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100 DAYS OF REVOLT, & STILL RARING TO GO

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INDIA EVES TO FACE ENGLAND IN TEST

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SAINA LAUDS PARINEETI CHOPRA
11 VIVACITY

Uproar in Houses over fuel price

First day of second part of Budget Session a washout

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The first day of the second part of the Budget Session of Parliament was virtually washed out due to the uproar created by the Opposition over fuel price rise.

In the Rajya Sabha, while the Congress wanted a discussion right away on the issue, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu did not allow and said the matter could be raised during debate on the appropriation Bill in the coming days.

In the Lok Sabha, members of the Congress, the Shiv Sena, the Indian Union Muslim League gave adjournment motion notices over the continuous rise in petrol, diesel and LPG prices. After Speaker Om Birla rejected notices of adjournment motion moved by Opposition members over the issue, they started raising slogans.

Birla appealed to protesting members several times to let the House function so that women members can raise their issues on International Women's Day, but as the din continued around 5.15 pm, he adjourned the Lok Sabha till 7 pm.

The Congress made its intentions clear on disrupting the proceedings as soon as the Rajya Sabha met for the first day of the second half of the Budget Session. The newly-elected Leader of Opposition



Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Deepender Singh Hooda and others during a media interaction at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Monday



Opposition leaders stage a protest over rise in fuel prices, in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday

and senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge raised the issue and sought a discussion on the "burning issue."

"This is very important issue and it is a burning subject. Throughout the country, people are agitated," Kharge said. Petrol prices touched nearly ₹100 a litre while diesel rates were more than ₹80 per litre and LPG prices also increased, he said adding the Government had collected ₹21 lakh crore by putting excise duty and cess on petroleum products.

He said farmers and people were suffering because of rise in prices but the Chairman did not allow his notice under Rule 267 to suspend business for the day and discuss the issue.

Naidu reiterated that the members will get ample opportunity to put the Government on the mat on the issue during the forthcoming debates.

Session likely to be cut short, to end before State polls start

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Budget Session of Parliament is likely to be cut short and may conclude before the first phase of elections on March 27, while the two Houses will resume their normal timing of 11 am onwards from Tuesday, sources said.

Several parties had requested that the session, which was originally scheduled to continue till April 8, be curtailed due to the Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory being held between March 27 and April 29.

While Rajya Sabha



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman greets Congress MP Anand Sharma at Parliament on Monday

Chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu announced the new timings for the Upper House this morning on the first day of the second part of the Budget Session, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla made a similar

announcement in the Lower House. Birla said Lok Sabha members would also sit in galleries, apparently to maintain distancing norms.

Keeping in mind the social distancing norms due to the Covid-19 pandemic, both Houses were meeting in two shifts since the Monsoon Session, with Rajya Sabha meeting in the first half of the day and Lok Sabha in the second half.

There was no Winter Session of Parliament due to the pandemic. Some Rajya Sabha members were sitting in Lok Sabha chambers to adhere to distancing norms.

Batla House shootout: Cop's killer convicted

Court holds IM ultra guilty of shooting Inspector Sharma in 2008 encounter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday convicted Ariz Khan for the murder of Delhi Police Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma and other offences in connection with the 2008 Batla House encounter. Khan is allegedly associated with the terror outfit Indian Mujahideen. The court will pronounce the quantum of sentence on March 15.

Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Yadav said the evidence produced by the prosecution duly proved the case beyond reasonable doubt.

The judge said it is "duly proved that Ariz Khan and his associates caused murder of police official and fired gunshot on the police official."

The judge further said Khan managed to flee and did not appear before court despite being declared a proclaimed offender. "The evidence adduced on record, including ocular, documentary and scientific, prosecution has proved beyond reasonable doubt that Khan along with accomplices with common intention



Injured Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma



House encounter in Jamia Nagar in south Delhi.

In 2013, Shahzad Ahmed and Khan had escaped the Batla House shootout while two of their accomplices, Atif Amin and Mohammed Sajid, were killed during the shootout. A third, Mohammed Saif, was arrested.

Delhi Police Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma lost his life while two other officers were injured.

Later, Shahzad Ahmed was also arrested and a trial court in July 2013 had sentenced Indian Mujahideen terrorist Ahmed to life imprisonment in connection with the case. His appeal against the trial court's verdict has been pending in the High Court.

Khan, a native of Azamgarh, was arrested by the Delhi Police's Special Cell in February 2018.

Don't evoke false sense of security over Covid: IMA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain talked about nearing the end of the (Covid-19) pandemic, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has cautioned politicians and the Government not to invoke a "false sense of security."

"It is painful to note the discussion on endemic Vs pandemic status of diseases is echoing in the political corridors, however it ought to be substantiated by scientific evidence by the World Health Organisation (WHO) or ICMR only," the IMA said.

The apex body of the doctors pointed out that "invasion of muted virus UK variant, South Africa variant and Brazil variant continue to haunt."

"While corona pandemic with its disastrous tentacles and widespread infectivity were under control amid spike here and there by the dedicated and coordinated services rendered timely by Governments



and private modern medical healthcare providers, the stage is not ripe to call it the end of pandemic or endemic," the IMA said in a statement here.

"The introduction of such efficacious and safe corona vaccine in our country is a tool for us to face this challenging war with confidence. But for India and Argentina, whole world had faced the second wave and its much vitreous consequences.

"The last one week has shown 35 to 40 per cent increase in the number of cases from different parts of the State and even in Capital of India the daily average has risen up from 100 to 140 patients.

All booths in Bengal ph-I polls 'sensitive'

More leaders quit TMC to join BJP

PNS ■ KOLKATA

In an unprecedented decision, the Election Commission of India has declared all the booths for the first phase of elections in five districts of Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram and East and West Midnapore in West Bengal as sensitive.

This implies that all the 10,228 booths will have at least 4-8 Central forces jawans deployed, sources said, adding the EC has already banned "civic volunteers" or "green police" appointed by the State Government on a temporary basis for manning the polls.

The first phase — of the 8-phase elections — for 10 seats will take place on March 27.

Reacting to the EC's decision to deploy Central forces in all the booths, Bengal Minister Tapas Roy said, "We respect the EC's decision... they have the power to do so and they are doing accordingly... but the point is decisions should not be



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses a rally to mark International Women's Day in Kolkata on Monday

one-sided and favouring any one party."

Meanwhile, more Trinamool Congress leaders quit the ruling party either "feeling insulted" at not being given a ticket or getting "inspired" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership ahead of the Assembly polls.

Sonali Guha, former Bengal Assembly Deputy Speaker and a trusted lieutenant of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for many decades, on Monday left the ruling outfit along with other outgoing Legislators Dependu Biswas of Basirhat and Jatu Lahiri of Howrah.

CAPSULE

DOMESTIC AIR TRAFFIC FALLS 37% IN FEBRUARY

Mumbai: India's domestic air traffic fell 37 per cent year-on-year to 78 lakh passengers in February amid travel curbs and capacity restrictions due to the pandemic, according to Ica.

SOUTHAMPTON TO HOST IND-NZ WORLD TEST FINAL

New Delhi: India will play their inaugural World Test Championship final against New Zealand at Southampton's Ageas Bowl Stadium from June 18-22, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly confirmed on Monday.

MEGHAN ALLEGES ROYAL RACISM IN INTERVIEW

Los Angeles/London: Meghan Markle struggled as a new member of Britain's royal family after her marriage to Prince Harry to such a degree that she contemplated suicide, Meghan revealed in an explosive tell-all interview with Oprah Winfrey. She also spoke about concerns of racism within the royal ranks.

Leadership change in U'khand?

Another day of hectic political activity and uncertainty

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Talks of leadership change in Uttarakhand continued on Monday as Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat reached Delhi changing his earlier schedule to attend an event in Gairsain.

While party leaders continued to state that the CM's visit to Delhi was a routine visit, unconfirmed reports about political turmoil continued throughout the day.

Rawat reached Delhi to meet the top BJP leadership amid speculation that the party is mulling a change of leadership in the mountain state. Varying reports came

out as the day progressed. However, MLA and BJP State chief spokesman Munna Singh Chauhan, who accompanied Rawat to Delhi, said that the speculations are baseless. He said, "The CM has come to Delhi to meet the party leadership as is usually done to discuss various important issues. There may be speculations in Dehradun but in Delhi, the CM's visit is nothing out of the normal. The CM visited Delhi to meet top party leaders following the passage of the budget. There are rumours being floated about leadership change but there is little substance in these. No official meeting of the BJP legislature party has been called. The BJP state president Banshidhar Bhagat has already stated clearly that no leadership change is about to happen, which should be considered a conclusive statement."

Meanwhile, according to sources, BJP national vice-president Raman Singh and gener-

al secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam are learned to have submitted their report to party national president JP Nadda on their return from the state

where they had gone to speak to senior state BJP leaders. The party leadership has not made any official communication regarding the development in Uttarakhand except Gautam saying that Singh and he had gone there to plan events to mark the state government's fourth anniversary. While there were unconfirmed reports of the CM calling MLAs and mayors close to him to Delhi, the BJP state president was not available for comments despite repeated attempts.

It is pertinent to mention that a section of state leaders is reportedly miffed with Rawat's leadership and are of the view that the party's electoral prospects under him may not be very bright. However, officially the BJP has denied this.

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GSDP contraction in Delhi 5.68%, says Sisodia

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday presented the economic survey report in the Delhi Assembly for the year 2020-21 on Monday. Sisodia, who also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Cabinet said the advance estimate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Delhi recorded contraction of 3.92 percent over previous year. The GSDP at current prices increased by about 45 percent in the last six years that is from 5,50,804 crore in 2015-16 to 7,98,310 crore during 2020-21.



The contraction in GSDP in Delhi is 5.68 per cent during 2020-21 compared to contraction of 8.0 percent at national level during 2020-21. "The GSVA at current prices for the year 2020-21 showed contribution of tertiary sector to GSVA at 84.59 percent followed by secondary sector at 13.56 percent and primary sector at 1.85 percent," Sisodia

national average. Reacting on the Outcome Budget report, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that Delhi government has been presenting the Outcome Budget for the last 4 years. We are the only government that keeps checks and balances of previous budgets. "Delhi is the only state government that makes suo-moto disclosure across 2500+ indicators of its performance to promote transparency in public spending, Manish Sisodia added. As COVID-19 necessitated online classes for all students, "Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the series 'Parenting in the time of Corona' where Delhi Government was able to send worksheets through SMS and

IVR. 98 percent of our students received worksheets while 89-90% of students in 11th and 12th grade attended online classes. Overall, we extended educational activities to 229 days whereas a normal session lasts for 220 days. We also ensured the provision of books to students from 1st to 8th standard and distributed sanitary napkins to girl students." To mitigate basic inequalities caused due to the pandemic, Sisodia said "The Revenue Department set up '1914 Hunger Relief Centres', many of them at Government run schools that remained operational for three months. Cooked meals were provided twice a day to over 10 lakh people. Delhi Government also set-up 260 night shelters, booked 252 trains for migrant workers

and provided an ex-gratia relief amount of Rs. 1 crore to each of the families of 9 frontline workers who died due to COVID-19", Sisodia said. Responding quickly to the COVID-19 crisis, the Delhi government implemented a comprehensive COVID response strategy. Reading the outcome budget report Sisodia said, "Delhi Government ensured testing of 87.8 lakh citizens and provided 27873 COVID beds, twice the number available compared to actual occupancy at all times. Moreover, 60,042 oximeters & 3,000 oxygen concentrators were provided to residents to support patients recovering from home isolation. In an impressive feat to tackle the virus, Delhi also became the first state in the country to

experiment with Plasma Therapy, which proved very beneficial in saving the lives of critical patients. In addition to providing cooked meals during lockdown, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister said, "Delhi Government distributed free ration to 71 lakh ration card holders. 65 percent of Delhi's population were provided with a free dry ration to help them tide over the economic crises induced by COVID-19 pandemic." Construction workers who lost their livelihoods were also provided with special assistance by the Delhi Government. Sisodia said, "Cash assistance of Rs. 10,000 has been provided to 44,683 construction workers registered under the Construction

Workers Welfare Board. This is the highest such cash assistance provided by any state in India, followed by Punjab and Kerala at Rs 3,000 each." Delhi Government has allocated financial aid of Rs. 5000 each to 1,56,350 Permit and Public Service vehicle badge holders. To curb pollution and make Delhi a clean and green city, Delhi Government also launched the Electric Vehicle Policy. "The Outcome Budget has become an integral part of the governance system and helps the Government to rank all departments on the basis of their performance. The departments are now more proactive and work in a more target oriented approach, which gives better results," Sisodia concluded.

Jal Board moves SC against Haryana to avert water crisis

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To avert the severe water crisis in Delhi, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has moved to the Supreme Court against the Haryana Government, appealing an immediate cessation of discharge of untreated pollutants into river Yamuna and releasing sufficient water to Delhi.



The normal level of Yamuna River near Wazirabad pond should be 674.50 feet but it has dropped to 670.90, a drop that is alarming with an Ammonia level reaching to approx 3.6 PPM. Delhi is facing a potential severe water crisis due to the twin factors of high ammonia levels in River Yamuna and the continuously depleting water level at Wazirabad barrage, which supplies drinking water to the Wazirabad, Okhla and Chandrawal Water Treatment Plants (WTPs), the DJB said in a statement.

A senior DJB official said that the water levels that should stand at 674.50 feet are now down to an alarming low of 670.4 feet. "Raw water is sourced from river Yamuna and is drawn at Wazirabad Barrage in Delhi. The availability of quantity and quality of raw water at Wazirabad Barrage is dependent on release of water by the Haryana government," he said.

Raghav Chadha, Vice Chairman of the DJB expressed his deep anguish and disappointment over Haryana government's "lackadaisical" attitude leading to unchecked dumping of sewerage into the Yamuna and the reduction in the supply of raw water to Delhi due to which the capital is facing an acute water shortage. Haryana supplies water to Delhi in three ways, Carrier-Lined Channel (CLC), Delhi Sub-Branch (DSB) and the Yamuna. CLC and DSB are supplied water from Hathni Kund via Munak canal and BBMB (Bhakra Beas Management Board). At present, Delhi receives 479 MGD of water against 609 MGD from Haryana. Apart from this, Delhi has 90 MGD groundwater and receives 250 MGD from the Upper Ganga Canal.

Explaining how Delhi is a landlocked city dependent on the supply of water from external sources and the strenuous efforts of DJB in meeting the increasing demand of Delhiites, Chadha said, "DJB has undertaken every possible effort to liaise with central and state authorities for a workable resolution on this issue."

Capital records 239 new Covid cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital recorded 239 new coronavirus cases and three deaths on Monday. According to the health bulletin issued by the Health Department, the new cases came from 47,689 tests, including 35,968 RT-PCR tests and 11,721

rapid antigen tests, conducted the previous day. The positivity rate rose to 0.50%. The number of active cases stood at 1,803 on Sunday, report said. Three new deaths took the toll to 10,924, according to the data. The positivity rate rose to 0.50 per cent from 0.31 per cent a day before.

On Sunday, 286 new cases and two deaths were recorded. The city had registered 321 new coronavirus cases, the highest daily count in nearly one-and-a-half months, and a death on Saturday, and 312 cases and a fatality on Friday. The number of people under home isolation on

Monday rose to 947 from 937 on Saturday, the bulletin said, adding that over 6.28 lakh people had recovered till date. As per the bulletin, 11 beds in COVID care centres are occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by the Vande Bharat Mission and bubble flights.

Rly integrates its helpline numbers into a single number

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to overcome the inconvenience due to multiple helpline numbers for grievances and enquiry during railway travel, Indian Railways has integrated all railway helpline numbers into a single one for redressal of all the grievances.

Indian Railways said that the 139 (Rail Madad Helpline) for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey. As the new helpline number 139 will take over all the existing helpline numbers. "It will be easy for the passengers to remember this number and connect with Railways for all their needs during the travel," it said.

Various Railway grievances help-lines were discontinued last year. Now, helpline number 182 would also be discontinued from April 1 and merged into 139.

Programme held on 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) and Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) of the Delhi Government jointly organised a two-day refresher course and training programme with focus on 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences' (POCSO) Act 2012 and of dozens of judgments pronounced by the Supreme Court and HC on the issues clarifying the gaps in the law.

The training programme was organised for the newly appointed members of Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) and District Child Protection Officers (DCPO). Justice Rajiv Shakkher, a sitting Judge and Chairperson, JJC was chief guest of the event. In his address during the closing ceremony emphasised on the importance of the strength of character of every individual to truly deliver the mandate of their role and ensure that the best interest of children is upheld. Narrating several instances

of violation of the rights of children, especially in cases of substance abuse, he suggested that effective solutions to curb the problem of school-drops due to children taking falling prey to substance abuse can be devised through community-interaction. Retired High Court Judge Justice RK Gauba, in his keynote address, articulated the etymology and history of the laws and jurisprudence associated with the children's laws, their evolution and highlighted several aspects governing and being debated in the discourse.

The importance of convergence across stakeholders and linkages with different government schemes and, as highlighted during the inaugural ceremony of the training in February was reiterated throughout the training session. Anurag Kundu, Chairperson of DCPCR articulated the need, design and background of the training programme. Dr Rashmi Singh, Director of DWCD emphasised the role of the CWCs/JJBs/DCPOs and assured unconditional support of the department.

DMRC closes entry, exit gates of 3 stations on Green Line

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Monday closed entry and exit gates of stations on the Tikri Kalan-Brigadier Hoshiar Singh section of the Delhi Metro's Green Line for security reasons.

Tikri border is one of the epicentres of the farmers' protest against the new agriculture laws. "Security update Entry/exit gates of stations from Tikri Kalan to Brigadier Hoshiar Singh on green line are closed," the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation tweeted. The stations that fall between these two stations are -- Tikri Border, Pandit Shree Ram Sharma (Modern Industrial Estate) and Bahadurgarh City. Further details are awaited.

Kejriwal Govt has been abject failure, says LoP Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal's speech in the house as "Bundle of lies and tale of broken promises", Leader of Opposition (LoP) Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said no amount of showcasing can hide the failure of the Kejriwal Government. Speaking on the commencement of the Budget Session of Delhi Assembly, Bidhuri said the L-G Bajjal was obliged under the Constitutional norms to read out whatever the Government puts in the address, but the Kejriwal Government has been an abject failure.

"Delhi Government had failed to tackle the Corona outbreak in the Capital and it was only after the intervention of Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah that measures were taken to bring the situation under control. "It is the PM and the Home Minister who deserve all the praise and appreciation for saving the people of Delhi from a major outbreak of Corona. But the L-G address failed to make any mention of this thing which was unfortunate," Bidhuri said. "Kejriwal Government rule for the past six years, the L-Gs address had become a routine affair and promises made on

paper just to be broken. The promises made in the last year's address of the L-Governor had remained unfulfilled. "The Kejriwal Government has in the last six years not been able to purchase even a single DTC bus, open any new school or college, new hospitals, construct new flyovers. Instead, Delhi has earned the dubious distinction of being the most polluted city in the world. This indeed has been the 'biggest achievement' of the Delhi Government," he added.

Reminding the Kejriwal Government of the massive help and assistance provided by the Central Government, he said massive supply of PPE kits, ventilators, air lifting of medical staff for Delhi, 20,000 bed hospital creation including ICU units and constant monitoring of the situation was done by the Modi Government. The Delhi High Court had made some very adverse remarks against the Delhi Government on the functioning of the hospitals and the fatalities due to negligence of the authorities in the Corona situation. "The much-applauded healthcare facilities of the Delhi Government stood exposed during the Corona virus outbreak and had it not been the central government, things would have been terrible," he added.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

In Army Records, the name of my wife has erroneously been mentioned as Pushpa Devi and her date of birth as 10 Feb 1065. However, complete name of my wife is Pushpa Bhatt, her correct date of birth is 06 Nov 1965. JC-538831L Ex Sub Clk Ravi Kumar Bhatt.

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Anchal to Aanchal Mishra and in future I should be known as Aanchal Mishra S/o Bhola Nath Mishra Address:- 171, Purani Anaz Mandi Chowk Bazar, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

I have lost my class 10th passing certificate bearing Roll no.- 122855 year 2001 Mr. Salim Khuroli Ali Khan S/o Nasim Ul Ghani Khan R/o 198/2 1st Floor Rajpur Road, Dehradun.

