OPINION 6

STOP ROMANTICISING

INTERFAITH MARRIAGES

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SHREYA **ANNOUNCES PREGNANCY** 10 VIVACITY

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

WORLD 8

UN TELLS MYANMAR MILITARY:

STOP MURDERING PROTESTERS

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Covid resurgence: Cases soar to 8 weeks high

Over 17,000 cases in 24 hours; 6 States account for 88.76% of Covid deaths UK strains more

n a case of serious concern $oldsymbol{1}$ on the Covid-19 front, the overall daily cases on Thursday surged past 17,000 — the highest in eight weeks — with just six States accounting for 88.76 per cent of the new deaths pushing India's death toll to 1,57,435 and cases to 1,11,56,923.

As many as 89 fatalities were recorded in the last 24 hours with Maharashtra reporting maximum 42, Kerala 15 deaths and Punjab reported 12 deaths.

However, 23 States and UTs have not reported any deaths due to infections in the last 24 hours. The rise in new cases of this magnitude was last reported in the early week of January, pointed out experts.

The rate of active cases has also been rising gradually, pushing it to 1.55 per cent. As per the Ministry's data, there are 1,73,413 active cases at present after 14,031 patients

were discharged in a day. The experts have pointed out that number of possibilities could be due to the stride ranging from the lax attitude of people towards following Covid protocols to the likeability of "mutations and new strains" causing the surge, as has been studied by the laboratories involved in the Covid detection across the country.

According to State **CAPSULE**

12 FROM MYANMAR TAKE **REFUGE IN MIZORAM**

Aizawl: At least 12 people from Myanmar crossed into India and took refuge in Mizoram around a month after neighbouring country's military ousted the elected Government of Aung San Suu Kyi, officials said on Thursday.

NAXAL BLAST KILLS 3 SECURITY PERSONNEL

Ranchi: Three security personnel Naxal-triggered IED blast in the forests of .lharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Thursday

KEJRIWAL, PARENTS GET COVID VACCINE New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal, who along with his parents took their first dose of Covid-19 vaccine on Thursday. appealed to all eligible people to come forward and get vaccinated asserting that there's "nothing to

'UNDER GST. PETROL PRICE CAN COME DOWN TO ₹75'

Mumbai: Petrol price can go down to ₹75 a litre across the country if brought under the ambit of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), but there is a lack of political will, which is keeping Indian oil product prices at one of the highest in the world, economists at SBI said on Thursday.



An elderly woman hands over a document to register for the Covid vaccine at a private hospital in Guwahati on Thursday

Governments, the recent surge is due to the rise in marriage ceremonies and State and local bodies elections. In mid-February, officials had said the average daily new infections oscillated between 9,000 and 12,000 while the deaths were between 78 and 120 while on February 9, India had reported 9,110 new cases, the lowest this year so far. Last year, the lowest 9,633 cases were recorded on June 3.

The 23 States/UTs which have not reported any Covid-19 deaths in the last 24 hours are: Madhya Pradesh, Haryana,

Rajasthan, J&K (UT), Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Ladakh (UT), Tripura, A&N Islands, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar

So far, 1,66,16,048 doses of vaccine have been administered in the country since the drive began on January 16.

Haveli and Arunachal Pradesh.

Meanwhile, the latest round of seroprevalence survey conducted in Hyderabad has showed that about 54 per cent of the population in the city has been exposed to the virus and developed antibodies against it.

The study was jointly conducted by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and the pharmaceutical company Bharat Biotech.

"The data indicate that the population of Hyderabad might be slowly moving towards herd immunity, which will be certainly accelerated by the ongoing vaccination effort," said Doctor Rakesh Mishra, the

We are giving jabs to foreign

nations but not vaccinating

our own people: HC to Centre

The Delhi High Court Thursday asked the Centre to explain the rationale behind keeping strict control over class of persons who can be vaccinated against Covid-19 currently as under the present system those above the age of 60 years or with comorbidities can receive vaccination.

1,08,26,075

The high court said the two institutes which have developed the vaccines COVISHIELD and COVAXIN - Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech — have more capacity to provide the vaccines but it seems that their full capacity is not being exploited.

fully. We are either donating it to foreign countries or selling it to them and are not vaccinating our own people. So there has to be that sense of responsibility and urgency," a bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli said The high court directed the

manufacture the vaccines on per day/ week/ month basis and also the current optic of the vaccines and how much unused capacity is lying. They also have to indicate if they can scale up their pro-

two institutes to file separate

affidavits on their capacity to

duction capacities, it said. Continued on Page 2

contagious: Study

A mid cases of new variants of mutated SARS-CoV-2 emerging in India, a new modelling study has found that a variant of the virus that causes Covid-19 in the UK in November 2020 is more transmissible than pre-existing variants and will lead to a large

resurgence of Covid-19 cases.
The study should come as a warning to India where number of infections with the mutant UK, South Africa, and Brazil variants of SARS-CoV-2 jumped to 242 on Thursday. The new Covid-19 UK strain is more contagious and spread faster, and vaccines could be less effective on these patients, according to a new modelling study published in the journal Science.

However, the study has its limitation as it was based on a relatively smaller number of intervention and vaccination scenarios.

The research noted that without stringent control measures such as limited closure of educational institutions and a greatly accelerated vaccine roll-out, Covid-19 hospitalisations and deaths across England in 2021 will exceed

Some OTT platforms show

those from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimate that the novel variant has a 43-90 per cent higher reproduction number than pre-existing variants of SARS-CoV-2 in England. Reproduction number

indicates the average number of people who will contract a contagious disease from one infected person. After emerging in November last year, evidence

began to emerge in December that VOC 202012/01 was rapidly outcompeting preexisting variants in southeast England, the researchers said. They noted that as of February 15, the variant comprises roughly 95 per cent of new SARS-CoV-2 infections

in the UK, and has now been identified in at least 82 countries, including India. India is taking all steps to peed up vaccination pace

and hopes to inoculate around 30 crore people by August this year in the second phase. Estimates of its growth rate, disease severity and

impact are crucial for informing policy responses, according to the researchers.

Continued on Page 2

India pushes for Chabahar port in international transport route

PNS NEW DELHI

With India underlining the need for enhancing connectivity for development, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday pro-Chabahar port in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

India helped in its construction. The location of the Chabahar port has the strategic advantage and potential to provide connectivity among India, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and other Commonwealth Independent States countries,

and boost trade. Located in the Sistan-Balochistan province on the energy-rich Iran's southern coast, the port can be easily accessed from India's western

coast, bypassing Pakistan. Elaborating upon the importance of the Chabahar port, Jaishankar said the shift in the fulcrum of global economic growth towards Asia is creating unprecedented opportunities for connectivity in the he said.



Highlighting these points here on "Chabahar Day" at the Maritime India Summit 2021, the Minister expressed hope that member states involved with the INSTC will agree on expanding membership of this

Jaishankar said India has also proposed the inclusion of Chabahar in the INSTC route. It is an important trade corridor project, wherein India is partnering with 12 countries to establish an economic corridor,

The International North-South Transport Corridor is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode transport project for moving freight among India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central

"We also welcome the interest of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan to join the multilateral corridor project. Establishing an eastern corridor through Afghanistan would maximise its potential," he said.

"I am hopeful that during the INSTC Coordination Council meeting, member states would agree to the expansion of the INSTC route to include the Chabahar Port and also agree on expanding the membership of this project," Jaishankar said.

He also said as the world oes through a fundamental rebalancing, correcting many distortions of the past, it is only natural that connectivity should be central to that exercise. The shift in the fulcrum of global economic growth towards Asia is creating unprecedented opportunities

We hope member states will agree on the proposal, says Jaishankar

for connectivity in the region, the Minister said.

Noting that in the modern age, the correlation between connectivity and economic growth has got even more pronounced, Jaishankar said industrial development and technological advancement has gone hand in hand with ease of

connecting. Maritime connectivity, in particular, has played a significant role in creating regional corridors for trade and economic linkages, as indeed for cultural and intellectual exchanges over the centuries, he pointed out and added that they too assume a new prominence in contemporary times, for being more competitive and seamless.

The access of land-locked economies to maritime movements has been a focus of recent initiatives, he said. Recognising the importance of regional connectivity, India made a landmark decision to undertake an overseas port investment in Chabahar, Jaishankar said.

pornographic content: SC **Apex court wants**

ways to screen programmes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that a few over-the-top (OTT) platforms show some kind of pornographic content at times, and there should be a mechanism

to screen such programmes.
A Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to place before it the recent guidelines of the Government to regulate social media platforms on Friday, when it would hear the plea of Amazon Prime Video's India head Aparna Purohit challenging the Allahabad High Court order rejecting her anticipatory bail in con-nection with FIRs lodged against her over web series Tandav"

nent in Chabahar, car said. "A balance has to be struck as some OTT platforms are also showing pornographic materi-



als on their platforms," the bench, also comprising Justice RS Reddy, said.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Purohit, termed the case against her as "shocking" saying this woman is an employee of Amazon and she is neither a producer nor an actor but still she has been made an accused in around 10 cases relating to the

web series across the country.

Tanday, a nine-episode
political thriller starring
Bollywood A-listers Saif Ali Khan, Dimple Kapadia and Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, started streaming recently.

OTT quidelines for self-classification to boost audience experience: Min

PTI NEW DELHI

A mid concerns among some OTT (Over-the-Top) players about the new digital media rules, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday said his Ministry will partner with the industry to make the audience experience better and asserted the guidelines focus on selfclassification of content instead of any form of censorship.

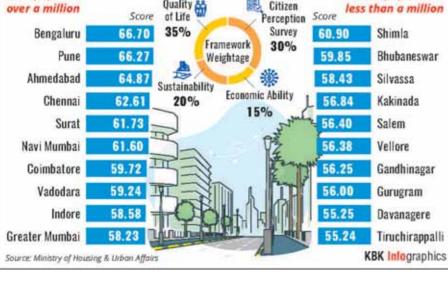
Javadekar, after a meeting with representatives of OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hotstar and Alt Balaji, also said that they welcomed have Government's new guidelines.

The Centre on February 25 notified rules for OTT platforms and digital news media, requiring them to have a grievance redressal system.

Bengaluru, Shimla most liveable cities in India

Based on Ease of Living Index 2020 With population With population Quality 🔐 Score of Life Perception 35% Survey Bengaluru Shimla Framework 66.27 Pune Weightage Ahmedabad Silvassa

India's 10 Most Liveable Cities



Pune, Bhubaneswar 2nd in **Ease of Living Index 2020**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bengaluru has been rated the most liveable city in India in the Government's "Ease of Living Index". The others, in the order of ranking, are Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodra, Indore and Greater Mumbai. The lowest on the list are:

Bareilly, Dhanbad and Srinagar. Interestingly, in the 2018 "Ease of Living Index", Pune was ranked the most liveable city in the country. It was followed by Navi Mumbai and Greater Mumbai, which have slipped to the sixth and the 10th rank respectively in the 2020 edition of the East of Living Index.

Besides, Shimla topped the list among 62 cities having less than one million population followed by Bhubaneswar, while Muzaffarpur in Bihar occupies the bottom place in the rankings. The city ranking based on

the Ease of Living Index 2020, was released by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday. Chennai, Surat, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore and Greater Mumbai are the other seven cities that have

found place in the top 10

among the

million-plus

of the 49 cities ranked on

livability index in the "million-plus population" category, Delhi ranked at the 13th position, Meerut at 36 and Faridabad 40 position and Bareilly, Dhanbad, Srinagar are at the bottom at 47, 48 and 49 position respectively. Tirupati was at the fourth

osition and Chandigarh fifth n 2018, but in the 2020 Ease of Living Index, Tirupati and Chandigarh have slipped to the 46th and the 29th position respectively.
Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's constituency Varanasi was ranked position in 2018 which has been ranked at the 27 position in 2020.

Unlike the first ease of living index (EoLI) report of 2018, the latest ranking of cities in 2020 has put 111 cities in two categories, million-plus and cities having population less than a million. "These cities have emerged as models of development who will inspire others to perform better. Further, their peers will also benefit from emulating their best practices," Puri said.

Interestingly, no city from West Bengal figures in the ranking list. The assessment exercise was carried out last year just before the lockdown. Performance of the cities have been measured on four broad parameters — governance and social, physical and economic infrastructure. According to officials, the Ease of Living Index is an assessment tool that evaluates the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development.

Continued on Page 2

Hurriyat chief Mirwaiz set free, all curbs lifted by admin

PNS ■ JAMMU

hairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been set free by the local administration in Srinagar. The administration lifted

the restrictions imposed on his free movement days before the Centre scrapped special status of J&K under Article 370 and split the erstwhile State into two Union Territories in the first week of August 2019. Interestingly, even after the

announcement was made public and his well wishers congratulated him on the various social media platforms deployment of security forces remained visible outside his

Continued on Page 2

BENGAL ASSEMBLY POLLS

BJP's CEC likely to release list of candidates today

 $B^{\text{JP's Central Election}}_{\text{Committee (CEC), which}}$ may announce by Friday the first list of candidates for the West Bengal Assembly polls, has a tough task of selecting contestants for the party with a number of TMC-turncoats vying for the tickets.

The CEC on Thursday is expected to finalise its first list of candidates also for assembly polls in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief Jagat Prakash Nadda, and other senior party leaders are attending the meeting at party headquarters here.

Ahead of the meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda had deliberations with the State BIP leaders.

BJP chief Dilip Ghosh and party's Central Observer for West Bengal Kailash Vijayvargiya arrived in Delhi on Wednesday to attend the

CEC meeting. Finalising Bengal list seems to very tricky for the BJP with last minute switch-over by TMC leaders -ticket seekers-to

According to sources, allo-

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Guddu is owner of Southern Portion area measuring 33.34 sq. yards of Property No. IX/5365, Khasra No.18/283, Sibusted at Gali No.2, Nanak Basti, Old Seelampur, Gandhi Nagar, Village Seelampur, Illaqa Shahdara. Delhi by virtue of Sale Deed dated 24.12.2020, Registration No. 7302, executed by Mrs. Nirmala Yadav, have lost /misplaced SMC certificate stating legal heris of Late Mr. Mahender Kumar Yadav, All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days of the present Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants). Ph. 1911-4111227-28 kumarassociates advocate@ganal.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the

Hon'ble NCLT Chandigarh bench in

Shweta Jha (Proprietor of GAMS

Associates) V/s. M/s DBM Retail Pvt

Ltd. & Ors (CP No. 122)

CHD/HRY/2020) has issued notice

vide Order dated 18.01.2021 to M/s

DBM Retail Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Richoal

Singh, Mr. Sanjay Satpathy and Mr.

Harish Kumar Sharma to appear

before it on next date of hearing on

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Details of the Tender Notices of

TENDER NOTICE

Open e-Tender Notice No

C/E.221/ELS/KZJ/2020-21/173 dt.03

03-2021(e tender no.ELS-KZJ-173-03

03- 2021) e-Tender from the

experienced Contractors are invited by

the undersigned for the following

Tender No. & date: C/E.221/ELS/KZJ

2020-21/173 dt.03-03-2021(etende

Description of work : Rehabilitation

of tap changers on conventional locos

Completion period : OneYear (A

Tender Value : ₹. 1,79,93,977-56

(Including GST of ₹.27,50,335-56) bu

excl. cost of released materials of

Date & time of closing & Openin

01-04-2021 15.00 hrs & 01-04-202

I. Tenderers should participate through

e-tendering only and no manua

. All the prospective tenderers ar

requested to remit cost of tende

form & EMD through online paymer

3. All the prospective tenderers are

advised to get GSTIN identification

Nos. and submit along with the

. GST is included in schedule items

However, bill payment is after

submission of document evidence

For further tender conditions /

details and for downloading the

Please visit website at

http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Enginee A0233/21 Electrical Loco Shed, Kazipe

for GST payment.

offers may be considered.

enos. (ADTRANZ BT/ABB Make) o

no.ELS-KZJ-173-03-03-2021

26.04.2021.

works.

ELS/KZJ.

EMD: NIL

15.30 hrs

firm's premises)

Validity of offer: 45days

Cost of Tender form : NIL

+91-9555931666

cating tickets to the ex-TMC candidate is likely to trigger discontent in the party, impacting part's performance, sources said As many as 28 MLAs, including 19 from the TMC, and a sitting MP of the ruling camp have switched over to the RIP over the past faw months. BJP over the past few months. Among them are heavyweight politicians and former TMC Īeaders Suvendu Adhikari and Rajib Banerjee, Sovan

Chatterjee and Jitendra Tiwari. Entry of some of TMC leaders was objected to by a section of the state BJP leaders including party MPs.

Former senior TMC big gun, now a vociferous BJP leader Adhikari may influence as many as 16 seats in favour of the candidates of his choice, they said Assam list could be a straight case vis-a-vis the Bengal with the state leadership

doing most of the filtering job.
On Wednesday, Nadda,
Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and his Cabinet colleague Himanta Biswa Sarma met Shah at his residence here to discuss strategy for Assam Assembly elections ahead of the CEC meeting. The polling in four states and Puducherry will be held between March 27 and April 29. The counting of votes will be held on May 2.

Ranchi: Three security personnel were killed and two

injured in a Naxal-triggered

IED blast in the forests of

Jharkhand's West Singhbhum

district on Thursday, officials

unit of the state police,

Jharkhand Jaguars, were killed

in the improvised explosive device (IED) blast that took

Three men of the special

 $T^{\text{he Delhi Government on}}_{\text{Thursday organised an}}$ interactive programme at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Vikapuri in which young IAS and IPS officers interacted with the students and shared their strategies and insights about

The interaction organised

understanding of the exam.

event in this series which witnessed students interacting with IAS Neha Bansal and IAS Udit Prakash. Both the officers shared their preparation tips and strategies about the coveted UPSC exam. Close to a hundred students from various schools in Delhi took part in UPSC exam preparation to help students develop a better the interaction at the school. In addition, there were approximately 4000 students joining the event through YouTube

that she had decided to become an IAS officer right in her college days. She used to study regularly for 7-8 hours every day. Due to such hard work, she never faced any problems during the exams. Keeping in mind the syllabus for the exam and the previous years' question papers she had started her preparation in the second year of college and this focused

approach helped her concentrate on her dream.

Delhi Government has been successfully running a program for the civil services aspirants of the Delhi government schools so that students can learn about qualifying UPSC exams at a young age. In this program, young IAS and IPS officers interact with the students on a regular basis and share their experiences, strategies and insights about

IAS, IPS officers give students UPSC preparation tips help students develop a better

understanding of the exam. IAS Udit Prakash said that if serving one's country is one's purpose then the failures will not demotivate anyone. Further, he added that it is a major misconception that the students who take arts do not do well in this exam. Many of the applicants who are successful in this exam are from the arts stream.

JALGAON HOTEL WOMEN 'STRIPPING' CASE:

Government wants to remove the myths associated with the civil services prepara-tion from the minds of the young students.

He also shared about 'Jai Bheem' scheme of Delhi Government which provides free coaching to students preparing for civil services exam as well as other competitive exams.

Tn a series of its programme I to strengthen the booth management across all the mandals, the State Bharatiya Janata Party president Adesh Gupta will be camping at Badarpur constituency on Friday where he would be interacting with party leaders and workers to gear them up for the next year's municipal corporations' elec-

who said the booth president is the backbone of the organization. He said since Adesh Gupta himself has been the president of booth committee, he knows its importance very

Singh said the party worker at grassroot level is its strength and being the largest

at the lowest level is the very foundation of our organization The aim of this camping programme is to have a face to face direct dialogue with workers at mandal level and give them finer tips on the booth man-

The general secretary said during the camping programme there would be a meeting in every mandal in which booth level workers, mandal chief, mandal incharge, its former chief, office bearers, former candidates who contested the polls, district incharge besides district presidents, executive committees members and others will be

opportunity to have snacks with the mandal president and stay overnight with a common man in the area and have dinner with him," he added.

From Page 1

Mirwaiz too avoided stepping out

Section of media claimed he was

of his residence on Thursday.

set free on Wednesday, but no

official statement was issued by

the authorities in Srinagar. PDF

welcomed Mirwaiz's release from

hear about Mirwaiz's release from

detention. I hope that hundreds of

Kashmiri men languishing in jails

in and outside J&K will also he

returned home," Mufti tweeted

released soon. It's time they

"arbitrary detention". "Good to

chief Mehbooba Mufti has

Hurriyat...

SC: Provisions for OBC quota in local bodies can't breach 50% limit

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Thursday that provisions for reservations of seats for OBCs in local bodies cannot breach the 50 per cent

A bench comprising Justices A.M. Khanwilkar, Indu Malhotra and Ajay Rastogi said that reservation for OBCs is only a "statutory" dispensation to be provided by the state legislations, unlike the "constitutional" reservation for SCs/STs, which is linked to the proportion of population.
"As regards the state legis-

lations providing for reservation of seats in respect of OBCs, it must ensure that in no case the aggregate vertical reservation in respect of SCs/STs/OBCs taken together should exceed 50 per cent of the seats in the concerned local bodies," the bench said.

The top court quashed the results of OBC reserved seats in local bodies in the districts of Washim, Akola, Nagpur and Bhandara in Maharashtra. The top court also directed the State Election Commission to take immediate steps to announce elections in respect of such vacated seats of the concerned local bodies, not later than two weeks from Thursday, to be filled by general/open category candidates for the remainder term of the panchayats/samitis.

The bench said the quantum of reservation for OBCs ought to be local body

No truth in BJP's allegations, cops didn't force girls to strip, dance: Maha HM

The Opposition BJP found itself in an embarrassing situation in the Maharashtra Assembly on Thursday, as State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh called its bluff and said that there was no truth in its allegation that women were stripped and made to 'dance naked' by policemen at a women's hostel in Jalgaon district in north Maharashtra.

A day after he ordered an inquiry into the allegation to this effect made by BJP MLA from Chikhli Shweta Mahale, Deshmukh informed the State Assembly that a team of senior women police had looked into the incident and found that there was no truth in the alle-

"The incident was investigated by 6 women officers... There are 17 women inmates at the hostel Statements of 41 witnesses were recorded. The entry register of the hostel was scrutinized. It is found that there is no truth in the allegations. No male police official was present. It is a women's hostel and policemen are not permitted inside," Deshmukh

The minister said that the woman who had made a complaint in connection with the incident was "mentally unstable".

'Her husband and other family members have complained about her mental con-

dition. On February 20, an organised for the inmates, at which no male police official was present. The programme included poetry recital, singing and dance," Deshmukh said.

"During the 'garba' dance, one woman had discarded her long 'ghaghra' as she was feeling uncomfortable," the minister said.

State Women & Child Development Minister Yashomati Thakur and Water Supply Minister Gulabrao Patil said that "no such incident" ever took place at the at the State-run Ashadeep Women's Hostel in Ganeshnagar area of

Hitting out at the BJP for making "baseless" allegations, Thakur said: "Because of such allegations, destitute women leave the hostel only to face a lot of problems from the society. We must be very careful before making such serious

Patil, who is the district Guardian Minister of Jalgaon, said that had spoken to both the district collector and Superintendent of Police, who had confirmed that no such incident had taken place at the women's hostel.

