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82% voter turnout in Bengal 1st phase

Sporadic violence; poll mostly peaceful

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The first phase of Bengal Assembly elections concluded on Saturday amid reports of sporadic violence with little more than 82 per cent voter turnout, said officials, adding the elections were by far peaceful.

Long queues of voters were seen at many booths throughout the five districts till evening.

East Midnapore recorded a turnout of 80.51 per cent while in neighbouring West Midnapore it was 80.12 per cent. Jhargram witnessed a polling of 80.55 per cent whereas voter turnout in Purulia was a tad low at 77.07 per cent, followed by Bankura where about 79.90 per cent voters had exercised their voting rights.

Incidents of violence were reported from Salboni region of West Midnapore and Sabajpur of South Contai seat in East Midnapore district where the vehicle of Soumendu Adhikari, the youngest brother of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, was vandalised and his driver badly beaten up by alleged Trinamool Congress supporters.

Soumendu, a former TMC leader and Contai Municipality chairman, recently joined the BJP like his elder brother and their father Sisir Adhikari, the local MP.

"I had rushed to a booth after receiving complaints that the TMC men had driven out our polling agent and were giving false votes… This angered the TMC goons and they vandalised my car and beat up my driver," he said.

The attack was carried out under the leadership of TMC block president Ram Govind Das and his wife, a panchayat pradhan, as my arrival to the area failed their plans to rig polling, Adhikari said.

At Salboni former Bengal Minister and CPI(M) candidate was Sushanto Ghosh twice attacked and heckled by alleged Trinamool men when he tried to stop them from capturing booths.

Continued on Page 4

A paramilitary jawan guards a polling booth as people wait in a queue to cast their votes during the first phase of West Bengal Assembly polls, at Sirshi in Jhargram on Saturday PTI

CAPSULE

SPECIAL CELL TO PROTECT INTERFAITH COUPLES

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the protection of inter-faith and inter-caste couples from harassment and threats and directed setting up of "special cells", headed by deputy commissioners of police, to look into such matters.

PREZ SHIFTED TO AIIMS FOR BYPASS PROCEDURE

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind was on Saturday shifted to the AIIMS here for a planned bypass procedure which is expected to be performed on Tuesday, a statement issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

BJP MLA THRASHED BY FARMERS IN PUNJAB

Chandigarh: A BJP MLA Arun Narang in Punjab was allegedly thrashed and his clothes torn by a group of farmers at Malout in Muktsar district on Saturday.

77% voting in Assam

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A voter turnout of 77 per cent was recorded in Assam on Saturday in the first phase of Assembly elections in the State, the Election Commission said.

Voting was held in 47 seats in Assam in this phase with a total of 81 lakh electorate registered across 11,537 polling stations. There are total 21,825 polling stations. On Saturday, a total of 582 cases of Model Code of Conduct violations were reported through the cVIGIL app from Assam out of which 423 were disposed of by 4.30 pm. Till date, ₹97.31crore has been seized in Assam (as against a total seizure of ₹16.58 crore in 2016 Assembly polls).

The poll panel said it had laid great emphasis on ensuring transparent and vigilant mechanisms for conducting elections that are free of inducement and intimidation.

The number of polling stations had increased as the number of voters per polling station was reduced from 1,500 to 1,000 keeping social distancing norms in mind due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a major push in conducting free and fair elections, live monitoring and webcasting mechanism for more than 50 per cent of polling stations, including critical and vulnerable polling booths, were put in place to ensure safe and secure atmosphere in polling areas.

The Commission, state chief electoral officers, district election officers and the observers could watch live streaming and keep a close watch on these polling booths in Assam.

Tea garden workers display the indelible ink marks on their fingers after casting their votes during the first phase of Assam State elections in Jorhat on Saturday AP

Contact tracing to stem Covid rise

Maha adds 36K cases, 166 deaths in 24 hrs; 12 States contribute 71%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With 46 districts in 12 States contributing 71 per cent of the Covid-19 cases and 69 per cent of related deaths, the Centre on Saturday attributed the surge to people's laxity in following social distancing norms and called for stringent action, including effective containment and contact tracing for at least 14 days in a row at the Covid-19 hotspots, to break the chain of transmission.

Total 61,573 cases were reported from across the country in last 24 hours, while Maharashtra alone reported 35,726 new infections and 166 Covid deaths in 24 hours, highest since last October.

Struggling to arrest the fresh surge in Covid-19 cases, the Maharashtra Government on Saturday announced a ban on holding of all types of gatherings, including political and religious, a day before new curbs on assembly of more than five persons in night will come into force.

The State had 2,82,451 active cases as on Friday.

The country has seen the sharpest rise in weekly Covid-19 cases and fatalities since May 2020 ie 7.7 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively. And it has been noted that one infected person could spread Covid-19 to an average of 406 other individuals in a 30-day window without restrictions which could be reduced to just 15 by decreasing physical exposure to 50 per cent and to a further 2.5 (average) by decreasing physical exposure to 75 per cent.

Continued on Page 4

WAR-FOOTING BIDS

- India's total active cases have reached 4,82,225
- Maharashtra reported 166 Covid-19 deaths in 24 hours, highest since last October, along with 35,726 new infections
- The country has seen the sharpest rise in weekly Covid-19 cases and fatalities since May 2020 that is 7.7 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively
- A five-fold strategy was laid out for adoption by the States and UTs for effective containment of the pandemic

Trials begin for SII's new jab Covovax, to hit market by Sept

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Serum Institute of India's (SII) new Covid-19 vaccine, Covovax, is likely to hit the Indian market by September this year.

Chief Executive of SII, which also manufactures Covishield vaccine, Adar Poonawalla said on Saturday that the company has begun the phase 2 and 3 clinical trials for Covovax and hoped to launch the vaccine by September.

"Covovax trials finally begin in India; the vaccine is made through a partnership with (US') Novavax and Serum Institute of India... Hope to launch by September 2021!" Poonawalla tweeted on Saturday.

Presently SII manufactured Covishield and Bharat Biotech Ltd's Covaxin are being inoculated to the people in India under the nationwide vaccination programme launched on January 16.

The phase 2 and 3 bridging study for Covovax has begun at one of the four clinical trial sites in Pune on Thursday, and soon enrolment of participants is to start at other sites, the SII said.

On 30 January, after the announcement of the first interim efficacy data by Novavax, the CEO of the world's largest vaccine manufacturer had said that it hopes to launch the vaccine by June.

Continued on Page 4

Mamata alleges PM's Bangladesh visit a bid to influence voters

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that he has politicised his Bangladesh visit at a time when elections are being held in this part of the border.

Mamata said, "He (PM) is going to Bangladesh during the elections and issuing statements on Bengal... it is a violation of MCC."

Reminding how the visa of a Bangla actor acting in Bengali tele serials was cancelled — at BJP's behest — during 2019 Lok Sabha polls, after he joined a TMC rally, Mamata said, "You (Prime Minister) are going to Bangladesh with an intent to influence a section of voters — residing in Bengal — when the elections are taking place here … why should your visa not be cancelled? We will raise the issue with the EC.

Continued on Page 4

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a public meeting at Dumurjala in Howrah on Saturday PTI

Covid +ve after both doses! Low immunity is to blame

But vaccinated won't need hospitalisation post infection: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reports of Covid-19 re-infection despite vaccination have started trickling in from various parts of the country. Two health workers in Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday reported testing positive for coronavirus despite having been administered both doses of the anti-Covid vaccine.

Similarly, Director of Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI), Lucknow, Professor Radha Krishan Dhiman, has tested positive for the infection. Prof Dhiman, who has taken both doses of vaccine against coronavirus, shared on Facebook recently that he and his wife, Dr Praveena, were infected two days ago.

He had taken the first dose of the Covishield vaccine on January 16, 2021. After a 28-day gap, he reportedly took a second shot on February 13.

Earlier, another doctor posted at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civil Hospital in Lucknow, Nitin Mishra, shared that he had tested positive days after taking the second dose of vaccination.

Experts said that the success rate of vaccines varies from 70 to 75 per cent. "Vaccination has been going on in a big way across the country for decades. Vaccination is not always 100 per cent effective," they said.

According to experts, low immunity of the beneficiary and high virus load suppressing antibodies could also be factors behind someone testing positive for Covid-19 even after taking both shots against the virus.

Continued on Page 4

A health worker gives a shot of vaccine to teachers in Patiala on Saturday PTI

Meeting with Hasina 'productive': Modi

India, B'desh sign 5 MoUs in sports, commerce, sports and I-T; agree to resolve river water sharing concerns

PTI ■ DHAKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that he had a "productive meeting" with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina during which they reviewed the full range of bilateral ties and discussed ways to deepen the economic and cultural linkages in the times to come.

Modi, who is visiting Bangladesh on his first trip to a foreign country since the Covid-19 outbreak, held one-on-one talks with Hasina which was followed by delegation-level meeting.

"Had a productive meeting with PM Sheikh Hasina. We reviewed the full range of India-Bangladesh relations and discussed ways to deepen economic and cultural linkages in the times to come," Modi tweeted.

The two sides signed five MoUs covering areas such as connectivity, commerce, information technology and sports.

"India and Bangladesh signed MoUs in key sectors such as disaster management, sports and youth affairs, trade, technology and more. These will add strength to our development partnership and benefit the people of our nations, especially the youth," he said.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that the two leaders discussed the progress achieved in areas of health, trade, connectivity, energy, developmental cooperation and others.

"Recognising that terrorism remains a threat to global peace and security, both sides reiterated their strong commitment to eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," said a joint statement issued after their talks.

Modi expressed India's appreciation for the cooperation extended by Bangladesh in security related matters.

He also reiterated India's "sincere and continued efforts" to conclude the Teesta water-sharing agreement in consultation with stakeholders.

"The two leaders directed their respective Ministries of Water Resources to work towards an early conclusion of the Framework of Interim Agreement on sharing of waters of six common rivers, namely, Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar," the joint statement said.

The Indian side also requested for early finalisation of a draft for sharing of water of Feni River pending with the Bangladeshi side, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said.

Continued on Page 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina during a meeting in Dhaka on Saturday PTI

Delhi won't have another Covid lockdown: Minister

Action will be taken against those playing Holi in public, says Satyendar Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday dismissed any possibility of imposing another lockdown in Delhi, saying it was not a solution to check the spread of the coronavirus that is again surging.

Jain said, "As of now, there is no possibility of another lockdown. We had tried it earlier. Experts had said due to its 14-day cycle, a 21-day lockdown would stop the spread of the virus but this did not happen. So for me, lockdown is no solution."

Jain said action will be taken against those found violating the directions issued for Holi celebrations.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority had on Tuesday ordered that there will be no public celebrations in the national Capital during upcoming festivals such Holi, Navaratri and Shab-e-Barat.

The Government has set up a number of teams to ensure that people adhere to its directions on Holi. District magistrates and police have created district-wise teams.

Continued on Page 4

HOMETHEATRE

Bajpayee rules

SILENCE: CAN YOU HEAR IT
Zee 5
***ing: Manoj Bajpayee, Prachi Desai, Arjun Mathur, Sahil Vaid, Vaquar Sheikh**
Rated: 6.5/10

It is very rare for Bollywood to make a really good murder mystery without going off-chart. One can in fact, count on one's finger tips good crime thrillers. *Silence: Can You Hear It* is a pleasant change from the usual films that the entertainment industry makes under this genre.

From the very beginning you know that this one is going to be an interesting ride with twists nd turns at every nook and corner. This means be prepared for the unexpected till the very end and this is where the forte lies of director Aban Bharucha Deohans even though the detectives appear to blunder at every step of the way.

The way Deohans moves from the past to the present and then back to the past is interesting and keeps one glued. There are of course two reasons for this.

First, the most important one — Manoj Bajpayee and his absolutely brilliant performance here. As Avinash Verma, a cop with unconventional crime-solving method, he holds the film together till the very end. He doesn't, even for a single minute, miss a beat. Prachi Desai is a delight to watch as well and given that Bajpayee rules here, she holds her own.

Second, there is no melodrama at the climax; the dialogues are simple and straightforward making this film a must watch for all those who love suspense movies.

— Shalini Saksena

The action continues

FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER (E2)
Disney+Hotstar
***ing: Anthony Mackie, Sebastian Stan, Wyatt Russell, Erin Kellyman**
Rated: 6.5/10

Disney+ dropped the second episode on Friday, March 26, 2021. The fans who were waiting for it with bated breath will not be disappointed with this one. The first episode was only a teaser of what will follow in the coming episodes. While there was not much of Bucky in the prequel, here he is very much in your face — jumping from an aircraft 200 feet in the air with no parachute and no broken bones or even scratch — is just one of the few things that he does while one sits and goes on a ride with the Falcon and him as a team.

Winter Soldier does what he does best, brooding — Falcon gave away Captain America's shield — and staring.

Then there is Captain America. His struggle to step into the shoes of Steve Rogers is evident. One empathises with John Walker's (played by Wyatt Russell) predicament of being the new Captain America. Even if the fans may not want to see a new Captain America.

The stunts are off the charts. The scene where Captain America, Winter Soldier and Falcon come together in a fight against an anti-patriotism group the Flag Smashers is amazing even if our heroes lose this round. It goes without saying that they will go back to fight another day.

Given that there are more than one super soldiers running, episode three promises to bring in more action.

— Shalini Saksena

SPREAD CHEER, STAY SAFE

Unlike many people, I celebrate Holi in a much peaceful manner amidst my family. I am not much of a fan and usually refrain from celebrating the festival outdoors as I do not like wasting water or applying too much of colour on myself or on others too. Holi at home is usually much relaxed which begins with a *pooja* and I usually put the *tika* on the forehead of all my household members. However, after something about seven years, I did happen to celebrate Holi this year for the very first time on a show's set. We were shooting a Holi scene for *Brahmarakshas 2* and as much as I hate applying colour, I had tremendous fun shooting and celebrating it with my co-actors.

— Nikki Sharma who plays Kalindi and Chandni in Zee TV's Brahmarakshas 2

Holi is one of the beautiful festival we all look forward to. It is even more special because it is the only festival where we pay the least attention to how we look. We can take out the worst from our wardrobe and wear it like a queen, knowing that it is going to get ruined anyway. The thing is, if you get to spend the day with your loved ones, your Holi is anyway sorted. I am going to be in Patna this time and will surely be having a gala time with my family.

— Neha Marda who plays Shubhra in Zee TV's Kyun Rishton mein Katti Batti

Holi is about colours and delectable dishes. I enjoyed playing this festival during my childhood and celebrated it very enthusiastically. *Puran poli* is my favourite Holi dish. I believe we should celebrate Holi with natural colours and respect people's choices. This year, I will be shooting and due to the current scenario, I will not be playing Holi.

— Bharati Achrekar who plays Radhika Wagle in Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya

Ever since our show started, for nearly two years, the entire cast played and celebrated Holi together. Currently because of track changes, it's not possible for all of us to play together and I miss that. This year also Holi will be very low key considering the COVID situation in Mumbai and I will be celebrating it with my near and dear ones.

— Reem Shaikh who plays Kalyani in Zee TV's Tujhse Hain Raabta

India has different festivals all across the year and the festival of Holi deserves special mention. I prefer playing Holi with *gulaal* and enjoying sweet dishes like *jalebi* and *rabdi*. It makes me happy when I see my family, especially my kids enjoying this festival. Holi is an excellent opportunity to end enmity and give a fresh start to new friendships. This year, Holi will be slightly different and I suggest everyone to be at home with their family and play Holi with proper precautions and serve the save water agenda.

— Manish Wadhwa who plays Amal Nanda in Sony SAB's Hero — Gayab Mode On

PLAN YOUR DAY

2021 Homecoming

Venue: Across 12 cities including Bengaluru
When: Till March 28, 2021

Diageo India announces a 10-day World Class Cocktail Festival, filled with innovation, creativity, and community. The festival celebrates the art of mixology 12 cities in no less than 100 venues. India's top 100 mixologists flaunt their latent skill and put their skills to test for the first time.

Walk into select bars in your city to experience the festival with thoughtful menu's that give back to India through emotional storylines, community engagement, sustainable practices, and a keen collaboration between the Bar + Kitchen are supported by Johnnie Walker Black Label, Ketel One Vodka, Talisker 10YO and Singleton of Glendullan 12YO.

Popping Up Hopes

Venue: M-35, M block market GK, New Delhi

Giving females a platform to learn and earn, acknowledging the contribution of women in our lives and intending to challenge social norms in India around the role of women has always been on the cards of Lucullan Studios.

A case in point, the studio came up with Sunayana Chibba's Style Goddess Pop Upon on March 6 aand March 7 supporting the campaign #Allaboutwomen with refreshing salon experience, enticing discount on clothes, accessories and jewelleries. Lucullan Studios collaborated with the Style Goddess, Sunayana Chibba and was a host to 18 exhibitors to celebrate the occasion.

Talking about the campaign Neha Sharma the founder of Lucullan Studios said: "Women's Day is not what we feel for a day but it's a lifelong process. The campaign #allaboutwomen is the need of hour as with everything changing around us, we, women must change the way we think of ourselves, pamper ourselves and fly with the wings we have. Women's Day shouldn't be celebrated just one day in the year but every day. Just like a woman takes care and supports everyone in her life, she needs to do the same for herself."

APPEAL REGARDING
SHAB-E-BARAT
In wake of COVID-19

सत्यमेव जयते

The sacred night of Shab-e-Barat is an occasion for families to pray for and remember their departed family members with reverence.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, people are requested to remain at home and refrain from any activity which compromises their safety and that of others.

I appeal to all religious leaders, Residents' Welfare Associations and parents to advise families to observe the occasion solemnly, while strictly adhering to COVID appropriate behaviour.

Delhi Police will make elaborate arrangements in public interest to facilitate and ensure observance of COVID protocol by all.

(Anil Baijal)
Lt. Governor, Delhi

HELP US TO HELP YOU

DP/9276/2021

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 | TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

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Celebrate Holi at home or face music: Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of surge in Covid-19 cases in the national Capital, the Delhi Police on Saturday appealed to the public to celebrate Holi at home and also warned legal action against those found indulging in playing Holi outdoors.

This move comes amid a rise in coronavirus cases, following which the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Tuesday ordered that there would be no public celebrations in the national Capital during upcoming festivals such Holi and Navaratri. Chief Secretary Vijay Dev had directed authorities to ensure strict compliance of the order.

Citing the DDMA order, Chinmoy Biswal, the Public

Relation Officer (PRO) of Delhi Police appealed to people to follow Covid-19 protocols and said public celebrations and gatherings, during Holi shall not be allowed in public places — grounds, parks, markets or religious places here.

"As per DDMA order, the public are not allowed to go out and play Holi. So, the Delhi Police appeals to the public to celebrate Holi with their family members at home. Strict legal action will be taken against those found playing Holi outdoors," said Biswal.

Metro services to start from 2:30 pm on Monday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Metro services will not be available till 2.30 pm on Monday on account of Holi.

"On the day of the 'Holi' festival, metro services will not be available till 2:30 pm on all lines of Delhi Metro including Rapid Metro/Airport Express Line on 29th March (Monday). Metro train services will thus start at 2:30 pm from terminal stations on all lines on 29th March and will continue normally thereafter," the Delhi Metro said in a statement.

Crackdown on drunken driving on festival day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With Holi round the corner, the Delhi Police on Saturday issued a traffic advisory to ensure safety of motorists on roads. Police said special checking teams will also be deployed at major intersections to detect and prosecute traffic violators.

Police have appealed to all motorists to avoid traffic violations and urged people to follow Government directives and not celebrate upcoming festivals in public places.

According to Meenu Choudhary, the Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, as the festival of Holi will be celebrated on Monday, elaborate traffic arrangements have been made to ensure the safety of motorists on roads and strict action will be taken against those found indulged in drunken driving, performing stunts on two-wheelers, riding without helmet, over-speeding, jumping red light, dangerous driving or any other traffic violations.

"Special checking teams will be deployed at major intersections and vulnerable points to detect and prosecute traffic violations. Special Traffic Police checking teams along with PCR and local police teams will be stationed on various roads and strategic locations all over Delhi to check drunken driving, Red Light jumping and other violations. Radar Guns will be deployed at various vulnerable roads to check incidents of over-speeding," said the Joint CP.

"Public celebrations and gatherings, congregations during upcoming festivals like Holi, Shab-e-Barat, Navaratri are not allowed in public places, parks, markets, or religious places across Delhi and any person found violating directives for Covid-19 shall be prosecuted as per law," she said.

Septic tank deaths: GM, two directors of banquet hall held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested four men in connection with the death of two men who died after inhaling toxic gases while cleaning a septic tank of a banquet hall in east Delhi's Ghazipur area. Police said that the accused identified as Rahul, a housekeeping staff, Aamir Khan, the general manager and the two directors of the banquet hall, Johit alias Jimmy Arora and Girish Mahendru were arrested on Friday night following their interrogation.

On Thursday evening, Lokesh (35) and Prem Chand (40), residents of Trilokpuri, entered the tank to clean it and were subsequently found dead inside, the police said, adding that the deceased were not given any protective gear and were offered Rs 3,000 for the work.

According to Deepak Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, the housekeeping staff of the banquet hall called the two men for cleaning the tank at 7.30 pm and around 10 pm, they were found dead.

"Teams from the Fire Department, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority and MCD visited the spot, he said, adding that the two men were taken to a hospital, where they were declared brought dead.

The family members of the deceased had alleged that the men, who had gone for catering related work at the banquet hall, were forced to clean the septic tank and were not given any protective gear.

A case under section 304A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 9 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act has been registered, the DCP said, adding Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has also been invoked against the accused.

Grid-connected energy storage system launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of Power Satyendar Jain inaugurated India's first grid connected community storage system located in Rani Bagh that will improve the supply reliability at the distribution level and avoid a situation of grid failure in case of any exigency. Talking about it, the Minister said the storage system is robust and will be of massive use. It is environment friendly, uses no water and produces no emissions, he said.

"This is the first grid connected community storage system. This battery system has a lifespan of 10-20 years. When there is peak load, transformers usually burn out which causes power failure. In the months of June-July, when there is a peak, the battery will aid in the power supply. And when there is a low power demand, it will get discharged," he said.

"It is a very simple system. Earlier batteries caused a lot of pollution. This is a lithium-ion battery. For this battery system, if we take four hours of storage, it would mean 150KW, and for 1 hour it is 600 KW. The cost is ₹1 crore. I request the ones who have installed the battery to reduce the cost four times so that we can install more of these," he said.

Ensure cleaning of all water bodies on priority basis: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister and Chairman of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Satyendar Jain on Saturday directed the officials to ensure cleaning of all water bodies and lakes on priority basis.

The direction came in a meeting chaired by the Minister to review the situation of 600 water bodies and lakes in Delhi. The arrangement for treated water, however, should go on in parallel, he said, adding that all 200 out of these 600 water bodies and lakes under DJB must be cleaned before the monsoon.

The DJB officials were further directed by the Minister to complete the work within the timeline. Multiple complaints were made by the public and local community that waste mismanagement by BJP led MCD had converted these water bodies and lakes into dumping grounds.

In order to get the desired quantity of water of 10-12 MGD to the Paschim vihar lake area and other green belts, the Minister instructed that a dedicated pipeline should be laid from Keshopur 'Sewage Treatment Plant' (STP) to the point of Paschim Vihar lake.

Jain further instructed that the ordinance forest near Shakurpur railway station should be supplied with treated water from Mangolpuri Common effluent treatment plant (CETP).

The DJB Chairman also reviewed the work of Iradat Nagar lake which will receive 25MGD water from Rithala STP. The project is expected to be completed in one year. This will help in groundwater recharge in north Delhi.

Jain directed that DJB should complete the lake rejuvenation project and develop it as a polishing pond to improve the incoming 5 MGD of water from Najafgarh STP using natural wetlands.

He also directed officials to speed up the work of the construction of the lake at Dwarka 'Waste Treatment Plant' (WTP) which was delayed due to various administrative reasons. The lake will be spread over an area of 10-12 acres.

1,558 Covid cases for 3rd consecutive day, ten deaths

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 1,558 coronavirus cases for the third consecutive day on Saturday, while ten more people succumbed to the disease.

The positivity rate stands at 1.70 per cent. The positivity rate was 1.52 on Wednesday, 1.31 per cent on Tuesday, 1.32 per cent on Monday and 1.03 per cent on Sunday.

The 1,558 new infections pushed the tally to 6,55,834, while 6,38,212 patients have recovered from the virus. The active cases reached to 6625 on Saturday, according to the health bulletin issued by the health department of the Delhi Government.

A total of 91,703 tests, including 59,648 RT-PCR tests, were conducted a day ago, the bulletin said.

The number of people under home isolation rose to 3,708 from 3,312 a day ago.

The containment zones rose to 1506 from 1,307 on Saturday, it said.

Virtual crime review meeting held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of upcoming festivals, Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava instructed his officers on Saturday to ensure optimal visibility of the force and follow safety guidelines while strictly enforcing the DDMA orders amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

A crime review meeting was held by the Delhi Police chief with senior officers of the force through a video-conference to discuss the law-and-order situation and take stock of the action taken against incidents of crime and criminals.