I have lost my Xth Marksheets of UK Board bearing Roll No 0038800 document No 35637044210565 any where at Rajpur Road Dehradun and not found yet. Rahul Panwar, S/o Avatar Singh Panwar, Address : Kanbua, PO Sahiya, PS Kalsi, Dist Dehradun (Uttarakhand)

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नीलामी सूचना
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के कार्यक्षेत्र के अधीन कार्यरत सचल दल, इकाई-आधारोदी देहरादून के कार्यालय परिसर में अभिगृहीत किए गए दिनांक पान मसाला, जर्दा, एवं सिन्धेवर पान मसाला (जहाँ है, जैसा है, के आधार पर) दिनांक 17-03-2021 को अपराह्न 12:00 बजे नीलाम किया जायेगा। नीलामी से सम्बन्धित प्रश्न, विवरण सहित, कार्यालय- सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आधारोदी देहरादून से दिनांक 09-03-2021 से 15-03-2021 तक किसी भी समय कार्यालय से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

- नीलामी की शर्तें-**
01- नीलामी में प्रतिभाग करने वाला व्यक्ति भारतीय नागरिक हो, दिवालिया अथवा पागल न हो।
02- नीलामी में प्रतिभाग करने हेतु बोलीदाता का नीलामी की तिथि को उत्तराखण्ड राज्य में सक्रिय जोएसटी पंजीयन धारक होना आवश्यक है।
03- नीलामी में प्रतिभाग करने वाले पंजीकृत व्यापारी पर CGST/SGST/IGST/CESS/की कोई अथवा अन्य किसी सरकारी विभाग का कोई बकाया शेष न हो।
04- नीलामी में भाग लेने से पूर्व धरोहर राशि के रूप में मूल्यांकन समिति द्वारा निर्धारित न्यूनतम बोली मूल्य का 10 प्रतिशत डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट के माध्यम से जो "सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आधारोदी देहरादून" के पक्ष में देय हो के रूप में नीलामी आरम्भ होने के 2 घण्टे पूर्व जमा करानी होगी।
05- जो भी बोलीदाता नीलामी में प्रतिभाग करने हेतु इच्छुक हो, एवं इस हेतु निर्धारित न्यूनतम धरोहर धनराशि जमा कर इसका संतोषजनक प्रमाण प्रस्तुत कर देते हैं उन्हें नीलामी से पूर्व माल के अवलोकन का अवसर प्रदान किया जायेगा।
06- उच्चतम बोलीदाता के पक्ष में माल की नीलामी स्वीकार हो जाने के उपरान्त बोलीदाता को सम्पूर्ण धनराशि का 40 प्रतिशत तत्काल एवं शेष धनराशि डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट के माध्यम से, जो "सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आधारोदी देहरादून" के पक्ष में देय हो, को दिनांक 20-03-2021 तक जमा कराने के उपरान्त ही नीलाम माल बोलीदाता को सुपुर्द किया जायेगा।
07- नियत तिथि तक नीलामी की राशि जमा न कराने पर नीलामी निरस्त समझी जाएगी तथा उच्चतम बोलीदाता की धरोहर राशि समाप्त कर ली जाएगी।
08- उक्त नीलामी को बिना कोई कारण बताए स्वीकृत/निरस्त करने का अधिकार नीलामी समिति के अध्यक्ष में निहित होगा, तथा किसी भी विवाद की स्थिति में नीलामी समिति का निर्णय अंतिम होगा।

क्र० सं०	सामग्री का विवरण	कार्यालय का नाम जहाँ नीलामी सम्पन्न होगी है।	दिनांक एवं घरोहर राशि समय	धरोहर राशि
01	दिलबाग पान मसाला- 80 बोरा जर्दा- 20 बोरा सिन्धेवर पान मसाला-04 बोरा	कार्यालय-सहायक आयुक्त राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आधारोदी देहरादून।	17.03.2021 अपराह्न 12:00 बजे	2,15,744.00 (रुपये दो लाख पंद्रह हजार सात सौ चालीस मात्र)

नोट-उक्त माल की नीलामी माल के मूल्य, देय कर व अधिार को सम्मिलित करते हुए न्यूनतम ₹0-21,57,440 से प्रारम्भ होगी।
(वीपीओ सिंह)
संयुक्त आयुक्त, राज्य कर (विाअनुशा/प्रवर्तन) देहरादून।
(अध्यक्ष-नीलामी समिति) मोबाईल नं- 7055602736

USACS holds voluntary blood donation camp for women

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand State AIDS Control Society (USACS) and National Health Mission, PCPNDT Cell jointly organised a voluntary blood donation camp to mark International Women's Day on Monday. The NHM director Dr Saroj Naithani inaugurated the event in which women personnel from various organisations and girl students from different institutions participated. Of the total 59 persons who had registered, 14 donated blood on the occasion. The women who

had not completed 28 days after receiving the Covid-19 vaccine and those whose haemoglobin level was less than 12.5 did not donate blood in the camp. The health director general Dr Tripti Bahuguna, NHM mission director Savin Bansal and other officials were also present on the occasion. The medical team from the government Doon medical college hospital collected units of the donated blood in the camp. According to officials, at present only about three per cent women are blood donors.



Considering this, the voluntary blood donation camp was organised on international women's day to raise awareness on voluntary blood donation among women and increase their participation in such activities.

GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND Office of Executive Engineer N.H.P.W.D. Doiwala, Ph:- 0135-2695884 Email: eenhdoiwala@gmail.com

Letter No. 362/Tender Short Term e-Tendering Date: 26/02/2021
The Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, P.W.D. Doiwala on behalf of "Government of Uttarakhand" invites tender for following work. Tender related information available on web-site https://uktenders.gov.in from 09.03.2021.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Earnest Money Rs.	Tender Cost	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration (Road Works)
1	Repairing of road damage due to laying of water pipe line from Km 154(Ch. 153.200) to Km 155(Ch. 154.075) Sabji Mandi to Rajeev Juyal Marg (L.H.S) on NH-72(07).	55500.00	2500 + GST	45 Days	30 Days	D Grade & higher in road works
2	Repairing of road damage due to laying of sewer line at Km 159(LHS) on NH-72(07).	60500.00	2500 + GST	45 Days	30 Days	
3	Repairing of road damage due to laying of water pipe line from Km 149 to 151 (Ashirwad Petrol Pump to Balliwal Chowk R.H.S) on NH-72(07).	52000.00	2000 + GST	45 Days	30 Days	

Executive Engineer N H Division PWD, Doiwala(Dehradun)

Briefs

PNB focuses on teachers & students on Women's Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN
The Punjab National Bank celebrated International Women's Day in the national middle school at Rajpur Road. The bank honoured the school teachers while school bags, shoes, ration and other items were distributed among the children. The bank's zonal manager RD Sevak said, "Actual empowerment of women will happen only when women are financially self-reliant. The bank also plays an important role for making them self-reliant by offering them various financial schemes like Stand-up India and PNB Mahila Udhyaam Nidhi Scheme among others." Deputy zonal manager DS Bhandari circle head Rajinder Bhatia also expressed their views.

Canara Bank felicitates women entrepreneurs on International Women's Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN
International Women's Day was celebrated at the IT Park situated regional office of Canara Bank on Monday. The divisional manager Rajesh Singh Kataria and assistant divisional manager Praveen Kumar conducted the event in two sessions in which the female staff members also presented cultural programmes. Moreover, several women entrepreneurs and the female staffs were felicitated by Canara Bank who also shared their insights in the event.

SJVN marks International Women's Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN
The SJVN Limited marked International Women's Day with director (personnel) Geeta Kapur inaugurating the event in presence of CGM (HR) DP Kaushal and others. Mountaineer and motivational speaker Arunima Sinha delivered a talk on the occasion. She shared her experiences and life story of being pushed from a running train by robbers while she was resisting them and losing her leg after doctors amputated it, to save her life. Kapur stated that lessons must be learnt from the incredible struggle women like Sinha who have paved the way for others to follow.

Talk of leadership change in BJP boosts Cong morale

Party gears up to make Srinagar rally on March 14, a success

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Enthusiasm by the leadership crisis in the state BJP and strong rumours of the change of chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat in the state, the Uttarakhand Congress has thrown all its weight to make its proposed 'Jan Akorshi' rallies a success.

The first in the series of these rallies would be held in Srinagar Garhwal on March 14. Addressing a meeting held in the state headquarters of the party to discuss the preparation of the Srinagar rally here on Monday, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh said that the national leadership of BJP has

ensured the mood of the people of Uttarakhand which has forced the BJP to change its leadership in the state.

He said that the BJP government which has an overwhelming majority in assembly has failed on every front and the people of the state are fed up with it.

He said that the people are now looking at the Congress party with hope. The PCC president appealed to the Congress leaders to ensure success of the Srinagar rally.

The Vice President of Uttarakhand Congress Surya Kant Dhasmana presented the report of his Garhwal tour. He claimed that there is enthusiasm in the people for the rally

The Vice President of Uttarakhand Congress Surya Kant Dhasmana presented the report of his Garhwal tour

in Srinagar. He claimed that supporters of the party from six assembly segments would take part in the rally in large numbers. Senior Congress leader Manish Khanduri said that the local unit of the party has made all the preparation for the rally in Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the former minister Surveer Singh Sajwan, state general secretary Pradip Tiwari, Vijay Saraswat, district presidents of Rudraprayag, Pauri, Tehri and Devprayag attended the meeting.

₹5.27 crore interest free loans distributed to women SHGs

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

An interest-free loan scheme for women self help groups under the Pandit Deendayal Kisan Kalyan Yojana was inaugurated at Gairsain on the occasion of international women's day on Monday. Loans amounting to Rs 5.27 crore was distributed to 156 women SHGs of the district on the occasion. Addressing the event virtually, chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced that each Anganwadi and Asha worker who had worked during the Covid period would be given Rs 10,000. Further, Rs 15,000 would be given to each Mahila Mangal Dal and women SHG. Stressing on the importance of the empowering women for the integrated development of society and state, Rawat said that the state will progress as swiftly as the participation of women increases. Referring to the completion of the state government's four years in office on March 18, he said that various steps for welfare and empowerment of women had been taken during this period.

State minister for Higher Education and Cooperatives, Dhan Singh Rawat presented cheques to 11 women SHGs of Chamoli district on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, he said that a major initiative had been undertaken by starting the distribution of interest-free loan of upto Rs five lakh each to women self help groups in the state. Various public welfare schemes are being undertaken under Prime Minister

Narendra Modi at the centre and Trivendra Singh Rawat in the state. Various public representatives and government officials were also present on the occasion.

In another development, the State minister also inaugurated a centre of

excellence in employment at the government polytechnic in Gairsain. This centre of excellence is aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship and facilitating value addition to local products to provide a better market to them.

Cardiac care

Contract with Fortis hospital ends

Health dept has asked hospital to hand over assets

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The ten year contract of the state health department with the Fortis hospital for super speciality treatment in cardiac disease ended on Monday. In a letter directed to the Manager of the Fortis hospital, the chief medical superintendent (CMS) of the Dehradun district hospital Dr Manoj Upreti formally ended the contract with the hospital. In the letter Dr Upreti said that

the contract with the hospital is ending on March 8 and the hospital should now hand over all the assets to the department. Upreti told The Pioneer that the Fortis would hand over the assets within four to five day. The management of the Fortis hospital also confirmed that the hospital has stopped treating the patients of government hospital as its contract has ended. It is pertinent to mention here that the state health department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Fortis Hospital in March 2011. Under the contract an entire floor of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (Coronation) hospital was handed over to the hospital. The government also provided other assets to the hospital. The



data of the hospital suggests that in the last ten years more than 30000 patients were admitted in the hospital. About 100 cardiac surgeries and 150 non invasive (stent) operations are done in the hospital in a month. The hospital has a staff

of more than 125 and it caters to the superspeciality treatment in cardiac care to many districts of Garhwal division. The director general of state health services, Dr Tripti said that the experts of cardiology are now available in the

Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital and many private hospitals are in the panel of Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana (AAUY) so it was felt that there is no need to renew the contract with the Fortis hospital.

Vaccination drive: 60,636 fully vaccinated in U'khand

58 new Covid-19 patients reported

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In the ongoing vaccination drive against the contagion of Covid-19, a total of 22748 people were vaccinated on Monday in Uttarakhand. In the state 60636 people have been fully vaccinated as they have received both the first and second dose of the vaccine. A total of 36715 senior citizens (60 Plus) have received the first dose of the vaccine in the state.

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) of state Covid-19 control room, Dr Abhishek Tripathi said 243 vaccine sessions were organised in differ-

ent parts of the state on Monday.

In Dehradun 63 vaccine sessions were organised in which 4033 senior citizens, 87 people with co-morbidity, 1777 healthcare workers and 335 frontline workers were vaccinated on the day.

Meanwhile the state health department reported 58 new cases of the disease on Monday which increased the tally of the disease to 97480. Death of no patient was reported by the department on the day. The authorities discharged 26 patients from different hospitals of the state following their recovery on Monday. A total of 93400 patients have recovered from the disease in the state so far and the recovery percentage is now at 96.14.

The state health department reported 27 new cases of the disease from Nainital, 13 from Dehradun, 10 from Haridwar, seven from Udham Singh Nagar and one from Chamoli. No new case was reported from Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Pauri, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri and Uttarkashi districts on the day. The state now has only 662 active patients of the disease. Nainital district is at the top of the table of active cases of the disease with 194 patients, Haridwar 186, Dehradun 134, Udham Singh Nagar 49, Tehri 18, Champawat 15, Almora 12, Uttarkashi 10, Chamoli seven, Pithoragarh four, Rudraprayag three and Bageshwar two active patients of the disease.



Competitors in action during a national junior archery competition in Dehradun on Monday

Pioneer photo

Remembering Sahir Ludhianvi's songs about U'khand's beauty on his birth centenary

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Poet and film song lyricist Sahir Ludhianvi's classics remain immortal in the Hindi film industry. His timeless writings and Nazms reflect empathy, love, and patriotism while capturing emotions with simplicity and grace.

On Ludhianvi's birth centenary marked on Monday, Doon Library and Research Centre research associate Manoj Panjani recalled the Uttarakhand connection of some of his songs. He said

"Some of Ludhianvi's songs were shot in Uttarakhand. Songs like 'In hawaon mai in fidayon mai' from Gumrah movie and 'parvaton ke pedo par shaam ka basera hai' from Shagoon movie were shot in Nainital lake while 'Zindagi ke rang kai re' from Aadmi Aur Insaan was shot in Dakpathar and Nainital. In most of these songs, he describes the natural beauty of the locations".

According to Panjani, movie makers used to come to Nainital due to its natural

beauty and later they started going to Kashmir and then Switzerland and other foreign places as accessibility improved. 'Ganga tera pani amrit' was shot in different locations of Haridwar, Rishikesh, and Dehradun and was a big hit. 'Bina sifarish mile Naukri' from Aadmi Aur Insaan was also shot in Uttarakhand and even after so many years those words of his are still alive and relevant and depict the same scenario we are facing now. 'Jagega insaan zamana dekhgega' song from Aadmi Aur Insaan movie

which was shot near Dakpathar was also penned by Ludhianvi. The song basically depicts the awakening of and creating awareness among the masses for their own fundamental rights".

Talking about Ludhianvi's personal life Panjani said, "At the age of 22, he had written Talkhiyan, his collection of poetry. He was fond of his mother and believed her to be a great inspiration but his father disowned his mother which terribly impacted the poet's life".

CS assures UPNL outsourced employees of dialogue with CM soon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand government would soon initiate a dialogue with protesting outsourced employees of Uttarakhand Purva Sainik Nigam Limited (UPNL). On Monday, protesting UPNL employees marched towards the secretariat in support of

their demands but they were stopped by police at the Nalapani Chowk. Former chief minister Harish Rawat and the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Pritam Singh also participated in the march of protesting workers.

"When we reached near Nalapani Chowk, the police had barricaded the road. We all

started protesting there along with Congress leaders Harish Rawat and Pritam Singh," said UPNL employees union head Kushagra Joshi. According to him, chief secretary Om Prakash called five representatives of the UPNL employees union for a meeting and stated that only chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat can

take the decision on this matter and when he returns to the State, the government will discuss the demands of the protesting employees.

However, Joshi said that they will continue their protest unless the State government gives a clear message regarding their demands.

Governor inaugurates Sari Bank initiative

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand governor Baby Rani Maurya inaugurated a Sari Bank initiative on the occasion of International Women's Day to make the Saris available to needy women across the State. An event was organised on Monday in Raj Bhawan to felicitate female Covid warriors who contributed through their services during the Covid-19 pandemic last year. The governor felicitated 51 female Covid warriors including sanitation workers, police constables and health workers besides various women associated with Self Help Groups (SHGs). Some Covid warriors also shared the experiences they had during the lockdown last year. One of the sanitation workers, Rani, shared her experience stating that they used to sweep roads and drains in the hot summer while all the people stayed inside their homes during the lockdown.

"Even when we stood under the shade of somebody's home for two minutes, they used to scold us. Many even refused to give us water in those days due

to Covid-19," stated Rani who broke into tears while sharing her experience. Moreover, one of the female constables also stated how people were approaching day and night for various matters including unavailability of ration, cooked food, travelling issues and during medical emergencies which they provided during the lockdown. Geeta Maurya from a self-help group also stated how she started making cotton masks and distributed them among labourers, street vendors and beggars when the prices of masks doubled during the lockdown. She said that she also provided virtual training on making cotton masks to the women of Tehri district during the lockdown. On hearing the experiences of Covid warriors, the governor said that these experiences tell us how these women stood with the needy and helped them in such critical times. "I invited these women on this occasion because they work at the ground level with common people and form the foundation of their respective departments and organisations," said Maurya. The governor also launched a Sari Bank initiative

for the needy women. Initially, two to three banks would be opened in Dehradun district with the help of three groups

that belong to three different states. Preeti Singh who belongs to one of the groups stated that people can use digital plat-

forms like Facebook, Twitter and their website to donate Saris.

"The banks will operate in

Dehradun only and then we will take this initiative to other parts of the State too," added Singh.



WECD conducts contest to promote U'khand's traditional attire

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Women Empowerment and Child Development (WECD) department conducted a state-wide contest on International Women's Day to promote and preserve traditional attires and accessories of Uttarakhand.

The State minister for WECD, Rekha Arya who was the chief guest of the event also wore the traditional attire of Kumaon besides 79 women who participated in the contest from various parts of the State. Besides this, folk singer Basanti Bisht also rendered Jagar on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering Arya said that people have limited the use of traditional apparels and accessories to cultural performances on stage and it is crucial for the young generation to be aware

of such traditions.

"It is one of the reasons we organised this event to promote this tradition and culture among today's youth," stated Arya.

The contest was divided into three categories that included the categories Cheli/Nauni Uttarakhandi (Uttarakhand's daughter) in which women from 18 years to 30 years old participated and Buari Uttarakhandi (Uttarakhand's daughter-in-law) and Aama Uttarakhandi (Uttarakhand's grandmother) in which 31 years to 50 years old women and women above 51 years old belonging to various communities participated.

Seventy nine women were dressed in traditional Garhwali, Kumaoni and Jaunsari attires besides the traditional attires of other communities of Uttarakhand.

Indian Navy deploys 4 women officers on warships

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective to give more representation to women, the Indian Navy, in a major step, has deployed four women officers on board its warships for the first time after many years. So far, officers were serving only on shore-based assignments.

The demand for deploying women officers on warships was pending for the past many years. However, the Navy was reluctant to do so due to various practical issues including separate washrooms and living quarters on the ships.

So far, women officers in the Navy were deployed in land-based assignments. Some of them were also flying helicopters. However, a stint on the warship came about recently. They were deployed on ships about 23 years back and then it was discontinued due to logistical and related issues.

Giving details of the path-breaking step on the International Women's Day, Navy officials said here on Monday four women officers were recently posted on warships. Two of them were now serving on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya while two others are deployed on the tanker ship INS Shakti.

It was for the first time since 1998 that women officers will be posted on warships. Back then, women officers started getting deployed onboard warships but the decision was changed soon after due to certain logistical and other issues.

In the latest development, women officers deployed

Rajya Sabha members push for one-third reservation for women in Parl, Assemblies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Several Rajya Sabha members on International Women's Day on Monday pushed for at least one-third reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, saying this will ensure they get adequate representation. The demand comes in the backdrop of a Bill which sought to give 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies lapsing a few years ago.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on the occasion appreciated the services rendered by women members of the House for the country's development and prosperity. "We need to ensure an environment that allows women to express themselves to their full potential in the form of both words and deeds," Naidu said and wished them more strength and power. The chairman also acknowledged the contribution of women citizens to the development of the nation.

Congress member Chhaya Verma recalled that the Government of former Prime



On the occasion of International Women's Day on Monday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met women parliamentarians and women journalists in the Parliament House Complex. A first of its kind initiative, the event was also attended by Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Zubin Irani. Noting that women have led from the front while holding important positions like President, Prime Minister and Speaker among others, Birla reminded that the present Lok Sabha has the highest number of women parliamentarians

Minister Rajiv Gandhi had given reservation to women in local bodies. Similar provisions should be made for women in State Assemblies, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, she said. Nominated member Sonal Mansingh made a case of celebrating 'international men's day' on the line of women's day.

Shiv Sena member Priyanka Chaturvedi was of the opinion that as women form around 50 per cent of the country's population, their representation in Parliament and state assemblies too should be in the same proportion, and

onboard the tanker vessel INS Shakti include a doctor and logistics officer. The two women officers posted onboard India's lone aircraft

carrier INS Vikramaditya include air traffic controller and a logistics officer.

A present, the Navy has 704 women officers who form

6.5% of the overall officer cadre. To mark Women's Day, the Navy on Monday released a video shot aboard INS Shakti with messages from the two

All-women crew fly maiden commercial passenger flight from Delhi to Bareilly

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To mark International Women's Day, the first commercial passenger flight to Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh operated by an all-woman crew was flagged off from the Delhi airport by Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday.

In a tweet, Puri said Indian carriers employ close to 12.4% women pilots. "India tops in the proportion of women pilots than any other nation. Indian carriers employ close to 12.4% women pilots, which is much higher than the world average of 5.4%," Puri tweeted. In another tweet, the aviation minister said: "Women power soars high! 210 women pilots including 103 captains are a part of the Air India family."

women officers posted on the tanker.

"They say women can't have it all. But I would say dare to be different. The Indian Navy gave me the opportunity to be different and to dare," said one of two women officers.

Over the years, the Navy inducted women officers in different assignments. Last September, two women officers were selected for the helicopter stream. They were first women in the navy's history to operate from flight decks of warships and stay on board the vessels.

The two women officers, Sub-Lieutenants Kumudini

AAI is efficiently women-ed by 507 women Air Traffic Controllers."

The percentage of female pilots in India is twice as high as in most Western countries, including the United States and Australia. Globally, less than 5 per cent of pilots are women, according to the International Society of Women Airline Pilots.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the civil aviation ministry said that the Bareilly airport has been upgraded for commercial flight operations under the regional connectivity scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) of the Government of India.

The all-woman crew operated Alliance Air's Delhi-Bareilly inaugural flight on International Women's Day, it said.

Tyagi and Riti Singh, were among the 17 officers who were awarded wings on graduating as observers at a ceremony held in Kochi.

As observers, the two women have been trained for a variety of roles including navigation, flying procedures, tactics employed in air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and airborne avionic systems. They are likely to be posted on warships by the year-end, officials said.

These women officers will be posted onboard maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare helicopters of

States, UTs get ₹200 cr to ensure women's safety across country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Union Home Ministry on Monday listed out initiatives through the Nirbhaya Fund to enhance the safety and security of women in the country. For his part, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also said that women empowerment has always been the focal point of the policies of the Narendra Modi Government.

