to set up a team to give a strong vision on various important issues. The next meeting will focus on including more people."

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi refused to comment on the meeting saying today is not the time to discuss politics. "My intention is to bring focus on Covid," he said while releasing the party's white paper on Covid-19.

process of unlocking/relaxed Covid restrictions as cases continue to fall.

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He said the Ministry has released an advisory on the kind of public health response that Maharashtra, MP and Kerala should initiate to address this issue which "presently looks fairly small in terms of number but we would not want this to assume significant proportions".

IT'S NOT THIRD FRONT MINUS CONG: NCP

His statement came amid heightened speculation about a Third Front, minus the Congress and led by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, taking shape to take on the ruling BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Leaders from TMC, SP, AAP, RLD and the Left parties participated in the meeting under the aegis of Rashttra Manch. The meeting was chaired jointly by Pawar and Yashwant Sinha along with election strategist Prashant Kishor to explore the possibility of a Third Front against the ruling BJP. Kishor, however, kept away from the meeting.

The Congress and the Shiv Sena were also invited but they refused to attend. The two along with the NCP share power in Maharashtra.

SP leader Ghanshyam Tiwari said, "The summary of today's meeting is that there is a need for preparation of an alternate vision in the country that is strong to address issues related to the common man. Rashttra Manch has appointed Yashwant Sinha, who is the convener, to set up a team to give a strong vision on various important issues. The next meeting will focus on including more people."

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi refused to comment on the meeting saying today is not the time to discuss politics. "My intention is to bring focus on Covid," he said while releasing the party's white paper on Covid-19.

Among those who made it included National Conference (NC) leader and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, RLD president Jayant Chaudhary, AAP leader Sushil Gupta, Left leaders Binoy Viswam (CPI) and Nilotpal Basu (CPI-M), former Congress leader Sanjay Jha and former Janata Dal (United) leader Pavan Verma besides former Justice AP Shah, former Rajya Sabha members Javed Akhtar and KC Singh. The meeting comes against the backdrop of the TMC handing over a crushing defeat to the BJP in West Bengal in the recent spate of assembly polls and its supreme Mamata Banerjee calling for all opposition parties to unite.

While several assembly polls are expected next year, including in key states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, efforts to bring together regional forces and other non-BJP parties are mainly being seen as aimed at the next Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

NO MORE FLASH SALES

Further, Khare said such fraudulent flash sales are also being evaluated in western countries because many times shell companies organise flash sales without any inventory, which is against the interest of consumers and limits fair competition. "This is a step taken in time. These markets are evolving, consumer preferences are evolving. We have to keep pace with the changes so that consumers are not duped," she added. The government assured that discount sales will continue. "Such competition actually helps the business overall to bring goods at better prices to consumers. We are not against that," she said. Khare is also the chief commissioner of the CCPA.

JET AIRWAYS TO TAKE WING

When asked why the proposed amendments do not specify a time frame for the appointment of compliance officer and grievance redressal officer, the official said: "I take note of this point. We can change 'as soon as possible' to effective from the date of the notification."

Based on public comments from different stakeholders, the proposed amendments to the rules will further be modified, she said.

According to officials, DGCA and MoCA will examine the order. "The historicity of slots has not been approved. The slot allotment may take some time," he adds. As per the resolution plan, the successful bidder has proposed a total cash flow of Rs 1,375 crore for the revival of the company. The revival plan envisages starting operation with 30 aircraft within six months from the approval of the plan by NCLT. The bid by the consortium of Kalrock Capital and Murari Lal Jalan was approved by the Committee of Creditors in October last year. Kalrock Capital is a UK-based asset management company and Murari Lal Jalan is a UAE-based entrepreneur.



IN CORPORATE STYLE

The future of corporate e-learning holds potential in reshaping the landscape for the learning and development department, says SAMEER NIGAM

The growing relevance of the digital world has pushed modern corporations to stay ahead of the curve. From learning needs and habits to learning behaviour, Modern corporates are incorporating huge changes at their workplaces. But the onset of the pandemic made it necessary more than ever. Corporations have had to pivot to work-from-home models almost overnight and become more receptive to the uncalled change to brave through the pandemic and its aftereffects. Especially in these uncertain times, it became imperative to invest in upskilling of the workforce and leveraging technology-aided e-learning solutions to get things done.

As corporates enabled e-learning during this pandemic, employees became more adaptive to learning curves. Learning and development were accessed efficiently, and still, effectively maintained productivity while

supporting social and physical distancing. With e-learning, the knowledge gap between conventional employees and modern workers blurred out and witnessed the beginning of a new decade of ample opportunities, the latest technology, and further innovations.

The future of corporate e-learning holds immense potential in reshaping the landscape for the learning and development department. So, what does the new normal corporate learning look like? Here are some e-learning tools that are going to make the future bright.

Video-based learning: Learnings based on video is seen as a more interactive experience in the training process as they are faster and effective in understanding the learning. The increasing use of social media and mobile learning has also captivated the need for video-based learning tools. This builds connections and community



THE INCREASING USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND MOBILE LEARNING HAS CAPTIVATED THE NEED FOR VIDEO-BASED LEARNING TOOLS. THIS BUILDS CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY THAT CAN INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY EVEN WHEN WORKING APART

that can increase productivity even when working apart.

