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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MARCH 24, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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SHAFALI VERMA
REGAINS NO 1
SPOT IN T20S
12 SPORT

During Corona Take Care, in Festival Time Stay Aware

S Sanitization | **M** Mask | **S** Social Distancing

Do Not Gather In The
Markets, Avoid Crowd

Celebrate Festival
With Family At Home

Do Not Go Outside Unnecessarily,
Avoid Touching Anyone

Follow All The Guidelines
To Be Safe From Corona

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

CAPSULE

MP: 12 WOMEN AMONG 13 DEAD IN AUTO-BUS CRASH

Gwalior: Twelve women and a man were killed after the auto-rickshaw in which they were traveling collided with a speeding bus in Old Chawni area of Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday morning.

MARATHA QUOTA BY STATE VALID: CENTRE TO SC

New Delhi: Maharashtra has the legislative competence for granting reservation quota to Marathas and its decision is Constitutional as the 102nd amendment does not denude a State of the power to declare its list of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC), the Centre told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

RETIRED ARMY MAN SHOT DEAD IN WEST DELHI

New Delhi: A 43-year-old retired Army man was shot dead allegedly by two unidentified men in west Delhi's Jaffarpur Kalam area, police said on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Mukesh.

All 45+ can take Covid jab from Apr 1

So far over 4.8 crore have been inoculated; no shortage of Covid vaccine, says Union Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to speed up the pace of the vaccination in the face of an alarming surge in Covid-19 cases, the Union Cabinet on Tuesday allowed the administration of coronavirus vaccine to people above 45 years of age from April 1, irrespective of comorbidities.

Talking to reporters soon after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar announced there will be no need for medical certificates supporting co-morbidity conditions, as the Government had stipulated earlier for the second phase of vaccination.

So far since the launch of the national vaccination programme, over 4.8 crore people have been inoculated with more than 32.53 lakh Covid-19 vaccine doses administered on Monday itself. These include



A medic administers first dose of Covid-19 vaccine to an elderly woman as other senior citizens wait at Mayors Health Clinic in Kolkata on Tuesday PTI

health workers like doctors and nurses, frontline workers like police and municipal workers followed by those above 60

years and 45 years but with comorbidities. However, now "everyone above 45 years of age, with or without comorbidities,

will be able to get the Covid-19 vaccine from April 1," Javadekar said.

While announcing the Government's decision, Javadekar appealed to all eligible citizens to get themselves registered to get inoculated with the coronavirus vaccines. The Union Minister assured the nation that there is no shortage of Covid vaccine doses in the country.

"We have enough vaccines. All eligible people should get registered as it is a shield against Covid-19. We appeal all above 45+ should get vaccinated," Javadekar said.

The decision to widen the vaccine ambit comes amid the concern that the doubling time of Covid-19 cases in India has decreased from 504.4 days on March 1 to 202.3 days on March 23, with six States — Maharashtra, Punjab,

Karnataka, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu — reporting a surge in daily new cases and together accounting for 80.90 per cent of the new infections reported in a day.

When asked to comment on the UK coronavirus variant cases found in Punjab, Javadekar said he was not a health expert, but can say that the virus erupts in several variants. "More cases are expected.

ODISHA WARNS OF VACCINE SHORTAGE, IMMUNISATION HALT

Bhubaneswar: Odisha might have to stop its coronavirus immunisation drive for four days starting at the end of March because of a shortage of vaccine doses. The State does have vaccines for 4 days.

States which are noticing more case, we are in constant touch with them," he added.

As per the advice by scientists and world scientist bodies, the second dose can be administered between the sixth and eighth week, particularly for Covishield. India has approved Covaxin developed by Bharat Biotech and Covishield from the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Serum Institute of India (SII).

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NAGPUR SEES 3,095 CORONAVIRUS CASES, 33 DEATHS, 2,136 RECOVERIES

Nagpur: Nagpur's Covid-19 tally rose by 3,095 on Tuesday to touch 1,99,771, while the death toll increased by 33 and the recovery count by 2,136, an official said.

81% of Punjab samples show UK variant

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Eighty-one per cent of the latest 401 samples sent by Punjab for genome sequencing have been tested positive for the new UK Covid-19 variant. Alarmed, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Tuesday urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to widen the vaccination ambit to cover those younger than 60 as "the mutant has been found to be infecting young people more".

At the same time, the Chief Minister has also appealed to the people to get themselves vaccinated and strictly adhere to the Covid safety protocols.

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Capital bans public celebration of Holi amid 2nd Covid wave



DDMA proscribes public gathering on Navaratri, Shab-e-Barat; 1,101 Covid cases, 4 deaths in 24 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the national Capital reporting 1,101 coronavirus cases on Tuesday — highest in over three months — and four deaths, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Tuesday ordered that there will be no public celebrations in the national Capital during upcoming festivals such as Holi and

Navaratri.

Chief Secretary Vijay Dev directed authorities to ensure strict compliance of the order.

"All authorities concerned will ensure that public celebrations and gatherings, congregations during upcoming festivals like Holi, Shab-e-Barat, Navaratri, etc, shall not be allowed in public places/public grounds/public parks/markets/religious places etc in NCT of Delhi," the Chief Secretary said in the order.

It is for the first time since December 24 that the city has recorded more than 1,000 cases in a day.

ATS names Vaze as Hiran's murderer

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant breakthrough in the alleged Mansukh Hiran murder case, Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Tuesday named arrested police officer Sachin Vaze as one of the suspected accused in the sensational case and said that it would seek his custody in the coming days.

Talking to media persons here, ATS Additional Director-General of Police Jai Jeet Singh said, "In our investigations, we have found evidence to suggest that Vaze was involved in the alleged murder of Mansukh Hiran. There are several suspects in the case. Vaze has denied his role in the murder. His statement does not hold water."

"As part of our ongoing technical investigations into the case, we have come to know that one of the arrested accused Naresh Gore had obtained a SIM card for another arrested accused Vinayak Shinde, a convicted police con-



ment came two days after the ATS arrested Shinde and Gore. It may be recalled that Hiran's body was recovered from the marshy Reti-Bunder creek Mumbai in the neighbouring Thane district on March 5.

Shinde is a dismissed policeman, who has been convicted in the case involving the fake encounter of Ramnarayan Gupta alias Lakhan Bhaiya. Bhaiya was killed in a fake encounter on November 11, 2006. In 2013, a Mumbai sessions court had awarded life sentences to 21 people, including 13 Mumbai Police personnel, convicted in the case.

Singh said that the ATS would soon file a petition in the court seeking the custody of Vaze from the NIA.

Vaze, who is an accused in the case involving the planting of an explosive laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in south Mumbai on February 25, will remain in the custody of NIA till March 25.

The ATS' confirmation about Vaze's alleged involve-

ment came two days after the ATS arrested Shinde and Gore.

Shinde is a dismissed policeman, who has been convicted in the case involving the fake encounter of Ramnarayan Gupta alias Lakhan Bhaiya. Bhaiya was killed in a fake encounter on November 11, 2006. In 2013, a Mumbai sessions court had awarded life sentences to 21 people, including 13 Mumbai Police personnel, convicted in the case.

Shinde has been on parole. The investigations by the ATS have revealed that Shinde was in regular touch with Vaze and helped the latter in his activities.

Among other things, the ATS Additional DGP admitted that the accused had either tried to destroy evidence or dispose off mobile phones, SIM cards and CCTV footages relating to the case.

SC to hear today Param Bir's plea for probe against Maharashtra HM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Wednesday hear the plea by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh seeking direction for immediate "impartial and fair" CBI probe into alleged corrupt malpractices of Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

As per the Wednesday's cause list uploaded on the apex court website, the petition would come up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices SK Kaul and RS Reddy.

Singh, a 1988 batch IPS officer, has also sought quashing of the Government order transferring him from the post of Mumbai Commissioner of Police alleging it to be "arbitrary" and "illegal".

As an interim relief, he has sought stay of the operation of his transfer order and direction to State Government, the Centre and CBI to immediately take in its custody the CCTV footage from the residence of Deshmukh.

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AAP MLA Bharti gets 2-yr prison in AIIMS attack case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Tuesday upheld an order sentencing AAP MLA Somnath Bharti to two years in jail for assaulting the AIIMS security staff after which he was taken into custody and sent to the prison, his lawyer said.

A magistrate court had in January sentenced him to two years in prison. Special Judge Vikas Dhull partly dismissed Bharti's appeal and convicted him for the offences under sections 147 (rioting) read with 149 (unlawful assembly) of IPC and under section 3 (mischievous causing damage to public property) of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

The court, however, set aside his conviction under sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 353 (assault or use of criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) read with section 149 of IPC.

According to the prosecution, on September 9, 2016, Bharti, along with nearly 300 others, brought down the fence of a boundary wall at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here with a JCB operator.

According to Bharti, AIIMS had no authorisation to cover the "nallah" (drain) between Gautam Nagar and Ring Road as it was a public property and had to be opened for general use.

During the course of investigation, it came on record that the drain was given on lease to the AIIMS for covering and maintenance.

The sessions court said in its order that the evidence of eyewitnesses to the incident was consistent to the effect that a gathering of around 200-300 people along with Bharti were present near the boundary wall of AIIMS and they were trying to break the wall and the fence by the use of JCB machine.

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No penal interest can be charged for 6-month moratorium, says SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to borrowers, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that no compound or penal interest be charged for the six-month moratorium announced last year amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the amount already recovered is to be refunded or adjusted in the next instalment of loan account.

While refusing to extend the period of moratorium, the apex court said there is "no justification" to charge interest on interest or compound interest for the period during the moratorium once the payment of instalment is deferred by last year's March 27 notification.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had on March 27, 2020 issued the circular allowing lending institutions to grant a moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans

falling due between March 1 and May 31 of last year due to the pandemic. The moratorium was extended by three months till August 31.

The top court delivered the verdict on a batch of petitions seeking reliefs, including extension of loan moratorium, complete waiver of interest or interest on interest during the moratorium period and sector wise relief packages.

"However, it is directed that there shall not be any charge of interest on interest/compound interest/penal interest for the period during the moratorium and any amount already recovered under the same head, namely, interest on interest/penal interest/compound interest shall be refunded to the concerned borrowers and to be given credit/adjusted in the next instalment of the loan account," a bench headed by Justice

Ashok Bhushan said in its 148-page judgment.

The apex court bench, also comprising Justices RS Reddy and MR Shah, noted that by a notification dated March 27 last year, the Government has provided deferment of instalments due and payable during the moratorium period.

"Once the payment of instalment is deferred as per circular dated March 27, 2020, non-payment of the instalment during the moratorium period cannot be said to be willful and therefore there is no justification to charge the interest on interest/compound interest/penal interest for the period during the moratorium," the bench said.

"Interim relief granted earlier not to declare the accounts of respective borrowers as NPA stands vacated," the apex court said.

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Int'l flight suspension extended till April 30

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Owing to the prevailing Covid-19 situation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has extended suspension of scheduled international commercial passenger flights till April 30.

"However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis," the DGCA added.

Scheduled international passenger services have been suspended in India since March 23, 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But special international flights have been operating under the

Vande Bharat Mission since May and under bilateral "air bubble" arrangements with selected countries since July.

India has formed air bubble pacts with 27 countries, including the US, the UK, the UAE, Kenya, Bhutan and France. Under an air bubble pact between two countries, special international flights can be operated by their airlines between their territories.

The DGCA also said that the suspension does not affect the operation of international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by it.

5 Chhattisgarh cops returning from anti-Naxal op martyred

STAFF REPORTER ■ NARAYANPUR

Five police personnel were killed and 13 others injured as Maoists blew up a bus in which they were travelling in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Tuesday, police said.

The landmine explosion took place between Kanhargao and Kadenar villages in the Dhaudai police station limits.

Personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were returning in the bus to Narayanpur town, 300 km away from Raipur, after a counter-insurgency operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

"Five DRG personnel, including the driver, were killed," he said. On Monday, a joint team of security forces from



View of the site of a bombing allegedly by Maoist rebels, killing at least five policemen, in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday PTI

Narayanpur and neighbouring Dantewada district had launched the anti-Maoist operation along the inter-district border.

Around 3 pm on Tuesday, forces belonging to Narayanpur returned to Kademeta camp in the district following which those belonging to DRG from

the district headquarters left in the bus, Sundarraj said.

Around 4.15 pm, the Maoists triggered three IED (improvised explosive device) blasts targeting the bus, which had around 25 personnel, near a culvert. In the impact, the bus fell into the culvert, he said.

Continued on Page 2

IIT Delhi's HOPE has running cost of 20 paise per km

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi incubated startup, Geliose Mobility, has launched an electric scooter 'HOPE'. The running cost of this scooter is only 20 paise per kilometre.

'HOPE' is a cost-effective scooter for delivery and local commuting. It gives a top speed of 25 km. Along with this, it also falls in the discount category available for the e-vehicles and does not require a driving

license or registration for driving.

'HOPE' comes with a portable charger and portable lithium-ion battery, which can be fully charged in common sockets used at home. This battery is fully charged in 4 hours. The customers have the option to select two different ranges of 50 km and 75 km of battery capacity.

IIT Delhi said that this scooter is equipped with modern technology like battery



management system, data monitoring system and pedal-assist unit. It comprises IoT which always informs customers about their scooters through data analytics. Due to such features, 'HOPE' falls into the category of smart and connected scooters of the future.

Geliose Mobility is one of the few companies which provides special features such as the pedal-assist system present in the scooter. During the journey, customers can choose the option of pedal or throttle as per their convenience. 'HOPE' is equipped with special reverse mode technology for convenient parking, with the help of which the scooter can be parked even in difficult places.

'HOPE' has a strong and lightweight frame built for ultra-modern usage. The structure of the scooter and its lean design gives it the ability to easily move through dense traffic. The vehicle has a revolutionary slide and rides feature that allows riders to attach different load carrying accessories or rear seat depending on the requirement.

Geliose Mobility is collaborating with logistics and delivery companies to meet local delivery requirements in food,

e-commerce, grocery, essentials and other distribution applications. Hubs for charging and maintenance of the scooters will be set up by the company on frequent routes of the delivery partners. In case of an emergency, contingency services such as roadside assistance and roadside battery replacement will be provided by the company.

Aditya Tiwari, Founder and CEO, Geliose Mobility,

said, "We are going through an era of increasing pollution and climate change every day, and there is a need for sustained efforts in all the industries, especially in the field of automobiles. We started Geliose Mobility three years ago. 'HOPE' is our flagship step in the effort to build the vehicle ecosystem. The starting price of 'HOPE' is Rs 46,999, which makes it the most affordable Internet connected scooter in the market."

IANS

Water gun with sensors will drive away Covid blues

Varanasi: To drive away the fear of Covid-19 pandemic and at the same time celebrate Holi without anxiety, young innovators from Varanasi have come up with a unique anti-corona pichkari (water gun).

The resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic has left the Government worried and also dampened the spirits of people. It may prove difficult to strictly follow social distancing during the festival of colours.

In this situation, youth

from Varanasi, which also happens to be Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency, have created a water gun which would not play spoilsport during Holi while maintaining social distancing among people.

This special water gun, equipped with sensors, would sprinkle colour at people without physically touching one another and would caution people as soon as they try to break social distancing norms.

Vishal Patel, a student of Ashoka Institute of Technology and Management, has created this water gun. In a special conversation with IANS, he said that the festive spirit of Holi must not fade away due to Covid-19.

So, we have created an anti-corona water gun, which would follow Covid guidelines issued by the government as well as help people sprinkle colour on each other.

Patel said the water gun

will be placed on the roof in front of one's house. As soon as a person comes near this water gun, its sensors will get activated and would start throwing colour. As long as nobody comes in front of the water gun, it will remain inactive. This unmanned water gun can prove useful in fighting coronavirus.

Apart from fighting against Covid-19, this special pichkari can also be used for the purposes of sanitisation. It took 15

days to create this water gun in which 8 litres of colour can be filled at a time. It has been built using a 12 volt battery, infrared sensor, ultrasonic sensor a switch and an LED light. The water gun costs nearly Rs 750.

Manish Arora, Banaras Hindu University, Banaras Hindu University, Department of Behavioural Arts and Coordination Design Innovation Centre, said this water gun is an innovative idea. It will protect people

along with helping people celebrate Holi.

Shyam Chaurasia, In-Charge of the Research Development Cell of the institute, says technology has brought relief to people during the pandemic.

The water gun is another experiment in this direction. "The children have done a remarkable job. This will help maintain social distancing and celebrate the festival of colours with gusto." IANS

AAP MLA...

From Page 1

It added that when some of the eyewitnesses resisted the bringing down of the fence, they were abused and injured due to stone pelting by the mob. "The evidence which has come on record of the eye witnesses shows that unlawful Assembly was comprising of 200-300 persons of which appellant (Bharti) was the member.

"It is true that only five accused persons were charged for the offence under Section 147 IPC read with Section 149 IPC and out of which four accused persons have been acquitted but still I do not find any illegality in the conviction of appellant for the offence under section 149 IPC as the evidence which has come on record shows that unlawful Assembly was comprising of 200-300 persons and the remaining persons could not be identified or apprehended," the judge said in his order.

The judge said, however, that the magistrate court had committed "grave illegality" in convicting the AAP leader for the offence of voluntarily causing hurt as the evidence of the injured persons were not reliable and trustworthy.

It said no explanation has been given by the prosecution as

to why the injured persons were not medically examined on the date of the offence and on what basis, opinion was sought, when no injuries were observed by the doctor or reported by injured.

"The opinion regarding injuries has been taken by the IO (investigating officer) on May 5, 2018, i.e. almost after two years of the incident," it said. It further said the manner in which the persons had suffered injuries was not corroborative and was contradictory to each other which made their testimony doubtful and unreliable.

The court said the prosecution has not brought any such medical record which made this court raise an adverse inference against prosecution that no such injuries were suffered by the injured.

"In the light of the evidence which has come on record, the evidence of injured persons namely...Was not at all reliable and trustworthy and the MLCs could not have been relied upon.

"Therefore, the trial court had committed a grave illegality in convicting the appellant for the offence under section 323 IPC read with Section 149 IPC when the evidence which has come on record, was not reliable and trustworthy. Accordingly, the appellant is acquitted for the offence under Section 323 IPC read with Section 149 IPC," it said.

Capital reports 1,101 coronavirus cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital reported 1,101 coronavirus cases while the case positivity reached to 1.31 per cent on Tuesday. Four fresh deaths also reported, taking the total death toll to 10967.

According to the health department of the Delhi government the number of active cases rose to 4411.

These 1101 new cases pushed the tally of Covid-19 cases reported in the city till now to 649973, while 634595 patients have recovered from the disease. Delhi had registered over 888 cases on Monday, 823 cases on Sunday, 813 on Saturday, 716 on Friday, 607 on Thursday, 536 on Wednesday and 425 on Tuesday, according to official data.

SC to hear...

From Page 1

"The petitioner has invoked writ jurisdiction of this court to seek unbiased, unflinched, impartial and fair investigation in the corrupt malpractices of Deshmukh, the Home Minister of Maharashtra, before the evidences are destroyed," he has said in his plea.

"Deshmukh had been holding meetings in February, 2021 at his residence with police officers including Sachin Vaze of Crime Intelligence

Unit, Mumbai and Sanjay Patil, ACP Social Service Branch, Mumbai, bypassing their seniors and had instructed them that he had a target to accumulate Rs 100 crore every month and had directed to collect money from various establishments and other sources," Singh has alleged.

He has claimed it is reliably learnt that on or about August 24-25, 2020, one Rashmi Shukla, Commissioner of Maharashtra, State Intelligence Department, had brought to the notice of the Director General of Police, who in turn brought it to the knowledge of

the State's Additional Chief Secretary Home Department, about corrupt malpractices in postings/transfers by Deshmukh based on telephonic interception.

"She was shunted out rather than taking any firm action against said Deshmukh", he has said. Deshmukh had been interfering in various investigations and was instructing the police officers to conduct the same in a particular manner as desired by him, Singh has alleged.

"Such act of Deshmukh in abuse of the official position of the Home Minister, whether in calling and directly instructing the police officers of lower rank such as Vaze or Patil for his malicious intent of extorting money from establishments across Mumbai and from other sources or whether in interfering in the investigations & directing the same to be conducted in a particular manner, or whether indulging in corrupt malpractices in posting/transfers of officers, cannot be countenanced or justified in any democratic State", he has claimed.

Singh has said fair CBI investigation is thus warranted in each of such acts of Deshmukh in alleged abuse of the official position of the Home Minister and added that he has brought the corrupt practices in the knowledge of the senior leaders and the Chief Minister of the State immediately.

He said thereafter, on March 17, by a notification of the Maharashtra Government he was transferred from the post of the Police Commissioner of Mumbai to the Home Guard department in an "arbitrary and illegal manner without the completion of

the minimum fixed tenure of two years".

Referring to the February 25 incident outside Antilia, residence of businessman Mukesh Ambani, where a car with explosives was found leading to a bomb scare, Singh said he believes that the reason for the transfer noted by the State Government in its file is to ensure a free and fair investigation in the case.

He said the said case is being now investigated by the NIA, and Vaze, officer of Crime Intelligence Unit, Mumbai has been arrested for custodial interrogation by the NIA.

"All necessary assistance had been rendered by petitioner's office and his officers for the conduct of a free and fair investigation by the ATS and the NIA into the Antilia incident. It is not even case of NIA that the petitioner had in any manner obstructed in free and fair investigation by NIA," he said.

He further said having made such startling revelations, he apprehends further malicious and coercive actions at the instance of "disgruntled Home Minister in abuse of his powers".

He said Deshmukh while mechanically denying the contents of the letter dated March 20, submitted to the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, has issued a Press release threatening to initiate defamation proceedings against him.

He has also sought directions to safeguard him from any further coercive steps apprehended in the retaliation for laying bare the alleged corrupt malpractices of

No penal...

From Page 1

The bench, which referred to previous verdicts delivered by the top court, noted that what is best in national economy and in what manner and to what extent the financial reliefs or packages be formulated, offered and implemented is ultimately to be decided by the government and the RBI on the aid and advise of the experts.

"The same is a matter for decision exclusively within the province of the central government. Such matters do not ordinarily attract the power of judicial review," it said.

"Merely because some class/sector may not be agreeable and/or satisfied with such packages/policy decisions, the courts, in exercise of the power of judicial review, do not ordi-

narily interfere with the policy decisions, unless such policy could be faulted on the ground of mala fide, arbitrariness, unfairness etc," the bench said.

The bench also noted in its verdict that the Centre had come out with a policy decision subsequently by which it was decided not to charge interest on interest on loans up to Rs 2 crores and this relief was restricted to following categories -- MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises), Education, Housing, Consumer durable, Credit card, Automobile, Personal and Consumption.

"There is no justification shown to restrict the relief of not charging interest on interest with respect to the loans up to Rs 2 crores only and that too restricted to the aforesaid categories. What are the basis to restrict it to Rs 2 crores are not forthcoming," it said.

GOVERNMENT OF GOA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
WORKS DIVISION VI
Tender Notice NO. F-3/PWD/MDVI/ASW/24/2020-2021, dated 22/03/2021

- The last date of online application is 09/04/2021 up to 15.00 hrs.
- The last date of online submission of tender is: 09/04/2021 up to 15.00 hrs.
- The date & time of Opening of Online Tender is 12/04/2021 after 10.30 hrs.