The MHA said ₹200 crore has been sanctioned to States and Union Territories (UTs) to set up women help desks in police stations and to strengthen anti-human trafficking units in all districts of the country.

A separate women safety division has also been set up in

the home ministry to sensitise states and UTs on women safety related issues including timely completion of investigation of sexual assault cases, it said.

"The Government has sanctioned ₹200 crore to States and UTs to set up Women Help Desks in police stations, and to set up or strengthen Anti Human Trafficking Units in all districts of the country as also on vulnerable borders," the statement said.

The home ministry said the Bureau of Police Research and Development has distributed 14,950 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection kits to states and UTs and these SAEC kits will facilitate the efficient collection, handling and storage of forensic evidence in cases of sexual assault.

the navy.

In order to overcome the issue of separate washrooms and living quarters on board, the Navy some years back started building separate cabins and toilets for women officers on its warships.

The force also recently deployed a lady officer as the first women defence attache posted abroad. The lady officer is Lieutenant Commander

Karabi Gogoi who is posted at Moscow as naval attache.

The IAF had opened the coveted fighter flying stream for women in 2015 by selecting four officers to fly MIG-21s. The Army is yet to induct women officers in combat arms including the infantry, artillery and armoured corps. As of now, there are nearly 9,120 women currently serving the army, navy and air force.

Covid, attendant factors may cause 10 mn more child marriages by 2030: UNICEF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 is profoundly affecting the lives of girls as they face pandemic-related travel restrictions and physical distancing restricting their access to the health care, social services and community support that protect them from child marriage, unwanted pregnancy and gender-based violence, UNICEF has pointed out.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, in its analysis, 'Covid-19: A threat to progress against child marriage', the world child body has warned that 10

million additional child marriages may occur before the end of the decade, threatening years of progress in reducing the practice.

More so as schools remain closed, girls are more likely to drop out of education and not return while job losses and increased economic insecurity may also force families to marry their daughters to ease financial burdens.

As per the report, India is among five countries in the world which account for about half of the total child brides while worldwide, an estimated 650 million girls and women alive today were married in

childhood, with about half of those occurring in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India and Nigeria, according to the analysis.

To off-set the impacts of COVID-19 and end the practice by 2030 - the target set out in the Sustainable Development Goals - progress must be significantly accelerated, it said.

"One year into the pandemic, immediate action is needed to mitigate the toll on girls and their families. By reopening schools, implementing effective laws and policies, ensuring access to health and social services - including sexual and reproductive health services - and providing comprehensive social protection measures for families, we can significantly reduce a girl's risk of having her childhood stolen through child marriage," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

CBI begins Covid job exercise; top officials take shot on Day 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has started the process of conducting Covid-19 vaccination of its officers and staff pursuant to communication received from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Praveen Sinha, In-charge Director, CBI along with senior officers & other officials of CBI (HQ) took the job on the first day of the process. The Co-VID 19 vaccination will be conducted on different days.

CBI offices in various States & UTs have also been advised to get the COVID-19 vaccination of officers & staffs done in co-ordination with local authorities. It may be noted that CBI continued to discharge its duties efficiently despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Naidu exhorts MPs to come to Parl to enrich their knowledge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Peeved over some Elders not attending the proceedings even when they are in the national capital. He, however, made it clear that he was not referring to any particular member or any party. "I appeal to all the members, please make it a point to be in the House and then observe debates, enrich your knowledge," he said.

"The Parliament Library is completing 100 years this year. It has a huge collection of about 14 lakh books including hundreds of journals in all languages. I am told that the footfall of Members of Parliament in this source of information and knowledge is

not very encouraging," Naidu said, stressing that sufficient homework is required on the part of members to make quality contribution to debates and interventions.

Naidu also gave an account of the examination of the Demands for Grants for 2021-22 of various ministries undertaken by the eight Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees of the Rajya Sabha during the three-week-recess after the first part of the ongoing Budget session of Parliament. He referred to several positives that emerged during the Budget scrutiny by the Committees of Rajya Sabha and some concerns as well.

Bumper yield to keep potato, onion prices in check this yr

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The production of two main kitchen staples - potato and onion - is estimated to be higher than last year, as per the Ministry of Agriculture. However, in case of tomatoes, the production is pegged slightly lower to 20.14 million tonne this year from 21.17 million tonne last year and this may hit the common man budget in the coming days.

With 326.58 MT horticulture crops production in 2020-21, the first advance estimate of horticulture crops for the year 2020-21, the Ministry has estimated that onion production is likely to be 26.29 Million Tons (MT) as compared to 26.09 MT in 2019-20 and potato production is estimated to be 50.19 MT against production of 48.56 MT last year. The tomato production is expected to be less from 21.17 MT last year to 20.14 MT in 2020-21.

Nevertheless, retail onion and tomato prices are running between ₹35-60 a kg for the past two months due to lower supply in the mandis across



the country. Onion prices across the country, particularly in primary agricultural markets near the growing regions, have crashed between 30 per cent and 40 per cent over the last 10 days as the late kharif crop has begun to flood the markets. Traders and exporters fear further fall in the bulb's prices as the rabi crop is all set to hit the markets any time after March 15. "Onion prices had topped ₹4,000 a quintal in Nashik in the third week of February, but they have now dropped to levels of ₹ 2,500 as late Kharif crop arrivals have increased since the last 4-5 days," said a trader.

Potato prices have crashed by about 80 per cent in various primary agricultural markets in major producer-States from a peak of Rs 2,750-2,900 a quintal seen in November last year as arrivals have begun to flood the mar-

kets. Potato is ruling to Rs 10-12 a kg.

As per the first advance estimate, the fruits production too is estimated to be 103.23 MT compared to 102.03 MT in 2019-20 and vegetables production is estimated to be 193.61 MT compared to 188.91 MT last year. Total horticulture production in 2020-21 is estimated to be 326.58 MT, an increase of about 5.81 MT from 320.76 million tonne last year.

Mango production in the country is estimated to increase 4.24 per cent to 21.12 million tonnes in the crop year 2020-21 ending June. The output of mango, the 'king of fruits', stood at 20.26 million tonne during the 2019-20 crop year (July-June).

As dissidence grows, U'khand CM Rawat meets BJP Central leadership

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Monday met the BJP Central leadership amid reports that he may be replaced following dissidence against him over his style of functioning.

Rawat met BJP President JP Nadda, who in turn discussed the political situation in the Hill State with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Talk of a leadership rift in Uttarakhand ahead of elections next year as Rawat, 60, completes his four years at the helm.

On Saturday, the central

leadership rushed two central party observers, Raman Singh and Dushyant Gautam, to Dehradun to oversee the situation.

The BJP leaders met with MLAs, ministers and also with the Chief Minister and the RSS functionaries and submitted a report to Nadda.

Uttarakhand BJP head Banshidhar Bhagat has, however, denied any move to replace the incumbent Chief Minister. According to dissident MLAs, continuation of Rawat may cost the party in the 2022 assembly polls with anti-incumbency against him being "on the rise", they said.

Protest against rise in fuel prices will continue: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said it would continue to protest against rising inflation and high prices of petroleum products, and would demand a discussion on the issue in Parliament. The first day of the second part of the Budget Session of Parliament in Rajya Sabha was virtually washed out due to the uproar created by the Congress.

Congress has alleged the Modi Government has earned at least ₹21 lakh crore in the last over six years by raising prices of petrol, diesel and LPG.

Talking to media outside the Parliament, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Mallikarjun Kharge said he had given a notice to the chairman under rule 267 for a discussion on rising prices of petrol, diesel and LPG, due to which farmers, women and common people are upset, but it was disallowed. "We wanted to raise the anger among people against the rise in prices and wanted to raise it in Parliament. But the Government did not agree to it as it was not ready. We will continue to raise our demand, and our agitation for raising the voice of the common man will also continue in Parliament," Kharge said.

Kharge said when the Congress raises such issues, it is not given time to raise them in Parliament.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work with its location: 30-Elect-32-T-2020-21-E3
Electrical work in connection with improvement to circulating area development the existing parking, toilets, entry/exit & passenger amenities work etc. at DEE Railway station.
Approx. cost of the work in: Rs. 38.57 lacs
Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money: Rs. 00.00
Date & time of submission of tender: 01.04.2021, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender: 01.04.2021, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UJVNL Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GIS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com.
RO No. 193 "e" Procurement Notice Date: 08.03.2021
Office of the Executive Engineer (Test), Ganga Valley, UJVNL, Haridwar invites tenders from experienced firms as per following details:-
Tender Specification No. 06/UJVNL/EE/Test/GV/2020-21
Name of Work-Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of Fixed Type On Line DC Insulation Monitoring System for Chilla Power House
Estimated Cost - 78,40,698.00 + GST
Date of availability of Tender document on website - 10.03.2021 (11.00 Hrs)
Last Date for Receipt of bid on the website - 30.03.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs
For all details, bidders are advised to see e-procurement portal - uktenders.gov.in.
Executive Engineer (Test)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL
General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Madhu D/o Surrender R/o Joginder Ka Makan, Gali No. 1, Lekhram Park, Tikri Kalan, Delhi Aged-14 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 12.02.2021 from the area of P.S. Mundka, Delhi vide FIR No. 95/21 u/s 363 IPC Dated 12.02.2021 registered at Police Station Mundka, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'0", Face: Long, Wearing: Green coloured suit-salwar, purple coloured sweater and slipper in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Mundka, Delhi at E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in
Sd/-
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Mundka, Delhi
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel. : 011-28352010
DP/691/OD/2021 28352011

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / BMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSP PANCHOLA	CONSTRUCTION OF JOGGING TRACK IN RECREATIONAL PARK SECTION-1 HOD PANCHOLA WITH THREE YEAR WTC AND DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FEE OF COST AND ALL OTHER WORKS CHARGES THEREON	CLOSING DATE 22.03.2021	89.33 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172264305 xenhudhoni@gmail.com
2	PANDEY LAKHMI CHAND STATE UNIVERSITY OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS, SECTOR-8, SOFAT	TENDER FOR CHANGE OF MAIN ELECTRICAL CABLE OF STREET LIGHTS AND PVS WEATHER-PROOF DISTRIBUTION BOXES	03.03.2021 24.03.2021	17.05 LACS	https://jpscupsa.ac.in	9466528296 deendardheer91@gmail.com
3	MAHARISHI VALDEH SANJIVIT UNIVERSITY, MUNDRA, KATHAL	HIRING OF CONTRACTOR/AGENCY/FIRM FOR PROVIDING OUTSOURCING SERVICES FOR: (A) SECRETARIAL/MINISTERIAL AND SUPPORTING STAFF, (B) MAINTENANCE SERVICES ETC.	05.03.2021 22.03.2021	150 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	93500-45366

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 2105

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Satyanarayan @ Saiya Narayan, S/o: Kanhiya, R/o: H.No. 385, F-Block, J.J. Colony, Bakkarwala, Delhi, Age: 50 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: White Shirt-Black Pant and Black Chappale in Feet has been missing/kidnapped since 10.11.2020 from the area of P.S. Mundka, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 57-A, Dated 13.02.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Mundka, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about this missing/kidnapped person please inform the undersigned.
Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID : cbc@cbi.gov.in SHO
Fax: 011-23011334 P.S. Mundka, Delhi
DP/688/OD/2021 Ph.: 011-28352010, 28352011

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that I, Sanju Sharma is purchasing the House No. A-267, MIG Flat on Ground Floor at Brij Vihar Sector-8, THA, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, (U.P) from Rohit Bandhu Akshay Bandhu, Kamna Vadh Anya and Kamlesh legal heirs of Late Prakash, Mr. Prakash was the absolute owner of the same vide Transfer Deed dated 03.05.2002 (Doc. 2649)
All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.
Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pt-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar-II, Delhi-31, 9910063351

Explosives car near Antilia: NIA takes up investigation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the case of a vehicle laden with explosives being found near top industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai, an official spokesperson said on Monday.

"NIA has received orders from MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI (Government of India) for investigation of case FIR No 35/2020 registered at Police Station Gamdevi on 25.02.2021. This case relates to recovery of explosives from a Mahindra Scorpio parked at Carmichael Road, Mumbai," the NIA said in a statement.

NIA is in the process of re-registering the case, it further said. The Scorpio, with 20 gelatin sticks inside, was found near Ambani's high-rise south Mumbai home on February 25. According to the police, the vehicle was stolen from Airoli-Mulund Bridge on February 18.

In yet another twist, Hiren Mansukh, the purported owner of the vehicle, was found dead

in a creek in Thane on Friday.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday said the NIA taking over the case suggests something was "fishy".

Talking to reporters in Mumbai, Thackeray said governments come and go, but the official administrative machinery remains the same and one needs to trust it.

On Sunday, the Maharashtra Anti-terrorism Squad (ATS) registered the FIR against unidentified persons on the orders of the State Home Department under IPC Sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy).

Thackeray said, "We had handed over the case of the vehicle laden with explosives and the mysterious death of Mansukh Hiren to the ATS. The NIA taking over the case shows something was fishy."

The ATS will continue to conduct its probe into Hiren's death, the CM said.

He said the opposition does

not have faith in the state machinery and wanted to show it doesn't function.

"If that is so, why is it demanding that the state government reduce taxes on fuel?" the chief minister asked.

Thackeray also said the state police will conduct probe into the alleged suicide of Lok Sabha member Mohan Delkar and punish the guilty.

Delkar (58), a seven-term MP from the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Union Territory, was found dead at a hotel on Marine Drive in south Mumbai on February 22.

"A Union Territory is governed by the Centre. We will take the case to its logical end. I wonder how the Opposition here is quiet on the issue of the seven-term MP ending his life," Thackeray said. On Monday, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said in the Assembly that the state police was capable of solving the case of auto parts dealer Mansukh Hiren's death and the recovery of the explosives-laden car near Ambani's residence.

PM's back-to-back rallies in March 3rd week in WB

Kolkata: With Bengal coming in BJP's priority list in the upcoming elections Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address two back-to-back rallies --- on March 12, his party sources said adding two central ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Smriti Irani would accompany him during his filing of nomination at Haldia.

Adhikari has openly challenged the Chief Minister to defeat her by half-a-lakh votes from Nandigram. Banerjee will file her nomination for the same seat on March 10.

Apart from Mukul Roy who too left the TMC to join the BJP three years ago, Adhikari a former MP and a powerful State Minister had been the principal campaigner for Mamata Banerjee during her Nandigram land movement. **PNS**

Minister Mamata Banerjee from high-profile Nandigram seat on March 12, his party sources said adding two central ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Smriti Irani would accompany him during his filing of nomination at Haldia.

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RSS 2-day annual meet from March 19 in B'luru

New Delhi: The Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), the highest decision-making body of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), will hold its two-day annual meet from March 19 to March 20 in Bengaluru which is expected to affect key changes in the organization.

The meeting was earlier planned for Nagpur, but had to be relocated due to the active COVID-19 cases in Maharashtra.

According to sources, the meeting --- which will have in attendance about 500 to 550 RSS brass will be held on March 19 and 20. Election to the highest executive post of the organisation, Sar Karyavah (general secretary), is expected to take place during the meeting. **PNS**

Last year, the meeting was scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from March 15 to 17 but was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"About 500-550 delegates are likely to participate in the event. Sarsanghchalak of RSS Dr Mohan Bhagwat, Sar Karyavah Bhayyaji Joshi and other leaders of the outfit will be in attendance. Several outfits of the RSS will not be attending the meet on account of COVID19 protocol.

The meeting will review the work done by the RSS in last three-years and set the road map for coming years. Sources said Covid19 offered RSS workers opportunity to work with people extensively and the meeting would also appraise that experience. **PNS**

Gender equality a distant dream in Western UP

Aligarh: In West UP number of cases of female foeticide are noted. Also people are more worried about the male child instead of female child specially in the rural areas.

In Aligarh rural areas and Muslim populated areas, slums girls are not getting nutritious food as compared to male child. Here 62% girls are suffering from under nutrition problem. That is why there is higher death rate of female child with in two years of delivery. Though U.P. government has launched several projects/schemes but parents do not pay proper attention to improve girls health. Girls remaining alive being abandoned after birth are living under nutrition life. **PNS**

MAHA BUDGET 2021-22: MVA Govt proposes hikes in excise duty, VAT on liquor

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena-led MVA Government on Monday proposed hikes in the State Excise Duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) on the sale of liquor through which it hoped to mobilise an additional revenue of Rs 1,800, while it announced one per cent concession on the transfer of house or registration of sale deed in the name of a woman or women.

In his first budget presented after the break-out of Covid-19 in Maharashtra in March last year, Deputy Chief minister Ajit Pawar announced three farmer-friendly measures --- zero per cent interest crop loans up to a borrowing limit of Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2000 crore scheme for strengthening Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) and 33 per cent concession on farmers' electricity bills.

Alluding to additional revenue generation by way of hikes in the State Excise Duty and VAT on liquor, Pawar -- who holds the State Finance portfolio -- announced the state government's decision to classify country liquor into two separate categories as branded and non-branded country liquor. The two separate categorisation of branded and non-branded country liquor involved an increase of State Excise Duty to Rs. 220 percent of manufacturing cost or Rs. 187 per proof litre whichever is high on branded country liquor only.

The deputy chief minister

said that owing to the State Excise Duty and VAT on liquor, the state government was expected to net an additional revenue of Rs. 800 crore.

Pawar proposed to increase the rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) on the sale of liquor as prescribed in Schedule-B of Value Added Tax Act from the existing 60 percent to 65 percent. He also proposed to increase the rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) on the sale of liquor as prescribed in Section 41 (5) of Value Added Tax Act from the existing 35 percent to 40 percent.

Pawar said that owing to the VAT, the state government was expected to get additional revenue of Rs 1000 crore.

In a tax concession measure announced on the occasion of International Women's Day, the Deputy chief minister proposed concession of one per cent in the Stamp Duty on the prevailing rate exclusively to Women, "provided the transfer of house property or registration of sale deed is in the name of woman or woman only".

Pawar said that owing to the proposed tax concession, there would be revenue shortfall of around Rs 1000 Crore to the State Exchequer.

In a couple of several health infrastructure measures announced in the wake of the continuing Covid-19 crisis in the state, Pawar said that a Rs 7500 crore project involving the construction and upgradation of health institutions would be completed in the next four years, while Rs. 5000 crore will

be provided by the government in the next 5 years for quality health services in the Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats. Of the total allocation, Rs 800 crore would be spent during the current year.

He also announced a cancer Diagnosis Facility in 150 hospitals and establishment of new Government Medical Colleges at Sindhurdurg, Osmanabad, Nashik, Raigad and Satara. He said that medical colleges would also be set up at Parbhani and Amravati.

Pawar said that 11 leaven government nursing schools affiliated to government medical colleges in the state will be converted into nursing colleges, while physiotherapy and occupational therapy colleges will be established in all 17 government medical colleges, in a phased manner.

"Post Covid Counseling and Treatment Centers will be set up at every district hospital and government medical college in urban areas," the deputy chief minister said.

Dwelling upon the concession in the pending electricity bills, the Finance Minister said: "33 percent concession has been given to farmers of pending electricity bills and if the farmers pay 50 per cent of the remaining arrears by March 2022, additional 50 per cent of the remaining amount will be waived off. In all, Rs 30,411 crore will be waived off by MVA government which amounts to 66 per cent of the original pending bills of 44.37 lakh farmers."

Salma Ansari names 2.5-yr-old girl after her mother, Zehra Kazmi

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Salma Ansari, wife of former Vice President Hamid Ansari, named the two-and-a-half-year-old girl after her mother Zehra Kazmi. Recently, four needy children were brought to Madrasa Chacha Nehru from Bihar, whose education and responsibility has been taken by Salma Ansari.

Relatives of the children have given the responsibility of their upbringing to the Alnoor Charitable Society in writing. She is a two-and-a-half-year-old girl from Bihar, whose mother is deranged. The child's maternal grandfather handed her over to the madarsa. She is named after the mother of Salma Ansari.

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ED arrests Deepak Agarwal and Ayush Goyal

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Deepak Agarwal and Ayush Goyal for their involvement in a trade-based money laundering scam in which funds to the tune of Rs 1500 crore were sent outside India in the guise of import of fake "customised software". Both the accused were remanded to judicial custody. However, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Visakhapatnam, has granted custody of Deepak Agarwal to ED for three days beginning March 6.

The ED has also sought custodial interrogation of Ayush Goyal.

The ED had initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by Andhra Pradesh Police against Vaddi Mahesh and others, on the complaint of Income Tax Department. **PNS**

There is now awareness about crime against women: Yogi

Lucknow: UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, said that there was now an awareness about crime against women.

He said that when he formed the government, there was a lack of awareness on this issue. "We began by expanding Women Power Line to 75 districts from four districts. Helpline number 181 for domestic violence was also integrated with other helpline numbers to make it effective," he said.

Launching the second phase of the ongoing Safe City project to provide an environment free of fear to women, the chief minister honoured women for their contribution in various fields and inaugurated various schemes as part of 'Mission Shakti' in the state capital.

"Today, 20 per cent of women are inducted in 3 PAC Battalion in Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Badaun. For girl education, we launched 'Kanya Sumangla Yojana' with Rs 15,000 benefit for a maximum of five

times," he added.

The Uttar Pradesh government had launched the 'Mission Shakti' program on October 17 last year for the security of women in the state and to further strengthen the safety mechanism for the girls and women.

In the first phase, under the Safe City project in Lucknow, 100 pink booths are being constructed for women safety in different areas of the city.

Out of this, 70 pink booths have been completed.

At the same time, 100 two-wheeler pink petrol and 10 four-wheeler pink petrol have been given to women policemen for the safety of women and girls.

These pink patrols are constantly patrolling around the girls' schools, colleges and markets. For the facilities of women, Pink Toilets with special facilities are also being constructed at 74 places in the city, out of which 18 Pink Toilets are ready. Under the Safe City project, lights are

installed after identifying the dark spots in the city.

So far, 3625 dark spots have been identified and lights have been provided at 660 places while 2965 other spots will be taken up by the end of March. This will curb crimes against women at night.

