

OPINION 6
THE INTERNATIONALE:
KUMBH OF PROTESTS**WORLD 8**
NIGERIAN GOVERNOR SAYS 279
KIDNAPPED SCHOOLGIRLS ARE FREED**AVENUES 10**
KNOW YOUR
JOB IN AND OUT

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA*Late City Vol. 31 Issue 61
*Air Surcharge Extra if ApplicableASHWIN WANTS
TO BE THE
BEST: LAXMAN
12 SPORT

BJP goes full throttle in Bengal

Modi to address 20 rallies, first on Mar 7; BJP plans over 800 rallies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is set to roll out a mega campaign blitzkrieg in poll-bound West Bengal with Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the State on March 7 to address his first public rally after announcement of poll dates by the Election Commission.

Apart from Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadra are likely to share about 100 public rallies among them in the poll-bound Bengal, BJP sources said.

Out of at least 800 rallies to be addressed by the national BJP leaders in the State, the Prime Minister will address 20, party sources said. Sources also said that the PM's Brigade Ground rally would also be attended by the people from across the country from as far as Uttarakhand.

The Home Minister and the BJP president are likely to address 50 rallies each in the State which goes to eight-phase polls for its 294 seats.

Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States, all key Central Ministers and a number of BJP MPs are to descend down on Bengal to give power to the party's campaign.

The party is also trying to draw some of the Bollywood stars to match TMC's glamour, colour and the punch.

Besides 20-odd rallies in West Bengal, beginning March



7, the Prime Minister will hold at least six public rallies in Assam where the BJP is confident of victory for the second time.

Modi would focus in north and middle Bengal where party had fared well as also in southern part which is a TMC stronghold.

There could always be more rallies by the Prime Minister "if the situation

demands", sources said while pointing out that he is in demand in other States too.

The Left-Congress-Indian Secular Front has already had their electoral "Brigade-show" of strength on February 28.

In the run-up to the Sunday rally, party workers are holding corner meetings to invite people to the rally. BJP workers from other BJP-ruled States too are extending their

CAMPAIGN BLITZKRIEG

- Out of at least 800 rallies to be addressed by the national BJP leaders in the State, the Prime Minister will address 20, party sources said
- The Prime Minister will hold at least six public rallies in Assam where the BJP is confident of victory for the second time
- The Home Minister and the BJP president are likely to address 50 rallies each in Bengal which goes to eight-phase polls for its 294 seats
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday attacked the Mamata Banerjee Government for allowing love jihad and cow smuggling in the State
- Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States, all key Central Ministers and a number of BJP MPs are to descend down on Bengal to give power to the party's campaign
- The party is also trying to draw some of the Bollywood stars to match TMC's glamour, colour and the punch

helping hand to make the Sunday Parade Ground show at Kolkata a grand success.

The elections for the 294 Assembly seats in West Bengal will begin on March 27. The State is going to witness eight-phase Assembly polls this year.

In Assam, the Assembly elections shall be held in three phases beginning from March 27 with the final round of voting taking place on April 6.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday attacked the Mamata Banerjee Government for allowing love jihad and cow smuggling in the State.

Yogi, who was speaking at a rally near Bulbulchandi in Malda district said how rampant cases of "love jihad is happening in Bengal with the State Government allowing that to

happen."

The UP Chief Minister who promised to stop all that anomalies if the BJP came to power in Bengal said, "In UP we have made a law against love jihad and have brought the menace under control... but in Bengal the Trinamool Congress is allowing this to happen."

TMC MLA Jitendra Tiwari joins BJP

Hooghly: Amid an ongoing exodus from the ruling Trinamool Congress ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, two-time party MLA from Pandabeswar in Paschim Bardhaman district and former Asansol mayor, Jitendra Tiwari, joined the BJP on Tuesday.

Stop pleasing future boss: Adhir to Anand

Sonia forms panel led by JP Aggarwal to screen Assembly candidates in WB

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fissures widened further in the Congress a day after senior Congress leader Anand Sharma slammed the party leadership for its tie-up with the Indian Secular Front (ISF) in the poll-bound West Bengal. On Tuesday, Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury hinted at a possible split in the party when he questioned the intention of his colleague "who is trying to please his future boss" in a reference to speculation that Sharma may join the BJP.

"If his intention was honest, he could have simply called me. I would have explained the decision of alliance partners to him...but he thought it was better to tarnish the image of the Congress to please somebody who could be his future political boss," Chowdhury said.

While Sharma is Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha.

The West Bengal Congress chief went ahead to accuse Anand Sharma of criticising



the Congress without any reason. "Anand Sharma is more vocal against Congress without any reason. He is simply blowing the issue out of proportion," Chowdhury stated.

In response to the criticism over alliance with Furfura Sharif cleric Abbas Siddiqui's ISF, Chowdhury took to twitter to respond to Sharma. "Know Your Facts, Anand Sharma ji. Would urge a select group of distinguished Congressmen to rise above always seeking personal comfort spots & stop wasting time singing praises of PM (Narendra Modi)," Chowdhury mentioned.

Amid the continued war of words between two party veterans over the alliance partners for Assembly elections in West Bengal, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday constituted a screening committee under the chairmanship of veteran Delhi Congress leader JP Aggarwal. The screening committee constituted for the eight-

phase Bengal Assembly polls starting March 27 also have Mahesh Joshi and Naseem Khan as members besides some ex-officio members, including the State Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and the AICC in-charge for West Bengal. The panel would screen the probable party candidates and put forward its recommendations to the Central Election Committee of the Congress chaired by party chief Sonia Gandhi.

The grand old party also formed a screening committee for poll bound States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. While party veteran HK Patil will chair the Kerala Screening Committee with former CM Oomen Chandy and former Union Minister Tariq Anwar as its member, Digvijay Singh will head TN and Puducherry with senior leaders KS Alagiri, K Suresh and former Puducherry CM V Naranswamy as its members.

Continued on Page 2

Haryana Bill reserves 75% pvt sector jobs for locals

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya has given assent to the Bill providing 75 per cent reservation in the private sector to job seekers from the State.

The Haryana Assembly had late last year passed the Bill, a key poll promise made by the ruling alliance partner Jannayak Janta Party.

Addressing a Press conference here, Khattar said, "The Haryana Governor today gave his assent to the Bill entailing 75 per cent reservation in the private sector to job seekers from the State. The Government will notify it soon."

The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020 provides quota for local people in private sector jobs that offer a salary of less than ₹50,000 a month. The quota will initially apply for 10 years, according to the Bill.

Apart from tackling unemployment among local people, the State Government said the



law will discourage the influx of migrants seeking low-paid jobs, which has a 'significant impact' on local infrastructure and leads to the "proliferation of slums". The Bill covers private companies, societies, trusts and partnership firms in the State. It provides for training to eligible local candidates when qualified people are not available.

It defines local candidates as those domiciled in the State. For domicile status, a person

should be born in Haryana or have lived there for at least 15 years.

Giving 75 per cent reservation in private sector jobs was a key poll promise by Dushyant Chautala's JJP, which is the BJP's coalition partner in the State. Chautala described the assent given by the Governor as "happiest moment for the youth of Haryana."

"The rules on this new law will be framed soon and published," he said at Faridabad.

54 students in Karnal Covid +ve, classes suspended

PTI ■ KARNAL

Fifty four students of a school near here have tested Covid-19 positive leading to suspension of classes and other academic activities.

Karnal Chief Medical Officer Yogesh Sharma said three students of Sainik School Kunjpura had tested positive for the virus on Monday following which the health department took samples of 390 students and staff members of the school for testing.

"The reports revealed that 54 students are Covid-19 positive," Sharma said.

Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said the school building and its hostels have been declared as a containment zone. The Sainik Schools are run by the Sainik Schools Society under the Ministry of Defence and the students stay in hostels.

The Haryana education department had reopened schools for classes 9-12 in December last year and classes 3-5 from February 24.

PM, Shah hail BJP's stellar show in Guj local body polls

Party grabs 2,085 of 2,771 seats

whose results were declared on Tue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ruling BJP on Tuesday scored a big win in Gujarat local polls by winning all 31 district panchayats and leading in 2,085 of 8,474 seats across various municipalities that voted on Sunday in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home State and establishing a wide gap with the closest rival Congress.

The PM and Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the BJP's impressive show in Gujarat.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) bagged 16 seats on its debut in Gujarat.

The BJP gained a lead by winning 2,085 seats, while the Congress won 602 seats so far across various municipalities, district and taluka panchayats in Gujarat where results for 2,771 seats out of the total 8,474 were declared on Tuesday.



"Results of the Nagar Palika, Taluka Panchayat and District Panchayat polls across Gujarat give a crystal clear message — Gujarat is firmly with the BJP's agenda of development and good governance. I bow to the people of Gujarat for the unwavering faith and affection towards BJP," tweeted Modi.

Shah hailed the results of the municipal corporation elections in Gujarat, saying the BJP won around 85 per cent of the seats it contested and that the party continues on its "development journey" under the leadership of Modi.

The Home Minister too

targeted the Congress, which saw a dismal performance. He said the Opposition party won only 44 seats, the number which the BJP won in Bhavnagar corporation alone.

"The municipal corporation poll results have again established Gujarat as BJP's stronghold. The BJP continues on 'Vikas yatra' under the leadership of PM Modi. Today's results are one of the best results in Gujarat," the Home Minister said.

"The BJP has won around 85 per cent of the seats it contested, and the Congress has suffered badly in this election. The Congress won only 44 seats across the whole State, while the BJP bagged 44 seats in Bhavnagar corporation alone," he added.

The Home Minister congratulated Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel and the newly-elected State BJP chief CR Patil for the party's performance.

BJP president JP Nadra said, "I thank the people of Gujarat for reposing their faith in BJP, a symbol of development and trust, in local body elections."

Continued on Page 2

Delhi records zero Covid-19 death, 217 cases on Tue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded no new Covid-19 fatality on Tuesday, even as 217 new cases pushed the city's infection tally to 6,39,681, and the positivity rate fell from 0.44 per cent to 0.33 per cent, the health department said.

The new cases came out of 66,624 tests for Covid-19 conducted on Monday, as per data shared by the department.

Seventy-eight more people have recovered from the disease in the national Capital, it showed.

Delhi had recorded 175 new cases of Covid-19 on Monday. The death toll due to the disease in the city stands at 10,911.

Kisan stir halts ₹35K-cr Delhi-Katra e-way in its tracks

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

After Covid-19 pandemic, now the ongoing farmers' agitation has cast a shadow on the proposed Delhi-Katra Expressway corridor. This includes the Punjab stretch which has been converted into a Greenfield project by providing a direct link from Nakodar onward to the five historic towns of Sultanpur Lodhi, Goindwal Sahib, Khadoor Sahib, and Tarn Taran, leading up to Amritsar.

However, in the absence of a mandatory public hearing of the affected villagers due to ongoing agitation, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Union Environment Ministry has deferred the ₹35,000-crore project to be executed by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) under the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry.

The total length of the proposed project is 361.656 km — 262.656 km for Punjab Section of Delhi-Katra Expressway plus 99 km for Greenfield Amritsar Connectivity. About 24,700 trees will make way for the much-hyped project. The Delhi-Katra Expressway proposes to cover journey from Katra to Delhi in about seven hours and from Jammu to Delhi in just over six hours.

Going through the project details submitted by the project proponent (NHAI) and the Gurugram-based EIA consultant Feedback Infra Pvt Ltd, the EAC members noted that the proposed alignment will also cross 55 canals, 20 drains, four rivers, five nallah and three ponds in the Punjab Section of Delhi-Katra Expressway, whereas, 20 canals, 14 drains, 3 river and 1 pond will be crossed by the proposed alignment of Amritsar connectivity.



The public hearing was conducted in December 2020 at all eight districts of Punjab namely Sangrur, Patiala, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Gurdaspur, Tarn

Taran and Amritsar by the Punjab Government. Sources said the Government had proposed to complete the landmark Katra-Delhi expressway corridor by 2023.

The Government hopes that it will promote religious tourism as the road will connect the holy cities of Katra in Jammu and Amritsar in Punjab.



The project involved the diversion of forest land. About 76 hectares of Protected Forest (roadside and canal-side plantations declared as forest) will be affected by the proposed expressway.

Application for forest clearance is yet to be submitted, noted the EAC members in a meeting held on February 11, 2021.

Also, the project alignment is crossing the Beas River and Kali Bein conservation reserve. About 3,949.7 hectares shall be acquired from 3,199

landholders (including 1,716 nos. of private titleholders) for the project.

The NHAI claimed that the project shall provide multifold benefits like reduced travel time as well as employment to the locals. As per the law, the public hearing for Gurdaspur district was held on December 7, 2020 as a stretch of 44.812 km of expressway is to pass through 45 villages of the said district. However, it could not be completed in view of the farmers' agitation.

"It was also alleged by the villagers that no prior information regarding public hearing was given in their village. The attendees urged to postpone the public hearing till 'Kisan Aandolan' is concluded. To control the law and order situation, the public hearing was postponed by the Presiding Officer," noted the EAC which then decided to defer the proposal.

Md Salim Left Front face in Bengal polls?

PNS ■ KOLKATA

In apparent bid to stump Mamata Banerjee in her own alleged game the Left Front is planning to field party politiburo member and former MP Md Salim as its leading face in the coming Assembly elections, inside sources said ruling out however that the move had anything to do with the effort to reach out to the Muslim community.

The Muslims who had largely supported the Left Front in Bengal till 2011, have been the electoral mainstay for the Chief Minister --- more so, post the rise of BJP as the main opposition force.

The Bengal Chief Minister have often been criticized for

importing communal politics in the State by appeasing the Muslims and igniting a saffron upsurge in turn.

The ploy to field Salim who had not contested the Assembly elections in 2011 or 2016 comes in tandem with the Marxists' to tie up with the Indian Secular Front a newly erected outfit led by Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui a prominent cleric of Furfura Sharief the largest congregation of the Bengali speaking Muslims in the State.

Apart from Salim the Left is also likely to field JNU students' leader Aishi Ghosh from Durgapur and Bengali actor Bandsha Moitra sources said adding CPI(M) State secretary Suryakanto Mishra will not contest elections this time round.

Manmohan: Unemployment high in India due to Govt's 'ill considered demonetisation decision'

Thiruvananthapuram: Attacking the Centre, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said unemployment is high in the country and its informal sector is in shambles following the "ill considered demonetisation decision" taken by the BJP-led government in 2016.

He also criticised the central government for not holding regular consultations with the states. Inaugurating a development summit virtually organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Development Studies, an economic think tank aligned to the Congress ideology in poll-bound Kerala, Singh said temporary measures by the central government and the RBI to paper over the credit problem cannot blind us to the looming credit crisis ahead that could affect the small and medium sector.

"Unemployment is high and the informal sector is in shambles, a crisis precipitated by the ill considered demonetisation decision taken in 2016", he said at "Pratheeksha

2030."

The summit was organised to launch a Vision Document, a framework of ideas for development of Kerala well in advance of the state elections. He observed that in Kerala and many other states, public finances were in disarray with states having to resort to excessive borrowing, which creates an intolerable burden on future budgets.

"Federalism and regular consultation with states, which was the cornerstone of India's economic and political philosophy as enshrined in the Constitution, no longer finds favour with the present Central government," he said.

Singh said while Kerala's social standards are high, there are other sectors that need strong attention in the future.

There are many roadblocks ahead that the state has to overcome. The global downturn of the last two or three years, aggravated by the pandemic, has made the global interface of Kerala more fragile. **PTI**

Delhi man held for credit card fraud

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested a 21-year-old man for allegedly cheating people on the pretext of redeeming their credit card points from Preet Vihar area. The accused has been identified as Tushar Tyagi, a resident of Mandawali. He came in contact with the main accused through PUBG game.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, an advocate Sadab Khan lodged a complaint at Malviya Nagar police station that he received a text message on his mobile phone to redeem his credit cards points.

"As soon as he clicked on the given web link and entered his card details, he lost Rs 1 lakh from his credit cards. During investigation, it was revealed that the accused had used spoofed SMS services to send phishing messages of points redemption. Police found that the cheated amount had been credited first in an e-wallet account and then, it was used for purchasing the gift vouchers of a multi-brand electronic store," said the DCP.

"The e-wallet account was opened on the basis of fake ID. Thereafter, police informed the store in Kota, Rajasthan from where the gift vouchers were obtained in different names. Police had the numbers of vouchers and alerted the manager of the store in Kota about the

them," said the DCP.

"The store has many branches across India. The accused redeemed the voucher and when Tyagi came to take delivery on Sunday at Preet Vihar branch, the store staff apprehended him and handed over to police," said the DCP.

"Interrogation revealed that during lockdown, Tyagi came in contact with one Vishal alias Shubham while playing PUBG game and they became friends. Initially, Shubham provided game accessories to Tyagi and was talking to him through voice over internet protocol (VOIP) calls," the DCP said.

"When they became friends, Shubham informed him that he works in credit or debit cards fishing and has good knowledge to earn easily in cyber space. He offered Tyagi 20 per cent commission on sale of his purchased items. In January 2021, Shubham asked Tyagi to collect his smart phones from the stores and to sell it in the open market," said the DCP.

"After keeping his commission of 20 per cent, he had to deposit the remaining amount to Shubham's wallet and bank account. He has deposited around Rs 2 lakh in Shubham's account till now, the DCP said. Efforts are being made to apprehend Shubham. Police recovered 15 smart phones, including 9 iPhone, from his possession, said police. **SR**

Govt will take action against officials involved in illegal appointment: Arunachal CM

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday said the Government will take appropriate action against officials involved in the alleged illegal appointment in the Education department.

Responding to a question by senior Congress member Ninong Ering on appointment of teachers and other posts in the department without conducting any interview, Khandu asserted that all such appointment would be cancelled if proved. He said the Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board (APSSB), was created to check corrupt practices in recruitment process.

Raising the question Ering asked the government as to why the APSSB was not informed about such appointments and want to know the total number of teachers and multi-tasking staff (MTS) appointed without interview by the department.

Education Minister Taba Tedir while denying such appointments informed the House that the department on complaint from Ering had initiated a departmental enquiry, report of which would be available soon. **PTI**



An artist draws a painting of the world-famous monument Taj Mahal, as a part of the beautification of road, in Bhopal on Tuesday

PTI

Seers ask U'khand Govt to organise Kumbh Mela on grand scale

Haridwar: The Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, a body of various sects of ascetics, on Tuesday asked the Uttarakhand government to organise the forthcoming Kumbh Mela in Haridwar on a grand scale.

"If the Magh Mela in Uttar Pradesh can be held on a grand scale, why not Haridwar Kumbh?" ABAP president Mahant Narendra Giri said.

Thanking Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for successfully organising the Magh Mela, Giri said the Uttarakhand government too should organise the Kumbh Mela on similar lines.

"Haridwar Kumbh should be held on a grand scale, religious discourses and kirtans should be held on the banks of the Ganga besides pitching tents for the seers," he said.

He asked the Uttarakhand government to remove all restrictions imposed on devotees coming for the Kumbh Mela in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Crores of people converged at Allahabad for Magh Mela but no one contracted coronavirus nor did anyone die due to it, Giri said. **PTI**

Ruling and Opposition benches trade charges in UP Assembly over withdrawal of criminal cases

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday witnessed a slanging match between the ruling and Opposition benches over withdrawal of criminal cases by the BJP government in the State.

Ruling party members alleged that cases against terrorists were withdrawn during the previous regime, while the opposition benches trashed the claim and said cases against "rioters" were withdrawn by the BJP government.

Replying to a question by BSP member Shyam Sundar Sharma, Law Minister Brijesh Pathak said that from April, 2017 to July, 2020, as many as 670 cases were withdrawn by the government in 'janhiti' (public interest) and "the cases pertain to political leaders

and workers". He said that after the government formation, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the decision to withdraw "political cases" to lessen the burden on judiciary.

In his supplementary query during the Question House, the member asked about the political cases and sought a list of all people with their party affiliation whose cases were withdrawn.

To this, the minister said that political cases are not defined but those with less serious charges were withdrawn.

"After an application is made for withdrawal of cases, a 13-point report is sought from the District Magistrate concerned and then Principal Secretaries of Home and Law departments go through

it before final decision," he said, adding that as law doesn't permit discrimination on basis of parties, it would not be appropriate to take names.

"If Speaker permits, I can make the list of the persons whose cases were withdrawn public," the minister said.

In his reply without taking name of the Samajwadi Party, the minister said that the previous government withdrew cases against terrorists who had charges under the Explosives Act and even POTA.

His reaction led to a sharp attack from Leader of the Opposition Ram Govind Chowdhary who alleged that the government had taken back cases of their own men. **PTI**

Magisterial probe ordered into clash between villagers, police in U'khand

Bhararisain (U'khand): A magisterial probe has been ordered into a clash that broke out between protesting villagers and police at Diwalikhal near Gairsain, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said on Tuesday.

Rawat told reporters here that those responsible for the clash will be brought to book but there should be no action against the innocent.

A clash erupted between protesting villagers and the

police on Monday at Diwalikhal when locals broke barricades to march to the Vidhan Sabha in Gairsain, demanding widening of the Nandprayag-Ghat motor road.

Villagers of Ghat area have been agitating over the issue for the last two months demanding widening the stretch by 1.5 metres. Police had to burst water canons and lathicharge protesters to control them. **PTI**

Platform ticket price raised to ₹50 at key stations in MMR

Mumbai: The Central Railway has increased The price of platform tickets at some key stations in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) to avoid over-crowding during the upcoming summer season in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, an official said on Tuesday.

A platform ticket now costs Rs 50 instead of the previous rate of Rs 10 at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Dadar and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai, and neighbouring Thane, Kalyan, Panvel and Bhiwandi Road stations, CR's chief public relations officer Shivaji Sutar said.

The new rate came into force from March 1 and will remain effective till June 15 this year, the official said. **PTI**

Paper leak: 2 Army personnel among 4 more held in Pune

Pune: Pune Police probing the Army paper Leak case has arrested four more persons, including two Army personnel, a senior officer said on Tuesday, adding that the scope of the case looked like the "tip of the iceberg".

With this, the number of persons arrested in connection with the paper leak case so far has reached seven, including an ex-serviceman.

On February 18, the Army cancelled Army Relation Recruitment exam, which was scheduled to be held on February 28 at BEG centre in Pune, after the paper was found to be leaked. Police are now investigating the source of the leaked paper and the exact number of candidates who had received its copies before the date of the exam.

"The said exam was scheduled on February 28. We had received intelligence that some people were approaching candidates and promising them to hand over the question paper in return of money," Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) Ravindra Shisave told reporters on Tuesday.

He said the police had formed two teams and apprehended some people who were found to be in the possession of a question paper and

were planning to sell it to aspirants.

"We then approached Army officials and cross-checked the question paper. We came to know that the question paper found in the mobile phones of those detained by us was the same that was set for the February 28 exam," he said, adding that the exam was subsequently cancelled by the Army.

Shisave said the scope of the probe looks very wide and "the police investigation so far could be just the tip of the iceberg". The first case was registered against three people at Vishrantwadi police station in Pune, following which police arrested Ali Akhtar Khan (47), Azad Khan (37) and Mahendra Sonawane (37).