Micro-learning: The adoption of micro-learning is growing slowly. Organisations are incorporating shorter video formats for learning as more social, mobile, interactive, and user-friendly learning is demanded. The tool makes it easier to create quick, accessible training for employees right when they need it the most and encourage them to apply the learning immediately.

mLearning or Mobile-based learning: Unlike conventional training methods, mLearning provides numerous benefits such as flexibility, scheduling, access to more content, etc. Also, it offers an enhanced experience to the learner including chat features, and audio/videos, the option to record information, better assessments, etc. Many organisations are already unleashing their potential as the mobile learning industry is expected to

grow 10X in the coming times.

AR and VR-based learning: Building real-world opportunities; AR and VR-based learning are considered as the future of corporate eLearning. With working from home posing difficulties in providing on-the-job training, VR and Augmented Reality (AR) tools are deploying complex environments and cases to the employees to ascertain their real-life reactions and learning's based on it.

Game-based learning: With more and more organisations working towards building an immersive learning experience for their employees, game-based learning tools are assisting them in combining businesses and training in an immersive way. As an alternative to the traditional tool of learning, this tool increases engagement and motivation amongst employees while also throwing real-world problems through game designs.

AI based learning: These futuristic learning tools are a great indicator for employee performance analysis. AI is assisting the modern workforces to identify skills they want to apply at work. AI and learning automation are helping corporates in delivering performance-driven and ROI-inclined solutions and also enabling them to upskill the workforce.

Undoubtedly, the above-discussed sought-after e-learning tools are going to reinvent the whole process of corporate e-learning while also making it relevant for the new-age workforce. Digital learnings are here to stay and the use of e-learning tools and advanced technology will enable corporates to maintain a productive and healthy workforce. Going forward, corporate learning will be more about bringing learning to the learners than learners to the learning.

The writer is CEO & Co-founder, Stratbeans

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The man who reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers.
— Thomas Jefferson

9th E-commerce Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following its tradition to create a highly anticipated and exclusive entrepreneurial opportunity for the budding entrepreneurs and e-commerce enthusiasts, Droom hosted its ninth edition of its annual E-commerce Day on June 21, 2021.

The event saw active participation of over 600 attendees from renowned business schools, technical institutes, budding entrepreneurs and e-commerce buffs. The event consisted of numerous sessions, which allowed the attendees to directly interact with Droom's Founder & CEO, Sandeep Aggarwal and other dynamic leadership members of the company.

Students from reputed universities/colleges such as IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Indore, IIM Kashipur and many others, participated in the event and learned the nuances of entrepreneurship and the e-commerce industry through multiple fascinating sessions.

It was a highly interactive event, filled with pep talks and brainstorming sessions, showcasing Droom's unicorn journey highlights. Furthermore, through experience sharing sessions, Aggarwal and Droom's leadership shared challenges and potential solutions of their professional journey and advised the young entrepreneurs to build on their ideas & passion. At the event, Aggarwal continuously emphasised the role of new-age technologies and transformation brought by digital and modernistic approach in all industries and domains.

In his keynote address, Aggarwal said, "Our annual meet-up of e-commerce day event is planned to ensure that the youth are armed to take on any hurdle that comes their way and make the most of this growing industry. We feel that these budding entrepreneurs will be making history in the entrepreneurship and economic growth segment of the country, and we plan to back them in all possible aspects".

Yoga Day celebration

The seventh International Yoga Day was observed by KIIT Group of Institutions & KISS on June 21, 2021 online. The theme of the International Yoga Day for this year was "Yoga for Fitness". On this occasion, Dr Gaganendu Dash, Director Sports, KIIT & KISS, delivered the introduction speech and read out the message of the founder which said: "Yoga is the ancient custom of India and it is India's best gift to the global community. It is often seen that more people are being attracted towards yoga around the world nowadays. While, it brings wonders to our body, during the pandemic, yoga is creating miracles to mitigate mental stress of the people".

Among others, Prof Hrushikesh Mohanty, VC of KIIT DU; Prof Sasmaita Samanta, Pro VC; Prof Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT DU; and Dr Prasanta Kumar Routray, CEO of KISS laid focus on the advantages of various aspects of some foremost yoga asanas.

Some staff members of KIT and KISS practiced various postures of yoga under the guidance of the Yoga Coach of KIIT & KISS.



Find your way forward

There is now a possibility that more students may meet the eligibility criteria set by foreign universities, since these will not be contingent on Board results anymore, says ADARSH KHANDELWAL

The Board exams have now been replaced by "well-defined objective criteria", according to the Government's notification on the same. The CBSE Board will follow a 30:30:40 criteria, with 30 per cent of weightage given to the Class X Board exam results, 30 per cent to Class XI final results, and 40 per cent to the Class XII Pre-Board or internal assignment results (flexibility for which has been given to schools). The results are to be announced before July 31.

What does this mean for students applying abroad? With around 14 lakh students who would take Class XII CBSE Boards, of which a significant portion will apply abroad, there is now the possibility that even more students may meet the eligibility criteria set by foreign universities, as these will not be contingent on Board results anymore. January 2021 has already seen over 10.9 lakh Indian students enrolled in universities abroad — a number that was expected to rise this year with students who had deferred

their 2020 admits or were awaiting a relaxation in pandemic restrictions around the world. As the scope of the marking criteria has been increased, there is a slight chance that universities might introduce a foundation course or prerequisite programme that applicants would need to complete before they can be offered admission. The latest ruling may also not do justice to the students who are already applying for external exams and courses, having thought that these may be preferred in place of a variable predictive score. For future test takers and aspirants, it also reiterates the importance of academic consistency and continuous assessment throughout the school year, not merely during Boards.

What will be the impact of this possibility on country-specific applications? **UK, Ireland, Australia:** The term commencement dates for universities in the UK and Ireland are usually in September-October, with many institutions requiring academic transcripts and final

scores before they can make an admission offer. Now that there is a confirmed marking process and date for the release of results, students can breathe a sigh of relief about their application timeline.