Maharashtra Congress President and senior MLA Nana Patole lamented that the incident -- as alleged by the BJP - had tarnished the image of the state. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said that tions are made, the members should verify if they were true.. Raising the issue in the

State Assembly on Wednesday,

BJP MLA Shweta Mahale had alleged the women inmates who did not cooperate with the police were told to remove their clothes and "dance naked" The women in the hostel now live in fear. They must be made to feel secure. The inci-

dent is a blot on the face of the

state. The police who are sup-

posed to protect have become aggressors," Mahale Joining Mahale in attacking the state government on the issue, leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis on the issue had said: "This is a shameful incident. A video clip shows police making the girls in the

with this matter sensitively". Taking cognisance of the Opposition's Deshmukh ordered an inquiry into the incident and said that an inquiry report would be tabled in the House within 24

nude. This must be thorough-

ly investigated. We must deal

"This is a very unfortunate incident. We have appointed a four-member committee to probe the incident and asked it to submit its report within 48 hours. Necessary action will be taken as per the rules after the probe report is received," the minister had said on

Eye on next yr's local polls, BJP Delhi chief to camp at Badarpur

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

State general secretary Dinesh Pratap Singh here today

party in the world, the worker

Hoyahatu village under Toklo

police station area of the dis-

trict. A jawan of the Jharkhand

Jaguars and a Central Reserve

Police Force personnel from its

197th battalion were injured in

Jharkhand Jaguars and CRPF

was out for an anti-Maoist

The joint team of

the blast, they said.

operation in the area.

agement.

present.
"In fact, Gupta will use the

Bengaluru...

From Page 1

In this category, Bhubaneshwar was ranked second, Silvassa came third. They were followed by Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurgaon, Davangere and Tiruchirapalli. Muzaffarpur was at the boton livability index in the "less than million population" category.

The Ministry also drafted a report on the "Municipal Performance Index 2020" in a bid to determine elements that prevent efficient local governance in service delivery mechanisms, planning, financial systems, and governance practice. In the million-plus category, Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality, followed by Surat and Bhopal while Guwahati, Kota and Srinagar ranked lowest. Among municipalities catering to a Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar while Shillong, Imphal and Kohima municipalities were ranked low-

The MPI examined the sectoral performance of 114 municipalities (with Delhi being assessed separately for NDMC, and the three Municipal Corporations) across five verticals which comprise of 20 sectors and 100 indicators in all totality. The five verticals under MPI include services, finance, policy, technology and Perception Survey (CPS) was undertaken from January 16 to March 20, 2020. A total of 3.22 million citizens from 111 cities participated in the survey.

Wednesday.

India pushes for...

Naxal blast in Jharkhand

kills 3 security personnel

under discussion for some tribute to the rich civilisationtime, it was during Prime al, cultural, and trade links to Iran in 2016 that a trilateral agreement to establish an International Transport and Transit Corridor was signed by India, Iran and Afghanistan, he

Jaishankar said transport and transit corridor is intended to ensure the unhindered flow of commerce throughout the region and to create a safe, and reliable route to trade initially with Afghanistan, and thereafter with Central Asia.

The establishment and operations of India Ports Global Ltd at Shahid Behesti Port in Chabahar is the practical realisation of this important initiative, he said and lauded Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Mansukh Mandaviva and his team, as well as his Iranian partners, for the steady growth of the port

operations. The ongoing conclave also commemorates five years of the signing of the tripartite agreement on the establishment of a Trilateral Transport and Transit

Name of the work

Class of Contracto

Detail Projects Other Details

Procurement

Officer

Engineer, Rural

Works Circle,

OIPR-25129/11/0014/2021

Time for Completion

No. Tender Online RCK - 09 / 20

Identification

Further details can be seen from the website y

From

08.03.2021

11.00 AM

0-1173

While this project had been that the agreement is a fitting and Central Asia.

Jaishankar highlighted that the Chabahar port has not only emerged as a commercial transit hub for the region but also facilitated the delivery of humanitarian assistance, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

India also assisted Iran to fight the worst ever locust invasion in the last 25 years by supplying 25 metric tonnes of Malathion in June 2020, again through the Chabahar port, he said. The second batch of 25 metric tonnes has recently

reached the port, he added. Jaishankar said besides Indian exports of food products, the port has handled several shipments and trans-shipments from Russia, Brazil, Thailand, Germany, Ukraine and the UAE.

The virtual event, besides Jaishankar and Mandaviya, also saw the participation of Ministers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR

23.03.2021

5.00 PM

Letter No.- 488

e-Procurement NOTICE

of the Annexure.

As per Annexure attached

Time of

seeking

clarification

5

22.03.2021

up to

5.00PM

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e mail - serw kpd@yahoo.com

Construction of MCS Building Works in

B, A & Special Class as specified in the column 7

As specified in the Column-8 of the Annexure

the District of Kendrapara & Jaipur

UK strains...

From Page 1

After analysing 150,000 sequenced SARS-CoV-2 samples from across the UK, they found that the relative popula-202012/01 in the first 31 days following its initial observation was higher than that of all 307 other virus variant lineages.

To understand possible biological mechanisms for this, the researchers used age and regionally structured mathematical model of SARS-CoV-2 transmission to test several assumptions, including that the variant has a higher viral load or longer shedding period.

They identified increased transmissibility as the model that best explains the variant's rapid spread.

The team used modelling to further analyse how interventions could reduce the potential burden of this new variant in the UK.

The researchers concluded that a substantially increased vaccine roll-out and school closures for 2021 may be needed to prevent Covid-19 deaths and hospitalisations in 2021 from exceeding those in 2020 in the UK.

opening of tender

Technical Bid

24.03.2021

Financial

05.04.2021

We are giving... age or physical condition.

From Page 1 "Union of India (UoI) shall file an affidavit disclosing the capacity to transport the vaccines while maintaining the whole chain particularly to the NCT of Delhi. The Union of India shall also indicate the

extent to which it is presently

being used," the high court said.

The UoI shall explain the rationale behind keeping strict control over class of persons who can be vaccinated as noticed in our last order. Under the present system, persons above 60 years of age and between 45 to 60 years with comorbidities can receive vaccination.

"An affidavit to be filed by the UoI disclosing the rationale for such classification," it said. It also asked the Delhi

government to carry out inspection of medical facilities available in court complexes here and to report if COVID-19 vaccination centres could be set up there and also the short comings in facilities.

The high court asked all the authorities to file their affidavits by March 9 and listed the matter for further hearing on March 10. The high court was hearing

a PIL initiated by it to examine the demand of Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) to declare all people associated with the judicial functioning, including judges, court staff and lawyers as "frontline workers" so that they could receive COVID-19 vaccination on priority and without limitations of their

It also asked the Delhi High Court Bar Association and BCD to disclose the strength of members registered with them to get an idea of number of people to be vaccinated in the judicial system in the national capital. During the hearing, the

counsel for Bharat Biotech sought to know the target audience for vaccination and whether the ambit was entire iudiciary. Additional Solicitor

General Chetan Sharma and advocate Anil Soni, representing the Centre, informed the court that selection of class of people for vaccination was a policy decision which was taken by an expert body.

Sharma informed the high court that a similar petition is pending before the Supreme Court and will come up for hearing on Monday. To this, the bench said the

issue here is to find out if the whole judicial system, including judges, lawyers and court staff, can be prioritised without age and co-morbidities limitation. On Wednesday, the high court had taken suo motu cognisance and initiated on its own a public interest litigation on the basis of a communication received from the BCD.

It had said there is a clear pattern emerging that the number of COVID-19 positive cases increases with greater intermingling and congregation of people.

It had said premises and court rooms of the high court, which is scheduled to resume

physical functioning from March 15, and some of the district courts are air-conditioned and with increased footfall, there is likelihood of the rate of infection amongst those who attend the courts spiking, once the full-fledged physical functioning of courts in Delhi resumes.

It had noted that in the first round, frontline workers, particularly of the medical community were covered, and others such as the police force have already been covered. The court had referred to

a communication sent to the chief justice by BCD Chairman Ramesh Gupta requesting that appropriate directions be issued to the concerned authorities to make available necessary infrastructure in court premises, particularly in dispensaries for vaccinating the members of the judicial system by treating them as frontline workers.

The bench had said that the need of the hour is to vaccinate the masses, in view of the raging pandemic, on a war footing so as to secure the life and health of all those who step out of their homes to attend to their avocations and profes-It had added that since the

cases listed on any given day are mostly different from those listed on the previous or the next day, the litigants are also different and this peculiarity exposes the judges, court staff and the lawyers to the risk of contracting the disease.

The bench had observed that the comorbidities enlisted by the government to accommodate people of 45 to 60 years age are serious conditions from which the judges, staff and advocates may or may not be suffering with but this does not mean that the risk of their contracting the disease and suffering serious health issues, including fatality, does not exist. PTI

THE PIONEER (

CHANGE OF NAME

I ATUL GUPTA S/o Late Sh. BALKISHAN DAS GUPTA R/o K-51, Jangpura Ext. N.D.-14 have changed the name of my minor daughter from SANVI GUPTA to SSANVI GUPTA for all future purposes.

PD(8944)C I IAHNVE GUPTA D/o Sh.

ATUL GUPTA R/o K-51, Jangpura Ext. N.D.-14 have changed my name from **JAHNVE** GUPTA to JAHNVEE GUPTA for all future purposes. PD(8945)C

ATUL GUPTA R/o K-51,

Jangpura Ext. N.D.-14 have changed my name from NEELIMA GUPTA to NEELIMA GOYAL for all future purposes.

I NEELIMA GUPTA W/o Sh.

PD(8946)C

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CM, parents take Covid shot

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his parents received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at the Government-run Lok Navak Jai Prakash Narayan hospital on Thursday. The Chief Minister assured that he and his parents were perfectly healthy after receiving the vaccine dose and appealed to the people to come forward and get their vaccination done. tion done.

The Delhi Government will increase the number of vaccination centres in the capital after receiving further direction, he said. "I along with my parents have received our first doses of Covid-19 vaccine today. As you all can see we are perfectly healthy and are facing no complications," he said after getting the vaccine shot.

"We are fortunate that we now have a vaccine to tackle the Covid-19 vaccine. I want to appeal to everyone who is eli-



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, along with his parents Gobind Ran Kejriwal and Rita Devi, takes the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, during the second phase of a countrywide inoculation drive, at LNJP Hospital in New Delhi on Thursday

tion done. The LNJP Hospital has made adequate arrangements for administering the vaccination, and the doctors and medical staff have made all proper arrangements. Everybody should get the Covid-19 vaccine," he said.

Kejriwal further said "We are constantly in touch with the Central government and we are working on their directions. As and when we receive further directions, we will increase the number of vaccination centres. I and my parents have been administered the Covidshield vaccine. We have enough stock of the vaccine. All the doubts in the minds of the people have dispersed," he added.

During the second-phase of the inoculation drive that started on March 1, people aged 60 years and above and those in the 45-59 age group with specific comorbidities are being administered the vaccine at 192 hospitals across Delhi.

Cochlear implants free of cost under Delhi Arogya Kosh: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Health Minister of Delhi Satyendar Jain on Thursday inaugurated the Cochlear Implant Facility at Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya. At the inauguration event,

Jain said every newborn child should be checked for hearing disability before discharge. 'The Chikitsalaya should increase its capacity and work dedicatedly to achieve its tar-gets. The Delhi Government is committed to providing all medical facilities, including Cochlear implants free of cost under Delhi Arogya Kosh," he

Speaking at the occasion, Jain said, "Congratulations to everyone for initiating the Cochlear implant facility. This is the second facility in Delhi after one at LNJP Hospital.

"Every newborn child should be checked for any



hearing disability before discharge. This should be made a protocol as every year Delhi reports hundreds of kids who are born with hearing disabilities. Sometimes out of happiness parents do not realise that their child has a problem with hearing. Treating the same becomes difficult at a later stage and if treated within three months of birth the disability can be reverted," he said.

The minister further said "We are a government dedicated to the people of Delhi. One Cochlear Implant originally cost ?5 lakhs to the hospital, but purchasing it in bulk brings the cost down signifi-cantly to ?2 to ?2.5 lakhs. However, under Delhi Arogya Kosh, this will be provided free of cost to the patients,"

"Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya should increase its capacity and perform Cochlear Implants on 100 patients this year. All the expenses will be borne by the Delhi Government but the target

NDMC ranked No 1 in under 1 mn civic city area in India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has been ranked number one under less than million city category and received National Award from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on Municipal Performance Index

The Minister of MoHUA declared the results of Municipal Performance Index 2020 on Thursday. The NDMC was declared first in Municipal Performance Index and best performing Municipality in all State and UTs under less than a million population category.

The Chairman of the Dharmendra, acknowledged the prestige recognition bestowed upon NDMC by Minister MoĤUA on behalf of NDMC.

After receiving the award, Dharmendra said that since its launch in 2019, NDMC has been participating in the MPI across all five sets of verticals which are services, finance, planning, technology and governance. The chairman further

informed that, in the field of Services and Governance, NDMC has taken several Information Technology based initiatives through technology intervention for strengthening e-Governance and m-Governance to improve efficiency and effectiveness in providing civic services in an equitable, non-discretionary and transparent manner.

Congratulating the employees of NDMC, the Chairman said that the credit for getting the award goes to the efforts of all employees. NDMC Chairman also expressed its gratitude to the NDMC Council, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Baijal etc for continued guidance and

Man accidentally shoots self, cooks up story to mislead Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

30-year-old civil defence Avolunteer accidentally shot himself and then cooked up a story of being shot allegedly by two bike-borne men in south Delhi's Neb Sarai area to mislead investigators.

The man has been identified as Sujeet Kumar, who also works as a driver, lives with his wife and a 10-year-old son at a rented house in Indira Enclave of Neb Sarai area. Police said that Kumar is presently undergoing treatment at the AIIMS Trauma Centre and slated to be out of danger.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on Wednesday, Kumar accidently shot himself and then made a Police Control Room (PCR) call, informing police that he was shot in the left knee by two men on a motorcycle near his house.

"During enquiry, Kumar told the police that he was smoking a cigarette at the cor-ner of a park near his house when two men riding a motorcycle came there. They had an argument over a petty issue following which they fired at him and fled the spot," said the DCP.

under relevant sections of the IPC and Arms Act. During the quizzing that followed, it was found that Kumar did not respond to questions properly and kept diverting the investigators. However, a witness told the police that neither did he noticed any firing nor hear any sound, the officer said, adding that the police team also did not find any blood at the spot," said the DCP. "The police found that

Kumar's wife Anshu had locked her room and left the house without informing anyone. When she was contacted, she did not join the enquiry nor attend to phone calls from the police. A CCTV footage of the area showed the only motorcycle entering the area at the time of incident had not been identified by Kumar," said the DCP.

"Kumar was then re-examined at length during which he confessed that he had a fight with the men living in the neighbourhood 15 days back and identified them as Sumit, Arjun and Vicky. So all three men were examined," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the boys disclosed that on Wednesday morning, Kumar was carrying a pistol and had shown it to them. Kumar then took it inside his room and after a few minutes he and his wife came out of the room and Kumar had a bullet injury," said

They offered to help him but he denied and instead made a call to the police. They also saw his wife taking the pistol with her and leaving her room locked. After the incident, Kumar's wife went missing but she was traced and found at a distant relative's home nearby in the same colony," said the DCP.

"When questioned, she disclosed that her husband had had acquired the pistol from a friend named Amit Kundu. After the incident, she left her room and went to her relative's place with the pistol and hide it there. She confessed that she did all this to save her husband," said the DCP.

"The pistol along with three live cartridges was recovered. Suitable action will also be taken against Kumar, who is presently hospitalised and was previously involved in three cases, including that of murder and Arms Act in 2016 in Ghaziabad district," said the

Want to see varsities produce entrepreneurs: Sisodia to build institutions that would

Deputy CM introduces MBA in Family Business and Entrepreneurship at DTU to enhance family businesses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said introduction of MBA in Family Business and Entrepreneurship at Delhi Technological University will enhance family businesses not only in Delhi but across the nation.

Sisodia said it is his dream that this course becomes the best entrepreneurship course in the world and compete with Babson college of US, which is renowned for its family business and entrepreneurship course. Students from across the globe should compete to get admission in this course at DTU, he said.

"My dream for India is that the students who graduate from our universities aim to become job providers, not job seekers. They should become entrepreneurs and create employment opportunities. Our universities have equipped our students in a way that they are able to get high salaries in world renowned companies. But, for our nation's progress, it is important that the universities equip our students with entrepreneurial skills and help



them create jobs. It is my dream to see our universities become well-spring of entrepreneurs," he said.

The deputy CM said in the last eight decades, DTU has

done commendable work in the field of research. 'University graduate students of our nation are now leaders of various companies and start-

prepare our students to dream of working in companies in Japan or the US. I believeDelhi Technological University has built a strong foundation for our students to achieve these dreams," he said.

Speaking of unemployment caused during the pandemic, he said, "The biggest problem caused by the pandemic has been unemployment.

demic has been unemployment. It is great to know that by introducing such MBA programmes, DTU aims to mitigate problems of unemployment. More than 2.5 lakh students graduate from schools in Delhi, looking for jobs, but nobody thinks of becoming a job provider. My dream for India is that the students who graduate from our Universities aim to become job providers, not job seekers," he added.

1 killed in rash Car driving STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI ing an office party when the incident occurred. According to Santosh the Deputy

 $A^{22 ext{-year-old man was killed}}$ while another sustained serious injuries after a speeding Mercedes car rammed into another car in Delhi's Dwarka in the early hours of Thursday. been initiated to identify and nab the driver of Mercedes who is absconding after the acci-

The deceased has been identified as Akash Rana (22), a resident of Haryana's Panipat while his colleague Rahul Rana (23) was seriously injured in the incident and is undergoing treatment at Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital (DDU) in the city. The deceased and the injured man worked in an insurance company.

Police said that they were returning from a hotel in Dwarka sector 22 after attend-

deployed in their respective

work fields to recognize and

celebrate their achievements,"

said the senior police official.

Women's Day, all major traffic

regulation duties will be carried

out by women personnel of

Traffic Unit while men per-

sonnel may be present in assisting roles only," said the senior

"On March 8, which is on

Kumar Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district, around 1 am, the police received information regarding crossing of Dwarka sectors 6 and 7 following which an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched for the

Spot.
"On Spot, police found that a Mercedes and a Ford Figo were involved in the accident. The driver of the Mercedes is absconding. The vehicle is registered in the name of Ajay Kumar Singh of Jharkhand," said the DCP.

"A case has been registered and an investgation is underway. The body has been sent for post-mortem," said



and experience traditional handicrafts

and products from villages of India

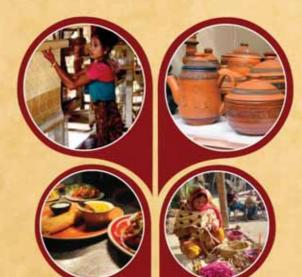






26th February - 14th March 2021 TAAH SOLOZI

Sector 33A, behind ISKCON Temple, Noida, Uttar Pradesh Timings: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM



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MoRD GOI D @MinistryOfRuralDevelopment

Women cops feat to be celebrated, recognised

Women police officials of the Delhi Police, are being deployed in their respective work fields to recognise and celebrate their achievements, on 'Women's Day'.

"It is Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava vision to increase women officials' visibility in force and has decided them to put them upfront to take various respon-

departments. This will also play a major role in establishing communication and friendly relation between public and police," said Chinmoy Biswal, Public Relation Officer (PRO) of Delhi Police.

Delhi Police has about 13 per cent of its strength made up of women officers and personnel. "On the coming International Women's Day, maximum possible women





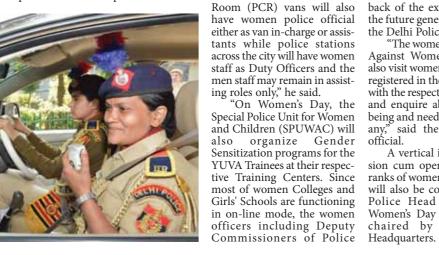
Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACP) and Inspector ranks officials will coordinate with colleges and schools managements so that they can have an online session," said the senior police official.

"The student in this program can interact with them and the officials will guide and tell students about various initiatives of Delhi Police. The teams will also obtain a feedback of the expectations that the future generation has from the Delhi Police," said he said.

"The women staff of Crime Against Women (CAW) will also visit women senior citizens registered in the districts along with the respective beat officials and enquire about their well being and needs from Police, if any," said the senior police official.

A vertical interaction session cum open house for all ranks of women police officers will also be conducted at the Police Head Quarters on Women's Day and it will be chaired by Special CP,





J&K delimitation panel's term extended for a year

In a move indicating that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir's wait for regaining its Statehood would not be over anytime soon, the Centre has given a one-year extension to the Delimitation Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, mandated for redrawing the boundaries of Assembly and Lok Sabha seats in the UT. It means, the Assembly and Parliamentary polls will only be held after the delimitation exercise, and for conducting the polls, the UT has to be declared

Interestingly, the north-eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland have been excluded from the mandate of the Commission.

The Union Ministry of Law & Justice has issued a notification extending the tenure of Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Desai, delimitation commission by one year. The commission's term was coming to end on March 5, 2021. According to the notification, the Commission's mandate would now only be to carry out the exercise in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory.

Union home minister Ámit Shah had last month told the Lok Sabha that Jammu and Kashmir will get back the status of a state at an appropriate time. The home minister was replying to the discussion on the Jammu



(Amendment) Bill of 2021 in the Lok Sabha.

Sources said there were some legal issues in notification part relating delimitation in the four north-eastern states. "So possibly a fresh notification may be issued after addressing the legal anomalies", sources

The Commission has held its first meeting last month in which the National Conference members skipped the meeting saying that the party has challenged the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act in the Supreme Court and the matter is pending.

The panel was set up last year to redraw the electoral constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir and four northeastern States — Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. However, the oneyear extension is only for Jammu

The proceedings of the commission, which has five MPs from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir as ex-officio members, have been boycottedby the National Conference (NC) that has three representatives in the panel. Before Parliament passed

the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act in August 2019, the effective strength of the and Kashmir Jammu Assemblywas 87, including four seats from Ladakh, which is now a separate Union Territory without a legislature. The strength of the realigned Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is 107 now with 24 seats to continue to remain vacant as those fall in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

The Government had in August 2019 revoked Article 370, which gave special status to IITs, IIMs, DU et al: 12 Indian institutes in top 100 rankings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twelve Indian institutions have made it to the top 100 of the world. IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University University of Delhi University, University of Delhi, and O P Jindal University have found top billing in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021.

Amongst these top 100 ranked institutions, IIT Madras has been ranked 30th in the world for Petroleum Engineering, IIT Bombay has been ranked 41st and IIT Kharagpur has been ranked 44th in the world for Minerals and Mining Engineering, and University of Delhi has been ranked 50th in the world for Development Studies.