The Women Power Line 1090 operated under the Safe City project is also proving to be a boon for women. After getting better results, the work on increasing the capacity of the women power line is also being done.

Apart from this, the integration of women power line with 112 cyber forensics facility, data analytics centres have also been established through enhancement in the technology. The hot spots are being monitored through CCTV cameras, drones and control rooms. The installation of panic buttons, CCTV cameras and GPL in city buses will also be completed by

December 2021. **IAN S**

UP: 13-year-old rape survivor gives birth

Deoria (UP): A 13-year-old girl, who was allegedly raped in Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district, has given birth to a child, police said on Monday. A man has been arrested on charge of raping the girl, they said.

Circle Officer (CO) Ambika Ram said her mother alleged in the complaint that the minor was raped at her house in a village in Rudrapur area by a neighbour eight months ago when she was alone.

The accused also threatened her of dire consequences due to which she did not narrate her ordeal to the family members, the CO said.

The accused has been arrested and sent to jail, police said, adding a detailed probe is on into the matter. **PTI**

15-year-old raped by nine people over eight days in Rajasthan's Jhalawar

Kota (Raj): A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped at separate places by at least nine people over eight days in Rajasthan's Jhalawar, police said on Monday. Two of the accused are minors.

The girl somehow managed to reach her home on Friday after which a complaint was lodged. Four of the accused, including the two minors, have been held, police said.

Suket DSP Manjeet Singh said the girl alleged that her friend Bulbul and another youth, Chothmal, on February 25 took her to Jhalawar City on the pretext of buying a school bag for her.

He, however, said the girl is a school dropout. She alleged that two to three other people joined them at a park where she was drugged and raped by them.

She alleged that at least nine people at different times and separate places in Jhalawar raped her over eight days.

The DSP said a medical examination of the girl was conducted immediately and four of the accused were held. Two of them are minor and attempts are under way to arrest the rest, he said. **PTI**

Rajasthan Police SI suspended on rape charge

Jaipur: A police sub-inspector was suspended on Monday on the charge of raping a 26-year-old woman in Rajasthan's Alwar district, an official said.

A case of rape under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 376 was registered against police sub-inspector Bharat Lal (52) on a complaint lodged by the woman, Alwar SP Tejaswini Gautam said.

The SP said the accused was arrested and suspended on Monday.

The woman had gone to police station to lodge a case against her husband as he wanted a divorce. The woman wanted police to stop him from getting a divorce.

According to the woman's complaint, the accused SI raped her for three days at a quarter inside police station, the SP said. **PTI**

Vijayan Govt mulling options to silence Central probe agencies

KOCHI: The diatribe by the CPI(M) leaders against the Customs officials in Kochi has taken a new turn as the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front Government is considering options to silence the Central agencies. This follows the announcement by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora that the demand by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to put on hold all probes by the Central agencies into cases like gold smuggling scam, reverse hawala operations from India to West Asia and the CBI investigation into the LIFE Mission, the flagship programme of the State administration.

According to sources in Secretariat, the State administration was taken aback by the affidavit filed in Kerala High Court by Sumith Kumar, the Customs Preventive Commissioner stating that the dollar hawala and other illegal operations had the patronage of top leaders of the CPI(M).

The eight questions posed to the Chief Minister by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday during his speech at the valedictory function of the BJP's Vijaya Yatra at Thiruvananthapuram had sent the Government topsy-turvy. The home minister mentioned that the death of a person associated with the Gold Scam and who was being probed smacked of mystery.

It may be noted that there was an attempt on the life of Sumit Kumar, the Customs Preventive Commissioner probing the Gold Smuggling scam in which former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan figures as an accused. On February 12, there was an unsuccessful attempt to waylaid Sumit Kumar who was on his way back to Kochi from Kalpetta in Wayanad district. Though Kumar filed a report about the incident, the Kerala Police is yet to take any action. **PNS**

Northwest parts of India to welcome rain over next 4 days

New Delhi: The northwestern parts of India are all set to experience widespread rain over the next four days after a brief dry spell. The latest forecasts said that two western disturbances will impact the Western Himalayan Region and adjoining northwest India this week. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said a Western Disturbance (WD) prevails over north Pakistan on Monday and an induced cyclonic circulation lies over Punjab and the neighbourhood region. Owing to the rough weather conditions, the IMD has issued an orange alert over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand for Wednesday and Thursday. Uttarakhand will continue to remain under the same advisory for Friday as well. The advisory instructs residents to 'be prepared' for the rough weather conditions.

According to the IMD, the WD are mainly a weather phenomenon whose arrival is associated with snow and rain in the Himalayas and parts of northwest India. The ongoing system is expected to produce scattered rainfall or snowfall with isolated thunderstorms, lightning or hail over the Western Himalayan Region (WHR) on Tuesday.

Moreover, there are also possibilities of very light rain or drizzle over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi from March 8 to 10. **PNS**

Pregnant woman found hanging; in-laws booked

Muzaffarnagar: A 30-year-old pregnant woman was found hanging at her home here, police said on Monday.

They said a case has been lodged against her in-laws for allegedly demanding dowry from her.

Tabasum Begum was found hanging at her marital home at Jolla village in Budhana town on Sunday, police said. She was married to Afsar for over an year and was allegedly being harassed by her in-laws for not bringing enough dowry with her, they said.

Woman dies after being beaten up by husband

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A 35-year-old woman died after she was allegedly beaten up by her husband here, police said on Monday.

Kusum got seriously injured after her husband attacked her with an iron rod when she tried to prevent him from drinking. She was admitted to a hospital and succumbed to injuries on Sunday, police said.

The incident took place at Athai village in Jansath tehsil on March 1, they added.

The woman's husband, Sanjiv, was earlier booked for attempt to murder, which has now changed to murder, Station House Officer Deepak Chaturvedi said.

The accused is absconding, he said. **PTI**

Hand gloves for voters, PPEs for Covid infected in TN polls

Chennai: Covid-19 infected voters would be given personal protective equipment (PPE) kits while others hand gloves for casting their votes in the elections to Tamil Nadu assembly next month as part of preventive measures in view of the pandemic, state Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo said here on Monday.

On the day of polling, every voter would be given hand gloves before voting to ensure there was no chance of transmission of infection through the Electronic Voting

Machine, he said.

All other norms to help prevent COVID-19, including screening people with thermal scanners, would be followed during the polling on April 6, the official told a press conference at the Secretariat.

"People must go to polling stations wearing mask," he said adding public should follow social distancing as well.

If people had fever or in case of suspicion about coronavirus, they would be given a medical certificate and allowed to vote during the last one hour.

In case of people infected with COVID-19 or suspected of being infected with the virus, they would be permitted to cast their votes wearing a PPE kit that would be provided by authorities, he said. Arrangements are in place to ensure availability of PPEs, he noted.

Both polling stations and personnel have been increased in view of the pandemic and as a result the total booths now stood at 88,937 as against 68,324 and would be manned by 4,79,892 personnel, the

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CEO said.

There are 76 counting centres in the state. While previously only the vulnerable and sensitive polling stations were monitored through web camera, for the first time now, a minimum of 50 per cent of polling booths shall be connected to the devices.

As many as 150 general observers and 40 police officers have been deployed and they would all report in their respective assigned constituencies before March 19. **PTI**



Women workers collect sun-dried chillies at a farm in Shertha village on the outskirts of Ahmedabad on Monday **PTI**



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Future perfect?

Is Tikait using the farmers' agitation to carve a place for himself in the Assembly or LS polls?

Riding the crest of farmers' protests, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait is putting in his best efforts to find a firm ground for his political future, if his latest utterances are anything to go by. By saying that the "Government has gone to Kolkata and we will meet it there only", he has made it clear that he will continue raking the farm laws issue to the BJP's discomfiture wherever and whenever an opportunity presents itself. This might irk the BJP a bit but it's certainly no reason for worry as Tikait most likely will not find any resonance in the West Bengal elections unless he gets to share the platform with the State's big guns or openly sides with the TMC or the Congress against the saffron party. Tikait is up in arms against the Centre and the BJP; however, many a time what is seen on the surface is nothing more than eyewash, especially in politics. An overambitious leader who has had no political career might be used as a "safety valve" by the Centre to defuse the farmers' anger. The nation witnessed how the Centre, despite all its might, failed to prevent the farmers from storming the Red Fort on the Republic Day. It was only after this incident that the protest's focus shifted from Punjab's growers to the cultivators of western Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Haryana, and Tikait acquired the centre stage while the more belligerent farm leaders from Punjab were gradually sidelined. Tikait then went through a gamut of manoeuvres including breaking down during a speech, threatening to hang himself if the farm laws weren't repealed and of marching to Parliament with 40 lakh tractors, besides making many other inciting comments to keep the protest alive.



The political stint of Tikait — the son of legendary farmer leader Mahendra Singh Tikait who held sway over Jat farmers in western UP and founded the BKU and the Bahujan Kisan Dal — has been rather unsuccessful. He ended up at the sixth spot in the 2007 UP Assembly elections (though he was backed by the Congress) and lost his deposit in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls when he fought on the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) ticket from Amroha. Tikait is basically consolidating his position among Jat voters, the community he banks upon, in western UP. He is probably eyeing the 2022 UP Assembly or the next Lok Sabha elections. However, the jury is still out on whether he will float his own party or contest on another party's symbol. If he forms his own party, it would be a severe setback to the RLD and the Congress who also count on Jat votes. The BJP naturally would have an advantage as the votes against it would split. On the other hand, seat-sharing may not be easy if he decides to join hands with the RLD or the Congress as the traditional parties will not like him to be in the driver's seat. As of now, Tikait would like to use the farmers' protest to get a leg up in his political career. However, the NDA Government's "pro-corporate" and "anti-farmer" image is unlikely to help the BJP but its strategists would know what it means to win the Hindi heartland.

PICTALK



Himachal Pradesh Police's women officers celebrate International Women's Day, in Shimla

100 days of revolt, & still raring to go

As the farmers' protest against farm laws enters the summer season, they brave high temperatures and the paucity of basic necessities



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

As an orange sun hung over the Tikri border; Rakesh Tikait along with other leaders was addressing the gathering of farmers on the 99th evening of the farmers' revolution. To mark the 100th day, plans were to be made. Farmers were preparing to block the National Highway into Delhi for five hours; a task they did well and peacefully. Tikait gave a call again to farmers around the nation "to be prepared for the harvest" and to bolster the revolution simultaneously. Speeches ended and a selfie frenzy began. The young, the old, the media and the police, all wanted to be in this moment as it was special in the history of the world. Winter, spring and now summer, yet the farmers' revolution lives on.

But far from the maddening crowds, the revolution had got a new friend. Against public advice, he kept ramming into the yellow police barricades, trying to enter Delhi. I caught him red-handed. Shyly, he ducked and began to look at the carrot shavings. His mind was yet to understand why humans used barricades. The suspect was big, blackish and middle aged. His curved big black horns made him stand out; he was an Indian humped bull.

The advances in farm machinery and artificial insemination have made the indigeneous bull redundant. Most farmers sell off the male calves at birth and the remaining ones roam the streets of cities and townships scavenging on garbage. The more lucky ones are sold to slaughterhouses to meet death quickly. There is also a special class of bulls that is part of the artificial insemination industry; they are bred and dishonoured by sophisticated instruments, robbing them of their spermatozoa. Today the Indian bull, far from being Shiv's 'Nandi', is a pariah and first victim of industrial agriculture. With less than one per cent bulls working the farms, India flaunts a large dairy and cattle-rearing sector. The Indian species are so intermixed



with foreign breeds, mainly Jersey and Holstein, that it's hard to tell what is indigenous anymore. Many farmers fear that the story of the Indian bull will be their story, too, if the three farm laws and a neo-company raj enter India. Only with minimal farmers and maximum fossil fuel-based machines will the fields be cultivated.

The more immediate challenge to the revolution is, of course, the increasing heat — political and physical. Temperature variations have already started affecting people's health. With hotter days ahead, the entire encampments are modifying their tents. Many farmers are now constructing high bamboo-and-canvas tents for better air circulation. The supply of drinking water and perishable items like milk is becoming slightly problematic. Food wastage may also increase due to insufficient refrigeration facility. Farmers have mobilised another round of fundraising for installing reverse osmosis (RO) plants within the encampments at Tikri border because the groundwater is highly contaminated with industrial effluents.



WHILE ALL EYES ARE ON BENGAL, THE FARMER LEADERS ARE EXPANDING THEIR BASE TO THE STATES OF RAJASTHAN, MADHYA PRADESH AND UTTAR PRADESH. THE MORALE ON THE GROUND AT THE REVOLUTION SITES HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER

The Ghazipur border is also going for a summer makeover. Much of the encampment at this border is on the Asian Highway 2 (AH2). Surrounding it are Ghazipur's garbage mountain, posh apartments and an open sewage canal that flows underneath it. The summer will bring mosquitoes and diseases. Both the sites will have to be prepared to combat vector and water-borne diseases. As these fears grow, a farmer from Jind died by suicide at the Tikri border. An avoidable death!

The farmers' revolution has transformed from an agrarian movement into a united opposition to the totalitarian Government. The BJP has suffered electorally in Punjab and Haryana and a strict boycott of the BJP and its leaders is in place in these States. While all eyes are on Bengal, the farmer leaders are expanding their base to the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The morale on the ground at the revolution sites has never been higher. Because the encampments have become a breeding ground for hope, camaraderie is the only cure for hate. Many of these farm-

ers have stepped out of their region for the first time, yet they quickly learnt to work and endure suffering together. The movement is more disciplined than earlier and the farmers are ready to continue resisting.

Penance has been the path to spiritual awakening — Jesus on the cross or Buddha starving under the Bodhi tree — and the farmers are also suffering for the sins of our world. A bullet may bring their death as a slaughter may begin any day but they hope their deaths will not be in vain and shall wake up a sleeping world. It will bring together farmers and citizens all over the world to rise against this evil. Despite the odds, the farmers are hopeful.

Our world and democracy is at a dangerous crossroads — Earth and millions of farmers on one side and Big Ag and corporate tyranny on the other. If Indian farmers win, democracy of the world lives; otherwise, Aldous Huxley's 'Brave New World' awaits us all.

(The author writes on agriculture and environment, and is the Director — Green India. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WOMEN SHOULD RISE AGAINST TORMENTORS

Sir — Each year, March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day. It goes without saying that women have proved their worth in all spheres and their progress is beyond any doubt. Indian women, too, have shown men that they are second to none. But we need to introspect that why we still have to talk about women empowerment and gender equality.

We have not achieved these things and the reality is very disappointing. Daughters are committing suicide daily in our country as they are forced by their husbands and in-laws to meet their demand for dowry. Many people in villages still hesitate to send their daughters to schools and marry them off at an early age. Even in big metros, women are faced with discrimination of various types at the workplaces and at their homes. They are sexually abused and harassed at the hands of their male colleagues, while at home they are subjected to domestic violence. The situation of women in politics is also not much better. There are very few women in politics as compared to men and they are not enough to pressure the Government to make laws more favourable for the women.

The fair sex is rather treated unfairly in our country and working women in traditional domains of men are looked down upon by their peers. When will this situation change? What are the responsibilities of NGOs, States, the Centre and civil society with respect to improving the condition of women? When will women rise against their tormentors?

Bal Govind | Noida

TAKE ALL SHOTS WITHIN STIPULATED TIME

Sir — As COVID-19 cases are again on the rise in India, it is time to accelerate our vaccination drive. The Government must involve more private hospitals and set up mobile clinics for vaccination. The States and Centre must deploy their ambulance services for getting people inoculated. The elderly should have the facility of calling ambulance home for taking them to the nearest centre for getting the jab. Further,

No cakewalk for Mamata



This refers to the editorial "Risky resolve" (March 8). Mamata choosing to contest from Nandigram shows her nervousness and Trinamool Congress (TMC) not giving tickets to many sitting MLAs and Ministers shows that Didi no more has confidence over her old guards. Mamata banking on new faces might cost dear to the TMC in the Assembly elections. She is already distraught by a spate of defections when many of her close confidants left the party at such crucial juncture. Suvendu Adhikari has made the

matters worse for her and winning from Nandigram will not be a cakewalk for Mamata as the Adhikari clan holds significant influence in the area.

However, Mamata's chances of winning the battle of prestige at Nandigram are quite good but it will definitely affect the TMC's performance elsewhere. The TMC's rule has been fraught with corruption and its Ministers were neck-deep in malpractices and nepotism. She should have controlled her MLAs, party workers and Ministers before the elections. Tightening noose when elections are round the corner will not improve the party's image, rather it would prove counterproductive. Those who have been denied tickets may not campaign for the party wholeheartedly and may even go against it. The BJP, on the other hand, is putting all its weight behind campaigning and winning the elections. Top party leaders are holding rallies, *sabhas* and road shows on war footing.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

a door-to-door vaccination drive should be conducted not only in big cities but also in towns and villages.

Vaccination is a safe and effective way to prevent disease and save lives — now more than ever. Today there are vaccines available to protect against at least 20 diseases. Further, there should be no crowding at the vaccination centres and arrangements for potable water and toilet facilities should be made available to all, especially the elders.

We must also not forget that safety precautions are the key to keep Coronavirus at bay and wearing of masks and sanitising hands is essential.

Those who have taken the shot must take the subsequent doses within the stipulated time, else it might prove futile and defeat the very purpose.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

BJP LIKELY TO WIN BENGAL ELECTIONS

Sir — If the massive crowd at the Prime

Minister's rally at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata is anything to go by, the indication is clear that the TMC is going and BJP is coming to power in West Bengal. Further, the schemes of the Centre will give BJP an edge; however, the recent rise in the prices of fuel and LPG cylinder will have a bearing on the BJP's vote bank.

The Centre should not have allowed the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG to touch the sky. The rise in LPG prices especially worries women a lot and, despite the Centre's Ujjwala Yojana, might affect the BJP's vote bank.

What will happen cannot be exactly predicted but it seems that the people of West Bengal are fed up with the rule of Mamata Banerjee and will most likely vote her out of power.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

SOUNDBITE

Women in our country have always played a great role in nation-building and in upholding national integrity, peace and harmony. Women have always been an inspiration to society.



Andhra Pradesh Governor — Biswa Bhushan Harichandan

The Government has signed an advance purchase agreement for 8.5 million additional doses, enough to vaccinate 4.25 million people against COVID.



New Zealand PM — Jacinda Ardern

Women play multiple roles in their life: of a daughter, wife, mother, sister and so on. To make everyone around them happy, they sometimes compromise their real self.



Actress — Sunny Leone

Nowadays everybody is looking for a big total; every game we want to score more than 250 but for that you need some time and matches.



Indian women's ODI vice-captain — Harmanpreet Kaur

The social organisations could also contribute to ensure comfortable commuting and convenient accomplishment of the vaccination process.



Union Minister — Jitendra Singh

Institutionalised racism

What did Prince Harry Windsor and Meghan Markle's interview to Oprah Winfrey teach us?

Let us make no bones about it; the interview that Prince Harry Windsor and Meghan Markle, the now effectively excommunicated members of the British Royal Family, gave American television personality Oprah Winfrey was a way for them to remain in the limelight. It shone brightly at them and it also reminded many of us who either watched the entire interview or even snatches of it on social media that Miss Winfrey remains a master at her art. It is extremely difficult to feel sorry for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. They are, and remain, extremely wealthy and privileged individuals, one by virtue of his birth and the other through the Hollywood hype machine. This interview is just a precursor to an upcoming series on streaming platform Netflix, which ironically also broadcasts a very lightly fictionalised story of Harry's grandmother's life, 'The Crown'. But it was difficult to not feel sorry when Meghan and Harry spoke about the racism that they faced when the potential skin tone of their then unborn child, a son now known as Archie, was brought up. Neither of them mentioned who it was that spoke



to them about this, whether it was a family member or a member of the royal household bureaucracy, but this again highlights that even an evolved family or institution can remain horribly rooted in a racist past.

The British Royal Family might reign over a realm that is uniquely multi-racial and multi-ethnic, but racist undertones still exist in Britain. Of course, this is not a problem unique to the country as the 'Black Lives Matter' that followed the brutal murders of black individuals by white members of the American police force highlighted that even eight years of having a black President hadn't changed the racist mindsets of many Americans. And while racist undertones in India seem to be more subdued, make no mistake because they do exist. The attitude of the average Indian to African students or even those from the North-East is downright racist and, worse, casteism is still widespread. Many of us might have evolved with regards to our views on matters such as race and caste, but the institutionalisation of those views over centuries will take much longer to eradicate, not just in the British Royal Family but across the world.

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

INDIA MUST NOT LET CHINA WOO HASINA

Ties between New Delhi and Dhaka would benefit both countries and Modi's trip should take this forward



KALYANI SHANKAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forthcoming visit to Dhaka on March 26 is quite significant as it will be his first foreign trip after the COVID-19 outbreak. It is expected to consolidate bilateral ties as Bangladesh is a gateway to southeast Asia and part of Modi's 'Act East' policy. In the last six years, the Prime Minister has established a rapport with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina. There have also been frequent ministerial and official-level visits and continuous interaction between New Delhi and Dhaka. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Dhaka last week to pave the way for the Prime Minister's visit as part of Bangladesh's celebrations of 50 years of independence. It also marks a decisive victory of the Indian Army over Pakistan. Coincidentally, Modi's visit is just before the first phase of the Assembly polls in West Bengal and Assam, which share common borders with Bangladesh. The enormous improvement in bilateral ties in the recent years led Hasina to call it a "golden period."