The only challenge we can see here is if universities rescind their conditional offers due to the updated grades the student has received. Many students bank on the Board finals to showcase their academic strength while not preparing as intensively for their internal assessments or Class X/XI exams. Their new scores may not reflect their academic potential accurately and may not meet university cut-offs. While the CBSE Board has stated that those who are unsatisfied with the new marking scheme can take the Board exams later when the pandemic regulations ease, this is not feasible for international applicants who are already operating on a tight timeline.

US & Canada: As universities in these regions accept students with unconditional offers from the get go, there

may not be as much of a hiccup, provided that the student relays the complexity of the situation to the university.

In Canada, some universities like McMaster and Waterloo are providing unconditional offers on the basis of their predictive scores. Here too, the process would continue as usual, and the new marking system could still be applied for scholarship applications that depend on the student's scores.

As a student, what can you do at this time?

Write to the university and the relevant authorities, explaining the new developments in the Board exam scenario. Check with your school to see what marking scheme they are opting to follow in terms of the 40 per cent weightage for Class XII assessments. If you have been placed on a waiting list, ensure that you send out periodic emails to register your continued interest and detail all the newly added information or updates in your profile and application status.

In the meantime, you can network and liaise with other international aspirants, university connections, and industry figures to ensure that you are kept in the loop about what could change, how others are evaluating and adapting to the circumstances, and any other opportunities that you can avail of while you wait.

The writer is Co-founder, Collegify

For a beautiful future

NAINA RUHAIL lists trends that will play a vital role in shaping one's future in the beauty industry

In recent times, the beauty industry has seen a significant shift with everyone making eco-conscious choices. It is the era of 'end of more' and getting back to basics. No longer one cares for beauty for the sake of beauty, now it's beauty for the sake of you. With most of us stuck at home during these unprecedented times, it's important more than ever to spend time pampering your skin, consciously. From DIY masks, tonics, and a better understanding of what works best with the increased awareness, it will be the dawn of clean beauty as an answer to the future of the ever-growing beauty industry. If you want to succeed in the beauty industry take a look at the prospects of the beauty arena and understand it better to get ahead.

Consumer choices to anticipate in the beauty industry

The consumer today is making conscious choices towards eco-friendly, sustainable, toxin, and cruelty-free products. This new guilt-free beauty norm is all about organic and natural ingredients to leave skin healthy and hair lustrous. Clean signifies beauty products that are free from nasties with nothing artificial than the goodness of nature. On the other hand, all the ingredients are sustainably sourced to unburden the natural resources while incorporating recycling practices to be eco-friendlier.



Knowing what the consumers demand will help you understand their needs and tweak your products according to their preference, ensuring a long-lasting relationship.

Here are the top trends that you need to know that will play a vital role in shaping the beauty landscape. If you inculcate these within your profession, you will surely be successful in building your brand and building trust with your consumers.

Building trust within the community

Nothing grows the community stronger than a common interest. An authentic, personal review helps build trust and interest that will effectively boom the industry as well as an increase in the con-

sumer base. This aspect will definitely play a vital role in the near future.

Be part of inclusive beauty standards
A beauty consumer always often looks for cues from the closest to them, appropriate to their age, skin type, age, and ethnicity. They expect a brand to be inclusive and cater to all colours, shapes and sizes in the most realistic ways.

Deliver hassle-free beauty at doorstep
When the world has come to a still, we have understood that the way we connect with beauty has changed completely. Its do-it-yourself-beauty encouraged some small changes like — comprehensive skin and hair care regime, less use of mascara, we all became our own groomers, manicurists, and colourists. This shift has increased the requirement of interactive, impressive at-home deliveries.

Be sustainable and transparent

Recycling beauty products is another trend that is reaping interest. With this practice, you don't have to discard your empties that will end up going into the landfills. Instead, it will be reused. By bestowing an afterlife to your product empty, you will surely make a difference in the environment.

If you incorporate these practices, you will surely be able to build an authentic, sustainable and successful brand.

The writer is Co-founder, Vanity Wagon

Webinar on Global Compact on Refugees

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, VIT-AP School of Law, VIT-AP University, Andhra Pradesh, organised an event on June 21, 2021 jointly with the Centre for Statelessness and Refugee Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, along with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, India.

The inaugural session followed by national webinar on Global Compact on Refugees in fostering Laws, Policies and Practices vis-à-vis Protection

and care.

The daylong national webinar deliberated upon the importance of Global Compact on Refugees and reminded the State parties to be bound by the obligations of the sovereign States. Experts from academia, civil society, practitioners, refugee organisations and students have participated in the programme.

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) has following broad four objectives: (i) ease pressures on host countries; (ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; (iii) expand access to third coun-

try solutions; and (iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity, with relevant indicators framework. Are the objectives specified in GCR, recast of earlier durable solutions? Or do they have new meaning in text and context was discussed in national webinar.

Yukiko Koyama, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, India stressed upon the relevance of Global Compact on Refugees for the protection of the refugees and Stateless people across the world.

Dr Arvind Tiwari Dean

School of Law TISS, Mumbai gave the presidential address and Prof Samir Kumar Das, Former Vice-Chancellor of University of North Bengal delivered the keynote address.

Dr Parivellan K.M Chairperson of Centre for Statelessness and Refugee Studies at TISS Mumbai explained the importance of the occasion. Dr Benarji Chakka, Dean, VSL, welcomed the chief guest, participated, students, faculty and staff and chaired the session on Global Compact on Refugees and Legal and Policy issues.