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' while addressing and unveiling the QS World University Rankings expressed his happiness and congratulated the Institutions for securing positions in the top 100 in the QS Subject Rankings for the year

He said, over the last few vears the Government's continuous focus on improvement and reform in Indian higher education has resulted in significant improvement in

the representation of Indian institutions in globally acclaimed and reputed rankings like QS. These rankings and ratings have fostered healthy competition amongst Indian Institutions motivat-ing them towards global excellence, he added.

Nishank said India's higher education system plays a vital role in driving the nation's competitiveness. "Today, India is a leading nation with the highest number of higher education institutions across the globe with significant progress in the last few years in terms of enrolment in higher education which now stands at 37.4

He also highlighted the achievements of the Government in addressing the gender gap in higher education, wherein now women constitute 48.6% of the total enrolment," said Nishank on the occasion.

CEO, NITI Amitabh Kant, Chairman, UGC, Prof Dhirendra P Singh; Chairman, NAAC, Dr Virendar S Chauhan, Chairman, AICTE, Dr Anil D Sahasrabudhe; Vice President, QS Rankings, Ben Sowter, Head of Evaluation, QS Rankings, Leigh Kamolins, Head of Institutions and other dignitaries were also virtually present on the occasion.

Dwarka e-way to open for public use by Aug 15, 2022



PNS NEW DELHI

India's First Grade Separated Urban_Expressway, called Dwarka Expressway in national Capital region, will be thrown open for the public by August 15 in 2022, marking the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari made an announcement in this regard on Thursday.

Gadkari during the review of the progress of the 29-km state-of-the-art Dwarka expressway directed the stakeholders of the project to expedite the construction activities and help further decongest Delhi NCR and look forward

to reduce pollution quickly. The project is part of the Centre's ambitious Bharatmala Project and with a cost of ₹8,662 crore "it will be the first-ever elevated Urban Expressway in India and will immensely help reducing the air pollution in Delhi-NCR," Gadkari said while addressing the media after the inspection of project.

Being built in four packages, total length of the Expressway is 29 kilometres out of which 18.9 kilometre length falls in Haryana while remaining 10.1 kilometre length is in Delhi. It starts from Shiv-Murti on National Highway-8 and ends near Kherki Daula Toll Plaza.

The Minister said that the project, once complete, will be an engineering marvel of India as it has several unique features. This will have longest (3.6 kilometre) and widest (8 lane) Urban Road Tunnel in India. The project's road network will also comprise of four levels, i.e., tunnel / underpass, at-grade road, elevated flyover and flyover above fly-

It will also comprise India's first 9-kilometre long 8-lane flyover (34-metre wide)

on single pier with 6-lane service roads. There will be a fully automated tolling system with 22 lanes toll plaza. The entire project will be equipped with Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). The project has a total esti-

mated consumption of two lakh MT of steel, which is 30 times of that of the Eiffel Tower. The total estimated consumption of 20 lakh Cum of Concrete is six times of the

Burj Khalifa building. Gadkari said that the Dwarka Expressway would also be the first instance of a project where Tree Plantation of approximately 12,000 trees has been undertaken, keeping protection of the environment in view. He further said that "based on this experience, the method will be replicated across the country".

The Minister stated that Delhi-Gurugram section of National Highway-8, a part of Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), is presently carrying traffic of over three lakh Passenger Car Units (PCUs), which is much beyond design capacity of this 8-lane highway, leading to severe congestion and with the construction of the present project, 50 to 60 per cent traffic on National Highway-8 will be reduced. The project will also provide around 50, 000 direct or indirect employment opportunities.

Rahul: Centre carries out raids on pro-farmers people

 $F_{\text{Gandhi}\ on\ Thursday}^{\text{ormer Congress chief Rahul}}$ accused the Centre of carrying out raids against those who are pro-farmers. He used three popular Hindi idioms— 'Ungliyon pe nachana', 'Bheegi billi banna and 'Khisiyani billi khamba noche' - which he believed are meaningful in the current perspective amidst the ongoing confrontation between the Government, farmers.

Rahul's scathing comments on the Modi-led Government came as income-tax raids continued at the homes and offices of Bollywood personalities Taapsee Pannu, Anurag Kashyap and others. In his alleged that the Central Government makes the Income Tax department dance to its tunes, friendly media gets cowed down before the Centre and the Central Government raids those supporting farmers. He used the hashtag 'ModiRaidsProFarmers' with his tweet in Hindi to take a dig at the Government.

Pannu and Kashyap, both known to be outspoken in their views on a range of issues, were shooting in Pune and are understood to have been questioned by the tax sleuths as part of the preliminary questioning that takes place during raids. The searches against Pannu and Kashyap as well as his partners who

Cong blames Modi Govt sans concrete proof, hits back BJP

The BJP on Thursday hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his party for criticising the Modi Government on all issues "without any evidence" be it that of Coronavirus Election Commission's poll date announcement, abrogation of Article 370 or the Income

Tax raids on the Bollywood

Addressing a press conference here, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged

that the Congress and the other opposition parties are attacking a constitutional body like the Election Commission for announcing the eight-phased poll in West Bengal. He said casual critilaunched the now shuttered

production house Phantom Films were carried out across 30 locations in Mumbai and Pune. They were part of a tax evasion probe against Phantom

Later during the day , the Congress leader also cited another media report on the Congress also cited a media government's handling of the report to accuse BJP of muz-

weakens democracy". Pointing to the criticism

attracted by the IT raids, this week, against some film stars, Bhatia said "not making law work in the country is in the character of the Congress" and claimed that Modi-government has given

a " free-hand to probe ' without discriminating as He accused the Congress

of discrediting the key institutions saying it iwas during the UPA regime when the Supreme Court had called CBI a "caged parrot".

The BJP leader accused Congress of playing politics around Covid vaccine, EC and the IT raids on

border issue with China to

attack the Centre. "GOI

believes media management is

a substitute for geopolitical strategy. China has already

made us pay a price for this. Continuing down this path will be disastrous for India," he said.

At a Press conference, the

Bollywood stars and attacking the government "without any evidence". Bhatia asked Rahul to

answer questions which BJP president J P Nadda had asked him like the one as 'why he doesn't attend Parliamentary Defence Committee meetings ?".

"Rahul asks many questions but runs away when he cases on the basis of merit is posed with some basic queries" Bhatia said.

should at least answer question asked by the Congress dissident G-23 group leaders as why his party has tied up with a "communal outfit" like Indian Secular Front in West Bengal. "Is it Panth Nirpex?", quizzed, hoping Rahul would heed the

advise of his party leaders.

zling free press and trying to control the media narrative. Party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said, "A Government communication report has revealed some very disturbing facts. There were five Union cabinet ministers and four ministers of State who were part of this."

India should be ready to face Sino-Pak challenges at border: CDS Rawat

PNS NEW DELHI

 $F_{\rm war\ fighting\ doctrines\ all}^{\rm lagging\ the\ fast-changing}$ over the world, Chief of Defence Staff(CDS) General Bipin Rawat on Thursday said India faces bigger threats than other military in the world and it should prepare to face the twin challenge to its security from China and Pakistan. The country should also undertake reforms in the defence sector, especially to conduct joint battles in digitized battle space, he stressed.

Underlining these priorities here on Thursday, Rawat said with China's growing military prowess, it will make all efforts to assert its dominance in states around India important Indian Ocean

"Threats for which our military must be organised primarily comes from China and Pakistan. In future, China will continue to assert itself, seeking to establish domi-

Chola

nance in States surrounding India and in the IOR," Rawat

Stressing the need to take note of transformational concepts, the CDS said the armed forces and defence establishment has to be prepared for threats for military primary arising from China and Pakistan.

Making these points in his address in a webinar on "Transformation: Imperatives" for Indian Armed Forces' organised by the College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad, Rawat said India is facing complex security and a challenging environment.

Calling for reforms in the Indian defence sector, Rawat for conventional wars or limited conflicts already exists, but they need to be re-modelled, re-equipped and reoriented to conduct joint battles in digitised battle space to have necessary flexibility for other types of operations.

UP Govt has no right to shift don Mukhtar Ansari to Banda jail, Punjab Govt tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday was told by Punjab Government and gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari that Yogi Adityanathled Government has got no fundamental right to seek his transfer from Rupnagar jail to a district jail in Banda in Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh government has moved the top court seeking a direction to the Punjab government and Rupnagar jail authority to immediately hand over the custody of Ansari, an MLA from Mau constituency, to the

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and R S Reddy said that it will pronounce its verdict on the plea of Uttar Pradesh government and petition of Ansari seeking transfer of the cases against him outside During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for

Uttar Pradesh Government referred to the prison rules and said that though the State does not have fundamental rights, but it can espouse the cause and the fundamental rights of the victims and it may assume the position of the victim.

He said that the submission that the State does not have any fundamental right is wrong as the State can always assume the role of the victim and the society at large. Mehta said that Ansari had flouted the jail manual rules and right of the victim and the State at large accused cannot be allowed to jettison the fair trial.

He said that this court under Article 142 can order transfer of Ansari from Punjab jail to a jail in Uttar Pradesh as around 14 and 15 cases are at final stages.

HP farmer takes aromatic way to boost income

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

S traying cattle in his farmland, the monkey menace in his region and the uncertain income from conventional paddy and maize crops pushed Ajay Sharma, a farmer from Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district, to start experimenting with aromatic plants like wild marigold a few years ago. The risk he undertook then has started yielding results now.

Sharma and around 40 farmers who formed a Self Help Group (SHG) in the region have started reaping benefits from Marigold flower cultivation, used in a plethora of industries like perfumery and pharmaceuticals.

Ĥowever, this could be made possible with the help of interventions made by scientists from Society for Technology and Development (STD), Mandi Core Support group, SEED Division, Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Science Technology Ministry and the CSIR lab Indian Himalayan



Chamba.

Rakesh Kumar.

Chamba district is among 112 most backward (aspirational) districts of the country identified under the Aspirational Districts' Programme piloted by NITI Aayog in January 2018 where the Central Government has special focus to help farmers become Atmanirbhar (selfsustaining), given that the district has shown relatively less-

er progress in key social areas. Under the Government's Aromatic Mission, the STD initiated cultivation and processing of aromatic plants (wild marigold, improved variety from the stable of IHBT) involving the farming com-

based CSIR lab in Parwai vil-

lage, Bhatiyat Block in

Valley Kissan Sabha Parwai

has been formed and linked to

Himachal Gramin Bank,

Parchhod, for further financial

help, said IHBT scientist

addition, a distillation unit of

250 kg capacity has been

installed at Parwai village

while scientists from the IHBT

trained the farmers into agro-

technology of wild marigold,

extraction of oil, packing, and

storage of oil started cultivat-

ing wild marigold and distill-

He said that as a value

The SHG called Green

The extracted oil is being sold at ₹9,500 per kg and used in preparing perfumes and essences by pharmaceutical industries. The income of farmers which was around ₹40,000 to ₹ 50,000 per hectare from traditional crops has increased to about ₹1,00,000 per hectare by cultivation and extraction of wild marigold oil, said IHBT Director Sanjay Kumar.

Rakesh Kumar added that the initiative was started in 2016-17 as a pilot project and have expanded in Mandi and surrounding villages.

According to him wild animals are not attracted to the wild marigold and the crop is ready to be harvested within five or six months. "We have set up 50 oil pro-

cessing units, 35 of them in Himachal Pradesh and the rest in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Mizoram. These facilities can also process other aromatic crops such as lemongrass and palmarosa, etc., besides wild marigold," added the scientist.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001. Branch Office: Plot No.6, 2nd Floor, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005 Mr. GAURAV KUMAR DAHIYA- 9811747507 & Mr. SUDHIR TOMAR- 9818460101

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of M/s Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the symbolic possession, on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS', 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' and 'WHATEVER IS THERE IS BASIS', Particulars of which are given below:

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding as on 04.03.2021
(Loan Account No. X0HEEDL00001728906 & X0HEEDL00001411414) Borrowers:- 1.PANNA LAL 2.NEERU VERMA 3.CHANDAN KUMAR PANNA LAL VERMA H.No-F-11, Second Floor and Third Floor, Block- F, Green Park Extn, NewDelhi – 110 016. Also at - 1033/14, Gali Mirachand Maliwada, Chandni Chouk, Newdelhi - 110006. 4.PARAS VERMA H.No-F-11, Second Floor and Third Floor, Block- F, Green Park Extn, NewDelhi – 110 016.	29.04.2019 Rs. 64,46,541.09 & Rs. 57,19,903.42 totalling Rs. 1,21,66,444.51 as on 22.04.2019	Property Measuring 200 Sq.yds. Property No.F11 entire terrace rights over and above the entire Second Floor (Third Floor) situated at Green Park Extension New Delhi.	Rs. 1,32,00,000/-	Rs. 13,20,000/-	Rs. 1,27,79,338.19 as on 04.03.2021 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment.
IMPORT	ANT INCODMA	TION DECARDING ALICTIO	N DDOCECC		

01.04.2021 and 02.04.2021 Date of Inspection of Property Place of Submission of Bids | Plot No.6, 2nd Floor, Main Pusa Road, Last date for Submission 08.04.2021 before 5.00 pm Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005. A bidder may, on his own choice, avail the facility in the auction by making application in prescribed format which is available along with the offer/tender document on the given office address mentioned hereunder. Sale is strictly subject to terms and conditions incorporated in this advertisement and the prescribed Bid / Tender Document. This notice is also to be treated as a 30 days' notice under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION

The property is sold on 'As is where is basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.

The Bidder is obliged to exercise full due diligence in all respects, including to inspect each of the details of the property mentioned above on the sched

date & time. 3) Submission of bids to M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited would be construed a deemed acceptance by the bidder that (i) he/she/it has exercised due diligence in all respects; (ii) Is satisfied with all details/measurements of property; (iii) Acknowledges full knowledge of terms and conditions that govern the auction and (iv) Waives all his/her/its rights to make any contrary claims against company at any future date.

4) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Authorised officer if the borrower/guarantor pays the entire outstanding amount in full before sale, no sale will be

conducted.

The Bidder shall remit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c, along with the bid form in a Sealed Cover addressed to The Authorized Officer, M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited up to 5.00 P.M on 08.04.2021. Please note that, in reference to successful bidder(s), EMD is adjustable against the sale consideration receivable by M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. Also, EMD is refundable to the unsuccessful bidder (s).

The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his/her/fits favour and the balance within 15 days by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c Number.

Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in tayour of M/s Cholamangalam investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c Number.

In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and/or the balance amount, within 15 days the deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited without any prior intimation.

By The charges / fees payable for conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fee, maintenance charges electricity charges etc., shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, property tax or any other dues to the Government or local body or

any other authority in respect of the property under sale.

The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn / postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice or assigning any reason therefore.

10) The Sale will only be in favour of successful bidder and not his/her nominee

11) This Notice is also to the Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general. The borrower has absolute right for the redemption of property till the confirmation of the sale Process. M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited are not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'. For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

AUTHORISED OFFICER

Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

Didi may fight from Suvendu stronghold

hief Minister Mamata Banerjee is almost certain to contest from only one seat -Nandigram. Sources in the Trinamool Congress said that the Chief Minister, a sitting MLA from Bhawanipore where she has been living for decades, would not contest from her present seat and would move to Nandigram in East Midnapore

Considered a "den of the Adhikari family" led by former Bengal Minister and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari and his father Sisir Adhikari, a veteran MP, Nandigram has a Muslim vote share of about 23.5 per-

In Banerjee's place, party MLA and Minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay will contest from Bhawanipore, sources said adding the first list of the party's candidates would be out on Friday. The TMC had trailed by a few thousand votes from the Bhawanipore general elections.

Suvendu, a former points-Banerjee, in of Nandigram, had earlier challenged the Chief Minister saving if she contested from this seat he would ensure that she was defeated by at least half-alakh votes.

This after Banerjee told a huge rally at Nandigram that she would contest from this place which was "lucky" for her.

Banerjee's calculations are however different. According to TMC sources Nandigram a former Left bastion — which still has a considerable number of Left supporters who have been at the receiving end of political violence perpetrated by the TMC men then led by the Adhikari's might not vote for him enabling the Chief Minister to scrape through with a solid 62,000 votes of the

Meanwhile, in a related development after Rashtriya Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party

backed Banerjee in the upcoming Bengal Assembly elections.

Calling her the "real Bengal tigress," senior Sena leader and Rajya Sabha Member, Sanjay Raut, on Thursday said his party would not be contesting what appears to be a "Didi vs All" fight this time. Mr Raut further tweeted, "We wish Mamata Didi a 'roaring' suc-

Sena, SP and RJD support notwithstanding, the "BJP will win more than 200 seats" in Bengal, saffron leader Tejaswi Surya on Thursday said adding "Mamata Banerjee's days as a Chief Minister are numbered... On the 3rd of May, Bengal will have a BJP Chief Minister."

Referring to the misrule and violence he said, "This is the legacy of the communists which Mamata Banerjee has carried forward but there will be no more bloodshed and political murder" in Bengal because BJP will have its Chief

Remove 'biased' Dy EC Sudip Jain, TMC writes to EC

The Trinamool Congress has written to the Election Commission of India seeking the removal of Deputy Election Commissioner Sudip Jain as incharge of Bengal Assembly elections.

The letter has been written by TMC Rajya Sabha Leader Derek O'Brien who has accused Jain of "bias" towards a particular political party. In the letter, the TMC leader has referred to certain actions taken by the Dy EC ahead of the 2019 neral elections.

O'Brien has referred to the steps taken by Jain after the violence during the road show of Home Minister Amit Shah in Kolkata when a half-bust statue of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was vandalised by alleged BJP men. The saffron workers from Shah's rally had allegedly raided the Vida Sagar College and destroyed the statue following a skirmish with TMC workers

The TMC leader has written that Jain's action post violence was "completely biased, partisan, reeked of partiality and tainted."

In the aftermath of the violence "Sduip Jain furnished an erroneous and biased report based on which, the Election Commission of India in an unprecedented manner, barred election campaigning two days prior to the polling date.

"Only one political party, Bharatiya Janata Party, was allowed to complete its election campaigning for that day before such a bar was announced. No explanation was sought, no show-cause was issued, no action was taken by the Election Commission of India against the perpetrators, ie, Amit Shah or his entourage. Jain's actions were completely biased, partisan, reeked of partiality and tainted," O'Brien

BJP meets EC officials demanding

Jawan's body found hanging inside sentry post in Srinagar

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

n Army jawan was found An Army Januar Adead here on Thursday in a suspected case of suicide, offi-Rifleman Anup Kumar

(28), who was posted on sentry duty at the Badamibagh cantonment in Jammu and Kashmir, was

found hanging from the ceiling of the sentry post at the main gate at Batwara here with a light machine gun's loop. Kumar hailed from

Haryana's Bhiwani, the officials said, adding that the reason behind his taking the extreme step was not immediately

On Wednesday, a 24-yearold Army jawan shot himself dead in Rajouri district and an Army officer of the rank of a lieutenant colonel committed suicide at an Army depot in the Khonmoh area here.

'Those who betray Mamata

now. Post elections, we will

meet them and the game will be

played by us,' added Rahman.

BJP leader stated that that

term of 125 municipal corpo-

rations in West Bengal includ-

ing Kolkata Municipal

Corporation ended a year ago

but the TMC government had

appointed party leaders as

administrators of these local

bodies. The BJP leaders have

demanded removal of these

administrators to ensure free

In another complaint, the

He said that details of the

Deputy Commissioner of Champhai, Maria CT Zuali, said that four people from Myanmar have crossed over to the district recently.

The entry of people from the neighbouring country has been communicated to the state Home Department and Home Minister Lalchamliana will issue a statement on the matter in the assembly on Monday, an official said.

commissioner told PTI.

12 people from Myanmar take refuge in Mizoram after coup in February

At least 12 people from Myanmar Have crossed the Indian border and took refuge in Mizoram around a month after the neighbouring countrys military ousted the elected Government of Aung San Suu Kyi, officials said on Thursday.

Eight people have entered Serchhip district while four others reached Champhai dis-

A senior police officer said that the identity of the refugees is yet to be ascertained.

Serchhip Deputy Commissioner Kumar Abhisek told PTI that five people, who include members of a family, crossed the international border and entered the district on Thursday, while three others did so on March 3.

The eight people are currently lodged at a community hall in Lungkawlh village, around 8 kilometres from the Indo- Myanmar border, and they were provided with food by the district administration, he said.

refugees are not yet available.

More than 100 people from Myanmar also attempted to cross the international border to seek refuge in Mizoram recently, the Champhai deputy



stopped by Assam Rifles personnel guarding the border,

Assam Rifles Deputy Inspector General Digvijay Singh said that the force was directed not to allow any illegal entry from the neighbouring country. Zuali said that the state

government has recently issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in view of the possible influx of refugees from Myanmar following the

coup.

"Although civil society organisations are willing to harbour refugees from Myanmar, the Mizoram government can't act on its own without the direction of the Centre as it is an international affair," she said.

Besides, the state government will not have sufficient resources to feed the refugees unless assistance is received from the Centre, she added.

Mizoram shares a 404 km long porous border with Myanmar where the military junta took over the government on February 1. A number of pro-democracy protestors were killed in clashes with security forces there.

EC starts Covid vaccination drive for officers, staff



The Election Commission ■ on Thursday started a Covid-19 vaccination drive for its officers and staff working at the Nirvachan Sadan with for-Chief Election Commissioner MS Gill taking the first shot.

Chief Commissioner Sunil Arora and **Election Commissioners Sushil** Chandra and Rajiv Kumar will get vaccinated after all officials and staff of the commission are inoculated, an official statement said.

Arora had recently announced that all staff on poll duty for the upcoming assembly elections have been declared as 'frontline workers' and will be vaccinated before assuming their election duties.

The vaccination would to perform their duty without fear of Covid-19, Arora had said. The commission had on February 26 announced polls in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

Under the special vaccination drive, lakhs of polling officials in the five states and the union territory will be inoculated before proceeding on election duty, the state-

Celebs join TMC ahead of WB polls

— a popular singer, an actor and a actor-director joined Trinamool Congress in pollbound West Bengal on

Mukherjee and actor-director Dheeraj Pandit joined TMC during the day at Trinamool

Aditi said only TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee thinks or works so much for people in the performing arts

Manipur militant outfit

kills cadre of another

murdering minor girl

Imphal: A terrorist of outlawed

Kangleipak Communist Party

(KCP), who escaped from jail in Manipur earlier while undergo-

ing trial in the sensational 2003

kidnapping and murder of an 8-

year old girl, was reportedly shot

dead by the United Nation

Liberation Front (UNLF), media

report said on Thursday quot-

ment in Manipuri language said

that Thokchom Nando Singh

was shot dead on Tuesday in an

undisclosed location by the

underground outfit, who also

released photo of his body. The

UNLF, one of the oldest militant

groups in Manipur, in its state-

The 3-page UNLF state-

extremist group for

Kolkata: A number of celebs and allied fields. The singer said that she will be at the party's service in whichever way it deems fit.

Subhadra, a popular small screen actor, said only Banerjee Popular singer Aditi can save the state from the "fas-Munshi, actor Subhadra cist BJP turning it into another Uttar Pradesh.

"If BJP comes to power (in West Bengal) it will decide what you will eat," she said.