In view of consecutive festivals in the coming week, Shrivastava directed the officers to ensure optimal visibility of the force. He stressed on the Delhi Disaster Management Authority's (DDMA) guidelines regarding Covid-appropriate behaviour and said it should be strictly adhered to and enforced on the ground.

The Police Commissioner also instructed his staff to follow safety guidelines while enforcing the DDMA orders.

"The police commissioner reviewed the action taken regarding the enforcement of the DDMA's Covid guidelines and directed all to remain extra alert to ensure that public celebrations and gatherings, congregations during upcoming festivals such as Holi and Shab-e-Barat shall not to be allowed at public places, public grounds, public parks, markets and religious places," said Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO) of Delhi Police.

The police chief also reviewed the progress of the investigation in burglary, NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) and gambling cases and directed strict action against organised criminal networks. Crime against women, kidnapping and POCSO cases were closely monitored and the district police chiefs were directed to expedite the final reports, Mittal said.

"An appraisal of the listing of criminals and the strategy to keep a vigil on them were discussed, along with an action plan to keep a tab on jail/bail released criminals and their activities. Emphasis was laid on taking legal remedies to speed up the investigation of the pending cases," he added.

Srivastava also examined the status of the complaints in the Integrated Complaints Management System and directed the officers for a speedy disposal of the complaints, officials said.

Covid -ve report must for entering Gujarat

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Government on Saturday announced that a negative Covid-19 RT-PCR test report will be mandatory for those arriving from other states.

Earlier, the government had made negative test report must only for those coming from neighbouring Maharashtra which has been worst hit by the pandemic."The coronavirus infection rate is increasing in many states of the country. It is also seen that prevalence of COVID-19 is high among those who have travel history," the state health department said in a notification.

> In the last few days Gujarat has been witnessing a surge in cases of coronavirus with Ahmedabad and Surat being the worst affected

In view of this, those entering Gujarat from other states must have undergone RT-PCR test in the previous 72 hours and carry a negative report, it said.

The order will come into force from April 1.

In the last few days Gujarat has been witnessing a surge in cases of coronavirus with Ahmedabad and Surat being the worst affected.

The state recorded 2,190 new cases on Friday, highest since the start of the pandemic. ***PTI***

Maha logs 166 deaths, 35,726 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra witnessed a spike in the number of Covid-19 fatalities as the daily Covid toll jumped to 166 on Saturday, while there was no let up in the daily infections which stood at 35,726.

Mumbai, which has become a hot spot city in the country during the last two weeks, recorded the highest ever 6240 infections, surpassing Friday's record tally of 5,505 infections. With fresh cases, the total caseload in Mumbai climbed from 3,80,146 to 3,85,551. With 12 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 11,633 to 11,645.

After Maharashtra recorded 111 and 112 deaths respectively on Thursday, there was a sudden jump increase by 54 deaths during the last 24 hours.

With 155 deaths reported on Saturday, the total Covid-19 deaths climbed from 53,907 to 54073. Similarly, after the state recorded the highest-ever 36,902 infections, the total caseload in the state rose from 26,37,735 to 26,73,461.

As 14,523 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 23,14,579. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 87.2 per cent to 86.58 per cent..

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" total cases in the state increased from 2,82,451 to 3,03,475. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 2.04 per cent to 2.02 per cent.

There are a maximum of 56,849 "active" cases in Pune, followed by Nagpur (40,527) Mumbai (39,869), Thane (29,740), Nashik (23,762), Aurangabad (20,460), Jalgaon (7058), Amaravati (3259) and Akola (5972).

Meanwhile, of the 1,91,92,750 samples sent to laboratories, 26,73,461 have tested positive (13.93 per cent) for COVID-19 until Saturday.

Currently, 14,88,701 people are in home quarantine while 15,644 people are in institutional quarantine.

Don't congregate at public places during Holi, Bihar Govt urges people

Patna: In view of the increasing number of Covid-19 cases in Bihar, the State Government on Saturday issued an order asking people not to congregate at public places on the day of Holi festival.

The order issued by the Home department also said that "minimum number" of people will be allowed to gather at one place during Holika Dahan, the ritual performed on the eve of the Holi festival and Shab-e-Barat.

The government order did not specify the minimum number of people allowed to gather.

It said that people should maintain COVID-19 protocol such as wearing face mask, maintaining social distancing, using hand sanitiser while participating during Holika Dahan and Shab-e-Barat.

All Divisional Commissioners, Range Inspector Generals, Deputy Inspector Generals, DMs, SSP and Superintendents of Police have been communicated for the enforcement of the decision. ***PTI***

Authorities call for enhancing accommodation capacity at Bhagwati Nagar base camp for Amarnath Yatra

Jammu: Authorities in Jammu reviewed arrangements at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp on Saturday for this year's Amarnath Yatra, and called for augmenting the accommodation capacity from 2,000 to 5,000, officials said.

Laying emphasis on sanitation, Jammu Deputy Commissioner Anshul Garg directed officers to keep the area around the 'Yatri Niwas' and other places identified for housing pilgrims clean and green, they said.

Reviewing facilities like electricity, drinking water, transport, security, barricading, mobile toilets, cloak rooms and community kitchen at a meeting here, Garg asked the officers concerned to increase the camp's accommodation capacity from the current 2,000 to 5,000.

The officers apprised the deputy commissioner that the Yatri Niwas has 13 halls with attached bathrooms and other facilities. They said a hall of 7,000 square feet area to accommodate 500 yatris would be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 1.74 crore by the Tourism department.

In addition to this, the deputy commissioner directed the officers of the Public Works Department (Roads & Buildings) to build a shed on two hectares of the adjoining vacant land with all basic facilities to enhance the daily capacity of the camp. ***PTI***

Gujarat likely to table Bill against 'Love Jehad'

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat Government in all likelihood will table a Bill to amend the 'Dharma Swatantrya' (Freedom of Religion) Act, 2003 in the ongoing Budget session of the Assembly to combat forceful religious conversions, better known as 'Love Jehad'.

The amendment will seek to prohibit and punish religious conversions promising better lifestyle, divine blessings and impersonation.

After Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Pradesh passed ordinance prohibiting forced religious conversion to check what it calls 'Love Jihad', Gujarat is also likely to introduce a Bill to punish those who forcefully convert girls on the pretext of marriage.

"The amendment to the Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill will be presented in the ongoing Budget session with certain changes to combat 'Love Jihad'," Gujarat Home Minister Pradipsinh Jadeja had told the press earlier.

The Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act (2003) seeks to deal with religious conversion through allurement, force or by misrepresentation or by any other fraudulent means. However, the state government believes that there have also been episodes of religious conversion promising better lifestyle, divine blessings and impersonation. There is an emerging trend where women are lured to marriage for the purpose of religious conversion, said the state government.

According to the provisions of the proposed amendment, whoever is found to be carrying out such religious conversions by marriage, or getting a person married or by aiding a person to get married, shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than three years and up to five years and will also be liable to pay a fine of Rs 2 lakh. ***IANS***

BJP holds Punjab Govt responsible for attack on party MLA in Muktsar

New Delhi: The BJP on Saturday blamed the Chief Minister Amarinder Singh-led Punjab government for the "murderous" attack on its MLA Arun Narang in the state and demanded exemplary action against culprits.

In a statement, BJP general secretary Arun Singh condemned the mistreatment meted out to the legislator as extremely barbaric and painful."The BJP condemns this incident that happened under the Congress government's protection. The Amarinder Singh government of the Congress is directly responsible for it," the party said in the statement.

Narang was allegedly thrashed and his clothes were torn by a group of farmers at Malout in Muktsar district on Saturday, police said.

When the Abohar legislator reached Malout along with local leaders to address a press conference, they were surrounded by a group of protesting farmers and black ink was thrown at them and their vehicles, officials said.

The Punjab chief minister strongly condemned the attack on Narang and also warned of strict action against anyone trying to disturb peace in the state.

He urged the farmers not to indulge in such acts of violence, and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to urgently resolve the crisis triggered by the passage of the farm laws in Parliament last year to prevent the situation from escalating.

Hitting out at the state government, the BJP dubbed it a black spot on democracy and alleged that Congress workers were involved in the attack. ***PTI***

Army recruitment exam in Punjab postponed in view of Covid-19 surge

Ludhiana (Punjab): The Army on Saturday postponed to April 25 the common entrance examination for recruiting general duty personnel in view of the surge in coronavirus cases in Punjab.

The examination to be held on March 28 has been postponed to April 25 on the advice of the district administration due to hike in coronavirus cases, officials said.

The officials at Army recruiting office Ludhiana said the candidates, who have successfully completed the physical and medical examination, were to appear for the common entrance examination.

These candidates are from Ludhiana, Moga, Rupnagar and SAS Nagar (Mohali). ***PTI***

Nadda attacks LDF for crushing sentiments of Sabarimala devotees

PTI ■ CHAKARAKKAL/THODUPUZHA

Raking up the Sabarimala issue in poll-bound Kerala, BJP national chief J P Nadda on Saturday attacked the ruling LDF, saying it had "crushed" the sentiments of devotees in the whole of south India, while Congress only paid "lip service" to their stir.

He also assured that the saffron party would safeguard the traditions of the hilltop shrine and that the political involvement in temple administration would go for ever.

Nadda took out a road show atChakarakkalin Kannur's Dharmadam assembly constituency, where BJP has fieldedC K Padmanabhan to lock horns with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

He attacked the CPI(M)-led LDF and Congress led UDF,saying they are "ideologically confused "as they were fighting each other in Kerala and were"bhai-bhai" (brothers) in West Bengal.

Nadda harped on the same issue at a rally at Thodupuzha in Idukki district, saying both the Left Democratic Front and United Democratic Front are corrupt and ideologically bankrupt.

Taking on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is also in Kerala to campaign for the April 6 assembly polls, he demanded to know what he was doing in the southern state while Bengal was voting, with the commencementof the first phase of elections in the eastern state on Saturday.

"The LDF has crushed the sentiments of people of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the whole of south India.

About Sabarimala temple, we have been very clear about (protecting) the traditions.

Contact tracing...

From Page 1

These were deliberated and decided upon in a review meeting chaired by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Saturday. The high-level review meeting had the participation of additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and Secretaries of the affected States namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Bihar, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka.

Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, was also present during the review meeting. Alarmingly, 36 of the 46 identified districts are in Maharashtra with 25 of them being most affected and accounting for 59.8 per cent of the cases reported in the country during the past one week.

India's total active cases have reached 4,52,647 and currently comprise 3.8 per cent of the country's total infections, said a senior official from the Union Health Ministry. The country saw 62,258 new cases being registered in the last 24 hours, the highest single day rise so far this year.

The focus of the deliberation was on 46 districts that are reporting huge increase in infection and deaths this month. The officials at the meeting felt that the concept of 'second wave' reflected more the laxity among everyone regarding Covid-appropriate behaviour and Covid containment and management strategy at the ground level.

"Hence stringent action including effective containment and contact tracing for at least 14 successive days in the 46 districts was strongly recommended for breaking the chain of transmission and not frittering away the gains of collaborative efforts of last year," said the official sharing the steps decided at the meeting.

It was also noticed that almost 90 per cent of the Covid-19 deaths continue to be in the category of those aged above 45 years. At the meeting the Centre also shared the findings of studies which said that while 90 per cent people are aware, only 44 per cent actually wear face masks.

A five-fold strategy was laid out for adoption by the States and UTs for effective containment and management of the Covid pandemic, which includes exponential increase in testing, effective isolation and contact tracing, re-invigoration of public and private healthcare resources, ensuring of Covid-appropriate behaviour and targeted approach to vaccination in districts reporting large numbers. States were also asked to focus on universalisation of vaccination in the specified priority population age groups as an aid to containment strategy in districts where maximum cases are being reported.

States were also asked to make advance planning of logistics and infrastructure management for 1-1.5 months as any unchecked spread of infection among the community may overwhelm the local administration.

BJP workers celebrates 4 years of Yogi Govt

PRABHA/PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) workers and leaders carried out a massive public contact in Bisrakh Zone of Greater NOIDA West on March 26 and 27, on the occasion of completion of four years of Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh.

The program was organized in the series of week long functions being held in the state.All the party workers and leaders of the Bisrakh Zone took part in the public contact program and informed the public about important works done by the government and different welfare schemes being run by the state government.<

Media Incharge, Ashish Dubey said," Under the guidance of Bisrakh Zone president Ravi Bhadauriya, leaders and workers including Jitendra Sen Jeetu, Aditya Bhatnagar, Dinesh Beniwal, Mukesh Chauhan, Shikha Verma, Ashwini Patel and Saurabh contributed in the program.

UP Govt to build road along India-Nepal border in State: CM

Gorakhpur/Bahraich: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said his government will build a road along the Indo-Nepal border, starting from Maharajganj district in the state and reaching up to Uttarakhand.

Chief Minister Adityanath also announced his government's plan to build a medical college in the Bahraich district.

The chief minister announced these decisions while inaugurating and laying foundation stones for various projects worth nearly Rs 280 cr in the neighbouring Maharajganj district and projects worth Rs 333 cr for Bahraich district.

"We are going to build a border road along the Indo-Nepal border. The work on it will be started from the Maharajganj district. The road will take you to Pilibhit and also connect to Uttarakhand," he said in Maharjganj where he also inaugurated a Nagar Panchayat office.

About the medical college to be built in Bahraich, Adityanath said, "This medical college will provide better treatment facilities to the people of not only Bahraich but the people of the neighbouring districts as well and they will not have to go to bigger cities for the treatment."

In Bahraich, Adityanath also unveiled a statue of Maharana Pratap.

"Maharana Pratap was born in Rajasthan when the country and religion both were in danger. The foreign invaders were eager to crush India's religion, culture and freedom. At that time, Maharana Pratap launched the 'yagya' of freedom and every Indian feels grateful for what he did for the country," the chief minister said. ***PTI***

Trials begin for ...

From Page 1

However, earlier this month, the launch was postponed to August.

The vaccine is one of the most awaited vaccines due to the strong efficacy data from Novavax's own trial in the UK. Covovax is Serum Institute's version of the covid-19 vaccine developed by US-based Novavax, which had announced earlier this month that the jabs have an efficacy of 96% against the original strain determined in a phase 3 trial conducted in the UK. This is the highest efficacy so far achieved for a covid-19 vaccine against the original strain of the coronavirus.However, efficacy of the vaccine dropped to 86.3 per cent against the mutant variant that is now the dominant strain in the UK. On average, the efficacy of the vaccine was 89.7 per cent, the company said.In another phase 2 trials conducted in South Africa, where a different mutant variant is dominant, the overall efficacy dropped to 48.6%.

Poonawalla had earlier said that the company will start stockpiling the vaccine from April. Serum Institute will be manufacturing 1 billion doses of the vaccine, which will be supplied to both India and Covax.

82% voter turnout in Bengal 1st...

From Page 1

"That I raised questions as to why they were not allowing the voters to cast votes they attacked me and smashed the wind shield of my car," he said.An EC official said three persons were arrested in connection with the incident and a report has been sought from the district administration.Stray violence was also reported from Majna in South Contai where voters blocked road claiming that the VVPAT machines were showing that their votes were going to a particular party even though they were voting for some other party.

A contingent of Central forces was deployed to control the situation, said an EC official, adding that the VVPAT machine was replaced.

Elsewhere an alleged BJP supporter man, in his mid-30s, was found dead in Begumpur area of Keshiari in West Midnapore district, said police, adding the victim had been identified as Mandal Soren.

Despite the BJP claiming that Soren was their men, the district administration told in its report to the EC that the death was not connected to the elections.Another suspected TMC supporter was allegedly drowned to death at Mangaldihi area of Parui block in Birbhum district. The TMC alleged BJP's hand in the man's murder while the saffron party denied the charges.

Curiously for the first time in many years it were the TMC supporters complaining against the Opposition that they were not being allowed to vote by them similar situations were witnessed at Patashpur and Bhagwanpur constituencies in East Midnapore where the TMC supporters complained that they could not venture out of their houses as the BJP men threatened attack in the evening.

Covid +ve after both doses...

From Page 1

Similarly, in Bangalore, an ENT surgeon in a private hospital tested positive even after taking the second dose. He reported a mild infection. Ditto was the case with a health official in Gandhinagar's Dehgam taluka in Gujarat early this month when he had tested positive for coronavirus days after taking the second dose of the vaccine against the infection. He had taken the first dose on January 16 and the second one on February 15.

Experts say that more such cases will be reported as more and more people receive the two doses of vaccine, given that their efficacy is nearly 70 to 75 per cent. The total vaccination coverage in India has crossed 5.8-crore as per the latest government data. At least 51,44,011 health workers and 35,39,144 frontline workers have received 2nd dose.

"The vaccine may not provide protection against the virus. However, in most cases, the vaccinated person, if infected, will not require hospitalization. Also, it is essential to follow Covid appropriate norms, wear a mask and ensure hand hygiene and avoid crowds," said Dr Rajinder K Dhamija, neurosurgeon (Head of Department of Neurosurgery) at Lady Hardinge Medical College.

Mamata alleges PM's...

From Page 1

The Chief Minister was apparently referring to the Prime Minister's visit to Orakandi, the birth place of Harichand Thakur, the spiritual motivator of the Matua community -- - that migrated to India after Partition and particularly after the 1972 war --- accounting for about 80 lakh votes influencing the voting pattern in many districts like North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, parts of Burdwan and Murshidabad.

Modi's speech at Matua temple --- whence he said 'I was speaking to some people here. They were saying who could have thought that India's Prime Minister would visit Orakandi' --- had political underpinnings, said Bengal TMC leaders like Subroto Mukherjee, adding the visit was preplanned and telecast with an intention.

The TMC leaders referred to Prime Minister's promises to make it easier for people from India to Orakandi and his commitment to upgrade a girls' school and set up a primary school in the area and said, "If it is not playing to a particular gallery during the votes then what is?"

Delhi won't have another...

From Page 1

Legal action would be taken against violators, he said.The minister added that there were enough hospital beds available for coronavirus patients and it could be increased if the need arises.

"Only 20 per cent of the beds are occupied currently," he said.

Around 90,000 tests are being conducted in Delhi every day, which is five times the national average, the Minister said, adding that random testing is being done at railway stations and the airport to check people coming from outside.The Minister said a direct correlation can be seen in the changing weather and the increase in the number of cases. "However, it cannot be concretely said that this is the sole reason for the surge in cases." Delhi reported over 1,500 coronavirus cases for the second day on the trot on Friday, while nine more people, highest in around two months, succumbed to the pathogen, the Health Department said.

The 1,534 new infections pushed the tally to 6,54,276, while over 6.36 lakh patients have recovered from the virus. This is the highest number of cases since December 16 when 1,547 people tested positive, according to official data.

Executive Engineer, PD, P.W.D, Bulandshahr

E- Procurement-Tender Notice

Letter No. 1238/1A Dated: 13.03.2021

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through **http://etender.up.nic.in** from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below Road work Category as applied from Date**15.04.2021** to **23.04.2021** upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-1 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated **23.04.2021** at **02:00 P.M.** If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs in Lac)	Time of completion work including rainy season	Tender Cost (in Rs)	Address of Executive Engineer	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Under the sanction State Road Fund in the financial year 2020-21								
1	New Construction of missing link road Madhogarh to Ujjara	29.20	2.92	02 Month	300+500+ 18% GST 144.00= Rs. 944.00	Executive Engineer P.D. P.W.D. P.D. P.W.D. Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone P.W.D. Meerut	A.B.C.D. (Road Work)

1. The Bid Security and Tender Document Fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
2. Time allowed for completion of Whole work in column No. 5, including rainy season.
3. All registered contractors have to upload turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum coal work satisfactory completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender. Details of e-tender uploaded on http://etender.up.nic.in shall also be uploaded on uppwd Chanakya Software before last date & time of submission of bid.
4. Terms & conditions related to bids are available on https://etender.up.nic.in
5. During execution of work contractor should ensure the all safety Messures for COVID-19
6. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software URL for Prahari is http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/

Assistant Engineer
P.D. P.W.D. BULANDSHAHR
UP 162972 date 27.3.2021

विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Executive Engineer
P.D. P.W.D. BULANDSHAHR

Meeting with...

From Page 1

Both leaders emphasised the importance of effective border management for ensuring a tranquil, stable and crime free border, the statement said.

In a humanitarian gesture, Prime Minister Modi handed over a representational key of 109 life-saving ambulances to his counterpart Hasina. He also handed over a representational box as a symbol of India's gift of 1.2 million Covid vaccine doses to Bangladesh.

Hasina presented a gold and a silver coin released on the occasion of the birth centenary of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Modi. She also handed over a silver coin released on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence.

The two leaders also jointly inaugurated several projects virtually, including opening three new border haats on India-Bangladesh borders and inaugurating a new passenger train 'Mitali Express' connecting Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri on the Indian side.

This is the third passenger train after Maitree Express (Dhaka-Kolkata) and Bandhan Express (Khulna-Kolkata) running between the two countries.

The other projects included: foundation stone laying of a monument at Bangladesh's Ashuganj in memory of 1971 martyred Indian soldiers; extended development work at Rabindra Bhawan Kuthibari in Shilaidaha of Bangladesh's Kushtia and ground breaking for Infrastructure Development for Power Evacuation Facilities of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

The MoUs signed were on Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation; cooperation between Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) and establishment of a Framework of Cooperation in the Area of Trade Remedial Measures.

The supply of ICT equipment, courseware and reference books and training for Bangladesh-Bharot Digital Service & Employment and Training (BDSET) Center, and Establishment of Sports facilities at Rajshahi College field and surrounding areas were other MoUs.

The two prime ministers also released India-Bangladesh Friendship stamps to commemorate the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.Modi's visit is taking place at a time Bangladesh is commemorating Mujib Borsho, the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 years of the country's war of liberation.

On Friday, Modi attended the celebrations of the golden jubilee of the country's independence, the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu' in Dhaka

Earlier in the morning, Modi offered prayers at the centuries-old Jeshoreshwari Kali temple in Ishwaripur village in southwestern Bangladesh and announced that India would construct a community hall-cum cyclone shelter attached to the temple, which is one of the 51 Shaktipeeths in the Puranic tradition.

He visited the mausoleum of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and paid floral tributes to him, becoming the first-ever foreign Head of State or Head of Government to pay homage at the grave of 'Bangabandhu' at Tungipara in southwestern Bangladesh.

Modi also offered prayers at a Matua temple in Bangladesh's Orakandi, the birthplace of Hindu mystic figure and Matua community's spiritual guru Harichand Thakur. ***PTI***

Tharoor says sorry for tweet against PM's B'desh speech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor on Saturday admitted his mistake and said "sorry" for slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi for omitting former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's role in the freedom of Bangladesh.

Through a tweet message, Tharoor admitted his mistake and wrote, "I don't mind admitting when I'm wrong. Yesterday, on the basis of a quick reading of headlines and tweets, I tweeted "everyone knows who liberated Bangladesh," implying that Narendra Modi had omitted to acknowledge Indira Gandhi. It turns out he did: Sorry!"

He also attached a news report which quoted the Prime Minister for hailing the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for her contribution in the freedom of Bangladesh. "Indira Gandhi's contribution in freedom of Bangladesh is publicly known," the PM had mentioned in his speech in Dhaka.

But on Friday, while taking a pot shot at Modi, who is on two-day visit to Bangladesh, his first foreign visit amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Tharoor slammed the Prime Minister. Bangladesh won its independence in 1971 following a brief war between India and Pakistan.

The former Union Minister admitted his mistake saying it was based on the "quick reading" of headlines and tweeted "sorry".

Congress and BJP have sparred over Modi's remark that he did satyagraha for Bangladesh's freedom, with the opposition party questioning the statement's veracity and the ruling party asserting that it was true.

"I don't mind admitting when I'm wrong. Yesterday, on the basis of a quick reading of headlines and tweets, I tweeted "everyone knows who liberated Bangladesh," implying that @narendramodi had omitted to acknowledge IndiraGandhi. It turns out he did: Sorry," tweeted Tharoor.

Tagging the Prime Minister's remarks, Tharoor said, "International education: our PM is giving Bangladesh a taste of Indian 'fake news'. The absurdity is that everyone knows who liberated Bangladesh." In his apology message, Tharoor claimed the tweet was based on a news report which quoted PM Modi as saying that he had held a Satyagraha for Bangladesh's liberation and had been even jailed for it.

Another Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had shared a cartoon taking a dig at Modi and tweeted, "Entire Political Science by Narendra Modi." to which the BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya responded on the microblogging site, "Was Prime Minister Modi part of satyagrah organised by Jana Sangha for recognition of Bangladesh? Yes, he was."

ED attaches IAS couple's ₹1.49 cr assets under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has attached assets worth about ₹1.49 crore of a former IAS couple, Arvind Joshi and Tinoo Joshi, of the Madhya Pradesh cadre as part of a money laundering proceedings against them.

The agency said that a provisional order for attachment of a total of 32 assets including agricultural land, plots and land has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). These properties have been purchased in the name of HM Joshi, Nirmala Joshi, Abha Ghani, Harsh Kohli, Sahil Kohli and Ethos Exports Pvt. Ltd.