The three accused had promised an aspirant to give him the question paper in exchange of Rs 1 lakh.

In another case registered at Wanwadi police station in the city, police have arrested four persons, identified as Kishor Giri (40), Madhav Gitte (38), an ex-serviceman, Gopal Koli (31) and Uday Awati (23).

Koli and Awati work in the Army, another officer said. Koli is a drill instructor at Batalian-2 at BEG Centre, while Awati is a regimental police personnel. **PTI**

Stop pleasing...

From Page 1

The Congress divide came in open when Sharma, who was a Union Minister in the Manmohan Singh Government, took to social media to slam the party's tie-up with ISF saying it was against the "Gandhian and Nehruvian secularism" and the party cannot be selective in fighting the "communalists".

"CPI(M)-led Left Front is leading the secular alliance in West Bengal of which the Congress is an integral part. We are determined to defeat BJP's communal and divisive politics and an autocratic regime. The Congress has got its full share of seats. Left Front is allocating seats from its share to the newly formed Indian Secular Front-ISF" Choudhary wrote on Twitter.

Objecting to Anand Sharma's choice to call Left-Congress-ISF coalition "communal", Chowdhury accused him of "only serving" the BJP. Anand Sharma's attack on Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury came close on the heels of a meeting of G-23 in Jammu, where senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad praised PM Narendra Modi for not forgetting his roots.

PM, Shah hail BJP's stellar show in Guj local body polls

From Page 1

Counting of votes is still underway since in 81 municipalities, 31 district panchayats, and 231 taluka panchayats where elections were held on Sunday. There are total 8,474 seats across the three local bodies. Candidates in 237 seats remain unopposed, the State Election Commission (SEC) said. Bye-elections were also held for two seats in taluka panchayats and 24 seats in municipalities. As per the results available till 1 pm, the BJP has so far bagged 2,085 seats, while the Congress has won 602 seats across these local bodies, the SEC said.

New entrant AAP has won 15 seats, Bahujan Samaj Party 5, while Independents have won 42 seats, it said.

In municipalities, the BJP has so far won 803 seats and the Congress-159. In district panchayats, the BJP has till now bagged 246 seats and the Congress-55. In taluka panchayats, the BJP has so far emerged victorious in 1,036 seats and the Congress in 388 seats. More than 58,000 poll and security personnel are involved in the counting being conducted at 542 centres in Gujarat, the SEC said.

Another round of disappointing results has badly hit the Gujarat Congress, which had in 2017 delivered a strong performance in State elections. Gujarat Congress chief Amit Chavda and the leader of the Congress legislature party, Paresh Dhanani, resigned today long before all

the results were declared.

Last week, the BJP swept polls across six key municipal corporations of Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar, winning 483 of 576 seats. The AAP registered its presence in Surat by winning 27 seats at the cost of the Congress, which failed to win any in that town.

Arvind Kejriwal, reveling in AAP's performance, indicated that he was preparing his party for the 2022 Gujarat Assembly elections. He said the rivalry was now between the BJP and the AAP, with the Congress nowhere in the reckoning.

On his victory trip to Surat on Thursday, Kejriwal said AAP would seek votes from the people of the State in the next Assembly polls based on the performance of the party's 27 newly-elected corporators.

Reacting to AAP's political forays in Gujarat, BJP's State chief CR Patil jibed that Kejriwal was holding a roadshow to celebrate the large number of AAP candidates who had lost their election deposits - forfeited when a candidate fails to get one-sixth of the total valid votes.

AAP and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM also contested in the Gujarat local body polls, apart from traditional rivals BJP and Congress. The AIMIM fielded candidates in minority-dominated seats of Modasa and Bharuch municipalities. It also contested in the Godhra municipality.

'Surrendered Naxal' woman's death: C'garh BJP seeks discussion

Raipur: The opposition BJP on Tuesday demanded a discussion in the Chhattisgarh Assembly on the February 23 death of an alleged woman Naxal operative who had surrendered.

While police had said Pande Kawasaki, allegedly part of a front organisation of the outlawed CPI (Maoist), was found hanging in Shaktikunj, a place meant for surrendered Naxals, BJP MLAs claimed in the House the deceased's parents had denied she was an ultra or had surrendered to police.

She was part of a group of 6-7 people who were forcibly taken from Gudsra village by police, and Kawasaki's parents were not allowed to meet her, the opposition MLAs further alleged.

Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik said tribal leaders of the region and the local population have claimed the woman's death was not a suicide, but that she was killed and then hanged.

Hence, immediate discussion should be held in the Assembly as a tribal woman had lost her life, Kaushik said.

JCC (I) MLA Devvrat Singh, who was in the Chair, said the adjournment motion notice was received during the day and had been placed for consideration, which led to protests from BJP MLAs, leading to the proceedings being suspended for five minutes. **PTI**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is issued to Society at large that by the undersigned, duly authorized, that below mentioned property not limited to other Premises/Land/ Shops/ Krishi Land belongs to my Client under share being a co-owner/owner. Any person /entity shall refrain from any transactions/vikray/patta, etc. No Authority/Registrar shall endeavour to create title without written notice/consent to the undersigned.

Property details (Not limited to): Khata 1189 Khasra 1259 Area 0.3260 Parsanna Bangar, Jewar Village, Gautam Budha Nagar & Ors under HEIR

Any person who has already executed transactions shall be dealt as per law and attracts penal charges along-with required to inform the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this NOTICE.

By
Gyan Prakash, Advocate
F-19, Crystal Mall, Plot No 9,
Knowledge Park-II,
Greater Noida 201306
+9560457722,

Govt edu institutions’ merger OK’d

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday decided to merge Government institutions to enhance the skill ecosystem and infrastructure to boost higher and technical education in the national Capital.

Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister in Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Cabinet Manish Sisodia said, “The Delhi Government is committed to expand the skilling opportunities for our youth. These mergers will make the skilling ecosystem more efficient and raise the employability and skilling prospects of our youth.”

According to senior government official associated with the development, the Delhi Cabinet decided to merge 10 Government Institutes of Technology, Delhi Institute of Tool Engineering (Wazirpur and Okhla Campus) and Govind Ballabh Pant Engineering College (GBPEC) and bring them under the ambit of the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU). “This will streamline the skill education in Delhi,” said the official, “13 Government Institutes and colleges merged and brought under the ambit of



Delhi Skills and Entrepreneurship University.” The Delhi Cabinet also approved the merger of Delhi University’s College of Arts, functioning under the Directorate of Training and Technical Education, and Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management (DIHRM) affiliated with GGSIP University functioning under Directorate of Higher Education.

Together they will now be part of Dr BR Ambedkar University. “Further, one more World Class Skills Centre at Pushp Vihar is being formed. With this, now 9 such centres will provide skilling opportunity for the students to raise their employment prospects in new and emerging sectors. Cabinet sanctioned Rs. 9.9 crores for the new centre and it is a part of the vision of Delhi Government to establish 25 World Class Skill Centres all over Delhi,” the official further added.

Delhi Government is committed to expand the skilling opportunities for our youth. These mergers will make the skilling ecosystem more efficient and raise the employability and skilling prospects of our youth, Sisodia said

SC, ST, OBC scholarship funds released; ₹100 cr for Ladli scheme for schoolgirls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, took major decisions to release funds for scholarships to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Caste communities. It was also decided to release funds under the Ladli scheme, provide aid and equipment for children with special needs and augment library infrastructure in Delhi Government schools.

The Cabinet approvals of Rs 100 crores for the Ladli Scheme would benefit school going girls. The scheme was implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development in 2008

with an aim to promote education among girls, reducing their drop-out rate and providing financial security.

“Further, for different scholarship schemes for the benefit of SC, ST, OBC students, the Cabinet also decided to release Rs. 75. 98 crores. These scholarship schemes include pre-matric scholarship, post-matric scholarships and merit scholarships for SC, ST, OBC and minority students from Class I to XII,” the government said in a statement.

In order to ensure education is accessible and inclusive, the Delhi Cabinet has also approved an amount of Rs 2 crores for the Talent Promotion Scheme for Children with Special Needs and

Children with Disabilities.

Under the talent promotion scheme, disbursements will be given to the Inclusive Education Branch of the Directorate of Education so that government schools can acquire equipment/aids and support services for developing talent of children with special needs.

Also, to improve and secure valued library books in Delhi Government Schools, the Directorate of Education has also been given an approval by the Delhi Cabinet to procure 4178 steel almirahs, at a cost of Rs. 7.2 crores. These almirahs will be used in class libraries, which are areas of learning in each primary classroom of Delhi Government schools.

SKM to block KMP E-way for 5 hours on March 6, to vote against BJP in polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Tuesday in a general meeting decided to put out a call to the public in election bound States to punish the anti-farmer, anti-poor policies of Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing a Press conference at Singhu Border, one of the main protesting site of farmers, the SKM said on March 6, marking 100 days of protest, the SKM will block KMP expressway for 5-hour.

“This will be between 11am and 4 pm. There will be free toll plazas while in other parts of the country, the day will be marked by flying black flags on houses and offices to signify support to the movement, and to protest against the government,” said the SKM leaders.

“On March 15, along with Central Trade Unions who are marking the day as ‘anti-privatisation’ day, SKM will support the call of trade unions by marking the day as ‘anti-corporatisation’ day, and extend solidarity to the protests of



Trade Unions on that day all over India,” they said.

“Representatives of SKM will also visit in election-bound states to put out a call to the public to punish the anti-farmer, anti-poor policies of Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP),” said the leaders

“SKM will launch a “MSP Dilao Abhiyan” all over India. As part of the campaign, the reality of price discovery of farmers in different markets will be showcased. The campaign will be initiated in the south indian states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to begin with. Farmers all over the country are invited to join this campaign,” they said.

Man arrested for robbing nephew of ₹50k in Burari

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old man was arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly robbing his nephew of ₹50,000 in north Delhi’s Burari area. The accused has been identified as Deepak alias Deepa, a resident of Sant Nagar. Police said Deepak is the uncle (mausa) of the complainant. He was indulged in the gambling. Deepak passed information to his friend who robbed his nephew.

According to Anto Alphonse, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, on February 26, complainant Shammi, a resident of Sant Nagar, Burari, said that he was going on his scooter and was carrying Rs 50,000 in the boot space of the vehicle, as he had to deliver the money to one of his known persons.

“When he reached 41 Foota Road, near Labour Chowk, Burari, three persons on a scooter intercepted him.

“They deliberately hit their vehicle with his scooter, beat him and escaped with the cash from the boot space,” said the DCP.

“During investigation, it was revealed that all the three suspects were moving on a scooter. The registration number plate was also twisted by them, the DCP said. “The detailed investigation revealed that one of the suspects was also seen on a black colour motorcycle.

“The activity of the rider was also found suspicious. On checking the police records, it was found that the owner of the bike was Deepak. Thereafter, a raid was conducted and Deepak was arrested,” said the DCP.

BJP protests near CM’s house against rising pollution levels

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Targeting the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday staged a demonstration near the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s residence against rising pollution levels in Delhi.

Addressing the protestors who were carrying placards and rent the air with slogans of ‘Kejriwal shame, shame’, Adesh Gupta, President, Delhi BJP said despite repeated promises to clean the river Yamuna and make it the Thames of London, the fact is it has only got more polluted with over 4400 million liters of polluted water falling into the river. In fact, cases of lung cancer, asthma and other airborne diseases are only on the rise due to pollution, he added

Gupta said, “The Kejriwal government in the last four years collected an amount of Rs 883 crore from people of Delhi in the name of green cess, it has spent only 1.6 per cent of it on controlling pollution whose level has now gone alarming with no concrete steps to check and contain it.”

He said the Kejriwal government is only busy in falsehood and propaganda without doing any actual work on the ground level and rather, it was stalling all developmental activities in the city due to which not only pollution level but overall situation is worsening.

Talking about the Green budget of the Kejriwal government, Gupta said though on stubble burning, he made a lot of hue and cry, but figures show last year the government spent only Rs 40000 in buying bio



decomposer units while Rs 24 lac was spent on their distribution and another whopping Rs 9 crore on its publicity but a mere 300 farmers benefited from it. The fact is 24 promises were made in Green budget including planting of 6 crore trees, new electric buses, and smog towers, but nothing has materialized, he charged.

Extensively quoting from an NGO’s Greenpeace Southeast Asia report, he said 54000 people died of pollution-related diseases in the capital last year alone or a daily average of 148 deaths and asked who is responsible for this. But Kejriwalji seems to be least bothered, he charged.

G’gram family held hostage in car for feeding stray dogs which bit children recently

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

In a shocking incident, a family from an upscale condominium was held hostage in their car for feeding stray dogs.

The residents of the society alleged that the dogs have bitten children recently, the police said on Tuesday.

The neighbours allegedly surrounded the family’s car when they returned home on Monday night. The protesting residents did not allow them to come out of their vehicle. The incident took place at Vatika 21 Sector-83 in Gurugram.

“A resident of that society is a dog lover and frequently feeds stray dogs in their locality. The other residents of the society alleged that a few days ago one of the dogs bit a resident. The resident who was held hostage, his wife, and their three-year-old child were returning home on Monday night when other people from the society surrounded their car and held hostage,” said Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP (crime).

In a video, the complainant woman alleged that the “Resident Welfare Association (RWA) and various goons” surrounded his car, tried to “attack” her husband and three-year-old daughter, and tried to break into the car. He alleged that hundreds of protesters had also misbehaved and manhandled them and the police had

reached the incident spot after a long time.

However, the police refuted their allegations and said soon after an information a police team along with Assistant Commissioner of police (Manesar) and four station house officer (SHOs) of different police station reached the spot and peafify the protestors.

“In connection with the incident an FIR has been filed under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Kheri Daula police station. Necessary action will be initiated against those guilty,” Sangwan said.

The RWA president Ram Mehar said that “On our recommendation the maintenance agency of the society has given a complaint against the dogs to the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG). We didn’t give any complaint against the family in the police. The dogs have bitten children in the society. Now the family with their wrong intention has given a complaint against the RWA despite any role of the RWA,” he said.

Meanwhile, Y P Chauhan, Estate Manager of G21 a maintenance agency of the society said, “We had given complaint related with dogs vaccination in the MCG. We have no problem with dogs even we have provided a space outside the society for dogs”.

SDMC to install RFID tags at all 124 entry points of Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) will install “Radio Frequency Identity” (RFID) tags at all 124 entry points in the city.

In the first phase, SDMC had already installed RFID at 13 key points and now it will be installed at 111 points. Installation work will be completed as soon as possible, Mayor of SDMC Anamika said.

“The system ensures that all commercial vehicles will have to pay the tax and ECC through RFID and the move will promote a cashless system, she added.

The move will not only help in reducing air pollution but also will reduce time of vehicles while entering the city. “This will also help in calculating toll tax and ‘Environmental Compensation Charge’ (ECC) through a click. Besides this, sensors installed at these points will help in classification of toll tax and ECC by categorizing vehicles entering in the city,” he said.

The new RFID system allows automatic collection of MCD tax and environment compensation charges from commercial vehicles. It is aimed at reducing pollution by easing traffic congestion and plug revenue leakage by ensuring transparency. Once a person buys an RFID tag and pastes it on his registered vehicle, MCD tax and environment compensation charge (ECC) will be deducted at the 13 toll plazas automatically.

The SDMC is the nodal agency for implementing the new cashless border toll system at 13 busy border points of the national capital. It has decided that non-RFID commercial vehicles won’t be allowed to enter the city after September 13. Vehicle owners can recharge their RFID accounts on ectagsdmc.com or mobile application — MCD TOLL — and at the 28 point of sale kiosks at the 13 entry/exit points.

Delhi court reprimands police for inaction, asks for impartial probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strong exception to the “inaction” of the police in lodging FIR and delay in carrying out proper investigation in Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vandalism case filed by DJB vice-chairman Raghav Chadha, a Delhi court through its order dated March 1 ordered the Delhi Police to carry out investigation in an impartial manner to unearth the truth.

The court had directed the SHO of DeshBandhu Gupta

DJB VANDALISM CASE

road police station to file an action taken report in this matter with respect to the course of investigation, the AAP said in a statement.

Upon hearing the arguments on the status report advanced by advocate Prashant Manchanda, counsel for Chadha he specifically mentioned the grave inaction, the learned MM observed in his order dated February 15 that the CCTV

footage and videos of the incident reflected that more than five person in the mob crossed over broke the barricades, iron gates and glass gates of DJB yet FIR under appropriate sections was not lodged, it said.

Consequently, vide its order dated February, a detailed report was sought from concerned DCP putting specific explanations from him to the effect as why appropriate sections have not been added and why no witness present at the spot was examined for one month.

Shocked at the absurd FIR registered in this case, the court also observed that the FIR has been lodged in extremely frivolous section of Epidemic act which is completely misleading and oblivious to the actual incident, it said, adding that in the interest of justice, the court has now directed the Police officials to conduct and free and impartial probe in the present matter and urged the police officials to mend their ways and carry out the investigation strictly by the procedure laid down.

An Initiative by Railways Towards All-Round Progress of Uttarakhand

Inauguration of

04047/04048 Kotdwar - Delhi - Kotdwar Siddhbali Jan Shatabdi Special Express Train

Salient Features

- Reaching ancient Sidhpeth Shri Siddhbali temple will be easier
- Development of the region due to Tourism & Pilgrimage
- Better connectivity to hilly & remote regions

by

Piyush Goyal

Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution Government of India

(through video conferencing)

Special Guest

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
Union Minister of Education, Govt. of India

in August presence of

Dr. Harak Singh Rawat
Minister of Forests & Wild Life, Environment & Solid Waste Disposal, Labour, Employment, Training, Ayush, Ayush Education, Uttarakhand

Anil Baluni
MP, Raja Sabha

Tirath Singh Rawat
MP, Lok Sabha

Kotdwar Railway Station | Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021 | 3:20 PM

Note: The Inaugural Special Train will run as Train No. 04045 on 03.03.2021.

Join the live streaming of the programme - <https://www.youtube.com/user/RailMinIndia>

NORTHERN RAILWAY

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

All are Cordially Invited

Follow us on @NRIIndia @RailwayNorthern @northernrailway.india northernrailway

In a first, IAF to join ‘Desert Flag’ in UAE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IAF, for the first time, will take part in exercise ‘Desert Flag’ in the United Arab Emirates(UAE), starting Wednesday. The Indian pilots will test their skills with their counterparts of air forces of USA, France Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Bahrain and host UAE in the more than 20 day long multi-national exercise.

Giving details of the prestigious annual exercise, IAF officials said here on Tuesday the exercise is scheduled from March 3 to 27 at the Al-Dhafra airbase, UAE. The drill will take place in the strategically important Persian Gulf region.

The IAF is participating with six SU-30 MKI, two C-17 and one IL-78 tanker aircraft. The C-17 Globemaster will provide support for induction and de-induction of the IAF contingent.

The Su-30 MKI aircraft will undertake long range ferry, routing direct from India to the exercise area with aerial refuelling support from IL-78 tanker aircraft. The aim of the exercise is to provide operational exposure to the participating forces



while training them to undertake simulated air combat operations in a controlled environment. The participating forces will get an opportunity to enhance their operational capabilities along with mutual exchange of best practices.

The large-scale exercise involving diverse fighter aircraft from across the globe will provide the participating forces, including IAF, a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, experience, enhance operational capabilities and interoperability. Exercising and interaction with the participating nations in a dynamic and realistic warfare environment will also contribute to strengthen international relations, they said. The Indian jets will fly along with F-15 and F-16s of

the US besides Rafales and Mirage-2000s of the French Air Force.

Over the last decade, IAF has regularly hosted and participated in multi-national operational exercises, wherein collaborative engagements are undertaken amongst the best air forces of the world.

Incidentally, the IAF participation comes at a time when India has forged strong ties with countries in the Gulf region. Army Chief General M M Naravane was the first chief to visit Saudi Arabia and UAE in December last year. Moreover, the UAE provided mid-air refuelling facilities to the IAF for bringing their Rafales from France over a 7,000 km journey to Ambala in September last year.

Cong targeting its stalwarts who are backing rightful agenda of Modi: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's full-time praise of 'dissident' Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad, a compliment which the latter richly returned this week, the BJP on Tuesday expressed its "sadness" over "Congress targeting" its stalwarts who are backing the "rightful agenda" of Modi.

BJP took a dig at the Congress amid a vocal dissent within the opposition party, saying its ideology is all about fulfilling the Gandhi family's "ambition", and anyone speaking against it or standing with the rightful agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is castigated.

BJP's national spokesperson Sambit Patra told a press conference here that the Congress will "castigate" anyone who wants democracy in the party, wants its president to be elected, speaks in favour of politics of development or stands with Modi's rightful agenda.

While stating that the G23, a reference to the group of 23 senior Congressmen pushing for an organisational overhaul in the party, is an internal matter of the opposition party, Patra said it is "saddening" to see senior leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad and others being targeted.

The Congress is now all about four leaders, he alleged, referring to its president Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul and daughter Priyanka Vadra —

both party general secretaries — and Priyanka's husband Robert Vadra.

"Their only agenda is 'hate Modi'. It has grown to such an extent that Congress workers are protesting on the streets against their own leaders who have praised good works of Modi," he said answering a question.

Azad had praised Modi at an event -G-23 meet in Jammu on Saturday, saying he speaks frankly about his past as a tea-seller and does not try to hide his background from the world.

Modi left everyone guessing, last month, while speaking in the Rajya Sabha in the last session of the Parliament as he went on praising the retiring Azad.

Politicians, VIPs come forward for jab on Day 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation's vaccination drive by taking the Covid-19 vaccine, a battery of politicians cutting across party lines and VIPs from various walks of life came forward to inoculate themselves on the second day of the second phase of the vaccination programme aimed to cover persons over 60 years of age and those between 45-59 years with co-morbidities.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and his wife took the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at the Delhi Heart and Lung Institute on Tuesday. Soon after getting vaccinated, the Minister said, "I request everyone to get vaccinated. After 28 days of the first dose, everyone should get their second dose. Do not worry if you experience minor side-effects, but do let your doctors know."

Speaking about the CoWin platform, he also said, "There were some glitches in the CoWin platform due to the high number of registrations all of a sudden. On Monday around 34 lakhs people had registered on this platform till last night. The number of people registering for the vaccination is increasing rapidly."

He added, "I would like to request all hospitals to update the schedule for 28 days so that people don't face any issue. The Government is ensuring the availability of the vaccine for the whole country so that everyone can get vaccinated."

The others who got inoculated on Tuesday included Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at RR Hospital in the national capital while Union Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi received the first shot of Covid-19 vaccine at Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also took the anti Covid-19 shot in Patna for which he paid ₹250

As many as 2,08,791 people above 60 years of age and those aged 45-60 years with comorbidities have taken the first dose of the vaccine, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan told the weekly press conference here.

Those with specified comorbidities will have to pro-



Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and his wife being administered the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at the Delhi Heart and Lung Institute on Tuesday in the national Capital
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Don't take Covid-19 lightly, cautions Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While maintaining that India's current positivity rate suggests Covid pandemic is under control, the Union Health Ministry cautioned people about not taking the virus lightly after the vaccination programme has started and avoid large gatherings, parties, weddings etc. "These could be super spreading events," warned Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog.