For more details please contact the office of the Executive Engineer Works Div. VI, PWD.,
Fatorda Margao Goa.
Website: https://goaenivda.gov.in
"Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
DI/Adv/2021/1807/4636

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, Invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1	NIT No.	232-Elect-EMU-WC-11-19-20
2	Name of the work	Annual Maintenance and operation contract (AMOC) of Bio-toilet in MEMU coaches at EMU Car Shed, Ghaziabad.
3	Tender Cost	Rs. 0.00
4	Approximate Cost	Rs. 2251235.13
5	Earnest Money	Rs. 0.00
6	Completion period	18 Months
7	Validity of offer	45 days
8	Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website	22.03.2021 (17:23 Hrs.)
9	Date & Time from tender submission start and end	01.04.2021 (00:00 Hrs.) to 15.04.2021 (15:00 Hrs.)
10	Tender closing Date & Time	15.04.2021 (15:00 Hrs.)
11	Date & Time of tender Opening (Immediately when tender submission ends)	15.04.2021 (15:00 Hrs.)

Note 1: All participant Tenderers/Tenders will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical and Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void.
Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/uploaded.
Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in
UP No. 232-Elect-EMU-WC-11-19-20 Date: 22.03.2021 665/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, Uttarakhnad Peyjal Nigam, Nainital
District - Nainital
E-Tendering/Tender Notice
Letter No. 937/613/73 Date : 20.03.2021

1	Name of Work :- Kurnah GOV W/S SCHEME / Estimated cost - Rs. 80.38 Lakh
2	Period of completion of work :- 06 months
3	Date of Online Publication 23.03.2021 at 17:00hrs.
4	Document download : Start Date 24.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.
5	Document download : End Date 06.04.2021 at 17:00hrs.
6	Pre Bid Meeting 26.03.2021 at 14:00hrs.
7	Bid Submission : Start Date 24.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.
8	Bid Submission : End Date 06.04.2021 at 17:00hrs.
9	Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification). 07.04.2021 upto 17:00hrs.
10	Date of Technical Bid Opening 08.04.2021 at 11:00hrs.
11	Date of Financial Bid Opening To be announced Later
12	Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site:- www.uktenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE-MORADABAD
Address:- TA-1, Ashiyana Phase-1, MDA Colony, Moradabad
E-Procurement Notice
Letter No. 1294/RED/Tender/2021 No. 14/Bond Clerk/2020-21 Dated 17.03.2021

1. THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MORADABAD CIRCLE MORADABAD on behalf of Government of Uttar Pradesh invites percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, & C, as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any of all of the works.

2. Name of work as per table.

S. No.	Name of District	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh)	Bid security (in Lakh)	Cost of Bid document including GST (if any) (in Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1.	Bijnor	Construction of Painting Road From Chandpur-Fina Sampark Road village Kakraia Village to Soharb Nagar tak.	168.19	3.37	2354.00	06 Months

3. Date of availability of Bid document of website :- 27-03-2021
4. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement 16.04.2021 up to 12:00 Noon.
5. Date of opening of bids through e-procurement:- 16.04.2021 at 12:30 pm
6. The Employer has right to issue addendum/condemnation as per ITB clause-10 on line which will not be published in any newspaper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly.
For further details please log on to <http://e.tendering.up.nic.in> and download the bid document.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MORADABAD CIRCLE MORADABAD For and behalf of Governor of UP
UP 162683 Date 20.3.2021
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

5 cops...
From Page 1
Reinforcements rushed to the spot and evacuated the dead and injured from the dense forest. The injured were flown to Raipur in an Indian Air Force chopper for treatment.
The bus was passing along the under construction

Barsoor-Palli road which is surrounded by the thick forests of Abujmad region.

The dead were identified as Head Constables Pavan Mandavi and Jailal Ukiye, Constables Karah Dehari and Seval Salaam, and Assistant Constable Vijay Patel, said the officer.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has

strongly condemned the killings and vowed to intensify the anti-Naxalite operations.

"Maoists are frustrated as they are losing ground due to continuous operations by security forces. This act is the outcome of their desperation. Operations against them will be intensified," he said in a statement.

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, Uttarakhnad Peyjal Nigam, Nainital
District - Nainital
E-Tendering/Tender Notice
Letter No. 939/613/75 Date : 20.03.2021

1	Name of Work :- Dhumkhera GOV W/S SCHEME / Estimated cost - Rs. 80.96 Lakh
2	Name of Work :- Pipaliya GOV W/S SCHEME / Estimated cost - Rs. 86.82 Lakh
3	Period of completion of each work 06 months
4	Date of Online Publication 23.03.2021 at 17:00hrs.
5	Document download : Start Date 24.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.
6	Document download : End Date 06.04.2021 at 17:00hrs.
7	Pre Bid Meeting 26.03.2021 at 14:00hrs.
8	Bid Submission : Start Date 24.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.
9	Bid Submission : End Date 06.04.2021 at 17:00hrs.
10	Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification). 07.04.2021 upto 17:00hrs.
11	Date of Technical Bid Opening 08.04.2021 at 11:00hrs.
12	Date of Financial Bid Opening To be announced Later
13	Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site:- www.uktenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE-HOSPITAL
Bemina, Srinagar Kashmir - 190018
Department of Materials Management
0194-2493226, mmo@skimsmc.edu.in
NOTICE
Sub: Procurement of Virtual Dissection Table for the Department of Anatomy, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, Srinagar, J&K on Proprietary basis from M/s Anatomage, Inc. 3350 Scott Blvd Building 29, Santa Clara, CA 95054.
SKIMS Medical College-Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar, J&K intends to procure Virtual Dissection Table for the Department of Anatomy on proprietary basis from M/s Anatomage, Inc. 3350 Scott Blvd Building 29, Santa Clara, CA 95054, through their authorized dealer M/s Maveric Solution Inc, 368, Vardhman Crown Mall, Sector 19, Dwarka, New Delhi- 110075, being their Proprietary item as claimed by the Company.
In this connection, objections (if any) from companies manufacturing/marketing such equipment capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above equipment, regarding the proprietary nature of the above equipment should be communicated within 15 days on the above mentioned email id, after which the claim of the company who has claimed for the proprietorship of the equipment shall be accepted.
Sd/- Materials Management Officer (SKIMS MCH Bemina)
No: DPK-NB-6608/20
Dated:- 23.03.2021

All 45+ can...
From Page 1
Of 4.8 crore (4,84,94,594) vaccine doses administered through 7,84,612 sessions, 78,59,579 health-care workers (HCWs) have taken the first dose, 49,59,964 HCWs second dose, 82,42,127 frontline workers (FLWs) have received the first dose

and 29,03,477 FLWs have taken the second dose.

Besides, 42,98,310 beneficiaries aged more than 45 to 60 with specific co-morbidities and more than 2 crore (2,02,31,137) beneficiaries aged more than 60 years have been administered the first dose.

According to the Government, fourteen States and UTs have not

reported any Covid-19 deaths in the last 24 hours.

These are Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Uttarakhnad, Odisha, Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
यात्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-प्र
भोपाल, दिनांक 22.03.2021
निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	धरोहर राशि	प्रपत्र राशि	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एम. आ. आर.	कार्य की अवधि
1	2021 UAD-136294-1	CONSTRUCTION OF SABJI MANDI CHABUTRA SHADE AND SHOP AT PARWALI GROUND GANDHI NAGAR WARD 01 ZONE 01	1,70,81,995/-	170820/-	12500/-	MP UADD BUILDING AND ROAD BRIDGE ISSR 2012	06 Months

1. निविदा प्रपत्र को निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
2. किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।
अधीक्षक यंत्र (सिविल)
नगर निगम भोपाल
नि.क्र. 1915/020/21

Take precautions to contain Covid, says Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the coronavirus cases reported a sudden surge, Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain on Tuesday requested people to be aware and take all the precautions to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Health Minister was speaking at a function held at Delhi Vidhan Sabha to facilitate the Corona warriors from Deen Dayal Upadhyay and GTB Hospital in the presence of Speaker of Delhi Vidhan Sabha Ram Niwas Goel and various senior doctors. On the occasion, Jain said that Coronavirus is a recurring infection and one need to learn to live with it.

"I would like to thank all the doctors, nurses, paramedics and staff for their contribution in combating the Covid-19 pandemic that has been going on for the past year. Nobody had anticipated or experienced any of what happened. This disease was first witnessed in 1918, almost 100 years ago but nobody was well versed with the protocol. This is a recurring infection. The minute we feel it is getting better, there is a sudden surge," Satyendra Jain said.

Delhi was witnessing 200 cases per day some time back but it is again the number has risen to 800-900. Just like the other diseases, we will have to learn how to protect ourselves. If we continue to follow proper precautions like washing our hands, wearing a mask, a lot of other diseases too, can be kept at bay," he said.

"The fight that we are putting up against the coronavirus was only possible because of your support. We introduced many new successful concepts to the world like home isolation. When we bought oxygen concentrators in May-June in bulk, nobody was ready to accept its utility. However, a few months later central government included it in their protocol. The Health Minister further said that Delhi was the first city in the world to use plasma therapy to treat Covid-19, and within one month.

"I believe that the efforts put in by our medical staff, cannot be put in words. I extend my gratitude to all of you for your dedication and hard work. During the Corona pandemic, our doctors, paramedics and nurses have lost their lives in pursuit of saving someone else's life. This in itself is the supreme sacrifice. It is because of this sacrifice, we have been able to save many lives, for which I thank all of you" said Health Minister Jain.

The national Capital reported over 800 coronavirus cases for the third day on the trot on Monday, while seven people succumbed to viral disease, the highest since February 4, the Health Department said.

The 888 new infections, the highest in nearly three months, pushed the tally of Coronavirus cases reported in the New Delhi till now to 6,48,872, while 6,33 lakh coronavirus positive patients have been recovered from the deadly disease.



BJP rejects AAP's claim of SDMC hiking property tax by 34%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed on Tuesday that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled South Delhi

Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has brought a proposal in House meeting to hike the property tax by 34 per cent. However, the claim was denied by the BJP.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said that a proposal to hike property tax by 34 per cent was tabled by the SDMC in house. "On the one side, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reduced circle rates by 20 per cent while the BJP ruled MCD increased property taxes by 34 per cent," he said.

The AAP leader said that the BJP ruled MCD waved off six months licence fee for outdoor advertisement contractors and now making up for the loss from residents. Also, the BJP government has massively

increased the price of diesel, petrol and LPG in the last several days but the AAP government has not hiked any tax in the last seven years, he said.

"The BJP ruled SDMC has decided to increase the property tax in A, B, C, D and even in the H category. Moreover, they have not even kept up Jhuggi-hope and JJ Cluster," he said.

Responding to the claim, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said it seems "in his malafide anxiety to level charges against MCDs, AAP leader Bhardwaj does not even cross-check facts

before speaking". "Today the resolution was brought in SDMC to reject the Commissioner's proposed rise in House Tax," he said.

Standing Committee Chairman in SDMC Rajdutt Gahlot said that proposal to increase house tax has been rejected by the Standing Committee earlier hence no question of any hike so far arises. He said that AAP leaders are misleading people by putting wrong facts as his party wanted to get political benefits in municipal elections scheduled next year.

43-year-old man shot dead by bike-borne men

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 43-year-old man was allegedly shot dead by two unidentified persons in west Delhi's Jaffarpur Kalan area.

The deceased has been identified as Mukesh alias Fauzi, a resident of JP Kalan.

According to Santosh Kumar Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district, on Monday around 5.30 pm, Mukesh was singing along with

his friends in the field of one Rajender near Firni Road, Jaffarpur Kalan where two unknown persons came on a black motorcycle and asked them about one Rakesh.

"Rakesh was not with them. Meanwhile, the person, who was inquiring about Rakesh, opened fire from a country-made pistol on Mukesh. He shot Mukesh around three to four bullets and fled away on their bike," said the DCP.

"Later, Ishwar Singh (60), a resident of JP Kalan, made a PCR call. The nephew of Mukesh took him to the nearest hospital where he was declared dead," said the DCP.

"A case under relevant sections has been registered. Police have inspected the crime scene and recorded the statement of the eyewitness. The post-mortem of the body has been conducted and investigation is in underway to nab the accused persons, the DCP said.

SDMC to open 40 new Aadhar centers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has approved the proposal to open 40 new Aadhar centers in its jurisdiction.

Standing Committee Chairman in SDMC Rajdutt Gahlot said that the move will help people in availing the services related to aadhar centre. "People can enroll for new aadhar card can apply for corrections, changes, etc in their nearby areas. In the first phase, 10 aadhar centers will be opened and remaining centers will be opened in later phases. People can avail the facility by paying charges fixed by the aadhar authority," he said.

Gahlot further said that with opening of the centres, people will avoid long queues as they will get services in their locality. He said that the UIDAI has authorized multiple agencies for aadhar registration including SDMC. With the authorization, SDMC can start aadhar enrollment and related services in its jurisdiction, he said.

The Standing Committee Chairman said that out of 10 Centres which will be opened initially. Out of these, five will be permanent and five will be on mobile centres. He informed that Rs 100 will be charged for aadhar enrollment, Rs 100 for biometric update, Rs 30 for e-KYC and Rs 50 for corrections in existing Aadhar card.

Kejriwal Govt pushing youths to alcoholism to raise revenue: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Adesh Gupta said the Kejriwal Government is the first in the country which is pushing youths towards alcoholism to increase its own revenue.

Addressing a massive protest against the new excise policy here near Shahdara bus terminal on Tuesday, he said on one hand the BJP was organizing programmes on the martyrdom day to encourage and inculcate feeling of patriotism in youths; the Kejriwal government on the other hand is making them move towards liquor consumption. The angry workers also burnt the effigy of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Present at the protest

with him were party vice president Virender Sachdeva, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, MLA Jitender Mahajan, district president Master Vinod, Pravesh Sharma among others.

The BJP president wondered whether Delhi government is unmindful of the fact that more liquor shops would not only lead to increased crime rate in Delhi but also make it the Capital of Liquor. Let's not forget because of prohibition in Gujarat and Bihar, crime rate there is very low, he said.

Gupta said not only will it lead to spurious liquor and promote crime but will also spoil youngsters as the legal age for drinking has been lowered



from 25 to 21 years.

He said the right thing would have been for the government to tighten liquor policy to make Delhi safe for women and keep youngsters away from the liquor. It seems the Kejriwal government values the revenue more than safety of

ple to drink liquor can lead many families to break up situation, he observed. The fact of

the matter is all this is being done for political funding, he charged.

If BJP makes drinking age 25 yrs in its ruled States, we will make 30 years: Sourabh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party chief spokesperson Sourabh Bharadwaj on Tuesday said that if Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta makes the minimum age of buying liquor in Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruled States 25 years then the AAP Government will make it 30 years in Delhi too.

Bharadwaj said that the legal age of drinking alcohol in the BJP-ruled States like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh is 21 years, in BHP ruled Goa it is 18 years. He said that the BJP is saying all these to protect black markets and financial misappropriations.

The AAP leader said that the BJP leaders should ask the Central Government to make a law that the age of drinking alcohol in the whole country should be 25 years as this will bring uniformity.

"I am surprised to see the hypocrisy of the BJP. Till now

no one has seen such hypocrisy inside any political party. It is very clear that the BJP is fully shameless. Within the BJP-ruled states, the legal of liquor consumption is 21 years from many years. It is 21 years in dozens of states including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. The BJP has ruled for 15 years in Goa, where the legal age is 18 years," he added.

Bhardwaj challenged the Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta and LOP Ramveer Vidhuri to bring this age back to 25 years in the BJP ruled states then will make it 30 years.

"This is BJP's attempt to steal revenue and protect black marketing. If you go to a restaurant where liquor is served, you often see the youth of 21-year-old. The police and other departments raid these premises and extort money from the restaurant owners. This money goes to the top. By our decision, this malpractice will be stopped and that is why BJP is upset," he added.

G'gram meat sellers protest against MCG closure order

IAN S ■ GURUGRAM

The meat shopkeepers on Tuesday staged a protest against the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) team that reached Shona Chowk in old Gurugram to close meat outlets which were opened despite the MCG orders.

The decision was taken during a house meeting of the MCG on March 18. The proposal to keep meat shops shut every Tuesday was approved after a few councillors raised the issue citing 'Hindu sentiments'.

Apart from this, the civic body had also decided to increase the license fee for meat shops from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. In case a meat selling store is found to be running illegally, it will have to pay ten times in penalty which has been increased from Rs 500 to

Rs 5,000. "There is no law to close meat shops every Tuesday. We will soon approach the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Gurugram and the MCG Commissioner against this restrictions and if our demands are not met we will approach the court for our rightful justice," Tahir Khan, president, Meat Market Association told IANS.

Meanwhile, the MCG officials who faced the ire of the meat shopkeepers said they were just following the orders.

"According to the corporation order it was told that if we found any shop opened it would be closed after issuing warning and if the shop remained open despite warning a fine of Rs 5,000 would be issued against the said establishment," said a MCG official.

"It is a dictatorship by the MCG. Who has given right to

them to close meat shops every Tuesday in Gurugram. The civic body officials without consulting the meat establishment owners issued such baseless orders. We will soon approach the district administration in connection with the matter," Hazi Shahad Khan, Chairman Muslim Ekta Manch told IANS.



Man held for robbing person at gunpoint

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly robbing a person at gunpoint in southwest Delhi's Kishangarh area.

The accused has been identified as Mohit, a resident of Mehrauli. According to Ingit Pratap Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, on Monday around 8 pm, police were patrolling and saw at Aruna Asaf Ali Road near

Sanjay Van, gate number 1 that a person was chasing a man towards Sanjay Van.

"The patrolling team also started chasing him and apprehended the person who was later identified as Mohit. During investigation, it was revealed that Mohit, along with his two associates, robbed the victim, who works as manager in a private company in Kisangarh, of Rs 1.75 lakh at gunpoint," said the DCP.

"The victim was on his way to his owner's house to deliver

Rs 1,75,500. When he reached near Sanjay Van, gate number 1, the accused persons hit his bike by their motorcycle. When the victim fell on the road, they started beating him and looted the bag at gunpoint," said the DCP.

"While they were trying to escape, police nabbed Mohit after a brief chase, while his other associates managed to flee on motorcycle. Police recovered the looted bag containing Rs 1,75,500 from his possession, the DCP said.

Switch off lights during Earth Hour on March 27: BSES

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Power discom BSES has urged its consumers to 'Switch-off' lights during the Earth Hour on March 27.

Commenting on the importance of a sustainable planet, a BSES spokesperson said, "We sincerely appeal to our over 4.5 million consumers and around 18 million residents in our area to make the right choice for the planet and for the future generations that will inherit it. This Earth Hour, 'switch-off and speak for nature'. Citizens can help protect the natural world to safeguard our future."

"BSES discoms are actively championing sustainable growth by promoting renewable, roof-top solar, electric vehicles, battery storage, behavioural energy efficiency and demand side management programs. As conscientious corporate citizens, we also urge consumers to adopt a sustainable way of life and adopt green options like solar energy,

EVs and energy efficiency as a way of life," he said.

Earth Hour is an annual global event that draws attention to sustainability of our planet. Earth Hour 2021 will unite people online and put a spotlight on the urgent need to address the issues of nature loss and climate change. Showing solidarity with the event, BSES is once again actively and wholeheartedly supporting and promoting the Earth Hour initiative.



Three illegal call centres busted, 37 arrested for duping victims overseas

New Delhi: Three illegal call centres have been busted by the Delhi Police cyber cell, one of them in Bindapur and two in Janakpuri.

The accused were running multiple fake processes including a Social Security Number scam, the Apple Tech Support scam and the Amazon Tech Support scam. As many as 37 accused have been arrested for allegedly duping foreigners.

The accused used to send voice recordings to foreign nationals pretending to be US Drug Enforcement personnel and then extorted money from them. They also used to send recorded messages pretending to be from Apple Technical Support and Amazon Technical Support and then con unsuspecting callers. As disclosed by the accused, they have conned thousands of people of crores of rupees in this manner. A raid was conducted at the premises on Monday and it was found that the accused were running illegal call centres in Bindapur and Janakpuri.

Programme on crowd control for cops held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner DSN Shrivastava has organised a training programme on Crowd Control and Public Order Management for Delhi Armed Police personnel, which will enable them to handle law and order during sensitive situations in the national capital.

According to police, the first batch of 75 police personnel are being trained from March 22 to April 6 at RAF Academy of Public Order (RAPO), Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

"The training will help the police personnel in handling

the law and order situation and enable them in countering sensitive situations such as riots and protests effectively," said

police. "This training programme

is first of its kind in the history of Delhi Police in which all the police personnel of Delhi Armed Police will be trained in all technical strategies of crowd control along with modern weapons and special techniques," said Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO) of Delhi Police.

"The police personnel will also be trained in psychology, public and police relations, communal harmony, various case studies, fire fighting technique, less lethal weapon and ammunition handling, new special devices, anti riots drill and human rights," said Anil Mittal.



UK, SA, Brazil strain cases double in only 5 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The total number of Coronavirus cases of the UK, South Africa and Brazil variants in India has doubled in merely five days from 400 cases on March 18 to 795 till date. These three strains are considered to be more lethal and spread easily, even taking the young people in its grip.

Ringing the alarm bell at the fast spread of the mutated strains, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said that 81 per cent of the 401 samples sent by the State for genome sequencing tested positive for the UK Covid variant. Presently, as per the Centre's directions, just five percent of all positive Covid-19 samples from each State, five per cent are being tested for genome sequencing in order to identify potential outbreaks and related strains as part of continuous surveillance.

Expressing concern over the surging cases, the Punjab Chief Minister stressed the need for the Central Government to urgently open up the vaccination for a bigger section of the populace. The Union Cabinet has now decided to allow vaccination of those over 45 and above, without any co-morbid conditions.

Covid-19 underlined value of quality healthcare system accessible to all: Prez

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said the Covid-19 pandemic underlined the importance of a quality healthcare system accessible to every individual.

He said the year 2020 was a watershed moment for healthcare in India as well as around the world.

In his message on the eve of World Tuberculosis Day, which is observed every year on March 24, Kovind said that the entire National TB Elimination Program was at the forefront in fight against COVID-19.

"Their commitment towards tackling the COVID pandemic while continuing with TB elimination efforts is

commendable. The Government of India is committed to achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage as per the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," he said.

This is being implemented under the aegis of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, which is the largest national health insurance scheme in the world, the president said.

"The year 2020 was a watershed moment for healthcare in India as well as around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the importance of a quality healthcare system accessible to every individual," Kovind said.

The president said he is



Bill will grab elected Delhi Govt's power, alleges LoP Kharge

Opp raises din in RS over NCT Bill

Bill will grab elected Delhi Govt's power, alleges LoP Kharge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A determined Opposition, including the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) raised a din in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday protesting against a Bill that proposes to give more power to the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi.

For its part, the BJP demanded the dismissal of Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and sought to raise alleged charges of corruption against him. However, their demand was turned down by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

The House witnessed repeated adjournments as the Congress and AAP members protested against the 'Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021'.

The uproar started when Deputy Chairman Harivansh asked Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy to move a motion for the consideration of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021.