BE EVERGREEN

Environment plays an important role in our lives. This has opened plenty of lucrative options in the field in India as well as abroad, says DR MUKESH KWATRA

Environment isn't one subject but an associate integration of many subjects that embrace each other, like Science and Social Studies. It teaches us about sustainable way of living together with environment. Therefore the scope of environmental studies is very wide and covers some aspects of nearly each major discipline. It offers an overplus of job chance for environmental scientists, biologists, engineers, modellers and journalists.

Environmental scientists find opportunities in the mining industry, plant food industry, textile and dyeing industry, food processing units and bio fuel industry. After holding a degree in this field you get a variability of careers to choose from and that could be from Government, personal organisations or from plentiful of alternative industries.

One can also consider a teaching job in schools or universities. Several private organisations like food processing industries, refineries, distilleries and plant food industries are providing various job opportunities for the graduates in this field.

Aspirants doing various courses in environment field, can apply for a research degree in Government organisations. MSc degree holding candidates can find many lucrative career opportunities in India as well as abroad in Environmental Science.

Environmental Professor: The scope of

environment studies is tremendously growing in recent years with cutting-edge research and continuous innovation in the field. Researchers find Environmental Professor as a lucrative career choice. If you want to be a part of this highly paid job in government and private sectors then pursue a desired degree to achieve success.

Environmental Engineering: It is a job type in which environmentalists utilise the knowledge of engineering thus acquired in soil science, hydraulics, chemistry etc to evolve answers for ecological issues. They are also better equipped to address global issues, such as ecological disparity, water issues, climate change, and environmental sustainability. If you choose to start your career at the right place, you are bound to attain heights in your career. It offers you plenty of opportunities to work on broad range of fields.

Environmental Biologists: They are scientists who study how living organisms interact with each other, their environments and surroundings. In this field one can work as field technicians, laboratory technicians, researchers for private or government laboratories, or as independent contractors.

Environmental Scientists: They are the ones who use their knowledge of natural science to protect the environment and human health. Environmental scientists are employed with mines, agencies involved in

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS ARE EMPLOYED WITH MINES, AGENCIES INVOLVED IN CLEANING UP OF POLLUTED AREAS, DYING INDUSTRY, FERTILISER INDUSTRY, AS ADVISORY TO POLICYMAKERS, OR WORK WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

cleaning up of polluted areas, dying industry, fertiliser industry, as advisory to policymakers, or work with waste management concerns.

This sector provides plethora of highly paid job opportunities. You can be employed by various Government organisations like Pollution Control Board, Water Authority, Waste management and Urban Planning.

Environmental Journalist: With a lot of media attention off late to environment concerns, reporting on environmental problems is at the rise. People search for complete information associated with the surroundings, for this reason there is an increase in the demand for environmental journalists.

One may also opt for jobs in fertiliser plants and can also work in food processing companies as managers. Besides, regarding the environment issues many NGOs are coming up to take up and work upon to find solutions to the various Environment concerns. According to one's interest, one can also join these organisations.

There is plenty of opportunities, abundance of jobs and various paths a diploma holder in environment field can choose to take. In addition, the earning hereinafter offer a reasonable possibility to clear scholar mortgage debts if any and take care of their family in future.

The writer is founder, Smiling Tree

'Scale start-up in Canada'

The country has announced investments of \$55.1 million in clean technology companies. This has opened doors for opportunities, says ESHA CHOPRA

The dynamic start-up scene in Toronto, Canada is gaining momentum with early-stage start-up founders. In a 2020 report by StartupBlink, Canada ranked third in the world for COVID-19 innovation, and Toronto ranked fourth in the world. Here are some reasons why you should consider moving your start-up in Canada:

Tech-innovation: In a bid to lay the groundwork for a greener, stronger and more resilient economy, the Canadian Government has made investments in technology innovations. In early 2021, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced investments of \$55.1 million in clean technology companies across Canada. This funding will support small and medium-sized companies that are developing innovative solutions to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lessen the environmental impacts of conventional mining methods and support more sustainable agricultural practices.

Government incentives: The Canadian Government has special programmes for entrepreneurs around the world wanting to scale in the North American market. The Start-up Visa Program is designed for international entrepreneurs with businesses that are innovative and have the potential to grow in Canada. The program offers Permanent Residence to entrepreneurs to help support them in their growth story.

Funding: The Canadian Venture Capital & Private Equity Association boasts dozens of members and tracks deals by region and amount. According to its data, the Canadian venture capital market is booming. According to KPMG's report in April 2021, Canadian venture funding hit a record high of \$2.49 billion in the first quarter of 2021, solidifying Canada's position as a global start-up hub.

Availability of top talent: Fueled by a strong set of universities, the student-friendly immigration policies allow talented individuals from around the world to join workforce in Canada



Esha Chopra
Director Strategy and Marketing,
Toronto Business Development Centre

every year. Top technical universities like University of Toronto, the University of BC and McGill and Waterloo offer access to workforce without cutthroat competitiveness of Silicon Valley.

Proximity to software giants and financial institutions: Financial Institutions like JP Morgan, Citi, Morgan Stanley etc and software moguls like Amazon, Microsoft, Facebook among others all have a growing footprint in Canada.

Start-up culture: Successful start-ups like Slack, Shopify, FreshBooks, Tunnel Bear, Wattpad, Hootsuite and others were founded in Canada and continue to thrive. The impact of COVID-19 has not curtailed investment in Canadian technology and other high-growth sectors like ed-tech, healthcare, fintech and AI.