The actor said that she had joined the saffron party in 2019 after hearing Modi's call of

'Sabka Sath, Šabka Vikas'. PTI

action against TMC MLA Hamidul Rehman has threatened voters. While addressing a public meeting in Murshidabad, Rehman A BJP delegation led by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhand Bhupender Yadav asked people to vote for TMC and reminded them that those on Thursday met Election who choose to betray Mamata Commission (EC) officers and Banerjee even after enjoying her lodged a complaint against TMC MLA Hamidul Rehman over his remark at a public meeting made on March 2. The BJP leaders also appealed

the EC to remove administrators of local bodies appointed by The BJP leaders alleged

government's benefits will be dealt with post-elections. He said that BJP is a party of liars and the left-Congress alliance is of no use. Voting for them would be helping BJP because they are nothing but their stooges. He urged people to not waste their precious votes and

Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavrao Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai -400034

Tel No.: +91 22 49116300 FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

ver(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that th below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded /complied with the communication, and notice send by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in excercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on 10-03-2021 at the below mentioned local branch of HDE Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table;-

S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date Of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
1	9234701	Madhu Sharma	17-Oct-19	43692	Delhi- Bhajanpura
2	10961808	Ritu Negi	19-Feb-20	22643	Delhi- Bhajanpura
3	12505488	Vikram Jeet Singh	18-Sep-20	25314	Delhi- Bhajanpura
4	9121221	Dalip Kumar	11-Oct-19	15725	Delhi- Kashmiri Gate
5	11019979	Shumaila G	27-Feb-20	25192	Delhi- Kashmiri Gate
6	11435166	Rakesh Kumar	27-May-20	17620	Delhi- Kashmiri Gate
7	12118858	Vinod Kumar	18-Aug-20	34465	Delhi- Kashmiri Gate
8	5014863	Dalip Kumar	9-Aug-18	6816	Delhi- Kashmiri Gate
9	2221360	Shrutika Bajaj	31-Jan-17	51863	Delhi Kotla Mubarakpi
10	9542195	Rakesh Kumar Yadav	5-Nov-19	8039	Delhi Ncr - Burari
11	9369236	Vikas Chauhan	24-Oct-19	15382	Delhi Shahdara
12	10080379	Mohit Ahuja	21-Dec-19	13800	Delhi Shahdara
13	11053338	Manoj Kaushik	27-Feb-20	17657	Delhi Shahdara
14	12143228	Beena Gupta	14-Aug-20	12348	Delhi Shahdara
15	8884578	Vikas Chauhan	17-Sep-19	6177	Delhi Shahdara
16	10261421	Hari Om Sharma	6-Jan-20	15520	Delhi Uttam Nagar
17	11460553	Narender Sharma	31-May-20	9300	Delhi Uttam Nagar
18	7744759	Gourav Kumar Tanwar	29-May-19	16776	Delhi Uttam Nagar
19	8012259	Sandeep Chauhan	22-Jun-19	13328	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
20	9139197	Mohammad Shakir	10-Oct-19	13795	Delhi-Badarpur
21	12295084	Pradeep Sher Singh	29-Aug-20	40189	Delhi-Badarpur
22	12411608	Sanjay Shri Pritam	9-Sep-20	14192	Delhi-Badarpur
23	9787367	Gyanesh Singh Shishodiya	25-Nov-19	10763	Delhi-Dilshad Garder
24	10981297	Yogender Sagar	20-Feb-20	17347	Delhi-Dilshad Garder
25	11816383	Narendra Kumar	9-Jul-20	11348	Delhi-Dilshad Garder

ment said that it had "tried" Nando Singh and "eliminated" him for his barbaric crime against the minor girl. IANS ment said. Army launches community radio stn



MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

fter winning the hearts and Aminds of the Kashmiri people on ground zero, the Indian Army has now set its eyes on

ruling the 'AirWaves' too.

To begin with, the Indian Army had initially launched a community radio service in the South Kashmir district of Anantnag more than four months ago. After receiving a huge response from the common masses in the region, senior Army officers then decided to replicate the model and expand its reach among the local masses in the North

Kashmir districts as well. On Thursday, Lt- Gen BS Raju, Corps commander of the Srinagar based Chinar Corps formally inaugurated Radio

Chinar — a Community Radio station dedicated to the peace and development of Kashmir. He said, two more community radio stations are in the pipeline

The tagline of the community radio service has been scripted carefully 'Har Dil ki Dhadkan'.

and would be inaugurated soon.

"The idea is to connect with the masses through this platform and provide an opportunity to the younger generation to find a foothold by showcasing their rich talent, Lt-Gen BS Raju said, explaining the idea behind launching the radio ser-

He said through the radio service people across Sopore, Bandipore and Baramulla districts can listen and contribute on a daily basis.

TN parties ready to roll out freebies despite State's huge revenue deficit freebie culture in 1967 with the a revolutionary decision to

that TMC MLA Hamidul

the state government.

olour television sets, mix-Cers, grinders, mobile telephones, clothes are some of the freebies rolled out by political parties in Tamil Nadu and has always included these freebies in their election manifestos.

The state of Tamil Nadu is facing a huge deficit with the revenue deficit at 65,994 crores espite being a revenue sur state a few years ago. The state's total debt by March 2022 will be around 5.70 lakh crore, a whopping sum by any mea-

Despite all these hiccups and states fortunes nose diving the political parties are on a freebie culture with one party overtaking the other in promising the people with gifts and

other freebies. DMK commenced the

then Chief minister and the towering leader of Dravidian politics, CN Annadurai promising 3 measures of rice for Rupees 1. This had a huge impact and DMK romped home for the first time in Tamil Nadu unseating the Congress government led by Bhakthavalsalam. In 2006 DMK supremo, Muthuvel highly populist scheme of free colour televisions, I kg of rice at 2 rupees, free gas connection and free gas stoves for all women in Tamil Nadu. The

DMK won the election easily. Spokesman of the DMK, Saravanan Annadurai while speaking to IANS said: "These are not freebies but populist schemes and in 2006 when we provided free gas stoves and subsidised gas cylinders it was provide women solace from spending long hours in kitchen and now the Prime minister Narendra Modi has replicated the same move after so many

There are divided opinions on the Governments dolling out such schemes to the peo-

Senior Journalist PK IANS said," These are populist schemes and not freebies as made out. Studies had revealed that in remote areas of Tamil Nadu after the Colour TV sets were provided by the DMK government, the crime rates ĥad come down. In a similar vein the fixed deposit schemes for the girl child by the TN governments had increased the social indicators for the

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima, District- Udham Singh Nagar (E-mail: eecdkhatima@gmail.com

Letter No.: 422/ nivida /08 /

Dates 04.03.2021

E-Tendering/Tender Notice

On behalf of Chairman, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam (Uttarakhand Peyjal SansadhanVikas Evam Nirman Nigam), Dehradun E-tender is invited from registered contractors under the jal Jeevan Mission program for Water supply arrangements in schools and related work of the following water supply scheme.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Block	Security Deposit (Rs. In lakhs)	Cost of bid document	Period of completion of works	Category of Contractor	
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	
1	Water supply arrangements in schools (Zone A - Boulder strata)	Sitarganj	1.17	4000.00 + 18% GST = 4720	02 Months		
2	Water supply arrangements in schools (Zone B - Boulder strata)	Sitarganj	1.24	4000.00 + 18% GST = 4720	02 Months		
3	Water supply arrangements in schools (Zone A - Ordinary strata)	Sitarganj	1.31	4000.00 + 18% GST = 4720	02 Months	C & Above Deep well Hand Pump Boring	
4	Water supply arrangements in schools (Zone B - Ordinary strata)	Sitarganj	1.40	4000,00 + 18% GST = 4720	02 Months		
5	Water supply arrangements in schools (Zone A - Boulder strata)	Khatima	1.17	4000.00 + 18% GST = 4720	02 Months		
6	Water supply arrangements in schools (Zone B - Boulder strata)	Khatima	1.31	4000.00 + 18% GST = 4720	02 Months		
Key-	Dates						
7	Date of Calling of tender			04.03.2021			
8	Date of Online Publication			08.03.2021 at 17:00hrs.			
9	Document download : Start Date			03.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.			
10	Document download : End Date			22.03.2021 at 17:00 hrs.			
11	Pre Bid Meeting			17.03.2021 at 13:00 hrs.			
12	Bid Submission : Start Date			09.03,2021 at 10:00 hrs.			
13	Bid Submission : End Date			22.03.2021 at 17:00 hrs.			
14	Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification)						
15	Date of Technical and Financial Bid Opening			24.03.2021 at 11:00 hrs			
16	Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc may be obtained at web site: www.uktenders.gov.in						

Note: - Terms and conditions related to tender, Corrigendum and cancellation etc. www.uktenders.gov.in On or on any working day, the office can be seen in Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima

Executive Engineer

Mohd Anees Mohd Javed Afsar Navi Ahmad Baleshwar Chaturved 18-Sep-19 Delhi-Dilshad Garden Delhi-Dilshad Garden Papu Kumar 8045409 Delhi-Dilshad Garder Delhi-Hari Nagar Delhi-Hari Nagar Delhi-Jagatpuri Delhi-Kailash Nagar 10-Aug-20 Nav Sadh 8089 9740152 21-Nov-19

Delhi-Karol Bagh Delhi-Lajpat Naga Delhi-Lajpat Nagar Delhi-Lajpat Nagar Delhi-Lajpat Nagar Delhi-Laxmi Nagar Delhi-Madipur Delhi-Madipur Debajyoti Behuria Rakesh Kumar Deepak Kumar Sahu 14-Jan-20 4-Feb-20 19-Jun-20 Sofiyan M Mahboob Alam 7-Jan-20 14-May-20 20-Aug-20 18-Jul-18 10-Sep-19 28-Aug-20 24-Jan-20 Delhi-Madipu Delhi-Madipur Delhi-Malviya Nagar Delhi-Mayapuri Saroj Kumari Trishna Kanhya Lal Delhi-Mayapur 12385344 8-Sep-20 8-Sep-20 26-May-20 23-Jul-20 21-Aug-20 24-Sep-20 10-Aug-20 24-Sep-19 11-Dec-19 9-Sep-20 20-Oct-20 9-Sep-20 Delhi-Nangloi Delhi-Nangloi Delhi-Nangloi Delhi-Nangloi Delhi-Nangloi Kuldeep K Kanhaiya Gupta Narender N Amit Kumar Dev Ra Delhi-Nanglo Jitendra Mishra
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6901415 Praveen Jile Singh 6684236 Raj Kumar 5969004 Rajesh Pratap Singl The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make an representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minute prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further term

16-Mar-19

6914848 Kushal Bhati

and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan accoun in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note the it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either o postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the ids or offer without assigning any reason for the same

Place : DELHI Date : 06-03-2021

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

Burmese Spring

The Army, unmoved by global appeals, is back to repressive tactics to quell pro-democracy protests

Il hell has broken loose on the streets of Myanmar as the security forces resorted to unbridled violence to crush peaceful anti-coup protests, reminding one of the Chinese crackdown in Tiananmen Square in the spring of 1989 and the bloodshed in Libya and Yemen in the Arab Spring of 2010. Though the official number of people killed in the "Burmese Spring" is being put at 38, the United Nations (UN) says the number is close to 50. However, the activists put the toll even higher as the armed forces continue to use lethal weapons on the protesters, resulting in unarmed teenagers, women and youth being killed for demanding what is rightfully theirs. No one is surprised at the recent show of brutality by the Tatmadaw, which had been in power in



Myanmar since 1962 and had just about tolerated the *quasi*-democracy that began in 2011, even though the parliamentary elections and other reforms had been initiated by the military itself under global pressure. The February 1 coup, which returned the military to full power, had seen a major pushback from the repressed citizenry that obviously did not want to be living once more under the shadow of the ruthless Tatmadaw, which had gained notoriety for having crushed pro-democracy movements in 1988 and 2007 by shooting protesters. Though the forces had initially shown some restraint when the protests began, the Army became increasingly repressive each

passing day as the demonstrations showed no signs of abating.

In fact, the movement swelled as more people rallied together to protect their democracy and seek the release of their democratically-elected leaders. The military regime had to face global embarrassment and resort to firing the country's ambassador to the UN a day after he gave an impassioned speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, pleading for international help in restoring democracy in his nation. Rattled by the unwanted global attention, the Tatmadaw became increasingly aggressive, thus inviting global sanctions. Now, the military, which has long been documented to be engaged in human rights abuses in conflict zones, seems to be past caring if the revelations by the UN's Special Envoy Christine Schraner Burgener are to be believed. When Burgener warned the military that the UN Security Council and member States were likely to take strong measures against it, she was told: "We are used to sanctions, and we have survived those sanctions in the past." Warned of global isolation, the Tatmadaw's answer was: "We have to learn to walk with only few friends." This is a worrying line of thought because when a regime that has a history of brutality and repression becomes indifferent to the consequences of its actions, there is not much the global community can do. For the people of the beleaguered country it means double trouble: The wrath of the authoritarian regime on the one hand, and the economic hardship that the sanctions bring, on the other. Whatever the global community has to do for the beleaguered citizens of Myanmar it must do fast, because the people there are running out of time.



People build barricades to block police in Mandalay, Myanmar

Political gambit?

Sasikala's retirement comes as a boost for the AIADMK. But how long will she keep still?

n a stratagem that has left Tamil Nadu's political circles stunned, VK Sasikala — considered by many the closest aide of the late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa — has declared that she will "stay away from politics and public life" while also "praying" for the AIADMK to retain power in the April 6 election. She unequivocally spelt out the reasons for her decision, too: That the AIADMK cadres need to stay united rather than fighting among



themselves, so that the party can continue to rule even after Jayalalithaa and keep the "evil DMK" out of power, "as was Amma's wish". Chinnamma, as Sasikala is fondly called by her followers, had aired the same sentiment even on the day she came out of Bengaluru jail after serving a four-year sentence in a corruption case and undertook the road journey from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu. The latest surprise was delivered even as the central leadership of the BJP, which is allied with the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, had been mounting pressure on the regional outfit to work with Sasikala and her nephew's party, the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK). The move clearly translates into an unexpected advantage for

the beleaguered party — already facing anti-incumbency and with the odds stacked against it as the State alternates between the AIADMK and DMK Governments — and

a major setback to AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran. With one deft stone, she has killed two birds: Sasikala has taken the moral high road, projecting the image of a leader whom the masses want to see in an office of authority but who doesn't hanker after power; and, at the same time, she has shielded herself from any blame that might have come her way, should the AIADMK perform poorly in the elections. This possibility, however, is bleak as the Congress is already considering an exit from the DMK-led front since it's not being offered a "respectable number of seats". Of course, Sasikala's current assertion keeps her safely away from the party's inner turmoil and political heat and dust in the State without compromising her chances of springing back on to the centre stage at an opportune moment later. There's nothing that could stop Sasikala from re-entering politics after assessing the poll results. For Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, it would be tough to keep his hold on the party when he is no longer in the top seat. That is when Sasikala would probably time her comeback.

Stop romanticising interfaith marriages



If a Muslim man and Hindu woman marry, it is recommended they do it under the Special Marriage Act, which doesn't have unequal rights

t my niece's wedding in a church, the officiating priest began by declaring: "Marriage is a union; divine and indivisible." This is a succinct way of expressing that marriage is a sacrament; no breaking until death does the union part.

The Dictionary of Islam by Thomas Patrick Hughes (published by Rupa & Co) calls marriage a *nikah*, a word that in its literal sense means a conjunction. It is a contract till the husband wants it. He can divorce his wife at pleasure by giving a notice of three months. The wife does not have this privilege. If she wants to separate, she has to follow the procedure of khul, which entails finding a qazi and convincing him under the rules of fiqh or dogmatic theology of Muslims.

If a Muslim man and Hindu woman fall in love, it is recommended that they marry under the Special Marriage Act, which does not have unequal rights nor requires the woman to change her religion or name, whereas a *nikah* insists that both partners be of the same religion, i.e. Muslim. If the man does not wish to divorce, he can take another wife.

It is rare to find an interfaith marriage where the bride is a Muslim and the groom a Hindu. Perhaps the reason is that it is impermissible for a non-Muslim to marry a Muslim woman as he would have legal authority over her. The tenets of Islam say that God doesn't allow non-Muslims to have authority over Muslims. A Muslim man can marry a non-Muslim woman, but not vice versa.

This seems unfair, but the Islamic rationale is that a non-Muslim man will not respect his Muslim wife's faith. These tenets also hold that while Muslims believe in all previous religions and Prophets of God and respect them, a non-Muslim does not return the favour. A non-Muslim husband might not explicitly express this, but a Muslim wife cannot expect her book after the Quran; The husband to respect her faith. Dictionary of Islam by Muslims believe in only the Hughes). Concerned Hindus

revealed religions of the Book, not other religions. A Muslim woman marrying a non-Muslim would eschew respect of the wife's religion.

Some time ago, celebrated IAS couple Tina Dabi and Athar Aamir Khan filed for divorce in Jaipur, two years after they had tied the nuptial knot. Their love story and marriage in 2018 had made national headlines. A video made by Tina, in which she alleged that her Muslim husband tortured her for wearing a burqa, converting to Islam, reading *namaz* and adopting 'Khan' in her name, went viral. Even without divorce, a

Muslim male can marry up to four wives at a time; with divorce, there is no limit on the number of wives he can have. Hinduism and Christianity insist on only one wife. For marrying a Muslim boy, girls must know the possibilities they face. If the boy is Muslim, his faith enjoins upon him to produce as many children as possible so that they achieve demographic preponderance. This is borne out by the Hadith (The *Traditions*, the second nor



ANY NON-MUSLIM WOMAN MARRYING A MUSLIM MAN INSTANTLY FORFEITS ALL HER RIGHTS AS SHE TRANSITS FROM A LEGAL REGIME WITH MORE RIGHTS TO ONE WITH FEWER RIGHTS. THIS IS NOT REVERSIBLE, AS ISLAM DOES **NOT PERMIT APOSTASY**

understandably use the word 'jihad' in this context.

It is time to stop romanticising interfaith marriages blindly. Marrying Muslim men does entail legal outcomes for non-Muslim women. Today's political discourse is less than open in that it tends to ignore arguments of those who have issues with such marriages. Selective quoting and presentation of only particular views as acceptable does not help the cause of any informed debate. The current secular outrage over interfaith marriages souring is focused on romanticising interfaith marriages as a virtue by itself and treating all such alliances as the same, which they regrettably are not. The rights of women

under the Hindu Marriage Act or Special Marriage Act vary greatly from the rights of those who wed as per the Sharia. This has particular outcomes, as under Sharia, non-Muslim women have to first convert to Islam because this is a condition for marriage. Thus, any non-Muslim woman marrying a Muslim man instantly forfeits all ner rights as she transits from a well-known columnist and an legal regime with more rights to one with fewer rights. This

is not reversible, as Islam does not permit apostasy. Many women who convert for the sake of getting married, believing they can continue to practice their faith, are quickly belied of this notion; the faith they marry

into doesn't permit this either. Moreover, Hindus hold marriage to be a sacrament where even divorce is considered an anathema (though allowed legally). Under Sharia, it is only as a contract where a man can divorce his wife orally and instantly by simply saying talaq thrice (till it was banned). This is the chasm between the two

Non-Muslim women must be made aware of these consequences. The blind eulogy and advocacy of interfaith marriages and pretending that all such alliances are of the same nature is dishonesty. Rosy and romanticised pictures of interfaith marriages carry the serious propensity of harming non-Muslim women, who might make hasty and misinformed decisions only to repent and suffer later.

(Ine writer author. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE

BE SENSITIVE TOWARDS HEARING LOSS

Sir — The World Hearing Day was on March 3 and, sadly, it went past like the problems of the hearing impaired go unheeded! It is really shocking to know that according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), one in four people will suffer from hearing problems by 2050. The world body has raised the alarm, stating that currently one in five people has

hearing problems but most often it is just ignored. The same amount of care and attention that we give to other ailments is not given to problems related to hearing except when we have severe pain in the ear or similar such problems.

The WHO has called for global action and asked the nations to take immediate measures to check this 'silent danger'. According to medical reports, almost 60 per cent of hearing loss in children is due to factors such as ear infections and birth complications that can be prevented through public health measures. According to the WHO, over one billion young adults are at risk of permanent, avoidable hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices, stressing the need to make people aware of this danger. Early identification of hearing loss and ear diseases are the key to the effective management.

Modern medicine with modern technology and implementation of certain safety norms can end such difficulties provided that the Governments, health organisations, NGOs and other agencies come forward to mitigate the problem.

M Pradyu | Kannur

RAHUL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAST Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Mea culpa' (March 4). Verily speaking, the Nehru-Gandhi family's contribution to the country is unmatched and cannot be questioned. The 'Grand Old Party' has a chequered performance sheet having caustic memories of the Emergency, communal riots and Bofors scandal. But Congress' former president Rahul Gandhi should not be held responsible for them, as he was just a child or minor when these incidents took place. Personally, Rahul is an man of stern rectitude and a honest political leader who possesses the grit

Congress must correct its course



t refers to the editorial 'Split house' (March 4). The state of affairs within the Congress is gloomy, to say the least. The 'Grand Old Party 'seems to be totally bereft of a centralised command which can control its affairs. Due to the lack of a powerful leadership, the Congress rank and file are working at their whims, fulfilling their vested interests and making whatever statements they feel like, without caring about the party. These

unfortunate things are happening at a time when the party faces elections in four States and a Union Territory. There has always been friction in the party but it seems to have blown out of proportion and is hurting the poll prospects of the Congress.

While cadres of other political parties in the poll fray are investing all their energy in campaigning, big leaders of the Congress are indulging in fights among themselves. It's high time Rahul Gandhi took note of it and took steps to ensure that the party stays united. It is also the duty of the old guard to show more responsibility and talk with other leaders in order to resolve their differences. Merely, making allegations and counter-allegations would serve no good. If this state of affairs continues, it will further shrink the party's vote bank as people would choose not to vote for the party which is divided because of internal feuds and has a weak leadership. The Congress must mull over this issue immediately or must ready itself for another poll drubbing.

Bal Govind | Noida

to contest even his party's decisions if he doesn't agree with these.

Moreover, he put in his papers as the party chief, taking moral responsibility for the Congress' drubbing in the last general elections. On the other hand, it was his personal charisma appealing to the masses that helped the 'Grand Old Party' make a comeback by wresting the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh from the formidable BJP.

The realisation of the past mistakes of the Congress comes across as a welcome gesture from this young and charismatic political leader. As the saying goes, "The sins of the parents are visited on the children"! Azhar A Khan Rampur

MERGE CHANNELS TO INCREASE VIEWERSHIP Sir — It is welcome that the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha TV channels have been officially merged into one single entity, Sansad TV. It will help curtail the expenditure that is incurred in running the two TV channels.

The direct telecast of the proceedings of the two Houses can be aired according to their importance. However, excerpts of proceedings of the two Houses can be shown not only on Sansad TV but also on various Doordarshan channels.