As Gujarat, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, apart from Kerala and Maharashtra reports upstuck in cases each passing day, Paul who is also the chairperson of the National Task Force on Covid-19, V K Paul, blamed on the wedding season coinciding with elections in some of them as a few of the reasons for the resurgence of infections.

Paul said he got the information after taking inputs from various State Governments, which engaged with the Centre deputed teams there to find out the probable causes behind the steady rise in the number of cases.

"People have gone lax on the Covid protocols. The reasons which the States have cited behind this laxity include crowding at wedding functions and elections. Many states

admitted this during the interaction with the teams deputed there," Paul said.

Notably, municipal elections and other local body polls have been conducted in Gujarat and few other states recently, while West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry are scheduled to go to the polls in March-April.

Wedding ceremonies also act as superspreaders of the disease since they attract a substantial crowd, often throwing social distancing norms to the wind.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said though certain states including Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are seeing a surge in number of Covid-19 active cases, "the fact remains that recovered cases are still more than 97 per cent and India's active cases are less than 2 per cent (1.51 per cent)".

He pointed out that, "According to the World Health Organisation, if 140 tests per million are being conducted per day and the case positivity rate is at 5% or below, it means the Covid-19 pandemic is under control. We are very close to that mark at 5.11% overall case positivity."

duce a medical certificate attested by a registered medical practitioner at the time of vaccination at the Covid-19 vac-

cination centre. This phase is likely to cover close to 270 million beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries will have to

K'taka Minister gets vaccinated at home, Centre seeks report on vaccination protocol violation



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking exception to a Karnataka Minister's act of getting vaccinated at his residence, the Union Health Ministry called it a violation of protocol and has sought a report in the matter. However, the Minister BC Patil brazened it out saying that his decision to take the vaccine at home cannot be considered wrong.

The video and pictures of health officials administering the vaccine at Patil's home were widely shared on social media where people talked about the misuse of processes by the minister at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah among

other Cabinet Ministers had gone to the hospital to receive the shot.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a press briefing on Tuesday that "This is not allowed in the protocol. We have asked for a report from the State Government."

However, the minister in question justified his action, arguing that, "There were many people in the house and I would have to wait for around half an hour at the hospital is why I took it at home."

He added that there were certain privileges and his decision to take the vaccine at home cannot be considered wrong. Patil said that he had only called health officials home for the vaccine.

register on the Co-Win website and book an appointment for vaccination. There is also an option for booking a walk-in appointment after registration.

While Government hospitals will provide the vaccine free of charge, the price has been kept at ₹250 per dose in private hospitals.

R S Sharma, the Chairman of the Empowered Group (EG) on COVID-19 Vaccine Administration, said there were no glitches in the system.

What happened was that people were looking for an App on Playstore which appeared similar to Co-WIN and started using that, when no mobile App meant for registration is actually present right now, he said.

"Since last morning, when

the registrations were opened up at 9 am, we had about 50 lakh registrations on our site. Though there were some glitches in the first version of the Co-WIN which was launched on January 16, we have had no glitches in the new version of the system," he said.

The number of transactions and data transmission will be very large, he said adding that "We want data to be secure and free from cyber-attacks. We are taking best security practices. We are only collecting data in the form of name, age and gender as we need to monitor the second dose."

Total number of hospitals which are involved in this job are 26,000-27,000. There are 12,500 private hospitals, Sharma added.

EC slashes public notice time for registration of new parties to 7 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping in view the prevailing restrictions on account of Covid-19, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday reduced the public notice period for registering new political parties from 30 days to seven days in all the five poll-bound States. This relaxation will remain in force till March 19, the last date for filing nominations in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, and till April 7 for West Bengal (the last date for filing nominations for the last phase in the State).

The order said a party seeking registration with the Commission has to submit an application within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation. According to officials, 60 to 70 political parties have approached the poll body in the past two-three months seeking registration.

As per the existing guidelines, the applicant association should publish the proposed name of the party in two national daily newspapers and two

local daily newspapers, on two days for submitting objections, if any, with regard to the proposed registration of the party, within 30 days from such publication. The EC has announced general elections for the legislative Assemblies of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry on February 26. It has been brought to the notice of the EC that in view of the Covid pandemic situation, there was dislocation and delay in moving applications for registration, which in turn led to delay in registration as a political party. After considering all aspects of the matter, the Commission has given a relaxation by reducing the notice period from 30 days to 7 days for the parties who have published their public notice on or before February 26. For all parties, including those which have already published the public notice in less than 7 days prior to February 26, objection, if any, can be submitted latest by 5.30 p.m., on March 2 or by the end of the originally provided 30-day period, whichever is earlier.

NIA takes up WB railway station bomb blast case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA has taken up investigation of bomb blast at Nimita Railway Station, Murshidabad, West Bengal after re-registering the case originally registered by the State police.

The bomb explosion at Nimita Railway Station in Murshidabad had caused serious injuries to 22 people including Jakir Hossain, Minister of State for Labour, West Bengal Government.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 05/21 dated February 17, 2021 under various Indian Penal Code Sections and the Explosive Substance Act against unknown miscreants at Azimganj GRP PS, Murshidabad on the statement of Md. Allarakha.

"The NIA re-registered the case as RC-04/2021/NIA/DLI and has taken over the investigation today. Investigation in the case continues," the NIA said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the NIA registered a case related to conspiracy by terrorist organisation,



Lashker-e-Mustafa, a frontal outfit of JeM.

The case relates to conspiracy by frontal terror organization Lashker-e-Mustafa working at the behest of proscribed terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed to carry out terrorist activities in Jammu area with the aim of threatening the sovereignty, integrity and security of India.

The case was initially registered as FIR number 16/2021 of Gangvaly Police station, Jammu on February 6, 2021 under section 18, 20 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The NIA has re-registered this case as RC-

01/2021/NIA/JMU on March 2, 2021 and has taken over the investigation.

The arrested accused Hidayat-ullah Malik is the chief of Lashker-e-Mustafa. During searches, one hand grenade, three magazines and 28 rounds with other incriminating material were recovered from his possession, it said.

Hidayat-ullah Malik had done reconnaissance of many security installations in Jammu and Delhi in 2018 and 2019 for carrying out terror attacks.

He has been associated with other terror groups in past and has furthered subversive and terror activities in Kashmir valley.

Kangana, her sister move SC, seek transfer of cases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel have moved the Supreme Court seeking transfer of cases pending against them in Mumbai to a court in Shimla, alleging there would be threat to their lives if the trial proceeds there because of "personal vendetta" of Shiv Sena leaders against them.

The actress and her sister said they apprehend that if trial in these cases are conducted in Mumbai, there would be a "material threat" to their life and property as the Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra Government has been "harassing" them.

"The petitioners face a threat unto life if the trials proceed in Mumbai, because of personal vendetta of Shiv Sena leaders against the petitioner herein," said the plea, filed recently through advocate Neeraj Shekhar.

The plea has sought transfer of trial of FIRs and complaints registered against them,

AKHTAR HAD FILED A COMPLAINT CASE AGAINST RANAUT ALLEGING CRIMINAL DEFAMATION

including a complaint case filed by veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar against Ranaut alleging defamation, from Mumbai to a competent court in Shimla in Himachal Pradesh.

It said that Akhtar had filed a complaint case against Ranaut alleging criminal defamation after the actress had given an interview to a news channel last year in which she had talked about a meeting with the lyricist in 2016.

It has further sought transfer of an FIR lodged in Mumbai by one Ali Kashif Khan Deshmukh which relates to Chandel's tweet in which she had expressed her anguish over attack on doctors

during COVID-19 pandemic. It said subsequently, Twitter account of Chandel was suspended after which Ranaut had spoken on a social media video against it.

The plea said Khan had lodged an FIR against Ranaut and Chandel for the alleged offences under various sections of the Indian Penal

Code (IPC), including 295A which deals with deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class.

It said that the same complainant had also filed a complaint case before the Metropolitan Magistrate, Andheri, against the petitioners.

"Multiple proceedings on the same cause of action clearly demonstrates how the said complainant is just trying to harass the petitioners herein," the plea has alleged.

The plea has also sought transfer of an FIR lodged by one Munawar

Ali for the alleged offences of sedition against them.

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE (QC&PD) Division, HMT, Srinagar
Phone: - 0194- 2496307, e-Mail:- xenmandp@gmail.com

Cancellation of e-NIT-24 of 2020-21

Subject : - Supply of liquid chlorine to be refilled in Deptt. Chlorine tonners as per IS 646-2020 with latest amendmets (in chlorine tonners of capacity 900 Kgs) for Water Treatment Plants of Kashmir PHE Jal Shakti Department Srinagar.
Ref : 1. This office NIT No: PHE/QC&PD/24/2020-21/e-Tender Dated: 27-11-2020.
2. DPC decision held on 22-01-2021 and minutes circulated vide No: JSD/Misc/22997-98 Dated: -23-01-2021.
As per decision of the DPC as referred in reference in its meeting held on 22-01-2021, due to poor response the e-NIT No. PHE/QC&PD/24/2020-21 Dated: 27-11-2020, is hereby cancelled.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, QC&PD Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar
No. DIPK-14257/20 Dated: 02-03-2021

CCTVs in offices of probe agencies: SC expresses displeasure over delay

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed displeasure over the Centre for "dragging its feet" by seeking more time on the issue pertaining to installation of CCTV cameras in the offices of investigating agencies including CBI, ED and NIA.

A Bench headed by Justice RF Nariman, which observed that this issue concerns the rights of citizens, said it is not accepting the excuses given in the letter filed by the Centre seeking adjournment in the

matter. "We are getting a distinct impression that you are dragging your feet," the bench, also

‘We are getting a distinct impression that you are dragging your feet’

comprising Justices B R Gavai and Hrishikesh

Roy, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who was representing the Centre.

The apex court had on

December 2 last year directed the Centre to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies — the Central Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation

Agency, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Department of Revenue Intelligence, Serious Fraud Investigation Office and any other agency which carries out interrogations and has the power of arrest.

During the hearing conducted through video-confer-



encing on Tuesday, Mehta told the bench that adjournment has been sought as the matter may have ramifications.

"This concerns the rights of citizens," the bench said, adding, "We are not accepting the excuses."

ADMK in dilemma as BJP wants to rope in Sasikala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy and his deputy O Panneerselvam are facing the biggest test in their political career as the BJP national leadership wants the duo to accommodate VK Sasikala, former aide to J Jayalalithaa, in the AIADMK led alliance to fight the April 6 Assembly election.

Palaniswamy, who ruled out any possibilities of Sasikala getting accommodated in the AIADMK would be doing a vault face if he agrees to the diktat of the BJP. The Hindutwa party's directive to the AIADMK leadership is a follow up to a report by various intelligence agencies that Sasikala and her nephew TTV Dhinakaran are capable of spoiling the chances of the AIADMK's winnability in 40 to 45 constituencies in southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

"The BJP wants the AIADMK to win the election because then it could remote control Tamil Nadu from New Delhi. But both Palaniswamy and Panneerselvam know well that if they yield to the command of the BJP it would be the end of their political careers," said Sam Rajappa, long time observer of Tamil Nadu politics.

Panneerselvam, who was sworn in as Chief Minister following the demise of Jayalalithaa on Dec 5, 2016 was ousted by Sasikala and her close relations to pave the way for her to become chief minister.

Though she was unanimously elected as chief minis-

ter by the AIADMK legislature, the Supreme Court order upholding the Bangalore Special Court's verdict sentencing Sasikala to four years rigorous imprisonment came the next day. That spoiled her chief ministerial dreams as he had to surrender in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison to serve her term.

Palaniswamy was hand-picked by Sasikala to stand in as chief minister in her absence. But when Dhinakaran, her nephew decided to take over the dministration by ousting Palaniswamy, the BJP intervened and made EPS and OPS to patch up. The duo eased out Sasikala and Dhinakaran from the party and established their control over the AIADMK and the government. Now that Sasikala has come back to Chennai after serving her term in the jail, she has staked her claims. This has upset the Palaniswamy-Panneerselvam duo. Dhinakaran, who had launched Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), claiming that the AIADMK has become history made a volte face and declared that the outfit had been launched to retrieve the AIADMK.

Palaniswamy had successfully completed four years in power and has been looking at a second shot at the chief minister's chair when the BJP has asked him to take the AMMK into the alliance fold. Amit Sha, union home minister, who was in Chennai on Sunday is believed to have told EPS and OPS tp patch up with Chinnamma (as Sasikala is addressed by her cadre).

Sasikala belongs to the Thevar community, which is quite powerful in southern districts. In Dravidian Tamil Nadu, it is the caste factors that determine the fate of elections. The Vanniyar dominated PMK walked away with 23 seats from the AIADMK in Saturday's seat sharing talks. The BJP has been offered 20 seats by the AIADMK but the former expressed unhappiness over what has been offered to it. Seat sharing talks between the AIADMK and the BJP have been held up because of the uncompromising stance of both the parties.

AS Gurumurthy, editor, Thuglaq and advisor to Tamil Nadu BJP had said that while he was not averse to the AIADMK's alliance with the AMMK, he would strongly oppose any kind of merger between the two parties. "Though both the DMK and AIADMK are corrupt, the DMK is a dynastic party while the AIADMK is democratic. If Sasikala and her family members return to the AIADMK, that will be the end of the AIADMK founded by MGR and nurtured by Jayalalithaa," Gurumurthy had said on January 15 during the Thuglaq Founder's Day.

While the DMK is expected to ink the deal with Congress in a day or two, the AIADMK is faced with issues like the anger of Vijayakant-led DMDK which wants an equal number of seats as was given to PMK. A clear picture of the political landscape before the assembly polls would emerge in three days, according to sources in AIADMK.

BJP to unleash high-voltage campaign to wrest power in Puducherry

Bengaluru: The BJP plans to unleash a high-voltage campaign in Puducherry with a battery of central leaders as it seeks to wrest power in the union territory in the coming assembly elections.

The party in-charge for Puducherry Nirmal Kumar Surana said the BJP would field about ten star campaigners in the UT, where elections to the 30-member assembly would be held on April six.

They include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president J P Nadda, and Union Ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Irani, he told PTI here.

Modi and Shah have already launched the party's campaign in the tiny union territory. Surana, who is Vice-

President of Karnataka unit of BJP, said discussions were underway with the All India NR Congress (AINRC) and AIADMK on seat-sharing for the elections and it would be finalised as soon as possible.

Asked if the NDA plans to declare its Chief Ministerial candidate, he said: "All the matters are getting discussed".

Surana said Puducherry Assembly Speaker V P Sivakolundhu, who quit on Sunday citing health reasons, is in touch with the BJP and would decide on joining the party in a day or two.

Sivakolundhu won from the Lawspet constituency in the 2016 assembly elections on a Congress ticket.

His brother V P

Ramalingam joined the BJP in Karaikal in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his campaign visit on Sunday.

"He (Sivakolundhu) wants his brother (Ramalingam) to contest from his constituency (Lawspet)", Surana said.

On how many seats the NDA hoped to win in Puducherry, he claimed that according to his assessment the Congress would not be able to win even a single seat.

Puducherry is now under President's rule after the Congress government headed by V Narayanasamy fell on February 22 on being reduced to a minority following a spate of resignation of Congress MLAs and a DMK legislator.

PTI



An elephant takes a dust bath on a hot summer day, at Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata on Tuesday **PTI**

Dalit girl in Aligarh was strangulated, no clear evidence of rape: Police

Aligarh (UP): The postmortem report of the teenage Dalit girl, whose body was found here on Sunday, has not indicated any clear evidence of rape and found that she was strangulated to death, a senior official said here.

Five persons have been picked up by the police for questioning in the case, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Muniraj G told mediapersons on Monday night.

The body of the 16-year-old girl was found in a field in Akrabad area here following which villagers clashed with police and indulged in stone pelting. Inspector Pranendra Kumar was injured in the attack.

The postmortem report has not indicated any clear evidence of rape, the SSP said.

He said that in view of the inconclusive evidence the police has decided to conduct further microbiological tests using vaginal swabs. "The proceedings of the postmortem were video-graphed. There were multiple injury marks on the body of the victim who died due to strangulation," the SSP said.

An FIR has been registered under IPC 302 (murder), 376 (rape) and POCSO Act. Earlier, on Monday when the body was handed over to the family for last rites, a large group of protestors collected at the the house of the victim and blocked traffic on the main Agra road.

The SSP said efforts are on for giving adequate financial compensation to the victim's family. **PTI**

Man arrested for attempt to rape teenage girl in Banda

Banda: A man has been arrested for allegedly trying to rape a 14-year-old girl in Banda district in Uttar Pradesh, police said on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old man dragged the girl and tried to rape her on Monday when she was grazing goat in a forest area, Dehat police station SHO Pradeep Kumar Yadav said.

He said that the accused has been arrested and booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and other relevant sections of IPC. The girl has been sent for medical examination. **PTI**

Three minor girls go missing in UP's Shahjahanpur after leaving home for school

Shahjahanpur (UP): Three minor girls went missing here after they left home for school, with one of them carrying cash and clothes supposedly meant for a programme at the institution, police said on Tuesday.

Two of the girls are aged 15 and one is 10, Superintendent of Police S Anand said, adding that three teams have been formed to look into the matter.

The three girls are from separate localities in the Sadar area and study in the same school. They left home on Monday to go to the school, Assistant Superintendent of Police (City) Praveen Kumar told PTI.

He said one of them was carrying Rs 2,500 and another had taken Rs 2,700 and clothes with her.

One of the girls told her family members that she had packed the clothes as there was a programme at the school, the police said.

Police were informed about the matter on Monday night when the girls did not return home, Kumar said.

Last month in the district, a BA second-year student of a college run by the Mumukshu Ashram of former Union minister Swami Chinmayanand was found without clothes and severely burnt along a national highway.

She said in a statement before a magistrate that three people tried to rape her in a field near Rai Kheda village and when they did not succeed, they poured kerosene and set her on fire. Four people, including a female friend who had allegedly sent her to the field, were arrested from different places in the district. **PTI**

Molestation victim's father killed by accused on bail

Lucknow: A 50-year-old man was allegedly shot dead in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district by an accused out on bail in a case of molestation lodged in 2018 against the victim's daughter, police said on Tuesday.

"The incident took place in Nozarpur village of Sasaki area in Hathras on Monday afternoon when the daughters of Ambrish Sharma (50) had gone to a temple, where the wife and aunt of accused Gaurav Sharma were present. The women had heated arguments with each other after which both Gaurav and Ambrish also reached there," Hathras Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaiswal said. Both Gaurav and Ambrish also had an argument after which the accused called some members of his family and shot Ambrish in a fit of rage, the SP said. Ambrish was rushed to the hospital where he was declared brought dead, the SP added.

According to an FIR lodged by the victim's daughter, however, the incident took place in their family potato field. The Hathras SP said the FIR had been registered against Gaurav Sharma, Lalit Sharma, Rahitash Sharma, Nikhil Sharma and two others. Out of them, Lalit has been arrested while the main accused Gaurav is absconding.

In the FIR, it was alleged that the girl was there in her family potato field with her father Ambrish when Gaurav came in a white car with his accomplice and asked Ambrish to take back the case lodged against him.

"Before my father could say anything, he opened fire on him. We rushed him to the hospital, where he died," the girl said in the FIR.

The victim had lodged a case of molestation of his daughter two and a half years ago against Gaurav, who was jailed. Gaurav, then, came out on bail after a month and he had animosity with Ambrish since then, the SP added.

Taking note of the incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered strict action to be taken against the accused and directed officials to invoke provisions of the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against them.

Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party reacted to the incident with its president Akhilesh Yadav alleging that women in UP have lost hope of justice from the state government.

"After 'Hathras ki beti', murder of a father who had complained of molestation of his daughter has taken place. UP's women has not lost hope from the government has stopped seeking justice from it," Akhilesh said in a tweet in Hindi.

"Enough of the atrocities on women, this time BJP is out," he added. Akhilesh also tagged a video of a girl, said to be the victim's daughter along with his tweet. In the video, the girl is heard saying, "Please give me justice... Please give me justice. First, he molested me and now he has shot my father. He had come to our village. There were six-seven people. My father had no enmity against anyone. His name is Gaurav Sharma, he is a dog..." **PTI**

Firms should support startup tyros : Raj Guv

Jaipur: Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra said on Tuesday that industrial organisations should encourage and support the youth who want to start new startups. Such efforts are necessary to speed up the economy and generate employment, he said.

Mishra was addressing the

'Rajasthan Business Conclave' organised by the Confederation of Rajasthan Industry in Jaipur.

He said there was a need of changing the thinking of youths that they can get employment by getting a degree.

The governor said industrial organisations should also play their role in developing the

skills of the youth studying in technical, management and higher education to the best of their ability. He said with the availability of trained young professionals at the local level, investment in industries would increase in the state and the problem of youth employment will also be solved. **PTI**

Good news for RAS Club members as five star category restaurant starts at club house

Jaipur: Commissioner of Rajasthan Housing Board and Patron of RAS Club, Pawan Arora informed that giving a big gift to the members of RAS club, operation of high level five star category restaurant has been started here from Monday. There are 203 types of items in this restaurant's menu. Usually, this type of option is not available in the menu of restaurants in clubs. This restaurant offers seating for up to 100 people simultaneously.

The club's patron, Pawan Arora, said that the coffee shop, bar, banquet hall, air-conditioned rooms, conference room and gym facilities are already operational in this club. Recently the art gallery has also been inaugurated here. Arora said that members of the club can enjoy family delicacies in this restaurant.

BSF seizes 20,000 kg of smuggled dry peas in Meghalaya

Shillong: The BSF has seized 20,000 kg of smuggled dry peas worth over Rs 20 lakh from Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district, an official said on Tuesday.

The dry peas were smuggled from Bangladesh, the official said.

Acting on a tip-off, the BSF launched a special operation and intercepted 10 mini-trucks loaded with 20,000 kg of dry peas at an area under Muktapur police station in the district on Monday night, a BSF spokesperson said in a statement.

The seizure, however, did not go without protest as smugglers outnumbered the BSF personnel and the police, he said.

"Aggressive villagers confronted BSF personnel and the pick-up vehicles managed to escape. On pursuit with the escaped vehicles, the villagers started pelting stones and empty bottles on BSF personnel," the spokesperson said.