Diverse community: Canada boasts one of the highest percentages of foreign-born citizens than any other G8 country and is home to more than 14 million people with over 200 languages spoken. This cultural boiling pot makes a great home for a start-up founder and his family looking for a place to thrive in.

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, and habits. If this were to be true, then we all should be very well aware as to what are the skills, values, morals, beliefs, habits and knowledge that a student is likely to possess after a specific number of years of education. What are the deliverables that the present education system is promising to our children? What are the short term and long term education objectives that have been determined? What can we expect from the educated after a specific number of years?

With loads of information and data, children today have been made to feel as if they are totally in the unknown and that they

need to learn from the text books which are the Gospels of truth and knowledge. Without going into how the syllabus has been structured to meet the larger objective, children burn the midnight oil to master the information. Some score 100 per cent and some 40 per cent. The student who scores 100 per cent develops the attitude that he knows it all and that the one with 40 per cent feels that if he were to master the books, it would give him taste of eternal knowledge.

The point in question here is what should be the goal of education? Whether the present day education system is achieving that goal? What is the set of specific and broad goals that our children should acquire after a long 14-15 years of school education?

MINDIT

Has the end become more important than the process?

Without going into the correlation of the education goals with the subjects and syllabus being covered in schools; even for a moment if we say all is well; why does the system needs to send hundreds of changes/additional circulars to schools on newer practices almost on regular basis? Even it being so, we may like to conclude that the system is ever evolving, ever expanding, ever developing. So isn't the process standardised to not achieve the goal which is

supposedly earmarked in the first place, that we need to keep adding newer activities every week or fortnight as additional curriculum. Why doesn't the system delete some activities which may become redundant. It is anybody's guess that no school would be able to complete the set of stipulated exercises as enshrined in the system's requirement. Is this a calculated way of putting the schools on back foot to always?

Where are the parents in the process? They are the most important stake-holders. Do the parents even know about the teaching

objectives or what they can expect their children to be after they pass out Class XII? Or is it too mechanical that everything that goes in the system comes out and further goes in and then again comes out and on and on. What is the accountability of the system? With school toppers languishing in jails, being unemployed, most disillusioned, with no morals, values, beliefs and habits, it is high time we have a re-look at the education system of today.

Let's take the exam system; it can be anything except being perfect. The focus of all school children, teachers and parents is on examination. Exams are not adjusted on completion of education but education is adjusted seeing the exam timelines. The

process is being taken care of by people who seldom teach in classrooms. The system has become a test in itself.

Have exams become a toy in the hands of the system to use? Are we losing crucial time for education for exams? Exam reforms have always been advocated in this country, but nothing seems to be happening on the ground. We were not able to implement the last NPE in 34 years. Now the country has another NPE 2021. Hopefully, the new music beats are melodious to the ears, but the question is how and when?

The writer is Sachin Gupta, Chancellor, Sanskriti University



December 1, 2021.

The Vienna University of Technology invites applications for Helmut Veith Stipend for International Female Students in Austria, 2021.

Eligibility: International female candidates. Join a master's degree programme in the field of Computer Science. Must have extensive knowledge in Logic in Computer science, formal methods and verification, the foundation of artificial intelligence, complexity theory, and computer security.

How to apply: After taking admission, submit a PDF file through email to master-at-logic-cs.at. PDF file must contain: Cover letter describing type of fund student is applying for, CV, motivation letter, reports on university examinations (transcripts), diplomas and/or certificates (first degree, bachelor degree, or higher). If the final academic certificate is not yet available at the time of the application deadline, a preliminary certificate (type of degree and the expected graduation date) signed and stamped by the degree-awarding university must be provided. Contact details of two referees (for letters of recommendation). English language certificate (TOEFL or similar). Copy of passport. You are asked to show your English language ability through the TOEFL or IELTS test.

Application deadline: The last date is November 30, 2021.

The Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand invites applications for its post-graduate diploma international scholarships. The programme is open to worldwide applicants who want to undertake the postgraduate diploma for the academic year 2021-2022.

Award: Each successful scholar will receive the award amount of \$5,000 to cover their study expenses in New Zealand.

Eligibility: Postgraduate diploma in any subject area. Applicants must be international citizens

Supporting documents: Pre-qualification degree, copies of academic transcripts, certificates of English language proficiency, a statement, a copy of passport

Admission requirements: Applicants must have to fulfil the entry criteria of the Otago Polytechnic.

Language requirement: Students are expected to demonstrate adequate English competence if their schooling has not been performed in English.

How to apply: Students are required to take admission in the postgraduate diploma programme at the Otago. After that, apply for the award.

Application deadline: It is

ANDROID APP DEVELOPMENT AT WEDNESDAY SOLUTIONS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/058111
Deadline: July 1, 2021

IOS APP DEVELOPMENT AT WEDNESDAY SOLUTIONS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/563f62
Deadline: July 1, 2021

EMAIL MARKETING AT NEHANET CORPORATION

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/99fc73
Deadline: July 1, 2021

RESEARCH (DISASTER MGT & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION) AT SPHERE INDIA

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹18,000-₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/d6df15
Deadline: July 1, 2021

OPERATIONS AT K2PICTURES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/0cc6fd
Deadline: July 1, 2021

MARKETING AT THINK & LEARN PRIVATE LIMITED (BYJU'S)

Location: Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela
Stipend: ₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/189aa0
Deadline: June 28, 2021

JUNIOR SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING ASSOCIATE JOB AT GLU STUDIOS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3-₹3.6 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/effd3c
Deadline: July 17, 2021
Skill(s): Social Media Marketing

IN BRIEF

ZSA TO IMPROVE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

The Zupee, online gaming company, has announced the launch of their skilling academy, which will impart employable skills and promote equal opportunities in the youth of the country. Zupee Skilling Academy (ZSA) will be a first-of-its-kind mission by a corporation, aimed at skilling, upskilling and educating young, disadvantaged Indians.