A somewhat similar merger can be considered for the Doordarshan channels according to the viewership statistics. There are several Doordarshan channels which do not have significant viewership; continuing with such channels is a waste of public money. They all must be merged as this will not only help increase the viewership but also save lot of public money that goes in running these channels.

Further, the Government must exercise real control over private news channels and ask them to compulsorily telecast proceedings of both the Houses.

Subhash Agarwal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

My request for 27 per cent reservation for socially and economically backwards in Government jobs in Odisha has



- Dharmendra Pradhan ■ China is the only



The issues of drug

abuse and crime

economic, diplomatic, military, technological and power to mount a sustained challenge to a stable and open

international system. **US President** — Joe Biden

against women are somewhere interconnected, and the youth of the nation suffers the

most owing to these transgressions.

Actor — Ravi Kishan



positive and play your shots on that pitch back yourselves to clear the boundary — just happy that I managed to contribute to the team's cause at that

point of time West Indies captain

using the economy's

The Modi Government is

collapse since the pandemic to rush headlong into its mission of handing over large portions of

India's wealth to its favourite crony capitalists

Interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi

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VACCINE FIRST, POLITICS LATER

Netas getting into poll campaigning must get the jab, both for safety and for sending a message for public good



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

ndia began one of the largest vaccination drives attempted globally on January 16 and opened it up for frontline workers in February. The second phase of the inoculation drive began on March 1, with the doors thrown open to citizens above a certain age and fulfilling specific criterion. At the launch of the second phase, the nation woke up to a visual of Prime Minister Narendra Modi getting vaccinated at a Government facility. It was a wide message, ranging from taking the India-developed vaccine, being conscious of the home State of healthcare staff administering the shot and the sartorial choice of a gamcha from Assam. However, there was another story unfolding mid-day onwards in many of the vaccination centres around the country as many senior citizens failed to get vaccinated on days one and two despite managing to register successfully on the CoWin website.

Despite the glitches, this is a remarkable feat for our country which, till the same time last year, was not aware of the horror waiting to unfold and, therefore, didn't even have basic toolkits of personal protective equipment handy. The reason it is vital to mention this is so that we keep learning every moment and improvising on the deliverable processes, like we did in 2020



It is a welcome step that a sizeable chunk of private hospitals has been roped in for the second phase of the vaccination drive. However, it seems like they are being treated like lesser institutions when it comes to supply and execution logistics. Many private hospitals reported one queue for walk-in registrations and those registered with confirmed time slots through the CoWin website. This led to crowding, which is an inyour-face blunder to be avoided during these times. The private sector is equipped enough with stipulated processes for vaccination and with some guided information, could manage the drive with proper social distancing. Ideally, the authorities should have done a workshop with key hospitals and taught the staff to manage a demand-driven hybrid model vaccination exercise. At some stage the Government has to think about opening up the vaccination drive for corporates and the money spent should be treated as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Most of the corporates are willing to either take up a vaccination drive for their staff under the CSR head or allow staff to pay, provided the exercise like Aadhaar registrations moves to their premises. RS Sharma, the current chief of the National Health Authority, is aware of the private-public cooperative plumbing required to make India's vaccination pipeline a model worth emulating. He is also aware of the role technology is going to play in the exercise and the digital divide in the country over access and use of factual information. The confusion between the use of the CoWin app vs the CoWin website needs to be addressed. Also, vaccine hesitancy among certain sections of society is triggered by opinionated fake information on social media. It is time for all technocrats involved in the process to start tackling the barrage of misinformation and talk about the facts on all platforms available.

Another aspect of the inoculation programme is driven by politics. Already there have been some remarks regarding the Prime Minister's picture on the vaccine completion certificate, specially from States bound for elections. Universal vaccination against the dreaded virus is a shared project of all leaders at the Central and State level. Any attempt to subvert the process by creating barriers may not go down well with the electorate or be good for the leader's image. Of course, the optics need to be high for any candidate facing the electorate in a few days, however it would be good if they start showing their commitment. Most of the leaders getting into campaigning ahead of polls would do well to get vaccinated, both for safety and for sending a loud message for public

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Economy riddled with corruption



Graft is a huge, insidious problem in our country that has eaten into every aspect of our lives, be it in rural or urban İndia

survey conducted by Transparency International (TI) last year found that India has the highest rate of bribery in the Asian region. The survey titled, 'Global Corruption' Barometer (GCB), Asia' revealed that the nation also had the highest rate of people using personal connections to access public services. The country has a bribery rate of 39 per cent while 46 per cent people use "familiarity" to get access to services. The report noted that "slow and complicated bureaucratic process, unnecessary red tape and unclear regulatory frameworks force citizens to seek out other solutions to access basic services through networks of familiarity and petty corruption (in India)."

The nation's quest for economic dynamism has been severely stifled by chronic corruption. The country needs to urgently modernise its institutions and end the culture of rent-seeking and cutting corners if it wants the wheel of its economy to roll seamlessly. Corruption is both anti-national and anti-poor because the resources meant for poverty alleviation schemes get siphoned off by dishonest politicians and bureaucrats. It is among the most debilitating economic illnesses that afflict large parts of the world. India is now caught in a situation where many sectors are steeped in endemic corruption, including those charged with controlling it — from the legislators who write the laws, to the judiciary which makes them roadworthy and the police which is charged with enforcing them.

In the last four decades, despite several Government programmes for the welfare of the rural poor, poverty remains endemic. Either the nets were not cast wide or there were too many holes blown into them. The cruel reality is that much of the public spending does not reach the poor. It is either sponged off by the delivery mechanism consisting of consultants, advisors, their equipment and studies — or it gets pocketed. This has become a touchstone for all public-funded programmes and is now parroted in all Indian development literature. Low-level graft remains pervasive. Much of the Western world aid is running down the bureaucratic ratholes. Corruption is a huge, insidious problem in our country that has eaten into every aspect of life. It can lead to distrust in the Government, generating civil strife, violence, and conflict.

While the poor do not have the money to bribe public servant to avail services that are their right, they have a vote that the politician wants. The politician does a little bit to make life a little more tolerable for the poor — a seat in a good school for the lucky few, a Government job for the even luckier, on occasion the unexpected munificence of a loan waiver or, more commonly, a phone call that helps them get a police case registered. For all this, the politician gets the gratitude of his voters. However, he then also has little reason to improve the system by reforming it.

The state of affairs is grim, as every village official must be paid not just to expedite the application form for development schemes but specifically for not obstructing it. There is no easy solution to the problem. The corrupt police officials have a rollicking time at the expense of helpless citizens. In fact, there is no link between corruption and poverty. It is easier to convert a corrupt



IN THE LAST FOUR DECADES, DESPITE SEVERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE WELFARE OF THE RURAL POOR, POVERTY REMAINS ENDEMIC. EITHER THE NETS WERE NOT CAST WIDE OR THERE WERE TOO MANY HOLES BLOWN INTO THEM. THE CRUEL REALITY IS THAT MUCH OF THE PUBLIC SPENDING DOES NOT REACH THE POOR. IT IS EITHER SPONGED OFF BY THE DELIVERY MECHANISM CONSISTING OF CONSULTANTS, ADVISORS, THEIR **EQUIPMENT AND** STUDIES — OR IT GETS POCKETED

here. Voters favour a familiar family pedigree, partly because of a cultural reverence for the family and because of feudal habits that go back centuries. These traditions are more important in politics than individual qualities or merits in India and they strike at the very core of democracy. Grassroots activists and student leaders with no patronage matter little, and given the huge money and muscle power involved in elections, outsiders can only dream of power. In fact, the impact of nepotism goes beyond politics, with the reign of dynasties extending to most businesses too.

constable rather than an officer into

an honest person. Higher officials

get so carried away by the glamour

and competition evident among their peers, and the aspirations of

their families, that malpractices

and bribes become a part of their

lives. Surely education is a failure

Like the mythological hydra, corruption is a many-headed foe that insinuates itself into every part of the social fabric — weakening the body politic and jeopardising prospects for economic growth. It can wither only after the heads are

lopped off. It has been a long-standing problem that successive Governments have battled and mostly failed to quell. In his magnum opus 'Arthashastra', written nearly three centuries before the Christian era, Kautilya, the classical master of statecraft, observed:

"Just as it is impossible to know when a fish moving in water is drinking it, so it is impossible to find out when Government servants in charge of undertakings misappropriate money." The phrase, "probity in public

life" has become an oxymoron. The time to start popping the corks would be when corrupt officials are actually convicted and penalised. Unfortunately, our criminal justice system has a truly pathetic record on this front. As long as that remains true, much publicised arrests serve little or no purpose. They certainly do not act as effective deterrents to potential bribe-takers or bribe-givers. Corruption is too often seen as merely a moral issue. Not enough people realise just how crippling an economic factor it can be. The cost of the bribes clearly must be factored into the business model and hence into the

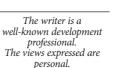
The country's economic system is fused with many strands of corruption and organised systems of tax evasion. Cases of people greasing palms to get a college scholarship, tax refund or mortgage from a State-owned bank are now commonplace. Petty corruption includes slipping banknotes to the police and to officials to get paperwork done. Businessmen have to offer "seed money" to avoid red tape.

Writer and former diplomat Pavan Varma suggests that the persistence of corruption in India also

reflects a strain of amorality in our character: A willingness to tolerate corner-cutting and rule-breaking in the successful pursuit of wealth and power. "Corruption, of course, is not unique to India," he writes in 'Being Indian'. "What is unique is the level of its acceptance, and the creative ways in which it is sustained. Indians do not subscribe to antiseptic definitions of rectitude... Their understanding of right and wrong is related far more to efficacy than absolute notions of morality."

Most Indian businesses cannot survive or remain competitive without stashing away undeclared earnings. Almost everybody who has sold a house has taken one part of the payment in cash and evaded tax on it. Huge quantities of secret wealth are still a part of our system.

The solution lies in ensuring that the Central Bureau of Investigation remains free of Government interference and that whistle-blowers, witnesses and journalists working on corruption cases are protected. The Government must realise that increasing corruption can act as a speed breaker in the Indian growth story. There is a need for a strong political will to untangle it. Without a strong civil society or an independent judiciary to check Government power, the political class can become complacent. We have a long distance to cover to get rid of corruption and it may require longer sprints as time is run-



YOU PUT NAILS ON ROADS AND PREVENTED FARMERS FROM ENTERING THE CAPITAL OF THE SOVEREIGN COUNTRY, BUT YOU BEAT A RETREAT AGAINST CHINA.

—MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER **UDDHAV THACKERAY**





YOU ARE MAKING INSULTING STATEMENTS AGAINST **OUR SOLDIERS WHO DEFENDED (THE COUNTRY** FROM) CHINESE AGGRESSION.

—MAHARASHTRA FORMER CHIEF MINISTER **DEVENDRA FADNAVIS**

Technology for pedagogy in music strikes the right note

It helps to build highly effective differentiated learning experiences, which are rather challenging otherwise in a group setting with traditional teaching approaches

dechnology has been one of the mainstays of music education, particularly contemporary music and its production and sound engineering since the late 2000s However, the adoption rate was probably slower than anticipated due to the general resistance to change and the reluctance to shift to newer methods of learning and teaching. Interestingly, music technology, which we should clearly differentiate from the technology for pedagogical purposes, has been adopted widely and is frequently adapted by music educators in line with music industry practices.

The year 2020 presented many with a make-or-break situation due to the pandemic and music education providers, both institutions and teachers were swift to drop all inhibitions and embrace technology to aid pedagogy.



The writer is Dean, The

True School of Music,

Vijavbhoomi University.

The views expressed are

Most interestingly, private tutors — who probably argued the most against technologydriven learning and teaching in place of the tried and tested traditional approach of in-person instruction — were the first to jump on the bandwagon. Consequently, they taught music using every possible technological means, from Skype to Zoom to Google Hangouts. In most of such cases, the technology integration started and ended with these video calling apps that allowed remote teaching and learning and did not extend to more immersive and interactive learning systems.

Increasingly, we are now seeing larger music schools tapping into comprehensive learning management systems (LMS), customised mobile apps and subscription-based music learning services such as music notation applications, ear train-

ing applications with content libraries, backing music tracks and practice tools for instruments, voice instruction and so on, that integrate into LMS or remote teaching using video calling apps. LMS are excellent cloud-

based tools to extend learning beyond face-to-face time, and more importantly to build a social learning ecosystem around the class. There are a number of such solutions available now, mostly on a per-user subscription model that is increasingly becoming affordable in markets like India and South Asia.

LMS allow teachers to administer independent learning content to a class or individual learners, provide feedback to students using text, audio or video, conduct online assessments that could be auto-graded and so on. More importantly, LMS allow students to inter-



act with each other, share and discuss topics of interest online, and learn from each other's works. This provides invaluable benefits over just focusing on instrumental or voice mastery.

Newer learning technologies that either work as standalone mobile or web-based apps or integrate into LMS help further enhance the music learning experience. Many schools employ music notation and ear training applications with preloaded content libraries for independent learning and

For example, music teachers are able to assign an exercise with a predetermined difficulty level and a target practice score to student groups or individuals. The students can then practice the material on their own with the app giving highly specific feedback on how well they are doing, and the areas that need improvement. Once the student attains the target score, the teacher assigns a new difficulty level, much like a game.

Similar gamified learning technologies also exist for instrument and voice learning. Many of these systems provide comprehensive content libraries organised in terms of progressive difficulty levels. Teachers are able to assign target goals for practice, and once a student achieves the desired proficiency, conduct an assessment within the app, using similar content to validate the learning and progress to the next level. Some of these systems give detailed visual heatmaps of a student's performance, with granular feedback on areas that have met expectations and those needing improvement.

Technology-enabled pedagogy also helps to build highly effective differentiated learning experiences, which are rather challenging otherwise in a group setting with traditional teaching approaches. One of the biggest benefits of technologyenabled pedagogy is its focus on student-centred learning, taking the attention away from the teacher as the sole enabler of learning. With technology-enabled learning, the teacher has the flexibility to adopt a more efficient role of a learning facilitator, provide necessary personalised interventions and allow each learner to grow at their own pace while focusing

on the core areas to be devel-

oped. Teachers can drop the one-size-fits-all approach that works rather poorly in creative arts education.

While this recent and swift adoption of technologies for pedagogical purposes is mainly driven by the pressure to enhance remote learning in light of the social distancing and lockdown conditions necessitated by the Coronavirus pandemic, they are more than likely to find a permanent place in music education since both students and teachers will find obvious enhancements to their learning and teaching experi-

Institutions are likely to adopt and scale such technologies aggressively since they introduce efficiencies and help collect extremely valuable data that will help design newer and more effective curriculum, learning programmes and delivery methods.

MYANMAR COUP

Protesters, undaunted by killings, march again

in Myanmar protesting last month's military coup returned to the streets Thursday, undaunted by the killing of at least 38 people the previous day by security forces.

New protests were held in at least three areas of Yangon, the country's largest city, that have been scenes of violence for the past few days. Police again used force to try to disperse the crowds, according to social media accounts.

Protests also continued In Mandalay, the second-biggest city. A formation of five fighter planes flew over the city on Thursday morning in what appeared to be a threatening

The UN Special envoy for Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, said 38 people were killed Wednesday, a figure consistent with other reports.

The death toll was the highest since the Feb. 1 takeover, when the military ousted the elected government of leader Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 50 civilians, mostly peaceful protesters, are confirmed to have been killed by police and soldiers since



People build barricades to block police in Mandalay, Myanmar on Thursday

The UN Security Council has scheduled closed-door consultations on Friday on calls to reverse the coup - including from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres — and stop the escalating military crack-

Any kind of coordinated action at the United Nations will be difficult since two permanent members of the Security Council, China and Russia, are likely to veto it. Some countries have already imposed or are considering

their own sanctions.

UN Envoy Schraner Burgener said she warned Myanmar's army that the world's nations and the Security Council "might take huge strong measures.

House passes sweeping voting

"And the answer was, We

survived those sanctions in the past," she said. When she also warned the army that Myanmar would become isolated, she said, "the answer was, We have to learn to walk with only a few friends."

The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar, which for

under strict military rule that led to international isolation and sanctions. As the generals loosened their grip, culminating in Suu Kyi's rise to power after 2015 elections, the international community responded by lifting most sanctions and pouring investing into the

I'll shoot whoever I see: **Myanmar military threatens** protesters on TikTok

Singapore: Armed Myanmar soldiers and police are using TikTok to deliver death threats to protesters against last month's coup, researchers said, prompting the Chinese video-sharing app to announce it was removing content that incites violence.

Digital rights group Myanmar ICT for Development (MIDO) said it had found over 800 pro-military videos that menaced protesters at a time of increasing bloodshed - with 38 protesters killed on Wednesday alone according to the United

"It's just the tip of the iceberg," said MIDO executive director Htaike Htaike Aung, who noted that there's "hundreds" of videos of uniformed soldiers and police on the app.

A spokesman for the army and junta did not respond to a request for comment.

One video from late February reviewed by Reuters shows a man in army fatigues aiming an assault rifle at the camera and addressing protesters: "I will shoot in your fucking faces... and I'm using

Stop murdering protesters: UN tells Myanmar military

Geneva, Switzerland: At least 54 people have been killed and over 1,700 detained since Myanmar's February 1 coup, the UN rights chief said Thursday, demanding that the military "stop murdering" protesters.

The comments come after the deadliest day of protests in Myanmar, with at least 38 dead Wednesday in rallies where security forces were seen firing into crowds.

UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet urged security forces to "halt their vicious crackdown on peaceful protesters".

"Myanmar's military must stop murdering and jailing protesters," she said in a statement.

"It is utterly abhorrent that security forces are firing live ammunition against peaceful protesters across the country," she added.

Bachelet added that she was "also appalled at the documented attacks against emergency medical staff and ambulances attempting to provide care to those who have been injured"

The UN rights office said it

had corroborated information that at least 54 people had been killed by police and military officers since February 1.

"The actual death toll, however, could be much higher as these are the figures the office has been able to verify," it

stressed. The killings have escalated

sharply in recent days. The rights office had verified 30 of the 38 deaths reported by other UN entities on Wednesday, saying the killings by security forces had taken olace in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Mon.

Another person was documented killed on Tuesday and 18 people on Sunday, with five prior to that.

It said it was difficult to document injuries, but that "at a minimum, hundreds have been wounded during protests".

Since the coup, more than ,700 people have also been 'arbitrarily arrested and detained in relation to their participation in protests or engagement in political activity," the statement said. AFP

New Zealand man charged over threats to Christchurch mosques

Wellington: A New Zealand man is facing criminal charges after allegedly posting online against Christchurch mosques that were the sites of a terrorist attack that left 51 people dead. Police on Thursday arrest-

charged him with threatening If found guilty, he faces a maximum prison sentence of

ed the 27-year-old man and

seven years. Police Superintendent John Price told reporters the threats were made earlier this week on the website 4chan, which has

been used as a forum in the

past by white supremacists. The arrest comes as Muslims prepare to mark the second anniversary of a white supremacist gunman's attack at the mosques

Price said there would be an enhanced police presence at the mosques during the commemoration of the March 15, 2019, attacks.

He said that had been planned before the threats came to light.

Price declined to give details of the alleged threats or name the man ahead of his first scheduled court appearance

"Any threat made on our community and our people is a threat on our society, and will not be tolerated," Price said. "Any messages of hate or

people wanting to cause harm in our community, they will be held to account.' Police initially arrested two men and executed search warrants at two Christchurch

addresses. One of the men was later released without being In the 2019 attack, gunman Brenton Tarrant slaughtered

rights bill over GOP Opposition **AP** WASHINGTON

House Democrats passed sweeping voting and ethics legislation Wednesday over unanimous Republican opposition, advancing to the Senate what would be the largest overhaul of the US election law in at least a generation.

House Resolution 1, which touches on virtually every aspect of the electoral process, was approved on a near party-line 220-210 vote. It would restrict partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, strike down hurdles to voting and bring transparency to a murky campaign finance system that allows wealthy donors to anonymously bankroll political

The bill is a powerful counterweight to voting rights worshippers at the mosques during Friday prayers. *AP* restrictions advancing in Republican-controlled statehouses across the country in the wake of Donald Trump's repeated false claims of a stolen 2020 election. Yet it faces an uncertain fate in the Democratic-controlled Senate, where it has little chance of passing without changes to procedural rules that currently

The stakes in the outcome are monumental, cutting to the foundational idea that one person equals one vote, and carrying with it the potential to shape election outcomes for years to come. It also offers a test of how hard President Joe Biden and his party are willing to fight for their priorities, as well as those of their voters.

Republicans to block it.

This bill "will put a stop at the voter suppression that we're seeing debated right now," said Rep Nikema Williams, a new congresswoman who represents the Georgia district that deceased voting rights champion John Lewis held for years. "This bill is the Good

Trouble' he fought for his To Republicans, however,

would give license to unwanted federal interference in states' authority to conduct their own elections - ultimately benefiting Democrats through higher turnout, most notably among minorities. "Democrats want to use

their razor-thin majority not to pass bills to earn voters' trust, but to ensure they don't lose more seats in the next election," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said from the House floor Tuesday. The measure has been a

priority for Democrats since they won their House majority in 2018. But it has taken on added urgency in the wake of Trump's false claims, which incited the deadly storming of the US Capitol in January.

Nepal Govt signs peace agreement with communist rebel group

AP ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's Government signed peace agreement Thursday with a small communist rebel group widely feared because they were known for violent attacks, extortion and bombings.

The government agreed to lift a ban on the group, release all their party members and supporters in jail and drop all legal cases against them, while the group agreed to give up all violence and resolve any issues through peaceful dialogue, the government said in a statement after peace talks.

Details of the agreement would be made public at a joint ceremony Friday with Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli and the leader of the rebel group Netra Bikram Chand, who is better known by his guerrilla name, Biplav. The rebels also call themselves the Nepal Communist Party. This group is known for

violence, threats and enforcing general strikes. It had split from the Maoist Communist party, which

fought government troops

between 1996 and 2006 when it gave up its armed revolt, agreed to UN-monitored peace talks and joined mainstream politics.

The Maoist fighting had left 17,000 people killed, hundreds missing and many more maimed.

The peace agreement with the rebel group comes at a time when the prime minister and his government are facing a political crisis since a split developed in his own ruling party and the Supreme Court reinstated the Parliament he had dissolved.

Hong Kong court denies bail to 32 democracy activists

Hong Kong: A Hong Kong court on Thursday denied bail to 32 out of 47 pro-democracy activists charged under a Beijing-imposed national security law, ending a four-day marathon court hearing.

The group of activists was charged with conspiracy to commit subversion under the law and detained on Sunday over their involvement in an unofficial primary election last year that authorities said was a plot to paralyze Hong Kong's government.

The mass charges against the activists were the most sweeping action taken against the city's pro-democracy camp since the national security law was implemented last June. With the 32 activists remanded in custody until the next court hearing on May 31, it means that a majority of Hong Kong's pro-democracy figures will now be in jail or in self-exile abroad amid an ongoing crackdown on dissent in the semiautonomous Chinese city. AP

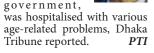
Sheikh Hasina's political adviser HT **Imam passes away**

Dhaka: HT Imam, the political adviser to Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, died on Thursday at a military hospital here.