Sanjay Singh (AAP) protested against allowing the motion, saying his notice has been pending in the House. The Deputy Chairman assured the AAP member that his notice would be considered after the motion is moved, but Singh called it "unconstitutional."

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said the Bill is dangerous and it will grab rights of the elected Government of Delhi and destroy democracy. He alleged that the Government wants the L-G as government and the elected dispensation as his servant.

The deputy chairman adjourned the House till 5.24 PM. As the House reassembled, the protest by opposition members continued, prompting the chair to adjourn the House for a second time till 5.40 PM.

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment)

Tax exemption for PF deposit hiked to ₹5L, Govt informs LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday informed Lok Sabha that deposit threshold limit raised to ₹5 lakh per annum in provident fund for which interest would continue to be tax exempt.

This would be applicable to those cases where no contribution is made by employers to the retirement fund. In her Budget presented to Parliament on February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had provided that interest on employee contributions to provident fund over ₹2.5 lakh per annum would be tax exempt from April 1, 2021.

Replying to the debate on the Finance Bill 2021 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman made the announcement regarding raising the limit to ₹5 lakh in cases where employers do not make contributions to the provident fund. The Finance Bill, which gives effect to tax proposals for 2021-22, was approved by voice vote. The Bill was passed after acceptance of 127 amendments to the proposed legislation.

Finance Minister also stressed that tax on interest on provident fund contribution affects only 1 per cent of the contributors, and the remaining are not impacted as their



contribution is less than ₹2.5 lakh per annum. Referring to the issues raised by various members on higher taxes on motor fuel, Sitharaman said she would love to discuss the issue of bringing petrol and diesel under GST in the next GST Council meeting. She also sought to remind members that it was not just the Centre which taxes motor fuel and States too impose levies.

The Finance Minister also said rationalisation of customs duty structure will be undertaken to help domestic businesses, especially the MSME segment. On taxes, she emphasised on the need for widening the tax base. With regards to the equalisation levy, she said this is meant to provide a level playing field to domestic businesses which pay taxes in India.

In the debate, entire opposition MPs said high prices of diesel, petrol and LPG are hurting the common man across the country and asked the Government to reduce them. Supriya Sule (NCP) said excise component in the prices of petrol is close to ₹38 per litre while state value-added tax

(VAT) is about ₹19 per litre in Delhi. The Government should consider slashing this high excise duty, she said.

She urged the Government to bring down prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinder. Sule also raised concern over the pace of disinvestment and privatisation of profit-making public sector entities (PSEs).

Ritesh Pandey (BSP) too raised the issue of high prices of petrol and diesel "burning a hole in pocket of the poor." "The government is imposing 48 per cent as excise... And the rising prices of petrol and diesel are hurting the poor very badly," he said.

"Selling of PSUs and their privatisation will impact reservation policy for Dalits as private companies will not follow reservation policy. Privatisation is going to have a long term impact on poor and Dalits of the country," he added. Equalisation tax is going to make digital payment costly and the government should rethink about this, Pandey said.

Nama Nageswara Rao (TRS) too demanded that petrol and diesel prices be reduced. Rao also urged the government to consider lowering the import duty on cotton. The government raised the import duty on cotton from 10 per cent to 15 per cent in the Budget 2021-22.

Govt defends 3 farm laws amid farmers' stir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the farmers continue their protests and a resumption of talks with them seems uncertain in near future, the Government on Tuesday once again defended the three farm laws saying that new farm laws are intended to facilitate direct buying from farmers in trade area by traders, processors, exporters, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), agricultural co-operative Societies so as

to facilitate farmers to get better price. The government said that the new farm laws also provide farmers with cost effective, easy time bound dispute resolution system at local level with provision of penalty against traders for contravention of any provision to protect the farmers including small and marginal farmers.

"The farm laws will accelerate more investment in marketing and value addition infrastructure including that in stor-

age facilities near to farm gate creating more employment opportunities for rural youth," Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in a reply to the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The minister said that farm laws provide additional marketing opportunities to farmers for selling their produce outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) market yards such as at farm-gates, cold storages, warehouse,

silos, etc. to help farmers to sell their produce to direct buyers without depending on middlemen thus reducing cost of marketing and improving their gain.

The new farm laws also provide farmers with a cost-effective, easy time bound dispute resolution system at local level with provision of penalty against traders for contravention of any provision to protect the farmers including small and marginal farmers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohitak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Notice U/s. 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) who have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of loans facility obtained by them from secured creditor and loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them on their last known addresses, however, it has returned un-served and hence, they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower / Guarantor / Co-Borrower (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Manish Sharma, Sunaina Sharma, C 20, 3rd Floor, Flat No- 115, Gulab Bagh, A/C No- 25500001137 & A/C No-QZPTU00005023571	Plot No- C- 20, 3rd Floor Rear Right Hand Side, With Roof Right, Kh No. 944 & 948, Vill Nawada, Gulab Bagh (Om, Delhi)	14-Dec-2020 Rs. 28,95,699/-	31/01/2020

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : March 24, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

India emerged stronger despite many challenges, Modi tells BJP MPs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite facing odds like tension at the borders, cyclones and earthquakes during the coronavirus pandemic, India emerged stronger and the entire world realised its potential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told BJP MPs on Tuesday.

Addressing the BJP parliamentary party meeting, Modi said he relished all these challenges during the pandemic and the country also overcame them.

"Sharing his experiences of the pandemic, Modi told MPs that during the period, the country was not only facing the challenge of the virus, but on others fronts as well. There were tensions on the LAC, cyclones, earthquakes and then there was locust swarm attack but despite all these odds, India emerged stronger and the entire world realised its potential," said Union minister Arjun

Ram Meghwal briefing about the meeting.

Meghwal said the prime minister also mentioned that he has been holding public office for more than two decades, first as the chief minister of a state and now as the prime minister, and he has never taken a day off.

Besides Modi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also addressed the BJP parliamentary party meeting.

Jaishankar asserted that India's stature rose in the world during the pandemic because of its medical diplomacy of providing antibiotics and testing kits to other nations earlier and for its vaccine diplomacy later, Meghwal said.

The external affairs minister also shared details of the Centre's Vande Bharat mission of bringing back stranded Indians from abroad, Meghwal said.

DRDO started 79 projects in 3 years to boost desi defence manufacturing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a determined push to attain self-reliance in defence manufacturing, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the last three years has undertaken 79 projects worth over ₹ 8,201 crores. These weapon systems include cruise missiles, anti-ship missile, ammunition, radars and torpedoes besides others.

These indigenously designed and developed state-of-the-art systems will be inducted into the three armed forces in the next three years, the Government informed Parliament.

Giving details, minister of state for defence Sripad Naik said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, during the past three years, 79 projects amounting to ₹8,201 crores directly pertaining to development of new defence equipments were undertaken.

These systems included Cruise Missile, Anti-Ship Missile, Surface-to-Air Missile, Air-to-Air Missile, Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket, Mounted Gun System, Ammunitions, Electronic Warfare System, Radars, Torpedoes and High Endurance Autonomous Underwater Vehicle.

Some of the DRDO developed systems which are likely to be available to defence forces during 2021-23 are Astra missile, anti-drone system, SATCOM devices, surface to air missile, guided bombs and NAG anti-tank missile.

Many DRDO developed technologies such as Battle Field Surveillance Rader (BFSR), Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC) Jammers, 5.56 mm Rifle, 40 mm Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBRL) and Oleo Resin (OR) Grenade are being utilized by the state police.

Moreover, the DRDO carried out upgrades including

These indigenously designed and developed state-of-the-art systems will be inducted into the three armed forces in the next three years, the Government informed Parliament

Arjun Mk-1A main battle tanks, Akash missile, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A

Medium Power Radar- Extended Range PINAKA- Extended Range, Guided Electronics & Communication System, Unified Mission Computer for SU-30 MKI aircraft, Internal Electronic Warfare System for MIG-29 Upgrade Aircraft and electronic warfare systems for warships.

This comes at a time, when India's imports in the last nine to ten years dropped by more than 33 per cent. Moreover, Russia, the main supplier of arms to India, suffered in the process besides the US which had emerged as a big supplier of arms to India in the last one decade.

Noting these points in its report recently, the reputed international organization Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) also said the decline took place due to an attempt by to reduce its dependence on Russian arms and complex procurement processes.

Its arms imports reduced by 33 % between 2011-15 and 2016-20, the report said. At present, more than 70 per cent of inventory in the Indian armed forces is of erstwhile USSR and Russian origin. Moreover, the US in the last one decade had supplied arms and ammunition worth over 15 billion dollars.

IN SHORT

IMD LAUNCHES WEBSITE FOR DATA INFORMATION
New Delhi: On the occasion of World Meteorological Day, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday launched a dedicated web portal of its over-century-old meteorological data. This data can be accessed by forecasters, researchers, students and the general public. Dr M Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, launched the portal, developed by the scientists of the National Data Centre at the Climate Research and Services office of IMD, Pune.

GOVT GETS MORE TIME TO FRAME CAA RULES
New Delhi: The Government has been granted time till April 9 by Lok Sabha and July 9 by Rajya Sabha to frame rules under the citizenship law. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha that the Committees on Subordinate Legislation, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have granted time up to April 9 and July 9 respectively to frame these rules. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) was notified on December 12, 2019 and came into force from January 10, 2020.

ACT HARSHLY AGAINST FAKE COMPLAINTS: SC
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's reply on two separate pleas seeking directions to the Government to frame guidelines for compensation to victims of "wrongful prosecution" and to ensure strict action against fake complainants in criminal cases.

SC STAYS PROCEEDINGS OVER OTT PLATFORMS
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the proceedings pending before several high courts across the country on pleas related to regulation of over-the-top (OTT) platforms.

CBI ARRESTS INSPECTOR IN FORGERY CASE
New Delhi: The CBI has arrested an Inspector, CGST, Agartala (Tripura) in an on-going investigation of a case. The CBI had filed a case on the request of Madhya Pradesh Government and further notification from the Centre pertaining to alleged fraud of ₹4.09 crore from the Government Account of Land Acquisition Officer, Bargi Diversion Project, Katni (MP) through 53 cloned cheques.

TRAINING SESSION FOR INDIA-AFGHAN OFFICIALS
New Delhi: India and Afghanistan will share experience on modern approach to public service recruitment and hold training sessions for officials. The Union Cabinet okayed the signing of a MoU between the UPSC and the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCS), Afghanistan.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima
Pihibhit Road, Near Allahabad Bank, Khatima (U.S. Nagar) E-mail : eecdkhatima@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice
Letter No. 527/Nivida/32 Date : 22.03.2021

- Name of Work :- Dhoomkhera GOV W/S SCHEME / Estimated cost - Rs. 41.50 Lakh
- Name of Work :- Pipaliya GOV W/S SCHEME / Estimated cost - Rs. 34.77 Lakh
- Period of completion of work :- 03 months
- Date of Online Publication : 24.03.2021 at 17:00hrs.
- Document download : Start Date : 25.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.
- Document download : End Date : 07.04.2021 at 17:00hrs.
- Pre Bid Meeting : 30.03.2021 at 14:00hrs.
- Bid Submission : Start Date : 25.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.
- Bid Submission : End Date : 07.04.2021 at 17:00hrs.
- Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification). : 08.04.2021 upto 17:00hrs.
- Date of Technical & Financial Bid Opening : 09.04.2021 at 11:00hrs.
- Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site : www.uktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima
Pihibhit Road, Near Allahabad Bank, Khatima (U.S. Nagar) E-mail : eecdkhatima@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice
Letter No. 526/Nivida/31 Date : 22.03.2021

- Name of Work :- Kumrah GOV W/S SCHEME / Estimated cost - Rs. 36.22 Lakh
- Period of completion of work :- 03 months
- Date of Online Publication : 24.03.2021 at 17:00hrs.
- Document download : Start Date : 25.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.
- Document download : End Date : 07.04.2021 at 17:00hrs.
- Pre Bid Meeting : 30.03.2021 at 14:00hrs.
- Bid Submission : Start Date : 25.03.2021 at 10:00hrs.
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Executive Engineer

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
1st Floor, A-Block, RBO-1 (AO-1), 11, Parliament Street, New Delhi-11001

PUBLIC NOTICE
We are pleased to announce the merger/shifting of our Vikas Marg Branch (15660) to a more convenient location with effect from 24.03.2021.

The new address is:
METRO STATION VIKAS MARG (19087)
S-523 VIKAS MARG, SCHOOL BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, NEW DELHI-110092
Our Telephone numbers are
Mobile: 9599968961
Landline: 011-22481836 Branch Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified to the general public that I, Sonu S/o Vijay Singh, I have purchased Flat No. 2FF, Block-56, Sector-MU-02, Area 29.76 Sq.Mtr. Vide Allotment No- BHS16-4366. Allotted by GNDA situated at Greater Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. from original allottee Anju Singh W/o Arvind Singh but on original allotment letter name has wrongly written as Anju Singli. Anju Singh (Addhar No. 386647682735) and Anju Singli both are same and one person. If any person claim objection on this property please contact within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Jyoti Singh (Advocate)
D-365, Ganesh Nagar, Delhi-92
Contact 9315811379

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Satveer Singh S/o Shri Ratan Singh R/o B-2, Satya Vihar, Burari, Delhi - 110084 has decided to change my name as Satveer Singh instead of Satbeer Singh and here after I will be known as Satveer Singh.
PD(8963)A

Govt planning 'Poshan Abhiyan' for poor elderly population

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is planning to launch 'Poshan Abhiyan' to provide nutritional support to the indigent elderly population not staying in old age homes and are victims of severe malnutrition, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Rattan Lal Kataria in a written reply said in the Lok Sabha that the scheme will focus on procuring locally available healthy food material and serving mid-day meals to the elderly.

"The gram panchayats and

urban municipalities are the implementing agencies of the scheme. The funding for the scheme is from the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund," he added. Malnutrition is a condition where a person is deficient in nutrients, such as protein, vitamins and minerals, or not getting enough calories. This has many effects on health and body function, including increased frailty, delayed wound healing, and higher mortality.

Experts, however, say that improving nutrition alone might not be the only answer to malnutrition. "Old people may need better fitting dentures to help them eat and drink or food should be easy to chew and swallow.

Shah attacks 'tigress' in Sundarbans

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ GOSABA/SOUTH 24 PARGANAS

Going all guns blazing against Mamata Banerjee for running a Government of 'goons, corrupt and extortionists,' Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asked the people of Sundarbans to throw the 'syndicate and tolabaj (extortionist) Government out of power.'

Hitting the Trinamool Congress where it hurt the most he first dangled carrots promising a new district and huge development package for this tiger-infested delta zone and second he offered a probe into the Amphan scam vowing to put all the culprits behind the bar. The South 24 Parganas, particularly the Sundarbans was the hardest hit by the super-cyclone that hit the State after a gap of about 200 years.

Alleging that 'cut money, syndicate and tolabaji (extortion) were the benchmarks of Mamata regime the Home Minister said Banerjee was warning her chair for nephew and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aim is to develop Bengal... while he works day and night to improve the quality of your life Mamata Didi's only aim is to see the Bhatija (nephew) on the Chief Ministerial throne.'

Shah was addressing a huge rally at Gosaba town at the mouth of inhospitable Sunderbans the world's largest delta.

Accusing the Bengal Government of sitting on a mountain of scams he said "while till date the Modi Government has launched 115 schemes the TMC Government has equal number of scams to its credit," adding "the Centre sent Rs 10,000 crore to help people hit by Amphan (super cyclone) but all that fund were misappropriated by the Bhatija and company."

He said "after BJP wins the elections a Special Investigation Team will be formed to find out the Amphan scamsters and all those involved in the scam will be jailed howsoever big he or she is." Elections to the 294 Assembly seats will be held in eight phases from March 27 to April 29. Votes will be counted on May 2.

Alleging that Banerjee was concerned only with the welfare of her nephew Shah said the Chief Minister was blocking implementation of central schemes in the State like Ayushman Bharat and Kisan Saman Nidhi.

Attacking the Bengal Government for allowing uncontrolled infiltration he said "Mamata Banerjee Government

will never stop infiltration as it suits its vote bank politics. But once the BJP Government comes to power we will stop infiltration... not even a bird will be allowed to enter our territory." The BJP Government would implement the CAA to provide citizenship to the refugees and identify the infiltrators once it came to power in Bengal, he iterated.

Infiltration, border smuggling and cow-racketing through a maze of rivers and innumerable creeks at the mouth of Bay of Bengal and Sundrbans have been a major problem of this area for years.

Promising an overall development of this one of the most backward regions of the State he said once coming to power the BJP Government would not only make Sundrebans a district but also form a Sunderbans development board with a package of Rs 2 lakh crore.

Shah who took out a massive road show at Midnapore town later on Tuesday afternoon will go all out in the final hours of the first phase campaigning addressing five rallies on March 25, party sources said.

Asking the people not to get overwhelmed by the TMC gangsters who capture booths during the elections he said his party was "ready to take on the goons and syndicates" as "we

have to end this syndicate rule of the TMC. We will end this culture... don't get afraid of the goons come out and cast your vote." An irked Chief Minister hit back mounting personal attack on Shah saying, a "Gabdagobda... Hodol kutkut (Bengali slang for a fat man) is threatening the people of Bengal but the people here will unite and reject them."

Alleging that the BJP was planning to bring in police men in civil dresses from States ruled by it to capture booths and rig elections, Banerjee asked the people to remain on guard against the outsiders.

"The BJP is bringing in police men from other states to capture booths, they are also importing criminals from neighbouring States... I am told that some areas at Ayodhya hills bordering Jharkhand are still open from where the criminals are coming... we appeal to the Election Commission to seal the borders," Banerjee told a rally at Para in Purulia district asking the people to "remain alert and brave and drive the outsiders out from your areas if they come to rig elections."

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for peddling lies she said "the Centre is selling off all the government concerns... only Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'factory of lies' will remain.

She said the BJP was making tall claims in its manifesto but they had forgotten about the previous promises made before the Assembly elections in Assam and Tripura.

Saying that the BJP Government had not only slashed government vacancies but also sacked thousands of government employees in the north-eastern States she said "first ask them to fulfill the promises made before the general elections and other Assembly elections."

Meanwhile, in what is being seen as being hit by its own weapon the TMC has drawn the attention of Election Commission alleging that

Suvendu Adhikari the BJP's most high-profile candidate who is contesting against Mamata Banerjee from Nandigram was "hiring criminals and anti-social elements" to rig the polls.

Trinamool Congress leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien wrote to the Commission demanding steps to filter out the criminals being brought in Nandigram. He gave the approximate number of alleged suspicious outsiders who were staying at various addresses for the past several months in Nandigram area and asked the Commission to flush out these men.

Farooq Abdullah shares stage with Panthers Party, Cong leaders in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Farooq Abdullah has worn many hats over the years in his long political career. On Tuesday he became a 'motivational' speaker and delivered a 'fiery' speech on the occasion of 40th foundation day of the Panthers Party in Jammu.

His presence on the stage alongside few Congress leaders from Jammu also created ripples as efforts were being made to forge a 'united alliance' of like minded parties to checkmate Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) in its strong bastion.

Dr Abdullah too used the opportunity to his utmost advantage and went on to warn the people of Jammu region to stay alert against all the 'divisive forces' bent upon creating a communal divide in the society to further their political agenda.

Dr Farooq further said that "India belongs to everyone irrespective of caste, creed or religion. However, in present times, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs are being separated."

Referring to the current scenario prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Abdullah said, "Today is the situation that

our children will not get employment, but employees will come from outside. Then where our educated boys and girls will go for jobs? Will they get jobs in Haryana, Himachal, or Punjab? Will we go to the mountains? What will happen with the sons/daughters?" he questioned in indirect reference to the abrogation of special status which has opened local jobs in J&K to outsiders.

Without naming BJP, Dr Farooq said, "We have seen slogging on development, but where our children will go (for jobs). Without Aadhaar card, even you will not get ration and that (ration) too, has been decreased. How would poor people get the ration? Where do they make such rules?" Dr Farooq said it was an "attack on self respect" of the local residents.

"I have come here to say get united and fight against those who want to create division among us. Our Maharaja Hari Singh was farsighted and his General Zorawar Singh reached upto Tibet to strengthen the erstwhile state which now has been divided (into two Union Territories)," he said.

"If this State, its unity and religion have to be saved, we have to sacrifice for the nation

(India) and for the people of J&K. We have to break the wall of hate," he added.

Without naming any political party, Dr Abdullah appealed to the people of Jammu region to strengthen the hands of Panthers Party leaders.

On the occasion he didn't spare a few Congress leaders too. Pointing fingers towards them he bluntly told them to pull up their socks and work harder towards consolidating their party's base in the region.

Dr Abdullah delivered this speech in the presence of Prof Bhim Singh, President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party. He also paid tributes to the national heroes Sardar Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev who were hanged on March 23, 1931 by the British Govt. in Lahore Central Jail. Last time When Prof Bhim Singh sat alongside Dr Abdullah during a meeting of the constituents of Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration in Jammu in November 2020 Panthers party leader Dr Harsh Dev Singh had expelled its founder Prof Bhim Singh from the party. On Tuesday he too was present on the stage and attended the event.

Akhil alleges torture in custody, claims NIA offered bail if he joined RSS, BJP

Guwahati: Anti-CAA activist Akhil Gogoi in a letter from jail on Tuesday alleged physical and mental torture in custody and claimed that he was offered instant bail by NIA interrogators if he joined either the RSS or BJP.

The letter released by Gogoi's newly floated political outfit Rajior Dal said that the peasant leader was taken to Delhi on December 18, 2019 without the Court's permission. "At the NIA headquarter, I was lodged in lockup no 1 and was given only one dirty blanket. I slept on the floor in 3-4 degree Celsius of temperature," he claimed.

During interrogation, the NIA officials offered him instant bail if he joined the RSS, the letter claimed.

"When I was arguing against the insulting offer, they came out with another proposal of joining the BJP. They said I could contest the Assembly against a vacant seat and become a minister," Gogoi claimed. The RTI activist also alleged that he was offered Rs 20 crore to start an NGO by leaving the peasant body Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) and work against conversion of Assamese people into Christianity. "When I did not accept any of their proposals, they offered me a meeting with the chief minister and an influential minister of Assam. I

turned down that too," Gogoi said.

He alleged that when he accepted none of the NIA offers, he was called a "disobedient citizen" as charged in extreme cases.

"I was threatened with dire consequences if I don't accept their proposals. Death threats also came. I was threatened with at least 10 years of imprisonment. With so much physical and mental torture, I became restless on the night of December 20," Gogoi wrote. He was admitted to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital for treating COVID-19 and remains there for other ailments.

"I was threatened with dire consequences if I don't accept their proposals. Death threats also came. I was threatened with at least 10 years of imprisonment.

"With so much physical and mental torture, I became restless on the night of December 20," Gogoi wrote.

The NIA had arrested him in December 2019 for his alleged role in violent anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests. He was admitted to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital for treating COVID-19 and remains there for other ailments. When contacted, BJP spokesperson Rupam Goswami told PTI "These are all baseless allegations and nothing but cheap politics. PTI

Setback for LDF as gold smuggling accused reveals about Speaker's West Asian dreams

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The ruling CPI(M)-led LDF in Kerala suffered an embarrassment on Tuesday as a statement given by the prime accused in the gold smuggling case Swapna Suresh to the Enforcement Directorate found its way to the media. This time the statement by Swapna Suresh features P Sreeramakrishnan, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, who has been dropped by the CPI(M) from the list of candidates for the April 6 Assembly election.