The idea is to prepare them for the future by getting them ready through skill training and ensuring that everyone in the programme has equal opportunities for employment. The participants will be trained in concepts like search engine optimisation, running search ads, social media marketing and analytics, all highly desirable skillsets that prepare them for jobs of the future.

NZ PARTNERS WITH FUTURELEARN

Education New Zealand has announced partnership with FutureLearn which will provide courses from more than 15 New Zealand education providers on one centralised platform to reach 15 million-plus learners worldwide. The courses have options for learners and teachers in sustainable agriculture, Te Reo Maori and English language.

NEW COURSE FOR CRIMINAL LAWYERS

The SVKM's NMIMS Deemed-to-be-University has introduced Criminal Law as a new specialisation in its Master of Law (LLM) programme at Kirit P Mehta School of Law. The one-year PG course specifically designed for working professionals, aims to create stalwart criminal lawyers in order to meet the critical and challenging requirements. To be eligible, the candidate should hold a L.B. degree from a recognised university, with a minimum of 50 per cent aggregate marks. Candidates appearing for the final year examinations are also eligible to apply.

INNOVATIVE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT RICS

The RICS School of Built Environment (SBE) Amity University has implemented an innovative internship idea for its present students. Keeping in view the present pandemic, the institute has innovatively transformed the internships into intensive research projects based on the specific needs of the industry which the students have undertaken from their homes.

The internship team has brainstormed and prepared a list of research topics related to issues for which the industry is looking for answers. According to their interests, students have chosen their internship projects and assigned a mentor and industry veteran who would guide them through their research. Ashwani Awasthi, MD said: "The institute has

innovatively transformed the internship process into an intensive research project-based internship focused on the specific needs of the industry organizations. These internships have evolved after a significant thinking and effort to ensure that students are able to receive as close to real-world experience as feasible given the current challenging circumstances."

BOOTCAMP-LEARNING FOR CLASSES V TO X

The GlobalGyan Academy of Management Education, has launched its Youth Leadership Programs, Laksh and Laksh Junior. The programmes offered to students of Classes V-VII (Laksh Junior) and Classes VIII-X (Laksh) are designed to build the life-skills that are essential for their future. Students participate in a two-month long bootcamp-style learning model, which includes live instructor-led classes, assignments, group projects, quizzes and video content. The programmes provide an experiential learning to students to unleash

and discover their capabilities. The interactive workshops and activities help build five essential mindsets — problem-solving, persuasive communication, leadership, creativity and wealth-creation. Srinivasa Addepalli, CEO of GlobalGyan Academy, said: "We are excited to extend our knowledge and present a vision to middle and high school students. This aligns with our purpose of democratising access to high-quality, practical learning."

To register kindly visit: <https://lakshleaders.com>

MOU TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN GOVERNANCE REFORMS

The Kautilya School of Public Policy, Gitam, Hyderabad inked an MoU with the Daksh Society to promote better governance and improve the justice system, through data-based analysis. Under the MoU, both the institutions will conduct

supportive, non-partisan, and interdisciplinary research on varied aspects of the justice system. The research will come up with inclusive, transparent, and self-correcting mechanisms to encourage accountability across all branches of the Government. The students will be

engaged through internships and capstone projects giving them a firsthand experience and aiding a clear conception of how system works. This will empower the students and help them understand critical concepts in accountability, transparency, and governance.



Mikkel Damsgaard, center, celebrates after scoring Denmark's opening goal during the Euro 2020 Group B match between Russia and Denmark in Copenhagen AP

AFP ■ COPENHAGEN

Denmark made it through to the last 16 of Euro 2020 on Monday after a convincing 4-1 win over Russia which alongside Belgium's victory against Finland meant they finished second in Group B.

Goals from Mikkel Damsgaard, Yussuf Poulsen, Andreas Christensen and Joakim Maehle gave the Danes their first win of the tournament on a joyous evening at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen.

Delirious fans showered each other with beer as Denmark rattled in the goals that allowed them to end the group stage in party mood after the trauma of Christian Eriksen's mid-match collapse in their opening fixture against the Finns.

Denmark will face Wales in the last 16 in Amsterdam on Saturday.

The Danes came into the match with no points from

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE

Denmark finish second in Group B after sensational 4-1 victory over Russia & qualify for knockouts

their first two matches but knowing a win over Russia by two goals or more and defeat for Finland would guarantee them passage from the group as the second-placed team.

It was the Russians who had the first chance of the game, Aleksandr Golovin driving towards the goal and fashioning a great scoring opportunity only to shoot straight at Kasper

Schmeichel from close range.

DAMSGAARD'S MOMENT

They were left to rue missing that chance six minutes before the break when Mikkel Damsgaard showed why he was picked to replace Eriksen as Denmark's playmaker.

The Sampdoria winger, who only turns 21 early next month, looked like he had all

the time in the world when he unleashed a curling strike that whipped past Matvei Safonov and caused an eruption of celebrations in the stands.

Denmark second came in almost comical circumstances on the hour mark.

Poulsen could hardly believe his luck when Daler Kuzyaev's miscued back-pass rolled straight to him in front of the Russian goal, leaving him the simple task of rolling into an empty net and giving Denmark the two-goal lead they needed to finish second should Belgium win.