The properties belong to HM Joshi, Nirmala Joshi, Abha Ghani, Harsh Kohli, Sahil Kohli and Ethos Exports Pvt. Ltd, who are linked to the former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the 1979 batch, it said.

The money laundering case against the former bureaucrats is based on a State police FIR registered against them for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets to the tune of over ₹41 crore.

"Arvind Joshi and Tinoo Joshi have acquired a huge number of movable and immovable properties in the name of their family members and their close associates from the ill-gotten money," the ED said in a statement. .

"Such money, mostly received in the form of cash, has been utilised either directly or has been routed through multiple layers of bank accounts opened in the name of family members, their close associates and various firms," it said. The agency, before the latest attachment of ₹1.49 crore of assets, had earlier seized properties worth ₹7.12 crore of the couple.

The former IAS officers were dismissed from service in 2014 by the Government for allegedly amassing wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income.

Air India will be 100% disinvested, says Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday asserted Air India will be "100 per cent disinvested", saying the choice is only between disinvestment and closing down the airline company.

The Minister confirmed that the Government is determined and there is no hesitation in taking the disinvestment decision. The Minister further stated the Government is not planning to curtail flight services further amid the second wave of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). However, plans of making all services functional from April 1 have been postponed amid a sharp rise in Covid-19 cases.

"We've decided that Air India will be 100% disinvested. Choice isn't between disinvestment and non-disinvestment, it's between disinvestment and closing down. Air India is a first-rate asset but has an accumulated debt of ₹60,000 Crore. We need to draw the slate clean," Puri told news agency ANI.

"In the last meeting, on Monday, it was decided that the shortlisted bidders (for Air India disinvestment) be informed that the bids have to come in within 64 days…This time the government is determined and there is no hesitation," he said.

He added that the disinvestment process is likely to be completed by May or June.The government has started the process to sell its entire 100 per cent stake in Air India that has been in losses since it merged with Indian Airlines in 2007.

"…There is no choice, we either privatise or we close the airline. We run a loss of Rs 20 crore every day despite Air India making money now. Because the mismanagement has resulted in a cumulative debt of ₹60,000 crore," Puri had said on Friday.

"I don't have the capacity to keep going to Nirmala ji and say please give me some money," he said in an apparent reference to seeking funds to run Air India from the finance minister. He also noted that earlier attempts at Air India privatisation were not successful because the attempts were half-hearted.

The Minister also said that the second wave of COVID-19 has delayed airlines being allowed to operate 100 percent that was planned to happen from the start of the summer schedule this month-end. But for now, there are no questions to curtail the domestic operations, he added.

"No intention of curtailing [flight services]. Domestic flights were halted in March 2020 and resumed on May 25. We have been further reopening them. Our intention was to open them 100 percent with the onset of the summer schedule from April 1 since we are at 80 per cent right now. We can't open it 100 per cent now due to the second spike of COVID-19," he said.

No rigid standard for acceptance or rejection of dying declaration: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that there can be "no rigid standard or yardstick" for acceptance or rejection of dying declaration, which alone can form the basis for conviction if it has been made voluntarily and inspires confidence.

The apex court observed that if there are contradictions that create doubts about the truthfulness and credibility of the dying declaration then the benefit of doubt shall have to be given to the accused.

A Bench comprising justices Navin Sinha and Krishna Murari stated this in its judgement while dismissing an appeal challenging the August 2011 verdict of the Delhi High Court which upheld a trial court order acquitting two persons accused of subjecting a woman to cruelty and murdering her.

"A dying declaration is admissible in evidence under section 32 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. It alone can also form the basis for conviction if it has been made voluntarily and inspires confidence," the top court said in its March 25 verdict.

A dying declaration is admissible in evidence under section 32 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872

"If there are contradictions, variations, creating doubts about its truthfulness, affecting its veracity and credibility, or if the dying declaration is suspect, or the accused is able to create a doubt not only with regard to the dying declaration but also with regard to the nature and manner of death, the benefit of doubt shall have to be given to the accused," it said.

The Bench further said, "Therefore, much shall depend on the facts of a case. There can be no rigid standard or yardstick for acceptance or rejection of a dying declaration."

The plea in the apex court was filed by a man who had challenged the acquittal of his deceased sister's husband and sister-in-law in a case lodged in 1991.

Centre OK's wheat procurement rescheduling

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Due to late maturity and a massive surge in Covid-19 cases in the State, the Centre has approved Punjab Government's request to reschedule the wheat procurement. The wheat procurement period in Punjab has now been rescheduled to April 10 to May 31 in place of April 1 to May 25.

The Captain Amarinder Singh Government had urged the Centre for rescheduling the wheat procurement from April 10. The Centre has allowed the State Government to make disbursal of crop payments to farmers either directly or through the arhtiyas (commission agents). Official agencies normally start wheat procurement in the beginning of April, although the harvest gains momentum after a week or two.

"The request made by Government of Punjab for rescheduling wheat procurement period during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2021-22, due to late maturity of crop & surge in Covid-19 cases in the State, has been considered and the request of the State Government was approved by Government of India for rescheduling the wheat procurement period in Punjab from April 10 to May 31, 2021 in place of April 1, to May 25, 2021," the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said in a statement on Saturday. Wheat procurement is undertaken by state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state civil supplies agencies at the minimum support price.

Estimated at 427.363 Lakh Metric Tonnes, wheat procurement for the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2021-22 is expected to be 9.56 per cent more than the 389.93 LMT procured in 2020-21. Among the 12 producing states, the procurement from Punjab is expected to be 130 LMT, Haryana 80 LMT, Uttar Pradesh 55 LMT and Rajasthan 22 LMT – the states where farmers are agitating against the three Central farm laws. In 2020-21, the wheat procurement in MP was 129.35 LMT, more than Punjab's 127.14 LMT. In 2017-18, MP's yield of wheat was only 3 tonnes/ha against Punjab's 5 tonnes/ha.

Meanwhile, according to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the Government has purchased over 688.02 LMTs of paddy up to March 24 this year.This is an increase of 13.54 % against the last year corresponding purchase of 605.94 LMT. Out of the total purchase of 688.02 LMT, Punjab alone has contributed 202.82 LMT which is 29.47% of total procurement. "About 101.45 Lakh farmers have already been benefitted from the ongoing KMS procurement Operations with MSP value of ₹1,29,898.14," the ministry said.

EC seizes ₹281.28 cr from poll-bound Bengal, Assam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has seized ₹281.28 crore from West Bengal and Assam so far before the first phase of polls on Saturday. The seizure figure, which includes cash, liquor, narcotics and freebies is more than four times higher than the total combined seizure of Rs. 60.91 Crore 2016 assembly polls. As per the EC's data, ₹ 97.31crore has been seized in Assam (as against a total seizure of ₹16.58 crore in 2016) and a total of 183.97crores for West Bengal (as against a total seizure of ₹44.33crore in 2016).

The poll body said that 53 Expenditure Observers have been deployed in Assam while 85 West Bengal for effective monitoring. In Assam, 603 Flying Squads (FS) and 762 Static Surveillance Teams (SST) were operationalised to check movement of cash, liquor, drugs & freebies. The figures of FS & SST deployed in West Bengal are 1,137 & 1,012 respectively.

In Assam, 06 Air Intelligence Units (AIU) of IT Department are set up at Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Silchar, Tezpur & Lakhimpur. In West Bengal, 03 Air Intelligence Units (AIU) of IT Department are set up at Kolkata, Andal in Durgapur & Bagdogra. "Commission has been laying specific emphasis on inducement free elections and curbing the malaise of undue money power, liquor, freebies," it said. Distributing cash and gifts during electoral process is not permitted under the law — distribution of money, liquor, or any other item disbursed and given to the electors with the intent to influence them.

This expenditure comes under the definition of "bribery" which is an offence both under section 171B of the Indian Penal Code and under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

According to the EC, a total number of 167 cases of Model Code of Conduct violations were reported through the cVIGIL app from West Bengal out of which 111 were disposed as of 4.30 pm. Similarly 582 cases were reported from Assam with 423 disposed till 4.30 pm.

"During this phase, a total of 10288 Ballot Units (BUs), 10288 Control Units(CUs) and 10288 VVPATs were used in West Bengal and 11,537 Ballot Units (BUs), 11,537 Control Units (CUs) and 11,537 VVPATs were used in Assam," the EC said.

The first phase of Assam and West Bengal Assembly Elections was conducted successfully across 21,825 Polling Stations spread over 77 Assembly Constituencies on Saturday.

Prez Kovind to undergo bypass surgery on Tuesday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind, currently at AIIMS here, will undergo bypass surgery on Tuesday. "President Ram Nath Kovind has been shifted to AIIMS, Delhi, today afternoon. Post investigations, doctors have advised him to undergo a planned bypass procedure which is expected to be performed on the morning of March 30. His health is stable:," said the President's Secretariat in a statement on Saturday evening.

Earlier in the morning, the Army's Research and Referral hospital said the condition of the President was stable and he is being referred to the AIIMS for further investigation. The Rashtrapati Bhavan in a statement said Kovind has been under observation after a routine medical check up and has thanked all who enquired about his health and wished him well.

"The President has been under observation after a routine medical checkup. He thanks all who enquired about his health and wished him well," the Rashtrapati Bhavan tweeted. The President, aged 75, had undergone a health check-up at the military hospital following a chest discomfort on Friday morning.

"The condition of President Shri Ram Nath Kovind is stable. He is being referred to AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences), Delhi for further investigation," the hospital said in a medical bulletin on Saturday. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Kovind at the Army hospital on Friday.

Home-grown dating app for LGBTQ+ community

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A home-grown app designed explicitly for the Indian LGBTQ+ community aims to bridge that gap when it comes to dating and connecting with others who have, over the years, become comfortable with and vocal about their identities.

'As You Are' or AYA, the dating and social networking platform, is the brainchild of Chandigarh-based entrepreneur Sunali Aggarwal and understands that many within the community have not identified themselves publicly for various reasons.

The app's key features are customised keeping in mind the suitability and sensitivity of the users

The app's key features are customised keeping in mind the suitability and sensitivity of the users: accessibility and anonymity, easy-to-use and jargon-free sign-up, three levels of verification and blanket security, and complete user control, says Aggarwal, who co-founded Mobikwik.Com in 2009.

Reflecting on the journey and AYA's future, she says for many from the LGBTQ+ community, the physical world may not be the most conducive space to find a partner.

"Therefore, the community often turns to the digital world to seek guidance and support. Owing to this, AYA aims to create a safe space to counter the challenges of queer dating," she says.

"In the future, we also aim to bring services designed especially for the community and if possible, by the community," she adds.

Vote for progress, golden future of Assam: Priyanka to people

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As polling began for the first phase of Assembly elections in Assam, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday urged the people to vote for progress and golden future of the State.

The Congress-led 'Mahajot' alliance is seeking to wrest power from the BJP in Assam which is voting in three phases starting on Saturday. The counting of votes will be on May 2.

"Today, the first phase of polling is being held in Assam. I appeal to the people of Assam, especially the youth and my sisters, to go to the polling booths today and vote in large numbers," Priyanka Gandhi said in a Facebook post in Hindi.

"Vote for progress and golden future of Assam," said the Congress general secretary, who has campaigned in the State.

Jal Shakti Ministry approves ₹465 cr performance incentive to 7 States under Jal Jeevan Mission

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Jal Shakti Ministry has approved ₹465 crore as performance incentive grant to Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a statement said on Saturday.

It said Gujarat was among the best performing states in implementing

JJM to ensure tap water supply to every household. Northeastern states have implemented JJM with speed and scale despite hilly terrain and forested areas, the statement said.

It is for the first time that five northeast States have qualified for the performance incentive grant, it added.

"Seven states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh qualified for performance incentive grant for 2020-21 under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home by 2024," the statement said.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns and disruption, speedy implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission on the ground has set an example

"For performance incentive grant, the criteria include physical and financial progress under JJM, functionality of piped water supply schemes and capacity to utilise the fund. Today, Union Minister, Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Sekhawat approved Rs 465 crore as performance incentive to these states," it added.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns and disruption, speedy implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission on the ground has set an example and during the financial year, more than 3.16 crore rural households have been provided tap water connection, the statement said.

Currently, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa and Telangana have become 'Har Ghar Jal' states/UT, and every household in 55 districts and 85,000 villages of the country have tap water supply, it said.

Since the announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission on August 15, 2019, four crore households have been provided tap water connections, thus increasing the tap water supply from 3.23 crore (17 per cent) rural households in the country to more than 7.20 crore (37.6 per cent), the statement added.

This is the "speed and scale" of the work being undertaken to provide clean drinking water to every rural household, it said.

In the financial year 2020-21, Rs 11,000 crore was allocated for Jal Jeevan Mission and grants have been provided to states/UTs based on output in terms of functional household tap connections given and the utilisation of available central grant and matching state share, the statement added. PTI

Man cannot shirk his responsibility as husband to maintain his legally wedded wife, says Delhi court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dismissing a man's appeal against an order directing him to pay interim maintenance to his estranged wife, a Delhi court has said that it is the husband's social and lawful duty to maintain his legally wedded wife and he cannot run away from his responsibility.

The court, however, said the wife should also try to find a job for herself and should not waste her talent sitting idle at home since she was qualified.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Swarana Kanta Sharma said the magistrate court has rightly directed the man to pay Rs 20,000 per month as interim maintenance to his wife.

"As per settled law, the appellant (husband) cannot shirk his responsibility as husband to maintain his legally wedded wife, which is his social and lawful duty towards his wife," the court said in its order passed on March 25.

It noted that as per the law, the wife was also entitled to the same standard of living as enjoyed by her husband.

During the hearing, the man's counsel had claimed that his wife had herself left the matrimonial home without any reason and refused to come back.

His lawyer further argued that he was jobless from 2019 as he had left his job to pursue higher studies and thus, the trial court passed the interim orders without considering his current situation and liabilities.

Advocate Amit Kumar, appearing for the wife, argued that she was allegedly tortured by her in-laws at the matrimonial home which had compelled her to file a complaint under the Domestic Violence Act against them and reside with her brother.

Kumar said the magistrate court had passed the order after considering the man's expenses and his last drawn salary, and that his wife was unemployed.

JMC helping Rohingyas to earn their livelihood

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

While efforts are on to tarnish the image of India over deportation of Rohingyas, illegal immigrants to Myanmar, on ground zero where over 170 Rohingyas have been detained since March 6, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is helping members of this "persecuted" community to earn their livelihood in order to sustain their families.

The ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) enjoys a majority with 43 seats in its kitty in the house of 75 corporators in JMC.

Despite several warnings and detection of fake documents from these illegal immigrants, the contractors working with Jammu Municipal Corporation have enrolled large numbers of Rohingyas to carry out cleanliness works and lifting heaps of garbage before dumping the same at the garbage collection centre near Kot Bhalwal, on the outskirts of Jammu.

In the absence of availability of local work force several contractors end up hiring these illegal immigrants from Myanmar to clean deep drains and collect heaps of garbage from different dumping sites.

Speaking to *The Pioneer,* Mohd Yusuf, a Rohingya immigrant from Myanmar working with JMC said, ``I have been staying in Jammu since last

over four years. He said initially I used to work with railway contractors in the washing line and earned Rs 9000 per month. But during lockdown we were told to return home and not report on duty as train services were suspended".

Mohd Yusuf said for almost four months I am working with Jammu Municipal Corporation. "I report on duty at around 8.30 a.m and work till 4.30 p.m. I earn Rs 300 per day", he added.

Along with Mohd Yusuf around 150 Rohingyas are still working with different contractors in different parts of Jammu.

In the absence of clarity over their fate, the majority of Rohingyas continue to live in fear and have stopped going to work.

"We live in constant fear. We seldom sleep during night hours as we have developed fear police teams will come and detain us", Mohd Zuber said claiming we are spending sleepless nights since March 6.

Din Mohammad, staying in Jammu since 2012 said, "I used to work as a sanitation worker in a private school. After police started our verification drive I was told by the school authorities to stop working for them for some time. I have not committed any crime. I ran away from my country to save my life". "I don't know why we are receiving such treatment when we have not committed any crime". "We appeal to the government of India to verify our details and allow us to stay back till situation normalises in our own country". "We are not here to settle down permanently".

Why NIA not questioning Param Bir Singh over disappearance of DVR from Mumbai CP office: Maha Cong

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Picking holes in the ongoing NIA investigations into the twin SUV recovery-businessman murder cases, the Maharashtra Congress on Saturday demanded to know as to why the Central agency has not questioned Mumbai's former police Param Bir Singh over the "disappearance" of Digital Video Recorder (DVR) from the Mumbai Police Commissionerate.

"When Paramvir Singh was the Commissioner of Police, the DVR of the Mumbai Police Commissionerate office disappeared from his office and why the NIA is not investigating?," Maharashtra Congress general secretary and spokesperson asked.

Sawant also expressed surprise as to why the NIA had not recorded the statement of any of the arrested police officer Sachin Waze's senior officials during the last 18 days.

Talking to media persons here, Sawant said: "On March 10, the DVR installed at the Mumbai Police Commissioner's Office premises was officially taken by the ATS for investigation. But, within two hours, CP's office felt that it was a mistake to hand over the DVR to the ATS. The DVR was called back saying that the DVR would be checked and returned later on the ground that visibility is poor".

"Someone from Paramvir Singh's office called ATS head Jaijeet Singh and said so. Inquiry of this will reveal the real name which is although quite clear. DVR was taken into custody by an official who was sent from Paramvir Singh's office. The DVR has since disappeared. Why isn't the NIA investigating?," Sawant asked.

"In this DVR, the Scorpio (used the explosive planting case), Innova movement were clearly seen and also who Sachin Waje and others were in contact with. Surprisingly, despite the disappearance of important evidence, the NIA has not summoned any senior Sachin Waze official for the last 18 days," Sawant said.

Hitting out at the Opposition for trying to divert the attention from the much-discussed explosive laden SUV planting and the alleged businessman Mansukh Hiran murder cases, Sawant said: "The BJP has stopped demanding an inquiry into Parvamir Singh. Since the BJP was trying to divert attention from the Antilia case and the Mansukh Hiren murder case, the main issue was sidelined and other unrelated allegations were made, the goalposts have been constantly changed"

Sawant also castigated former chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis for his "false" allegations of corruption in what the latter called police officers' transfer-posting-promotion corruption racket. "The allegations made by Fadnavis on the basis of unauthorized phone tapping by former Intelligence Commissioner Rashmi Shukla have been found untrue in the Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte's fact-finding report," the Congress spokesperson said.

"Now, if Rashmi Shukla did not e the 6.3 GB pen drive to the state government, then where did Fadnavis get this pen drive from? He should apologize for defaming Maharashtra government by giving < false information to the Union Home secretary," Sawant said.

Alluding to the letter written by Paramvir Singh to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray alleging that State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of the NCP had asked suspended police officer Sachin Vaze last month to "collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources, Sawant said: "Singh did not provide any strong evidence".

"Evidence from a conversation between two people is supposed to be a recording but Paramvir Singh tried to gather evidence from his close associates based on anecdotal information. The truth will come out through an inquiry," the Congress spokesperson added.

Kerala reports 2,055 fresh corona cases

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala recorded a spike In Covid-19 cases on Saturday with 2,055 people, including 25 health workers, being infected, while 14 more fatalities pushed the toll to 4,567, the state government said.

Recoveries, at 2,084, outnumbered the fresh cases. On Friday, the state had logged 1,825 cases

The active cases in the state on Saturday touched 24,231. While the infection caseload mounted to 11,15,777, as many as 10,86,669 people have been cured,Health minister K K Shailaja, said in a press release.

Kozhikode accounted for 263 cases, Ernakulam 247, Kannur 222 and Kottayam 212. Wayanad reported the least number of 58 cases. In the last 24 hours ending at 2 pm, 52,288 samples were tested and the test positivity rate was 3.93 per cent.

So far 1,29,66,274 samples have been sent for testing. Of the positive cases, 82 had come from outside the state and 1,773 were infected through contact. ***PTI***

AP reports over 900 cases for 2nd consecutive day

Amaravati: For the second consecutive day, Andhra Pradesh reported more than 900 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday, taking the cumulative to 8,97,810.

A health department bulletin said the State reported 947 fresh cases and 377 recoveries, but no deaths in 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday.

The state COVID-19 chart showed 8,85,892 total recoveries and 7,203 deaths, leaving 4,715 active cases.

The overall infection positivity rate has now came down to six per cent after 1,49,58,897 tests were conducted at the rate of 2.80 lakh per million population, the bulletin said.

The contagion left tens of students in the Andhra University in Visakhapatnam sick, forcing the authorities to announce closure of the hostels.

The infected students have been isolated and lodged in special rooms in the university, where the health authorities were treating them.Visakhapatnam District Collector V Vinay Chand and other officials visited the university on Saturday and took stock of the situation.

The Collector said 83 students tested positive for COVID-19 in AU, but all had only mild symptoms.

"We have informed the parents about the infection, but there is no need for any alarm. We have provided quarantine facilities in both boys and girls hostels in the AU Engineering College.

Sanitisation is being vigorously carried out," the Collector said.

The university chief warden issued a notice that all hostels on the campus would be closed from Sunday.

The scheduled examinations for BE, B.Tech and B.Pharmacy students have been postponed due to the outbreak of the pandemic in the university.

Meanwhile, in Kadapa, 18 staff members of the District Water Management Authority tested positive for coronavirus.The DWMA office has now been shut down after sanitization.

The infected staff have been kept in home quarantine, according to health department officials.In 24 hours, Chittoor district reported the highest 180 fresh cases, followed by Visakhapatnam 156, Guntur 145 and Krishna 113.

Kurnool reported 61, East Godavari 58, Srikakulam 56, SPS Nellore 43, Kadapa 40, Anantapuramu 35 new cases. Prakasam added 23, Vizianagaram 19 and West Godavari 18 new cases in a day, the bulletin said. ***PTI***

J&K reports 271 new Covid cases, 1 death

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 271 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday, which includes 58 travellers, taking the infection tally to 1,29,684, while one fatality pushed the death toll in the union territory to 1,985, officials said.

Seventy-five of the fresh cases were from Jammu division and 196 from Kashmir division, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 118 new cases, which includes 39 travellers, followed by 56 in Jammu district and 42 in Baramulla.

Four districts did not report any cases, while 12 others detected new cases in single digits.

> Seventy-five of the fresh cases were from Jammu division and 196 from Kashmir division, they said

The number of active cases, which has been rising steadily over the past week, has now reached 1,813 in the union territory, while 1,25,886 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The fatality was reported from Kashmir valley, they added. ***PTI***

Goa records 170 new cases, one death

Panaji: Goa on Saturday recorded 170 new cases of coronavirus that have taken the tally of infections to 57,453, an official from the state health department said.

At least 69 patients were discharged from various treatment facilities, while one died of the infection during the day, the official said.

With this, the count of recoveries in the state has reached 55,250 and the toll stood at 824, he said.

This leaves the coastal state with 1,379 active cases, he said.

With the addition of 2,479 swab samples tested during the day, the total number of tests conducted in the state has gone up to 5,37,572, the official added.

Goa's COVID-19 figures are as follows: Positive cases 57,453, new cases 170, death toll 824, discharged 55,250, active cases 1,379, samples tested till date 5,37,572. ***PTI***

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

TENDER NOTICE

Open e-tender based on **single** packet system Tender Notice No. **BLW/5-S/2021 Dt-25/03/2021** is invited by **DEE/M/BLW/BSB** on Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of president of India for the following work :- **Description of work :** Work for Re-Certification of 5/S as per scope of work at Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi - 221004 through Open Tender Basis. **Approx. Value (in Rs.) :** Rs 2,36,000.00, **EMD (in Rs.) :** NIL, **Cost of Tender document -** NIL. **Completion period of work:-** 36 months. ● **Date & time of closing of Tender-** 20/04/2021 at 15.00 hrs. ● **Date & time of opening of Tender -** 20/04/2021 at 15.30 hrs. ● Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at Indian Railways IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. **Note-1)** Tenderers shall be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Manual offers are not allowed for this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

PR/BLW/E-17 **District Electrical Engineer/M**

/blwvaranasi "Website: www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

20-year jail term awarded in case of kidnapping, rape of 5-yr-old

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The accused in a case of five-year-old girl's abduction from home two years ago at Dehli Gate, Nagla Masani has been punished for 20 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000.

This ruling under the Mission Shakti Abhiyan has been pronounced from the court of ADJ-Special Judge Posco III Tribhuvan Nath Paswan.

According to Special Public Prosecutor Lalit Singh Pundir, the incident occurred in August 2019, when a five-year-old girl slept near her parents. Rajendra, of the locality, took her from the house to a nearby veterinary hospital, where he raped her.

MAHA MALL-COVID HOSPITAL FIRE

Toll rises to 11, cops book mall-hospital directors for deaths due to negligence

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As the toll in Friday's fire at the Covid health facility at the Dreams Mall in north-east Mumbai rose to 11, the Bhandup police on Saturday booked four directors of the mall and three directors of the Sunrise Hospital under section 304 A of IPC for allegedly causing death due to negligence.