Sreeramakrishnan had met the ruler of Sharjah during the latter's visit to Kerala in connection with his business projects to set up educational institutions in the oil-rich kingdom. It was the UAE Consulate at Thiruvananthapuram that facilitated the meeting between the Speaker and ruler. Swapna Suresh was the liaison officer at the UAE consulate at Thiruvananthapuram and was privy to the meeting that was held in 2018.

She said the Speaker had consultations with the ruler to get land at sub-

sidised rates in Sharjah for his proposed educational empire. Sreeramakrishnan had plans to invest in educational institutions in many West Asian countries, said Swapna Suresh in her statement to the Enforcement Directorate.

The prime investigating agency was in the process of summoning Sreeramakrishnan for questioning about his role in the reverse hawala transaction. Swapna in her previous statement had alleged that the Speaker had a role in sending US dollars worth one million from Kerala to UAE by hawala route. Sreeramakrishnan had denied all charges made by her in the past but he was not available for comments about the latest media leak about his West Asian business mission.

Though Swapna had given statements naming Sreeramakrishnan and Sivasankar (former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan) for their roles in hawala transactions and gold smuggling, she later retracted from the versions and alleged that the ED officials had coerced and forced her to name Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as the master

mind behind these activities.

The Crime Branch of Kerala Police had last week filed a FIR against ED officials for forcing Swapna Suresh to lie to them in order to tarnish the name of the chief minister. The latest leak came at a time when it looked like the CPI(M)-led LDF had surged ahead in the race to the April 6 poll. But the statement by Teeka Ram Meena, chief electoral officer, that there were thousands of fake names in the voters' list in the State as alleged by Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala has shocked the front leaders. Chennithala had charged that there were more than 4.5 lakh fake names in the voters' list in the State and he claimed that he had submitted the documentary evidences to the Election Commission of India.

Prof Stanly Sebastian, a maverick politician belonging to the BJP, who has been campaigning against the influx of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants to Kerala alleged that there were 20 lakh Bangladeshi and Rohyanga illegal immigrants in the State.

Acid thrown on contract worker after disconnection of electricity

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

A person, who was dazed by the disconnection of the electricity connection, threw acid on the contract worker of the Electricity Department. A few drops of acid fell on the contractor's face, causing the face to scorch. A report has been lodged against the accused in the case. However, the police are talking about throwing chemical used in cleaning of the idol in place of acid.

Jeetu, son of Bhagwati Prasad, a resident of the Shivdan Nagar, is working on contract at the Hastapur Power Sub-station in the Electricity Department. According to Jeetu, he went to pick up the vegetable at the main intersection. Meanwhile, he met Pannalal son of Podinaram, a resident of Asawar.

He started accusing him of power-cutting of his house while abusing him. There was an argument between the two on this. It is alleged that after this Pannalal brought acid and threw acid on him, which caused some damage to victim's face. According to the police, the case is being investigated and the accused is being searched. On the other hand, there is anger among the electrical workers from the incident.

Raj CM: Harisinghji remained dedicated to welfare of every section of society

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that late Harisingh Mahuva was a leader associated with and his personality and work was different. He left an indelible mark while holding various posts in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, including the Chief Whip. He was committed to ideas and remained dedicated to the interests of every section of the society, irrespective of caste and religion.

Gehlot established himself in a newly constructed Sadbhavana Park in Khedla Bujurg village of Dausa district through video conference from the Chief Minister's residence on Tuesday. Harisingh was addressing on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Mahuva. He said that if any person's statue is installed, then generations remember the contribution of that person towards society and country. Self With the installation of the statue of Harisingh ji, the new generation



will get an opportunity to know about him. He raised his voice against social evils and strived for the development of his region. Declaration to make Khedla Dujurg a sub-tehsil

The Chief Minister said that in order to sustain his contribution in the development of the state and the region, he said. Harisingh Ji's ancestral village Khedla elderly was named as Sub Tehsil and a sports stadium in the village was named after him. Announced in the name of Harisingh Mahuva. He said that the state government will not have any shortage in the development of Mahuva and surrounding areas.

11% candidates declared criminal cases in phase 2 Assam polls: ADR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In its latest report, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has said that 11 per cent of the 345 candidates contesting in the second phase of the Assam Assembly elections this year have declared criminal cases against themselves. After analyzing the self-sworn affidavits of all the 345 candidates contesting for the second phase polls to be held on April 1, the ADR said that of the 345 candidates analysed, 37 (11 per cent) candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves and 30 (9 per cent) serious criminal cases against themselves.

The ADR also gave the financial status of the contesting candidates, and out of the 345 candidates, 73 (21 per cent) are crorepatists.

It said 10 (29 per cent) out of 34 candidates analysed from BJP, three (16 per cent) out of

19 candidates from the Assam Jatiya Parishad, three (43 per cent) out of seven candidates from AIUDE, two (33 per cent) out of six candidates from AGP, two (7 per cent) out of 28 candidates from the Congress and one candidate each from AIFB, United Peoples Party Liberal and SUCI(C), have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

The report said three candidates have declared cases related to crime against women. Out of these, one candidate has declared cases related to rape (IPC section 376). Three candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC section 302) against themselves, while two candidates have declared cases related to 'attempt to murder' (IPC section 307) against themselves, it said.

The report also mentioned that two (5 per cent) out of 39

constituencies are 'red alert' constituencies. Red alert constituencies are those where three or more contesting candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves. Among the major parties, the report said, the average assets per candidate for 34 BJP candidates analysed is Rs 2.74 crore; and for 28 Congress candidates, it is Rs 4.78 crore.

It said 19 Assam Jatiya Parishad candidates have average assets of Rs 88.70 lakh; seven AIUDE candidates Rs 21.25 crore, 6 AGP candidates Rs 1.13 crore and 13 SUCI(C) candidates Rs 25.43 lakh. About 209 (61 per cent) candidates have declared their educational qualifications to be between 5th and 12th standard, while 131 (38 per cent) candidates are graduates or above. Two candidates are diploma holders and three just literate, it said.

ED attaches assets of Mumbai-based recruitment firm for duping 900 nurses bound for Kuwait

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said it has attached assets worth over Rs 7.5 crore of a Mumbai-based global recruitment firm and its promoters in a money laundering case linked to alleged cheating of 900 Kuwait-bound nurses.

The agency said it has issued a provisional order for attaching a duplex flat in Mumbai's JVPD scheme area, a plot of land in Kerala and a Mercedes Benz car apart from Rs 4.55 crore in cash of P J Mathew and others.

The action by the ED has been taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). In a statement, the ED said it has attached assets worth Rs 7.51 crore belonging to Mathew, the proprietor of the Mumbai-based global recruitment firm Mathew International, and some people linked to him, including Celine Mathew and Thomas Mathew.

The PMLA case was filed after taking cognizance of a CBI FIR registered against Mathew and Mohammed Naina Prabhu, the promoter of Mumbai-based firm Munavvara Associates.

Mathew was also under the scanner of the Income Tax Department which had seized Rs 4.55 crore cash from his premises in April-May 2015.

"P J Mathew with the help of others recruited more than 900 nurses who were to be employed in Kuwait by charging exorbitant service charges ranging from Rs 18.5 lakh to Rs 20 lakh from each of the applicants," the ED said in a statement. "This service charge was in excess to the stipulated charges of Rs 20,000," it said.

Mathew International "illegally and dishonestly" collected approximately Rs 205.71 crore from the emigrants through the criminal activity, it said. PNS

Bengal Govt showed interest in PM-KISAN just before code of conduct: Tomar

New Delhi: The West Bengal Government showed interest to implement the Central scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) just before the code of conduct for Assembly election came into force. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday said the PM-KISAN Scheme is being implemented successfully all across the country since December 1, 2018.

"Implementation has not started in West Bengal as the State refused to provide verified data of farmers. Just before the code of conduct for election came into force, the Government of West Bengal decided to come on board, but the process to be completed at the level of the state was not fully complied with," he said. PNS

BJP roots for CBI probe into police officers' transfer-posting racket

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid the continued clamour for Home Minister Anil Deshmukh's removal over the "extortion" allegations, Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday opened a new front against the MVA Government, by demanding a CBI inquiry into the alleged racket involving the transfers and promotions of police officers ranging from inspectors to high-ranking IPS officers.

Talking to mediapersons here ahead of his visit to New Delhi to meet Union Home Secretary to hand over the evidence on the alleged racket involving transfers, postings and promotions of police officers, Fadnavis charged that the MVA Government had not acted on a "top secret" report submitted to it in August last year by the then State

Intelligence Commissioner Rashmi Shukla through the then the Director-General of Police Subodh Jaiswal.

Fadnavis said that the then State Intelligence Commissioner had prepared a report after intercepting the call records of "influential" politicians and IPS officers and submitted it to the then DGP Jaiswal, who in turn wrote a letter to the then Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Kuntam Kunte.

In his letter to Kunte through he submitted the Rashmi Shukla report to the government, Jaiswal stated on August 26, 2020, Jaiswal wrote: "... It is recommended that this (report) be brought to the notice of Hon Chief Minister at the earliest.

Fadnavis said that in his letter to the then State Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Jaiswal had recommended a CID inquiry into the report prepared by

Rashmi Shukla. "No CID inquiry was ordered. But Rashmi Shukla was transferred and appointed in a relatively insignificant post as the DG (Civil Defence). Though Rashmi Shukla submitted her report to the state government through the then DGP on August 25, 2020, the MVA government has not taken cognizance of the report," he said.

"I have 6.3 GB of data that includes the call records and the transcripts which I will hand over to the Union Home secretary as he is the custodian of IPS officers and demand a CBI inquiry into the transfer-posting-promotion racket," Fadnavis said.

By seeking to "expose" transfers-postings-promotions of police officers, Fadnavis is making all out efforts to erode the image of the MVA government in general and State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in particular.

NCP DUBS TWO TOP IPS OFFICERS AS BJP AGENTS

Mumbai: Hours after senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis went to town about the alleged racket involving the transfers, promotions and postings of police officers, the NCP on Tuesday dubbed two top IPS officers - former State Director-General of Police Subodh Jaiswal and ex-State Intelligence Department Commissioner Rashmi Shukla - as "BJP agents" working against the MVA Government.

"It is now established that (Jaiswal-Shukla) were working for the BJP and against the MVA government. After unsuccessful attempts for 15 months to destabilize the MVA, the BJP is now resorting to pressurising officers," NCP Minister and the party's national spokesperson Nawab Malik said.

Maharashtra Govt is of extortion, by extortion and for extortion: Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

New Delhi: The BJP on Tuesday made a scathing attack on the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress Government in Maharashtra saying the three-party dispensation is "of extortion (vasuli), by extortion and for extortion."

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Uddhav Thackeray-led dispensation has lost the moral right to govern the state.

His attack came following former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh's allegation that the state's Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had set a Rs 100-crore collection target for the police every month.

Prasad said it was the first time in the country's history that a police commissioner levelled such a charge against a home minister. "When the target of one minister is Rs 100 crore, how much will

it be of the remaining ministers," asked Prasad.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Prasad said, "A 'khela' (game) is going on in Maharashtra. What's happening in the state is not 'vikas' (development), it is 'vasuli' (extortion)."

Dubbing the Maharashtra dispensation as "the most confused government," Prasad said the ruling coalition partners themselves don't know what is happening in the state and who is running the show.

Taking on NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Prasad said the political credibility of the senior leader has taken a hit and that he was forced to speak a patent falsehood for defending his party colleague and state home minister Deshmukh. Prasad further said Pawar's credibility can be restored only if he ensures resignation of Deshmukh.

Days after he was shunted out, former Mumbai Police commissioner Singh wrote a letter to Thackeray alleging that the state home minister had asked Sachin Waze, currently in custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and other police officers to collect Rs 100 crore monthly, including Rs 50 crore to Rs 60 crore from bars and restaurants in Mumbai. Deshmukh had denied these allegations.

The NIA is probing Waze's alleged role in placing an explosives-laden SUV outside industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence on February 25.

The SUV was in possession of Thane-based businessman Mansukh Hiran, who was found dead at a creek near Mumbai. The case related to the death of Hiran was also handed over to the NIA. PNS



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Cheers to that!

The Delhi Government's decision to overhaul its excise policy is a win-win for all the stakeholders

In a move that sent spirits in the Capital soaring, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government has decided to bring about major changes in its antiquated excise policy. These include lowering the minimum age for consumption of liquor to 21 years (from 25 years), exiting the retail alcohol business, overhauling a labyrinthine tax system to boost Delhi's revenue, cracking down on the liquor mafia and improving user experience. These reforms were a long time coming because, with Delhi being a major tourist destination, it needs to make access to alcohol a pleasant experience — and not a harrowing one — for people. And given that the legal drinking age in a majority of the States in India is 21, why should the national Capital be regressive in its thinking? It is just bizarre that a young adult who enters college and is eligible to choose a Government and drive at 18 and start working and get married by the age of 21, is legally not permitted to drink until s/he turns 25 in Delhi. This really doesn't make any sense, given that the drinking age in the neighbouring State of Uttar Pradesh (UP) is 21 and the youngsters just cross over to Noida where they can party to their heart's content as they are eligible to consume alcohol there. So basically, the Delhi Government was losing out on the revenue without being able to prevent the youngsters from drinking.

Now the onus is on the AAP Government to ensure that underage drinking does not become a menace and there is a major and stringent crackdown on driving under influence. The younger generation must be taught to drink responsibly. The AAP Government has made it clear that those under the age of 21 will not be allowed inside restaurants serving liquor if they are alone or in an underage group. Though the international concept of 'Age Gating' will be introduced in India for the first time to prevent underage drinking, with the SOPs being made along with the industry, only time will tell whether the Government is able to deliver on this promise. For those who argue that it will encourage youngsters to imbibe liquor at a younger age than earlier, the only thing one can say is teach your children well. And it is better that they drink on their own turf if they so choose, than crossing over to another State, leaving them open to myriad dangers. The other good news, pertaining to the Government's decision to get out of the liquor-selling business, is that the quality of booze shops will be way better, as will the ambience and service. This is because liquor shops around the country and even in Delhi, which is a major tourist destination, are currently in a state of mess and the staff is rude and apathetic. Any one trying to buy a bottle is made to feel like a criminal for indulging in the habit. The experience is worse for women as most of the shops are in seedy locations that are highly unsafe for women buyers. The new policy is a win-win for all, including the Government which will also be able to mop up additional revenue.

PICTALK



Rohingya refugees look at the remains of a fire at a refugee camp in Balukhali, south Bangladesh

PTI

Nix corruption

Uddhav must act before it's too late to rid his Govt of the taint his Home Minister has brought him

The Chief Minister (CM) is the head of the Government in a State, just as the Prime Minister is the head of the Centre. The Council of Ministers is headed by the CM who can reshuffle their portfolios or ask a Minister to resign. However, it seems that in Maharashtra, it is not CM Uddhav Thackeray but NCP boss Sharad Pawar who wields the real authority. Pawar, literally calling the shots, is outrightly defending his party colleague and Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, against whom serious charges of graft have been levelled by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. Pawar not only ruled out Deshmukh's resignation from the Cabinet but also claimed that he has evidence to prove that Deshmukh is 'Mr Clean'. Pawar, being a seasoned politician, is treading cautiously and doing whatever he can to save the image of his party and its position in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government. He first asserted that it was the CM's prerogative to take an appropriate decision on the issue but, the very next day, proclaimed that there was no need for Deshmukh to go. Pawar has sent out a message — though it is for the CM to take a decision on the matter, but since he has kept mum, it is the responsibility of the NCP chief to drive the Government and his party out of the mess.

Pawar knows that at a time when politics has been relegated to power-sharing among allies and the tussle among them is even more than that with the Opposition, taking a moral high ground by asking the Home Minister to resign hardly makes any sense. Such a step will only weaken the NCP's position in the tripartite Government and give an opportunity to its allies to have an edge over the party in governance. Besides, telling the Home Minister to resign would be assumed as accepting that he is at fault. On the other hand, Thackeray is apparently caught in a Catch-22, a situation where he cannot sack Deshmukh against Pawar's will nor can issue a clean chit to his Home Minister because any such clearance would be deciphered as complicity with corruption, which might be counterproductive to the image of the CM and the Shiv Sena — the party whose founder late Bal Thackeray was known for his impeccable integrity. Meanwhile, Singh has approached the Supreme Court seeking a CBI probe against Deshmukh into the corruption allegations. We can only hope that the judiciary does what the executive has failed to do.

PM's Bangladesh visit will reinvigorate bond

Modi is the chief guest even as Dhaka and New Delhi have shown how neighbours can cohabit and thrive despite the ups and downs



ASHOK K MEHTA

Indisputably, Bangladesh has turned out to be the sheet anchor of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, launchpad for "Act East" and Indo-Pacific strategy. Barring some issues over the CAA and NRC, both the countries enjoy most stable and trusted relations in South Asia. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has, in payback mode, delivered on security — counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism since 2009 — besides connectivity, trade and other bilateral issues. Insurgency in the North-East, down 80 per cent, is in its residual stage courtesy the cleansing of sanctuaries in Bangladesh. The land and maritime boundaries have been settled, including the enclaves. The only problem remaining is sharing the Teesta waters which might be settled with a BJP Government in West Bengal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the chief guest in Dhaka on Friday for the historic triple commemoration: 50 years of the Liberation War of 1971, 50 years of India-Bangladesh bonding and the centenary of the founder of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The joint Indo-Mukti Bahini victory in 14 days with the surrender of 90,000 POWs, including 195 Pakistani soldiers implicated in war crimes, is a rare politico-military feat. It was the first war India was prepared to fight with deft political and diplomatic manoeuvres. Strategic thinker and author Jaswant Singh would describe Bangladesh as geography's revenge over history and lament that Pakistan's military surrender in East Pakistan could not resolve the Kashmir dispute. Now Pakistan-Bangladesh relations are at their lowest following diplomatic excesses, including Islamabad's spying and trial in Dhaka of the Jamaat-e-Islami members aligned with the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) who were not only involved in war crimes but also opposed to independence and secession from Pakistan. A gentle apology from Prime Minister Imran Khan any time now would make a grand gesture of reconciliation.

New Delhi and Dhaka have



shown how neighbours can cohabit and thrive despite the ups and downs. The upward trajectory commenced with Sheikh Hasina's return to power in 2009. The focus has been on connectivity in power grid, digital, road, railway, inland waterways and port facilities. The use of Chittagong Port, which Dhaka had earlier blocked, is now open connecting Agartala, 80 km away in Tripura, over the Maitri Setu bridge across Feni river making it the gateway to the North-East. A new railway service from Dhaka to New Jalpaiguri will augment the existing connectivity network. The aim is to restore and extend the pre-Partition rail-road-river systems.

Bangladesh's economy is booming. The World Bank in its latest report has noted that environment-friendly projects will enhance GDP — in Bangladesh by 17 per cent and in India by eight per cent. Both the countries have defused friction points except the sharing of Teesta waters, vital for irrigation in north-east Bangladesh during the dry season. A Chinese-funded project is assisting in the management of Teesta. India and Bangladesh share waters of 54 rivers, operating under the Joint River Commission network. But it is



BANGLADESH'S ECONOMY IS BOOMING. THE WORLD BANK HAS NOTED THAT ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY PROJECTS WILL ENHANCE GDP — IN BANGLADESH BY 17 PER CENT AND IN INDIA BY EIGHT PER CENT. BOTH THE NATIONS HAVE DEFUSED FRICTION POINTS, EXCEPT SHARING OF THE TEESTA WATERS

the people-to-people connect that is at the heart of bilateral relations. Sheikh Hasina calls India a "true friend". More than 1.6 million visas are issued to Bangladeshis annually, the highest to any country. Both the countries have evolved effective "differences-resolving" mechanism by high-level visits and conversations. The CAA and NRC are prickly issues that were smoothened out. The Rohingya issue has become complex after the junta's coup. India has donated two million doses of COVID-19 vaccine in addition to five million doses to be supplied commercially.

Commemoration of the Liberation War annually in New Delhi, Dhaka and Kolkata has been institutionalised. As an Indian soldier who helped the Mukti Jodhas in their Liberation War, I was a privileged invitee to Dhaka to celebrate freedom and recall the march to victory with Bangladeshi colleagues, which is a bonding in blood.

The father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, celebrates his centenary as Banga Bandhu with Modi and Hasina jointly inaugurating the Mujib-Bapu digital exhibition and Mujib being conferred the Gandhi award. President Mohamad Abdul Hameed will

release the Sheikh's memoirs to relive his political struggle cut short by his assassination in 1975 which led to an era of military rule. It was in this period that the seeds of anti-Indianism were sown. As late as in 2013-14, on a visit to Dhaka, I discovered that the Bangladesh Army was treating India as Red Land and China the high benefactor.

In his book, *Zulfi Bhutto of Pakistan*, Stanley Wolpert says: "If only Bhutto had abided by election results, there would have been no Bangladesh and any reason for India to intervene. India and the Federal Republic of Germany facilitated the return of 195 PoWs charged with war crimes by persuading Mujib to be lenient. In 1973, German Chancellor Willy Brandt, through protracted negotiations with emissaries of Zulfiqar Bhutto and Mujibur Rahman, succeeded in convincing Mujib that he should forego the trials. Sheikh Mujib displayed extraordinary courage and wisdom towards reconciliation with Pakistan. But that, alas, was short-lived."

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PRECAUTION

Sir — India's COVID vaccination drive has picked up pace but it is not where it should be — considering how the new variants of the virus can ramp up cases as they have worldwide. The cases are rising and we are going back to square one. People have absolutely no regard for others; they are not wearing masks, social distancing has gone out the window and, moreover, hygiene has taken a backseat. We cannot afford to go back to square one but it looks like we are heading towards it.

The new variants — that were discovered in the UK, South Africa and Brazil — pose a big challenge. But with the kind of capacity we have, the hope is there that many in the coming months would get vaccinated and the country could move towards normalcy. We need to vaccinate faster, or else, face another lockdown. However, a day after when India detected around 40,000 new COVID-19 infections, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Tuesday issued an order with guidelines for controlling COVID-19 which will be effective from April 1 and remain in force up to April 30. The guidelines mandate the State and UT Governments to strictly enforce the "Test-Track-Treat" protocol in all parts of the country. From April 1, all people above 45 years of age are entitled to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Even people without comorbidity and above the age of 45 years can get vaccinated. But still we must not drop our guard as there is no substitute to taking precaution.

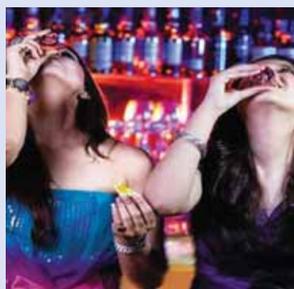
Sean Colin Young | Delhi

REALISE THE DREAM OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Sir — Many people gave their lives in order to win Independence from the British rule. In order to pay homage to these heroes, India celebrates *Shaheed Diwas*. On March 23, three freedom fighters — Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev — were hanged to death by the Britishers. They fought for our independence and sacrificed their lives for the cause. For many young Indians, they are a source of inspiration.