To prevent the situation from going out of control, the BSF fired one round of non-lethal weapon in the air, he said. **PTI**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIDENDUM					
SR. No.	NAME OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	NIT NO 299/P&D/2020-21 (BID NO. B-640)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, YAMUNANAGAR ON TURKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATE: 09.03.2021 OPENING DATE: 10.03.2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.in
2	UHBVN	NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 01/UHVN/P-11/MM/QH-1/2445 DATED 30.05.2020	DATE OF SUBMISSION EXTENDED UPTO 24.03.2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8053428343 cennm@uhbvn.org.in
3	UHBVN	EOI NO 1/MM/P/2020-21 DATED 10.02.2021	THE DATE OF RECEIPT/OPENING OF ABOVE TENDER WHICH WAS TO BE OPENED ON 25.02.2021 AT 3.00 P.M. IS HEREBY EXTENDED. THE NEXT DATE FOR PURCHASE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS IS 16.03.2021 UPTO 1.00 P.M. THE SEALED TENDERS SHOULD REACH IN THE OFFICE OF SEN/M&P DIVISION, UHBVN, AMBALA ON 16.03.2021 UPTO 1.00 P.M. AND WILL BE OPENED ON THE SAME DAY AT 3.00 P.M.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9354726625 xennmpambala@uhbvn.org.in
4	UHBVN	NIT NO 300/P&D/2020-21 (BID NO. B-641)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, AMBALA ON TURKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATED 04.03.2021 OPENING DATE: 05.03.2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in					RO NO. 2018

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF GUEST HOUSE IN GOVT. POLYTECHNIC & MULTISKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE/MISSION HEAD QUARTER AT SECTOR-26, PANCHKULA.	02.03.2021 22.03.2021	210.55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2920477 pwd-eeepd-panchkula@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, JHAJJAR	ANNUAL REPAIR FOR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE AT BADLI IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 (RE- INVITED)	01.03.2021 06.03.2021	10.73 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01251-252085
3	TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HARYANA ROADWAYS, HISAR	REGARDING INVITING E-TENDER FOR PUTTING HOARDINGS. UNIPOLIES ETC. FOR ADVERTISEMENT AT BUS STAND AND WORKSHOP AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OF HISAR DEPOT	05.03.2021 05.04.2021	60000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8708123443 hrhtrs@gmail.com
4	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT , BHIWANI	PURCHASE OF GUIDO GUDDI BOARD OF SIZE 3X2	01.03.2021 15.03.2021	1.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172243956 pobhw.wcd@gmail.com
5	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, KAITHAL	WORK FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE AT RD 1430 OF PAPASAR LINK DRAIN + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021	19.40 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746222384 xenkt@gmail.com
6	POLICE DEPARTMENT HARYANA	SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE CANTEEN SERVICES IN SERC BUILDING AT SECTOR 3 PANCHKULA FOR HARYANA 112 ERSS	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021	EMD 20000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722587907 haryana100.pol@hry.gov.in
7	DISTRICT FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS CONTROLLER, REWARI	E TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR TRANSPORTATION AND LABOUR & CARTAGE FOR KOSLI MANDI REWARI MANDI BAWAL MANDI AND RAIL HEAD KHORI FOR THE YEAR 2021 22 IN RESPECT OF STATE PROCUREMENT AGENCIES	05.03.2021 13.03.2021		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466730868 dfscrrw@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ, PANIPAT	RETENDER REPAIR & CONSTRUCTION OF ROOM IN G.V.H + 7 OTHERS	01.03.2021 15.03.2021	106.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355815400
9	GENERAL MANAGER, HARYANA ROADWAYS, GURUGRAM.	TENDER FOR PUTTING UP ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS/HOARDINGS IN THE PREMISES OF BUS STANDS: GURUGRAM, WORKSHOP AND OLD OFFICE, BUS STAND SECTOR-29, RAJIV CHOWK, SOHNA, PATAUDI	02.03.2021 08.03.2021	12 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	hrhtrs@gmail.com
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						RO NO. 2009

Scorcher ahead!

Climate change is real; not acknowledging it is not going to protect us from the inevitable

If the rising temperatures in the last few days of February and an unusually hot March are bothering you, it is because most of the northern, western and eastern parts of India breached the 30°C-mark nearly two to three weeks before they usually do. In fact, the country needs to brace for a hotter-than-usual summer this year as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that day temperatures are likely to be 0.86°C higher than normal in the north, northeast, parts of east and west India between March and May. The worst impact is likely in Odisha and Chhattisgarh, where the maximum temperatures will deviate 0.86°C from their usual averages. Last week, Bhubaneswar was the first region to record 40°C anywhere in the country this year and Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh should brace for summer temperatures anywhere from 0.46°C to 0.71°C above normal. The IMD last month had said the minimum temperature recorded in the country in January was the warmest for the month in 62 years, with South India being particularly warm. It is not surprising that we experienced a shorter winter and are getting warnings of a sizzling summer ahead as, according to a Government report on current climate change impacts and future scenarios till the end of the century, India needs to control greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a war footing. The failure to do so will mean major heat-waves, droughts, cloudbursts, floods and a more



degraded coastline, says a report by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). Worryingly, India's average temperature rose by around 0.7°C during 1901–2018 and, unless urgent steps are taken to control GHG emissions between 2070 and 2099 average, the temperature will rise by approximately 4.4°C relative to the recent past (1976–2005 average). The high GHG emissions would increase the heat on Earth's surface by 8.5 watts per square metre. Called RCP8.5, this is the worst-case scenario used by climate modellers worldwide. In a medium GHG emissions scenario, called RCP4.5, the average temperature in India would rise by 2.7°C in the last 30 years of this century. Before that, during 2040–2069, India's average temperature would rise by 2°C in a medium emissions scenario, and by 2.4°C in a high emissions scenario. Despite all nations making pledges under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, current emissions are taking the world to the worst-case scenario, though other development pathways are not only available but economically more attractive in the medium and long term. So, the only option before us is to go green, else we will perish because we are already feeling the effects of a planet that has been pushed to breaking point. The most recent examples of this are the Chamoli tragedy in Uttarakhand and the "Big freeze" in Texas. It is the collective responsibility of the peoples, every business and every industry on the planet to fight climate change so that we leave a greener, cleaner world for our children and not a dying planet.

PICTALK



Mount Sinabung spews volcanic material during an eruption in Karo, North Sumatra, Indonesia, on Tuesday

AP

The right path

Modi's plans and policies speak volumes about his intention to empower the 'real' farmers at the grassroots

Thousands of farmers in India die by suicide every year as they see no option to get out of the debt trap. The poor and marginal farmers depend upon loans for purchasing seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation and even harvesting. Most of these growers find it more convenient to borrow at heavy interest rates from moneylenders or big cultivators rather than from banks, thanks to the cumbersome paperwork and the broker-bank officials' nexus. However, these deaths, as recorded by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), fail to shake the collective conscience of society and are just another figure for most of us. Ironically, there is no outcry, no borders are sealed, no tractor rallies organised, no national monuments sieged, no violence. This is because these deaths don't affect the interests of the politically connected and powerful "arhathiya" community that drives the Agricultural Produce Marketing Community (APMC) in Punjab, Haryana and parts of Western Uttar Pradesh. This strong community is at loggerheads with the Government over three new agri laws for shielding its own interests. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently endorsed the provisions made for the agriculture sector in Budget 2021-22 and reiterated that the Government is working for small and medium-level farmers.

One might argue that Modi is not concerned about the farmers camping at Delhi's borders and project him as "anti-farmer" and "pro-corporate", but his plans and policies speak volumes about his intention to empower the "real" farmers at the grassroots. The Prime Minister has said that India needs to expand its agriculture sector to the global market for processed food. He also emphasised that the number of agro-industry clusters near villages should be increased so that the rural populace gets farm-related employment in the vicinity. It is indeed a plan that will likely empower the marginal and small farmers. If the Government succeeds in providing market access to these farmers (small and marginal) beyond *mandis*, it would prove to be a milestone. Further, the Government has increased the agriculture credit target to ₹16.50 lakh crore and infrastructure fund to ₹40,000 crore, besides doubling the micro-irrigation fund. All this proves that the Government is striving to bring systemic changes in the agriculture sector with the focus on empowering the "have-nots" among the farmers. We also would like to see the real farmers get empowered and not the ones with enough resources and money to camp at Delhi's borders for months and hold the Government to ransom.



The Internationale: Kumbh of protests

The agrarian issue is being politicised by media magicians but, for the farmers, it's a question of livelihood and existence



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

Green mango flowers are now bursting and kites dance in the sky while bright yellow, purple flowers bloom one last time and farmers in Tihar Jail, New Delhi, welcome a silent spring. The warm air rustles the yellow plastic tents at the Ghazipur Border, flowing from AH2 to the Tikri Border, announcing a new season and the next phase of the Farmers' Revolution begins.

It's been over a month since farmer leader Rakesh Tikait's tears galvanised the farmers from Uttar Pradesh (UP) to Rajasthan and much has happened over the spring — *Basant Ritu* — since then. Lakhs of devotees have cleansed themselves taking dips in the holy Ganga from Haridwar to Prayagraj, Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have shed expiatory tears as he reassured his followers that the three farm laws are good for farmers and for business. But the farmers of the world are not convinced.

Recently, major US-based farmer groups like Agrarian Trust, National Farmers Union and 87 other organisations have started an international movement expressing solidarity with the farmers' revolution. Over 50 Canadian organisations have also extended support. They have been exerting pressure on their public representatives too to end this "injustice". Their criticism comes from having suffered due to the market-led agricultural policies since the 1960s in the US. This is no longer an "international conspiracy" or "attack on India's sovereignty" or "sedition" perpetrated by "international media celebrities like Rihanna or Greta" but a moment of true global solidarity beyond race and religion.

Foreclosures and debt have destroyed millions of US farm families. Suicides and despondency plague rural America while Big Ag grows. It's not only the older generation but young farmer leaders like Severine Fleming who have supported the farmers' revolution. All, save for the corporate media, see the invisible hand behind these



reforms — Big Ag. Modi has led the Big Ag to India's doors and sacrificed Indian farmers for agri-dollars.

India farmers are jubilant about the US support but, as the harvest season nears, some of them are now returning with the stories of their struggles and indignation to their villages to work the fields, while others farmers are on the road to Delhi's borders. In Haryana, media reports indicate, hundreds of villages have pledged to send one person from each house to join the revolution. The farmers' revolution is getting ready for the hot summer. Although the Modi Government's version occupies the media discourse, the farmers may have outwitted the Government once again.

How? With the help of the returning farmers, their unions and leaders have now expanded their base far beyond Delhi's borders. *YouTUBE* videos and independent vernacular citizen journalists have spread each update across the country. The tune of Farmer Revolution's Haryanavi anthem — "Modi ji hum Dilli aage" — now sways young and old farmers from Bengal to Rajasthan.

From Ganganagar to Kerala, the farmer unions have



THE FARMERS' REVOLUTION IS GETTING READY FOR THE HOT SUMMER. ALTHOUGH THE MODI GOVERNMENT'S VERSION OCCUPIES THE MEDIA DISCOURSE, THE FARMERS MAY HAVE OUTWITTED THE GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN

addressed millions of people in a short span of 30 days. Now that the movement has reached a mature stage, it will spread even faster. Even the Government is finding it hard to call them "a handful of farmers" as it did in early January. Now the discourse has become "crowds don't get the work done". The movement today represents not just farmers but all those who work the land — migrant workers, labourers, urban *mandi* workers and the traders. This is a united rural India resisting a corporate auction. Meanwhile, the Government has unleashed the biggest round of privatisation of public assets since Yeltsin's Russia.

No one knows why fuel prices have skyrocketed. Why taxes and cess keep increasing, squeezing the middle class, and yet arterial roads of Delhi have potholes? The fuel prices directly impact farmers' input costs and offset the MSP calculations. India is being rigged for food inflation. Indian agri produce vastly outperforms against the highly subsidised imports from countries like the US.

The agricultural bubble is soon going to burst; the collateral will be rural India and millions of lives. History

will repeat itself as from its ashes shall emerge a new class of *neo-zamindars* that shall profit from each morsel. The US is a fine example of this, where four corporations control over 80 per cent of the food and about 50 per cent of all produce is wasted!

The Modi Government needs to correct course by abandoning the laws and making a fresh start with farmers, for their movement is no longer an Indian affair or internal matter as the External Affairs Ministry is already involved in this diplomatic issue.

We as a nation should remember that India loses face in the world only because democracy dies at home. This is an agrarian issue that is being politicised by media magicians, swaying public opinion inciting more hate in society. But for the farmers, at home and abroad, it's a question of livelihood and existence. We need to stand in solidarity because it's a fight for the survival of our soul and *roti*, together.

(The author writes on agriculture and environment, and is a former Director — Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association of India. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONGRESS MUST BOUNCE BACK FAST

Sir — It is said that the BJP is afraid of losing a State and the Congress is shy of winning one. It does not matter for the BJP how big or small the State is, it just wants to form a Government there.

Though it had a minuscule presence in Puducherry, the astute power game of the BJP ensured its indirect control over the Union Territory (UT). Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and Puducherry are going to polls shortly, and the party has a stake in each State. But what about the Congress? The Congress' grip over the States is loosening each passing day.

For the Congress, the intention to go all the way and the determination to win appears to be missing. That the Congress is enjoying power in only three States is an unmistakable sign of decay and degeneration in the party. Of the three, the wind may change direction in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh anytime. So, what's the party left with? When a party is reluctant to learn even after repeated drubbings, nothing can infuse hope among the people in the party's future.

Despite top leaders saying "enough is enough", nothing has been done to revive the party. The flip-flops over Rahul Gandhi assuming the party presidency should end. Either he should assume party presidency or leave politics. Even at the cost of some leaders leaving the party, the Congress must resolve its issues soon.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

FULL SPEED AHEAD WITH INOCULATION

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Taming the virus' (March 2). By taking the jab, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a promising impetus to the pace of vaccination in the second phase. This phase of vaccination for senior citizens and those above 45 with comorbidities is expected to witness a good footfall or inoculation rate.

So far, the drive hasn't matched up to India's immense population challenge but the opening of centres at private hospitals and flexible options for registration can give it a big boost. All Chief Ministers,

Make the cyber system robust



The Maharashtra cyber department has submitted a provisional report to the State Government on the recent massive grid failure. If the massive power outage in Mumbai in October last year is the result of a Chinese cyber campaign against India, it should be a cause of concern for the Indian Government. If it is true, it means none of our establishments, including the Defence Research and Development Organisation and other institutions

related to national security, are safe from malware attacks by foreign forces.

A cyber threat is looming large on India's security and the Government needs to counter it effectively. According to unverified sources, the 100-page report confirms that a malware attack was behind the blackout and about 14 Trojan Horses and eight GB of unaccounted data was found in the system installed at the Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

An American firm has said that the Chinese could have introduced the malware. The State Government, however, did not want to confirm which country was behind the possible malware in the system as it felt there could be far-reaching international ramifications. However, it's time for the Centre and State Governments to think about and act upon it. Our Government must devise a robust system which is not to be breached by the hostile foreign nations. India must be prepared for cyber war.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Union and State Ministers and Opposition leaders must follow suit so as to encourage others for inoculation. Not only politicians but also bureaucrats and celebrities must take the jab.

Since February 13, India's seven-day rolling average of daily COVID infections has shown a steady surge, signalling a fresh need to ramp up the campaign. India's vaccination strategy is closely intertwined to its economic fortunes. A GDP contraction of eight per cent in 2020-21 requires a big bounce-back in the new year. But the restrictions on interstate movement in response to February's COVID surge are symptomatic of persisting jitters.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

STOP HARASSING WOMEN FOR DOWRY

Sir — India has an alarming trend of dowry deaths, harassment and domestic violence, and yet society is indifferent towards it. It was heart-wrenching to watch a video on the social media in which a girl in Gujarat

committed suicide. She recorded a video message and then jumped into a river. She was allegedly facing harassment from her husband since their marriage in 2018.

A case of abetment to suicide has been lodged against the husband. Her story is similar to the plight of lakhs of women who face harassment on a daily basis either in office spaces or inside their homes.

Despite several NGOs championing the cause of women rights, strict laws for crime against women, special courts and women-only branches in police, nothing seems to have changed on the ground. Women are still vulnerable and are subjected to various sorts of atrocities by their relatives. Even the religious organisations, which keep crying foul over one or the other issue, keep silent over women's issues until it is related to religious tenets.

Asim Sohail | Bihar

The Budget that the Madhya Pradesh Government presented today is a pack of lies. It is directionless, hopeless and just a maze of data.

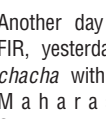


Congress leader
— Kamal Nath



I think it's time to make efforts to adopt a new Constitution in October of this year by a national referendum, and transition to a semi-presidential system should be one of the possible options.

Armenian Prime Minister
— Nikol Pashinyan



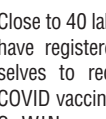
Another day another FIR, yesterday Javed *chacha* with help of Maharashtra Government got a warrant issued for me and now another FIR for supporting farmers' Act.

Actress
— Kangana Ranaut



I want to play for West Indies'. That's where my heart is. I'm never going to turn down anything pertaining to West Indies cricket at this particular time.

Cricketer
— Chris Gayle



Close to 40 lakh people have registered themselves to receive the COVID vaccines on the CoWIN portal till Tuesday morning.

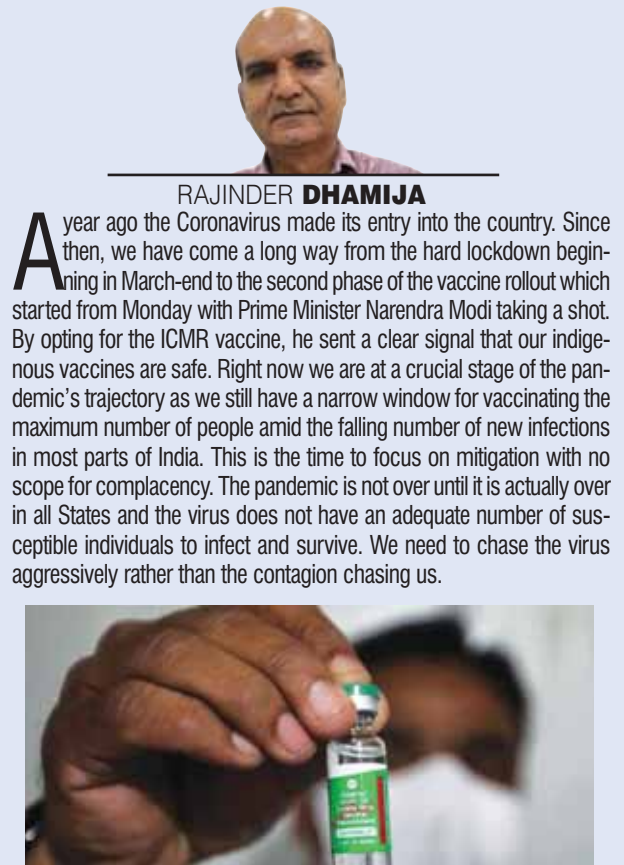
Union Health Minister
— Harsh Vardhan

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN


CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

We still have a narrow window for vaccinating most people amid the falling number of new infections



RAJINDER DHAMIYA

A year ago the Coronavirus made its entry into the country. Since then, we have come a long way from the hard lockdown beginning in March-end to the second phase of the vaccine rollout which started from Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking a shot. By opting for the ICMR vaccine, he sent a clear signal that our indigenous vaccines are safe. Right now we are at a crucial stage of the pandemic's trajectory as we still have a narrow window for vaccinating the maximum number of people amid the falling number of new infections in most parts of India. This is the time to focus on mitigation with no scope for complacency. The pandemic is not over until it is actually over in all States and the virus does not have an adequate number of susceptible individuals to infect and survive. We need to chase the virus aggressively rather than the contagion chasing us.



It has been a sort of partial success so far as we have managed to keep infections as well as mortality rates low as compared to many countries in the West with a better infrastructure and capacity to contain and mitigate the virus. However, still more needs to be done as we enter into the next stage of the trajectory with an upsurge in cases in Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Gujarat and looming signs of increasing numbers in Delhi. Vaccine hesitancy remains an issue, with half of the eligible people coming forward for the inoculation. This is a universal phenomenon seen across the globe. Much of this is due to misinformation on social media and the tendency of many individuals to wait and watch. This needs to be aggressively countered and the State has made all efforts to quell this phenomenon. This all-out effort by the Government needs to continue in order to accelerate the vaccination drive which can gain momentum if more vaccines are made available to the public and in the open market so that everyone can get the jab on demand both through the public as well as private healthcare system.

The second strategy should be to continue mass-scale RT-PCR testing. There is no reason to scale down testing as we have seen lately in many States because that can be disastrous, especially with new mutant variants of the virus making entry into our cities. These variants will be seen in India as it is difficult to stop the transmission in view of relaxation of movement in an era of necessary international travel. More genomic sequencing would perhaps help us in early detection of these new variants arriving in the country and within India. We need to prepare for the inevitable and the focus should remain on both COVID-appropriate behaviour as well as vaccinating the masses.

Third, we need to create resilient district health systems. A weak link in most States is the poor status of district hospitals. In contrast to the prevailing political and bureaucratic response with focus on hardware (beds, ventilators, oxygen, and so on) in healthcare facilities, we should also focus on software development (capacity building and better-quality health workers) which is more important. The current pandemic provides us opportunity and finances to influence politicians and bureaucrats to build resilient and responsive health systems at both primary and secondary healthcare centres in States. Since health is a State subject, a collaborative and collective effort both by States and the Centre should be made to augment these district hospitals. Excellence in secondary healthcare is crucial and well-placed, well-funded, well-staffed and well-equipped district hospitals should be developed as the most important component of the healthcare chain to respond to future outbreaks. We have the opportunity to create a resilient secondary district healthcare system that is responsive to the needs of the public with focus on preventive, promotive, curative and restorative patient care.

(The writer is Head of Neurology Department, Lady Harding Medical College and SSK Hospital, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

A less talked about crime against women

Witch-hunting is used as a tool to subjugate women and there will always be a new reason to brand a woman a witch in the hinterlands of India

I can never forget the night when the entire village, including women, armed with weapons came to attack a helpless woman on the suspicion of being a witch. I would also have been killed with her had I not called the police," recalls 72-year-old Birubala Rabha, a victim-turned-crusader from Assam's Goalpara district, referring to a ghastly incident that took place in a small village on the Assam-Meghalaya border in 2007.

This year the primary school-educated Rabha was the recipient of the Padma Shri, India's highest civilian award for her crusade against witch-hunting. The award was a much-deserved pan-India recognition of her work. Rabha, ostracised and branded as a witch, devoted her life for the cause of other women like her, and, through her organisation Mission Birubala, has been the force behind the State's law to check the practice of witch-hunting in Assam.

There is no dearth of women like Rabha in Assam, who came close to death or got killed, as more than two-thirds of its districts reported incidents of witch-hunting. As per the State Government's records, 107 people, mostly women, got killed between 2011-2019. Locally, even a village on the Assam-Meghalaya border, is called "dainigaon (village of the witches)", where many ostracised women live in isolation.

"In rural hinterlands, a *Deodhani*, Bez or an *Ojha* (people who allegedly specialise in healing, casting out unclean spirits and telling fortunes) wields tremendous influence. They often target a widow, a single or a guardian-less woman.....with little or no formal education and label her a witch, when they are clueless about a malaise. Many poor people fall into their clutches, not solely out of superstitious belief, but also because of their inability to pay for a qualified doctor", says a 2014 field report from the districts of Goalpara and Sonitpur, conducted by the Partners for Law in Development (PLD), a Delhi-based legal resource group.