Imam, 81, breathed his last at 1.15 am. He was undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka, Awami League Office Secretary Biplab Barua

media post. Imam, who was the cabinet secretary to the 1971 wartime

said in a social



NAME OF

PWD B&R, FATEHABAD

PWD B&R, PANCHKULA

PWD B&R, REWARI

IRRIGATION & WATER

HARYANA, CHARKHI DADRI

RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

HARYANA, CHARKHI DADRI

IRRIGATION & WATER

HARYANA, ROHTAK

SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS

DISTRICT FOOD & SUPPLIES CONTROLLER

SONEPAT

CEO,ZILA PARISHAD

KURUKSHETRA

FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES AND

CONTROLLER ROHTAK

I.T.I.MEHRAULI,

Buckingham Palace to probe | Chaos as freed Nigerian if Markle bullied staff during her time as frontline royal

London: Buckingham Palace the confidence of a third memhas launched an investigation into allegations that Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, bullied staff during her time as a frontline royal with Prince Harry in Britain.

Kensington Palace for nearly a year after her marriage to House Prince Harry, 36, the Duke of ment. Sussex, in May 2018.

The probe comes as The Times published a leaked email on Wednesday from a staff member alleging that the former American actress drove two personal assistants out of

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL ALTERATION OF ICU/HDU IN EXISTING

CIVIL HOSPITAL AT FATEHABAD.
TENDER FOR THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED MATERNAL

AND CHILD HOSPITAL AND SERVICE BLOCK IN THE CAMPUS OF CIVIL

1. DNIT FOR ICU/HDU OF ADDITIONAL BLOK IN CIVIL HOSPITAL AT

REWARI IN REWARI DISTT.+1 OTHER WORK

SUPPLY ERECTION & COMMISSIONING OF 3 NO. 10 CS. & 4 NO. 5 CS

MOTORS & 50HP & 30HP ATS STARTERS.

PROVIDING HELPER CHOWKIDAR SWEEPER CUM CKD ELECT. TURNER

WELDER DATA ENTRY OPT. CUM CLERK.

CONSTRUCTION OF PUMP HOUSE ALONGWITH GEO SYNTHETIC MAT AT

RD 10574 OF MEHAM DRAIN X-ING KAHNAUR DISTY. AT RD 141025+ 2

OTHER WORKS
HIRING OF SUITABLE OFFICE ACCOMODATION MEASURING AROUND
(COMMERCIAL) 6000SQ. FT±20% CARPET AREA REQUIRED BY THIS

TRANSPORTATION AND LABOUR & CARTAGE WORK

WALL PAINTINGS IN 419 VILLAGES (5 NO. WALL PAINTING IN EACH

VILLAGE) OF DISTRICT KURUKSHETRA HAVING SIZE OF EACH 10' X 10'

LABOUR AND CARTAGE TRANSPOTATION

SUPPLY OF TOOLS, EQUIPMENTS & MACHINERY AT GOVT.ITI, GURUGRAM

ber of staff.

"We are clearly very concerned about allegations in the Times' following claims made by former staff of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex," Markle, 39, lived at Buckingham Palace, which is responsible for all Royal Household staff, said in a state-

"Accordingly, our HR team will look into the circumstances outlined in the article. Members of staff involved at the time, including those who have left the Household, will be invited to participate to see if lessons PTI | the household and undermined can be learned," it said. PTI | girls after six days of waiting ed with their families.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

OPENING DATE

CLOSING DATE

24.03.2021 04.03.2021

24.03.2021

04.03.2021

CLOSING DATE 24.03.2021

CLOSING DATE

CLOSING DATE 17.03.2021

04.03.2021

05.03.2021

10.03.2021

05.03.2021

14.03.2021

03.03.2021

girls reunited with families

Jangebe (Nigeria): Hundreds of Nigerian girls abducted last week from a boarding school in the country's northwest have been returned to their families amid chaos as security forces opened fire on a gathering outside the school where the reunions were held Wednesday.

One person died and two were injured in the mayhem, according to local media reports. The forces opened fire after stones were thrown at Government officials, apparently in frustration at the drawn-out procedure, said the

Anxious and angry parents who were reunited with the

https://etenders.hry.nic.in

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AMOUNT EMD

24.71 LACS

3986.49 LACS

56.09 LACS

69.74 LACS

5 LACS

12.36 LACS

84 LACS

15.97 LACS

grabbed their daughters and left after shots rang out. Many were worried about traveling on the area's dangerous roads

The girls, aged 10 and up, had been abducted from the Government Girls Secondary School in Jangebe in Nigeria's northwest Zamfara state and were released Tuesday after negotiations. Zamfara Gov. Bello Matawalle said that 279

girls had been freed. Upon their release, the girls were brought to the government's provincial offices, Government House, in Gusau for presentation, before being medically examined and reunit-

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RO NO. 2048



Office of the Superintending Engineer 2nd Circle, P.W.D., Tallital Nainital -263002

Phone/ Fax:- 05942-235728/ 232030 E-mail: sepwdntl@rediffmail.com

Letter No 1167/41M-2/2021 **INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY AND CONCEPT PLANNING OF PROPOSED FLY OVER BRIDGE FOR PLANNED TRAFFIC IN HALDWANI CITY On behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand, Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, P.W.D. Nainital (Uttarakhand) invites Expression on Interest (EOI) for the preparation of Feasibility study

eligible, qualified and experienced consultants/firm(s). Scope of works:- The scope of work shall include Traffic Survey, Topographical Survey, Concept Plan, Utility Shifting proposal including acquisition of Land and building and Preliminary Project report including estimated cost and general arrangement drawing of traffic congested area of Haldwani City as Teenpani Mandi — Mangal Padao — Kallu Sidh Mandir — Tikoniya (NH-87) and

and concept planning of proposed fly over in traffic congested area of Haldwani City by the

Pilikhothi — Mukhani Chauraha — Kallu Sidh Mandir (SH-41). The EOI shall include adequate information including their organization details, Relevant Experience of consultancy work executed under M.D.B like A.D.B/World Bank funded projected etc. Professional Staff and Annual Turnover and other relevant document in Letter of interest to demonstrate their qualification in the best manner. The short listed consultants/firm(s) will be invited to submit their Technical and Financial Proposal as per Request for Proposal (RFP)

The EOI shall be submitted in the sealed envelope and must reach the mentioned address not later than 3.30 P.M. on dated 25-03-2021. In case the last day of submission of EOI falls on a public holiday, it shall be submitted on the following working day. The department reserves the right to shortlist or not to shortlist any or all of the consultants/firm(s) without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR Telefax :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

Gist of e-tender

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/309/e-tendering Dated: -02-03-2021. For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on item

rate basis from Original Equipment Manufacturers or their Authorized dealers/ Registered/ Reputed firms having requisite experience for the below mentioned work:-Name of Work: - Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 50 KVA of D.G

set along with, Cement Concrete Foundation at Govt. Sub District Hospital, Hazratbal, Srinagar. Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs): - 5.65

Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees):-500 <u>Time of completion (in Days)</u>:-10

for the mentioned works at a later stage.

Position of AAA/funds: - AAA Vide No: 118-MCS of 2021, Dated: 01-03-2021 TS. NO: - 110 of 03/2021 1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria,

specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 03.03.2021(15.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 03.03.2021 (15.00 hrs).

2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 03.03.2021 (15.00 hrs) to 12.03.2021 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) covers. 3. Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

12.03.2021 at 16.00 hrs or any date convenient to the Department.

No. DIPK-14404/20 Dated:- 04.03.2021

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

FDI rises 40% to USD 51.47 bn: Govt data

oreign direct investment Foreign unect investigation of the FDI) in India grew 40 per cent to USD 51.47 billion during April-December 2020-21, according to government data released on Thursday.

India has attracted 22 per cent higher FDI inflow (including re-invested earnings) of USD 67.54 billion during the first nine months of the current fiscal as against USD 55.14 billion in the same period of

"FDI equity inflow grew by 40 per cent in the first nine months of 2020-21 (USD 51.47 billion) compared to the year ago period (USD 36.77 billion)," the commerce and



industry ministry said.

The inflows increased by 37 per cent in the third quarter (October-December 2020) of 2020-21 to USD 26.16 bil-

In December, FDI surged 24 per cent to USD 9.22 billion, the data showed.

The measures taken by the overnment on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of

doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country, according to the min-

The foreign inflows are a major driver of economic growth and an important source of non-debt finance for the economic development of

"The steps taken in this direction during the last six and a half years have borne fruit, as is evident from the everincreasing volumes of FDI inflows being received into the country. Continuing on the path of FDI liberalisation and simplification, government has carried out FDI reforms across various sectors," the ministry

ICICI, HDFC, SBI will have to offload ₹1.2 lakh cr | WhatsApp expands if RBI caps stake in insurance arms: Report

ust State Bank of India, HDFC and ICICI Bank will have to offload equity worth Rs 1.21 lakh crore if the central bank goes ahead with its reported plan to make banks cap their stakes in insurance arms at 20 per cent, says a

Quoting unnamed RBI officials, a media report earlier this week said the monetary authority is not comfortable with banks owning controlling stake in non-core businesses like insurance ventures which are capital guzzlers and wants banks to cap ownership in insurance arms/ companies at a maximum of 20 per cent.

It was also reported that the RBI recently approved Axis Bank's plan to buy Max Life

only after it agreed to directly hold only 10 per cent and also capped the overall holding at 20 per cent.

Current regulations allow banks to own over 50 per cent stake in insurance arms.

If the RBI forces promoter banks/NBFCs to lower their stakes to 20 per cent, this can significantly increase free float in the four listed insurance arms of HDFC, ICICI Bank and SBI worth Rs 1.2 lakh crore alone, Kotak Securities said in a report on Thursday.

HDFC owns 50 per cent in HDFC Life and bringing it down to 20 per cent would mean offloading equity worth Rs 44,100 crore at today's mar-

While in case of ICICI Prudential Life which is 51 per cent owned by the bank, it will

shares flowing into the market, and Rs 21,700 crore worth of shares from ICICI Lombard in which the bank owns 52 per

SBI which owns 55 per cent in SBI Life will have to sell shares worth Rs 32,200 crore. The total value their excess holding is worth Rs 1,20,100

crore, says the report. Almost all state-run banks and large private sector banks also have unlisted life and nonlife insurance ventures.

Calling for maintaining the status quo, the report said banks owning insurance companies has been a win-win for all and that there are many positives in that structure such as insurance stake sales have supported banks' provisioning in

voice, video calling to desktop PCs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

WhatsApp on Thursday said it has rolled out one-to-one voice and video calls on its desktop app, a move that will now allow users to make calls through their lap-

tops or desktop PCs.

The Facebook-owned company said voice and video calls on the platform are endto-end encrypted, and so WhatsApp can't hear or see them whether the call is made from phones or computers.

"We're starting with oneto-one calls on the WhatsApp desktop app so we make sure we can give you a reliable and high-quality experience. We will be expanding this feature

to include group voice and video calls in the future," it

WhatsApp said there has been a significant increase in people calling one another on WhatsApp over the last year and often for long conversa-

tions.

"Last New Year's Eve, we broke the record for the most calls ever made in a single day with 1.4 billion voice and video calls. With so many people still apart from their loved ones, and adjusting to new ways of working, we want conversa-

close to in-person as possible, regardless of where you are in the world or the tech you're using," WhatsApp said.

tions on WhatsApp to feel as

Minister releases **APEN vision** document 2021

Despite being endowed with Promising hydropower and topography, Nagaland's power potentials are yet to be sufficiently exploited and har-nessed due to lack of resources leading to an acute shortage between demand and availability of electricity in the state, according to a vision document

by APEN.
The 'Vision Document 2021' was presented by the Association of Power Engineers Nagaland (APEN) on the occasion of World Engineering Day organized by the Federation of Nagaland State Engineering Service Association (FONSESA) here on Thursday.

The Vision Document

released by Minister for PWD (Housing and Mechanical) Tongpang Ozukum during the WED celebration held on the theme "Engineering for a Healthy Planet-Celebrating the **UNESCO** Engineering Project

On infrastructure development, the vision document said that the number of consumers in the state as of 2020 is 2,99,825 with the peak and off-peak demand being 179 MW and 120 MW respectively while the energy consumption is 854 MU.

It said the state's energy demand is predominantly met from the central sector allocations (90%), and own generation contributing approximately 10 per cent only.

Sensex, Nifty drop over 1 pc amid global equity retreat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its three-session winning run, benchmark BSE Sensex plunged by around 599 points to crack below the key 51,000-level on Thursday due to heavy selling in financial, energy and IT stocks amid a meltdown in global shares.

Asian and European markets tumbled as another rise in US bond yields fanned fears of higher inflation that may prompt central banks to raise

905 points before ending the session at 50,846.08, showing a decline of 598.57 points or 1.16 per cent. Of 30 Sensex

or 1.08 per cent at 15,080.75

with 38 of its constituents ending in the red zone.

On the Sensex chart, HDFC, L&T, SBI, Axis Bank, Bajaj FinServ and HDFC Bank

were major laggards.

Mortgage major HDFC
fell the most by 2.62 per cent.
Bajaj Finserv dropped 2.49 per
cent, SBI by 2.28 per cent, ADFC
Bank by 2.24 per cent, HDFC
Bank by 2.1 per cent and ICICI Bank by 2.1 per cent and ICICI Bank by 1.73 per cent. Larsen & Toubro declined

by 2.31 per cent, NTPC by 1.6

per cent, Bharti Airtel by 1.24 per cent and Reliance by 1.17 per cent. IT stocks Infosys, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, and TCS also saw losses of up to 1 per cent. ded lower today mainly on weak global cues...Financials and Metals indices were keg drags today, while FMCG, Pharma and IT

Rupee retreats by 11 paise to 72.83, ends 2-day winning run

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee on Thursday declined by 11 paise to close at 72.83 against the US dollar due to a rebound in the greenback in overseas markets and muted domestic equi-

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.99 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.62 and a low of

It finally ended at 72.83 against the American currency, registering a fall of 11 paise over its previous closing.

Startup Harvesting starts e-commerce platform to help farmers sell produce to wholesellers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agritech startup Harvesting On Thursday said it has started an e-commerce portal to help farmers sell their produce to wholesale buyers.

The portal HFNMandi.Com is a free online service for farmers to connect and transact with buyers, a company statement said. HFN Mandi leverages

technology to provide nationwide farmers and buyers on a single transparent online platform. It aims to provide farmers with larger market access and better price realisation.

"Farmers as far as from Meghalaya are now able to export their crops to countries like South Africa because they listed products on our platform," Ruchit Garg, Founder and CEO, Harvesting, said:

Prices are decided by the farmers and orders are fulfilled by farmers themselves

Prices are decided by the farmers and orders are fulfilled by farmers themselves.

"For buyers, it provides not only access to the largest selection of crops under a single roof at attractive prices, but also provides a seamless experience of purchasing agriproduce in wholesale including the booking of transportation, quality check on the ground, legal contract, escrow of funds etc," the company said.

Harvesting Índia Pvt Ltd was founded in 2018 to drive financial inclusion for small-

India wearables market grows 144.3% in 2020: IDC

IANS NEW DELHI

Driven by record shipments of hearables and watches, the India wearables market posted 144.3 per cent year-over-year (YoY) growth in 2020, exiting the year with 36.4 million unit shipments, industry tracker International Data Corporation (IDC) said on Thursday.

India was the only country in the top 20 to see triple-digit growth in wearables in 2020 and continues to be the thirdlargest wearables market globally, showed IDC Worldwide Quarterly Wearable Device Tracker."2020 was a year of transition in the audio segment from wired to wireless devices," said Jaipal Singh, Associate Research Manager, Client Devices, IDC India.

"In 2021, this category will further migrate to more sophisticated devices with enhanced audio experience being the central theme for all vendors," he added. Earwear device shipments grew more than threefold in 2020 compared to the previous year, mainly driven by the affordable launches, and expanding use cases beyond entertainment like virtual meetings and e-learning requirements.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



(depicted in the photo), Namely: Himanshi D/o Mr. Mukesh Meena R/o 128/1, DCM Railway Colony, Kishan Ganj, Karol Bagh, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 27.02.2021 from the area of P.S. Desh Bandu Gupta Road, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 52/21 u/s 363 IPC dated 27.02.2021 has been registered at Police Station Desh Bandu Gupta Road, Delhi Her physical description is as under:-

General public is hereby informed that a gir

Age: 13 Years, Height: 4', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, lour jacket and dark brown colou top & black colour half pant. Any person having any information/Clue about this

missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Desh Bandu Gupta Road, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in

011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Desh Bandu Gupta Road, Delhi Central Distt., Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-23613252, 23537374

face decision on increasing oil output

Members of oil producer cartel OPEC and allied countries are weighing an that prices have recovered to near their pre-pandemic levels.

Their online meeting on Thursday takes place against the background of more confidence that prices have steadied, offset by concern that that the spread of new variants of the coronavirus could easily hurt demand.

The so-called OPEC Plus which includes countries like Russia that are not part of the cartel but have been coordinating production in recent years - made deep cuts in output in 2020 to stave off a com plete collapse in prices.

It decided to add back 500,000 barrels per day in December, and analysts say it's possible the gathered ministers could raise production by another 500,000 barrels per day.

A big question ahead of the meeting is whether Saudi Arabia, the kingpin among member countries, will withdraw any of the voluntary 1 million barrels per day in cuts that it announced at the January meeting, a move that startled oil markets and sent prices higher.

"The group still has a self-

Wipro to buy UK firm Capco for \$1.45 billion Over the last two decades, financial services industry,"

Global software major Wipro said on Thursday that it has signed an agreement to acquire the UK-based management and technology firm Capco for \$1.45 billion (Rs 10,551 crore) to provide digital, Cloud and IT services to financial institutions in the US, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

"The acquisition will make us one of the largest consulting, technology and service providers to the banking and

said the city-based IT behemoth in a statement here. The London-headquartered

Capco's clients include the marquees in the global financial services industry. "Capco has 5,000 consul-

tants based in 30 global locatheir expert insights, entrepreneurial approach and focus on delivery excellence," said the

Capco has worked with customers in banking, capital markets, wealth, asset management and insurance sectors.

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT- UDHAM SINGH NAGAR **E-Tender Notice**

1. Name of the work: - CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL WITH GATE & TILES WORKS AT KABRISTAN VILLAGE - PANDARI, BLOCK - SITARGAN, 3. Period of Completion: - 04 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 04.03.2021(17.00 Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal: - 30.03.2021 (17.00 hrs)

Compound. Rudrapur (Udham Singh Nagar). 8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 10.03.2021 (13.00 hrs) Rudrapur, 9. For further details. details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in . PROJECT MANAGER

IDENTIFICATIO



DP/355/WD/2021

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a unknown male Age: 40 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'7" Built: Thin, Face: Round, was wearing Grey colour Shirt and Dark colour Lower, was found at Hari Nagar Clock Tower, Hari Nagar, Delhi dated 22.02.2021 and admitted in DDU Hospital vide MLC

No. 1868/2021. During the treatment he was declared dead by doctor on 24.02.2021. In this regard a DD No. 76A, dated 24.02.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Hari

deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Any person having any information or clue about the

P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

objection please inform within 15 days.

WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM Tender Notice no.: (1) Tender

Notice no VP-2021-01-01-02955 dated 18.02.2021 (2) Tender Notice no VP-2021-01-02951 dated 18.02.2021 Wrong Date published earlier for closing of tender online: Closing of Tender online at www.ireps.gov.in on 06-03-2021 at 15.00 hrs. Correct Date to be read for closing of tender online (Corrigendum): Closing of Tender online at www.ireps.gov.in on 16-03-2021 at 15.00 hrs Like us on: f facebook.com/West

acquisition is expected to close in the quarter ending June 30,

AXIS BANK Retail Asset Centre, Delhl: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Hirmalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001.Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issue demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, the second section of the security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issue demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, the second section of the section of the second section of the second section of the second section of the section of the second section of the section of the second section of the sectio repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in generative states of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in generative states of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in generative states of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in generative states of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in generative states of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/
mbay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, Registere ice: "Trishul", 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-38000

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powe conferred on him/ here under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general an

hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. wer(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sul

1. Rameshwar Das Aggarwal, S/O. Sh. Residential property entire first Jagdish Prasad Aggarwal'd-83, GF, Kamala Nagar, Block-D, Delhi-110007 still for parking and ground Possess Rameshwar Das Aggarwal, S/O. Sh. floor) portion only without rod/ Jagdish Prasad Aggarwal, Meera Textiles, terrace rights, which is a part Shop No. 97 Church Mission Road, Fatehpur, of freehold built up property Delhi-110006 bearing no. 18-A, in block no.-Rameshwar Das Aggarwal, S/O. Sh. F-4, built on land measuring Jagdish Prasad Aggarwal, R/O-17/35, 2nd 223 Sq. Yard or say 186.45 Floor, Nangia Park Sakti Nagar, New Delhi- Sq. Mtrs, situated in the

W/O Rameshwar Das R/O-17/35, 2nd Floor, presently know as "Model Nangia Park Sakti Nagar, New Delhi-110007

Mrs. Shefali Aggarwal,

W/O Rameshwar Das D-83, GF, Kamala indivisible and impartible Nagar, Block-D, Delhi-110007 Mrs. Shefali Aggarwal, W/O Rameshwar Das Shop No. 97 Fatehpur

Church Mission Road, New Delhi-110006

 Rameshwar Das Aggarwal, S/O. Sh. Jagdish Prasad Aggarwal'd-83, GF, Kamala Nagar, Block-D, Delhi-110007 Rameshwar Das Aggarwal, S/O. Sh. Jagdish Prasad Aggarwal, Meera Textiles, Shop No. 97 Church Mission Road, Fatehpur Rameshwar Das Aggarwal, S/O. Sh Jagdish Prasad Aggarwal, R/O-17/35, 2nd Floor, Nangia Park Sakti Nagar, New Delhi-

 Mrs. Shefali Aggarwal,
 W/O Rameshwar Das R/O-17/35, 2nd Floor, Nangia Park Sakti Nagar, New Delhi-110007 Mrs. Shefali Aggarwal, W/O Rameshwar Das D-83, GF, Kamala Nagar, Block-D, Mrs. Shefali Aggarwal, W/O Rameshwar

Das Shop No. 97 Fatehpur Church Mission Road, New Delhi-110006 The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 3 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Demand Notic

(Rs.)