Soon after the already rowdy fans in the Parken let out possibly the loudest cheer of the night as news of Romelu Lukaku's opener against Finland filtered through, but they were soon dampened by that goal being ruled out and Russia being awarded a penalty which was slotted home by Artem Dzyuba.

They were on their feet again with 15 minutes remain-

ing thanks to Lukas Hradecky's own goal which put Belgium a goal ahead and Denmark in second place.

Denmark were now charging forward and Safonov had to pull off three incredible saves in quick succession before Christensen rammed home a superb long-range strike in the 79th minute.

As the fans, who had made a tremendous racket all game, began their celebrations for making the knockout stage, Denmark ended the group stage in style when Maehle slotted home the fourth three minutes later to complete a perfect evening.

BELGIUM FINISH 1ST

In other Group B game in Saint Petersburg, Belgium scored two late goals to see off a valiant Finland 2-0, pushing their opponents to the brink of a group-stage exit.

Finnish goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky's 74th-minute own goal and Romelu Lukaku's third strike of the tournament ensured Roberto Martinez's Belgium finished top of Group B.

The world's number-one-ranked side will face a third-placed team in the next round on Sunday in Seville.

Finland finish third in the group, but appear unlikely to be one of the four best third-placed teams.

5 MAKE IT THROUGH

Five teams advanced to the round of 16 without even playing at the Euro 2020.

France, England, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Switzerland all are assured of advancing because they have four points and will finish no worse than third in their groups.

Results in the final Group B and C games have left Finland and Ukraine in third place in the respective standings with three points. That means any team with four points is guaranteed to be at least among the four best third-place teams.

Finland and Ukraine have not yet been eliminated. Results in Group D on Tuesday and Group E on Wednesday could leave those third-place finishers with only two points.

Mount, Chilwell to isolate until June 28

London: England will be without Chelsea duo Mason Mount and Ben Chilwell for their final Euro 2020 Group D match on Tuesday against the Czech Republic and potentially their last-16 tie, after the pair were forced to isolate following exposure to an opponent who has Covid-19.

Mount and Chilwell were seen embracing their club teammate Billy Gilmour after Friday's 0-0 draw between England and Scotland. Gilmour tested positive on Monday.

England have already qualified ahead of the Czech Republic's visit to Wembley and if they beat the Czechs to win the group, they will play their last 16 match at Wembley on June 29, giving both players a chance to feature.

Second place in the group would see Southgate's men travel to Copenhagen on June 28.

"We can confirm that Ben Chilwell and Mason Mount must isolate up to and including next Monday (28 June). This decision has been taken in consultation with Public Health England," the English Football Association said in a statement.

"Chilwell and Mount will isolate and train individually in private areas at England's training base St George's Park." AFP



Wembley to host 60K fans for Euro semis, final

AFP ■ LONDON

More than 60,000 fans will be allowed to attend the semi-finals and final of Euro 2020 at Wembley with attendance increased to 75 percent of capacity, the British Government announced on Tuesday.

The matches will see the largest crowds assembled at a sporting event in Britain in more than 15 months, with numbers previously strictly limited due to the coronavirus pandemic.

All ticket holders will need

to follow a number of strict entry requirements, including having a negative Covid-19 test or proof of full vaccination.

"We have worked extremely closely with UEFA and the FA (Football Association) to ensure rigorous and tight public health measures are in place whilst allowing more fans to see the action live," said culture and sport secretary Oliver Dowden.

"The finals promise to be an unforgettable moment in our national recovery from the pandemic."

UEFA declines Munich application for rainbow-colored stadium

Munich: UEFA's decision to block plans by Munich to light the Allianz Arena in rainbow colours for the Germany-Hungary Euro 2020 match was met on Tuesday with defiance in the Bavarian city which vowed to decorate other landmarks in protest at a law passed by the Hungarian Government.

"UEFA is a politically and religiously neutral organisation," said European football's governing body in a statement ahead of Wednesday's match.

"Given the political context of this request — a message aimed at a decision taken by the Hungarian national parliament



— UEFA must refuse."

Munich's mayor Dieter Reiter slammed UEFA's decision as 'shameful' and announced plans to decorate other city landmarks in rainbow colours in defiance.

"I find it shameful that UEFA forbids us to send a sign for cosmopolitanism, tolerance,

respect and solidarity with the people of the LGBTIQ community," he said.

He plans to put up rainbow-coloured flags at the Munich town hall and illuminate a huge wind turbine located close to the stadium, as well as the city's 291m-tall Olympic Tower. AFP

Argentina, Chile qualify for quarters



Argentina's Alejandro Gomez, center, celebrates scoring the opening goal against Paraguay with teammates during a Copa America match in Brasilia AP

AFP ■ BRASILIA

Argentina and Chile on Monday booked their places in the Copa America quarter-finals, ending top of Group A after low-scoring matches that left the other two spots up for grabs.

Argentina logged their second win in three group matches played, beating Paraguay 1-0, with Alejandro 'Papu' Gomez scoring the sole goal of a lacklustre match in the ninth minute.

The win placed Lionel Messi's La Albiceleste top of Group A with seven points — enough to secure its spot in the next phase of the tournament being played in empty stadiums in coronavirus-battered Brazil.

The match marked a personal milestone for Messi, who tied Javier Mascherano's record for the most games played for Argentina — 147.

But it was not a night of glory for Messi or his team, who in the second half seemed to resign themselves to defending a spirited, but ultimately fruitless, Paraguayan attack.

In the other match Monday, Chile drew 1-1 with Uruguay to end the day with five log points.