Rightly, Rabha in her '*Manuhe Manuhor Babe*' campaign, cautions gullible villagers against falling prey to such quacks who are nothing but "money-making racketeers exploiting people's ignorance."

The PLD's field study in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh, also reveals that "women are more often targeted for material motives." Dibyajyoti Saikia, a human rights activist, who leads a Guwahati-based organisation, Brothers, feels that "individual factors like personal rivalry, jealousy, conspiracy come into play in such targeting in semi-urban and rural areas." Mamani Saikia, district co-ordinator, Goalpara, further explains that "in calculated attacks, gender relationship determines the selection of targets, often driven by ulterior interests like grabbing a property or for sexual exploitation, whereas, in surprise attacks, which are more violent in nature, the goal is supposedly to eliminate an evil."

Dalit and marginalised women are doubly prone to such attacks because of systemic patriarchy and also because of their social identity. However, Natyabir Das, a medical practitioner and a co-ordinator of Mission Birubala, says: "Though women as victims are more in number but in recent times, men are also facing such accusations."

Now, as per the National Crime Records



AS INCIDENTS OF WOMEN BEARING THE BRUNT OF PERSONAL VENDETTA AND UNFOUNDED SMEAR CAMPAIGNS CONTINUE TO POUR IN FROM MANY PARTS OF INDIA, THE ISSUE OF WITCH-HUNTING DESERVES GREATER ATTENTION NOT ONLY FROM THE LEGAL POINT OF VIEW BUT FROM A WIDER SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

The writer is a retired Indian Information Service officer and a media educator. The views expressed are personal.



Bureau, more than 2,500 people, mostly women, got killed in such incidents between 2000-2016, while many believe that the number is much higher, as most States don't list witchcraft as a motive for murder.

Nevertheless, some States like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Assam, Maharashtra and Karnataka have framed anti-witchcraft Acts. Commenting on the existing Tonahi Pratadna Nivaran Act, 2005, Chhattisgarh, Dinesh Sharma, a doctor-turned-activist and founder of Andhshraddha Nirmoolan Samitee, rues that "hundreds of cases are pending under the Act. Many victims have died and without fast-track courts, the purpose of the Act is somewhat defeated.

Moreover, in such incidents of organised community violence, the law cannot overlook the complicity and accountability of a village sarpanch or a kotwal."

Ajay Agarwal, Secretary, Association for Social and Human Awareness, Ranchi, Jharkhand, echoes similar sentiments. He says: "Though more than 1,300 women were killed since 2000 in the State, there's no official data available under the Prevention of Witch (DAAIN) Practices Act, 2001. Some cases get registered under the IPC and only one or two get convicted, while almost the entire village is responsible for such killings."

Assam's new Act, notified in 2018, has been feted as India's

toughest anti-witch-hunting law, which makes any offence under it non-bailable, cognisable and non-compoundable.

However, the State's ADGP, LR Bishnoi, highlighted that the wider scope of legal protection included in the Act with the setting up of special courts and addition of new offences related to targeting, humiliation and ostracism, and so on are hitherto not part of the IPC.

Dibyajyoti Saikia opines that "the Act is yet to make any visible impact.... and the police still have a tendency to settle cases through a compromise." Natyabir Das says that agencies like the ASTEC (Assam Science Technology and Environment Council) have been chipping in through awareness drives, but admits that "a thorough training of police officials is required." Executive Director, PLD, Madhu Mehra, states that the Assam Act is definitely an improvement, more like the Rajasthan Act. But, unlike Rajasthan, the State is yet to frame rules regarding compensation and rehabilitation.

Manisha Behal, Executive Director, North East Network, a Guwahati-based women's rights organisation, also laments that the menace could have been better tackled on the ground by the front-line workers had the rules been in place.

Many activists point out that the existing legal regime, be it the IPC or special Acts, vests enormous

power with the police, who are often found to be wanting in their preventive and protective role, particularly when the victim is poor or a woman.

Thus such Acts remain merely as pieces of paper failing to make any dent in the impunity attached to the practice. The legal vacuum for compensation of losses due to social ostracisation, forced displacement, or deprivation in livelihood opportunities is another drawback. Mehra, however, is sceptical about the actual realisation of compensation even if such a provision gets legal backing as the process of conviction is a long-drawn affair, with the accused mostly being as poor as the victim.

Many activists vouch for socio-legal measures like dialogue and awareness creation to help people distinguish between what is a socially permissible act and a crime. Some also voice the need for a central legislation reviving the Prevention of Witch-Hunting Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha in 2016.

Witch-hunting is used as a tool to subjugate women and there will always be a new reason to brand a woman as a witch. As incidents of women bearing the brunt of personal vendetta and unfounded smear campaigns continue to pour in from many parts of India, the issue of witch-hunting deserves greater attention not only from the legal point of view but from a wider socio-economic perspective.



ARCHANA DATTA

POINT COUNTERPOINT

TIE-UP WITH THE ISF MILITATES AGAINST THE CORE IDEOLOGY AND GANDHIAN SECULARISM, WHICH FORMS THE SOUL OF THE CONGRESS.
—CONGRESS LEADER
ANAND SHARMA



WE ARE IN CHARGE OF A STATE AND DON'T TAKE ANY DECISION ON OUR OWN WITHOUT ANY PERMISSION.
—BENGAL CONGRESS CHIEF
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Don't treat Puducherry differently from the rest of India

Do nominated members in other State legislatures, Union Territories and in Parliament, too, enjoy voting rights during a trust vote?

Expressio unius est exclusio alterius (expression of one subject, object or idea is the exclusion of other subjects, objects or ideas)", is a maxim in Latin, which is heard quite frequently in law classes as well as in courtrooms. It finds application in the construction of Constitutions, statutes and similar instruments. This phrase came to mind after watching the proceedings in Puducherry that led to the fall of the V Narayanasamy-led Congress Government last week.

The resignation of Narayanasamy as the Chief Minister (CM) has not surprised any of the political observers. The only question being asked by them is why did it take four years for Narayanasamy to quit his post.

Though the BJP is accused of political manipulation, encouraging defections from



KUMAR CHELAPPAN

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

the ruling party to topple the Government and MK Stalin, the president of the DMK, is accused of murdering democracy, the fact is that the fall of the Congress Government was bound to happen from the day Narayanasamy was sworn in in 2016.

"Why did the Congress high command appoint Narayanasamy, who had not contested the 2016 Assembly election as CM, superseding many party heavyweights in the Union Territory?" wonders Kolahala Srenivasan, political chronicler of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. "There were seasoned leaders like former CM Vaithilingam and A Namasivayam who were in the running for the top post," says Srenivasan.

Narayanasamy, the all-powerful Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) during the United

Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime under Manmohan Singh, had been defeated in the Lok Sabha election held in 2014. Sources say that the interests of other Congress leaders were overlooked by the party high command while appointing him. Apparently, there was strong discontentment among the Congress MLAs when he was hand-picked by the party president. The appointment of Kiran Bedi, the former super cop of Delhi as the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of the Union Territory (UT), was like opening another war front by the BJP. Consequently, the running battle between the CM and the L-G hogged the limelight in the last four years. This style of functioning of the L-G was a new experience for the population of the UT and naturally, Narayanasamy got annoyed!

The nomination of three



BJP leaders as MLAs by the Union Home Ministry was also on expected lines. But the nominated legislators getting a chance to cast their votes in the trust vote held on Monday has to be explained by the BJP's national leadership.

What sealed Narayanasamy's fate was the resignations of K Lakshminarayanan, MLA and former Minister who was also the Parliamentary Secretary to the CM and that of D Venkatesan, an MLA belonging to the DMK. These resignations happened 24 hours before the trust vote.

Lakshminarayanan had been complaining since 2016 that the party was not recognising his seniority and experience. He was hurt when he was overlooked by Narayanasamy when Speaker Vaithilingam resigned to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha poll and appointed first-time MLA Sivakozhunthu as the presiding officer of the House.

The resignation of John Kumar from the House, too, speaks about the discontentment that had set in. John Kumar was elected as an MLA in 2016 but resigned his seat to facilitate the election of Narayanasamy to the House. Though John Kumar was elected subsequently to the House in 2019, he too fell out with Narayanasamy eventually.

Though Venkatesan, the DMK MLA, announced his resignation from the House well in advance, the party leadership in Tamil Nadu kept

silent over the issue. Despite the declaration by Venkatesan that he quit from the House with the concurrence of his party leader (MK Stalin), the DMK did not do anything till Tuesday to buy peace with him. It was on Tuesday that the party's general secretary Durai Murugan announced the removal of Venkatesan from all official posts in the party.

Last month saw Stalin deputing party MP and moneybags Jagathrakshakan to rejuvenate the DMK in the UT. "This gave rise to many doubts in the minds of the Congress and DMK leaders in Puducherry. What we saw during the last two days was the impact of this decision," said Srenivasan.

The question why Jagathrakshakan was sent to Puducherry at this juncture remains unanswered. Narayanasamy did not include

his alliance partner, the DMK, in the Government and this resulted in a lot of heartburn.

Though the Congress and the DMK challenged the L-G's nomination of three BJP leaders to the Assembly, the apex court upheld her act. But how the nominated members were allowed to cast their votes in the Assembly reminds one of the Latin maxim "*expressio unius...*"

Do nominated members in State legislatures, other UTs and in Parliament, too, enjoy voting rights. There cannot be one rule for Puducherry and another for the rest of the country. Let's have the same rules for the whole country. This was what Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared when Parliament abrogated Article 370: "Now people in Jammu and Kashmir enjoy the same status as that of the rest of the Indians." People of Puducherry, too, should get the same status. Shouldn't they?

FBI chief to face questions on extremism, Capitol riot

AP ■ WASHINGTON

FBI Director Chris Wray is set to testify for the first time since the deadly January 6 deadly riot at the US Capitol, with lawmakers likely to press him on whether the bureau adequately communicated with other law enforcement agencies about the potential for violence that day.

Questions about the FBI's preparations for the riot, and investigations into it, are expected to dominate Wray's appearance Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee. He's also likely to be pressed on how the FBI is confronting the national security threat from white nationalists and domestic violent extremists, and whether the bureau has adequate resources to address the problem.

The violence at the Capitol made clear that a law enforcement agency that revolutionised itself after the September 11, 2001, attacks to



FBI Director Christopher Wray

deal with international terrorism is now scrambling to address homegrown violence from white Americans. The Biden administration has tasked his national intelligence director to work with the FBI and Department of Homeland Security to assess the threat.

Wray has kept a notably low profile since a violent mob of insurrectionists stormed the Capitol two months ago. Though he has briefed law-

makers privately and shared information with local law enforcement hearings, Tuesday's oversight hearing will mark Wray's first public appearance before Congress since before November's presidential election.

The FBI is facing questions over how it handled intelligence in the days ahead of the riot, and whether warnings it had of potential violence reached the correct officials.

Last week, for instance, the acting chief of the Capitol Police said a January 5 report from the FBI made its way to investigators within the police force and to the department's intelligence unit but was never sent up the chain of command. The report warned about concerning online posts foreshadowing a "war" in Washington the following day. The FBI has said the report, which it says was based on uncorroborated information, was shared through its joint terrorism task force.

Biden admin 'undecided' on ending H-1B visa ban

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration has indicated that it is still undecided on ending the Trump-era ban on issuing new H-1B visas, with the Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas asserting that the US government's top priority is the acute needs of individuals fleeing persecution.

The H-1B visa, the most sought after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

In January, then-President Donald Trump had extended the ban on issuing new H-1B visas till March 31, arguing that the country is having a very high unemployment rate and the US cannot afford to have more foreign workers.

"His successor President Joe Biden has revoked dozens

of the executive orders of Trump including several of those related to immigration like the lifting the Muslim visa ban or those related to Green Card, the one that imposed ban on issuing H-1B has still not been lifted. It will expire on March 31, if Biden does not issue a fresh proclamation.

"What is the status of the review of the Trump era visa bans for H1B visas and has the White House decided to lift those bans before they expire at the end of the month?" Mayorkas was asked at a White House news conference on Monday.

"I don't really (know)- I hate to end the questioning on a question. The answer to which I am not certain. But this goes to what preceded us. We have so much work to do to repair and to restore and to rebuild that we have a prioritisation matrix and of course, the acute needs of individuals fleeing persecution is a high priority. Which brings me to this meeting this morning," Mayorkas said in response.

Myanmar police fire tear gas, rubber bullets at protesters

AP ■ YANGON

Police in Myanmar repeatedly used tear gas and rubber bullets on Tuesday against crowds protesting last month's coup, but the demonstrators regrouped after each volley and tried to defend themselves with barricades as standoffs between protesters and security forces intensified.

Myanmar authorities have escalated their crackdown on the protests in recent days, making mass arrests and firing into the crowds. The United Nations said it believed at least 18 people were killed on Sunday by security forces. Foreign ministers from Southeast Asian countries were meeting Tuesday to discuss the increasingly volatile crisis.

Despite the crackdown, demonstrators have continued to flood the streets — and are beginning to more rigorously resist attempts to disperse them. Hundreds, many wearing construction helmets and carrying makeshift shields,



Protesters wearing safety helmets flash three-finger salutes during an anti-coup protest behind a barrier on a blocked road in Yangon, Myanmar on Tuesday

gathered in Myanmar's largest city of Yangon, where a day earlier police had fired repeated rounds of tear gas. They dragged bamboo poles and debris to form barricades, chanted slogans and sang songs at the police lines. They even threw banana skins onto the road in front of them in a bid to slow any police rush.

The mainly young demonstrators fled in panic each time

AP

GLOBE TROTTER

50 HOUSES DESTROYED BY FIRE IN NEPAL

Kathmandu: At least 50 houses were gutted in a major fire that broke out in a market in eastern Nepal on Tuesday, officials said.

NIGERIA RECEIVES 4M VACCINES FROM COVAX

Dakar: Nearly 4 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have arrived in Abuja, the third and largest delivery so far to an African country by the global COVAX initiative.

ALARM RISES OVER SURGING CASES IN SERBIA

Belgrade: Serbia's epidemiologists have called for the government to introduce a state of emergency and a strict lockdown to halt a surge in coronavirus infections in the Balkan country.

Morocco freezes ties with German Embassy amid Sahara tension

Rabat (Morocco): Morocco's Foreign Ministry has suspended ties with the German Embassy because of "deep misunderstandings," notably related to the disputed Western Sahara. The move this week comes amid diplomatic tension around Western Sahara since the US under Donald Trump took the unusual move in December of recognizing Morocco's sovereignty over the territory.

A letter leaked online from Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita to the rest of the Moroccan government orders officials to suspend "all contact, interaction and cooperation"

with the German Embassy and embassy-related activities.

A senior Moroccan government official confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that the letter was authentic, but said it was not meant to be made public.

The official, who was not authorized to be publicly named, said the decision has to do with Germany's recent stance on the Sahara issue, especially in the aftermath of the US decision.

The official also noted the appearance of a flag of the pro-independence Polisario Front outside the state assembly in the northern German city of Bremen. Germany's Foreign Ministry said it was aware of media reports about the letter, but had no further comment.

US sets sanctions over Russia Opposition leader's poisoning

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration announced sanctions of Russian officials and businesses Tuesday for a nearly fatal nerve-agent attack upon opposition leader Alexei Navalny and his subsequent jailing.

Senior administration officials did not immediately identify the Russian officials targeted. The Biden administration also announced sanctions under the US Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act for 14 businesses and another enterprise, most of which it said were involved in production of biological and chemical agents.

The US intelligence com-

munity concluded with high confidence that Russia's Federal Security Service used the Russian nerve agent Novichok on the dissident last August, a senior administration official said.

Tuesday's sanctions would be the first of several steps by the Biden administration to "respond to a number of destabilizing actions," said one of the administration officials, who briefed reporters on the condition they not be identified further. The sanctions are the first against Russia by the Biden administration, which has pledged to confront President Vladimir Putin for alleged attacks on Russian opposition figures and hacking abroad, including of US Government

agencies and US businesses. President Donald Trump had spoken admiringly of Putin and resisted criticism and many proposed penalties of Putin's Government.

EU slaps sanctions on 4 Russia officials over Navalny arrest

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union on Tuesday imposed sanctions on four senior Russian officials over the jailing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who is President Vladimir Putin's most high-profile political foe.

Nigerian Governor says 279 kidnapped schoolgirls are freed

AP ■ GUSAU

Hundreds of Nigerian schoolgirls abducted last week from a boarding school in the northwestern Zamfara state have been released, the state's governor said Tuesday.

Zamfara state governor Bello Matawalle announced that 279 girls have been freed. Gunmen abducted the girls from the Government Girls Junior Secondary School in Jangebe town on Friday, in the latest in a series of mass kidnappings of students in the West African nation.

An Associated Press reporter saw hundreds of girls



Some of the students wait for a medical checkup after their release meeting with the state Governor Bello Matawalle, in Gusau, northern Nigeria on Tuesday

dressed in light blue hijabs and barefoot sitting at the state Government House office in Gusau. After the meeting, the girls were escorted outside by officials and taken away in vans. They appeared calm and ranged in ages from 10 and up.

LOST & FOUND

1 Sale Deed dated 24.12.2007 executed by Mr. Navab in favour of Mr. Pawan Kumar.(For Land admeasuring 770 Sq. Meters, carved out of Khasra No. 835, Village-Didoli, Pargana Jalalabad, Tehsil-Modi Nagar).

2. Sale Deed dated 24.12.2007 executed by Mr. Navab in favour of Mr. Rahul Kumar.(For Land admeasuring 700 Sq. Meters, carved out of Khasra No. 835, Village-Didoli, Pargana Jalalabad, Tehsil-Modi Nagar).

Above both documents are actually lost. Finder please call M: 9711209554

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुनिकल श्री ब्रह्मदेव प्रसाद पुत्र स्व. श्री किशोरी लाल पता बी-212, जी.डी. कॉलोनी, मयूर विहार फेस-3, दिल्ली- 110096 ने अपने पुत्र सम्यं कुमार व उनकी पत्नी सती देवी को दुर्घटनावश व आवाकाशी नहीं होने के कारण अपनी सम्पत्त चले-अचल संपत्ति से वेदखल कर सभी प्रकार के संबंध विच्छेद कर लिए हैं। आज के बाद इनसे किसी भी प्रकार का लेन-देन करने वाला स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा। मेरे मुनिकल की कोई भी फिमिलियरि नहीं होगी।

ब्रह्मदेव
गोपी चंद (एडवोकेट)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal Mathur (R. D. Mathur) was owner of Flat / Dwelling Unit No. 2481, on Ground Floor, Pocket No. 2, Sector-C, Situated at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 05.09.2001, Registration No. 15973, who sold the said property to Mr. Balvinder Singh Kapoor, vide a Sale Deed dated 17.02.2021. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to mortgage said property by taking Loan against the said property, if anybody has any objections on the ownership of Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal Mathur (R. D. Mathur) or Mr. Balvinder Singh Kapoor, of the said property is Sale/ Mortgage, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 2nd Floor, 25, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

We lost our some files in transit of our sales Register, Purchase Register, clients order copies, Expenses voucher, Cash Register for the financial year 2016-17 and F.Y. 2017-18 of the our company B2C Customer Service Pvt. Ltd. When shifting our office from one place to other place & shifting all accounts related documents as above to our Delhi Registered Office.

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, JAIPUR

E-BID NOTICE

निमन की नकारा वाहनों एवं स्कूप का ई-ऑक्शन वेब-साइट पर Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc एवं rsrtc.procure247.com के माध्यम से जहां है, जैसी है कि स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है :-

S. Event's Name no.	EMD Deposit Start Date	EMD Deposit End Date	BID Start Date	BID End Date
1. SCRAP GROUP A	18.02.21	03-03-21	04-03-21	05-03-21
2. SCRAP GROUP B	18.02.21	03-03-21	04-03-21	05-03-21
3. SCRAP GROUP C	18.02.21	03-03-21	04-03-21	05-03-21
4. SCRAP GROUP D	18.02.21	03-03-21	04-03-21	05-03-21
5. BURNT OIL	18.02.21	03-03-21	04-03-21	05-03-21
6. TATA ORD 56 BUSES	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21
7. TATA ORD 01 TRUCK	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21
8. LEYLAND ORD 04 BUSES	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21
9. TATASTAR LINE 02 BUSES	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21
10. TATASTAR LINE 12 BUSES	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21
11. TATA ORD 12 BUSES	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21
12. LEYLAND ORD 02 BUSES	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21
13. TATA S.C. 01 BUS	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21
14. LEYLAND ORD 01 BUS	19.02.21	08-03-21	09-03-21	10-03-21

नोट:- 1. ई-ऑक्शन में शामिल होने से पूर्व बोलीदाता द्वारा EMD राशि जमा कराना अनिवार्य है।
2. ई-ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, निमन एवं सर्व वेब-साइट पर उपलब्ध है।

राज.संवाद / सी / 20 / 10435 दिनांक 20/02/2020-21 Financial advisor

MAHATRANSOCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

MAHARASHTRA STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LTD.
Praskashgad, 1st Floor, Plot No.9, Station Road, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400 051.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/15- 2020-21

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SPT/0502/0221 RFx No. 5000000905 (Two Bid System) Procurement of 25MVA (1No.), 50MVA (10 Nos.) Power Transformers and 100MVA (2 Nos.) ICTs of various ratings along with New Uninhibited High Grade Mineral Insulating Oil for Augmentation schemes under EHV PCC O&M Zone, Amravati, Aurangabad, Nasik, Pune and Vashi.	4,241.93	30.03.2021 Up to 16:00 Hrs. at 17:00Hrs
Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) Tel. No.022-26474211/022-26472131 Extn. 2493/2491/3669. Email:ee@mahatransco.in, adeegrp5@mahatransco.in For further details visit our website http://www.srm.tendering.mahatransco.in Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in . So bidders are requested to check the website.	25,000.00	

Signature/ Executive Engineer (P&C)

DGIPR/2020/2021/2687

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Kundan Kumar who is purchasing the LAND BEARING PLOT NO. 160-C, AREA MEASURING 85 SQ YDS. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 65, ANJALI KUMAR IN THE REVENUE ESTE OF VILLAGE KHAJAGARH DELHI STATE DELHI. ABADI KNOWN AS DEEPAK VIHAR, NAJAGARH, NEW DELHI-110043 from Mrs. Anjali Kumar. W/o Mr. Kundan Kumar owner vide of Notarized General Power of Attorney dated 10.06.2017 executed by Mr. Dhaneashwar Thakur S/o Mr. Ram Lakhon Thakur, along with ATS. Will and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. if any person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP, 269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Extn.II, New Delhi-19, Contact #911-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Vipin Jindal & Mrs. Pooja Jindal are Joint owners of Property No. C-9, Area measuring 582 sq. yds., Shivaji Park, New Delhi, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 19.12.2019, Registration No. 7055, have lost / misplaced previous all Original sale deeds dated 04.01.1958, 17.03.1966, 10.08.1966, & 04.07.1969. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 2nd Floor, 25, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Bhuneswar Niketan Cop. House Building Society Ltd. Bhondsi, Reg. No. 774

15th March 2021

Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM)
At House No. 65, Vijay Vihar, Sec.-30, Silokra, Gurugram-122001
Time: 3:00 pm

All members to be present personally

1. To discuss issue of President
2. Future working of Society & governing body.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001.