Yet, the steps taken in the domestic sphere during Modi's second term are causing concern to Bangladesh, even though New Delhi contends that it is a domestic matter. These measures include the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the passing of the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

During Modi's trip, the two leaders are expected to discuss bilateral issues, especially the matter of Teesta river water sharing. Despite achieving breakthroughs in several areas in India-Bangladesh ties, both countries are yet to resolve the issue and Teesta has emerged as an emotive matter in Bangladesh and West Bengal. Dhaka has been pushing New Delhi to settle it early as Teesta water is vital for irrigation during the dry season in the northern part of Bangladesh. The Modi Government had successfully persuaded West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the tricky Land Boundary Agreement and the enclaves' resolution, but Didi has stuck to her guns on Teesta. Jaishankar, during his recent Dhaka visit, said, "The position of the Government of India has not changed." However, it is a political necessity for both sides to find a solution soon. A deal would help New Delhi get more political leverage over China's growing influence, particularly in the Bay of Bengal region. It will also help Hasina politically. Meanwhile, a desperate Dhaka has turned to Beijing and a massive project funded by China has been adopted to manage the Teesta river.

On the domestic side, illegal immigration has been a political and electoral issue for the BJP since 1996 when its national executive in Bhopal passed a resolution on it. Even the 2019 manifesto said, "We will continue to undertake effective steps to prevent illegal immigration in the north eastern States." The other issue is that of Rohingya refugees. Millions of Muslims from the Rakhine province of Myanmar, following the Tatmadav's crackdown in 2017, fled to Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries, including India. New Delhi is caught in a dilemma between two close strategic neighbours, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Connectivity is another important area where both the countries are focusing, and many new projects are on the way and New Delhi has come to Dhaka's rescue by exporting nine million vaccines as part of its COVID diplomacy. On its part, Bangladesh is all set to graduate out of the Least Developing Countries with its GDP growth of eight per cent. New Delhi must keep up the partnership that allows for economic growth, defence cooperation, connectivity and improved developmental parameters for both nations. A collaboration between India and Bangladesh would benefit both countries. New Delhi must not lose the moment to take the ties forward.

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

Gender inequality in Indian labour market

It is not only participation in higher education that will provide a broad solution but skills training relevant to the market demand is also necessary



BALWANT SINGH MEHTA

Every year on International Women's Day the world celebrates the achievements of women in social, economic, cultural and political spheres. Not many are aware that this special day for women began as a labour movement in 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter working hours, better pay and the right to vote. March 8 was taken up as the official International Women's Day in 1975 by the United Nations. This year's theme was centred around celebrating the tremendous efforts of women/girls in shaping a more equal future and also in aiding recovery from the pandemic. However, it is imperative to highlight the gaps that remain and the way forward to address them successfully.

Gender inequality in the labour market, particularly in the context of developing nations, is one area of concern that still poses a great challenge, particularly in a country like India. Historically, women have been denied many opportunities due to deep-rooted biases in the social system. These eventually lead to labour market inequality as such discrimination is not limited to the domestic arena only but extends beyond the household. The underlying factors that cause such discrimination in India are the sex ratio at birth, life expectancy at birth, the infant mortality rate, the under-five mortality rate, the maternal mortality rate, nutritional deprivation, inequality in literacy rates and the gender gap at the highest level of political decision-making. These inequalities have direct implications for labour market outcomes in terms of women's participation in economic activities. Even with similar educational attainments and skill sets as men, women are denied opportunities, which leads to significant differences in status of work, income and occupations. Despite the introduction of many affirmative policy actions, such exclusionary approaches remain.

Inequality in the labour market: While some studies have noted an improvement in employment conditions for women, with rising salaries and more participation in quality or decent jobs, other studies have highlighted jobless growth and declining participation in the labour market in the past decades. The pandemic severely hit economic activities of those who were at the lower rung of the occupation hierarchy, particularly women working in the informal economy. They were out of jobs for a significant period of the outbreak and those who managed to hold on to one had to face wage cuts. This has further precipitated the vulnerability of women.

Employment and education/skill level: Globalisation has led to an increase in women's participation in the labour market in India. But there is still a huge gender gap, with only 18 per cent of women employed as compared to 47 per cent men. It is often argued that women are engaged in mostly low-skilled, low-paid work under precarious work conditions. Education and skill level play a key role in access to the labour market and in the quality of work one gets.

Almost half of the working women (42 per cent) are illiterate compared to 19 per cent men, and around 77 per cent are educated up to the upper primary level as compared to 62 per cent men. There is a significant difference between the higher education level of working women and men, i.e. 23 per cent of women as compared to 38 per cent of men are educated above the secondary level.



GLOBALISATION HAS LED TO AN INCREASE IN WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN INDIA. BUT THERE IS STILL A HUGE GENDER GAP, WITH ONLY 18 PER CENT OF WOMEN EMPLOYED AS COMPARED TO 47 PER CENT MEN

The writer is senior faculty at Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.

**Job quality and occupations:**

More than half of working women (53 per cent) are engaged in self-employment, whereas one-fourth take up some form of casual work (25 per cent) and only 22 per cent are in regular salaried jobs. The share of men engaged in regular work (24 per cent) is relatively higher, while their share in casual employment (24 per cent) is slightly lower. Further, differences are also observed in terms of occupational segregation in the labour market i.e. the difference in the share of men versus women within an occupation. Such segmentation is widespread within occupational groups.

The occupational distribution by gender shows that women (28 per cent) are relatively more involved than men (22 per cent) in low-paid and unskilled jobs, such as elementary occupations (domestic helpers, cleaners, street vendors and garbage collectors), services (personal care, housekeeping and salespersons) and as office and customer service clerks. Women (10 per cent) are also under-represented in high-skill and well paid jobs, such as those of professionals, technicians and associate professionals, as compared to men (13 per cent). Additionally, the percentage of women (92 per cent) engaged in informal employment in the country is higher than men (88 per cent).

Unemployment, NEET and inactive people: The overall employment level among women (five per cent) is less than their male (six per cent) counterparts. The unemploy-

ment rate among young (15-29 years) women is not only significantly high (18 per cent) but also greater than men (17 per cent). The trend also shows a sizable increase in youth who are not in employment, education and training (NEET), among whom a large proportion is that of women. More than half of young women (55 per cent) are in the NEET category with only 13 per cent of young men featuring in it. Additionally, 84 per cent of young women are inactive as compared to 41 per cent of men. The inactive youth include those who face employment difficulties and may drop out of the labour force when jobs are hard to find, whether for study, leisure, illicit activities or due to inertia. Women face many social and economic hurdles which limit their participation in the labour market and this may lead to labour market inactivity.

Factors aiding inequality: There are many factors that contribute to labour market inequality. Mehta and Awasthi (2019) analysed various factors through an econometric decomposition exercise. Their study revealed four important factors: Educational qualification or skill level is one of the most important factors contributing to inequality, as individuals with high education or skill level can access better jobs or have higher chances of getting a decent job; access to a decent quality job or a regular formal salaried job, which provides better and secure income, while casual work is irregular and low paid; gender, as various socio-economic con-

ditions and other restrictions cause women to have a lower labour force participation rate and lastly work experience, as people with experience are more likely to get better access to the labour market. There are other factors such as social groups, income level or poverty and rural and urban location which play a key role in gender inequality in the labour market.

The way forward: Rising inequality in the labour market is a reality, with the differences between the male and female population growing wider. Though, over the years, female presence in regular or high-skilled and better-paid jobs has improved but still a large number of them are engaged in low-paid and unskilled jobs. In recent years, the growing enrollment of young women in secondary and tertiary-level education has resulted in them being better-skilled employees and their proliferation in decent employment. This trend is seen particularly in the services sector, especially in financial services and information technology. Hence, apart from a gender-friendly environment, it is necessary to make education up to the secondary level universal and free.

However, the growing number of women in the NEET category and the higher unemployment level among educated or skilled women is negating the advances made through such measures. Therefore, it is not only participation in higher education that will provide a comprehensive solution but skills training relevant to the market demand is also necessary.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

BENGAL TRUSTED DIDI FOR 'PORIBORTON'. SHE BROKE THE TRUST. I HAVE COME HERE TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE IN 'ASOL PORIBORTON'.
—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



HE SAYS THERE IS NO 'PORIBORTON' IN BENGAL. BEFORE POLLS IT IS 'UJJWALA' AND POST POLLS IT TURNS INTO 'JUMLA.' THIS CANNOT CONTINUE.
—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE



Govt land monetisation will boost infrastructure development

The proposed SPV meant to carry out the monetisation should take essential steps for making land assets of PSUs free of any hindrances

Urban development in India is largely obstructed by the lack of availability of land at affordable prices, a key prerequisite for infrastructure development and housing. According to the Numbad database for 2021, Mumbai is among the top 10 cities with the highest price-to-income ratios. The reason for the high price of land available for infrastructure development or residential stock in India is directly linked to the complexities of the land acquisition process.

With a number of loopholes in its current design, it has been largely debated by various researchers and policymakers. Making matters worse, the lack of clear land titles and the need for obtaining approvals and clearances from civic authorities impedes the progress of a project.

As it has been a long-



PRERNA PRABHAKAR

The writer is an Associate Fellow at the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The views expressed are personal.

standing problem, it is imperative to seek solutions and adopt appropriate policy models to address it. Taking cue from China's journey can prove helpful. The improved infrastructure quality has been a fundamental source of China's economic growth, which currently stands on a par with the advanced economies.

As per the World Bank's Infrastructure Index for 2018, Beijing appeared in the top 20 ranks alongside other advanced economies with a score of 3.75. India, in contrast, was one of the low-scoring countries on the index at 2.91. This fast-paced development of the Chinese economy forces one to think about its model of infrastructure development.

Of the many steps taken by the Chinese Government, a significant effort relates to monetisation of public land to develop infrastructure. According to

an estimate by Chinese researchers, the Government allocated 1,38,267 hectare of land in 2010 for infrastructure, which was around 20 per cent of the total State-owned land.

Financial support in the form of this land allocation can be gauged by the fact that had State Governments purchased the same at market rates, they would have ended up paying 1,292.8 billion yuan, amounting to 31.8 per cent of their total revenue in 2010. This model can be replicated and adopted by India by making unutilised land with Government departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) available to private players for infrastructure development or housing construction, thereby filling the existing gap.

The Union Budget 2021-22 has proposed monetisation of land belonging to the



Government-owned companies and PSUs by way of direct sale, concessions or other suitable means. The plan is to launch a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in this pursuit. The decision is likely to free up a large extent of land for building infrastructure and affordable housing projects. According to various estimates available in public domain, the

land held by various Government agencies is over 5,00,000 HA, of which, over 1,60,000 HA is held across various airports, seaports and by the railways. Approximately 11.8 lakh acres is owned by the Railway Ministry, out of which about 1.26 lakh acres is not in any kind of use. For the proposed land monetisation, it is pertinent to ensure preparation on various fronts. First, record of lands with plot ownership and boundaries should be available in an updated form, without any disputes or any other encumbrances like lease terms of the PSUs. Though States are making substantial progress in digitising land records, there is still a long road ahead for improving its quality, as has been exhibited by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) Land Records and

Services Index (N-LRSI) in its 2020 and 2021 editions. The proposed SPV meant to carry out the monetisation process should take the essential steps for making land assets of PSUs free of any hindrances.

Canada's experience can offer some useful lessons in designing an SPV — Canada Lands Company — identifies and purchases surplus properties (including Government-owned land) at market prices. It further manages the purchased properties and finally sells it to private entities.

Since 1995, it has developed 2,000 affordable housing projects. Second, land prices valuation, which has proved to be a major roadblock for loan acquisition procedures, should be determined through a detailed analysis of market rates and potential gains from the proposed project.

Lastly, Central and State

Governments should take the necessary steps to limit the requirement of multiple approvals required to kick off an infrastructure or real estate project. This comes across as the biggest bottleneck as observed from heaps of land parcels lying unutilised in the States' land banks as private companies avoid the tedious approval and clearance processes that are necessary to secure access.

With increasing requirements of infrastructure resources and housing stock in Indian cities, there is an urgent need to optimise land resources. If adopted with adequate measures, Government land monetisation can be an efficient policy step that captures real estate value of unutilised public land, augments revenues of local, Central and State Governments and also mitigates problems posed by escalating land prices.

Myanmar security forces kill 2 anti-coup protesters

AP ■ MANDALAY
Security forces shot dead two people in northern Myanmar on Monday, local media reported, as the military Government continued its attempt to stamp out opposition to its February 1 coup.
The Irrawaddy newspaper said the victims were shot in the head during anti-coup protests in Myitkyina in Kachin State. Graphic video on social media showed protesters in the street backing away from tear gas, responding with rocks, then fleeing after a fusillade of what seemed to be automatic gunfire.
Demonstrators hurriedly carried away a number of casualties, including one apparent fatality, a person who had clearly sustained a severe head wound.



Anti-coup protesters discharge fire extinguishers to counter the impact of the tear gas fired by police during a demonstration in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on Monday. AP

A second body was seen a little later, on a stretcher, his head covered with a cloth.
Security forces also clamped down on anti-coup protesters elsewhere Monday, firing tear gas to break up a crowd of around 1,000 people who were demonstrating in the capital, Naypyitaw.
The protesters deployed fire extinguishers to create a smoke screen as they fled from authorities.

Biden order could change how colleges handle sex misconduct

AP ■ WASHINGTON
President Joe Biden is set to sign an executive order on Monday directing the Department of Education to review policies implemented by Donald Trump's administration, including changes to Title IX regulations that prohibit sex discrimination in federally funded institutions, according to administration officials.
Biden focused on gender equity during his campaign and promised to strengthen Title IX if he won the White House. He also will sign a second executive order formally establishing the White House Gender Policy Council, according to two administration officials who briefed reporters on the plan.
Biden's transition team announced his plans to create the council before he took office. The order directing the



President Joe Biden speaks in the State Dining Room of the White House. AP

review of Title IX could pave the way to a major shift in how colleges handle allegations of sexual misconduct moving forward.
Trump's education secretary, Betsy DeVos, in 2018 rescinded an Obama-era administration standard in cases of reported sexual assault from requiring a "preponderance of evidence" — meaning it is more likely than not that sexual harassment or violence occurred — to "clear and convincing evidence." The DeVos changes reduced the liability of colleges and universities for investigating sexual misconduct claims and bolstered the due process rights of the accused, including the right to cross-examine their accusers through a third-party advocate at campus hearings.
Biden, as Vice-President, along with then-Education Secretary Arne Duncan in 2011 laid out the legal guidance of what was expected of college campuses in response to allegations of sexual violence on behalf of President Barack Obama's administration.
With the Education Department review, Biden's intent is to set policies that help ensure students have an environment that's free from sexual harassment and without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, according to one White House official who briefed reporters on the orders.

IN EXPLOSIVE INTERVIEW Meghan reveals suicidal thoughts, royal racism



This image provided by Harpo Productions shows Meghan, The Duchess of Sussex, left, in conversation with Oprah Winfrey. AP

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES/LONDON
Meghan Markle struggled as a new member of Britain's royal family after her marriage to Prince Harry to such a degree that she even contemplated suicide, the Duchess of Sussex revealed in an explosive tell-all interview with American chat show host Oprah Winfrey.
The two-hour special, aired on the CBS network in the US on Sunday and set to be aired on ITV in the UK on Monday night, saw Prince Harry joining his wife half-way through as the couple also spoke about concerns of racism within the royal ranks after being asked about their son Archie's expected skin colour when mixed-race Meghan was pregnant with their first child.
"I just didn't want to be alive anymore," Meghan said, adding that when she "went to the institution for help" she was told it would not be forthcoming as it "wouldn't be good for the institution."
The 39-year-old former American actress, who is pregnant with her second child, revealed that the couple are expecting a baby girl and shared how the palace decided that their first-born, Archie, could not be a prince and would therefore have no security.

Oz ends defence cooperation with coup-hit Myanmar

Canberra: Australia has suspended its defence cooperation with Myanmar and is redirecting humanitarian aid because of the military takeover of the government and ongoing detention of an Australian citizen.
Foreign Minister Marise Payne said on Monday that Australian diplomats only had access to economic policy adviser Sean Turnell twice since he was detained in early February. AP

Escalating violence raises pressure for Myanmar sanctions

Bangkok: The escalation of violence in Myanmar as authorities crack down on protests against the February 1 coup is raising pressure for more sanctions against the junta, even as countries struggle over how to best sway military leaders inured to global condemnation.
The challenge is made doubly difficult by fears of harming ordinary citizens who were already suffering from an economic slump worsened by the pandemic but are braving risks of arrest and injury to voice

First lady Jill helps honor women from 15 countries for courage

AP ■ WASHINGTON
First lady Jill Biden says nearly two dozen women the State Department is honoring for their courage made an "intentional decision" to persist and demand justice despite their fear.
The 21 women being recognized Monday with the department's International Women of Courage Award include seven from Afghanistan who are receiving posthumous honors.

Jill sees teachable moment in the depths of a pandemic

AP ■ WATERFORD, PA.
Jill Biden sees a teachable moment in the depths of the coronavirus pandemic. The first lady sat in a socially distanced circle in the library at Fort LeBoeuf Middle School in Pennsylvania, listening and taking notes as parents expressed relief that a school had reopened and their kids were back in the classroom.
One mother talked about the "bumpy patches" of online learning and said reopening "has been so to the T" that she doesn't worry about her son and daughter. Another mom said the district included parent input and she was comfortable her children were in a "safe environment."

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

SEEMI
General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **SEEMI D/o Sant Ram R/o H. No. 10-B, Press Enclave, Vikas Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 11.02.2021 from the area of P.S. Rahnola, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 58-A dated 12.02.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Rahnola, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Age : 20 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion :** Fair, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing :** White & black colour jarssi and grey colour pant and hawai chappal in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Rahnola, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO P.S. Rahnola, Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Outer Distt., Delhi**
DP/687/OD/2021 **Ph. No. 011-28363001, 28363002**

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam 'fully welcomes' proposed electoral changes

Hong Kong: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said on Monday the city's government "fully welcomes" changes to the city's electoral system that will substantially increase central government control over Hong Kong politics and exclude Beijing's critics.
Chinese authorities have said the draft decision before China's National People's Congress would mean the largely pro-Beijing committee that elects Hong Kong's leader would also choose a large part of the legislature. AP

SEARCH FOR MISSING

SANTOSH
General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely : Santosh W/o Madan Lal R/o Factory No. O-8, Sec-1, DSIIDC Bawana, Delhi** has been missing from her house since 03.02.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 52A dated 08.02.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Bawana, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Age: About 65 Years, **Height:** 4'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built :** Medium, **Identification:** Left hand tattoo (Madan Lal) & mentally unstable. **Wearing:** Pink colour suit & salwar and Red colour juti in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this Missing female, may inform SHO, Bawana, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO P.S. Bawana, Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Outer North Distt., Delhi**
DP/820/ON/2021 **Ph. No. 011-27752534, 7065036321**

DELHI JAL BOARD (GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NE) III G.T ROAD SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032 E-mail eeneii.ee@gmail.com Ph No.22596645

"Stop Corona; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene" **Press NIT NO.50(2020-21)**

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender Rs.	Tender/ Fees (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Dated of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of e-procurement Solution
1.	Repair and renovation of UGR at shastri park I in ward no-42E in Seelampur under EE(NE)-III in AC-65 NE-III Tender I.D. No. 2021_DJB_20129_3	27,59,774/-	500/-	EMD Exempted	05.03.2021	17.03.2021

Further details in this regard can be seen at <http://delhi.govtprocurement.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 474 (2020-21) **Sd/- EX. ENGINEER (NE)-III**

BIDEN WELCOMES POPE'S VISIT TO IRAQ

Washington: US President Joe Biden on Monday welcomed Pope Francis' historic visit to Iraq, describing it as a "symbol of hope" for the entire world.

SYRIAN PREZ, WIFE TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Damascus: Syrian President Bashar Assad and his wife have tested positive for the Covid-19, the President's office said on Monday, with both having only mild symptoms of the illness.

20 DEAD IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA BLASTS

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso): A series of explosions at a military barracks in Equatorial Guinea killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 600 others on Sunday, authorities said.

SHOOLS, COLLEGES REOPEN IN UK

London: Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the "national effort" as schools and colleges opened on Monday to mark the step one in the UK's phased roadmap to lift strict lockdown restrictions in place for months to control the spread of Covid.

Public Notice

It is publically notified that the FLAT NO. 71C, BLOCK-D-1, SECTOR-52, NOIDA, has been allotted in the name of SANTOSH KUMAR S/O SUKH DEV PRASAD YADAV R/O ANSAL BHAWAN, 16, KASTURBA MARG, NEW DELHI, had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA to Mohini W/O NARI RAM R/O F-99, SECTOR-22, NOIDA, GPA executed at SR-III Noida Vide Book No IV Volume No. 176 on pages 31-38 at Document No. 1038 Dte. 16.12.2002 and agreement to sell is not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above flat goes in favour of NARI RAM S/O RAM LAL R/O F-99, SECTOR-22, NOIDA if any one has / have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication of this notice. **MOHINI**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Apartment No. H-014, First Floor, Tower/Block/H "Indiabulls Centrum Park", Gurugram That our client Tarinder Singh s/o Mohanjit Singh R/o B-45A, Chander Vihar, Niloti, Delhi, proposes to purchase the above said property from Gurjeet Kaur w/o Kuldeep Singh R/o 187, Diamond Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar, who has assured our client that She is the absolute owner of the said property vide Transfer deed No. 57 dated 10.04.18 (SR Kadipur) executed in her favour of by Madhu Preet Kaur w/o Simranjeet Singh Kohli and said Original Transfer deed No.57/10.04.18 (SR-Kadipur) and prior chain as Original Transfer deed No.56/10.04.18 (SR-Kadipur) have been misplaced/lost, for which lost document complaint lodged with Police vide LR No.694483/2020 dated 28.10.20. Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to the General Public, Bank/Financial institutions or other persons, organizations, companies, government authorities, having any claim, rights, title, or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property, is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned hereinbelow within 10 days of the publication of this notice and in the event no response having been received to the notice, the title of Gurjeet Kaur w/o Kuldeep Singh to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client in any manner whatsoever.