With the recovery of two more bodies, the Covid facility fire went up to 11. In all, 78 persons were undergoing treatment at the 107-bed Sunrise Hospital located at Bhandup, at the time of mishap. The fire brigade personnel rescued the patients from the fire and rushed them to various nearby hospitals.

The fire had broken on the first floor of the Dreams Mall in Bhandup in the small hours of Friday and swiftly spread to the second floor and the third floor, where the Sunrise Hospital's Covid-19 facility is located.

While the cause of the blaze has not been established yet, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has ordered an inquiry into the cause and the circumstances leading to the break-out of fire.

In a related development, the Bhandup police booked four directors of Dreams Mall –Rakeshkumar Kuldeep Wadhwan, Nikita Amitasingh Threhan, Sarang Rakesh Wadhwan, Deepak Shirke and others, and Amita Singh Threhan, Nikita Amita Singh and Sweety Jain under sections 304 A (causing negligence by death) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in < furtherance of common intention) of IPC.

Given that there has been a dispute between the shop owners and the board of directors of the mail, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)-appointed Administrator Rahul Sahasrabuddhe has been managing the mall premises since 2018. There are 1108 shops in the mall. Of them, 40 per cent are functioning. <

The Sunrise hospital has been running a Covid Centre on the third floor of the Dreams Mall since January 2021.

On their part, the police questioned the directors linked to both the mall and hospital on whether they fire safety measures on the premises and on whether they were adhering to the norms prescribed by the authorities.

Similarly, in its effort to fix responsibility for the mishap, the Mumbai Fire Brigade is also investigating the cause of fire.

Meanwhile, the Sunrise Hospitals head of Operations Satyendra Tiwari has lodged a complaint with Bhandup Police Station against the Dreams Mall's NCLT appointed Administrator Rahul Sahasrabuddhe for not taking adequate precautions leading to the fire, loss of precious lives and considerable damage to the properties. He has demanded that Administrator Sahasrabuddhe be booked under section 304 A of IPC for allegedly causing death due to negligence.

Maharashtra Minorities Affairs Minister Nawab Malik visited the mall and spoke to the affected shopkeepers, whose establishments were gutted in the fire.

He assured them that he would take up the matter with chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and see if any compensation be given to them.

NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICE
F-17, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-32
DELHI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HEALTH SCHEME CELL

F. No. 25/III/DGEHS/1362/DGHS (HQ)/2020-21/ **Date:-**

TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited from eligible Chemists for the supply of medicines and drugs to the selected Delhi Government Allopathic Dispensaries/hospitals to meet the requirements of medicines of the pensioner's beneficiaries of Delhi Government Employees Health Scheme.

The tender document can be downloaded from Delhi Govt, e-procurement website http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/nicgep/app vide Tender ID No 2021_ DHS_201946_1, dated 23-03-2021. Further, details of tender are as under.

Tender ID No. and date	Tender description	Date & Time
2021_DHS_201946_1 Dated: 23-03-2021	Start date/time for downloading of tender	23-03-2021 at 05.00 PM
	Pre-bid meeting date	30-03-2021 at 03.00 PM
	Last date of submission of EMD and completed bids.	20-04-2021 up to 3.00 PM
	Online opening of technical bids	20-04-2021 at 3.30 PM

For participation in this tender through e-procurement solution bidders are required to have digital certificate and registration with NIC at Delhi Sachivalaya.

Sd/-
(Dr. Sushma Jain)
DIP/Shabdarth/0723/20-21 Addl. Director DGEHS

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Sh. Ram Narain Salvania is the owner of Property Bearing No. RZ-33, FF built on Plot No. RZ-33, Khasra No. 340, situated at Village Nasirpur, Delhi State, colony known as West Sagarpur, Delhi-110046 through sale deed dated 11.02.2013 Reg. No, 1315 in SR-IX Delhi, the property chain document of my client has been lost, details are as -sale deed dated 06.05.2011, Reg. No.5938 registered in SR-IX Delhi. any Person/Bank/Financial Institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever should be notified to the undersigned/adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/d within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.

Vishal Mehan
Ch. No. E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092
Mob No-6392463773

Sex scandal: Looks like conspiracy, a case of honey trap, says JD(S)

Bengaluru: The alleged sex scandal involving former Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi was turning out be a case of "honey trap", JD(S) said on Saturday, as it urged police to conduct an impartial probe to ascertain the truth, without succembing to any political pressure.

The party, in a series of tweets, said the the sex scandal episode has put Karnataka to shame before the nation.

What initially looked like a sex scandal and sexual exploitation now seems like a conspiracy.

The name of D K Shivakumar (Congress leader) has figured, making it look like a case of honey-trap.

In all this, Karnataka is being put to shame before the nation," the regional party, headed by former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, said.

Noting the release of back to back audio and video clippings, the party said there seemed to be a big group involved in the entire episode.

Under the guise of providing justice to the victim, it was becoming clearer that someone is using her to play a game.

It would be a 'huge insult' to Karnataka and its police force if the case is allowed 'to just be by itself, making it an entertainment for the country," JD(S) said and called on police to bring out the truth without succumbing to any political pressure.

"The question whether this is sexual exploitation, a conspiracy or a honey-trap is troubling the citizens.

Without distinguishing between ruling and opposition parties, police should find the truth. The state police is known for its sense of duty, and the time has come to prove it once again, it added. ***PTI***

3 held for sexual harassment of minor girl

PTI ■ MANGALURU

Three people have been arrested on the charge of sexually harassing a14-year-old school girl near here, police said on Saturday.

Efforts to catch a few more accused have begun, Mangaluru city Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar told reporters here.

He said he suspected a racket to lure school girls into their trap.

On the arrest, the police official said the prime accused Muneer had lured the girl by offering her gifts and befriended her by securing her phone number.

Muneer then allegedly took the girl's private photos and videos and threatened to release them if she did not yield to him, the Commissioner said.

A complaint was lodged at the womens police station by the girl's parents who came to know about the harassment, he said.

Muneer is a driver by profession and all the three accused had a criminal background, the police official said.

TECHNOFAB ENGINEERING LIMITED

Regd. Office: 913, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019, CIN : L74210DL1971PLC005712
Tel : +91-11-2641-1931 / 2641-5961

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

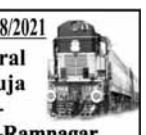
Sr. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE (Rs.in Lacs except shares and EPS)			CONSOLIDATED (Rs.in Lacs except shares and EPS)		
		Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	155.10	5,653.95	1,470.53	155.10	5,653.95	1,470.53
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (Before Tax and Exceptional items)	(3,441.47)	(9,626.41)	(3,569.41)	(3,432.80)	(9,392.20)	(3,455.55)
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (Before tax)	(5,666.21)	(22,594.55)	(6,401.61)	(5657.54)	(22,360.34)	(6,287.75)
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period After Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(5,666.43)	(24,054.00)	(5,729.06)	(5657.77)	(23,867.70)	(5,615.21)
5.	Net profit for the period	(5,666.43)	(24,054.00)	(5,729.06)	(5657.77)	(23,867.70)	(5,615.21)
6.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (After Tax) and other Comprehensive Income (After Tax)]	(2.44)	(12.07)	2.89	(2.44)	(12.07)	2.89
7.	Paid-up equity share capital (10,490,000 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- each.)	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00
8.	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Balance Sheet		(481.35)			772.03	
9.	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each) Basic: Diluted:	(54.02) (54.02)	(229.30) (229.30)	(54.61) (54.61)	(53.96) (53.96)	(227.53) (227.53)	(53.53) (53.53)

NOTE:- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchanges websites i.e. (www.bseindia.com) and (www.nseindia.com) and also available on the Company's Website www.technofabengineering.com.

Date: 26/03/2021
Place: Faridabad

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of **Technofab Engineering Limited**
Sd/- **Arjun Gupta** (Chairman & Managing Director) DIN-00012092

North Eastern Railway Notification No. 68/2021



It is notified for information of general public that following Special & Puja Special Express trains will run as under -

1. 02527/02528 Ramnagar-Chandigarh-Ramnagar Puja Special Train (Weekly)

Train No. - 02527 Ex. Ramnagar on every Monday from 05.04.2021 upto 26.04.2021
Train No. - 02528 Ex. Chandigarh on every Monday from 05.04.2021 upto 26.04.2021

02527 (Ramnagar-Chandigarh) Arr.	Dep.	↓ Station ↑	02528 (Chandigarh-Ramnagar) Arr.	Dep.
--	05.35	Ramnagar	23.35	--
06.09	06.14	Kashipur	22.52	22.57
06.43	06.45	Pipalsana	22.20	22.22
07.35	07.43	Moradabad	21.45	21.50
09.11	09.13	Najibabad Jn.	20.04	20.06
09.49	09.51	Laksar Jn.	19.18	19.20
10.11	10.13	Roorkee	18.58	19.00
11.00	11.10	Saharanpur Jn.	18.10	18.20
11.36	11.38	Yamunanagar Jagadhri	17.34	17.36
12.25	12.35	Ambala Cantt.	16.46	16.55
13.20	--	Chandigarh	--	16.05

Rake Composition- SLRD - 02, General Second Class - 04, Second Class Chaircar-05, AC Chaircar - 01= **12 Coaches**

2. 05036/05035 Kathgodam-Delhi Jn.-Kathgodam Puja Special Train

Train No. - 05036 Ex. Kathgodam from 30.03.2021 upto 30.04.2021
Train No. - 05035 Ex. Delhi Jn. from 30.03.2021 upto 30.04.2021

05036 (Kathgodam-Delhi Jn.) Arr.	Dep.	↓ Station ↑	05035 (Delhi Jn.-Kathgodam) Arr.	Dep.
--	09.05	Kathgodam	22.45	--
09.19	09.22	Haldwani	22.06	22.11
09.54	09.59	Lalkua Jn.	21.28	21.33
10.15	10.20	Rudrapur City	20.48	20.53
10.37	10.39	Bilaspur Road	20.35	20.37
11.12	11.15	Rampur	20.09	20.12
12.00	12.25	Moradabad	19.00	19.40
12.52	12.54	Amroha	18.18	18.20
14.39	14.41	Ghaziabad	16.42	16.44
15.25	--	Delhi Jn.	--	16.00

Rake Composition- SLRD - 02, General Second Class - 03, Second Class Chaircar-09, AC Chaircar - 02= **16 Coaches**

3. 05356/05355 Ramnagar-Moradabad-Ramnagar Puja Special Train

Train No. - 05356 Ex. Ramnagar from 30.03.2021 upto 30.04.2021
Train No. - 05355 Ex. Moradabad from 30.03.2021 upto 30.04.2021

05356 (Ramnagar-Moradabad) Arr.	Dep.	↓ Station ↑	05355 (Moradabad-Ramnagar) Arr.	Dep.
--	10.10	Ramnagar	21.00	--
10.33	10.38	Kashipur	20.20	20.25
11.45	--	Moradabad	--	19.10

Rake Composition- SLRD - 01, Second Class Chaircar-04, AC Chaircar - 01= **6 Coaches**

Please Note - 1. These trains will run with full reserved accommodation. 2. All the passengers, traveling from above trains must follow the COVID-19 protocol and MHA guidelines.

CPRO/T-149 B **Chief Pass. Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur**

About any Passenger Amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955

Never travel on roof and foot boards

Myanmar forces kill dozens in deadliest day since coup

AP ■ YANGON

As Myanmar's military celebrated the annual Armed Forces Day holiday with a parade on Saturday in the country's capital, soldiers and police elsewhere reportedly killed dozens of people as they suppressed protests in the deadliest bloodletting since last month's coup.

A count issued by an independent researcher in Yangon who has been compiling near-real time death tolls put the total by 9 pm at 100, spread over more than two dozen cities and towns. The online news site Myanmar Now earlier reported the death toll had reached 91.

Both numbers are higher than all estimates for the previous high on March 14, which ranged in counts from 74 to 90.

Figures collected by the researcher, who asked not to be named for his security, have generally tallied with the counts issued at the end of each day by the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners, which documents deaths and arrests and is widely seen as a definitive source. The Associated Press is unable to independently confirm the death tolls.

The killings quickly drew international condemnation, with multiple diplomatic missions to Myanmar releasing statements that mentioned the killing of civilians Saturday, including children.

Anti-coup protesters gesture with a three-fingers salute, a symbol of resistance during a demonstration during by police crack down in Thaketa township Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday AP

"This 76th Myanmar armed forces day will stay engraved as a day of terror and dishonour," the European Union's delegation to Myanmar said on Twitter. "The killing of unarmed civilians, including children, are indefensible acts."

US Ambassador Thomas Vajda in a statement said "security forces are murdering unarmed civilians."

"These are not the actions of a professional military or police force," he wrote. "Myanmar's people have spoken clearly: they do not want to live under military rule."

The death toll in Myanmar has been steadily rising as authorities grow more forceful with their suppression of opposition to the February 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The coup reversed years of progress toward democracy after five decades of military rule.

Up through Friday, the Association of Political Prisoners had verified 328 people killed in the post-coup crackdown.

Junta chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing did not directly refer to the protest movement when he gave his nationally televised Armed Forces Day speech before thousands of soldiers in Naypyitaw. He referred only to "terrorism which can be harmful to state tranquility and social security," and called it unacceptable.

This year's event was seen as a flashpoint for violence, with demonstrators threatening to double down on their public opposition to the coup with more and bigger demonstrations. The protesters refer to the holiday by its original name, Resistance Day, which marks the beginning of a revolt against Japanese occupation in World War 2.

State television MRTV on Friday night showed an announcement urging young people - who have been at the forefront of the protests and prominent among the casualties - to learn a lesson from those killed during demonstrations about the danger of being shot in the head or back.

The warning was widely taken as a threat because a great number of the fatalities among protesters have come from being shot in the head, suggesting they have been targeted for death. The announcement suggested that some young people were taking part in protesting as if it was a game, and urged their parents and friends to talk them out of participating.

Anti-coup protesters prepare makeshift bow and arrows to confront police in Thaketa township Yangon on Saturday AP

In recent days the junta has portrayed the demonstrators as the ones perpetrating violence for their sporadic use of Molotov cocktails. On Saturday, some protesters in Yangon were seen carrying bows and arrows.

In contrast, security forces have used live ammunition for weeks against what have still been overwhelmingly unarmed and peaceful crowds. The US Embassy said shots were fired Saturday at its cultural centre in Yangon, though no one was injured.

The military government does not issue regular casualty counts, and when it has released figures, the totals have been a fraction of what independent parties such as the UN have reported. It has said its use of force has been justified to stop what it has called rioting.

In his speech Saturday, Min Aung Hlaing used the occasion to try to justify the overthrow of Suu Kyi's government, accusing it of failing to investigate irregularities in last November's general election, and repeating that his government would hold "a free and fair election" and hand over power afterward.

The military has claimed there were irregularities in the voting rolls for the last election, which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won in a landslide.

Biden invites Russia, China to first global climate talks

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is including rivals Vladimir Putin of Russia and Xi Jinping of China among the invitees to the first big climate talks of his administration, an event the US hopes will help shape, speed up and deepen global efforts to cut climate-wrecking fossil fuel pollution, administration officials told *The Associated Press*.

The president is seeking to revive a US-convened forum of the world's major economies on climate that George W. Bush and Barack Obama both used and Donald Trump let languish. Leaders of some of the world's top climate-change sufferers, do-gooders and backsliders round out the rest of the 40 invitations being delivered Friday. It will be held virtually April 22 and 23.

Hosting the summit will fulfill a campaign pledge and executive order by Biden, and the administration is timing the event to coincide with its own upcoming announcement of what will be a much tougher US target for revamping the US economy to sharply cut emissions from coal, natural gas and oil.

The session – and whether it's all talk, or some progress – will test Biden's pledge to make climate change a priority among competing political, economic, policy and pandemic problems. It also will pose a very public — and potentially embarrassing or empowering — test of whether U.S. leaders, and Biden in particular, can still drive global decision-making after the Trump administration withdrew globally and shook up longstanding alliances.

The Biden administration intentionally looked beyond its international partners for the summit, reaching out to key leaders for what it said would sometimes be tough talks on climate matters, an administration official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss U.S. plans for the event.

North Korea snaps back at Biden over criticism of launches

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Saturday snapped back at President Joe Biden's criticism of its ballistic missile tests, calling his comments a provocation and encroachment on the North's right to self-defense and vowing to continuously expand its "most thoroughgoing and overwhelming military power."

The statement issued by senior official Ri Pyong Chol came after the North on Thursday tested-fired two short-range missiles off its eastern coast in the first ballistic launches since Biden took office.

Experts say the flight data released by South Korea's military and North Korea's own description of the tests indicted that the North tested a new solid-fuel weapon that is designed to evade missile defense systems and is potentially nuclear capable.

The launches showed how the North continues to expand its military capabilities while nuclear negotiations with the United States remain stalled. They also underscored the growing threat such short-range weapons pose to U.S. Allies South Korea and Japan, which host a combined 80,000 U.S. Troops as the core of America's military presence in the region.

Biden was restrained as he admonished North Korea for the launches, which were a violation of UN sanctions against the North.

Prosecution failed to prove guilt of main accused in Daniel Pearl case: Pak SC

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court has criticised the prosecution for its failure to prove the guilt of British-born al-Qaeda terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, the main accused in the sensational kidnapping and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002, according to a media report.

The apex court issued its detailed 43-page judgment on Friday, which has been authored by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood – who was part of the three-member bench.

Dawn newspaper reported that the judges held that the evidence furnished during the trial was full of factual and legal defects. The judgment explains the reasons why the Supreme Court had on January 28 acquitted, by a majority of two to one, Omar Sheikh and others and ordered the release of the principal suspect as well as Fahad Nasim Ahmed, Syed Salman Saqib and Shaikh Mohammd Adil from the jail forthwith, if not required to be detained in connection with any other case.

Pearl, 38, was the South Asia bureau chief of The Wall Street Journal. His murder took place three years after Sheikh, along with Jaish-e-Mohammad chief (JeM) Masood Azhar and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, was released by India in 1999 and given safe passage to Afghanistan in exchange for the nearly 150 passengers of hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814.

GLOBE TROTTING

BUILDING COLLAPSES IN CAIRO KILLING FIVE

Cairo: A nine-story apartment building collapsed in the Egyptian capital early Saturday, killing at least five people and injuring about two dozen others, an official said.

2 DEAD IN VIRGINIA BEACH SHOOTINGS

Virginia Beach: Two people are dead and eight people were wounded in shootings along Virginia Beach's oceanfront.

5K ATTEND ROCK CONCERT AFTER COVID SCREENING

Barcelona: Five thousand music lovers are set to attend a rock concert in Barcelona on Saturday after passing a same-day Covid-19 screening, to test its effectiveness in preventing outbreaks of the virus at large cultural events.

BRITAIN SAYS VARIANT BOOSTER READY BY SEPT

London: Britain's vaccines Minister says booster shots designed to fight new variants of the coronavirus should be ready for distribution to people over 70 by September.

FOREIGNERS FLOCK TO SERBIA FOR COVID JABS

Belgrade (Serbia): Thousands of vaccine-seekers from countries neighbouring Serbia flocked to Belgrade after Serbian authorities offered free Covid jabs for foreigners if they show up over the weekend.

CAR BOMB WOUNDS 19 IN TOWN IN COLOMBIA

Bogota: A car bomb exploded in a town in western Colombia, wounding 19 people amid an increase in violence in some of the country's rural regions.

Iran, China sign strategic long-term cooperation pact

AP ■ TEHRAN (IRAN)

Iran and China on Saturday signed a 25-year strategic cooperation agreement addressing economic issues amid crippling US sanctions on Iran, state TV reported.

The agreement dubbed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, covers a variety of economic activity from oil and mining to promoting industrial activity in Iran, as well as transportation and agricultural collaborations, according to the report. No additional details of the agreement were revealed as Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese counterpart Wang Yi took part in a ceremony marking the event.

The deal marked the first time Iran has signed such a lengthy agreement with a major world power. In 2001, Iran and Russia singed a 10-year cooperation agreement, mainly in the nuclear field, that was lengthened to 20 years through two five-year extensions.

Before the ceremony Saturday, Yi met Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and special Iranian envoy in charge of the deal Ali Larijani.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, on Friday called the agreement "deep, multi-layer and full-fledged."

The deal, which had been discussed since 2016, also supports tourism and cultural exchanges. It comes on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Iran.

The two countries have had warm relations and both took part in a joint naval exercise in 2019 with Russia in the northern Indian Ocean.

Vice-President's policy projects come with political risks

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Mike Pence led the coronavirus task force only to be constantly overruled by the White House. Al Gore's efforts to "reinvent government" were largely forgotten during the Monica Lewinsky scandal. Dan Quayle's revamping of space policy never got much notice to begin with.

For decades, the job of a Vice-President was to try to stay relevant, to avoid being viewed, in the words of one occupant of the post, as "stand-by equipment." But in recent administrations, the seconds-in-command have increasingly been deputized with special policy assignments that add some weight — and political risk — to the job.

That's likely to be the case for Vice President Kamala Harris, who this week was named the new point person on immigration. The job comes as President Joe Biden is rolling back four years of stringent policies enacted by his predecessor and contending with intensifying Republican criticism over the increased flow of migrants to the US-Mexico border.

"It's usually a ceremonial role. This is definitely not a ceremonial task," said Nina Rees, a former deputy assistant for domestic policy to Vice President Dick Cheney.

New attempts planned to free huge vessel stuck in Suez Canal

Ever Given, a Panama-flagged cargo ship, that is wedged across the Suez Canal and blocking traffic in the vital waterway is seen on Saturday AP

AP ■ SUEZ (EGYPT)

A giant container ship remained stuck sideways in Egypt's Suez Canal for a fifth day Saturday, as authorities prepared to make new attempts to free the vessel and reopen a crucial east-west waterway for global shipping.

The Ever Given, a Panama-flagged ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, ran aground Tuesday in the narrow canal that runs between Africa and the Sinai Peninsula.

The massive vessel got stuck in a single-lane stretch of the canal, about six kilometers (3.7 miles) north of the southern entrance, near the city of Suez. Peter Berdowski, CEO of Boskalis, the salvage firm hired to extract the Ever Given, said the company hoped to pull the container ship free within days using a combination of heavy tugboats, dredging and high tides.

He told the Dutch current affairs show Nieuwsuur on Friday night that the front of the ship is stuck in sandy clay, but the rear "has not been completely pushed into the clay and that is positive because you can use the rear end to pull it free."

Former Trump adviser takes prominent role in voting battle

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A GOP lawyer who advised former President Donald Trump on his campaign to overturn the 2020 election results is now playing a central role coordinating the Republican effort to tighten voting laws around the country.

Cleta Mitchell, a longtime Republican lawyer and advocate for conservative causes, was among the Trump advisers on a January phone call in which Trump asked Georgia election officials to "find" enough votes to declare him, and not Democrat Joe Biden, the winner of the battleground state.

Doon University Dehradun
Mothrowala Road Kedarpur, P.O. Defense Colony, Dehradun, 248012, Ph. No.:0135-2533134
E-Tender Notice
(E-19 & 20/2021 dated 23.03.2021)
Doon University invites e-tender for Hiring of Vehicles and AMC of Sewerage Treatment Plant 156 KLD. Tender documents are available in Uttarakhand Govt. e-portal **www.uktenders.gov.in**. Interested firms may apply through e-portal. Last date of submission is 05.04.2021.
Store & Purchase Officer

Poland plans pensions for dogs, horses in state employment

AP ■ WARSAW (POLAND)

They locate survivors in collapsed buildings, track down fugitives, foil drugs and explosives smugglers and help control rowdy crowds. All in exchange for food and lodging — and an occasional pat on the head.

But when retirement time comes, state care ends for the dogs and horses that serve in Poland's Police, Border Guard and Fire Service. They are given away, with no safeguards for their future welfare.

Following appeals from concerned service members,

the Interior Ministry has proposed new legislation that would give these animals an official status, and paid retirement to help cover the often costly care bills their new owners face.

Interior Minister Mariusz Kaminski described the draft law as a "moral obligation" which should get unanimous backing when presented in Parliament for approval later this year.

"More than one human life has been saved, more than one dangerous criminal caught thanks to the animals in service," he said in February.