Unfortunately, most of our political

Alcohol should not be promoted



The Delhi Government's decision to lower the minimum age for consumption of liquor to 21 years from 25 is not something that is to be welcomed. The Government's argument that it will stop harassment of people is just an excuse. We are all aware that alcohol use is widely prevalent in Indian society and it results in the cirrhosis of liver, heart disease, diabetes as well as absenteeism, road accidents and various mental health and behavioural problems. Various studies world-

wide have reported a strong association between alcohol use and indulgence in high-risk behaviour, domestic violence, high-risk sexual behaviour, crime and violent acts. Further, too much of alcohol consumption weakens the immune system, making the body a soft target for diseases. Chronic drinkers are more liable to diseases like pneumonia and tuberculosis than people who do not drink much. Drinking a lot on a single occasion slows the body's ability to ward off infections — even up to 24 hours after getting drunk. In such a grim scenario, lowering the age amounts to promoting the habit of alcoholism among the youth. It will have an adverse repercussions not only for individuals but for society also.

A young wo/man at 21 is not as mature as at 25. We must remember that alcohol use disorder is frequently associated with other substance use disorders, anti-social personality disorder, anxiety disorders, mood disorders like depression and also bipolar disorder. The Government will not gain anything except the revenue while the future of this country will dwell in darkness.

Seetharaman B | Telangana

EVERY DROP OF WATER IS PRECIOUS

Sir — People must realise the importance of water conservation. It is seen that peo-

ple are ignorant towards the issue of saving water and tend to waste it. We should turn off the tap while washing our face, hands or brushing the teeth. This saves a lot of water. In fact, the freshwater problem has led experts to predict that some of the most densely populated Indian cities will be uninhabitable in a couple of decade's time. The only way we can prevent this catastrophe from befalling us is by mending our ways.

We need to conserve fresh water resources like rivers and ponds. We must also ensure that underground water doesn't get contaminated and spoiled. The Centre is putting in efforts through its various initiatives and programmes but we must do our bit.

Amit Singh Kushwaha | Satna

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

If the BJP is voted to power this time, we will make the Sunderbans a separate district within one year of coming to power in Bengal.



Union Home Minister — Amit Shah



The country is going to significantly reduce the number of its soldiers. The size of the Army would be reduced from 76,500 to 72,500 by 2025.

UK's Defence Secretary — Ben Wallace

When people saw me as a bubbly girl, I wasn't faking it. That is surely a side of me, but I am a little more serious as a person than the people think of me.



Actor — Parineeti Chopra



It's a great start for Lee Zii Jia after a sluggish start in January. It's great to see him have such desire to play well and never give up despite all challenges and critics.

Malaysia badminton coach — Wong Choong Hann

Age group criteria should be removed and COVID-19 vaccination should be made available to all.



Rajasthan CM — Ashok Gehlot



FIRST COLUMN

TIME TO REIN IN AGRI GHG EMISSIONS

In our hurry to attain global food security, we cannot put the environment in jeopardy



KOTA SRIRAJ

Food security is assuming a critical role in ensuring the prosperity of nations. According to a report by the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, world food production must increase by 70 per cent in order to adequately feed the projected global population of nine billion by 2050. This will not be an easy task considering the challenges posed by the rising population, increasing rural to urban migration and dwindling food production due to climate change.

These challenges necessitate accelerating food production but the accompanying spike in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions has created a *Catch-22* situation. According to a study conducted by Italian researchers published in the journal *Nature Food*, one-third of global GHG emissions are linked to food production. The research was based on data from food production systems for the period 1990-2015 and it concluded that in 2015 alone, 34 per cent of GHG emissions or 18 billion tonnes of CO₂ was emanated from food systems across the globe, which included livestock.



The rapid rise in the GHG levels in the food production sector is attributed to land use change, indiscriminate use of fertilisers and waste generation. While the industrialised economies have been able to keep GHG output from food production at 24 per cent, the Asian nations are witnessing 35 per cent emissions from the agriculture sector. The Asian scenario is worse, mainly due to methane output from livestock and rice crops which traditionally have a higher GHG output quotient. The fact that rice is a staple diet in many Asian countries does not help the cause. Refrigeration, too, has caused an exponential rise in GHG emissions. Research shows that 43 per cent of energy consumption by retail outlets and supermarkets across the globe has heightened the emissions output as these commercial businesses use large-scale static refrigeration and refrigerated transportation solutions to increase the shelf life of perishable food items. Further, the packing processes itself causes 5.4 per cent global food systems emissions. Though it helps in keeping the food fresh, it comes at a cost to the environment.

Agriculture contributes nearly 20 per cent to the Gross National Product (GNP) and provides employment to nearly two-third of the population. The agri-sector played a pivotal role in the Green Revolution and provided food security, but the rising costs of cultivation due to the scarcity of resources, expensive labour and energy mean that farmers have to achieve more yield with as less inputs as possible. Fertiliser use has increased which in turn leads to a bigger GHG emission footprint. Currently, agriculture accounts for 18 per cent of the total GHG emissions in the country and this footprint is set to expand.

Control over farm GHG emissions must be achieved without adversely impacting the agronomics and financial well-being of the farmers. Digitally-programmed nutrient tools that determine the optimum input of fertilisers as per land type are a great way of achieving reduction of chemical use without compromising on the yield. Similarly, the use of advanced solar energy modules to power farm energy needs is yet another way to dial down the GHG emissions. Using the Japanese concept of *Just In Time* (JIT) can also help bring efficiency in supply chain management of farm produce. JIT can help the produce reach markets on time so that the need for energy-guzzling cold storages can be avoided. The increased use of organic nutrients, too, will help reduce the emissions and provide tangible health benefits for consumers. In our eagerness to attain food security, we cannot put the environment in jeopardy. The spiralling GHG emissions from the farm sector need to be kept in check in tandem with the rising production.

(The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Challenges await the UP Govt

There could be a sense of complacency that people will vote for the BJP in the absence of an alternative. Yogi needs to shrug it off and ensure that infrastructure projects take shape soon

Sabir Ahmad was sitting outside a tea shop in Attara market in Banda, Bundelkhand, when this reporter met him by chance on February 10. He lives in a nearby village and had come with his friend Vinod Chaudhry to the market to purchase some goods. During the conversation, he casually mentioned that he had got a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). "I must thank Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for giving us a *pucca* house," he said as his friend, who is also a beneficiary of PMAY, nodded in agreement. "I am happy that Yogi, as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, is ensuring that Government benefits reach Hindus and Muslims alike," Ahmad said.

Yogi's political image (constructed by his rivals) is that of a Muslim-hater. When the BJP named him as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP) in 2017, questions were raised whether a monk of a mutt would be able to control the politically-sensitive State. The Muslims reacted sharply. They feared that Yogi had been selected to strengthen the party's *Hindutva* raj. The internal balance within the BJP, too, was tilted against him because Yogi was branded as a rabble-rouser and had revolted against the party leadership many a time. It was believed that he would never be able to complete full term in office because of his domineering nature. Some political pundits even believed that Keshav Prasad Maurya would replace him.

However, in the last four years, Yogi proved everyone wrong. Yogi gradually gained stature in the party and his hard work paid dividends. After Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, Yogi emerged as a top-ranking leader in the BJP. At the national level, people started talking about him having prime ministerial calibre. At the administrative level, Yogi not only controlled Hindu hardliners but also instilled confidence among the Muslims. The cow vigilante groups or the rowdy Bajrang Dal activists who were usually active during Valentine's Day have all but vanished. The police were given a free hand and even Right-wing leaders were sent to jail once they went to the other side of the law.

"The mantra of this Government is '*sabka saath, sabka vikas*' and we are sticking to it. There is no difference between Hindus and Muslims. The Government is working for the welfare of all sections of society," the Chief Minister told this reporter recently.

Yogi said that when the Government assumed office, the State's coffers were empty, law and order was in a shambles. In many areas of UP, the situation had become so bad that people were forced to sell their houses and settle in other places. The current Government has established the rule of law and good governance. As a result, all the festivals are held in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

Yogi was sworn in as the 21st Chief Minister of UP on March 19, 2017, and is the fourth from the BJP to occupy the top post. Before him Kalyan Singh, Ram Prakash Gupta and Rajnath Singh served as the Chief Ministers of UP. Yogi is the longest-serving BJP CM and is likely to complete his full term even as none of the other BJP CMs completed three years in office. In the last four years, he has been able to win the hearts of the people. The perception of people has changed because of the improvement in law and order and infrastructure facilities. As a result, UP has become number one in programme implementation and is now a



THE YOGI GOVERNMENT HAS DEDICATED THE LAST FOUR YEARS IN TACKLING INFINITE CHALLENGES, EXPLORING ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES AND REALISING THE DREAMS OF THE PUBLIC. THE MANTRA OF 'REFORM, PERFORM, TRANSFORM' ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT HELPED IN RESTORING UP'S IMAGE AS A STATE WITH INFINITE POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES

The writer is Executive Director (News), Lucknow Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.



sought-after destination for investors. MoUs worth ₹4.68 lakh crore were signed at the Investor Summit held in Lucknow in 2018. Out of these, projects worth over ₹3 lakh crore have been started. An investment of ₹50,000 crore was made in the defence corridor set up in Bundelkhand which will also create five lakh employment opportunities. As many as 13 new MoUs worth ₹4,500 crore have also been signed at the Aero India show held in Bengaluru recently.

The Yogi Government has dedicated the last four years in tackling infinite challenges, exploring endless possibilities and realising the dreams of the public. The mantra of "reform, perform, transform" adopted by the Government helped in restoring UP's image as a State with infinite potential and possibilities.

This has resulted in the creation of an atmosphere of development, trust and good governance in UP. The Government has set new standards of development in every field. This has helped the Chief Minister to change the perception of people towards UP and investors are coming to the State because the Government has introduced transparency in its working. That's why UP is second in the Ease of Doing Business index in the country. Police reforms, too, were pending for years. These were implemented to improve the law and order machinery.

Perception has become the buzzword now and Yogi talks about change in perception in all his speeches. Addressing a series of rallies in Bengal and Assam, he talked about the change in perception and

how people of all castes, creed and religion are marching forward together because they have a belief that the BJP Government will protect them. This change in perception has helped big multi-national companies to set up their units in UP. Sugar mills, which were closed for decades, have started operations and the ambitious 'One District, One Product (ODOP)' scheme has given wings to local artisans and they are getting work in their villages only.

The Government's dossiers claim that the State has helped over 49 lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) units in UP to get a finance of over ₹1,84,000 crore from various banks in the last four years. This year alone, bankers have financed over seven lakh new MSME units. In the last four years, the economy of the State has increased to ₹21,73,000 crore from ₹10,90,000 crore taking UP to the second position in the country. UP is moving towards becoming the biggest economy in the country and its per capita income has also almost doubled. According to the latest report by the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in the State came down to 4.1 per cent in February from 17.5 per cent in 2017. This proves that despite the Coronavirus pandemic that has delayed many projects, employment opportunities have been created in UP.

What has gone in favour of Yogi is his transparent style of working. The Government has given appointments to over four lakh people in the Government sector, without any complaints coming to the

fore. During Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati's time, the Government appointments were mired in controversies and accusations of favouritism.

However, all these achievements come with challenges. The biggest challenge Yogi is facing now is to lead the party in the Assembly elections slated for early next year amid the Opposition's charges that the suffering of the people is being ignored by Government officials and political leaders. Recently, a video of Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya went viral where he can be seen rebuking a woman who had come to him for help.

Ram Iqbal Singh, a lawmaker from Ballia, said recently in a BJP State working committee meeting that *tehsils* and police stations have become centres of corruption. Surendra Singh, another lawmaker seconded it. Last week, Yogi's office issued notices to 25 DMs and SSPs for not picking up calls from the CMO despite a clear directive from the Chief Minister that district officials should attend all calls or call back if they missed any call.

Such ugly incidents could harm the party in the next election. In the absence of an effective Opposition, the BJP is almost ruling the roost. There could be a sense of complacency that people will vote for the BJP in the absence of an alternative. Yogi needs to shrug it off and ensure that infrastructure projects actually take shape before the end of this year. He needs to shepherd his resources and manpower to a legitimate end. This is a big challenge and how Yogi meets it, only the time will tell.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE BILL IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND IT TAKES AWAY CERTAIN RIGHTS OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT WHICH WERE GIVEN UNDER A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
—CONGRESS MP
MANISH TEWARI



WE HAVE NOT SNATCHED ANY POWER FROM THE DELHI GOVERNMENT, NOR HAVE WE GIVEN ANY ADDITIONAL POWER TO THE L-G.
—UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME
G KISHAN REDDY

India must try for a bigger role in Afghanistan

New Delhi has got a chair on the high table after successful backroom diplomacy. But India must utilise this opportunity to become more vital to the peace process

Lloyd Austin, the Defence Secretary under the Biden Administration, decided to make an unscheduled stop at Afghanistan after concluding his first foreign visit to meet close allies in Asia. After meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Austin met key officials in Korea and in India where he also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Post this scheduled trip which aimed to bolster the US alliance network, the Pentagon chief took an unexpected detour to Kabul. Austin — a former four-star General in the US Army who played a key role in the exit of US forces from Iraq — went to Afghanistan ostensibly to "listen to soldiers." The visit assumes significance since by all indications the May 1 deadline set for the withdrawal of US forces (and with it the NATO forces) is likely to be missed. During the intervening period



GAURI DWIVEDI

The writer is a senior journalist and Visiting Fellow at the United Services Institution of India. The views expressed are personal.

of the present flux and the new deadline, there will be a lot of behind-the-scenes geopolitical developments where India can make itself relevant by playing a more central role in deciding the future of the troubled country. Though there is little doubt that the US forces will withdraw soon since there is little political appetite for continuing the US' longest battle, the Biden Administration is still in the process of fine-tuning its final strategy. This may delay the withdrawal by anywhere between a few weeks to a few months (the US media reported a six-month extension) adding to the flux the war-torn country is in.

Irrespective of the actual date of the withdrawal of forces, it's clear that the future of Kabul does not look too bright. The Taliban is stronger than ever before with a 80,000-1,00,000 strong force. It's in con-

trol of most highways and has already given threats of a "reaction" if the May 1 withdrawal is delayed. In all probability, the Taliban hints at a bloody spring even as it continues to have deep links with the Al-Qaeda. Taliban's benefactor Pakistan — which is a key part of decision-making for the future of the country — will not be able to resist the urge to use the group against India. New Delhi and Islamabad announced a ceasefire after wholesale violations by Pakistan. But after the Taliban takes control of the interim Government in Kabul and continues to enjoy patronage of other radical Islamist organisations, will this agreement be of any consequence?

India's security challenges are likely to intensify after the Taliban takes control of the Government. Since the possibility of holding elections soon looks remote given the simul-



taneous challenges such an exercise would entail, the Taliban will become part of the interim Government. So while Afghan President Ashraf Ghani is clear that he will make way only for a democratically-elected Government, this clause is unlikely to be a deal breaker for world powers. So, a stronger Taliban, which continues to enjoy patronage from other radical outfits and becomes part of the Government, will mean a possible opportunity for Islamabad to identify ways to

hurt Indian interests.

New Delhi has managed to get a chair on the high table after successful backroom diplomacy. But India needs to utilise this opportunity to become more vital to the entire peace process. India has been historically disadvantaged by its stance of "no talks" with the Taliban and no boots on the ground.

So, despite being one of the largest donors (\$3 billion of aid), it does not command much geo-strategic weight. While it cannot build inroads in the organisation overnight, New Delhi needs to be realistic about how to address the challenges. Not engaging at all has brought diminishing returns so far. But if the Taliban forms the next Government in Kabul, New Delhi stands to lose by continuing its policy.

Austin's surprise decision to stop at Kabul and the message

he gave to the soldiers posted in the country seems to suggest the possibility of the troops being asked to hold fort for longer. This means during the flux, India can build its bridges through its other powers to play a more meaningful role. Come April, Turkey will play host to a crucial round of talks with all stakeholders to finalise the withdrawal strategy. But most of them would like to squeeze New Delhi's role, given the existing tensions between India and its hostile neighbours.

So, while Ankara will utilise this opportunity to tide over a difficult diplomatic phase with Washington, it will also like to further marginalise India's role to come good on its strident posturing. If there is no breakthrough in the proposed talks, for a number of reasons including the Taliban's refusal to fulfil the terms of the deal, New Delhi should up the ante.

Afghanistan is fast becoming a battleground where geo-strategic priorities of Russia, China and Pakistan are being aligned, one of which is to completely marginalise India's role.

New Delhi's best bet is to align its priorities and engagement with the US. The Biden Administration is not in a similar hurry as the Trump Administration and the May 1 deadline is not cast in stone. But as the US leaves behind a very volatile Afghanistan, it will be a tinderbox for New Delhi too and requires active engagement.

In a post-pandemic world order India envisions itself as a regional heavyweight against China. This vision cannot be limited only to the Indian Ocean Region, but should extend to its regional neighbourhood, including Afghanistan. Neither should it wait to "eventually play a role."

MYANMAR COUP

Junta justifies crackdown, accuses Suu Kyi of graft

Yangon: Myanmar's military junta on Tuesday took the offensive to justify last month's coup and subsequent actions against those opposed to it, even as street demonstrations continued against the takeover.

At a news conference in the capital Naypyitaw, the military presented a video of a former political colleague of ousted national leader Aung San Suu Kyi claiming he had handed over large amounts of cash and gold to her personally, in what the military has characterized as corruption. Such allegations were previously denied by her lawyer.



People push a stretcher with body of a man who a doctor said was shot and killed by Myanmar security forces during anti coup protest in Mandalay, Myanmar on Tuesday

Many of the protests Tuesday were staged in a way that avoided confrontations with authorities, who have not hesitated to use lethal force to break up demonstrations. Some marches were held before dawn in Yangon, the country's biggest city, and elsewhere and went unprovoked. Other protests adopted the tactic of having signboards or other inanimate objects lined up in the street to serve as proxies for human demonstrators.

verification has been difficult, is probably much higher. It said 2,682 people have also been arrested or charged since the coup, with 2,302 still detained or sought for arrest.

In its news conference, the military presented displays of seized homemade weapons and videos of street battles to argue that the demonstrators are violent and that its efforts to stop them are justified. However, in the weeks since the Feb. 1 coup, protesters only began using organized violence after more than 100 demonstrators had been shot dead by police and soldiers.

The allegations against Suu Kyi made by former Yangon

Chief Minister Phyo Min Thein were first mentioned by the military several weeks ago. Last week the military-controlled Myawaddy TV station aired a similar video with a construction magnate who also claimed to have made large payoffs to Suu Kyi. That video was replayed at Tuesday's news conference.

No supporting evidence for the allegations has been offered, and they are generally dismissed as an effort by the military to frame Suu Kyi so she can be discredited and tried on a serious criminal charge. She is already being held on several more minor charges.

China summons foreign diplomats in protest over sanctions

Beijing: China on Tuesday said it summoned foreign diplomats in protest after the United States, the European Union, Canada and Britain jointly imposed sanctions on senior Chinese officials over alleged human rights abuses in China's far western Xinjiang region.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying on Tuesday called the new sanctions a "slander and an affront to the reputation and dignity of the Chinese people."

"I admonish them that they should not underestimate the firm determination of the Chinese people to defend their national interests and dignity, and they will pay the price for their folly and arrogance," Hua told reporters at a daily briefing.

That came hours after the Chinese and Russian foreign ministers denounced new wave criticism and sanctions against both countries over human rights.

At a news conference in the southern Chinese city of Nanning, China's Wang Yi and Russia's Sergei Lavrov rejected outside critiques of their authoritarian political systems and said they were working to further global progress on issues from climate change to

the coronavirus pandemic.

"Countries should stand together to oppose all forms of unilateral sanctions," Wang said. "These measures will not be embraced by the international community."

Russia is also under Western sanctions over human rights abuses and military aggression against Ukraine. Lavrov said Russia's ties with China grew stronger as Moscow's relations with the EU suffered damage, while accusing the West of "imposing their own rules on everyone else, which they believe should underpin the world order."

"If Europe broke these relations, simply destroying all the mechanisms that have been created for many years... Then, probably, objectively, this leads to the fact that our relations with China are developing faster than what's left of relations with European countries," Lavrov said.

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, the two ministers said no country should seek to impose its form of democracy on others.

"Interference in a sovereign nation's internal affairs under the excuse of advancing democracy is unacceptable," the statement said.

US backs Philippines in standoff over SCS reef

Manila (Philippines): The United States said on Tuesday it's backing the Philippines in a new standoff with Beijing in the disputed South China Sea, where Manila has asked a Chinese fishing flotilla to leave a reef. China ignored the call, insisting it owns the offshore territory.

The US Embassy said it shared the concerns of the Philippines and accused China of using "maritime militia to intimidate, provoke, and threaten other nations, which undermines peace and security in the region."

"We stand with the Philippines, our oldest treaty ally in Asia," the US Embassy in Manila said in a statement.

Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Sunday demanded about 200 Chinese vessels he said were militia boats leave the Whitsun Reef, a shallow coral region about 175 nautical miles

(324 kilometers) west of Bataraza town in the western Philippine province of Palawan.

Philippine officials said the reef, which they call Julian Felipe, is well within the country's internationally recognised exclusive economic zone, over which the Philippines "enjoys the exclusive right to exploit or conserve any resources."

The Philippine coast guard spotted about 220 Chinese vessels moored at the reef, which Beijing and Vietnam also claim, on March 7.

On Monday, a surveillance aircraft spotted 183 Chinese vessels still at the reef, said Philippine military chief Lt. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, who released aerial pictures of the Chinese vessels in one of the most hotly contested regions in the strategic waterway.

The Philippines has filed a diplomatic protest over the Chinese presence, Foreign

Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. Said.

China insisted it owns the reef, which it calls Niue Jiao, and said the Chinese vessels converged in the area to avoid rough waters.

Beijing denied the vessels were maritime militias.

"Any speculation in such helps nothing but causes unnecessary irritation," the Chinese Embassy said in a statement on Monday.

"It is hoped that the situation could be handled in an objective and rational manner."

The US Embassy, however, said "Chinese boats have been mooring in this area for many months in ever increasing numbers, regardless of the weather." China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have been locked in a tense territorial standoff over the resource-rich and busy waterway for decades.

Court sentences 14 terrorists to death for attempt to kill Hasina

Dhaka: Fourteen Islamist militants were on Tuesday given death sentence by a Bangladeshi court here for attempting to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2000.

Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of Dhaka's Speedy Trial tribunal-1 pronounced the verdict as nine of them were brought to the court from jail to face the trial in person.

The rest five convicts are on the run. They were tried in absentia and defended by state-appointed lawyers.

"The verdict will be executed by a firing squad to set an example, unless the law barred it," the judge said.

Otherwise, the convicts could be hanged in line with the prevailing practice, following mandatory review of the death sentences by the High

Court Division of the Supreme Court under the Bangladesh law, the judge said.

Under the Bangladesh law, the death sentences would require to be endorsed by the High Court following an automatic death reference hearing. The convicts are allowed to file an appeal as well.

For the five convicts who are at large, the judge ordered they be executed after their arrest or surrender.

All the convicts are operatives of outlawed Harkatul Jihad Bangladesh (HuJI-B).