Kumar Amit Advocate Legal Access 132A, LGF, Anarkali Complex, Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi-55

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Rajan @ Suraj S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 50 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue colour jeans & multi colour Gamcha, who was found dead in the area of PS: Prem Nagar, Delhi.** In this regard a case DD No. 19A Dated 14.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
Sd/- SHO P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi Tel.: 011-25489080
DP/712/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Rahul S/o Rajkumar R/o RZ-80, Gali No. 8, Nihal Vihar, Delhi Age : 21 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Long, wearing Black colour jacket & pant and shoes in feet, has been missing/kidnapped since 24.01.2021 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** In this regard DD No. 97-A dated 09.02.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following.
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in SHO : P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Ph. : 011-25946700, 25946710
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Dy. CSTE/C/CW/Northern Railway, DRM office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under **Single Packet system** from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work:

Name of work	Approximate cost of the work	Earnest Money	Completion period
"S&T work for alteration of PI at Kathua and Madhopur Punjab stations and associated telecom work at adjoining stations in c/w doubling across Ravi Bridge section over Ferozpur Division of Northern Railway"	Rs. 48.03 Lakh	NIL	03 (Three) months

Tender will be available on www.irps.gov.in website from 10.03.2021 to 11.30 Hrs on 01.04.2021 and will be opened on 01.04.2021 after 11.30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 18.03.2021 to 11.30 hrs on 01.04.2021 and will be opened on 01.04.2021 after 11.30 hrs.
E-Tender document cost - Nil
The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway web site i.e. on www.irps.gov.in from 10.03.2021 to 11.30 hrs on 01.04.2021, bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No: 178-Sig/CW/32/96/PI-III Dated : 08.03.2021 525/2021
Serving Customers With A Smile

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Radha
General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Radha D/o Shyam Karan, R/o C-8/22, Sec-7, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 16.03.2019 from the area of PS. North Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 85/19 dated 16.03.2019 has been lodged at PS, North Rohini, Delhi. The description of Missing/kidnapped girl is as under:
Name : Radha, Father's Name : Shyam Karan, Age : 13 years, Height : 5'4", Face : Round, Complexion : Fair, Wearing : Black Suit & Salwar. Hair : Black If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
SHO P.S., North Rohini, Delhi Ph : 011-27048210 8750870330
Website : http://cbi.nic.in e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in P.S., North Rohini, Delhi Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/710/RD/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that we have changed the name of our company, from Laxmi Battery & Inverter to "LAXMI BATTERY" [Prop. Mr. Rakesh Gupta], Q-Block, Village Pooth Kalan, Krishan Vihar, Delhi-110086. Our business will be continue operating under the new company name of "LAXMI BATTERY".
Thank you for supporting us and gave us the opportunity to continue to provide better services to serve you.

N.S. Yadav (Advocate) Ch. No.507, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com
पत्र सं. 197, e-Tender Notice दिनांक: 08.03.2021
Office of the EE (TP), M&U Dhalipur invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Name of Work:- Hiring of one no. M&M Bolero Non-AC, Seven-Seater vehicle with driver for DGM (M&U) Yamuna Valley, Ujvn limited, Dhalipur for two years.
Estimated cost: Rs 798637.00 (GST extra).
Date of availability of bid document on website:- 08.03.2021
Last date of submission of bid on website:- 29.03.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://ujktenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer (TP)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

OJSWI TRADES INVESTMENT AND FINANCE LIMITED

Kh. No. 300, Gopi Ram Building, Sultanpur Village, New Delhi-110030
Tel. No.09810836602, Fax No. 0124-4699333
CIN: L67120DL1990PLC042059
Website: www.ojswi.in, Email Id: corporate.ojswi@gmail.com
Notice of Board Meeting
In Pursuant to Regulation 29 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement), 2015, notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, March 15, 2021 inter alia, to consider and take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on September 30, 2020. The said information is also available on the website of the Company at www.ojswi.in and may also be available on Stock Exchange website at www.mse.com
By order of the Board, For Ojswi Trades Investment and Finance Limited Sd/- Sandeep Garg Director
Place: New Delhi Date: March 08, 2021

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

CASE DETAILS	ASSET DETAILS
ICICI Bank Vs LAKHINDER KAUR, CS (COMM) No. 352/2018	Make and Model-MARUTI S CROSS, Vehicle No-DL1CU5834
ICICI Bank Vs VIKASH KUMAR VERMA, CS DJ No. 900/18	Make and Model-GENERAL MOTORS SAIL, Vehicle No-DL1ZA8496
ICICI Bank Vs GAURAV KUMAR, CS (COMM) No. 334/20	Make and Model-HYUNDAI T10, Vehicle No-UP16BE2947
ICICI Bank Vs MEENAKSHI SINGH KHARWAR, CS DJ 6476/18	Make and Model-NISSAN ACTIVE XV, Vehicle No-UP16ET3403
ICICI Bank Vs SHAILENDRA NIGAM, CS (COMM) No. 2619/2019	Make and Model-I 20 SPORTZ VTVT, Vehicle No-UP16BR3332
ICICI Bank Vs KANWAL NANGIA, CS (COMM) No. 663/2019	Make and Model-TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR INDIA LTD COROLLA, Vehicle No-DL4CNE8455
ICICI Bank Vs KARAN JAIN, CS (Comm) no 1710/19	Make and Model-MERCEDES MERCEDES E250 CDI, Vehicle No-DL6CM1472
ICICI Bank Vs SUMIT, CS No. 2143/2017	Make and Model-TATA ACE, Vehicle No-DL1LV2002
ICICI Bank Vs DINESH KUMAR, CS SCJ 3493/17	Make and Model-AL DOST LS, Vehicle No-DL1LV3764
ICICI Bank Vs CHAND MOHAMAD, CS no. 3687/2017	Make and Model-AL DOST, Vehicle No-DL1LV5880
ICICI Bank Vs AJAY SINGH, Suit No 912/2017	Make and Model-AL DOST LS, Vehicle No-DL1LW2931
ICICI Bank Vs SALIM, CS (COMM) No. 2203/2019	Make and Model-ECOMET 1214, Vehicle No-HR38Y2812
ICICI Bank Vs VINOD NAGAR, CS (Comm) No. 2886/19	Make and Model-ASHOK LEYLAND LTD Dost, Vehicle No-UP16FT9996
ICICI Bank Vs SHAHANSHAH SHAIKH, CS (COMM) No. 1189 / 2020	Make and Model-XCENT, Vehicle No-DL1ZA5477
ICICI Bank Vs MAHENDER SINGH, CS (COMM) No. 711 / 2020	Make and Model-SWIFT, Vehicle No-DL2CAW7858
ICICI Bank Vs PAWAN KUMAR, CS (COMM) No. 653 / 2019	Make and Model-WAGON R, Vehicle No-DL7CT3053

Auction Date : 20-March-2021
Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No: 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram - 122022.
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.
Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.
The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085.** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

Govt to amend telecom licence norms to control sourcing from China

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is likely to amend the telecom licence norms this month to incorporate the guidelines of national security directive on telecom communication sector that will help in controlling installation of network equipment from China and other non-friendly countries.

Under the provisions of this directive, the government will declare a list of trusted sources and trusted products for installation in the country's telecom network.

"DoT is almost ready to amend licence conditions to incorporate guidelines NSD (national security directive). It should be done in the coming

week," an official source said.

Notably, Chinese telecom gear maker Huawei has had its run-ins in the past with the governments of Canada and the US. The US has alleged that it did not comply with its cybersecurity and privacy laws, leaving the country and the citizens vulnerable to espionage.

The list of the trusted source and product for installation in telecom networks will be decided based on the approval of a committee headed by the deputy national security advisor.

The committee will consist of members from relevant departments, ministries and will also have two members from the industry and independent experts.

Govt nets ₹53,346 cr from Vivad Se Vishwas scheme till Feb 22

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has realised Rs 53,346 crore through direct tax dispute resolution scheme Vivad Se Vishwas till February 22, Parliament was informed on Monday.

To a query in the Lok Sabha on whether the government has been able to achieve the objective of settling income tax cases after launching the Vivad se Vishwas scheme, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said, "Yes". He said over 1.28 lakh declarations have been filed under the scheme involving a disputed tax of Rs 98,328 crore. Of this, Rs 53,346 crore has been received as payments against disputed tax.

This include Rs 27,720 crore worth payments made by the central public sector undertakings (PSUs), Rs 1,023 crore by state PSUs, and Rs 24,603 crore by others.

The Vivad Se Vishwas scheme provides for settlement of disputed tax, disputed interest, disputed penalty or disputed fees in relation to an assessment or reassessment order. The dispute is settled on payment of 100 per cent of the disputed tax and 25 per cent of the disputed penalty or interest or fee. The taxpayer is granted immunity from levy of interest, penalty and institution of any proceeding for prosecution for any offence under the Income Tax Act in respect of matters covered in the declaration.

India's domestic air traffic falls 37 pc to 78 lakh passengers in Feb: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's domestic air traffic fell 37 per cent year-on-year to 78 lakh passengers in February amid travel curbs and capacity restrictions due to the pandemic, according to Ica.

Even the sequential growth slowed down for the second consecutive month in February with a nearly flat growth over January 2021, rating firm Ica said in a release.

Domestic passenger traffic in January this year was recorded at 77.34 lakh, according to DGCA data.

Similarly, 1.23 crore people travelled on local routes in February 2020 as against 78 lakh passenger in February this year. The number of flights departing has also gradually increased from 416 on day

one (May 25, 2020, when domestic operations were resumed) to 2,885 on day 267 (February 14, 2021).

"For February 2021, the average daily departures were around 2,296, significantly lower than the average daily departures of 3,137 in February 2020, though better than around 2,190 in January 2021," said Kinjal Shah, Vice President, Ica.

The average number of passengers per flight during February 2021 was 121, against an average of 136 passengers per flight in February 2020, she said, therefore, it is expected that the domestic aviation industry operated at a passenger load factor (PLF) of around 78 per cent in February 2021, against 87.7 per cent a year ago, that too on a low capacity.

BRIEFS

TATA POWER-DDL BAGS GOLDEN PEACOCK AWARD
Tata Power Delhi Distribution (Tata Power-DDL), a leading power distribution company serving a populace of 7 million in the national capital, has been presented with the prestigious 'Golden Peacock Award for Energy Efficiency' for the year 2020 under the 'Power Distribution' Category by the Awards Jury under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India.

MAYOR OF NORTH DELHI, DY HEAD OF MISSION AUSTRIAN EMBASSY INAUGURATE PICTORIAL EXHIBITION
North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash and Deputy Head of Mission, Austrian Embassy, Matthias Radoszics on Monday inaugurated a pictorial exhibition on the subject of women empowerment at North DMC headquarters on the occasion of International Women's Day. On the occasion Deputy Mayor Ritu Goel, Standing Committee Chairman Chail Bihari Goswami, ex-Mayor Rajni Abbi were also present.

NORTHERN RAILWAY DEDICATES ITS WDP4B, WDP4D CLASS LOCOMOTIVES TO WOMEN WARRIORS
As a token of homage and respect, Northern Railway takes pride in dedicating its WDP4B and WDP4D class locomotives of Tughlakabad to these brave warriors, Tughlakabad locomotives Rani Ahilyabai, Rani Avantibai, Rani Velu Nachiyar, Rani Chennamma, Rani Lakshmi and Jhalkaribai will soon be joined by Uda Devi and others in celebrating our immortal heroes' women with character of steel.

CSCs COLLABORATES WITH GOODWORKER TO CONNECT RURAL WORKERS WITH EMPLOYERS
NEW DELHI: Centre's digital India arm Common Services Centres (CSC) is partnering with GoodWorker, a job matching platform, for connecting blue-collar workers with employers through its extensive reach in rural India. A Ministry of Information Technology official said the partnership promises to bring one lakh job opportunities through CSC Gramin Naukri Portal. The job opportunities will include profiles like Sewing Machine Operator, Delivery Executive, Customer Support Executive/Tele caller, etc.

SRM CONDUCTS WORKSHOP ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SELF-HELP GROUPS
Kattankulathur: SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur and Pudhiya Thalaivurai Foundation together with ISRB EXPOTM Indian Small and Rural Business Exposition conducted "Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme on Areca plates and spirulina production and marketing" at Government Middle School Campus, Orathur village. Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, SRMIST has adopted eight villages (Orathur, Kolathur, Chettipunnam, Nattarasampattu, Thenmelpakkam, Patravakkam, Anjur, and Kalivandhapattu), from Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram district.

Equities slip on high crude oil prices; Realty stocks fall

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

India's benchmark equity indices ended Monday's trade session on a flat-to-positive note even as high crude oil prices along with rising bond yields subdued sentiments.

Accordingly, the two key indices had a gap-up opening, subsequently they rose to make respective intra day highs but fears of inflationary pressures due to high oil prices spooked investors. Globally, Asian shares broadly reversed course to trade lower on Monday as higher crude oil prices raised inflation worries.

On the other hand, European stocks rose with bond yields near one-year highs as the world's largest economy was on the verge of adding \$1.9 trillion in stimulus.

Besides, volumes were below recent averages signalling lower institutional participation. On Monday, FIIs

pulled out Rs 1,494.49 crore from the Indian markets.

Among sectors, PSU bank, media, metals gained the most, while realty, FMCG, Auto lost

Sensex, Nifty eke out gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty eke out gains on Monday after two sessions of decline as investors snapped up energy, IT and pharma shares. After fighting multiple bouts of volatility during the session, the BSE gauge Sensex settled 35.75 points or 0.07 per cent higher at 50,441.07. Intraday, the index rose as much as 667 points, but pared most of its gains tracking weakness in global markets.

50% employees at Vizag plant to be women: Yokohama Off-Highway Tires

PNS ■ MUMBAI

After witnessing many surprising outcomes from the all-women shop-floor at its Dahej plant, Yokohama Off-Highway Tires has decided to have 50% staff as women at its upcoming plant in Vizag. The world's leading off-highway tyre maker began hiring women for the shop-floor in September 2018, thus becoming the first tyre company to do so on its heavy-duty tyre shop-floor at the Dahej plant, with lots of apprehensions given the nature of the work, said Yokohama India Group Head Nitin Mantri. They rolled down the first tyre in February 2019 after the induction and training programme and were inducted into the truck and bus radial unit first and then extended to radial OTR (off-the-road) unit in Feb 2020.

LPG price double in 7 yrs; tax collection on petrol, diesel jumps 459%: Pradhan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Price of domestic cooking gas, LPG has doubled to Rs 819 per cylinder in the last seven years while the increase in taxes on petrol and diesel has swelled collections by over 459 per cent, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

In written replies to a spate of questions on rising fuel prices in the Lok Sabha, Pradhan said the retail selling price of domestic gas was Rs 410.5 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 1, 2014. This month, the same cylinder costs Rs 819.

Small price hikes over the past couple of years have eliminated subsidy on cooking gas as well as PDS kerosene.

Pradhan said the price of domestic subsidised LPG has been raised during the last few months. It cost Rs 594 per

SRM CONDUCTS WORKSHOP ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SELF-HELP GROUPS

Kattankulathur: SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur and Pudhiya Thalaivurai Foundation together with ISRB EXPOTM Indian Small and Rural Business Exposition conducted "Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme on Areca plates and spirulina production and marketing" at Government Middle School Campus, Orathur village. Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, SRMIST has adopted eight villages (Orathur, Kolathur, Chettipunnam, Nattarasampattu, Thenmelpakkam, Patravakkam, Anjur, and Kalivandhapattu), from Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram district.

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST) I M 16 MAYUR VIHAR PKT E PHASE II NEW DELHI 110091

Stop Corona; 1.Wash Your Hands 2.Wear Mask 3.Maintain Social Distance

PRESS NOTICE TENDER

NIT NO.41/East-I/ (2020-21)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender	Tender/ Fees	Dated of release of Corrigendum in E-procurement solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date/Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1	Removal of contamination by replacement/shifting of 150/100 mm dia Ductile Iron Water line in 10 Block Khichripur in AC-56 East-I	38,99,622.00	500.00	05.03.2021 2021_DJB_20 1047_1	23.03.2021 At 03:15 PM
2	Removal of contamination by replacement of old & damaged C.I. Water line in B-Block Mandawali Fazalpur Gali No. 11 to Gali No. 16 and its adjoining in AC-57 in East-I	35,15,578.00	500.00	05.03.2021 2021_DJB_20 1047_2	23.03.2021 At 03:15 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 475 (2020-21)

Sd/-
Pratap Singh
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)-I

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Rahul S/o Ram Bhagwan R/o H.No. E 3/25, Near Maharana Pratap Chowk, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 756/15, u/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act at PS Bawana, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Rahul**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rahul**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rahul of FIR No. 756/15, u/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act at PS Bawana, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **09.04.2021**.

By order
Vaibhav Mehta
Metropolitan Magistrate (North)
Court Room No. 114, First Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/834/ON/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Payal, D/o Sanjay Kumar, R/o House No. R-35 Gali No. 1A, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi. Age 15 yrs., Height 4'2", Fair Complexion, Round face, hair long black. Identification a mole on right cheek wearing green colour suit pink colour salwar has been missing/kidnapped since 11.02.2021 from the area of PS Narela, Delhi.**

Payal

In this regard a case **FIR No. 40/21 Dt. 14.02.2021 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Narela, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046
011-23015218

S.H.O., PS Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27280435, 8750870324

DP/824/ON/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Dev, S/o Lt. Harbir Singh, R/o: Jhuggi No. C-1312, Suraj Park, Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Age: 11 years, Height: 3'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, wearing Brown colour Coat, Blue Pant and Blue colour Shoes in feet, has been missing from his house since 02.02.2021. In this regard a FIR No. 0057/2021 U/S 363 IPC, dated 03.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi
DP/813/ON/2021 Ph. No.: 011-27854757, 27854799

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Sunita with son (Arvind, age 9 years), W/o: Shri Ram, R/o: RZC-174, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** is missing/ kidnapped since 03.02.2021 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 137-A dated 05.02.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** The description of missing/ kidnapped lady is as under:

Name: Sunita with son Arvind age 9 Yrs. , Age: 26 Years, Height: 4'6", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped lady may kindly be inform undersigned.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO Police Station, Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710

DP/700/OD/2021

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 30-35 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Gender: Male, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Moustache: Black, Beard: Black, Wearing : Red hoody and sweater and blue jacket was found dead near Shop No. 1323, Pan mandi, Sadar Bazar, Delhi, on 26.02.2021. In this regard, DD No.55A U/s 174 CrPC Dt. 26.02.2021 has been lodged at PS Sadar Bazar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S., Sadar Bazar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23512411, 8750870124

DP/1001/N/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely Saharukh S/o Salamat R/o Jhuggi No. H-2/19, Jahangir Puri, Delhi. has been missing/kidnapped since dated 23.02.2021 from the area Jahangir Puri, Delhi. In this regard, a case FIR.No.143/21, Dated 25.02.2021, has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri Delhi.** The description of the missing boy is as under.

Age: 11 Years Complexion: Shallow, Height: 3" 6" Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue colour T-Shirt & Blue Colour Keffi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/Kidnapped boy then please inform P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011- 24368639

Sd/- SHO Jahangir Puri
PH. 011-27631600

DP/695/NW/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl **namely Lalita, D/o Vishnu Dayal, R/o E-1450, 1st Floor, Jahangir Puri, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 4'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, wearing Red Suit and Black Sandal in feet, has been missing from her house since 25.02.2021 at Night. In this regard a FIR No. 144/21 U/S 363 IPC, dated 26.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi
DP/700/NW/2021 Ph. No.: 011-27636000, 27631600

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: Approx 32 years, Complexion: Dark, Height: 172 Cms., Built: Medium, Face: Oval, Clothes: Without Clothes, was admitted in Safdarjung Hospital vide MLC No. KH/19/21 referred from Kailash Hospital. Later patient died in Safdarjung Hospital. In this regard a DD No. 11PP, dated 26.01.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24106346, 24106345

DP/540/SW/2021

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 60-65 Yrs., Height: 5'5" approx., Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: White Shirt, Black Pent and Dark Brown Jersey, Place of Recovery: Found dead Near the footpath opposite Delhi Jal Board at NH-09, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 57A, U/s 174 CrPC, Dated 06.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Madhu Vihar, Delhi.** Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO P.S. Madhu Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22732429

DP/415/ED/2021

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one boy was found in unconscious condition at Shadipur Red Light near Hanuman Mandir Station on dated **27.02.2021.** He is admitted in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital for treatment after treatment declared dead by doctor dated 01.03.2021. In this regard a **DD No. 60A, dated 01.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi.** The dead body has been preserved for identification at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Mortuary Delhi for 72 hrs. The description of the person is given as under

Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 22 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing : Black Colour T-shirt and Black Colour Lower.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead boy please inform undersigned.

SHO PS Ranjit Nagar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25704008, 25704009, 8750870436

DP/687/CD/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 04.03.2021 at Pole KM no. 16/11, 16/13 Up Line Railway, Near Ganda Nala, Sagarpur, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in DDU Hospital mortuary for 72 hours for identification. In this regard DD No. 9A dated 04.03.2021 U/S 174 Cr. P.C. has been lodged at Police Station, Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body is as under:**

Name: Unknown, Age: 30-35 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue colour lining shirt & Black colour Lower.

If anyone has any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO Police Station, Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi
DP/74/RLY/2021 Ph: 011-25688505, 8750871309

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man **namely Aashif Sheikh, S/o: Imajuddin Sheikh, R/o: C-79/44, Aaram Bagh, Pahar Ganj, Delhi** is missing since 23.02.2021 at about 6:00 PM from his home. In this regard **DD No. 72 A dated 25.02.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Pahar Ganj, Delhi.** The description of the missing man is as under:

Name: Aashif Sheikh, Age: 25 Years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Sky Blue Jeans, Blue colour T-shirt and Red & Blue colour shoes in his feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing man please inform to the following:-

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

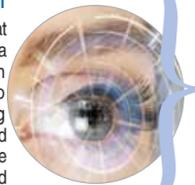
SHO Police Station, Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Ph: 011-23520787, 8750012525

DP/690/CD/2021

HEALTH

Artificial Vision

Researchers are developing a retinal implant that works with camera-equipped smart glasses and a microcomputer that may help the blind people in getting artificial vision. "Our system is designed to give blind people a form of artificial vision by using electrodes to stimulate their retinal cells," said researcher Diego Ghezzi from the Ecole Polytechnique federale de Lausanne in Switzerland



EXPERIENCE THE RELIEF



DR PRIYA KAUL

Meditation allows humans to gain power over their mind, body and desires, says

Meditation is a thousand-year-old practice. The older the practice, the greater are its effects and benefits. In this modern time, our life is with stress and excess consumption of information. Meditation is a tool to fight these effects of stressful life and find a peaceful living.