The new law would affect some 1,200 dogs and more than 60 horses currently in service. Each year, some 10% of the animals are retired, according to the Interior Ministry. Most of the dogs are German or Belgian Shepherds.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HAFED	PUBLICATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE FOR HAFED NEW OIL MILL, RAMPURA (REWARI).	26.03.2021 10.04.2021	5 LACS (SECURITY)	www.hafed.gov.in	01722585912 hafed@hry.nic.in
2	HSVP	MAINTENANCE OF GRASSY LAWN, HEDGE, PLANTS IN TAU DEVI LAL PARK IN SECTOR-7 SONEPAT.	CLOSING DATE 13.04.2021	20.37 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-285006
3	GMDA GURUGRAM	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STP'S & SEWERAGE SCHEME AT GURUGRAM. "SUPPLY OF VARIOUS CHEMICALS FOR TERTIARY TREATMENT UNIT OF 68 MLD STP AT DHANWAPUR & 50 MLD STP AT BEHRAMPUR, GURUGRAM AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO." (2ND RE-CALL)	25.03.2021 15.04.2021	3.92 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	xen4infra2.gmda@gov.in
4	HAFED	CONSTRUCTION OF 30590 MT CAPACITY GODOWNS (WITHOUTROOFING) CEMENT CONCERETE ROADS AND DRAIN AFTER DISMANTLING OF NON CONVERTIBLE PLINTHS AND BRICK PAVING ROAD IN HAFED COMPLEX, KOHLAWS (CHARKHI DADRI)	26.03.2021 06.04.2021	17.96 LACS	www.hafed.gov.in	01722590520 hafed@hry.nic.in
5	HAFED	PUBLICATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE FOR OUTSOURCING OF ALL THE JOBS/WORKS OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF HAFED FLOUR MILL, TARAORI FOR WHEAT PROCESSING, ATTA PRODUCTION AND OTHER RELATED JOBS.	26.03.2021 15.04.2021	10 LACS	www.hafed.gov.in	01722590531 addlgmp@gmail.com
6	MAHARANA PARTAP HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY	SITC OF MUSHROOM CLIMATE CONTROL ALL IN ONE MACHINE, GI RACKS, PUFF PANELING ETC. AT REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE (RMRC), MURTHAL (SONIPAT) AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO UNDER THE CONTROL OF MHU (RS. 31.75 LAKH)	26.03.2021 09.04.2021	63500/-	www.mhu.ac.in	70159-98919
7	INDIRA GANDHI UNIVERSITY,MEERPUR (REWARI)	1.SUPPLY OF 37 NO. COMPUTER PRINTERS & 5 NO. LAPTOPS, OF HP MAKE, + 3 OTHER WORK	04.03.2021 05.04.2021	153 LACS	www.igu.ac.in	9518892667 purchase@igu.ac.in
8	GMDA GURUGRAM	SPECIAL REPAIR OF ROAD SURFACE FOR RAILWAY OVER BRIDGE AT BASAI, GURUGARM.	18.03.2021 08.04.2021	30.65 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	xen3infra1.gmda@gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **RO NO. 2374**

Disinvestment target of FY'22 achievable: CEA

LIC IPO TO BRING IN ₹1 LAKH CR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that the disinvestment target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore for 2021-22 was "imminently achievable", Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) KV Subramanian on Saturday said the proposed initial public offering (IPO) by LIC itself could garner Rs 1 lakh crore for the government.

He also said retail inflation targeting by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has helped in bringing down the volatility and level of inflation.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee has been mandated to maintain annual inflation at 4 per cent until March 31, 2021, with an upper tolerance of 6 per cent and lower limit of 2 per cent.

Speaking at a virtual conference by Jana Small Finance Bank, Subramanian said the disinvestment target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore for 2021-22 is actually a carry over of the Rs 2.10 lakh crore target set for the current fiscal ending March 31.

"Of this, BPCL privatisation and LIC listing itself were important contributors.

There are estimates suggesting Rs 75,000-80,000 crore or even higher can just come from the privatisation of BPCL itself. LIC IPO could bring in Rs 1 lakh crore approximately," he said.

The government is selling its entire 52.98 per cent stake in BPCL in the nation's biggest privatisation till date.

Vedanta Group and private equity firms Apollo Global and I Squared Capital's Indian unit Think Gas have put in an expression of interest for buying the government's stake.

With regard to LIC's listing, the government has already got amendments in the LIC Act passed through Finance Bill 2021 in Parliament earlier this week.

"These are numbers (disinvestment) which are imminently achievable because the work had begun on many of these and they will be completed in FY'22," he said.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on privatisation, he said these are signature changes that are happening.

Prime Minister Modi had last month said the government has no business to be in business and his administration is committed to privatising all PSUs barring the bare minimum in four strategic sectors.

Subramanian also emphasised that India needs a lot more banks for meeting its growth potential.

Citing an example of the US, he said America which has one-third the population of India has about 25,000-30,000 banks.

On the long-term growth story of India, he said the economy is expected to record double digit growth next financial year.

During 2022-23, it could moderate to 6.5-7 per cent and thereafter 7.5-8 per cent, aided by the reform measures announced by the government recently, he added.

Bharat Petroleum exits Numaligarh Refinery ahead of privatisation

IANS ■ MUMBAI

In a move in the privatisation process of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), the state-run energy major has sold its entire 61.5 per cent in Numaligarh Refinery in Assam.

The privatisation-bound company has sold its stake to a consortium of Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Engineers India and Government of Assam for nearly Rs 9,876 crore.

Oil India acquired over 39.84 crore shares or 54.16 per cent stake in NRL.

Post these acquisition OIL's cumulative equity shareholding in NRL (including pre-acquisition 26 per cent shareholding) is 80.16 per cent.

Engineers India Limited (EIL) which is also a party to the deal, has independently acquired over 3.21 crore equity shares or 4.4 per cent of NRL from BPCL.

In regulatory filing, the BPCL said that the remaining 2.29 crore equity shares have been transferred to the Government of Assam on receipt of consideration of nearly Rs 500 crore.

The shares transferred to the state government accounts for 3.2 per cent of BPCL's stake adding to the Assam government's existing shareholding of 12.35 per cent.

"A Sale Purchase Agreement has been signed on 25th March 2021 between BPCL and the consortium of Oil India Limited (OIL) and Engineers India Limited (EIL) for sale of 43,05,83,886 equity shares of Rs 10/- each held by BPCL in Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. to the consortium at a consideration of Rs 9375,96,41,177," it said.

The development comes after the board of BPCL earlier this month approved the proposal for sale of the company's equity shares in the Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL) to a consortium of Oil India Limited and Engineers India Limited, along with the government of Assam.

US proposes action against India's equalisation levy

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The United States Trade Representative has announced initiation of investigation against the taxation on digital services adopted or under consideration by countries including the equalisation levy applied by India.

The other counties under investigation included Italy, Turkey, UK, Spain and Austria.

A statement from the office of the USTR said that in January it was found that digital service taxes (DST) adopted by Austria, India, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom were subject to action under Section 301 because they discriminated against US digital companies, were inconsistent with the principles of international taxation, and burdened US companies.

USTR is proceeding with the public notice and comment process on possible trade actions to preserve procedural options before the conclusion of the statutory one-year time period for completing the investigations.

"The United States is committed to working with its trading partners to resolve its concerns with digital services taxes, and to addressing broader issues of international taxation," said Ambassador Katherine Tai.

"The United States remains committed to reaching an international consensus through the OECD process on international tax issues. However, until such a consensus is reached, we will maintain our options under the Section 301 process, including, if necessary, the imposition of tariffs."

Among the proposed actions, the Joe Biden administration has proposed to impose retaliatory tariffs up to 25 per cent on around 40 Indian products including shrimps, basmati rice, gold and silver items.The Govt of India will examine the proposed action with the stakeholders concerned and would take suitable measures keeping its trade and commercial interest of the country and overall interest of its people, according to official sources.

Adani Transmission to acquire Warora-Kurnool Transmission

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Power transmission and retail distribution company Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) has signed definitive agreements with Essel Infraprojects Limited (EIL) for the acquisition of Warora-Kurnool Transmission Limited (WKTL) for an enterprise value of Rs 3,370 crore.

The regulatory approval for substitution of original awardee in the contract by Adani Transmission has already been received from Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. The lenders consent and other necessary regulatory approvals shall be obtained before closure of transaction.

In a statement on Saturday, Adani Transmission said that the acquisition is in sync with its strategy to enhance the value for its stakeholders, through organic as well as inorganic opportunities.

With this acquisition, the cumulative network of ATL will reach 17,200 ckt km (circuit kilometre).

Petrol, diesel remain static for 2nd straight day

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Fuel prices were unchanged for the second straight day after declining for two days in a row.In the national capital, petrol was sold for Rs 90.78 per litre.

Price of the fuel in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata was at Rs 97.19, Rs 92.77 and Rs 90.98 per litre, respectively on Saturday.

Diesel prices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata were at Rs 81.10, Rs 88.20, Rs 86.10 and Rs 83.98 per litre, respectively.

Fuel prices which impact the common man's budget to a great extent have been largely unchanged ahead of the state elections.

In fact, prices declined on Wednesday and Thursday after a long time amid the pandemic.

Oil marketing companies have been maintaining restraint off late despite surging crude oil prices. The May contract of Brent crude on the Intercontinental Exchange is around $64.5 per barrel.

Retail fuel prices although have not been increased for around a month now, they are already around record high levels making a hole in the pockets of the common man.

The petrol and diesel prices have increased 26 times in 2021 with the two auto fuels increasing by Rs 7.46 and Rs 7.60 per litre respectively so far this year.

Officials in public sector oil companies said that retail prices may rise again if crude and product prices pick up.

DOON UNIVERSITY
Mothrowala Road Kedarpur,
PO Defence Colony, Dehradun-248012
Phone No : 0135-2533105/2533134

E-Tender Notice
E-43/DU/2020-21& E-44/DU/2020-21

Doon University invites e-tender for
1) Procurement of central instrumentation facility (bench top bioreactor and TGA-DSC Equipment.
2) Procurement of Laboratory equipment for SENR.
Interested firms may apply through Uttarakhand Govt. e-portal for submission of tender in www.uktenders.gov.in

Store & Purchase Officer

राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड़

क्रमांक: 36076 दिनांक : 25.03.2021

खुली निविदा सूचना

राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लि., मुख्यालय, जयपुर द्वारा निगम फार्मों को बीज उत्पादन हेतु ठेके पर देने हेतु निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–निविदायें दिनांक 06.04.2021 को अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। इस निविदा से संबंधित समस्त वांछित जानकारी एवं प्रपत्र वेबसाइट, एसपीपी पोर्टल राजस्थान सरकार www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, निगम वेबसाइट www.rajseeds.org एवं राजस्थान सरकार की कृषि पोर्टल www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे या डाउन लोड किये जा सकते है। UBN :- SDS2021WSOB00034

राज.संवाद/सी/20/11649 (प्रबन्ध निदेशक)

UJVN Limited
H.O. : "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone:0135-2763808, Fax No.:0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

R.O. No. 250 **Time Extension Notice - I** Dt. 27-03-2021

The dates of "e"-Tender No. 26-e/EE(G)/CPH/2020-21. "Supply of mechanical Tool & Plant items at Chibro Power House" & Tender No. 27-e/EE(G)/CPH/2020-21 "Supply of Slip Ring complete with all accessories of 63 MVA, generator at Chibro Power House" through re-tender due to unavoidable circumstances invited by Executive Engineer (G) Chibro Power House is extended as follows.
Last date of submission of bid in the portal : 06-04-2021 upto 14:00 hrs.
Last date of submission of hard copy : 07-04-2021 from 17:00 hrs.
Date of opening of the bid Part-I on website : 09-04-2021 from 10:00 hrs.
All other condition shall be same as previous. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

EE(G), Chibro

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, JAIPUR
E-BID NOTICE

निगम की नकारा–स्क्रेप का ई–ऑक्शन वेब–साईट Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc एवं rsrtc.procure247.com के माध्यम से जहां है, जैसी है कि स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है :–

S. no.	Event's Name	EMD Deposit Start Date	EMD Deposit End Date	BID Start Date	BID End Date
1	SCRAP GROUP A	17-03-21	30-03-21	31-03-21	01-04-21
2	SCRAP SPARE PARTS/ASSY./ ACCESSORIES OF BUSSES	17-03-21	30-03-21	31-03-21	01-04-21
3	SCRAP MATERIAL OF BUSSES	17-03-21	30-03-21	31-03-21	01-04-21
4	SCRAP MACHINERY/ EQUIPMENTS/EMTY DRUM ETC.	17-03-21	30-03-21	31-03-21	01-04-21
5	SCRAP TYRE/TUBE GROUP A	17-03-21	30-03-21	31-03-21	01-04-21
6	SCRAP TYRE/TUBE GROUP C	17-03-21	30-03-21	31-03-21	01-04-21

नोट:–
1. ई–ऑक्शन में शामिल होने से पूर्व बोलीदाता द्वारा EMD राशि जमा कराना अनिवार्य है।
2. ई–ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें वेब–साईट पर उपलब्ध है।

वि0सं0 229/2020–21
राज.संवाद/सी/20/11653 Financial Advisor

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135- 2763808 & Fax- 0135- 2763508
CIN No U40101UR2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्रांक: 247 दिनांक: 26.03.2021

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-II), Vyasi HEP, Lakhwar Bhawan, Dakpathar, Distt-Dehradun (Uttarakhand) invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-
Tender No: 20/UJVNL/03/EE (Civil-II)/Vyasi HEP/2020-21.
Name of the Work: "Construction of outer security wall of Power House premises, security check post and main gate at Hathiyari of Vyasi Project."
Estimated Cost: Rs. 12244378.00 (Rs. One Crore Twenty Two Lacs Forty Four Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Eight only) Including GST.
Date of availability of bid document on website: 27.03.2021 from 10:00 Hrs.
Last Date for submission of bid on website: 09.04.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in

EE (Civil-II)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

AEPC seeks steps to curb export of cotton yarn

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has sought for imposition of quantitative restrictions and export duty on export of cotton yarn from India.

In a letter to the Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani, AEPC Chairman A. Sakthivel said that despite several efforts by the government to reduce the price of cotton yarn, it has consistently increased in the last four months and was affecting the entire value chain.

"We request your kind immediate intervention to increase the supply of yarn to domestic manufacturers. We suggest that quantitative restrictions should be imposed on exports of cotton yarn, specifically on cotton yarn of 26 counts and above," the letter said.

Sakthivel said that despite several efforts by the government to reduce the price of cotton yarn, it has consistently increased in the last four months and was affecting the entire value chain

Sakthivel also noted that apparel exporters were grateful to the minister for her continuous support in bringing stability in cotton price and predictability in availability of cotton, which encouraged Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to reduce the price of cotton to small mill owners.

However, he added that, the move did not result in reduction of cotton yarn prices.

"The rate of increase in yarn prices far exceeds that of cotton prices. The steep increase in prices and unpredictability in availability of yarn means that garment exporters cannot honour commitments they made to their customers," the AEPC Chairman said.

This has also affected handloom and powerloom weavers badly and looms have stopped production, he said, adding that "due to this, the domestic industry has also got affected adversely".

He suggested that export duty should be levied on exports of cotton yarn.

This will result in a sharp decline in domestic yarn prices and an increase in value addition and employment in the country and will also help in increasing garment exports, Sakthivel said.

BIS certification to be mandatory on packaged drinking water

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has made it mandatory for manufacturers of packaged drinking water and mineral water to take BIS certification for obtaining license or registration from the regulator.

The FSSAI on Friday said that FBOs(Food Business Operators) will have to mandatorily upload copy of the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) license or copy of letter indicating recording of application for BIS license, at the time of applying for new license for packaged drinking water and mineral water from the FSSAI on the online system of FoSCoS.

FSSAI said said that as per Section 31 of FSS Act 2006, all Food Business Operators (FBOs) have to obtain license/ registration before commencement of any food business.

Further, Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations 2011 state that no person should manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale, packaged drinking water and mineral water except under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification mark, said FSSAI.

However, it has been reported that a number of manufacturers of packaged drinking water and mineral water are in operation with FSSAI license but without BIS certification mark, it added.

INBRIEF

260 FLYERS EXPECTED IN KURNOOL AIRPORT ON OPENING DAY

Kurnool: At least 260 passengers are set to fly in and out of the new Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy Airport located at Orvakal near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday.Regular commercial flight operations are scheduled to start from Sunday.IndiGo will launch flights to Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Chennai from the airport in Rayalaseema starting Sunday.Direct flights to the three destinations will be operated under Udan, the regional connectivity scheme (RCS).

RUBBER SKILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IMPARTS TRAINING

New Delhi: With an aim to equip youth from backward regions with employable skills, Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) successfully completed tyre fitting skill training programme at Nuh in Haryana. The training drive was carried out as a CSR project of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and as an initiative of National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC), a Government of India undertaking. "The exercise will help bridge the skill gap in tyre fitters, a majority of whom have been deprived of any formal training," said Shewani Nagpal, COO, RSDC.

CLEAN ENERGY EFFORTS BY NEXGEN ENERGIA

New Delhi: Playing its part in concerted efforts of the Government in the development of clean energy, Nexgen Energia expanded its footprint with setting up 20 franchises across the country in February and has set a target to develop 1000 compressed biogas plants. The Government wants to increase the share of gas from 6 per cent to 15 per cent of total fuel usage by 2030 and entrepreneurs are seeing this effort as an opportunity.

Suez Canal blockade: Exporters' bodies to identify cargo for priority movement

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

As efforts are underway to free a giant container ship stuck in the Suez Canal, the Indian government in discussion with the stakeholders has decided that the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will jointly identify cargo, particularly perishable cargo, for priority movement.

The exporters' bodies will also work with the shipping lines for the priority movement.

The government has come up with a four-point plan to deal with the situation arising from the blockage of Suez Canal. The plan was chalked out in a meeting convened by the Logistics Division, Department of Commerce, Government of India on Friday.

The meeting was chaired by Pawan Agarwal, Special Secretary (Logistics) and attended by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, ADG Shipping, Container Shipping Lines Association (CSLA) and Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Apart from the prioritisation of cargo, the plan outlined that shipping lines have been advised through CSLA to explore the option of re-routing of ships via the Cape of Good Hope. It was pointed that such re-routing usually takes 15 additional days' time.

CSLA also assured that the freight rates as per existing contracts will be honoured. A request has been made to the shipping lines to maintain stability in freight rates during the period of this crisis. It was noted that the situation is temporary and is unlikely to have a long-lasting impact, said an official statement.

"Once the blockage is over, it is expected that some bunching may take place, especially at the ports of JNPT, Mundra and Hazira.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and waterway assured to issue an advisory to these ports so as to gear up arrangements and ensure efficient handling during the forthcoming busy period," it said.

The Commerce Ministry statement noted that the blockage of Suez Canal since March 23 is seriously hitting the global trade.

This route is used for Indian exports or imports worth $ 200 billion to and from North America, South America and Europe.

FICCI ARISE to organise first global universities fair

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

FICCI Alliance for Re-imagining School Education (ARISE) is going to organise its first global universities' fair called "FICCI Arise International Uni Fair" on March 31 between 5.30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

As higher education plays an important role in promoting human development as well as contributing to the economy of a country, FICCI Arise has come up with this universities' fair to provide students an opportunity to interact with wide-ranging and diverse higher education learning opportunities.

At the fair, students will have an opportunity to choose from top international universities/colleges from USA, Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Singapore, India, and other top destinations.

Close to 90 universities have already registered.

TECHNOFAB ENGINEERING LIMITED
Regd. Office: 913, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019, CIN : L74210DL1971PLC005712
Tel : +91-11-2641-1931 / 2641-5961

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Sr. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE (Rs.in Lacs except shares and EPS)				CONSOLIDATED (Rs.in Lacs except shares and EPS)			
		Quarter Ended 30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	229.97	385.07	1,964.11	5,653.95	229.97	385.07	1,964.11	5,653.95
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (Before Tax and Exceptional items)	(920.82)	(4,362.29)	(1,260.41)	(9,626.41)	(920.45)	(4,423.25)	(1,110.57)	(9,392.20)
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (Before tax)	(2,413.02)	(8,079.23)	(1,558.76)	(22,594.55)	(2,482.65)	(8,140.19)	(1,408.92)	(22,360.34)
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period After Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2,418.29)	(8,084.72)	(1,043.81)	(24,054.00)	(2,487.44)	(8,145.21)	(891.72)	(23,867.70)
5.	Net profit for the period	(2,418.29)	(8,084.72)	(1,043.81)	(24,054.00)	(2,487.44)	(8,145.21)	(891.72)	(23,867.70)
6.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (After Tax) and other Comprehensive Income (After Tax)]	(2.78)	(5.22)	(0.34)	(12.07)	(2.78)	(5.22)	(0.34)	(12.07)
7.	Paid-up equity share capital (10,490,000 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/-each.)	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00	1,049.00
8.	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Balance Sheet				(481.35)				772.03
9.	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/-each) Basic: Diluted:	(23.05) (23.05)	(77.07) (77.07)	(9.95) (9.95)	(229.30) (229.30)	(23.71) (23.71)	(77.65) (77.65)	(8.50) (8.50)	(227.53) (227.53)

NOTE:- 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchanges websites i.e. (www.bseindia.com) and (www.nseindia.com) and also available on the Company's Website www.technofabengineering.com.
2. The above unaudited results duly reviewed by the Audit Committee have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 26th March, 2021 and the Auditors have performed limited review.

Date: 26/03/2021
Place: Faridabad

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of **Technofab Engineering Limited**
Sd/- **Arjun Gupta** (Chairmen & Managing Director) DIN-00012092

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Public notice has been issued for General Public, under instruction and on behalf of my client Sh. Samrat Yadav S/o Lt. Sikander Lal, R/o 93 Anand Lok, New Delhi -110049.

It is hereby informed that my client's father, Lt. Sh. Sikandar Lal S/o Lt. Shiv Lal Singh, Co-owner of property No. PTS-07-1102 IN PROJECT "PALM TERRACES SELECT" admeasuring 3670 sq. feet, situated at Gurgaon, Haryana, (hereinafter referred as "Said Property") passed away on 01.06.2018.

Lt. Sh. Sikandar Lal left behind one son namely Sh. Samrat Yadav and one daughter Smt. Shabeen Narang.

That, Lt. Sh. Sikandar Lal left a Registered will, whereupon he transferred his share in the aforesaid property in favour of my client. Smt. Shabeen Narang, class 1 legal heir, and also handed over NOC in favour of my client, in this regard. My client Sh. Samrat Yadav, being class 1 legal heir and beneficiary of the will, intend to apply for transfer of the aforesaid property in his own name.

Any person having any claim or interest in the said property may file his/her claim to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which No claim would be accepted.

Ankur Garg (Advocate)
18, LGF, Link Road, Jangpura Extn.
Ph: 011-41665582

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Sunil Kumar Sharma is the absolute owner of Flat No. 117-D, Pkt-F, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-110091 inherited after the death of his father G.N.Sharma and mother Premwati Sharma, he is the only legal heir of them and he is in process to sell the same.

All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage(equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-91, 9810063351

VIALABLE OR NOT?

Out of the 7 crore vaccine doses, more than 3.46 crore have been administered and from the remaining, 6.5 per cent — over 23 lakh, have been wasted so far. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with experts to tell you the reason behind this wastage, whether we can afford it keeping in mind the pandemic and solutions

Wasting food, water, electricity or even fuel is not an alien concept to humans. However, to take this a notch higher, even Covid vaccines are getting wasted. Surprising enough? Well, it shouldn't be. The disappointing fact is the number of vaccine doses that have gone waste — 23 lakh, around 6.5 per cent of the total 7 crore vaccines, out of which 3.46 crore vaccines have been administered, that have been provided by the Centre to States so far, according to the data release by The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. What is the reason you ask? Low turnout of beneficiaries reportedly.

The State that is leading the wastage chart is Telangana with a whopping 17.6 per cent followed by Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka with 11.6, 9.4 and 6.9 per cent respectively. Delhi, however, is not listed in the chart which means there is either zero wastage or it is less than Himachal Pradesh's i.e. 1.4 per cent, if at all.

During a time, when several countries are waiting for their turn to get their required number of doses, this huge amount of wastage is something that we should feel sad about. Moreover, the recent surge in cases with the country reporting 50,000 cases in a day is a reality check for all of us that we definitely can't afford to waste even a single dose of the vaccine.

"It is indeed unfortunate that such wastage has occurred in our country and should have been avoided at all costs. Since we are running the second largest vaccination programme in the world, we should have seen this coming and therefore been better prepared. One of the major reasons being cited are the unexpectedly low turnout of beneficiaries after the opening of a vial," Dr Arunesh Kumar, Senior Consultant and Head of Respiratory Medicine/Pulmonology, Paras Healthcare and a part of the team of doctors involved in the vaccination process, tells you.

Since each vial of Covishield contains 10 doses and Covaxin 20 doses, it is crucial that all the doses are used up within four hours of opening. Otherwise, it becomes unusable and hence goes waste.

"In fact, apart from the low turnout, poor and inadequate coordination between vaccine suppliers, cold chain facilities and vaccination centres on one hand and between vaccine centres and end-users on the other is more responsible for this wastage. A vial should be opened only when sufficient number of end users are physically available at the vaccination centres," Kumar opines.

In addition to this, an already confirmed beneficiary must be checked with again on the day of the slated inoculation programme. And any postponement request by a beneficiary must be immediately followed up with making the vaccine available to those slated for the next session/day or those on waiting list.

The vaccination centers must also use technology to be able to connect and coordinate with local populations in case of unexpectedly lower turnout of intended beneficiaries.

While the latest decision of bringing down the age of eligible candidates for vaccination would help in preventing wastage at least of the kind that occurs due to low attendance of end-beneficiaries, expanding the list further will help.