HuJI-B's chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, who was found to be the mastermind of the plot, too was indicted in the case but his name was dropped from the trial as he was executed in 2017 in another case involving attempted assassination of the then Bangladeshi-origin British High Commissioner.

Seoul: The leaders of China and North Korea are reaffirming their traditional alliance following contentious talks between top diplomats from Washington and Beijing and diplomatic isolation and economic problems in the North that have left it ever-more dependent on the Chinese. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday leader Kim Jong Un called for stronger "unity and cooperation" with China in the face of challenges posed by "hostile forces" while exchanging messages with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Cairo: Children constituted a quarter of civilian casualties over the last three years in Yemen's grinding war between Iran-backed Houthis rebels and the internationally recognised government, a child relief agency said Tuesday. More than 2,300 children were killed between 2018 and 2020, Save the Children said in a new study. However, the group said the actual toll is likely to be much higher.

United Nations: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed profound concern over the rise of violence against Asians and people of Asian descent during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying thousands of incidents through the past year perpetuated a "centuries-long history" of intolerance, stereotyping and abuse. Guterres's statement comes against the backdrop of multiple shootings this month in and around Atlanta that killed eight people, among whom six were Asian women. Robert Aaron Long, 21, a white man, admitted to police that he had killed four people inside two spas in Atlanta and four others at a massage parlour in suburban Cherokee County.

Colorado shooting leaves 10 dead in latest mass tragedy

Boulder (Colorado): A shooting at a crowded Colorado supermarket that killed 10 people, including the first police officer to arrive, sent terrorized shoppers and workers scrambling for safety and stunned a state that has gripped several mass killings. A lone suspect was in custody, authorities said.

Hundreds of police officers from throughout the Denver metropolitan area responded to the Monday afternoon attack, converging on a King Soopers supermarket in a busy shopping plaza in southern Boulder.

SWAT officers carrying bal-

istic shields slowly approached the store as others quickly escorted frightened people away from the building, some of its windows shattered. Customers and employees fled through a back loading dock to safety. Others took refuge in nearby shops.

One suspect was in custody, a fearful Boulder Police Chief Maris Herold said late Monday. Authorities didn't identify the suspect, though Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty said the suspect was the only person injured and was receiving medical care.

Navalny's allies call for major rally across Russia

Moscow: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny's allies on Tuesday called for a new massive protest across the country to demand his release from prison.

In a statement posted on Navalny's website, they urged Russians to sign up for a protest on an interactive map and said they will set a date for it when the number of people willing to take part reaches at least 5,000,000 nationwide.

The organisers promised in a statement that the rally would be the biggest that Russia has seen.

The 44-year-old Navalny, who is President Vladimir Putin's most outspoken foe, was arrested on Jan. 17 upon his

return from Germany, where he spent five months recovering from a nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have rejected the accusation.

Last month, Navalny was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for violating the terms of his probation while convalescing in Germany. The sentence stems from a 2014 embezzlement conviction that Navalny has rejected as fabricated — and which the European court of Human Rights has ruled to be unlawful.

Navalny's arrest fuelled a series of protests that drew tens of thousands to the streets across Russia.

Israelis return to polling station to decide PM Netanyahu's fate

Jerusalem: Israelis returned to polling stations on Tuesday for an unprecedented fourth time in two years in what is being largely seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's continuance at the helm of affairs amid his ongoing trial on corruption charges as well as his handling of the pandemic. The elections were called barely seven months after the last government was formed after the Likud and Blue and White party failed to agree on a budget by a December 23 deadline.

London: UK-based pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca said Tuesday it will release further data "within 48 hours" on US trials of its Covid-19 vaccine, after health officials raised concerns about the initial information disclosed.

The company pushed back against a statement from the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) which said that "outdated information" may have been used to conclude that its vaccine was highly effective against Covid.

"We have reviewed the preliminary assessment of the primary analysis and the results were consistent with the interim analysis,"

AstraZeneca said in a statement.

"We intend to issue results of the primary analysis within 48 hours," it added.

The US health agency's evaluation comes after AstraZeneca said on Monday that stage three US trials of the vaccine had shown it was 79 percent effective.

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Ethiopia's leader says atrocities committed in Tigray war region

Kampala (Uganda): Ethiopia's leader on Tuesday said atrocities have been committed in Tigray, his first public acknowledgment of possible war crimes in the country's northern region where fighting persists as government troops hunt down its fugitive leaders.

"Reports indicate that atrocities have been committed in Tigray region," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in an address before lawmakers in the capital, Addis Ababa.

War is "a nasty thing," Abiy said, speaking the local Amharic language.

"We know the destruction this war has caused." He said soldiers who raped women or committed other war crimes will be held responsible, even though he cited "propaganda of exaggeration" by the Tigray People's Liberation Front, the once-dominant party whose leaders challenged Abiy's legitimacy after the postponement of elections last year.

Abiy spoke as concern continues to grow over the humanitarian situation in the embattled region that is home to 6 million people.

The United States has characterized some abuses in the Tigray war as "ethnic cleansing," charges dismissed by Ethiopian authorities as unfounded.

It also has urged Eritrean troops, who are fighting on the side of Ethiopian government forces, to withdraw from Tigray.

The Ethiopian prime minister, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 for his efforts to make peace with Eritrea, faces pressure to end the conflict in Tigray as well as to institute an international investigation into alleged war crimes, ideally led by the United Nations.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Name of work: Supply & fixing of jumper cable support link assembly (Stainless Steel) for LHB AC coaches.

Tender No.: 30-Elect-3TR-Chg-2020-21

Approx cost of the work in (Rs.): Rs. 12,94,020/-

Cost of tender form: Rs. 0.00/-

Address of the Office: Sr. Divt. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.

Earnest Money: Rs. 0.00/-

Period of completion of work: 04 Months

Last date & time of submission of tender: 16.04.2021 up to 15.00 hrs.

And opening of tender: 16.04.2021 at 15.01 hrs.

Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Single bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following work. Tender Notice No.: KR-W-01-58-2020-15. Name of Work: Permanent Way Zonal Contract for Maintenance of Track under the jurisdiction of Senior Sectional Engineer, Ratnagiri of Konkan Railway in Maharashtra State. Estimated Cost: ₹ 4,18,47,015/- excluding GST. Completion Period: Two years including monsoon. Closing Date/Time: 15/04/2021 up to 15:00 hrs for submission of online Offers/Bids. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit <https://ireps.gov.in> website for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum will be hosted in this website only.

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that DINESH KUMAR SUKUMARAN / Garima Sachdeva (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD00002010573 located at Flat No B4/122 12th Floor, Sector-24 Aravali Heights, Dharuhera, Rewari The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated MARCH 11, 2021 informing that Dwarakadhis Projects Pvt. Ltd. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: March 24, 2021 For ICICI Bank Limited
Place: Delhi NCR

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one person namely **Surender Singh S/o Ramher Singh R/o H.No. 1271, Gali No.29A, S/Nagar, Narela, Delhi** has been missing (along with her daughter namely Preeti Age: 33 Years) since 20.02.2021 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard a case vides DD No. 84A dated 25.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi. The description of missing person is as under:

Name : Surender Singh, Father's Name : Ramher Singh, Age : 60 years, Height : 5'6", Face : Round, Built : Medium, Complexion : Shallow, Wearing : Blue Colour shirt and black colour pant and Hawai Chappal in feet. Hair: Normal

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/870/ON/2021

SHO P.S., Narela, Delhi Ph.: 011-27280435 7065036323

GUJARAT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
Executive Engineer, Unit No-2 (Sujalam Sutalam), Gandhinagar, State Water Data centre building, Sector-8, Gandhinagar Ph.No.079-23236711/23236712

Tender Notice No.: -05 - 2020-21 (2nd Trial)

The Executive Engineer, Unit No-2 (Sujalam Sutalam) 2nd floor, State Water data centre building Sector-8 Gandhinagar PIN-380008, Gujarat State Invites on line tender (E-Tendering) for following works(EPC works) in three bids system from experienced and resourceful agencies as under

Sr No	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs in crore)	Qualification of bidder (1) Class (2) EMD. (3) Tender fee (4) Time limit (5) Solvency
1.	Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract for Construction of Pumping Station-2 Nos at various locations and supplying and laying M.S. pipeline (ID) of various dia such as 1500 mm dia, 950 mm dia & 800 mm dia of various thickness such as 11 mm, 10.5 mm, 7 mm & 6.5 mm including designing, providing, lowering & laying underground pipeline with allied works etc with operation and maintenance of commissioned project for 10 years including 3 years Defect liability period for Madhavgadh Taluka Talod to Raygad Taluka Himmatnagar Dist Sabarkantha Pipeline Project	Rs. 170.53 crore	(1) 'AA' class (2) Rs 170.53 lacs (3) Rs. 21240/- (Rs 18000+3240 GST) (4) 24 month (excluding 10 year o & M period) (5) 34.11 Crores

1. Date of uploading - 23/3/2021
2. Pre-Bid Meeting - Dt-01/04/2021 at 12:00 hrs
3. Last date for downloading tender document and On line submission of tender - Date 23/4/2021 upto 18:00 hrs
4. Physical submission of tender of Tender fees, EMD & Other document Only by speed post / R.P.A./Courier - from Dt.24/04/2021 to 30/04/2021 upto 18:00 Hrs
5. The EMD exemption certificate will not be accepted
6. The EMD less than 180 days validity will not be accepted and offer will not be considered
7. online verification of Tender fee EMD and other document and Pre-qualification bid Date 1/5/2021 12 hrs
8. The details of above tender will be available on www.statetender.com www.gwrdc.gujarat.gov.in and www.gwrdc.nrcpre.com. The tender will be accepted only on line

R.No.: NO/INF/VPN/2020/G/2213

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Ravi S/o: Vishawanath Rathore, R/o: H.No. A-55, Gali No. 12/5, Mukundpur Part-2, Delhi** is missing since 25.10.2020 at about 10:00 AM from his home. In this regard DD No. 79A dated 02.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. The description of missing man is as under:

Name: Ravi, Age: 28 Years, Height: about 5'6", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Normal, Wearing: Black Shirt, Blue Jeans and Black Shoes in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing man please inform P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO Police Station, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi Ph.: 011-27811933, 7065036238

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male named Purshotam, S/o Kesariya, R/o H.No. H-1/30, 3rd Floor, Vijay Vihar, Phase-I, Rohini, Delhi. Age: 65 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, was wearing Linedar Half Nicker, Sky Blue colour Shirt and Grey colour Sweater and Bare feet, was found at Y-Block, near Shani Mandir, at Footpath of Tej Singh Akhara Wali Gali, Avantika, Sec.-1, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 102A, dated 05.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

His dead body has been preserved in BSA Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hrs. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 011-27521294, 27521295

M.P. HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (IIIRD CALL)

Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:-

System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract	Completion period (Months)	Date of Purchase and Submission of Bids	Date of Opening of Tenders
2021-MPHID-136121	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WORK, RENOVATION WORK, BARRIER FREE WORK AND DEVELOPMENT WORK AT GOVT. COLLEGE (GIRLS) CHACHODA DISTT. GUNA.	Rs. 220.13 Lakh EMD 220130.00 COST OF FORM Rs. 17700.00 (I/C 18%) (Registered in PWD Centralization System)	12 Months i/c rainy season	25.03.2021 At 10:30 A.M. to 07.04.2021 At 17:30 Hrs	Envelopes - A & B 09.04.2021 At 10:30 A.M. Envelope - C 16.04.2021 At 15.00 Hrs

1. Interested bidders can view the detailed NIT on website <http://www.mphousing.in> and <https://tenders.gov.in> 2. The bid document(s) can be purchased only online as per schedule and Tender Portal. 3. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspapers. 4. All Documents of Envelop A, B & C may be submitted only Online, No offline Document accepted.

Visit us : www.mphousing.in
E-mail : eednhgun@mp.gov.in
M.P. Madhyam/100398/2021

PAWAN MARKAM (EXECUTIVE ENGINEER) Division Guna, Mob.: 9926320408

Banks' NPAs declined to ₹5.7L cr at Dec-end: Thakur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Non-performing assets of banks declined to ₹5.70 lakh crore in December 2020 and the recovered amount stood at ₹2.74 lakh crore following a slew of measures taken by the Government, Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur told Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

During Question Hour, the Minister of State for Finance also said the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has helped in the recovery of NPA (Non-Performing Assets).

"There has been a reduction in gross NPAs. The NPAs - which stood at ₹8.96 lakh crore in 2018 - have reduced to ₹5.70 lakh crore in December 2020. Recovery of ₹2.74 lakh crore was also made," Thakur said while replying to a supplementary question in the

Upper House.

According to him, the occurrence of frauds, which resulted in high NPAs, has also witnessed a sharp decline as a result of steps taken by the government.

The incidents of frauds reduced to 0.23 per cent from 1.01 per cent in 2013-14, the minister added.

Further, Thakur said IBC brought by the government has resulted in major reforms and improving the debtor-creditor relation and better recovery rate.

Under the present regime, banking has vastly improved, from phone banking to digital banking, which has resulted in transparency and accountability, he noted.

In reply to a supplementary question, Thakur said 7 out of 12 public sector banks have taken up on priority efforts to introduce digital banking and

added that this will result in competition with the private sector banks and benefit consumers with better products.

The minister praised initiatives like the SBI Yono service.

UPI Bhim was being praised by big companies like Google and Facebook, he added.

In reply to another supplementary by Anil Desai (Shiv Sena) who wanted to know whether the platform for providing and processing loans in 59-minutes has miserably failed, Thakur said that the member came from the economic capital of the country which resulted in an uproar.

Deputy Chairman Hariyansh said nothing will go on record except the answer.

Thakur said banks have already sanctioned Rs 60,000 crore on the 59-minutes platform.

Markets back to winning ways; bank stocks rally post SC's moratorium verdict

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices regained their footing on Tuesday, propelled by banking stocks which surged after the Supreme Court declined to extend the loan moratorium period and said complete waiver of interest is not possible. Reversing last session's losses, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 280.15 points or 0.56 per cent higher at 50,051.44.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 78.35 points or 0.53 per cent to close at 14,814.75. UltraTech Cement was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.06%, followed by IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Titan, Axis Bank, SBI and Reliance Industries. On the other hand, ONGC, PowerGrid, ITC, NTPC, M&M and HDFC were among the laggards, shedding up to 2.28%.

The apex court on Tuesday refused to interfere with the Centre's and the RBI's decision to not extend the loan moratorium beyond August 31 last year, saying it is a policy decision. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that the top court cannot do judicial review of the Centre's financial policy decision unless it is mala fide and arbitrary.

It also directed that no compound or penal interest be charged during the six-month moratorium period, but added that complete waiver of interest is not possible as it will have huge financial implications.

Domestic market ended the day on a strong footing supported by a rally in banking stocks amidst weak cues from global markets. Sentiments in the banking stocks were lifted post Supreme Court's order against granting interest waiver and extension of moratorium period.

Telecom sector headed for second round of consolidation: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Providing services like broadband connectivity, cable TV, enterprise solutions, and payment wallets is the need of the hour for telcos, and a second wave of consolidation is upon the industry, a rating agency said on Tuesday.

India Ratings and Research said the sector, which was battered following the aggressive entry of Reliance Jio, will continue showing signs of recovery amid conducive regulatory environment and maintained a "stable" outlook for the industry in FY22. The second round of consolidation (Consolidation 2.0) is kicking-in in the industry, which will bring a transformation in the business models of telecom companies, leading to the evolution of incumbents from the providers of traditional voice-only services to complete digital solutions for households, it said.

BRIEFS

FULKARI FESTIVAL-2021 ON MARCH 27, 28

Directorate of Jammu is organising "Fulkari-2021" a festival of folk, colours and music in collaboration with M/S Atlas Event Management on 27th of March at Mansar and 28th of March at Jammu respectively. Jammu Region endowed with abundant natural beauty is all set to enter a new era of peace and development by celebrating the first of its kind Mega Event "Fulkari-2021". The foothills of Jammu, the holy lakes of Mansar and Surinsar, the forts of Mahoregarh and Samba etc. offer a range of activities for people of all age groups. The aim behind organizing "Fulkari-2021" is to promote Mansar and Jammu as a most sought tourist destinations of the country. To enhance the feeling of festivity a plethora of activities will be organised in these two days concentrating on - Adventure, Nature, Culture, Entertainment etc. The festival will combine these themes with the majestic aura of the region to please and entertain the tourists-a rare feeling to behold!



WATER SUPPLY WILL BE AFFECTED FOR 2 DAYS

New Delhi: Due to annual flushing program of Shadipur Reservoir under the command area of Chandraraj Water Works, water supply will be affected on 24/03/2021 to 25/03/2021 in the following areas: East Patel Nagar, West Patel Nagar, Baba Farid pur. Residents are advised to store sufficient quantity of water in advance as per their requirement. Water tankers will be available at telephone nos. 1916, 1800117118, (Central Control Room), 25223658, (Punjab Bagh).

Govt exits Tata Comm; sells stake for ₹8,846 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Govt has exited Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) by selling about 26 per cent stake in the company for about ₹8,846 crore as part of the disinvestment plan.

Public sector company VSNL was privatised in 2002 by divesting 25% shareholding along with transfer of management control to Panatone Finvest Ltd, the strategic partner. Subsequent to the strategic disinvestment, the name of the company was changed to TCL. "Disinvestment of government holding completed of 16.12% in TCL through OFS at ₹5,457 crore and 10% to strategic partner at OFS discovered price for ₹3,389 crore. With this, govt exits from TCL with total proceeds of Rs about ₹8,846 crore," Telecom Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in tweet on Monday.

GST collections top ₹1L cr for five straight months since Oct 2020: MoS Finance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Increased economic activities have resulted in higher GST collection which stood above ₹1 lakh crore for five months in a row since October 2020, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Thakur, during Question Hour, said this could be possible on the back of the measures taken by the Government to boost economic activities over the last year to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

"GST collection has increased. If you see e-way bill data, numbers... Activities have

increased," the minister said.

"GST collection has witnessed above ₹1 lakh crore for a stretch of five months since October 2020... The GST collection during the period has been higher than the collection in the same period last year," he said. On the economy, Thakur said V-shaped recovery is being seen as the third quarter GDP numbers are positive and trade is getting better.

The Indian economy had seen a contraction of 24.4 per cent in the June quarter of FY21, impacted by COVID-19.

After two consecutive quarters of contraction, the

country's GDP entered into a positive territory with a growth of 0.4 per cent in the October-December quarter of the current fiscal.

"When COVID-19 pandemic erupted... -24.4 growth rate was recorded in April-June... Modi government has initiated several good steps with a positive result and 0.4 per cent growth was in the third quarter," Thakur said.

He also listed various steps taken by the government during the pandemic to boost the economy, including stimulus packages under Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme, emergency credit line and loan moratorium.

Govt garners ₹30,369 cr as dividend from PSUs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has collected ₹30,369 crore as dividend from Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) so far in the current fiscal, according to a senior official.

In the revised budget estimate, the Govt significantly lowered the dividend receipt from the CPSEs to ₹34,717.25 crore from ₹65,746.96 crore estimated earlier for this financial year. "Dividend receipts of GoI (Government of India) from CPSEs stand at about ₹30,369 crore in the current financial year (as of 22.3.2021)," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a tweet.

Domestic edible oil prices not risen as much as global rates: Goyal

New Delhi: Domestic edible oil prices have not increased as much as international rates which have been ruling very high over the year, Food Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday in Parliament.

As per the Govt data, the average retail price of groundnut oil stood at ₹180 per kg on Tuesday, higher than ₹120 per kg a year ago.

Similarly, retail mustard oil prices increased to ₹147 per kg to ₹110 per kg, soya oil to ₹130 per kg from ₹90 per kg, while that of sunflower oil to ₹140 per kg from ₹105 per and

Palm oil price to ₹160 per kg from ₹82.5 per kg in the said period.

Goyal, in his written reply to the Lok Sabha, said: "The prices of edible oils are rising internationally and since domestic production is inadequate, domestic prices of edible oils have risen during the last year. "However, there is no commensurate increase in the domestic wholesale and retail prices of edible oils as compared with the international prices which have been ruling very high over the year," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Mr. Prakash Jha, Shri Surshyam Jha & Mrs. Navneet Kaur, W/o Gagandeep Singh have been appointed as legal heirs of the late Shri. S.C. Builders Pvt. Ltd. and have not done any fraudulent activities while serving the company & there was no internal audit going on. That in case of any dealing after 08.03.2021 on behalf of my clients to SCC Builders Pvt. Ltd., in that case my clients shall not be responsible for any act done by the SCC Builders Pvt. Ltd. That since we both have disclosed the fraudulent activities by way of sharing data, done by the management committee/ directors of SCC Builders to Catalyst Trustship Ltd. and IDFC First Bank Ltd. on 08.03.2021. It is for the reason that SCC Builders have got published a false & frivolous notice against us in Times of India (Times Classified and NBT) on 17.03.2021.

My both clients intend to initiate defamation proceedings against them as well.

K.K. Sharma (Advocate)
Ch.No. 385, Patiala House Court, New Delhi-01

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANS. LINE MAINTN. DIV-VIII, JKPTCL, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, JAMMU J&K.
Email: xentlcd01@gmail.com Ph/Fax: 0191-2451732

E-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/J32 of 2020-21 Dated: 25/02/2021

CORRIGENDUM

Due to poor response, the E-NIT No.: TLMD-VIII/J32 of 2020-21 dated :- 25.02.2021 is extended further as per the dates mentioned below :-

A. E-Bid online and hard copy submission (end) date & time :- 27.03.2021 up to 1600 Hrs.

B. Technical Bid opening date & time :- 29.03.2021 at 1500 Hrs in the office chamber of Executive Engineer, TLMD-VIII, JKPTCL, Jammu.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Trans Line Maintn. Division-VIII,
JKPTCL Jammu

No. DIP/J-5094-P/20
Dated :- 23-03-2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one female namely Mala D/o Ram Sewak R/o B-53 Azad Colony, Budh Vihar, Phase-2, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Budh Vihar, Delhi since 24.02.2021. In this regard, a case DD No. 46-A Dated 25.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing female is as under.