OA No. 425/19- HDFC BANK LTD. Versus M/s FDS Security Solutions Pvt. Ltd. & Ors.

Date: 25.02.2021

Applicant Respondent

TO, DEFENDANT

1. M/s FDS Security Solutions Pvt. Ltd., E-370 Gali No. 8 East Vinod Nagar Khichdipur Delhi- 91 Also At: Awas Vikas Complex Ind Floor, Sect. - 14, Vasundhara Ghaziabad UP- 201001

2. Mr. Bhupinder Singh (Guarantor) 369, Ind Floor Shakti Khand-4 Indrapuram Ghaziabad

3. Mr. Sanjay Kumar (Guarantor) Plot No- 171, Ground Floor, Sect.-6, Vaishali Ghaziabad

4. Mr. Naveen Jain (Guarantor) 151, FF, Sect.-6, Vaishali Ghaziabad

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 20,34,399/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Nine Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 19.05.2021 At 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of the Tribunal, For Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby brought to the notice of the public at large, that Original Agreement to Sell dated 04.02.2009 executed between Shri Prakash Kanai and Shri Ram Kumar and Shri Rajiv Gupta to the Property bearing No. 126, in Block-G, area measuring 300 Sq. mtr, situated in Sector 44, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh owned by Shri Ankit Pruthi; had been misplaced & could not found till date. The Public at large is hereby informed that Shri Ankit Pruthi, who is present owner of and have availed certain credit facilities from HDFC Bank Ltd. against security of the aforesaid Property except above mentioned original Agreement to Sell said Property, with the Bank for creation of equitable mortgage. Any person, who comes in knowledge or possession of aforementioned original Agreement, may please return the same to above mentioned property address or at below mentioned address. Any person or authority dealing with the deed/documents and / or the aforesaid Property and/or deriving any benefit by impersonation or claiming any interest in the aforesaid Property on the basis of said Agreement or in any manner whatsoever, he/she/it shall do so at his/her/its own cost, expense, liability and risk or may also send his/her/their claims in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of the said claim.

Sushil Kumar Singh (Advocate)
Office F-10, LGF, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi Ph: 011-403-48896.

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT, HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

Advertisement

Application are invited for the following posts on contract basis as per Part-II of the outsourcing Policy dated 06-04-2015 for one year or till the regular candidates are appointed whichever is earlier or outcome of decision of SLP no. 27349 of 2018 as the case may be:-

Designation of Posts	Number of Posts	Category	Qualification	Rate of remuneration per month (at present).
Chowkidar	1 (One)	General	Should be able to read and write Hindi	Rs. 16,900/-
Peon	3 (Three)	General	(i) Matriculation from recognized Board. (ii) Hindi/Sanskrit upto matriculation, as one of the subject.	Rs. 16,900/-

Age Limit: 18 to 42 years as on 28-02-2021. Relaxation in age as per Rules / instructions.
Note:- Number of posts may increase or decrease

LAST DATE
Last date for receipt of the applications shall be 19.03.2021 upto 5.00 P.M. No application received through any mode after the closing date, on account of delay in any manner, shall be entertained. However, decision to this effect taken by the Committee shall be final.

HOW TO APPLY
Application should be submitted on plain paper preferably in candidate's own handwriting giving complete bio-data i.e. Name of the Applicant, Father's Name, Date of Birth, Educational Qualification, Present Address, Permanent Address with one latest self attested passport size photograph. The application should be accompanied by the copies of certificates with regard to proof of age, Educational Qualification and experience, if any. If the candidate applies for more than one category he would apply through separate application as well as specify the category on the envelope/application.

NOTE:- (i) Candidates should report as under for checking of their testimonials in original at the following address:-

Date	Time	
01.04.2021	10.00 AM	(candidates whose name start with Alphabet (A to J))
03.04.2021	10.00 AM	(candidates whose name start with Alphabet (K to R))
05.04.2021	10.00 AM	(candidates whose name start with Alphabet (S to Z))

Address:-

LEGAL REMEMBRANCER AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT HARYANA, LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT, HARYANA CIVIL SECRETARIAT, ROOM NO. 18, 9TH FLOOR, SECTOR-1, CHANDIGARH

(ii) If the checking of testimonials of candidates can't be completed on the dates given above, the testimonial of remaining candidates called on that day shall be checked on next day.

(iii) No. TA/DA will be given to any candidate who will report in the office.

(iv) No separate communication shall be sent to the candidates for report.

(v) Incomplete application shall be rejected straightway without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Legal Remembrancer and Administrative Secretary to Government Haryana
Law and Legislative Department at Chandigarh

RO NO. 1994

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, नेहरू कॉलोनी, देहरादून

पत्रांक: 1046 / ई-निविदा / 2020-21

ई-निविदा सूचना

दिनांक 01.03.2021

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय मण्डल, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, दृ-निविदा सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमिश्नरियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.सं.	कार्य विवरण	बिड प्रपत्र बनाने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा बि-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	
1	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, प्रोकास्ट कन्कोट स्लैटकारम 1.2 मीटर व्यास विद चौकी (स्टेण्डिंग बेस) 0.6 X 0.6 मीटर एड प्रोकास्ट कन्कोट ड्रेन 1.0 मीटर लेंथ एच पर डिपार्टमेंटल ड्राइंग एंड डिजाईन की अनुसार।	30,000.00	04.03.2021 from 11:00 a.m. upto 5:00 p.m.	18.03.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days
15	अर्हता:- Only manufacturers of RCC Platform and Drain are allowed to take part in this tender.				
22	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, ISI marked, H.D.P.E Pipe Material grade PE. 80 for Pressure rating 6 Kg/cm ² and 10 Kg/cm ² conforming to IS specification 4984-2016 or its latest amendment(s) की अनुसार।	1,02,000.00	04.03.2021 from 11:00 a.m. upto 5:00 p.m.	18.03.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days
22	अर्हता:- Only manufacturers of ISI marked H.D.P.E Pipe having BIS License for IS: 4984-2016 or its latest amendment(s) are allowed to take part in this tender.				
29	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, Annual rate contract for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) of Domestic and Bulk tanker water meters as per standard conforming to IS: 779: 1994/IS: 2373-1981/ISO: 4064/OIML R 49 with EC/MID certification mark and IP68 protection class (1) AMR water meter with guarantee/warranty along with software, strainer and annual Maintenance of installed water meter including all accessories as and when required for five years after guarantee/warranty period at site anywhere in Uttarakhand (2) AMR Ultrasonic water meters with guarantee/warranty along with software, strainer and Annual Maintenance of water meter including all accessories as and when required for five years after guarantee/warranty period at site anywhere in Uttarakhand	1,94,000.00	04.03.2021 from 11:00 a.m. upto 5:00 p.m.	18.03.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days
29	अर्हता:- Only Manufacturing Firms/Firms having experience in water supply works coupled with experience in installation of AMR water meters from 15mm upwards in hilly areas in any state of India The meter supplied shall have AMR compatibility and smart ultrasonic water meters as per standard conforming to IS: 779: 1994/IS: 2373-1981/ISO: 4064/OIML R 49. The firm/contractor can participate solely/ partnership firm or in the form of joint venture. Provided the bidder should have an experience of installing a minimum no of 1000 AMR water meters in any water supply scheme in hilly states of India. (In case of JV either one of the partners should be fulfilling this criteria				

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयों व रात उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in एवं निमागिया वेबसाइट <http://ujs.uk.gov.in> पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

WESTERN RAILWAY ENGINEERING WORKS

1. Executive: DEN(East) BCT Tender Notice NO. & Date: BCT/20-21/365 dtd 01.03.2021

Work and Location: Udhna-Jalgaon section : CTR, TRR, CRR, TBR P&C shoulder & crib ballast, and TTR under DEN/East Jurisdiction in connection of sanctioned track works for the year 2020-21

Approx. cost of work in ₹: 8,48,29,241.97

2. Executive: DEN(East) BCT Tender Notice NO. & Date: BCT/20-21/366 dtd 01.03.2021

Work and Location: Udhna-Jalgaon section : (1) Providing Geo Grid and Geo Textile with TBR in jurisdiction of ADEN-Nandurbar (2) TBR 39.296Km and TFR-21.5Km in jurisdiction of ADEN-Nandurbar

Approx. cost of work in ₹: 9,75,32,304.84 For Both Tenders

EMD ₹: NIL

Date & Time of Submission: on 06.04.2021 till 15:00 hrs.

Date & Time of Opening: on 06.04.2021 till 15:30 hrs.

Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

Govt nets ₹77,815 cr in spectrum auction

JIO TOP BUYER WITH RS 57,122 CR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornered more than half of the telecom spectrum auctioned by the government over the past two days, offering about Rs 57,123 crore to consolidate its holding of the scarce resource that are used to carry mobile call and data signals. Telecom giant Bharti Airtel bid Rs 18,699 crore to pick up 355.45 megahertz (MHz) out of the 855.60 MHz of radiofrequency, giving it "most formidable" spectrum holding in the country. Vodafone Idea Ltd, which is facing a huge liability of unpaid statutory dues of past, bought spectrum worth Rs 1,993.40 crore, Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash told reporters here.

In all, some 60 per cent of the spectrum offered was sold, according to Prakash, who said the bids came at the

floor price -- or minimum price that was acceptable to the government. In the first auction of radio airwaves in five years, the government offered 2,308.80 MHz of spectrum in seven bands, at a reserve price of nearly Rs 4 lakh crore. However, airwaves in the premium 700 MHz and 2,500 MHz bands went unsold. The telecom secretary said 855.60 MHz of spectrum was bought for Rs 77,814.80 crore in the two-day auction. Spectrum refers to the

radio frequencies allocated to the mobile industry and other sectors for communication over the airwaves. This includes FM or AM radio broadcasts and even other wireless forms of communication like Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. Mobile phones also use these same radio waves to transmit voice calls and data. These frequencies come in different bands, supporting specific technologies as well as governing speed of transmission.

Spectrum acquired in 5 circles to boost 4G coverage, capacity: Vodafone Idea

New Delhi:Telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) on Tuesday said spectrum acquired by it in five circles will help boost 4G coverage and capacity, enabling the company to offer "superior digital experience" for its customers. In a statement issued after the conclusion of the spectrum auctions on Tuesday,

VIL said it has used "this opportunity to optimise spectrum holding post-merger to create further efficiencies in few circles." With the telecom industry gearing up for 5G play, VIL hoped that large quantum of spectrum in globally harmonised bands would be made available for all operators in the future at fair prices.

Sensex rises for 2nd day on gains in IT, auto shares, reclaims 50,000-level

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex spurred by 447 points to close above the psychological 50,000-mark on Tuesday following hectic buying in auto and IT counters amid positive domestic and global cues. The 30-share index swung nearly 633 points during the session before ending at 50,296.89, showing a rise of 447.05 points or 0.90 per cent. Likewise, the NSE Nifty climbed 157.55 points or 1.07 per cent to settle at 14,919.10, extending gains to a second day. Among Sensex stocks, Mahindra & Mahindra was lead gainer rising by 4.98 per cent. NTPC rose by 3.83 per cent, Bajaj Auto by 3.53 per cent, and Tech Mahindra by 3.44 per cent. TCS, Maruti, Infosys, HCL Tech, Nestle and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers. On the other hand, ONGC, HDFC, Dr Reddy's, PowerGrid and SBI suffered losses. Of the Sensex constituents, 25 shares ended with gains. Sectorally, BSE auto surged the most with 3.18 per

cent gains, followed by IT (2.85 per cent), teck (2.84 per cent) and industrials (2.20 per cent). All the 19 sectoral indices closed in the green. Broader smallcap, midcap and largecap indices too rallied 1.60 per cent, 1.55 per cent and 1.11 per cent, respectively - outperforming the benchmark. Analysts said investor sentiment remained upbeat due to encouraging

GDP numbers for the third quarter as well as returning of calmness in global bond markets after the last week's turmoil. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "An improved outlook post-February auto sales numbers resulted in continued buying in auto stocks with IT sector also being a major contributor in the rally."

Gold tumbles ₹679, silver crashes ₹1,847

New Delhi: The Gold prices on Tuesday tumbled ₹679 to ₹44,760 per 10 grams in the national capital, due to bleak international market trend and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at ₹45,439 per 10 grams in the previous close.Silver also crashed by ₹ 1,847 to ₹67,073 per kg from the closing of ₹68,920 per kg in the previous day trade.

PTI

Rupee rises by 18 paise to 73.37

Mumbai:The rupee rose by 18 paise to close at 73.37 against the US dollar on Tuesday, ending its three-day losing streak on the back of gains in domestic equities amid improving risk appetite. Dollar demand eased after a pullback in crude oil and bond yields which supported the rupee sentiment, analysts said.At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 73.32 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.31 and a low of 73.48.

PTI

Exports dip marginally in Feb; trade deficit widens to USD 12.88 bn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After recording positive growth for two months in a row, India's exports dipped marginally by 0.25 per cent to USD 27.67 billion in February and trade deficit widened to USD 12.88 billion, according to preliminary data released by the government on Tuesday. Imports grew 6.98 per cent to USD 40.55 billion during the month, the data showed. The trade deficit stood at USD 10.16 billion in February 2020. Exports during April-February 2020-21 were USD 255.92 billion, compared with USD 291.87 billion during the same period of last year, exhibiting a negative growth of 12.32 per cent. Imports during April-February this fiscal also dipped

23 per cent to USD 340.88 billion. In February, oil imports declined 16.63 per cent to USD USD 8.99 billion. It was down by 40.18 per cent to USD 72.08 billion during 11 months period of the current fiscal. Major commodities of export that have recorded positive growth during February include oil meals, iron ore, rice, meat, dairy and poultry products, carpet, spices, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals. The sectors that recorded negative export growth in February include petroleum products (-27.13 per cent), leather (-21.62 per cent), cashew (-18.6 per cent), gems and jewellery (-11.18 per cent), engineering goods (-2.56 per cent), tea (-2.49 per cent), and coffee (-0.73 per cent), it added.

Private investment missing in action: RBI article

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Only private investment is "missing in action" at a time when all engines of aggregate demand are starting to fire to boost economic growth, according to a Reserve Bank article. Observing that there is little doubt today that a recovery based on a revival of consumption is underway, the RBI in the recent article said, "the jury leans towards such recoveries being shallow and short-lived". The key to whet the appetite for investment, it said, is to rekindle the animal spirits, a spontaneous urge to action rather than inaction, and not as the outcome of a weighted average of quantitative benefits multiplied by quantitative probabilities. "All engines of aggregate demand are starting to fire;

only private investment is missing in action. The time is apposite for private investment to come alive," said the article prepared by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra and other officials. The article published in the RBI Bulletin- February 2021 further said "the time is apposite" for private investment to come alive. Fiscal policy, with the largest capital expenditure (capex) budget ever and emphasis on doing business better, has offered to crowd it in. "Will Indian industry and entrepreneurship pick up the gauntlet," it said.The Indian economy is estimated to contract by 8 per cent during the current financial year on account of the impact of the COVID-19

Indian mobile retailers' body slams Amazon, phone vendors

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Mobile Retailers Association (AIMRA) has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stressing that Amazon's operations in India should be suspended until a probe into the company is done. AIMRA, a trade union that represents more than 1.5 lakh mobilephone retailers in the country, said that Amazon, along with leading mobile brands, have joined hands to derail the retail industry and put small retailers' life in danger. The association said that Amazon is doing business in

India with the strategy of deftly dodging the regulators and politicians.E-commerce companies promote sales on their platforms through their own preferred sellers. "Unfortunately, E-commerce companies often are the stakeholders of these preferred sellers. Since 2014, mobile brands have had exclusive tie-up for sales with these very preferred sellers. All stocks are given to the preferred seller so that the e-com platform can show non-involvement and do not suffer any implications," Arvind Khurana, National President, AIMRA in the letter that was sent to Modi on Monday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Gulfar Saifi Sir, Mr. Navab Saifi who is purchasing the RESIDENTIAL PLOT/LAND AREA MEASURING 116.666 SQ. YDS. KHASRA NO. 263/286 & 294, SITUATED AT VILLAGE SURAPUR, PARGANA DADRI TEHSIL & DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH, NAGAR, U.P. from Mrs. Santosh Goyal w/o Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mrs. Kaushal Rani W/o Mr. Vipin Kumar. That the Original Sale Deed dated 03.04.2000 executed by Mr. Ajay Singh S/o Mr. Chandar Singh as GPA of Mr. Hari Ram S/o Mr. Bhajan Lal executed in favour of Mr. Om Prakash Sharma S/o Mr. Sardar Sharma in respect of above mentioned property registered as Doc No. 1489 has been lost/impounded. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person. If anybody found this document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor,
Masjid Moth Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II,
New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40043216

"STOP CORONA: Wash your Hands & Wear Mask, Maintain Social Distance"

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (N)-II
NEAR TRANSPORT AUTHORITY MAIN BURARI ROAD DELHI-84

NIT. No.44 (Item No.1) (2020-21) E.E (North)-II.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money	Tender Fee (Non-refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1.	Providing and laying 450/500 mm dia sewer line from Trenchless Technology for making separate out fall for E.F.A.B and K-Block Model Town in AC-18, Model Town under E.E(North-II). (Re- Invite). LD 2021. DUB 200696. 1	27.07, 704/-	01.03.2021 03 P.M onward	Exempted vide office memorandum No: F.8/4/2020- PPD and DUB endorsement No: DUB/2020-21/Misc-II (PTT)/971 Dated: 23.12.2020	500/-	Technical bid will be received 22.03.2021, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 458 (2020-21)

Sd/- (S.K SINGH) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (N)-II

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

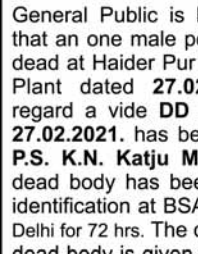


General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a female **Age:** 30-35 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **ID Mark:** Body of the deceased is decomposed, was wearing Red colour Sweater, Printed Flower Black Liner Suit and Orange Pajama, Golden colour Bali in both ears and metal bangle in both the hands Black thread in right leg ankle and red & black thread in neck, was found near Haiderpur Treatment Plant on 25.02.2021. In this regard a **DD No. 10A, dated 25.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.** His dead body has been preserved in BSA Hospital Mortuary. 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. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27571162, 27571171

DP/703/RD/2021

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

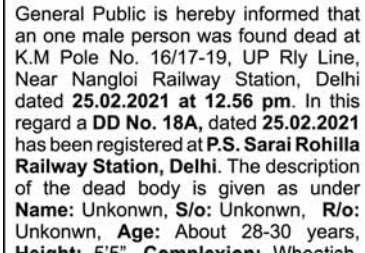


General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead at Haider Pur Water treatment Plant dated **27.02.2021**. In this regard a vide **DD No. 09A, dated 27.02.2021**, has been registered at **P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi**. The dead body has been preserved for identification at BSA Mortuary, Delhi Delhi for 72 hrs. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unkonwn, **S/o:** Unkonwn, **R/o:** Unkonwn, **Age:** About 30 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Wearing :** Red Vest, Cream colour Jersey, Blue Colour Lower. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27571162, 8750870327

DP/705/RD/2021

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead at K.M Pole No. 16/17-19, UP Rly Line, Near Nangloi Railway Station, Delhi dated **25.02.2021 at 12.56 pm**. In this regard a **DD No. 18A, dated 25.02.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unkonwn, **S/o:** Unkonwn, **R/o:** Unkonwn, **Age:** About 28-30 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing :** Sky Blue T-Shirt, Blue Jeans Pant, **Injury Mark:** Injury mark on head, Both legs are broken from knees. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28711697, 28714802, 8750871308

DP/71/RLY/2021

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the one accused persons namely **Mohit @ Panchi S/o Surender R/o VPO Panchi, PS Ganour, Distt: Sonipat Haryana** have been committed offence in **Case FIR 148/20 u/s 25/54/59 ARMS Act Dated 01.10.2020, PS Crime Branch, Delhi** and that it have been returned to the warrants of arrest thereupon issued, that the said **Mohit @ Panchi** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mohit @ Panchi** have absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mohit @ Panchi** in **Case FIR 148/20 u/s 25/54/59 ARMS Act Dated 01.10.2020, PS Crime Branch, Delhi** are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **07.04.2021**.

By order
Satvir Singh Lamba
CMM (North District)
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/81/Crime/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Anjali, D/o: Bhagwan, R/o:** H.No. F-1636, J.J. Colony, Bawana, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since **28.01.2021** at 6:30 pm. from her house, from the area of P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 29A dated 03.02.2021** has been lodged at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped girl are as under: **Age:** 21 years, **Sex:** Female, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Unknown colour suit-salwan and slipper in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

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

SHO
P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
Ph.: 011- 27787592, 7065036324

DP/798/ON/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Sumitra Devi, W/o Surender Sharma, R/o House No. 21 Sahapur Garhi Narela, Delhi**. Age 32 yrs., Height 5', Shallow Complexion, Thin built, Oval face, wearing blue colour suit-salwar and sleeper in feet missing since **01.02.2021** from her house. In this regard a **DD No. 66-A Dt. 04.02.2021 PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing female 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 Industrial Area, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-27787593, 7065036324

DP/795/ON/2021

INBRIEF

TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON 'CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND METRO'

Kolkata: A technical seminar on "Construction of Underground Metro" was held at Metro Rail Bhavan on 27.02.2021. Shri Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway inaugurated this seminar by lighting a lamp. In his address, Shri Joshi expressed his hope that this seminar would be useful to give insights to all important aspects of the Underground Construction. Senior officers of Metro Railway were present in this seminar in which technical issues like 'Top-Down Construction and Concrete Technology', 'Circular Economy for Sustainable Development' were elaborately discussed. After the seminar, a technical quiz was also held.

INNER WHEEL CLUB DONATES 4 WHEEL CHAIRS
NEW DELHI: Mala Bhargava President, Inner Wheel Club, Delhi Main accompanied by Mala Rishi, District Secretary, Past Presidents Ritu Dass & Rita Dhawan and other members Sunita Mangla & Madhu Surekha donated 4-wheel chairs today i.e. on 02.03.21 at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station to help the disabled passengers becoming mobile. The above donation of 4 wheel chairs at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station is in addition to 4 wheel chairs donated by Bhargava on 07.01.2021 to New Delhi Railway Station. Interestingly, whatever donations are made by the club to the society, are the donations made by the members themselves.

LAUNCH OF SUGAMYA BHARAT APP UNDER ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) on the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has developed a Sugamya Bharat App for crowdsourcing issues related to accessibility being witnessed in the built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem across India. Dr.Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the App on 02 March 2021 in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria and the Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Smt. Shakuntala D Gamlin. The Mobile App can be downloaded from Playstore by Android users. The IoS version of the App will be available by 15th March 2021.