"It is also being suggested that the Government should expand the list of beneficiaries from those aged 45 and above with comorbidities and the elderly to those below 45 years old. This should definitely solve the problem of low turnouts post-opening of a vial. Another way out for the authorities could be to focus on states, cities and populations where there has been a resurgence of Covid cases," Kumar adds.

But having said that, we would still need to think of prioritising certain age or demographic segment. "Otherwise, the demand for doses may outstrip the supplies we have and create operational nightmare for the authorities," Kumar asserts.

Dr (Col) Vijay Dutta, Senior Consultant — Internal Medicine, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, who is the key member of the Adversary Emergency Response Committee at the hospital tells you that number of people coming for vaccination are increasing day by day. Around 100 to 150 are coming daily for getting their dose of Covid jab.

"We are expecting an increase of about 15 per cent in the next few weeks," Dutta says.

However, even those who are turning up for the vaccination are apprehensive about getting jabbed. They are worried about the common side effects. "They ask whether it is better to get natural immunity to COVID-19 rather than immunity from a vaccine or is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if they have an underlying medical condition. Moreover, some even fear that will the vaccine give them COVID-19. While others are just worried about the precautions to be taken and what to do in case of fever after vaccination," he tells you.

While this might be one of the main reasons behind the low turnout of beneficiaries, what can be done to prevent wastage is that the Government can provide logistics for anyone and everyone who is willing to get vaccinated.

"The Government must take such initiatives so that maximum people can get the dose. Opening vaccination for all people above 45 is one such commendable move. The Government must assess the availability of vaccines so that more categories of people are inoculated in the coming days. Also it will help in creating awareness among the people about the world's biggest vaccination drive," he asserts.

Kumar too agrees with Dutta and says that making vaccines available in the open markets would help people lap up the shots.

"It's unfortunate to see how the turnout for Covid-19 vaccines are so less in many States. Making the vaccine available in the open market would allow vaccine demand to lap up the shots, eliminating wastage. India being the vaccine-maker in the world, it would be a matter of shame if it were to lag other countries in vaccination in the long run, simply because the private sector was not trusted with the job. So, the capping on 250 doses per day from the private hospitals should be removed immediately. And in order to encourage people to get their vaccination done, Government should make the arrangement of dedicated logistics for the people," Kumar says.

> APART FROM THE LOW TURNOUT, POOR AND INADEQUATE COORDINATION BETWEEN VACCINE SUPPLIERS, COLD CHAIN FACILITIES AND VACCINATION CENTRES ON ONE HAND AND BETWEEN VACCINE CENTRES AND END-USERS ON THE OTHER IS MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WASTAGE. A VIAL SHOULD BE OPENED ONLY WHEN SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF END USERS ARE PHYSICALLY AVAILABLE AT THE VACCINATION CENTRES
>
> **— Dr Arunesh Kumar, Senior Consultant and Head of Respiratory Medicine/Pulmonolgy, Paras Healthcare**
>
> **(He is a part of the team of doctors involved in the vaccination process)**

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder Director, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, the hospital which has been successfully running vaccination drives, is no exception and agrees with what the other doctors has to say on the wastage of the vaccines.

"Before the vaccination was opened for everyone above 45, the wastage was quiet high because the number of people walking in was low. Hence, we were only able to utilise 50 per cent of the total vaccine slots available in a day. Now with the vaccination open to everyone above 45 regardless of their comorbidities, the wastage is going to get lower. We will be able to utilise more doses. With that being said, Tamil Nadu has taken a commendable step with allowing walk-ins of any age adults to get vaccinated. This is a good policy and we could replicate it in the rest of the States to decrease the wastage. Our aim should be to bring down the wastage to one per cent," Bajaj says.

One of the many solutions to prevent this wastage one can probably think of is to bring down the age below 45 for vaccination. However, Dr Jyoti Mutta, Senior Consultant, Microbiology, Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, tells you that this will not be a feasible option.

"The eligibility criteria for vaccination can be expanded when there are enough supplies to meet the increased demand and not at the moment. More vaccine candidates will be approved in the coming months based on safety and efficacy data. This will boost the immunisation programme," she says. Till the time mass vaccination is feasible and even after getting the vaccination done, people need to continue following safety precautions like wearing masks covering nose and mouth, hand hygiene and social distancing, she adds.

Even Kumar's views resonate with Mutta and he says that at the moment we don't have enough vaccines to vaccinate everybody.

The idea at the moment is to vaccinate the risk group. "As we build up our vaccine reserve, this can be rolled out to above 18 group. We need more private sector involvement and increased slots for vaccination making it a 24*7 phenomena. For the time being, gradual extension to further young age group should be implemented," he insists.

Out of the several challenges that is being faced in the vaccination drive, one of the most prominent one is to increase accessibility given the huge amount of population we have.

"We have a geographically diverse country with over one billion population; hence the level of accessibility varies. Also to ensure transportation of vaccine across multiple States requires a well-coordinated network. Sufficient number of doses, temperature conditions for storage during transportation and sanitation protocols are also important. Vaccines from more manufactures would also be needed to ease the waiting lines. Trained vaccinators and staff in large numbers would be required to target vaccine for larger population," Mutta suggests.

However, the silver linning in the dark clouds is that Delhi is no where to be mentioned in the vaccine wastage graph provided by the Government.

"Government's efforts to make this vaccine drive a successful one definitely calls for a special mention. There has not been wastage issues in Delhi-NCR and the process is running smoothly. People too are cooperative and enthusiastic for the vaccination. Further, the above 45 vaccination decision is another effort that will help ramp up the vaccination process and make this drive more successful," Dr Piyush Goel, Senior Consultant — Pulmonary and Critical Care, Columbia Asia Hospital, Palam Vihar, Gurugram, says.

LET'S DISPOSE IT OF

- According to Operational Guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, all unused vials along with used/empty and partially used vials must be returned through alternate vaccine delivery persons to the vaccine distribution/ice lined refrigerator point, maintaining a reverse cold chain.
- At the vaccination site itself, while the plastic portion of the cut syringes has to be put in a designated red bag, the broken vials have to be stored in the puncture-proof blue container for further disposal.
- Remember, used vaccine vial returned from the field have to be kept separately in a zip lock bag.

India aim to complete treble

After beating England in Tests & T20s, Men in Blue look for hat-trick with ODI series win

PTI ■ PUNE

Indian cricket team may like to revisit its 50-over template while picking up pieces from the Friday carnage with an aim to complete a hat-trick of series wins against England in the third and final ODI here on Sunday.

On batting belters that's been on offer at the Gahunje Stadium, England hit an astounding 20 sixes in a 337-run chase which became a cakewalk, thanks to inpet bowling from spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Krunal Pandya.

Never before has captain Virat Kohli missed Ravindra Jadeja as much as he would have on Friday when Jonny Bairstow and Ben Stokes took the mickey out of India's left-arm wrist and orthodox spinners.

In the bowling department, Kuldeep scripted an unwanted record when he conceded 8 sixes, most by an Indian bowler. He leaked 84 runs in the second game after giving 64 runs in the first. And, so did Krunal Pandya, who gave 72 runs in six overs with an embarrassing average of 12 per over.

So, in all probability, the duo could be replaced by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and Washington Sundar, who can also chip in with the bat, if needed.

From team's perspective, it would be impossible to ignore Yuzvendra Chahal's inclusion in the playing XI even though the Haryana leg-spinners hasn't been in the best of forms.

Pandya senior would still make it to the team because of his batting skills but the apology of left-arm spin has certainly ensured that he won't be considered as a long term option.

In terms of batting, a total of 337 is certainly not bad by any standards but perhaps India can now look to have strategic shift in terms innings building process.

The *Men In Blue* are the only team that always believes in accelerating in the last 15 overs, a template that was set by their illustrious former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

It has worked on most occasions but of late, England with a world title has shown the world that attacking up front on batting tracks is the way forward.

India skipper Virat Kohli, right, and England stand-in captain Jos Buttler, left, pose with ODI series trophy @BCCI

KEY STATS

- India is looking to avoid a third-straight ODI series defeat. They lost 1-2 in Australia and 0-3 in New Zealand before this.
- In the last 5 matches at Pune, the average first-innings score has been 303.20 with the contests 3-2 in favour of the chasing side.
- Shikhar Dhawan who scored 5910 runs at an average of 45.11 in 138 innings of 141 matches, needs 90 runs to become the 10th Indian and 62nd batsman overall to score 6000 runs in ODIs.
- Virat Kohli needs just 13 runs to become the second Indian after Sachin Tendulkar (6976 runs) and fourth batsman overall to score over 5000 runs at home in ODIs. He has scored 4987 runs in 94 innings of 97 matches in India so far.

FAISEL FEATURES

It might just help Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya with their brand of power-hitting change the course of the innings in the back-10.

Skipper Virat Kohli, who hit two successive 50 plus scores, would be keen to carry his form and convert the start into a really big total and end the century drought.

The skipper has however made it clear that he is not looking at milestones.

"I never played for 100s in my life, that's probably why I ended up getting so many in such little time."

"It's all about contributing to the team cause. If the team doesn't win when you get three figures it doesn't mean anything. You're not going to sit back at the end of your career and look at numbers, it's more about how you played the game."

For the record, his last century came in August 2019 in this format.

Hardik would continue to play his role of a finisher but question mark remains on what kind of workload management is happening considering that he has rarely bowled save a few overs in the recently concluded T20Is.

On the pace front, while India would go-ahead with spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar, they could try going in with left-arm pacer and yorker specialist T Natarajan, in case they want to rest Shardul Thakur for the game.

Also, there could be a choice between Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna although Prasidh's pace is an advantage for the hosts.

Meanwhile, England would be bolstered by their Friday's performance and the biggest positive would be the return of form of Ben Stokes, who otherwise struggled on many occasions on the entire tour.

Come Sunday, it remains to be seen, if India win the game, it couldn't be better gift on eve of festival of colours Holi.

Team that hits most boundaries wins: Bairstow

PTI ■ PUNE

The reigning world champions would continue to stick to their aggressive and fearless brand of cricket, opening batsman Jonny Bairstow said after the tourists chased down 337 in just 43.3 overs to set up a series decider here on Sunday.

The opening batsman followed up 94 from 66 balls in the first match with 124 from 112 as England plundered 20 sixes to make the stiff chase a complete mismatch.

"To be honest, I think it's just happening that way. There hasn't been a conversation saying we must hit more sixes," Baistow said after Friday's series-levelling second ODI.

Bairstow smashed seven sixes, while No 3 Ben Stokes hit cleared the ropes 10 times before falling for 99.

Opener Jason Roy (55) and debutant Liam Livingstone (27 not out) also added to India's misery as they conceded 20 sixes in total — the joint most by them in an ODI. They had conceded a similar 20 sixes against South Africa in 2015.

"If you look at where the game is going around the world, whether that be in T20, or 50-over cricket the team that hits the most boundaries generally wins the game.

"And if you're hitting boundaries that are going for six rather than four, then the numbers are going to stack up slightly more.

"There's 20 today — now, that's an extraordinary number in one game... If we can keep hitting boundaries, keep putting bowlers under pressure, they know if they miss their lengths, then that potentially could go for six."

The reigning world champions are however aware of their high-risk approach, having lost the series-opener by 66 runs despite Bairstow and Roy getting the team off to a similarly spectacular start.

"Look, the execution won't happen every single time and people will get out doing it. But everybody in the dressing room is backing that person out in the middle. If they want to hit the ball for six they believe in everyone's ability. That's a good place to be in."

Reflecting upon their loss in the first ODI and said: "If you actually break the game down only from a couple of days ago, we were way ahead of the game," he said.

"A couple of bits happened and a couple of wickets fell but we were way ahead of that game and that was something that we went away and spoke about and identified.

"To win that, chase down 337 with six-seven overs left and six wickets in the shed is something that we were really pleased with," he said.

On personal front, Bairstow, who hit his 11th ODI century, has set his sights on socring the most number of hundreds for his country in the fifty-over format.

All his ODI centuries have come after he was promoted to open in 2017 as he has only Joe Root (16), skipper Eoin Morgan (13) and Marcus Trescothick (12) ahead of him in the list.

"Well, naturally you'd like to have the most ODI hundreds for England. I'm happy, that's the biggest thing and certainly in batting."

"I've got 11, and I think I have opened only 56-57 times so yeah I'm happy with those figures, but they mean nothing if you don't keep converting them in the future.

"So, look, I'm happy with how I'm playing cricket at the moment and I'm really enjoying it," he said.

Need to improve performance with new ball: Krishna

PTI ■ PUNE

Prasidh Krishna has impressed everyone with his pace and bounce but Team India's newest pace sensation admitted that he needs to work hard on trying to be more economical with the new ball.

In both ODIs, Prasidh got wickets in his second spell with semi-new ball (as two new balls are used) and got a bit of stick from England batsmen during his opening overs.

"Personally, I would like to start better. I would like to improve on how I have been starting with the (new ball). Otherwise, all the runs that I gave away were scored off bad balls. So I would go back and work on those aspects," Prasidh said after India' defeat in second ODI.

While Indian bowlers had a poor day in office, Prasidh said that they could have hardly done anything in the face of an onslaught from Jonny Bairstow and Ben Stokes.

"We could have bowled better, I'm not denying the fact but we need to give credit to the way they played as well. It was an onslaught, we got hit quite bad."

With only four fielders outside the circle during the second Powerplay (between 11-40 overs), it is always difficult to stop the batsmen on a flat deck.

"That's the game of white-ball cricket today. With four outside for the 11 to 40 overs, that's bound to happen.

"It was a very good wicket to bat on, no doubt. The score says it all. We scored 330-plus and they chased it down in the 44th over. It says it all. It was a flat wicket, challenging wicket for bowlers where the margin of error was very, very less," he noted.

'Bairstow can break Eng batting records'

AFP ■ PUNE

England's stand-in captain Jos Buttler has backed top batsman Jonny Bairstow to become the country's leading century scorer after his 124 against India helped England level the series going into Sunday's final.

Bairstow made his 11th ODI hundred on Friday and said afterwards that he wanted to have the most One-Day hundreds for England.

"Jonny has been in unbelievable form for the last few years for us, he has been one of the world's leading batsmen in ODI cricket and he has been amazing to watch," said Buttler, who is replacing the injured Morgan as captain.

Buttler said the England team wanted to push back "boundaries" with their attacking play and the record was there for the taking for Bairstow, who has been in the world's top 10 for several years.

"It is fantastic the form that Jonny is in and there is no reason why he should not go on and break all those records."

The batsman has been unable to pin down a regular Test place but has become a first choice in limited overs.

"He is certainly not underappreciated in our side," said Buttler. "He is our leading player really."

"He is very intimidating to bowl at. I know having played against Jonny in the IPL, in the bowlers' meeting they say 'what shall we do to this guy' and there are not too many answers to be honest. "He is hugely appreciated in our side and I think everyone knows what a special player he is."

Selectors must consider Prasidh for Tests: Gavaskar

Pune: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar believes new fast bowling sensation Prasidh Krishna can serve India well in Test cricket with his "pace and seam position" and should be considered for the longest format just like Jasprit Bumrah was in 2018.

"I tell you what, with those seam up deliveries, he is someone that the Indian selection committee must consider seriously for red ball (Tests) as well," Gavaskar said during his TV commentary on Friday.

"Just like Jasprit Bumrah, from T20s and ODIs, has now become India's premium bowler in the Test format, Prasidh Krishna with his pace and the seam-up position could be a very, very good red ball bowler as well," he added.

Prasidh has captured 34 wickets in nine first class games so far, besides taking 87 wickets in 50 List A games. **PTI**

Stokes is intimidating to bowl: Buttler

PTI ■ PUNE

Ben Stokes' aggressive batting has an intimidating effect on bowlers and England's stand-in captain Jos Buttler would like his premier all-rounder to carry this form for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League.

Stokes was promoted up the order in the first two ODIs and he roared back to form in the second outing smashing 99 with 10 sixes.

"He is an intimidating guy to bowl at and may that form continue into tomorrow and as a fellow Rajasthan Royal (teammate) into the IPL," the 30-year-old wicket-keeper said on the eve of the series deciding third ODI against India.

Buttler was very impressed with Stokes' batting at No 3 and how he has evolved as a player in the past few years.

"He (Stokes) has had a few (innings) and his World Cup final (80 odd) one was pretty good. But we all know the talent Ben has. I feel like his batting in the last few years has continued to improve and go to another level and we have seen that in all formats."

The skipper wasn't surprised that Stokes did as well as he did batting in at No 3.

"It was impressive to watch how Ben (Stokes) always wants to bat. He is involved in the game as much as he can. It was fantastic to watch and it was no surprise that he played so well in that position," Buttler said at the pre-match virtual press conference ahead of the third ODI.

The skipper said that with so many options available, it is only a given that all players would like to pay as many deliveries possible.

"And the same questions are asked, where I should bat, where Jonny (Bairstow) should bat, we have a wealth of talent at the moment in white-ball cricket and (there are) lots of guys, who want to face as many balls as possible, so it is no surprise that Ben played so well. It is a good headache to have for the guys in-charge," he said when asked whether Stokes could also bat one-drop in T20s.

Archer to undergo hand surgery

PTI ■ PUNE

Injured England speedster Jofra Archer, who has already been ruled out of the Indian Premier League, will undergo a surgery on his right hand on Monday.

Archer played in two Test matches and five T20Is against India before returning home a few days ago.

"England fast bowler Jofra Archer will undergo a procedure to his right hand following a scan and subsequent Consultant review since he returned to the UK on Tuesday," the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement on Saturday.

"He has also had a further injection for the right elbow injury that had seen him declared unfit for selection for the current ODI series versus India.

"The procedure on Jofra's hand will take place on Monday 29 March so he can recover during the planned break following his elbow injection."

Archer suffered a cut to his hand while cleaning at his home in January shortly before flying to India to prepare for the Test series. The injury was managed by the ECB's medical team through the tour and it did not impact on his availability.

However, further investigation and a specialist's opinion was sought upon his return to the UK and in conjunction with the ECB medical panel, it has been decided that surgery is the best option to manage his injury in the longer term.

Playing it safe for 40 overs might cost India in 2023 WC: Vaughan

PTI ■ PUNE

A cautious approach with the bat during the first 40 overs might cost India the ODI World Cup at home in two years time, reckons former England skipper Michael Vaughan.

India have always followed the template of accelerating in the final 10 overs. It has worked on most occasions but of late, England with a world title has shown the that attacking up front on batting tracks is the way forward.

In the first two ODIs, India adopted a similar approach as after a slow start they exploded in the back end to score 112 and 126 runs in the last 10 overs respectively.

Vaughan feels Virat Kohli and his men has the firepower to put a 375 plus score on flat wickets and should look to be aggressive right from the start.

"Today should be a lesson to India ... Playing it safe for 40 overs with Bat might cost them in a World Cup at home in 2 yrs they have enough power & depth to get scores of 375 + on flat wickets. England leading the way with this approach," Vaughan wrote on his Twitter handle.

Tendulkar tests Covid positive

New Delhi: Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar and former India all-rounder Yusuf Pathan on Saturday said they have tested positive for Covid-19 and are currently in home isolation.

Both the former cricketers, who played in a recent league together, confirmed the news on their social media handles.

"I have been testing myself and taking all the recommended precautions to ensure Covid is kept at bay. However, I have tested positive today following mild symptoms," the 47-year-old Sachin wrote on Twitter.

"All others at home have tested negative. I have quarantined myself at home and I am following all the necessary protocols as advised by my doctors. I want to thank all the healthcare professionals who are supporting me and many others across the country. Take care all of you," he further wrote. **PNS**

Vaas to continue as Lanka's fast bowling consultant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka pace great Chaminda Vaas has agreed to continue as the fast bowling consultant with the country's cricket board saying that matters that led to his resignation last month have been "amicably resolved".

Last month, he was, however, appointed as the fast bowling coach of the Sri Lankan national team and not consultant.

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to inform you that pursuant to a meeting that was held between Mr Chaminda Vaas and the Management Team of Sri Lanka Cricket, the matters which led to his resignation were amicably resolved," Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said in a statement.

"Vaas withdrew his submitted Letter of Resignation and agreed to continue as the Fast Bowling Consultant to Sri Lanka Cricket, the position which he held prior to his resignation," it added.

One of the country's finest seamers, Vaas had resigned as the team's fast bowling coach for the tour of West Indies hours before their departure to the Caribbean last month.

The SLC had then claimed Vaas had resigned over remuneration and also accused him of "holding the administration, the cricketers and the game at ransom" by resigning citing the administration's refusal to accede to an "unjustifiable demand for an increased USD remuneration".

Vaas is a contracted employee of SLC and worked as the fast bowling coach at their high-performance centre before replacing Australian David Saker with the senior team.

22 in a row for Osaka

AFP ■ MIAMI

Daniil Medvedev celebrated his rise to second in the world with a seamless entry into the Miami Open on Friday, trouncing Taiwan's Lu Yen-Hsun in less than an hour.

Russia's Medvedev needed just 56 minutes to subdue Lu 6-2, 6-2, firing nine aces with just one double fault as he advanced to a third-round meeting with Australian Alexei Popyrin, a 6-4, 6-2, winner over 30th-seeded American Reilly Opelka.

Medvedev, the top seed in an ATP Masters event for the first time, was all over Lu from the opening game.

He belted 24 winners to become the second player — along with compatriot Andrey Rublev — to reach 15 match wins this year.

Runner-up to top-ranked Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open, Medvedev ascended to No 2 in the world when he lifted the ATP trophy in Marseille.

Medvedev became the first player outside the *Big Four* of Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to rank second in the world since Lleyton Hewitt in 2005.

But he's already looking for more.

"The only thing I feel like when you reach something you haven't done then straight away it doesn't matter and you want to go further and further," he said. "I think it's the same for everybody.

"I'm happy about my achievement but only trying to improve every day and want to go further."

Women's world number two Naomi Osaka, seeded second behind top-ranked Australian Ashleigh Barty, had a tougher time, but conquered her nerves in her first match since winning the Australian Open to beat Aussie Ajla Tomljanovic 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

"I would say what I'm most proud of today, just being able to handle my nerves," Osaka said. That was a bigger problem than the gusty wind on Grandstand Court at Hard Rock Stadium, where 77th-ranked Tomljanovic twice went up a break in the opening set but despite an impressive display of power was eventually undone by 24 unforced errors.

Thirteen aces among her 36 winners helped Osaka overcome a slew of unforced errors of her own and set up a third-round meeting with Serbian qualifier Nina Stojanovic, who surprised Yulia Putintseva, the 26th seed from Kazakhstan, 5-7, 7-5, 6-2.

"I served really well when I needed to," Osaka said. "Unfortunately I got broken a couple of times, but I think when it really, really mattered, I was able to serve well, so I'm happy with that.

"I'm happy I was able to get it done in two," Osaka added. "I'm not sure if it was nerves or just I'm a bit rusty but my decision making on some shots was kind of questionable.

In other action, Australian James Duckworth surprised eighth-seeded Belgian David Goffin 6-3, 6-1 and Britain's Cameron Norrie beat ninth-seeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 7-5, 7-5.

Halep out with shoulder injury

AFP ■ MIAMI

World number three Simona Halep withdrew from the WTA and ATP Miami Open on Saturday because of a right shoulder injury, sending Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova into the round of 16.

The 29-year-old Romanian isn't set to play again until next month's Billie Jean King Cup, formerly the Fed Cup.

"I'm very sorry I have to pull out of singles and doubles at the Miami Open, because my injury doesn't let me play here as expected," Halep said in a statement.

"I'm sad that I can't continue. I wanted to come here to give my best and play many matches but unfortunately I can't. Hopefully next year I will be back healthy and better."

Sevastova received a walkover into the fourth round, where she will face either 15th-seeded Polish teen Iga Swiatek, the reigning French Open champion, or 338th-ranked Ana Konjuh.

Max puts Red Bull on pole

Verstappen will start ahead of seven-time champion Hamilton in season's opener today

AFP ■ SAKHIR

Red Bull's Max Verstappen took a superb pole position for the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix on Saturday and will start the race immediately ahead of Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton.

Verstappen earned his fourth career pole to deny Hamilton his 99th, edging out the world champion by .39 seconds on his final attempt.

"Congratulations to Max," Hamilton said.

"I gave everything I had."

Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas was .59 behind Verstappen in third, while Charles Leclerc qualified in an encouraging fourth for Ferrari.

Verstappen clinched the season-ending Abu Dhabi last December from pole and now goes for the 11th win of his career. Hamilton seeks a record-extending 96th win.

Verstappen led the first part of qualifying, known as Q1, ahead of AlphaTauri's 20-year-old Japanese driver Yuki Tsunoda. Both cars use Honda engines and the Japanese manufacturer is in its final season before leaving F1. Sebastian Vettel, who endured a torrid season last year with Ferrari, started the new one badly. He was among the five drivers eliminated from Q1 and starts 18th for Aston Martin.

Michael Schumacher's son, Mick Schumacher, starts from 19th at the track where his father won the inaugural race in 2004, the year he clinched his seventh F1 title. Hamilton is looking to win a record eighth title.