Meditation is to train the mind and actions, create self-awareness, and achieve a stable, emotionally calm and mentally clear state of mind. The good thing about meditation is that it does not require any equipment. It is, though, best practised in a quiet, peaceful surrounding. It is commonly a means to find answers to burning questions of the mind.

Mental health: Most mental health issues can be resolved, with the help of meditation. Researchers have believed that meditation could be a solution in many mental health cases to eliminate medication. In the recent pandemic, mental health issues became of grave concern in many nations around the world. Those suffering from depression and anxiety due to the pandemic are advised to practise meditation to gain relief. It has become an effective and important part of daily life.

Take control: It is often when the chaos of daily life takes control meditation comes handy. It helps rid away negative thoughts and allows the brain to find its zen and focus. It permits zero in on positive thinking and finding an equilibrium. It penetrates serenity into the mind that assists in fulfilling the answers for an individual. Answering desired questions is best achieved in a quiet and peaceful environment or surrounding.

Motivation: Meditation allows humans to gain power over their mind, body and desires. The chaotic consistency of daily life prevents individuals to stay motivated and confident in their endeavours. Meditation gives them dominating thinking to stay on the course of positivity and healing. It gives them the strength to ignore distractions and manipulate the mind to do differently.

Stay calm: Meditation is useful for school students, busy corporate employees, business people and professionals in different fields. It helps gain concentration, resilience and improves performance. People who meditate are known to be kind in their actions and thoughts. They are also more humble and gentle beings. A study shows that meditation makes people softer, agile minded and thoughtful as they can stay calm and consider situations before impulsively taking action.

Be disciplined: Meditation lets an individual free from limitations and shortcomings. It leads them to peace and calmness. It helps bring stillness to a racing mind and controls fast-paced thinking. Meditation allows individuals to take control and be disciplined about life and daily habits.

The benefit of meditation is that it gives an individual the ability to find peace. It is a practice chosen by world leaders and highly successful people. Meditation is adopted as part of the corporate world as well. It is a significant part of daily life and is utilised, as a way to live a happy life.

The writer is Spiritual life coach & Healer

DOCYARD

DR SHOBHA GUPTA

Medical Director, Gynaecologist and IVF Specialist
MOTHER'S LAP IVF CENTRE, NEW DELHI



Keep thyroid under check



Most people know that stress can cause various health problems. We are living in a scenario where every person lives under stress. Especially the pandemic has taken a toll on everyone's health apart from that sedentary lifestyle such as lack of exercise, smoking, drinking, junk food eating, lack of sleeping especially where people work in the night shifts, desk jobs, tension of target completion, the pressure of board meetings, client pressure, etc. All these factors in totality lead to stress.

Many people don't know that stress can also cause thyroid. Hypothyroidism or thyroid refers to any state in which thyroid hormone production is below normal. The symptoms are usually milder at the beginning but develop gradually as the condition deteriorates.

The symptoms of hypothyroidism are often subtle but can include:

- Increased cholesterol levels
 - State of depression
 - Losing or gaining weight
 - Swollen neck
 - Mood swings
 - Low energy
 - Hair loss
 - Constipation
 - Dry skin
 - Brittle nails
 - Problem with vision
 - Trembling of hands.
- In today's generation thyroid is a very common problem especially post 25 years of age and women are 4 times more prone to thyroid disorders than men. Undiagnosed and untreated thyroid disease can be a cause for infertility or frequent miscarriage.

An underactive thyroid (hypothyroidism) is a condition in which the thyroid gland doesn't produce enough of certain important hormones. For women, there is a link between hypothyroidism and infertility. Low levels of thyroid hormone can interfere with ovulation, which impairs fertility.

Since standard thyroid blood tests are not sensitive enough to detect low ovarian tissue levels the majority of the time. Women must find a knowledgeable physician who understands that standard tests will often not be useful in detecting low ovarian thyroid levels. If you feel the above-mentioned symptoms immediately go for TSH (thyroid-stimulating hormone) test, Chest X-ray, T4, or thyroxin test.

Treatment: Hypothyroidism can be treated in many ways. However, a doctor chooses the line of treatment based on several variables like the underlying cause of hypothyroidism, the age of the patient, the size of the thyroid gland, and the presence of coexisting medical illnesses.

If you are found to have hypothyroidism, thyroid hormone replacement is very effective in restoring fertility. It may take one-two months to normalise your thyroid hormone levels with medication; and once you start medication, you must check your TSH levels to confirm they are in the normal range. You will usually need to continue the medicines for the rest of your life and recheck your thyroid function every six months or so.

SUMMERCoolERS

FENNEL SEEDS: Highly aromatic and flavourful herbs, fennel seeds are used to treat some common digestive ailments including heartburn, intestinal gas and bloating.

Some people eat fennel seeds as mouth fresheners. Chewing fennel seeds can also help in getting rid of bad breath as they increase the production of saliva thereby washing out the bacteria. They also help to

relieve morning sickness.

The antioxidants and other antimicrobial properties in fennel seeds help treat a host of hair ailments. Some of these include dandruff, scalp itching, hair breakage and hair fall.

They also contain nitrates, compounds known to lower blood pressure levels. The fiber content in them also help in lowering the cholesterol levels.



PREVENT RENAL AILMENTS

World Kidney Day is on March 11. To mark the occasion, DR SUNIL PRAKASH explains chronic kidney diseases and how one can prevent or treat them

Millions of Indians are affected by Chronic Kidney Diseases (CKD). Various epidemiological studies suggest prevalence of CKD to be around eight to 10 per cent. Multiply this with our population and age is no bar! Though prevalent among the elderly, younger patients are also known to have progressive loss of kidney function. CKD is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

The various causes of CKD can range from strong medication, Diabetes, obesity, agricultural food chain pollution, water treatment pollution, to dehydration and kidney impact among others. Diabetes Mellitus is the leading cause of CKD. Of every 100 diabetics, nearly 40 land up with CKD. Diabetisitis a coinage to emphasise the havoc created by marriage of diabetes with obesity. One plus one becomes eleven here. Of those with high uncontrolled blood pressure, one in five will have CKD. Glomerulonephritis, which is inflammatory condition of kidneys as well as chronic shrinking of kidneys called chronic interstitial nephritis are again factors that can cause CKD. Young people working in farms have a special proclivity. Indiscriminate usage of agricultural pesticides and fertilisers along with heat dehydration can cause irreversible CKD, robbing the nation of its young working force.

Obstruction to urine flow due to kidney stones, enlarged prostate and gynaecological problems can also be major causes. Congenital

causes like polycystic kidneys, reflux of urine and many other diseases target children right from the mother's womb or at birth causing young people to get CKD.

Kidneys filter waste products from the blood. All the nitrogenous end products, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid and innumerable organic wastes which are inimical to good health are excreted by our indefatigable friends. Milieu Intérieur, the internal environment of the body, a requisite to good health is the prime responsibility of kidneys as they regulate blood pressure, enable new blood formation in bone marrow by producing the hormone erythropoietin, maintaining fluid and electrolyte balance and by forming active vitamin D, kidneys keep our strong bones in good humour!

Recognising early kidney damage is imperative and there are many early symptoms that can be a giveaway to kidney health. Paradoxically passing more urine specially at night is a classic symptom. Frothing in the urine, high BP especially in young people, unexplained anemia, muscle aches and bone pains, swelling over feet or face (how so ever slight and transient) and the inability to have a baby are all symptoms to watch out for.

Knowing how to prevent or manage the wellness of our kidneys is equally important. One should keep in mind the seven sins of this disease and keep the following in check — sugar, salt, stress, smoking, sedentary lifestyle, spirits i.e., alcohol and sleep (the lack of it). CKD is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases like heart

attacks and heart failure. Many a times the "seed of disease is in kidneys and the fruits of illness is borne by our heart". Invest a small sum of money and a little time in your health to reap bumper dividends of good health. Regular BP and blood sugar monitoring at home should be done religiously.

Periodic health checks detect asymptomatic early kidney disease which are amenable to correction. High risk patients above 50 years of age, people with Diabetes or high BP and patients having a family history of kidney diseases, stones and cystic diseases should all opt for periodic health checks. Every person should have a health insurance from first day of their earnings, whether personal or employer supported and people below poverty line should have coverage by schemes like Ayushman Bharat, ESI etc.

Are kidney diseases on the rise? The answer is an unequivocal yes. Ironically early CKD (stage 1 to 4) has no symptoms. Typically, it is not until stages 4-5 where there is severe reduction in Glomerular filtration and kidney functions that water, electrolyte and acids accumulate and cause flooding of lungs leading to cardio respiratory failure.

Dialysis is a process by which a person is hooked up to a dialysis machine which filters out all toxins and acidic wastes from the blood thus reestablishing milieu interior, albeit only for a few days. So, a person will need a four-hour session of dialysis every two to three times a week.

If prepared in advance, dialysis is a seamless and painless procedure

which can lend many years of useful life. Getting a small surgery called AV fistula done well in time can enable a safe and a high-quality dialysis. We have patients living well for more than 15 years on dialysis. In fact, dialysis is a lifesaving and life prolonging procedure. Bluntly put, it boils down to 'either dialysis or death'.

Nearly every person has two healthy kidneys. In the event of someone landing in End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), changing one kidney with a healthy kidney from a relative will enable complete recuperation of the patient. The transplanted patient can lead a normal life with some regular medications and checks. The donor also leads a full and fulfilling life capped with the ultimate altruistic deed.

If suffering from CKD, do ask your healthcare specialist about the other relevant advice for ESRD and how to manage medications and routine exercises to stay healthy. A quick visit to the dietician to get tips on managing good nutrition, food suited for the body, and to prevent thirst will go a long way in living well with kidney diseases. Given that kidney diseases are an epidemic, it is important to maintain a positive attitude with self-help and from the family. The treatment of kidney disease is not just medical, but it is about comprehending your life on a daily basis and understanding the choices you can make based on your condition and available therapeutic modalities.

The writer is Senior Director & HOD, Nephrology & Renal Transplantation, BLK Super Speciality Hospital

DadiKaKehna

Keeping your eyes healthy should be your priority, given that most of us are still working from home. ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help relieve the discomfort



Taking care of eyes is important, especially when work from home has probably left you with longer working hours. This definitely calls for extra care for the eyes. Here are a few tips that can help.

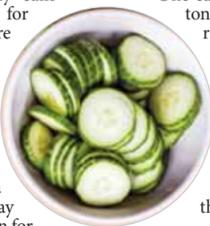
One, don't forget to take breaks every 20 minutes. Stop for a while, look away from the screen for at least five minutes or close your eyes for two minutes.

Two, use cold water to wash your eyes every time you take a break. Even in the morning, just after you get up splash water on the eyes for a good two-three min-

utes. Three, if your eyes feel tired or puffy, cut cucumber slices and put them over the eyes. Rest for 10 minutes.

One can also use cotton pads soaked in rose water to soothe the tired eyes. One can put the soaked cotton pads in the fridge for half an hour before using them.

Four, if your eyes are itchy or red, use ice cubes over the eyelids. However, don't use them directly, wrap them in a towel or a cotton cloth and then use. Do this for at least 20 minutes. However, if the itchiness continues do visit the doctor.



Ayurveda shows way

Experts tell ARCHANA JYOTI that it is important to maintain personal hygiene to keep infections at bay

In the last few years, women's hygiene has been the talk of the town, given that there are so many diseases that stem because of unhygienic practices. Despite the awareness being created, India has still a long way to go before being able to talk about it openly.

When one talks about hygiene, intimate washes is the first thing that comes to mind. Loaded with natural ingredients and Ayurvedic benefits, rooted in ancient traditions, these washes are fast catching attention of the urban women looking for alternatives to the chemical-loaded products.

More so, when Coronavirus threat is looming large and health and hygiene have become a top-most priority. There are many who prefer time-tested Ayurveda based intimate hygiene that offers a level of security against infections.

Health experts support this choice saying that one should not lower one's guard

when it comes to personal hygiene.

They opine that washes made of natural solutions retain the good bacteria, which protects the intimate area and kills bad bacteria.

"Those intimate washes which enhance skin health and serve as a helpful add-on therapy for those with infections should be used," Dr RP Prashar from a Delhi-based Ayurveda Hospital tells you.

Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director of AIMIL Pharma, engaged in manufacturing Ayurvedic drugs points out that keeping in mind the hygiene needs of women, they have, after intensive research and development prepared Ayouthveda Vagitone Intimate Hygiene Wash that is rich in green tea, *haridra* and *amla* among others, replacing chemicals like silicon and artificial colours.

Apart from the use of Ayurvedic medicinal ingredients in hygiene wash,

researchers have supplemented the Vagitone formulation with natural fragrances and employed refining techniques endorsed by the Fragrance & Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, an institution set up by the Union Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Ministry.

However, there is a widespread ignorance among women when it comes to their intimate hygiene, laments Prashar revealing that around 95 per cent of the intimate hygiene products in the market are full of chemicals, and, globally, approximately 75 per cent of the women suffer from a vaginal yeast infection at least once in their lifetime.

According to various surveys, in India at least eight out of 10 women are vulnerable to vaginal infection while at least 80 per cent ignore the importance of the internal hygiene due to which they face various infections.

INBRIEF

Women leaders representing doctors and corporates on March 8, 2021 underscored the need to change how women are perceived by the society and advocated that women must look after themselves before noting what others need. Attending the summit titled Women's Health Matters by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing (IHW) Council ahead of International Women's Day, they hoped that a substantial part of the allocations for Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, announced during the Union Budget last month, is allocated for women's health issues.

Noting that gender discrimination is a critical component that impacts women's health Dr Nandita Palshetkar, Director, Bloom IVF Centres, said: "COVID has hit the women badly — 60 per cent of them have been pushed to poverty and unemployment due to the pandemic and she is 20 per cent more likely to become unemployed than men. We launched a campaign to make women safer from the violence and abuses, smarter in terms of her reproductive choices and stronger by focusing on wellness and mental wellbeing. We definitely need more women-centric policies. We have been focusing a lot on maternal mortality in the past, but the government is now looking at it more holistically, which is a welcome change, and I hope they will prioritise women's health under the allocations for Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana."



Basically, there are two major categories, one which includes rides with water, and the other is without water. While the firms haven't made the water rides operational as of now but if they decide to open them soon, then, it will become increasingly challenging to curb the transmission of the virus. However, in case they re-launch their water rides, then they will have to adopt specific safety measures. They will have to use a certain chemical that can help in eliminating the virus from the water and is also skin-friendly.

They can also make sanitising compulsory before stepping into the water. Changing or purifying the water at regular intervals after a certain amount of people have entered is another basic yet important step that can help in ensuring the safety of the people while savoring the water rides. The provision of COVID-19 tests at the entrance of the parks that too at nominal charges will further aid in keeping everyone safe and sound.

ATTRACTING CUSTOMERS

One of the common ways in which theme parks are attracting customers is running creative advertisements and campaigns as a part of their marketing strategy to grab attention. Additionally, they are offering the ticket at nearly 30 to 40 per cent discount on its full ticket price. In the present times, the park's ticket price is 10-15 per cent lower than 2019 prices but they are optimistic and hopeful that if the demand sustains over the next couple of months then the theme parks will function in full swing. They will be able to roll back to original ticket prices.

THE FUTURE

The present might seem blurry but the future of recreational parks is indeed promising. As to the present risky situation, all these hygiene solutions need to be adopted for the next 12 to 18 months as the virus is here to stay and we need time to minimise its risk.

Almost every company and business was affected terribly by the pandemic. Hence, it will take time to recover and we need to imbibe relevant strategies to overcome the losses and get back on our feet. This is especially so in the case of theme parks as the challenge for them is huge and the revival journey is troublesome. However, it isn't impossible as everyone wants cheerful and enthusiastic moments after the lockdown, and theme parks will be the perfect resort for the same. Hopefully, with all the relevant strategies in place, that day won't be far when the theme parks will again be crowded!

(The writer is the founder of Delta105, Army theme park.)



Stand up for yourself: Arjun

Actor Arjun Kapoor feels it is crucial for women to stand up for themselves and their dreams, and shatter stereotypes.

"It is crucial for women to stand up for themselves and their dreams and shatter stereotypes. I have always been a staunch supporter of women's causes and have always tried to contribute in my own way as much as possible," Arjun said.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Arjun interacted and celebrated girls who have broken stereotypes, challenged norms, and have themselves become a role model, inspiring a generation to share their experiences and their journeys.

Arjun conversed with these girls, shared anecdotes from his life on how women can do anything they set their mind to.

"It was an eye-opener for me to know the amazing stories of these girls and their inspiring personal journeys," added the actor, who spearheads a digital IP called *Bend The Gender* that is aimed at saluting girls who have been shattering the glass ceiling across India.

On the work front, Arjun currently awaits the digital release of his forthcoming cross-border love story featuring Rakul Preet Singh.

He will also be seen in the horror-comedy *Bhoot Police*.

ROAD TO RECOVERY

While the future of theme parks seems promising, it will require some time and effort in the right direction to revive the footfall, says Major DINESH SHARMA

They are trying to adapt to the new normal and grasp the online working methods. Online pre-booked admissions, markings showing where to stand, maintaining social distancing, temperature screening, and sanitising the visitors and employees at the entry time and other prominent zones inside the parks are some of the steps taken to ensure safety. The park operators are also pushing for contactless transitions with food orders, menus on applications, and for buying things from the stalls and shop inside the venue.

The parks are being properly sterilized — swings, surfaces, seat belts, and handlebars — before and after every ride. They have allocated their funds on the safety of the visitors and are spending approximately ₹10,000-15,000 or even more than this per day.

It has, indeed, been a roller coaster



ride for the industry with theme parks having to reopen and then shut down multiple times due to the volatile COVID-19 situation. In order to have a blooming future, strengthening their present situation is essential. The recreational firms have realised this and hence, are working towards achieving the same objective.

Increased expenses, the imposition of safety measures, social distancing, and the provision of limited tickets are some of the ways in which they are looking at reviving their businesses. There are hardly 40 visitors per day and rides are running at less than half the capacity as compared to the pre-pandemic times.

It is undeniable that theme park authorities are struggling with financial issues to protect their employees and mainly to apply the right strategies to draw visitors to the theme parks.

The theme parks are the hub for heady adventures, thrilling rides, and adrenaline rush. However, visiting them was, perhaps, the last thing on people's minds when the pandemic struck us in 2020 as it brought a lot of difficulties across businesses and brought our lives to a halt. Despite 2021 being the year of recovery for some, it is still a sluggish period for the Indian theme park industry. Earlier, it used to be a booming industry with a good employment rate of a minimum of 80,000 people, but now, the employees are jobless or bearing salary cuts.

Dealing with this major hit to the theme parks, the industry is trying to focus on the path of recovery. While the future seems promising, it will require some time and effort in the right direction to revive the customer base. Currently, all they are focussing on is that their operation adheres to the government guidelines.

THE PRESENT

Now, with the unlocking, most theme parks in the country have reopened after being shut for approximately 10 months as per the guidelines. The parks are taking every possible safety precaution for their visitors and making sure to follow all the norms issued by the government. Their utmost priority is ensuring the safety of the people.

'Empower each other'

Actor RANI MUKERJI says women can change the perception about their representation in every aspect of filmmaking

Actor Rani Mukerji says that the power lies with women to change the perception about how they are represented in every aspect of filmmaking. On the occasion of Women's Day on Monday, Rani added that if women celebrated each others success, they would be heard all the more.

"In my journey in the Hindi film industry, I have realised that the power is with the women to change the perception about how women are represented in every aspect of filmmaking. We have to support each other, root for each other and empower each other, so that the road is smoother for others who want to make a name for themselves in the male-driven industry. We have to celebrate each other and our successes collectively to ensure that we are all heard all the more," Rani said.

She considers herself fortunate to have got the opportunity to bring fantas-

tic characters to life.

"As an artiste, I have been fortunate enough to play some really fantastic self-reliant women on screen and live their inspiring stories closely. Like me, many actresses over generations have tried to change the conversation about how women are portrayed on screen," she said.

Rani feels blessed that through her films she was given an opportunity to change the conversation of female representation in India.

Rani's last two films were *Hichki* and *Mardaani 2*. She says she wants to continue finding unconventional scripts as these while representing women on screen.

"I have throughout my career made conscious decisions to portray strong women characters on screen who led by example for society. I have chosen to play women characters who can command respect, because of their unhibited life choices," she said.

"I will be inclined to pick projects that have a powerful story to tell through the eyes of a bold, upright woman who doesn't fear voicing her opinions and is confident about being herself," she summed up.



Yatra Naryasthu is a title that Adwaita Gadanayak, DG, NGMA, took from the Sanskrit shloka: *Yatra naryastu pujiyante ramante tatra devata*, which means where women are worshipped, there the gods rejoice. A historic show gives us a glimpse into the tapestry of the life of several women artists. It straddles India's greatest names like Zarina, Arpita Singh, Arpana Caur, Jayasri Burman, Anupam Sud, Soghra Khurasi, Jyotsna Bhatt, Dipali Daroz, Jayashree Chakravorty and many more. Created as a corollary among printmakers, sculptors, ceramic artists and painters, the show has something for everyone. Special is the requiem for artists who have passed away. A number of works have been specially loaned to the NGMA by eminent collectors from Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai.

ZARINA'S MY DELHI

Zarina passed away last year on April 20 in London. Poet, printmaker and teacher Zarina was born in Aligarh, India. After receiving a degree in Mathematics, she went on to study woodblock printing in Bangkok and Tokyo, and intaglio with SW Hayter at Atelier-17 in Paris.