India's fuel demand to rebound in 2021-22 with 10% growth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's fuel consumption is likely to rise nearly 10 per cent in the fiscal year beginning April 1, as a reflating economy drives petrol and diesel demand, according to Oil Ministry's projections. Petroleum product consumption in 2021-22 could hit 215.24 million tonnes, compared to the revised estimate of 195.94 million tonnes consumption of the current fiscal year ending March 31, the ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) said. This will be the fastest pace of fuel product consumption in six years. As the economy rebounds from its worst contraction on record and industrial activity picks up, fuel consumption is projected to rise. An over two-month-long lockdown imposed to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic had shrunk demand to less than half as most vehicles went off roads, trains stopped plying and airlines halted operations. The reopening of the economy has brought demand back but diesel - the most consumed fuel in the country - is yet to reach pre-pandemic levels.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

Sl. No.	Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of work	Rs.
1	Design, Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE modification work inconnection with Modification in GHY Yard in relation to new line no. 6, on DEE-RE Section.	Rs. 95,39,796.08	
2	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 0/-	
3	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	11.03.2021 (00.00 Hrs.) to 25.03.2021 (15.00 Hrs.)	
4	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	25.03.2021 (15.00 hrs.)	
5	Fund Allocation	00844521	
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in	
7	E-Tender No.: 26-TRD-NDLS-2020-21 Dated : 01.03.2021	463/2021	

Serving Customers With A Smile

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Pooja D/o Rajkumar R/o** 413, Gali No.13, Vijay Colony, Bawana, Delhi has been missing since 02.02.2021 at 03.00 PM from her house the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi. In this regard a case vides **FIR No. 58/21 dated 05.02.2021** has been registered at PS. Bawana, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under :

Name : Pooja, **Father's Name :** Rajkumar, **Age :** 15 years, **Height :** 5'2", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Wearing :** Green Suit Salwar and Black Sandel in feet If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO
P.S., Bawana, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27752534
7065036321

DP/810/ON/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Abhishek Kumar, S/o Santosh Kumar, R/o H. No. A-1195, GD Colony, Mayur Vihar-III, Delhi - 96, Age:** 28 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Face:** Elongated, **Complexion:** Brown, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Jacket & Blue Jeans and Brown shoes in his feet has been missing since **11.02.2021 at 9.00 am** from his home. In this regard a **GD NO. 0074A dated 15.02.2021** has been registered at **PS Ghazipur, Delhi**.

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638,24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
PS Ghazipur, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22610068/22610094, 8750870625

DP/389/ED/2021



An MBA degree from a premier Indian B School can give several lucrative opportunities to earn. Many might have this question in their mind, “What exactly do MBA graduates do at work after business school?”. This largely depends on the area of specialisation that they choose and the organisation that they join. Some organisations ensure that the MBA graduates have an experience in all functional areas.

They make them have a short stint in marketing, finance, operations human resources and even in International Business. There are others who make them take executive assistant roles, and make them get the experience of working with the top leadership of the organisation. There are others who make them work in core functional areas of business. The initial period of six months goes in understanding the culture of the company along with the organisational politics.

During the initial years an MBA in sales and marketing generally spends time in research and generate lists of potential customers, provide input on customer briefs, prepare presentations and sales literature. They also help to develop client relationships and retain existing accounts. They assist in evaluating new clients and maintain records. They also work with experienced sales and marketing professionals, attend meetings, and participate in other networking activities.

KNOW YOUR JOB

During the initial years, an MBA in sales and marketing generally spends time in research and generates lists of potential customers, provides input on customer briefs, prepares presentations and sales literature, says DR RAMAKRISHNAN RAMAN

An MBA in operations is expected to have the ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment as well as work under pressure, especially when there are clients facing operation roles

ities. An MBA Finance helps in assisting the process of developing and reviewing budgets.

They also provide accurate cash-flow projections to the finance division. They work on the monthly budget and work closely with experienced finance executives in decision making. They help in general ledger management, reconciliation of balance sheets; follow up with various internal stakeholders; prepare monthly schedules for specific accounts and support in the monthly book closing process for expense accrual and accounting adjustments, and also manage prepaid expenses. Some organisations make the MBA finance graduates prepare statutory financials, make notes to accounts and schedules; coordinate external and internal audits; answer audit queries. They also make them support the accounting

manager/finance director on expenses and balance sheet analysis, compliance with internal controls and complying with internal controls for accounting functions.

An MBA Operations person is expected to have a customer — focused, ‘service first’ mentality. He/she is expected to assimilate data rapidly and create timely resolutions and solutions to all levels of stakeholders. He/she is expected to be proactive in assessing the processes & procedures and evaluate room for enhancement.

An MBA in operations is expected to have the ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment as well as working under pressure, especially when they are in a client facing operation roles. An MBA specialised in human resources (HR) works alongside the HR Business Partner and HR

Operations teams as well as the local Management team to provide generalist HR support to the business. An HR Generalist works alongside the HR Centres of Excellence and is responsible for the management and administration of employees through the entire employee life cycle including onboarding, HR Programme support, offboarding among others.

Irrespective of the specialisation MBA graduates are expected to create and present impressive presentations to the internal and external customers of the organisation. They are also expected to be good in using software and data management tools, which can help their reporting managers in better decision making.

The writer is Director — Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIBM) — Pune & Dean — Faculty of Management — Symbiosis International (Deemed University)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Children should be taught how to think and not what to think by equipping them with the weapons of discernment and knowledge.

— VD.

Make way for online school

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first online school of India has been launched in the Millenium city of Gurugram in Delhi-NCR. Known as Cyboard School, the salient feature of the virtual school is a hybrid model of delivery encompassing a mix of online classes which will be followed by physical camps spread over 30 days in a year and city-level interactions. The school targets enrolment of about 5000 students in Classes I to III by the end of March 2021.

A brainchild of two serial entrepreneurs and visionaries —Rajat Singhal, Co-Founder & CEO, and Kunal Singhal, Co-Founder & CTO, the model aims to overcome the drawbacks in conventional K-12 education, including lack of personalised learning, lack of requisite infrastructure and good teachers, limited student-teacher interaction and increased dependence on tuitions and impart futuristic education to students through expert faculty members, irrespective of any geographical barriers.

“The online K-12 segment is projected to be nearly 3.7 times its existing size of \$1.16 billion by 2025. The pandemic has underscored the significance of digitisation across sectors and education is no exception,” said Singhal.

Masters programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ILAMED is going to start its Masters Course in Micropigmentation & Microblading for doctors with live sessions followed by hands-on training. This is the flagship programme which is the most sought after in the field of Aesthetic Medicine. This course is designed by experts for all the practitioners, which helps them in adding a new dimension to their practice and answers most of the clients’ needs. This programme covers the latest techniques and procedures which are followed around the world by the eminent aesthetic medicine expert including the best practices as per the global standards.

This Masters Course is backed by the best Institutes and Associations around the world along with the renowned faculty who are having more than two decades of experience in the field of teaching and training.

This course is certified by The Plastic Surgery Center of Western New York.

The duration of this course is seven days. The curriculum is very detailed and covers most of the important topics and procedures which are delivered in the form of lectures, and the candidates are given hands on training on Live Patients which helps them to enhance their skills in their clinical practice.

This Masters programme covers most of the key topics related to Micropigmentation and Microblading such as Introduction to PMU & Microblading (Basic & advanced), full blown reconstruction (Alopecia), faux skin, eyebrows micropigmentation, Lip micropigmentation, Lip Blush, Lip Tint, Lip correction, Eyeliner Micropigmentation, BB glow, BB glow Blush, BB Glow contouring, Scalp micropigmentation (SMP), Scalp Microblading (SMB), PMU correction and many more. To get enrolled one can call/whatsapp on +917838606869/9599224093. For more information you can email info@ilamed.org and log on to www.ilamed.org.

Upskilling surgeons must

To fill the gap of technical superiority, industry-academia partnerships should initiate programmes that allow the surgical residents to get acquainted with the future of surgical care, says Dr SVS DEO



and staff, everyone was quick to overcome their limitations in technology for the larger benefit of the patients and the country at large. The demand for healthcare solutions also prompted fast-tracking digitisation initiatives by the Government and providers. One such game changer was the Government approval for telemedicine usage in India. This changed the landscape of how doctor-patient visits were being managed in India, resulting in making healthcare more accessible to both urban and rural areas across the country.

Another outcome of the pandemic has been the acceptance of

the larger public to become more willing to undergo regular health check-ups to ensure that they remain healthy. This has resulted in identifying more people with different adverse health conditions. This situation has put additional stress on the current healthcare ecosystem resulting in the need for better and faster treatment protocols to support patient care and outcomes. This is an area that can be upgraded by upskilling the medical fraternity. While there is multiple such continuing medical education for Masters in Medicine (MD), there are only limited options for Masters in Surgery (MS) speciali-

sations, related to new age technology.

To fill this gap of technical superiority, industry academia partnerships should initiate programmes that allow the surgical residents to get acquainted with the future of surgical care. Such programmes should engage with resident surgeons/fellows early on in their career, equipping them with knowledge on robotic/tech-enabled surgery and its clinical applications. Facilitating such programmes with Robotic-Assisted Surgery (RAS) will allow the residents to understand the functionality, and scope for such tech-enabled surgical procedures.

These kind of programmes can give the budding surgeons theoretical knowledge about how the robot works, and the clinical applications of the technology that will be imparted by trained and successful RAS practitioner. Early RAS sensitisation programmes may lead to better adoption of technology which could result in not just reducing the learning curve, but also enable the country’s surgical healthcare landscape to function more effectively.

The writer is Professor & Head, Department of Surgical Oncology, BRA-IRCH, AIIMS, Delhi

Tips to stay relevant

Skills such as basic calculation of construction cost, estimation of appreciation and basic knowledge of building codes come in handy for a real estate manager, says ANNUJ GOEL

If you have remained mesmerised with buildings and skyscrapers during your childhood, a career in the real estate sector can be a rewarding choice. From relationship manager to direct sales executives, there are several roles to make a head start in the property market. However, like every other job, you must be equipped with a gamut of skills to succeed and stay relevant in the real estate industry.

Skills such as basic calculation of construction cost, estimation of appreciation, knowledge of rules related to stamp duty and registration charges, and basic knowledge of building codes etc., come in handy for a real estate manager. Here is a list of five critical skills needed for landing a job in a real estate firm:

Communication skills: If you are foraying into a career in the real estate sector, be prepared for a one-on-one with the potential homebuyers. Excellent communication skills are an essential part of the job. The executives must be able to lay bare the features of the project in simple words.

As real estate investment is a cost-intensive proposition, one must be able to spell out the pros and cons as well as the approximate ‘Return-on-Investment’ (ROI) clearly. You can develop these skills gradually by



practising in front of a mirror and taking feedback from friends about your body language.

Active listening: Along with effective speaking skills, active listening is equally important. Attentively listening to the exact requirements of the customer is essential. Only then you will be able to suggest him the options in the given budget and configuration.

Being enthusiastic, empathetic and honest with the customer will automatically incite your interest in him. You can also develop active listening skills by listening to online podcasts and making notes out of them.

Negotiation skills: It is business

at the end of the day. You must be able to convince the customers that they are making the right choice. However, as real estate investment is heavy on the pocket decision, be prepared for a lot of questions.

Be thorough with the details and communicate effectively. Satisfying the customers with all their queries and being honest will put you in the right stride. Learn to negotiate effectively. Following up is a part of the process, and you must be persistent in keeping track of a beneficial lead.

Tech-savvy: Being tech-savvy is not about being a cybersecurity expert. It is about essential computer skills such as making a presentation, excel sheet and use of social media. Being comfortable with technology saves a lot of time and lets you better manage your clientele.

Social cues and local dialect: Be prepared to face people from every income strata and background. While meeting an international client, you must be presentable with adequate mannerisms. While dealing with a native client, you might have to incorporate some local sayings and serve them accordingly. Knowledge about the local dialects, societal trends and using it to seal the deal will be immensely useful.

The writer is Managing Director, Goel Ganga Developments

Higher education summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Education Network recently hosted the 9th edition of the Higher Education Summit in association with Shobhit University at Le-Meridian Hotel. The objective of the summit was to discuss the new education policy, its implementation on the ground and the challenges and solutions to it.

Over the years, the Indian Education Network hosted successful editions of the summit. Last year, the education sector around the world and more so in India has seen a big shift due to pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic has put a lot of restrictions on traditional classroom-based teaching and learning in educational

institutions and has transformed it into digital-based education. This year, the summit witnessed many delegates from higher education institutions, including industry veterans and representatives from the Ministry of HRD, AICTE and other Government authorities who shared their thoughts and insights on higher education in India.

Kunwar Shekhar Vijendra-Chancellor, Shobhit University, said: “Disruption due to COVID-19 has given us a reason to innovate new things, to create new things, to do new things. I take this opportunity to congratulate our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the dynamic Ministry of Education for taking this step when the world was not able to do anything.”

Int’l recognition for IP varsity teacher

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An assistant professor of nano-science & technology at University School of Basic & Applied Sciences (USBAS) Dr Satyabrata Mohapatra has been assigned as the editor of coveted international nano-science research journal — NANO.

This Singapore-based research journal has tendered this responsible assignment seeing his outstanding contributions in the field of nano-science & technology. Around 110 peer-reviewed



Dr Satyabrata Mohapatra

research papers in the related field in the international journals are already to his credit. He leads a multi-functional nano-materials laboratory at the university.

It definitely makes for a special mention that Stanford University, USA had adjudged Dr Mohapatra as among the World’s top 2 per cent scientists in the field of applied physics some times back.

While, the university is busy promoting a culture of research at present, this news will definitely boost the endeavour.

Young researchers conference

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Dwarka, New Delhi, in collaboration with, JNU Jean Monnet Module, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, is organising an online Young Researchers Conference 2021.

The theme is “Global Dynamics and Emerging Trends: India and Europe” on March 4 and March 5, 2021. This conference intends to deliberate upon the emerging trends, global changes and current socio-economic and political crises in changing landscapes and how these crises pose challenges to India, and Europe.

His excellency Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India has kindly consented to address the inaugural session of the conference on March 4, 2020. The guest of honour of the inaugural session is Dinesh K Patnaik, Director General, ICCR.

Add value to future

Skill advancement is a continuous process. If one envisions to form an organisation that is constantly learning, growing and achieving targets, he needs to have learning employees who are keen to adopt new skills. PIONEER AVENUES lists programmes to pursue



In today's era of digital technology, survival of many organisations is contingent on how they leverage cutting-edge technologies to transform their workplaces into augmented environments. However, for this transformation to happen, organisations must make prudent decisions and avoid the costly buy, not build talent strategy — opting for expensive new hires instead of re-skilling or up-skilling the existing employees.

Skill advancement is not a static process, rather it is crucially important to continue it at all levels. If one envisions to form an organisation that is constantly learning, growing, and achieving its targets, they need to have learning employees who are keen to adopt new skills and move in pace with ever-evolving business landscape.

Up-skilling is a term well-known. With technology causing a tectonic shift in the workplace and creating new possibilities that can be fully realised only by a modernised workforce, there is an ever-increasing need for students and employees to learn new skills and competencies that are required for the emerging job market.

Here we have rounded up a list of courses that can help you upskill and boost your job prospects.

Cloud Architect Certification Programme: This specialised course offered by one of India's leading ed-tech company, Intellipaat, equips you with proficiency in Cloud and DevOps. As part of the program, you get to work on real-world projects in AWS, Azure, DevOps, Python, Java, Splunk, Linux, and much more. In this program, it will cover 11 courses, 26 industry-based projects, and the CAPSTONE Project. As part of this masters in Cloud Computing, you will also receive official course material issued by Microsoft for integrating on-premises identity Infrastructure with microsoft Azure[®] and implementing security in Azure Development Solutions[®].

Data scientist master's programme: This course offered in joint collaboration introduces students to integrated blended learning, equipping them with expertise in both AI and data science. This advanced course will make students industry-ready for skills in AI and data science and consequently render them job-ready.

With technology causing a tectonic shift in the workplace and creating new possibilities that can be fully realised only by a modernised workforce, there is an ever-increasing need to learn new skills and competencies that are required for the emerging job market

Content Writing Course: This course teaches you to become a potential content creator & skills to translate thoughts into words that can attract everyone. It upgrades your resume with certifications and industry experience, differentiating your profile from masses and accelerates your career to a better job profile. The course enables participants to translate their thoughts into structured words and explore new ways to express themselves in the best possible way at the workplace. It enables the participants to investigate deeper into any topic and become a deemed expert by developing skills pertaining to creating, evaluating, reorganising, repackaging, strategising and presenting content. Taking the course helps in improving one's persuasive skills which comes in handy especially for professionals in sales, marketing, advertising and communications. This course shapes you into a dynamic writer who can write on any subject at any forum which drives conversations and actions on social media, search engines, e-commerce, blog and landing pages.

PGD in software development (Big Data): This comprehensive diploma program offered by UpGrad is designed for those who

wish to deep dive into the world of Big Data, its key processes and industrial applications. This course teaches in-depth about concepts related to Big Data such as data warehousing, real-time processing, data processing and Big Data analytics. Students also get to work with tools like Java, Python, Spark, Kafka, and Hive etc. The program includes seven -plus case studies and projects which will assist you in sharpening your real-world skills.

Professional teaching: Suraasa is a leading teacher-growth-focused EdTech and JobTech platform, offers internationally-recognized UK Level 6 Teaching Qualifications in India. Designed by a team of veteran educationists, cognitive scientists, and data scientists in consultation with thousands of teachers and industry specialists, the two qualifications — Professional Graduate Certificate in Teaching & Learning (PgCTL) and Diploma in Teaching aim to help teachers accelerate their professional growth and be successful in creating a high impact learning environment in their classrooms.

They empower teachers with 21st Century teaching skills, crucial to engage the new generation of Gen Z and Gen Alpha students.

‘Demand for cyber security professionals on rise’

Advancement of digitisation has spurred an increase in cybersecurity solutions leading to lucrative options, says DR SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA

In COVID-19-era world economy and society are now interconnected by supply chains, communications technology and travel. The rapid growth of the number of appliances, devices, vehicles and infrastructure are linked which is foremost to the overly interconnected world. Rise in demand of digitalisation services creates a network of Internet of Things devices to enable better consumer experience but also raises the high incidence of cyber attacks.

Cyber security jobs have been one of the hottest jobs for students today. The demand is unmatched in any other technology domain. Companies across the world have been continuously targeted for cyber-attacks. This scenario has given massive opportunities for professionals willing to enter the security domain. Cyber security today serves as a major source of employment and a lucrative career option. First step is to acquire basic cybersecurity skills, followed by choosing a specific domain based on personal interest and market demand. For a successful career, students need to get in-depth training, develop skills, and acquire specific certifications in security.

India faced around seven lakh cyber-attacks in August 2020 report by (MeITY). As per the report India was ranked third and one of the biggest victims of cyber-attacks in recent years, makes it even more exigent.

In recent years Government and private players have introduced a flurry of specialised and standalone courses on cyber security. From part-time to distance learning to online mode with varied provisions for certification, diploma and degree programmes, these courses have found much popularity among students as well as career professionals.

The professionals are focused on delivering technologies that help move business operations forward while preserving sensitive information. Despite the recent increase in popularity of cyber security as a course in our universities, colleges and institutes, are not much enough. The demand of cyber security experts in India has even less than a paltry 10,000 professionals. For a second largest economy of world



Dr Sanjeev Kumar Sharma
Dean Academics, Sanskriti University

India and sustained by the second largest population of the world with expanding digital footprints, such a miniscule number is grossly insufficient. Therefore, it is time that cyber security as a specialised discipline with all its attendant sub-disciplines becomes an integral component of any IT syllabus being taught within our university systems as well as outside.

Innovations and trends in technology have a direct impact on digital security. Recent advancement of digitisation and the Internet over things has spurred a significant increase in cybersecurity solutions. We are moving forward and creating a digital and smart world that gives no place for vulnerable cybersecurity and mediocrity.

Apart from a relevant degree in technology, students need to have a basic knowledge about advanced cybersecurity concepts, extensive cybersecurity work experience, industry certifications, knowledge of regulatory policies is usually required to make a career in cybersecurity. The rise in cyber attacks is increasing the opportunities for professionals from all backgrounds who want to make a career in cybersecurity. Even people from Humanities can make a career in cybersecurity.

A recent parliamentary report states that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, the Indian automotive industry suffered ₹2,300 crore loss per day and an estimated job loss in the sector was about 3.45 lakh. This report clearly indicates that there is still a mismatch in the education we impart to the youth and the demand they have to meet at the job.

This gap will widen further if we don't initiate structured reforms and initiative in the next Union Budget, which will be tabled in less than a week's time. The dream of achieving a self-reliant \$5 trillion economy completely depends upon the education and the skill level of its citizens.

Training the workforce to get adapt to the digital setup

With the advent of COVID-19 vaccines and India's emergence as the soft-power in the medical industry, companies are considering the year 2021 with full of hopes. They are slowly and steadily adapting to the new normal by upskilling, relearning and learning the importance of advanced technologies in order to retain their relevance and competitiveness in this digital era. At this juncture, the public and private partnership can help to bring the major shift in skilling/reskilling programmes in tandem with the government skilling programs.

Apart from this, the academic curriculum in schools and colleges must be

MINDIT

rebooted to remain in sync with the current realities of the post-pandemic era. It is alarming to see how India despite being renowned for its large talent pool, most graduates are unemployable due to mismatch of their skill sets with industry requirements. The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship should work together to come up with a new curriculum and skilling programs as per the industry standards.

New job opportunities demands new

skills

In order to cope with the company's new transformation, the existing and new workforce also needs to have constant skilling, reskilling and upskilling. The new job requirements will also demand the knowledge of a new set of areas including IoT, mechatronics, robotics, 3D printing, AI, machine and deep learning, analytics, virtual collaboration, automotive design, and computational thinking.

A lot of training programmes is the need of the hour to build the capacity of

these workforces.

Even the current time demands a complete change in the mindset of youth and their parents. An engineering student's goal should be getting a job, becoming financially independent than merely holding a degree. Once this mindset sets in, there is no way India can be taking the lead in becoming a hub for manufacturing, and supplier of skilled talent.

Continuous reskilling programmes in organisations

Surveys have found out that those companies who launched successful reskilling programmes are also the ones who were able to better address the skill

gaps caused by technological disruptions or to implement new business models or strategies in order to stay relevant and competitive.

The lesson here is that simply getting started on reskilling programmes makes organisations better prepared for potential future role disruption and is preferable to waiting. There is a need for continuous skilling programmes and they should not be short term. Companies need to understand that whatever talent reskilling or redeployment they do should also be used to expand their reskilling capabilities going forward.

The writer is Ankit Shyamsukha, CEO, ICA Edu Skills



The University of Hamburg invites applications for merit awards. These opportunities are available for international students to concentrate fully on their studies and gives them the opportunity to develop their skills.

Eligibility: You are entitled to funding if you are pursuing an academic degree at the universität and enrolled in degree programme for at least two semesters (master's students can apply after one semester). Not hold German citizenship and are not eligible for the federal student loan scheme.

Upload: CV, letter of motivation: use this form (PDF), proof of social and/or intercultural activities (if applicable), a record of achievements: STiNE printout or list of course certificates.