Ferrari duo Carlos Sainz Jr and Leclerc topped Q2 ahead of Hamilton, an encouraging sign for the famed Italian manufacturer given last season's difficulties.

Earlier in the day, Verstappen clocked the fastest time in the final practice when, in hot conditions, he was .74 seconds quicker than Hamilton. Vettel came back to the garage with about 20 minutes left in the session, telling his team some debris had hit his race helmet.

Qualifying took place in the evening under cooler conditions as the sun set on the Sakhir desert track.

Verstappen is continuing his form from pre-season testing and last year's season-ending Abu Dhabi GP, which he won.

Vijayveer, Tejaswani shoot Gold in 25m rapid fire pistol mixed event

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Vijayveer Sidhu and Tejaswani claimed the Gold medal in the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team event to extend the country's dominant run in the ISSF World Cup here on Saturday.

In an all-Indian Gold medal match, Sidhu and Tejaswani comfortably beat the duo of Gurpreet Singh and Ashok Abhidnya Patil 9-1 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

In the Qualification 2, Gurpreet and Patil finished at the top with a total score of 370 while the team of 16-year-old Tejaswani and 18-year-old Sidhu aggregated 368.

On Friday, Sidhu won the individual Silver medal in the 25 rapid fire pistol event ahead of Anish Bhanwala and Gurpreet.

However, the Indian pair of Kynan Chenai and Shreyasi Singh missed out on a podium finish as they settled for the fourth place in the trap mixed team final of the prestigious tournament.

SINGLES

NIGERIA QUALIFY FOR 2021 AFCON

Johannesburg: Three-time champions Nigeria qualified for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations on Saturday after Lesotho and Sierra Leone drew 0-0 in Group L. The result in Maseru guaranteed the Super Eagles a top-two finish in the section ahead of their top-of-the-table clash away to Benin in Porto-Novo. Nigeria have eight points, Benin seven, Sierra Leone four and Lesotho three. The countries finishing first and second qualify for the 24-team tourney in Cameroon next Jan.

HARBHAJAN CHECKS IN AT KKR

Mumbai: Two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders' latest addition in the spin department, Harbhajan Singh, checked into the team hotel here on Saturday afternoon as a few other players began their training at the DY Patil Stadium. This is the first time the *Turbanator* will turn out in Purple and Gold, having represented Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings in previous editions of the lucrative league. The veteran off-spinner was bought for ₹2 crore at this year's auction. The likes of mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy, Rahul Tripathi, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Sandeep Warrier and newcomer Vaibhav Arora have started practice under the watchful eyes of assistant coach Abhishek Nayar and Omkar Salvi.

MUMBAI INDIANS UNVEIL NEW JERSEY

Mumbai: Defending Champion Mumbai Indians on Saturday unveiled its jersey for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League which captures composition of five basic elements of the Universe — Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Sky, each signifying the essence of franchise. Speaking about the jersey and its essence, a team spokesperson said, "Mumbai Indians has carried forward a legacy every year, built on our core values and ideologies. Our five IPL titles are testament to our commitment to these values and it is extremely fulfilling that we have been able to signify it through our jersey this year."

CHEN WINS THIRD FIGURE SKATING WORLD TITLE

Stockholm: American Nathan Chen landed five quadruple jumps in the men's free skate on Saturday to overhaul faltering Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu and collect a third consecutive world title. Chen, who started the day in third, was impeccable in his routine scoring 222.03 for a total of 320.88 to apply pressure to the Japanese pair, 17-year-old Kagiyama Yuma and Hanzu, who followed. Chen added to his 2018 and 2019 world titles. The 2020 event in Montreal was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

KEERTI WINS GOLD, BRONZE IN PARA C'SHIP

New Delhi: Delhi's Keerti Chauhan won Gold medal in long jump and Bronze in 100m event during 19th National Para Athletics Championship held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru from March 24 to 27. The 27-year old Chauhan participated in T46 F46 category. The tournament was organized by Karnataka Sports Association for Physically Handicapped & Tami Nadu Paralympic Sports Association under the aegis of Paralympic Committee of India.

BK MITHUL WINS GOLD

New Delhi: BK Mithul of Mount Litera Zee School, Tiruchirappalli won Gold medal in 54-56 kg weight category Boxing event held at Pokhara in Nepal during March 16-19. The tournament — Indo-Nepal Invitational International Championship 2020-21 was organized by Nepal Youth & Sports development forum and was supported by Youth & Sports Development Association of India.

AGENCIES

Krishna-Vishnu duo enters maiden Super 100 final, Saina exits

PTI ■ PARIS

Saina Nehwal bowed out in straight games in the women's singles semifinals but the unheralded duo of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala kept India in the title hunt by storming into the men's doubles final at Orleans Masters here on Saturday.

London Olympic Bronze medallist Saina lost 17-21, 17-21 to Denmark's Line Christophersen in 28 minutes, while the women's duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy faltered 18-12, 9-21 to the top seeded Thai pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai in the semifinals.

However, Krishna and Vishnu cheered up the Indian camp with a 21-17, 21-17 win over the English pair of Callum Hemming and Steven Stallwood in a 35-minute semifinal clash to reach their maiden final of a Super 100 event.

The Indian duo, playing its first event together this year, will take on fourth seeded English pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vendy in the title clash on Sunday.

In the mixed doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and Dhruv Kapila lost their semifinal match to the Danish pair of Niclas Nohr and Amalie Magelund, 9-21, 23-21, 7-21.

Krishna and Vishnu had a slender 4-2 early on but the English pair soon jumped to a 11-8 lead at the break. However, the Indians caught up at 13-13 and marched on to seal the opening game.

In the second game, Krishna and Vishnu slowly moved ahead to a 11-7 advantage at the interval and even though their rivals narrowed down the gap to 15-17, the Indian duo ensured there was no hiccups.

Krishna, 21, is India's top ranked doubles player and used to pair up with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in his junior days. Krishna and Satwik had won the Asian Under-17 title together.

After Satwik and Chirag Shetty were paired together, Krishna started playing with Dhruv Kapila since November 2016. The duo continued for two and half years before separating in 2019.

Krishna had earlier paired with Shlok Ramchandran also. He had produced a dazzling performance in the 2019 Premier Badminton League alongside Lee Yong Dae for the North Eastern Warriors.

Gokulam Kerala win maiden I-League title

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Gokulam Kerala FC on Saturday clinched their maiden I-League title in spectacular fashion as they came back from a goal down to beat TRAU 4-1 in the final match of the season here.

Bidyashagar Singh's 23rd minute strike did little to stop the Gokulam juggernaut as goals by Sharif Mohamed (69th), Emil Benny (74th), Dennis Antwi (77th) and Mohammad Rashid (90+6) handed them the trophy.

With Churchill Brothers winning 3-2 against Punjab FC in the day's other match held simultaneously at another venue here, Gokulam shared points (29) with the Goan side but were crowned champions on head-to-head record.

In the two matches the two sides had played in the season, Churchill had won 3-2 once while Gokulam had emerged 3-0 victorious in the other.

Gokulam thus qualified for the group stage of the AFC Cup next season, Asia's second tier club competition, as I-League champions. They also became the first side from Kerala to win the I-League title.

The winning team's coach Vincenzo Alberto Annese could not hide his joy at his players' achievement.

"This is the best day of my life. I feel so happy and I feel amazing to be crowned a champion. I am immensely proud of my team and we deserved to be champions. We outscored all teams and we have played like champions in this season," Annese said.

"This means everything to me. This is my first season in India and it has already been a very special one. We have a very special team and nobody plays the style of football that we play," he added.

Bidyshagar, a revelation in the I-League much like his team TRAU, opened the scoring when he produced a brilliant finish from outside the box in the 23rd minute.

Just after resumption, Chanso Horam had a golden opportunity to hand TRAU their second goal of the match but his chip shot went inches over the bar, following a fine counter-attacking move.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
निर्माण खण्ड, लो०नि०वि०, खुर्जा। (बुलन्दशहर)

पत्रांक – 681/6ए/ई–निविदा,/2021 दिनांक :– 6.3.21

निविदा – सूचना

महामहिम राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड, लो०नि०वि०, खुर्जा द्वारा स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में निम्नलिखित कार्यो की प्रतिशत दर पर ऑन लाईन निविदायें https://etender.up.nic.in के माध्यम से उ0प्र0 लोक निर्माण विभाग में रजिस्टर्ड फर्म/ठेकेदार द्वारा दिनांक 05.04.2021 से 12.04.2021 तक दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 12.04.2021 को सांय 3.30 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। यदि किसी कारण वश निविदा खोलने की तिथि को कार्यालय बन्द होता है तो उक्त निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में ऑन लाईन खोली जायेगी तथा निविदा खोलने का समय तथा वैधता पूर्ववत् होगी। आनलाईन फाईन्सियल बिड खोलने हेतु समय व तिथि वेबसाईट पर बाद में दर्शायी जायेगी।

क्रम सं0/ लॉट संख्या	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (रु0 लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (रु0 लाख में	पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य व जी0एस0टी0 सहित	ठेकेदार के पंजीयन की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत नरौरा रामघाट मार्ग (अन्य जिला मार्ग) के कि0मी0 2(570) पर बी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	13.55	1.36	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 एवं रु0 150.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
2	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत खुर्जा–पहासू–छतारी मार्ग से अलीपुर सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	1.66	0.17	1 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 650.00 एवं रु0 120.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
3	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत नगला हरिसिंह सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	15.56	1.60	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 एवं रु0 150.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
4	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत एम0बी0 रोड से रूसी सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	9.97	1.00	2 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 एवं रु0 150.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
5	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत एन0एच0–93 से गंगावास सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	19.97	2.00	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 एवं रु0 150.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
6	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत मोमदी का नगला सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	2.07	0.21	1 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 650.00 एवं रु0 120.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
7	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत बृजगढ़ी सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	1.66	0.17	1 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 650.00 एवं रु0 120.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
8	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत प्रभु का नगला सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	6.31	0.64	2 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 725.00 एवं रु0 130.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
9	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत पहासू–दानपुर मार्ग से कुंवरपुर सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	5.13	0.52	2 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 725.00 एवं रु0 130.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
10	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत अतरौली रजवाहा नहर की पटरी सम्पर्क मार्ग पर सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण कार्य।	12.01	1.21	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 एवं रु0 150.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
11	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत हिरनोट सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	11.39	1.14	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 एवं रु0 150.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
12	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत रजपुरा सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	2.59	0.26	1 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 650.00 एवं रु0 120.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
13	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत बोहिच सम्पर्क मार्ग पर सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण कार्य।	10.35	1.04	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 एवं रु0 150.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
14	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत मेरठ–बदायूं मार्ग से याकूबपुर सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	34.78	3.50	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 एवं रु0 150.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
15	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत नगला नाऊ सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	3.11	0.32	1 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 650.00 एवं रु0 120.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
16	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत नगला छत्तर सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य।	6.93	0.70	2 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 725.00 एवं रु0 130.00 जी0एस0टी0	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
17	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत रामपुर मानपुर मार्ग से रामपुर करैना के मध्य काली नदी के पहुंच मार्ग का सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य	12.26	1.25	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
18	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत मेरठ – बदायूं मार्ग से वाजिदपुर पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य	12.42	1.30	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
19	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत नई जाटव बस्ती से वाजिदपुर सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी०सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य	6.62	0.70	2 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 725.00 जीएसटी रु0 130.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
20	सामान्य मरम्मत के अन्तर्गत कियावली उटरावली पहुंच मार्ग का सम्पर्क मार्ग पर पी0सी0 से नवीनीकरण कार्य	5.41	0.55	2 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 725.00 जीएसटी रु0 130.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
21	जिला योजना के अन्तर्गत शमशान घाट से बोहिच मार्ग का नव निर्माण।	21.01	2.11	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
22	जिला योजना के अन्तर्गत चमेड़ी सम्पर्क मार्ग से शिव मन्दिर तक नव निर्माण का कार्य	33.77	3.40	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
23	जिला योजना के अन्तर्गत अनूपशहर – शिकारपुर मार्ग से पहाड़पुर हवेली अम्बेडकर पार्क तक मार्ग निर्माण का कार्य	39.98	4.00	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
24	छूटी कड़ियों अन्तर्गत रामपुर बझेड़ा जरगवां रोड का शेष भाग में नव निर्माण का कार्य	27.17	2.75	3 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
25	वित्तीय वर्ष 2021–22 हेतु ब्लाक पहासू के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों पर पोट होल्स/पैच मरम्मत का कार्य	30.00	3.00	12 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
26	वित्तीय वर्ष 2021–22 हेतु ब्लाक दानपुर के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों पर पोट होल्स/पैच मरम्मत का कार्य	30.00	3.00	12 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
27	वित्तीय वर्ष 2021–22 हेतु ब्लाक शिकारपुर के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों पर पोट होल्स/पैच मरम्मत का कार्य	30.00	3.00	12 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)
28	वित्तीय वर्ष 2021–22 हेतु ब्लाक डिबाई के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों पर पोट होल्स/पैच मरम्मत का कार्य	30.00	3.00	12 माह	टेण्डर की फीस रु0 800.00 जीएसटी रु0 150.00	ए.बी.सी.डी (रोड कार्य में पंजीकृत)

1. धरोहर धनराशि एवं निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क का भुगतान इन्टरनेट बैंकिंग/एन0ई0एफ0टी0/आर0टी0जी0एस0 माध्यम से किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. समस्त पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों को पिछले 5 वर्षो का टर्न ओवर जो कि सी0ए0 से सत्यापित हो एवं पिछले 5 वर्षो में सन्तोषजनक रूप से किये अधिकतम लागत के कार्यों के विवरण चाणक्य साफ्टवेयर में निविदा डालने से पूर्व अपलोड किया जाएगा। ई–निविदा, जो https://etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जाएगी उसका विवरण लोक निर्माण विभाग, उ0प्र0 के चाणक्य सॉफ्टवेयर में उपलब्ध सॉफ्टवेयर पर भी निविदा डालने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय से पूर्व अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. निविदादाता को शासनादेश संख्या 879(1)/23–7–2020,लो0नि0अनुभाग–7, लखनऊ. दिनांक 25.08.2020 के कम में निविदा प्रकिया हेतु http://roc.uppwd.gov.in पर चाणक्य सॉफ्टवेयर में प्रहरी एप्लीकेशन का उपयोग कर आवश्यक अभिलेख अपलोड करने होगें।
4. निविदा से सम्बन्धित नियम/शर्ते तथा विवरण https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

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'We need to tap into our traditions'

Talktime

DIA MIRZA

UNEP National Goodwill Ambassador Mirza *speaks with* Shalini Saksena *about her second term agenda and how our traditional way of living was more eco-friendly than what it is today*

What are the programmes that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) runs in the country?

There are multiple programmes that it focuses on but essentially there are four focus areas: Rethink Plastic, Air Pollution, Wild For Life, which is a powerful global campaign. We had tied up with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to run a very impactful campaign on wildlife trade; it is an ongoing campaign. The last part, that it does in other parts of the world as well, is to take science to the people, to the policy makers and Governments. It helps in increasing engagement between the civil society and the Government.

Is there work being done at the private level as well?

A lot of work is being on renewables, engagement with various State Governments on forest protection and sustainable agriculture. There is a robust effort being made by the UN globally to help Governments to recognise the importance to build back after the pandemic — all aspects of growth include Nature, environment and conservation.

What are the changes that you have seen in the last few years?

There have been some wins. But we continue to be challenged by the unfortunate reality that has confronted us for the longest time which is to encourage more Governments, more ministries and policy makers to understand that all infrastructural development can't happen at the cost of the environment. More emphasis has to be given, more cognizance to environmental assessment impact and flouters need to be strictly hauled up. The unfortunate reality is that most people's infrastructure perceive environmentalism as obstructionism.

Is there more awareness related to the environment?

We make some gains because more people are aware today of how polluted our air is and what are the measures that can be implemented to clean it up. More people know what plastic pollution is doing to our water bodies, to our soil to our air. But thousands of trees are still being cut and forests cleared. It is a reminder that we are a very small piece of land with home to the second largest population in the world. We just hope that we don't continue to lose our natural resources in order to build some idea of a future that won't exist without our natural resources.

Can we only blame the Government for what is happening with the environment?

No, not at all. The good thing is that there has been a lot of emphasis and a lot more progress made on renewables. We made strong strides in solar power generation and making world solar alliance but to actually achieve the extent of measures that we need and the pace at which these have to be implemented you need complete participation and partnership of public, civil society and the Government. Just recently, I was reading about how a few women and children in Uttarakhand hugged trees and prevented them from being cut. When civil society gets up, it can fight the bigger forces.

Do you think that people in urban cities are just as motivated?

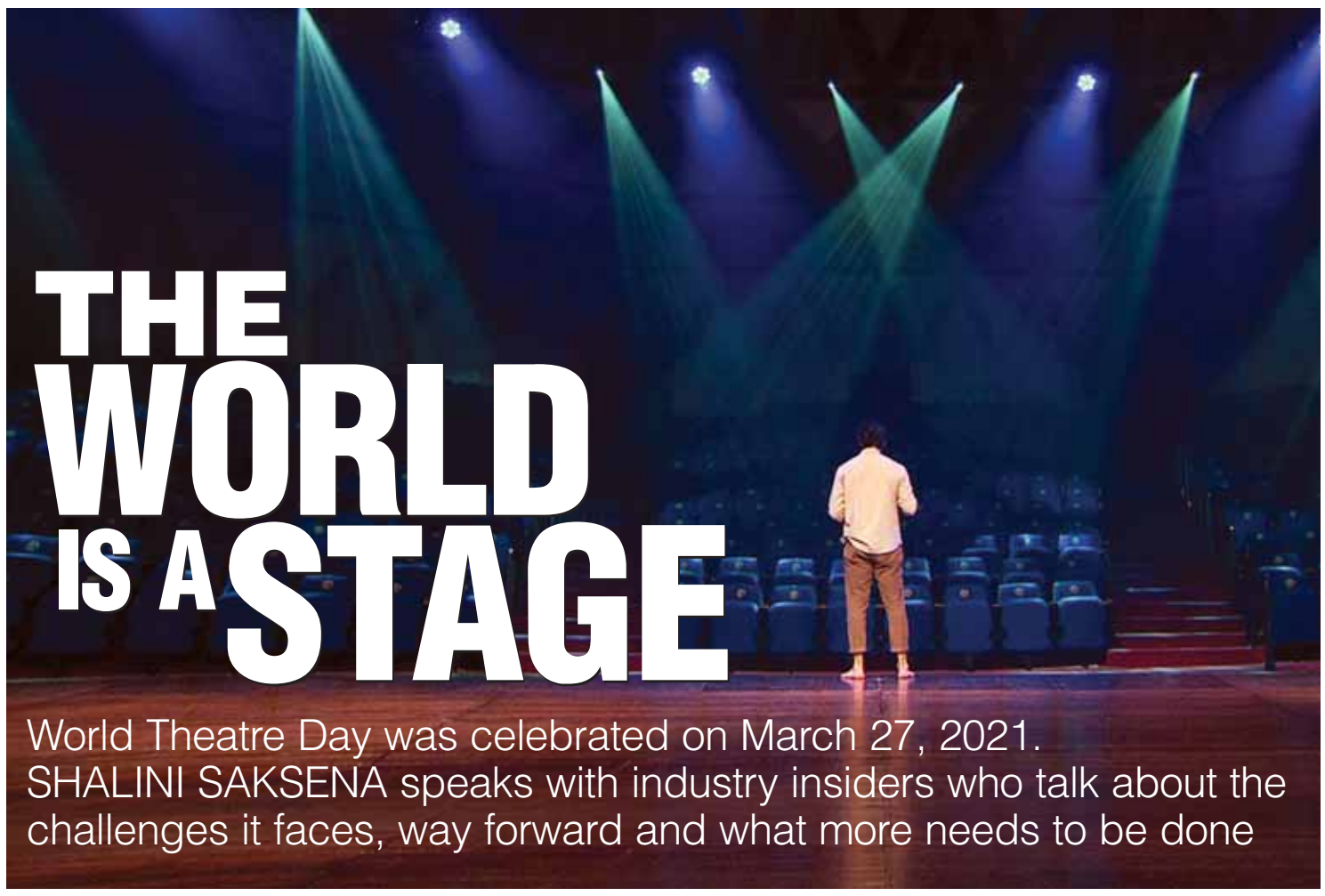
Many people recognised how Nature had tried to take back and reclaim what it had lost during the lockdown due to the pandemic. Most people recognised that the air was much cleaner. What is good is that people made the connection between human activity and environment. But we are a very forgetful species as well. However, the younger generation is more empathetic and motivated about change and bringing it in their homes and society one step at a time. There has been unprecedented youth participation in the environment despite the fact that a lot of people working for it have been attacked by the State. This holds a lot of promise.

Can you tell us about some of the initiatives being taken by people in metros?

There is a community of people that I represent that only uses completely toxin-free bleach home-cleaners. This community is growing. There are urban dwellers who recognise that what the mainstream industry is making as cleaners is harmful for the environment. More and more women are switching from regular sanitary napkins to washable cloth or even using the menstrual cup. More and more people are shopping locally and not using plastic.

Is the fact that many think that sustainability is expensive a hindrance?

If see how we co-existed with Nature earlier, whether it was the way we built our homes, the traditional form or architecture, forms of weaving, of making food, of growing food, everything that India has practiced over hundreds of years, you recognise the sense and the merit that our ancestors had in the power of the Earth. All we need is to go back to following systems that we have already have in place. We need to tap into our traditions.



THE WORLD IS A STAGE

World Theatre Day was celebrated on March 27, 2021. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with industry insiders who talk about the challenges it faces, way forward and what more needs to be done

The most famous speech in *As You Like It* is the Seven Ages of Man. It begins with: All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. This is perhaps the most famous of phrases written by William Shakespeare. It is a speech by philosopher Jacques talking to Duke Senior. Since hen theatre has been an important part of entertainment. Therefore, it is not surprising that the World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute, France. Since then World Theatre Day is celebrated globally on March 27.

Industry insiders in India tell you that theatre has always struggled and with it the artists. Sadly, the present pandemic has had an adverse impact.

"The impact has been huge. We are essential a business that relies on large gatherings. That has not been possible for the last year. The entire arts sector has had to rapidly readjust the way it makes work and our relationships with audiences. Arts organisations have been doing what they can to continue moving forward in whatever way they can, so when we can open our doors again, we are ready to welcome audiences safely and provide artists with the right circumstances to do their best work," Bruce Guthrie, head of theatre, The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) explains.

Highligting the challenges that theatre faced last year Guthrie tells you that moving completely online has been a huge challenge.

"Many of our team members have had to retrain in areas that have been unfamiliar to them up to now. Communication has had to be predominantly online. For all the technical wizardry, it is much slower working remotely than it is when we are all together in a room. Digital platforms to stream pre-recorded and live shows have taken huge leaps forward in the past 12 months.

"The challenge here is engaging with the audience. Live events are best experiences in person rather than on a screen. Our challenge is to give audiences a different experience, one that offers them something unique where they will want to experience the show in person but would also be happy watching at home," Guthrie says.

Sonali Kulkarni, who did plays like *White Lily* and *Night Rider* that aired on Zee Theatre tells you that COVID-19 has led to unprecedented times with a real danger of people catching the infection. "The new normal has taken a toll on socialising and creative collaborations so theatre has been affected in a big way. Because theatres shut down, tours and performances got canceled, the entire theatre fraternity is suffering financially. At this time, the digital path seems to be the only available way forward.

She tells you that there is need to find ways to generate income for all the people who are associated with theatre. "Theatre in India has never been very lucrative and earlier many people who chose theatre, did it for the passion, as a hobby, and also had part-time or even full-time occupations that kept their kitchen fires burning. Today many people depend on theatre for their livelihood and hence their suffering is immense. Right now, as a producer and actor, I feel helpless because I cannot help everybody in need. So, we are doing what we can. We have to keep up the creative momentum and find ways to create a strong, reliable source of income," Kulkarni opines.

Mahesh Dattani who has directed plays like *Dance Like A Man* and *Where Did I Leave My Purdah* says that time, space and motion has always been a prior, but now there is a disintegration in the theatre's fundamental building blocks. "However, all things are born again in the art world, and the same will happen to the theatre. This revisioning has been thrust upon us, but we must have an ongoing relationship with the here and now theatre artists. A reality with all its surprises and twists is something we have always embraced," Dattani says. He opines that theatre people are resilient.

"When have we not kept our hopes alive? Yes, we may have our fragile egos, and we tend to pull each other down, but that has made us stronger. We have braved the endemic of petty jealousies, backstabbing, insecurities all along. We do it; others do the same to us. The pandemic is a hiccup compared to what theatre people have to go through. One good thing that has happened is that our true selves have come out during this pandemic. Artists have helped each other, unlike any time before," Dattani says.