Age: 21 Years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5' 1", **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour jeans, yellow colour T-shirt and sleepers in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped female then please inform PS: Budh Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

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

Sd/- S.H.O.
PS: Budh Vihar, Delhi
Mobile No.: 8750870326

DP/736/RD/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower's have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan Account Number & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Ajay Gupta, Subhash Chander Gupta, L 4 902 Kedar Building Subzi Mandi Chook Tower, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGUR0001875857	Flat No- KBA 11-2001, Kensington, Boulevard, Jaypee Green, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 21,64,027.5/-	31-08-2019
2.	Kamal Mehra, ATW Visa Services Pvt Ltd, Kuber Singh Mehra, Aakshi Suri, A- 53 Sector 36, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD0002298863	Flat No- GD10173202, 32nd Floor, Tower- 17 Jaypee Greens, Greens Garden Isles, Buildup In Sector-133, Jaypee Greens Noida, Uttar Pradesh	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 15,24,130/-	31-10-2019
3.	Surender Prasad Pandey, urmlia Pandey, A- 238 Jhimli Colony, Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBNOD0004433543	Flat No 2102, 21th Floor Tower- 1 Unibera, Plot No Gh- 16F Sector- 1 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 33,47,060/-	31-12-2019
4.	Ankit Mathur, Ayush Mathur, Renu Mathur, Dharampal Satyapal Ltd, DS Road Sector- 67, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:- LBGHZ00003876233	Flat No. 1103, 11th Floor Block Sun 2, Migsun Roof Khas, Min Village, Makrammat Sikrood, Jalalabad, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 15,92,797/-	29-02-2020
5.	Devesh Pratap Singh, amrita Singh, G 53 A G Block Shakarpur, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002474247	Flat No- 1031, 10th Floor Tower Saraswati Plot No Gh 01A, Sector 10 Mantra 2 Ganga And Gayatri Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 1,24,840/-	29-02-2020
6.	Ganta Narendara Kumar, Ganta Yamini Vasudha, 19C MIG Flats, Pocket- 6, Mayur Vihar, Phase- III, Delhi A/c No:- LBNOD0001993656	Apartment No. GD10122904, Garden Isles, Wishtown Noida, Jaypee Greens Noida	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 44,82,977/-	30-11-2017
7.	Rupali Vashishtha, Vivek Vashishtha, H No- 195, Sec- 5, Channi Himmat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu, A/c No- LBJMM00002362789	Plot No. Gh- 01D, 1st Floor, Sector 10, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Graeter Noida Uttar Pradesh	06-Jan-2021, Rs. 6,67,045/-	31-07-2018
8.	Yogesh Giri Goswami, UMA Goswami, Apartment No 213, Building No- 69 Discoverly Garden Street- 5, Dubai, dubai A/c No- LBGUR0002380047	Flat No V 607, 6th Floor, Tower Victoria Heights Dehradun, Dehradun, Uttaraanchal	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 74,87,172/-	31-03-2019

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower's and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: March 24, 2021
Place: Delhi/NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER FOR MECHANIZED CLEANING OF PLATFORM RETURN TRAINS

Department: Mechanical Executive: Sr. CDO - MIMCT Tender Notice No.: BCT-MCC-STR-2020 Dated: 20.03.2021.

Name of Work with Location: Mechanized cleaning of Primary / Secondary / STR / Platform Return Trains including Depot Premises of Mumbai Central Coaching Depot Approx. Cost of work : ₹15,10,66,158.94/- (including EPF, ESIC & GST) EMD: Nil Date & Time of submission (closing) : 19.04.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time of opening : At 15:30 hrs. on 19.04.2021. Please visit www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.

D-0747
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concerned public at-large that Smt. Veena Chawla w/o Sh. Dinesh Chawla R/o B-43, Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar-4, New Delhi-110024 is the original allottee of residential plot no. D-186, Sector-10B, NOIDA (area 165.60 sq.meters). The aforesaid property has been sold to the benefit of GPA dated 07/10/2005 which was registered at MP in favour of Sh. Ashok Kumar Khanuja S/o Sh. Sant Lal Khanuja, Resident of 71, Silver Park, Delhi-110051. Now the said plot is being transferred in favour of Shri Ramavtar Aggarwal S/o Late Sh. H.K.L. Aggarwal, R/o B-15, Acharya Niketan, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091. If anybody has/have any objection may file objection in 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the office of Residential Plots Department of Noida Authority

Ashok Kumar Khanuja

ELECTION COMMITTEE

The Shripra Srishti Apartment Owners Association Plot No-15, Ahinsa Khand -1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, 201014

Notice is hereby given to the eligible voters and residents of above society that Election of the Board of Members and Executive Body for the year 2021 - 2022 shall be held on Sunday, 18th April 2021 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM in two shifts i.e. Board's Voting (8:AM - 12:00 PM) with Election of Office Bearers from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM on the same day followed with declaration of result. The actual timings may change based on practical issues.

The schedule of each activity is as under:-

Sr.No.	Activity	Date
1.	Cutoff Date for Voter Registration	31st March 2021 by 6 PM
2.	Publishing Voters List	1st April 2021
3.	Last Date for Filing Nomination	2nd April 2021 by 6 PM
4.	Last Date for Withdrawal/Correction of Nomination	4th April 2021 by 6 PM
5.	Final List of Nomination	5th April 2021
6.	Cut off time for Campaigning	18th April 2021 by 7 PM
7.	Election Date for Board of Members	18th April 2021 8 AM to 12 PM
8.	Counting of Votes for Board Members	18th April 2021 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM
9.	Declaration of Results for Board Members	18th April 2021 3 PM
10.	Nomination for Office Bearers*	18th April 2021 4 PM
11.	Election for Office Bearers*	18th April 2021 5 PM to 8 PM
12.	Counting of Votes for Office Bearers*	18th April 2021 8 PM onwards
13.	Declaration of Result for Office Bearers*	18th April 2021 after Counting
14.	Reserve Date for Election	25th April 2021

The further details are displayed at the notice board & may be had from the facility office. Date: 24.03.2021 For and on Behalf of Election Committee Place: Indrapuram, Ghaziabad (Chairman)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Surrender of SEBI Investment Advisers registration by Alpha Advisors. Alpha Advisors was registered with SEBI as an Investment adviser under SEBI (Investment Advisers) Regulations, 2013 from the period January 12, 2017 to January 11, 2022. Alpha Advisors is surrendering the registration and has already stopped the activities under investment advisory services w.e.f. November 17, 2020. In view of the same, any aggrieved party may make any representation against the surrender before SEBI within 15 days of the date of notice.

Trade Name: ALPHA ADVISORS Partners : Amardeep Singh Chadha and Dharminder Singh Chadha, Registered Address: S-45 JANTA MARKET, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI - 110027 Registration No: INA100006922 Category of Intermediary: Investment Adviser Sd/- 22.03.2022 Amardeep Singh Chadha Place: New Delhi Partner, Alpha Advisors

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Email: dyemcncon@ner.railnet.gov.in, INTERNET : www.ireps.gov.in Fax No. 0551-2282448

TENDER NOTICE NO. 06 DATE :-23/03/2021

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Dy Chief Material Manager/Con, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-Procurement system for the supply of the following Items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. No.	Tender No. Due Date	Brief Description of Stores	Qty. Required	Earnest Money (Rs.)
01	17215006 Dt. 19.04.2021	PVC insulated armoured under ground unscreened railway signalling cable (12Cx1.5 Sq. mm)	403.00 Kms.	1327550.00
02	17215005 Dt. 21.04.2021	PVC insulated armoured under ground unscreened railway signalling cable (19Cx1.5 Sq. mm)	159.00 Kms.	677590.00
03	17205013 Dt. 21.04.2021	PVC insulated armoured under ground unscreened railway signalling cable (6Cx1.5 Sq. mm)	204.00 Kms.	389670.00
04	17195214 Dt. 23.04.2021	PVC insulated armoured under ground unscreened railway signalling cable (24Cx1.5 Sq. mm)	152.00 Kms.	876350.00

1. Above tenders are available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm desires in participating against e-tender are advised to electronically regd. themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtained) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act, 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted.

2. Advertised tender of Dy. Chief Material Manager/Con. NER, Gorakhpur, are being opened through EPS (E-Procurement System) only. Firms desiring to participate in Dy. Chief Material Manager Con, NER/GKP should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/ New Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.

3. In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail.

4. Head of allocation towards cost of Earnest money & S D money is 00844556.

5. Above Items are reserved to be procured from RDSO approved sources only.

CPRO-S-68 Dy Chief Material Manager/Con, N.E. Railway Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794849555

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

GUJARAT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

Executive Engineer, Unit No-2 (Sujalam Sulfam), Gandhinagar, Sate Water Data centre building, Sector-8, Gandhinagar. Ph.No. 079-23236711/23236712

Tender Notice No:- 06-2020-21 (2nd Trial)

The Executive Engineer, Unit No-2 (Sujalam Sulfam) 2nd floor, State Water data centre building, Sector-8 Gandhinagar PIN-380008, Gujarat State invites on line tender (E-Tendering) for following works(EPC works) in three bids system from experienced and resourceful agencies as under.

Sr No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs in crore)	Qualification of bidder (1) Class (2) EMD. (3) Tender fee (4) Time limit (5) Solvency
1.	Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract for Lift irrigation M.S. Pipeline project for transmission of 50 cusecs of water from Matpur village taluka- Patan to Dhari extended Branch 4 & 5 near Bhranawada village taluka - Unjha District Mehsana including Construction of Pumping Station, supply and laying M.S. pipeline of 1200 mm (ID), 8mm thickness with allied works etc with operation and maintenance of commissioned project for 10 years including 3 years Defect liability period for Matpur - Bhranawada Dist Mehsana Pipeline Project	Rs. 55.13 crore	(1) 'AA' class (2) Rs 55.13 lacs (3) Rs. 21240/- (Rs 18000+3240 GST) (4) 18 months (excluding 10 year o & M period) (5) 11.03 Crores

1 Date of uploading :- 23/3/2021
2 Pre-Bid Meeting :- Dt-01/04/2021 at 13.00 hrs
3 Last date for downloading tender document and Online submission of tender- Date 24/3/2021 upto 18.00 hrs
4 Physical submission of tender of Tender fees, EMD & Other document Only by speed post / R.P.A.D/courier - on Dt. 24/04/2021 to 30/04/2021 upto 18.00 Hrs
5 The EMD exemption certificate will not be accepted
6 The EMD less than 180 days validity will not be accepted and offer will not be considered
7 online verification of Tender fee, EMD and other document and Pre-qualification bid Date 01/05/2021 13.00 hrs
8 The details of above tender will be available on www.statetender.com, www.gwrdc.gujarat.gov.in and www.gwrdc.nrcrore.com. The tender will be accepted only on line

N.No.: NO/NINF/VPN/2020/G/2214

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
... A Joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 24.03.2021

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/20-18/RB/SV/48	PART CONVERSION OF 66 KV D/C OVERHEAD LINE TO UNDERGROUND CABLES INCLUDING SUPPLY, LAYING, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 66 KV 1x1000 SQ MM XLPE CABLE FOR BYPL KHICHIRIPUR GRID TO BYPL PATPARGANJ IND AREA GRID CKT 1 & 2	₹ 2.59 Crore	₹ 5.18 Lakh	14.04.2021 15:00 Hrs	15.04.2021 14:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/49	SUPPLY OF ONAF COOLED POWER TRANSFORMERS OF RATING 20/25MVA	₹ 10.00 Crore	₹ 10.00 Lakh	14.04.2021 15:00 Hrs	14.30 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/50	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF ONAN COOLED TRANSFORMERS OF RATINGS 400, 630, 1000, 1600 & 2000 KVA 11/0.433KV	₹ 12.10 Crore	₹ 12.10 Lakh	14.04.2021 15:00 Hrs	15.04.2021 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/51	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF FEEDER PILLAR TYPE A	₹ 1.00 Crore	₹ 2.00 Lakh	14.04.2021 15:00 Hrs	15.04.2021 15:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/52	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV XLPE INSULATED ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR POWER CABLE OF SIZES 2CX10 MM2 AND 2CX25 MM2	₹ 8.45 Crore	₹ 8.45 Lakh	14.04.2021 15:00 Hrs	15.04.2021 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/53	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV XLPE/AB POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	₹ 16.02 Crore	₹ 16.02 Lakh	14.04.2021 15:00 Hrs	15.04.2021 16:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/54	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 11KV XLPE/AB POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	₹ 14.44 Crore	₹ 14.44 Lakh	14.04.2021 15:00 Hrs	15.04.2021 17:00 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹1,180/- For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com →Tenders → BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD → Open Tenders.

Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-39997111 | Fax:011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com



MANAGE YOUR FINANCES

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil. It is not for you to choose what he shall know, what he shall do. It is chosen and foreordained and he only holds the key to his own secret.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Workshop on Atmanirbhar Bharat

A workshop was conducted on the theme of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat through Experiential Learning, Vocational Education, Internship, Apprenticeship and Entrepreneurship' at the University School of Education, GGSIP University in collaboration with MGNCRE, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education on the March 23, 2021.

The workshop was well received by the target audience which comprised of the principals and faculty of BED colleges affiliated to GGSIP University. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Dhananjay Joshi Dean, USE and was steered by Dr. Shatrughan Bhardwaj covering all the aspects of pedagogical inputs required to establish a synergy between experiential learning, vocational education, internship, apprenticeship and entrepreneurship for making Bharat Atmanirbhar in the real sense.



MBA IN DIGITAL HEALTH
The IIHMR University invites applications for MBA in Digital Health.



It is an interdisciplinary master's programme in digital health, aimed to develop highly qualified experts in areas requiring interface between computer science, IT and medicine.

The programme enables in staying at the cutting-edge of emerging health technology, including digital health, telehealth and health automation.

Duration: Two years
How to apply: Log on to www.iihmr.edu.in
Last date to apply: March 25, 2021.

BACHELOR IN DESIGN
The School of Design and Visual Arts (SDVA) at Apeejay Stya University (ASU) invites applications for admissions to its Bachelor in Design programme for the year 2021-22 with specialisations in Fashion Design, Interior Design, Animation & Multimedia, and Graphic Design.

After completion of the course, a student may work as a Fashion Designer, Fashion Stylist, Costume Designer, Interior Designer, Graphic Designer, Animation or Creative Head in reputed fashion & apparel brands, design houses, media houses, or corporate houses/institutions according to their specialisations.

Some students with an entrepreneurial bent of mind may opt for setting up ventures in their respective fields.

Eligibility: Students need to secure at least 50% aggregate marks in Class XII in any stream from a recognised Board. Those students who are going to attend their final exams this year may also apply; however, the final admissions will be held only after they submit their board certificates with the minimum aggregate marks as mentioned.

All eligible applicants shall be shortlisted based on their overall academic performances and aptitude in the online entrance test followed by a mock test.

How to apply: The application forms can be downloaded from the University website: www.university.aapeejay.edu.

Last date to apply: June 8, 2021.

and entirely new categories of companies that can combine and analyse industry data. How is this huge amount of data handled and through what medium or tools the data is processed or stored? This is where Big Data comes into the picture. Big Data Analytics course covers two important frameworks Hadoop and Spark, which provide some of the most important tools to carry out enormous big data tasks.

The first module of the course will start with the introduction to Big data and soon will advance into big data ecosystem tools and technologies like HDFS, YARN, MapReduce, Hive, etc. In the second module, the course will take you through an introduction to spark and then dive into Scala and Spark concepts like RDD, transformations, actions, persistence and deploying Spark applications.

Data Science for Business Decision Making

Upgrade in collaboration with IIM Kozhikode has launched the programme Data Science for Business Decision Making for professionals from all backgrounds. Every business requires to use data in order to solve complex issues, so there is a purpose why Data Science has progressed as a lucrative and high-growth career option. Professionals can choose to upskill their career by exploring this alternative, by undertaking a course in Data Science.

The live session on "How to become a full stack developer" by Ritvik Raj, Trainer of Full Stack Development and expert in HTML, CSS, JS, Java, Python will shine a spotlight on the impact of pandemic on the current trending technologies in 2021. The instructor will introduce the participants to the concepts of full-stack development. Interested students can log in on : <https://www.greatlearning.in/academy/learn-for-free/courses/how-to-become-a-full-stack-developer-in-2021>.

Great Learning, one of India's leading edtech companies for professional and higher education has announced that it will be hosting a webinar on how to become a full stack developer in 2021 on March 26, 2021.

The one-hour long live session is free of cost and can be attended by anyone who is willing to understand the basic concepts of full stack development and looking to kickstart a career as a full stack developer.

increased due to job losses and uncertainty in the private sector post Covid-19. Recruitment exams have started again after a pause.

Chandraprakash Joshi, Co-Founder, ixamBee said: "Working from home, we recorded 100 per cent plus revenue growth in the last two quarters. Also 99.7 per cent of our website traffic is organic that reflects the popularity of ixamBee among students. Funding at this stage

will help us in creating superior ixamBee's learning experience (iLX) and accelerating our growth."

Co-founded by Chandraprakash Joshi (EX-RBI and alumni of ISB, Hyderabad), Arunima Sinha (EX-SIDBI) and Sandeep Singh (EX-MakeMyTrip) the platform has been focussing on providing complete online learning experience to the students to whom coaching classes are not accessible.

Technology has made sweeping changes in all aspects related to managing money. DR RAJANI GUPTA lists emerging trends in the field for creating an efficient workforce

One functional area that is sought after by several MBA students is Financial Management. In the recent past technology has made sweeping changes in all aspects related to managing money and financial management. Here are a few emerging trends in Financial Management, which can't be ignored and B School must focus and impart knowledge in these areas in order to create an efficient workforce which is future ready.

Fintech: Today the influence of digital technologies on finance is palpable and digital banks, wallets, blockchain tech, and more are becoming a reality. Digital finance is the term used to describe the impact of new technologies on the financial services industry. It includes a variety of products, applications, processes and business models that have transformed the traditional way of providing banking and financial services. To remain relevant in the future understanding all aspects of fintech and knowing how it is altering the landscape of financial services can help in creating an efficient workforce.

Financial Analytics: Financial analytics helps in shaping up business goals. Any organisation can improve the decision-making strategies of business by getting deeper insight about the financial status of its business and improve the profitability, cash flow and value of its business. Data Science and Financial analytics is being used in many financial institutions including insurance companies, banks to understand the consumer to reduce losses by eliminating below zero customers, to increase cross-sale and to measure the lifetime value of a customer. Financial analytics is an important area which must be studied by tomorrow's force which can deal with financial management.

Artificial Intelligence in Finance: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool that is already widely deployed in financial services. It has great potential for positive impact if companies deploy it with sufficient diligence and care. AI is being implemented by banks to assess risks, detect and prevent payments fraud,

To remain relevant in the future understanding all aspects of fintech and knowing how it is altering the landscape of financial services can help

improve processes for anti-money laundering (AML) and perform know-your-customer (KYC) regulatory checks. Artificial intelligence is leading the front of the digital transformation strategy in finance today and its role is going to grow bigger in the future. Adept proficiency in AI is mandatory for an efficient workforce of tomorrow.

Financial Fraud Detection:

Modern financial institutions face the growing threat of fraud in its different and ever-changing ways. Fraud detection is a set of activities undertaken to prevent money or property from being obtained through false pretences. Fraud detection is applied to many industries such as banking or insurance. Data mining is used to classify, cluster, and segment the data and it helps in automatically finding associations and rules in the data that may signify interesting patterns, including those related to fraud. Experts use such intelligence systems to encode expertise for detecting fraud in the form of rules. This area is gaining importance and is an emerging trend in the study of finance management for creating an efficient workforce.

Machine Learning in Financial Management: Today machine learning algorithms are used to automate trading activities and provide financial advisory services to investors. Machine learning can analyse millions of data sets within a short time to improve the outcomes without being explicitly programmed. Supervised

learning, un-supervised learning, semi-supervised learning, and Reinforcement learning is an emerging trend in the study of finance management and the future workforce can be efficient if they develop expertise in this domain.

Blockchain-based modes of transactions and financial services: A financial system underpinned by blockchain offers many opportunities for the accountancy profession in the near future. Blockchain technology is a decentralised, distributed, and public ledger that is used to record transactions across many computers within a network. In the finance industry, this underlying technology allows the transfer of currency with confidence that the transaction is secure and reliable. Block chain is for sure an emerging trend in the study of financial management and will have a tangible impact across several financial services. The future workforce must certainly be proficient and develop expertise in this domain.

The writer is Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International University

A step closer to Nature

Taking a holistic look into creating transformations from the ground up will help India turn into a truly sustainable society, says AMIT BANKA



Universally, education forms the backbone of a conscious and progressive society. The values inculcated at an early age tend to stick with adults that much easier. So when it comes to the biggest threat to our generation — the climate crisis — the world is instinctively turning towards the younger generation for a grassroots movement.

Today, if the climate strikes by, the likes of Greta Thunberg are getting noticed, it's because the message resonates with everyone. But their generation did not just come to be climate and nature conscious on day one. It's taken years of conscious steps by policymakers, which has in turn been accepted and enforced by society, to create an environmentally-conscious nation.

Environmental consciousness — what's exceptional to some, is the norm in Sweden.

Consider Sweden, which is way ahead of the curve when it comes to understanding the natural world. Environmental education for them goes much beyond theoretical knowledge about nature. It aids in an evolved and action-oriented approach to solving issues like climate change, plastic pollution, etc.

The seeds of a green revolution were sown in 1969 when the government introduced environmental educational policies into the curriculum. The teachings aren't compartmentalised or limited to awareness campaigns like bringing down our consumption of single-use plastics. It's holistic and everyone there contributes equally.

Like Sweden, India also took an

initiative from the Stockholm Summit in 1972 to integrate environmental policies with its establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and other measures to move towards a greener world. For instance, we have been successful in educating a whole generation about the ill effects of firecrackers. The firecrackers industry has witnessed a steady decline over the years — 2019 saw a drop in 25 per cent to 30 per cent in sales.

India's culture, lifestyle, and

philosophy are firmly rooted in the concept of our coexistence with nature. Be it rivers, mountains, lakes, animals, flora, the mineral world, or the stars and planets — India has an intrinsic relationship with nature, to the point that millions worship it in various forms since time immemorial. This fact was echoed in a conversation I had with a leading conservationist from the USA. He remarked how road-kills are much less common in India and a large reason for it is

embedded in our cultural values.

Across geographies, several big and small steps have been taken to protect the environment. A citizen initiative like iamgurgaon, which is focused on restoring Gurgaon's green habitat has been a massive step in the right direction towards protecting the environment. It consisted of a group of concerned residents striving to make a difference.

We must laud every effort and cheer for every step that we take towards an environmentally conscious society. In a large country like India, the impact of such actions are massive. Yet much remains to be desired. It's limited to a minuscule population of hyper-aware individuals and organisations. What steps can we take to address this gap of awareness creation at the grassroots?

Environmental education must be holistic

It's our collective responsibility to do something about the nature crisis. It's not up to anyone individual or entity. Taking a holistic look into creating transformations from the ground up will help India reach its 2050 Paris Agreement goals and turn into a truly sustainable society.

Environmental education is offering us the audacity to hope for a brighter future. It's time to join the revolution.

The writer is Founder, WeNaturalists

Time to up your skills

With the rise of technology and the world adapting to online avenues in the new normal, skill development is not a static process, it is rather extremely important to continue undertaking these programmes at all levels. You need to fit in more than just one role to keep up with the competition. The survival of many businesses is dependent on the aspect where they require their employees to upskill and/or re-skill themselves, and leverage the cutting-edge technologies to convert their offices into augmented environments for learning.

For a change to take place, organisations must take the right decisions and invest in continuously training and upskilling their employees through various courses and training programmes. Employees can also take up courses on their own to up their game and be a step ahead in this competitive world.

We have curated a list of various programmes that will help various professionals to upskill themselves in this highly progressive landscape.

Post Graduate Diploma in Global Education

Aditya Birla Education Academy's Post Graduate Diploma in Global Education helps educators develop their teaching skills and knowledge in accordance with best global practices and become more

effective teachers. This online programme also provides an opportunity for working professionals to transition into the education space and make a smooth career switch. As the course is developed and delivered by globally renowned academicians, it promises academic excellence. The salient features of PGDGE are practicum based teaching and learning, internship opportunities in reputed Indian schools, and campus placement assistance.