With four matches left to play in Group A, Paraguay has three points, Uruguay one, and Bolivia zero, meaning they all still stand a theoretical

chance to go to the quarter-finals.

Brazil has already qualified from Group B.

The build-up to Chile-Paraguay game had been overshadowed by controversy in the Chile camp after revelations the team had breached Covid-19 protocols by bringing a local hairdresser into the team hotel.

CONMEBOL said it would fine those involved \$30,000.

However there was no sign of the controversy affecting their play, with Vargas firing Chile ahead on 26 minutes from a tight angle after latching onto a clever pass from English-born Ben Brereton.

Uruguay grabbed a share of the points in the second-half when Suarez bundled in the ball from close range during a tangle with former Barcelona team-mate Arturo Vidal at the far post following a corner.

Manchester United striker Edinson Cavani almost snatched victory for Uruguay in the 85th minute, but his glancing header flashed just wide of the post.

Vargas's first-half strike saw him draw level with Peru's Paolo Guerrero on 14 goals in the Copa America's all-time goalscoring rankings, three behind the record of 17 held by Brazil's Zizinho and Argentina's Norberto Mendez.

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Mohammed Shami's artistry was on full display but New Zealand still managed to take a crucial 32-run lead after scoring 249 on the fifth day of the World Test Championship final against India here on Tuesday.

More than the quantum of the first innings lead, New Zealand will gain psychological advantage as their seam attack can go for the kill on the final day to force a result.

New Zealand showed more intent on keeping the scoreboard ticking with Kyle Jamieson (21) and Tim Southee (30) throwing their bats around for useful runs which certainly put the pressure back on India going into the final session of the day.

The tea break was called after the fall of last New Zealand wicket.

Mohammed Shami (4/76), after a mesmerising morning spell, got a couple of more wickets in the post-lunch session. He dismissed Colin de Grandhomme with a delivery

Shami brings India back in match

angled in and Jamieson with a bouncer.

During the final half-hour, India's senior-most player Ishant Sharma (3/48) denied half-century to a dogged skipper Kane Williamson (49) with a classic Test match dismissal — delivery rearing up and shaping out which was edged to Virat Kohli at third slip.

Sensing that mere survival would spell doom, New Zealand scored 114 runs in the post lunch session even as Shami and Ishant remained standout performer bowling their hearts out.

Jamieson and Southee got some easy runs at the fag end which could prove to be useful in the final context.

But no amount of praise is enough for Shami, who brought India back in the match before New Zealand could press its foot on the pedal. Such was his



India's Mohammed Shami, left, celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand's BJ Watling, right, during Day 5 of WTC Final AP

WTC Final (Reserve Day)
Live from 3:00 pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Younis quits as Pak batting coach

Karachi: Former captain Younis Khan on Tuesday stepped down as Pakistan's batting coach in a surprise decision which the cricket board said was agreed upon 'reluctantly but amicably' even though no reasons were specified for it.

The Pakistan team is due to start a tour of the UK from June 25 to July 20 for three ODIs and three T20Is. The team will next go to the West Indies from July 21 to August 24 to feature in five T20Is and two Tests.

"Pakistan men's national cricket team will travel to the United Kingdom without a batting coach, while the decision to appoint Younis Khan's replacement for the West Indies tour will be made in due course," a PCB statement said two days before the team's departure.

The announcement was followed by speculation that Younis himself had decided to quit the position as he was not happy with his role and wanted greater say in selection matters. PTI

Indian women's resolve, grit & determination in England Test impressed Anjum

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Indian skipper and commentator Anjum Chopra was full of praise for the Indian women's cricket team for the fight they showed in the one-off Test match against England, which ended in a draw in Bristol on Saturday.

The Indian team which was playing its first red-ball game in seven years, batted for more than 120 overs in the second innings after follow-on to avoid defeat.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* about India's show in the match, Anjum said: "It was a very good performance because there were so many debutants in the Indian playing XI. Barring Mithali (Raj) and Jhulan (Goswami) everyone has very little experience in playing Test cricket. So it was

very nice to see the way they have performed."

"I was very impressed with the resolve and the grit and determination that the players were showing. It was a stand-out feature in that draw. When you talk about Sneha Rana, Taniya Bhatia, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, there was a kind of very strong resolve which was very much visible and that was very heartening to see," she added.

For Anjum, the biggest positive was the fightback by the young Indian side.

"The biggest gain from the Test was the resolve from the players, especially from the ones who were making a comeback into the Indian team. Everyone knew that India is playing without International match practice, so that is fine but how they played was heartening," she said.

Maharaj hat-trick headlines Proteas Test series win

AFP ■ GROS-ISLET

Keshav Maharaj completed just the second hat-trick by a South African in Test history as the Proteas completed a 158-run victory over the West Indies on the fourth day of the second Test of the two-match series at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St Lucia on Monday night.

In the penultimate over before lunch the left-arm spinner removed Kieran Powell, Jason Holder and Joshua da Silva in successive deliveries to join fast bowler Geoff Griffen, who achieved the feat at Lord's in 1960, in the record books.

Maharaj then followed up with two of the last three to fall in the afternoon to finish with figures of five for 36 as the West Indies were dismissed for 165.

Following a comprehensive innings and 63-run victory



inside three days in the first Test a week earlier at the same venue, the result gave South Africa the series 2-0, their first away series triumph since 2017 in New Zealand.

"This is huge for us because we haven't won on the road for quite some time," said South African captain Dean

Elgar. "There will be teething years as captain but this is a good, important step on the way forward."

"As a batting unit we let ourselves down but I must really commend the effort of the bowlers," said a dejected Windies captain Brathwaite.