1.04-09-2020

02-03-2021

(Rupees One Crore Eighty One Lakhs Seven Five

Thousand One

Hundred Fifty Six

(UDHAM SINGH NAGAR) 2. Estimated Cost: - Rs. 53.85 lakh

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening: -01.04.2021 (12.00hrs) 7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is here by informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: Simran D/o Tittu R/o H.No. E-1287, JJ Colony, Bawana, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from her house since 05.02.2021 at 4:00 PM. In this regard FIR No. 49/2021 Dated 05.02.2021 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS. Narela Industrial Area, Outer North District. Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue

has come to light so far. Her physical description is as under:-

Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641

Sex: Female, Age: 17 years, Height: 4'6" ft., Complexion: Fair, Built: Normal, Wearing: Blue Color Suit Salwar and Yellow Dupatta and White Shoes in feet

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

Website:http://cbi.nic.in P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhii Ph. No.: 011-27787592 E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 60 Yrs., Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Hair: Small Grey, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red line and White Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Lower, Place of Recovery: Found dead on

Mob. No.: 7065036324

DP/802/ON/2021

28.02.2021 in front of Mohan Singh Place footpath near Baba Kharak Singh Marg in the jurisdiction of P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi.

In this regard DD No. 18A, Dated 28.02.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Connaught Place, New Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi DP/237/NDD/2021 Ph.: 011-23364139 & 8750870525

My client HDFC Ltd. who had disburse a Loan to Mr.Taj Mohmmad, against the mortgage of Property being Unit No. Plot No. 362, Khasra number 1342/2, Khanna Nagar, Loni Ghazhiabad, U.P. It has come to the notice that the original property documents viz Sale deed dated 18.01.86 registered at Doc. No. 1487, executed by M/s Khanna & Sons Pvt. Ltd. through it's authorised representative Shri Amichand Khanna in favour of M/s Durga Builders Pvt. Ltd. through it's authorised representative Shri Ravindra Kumar Nanda, Sale deed dated 06.10.86 registered at Doc. No. 31802, executed by M/s Durga Builders Pvt. Ltd. through it's authorised representative Shri Ravindra Kumar Nanda in favour of Mr. Kuldip Rai Kapoor, Sale deed dated 12.11.97 registered at Doc. No. 2339, executed by Mr

Kuldip Rai Kapoor in favour of Mr. Ravindra Saini and Sale deed dated 11.06.01 registered

at Doc. No. 8214, executed by Mr. Ravindra

Saini in favour of Mr. Tai Mohmmad are not

traceable. It is hereby appealed to the general public that whosoever finds any of the

documents mentioned here in above may

kindly return the same to the HDFC Ltd., The Capital Court, Munirka, Outer Ring Road, Olof Palme Marg, New Delhi - 110067 Ch. No.153, Saket Court Complex, New

PUBLIC NOTICE APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Ph.: 011-28125719, 8750871128

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 30 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead below Ghazipur pool, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 46A, dated 02.03.2021 at PS Ghazipur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, Age: about 30 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Dark, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Blue colour Jacket, black colour jeans and barefooted. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly

inform the SHO/ Ghazipur, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/409/ED/2021

P.S. Ghazipur, Delhi.

Intra-day, the 30-share BSE barometer fell as much as

shares, 25 closed with losses. The broader NSE Nifty closed down by 164.85 points

indices were resilient. **OPEC** cartel, allies

> imposed cap of not raising the target production by more than 500,000 barrels per day on a monthly basis, which does not include the return of the extra Saudi Arabian cuts, which would come on top," said Bjornar Tonhaugen, head of oil

markets at Rystad Energy.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that our client Mr. Kamal Kumar

Son of Late Sh. Damodar Dass R/o E-52 Jhimil

Colony Delhi-110095 aged acout 68 years, have
severed all his relations with his son Mr. Varun

Dutta aged about 32 years and his daughter-in
law Mrs. Vidya Dutta aged 29 years as they does

not take care of our client. Mr. Varun Dutta and

Mrs. Vidya Dutta have the habit of showing bad

attitude and behaving badly with our client and

are also not ready to look after him. By their bad

and selfish acts/deeds, they have made the life of

our client miserable and pitable. Therefore our

client has debarred and dissowned Mr. Varun

Dutta and Mrs. Vidya Dutta from all of his movable

and immovable properties.

HARISH CHAND ADVOCATE CHAMBER NO. 92, PATIALA HOUSE COURT NEW DELHI-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE
hereby given that Share Certificate(s)
for 1480 Equity Shares of Rs. 2/-(Rupees Two only) each bearing Distinctive Number 2610381 - 2611120 and 89462041-89462780 of DCM Shriram Ltd. New Delhi 89462780 of DCM Shriram Ltd. New Delhi, registered in the name of Ajay Arora has / have been lost. Has / have applied to the company to issue duplicate share certificate(s). Any person who has / have any claim in respect of the said shares certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office at 2" Floor (west wing) Worlimark 1, Aerocity New Delhi - 110037 within the 15 days of the publication of this potice after which no relain will be enter.

of this notice, after which no claim will be enter-tained and the company will proceed to issue duplicate Share Certificate(s),

This is to inform all that we are going to close the company Naya Bazar Chit Fund Pvt. Ltd. having registered office at 26/36, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi. lf anybody have any

Date: 05-03-2021

ownership free hold rights of

EAST: PLOT NO. F-4/18

WEST: PLOT NO.F-4/19

build up property bearing

no.26/64 constructed on the land measuring 185 sq. Yard or say 154.66 square meter

situated at Sakti Nagar, Delhi

wnership free hold rights of

with proportionate undivid

EAST: PLOT NO. 60

Residential Property Entire 1.04-09-2020 First Floor (Located Over And 2.02-03-2021

Above Stilt For Parking And 3. Rs.1,23,98,963/-GF Portion Without Terrace/ Roof Rights, part of free hold

https://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

Bollywood When Paatashaala came was an enriching experi-ence collaborating with Thaman —Vishal Mishra

BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL

The crafts industry needs a fresh set of structural reforms to move ahead, shares SREYA MOZUMDAR

India's handicraft market, the true epitome of India's vibrant culture and heritage, has a glorious history of several centuries. However, the once-prosperous Indian craft sector of the country has been in deep trouble since the beginning of the pandemic. A source of sustenance of a conservative estimate of staggering 9-10 million artisans, craft is one of the worst-affected sectors that is trying to find ways to revive itself. The current situation signals the need for a fresh set of structural reforms for the crafts industry to move ahead.

The striking appeal of premium handicraft goods produced by Indian artisans has fascinated not just the domestic market but also the global one. To put it in context, Indian handicrafts and handlooms are a ₹24,300-crore industry and contribute ₹10,000 crores to India's export earnings annually, according to the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Additionally, the Indian Trade Portal asserts that India is the secondlargest exporter of handloom prod-ucts globally. The exports of Indian handloom products were valued at USD 353.9 million in the period 2017-2018

The reality on the ground, however, seems different. Despite a show of promise and potential, the Indian craft sector doesn't get the serious attention it should. The Fourth All India Handloom Census (2019-2020) says that the total number of households engaged in weaving and allied activities amounts to 3.14 million; two-thirds (66.3 per cent). Already facing this uncertain livelihood situation, the crafts sector is now fighting for survival amid the pandemic. Low pay, lack of exposure, financial constraints, and inadequate client coverage are some of the most common challenges faced by India's craft sector in the post-lockdown era. It is no surprise then, that the ongoing pandemic has only made the struggles harder. Speaking statistically, an initial estimate by EPCH pegs the possible losses of the handicrafts sector to the tune of ₹8,000-10,000 crore post pandemic.

Edition' survey conducted by the All India Artisans and Craftworkers Welfare Association (AIACA), wage losses, cashflow crunches, cancellation/withholding of orders, and supply disruptions in the raw material value chain make for some major challenges faced by India's craft

The sector has been suffering from a lack of access to credit and working capital. According to the Sixth Economic Census, India has an overwhelming presence of microbusinesses and small proprietary businesses. Though craft businesses in the country fall within the spectrum of such businesses, their operations are unorganised, which hinders their ability to avail financing and credit from the formal financial sector. Over 80 per cent of small proprietary businesses in India are selffinanced. Barely two per cent borrowed from financial institutions.

Artisanal trade is the second largest employer among the develop-ing countries behind agriculture, articulating unique expressions of arts, culture and heritage. In a report 'Policy Gaps Study on the Crafts Sector in India' presented by AIACA, the challenges being faced by artisans/entrepreneurs in the crafts sector are well analysed. First, there are large-scale gaps in fulfilling the mandates of the government schemes themselves, in terms of infrastructure provision, access to credit, skills training, marketing etc. The lack of penetration by scheduled banks into rural areas, lack of financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills among the artisans and lack of institutionalisation of craft persons are significant inhibitors. An enabling fiscal and tax environment is required in order to drive entrepreneurial activities by artisans.

Women artisans have struggled to be recognised as potential earners and entrepreneurs in their own right because of various reasons — working double hard to be taken seriously as an entrepreneur/earner; lack of female mentors and role models; restrictive gender roles, revealed by st pandemic. the funding patterns of investors and According to 'The Unlock the 14 per cent statistic (i.e. of



women running only 14 per cent of Indian businesses and most selffinanced). Women in our country rarely own property that could serve as collateral for start-up loans. They have less education than men, on an average. When they do work, they receive lower wages than their male counterparts and generally occupy low-skill jobs in agriculture and ser-

vices, often in the informal economy. Moving ahead, it is amply clear that the need of the hour necessitates a revisiting of traditional approaches towards income generation and livelihoods. There is a need to redefine the mechanics of work with women artisans and entrepreneurs and look at promoting well-grounded, economically and environmentally sustainable models of social busi-Here are a few revival measures that will help alleviate the financial as well as marketing difficulties of the sec-

■ Individuals and NGOs must come together to take the initiative of raising funds for relief distribution to promote craft businesses and keep the tradition of handicrafts

■ Since the crafts sector is slowly losing its grip, steps should be taken to conduct branding and marketing campaigns to promote the distinctiveness of Indian art and craft. We must reposition the sector as crafts and creative enterprises (CCEs) and engage it deeper with e-com-

■ Reskilling and rebuilding capabilities in the sector will help quick-en the recovery and make the sector resilient, especially for smaller arti-

■ Broad financial recommendations include expectations of a stimulus from the government for craft based enterprises, including measures like reduction/deferral in GST across categories, soft loans and interest free working capital loans to aid production and the easing of access to raw material supplies.

Globally, many countries have announced large bailout packages in the form of soft loans or governmentbacked collateral-free loans, tax holidays, a moratorium on liabilities to protect their small businesses. In India, the Government has announced a special economic package viz. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan with relief and credit support measures for various sectors including MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises). This is in line

with the GOI envisioning a contribution of \$2 trillion from micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as India eyes becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, along with a target of generating fifty million additional jobs from the sector. The definition of Small and Micro enterprises have been changed (as per the Finance Minister's announcement on May 13, 2020), with a revision of upwards limits, a focus on annual turnover and a removal of the differences between service and manufacturing MSMEs. This would clearly have an implication for craft enter-

prises in the country.
The road ahead: This sector currently needs a helping hand to prevent widespread job losses and deal with bank loan defaults. Considering the gravity of the current situation, multiple stakeholders across the crafts value chain — entrepreneurs, merchandisers, NGOs and craft cooperatives and coalitions — have come together to revive the sector. Their support would be critical to ensure the sustainability of India's craft enterprises at this critical time.

(The writer is the Executive Director of AIACA — All India Artisans and Craftworkers Welfare Association.



LFW, FDCI to present joint fashion week

Seems like the good old days of Indian fashion are back... ly worked to make the design industry lead from the front After more than a decade-anda-half, Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) and the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) will present a joint fashion week.

The Phygital Fashion Week ushers in an era of positivity to drive growth in the industry in the post-pandemic world. Leaders of the industry -FDCI, Lakme and RISE Worldwide make history with this event, kickstarting of an era of effective co-operation and meaningful initiatives.

Combining forces Lakme Fashion Week jointly organised by Lakme & RISE Worldwide (formerly IMG Reliance) and FDCI will present a joint schedule this season at LFW. The event will have a special "unity logo" designed to mark this occasion.

It will feature the best of

curation and designers from Delhi, Mumbai and across India. FDCI & LFW will jointly present the Opening Show on March 16 and will culminate with the Lakme Absolute Grand Finale on March 21. The event will also feature talent discovery programme GenNext for designers as well as promote modelling talent through FDCI's #GetNoticed Model Hunt besides other innovations. Both FDCI and LFW will continue their buyer programmes launched last season as well.

Sunil Sethi, Chairman FDCI commented, "The Fashion Design Council of India for decades has tirelessand leave a global footprint. The pandemic has darkened the clouds, this will add a silver lining to the business of fashion and help sharpen the needs of the fast-changing world. Lakme, RISE Worldwide and FDCI will now have a shared purpose and belonging as we both reinvent the wheel in uncertain times. We are delighted to present this fashion week together."

Ashwath Swaminathan, Head of Innovations at Lakme said, "Our association with the Indian fashion industry runs deep as Lakme has been a key driver of its growth for the past 20 years. We look forward to this partnership opening up new avenues of growth for all stakeholders. We continue to the pillers of the pil remain true to the pillars of the Lakme Fashion week which are discoverability, sustainability and talkability as we present the best in Indian fashion and beauty this season to a global audience."

Jaspreet Chandok, Head -Lifestyle Businesses at RISE Worldwide said, "Our ultimate goal is the development of ecosystems that we operate in and we feel this partnership will help elevate the fashion industry to new heights. We are glad to partner with the FDCI and look forward to jointly present Lakme Fashion Week this season as we RISE as one."

(The show is going to take place from March 16 to 21 and the schedule will be released

Don't put a tag

Singer SHILPA RAO says it is time we started addressing everyone equally and giving accolades irrespective of gender

With Indian Pro Music League (IPML), Zee TV is gradually changing the face of music reality shows. While the world of sports has seen several league competitions, this unique music league has six teams representing different regions of India, battling it out against each other in a musical championship. Each of these six teams supported by leading Bollywood and sports celebrities has top playback singers as their captains, one reality show star, and one fresh voice. Celebrated singers - Mika Singh, Kailash Kher, Sajid Khan, Shaan, Ankit Tiwari, Javed Ali, Asees Kaur, Bhoomi Trivedi, Aakriti Kakar, Payal Dev, Neha Bhasin, Shilpa Rao are captains of these six zonal teams.

At the shoot of an forthcoming episode, the women singers made a very pertinent observation about the industry and spoke up about the change they believe we should all invest in, rather than just celebrate one day in the entire year as 'Women's

Addressing fellow team captains like Ăakriti, Neha,



Bhumi and Payal, Mumbai Warriors captain Shilpa Rao said, "I feel yeh female singer ka tag hat jana chahiye for all of us. We are all singers, be it male or female. It shouldn't make any difference. It's about time that we start addressing everyone equally and give deserved accolades regardless of their gender."

(The show airs every Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm

Disney's most-awaited animated classic of the year, Raya and The Last Dragon has won several hearts globally with critics and ardent fans already raving about the masterpiece. Here are five headfirst into the land of Kumandra with Raya on a quest to find the last dragon.

♦Kelly Marie Tran and Awkwafina to voice the titular roles

Set in a mystical world called Kumandra, the story of Raya and The Last Dragon is inspired largely by Southeast Asian cultures. Adding to that authenticity, Kelly Marie Tran will voice the lead character Raya, making her an addition to the long list of Disney's warrior princess after Elsa (Frozen 2), Mulan, etc. Along with her, the Crazy Rich Asian-fame Awkwafina aces the voice of Sisu, a dragon from the fantasy lands of Kumandra.

♦The mystical land of Kumandra

The story of Raya is set in Kumandra, a kingdom divided into five different lands that she has to venture through to find the last dragon. The lands of heart are covered with rock formations to secure the sacred Dragon Gem, while Tail lands are isolated desert islands. The snowy mountains sheltering fierce warriors are the Spine lands and at the head of the Dragon river lie the opulent Fang lands with manmade canals for security. At the centre of these four lands, lie the Talon lands, vibrant and bustling market area, a crossroad for merchants of all five lands, connected by the Dragon river. A cinematic journey through these unique and different regions will be a sight you cannot miss.

♦Southeast Asian influence Vastly influenced by the Southeast Asian heritage, Raya and The Last Dragon

REND



Watch out for...

...when you head to the theatres to see Raya and The Last Dragon

and Indonesia, as well as weapons mod-



ensured that the influences were kept authentic. The two groups of filmmakers made research trips throughout Southeast Asia, including Laos, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Singapore. In fact, Raya's fighting style was inspired by Pencak Silat from Malaysia

elled from Kali and Arnis martial arts found in the Philippines. Her distinctive sword was inspired by the keris, a blade that is revered in countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia. It is the very first Disney animated film that features a Southeast Asian warrior Raya.

♦ Women power breaking barriers on and off-screen

The character sketch of Raya breaks the conservative cookie-dough cutter approach to the creation of a princess. The titular characters Raya and Sisu are female characters who are mighty, intelligent and brave enough to face their troubles. Breaking the patriarchal boundaries off-screen, the film presents an all-female

technical leadership team led by Technical Supervisor Kelsey Hurley, and Associate Technical Supervisors Gabriela Hernandez and Shweta Viswanathan.

❖Work from home

The pandemic has caused several glitches to film production houses all over the world in the past year, but did you know that this film was made from the homes of its crew members? Yes, almost 450 artistes and crew members managed to create all shot production for Raya and the Last Dragon while working from their homes. It is also known that more than 900 employees have worked remotely to contribute to this film and other forthcoming projects of Walt Disney Animated

(The film releases today.)

TREND 3

SHREYA GHOSHAL ANNOUNCES PREGNANCY

Singer SHREYA GHOSHAL took to Instagram to share the news of her pregnancy with fans. The singer posted a picture of herself flaunting a baby bump.

Dressed in a blue and green ensemble, the mom-to-be poses with her bump in the picture and is visibly glowing. "Baby #Shreyaditya is on its way! We are thrilled to share this news with you all. Need all your love and blessings as we prepare ourselves for this new chapter in our lives," she posted.



'I strongly believe that drugs and sexual abuse are interconnected. We have to fight against drug consumption that leads youngsters towards sexual crime against women. We have to understand that we do not have that many number of policemen as compared to the population we have. So, at times we normalise a lot of crime and do not report them.'



'Holistic lifestyle has been a part and parcel of my life even before I made my debut in Bollywood. I have always wanted to lead a healthy lifestyle and working out and eating right was always a priority for me. I want to build something of my own in the health and nutrition space in the coming years and I have been researching the same for years now.'

CHEYENNE NO LONGER CRAVES ALCOHOL

Actor CHEYENNE JACKSON has revealed that staying off alcohol during lockdown required effort but his life is better off without it.

"The craving for alcohol has been lifted. Our lives are better (without alcohol) and we find something else to do. And it usually involves being with the kids, doing something to get your mind out of that," says he,









FOR THE LOVE OF OATS

RAGHAV GUPTA shares why oats have emerged as the go-to breakfast cereal

The breakfast cereal market has been projected to hit \$75 billions the next five years, and oats as a category is stacked up against hundreds if not thousands of processed competitors. Yet, unlike most of its sugar-coated, colour-coded, attractively shaped counterparts, oats have maintained a clean image, especially in the health-food section. Apart from being a great source of complex carbs, it also have several other nutritional benefits which makes it a hit among health experts and fitness enthusiasts alike.

Scientifically known as Avena Sativa, oats are one of the world's most ancient wholegrains. Whole oat grains are called oat groats, and look a lot like wheat. The best part about the grain is that the texture and mouth-feel of oats can change as the treatment and processing changes.

There are many variations in the way oats are processed to make steel cut oats, rolled oats, instant oats, oat flour and oat bran. On a scale of 1 to 10 of processing, you could say that whole-grain oat groats and steel cut oats are a '1' because they are least processed, while rolled oats, instant oats would be a '5' and oat flour would be a '10'.

Yet surprisingly, the nutritional value of the cereal remains pretty much unchanged throughout the spectrum right from whole oats to oat flour, compared to other grains like corn or

Even the byproduct which is called oat bran is a nutrient dense food with as much as 12-15 grams of protein per 100 grams of bran. This also makes it a lucrative option for manufacturers since the grain offers infinite ways to experiment with it.

Susan Downey divulged in a tête-à-tête with an American magazine on how her husband and Avengers star Robert Downey Jr bought his own packs of oats to the sets. Which gets you thinking if Iron Man's eating it, there's definitely more to this grain than what meets the eye.

The most known benefit of oats is its high protein content, which makes it a great post or even pre-workout snack. Around 100 grams can contain upto 12-13 grams of protein, which is equivalent to protein from two whole eggs. They are also a good source of iron since 100 grams can contain upto 4.5 mg of iron.

However, what makes them truly special is its fibre component i.e Beta Glucan. Oats are one among the only two grains





fiber that's strongly linked to improving cholesterol levels and boosting heart health.

Oats also contain antioxidants that are beneficial for good health. In fact, they are the only It is one form of soluble dietary thramides, a unique antioxidant. Magnesium, Zinc, Phosphorus and studies showing the multiple Oateo Oats.)

One study has reported that the and Vitamin B1 and B5. antioxidants in oats work together with Vitamin C to prevent LDL oxidation, thus, lowering the risk of heart diseases. Apart from these, oats also have numer-

Interestingly, over a hundred years ago, Dr Bercher Benner, the original inventor of oat-based muesli intended it to be the cure for tuberculosis!

C

benefits of including oats in the

Urmi Kothari, a wellness and fitness expert based out of Mumbai, explained how the cereal can be a great way to beat cravings and include whole grains in one's diet. Kothari, who also specialises in creating nutrition and fitness plans for women suf-fering from PCOS uses social media to advocate for oats as an effective ingredient to combat the disease. There are also others like Dr Rini Selvagiftson, an Onco physiotherapist and rehabilitation specialist from Tata Memorial who suggests oats as nutritious meal options for building strength to patients and

From aiding better digestion, improving skin health to reducing LDL, there are plenty of known and proven benefits of oats for everyone.

You must be wondering which type is right for you? Well, here comes the part where personal tastes and preferences come into play. If you're putting a salad together, par-boiled steel cut oats would be a great addition in place of quinoa. For baking, oat flour or oat bran is a great option to fortify or use as an alternative to regular refined flour. If you're pressed for time, instant oats or Juesli is your best bet.

There are also many healthy flavoured versions available in the market. Whatever the mood, chances are there's a oat-based alternative out there for everyone.



Mix it up

Want to throw a last-minute party without the hassle of arranging drinks? Here is a list of mixers that come in handy

Who doesn't like to party with friends and family but hosting one can be dreadful, let alone an impromptu party. Serving old school cola, beer and hard liquor drinks straight out of the refrigerator is passe' now. It's time to get out of the rocks and get mixing. Nowadays, mixers are in trend and there are a plethora of options in the market to choose from. While mixing carbonated/fizzy soda is the go-to choice for many, newer options like organic mixers with natural flavours and tonic water are also gaining popularity and successfully creating a niche in the market. Be it a summertime pool party, a house warming party or an impromp-tu get-together of close friends and fam-ily, these mixers have been saviours of multiple parties and saved a lot of hassle for the hosts. Here is a list of mixers that come in handy:

COOLBERG: It's the first non-alcoholic beer that has successfully created a buzz in the market with its taste and flavourful fizz. The company offers seven different flavours of fizzy drinks that have not just created a niche as a non-alcoholic beer brand but also as a mixer for multiple delicious cocktails and mocktails entailing that will make you forget the old school drinks on the rocks. It tastes refreshing and leaves a lasting aftertaste.