Master's students and doctoral researchers submit their final certificate, evaluations from two professors or junior professors at Universität Hamburg. In justified cases, other teaching staff at Universität Hamburg can also prepare evaluations.

Admission requirements: The applicants need to enrol at Universität Hamburg at the time of application. **Language:** English

How to apply: Students you...t...to...register...at: <https://login.uni-hamburg.de/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO?execution=e2s1>

Application deadline: April 15, 2021 & October 15, 2021.

The Swinburne University of Technology, Australia invites applications for its Australia Awards for brilliant candidates.

Eligibility: The bursary is available for undergraduate, postgraduate, or TAFE study at the university. Candidates must meet the criteria as per their country guidelines.

Supporting documents: Aspirants must send the completed application with the required documents as per their respective nationalities.

Admission requirements: Applicants must need to have good grades in their previous academic study, equivalent to the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) for their desired degree at the university.

Language requirement: If English is not your first language, you will need to show that your English language skills are high enough to succeed in your studies.

How to apply: To apply for this bursary, applicants must have to complete the application procedure via an online portal.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this award is April 30, 2021.

HR ADMIN & RECRUITMENT AT K21 ACADEMY

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7308350
Deadline: March 9, 2021

CUSTOMER SERVICE AT CLERK-TECH

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7308351
Deadline: March 9, 2021

CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MGT AT REACH 2 FITNESS

Location: Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7308353
Deadline: March 9, 2021

CONTENT WRITING AT PROMOTEDIGITALLY

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7308355
Deadline: March 9, 2021

MARKETING AT BYJU'S APP

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7308357
Deadline: March 7, 2021

FRESHER JOBS

PRODUCT MANAGER AT INTERNSHALA

Location: Gurugaoon
Stipend: ₹6.6-₹8.28 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/7308360
Deadline: March 18, 2021
Skill(s): MS-Excel, English Proficiency (Written)

RESEARCH EVANGELIST AT DEEPTHUGHT EDUTECH VENTURES

Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3-₹5 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/7308361
Deadline: March 25, 2021

INBRIEF

AUV LAUNCHED TO SANITISE SPACES

The Mahindra University has launched an Autonomous Unmanned Vehicle (AUV) Disinfecting Robot, Mahindra University UV Desinfectant Robot Autonomie (MUDRA). This robot is designed to disinfect rooms, labs, offices, shop floors, and various other spaces using Ultraviolet C (UVC) rays.

Dr Yajulu Medury, VC, Mahindra University said: "We are constantly focused upon enabling solutions that impact our day to day lives in a positive sense. In this pandemic time, safety is of paramount importance. I am proud that we have created an indigenously designed, developed in-house and

funded disinfecting robot, that helps in the sanitisation of surfaces thereby, ensuring that spaces remain infection free."

The robot has been designed to navigate autonomously on the floor without needing any extra infrastructure. It maps and plans its path to move around, and avoids obstacles and re-charts its path intelligently. It moves from room to room on a floor automatically without any human intervention. In addition, it has the capability to operate elevators and move from one floor to another using Wi-Fi or wireless connectivity.

The robot is is completely safe and non-hazardous to humans as it automatically switches off its UVC function whenever it detects human presence.

ONLINE TALENT SEARCH EXAM FOR CAT

The Triumphphant Institute of Management Education (TIME) is a test-prep institute with a pan-India presence and is headquartered in Hyderabad.

From its entrepreneurial roots in 1992, the institute today has 251 centers and has trained over 22 Lakh students for various courses since inception.

The institute is conducting the

T.I.M.E. Talent Search Examination (TTSE) for CAT21/22 aspirants on March 7, 2021.

The test will be conducted in two slots viz., 10 AM and 6 PM. Students can choose to write the test any slot.

Attractive performance-based fee waivers (up to 100 per cent on CAT 21/22 classroom/online courses) will be available for the students. A minimum

assured discount of 10 per cent of the total course fee will be given to those who write the free mock and enroll in the mentioned courses before March 7, 2021. Interested students can register using the link given below:

<https://www.time4education.com/local/articlecms/page.php?id=4430>. To know more: <https://www.time4education.com/index.php>.

SRM all set to welcome students



Admissions are now open to various programmes at the Faculty of Science and Humanities (FSH) at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur and for Medicine and Health Sciences programmes at SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre (SRM MCHRC), Kattankulathur.

Under the Faculty of Science & Humanities, SRMIST offers various Undergraduate and Post Graduate programmes from the College of Science and Humanities, School of Management, and School of Law. Several UG and PG programmes are also available for students in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences that has the College of Pharmacy, College of Physiotherapy, College of Occupational

Therapy, College of Nursing, School of Public Health, among others.

The soft launch of application forms for Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Faculty of Science and Humanities was held at the Institute's premises in the presence of SRMIST's Pro VC

(Medical) Lt Col Dr A Ravi Kumar, Director (Admissions) Dr KS Lakshmi, Director (Communications) R Nandakummar, Assistant Director (M&H) Venkata Ramakrishnan, Assistant Director (S&H), Dr Vivek Shivhare, Dean (FSH) Dr J Jothikumar, Dean (Law) Dr CA Gurudath, Dean (Dental) Dr N Vivek, Dean (SHP) Dr Padma Venkat, Dean (Pharmacy) Dr V Chitra, Dean

(Physiotherapy) Veera Goutham and Dean (Occupational Therapy) Dr U Ganapathy Sankar.

FSH and SRM MCHRC has several disciplines that prepare students to fill that growing need and take advantage of that growing opportunity.

Admissions to any of these programmes will be based on the eligibility, Board examination marks, department level examination conducted by the respective schools in SRM and one-to-one interaction.

Candidates applying should have secured a minimum aggregate of 50 per cent in the Boards. Indians and non-resident Indians can apply.

Interested students can visit the site: www.srmist.edu.in for more information.

Pitch will be similar to last 2 Tests: Rahane

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane on Tuesday said there is no need to take criticism of the spin-friendly pitches in the country "seriously" as not a word is spoken about the "damp" tracks elsewhere and England can expect another turn in the fourth Test.

There has been a lot of talk about the spinning tracks in the second Test at Chepauk and the pink ball game at Motera which ended inside two days. The fourth and final Test starts on March 4.

"I think the wicket will be similar to the second Test match in Chennai, spinning track. Yes, pink ball made the difference and it came much quicker off the wicket compared to red ball and we had to make adjustments," Rahane said during a virtual media conference.

"Wicket will be a lot similar to last two Test matches," he added.

Rahane, for the first time in many years, shed his reticence when asked to respond to the criticism from former England players that the pitches have not been ideal. Some have even urged the ICC to act against India for preparing a turner.

"See, let people speak what they want to. The wickets, when we tour abroad, no one speaks about how seaming they are. They always speak about the technique of the Indian batsmen, I don't feel we need to take seriously what people say," Rahane was sharp in his response.

"...You see, when we tour abroad, the first day wicket is damp. When wicket becomes grassy and behaves up and down, then the pitch becomes dangerous but we haven't complained about it or we have never spoken about it."



'VERY SIMILAR PITCH'

Young England opener Zak Crawley too echoed Ajinkya Rahane's sentiments on the Motera strip which he believes will be "similar" in nature but red ball will make it "slightly easier" for the batsmen.

"Yeah, I think it will be a very similar pitch this week. It wasn't easy to score for sure, but it was the same for both sides, and they played very well compared to us. So, we had our chance to bat first and did well and unfortunately, we didn't play well as we needed to," Crawley said at a virtual conference.

Quizzed whether batting will be easier in the final Test as it will be a red ball game again,

he answered in affirmative.

"It depends on the pitch obviously, but I do think that it will be slightly easier. I felt that the pink ball was a bit harder (to play) and that ball skidded on quite quickly, which is why Axar got so many wickets through leg before and bowled."

Axar's arm ball will be a massive threat, conceded Crawley.

"I think he still has that ball in his armoury for sure and he'll still be a massive threat with that one (red ball). But I think it might not skid on with the same pace as the pink ball but it won't be completely different," explained Crawley.

Crawley was the only half centurion for England in the last

game.

"Yeah, it's nice to score some runs. I probably had the best (chance) to face seamers early, but still nice to score some runs, nonetheless," he said, adding that hopefully he will have the game-plan in the final match.

The 23-year-old, lavished praise on left-arm spinner Axar Patel, who has grabbed 18 wickets from two Tests.

"You know, he (Axar) is a very good bowler, especially in these conditions, he has been very accurate, he doesn't give you much to score, and he has got one that goes straight on, in these conditions, one (to) turn, so he is very good bowler," said Crawley.

'Ashwin constantly reinventing himself'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ravichandran Ashwin is a thinking cricketer, who is constantly reinventing himself, said former India batsman VVS Laxman, insisting that preparation is key to the veteran off-spinner's success.

Ashwin recently became the fourth Indian bowler to take 400 Test wickets, when he achieved the feat by dismissing Jofra Archer in the pink ball Test at Ahmedabad. He also became the second fastest bowler to reach the landmark after Sri Lanka spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan.

"I think he's (Ashwin) a very intelligent person. When you're playing at the highest level, then it's not only about your skill, it's about your preparation, your planning and execution is so critical.

"So, he works out what are the weaknesses of the batsman. He plans those dismissals and that's why I think he is reinventing himself," Laxman, a veteran of 134 Tests, said on *Star Sports* show *Cricknet Connected*.

To prove his point, Laxman cited the example of Steve Smith's trouble against Ashwin during India's recent tour Down Under.

"We saw recently in the Australia series how he (Ashwin) troubled someone as great as Steve Smith and that's another thing that makes Ashwin or any champion player special, that he wants to be the best and compete against the best," he said.

Former India opener Aakash Chopra too lavished praise on Ashwin, saying he is one of the biggest match winners the country has ever produced.

"78 Test matches for 400 Test wickets. Let the naysayers be! He's been absolute phenomenal with the craft that he has displayed over a period of time and as he's growing as a bowler, he's picking a lot of wickets. So, that question mark is also getting answered quite nicely," said Chopra.

"I feel that he's an absolute rockstar. He's one of the biggest match winners that India has ever produced, of course Anil Kumble will still remain at No 1," added 43-year-old, who has played 10 Tests for the country.



Ash, Root in contention for ICC Player of Month

PTI ■ DUBAI

Seasoned India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin along with England captain Joe Root and West Indies' new batting sensation Kyle Mayers were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month for their exceptional performances in February.

Ashwin played three Tests against England and scored 106 in the second innings of India's second Test victory at Chennai and took his 400th Test wicket in the third Test victory at Ahmedabad.

"Scoring a total of 176 runs across these games with taking a total of 24 wickets, Ashwin is the deserving candidate to be nominated in the men's category for

February," the ICC release stated.

"England Test captain Joe Root makes it to the list of nominations again this month for his outstanding performance with the bat and the ball. He scored a total of 333 runs and took 6 wickets overall in the 3 Tests that he played against India," it further stated.

From the West Indies, Test debutant Mayers played two matches against Bangladesh and had a match-winning knock of 210 to help his team successfully chase a target of 395 at Chittagong.

In the women's section, Tammy Beaumont and Nat Sciver of England along with Brooke Halliday of New Zealand have been nominated.

Gayle focused to win third T20 World Cup

AFP ■ ANTIGUA

Chris Gayle said on Monday he is focused on the "bigger picture" of winning a third T20 world title with the West Indies later this year, ahead of the veteran batsman's return to International cricket this week.

The 41-year-old was named in the Windies' 14-man squad for the three-game T20I series against Sri Lanka, which starts in Antigua on Wednesday.

Gayle, who was part of the World T20-winning sides in both 2012 and 2016, played the last of his 58 T20Is against England in March 2019.

The Windies will attempt to defend their title in India in October and November.

"I want to accomplish, starting off by winning the series, but the bigger picture is actually to get three T20 titles under my belt," Gayle told a press conference.

"That's actually the goal I'm setting in my head — winning the T20 World Cup. The World Cup is still a long way off but by the time you quint (blink), it's World Cup time."

Gayle has made 1,627 T20I runs with a highest score of 117 at an average of over 32.

"I want to win the series," Gayle added. "I want to get off to a good start. It's really good to be back. Hopefully I can perform, help the team, and put the



team in a winning position."

He is one of four openers in the West Indies squad, but said that he could be used lower down the order again.

"It seems like I'm the number three specialist now," he said. "It's not a problem. I'm good at playing spin, I'm as good at playing fast bowlers as anyone as I'm an opener."

"But with West Indies cricket, whatever role they want me to play, I'm willing to play that particular role. If it's opening, I'm ready, number three, number five — I'm pretty much flexible. I will still be the best number five in the world, best number three in the world."

Leach eager to learn from Ashwin, Axar

PTI ■ LONDON

By his own admission, England's Jack Leach is in awe of the exploits of Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel during the pink ball Test and he is eager to learn the nuances of spin bowling from the Indian duo in the fourth and final match, starting here on Thursday.

Ashwin and Axar used the spin-friendly Motera pitch to great effect and picked up 18 of the 20 English wickets in the match to demolish the visitors.

"When you see players having so much success, like Ravichandran Ashwin, who has just got to 400 Test wickets and has a lot of experience in India, and Axar Patel, who has had a great start to Test cricket, of course, you try to learn from them," Leach wrote



in a column for *Sky Sports*.

"It's important not to look at it too emotionally though and think 'I just want to bowl exactly like them!'"

The 29-year-old left-arm spinner felt the experienced

Ashwin was very clever in the way he changed his seam position.

"He (Ashwin) will bowl to the same spot but the way it gets there and whether it hits the seam or hits the lacquer varies and the ball reacts very differently," Leach observed.

"Then Axar is someone who seems to present every ball the same, a squarish seam, then a few skid on and the odd one grips — that has been so effective on the wickets we've played on."

Leach is up for the challenge that awaits him in the final Test and sounded confident after picking up the wickets of top four Indian batsmen in the third Test.

"...We're all keen to learn and are excited by the challenge; you have to be because if it was all easy then it wouldn't be Test cricket and it wouldn't be as much fun when you have those good moments. It's something that I'm relishing," he said.

"I was really pleased with the way I got the wickets, lbw and they were all from straight balls, obviously the balls before spin and then you get the wicket with the straight one."

He said he will not get a better four-wicket than he grabbed in the last Test in the form of Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane.

"I'm pleased with the wickets that I've taken, bowling to some of the best players in the world in their own backyard. I don't think I'll get a better four-for and I feel like I've held my own really; that gives me a lot of confidence moving forward," he said.

SINGLES

'INDO-PAK EXPRESS' TO BE BACK ON TOUR

NEW DELHI: The much-popular Indo-Pak pairing of Rohan Bopanna and Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi will be back after six years when it competes at the Acapulco ATP 500 event but as of now it's an one-off arrangement since their combined ranking won't let them enter bigger tournaments together. It will be first time that Bopanna and Aisam, known as 'Indo-Pak Express' will play together since they last competed at the ATP 250 event in Shenzhen in 2014.

MANIKA, SREEJA ADVANCE INTO FINAL ROUND

DOHA: Star paddler Manika Batra and young Sreeja Akula moved to the final round of the women's singles qualifiers at the WTT Contender after winning their respective matches. The world number 150, Sreeja prevailed over world number 74 Vega Paulina before she sent packing 87th-ranked Orsavan Pararnang 11-5, 11-5, 11-6 in the third round. While Manika got the better of Irina Ciobanu 11-7, 15-13, 11-8 comfortably in the third round of women's singles qualifiers and will face Ganna Gaponova in the last round.

HAT-TRICK OF DEFEATS FOR INDIA WOMEN

DUSSELDORF: The Indian women's hockey team's defence resisted well but formidable Germany walked away with a 2-0 win in the third game, taking an unassailable 3-0 lead in the four-match series, here. Sonja Zimmermann (26') and Franzisca Hauke (42') scored the goals for Germany, who won their third consecutive match on Monday. The fourth match of the series will be played on Thursday.

SHRUTI SLIPS 2 PLACES IN ODI RANKINGS

DUBAI: Indian opener Smriti Mandhana slipped two places to sixth among batters but Julian Goswami retained her fifth spot among bowlers in the latest ICC women's ODI Players' rankings issued on Tuesday. England opener Tammy Beaumont has rocketed five places to grab the top position after an excellent display in the three-match series against New Zealand. She has overtaken the likes of Stafanie Taylor and Amy Satterthwaite to top the list and now leads Australia captain Meg Lanning by 16 points.

STIMAC NAMES 35 PROBABLES FOR FRIENDLIES

NEW DELHI: National football coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday named 10 new players in his 35-member list of probabilities for India's back-to-back international friendlies against Oman and the UAE to be played in Dubai on March 25 and 29 respectively. The final list of 28 players will be announced after the ISL final on March 13. The players will then assemble for a preparatory camp in Dubai from March 15.

MARY, PANGHAL AMONG 13 IN QUARTERS

NEW DELHI: Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom and Asian Games Gold-medallist Amit Panghal were among 13 Indian boxers who made the quarterfinals of Boxam International Tournament on Tuesday, leaving them just win away from securing medals at the event. While 12 of them either got byes or benefitted from the small size of their respective draws, Commonwealth Games Bronze-medallist Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg) defeated local boy Joan Manuel Torres in his opening bout on Tuesday.

SANIA RETURNS WITH WIN IN DOHA

DOHA: Sania Mirza made a winning return to the WTA circuit as she and her Slovenian partner Andreja Klepac beat Ukrainians Nadiia Kichenok and Lyudmyla Kichenok to reach the doubles quarterfinals of the Qatar Total Open here. The Indo-Slovenian pair won 6-4, 6-7(5), 10-5 against the duo of Kichenok and Kichenok in the opening round of the WTA 500 tournament Monday night.

FEDERER OUT OF MIAMI OPEN

MIAMI: Roger Federer is withdrawing from this month's Miami Open so he can spend extra time preparing to "work his way back out on tour," his agent told *AP*. The 20-time Grand Slam champion has not competed in more than a year. He is scheduled to make his return to the tour next week in a hard-court tournament at Doha, Qatar. Agencies

Money gets more importance than cricket in IPL: Steyn

PTI ■ KARACHI

South Africa pace great Dale Steyn has claimed that Cricket takes a back seat at the Indian Premier League, insisting that money is given more importance than the game in the lucrative T20 tournament.

Justifying his on-and-off IPL career, Steyn said this was one of the reasons he had not featured regularly in the world's biggest franchise-based T20 tournament.

"I think when you go to the IPL, there are such big squads and so many big names and so much emphasis on maybe the amount of money players earn and everything like that, so sometimes, somewhere down the line, cricket gets forgotten," said Steyn, who was part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore squad in the last IPL.

In January this year, Steyn announced that he is opting out of the IPL 2021 but will play other leagues around the world.

Steyn's decision influenced RCB to release him ahead of the IPL 2021 auction.

Steyn has played 95 IPL matches, picking up 97 wickets with a best of 3 for 8.

But the South African's repeated injury breakdowns didn't help his cause as he just featured in 12 IPL matches in the last three seasons.

The South African pacer, who is representing Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League 6, said he took the break as he needed time off from the game and also because he found playing in other leagues around the world more rewarding as a player.

"When you come to like the PSL or the Sri Lankan Premier League, for that matter, there is an importance on cricket. I have only been here for a couple of days and I have had people in and out of my room, just wanting to know about where I have played and how I went about it," Steyn said.

"Whereas, when I go to something like the IPL that gets forgotten and the main topic is how much money did you go for in this IPL? That's just me being brutally honest. I wanted to stay away from that and really put more emphasis on playing and bringing good vibes to good cricket teams and tournaments I feel are worth it," he added.

Vinicius rescues point for Real



AFP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid's chances of chasing down La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid were dealt a blow on Monday as they needed a late Vinicius Junior equaliser to secure a 1-1 draw with Real Sociedad.

It could have been worse for Zinedine Zidane's side, with Vinicius' finish in the 89th minute preventing what would have been a damaging defeat after a weekend in which both Atletico and Barcelona had won.

Atletico's victory over Villarreal on Sunday put them six points clear of Real Madrid, an advantage that is now only cut to five ahead of next week's Madrid derby at the Wanda Metropolitan. Atletico also have a game in hand.

The result ends Real Madrid's run of five consecutive wins while Porto's brilliant header for Real Sociedad early in the second half was also the first goal conceded by the reigning champions in five games.

It represents an important shift in momentum. A few days ago Atletico might have hoped just to hold on to first place next weekend but now they could spy an opportunity to all but

knock their opponents out of the title race.

Madrid had 20 shots to Real Sociedad's six but lacked edge in the final third, with the injured Karim Benzema watching on from the stands.

"We've had games where we won and maybe we didn't deserve to win as well, we can't change anything," said Madrid coach Zidane. "We have to keep going. There is a long way to go."

Richarlison boosts Everton's top-4 bid



Liverpool: Everton boosted their bid to earn a top-four finish in the Premier League as Richarlison sealed a 1-0 win against struggling Southampton on Monday.

Carlo Ancelotti's side won for the first time in six home league games thanks to Richarlison's early goal.

Everton's last success at Goodison Park had come against Arsenal just before Christmas, but ending a run of three consecutive home league defeats lifted them to within two points of fourth-placed West Ham.

The seventh-placed Toffees have a game in hand on West Ham, as well as Liverpool and Chelsea, who occupy the places directly above them. AFP

Crowds can be avoided at least initially in IPL: Wadia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab Kings co-owner Ness Wadia feels the IPL can avoid crowds initially in the tournament and also wants to know from the BCCI that why his team's base in Mohali has not been picked among the potential venues for the 2021 edition despite a low Covid-19 caseload.

Delhi, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai have been short-listed as potential venues but the BCCI is yet to take a final call on the matter.

"We have written to the BCCI to find out under what criteria they have selected the venues and why they have not selected us. We were hoping to have games in Punjab," Wadia said.

"Some of the teams will not have a home advantage, those are the concerns. The cases in Chandigarh and Mohali are not that much, I don't know on what basis they have shortlisted the venues," he added, referring to Chandigarh's 69 new cases on Monday.

The 2020 edition of the IPL was held in the UAE in empty stadiums but there is a possibility that the upcoming edition at home will allow spectators with the Covid situation improving drastically since the last IPL.

The current India-England Test series too is being played in front of lim-

Capt. Amarinder Singh

I am surprised at the exclusion of Mohali Cricket Stadium for the upcoming IPL season. I urge and appeal to @BCCI & @IPL to reconsider their decision. There is no reason why Mohali can't host IPL and our Government will make all necessary arrangements for safety against #Covid19.

1:38 pm · 02 Mar 21

Expressing surprise over the exclusion of Mohali from the list of venues short-listed for the upcoming IPL, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday appealed to the BCCI to reconsider the decision

ited fans.

However, Wadia feels IPL is a much tougher challenge logistically compared to a bilateral series and crowds can be avoided at least initially due to safety concerns.

"I think it would better to have no crowd initially and then evaluate the Covid-19 situation as the event progresses. There is no question that the IPL is tougher to organise than a bilateral series. We want whatever is best and safe for the players and the bio-bubble.