IIM Skills — Content Writing Master Course

IIM SKILLS tops the list of institutes that provide training for content writing. The Content Writing Master Course at IIM SKILLS shows you how to excel in the art of content writing. They offer the most comprehensive course that is a perfect mix of content writing and content marketing, which is the need of the hour for a lucrative job. The course is entirely online, obliterating the need for a commute to the institute. Also, they take in only a limited number of students facilitating personal attention to every participant, irrespective of your profession. The design is such that anyone can learn and benefit from it. The mentor/trainer ensures every candidate understands all aspects of the training.

Great learning mastering Big Analytics course

Big Data helps organisations to create new growth opportunities

Studying abroad becomes easy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In order to provide world-class education and promote high academic achievement for the students at all levels, largest educational assemblage Tritya Educational Trust has expanded their reach and started an abroad-education wing Tritya Overseas Education. It provides comprehensive training to those students with dreams of studying abroad and makes them well-equipped with all material and extensive information regarding their dream course.

Tritya Overseas Education offers comprehensive classroom training for tests such as MAT, GRE, SAT, TOEFL, IELTS and PTE. They provide a wide bouquet of

services including career counseling, overseas study, immigration and funding, visa and admission in countries such as Canada, New Zealand, UK, Ukraine, USA and Australia.

"We feel education is the backbone of any nation and our mission is to build the nation through education and beyond. We make the cumbersome admission process of overseas education smooth with Tritya Overseas Education. Our immigration counselors continuously guide the students to the right path keeping in mind their preferences and countries. Our work doesn't end here. We also provide post-admission care to the students," said Captain Amardeep, Founder and Director, Tritya Group of Institutions.

Funds raised for ixambee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An online learning platform for Government jobs, ixamBee, has raised funding for an undisclosed amount led by Mumbai Angles.

Dr Narendran Shyamsukha from JITO Angel Network and existing investor Keyur Joshi (co-founder MakeMyTrip) and few noted alumni of ISB, Hyderabad also participated in the current round.

More than five million students have benefited by ixamBee. The platform is gaining popularity due to its high-quality content that has contributed to the success of thousands of students in getting placed in various government jobs.

More than five crore students are preparing for government job exams and most of them come from small towns and villages. Popularity of Government jobs has immensely

increased due to job losses and uncertainty in the private sector post Covid-19. Recruitment exams have started again after a pause.

Chandraprakash Joshi, Co-Founder, ixamBee said: "Working from home, we recorded 100 per cent plus revenue growth in the last two quarters. Also 99.7 per cent of our website traffic is organic that reflects the popularity of ixamBee among students. Funding at this stage

will help us in creating superior ixamBee's learning experience (iLX) and accelerating our growth."

Co-founded by Chandraprakash Joshi (EX-RBI and alumni of ISB, Hyderabad), Arunima Sinha (EX-SIDBI) and Sandeep Singh (EX-MakeMyTrip) the platform has been focussing on providing complete online learning experience to the students to whom coaching classes are not accessible.

Webinar on full stack development

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Great Learning, one of India's leading edtech companies for professional and higher education has announced that it will be hosting a webinar on how to become a full stack developer in 2021 on March 26, 2021.

The one-hour long live session is free of cost and can be attended by anyone who is willing to understand the basic concepts of full stack development and looking to kickstart a career as a full stack developer.

The live session on "How to become a full stack developer" by Ritvik Raj, Trainer of Full Stack Development and expert in HTML, CSS, JS, Java, Python will shine a spotlight on the impact of pandemic on the current trending technologies in 2021. The instructor will introduce the participants to the concepts of full-stack development. Interested students can log in on : <https://www.greatlearning.in/academy/learn-for-free/courses/how-to-become-a-full-stack-developer-in-2021>.



Collaborative learning is key

Edtech is going to play a pivotal role in solving several challenges for higher education institutes, says DR RL RAINA

The 2020 was one of the biggest years of transformations the education industry is witnessing currently. The coronavirus pandemic rapidly forced our classroom learning process to completely adhere to digital mediums and at times blended education (partially online and classroom) in order to have an uninterrupted learning.

The COVID 19 pandemic impacted the education sector heavily. With 1.26 billion children worldwide having gone education less as estimated by the UNESCO, out of which 300 million children are just from India. The initial hiccups of the lockdown had compelled not only students but also educators to come out of their comfort zone and learnt new skills to master online teaching platforms among others.

The complete education system has gone through an unprecedented growth in digital transformation, moreover, the education experts suggest that this is just the beginning. As we move towards a new

beginning, we should be ready with novel challenges including student retention, student engagement, collaborative learning requirements as well as competitive models from international institutions. Edtech is going to play a pivotal role in solving these challenges for higher education institutes. The key trends are:

VIDEO-BASED CONTENT

One should not be surprised to learn that the usage of videos for online training (or video-based learning) will get a new momentum this year to make the education process interesting and increase student engagement.

No doubt videos are a high-impact medium, and it creates an engaging learning experience with high recall and retention. It also encourages microlearning, creativity and interactivity among the students.

There is a myth that video-based learning was created to replace teachers and trainers, but

Blended learning helps in enhancing the access to education and maximises flexibility to students and teachers. This learning process initiates interest, interaction and satisfaction in the learning environment

actually it was created to enhance the learning experience and increase the accessibility of quality education even in the far-flung areas, where there is a dismal student and teacher ratio.

INCREASED USAGE

The Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality are going to play a pivotal role in education in order to enhance student learning and engagement.

It will reinvent the online learning space in the years to come. Through AI, student learning abilities will be estimated, which in turn will help us to bring modifications in the learning process.

But the biggest challenge in implementing these evolved technologies in the education is the internet penetration especially in tier II and tier III cities. These technologies have to be affordable so that underprivileged students can also have an access to them.

BLENDED LEARNING

With the onset of new strain of muted coronavirus, looks like the first few months of 2021 would follow the new normal. In such a scenario, blended learning will play a significant role for education sector.

For the past few years, blended learning has been a part of premier higher education institutes such as IIMs and IITs.

This form of learning combines online educational materials and opportunities for online interaction with traditional place-based classroom methods. Since some courses involve practical classes, blended learning is effective for such studies. It helps in enhancing the access to education and maximises flexibility to both students and teachers. This kind of learning process initiates student interest, interaction and satisfaction in the learning environment. Blended learning is no doubt the future of global learning.

The writer is Vice-Chancellor, JK Lakshmipat University, Jaipur

'Sketch a beautiful future for yourself'

Good drawing skills and knowledge of 3D designing software is must if one wants to work in the furniture industry, says RAGHUNANDAN SARAF

The Indian furniture industry has started witnessing a boom in an unprecedented way. According to a report, the revenue forecast in the Indian furniture market stands at \$216,293 million in the year 2021. People are willing to buy new furniture, replace the existing ones keeping in mind their lifestyle and living standard due to the rise in their income. Therefore, it is crystal clear fact that the furniture industry is growing. Here we list out five critical skills needed for jobs in the industry.



Raghunandan Saraf
Founder & CEO, Saraf Furniture

Drawing skills: If you want to land a really good job in the Indian furniture industry then drawing skills are something one can never ignore no matter what. Drawing skills basically develop sketching ability in you through which you can always visualise the final product even before any conceptualisation on the product. Like a filmmaker visualises the entire movie even before when shots are captured by the camera, in the same manner, a person abled with drawing skills can see the final furniture product even before the commencement of production.

Understanding layout plans: There is no dearth of jobs for a person who has a great understanding of floor and space structure and furniture layout plans. Furniture layout plans are basically meant for creating a structure where optimum benefit of space can be availed keeping in mind the furniture it occupies.

Knowledge of 3D design software: A person who is pro in 3D designing software for preparing primary blueprints of final furniture products takes an edge over others when it comes to landing a job in the Indian furniture industry. If you hold a great command over 3D designing software of a computer, then even in primary level talks you can convince clients about how good your final product is going to be.

Good hold on industrial production systems and processes: If you are working for a big brand and reputed name of furniture industry then knowl-

edge of industrial production systems and processes is a prerequisite to grab a job. This basically means that a person willing to land a job in the Indian furniture industry must be aware of all the important aspects of industrial production systems and processes of furniture production.

Knowledge of materials: Material is like the backbone or foundation of any furniture product. If a person has a solid knowledge about the types of woods available in the market for furniture products or material finishes then the job becomes quite easy and quality too does not get compromised. People who have great identification understand of woods like Maple, Oak, Cherry, Pine, Cedar and material finishes like particle board, MDF, etc always automatically gain an edge over those who lack knowledge. And, that's why it is advised that if you want to make a career in the Indian furniture industry, then knowledge of material finishes is very important.

By keeping all the above-mentioned skillsets in mind, landing a job in the Indian furniture industry is not a big task. Always remember, if you have good knowledge about the furniture market and can work with dedication with a clear goal in mind, no target is too big to achieve.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namedly **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 19.03.2021 at 09:57 PM on E.Pole No. 12/12, 12/14, Near Under Pass Badli Village, Delhi.** In this regard DD No. 16A dated 19.03.2021 U/S 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at Police Station, Subzi Mandi Railway Station. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 40-45 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Injury: Head crushed, right and left hand broken, left leg claw crushed, right leg thumb crushed. Wearing: Blue colour linedar shirt, White Baniyan, Sky blue Colour Pant, Red Colour Hawai Chappal.

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

SHO
Police Station, Subzi Mandi Railway Station
Ph.: 8750871303, 8130710331
DP/91/RLY/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Arun Kumar, S/o: Rajendra Jha, R/o: H.No. W-151/201, Street No. 01, Prem Nagar, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 27.02.2021 at 05:00 pm in the area of **P. S. Patel Nagar, Delhi.** In this regard a case vide DD No. 66-A dated 02.03.2021 has been lodged at P. S. Patel Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing person are as under: **Age: 50 years, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Slim, Wearing: Unknown colour pant-shirt-sweater and sandal in his feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi
Tel.No. 011-25872637, 8750870434
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/717/CD/2021

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely Poonam, D/o: Mukesh, R/o: P54E, Sharma Colony, Budh Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi** has been kidnaped since 02.03.2021 from the area of **P.S. Prashant Vihar, Delhi.** In this regard FIR No. 68/21 dated 03.03.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been lodged at Police Station Prashant Vihar, Delhi. The description of kidnaped girl is as under:

SHO
Police Station, Prashant Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
DP/733/RD/2021

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) **Namely: Vikas, S/o: Ramdwar, R/o: H.No. U-1/686, Dharam Enclave, Prem Nagar-II, Kirari, Delhi.** Aged: 15 years, has been missing/kidnapped since 04.03.2021 from his residence. In this regard, a Case vide FIR No. 137/21 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 05.03.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. His description is as under:

SHO
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-25489080
Height: 5'2" feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt and Khaki Colour Pant.
If anyone has any information about the missing/ kidnaped boy, then please inform P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi at email: cicb@cbi.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: No.011-23011133, Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229, 23015218 Extn. 210.
DP/731/RD/2021.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady **Namely Laxmi Kushwaha** along with a child **Namely Lucky W/o Chhote Lal R/o Gali No. 3, Tibba Road, Gas Agency, National Colony Ludhiyana** has been missing since 09.03.2021 at 12:55 PM from Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 31-A dated 11.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing lady and her child but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing lady and her child are as under:

SHO
P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-24356743
Name: Laxmi Kushwaha, Gender: Female, Age: 24 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Identification Mark: Tattoo mark on the left hand, Wearing: Purple colour suit-salwar and shoes on her feet.
Name: Lucky, Gender: Male, Age: 3 years, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: T-shirt and black colour underwear.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing lady and her child, kindly inform SHO/ Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/80/RLY/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a person **Namely Maan Mahender S/o Sh. Ramesh Chander, R/o H.No. C-49, Vijay Vihar Ph-I, Delhi** has been missing since 02.03.2021 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar. In this regard a DD No. 95-A Dated 02.03.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of Missing person is as under:

SHO
P.S., Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph : 011-27061294
27061295
Name: Maan Mahender, Father's Name : Sh. Ramesh Chander, Age : 24 years, Height : 5'8", Face : Long, Complexion : Wheatish, Built: Solid, Wearing : Civil Defence Dress, black colour shoes in feet.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368639
Fax : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/734/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely Vikas Kumar S/o Ram Ashray R/o H.No. 239, Gali No. 14, Mangolpur kalan, Delhi.** Age 16 years, Height 5'4", Complexion shallow, ID mark: **mentally disturb and dumb, wearing Pink colour shirt, Black colour lower, Grey colour cap, and White colour sandal in feet** has been missing since 23.02.2021 from his house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a case FIR No. 72/21 dated 24.02.2021 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS South Rohini, Delhi.

SHO
PS South Rohini, Delhi
Ph. 011-27512189, 27514282
Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-23011334
Fax: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/735/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely Aashmeen, D/o Late Shahbuddin, R/o D-94, Baljeet Vihar, Nithari, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 5', Face: Long, Built: Thin, Complexion: Fair, Hair: Black, Wearing: Black & White Top, Blue Jeans and jutti in her feet** has been missing since 05.03.2021 at 3.00 pm from her home. In this regard a FIR NO. 139/21, u/s 363 IPC dated 06.03.2021 has been registered at PS Prem Nagar, Delhi.

SHO
PS Prem Nagar, Delhi
Ph. : 8750870322
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/729/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that this person **Namely Panna Lal S/o Shri Chand R/o H.No. 159-A, Qutabgarh Near Harijan Chhopal, Delhi** Age : 63 years, Height : 5'5", Face : Long, Complexion : Sallow, wearing white colour T-shirt, blue colour pant and black colour shoes in feet, has been missing since 03.08.2020 at about 09:00 AM.. In this regard DD No. 61-A dated 08.03.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

SHO
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25951486
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639,
Tel.: 24368638/24368641
DP/730/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

The general public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely Jashmeen Kaur W/o Gurpreet Singh R/o H.No. G-8/213, Sector 16, Rohini Delhi** has been missing since 06.03.2021 at about 12 PM from her house. In this regard, DD No. 42A, dated 07.03.2021 has been registered at PS K.N Katju Marg, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

SHO
P.S. K.N Katju Marg, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-27571171
Name: Jashmeen Kaur, Gender: Female, Age: 18 years 6 months, Height: 5'2", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Brown colour jeans, pant, orange colour top and brown colour slippers on her feet.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/K.N Katju Marg, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/732/RD/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 55-60 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead at E. Pole KM. No. 18/4-18/2 DN Line, Near Fatak No. 15C, Palam RLY Station. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 40-A, dated 17.03.2021 at PS Delhi Cantt Railway Station, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased infant, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:

SHO
P.S. Delhi Cantt Railway Station, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-25688505
Sex: Male, Age: 55-60 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour shirt and brown colour pant.
If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Delhi Cantt Railway Station, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/90/RLY/2021

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead near Seven Seas Hotel Sec. 3, Rohini, Delhi dated 22.03.2021. In this regard a DD No. 137, dated 22.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. South Rohini, Delhi. The description of the person is given as under **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 45 years, Height: 170 cms, Complexion: Sallow, Hair: Normal -Small- Brown, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Wearing: Dark Green T-shirt, Blue Colour Jeans Pant.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
PS South Rohini, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27512189, 8750870328
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/741/RD/2021

DREAM DEBUTS

Shafali, Gayakwad avoid T20 sweep

Krunal scores fastest fifty by debutant while Prasad takes four in maiden game to script India's 66 run win in 1st ODI

Shreyas dislocates left shoulder while fielding



Shafali Verma plays shot during her 60 run innings in third T20I @BCCIWomen



Prasidh Krishna celebrates with Indian teammates after he dismisses Jason Roy for his maiden ODI wicket in first ODI AP

Earlier, Dhawan and Virat Kohli (56 off 60) shared 105 runs for the second wicket before Krunal (58 not out off 31) and K L Rahul (62 not out off 43) sent England on a leather hunt with their unbeaten 112-run stand off 57 balls to take the team past 300.

Dhawan hammered 11 fours and two sixes in his 106-ball knock while Krunal plundered seven fours and two maximums in his entertaining innings.

Rahul also got welcome runs after a lean run in the T20 series.

Put into bat here, Rohit Sharma (28 off 42) and Dhawan shared 64 runs for the opening wicket.

After Rohit's dismissal, skipper Kohli joined Dhawan and the two rallied the innings.

Dhawan brought up his fifty with a maximum, a slog-sweep, off 68 balls, in the 24th over, and then changed gears.

PTI ■ PUNE

India batsman Shreyas Iyer dislocated his left shoulder while fielding in the first ODI against England here on Tuesday, raising serious doubts over his participation in the IPL beginning April 9.

The incident happened in the eighth over of the England innings when Shreyas dived on a drive hit by Jonny Bairstow off pacer Shardul Thakur. The 26-year-old is unlikely to take part in the remaining two ODIs.

"Shreyas Iyer subluxated (partially dislocated) his left shoulder in the 8th over while fielding. He has been taken for further scans and won't take any further part in the game," said the BCCI in a medical update.

"Rohit Sharma was hit on the right elbow while batting and felt some pain later. He won't take the field," it added.



Shreyas Iyer walks off the field after injuring himself while fielding AP

Shreyas looked in pain and walked off the field while holding his shoulder, raising concerns over his fitness ahead of the IPL in which he captains Delhi Capitals.

The Mumbaier had perished for just 6 while batting.

It could take as much as six weeks to recover from shoulder dislocation and much longer in case a surgery is required.

PTI ■ PUNE

Debutants Krunal Pandya and Prasidh Krishna made the big stage their own to give an all-round India a convincing 66-run victory over world champions England in the first ODI of the three-match series here on Tuesday.

After under-fire opener Shikhar Dhawan delivered with a solid 98, Krunal (58 not out off 31) smashed the fastest fifty by a debutant to fire India to 317 for five following England's decision to field.

At 135 for no loss in the 15th over, with Jason Roy (46 off 35) and Jonny Bairstow (94

off 55) going strong, England seemed to be running away with the chase before Krishna (4/54) and Shardul Thakur (3/37) shared seven wickets between them to script a winning comeback.

The 25-year-old Krishna's figures were the best by an Indian debutant as England's innings ended at 251 in 42.1 overs.

"It didn't start off well, and they came hard at us because we bowled poorly, but we had belief," said the Karnataka bowler, who had drawn high praise from skipper Virat Kohli long before making the squad.

Considering the nature of the surface, it was a com-

mendable effort from the Indian bowlers, who carried on from the T20 series to defend gettable targets with remarkable ease.

Krishna, who leaked 37 runs in his first three overs, came back strongly and troubled the batsmen with his ability to generate extra bounce.

Thakur once again provided the breakthroughs when the team needed and senior pro Bhuvneshwar Kumar too chipped in with a couple of wickets towards the end.

England had the game in the bag but were guilty of throwing it away, failing to build on the flier of a start given Bairstow and Roy.

Krunal Pandya breaks down remembering late father

PTI ■ PUNE

India batsman Krunal Pandya smashed the fastest fifty by an ODI debutant during the first match against England here on Tuesday and broke down remembering his father who died in January this year after suffering a heart attack.

The 30-year-old Krunal was handed the India cap by his younger brother and star all-rounder Hardik.

He reached the half-century mark in just 26 balls, overtak-



ing John Morris (35 balls) of New Zealand.

Krunal broke down while being interviewed by the host broadcaster after his blistering unbeaten knock of 58 (31 balls), which was studded with seven fours and two sixes.

"This one is for my father," was all that Krunal could tell commentator Murali Kartik when asked about his unbeaten knock before being overwhelmed by emotions.

He was enveloped by Hardik in a tight hug soon after.

Latham wins ODI series for NZ

AFP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand secured a series-clinching five-wicket win in the second ODI against Bangladesh on Tuesday after a string of fielding errors dashed the tourists' hopes of victory.

Black Caps skipper Tom Latham scored an unbeaten 110 after being dropped twice with New Zealand chasing 272 at Hagley Oval.

New Zealand batsman Jimmy Neesham was also given a life, with the errors undoing Bangladesh's good work in making 271 for six after losing the toss and being put into bat.

Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal was left frustrated after seeing his side come close to a maiden victory on New Zealand soil.

"We should have won this game. We created chances but we just couldn't hold on to those dropped catches," he said.

"We hardly ever win games but in this kind of situation we have to make sure



New Zealand skipper Tom Latham plays a shot during his 110 run innings @ICC

that we do everything 100 percent. I'm disappointed."

Tamim top-scored for the tourists with 78 and Mohammad Mithun contributed an unbeaten 73 off 57 balls.

Latham's 110 came off 108 balls and was his fifth ODI century, while Devon Conway's 72 helped anchor the innings.

The Black Caps reached the target after 48.2 overs, finishing on 275 for five to take

an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series.

"It was obviously nice to have that match-winning contribution," Latham said.

"I thought at the halfway point we did a really good job with the ball but we knew Bangladesh were going to come out fighting.

"For us it was just about trying to build those partnerships through the middle."

The third match will be played on Friday.

Ganemat-Angad pair win mixed skeet Gold



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Gold rush continued for Indian shooters at the ISSF World Cup on Tuesday as Ganemat Sekhon and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa claimed the skeet mixed team top honours here.

The 20-year-old Ganemat and 25-year-old Angad, who had topped the qualification with a score of 141, produced another good show to beat the Kazakh pair of Olga Panarina and Alexandr Yechshenko 33-

29 in the Gold medal showdown. It was the only final lined up for the day.

With this, table-topper India's Gold haul at the ongoing event went up to seven. The hosts have also won four Silvers and as many Bronze medals for a total of 15 medals so far in the tournament.

Another Indian pair of Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Mairaj Ahmad Khan, however, missed the Bronze medal by a whisker at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range on Tuesday.

Shafali regains top spot in T20 rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Big-hitting teenage Indian batter Shafali Verma rose a rung to reclaim the top spot in the ICC women's T20 rankings, riding on her fine performances in the ongoing series against South Africa at home.

The 17-year-old, who grabbed the top position for the first time after helping her side reach the knockout phase of the T20 World Cup last year in Australia, has leapfrogged Australia's Beth Mooney with scores of 23 and 47.

The Indian team, despite winning the final T20 on Tuesday, lose 1-2 to the visitors in the three-match series.

South Africa opener Lizelle Lee is another one to gain in the rankings even though the big-hitting opener lost her top spot in the ODI rankings within a week of replacing England's Tammy Beaumont, the ICC said in a

statement.

Lee has gained three slots to reach 11th position among T20I batters after a match-winning 70 helped South Africa to a winning 2-0 lead on Sunday.

Laura Wolvaardt has risen five places to 24th after guiding her team to victory with an unbeaten 53 in the second match, while captain Sune Luus (up five places to 38th) and Nadine de Klerk (up three places to 74th) are the other South Africans to advance in the batting list.

For India, Deepti Sharma has moved up four places to 40th and teenager Richa Ghosh has rocketed 59 places to 85th among batters while young all-rounder Harleen Deol has progressed in both

lists, up 262 places to 99th among batters and up 76 places to 146th among bowlers.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad has advanced from 34th to 25th.

There have also been some notable changes in the ODI rankings.

In the update to the longer format, India captain Mithali Raj, a formerly top-ranked batter, has moved up one place to eighth after an unbeaten 79 while Priya Punia has moved up to five places to 53rd.

Gayakwad is up eight places to 38th among bowlers.

The 4-1 series win saw South Africa overtake England to second position in the ODI team rankings while India remain fourth.

Not Holland, this is Kashmir!

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