Her experiences and personal life define Zarina's works. An early interest in architecture and Mathematics is reflected in the use of geometry and her emphasis on structural purity. While her work gravitates towards minimalism, its starkness is tempered by its texture and materiality. Her art poignantly chronicles her life and features recurring themes of home, displacement, borders, journey and memory.

Zarina mined her memory and experience to reflect on the nature of belonging. Delhi I, II &

THE OTHER HALF

Yatra Naryasthu details the passion and devotion of a woman artist's journey of creation, says UMA NAIR



III, are three prints that address the theme of home within the context of individual and national identity, displacement, isolation and community. Yet when you look at them together, it's like a meditation on belonging.

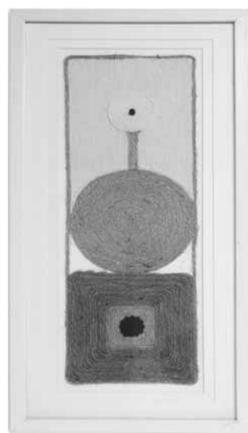
MANISHA BHATTACHARYYA'S SONG OF THE SEA

Ceramic artist and mentor Manisha Bhattacharyya passed away after a battle with cancer and her cluster of three raku pots

belong to her series of the sea. Laden with cracked glaze and the sandy tone of a murky white, it shows her prowess and passion for creating pots that had a minimal accent and a Zen echo of rare rhythms.

LEENA BATRA'S PORCELAIN PLATTERS

In the history of ceramics in India, former Garhi artist and co-founder of Delhi Blue Pottery, Leena Batra is an important name.



Three porcelain platters are a treat for tired eyes. She was one of the first to experiment with porcelain and these three platters speak of precision, perfection and the finesse needed to create celadon glazed platters.

MADHURI JALAN'S LINGAM

Madhuri Jalan was a ceramic artist. She used to create sculptural pots and among her experiments was a copper *lingam* that was a part of her show at Habitat Centre in 2010. This copper *lingam* with a small trunk of an elephant is on loan from a collector. As a work of art, it blends both

mythic and spiritual yearnings in a deeply materialistic world. The *lingam* initiates an exchange of ideas/emotions around the mathematics of the creative process, inviting the viewer to weigh in on deeper artistic sources and cognitive triggers that stir them to create.

PRABHA SHAH

At the Triveni studio creating canvases for more than two decades is abstractionist Prabha Shah, who creates work in silence because she can neither hear the world nor speak her heart out in syllables.

Prabha's canvas is a testimony to the process of abstraction being an experience — not only is it the crux of creation but it is also a residue that evolves with both precision and fervour. Prabha's visual language is the key to her own odyssey. In her canvas, the addition, the summation and the erasure all come into play. These postulations of personal choice become a paradigm of a self-referential and self-editing intention that is in parts voluntary and involuntary — as an act of creating in a silent world that has no sound.

Ultimately for art lovers *Yatra Naryasthu* details the passion and devotion of a woman's journey of creation.

(The show is on till March 29 at NGMA.)

TRENDBLAZER



ANUSHKA'S ANIMAL SHELTER TO OPEN NEXT YEAR?

ANUSHKA SHARMA has been a champion for animal rights for years now. She had revealed that she wishes to build an animal shelter in the outskirts of Mumbai and looks like that dream is coming true.

A source said, "If all things go as per plan, the shelter will be ready for operations sometime next year! The work has resumed in full swing. She is leaving no stone unturned to ensure this happens. The shelter is based on the principle that animals too have equal rights in this world."

fairtalk

SAINA NEHWAL



"Everything is quite surreal. What I have achieved in life is all due to the constant support of my family. It has been my huge honour to play a sport I love and put my country on a pedestal. Parineeti (Chopra) is a fabulous actor and we both connected so easily when we met. I wish the team all the best for the film and hope everyone leaves the theatre with dreams."

dailytalk

SAJID KHAN



"Please feel free to call me Sajid Wajid because I have changed my surname to Wajid. As long as I'm alive, I'll keep working hard so that everyone remembers his name. Somewhere I have a feeling that he is always with me. He was just 47, and in these 47 years he has never been separate from me. I still can't believe he passed away."

NICOLAS CAGE CONFIRMS MARRIAGE WITH RIKO SHIBATA

Actor **NICOLAS CAGE** married Riko Shibata on February 16 in Las Vegas as confirmed by E! online. "It's true, and we are very happy," he was quoted as saying.

This is the 56-year-old's fifth marriage, and comes nearly two years after his marriage to Erika Koike in March 2019, which was annulled after just four days.

According to the report, the couple exchanged vows at the Wynn Hotel on the day of Nicolas' father's birthday.



Dhawan, Rahul battle to partner Rohit

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Indian team management faces a problem of plenty going into the five T20 Internationals against England, an assignment which marks the beginning of the side's build-up to this year's T20 World Cup at home.

There are 19 players available for selection and with two in contention for each slot, the XI for the five games, starting here on Friday, will be an indication to how head coach Ravi Shastri, captain Virat Kohli and bowling coach Bharat Arun are looking at the next six to seven months for the shortest format.

Will they look for a settled combination to first clinch the series and then experiment or will they field absolute rookies in the squad looking at the bigger picture?

For a team that's so closely followed, the result does matter and that's why one can expect a settled first eleven for the first three games since all matches are at the same venue on similar kind of tracks.

The roaring comeback of Rishabh Pant will lead to a lot of interesting developments at the top of the order.

Pant's inclusion means that KL Rahul, who till a few months back was the first choice keeper-opener, is unlikely to don the big gloves.

Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma were a settled white ball opening pair till recently but Rahul's emergence as a potent white ball specialist has spiced up the competition.

Dhawan recently had a score of 150 odd in the Vijay Hazare Trophy for Delhi and when it comes to Rohit, there's nothing to be discussed.

So where does the team management fit in Rahul, who has been a successful IPL opener? Will he be slotted in the middle-order as Dhawan's game is not suited to batting lower down?

These are two pertinent questions and in the answer, will be a follow-up question.



With skipper Kohli himself coming in at No 3 and two game-changers like Pant and all-rounder Hardik Pandya expected to play the big shots at Nos 5 and 6, where does it ideally leave Rahul?

The only place he can be slotted is No 4 but Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav are also jostling for a place.

If one closely follows the pattern of picking the playing XI, Surya, a sentimental favourite, will have to wait for his turn as Shreyas has done nothing wrong.

But when it comes to a three-way battle between Rahul, Shreyas and Surya, the Karnataka man beats the two Mumbai boys hollow with his repertoire of strokes and ability to shift gears.

India Women to face Eng in Test

PTI ■ MUMBAI

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Monday announced that the Indian women's team will be pitted against England in a one-off Test match, which will be held later this year.

The last Test match that Mithali Raj and her team played was against South Africa women at Mysuru in December, 2014 and it will be another traditional format game after six long years.

Currently, the 'Women in Blue' are playing the five-match ODI series against South Africa in Lucknow after almost 12 months of COVID-19 enforced break. This series will be fol-

lowed by a T20 series. Shah took to Twitter to make the announcement on the International Women's Day.

"On the occasion of International Women's Day, I'm pleased to announce that TeamIndia, @BCCIWomen will play a one-off Test match against @ECB_cricket later this year. The 'women in blue' will be donning the whites again," tweeted Shah.

However, Shah did not announce the venue of the Test on the occasion but it is expected to happen during the women's team tour of UK and tentatively some time in June or July.

The women's team is coached by former India all-rounder WV Raman.

Similarly, in the pace department, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, once upon a time India's best white ball exponent, is coming back after a long lay-off and will be engaged in a two-way fight with Deepak Chahar and Shardul Thakur.

For Bhuvneshwar, his experience and being a better bowler at the death compared to Chahar holds him in good stead but he hasn't played a lot of cricket save a few Mushtaq Ali games.

Shardul is a crafty bowler who can swing it at brisk pace and among the three can use the long handle to the best effect.

Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel are the three

spinners expected to feature in the playing XI on the sluggish Motera tracks.

In another three-way fight, Thangarasu Natarajan, with his variation of yorkers, stands a better chance to start off compared to Navdeep Saini.

Two players, who will only get a look-in if someone is injured or forcefully rested are Ishan Kishan and Rahul Tewatia as the two simply can't be fitted anywhere.

In all, there are too many good players and very little space to fit all of them with three sure-shot picks — Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah already resting or recuperating from injury.

Once they comeback, it will be a bigger selection headache for the management but one that they won't mind.

Mitali & Co aim to bounce back

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

A rusty Indian women's cricket team will be seeking some rhythm in the second ODI against South Africa here on Tuesday after being outplayed by the visitors in the series-opener.

Though captain Mithali Raj and her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur had insisted on their first series in 12 months, India clearly looked a side which had not played for a long time in the opener of the five-match series on Sunday.

A better prepared South Africa, on the other hand, were clinical and will be hard to beat in the coming games.

After the game, Kaur realised the players needed some time to gel as a unit. Barring Kaur, Raj and Deepti Sharma to a certain extent, none of the batters could apply themselves on a decent batting surface.

A lot of them were guilty of poor shot selection as pointed out by Kaur after the game.

The spinners, who are traditionally considered India's strength, hardly troubled the South African duo of Lizelle Lee and 21-year-old Laura Wolvaardt, who put up the highest ever opening wicket stand against India to run away with the contest.

There were

some positives, however, such as Raj scoring a gritty half-century and pacer Jhulan Goswami showing she is still among the best in the business. Both the veterans were playing their first game since November 2019.

Kaur too looked good in her 100th ODI but would have liked to convert the start into a big score.

Opener Smriti Mandhana struck three delightful fours before falling to a loose shot and would be backing herself to bat long on Tuesday.

"Few of them got starts but couldn't convert. The bowlers need to be more consistent with lines and lengths, maybe they weren't consistent because they're coming back after a long break," Raj acknowledged after the match in which India could post only 177 that South Africa chase down in just 40.1 overs.

Pacer Monica Patel was handed her debut on Sunday and more caps can be handed out in the second game with the management keeping one eye on preparations for the World Cup next year.

Pulling off one back against South Africa seems like a daunting task considering the way they played in the opener. They looked a team high on confidence having blanked Pakistan at home recently.

Their pace attack led by Shabnim Ismail was impressive and Indians will have to find a way to negate that threat.



SINGLES

LAPORTA BACK AS PRESIDENT

MADRID: The president of Barcelona when Lionel Messi began playing in Spain will also be in charge when the club tries to convince the star to stay. Joan Laporta was elected Barcelona president again on Sunday, inheriting a club in crisis and facing daunting problems that include a huge debt and the possible departure of Messi when his contract finishes at the end of the season. "The fact that the best player in the world came to vote today, along with his son, is proof that Leo loves Barça," Laporta said. "Together we will convince him to stay." Laporta defeated businessman Victor Font and longtime board member Toni Freixa, the other two candidates who were among the more than 110,000 members eligible to vote.

SPURS BEATS PALACE 4-1

LONDON: Gareth Bale and Harry Kane both scored twice to help Tottenham make it three PL wins in a row and boost its top-four hopes after a 4-1 victory against Crystal Palace. The duo combined twice with Kane the architect for both goals by Bale before the England captain hit a wonder strike and then created history with another in the 76th minute. Son Heung-min assisted Kane's second and it was their 14th goal combination in the PL this season to beat the previous record of 13 set by Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton for Blackburn in the 1994-95 season.

RUBLEV REIGNS IN ROTTERDAM

ROTTERDAM: Andrey Rublev extended his phenomenal winning run at ATP 500 events to 20 matches on Sunday when he defeated Marton Fucsovics 7-6(4), 6-4 to win the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament. The World No. 8 also stretched his winning streak in ATP Tour championship matches to seven victories. Rublev saved all four break points he faced to capture his fourth straight title at ATP 500-level after one hour and 50 minutes.

MANIKA, SATHIYAN IN 2ND ROUND

DOHA: India's Manika Batra and Sathiyana Gnanasekaran on Monday went through to the second round of the WTT Star Contender table tennis tournament in Doha. Manika, ranked 63 in women's singles, beat Chinese Taipei's Hsien-Tzy Cheng 3-0. Manika held her own to beat her opponent in straight sets 11-5, 11-9, 11-9. The 2018 Asian Games bronze medalist will face Japanese world No. 3 Mima Ito in her round of 16 match on Tuesday. Meanwhile, world No. 37 Gnanasekaran had a more tricky encounter against France's 40th ranked Emmanuel Lebesson, winning the match 3-2. Gnanasekaran lost the first two games but then came back to take the match 9-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-4. He will face Japanese world No. 5 Harimoto Tomokazu in the round of 16 on Tuesday.

ATANU, TARUN, DEEPIKA IN RECURVE SQUAD

PUNE: Seasoned Atanu Das and Tarundeep Rai among men and Deepika Kumari in the women's section will headline the Indian recurve archery contingent during this year's Tokyo Olympics. After the final selection trials (Trial 3) at the Army Institute of Sports in Pune, a six-strong squad which has three male and equal number of female archers was selected for the quadrennial extravaganza. Besides Atanu and Tarundeep, the other archer in the Indian men's team is Pravin Jadhav, while Anika Bhakat and Komolika Bari complete the women's squad.

INDIA BEAT GREAT BRITAIN 3-2

BELGIUM: Striker Mandeep Singh struck a brace as the Indian men's hockey team eked out a close 3-2 win over Great Britain to end their Europe tour on an unbeaten note here on Monday. Harmanpreet Singh's strike in the very first minute and two goals by Mandeep in the 28th and 59th minutes helped India remain undefeated on the tour. For Great Britain, James Gall (20th) and striker Adam Forsyth (55th) were the goal scorers. The last few minutes was a battle of nerves as both the teams lived up to the billing, but it was Mandeep who rose to the occasion as his late strike helped India cap off their first assignment of 2021 with a 3-2 win.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will play their inaugural World Test Championship final against New Zealand at Southampton's Ageas Bowl Stadium from June 18-22, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly confirmed on Monday.

Initially, the final was supposed to be held at the Lord's but Southampton, with a five-star facility inside the stadium, will make it easier for both the ICC and the England and Wales Cricket Board to create a bio-bubble for the two teams.

"Yes, the final will be held at Ageas Bowl," Ganguly replied to a query from PTI.

India qualified for the marquee clash after beating England 3-1 in a just-concluded Test series.

Southampton, with its slowish

WTC final in Southampton: Ganguly

track, puts India on even keel with New Zealand as spinners will come into the game at the venue.

"I will go for the World Test Championship and hopefully we can get past New Zealand in the final. New Zealand will be there before us and they will play a couple of Test matches (against England)," Ganguly told 'India Today' channel.

He lavished praise on the team for its stupendous performance in both the away series against Australia and home games against England.

Massive achievement? "Oh yes, specially after what players have gone through to be in



those bubbles and play cricket day in and day out. It was remarkable. Right from IPL till now. What they have achieved is fantastic," he told the channel.

"I think we must congratulate Ajinkya Rahane, first in Australia and Virat Kohli in England, the head coach, support staff, everybody. (Rahul) Dravid who does a

lot of work behind the scenes with these boys. To see that day in Brisbane was outstanding," he said.

Ganguly believes that Rishabh Pant is a match winner in the mould of Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh and Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"I have seen him for past two years and I have belief in match-winners. A player, who on his day will win you games. Pant is one such guy."

"Sydney Test, if he had been there for six more overs, he would have won us that game too. He is like Dhoni, Sehwag and Yuvraj, who can win matches alone," said the former India captain.

He was mighty impressed with Pant's game sense during his under pressure hundred at Motera.

"...And look at how he played in Ahmedabad. His game sense while facing the second new ball against James Anderson, who has bowled well in the series. He counter-attacked and changed it."

He also lauded National Cricket Academy head Rahul Dravid, whose behind the scenes work has helped in creating a solid bench strength.

"That's why I say Dravid has done a great job. Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur did so well in Australia and we won the final Test without Jasprit Bumrah."

Eng leadership power lies with Morgan: Vaughan

PTI ■ LONDON

Former captain Michael Vaughan has argued that England Test skipper Joe Root should also get to pick his best players irrespective of ECB's rotation policy, just like limited overs leader Eoin Morgan "gets what he wants".

In a column for Telegraph, Vaughan wrote England fielded a weakened team in the four Tests against India with the likes of Jos Buttler and Moeen Ali returning home in the middle of the series only to be back for the limited overs leg of the tour.

"It is very clear where the leadership power lies in English cricket - it is with Eoin Morgan and not Joe Root.

"I am pretty sure that Morgan went to the selectors and Ashley Giles and said he wanted his best team at all times this year in Twenty20, so he could build for the World Cup in



India in October. He has his wish," the Ashes winning skipper wrote.

"I understand rotation. Nobody argues against the fact players need breaks from Covid bubbles but the frustration for me as a lover of the game's longest format is why has our Test team been weakened this winter, yet the Twenty20 side is at full strength? "When you win a World Cup as captain you are bombproof. I experienced it

when I won the Ashes. Do you think Ed Smith is going to say 'no' to Morgan? No chance," Vaughan said referring to England's World Cup triumph in 2019 under Morgan's leadership.

Vaughan fears that Morgan being too powerful could end up harming English cricket.

"But it is dangerous for so much power to be invested in one person because it is rare they see the bigger picture. As much as he is a brilliant captain, it is wrong for Morgan to always get what he wants because understandably he will prioritise what is good for his team, and inevitably that will be at the expense of something else.

"But at some point the management around him - Giles and Tom Harrison - have to take into account what is right for all England sides, not just one format, and level up the balance of power.

W Indies win third T20I, seal series

AP ■ OSBOURN

Fabian Allen hit three mighty sixes in the 19th over to help the West Indies to a series-clinching, three-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the third Twenty20 international.

Chasing Sri Lanka's modest 131-4, the West Indies were again constrained by Sri Lanka's spin attack and came to the 18th over at 105-7, needing 27 runs from 18 balls.

Captain Jason Holder, cool and with a plan in mind, blocked out the 18th over, the last from dangerous spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, save for a six from a free hit which helped break the mounting tension.

With 20 runs needed from the last two overs, Allen hit sixes from the first, third and last balls of the 19th over from Akila Dananjaya to get the West Indies home with an over to spare to clinch the series 2-1.

Allen hit 21 runs from six balls and also took 1-13 from four overs to earn player-of-the-match honours. He said there was no panic in the West Indies dressing room, even when it's biggest hitters failed to fire. Sri Lanka chose to bat on winning the toss on Sunday.

DP, Samarth's another hundred takes K'taka in semis

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Young opener Devdutt Padikkal sent a strong message to the national selectors before England ODIs as he slammed his fourth consecutive List A ton as Karnataka beat Kerala by 80 runs in a quarter-final game of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Monday.

Karnataka rode on skipper Ravikumar Samarth's knock of 192 off 158 balls and a stroke-filled 101 by 20-year-old left-handed Padikkal (off 119 balls) to post an imposing 338/3 and then bundled out the opposition for 258. Kerala's decision to put Karnataka into bat backfired badly, as Samarth and Padikkal toyed with their attack with a massive 249-run partnership for the first wicket.

He completed his century in 112 balls and was aggressive right from the start, while Padikkal hammered 10 boundaries and two maximums.

It was a Samarth-Padikkal show as Karnataka were going strong at 196/0 after 35 overs

having laid the foundation for a mammoth total.

While Padikkal continued his fabulous show in the national ODI tournament and in the process scored his 4th consecutive List A century and became the first Indian to do so, Samarth surpassed veteran Wasim Jaffer's unbeaten 170 to register the highest score in a Vijay Hazare knock-out match.

For Kerala, right-arm medium pacer Basil NP (3/57) was the pick of the bowlers, while others had an off-day.

GUJARAT IN SEMIS

Skipper Priyank Panchal's stroke-filled 134 and an equally impressive show from the bowlers set up Gujarat's massive 117-run win over Andhra in the second quarter-final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Gujarat rode on Panchal's 134 to post a competitive 299 for 7 and then bundled out the opposition for 182, to make it to the semi-final. India Test star and Andhra captain Hanuma Vihari was out for a five-ball duck.

GOLD FOR NO 1 BAJRANG

PTI ■ ROME

Olympic-bound Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia pulled off a two-pointer in the last 30 seconds of the Gold medal bout to defend his title at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series event, a result that propelled him back to world number one rank.

Up against Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir, Bajrang was trailing 0-2 till the final moments of the 65kg final but managed to level the scores, 30 seconds from the final whistle.

Since the last scoring point came from the Indian, he was declared the winner on criteria on Sunday night.

Bajrang's leg defence seemed to be a particularly improved aspect of

his game in the one-year break, forced by the coronavirus pandemic.

The 27-year-old though said he needs to work more on his defence as he is eyeing a medal at the Tokyo Games.

"I found that my leg defence has improved compared to where it was before the break. I have got better but it still needs more work. I also need to be better on my attacking moves," Bajrang told PTI.

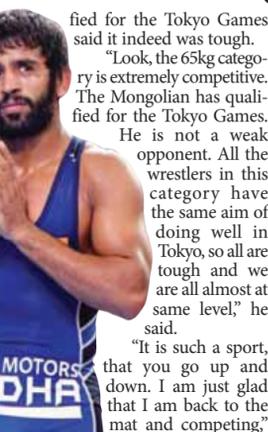
Asked about his struggle in the final against the Mongolian, one of the three men's Indian wrestlers to have quali-

fied for the Tokyo Games said it indeed was tough.

"Look, the 65kg category is extremely competitive. The Mongolian has qualified for the Tokyo Games.

He is not a weak opponent. All the wrestlers in this category have the same aim of doing well in Tokyo, so all are tough and we are all almost at same level," he said.

"It is such a sport, that you go up and down. I am just glad that I am back to the mat and competing,"



he said.

Bajrang will now be back in the national camp but wants to train outside before the Asian championship, scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan from April 9 to 11.

"I am looking for a training stint abroad. Let's see if it happens because restrictions are back in Europe because of rising virus cases. Travelling is not easy these days. You have to fill a lot of forms, download apps, fill too much information."

Bajrang was placed second in the rankings before the event and is now on top of the table in the 65kg category with 14 points.

The fresh rankings are based on results of only this tournament which means that Gold-medallists get the top spot.