SVAMI MIXERS: Find the perfect match for your gin with deliciously balanced tonic water from Svami. A staple mixer for all the gin lovers. From infused tonic water, zesty ginger to spiced ginger tonic water, these mixers can up your classic G&T game. They are gradually gaining popularity among industry experts and party lovers. Like the Kamasutra, Chess & Zero, Tonic Water is a proud invention from India and building on this provenance, Svami claims to use the finest botanicals and handpicked quinine to craft their tonics. So, for your next cocktail party, it can be a great choice.

JADE FOREST: From zero artificial ingredients in their drinks to the way they make people feel, Jade offers a bespoke wants to inspire people to rethink what in 19 different formats.

they drink. Their beverages are designed to be naturally delicious with fewer calories and less sugar, which means the products have zero artificial sweeteners, flavours or colouring. They aim to offer a great tasting drink, which is loaded with the goodness of nature. The products

range from flavoured tonic water to gin-

SEPOY & CO: It is one of the only Indian mixer brands. They have successfully created a premium mixer that offers various low-sugar botanical mixes of the finest oils and flavours. They take pride in their vast range of flavours crafted with discipline and the intention, uncompromisingly to delight. Their rich in taste flavours can make any cocktail or mocktail flavour-

MONIN: It is an Internationallyacclaimed, premium French brand delivering innovative, gourmet flavour solu-tions built on a bedrock of more than a century of traditional artisanal beverage know-how. Having remained a familyowned company since 1912, it is now a trusted partner and a brand of choice for hospitality professionals in more than 150 countries. A dynamic market leader and a major player on the international stage of the drinks industry, they offer an unrivaled product portfolio. Their range includes syrups, fruit mixes, sauces, frappes, liqueurs and smoothies. They are

DUCK UPPU KARI WHAT YOU NEED

For marination:

- Duck meat cut into small cubes: 1000 gm
- Ginger and garlic paste:
- 1.1/2 tsp
- Turmeric powder: 1/2tsp Red chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Salt to taste • Gingelly oil: 100 ml
- Dry red chilli: 2 Garlic chopped: 20 gm
- Green chilli slit: 4 Shallots onion slice: 250
- Coriander powder: 3 tsp • Fennel powder: 1 ½ tsp
- Garam masala: 1/2 tsp
- Black pepper powder: 1
- Curry leaves: 10

METHOD

- Wash and pat dry duck
- Add salt, ginger and garlic

paste, turmeric powder, red chilli powder and mix well. Keep aside for two hours.

- Heat oil in a heavy bottomed pan, add mustard seeds and red chillies. When mustard starts spluttering, add chopped garlic and sauté until golden colour.
- Add green chilli slit and onions and sauté until onions get translucent.
- Now add marinated duck till the meat is seared and moisture evaporates.
- Stir in the dry spice powders including coriander, fennel, garam masala and red chilli.
- Add enough water and simmer covered with a lid on moderate to low heat occasionally stirring.
- When the duck is cooked

and the sauce thickens, remove the lid and add curry leaves, black pepper powder and further cook stirring to ensure it does not burn at the bottom and the reduced sauce coats the meat well.

 Adjust seasoning if need be and serve hot with veechu parata.

Courtesy: Executive chef Mir Zafar Ali at The Leela Palace, Bangalore.

VANILLA BEAN BUNDT CAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Unsalted butter: 250 gm
- Plain flour: 250 gm
- Baking powder: 1½ tsp
- Salt: ¼ tsp
- Caster sugar: 225 gm
- Vanilla pod (split lengthways, seeds scraped out with the edge of a knife): 1
- Eggs: 4 eggs
- Edible flowers
- Whipped cream
- Fresh strawberries
- Bundt tin

METHOD

- Heat the oven to 180□C. Generously butter the inside of the bundt tin using a brush to get into the corners. You need to be very generous with the butter, otherwise the cake won't turn out perfectly.
- Sift the flour, baking powder and salt into a large bowl.
- In another large bowl, using an electric whisk or in the bowl of your stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream together the butter,



sugar and vanilla seeds until very pale and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, whisking well after each addition.

- Make sure to scrape down the sides in between. Using a metal spoon, fold in the flour mixture carefully, so as to not knock out the air that's been whisked in.
- Spoon the mixture into the greased bundt tin and then smooth the top. Then bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until
- a skewer/toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean.
- Leave the cake to cool in the tin for 15 minutes, then turn out on to a wire rack to cool completely.
- Add on edible flowers to decorate, if you'd like. Cut into slices and serve with whipped cream and fresh strawberries or any other berries you'd

Courtesy: Chef Tanaya Sharma.

YAM FISH CURRY IN GOA ORGANIC MASALA

- **WHAT YOU NEED** Yam: 3 cup
- Red pepper
- Coconut milk: 5 cup Onion (medium): 1
- Salt to taste ORCO hand-ground organic
- fish masala
- Organic ginger powder • Organic cinnamon powder: 1/4
- tbsp
- Garlic: 4 Organic Kashmiri chilli powder:
- Organic paprika powder:
- Balsamic or apple cider vinegar: 1/4 cup
- In a steamer or pressure cooker, cook the yam pieces for

METHOD

10 to 15 minutes until tender.



Pierce the yams with a fork on all sides to allow the organic masala

 While the yams are steaming, grind together all the organic masala ingredients into a fine paste.

to be absorbed. Keep aside.

- This paste can stay for three months so if you like, you can make a large batch and store in
- the fridge. • In a pan on medium flame, add one cup of water, the organic
- Cook until the water is almost gone and you are left with a thick Add the cooked yam pieces,

masala and the onion and stir.

- coconut milk and salt. Stir thoroughly to mix and boil it. Once boiling, lower the heat,
- turn off the heat. Serve hot with rice or millets.

add the red pepper slices and

Courtesy: ORCO



Windies skipper Kieron Pollard reacts after he hits Akila Dananjaya for six sixes in an over

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

ngland's batsmen lost the battle of both mind and

⊿skills in yet another shoddy performance to surrender the momentum to India with Axar Patel and Ravichandran

Ashwin calling the shots on the opening day of the fourth and final Test here on Thursday.

certainly not what Joe Root had expected when he called it

right at the toss on a day which

would have ideally been best for

but the pitch was far from being a minefield that some of

the England batsmen save Ben

Stokes (55, 121 balls) made it

Ravichandran Ashwin (19.5-4-

47-3) and Washington Sundar

(7-1-14-1) toyed with the

already messed up minds, clue-

less on how to deal with the

Mohammed Siraj (14-2-

45-2) also played his part to

perfection with the semi-new

and old ball, hurrying the bats-

men with sheer pace as he did

with Jonny Bairstow.

For India, spinners Axar tel (26-7-68-4),

out to be.

There was turn and bounce

After five innings, England crossed the 200-run mark but a total of 205 in 75.5 overs was

Pollard hits 6 sixes in an over

West Indies captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday became only the third man to hit six sixes in an International over in his team's four-wicket T20 victory over Sri Lanka.

The feat came in the sixth over of a bizarre West Indies innings, bowled by off-spinner Akila Dananjaya who moments earlier in his previous over had been celebrating taking a hat-trick.

Pollard followed in the footsteps of South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs against the Netherlands in the 2007 World

Cup and India's Yuvraj Singh, who also achieved the feat in the 2007 T20 World Cup against England.

Pollard was eventually out for 38 off 11 balls as the West Indies chased 132 to win at the Coolidge Cricket Ground, reaching their target in the 14th over when Jason Holder clobbered his side's 13th six.

"I felt I could hit six sixes after the third one," said 33year-old Pollard.

"Once I had five sixes I knew I had the bowler on the back foot. He was going around the wicket and it was difficult for him. I just told

World champion Sindhu

hardly broke any sweat, beating

USA's Iris Wang 21-13, 21-14 in

women's singles, while former

world number one Srikanth

notched up a 21-10, 14-21, 21-

14 victory over world number 50

also make it to the last eight.

out of the men's singles event.

doubles second-round.

Jayaram eked out a hard-

Thomas Rouxel.

ers in last eight.

myself: 'Go for it."

Sri Lanka skipper Angelo Mathews hailed his opposite number. "Pollard as we know is very destructive," Mathews told the post-match presenta-

"What I told Akila was to go for his wicket even if he gets hit for six sixes. If he miscued one we could have got him out. Unfortunately it didn't hap-

Only eight men have hit six sixes in an over in all forms of cricket with fellow West Indian Garfield Sobers the first to do so in an English county game in 1968.

India ended the day at 24 for 1 with wily old James Anderson (5-5-0-1) accounting for an out-of-form Shubman Gill (0). Rohit Sharma (8 batting, 34 balls) and Cheteshwar Pujara (15 batting, 36 balls) were holding fort for the home

A cursory look at the England line-up, loaded with an extra batsman, will reveal that four — Stokes, Bairstow (28, 67 balls), Dan Lawrence (46 off 74 balls) and Ollie Pope (29 off 87 balls) got starts but failed miserably on the conversion part.

The others came in and went without breaking a bead of sweat. It was as if already in their minds, they were playing on a track they thought would turn square.

Stokes was a cut above the rest both in defence and offence before a moment's indecision cost him his wicket.

Washington angled one in



Axar, Ashwin undo Poms batting graft

Axar Patel celebrates with his Indian teammates after he takes wicket of England batsman on Day 1 of 4th Test

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and Stokes was on backfoot after initially trying to come forward preempting an off-break. The ball didn't turn and hit the back leg with clear indication of crashing into the leg stump. Stokes' dismissal, after a

Similarly for Lawrence, who was ready to play the attacking game, and Pope, intent on using his footwork to defend while negating the turn. There was always going to be a delivery with their name writ-

He came out when Ashwin changed the line of his delivery, dropping it a bit short and the attempted flick went between his legs and Gill had a reflex

ing him good support. Stokes and Bairstow, during

their 48-run stand, showed that if one can trust their defences, batting wasn't impos-

Perfect execution brings with it an inherent satisfaction which India speedster

Mohammed Siraj felt after

dismissing England captain

Joe Root on the opening day of the fourth Test on

the wicket by Siraj, who

bowled a beautiful inswinger

which would have hit the

bowling away going deliveries.

And then I thought during the

start of a new over, I should

bring one back in. I could exe-

cute it as I had planned and it

gave me great satisfaction.

Mazaa aa gaya (It was fun)," Siraj said about dismissal.

middle and leg stump.

Root was trapped before

"I wanted to set Root up

Thursday.

eries have scarred the English

batsmen, was again menacing

in the first session with Siraj giv-

close to their body on most occasions and especially on the front-foot. But on a track like this, no

sible. Both played the spinners

batsman would feel completely set and that's what happened with both Bairstow and Stokes.

Siraj enjoyed Root's dismissal

Archer out due to elbow injury

England pacer Jofra Archer was not considered for the fourth Test due to a persisting elbow injury and some of the squad members including Ben Stokes also have an upset stomach, the ECB said on Thursday.

Archer had missed the second Test in Chennai due to the same issue.

'Jofra Archer is not playing in this Test match due to his ongoing right elbow issue. The ECB medical team will provide an update in due course," read an update from the England cricket board.

"Ben Stokes has had an upset stomach, the same issue that has affected other members the touring party. It is not expected to keep him off the field," it said. Archer returned to play

the third Test in which he picked up a wicket.

Sindhu, Srikanth & 2 others in Swiss quarters Chirag Shetty.



PTI BASEL

Olympic Silver medallist P V Sindhu and former champion Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the quarterfinals of the singles competition along with two other Indians at the Swiss Open badminton tournament here on Thursday.

While Sindhu and Srikanth had contrasting wins, Ajay Jayaram and last edition's runners-up B Sai Praneeth too mances to make it to the lasteight in the Super 300 event, the first tournament in the extended Olympic qualification period.

It was double delight for young Satwiksairaj Rankireddy also as he progressed to the quarterfinals in both the mixed doubles and men's doubles competitions with respective partners Ashwini Ponnappa and

new Captains

overs charge, Elgar to lead in Tests

Johannesburg: Cricket South Africa on Thursday appointed Temba Bavuma, who is rather inexperienced for the role, and Dean Elgar as the national team captains for limited overs

fought 21-18, 17-21, 21-13 against third seed Dane Rasmus In a statement, CSA Praneeth, an Olympic hopeful, later saw off Spain's Pablo Abian 21-12, 21-17 to join oth-Satwik and Ashwini, who had reached the semifinals at Tovota Thailand Open Super

1000 in January, defeated the Indonesian combination of Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari 21-18, 21-16 in a mixed doubles secondround match. Satwik and Chirag, ranked 10th in the world, then dashed search for the Test captain," the challenge of Indonesia's said the former South Pramudya Kusumawardana and

Yeremia Erich Yoche Yacob However, Sourabh Verma had a rough day as he lost 17has played 67 Tests and eight ODIs. Bavuma will 21, 14-21 to Vitidsarn to crash lead the Proteas in the Ashwini Ponnappa and N 2021 and 2022 T20 Sikki Reddy too were ousted after losing 11-21, 15-21 to World Cup in 2023. Elgar Denmark's Amalie Magelund and Freja Ravn in the women's next cycle of the World Test Championship. PTI

SA appoint

Bavuma gets limited-

and Tests respectively.

Director of Cricket Graeme Smith thanked Quinton de Kock for leading the side in what are tumultuous times for South African cricket. Both Bavuma and Elgar take over from de Kock, who led the team temporarily.

"We are grateful to Quinton for the work he has put in as captain of the team in the limited overs formats and are indebted to him for step-ping up while the National Selection Panel continued its Africa captain.

Bavuma has played 44 for South Africa while opening batsman Elgar World Cups as well as the will take the reins into the

4th Test. Day 2

good show, upset the team's rhythm just when it was looking to redeem itself after a poor first session.

ten all over it.

In case of Lawrence, he was beaten by the away turn when he danced down the track only to be stumped.

In case of Pope, the stratethat kept him on course brought about his downfall.

catch at forward short leg.
Patel, whose straight deliv-



his homework on Jonny Bairstow's apparent weakness against in-coming deliveries. The in-cutter that got Bairstow was bowled at more than 146 kmph. "Bairstow, I wasn't bowl-

Similarly, he had done

ing him at a lot of pace at the start. ...But whatever footages

I have seen of him, he gets out to in-swinging deliveries. So I wanted to bowl in one area and bring it back consistently and it worked," he said.
His skipper Virat Kohli on the day mostly used him in short bursts and the plan was

to hit one area consistently in order to create pressure. "Since the time of Ranji Trophy, we learnt one thing that we have to bowl good areas and especially one area without trying too many things. It's all about being

patient. "Virat *bhai* just told me to bowl one area and try build

the pressure. Ishant bhai also said that don't try too many things because when you build pressure, then automatically you get wickets."

Nagal stuns world No 22 Garin



ATP 250 tournament here. Nagal, ranked 150, proluced high-class

tennis on Wednesday night to register an impressive 6-4, 6-3 second round win over his Chilean rival, who is ranked way above at the 22nd spot in the ATP chart.

Nagal will play Spain's

will be the Indian's maiden quarterfinal appearance at the ATP Tour level. Ramos-Vinolas had

defeated Domnik Koepfer of Germany 7-5, 6-4.

SANIA OUSTED

Sania Mirza's first tournament in more than a year ended with a semifinal defeat

as she was ousted from the Qatar Total Open along with her partner Andreja Klepac, here on Thursday. Sania and her Slovenian

partner lost 5-7, 6-2, 5-10 to America's Nicole Melichar and one hour and 28 minutes. Sania and Klepac split \$10000 and earned 185 rank-

ing points each. Since Sania was not defending much points, it will help her improve her ranking.

Sania will break back into top-200 and is expected to climb to the 177th spot from the current 254.

PSL POSTPONED AFTER 3 MORE TEST +VE KARACHI: The Pakistan Super League was on Thursday postponed with immediate effect after three more cricketers tested positive for Covid-19, taking the total number of cases in the T20 event to seven and prompting the cricket board to announce an inquiry into the fiasco. Out of the seven cases, six are players while one is a support staff member. PCB CEO Wasim Khan said an inquiry will be conducted to understand what went wrong.

PANGHAL LOSES IN BOXAM QUARTERS

NEW DELHI: World championship Silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) on Thursday bowed out of the 35th Boxam International Boxing Tournament after being upstaged by European Games champion Gabriel Escobar in the quarterfinals. The Olympic-bound Panghal, went down in a split verdict to make a surprisingly early exit from the tournament.

SHARATH KAMAL LOSES IN PRE-QUARTERS

Doha: Indian challenge at the World Table Tennis Contender series ended after veteran Sharath Kamal suffered a loss to world No 7 Lin Yun-Ju of Chinese Taipei in the men's singles pre-quarterfinals here on Thursday. The 38-year-old Indian suffered a 6-11, 4-11, 8-11 defeat against Lin. Earlier, Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula also lost their respective final qualifying round matches in the women's singles category.

LIVERPOOL TO PLAY LEIPZIG IN BUDAPEST Nyon: Liverpool and Leipzig are going to Budapest for

a second time in the Champions League round of 16 next week. UEFA confirmed on Thursday that Liverpool's home second-leg game will also be at Puskas Arena next Wednesday

NEERAJ IN LINE FOR BRONZE

ROME: India's Greco Roman wrestler Neeraj kept himself in contention of a Bronze medal in the 63kg but four of his compatriots faded on the opening day of the UWW Ranking Series event on Thursday. Neeraj began by losing his quarterfinal 1-4 to Sultan Aseetuly but since the Kazakshtan's wrestler reached the final, he got a repechage round. Making the most of the chance, Neeraj defeated Russia's Aleksei Tadykin 7-3 to book himself a slot in the Bronze play-off.

LEIPZIG REACH GERMAN CUP SEMIS

LEIPZIG: Yussuf Poulsen and Hwang Hee-chan netted second-half goals as RB Leipzig beat Wolfsburg 2-0 Pin Wednesday's German Cup quarter-final in a tense battle between the in-form Bundesliga sides. After Poulsen opened the scoring, South Korea striker Hwang came off the bench to hit a late second goal and seal a semi-final berth alongside Borussia Dortmund and second-tier Holstein Kiel.

lille win to stay ahead of PSG PARIS: Canada forward Jonathan David scored two

late goals as Lille beat Marseille 2-0 to stay top of the French league. David netted in the 90th minute and again two minutes into injury time on Wednesday. The northern side remains two points ahead of defending champion Paris Saint-Germain, which won 1-0 away

24 HOURS OF LE MANS POSTPONED

PARIS: The 24 Hours of Le Mans has been postponed from its original dates in June until August in the hope fans will be able to attend, organisers announced on Thursday. The race, which was held behind closed doors due to the coronavirus pandemic last year, was scheduled for June 12-13, but has been pushed back until August 21-22. Agencies

Dhoni in Chennai; CSK camp from Mar 9

PTI CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has landed here to take part in the team's training camp likely to begin on March 9 in the lead-up to the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League. The former India captain arrived here late on Wednesday and will serve a fiveday quarantine.

CSK tweeted a picture of Dhoni at the airport and wrote: "Thalai-Vaa! Smile with the Mass(k) on! Super Night! #DenComing #WhistlePodu #Yellove." Former India batsman Ambati Rayudu

also reached Chennai on Wednesday while the Tamil Nadu players in the squad will be joining a little later.



"First #Dencoming of the summer from across the border is Manavaadu Bahubali!!! #Yellove #WhistlePodu," CSK posted with a photo of Rayudu.

The camp is likely to get underway from March 9, CSK CEO K S Viswanathan said, adding the players who are available would take part in it. Yeah...The camp is likely to start from

March 9. Whoever is available would take part in the training sessions," he said.

"The players will undergo five-day quarantine before they start training. Also, they will have to return three negative tests...," he added.

The Indian players in the CSK will be a part of the camp, he said, adding they would be arriving in batches.

Barca return to Copa del Rey final cial goal in the fifth minute of to deny Barca their place in the

time with virtually the last play of the game to save Barca. The veteran international headed in at the near post after a fine cross from Antoine

extra-time with a diving head-

in the fourth minute of stoppage

Gerard Pique had equalised

er off a Jordi Alba cross.

That was after Ousmane Dembele, who scored in the 2-0 win at Sevilla in La Liga at the weekend, had given the 30-

Sevilla could have killed the game off in the 73rd minute

They were awarded a penal-

brought down by Oscar Mingueza. However, Ocampos saw his tame right-foot effort

when Brazilian Fernando was red-carded for a foul on Francisco Trincao.

Koeman. "This is a very important result for the club, for the players, and for me of course as well. This is an important step in earning a title.

Man Utd, Leicester drop more points

AFP ■ LONDON

leaders Manchester City as Crystal Palace held them to yet another goalless draw on Wednesday. The stalemate at a foggy Selhurst

Sunday's Manchester derby against City, who are on a record-breaking 21-game winning streak. Elsewhere, third-placed Leicester had captain Kasper Schmeichel to thank for a point in a 1-1 draw at Burnley. Aston Villa missed the chance to move to within two points of the top four as

they suffered a shock 1-0 loss to bottom-

of-the-table Sheffield United, who held on for the final half an hour with 10 men. A point in south London left second-placed Man United just one ahead of Leicester, with the main aim now for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side to cling on

'We have to do much better, we have to risk more in attack to create more chances," United midfielder Nemanja Matic, who almost broke the deadlock with a deflected shot, told *Sky Sports*. "We are Manchester United, we have

We have to refocus for that." Leicester's challenge for a return to the Champions League next season has been badly hit by injuries to key players, with Chelsea, Liverpool and Everton all able to close in on the Foxes — who

MILAN SALVAGE POINT

Franck Kessie scored a 97thminute penalty to rescue a 1-1 draw for AC Milan at home to Udinese on Wednesday, giving Serie A leaders Inter Milan the chance to pull six

at the San Siro completely deceived Milan goalkeeper G i a n l u i g i Donnarumma and Stefano Pioli's fal-tering side looked destined for a third defeat in four games. But a needless handball from Udinese

substitute Jens Stryger Larsen offered Milan a lifeline, with Ivorian international Kessie converting the penalty with the final kick of the match Elsewhere, Robin

Gosens, Jose Luis Luis Palomino, Muriel, Josip Ilicic Âleksei and Miranchuk scored for Atalanta in a 5-1 rout of bottom club



final on Wednesday, with a 3-2 aggregate win over Sevilla com-

Having trailed 2-0 from the first leg, Danish international Martin Braithwaite hit the cru-

Griezmann.

time Spanish Cup winners a 12th-minute lead in the second leg with a right-foot drive from outside the area.

final for a 42nd time.

ty when Lucas Ocampos was from the spot saved by Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Flagging Sevilla were then reduced to 10 men in injury time

to win this kind of game. On Sunday we "The team deserved to qualhave a big game against Manchester City. ify," said Barca coach Ronald

have not won in their last three games

Manchester United were left a huge 14 points behind Premier League

to a top-four place that will secure Champions League football next season.

when they are in action on Thursday.

Park was United's third successive goalless draw in all competitions ahead of points clear at the top. Rodrigo Becao's second-half header