Coming out of this pandemic will experience a sort of renaissance period. A celebration of arts, culture and entertainment, the likes of which we have never seen or experienced in our lifetime
— Bruce Guthrie, head of theatre, NCPA

Aahana Kumra, who played Sarla in *Sir Sir Sarla* believes that one has to move where the future is moving. "I remember having a few arguments with Makarand (Deshpande) sir for the need to digitise this play. This was before the pandemic. He told me we have to move with time. In hindsight, I get what he meant. I know now that digitising art and making it more accessible is the way forward. This is also the space where the millennials are," Kumra tells you. She says that those who want to watch a play in a theatre will come and watch irrespective of whether it's already on a digital platform and if a play gets wider exposure via the small screen, all the better.

This is where platforms like Tata Sky Theatre have stepped in. "Television viewership is growing stronger. Theatre has a staunch following but with paucity of time and the fact that some plays have select or limited runs. The need of the hour was to bring theatre to people on a platform that is convenient to today's viewers. This gap was compounded and we were able to bring theatre and performances to people in their homes when almost no one could leave their homes," Pallavi Puri, chief commercial and content officer, Tata Sky, says.

And it all began with plays in Hindi. "The endeavour was to get people to see plays from different regions in other regions. For example: How does a Bengali watch a Marathi play without knowing Marathi? Since the story is interesting, all the content was translated and performed in Hindi. The plays have been recreated to suit the sensibilities of today's viewers. The result gives viewers an experience of watching excellent content and enjoying acclaimed theatre performances sitting at home," Pallavi says.

Lillette Dubey, who has directed Zee Theatre plays like *Adhe Adhure* tells you that for those who earn their livelihood from theatre, this phase is going to be very difficult. "We just have to find a way to survive, make money and if the way forward is online productions, there is no harm in it. But these are temporary stop-gap arrangements. I am confident that theatre will bounce back. It's a matter of time. We have to be patient. No matter what the odds, theatre is not going to disappear. I am very sure of that. We need is to try other ways to be creative till we can all perform on stage once again," Dubey opines.

Interestingly, despite all the problems, artists opine that theatre has been around for thousands of years and endured through times of tremendous difficulty. "It will be important and vital than ever coming out of this pandemic. We will experience a sort of renaissance period. A celebration of arts, culture and entertainment the likes of which we have never seen or experienced in our lifetimes. People want to be together and experience the world together. There will be such joy in being able to connect and feel together. That energy will drive theatre and performance for years to come," Guthrie says.

'Environmental issues must be tackled by planting more trees'

On International Day of Forests, SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with BIKRANT TIWARY, CEO, Grow-Trees.com, on the importance of planting trees on global warming and how communities can help in conservation of forests

Why and where was the need to celebrate March 21 as International Day of Forests?

The need to assign and celebrate this day arose when negligence and ignorance towards forests became a common phenomenon. Man continued encroaching forests to keep up with the rampant urbanisation, failing to realise that the felling of trees would not just impact the environment, but the wildlife and local communities relying on them as well. World Forestry Day was established to raise awareness about the importance of all types of forests.

What is the role that forests play in lives of the locals?

While forests are often associated with the protection of wildlife, we'd like to draw attention towards one-third of the world's population that still relies on forests for their livelihood. Whether it is consuming plant products like resins, fruits and honey or selling them for extra income, there are many local and tribal communities that depend on forests for survival and sustenance. It is also important to note that almost 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity lies in forests. All the plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi provide unique services to mankind. Forests also act as natural carbon sinks, sequestering atmospheric carbon and saving us from the disastrous effects of airborne pollutants.

How is planting more trees going to affect global warming?

Trees help combat climate change and protect us from the ghastly effects of global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. It is for the same reason that the number of natural disasters has been more intensified in recent years. Forest fires, droughts, floods, and other natural calamities have denuded many forest areas. Neglected mountain slopes, dried rivers, extinct animals, and unruly mudflows are a few other consequences of natural disasters. The only solution to tackle this problem and many other environmental issues that we are struggling with today is planting as many trees as possible. Trees will reduce avalanches, keep the ground fertile by preventing soil erosion, regulate precipitation and slow down global warming to a great extent.

What are the hindrances and challenges faced?

Just like any other task, planting trees comes with its fair share of challenges too. When we set out to plant trees, it was extremely crucial to be aware of the kind of species we choose, their benefits for the local communities, the relevance of cultural heritage, and the adaptability of the species to a particular area.

How does planting a tree in the hills differ from planting one in the plains or coastal areas? Should the species of trees be different as well?

Trees that are planted on hills or mountain slopes might not have the same response and adaptability to coastal areas. This is because trees on the coast need to be wind resistant, tolerant to drought, and impervious to salt while trees that hold the soil well and prevent soil erosion are required for hilly regions.

Planting trees requires thorough research work and special care only in the initial phases. Once a tree matures, it is self-sustainable, and our only task is to ensure that it is getting enough water and not damaged by humans or animals.

How does community participation help in conservation of trees?

Strong ties with village institutions, forest departments, and self-help groups have helped us to get permission to plant on community lands across 23 States. Over the years, we have strengthened our relationship with the local communities by educating them about the importance of forests and their benefits in the long run. The result has been incredible; we have managed to plant over seven million trees, created over six lakh plus days of rural employment, and sequestered over 150 million kg of atmospheric carbon through mature trees.

SWEETEN YOUR HOLI PARTY!

ALMOND AND WHITE CHOCOLATE GUJIYA

Serves: 10
Ingredients
For dough
All purpose flour 2 cups
Clarified butter (ghee) ¼ cup
Water ½ cup

For Filling
White chocolate 1 cup
Desiccated coconut ¼ cup
Green cardamom powder a pinch
Almond ½ cup
Jaggery 1 tbsp

Method

- Rub the flour and ghee together and bind them together with water to form a soft dough. Rest it for half hour.
- In a bowl, mix the chocolate flakes, coconut, almonds together and add jaggery.
- Make small balls of the dough and roll it out into ½ cm thick *rotis*.
- Place filling in the center, do not overstuff it as it will result in bursting of gujiya while frying.
- Apply water on the edges and seal the ends, the shape will resemble half-moon. Use cutter to make a design around the edges or pinch and twist the edges.
- Heat oil/ghee in a deep pan; fry the *gujiyas* till golden brown.

— Almond Board of California

THANDAI RUM PUNCH

Ingredients:
Fresh Fruit Chunks (Pomegranate, grapes, 8 to 10 apple &watermenlon)
Full Toned Milk 120ml
White Rum 60ml
Thandai Syrup 30ml
Pista Flakes 10gm
Glass Riming Coconut & pista powder
Garnish Whipped cream & chopped fruits
Buransh crush

Method:

- Add milk, thandai syrup, fruit chunks, pista flakes and blend well.
- Coat the glass from inside with fresh Himalayan

Garnish:

- Whipped cream & chopped fruits (grapes & pomegranates)

— Pramod Dwivedi, Head Mixologist, JW Marriott Mussoorie Walnut Grove Resort & Spa

VEGAN WALNUT AND BANANA KHEER

Ingredients:

For walnut milk
Walnuts 1 cup
Filtered water 3 ½ cups

For Kheer
Ghee 2 teaspoons
Cardamom pods, crushed 3
Walnut milk
Walnut paste
Sugar (optional)
Banana 1

Preparation:

- Soak the walnut for two to four hours and blend with water to make walnut milk.
- In a pan, add ghee, cardamoms and walnut milk and keep stirring.
- Add roasted walnut paste in the mixture and keep whisking.
- Once the milk thickens, chop a banana and add that to the pan.
- Stir it for a while, take it off the heat and put it in a bowl.
- Top with chopped walnuts and serve.

— Chef Abinas Nayak

sunday magazine
New Delhi, March 28, 2021

the pioneer
agenda

You can tell more about a person by what he says about others than you can by what others say about him
— Audrey Hepburn

FROM THE INSIDE

Reminiscing the era of Dons
BV Kumar's memoirs as an officer and boss of DRI where he spent nearly four decades tracking the smugglers 2

4 **Reclaiming power of mind**
Pursuing the contextual meditation process, first, one first gets established in *dharana*. Spontaneously it leads to the state of *dhyana*

Digital marketers tend to understand customers' thought processes and motivations starting from the moment we feel the need to buy a product, writes SEEMA GUPTA, as she delves into the psychology of shoppers and identifies the factors that influence the change

PROFILE OF AN ONLINE SHOPPER

One lazy afternoon, I was scrolling through my Instagram feed when I noticed a picture of two scarves which I found very cute. It took me just a minute to order them online and only two days to receive their delivery.

Looking back at the incident, I wondered, was it impulse buying? What was the psychology that triggered my emotions? Almost 84% of all shoppers have made an impulse purchase at one point in their lives. You know the situation where you feel like, "This is made just for me! I have to have it!" But afterwards, you feel, "Why on earth did I buy this?" Stats have shown that 46% of men and 52% of women regret their impulsive purchases.

Have you ever wondered why we shoppers are compelled to make such purchases? How are these digital marketers able to influence our decision-making even without any actual contact? Why does receiving our ordered delivery feel like a gift to ourselves?

The answer to all these questions lies in the psychology of digital marketing. Digital marketers tend to understand customers' thought processes and motivations starting from the moment we feel the need to buy a product. As the customers undergo many ups and downs in the decision-making process, marketers try to eradicate their pain points and disqualifiers to seal the deal. And we thought digital marketing is just about advertising on social media!

Our judgment and decision-making process is of two kinds. System one thinking is like an unconscious automatic mode. It guides our daily duties but is more prejudice prone. This is what is termed as the gut feeling. On the other hand, system two thinking is the slow and logical one. Usually, system one thinking is in the driving seat of decision making. That's the reason why first impressions are so important.

As it rightfully said that you can't grab a second chance to make the first impression. We judge the brands just by the first impressions they create on our minds. This works on the same psychology why we are more likely to pay attention to a person in formal suits than in casuals. The complete game of digital marketers depends upon their first outlook.

For instance, if you are looking for television online, and you come across two websites. You will undoubtedly go for the first one as it creates a positive aura and is pleasant to look at. Simultaneously, the second one gets rejected as a result of its faulty web page design. Experts say that colorful visuals can increase people's willingness to read by an unbelievable 80%!

HOW TO MAKE THEM SAY YES

After creating a kickass impression, the marketers' next target is to make you say yes to their services. But that's not easy, owing to the cutthroat competition present. It takes months for them to make a customer but just a second to lose him! Therefore, digital marketers employ a wide variety of methods to capture your attention.

Suppose, you come across two offers in an online shopping center where one brand offers you a buy one get one offer on a travel bag, whereas the other brand offers you a scratch card that may get you a free vacation to Bali. There are 70% chances that you will go for the first one even though the second is more profitable. This is because the benefit is certain is the first case, and when certainty is offered, we don't go for the risks. For the same reason we find the transition of 95% to 100% more attractive than 80% to 90%!

Another very tried and tested principle is the isolation effect, which determines that the ones which 'stand out like a sore thumb' are more influential and compelling. This was the reason why Nano cars could be identified from a distance! Therefore, call-to-action buttons are made to look different from the rest of the site.

The next effect is very much relatable to your lives: the cliffhanger effect or the Zeigarnik effect. It states that unfinished things create a sense of urgency and stress among us, and we have no other option but to complete it. You must have observed that all the essential information is not given at the beginning of the website. The fascinating parts are left for the last to retain the interests of the audience! Here, phrases like 'Just one click away,' 'You are almost there' etc., triggers our curiosity.

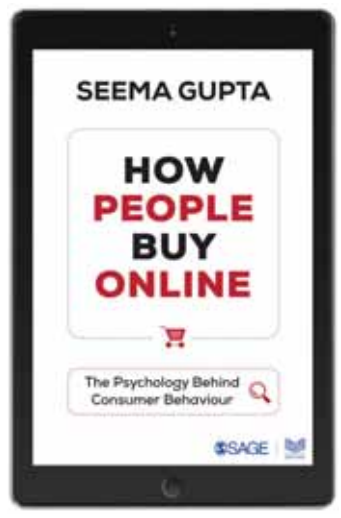
This can be very easily observed in e-reading apps where the readers get hooked to the stories. Since the following chapters have to be bought by coins, readers often spend some dollars just for a two-minute read!

These and a lot of other techniques are employed to convince the customers to say yes. As it was rightfully noted that 'Good marketing makes the company look smart, but great marketing makes the customers feel smart!'

ONLINE SHOPPING IS THE NEW NORMAL

As the past year was devoted entirely to pandemic situations, one sector has achieved great heights in digital marketing. The global digital market size reached four trillion in 2020! At present, we visit eCommerce stores more frequently than our nearby grocery stores and use e-wallets more quickly than the actual wallets. When going out becomes tough, the tough ones go for online shopping.

Today, e-commerce stores have become the permanent address of compulsive shoppers who are addicted to shopping. Gone are the days when these people were roaming around in every mall and showroom of the city. Now, the whole day they are browsing online. These are the kind of shoppers who shop unconsciously and spend too much. Then they feel guilty and to de-stress themselves; they shop again!



> AS THE PAST YEAR WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO PANDEMIC SITUATIONS, ONE SECTOR HAS ACHIEVED GREAT HEIGHTS IN DIGITAL MARKETING. THE GLOBAL DIGITAL MARKET SIZE REACHED FOUR TRILLION IN 2020! AT PRESENT, WE VISIT ECOMMERCE STORES MORE FREQUENTLY THAN OUR NEARBY GROCERY STORES AND USE E-WALLETS MORE QUICKLY THAN THE ACTUAL WALLETS

Targeted and sponsored ads don't help the case either. That pretty handbag you came across last night pops up at the top of your screen like a shopping mousetrap. If you fail to resist it, one click, and you are there. Then you find a vast collection of products of your choice and end up buying two bags, three lipsticks, and a coat. Instant order placement and fast delivery raise a sense of gratification. Plus, these virtual stores never "close"!

The real craze of online shopping is witnessed in flash and festive sales. So many exciting and compelling offers make it hard to resist for all the sale shoppers. Amazon registered a whopping $600 million sale in the two days of Prime Day sale last year! Crazy right?

Another typical example from our daily lives is that of the Bargain hunters. Bargaining is like a tradition in our country. This is based on the simple idea of seller first asking for a more significant request, which by no means makes sense to us, and we refuse to pay a price that high.

After the denial, they ask for a minor request, which is what they wanted in the first place. It causes our human mind to think that they favored us by compromising, which makes us say yes. The world blindly believes in fallacies. It is just like how some people like coffee because it gives them the illusion that they might be awake.

This concept of reciprocal concessions is also portrayed in online marketing for satisfying the Bargain hunters. You must have observed that every product in Amazon or Flipkart has some initial high price which is struck off, and a lower price is mentioned to show a discount. No matter, whichever season, festival, or time it is, these eCommerce stores have at least a 50% discount on every product. How is it even possible statistically? Have you ever wondered?

SOCIAL MEDIA IS NOT A CHOICE; IT'S A LIFESTYLE!

Finally, one tool that has changed and possesses the power to change the fate of digital marketing is social media. Brands don't choose whether they must do social media marketing or not; the real factor is how well they do it. The ones who ignore social media will get ignored or, more precisely, die!

A few days back, I was watching a YouTube video when I realised that all the books placed in a bookshelf in the background were tilted except one whose name was visible. I couldn't help but wonder why. Then, on close observation, I realised that the person himself authored a particular book and highlighted it that way. Now isn't that a great example of self-promotion?

You all must have noticed how experts answer questions in Quora by presenting their products as the best solution. A genius strategy with absolutely no expenses needed. This is also the reason why Salman Khan is always spotted adorning a "Being Human" t-shirt!

The world has seen many record-breaking social media campaigns which have skyrocketed the brands. These all had in common that they were successful in engaging the public and making them talk. The marketer can include you in their sale only if they can fit you in their tale.

One such instance was that of Spotify's *#yearwrapped*. At the end of 2019, Spotify celebrated the most important musical highlights of the year through a particular webpage Spotify Wrapped which highlighted your most listened to artists, genres, songs, and other fun data discoveries. You could even view how the songs you listened to coincided with your life events that year.

Then, Spotify urged the public to share these highlights on social media, specifically Twitter and Insta Stories, tagging your favorite artist of the year. Results? Shocking, of course!

The campaign was mentioned in more than 1.2 million tweets. 60 million+ users participated in the in-app story experience. And a whopping 3 billion streams of Wrapped playlists were registered!

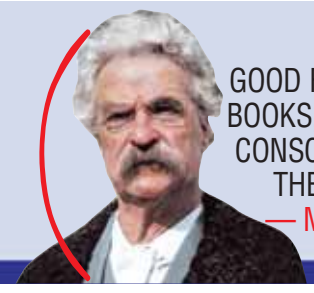
So now, what is the takeaway? Why did it work?

It beautifully combined two big psychological triggers: personalisation and FOMO. Firstly, it creates a personalised story for each user. Secondly, it amplified the reach of the campaign through social media. Naturally, users wanted to show off their highlights to their friends, which created greater hype for the campaign. Such a smart move to turn users into a volunteer marketing army!

There are millions of more examples where social media has played a linkage between digital marketers and us. Social media marketing is changing the digital and the real world as well, and we all are the witnesses to it.

On this note, I would like to conclude with the advice to not fall for the charms of online shopping even though they are hard to resist! After all, it's tough to find something that's not sold online!

The writer is an author. Her book, How People Buy Online: The Psychology Behind Consumer Behaviour, *was recently published by SAGE Publications India*



GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD BOOKS, AND A SLEEPY CONSCIENCE: THIS IS THE IDEAL LIFE
— MARK TWAIN

REMINISCING THE ERA OF DONS

The book is BV Kumar's memoirs as an officer and boss of DRI where he spent nearly four decades tracking the smugglers of precious metals, currency and narcotics, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

There was a time when *hawala* operations were not secret, at least in Kerala, which had ties with West Asian countries. The expatriates from Kerala who went to these nations in search of greener pastures could find well paying jobs, but they faced a major hurdle in sending the money back home. Taxes were high and there were restrictions on the amount which one could send. The easiest way was *hawala* which ensured that the sender's family received the amount within hours.

Same is the case with gold smuggling. The yellow metal was cheap in Dubai, a free port. In India, gold costs at least 60 to 70 per cent more than what it costs in Dubai because of taxes. No wonder, many people took to gold smuggling in a big way in Kerala. Over the years, smuggling of the precious metal was accorded a social status. I have heard that a movie Moghul from the State who made it big through gold smuggling introducing himself to friends: "Hello, I am Mr ….. and a smuggler from Kerala"! With off-white pants, shirts, a thick gold chain visible through the unbuttoned shirt and a packet of 555 cigarettes made the typical Malabar businessman till the 1990s.

The stature accorded to smugglers were out in the open as viewers went into a state of delirium when Mohanlal and Mammootti, portrayed the characters of Dons hoodwinking Customs and Police to smuggle in gold and currencies.

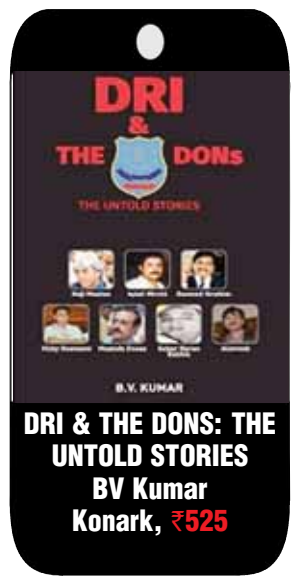
It was in 1990s that Prof Arun Kumar of JNU published *The Black Economy in India* in which he remarked that the parallel economy in India is more than ₹1 lakh crore and described it as the after effect of smuggling, commission, corruption and *hawala*. Economists and policy makers are of the view that the parallel economy has grown manifold since the liberalisation of the economy in 1991.

Smuggling and trading of precious metals have assumed alarming proportions in India. Seizure of smuggled gold and foreign currencies at airports have become a routine affair in all major airports of the country. News related to these seizures are read and forgotten within hours because there are many other interesting incidents are reported from all over the country thanks to 24X7 news channels catering in all languages.

The recent seizure of gold which was being smuggled in through diplomatic channels at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport caught national attention mainly because of the involvement of Swapna Suresh, a middle-aged celebrity in Kerala's social circles. Her arrest by the NIA has opened a pandora's box and it is the hotly discussed issue in South India. The involvement of the powerful people in the State and the close liaison aunty Swapna had with government secretaries, IPS officers and sons and nephews of ministers and politicians are the current rage.

It is at this juncture that B V Kumar, the former director general of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, a Government of India elite organisation hitherto kept away from media attention, hit the bookshelves across the country with *DRI and The Dons: The Untold Stories*. Kumar, known for his integrity, honesty and dedication has always led from the front his men and officers against smugglers. This IRS officer is credited with taking on Dawood Ibrahim, world's most wanted fugitive, much before the latter's 'elevation' into the big league of crime.

The 445 page book is Kumar's memoirs as an officer and boss of the DRI where he spent nearly four decades hunting and eliminating the enemies of the nation who were out to subvert the economy of the country with the help of illegal gold, silver and narcotics. What makes the book special is not because of its account about the Dons of Dongri but the description on the magnitude of the havoc caused by a miniscule section of mobsters whose actions have made life difficult for us. The book has topical significance as Kumar describes Kerala as Gold's Own Country and quotes an anecdote which sums up the reason behind the State's insatiable hunger for gold.



DRI & THE DONS: THE UNTOLD STORIES
BV Kumar
Konark, ₹525

The author could have summed up the influence wielded by gold smugglers in the State's politics. A person who was incarcerated in jail for 19 months on charges of smuggling rose to become the minister in Kerala Government during 2001 to 2004! No prize for guessing the name.

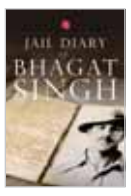
The modus operandi followed by even educated people engaged in gold smuggling could be understood from what my school fried Abdul Rehman told me. His brother who was employed as an engineer in West Asia 'smuggled' in gold in bottles of olive oil. This happened in the 1970s. The Rehmans are millionaires now!

There were no mobile phones, speed boats or hi-tech detectors those days. Still, Kumar and his men performed their duties with the limited facilities at their disposal. Gold and drug smuggling have grown leaps and bounds in India. It is for the policy makers to chart out means to prevent the cancerous growth of this anti-national activity. The other day I saw a CPI(M) leader declaring in one of the channel debates that gold smuggling is not a criminal offence and there is nothing to be ashamed of about it. It is time we had a supersleuth like BV Kumar in the DRI.

More than a book, *DRI and the Dons* is a treat to read. One gets to enjoy all the information told in Kumar's own style. Once you read the book in full, you become richer in knowledge. It gives an insight into persons like Sukar Naran Bakhia who in Kumar's words, had for a fondness for virgins which led to his downfall.

But at the end, the book evokes a sense of pathos through the story of K N Entee, a customs officer who chased a group of smugglers in a rickety Government vehicle and lost one of his legs in the ensuing fight with the criminals.

NEW ARRIVALS



JAIL DIARY OF BHAGAT SINGH
Rupa, ₹195

A portrait of man with an acute scholarly mind and a cheerful socialist heart. Between the years 1929 in September till March 1931 when he was sent to the gallows a day before his actual hanging date, Bhagat Singh wrote extensively. He maintained a diary which was full of notes of daily usage, his own thoughts on freedom, poverty and class struggle and thoughts of varied political thinkers and intellectuals like Lenin, Marx, Ummar Khayyam, Morozov, Rabindranath Tagore, Trotsky, Bertrand Russell, Dostoevsky, Wordsworth, Ghalib and many others. Through the pages of his jail diary, a real Bhagat Singh emerges — one who is without the hat or a gun, one who had an acute scholarly mind and a robust socialist persona.

WHEN THE WILDFLOWERS BLOOM
Rupa Bhullar
Rupa, ₹295

After suffering public humiliation at the hands of her husband on what would have otherwise been a memorable evening, Tara Grewal, a homemaker and mother of two, finds herself thrust onto a crossroads. She cannot readily go back to the life she once knew, nor can she move forward without a career or life skills to sustain her.
As she transitions from questioning her choices to surrendering to the flow of life, an unfamiliar journey leads her to her grandmother's village in Punjab. Amid the simple joys of rural life, and heart-wrenching struggles of daily survival, Tara unknowingly kindles a spark of hope. A hope that eventually lights her own fire.
As she casts off the reins of the predictable and embraces change, Tara unravels her fears and motivations, reaffirming her belief in what she knew to be true — about people, about life, about relationships, and most importantly, about love.

A rare collection of *ghazals*

Ek Bamushkil Diya Jalata Hoon by bureaucrat-author, Deepak Kashyap is beautifully crafted and unravels layers of intense emotions. DEEPAK KUMAR JHA reviews the book

An Urdu poet of remarkable depth and vision, Deepak Kashyap has been quick to clarify that *ghazals* are his first love — right from adolescence when he was a student of English at Patna University. The 91 page pocket-sized *Ek Bamushkil Diya Jalata hoon* (EBDJH) has 47 *Nazms* and *ghazals* in all.

Going through them one by one or even flipping through some of the pages randomly, it is hard to miss the tender mix of emotions — of pathos, love, yearning, reminiscence, hope, despair, longing, frenzy and disenchantment. Above all, is a deep undercurrent of spiritual quest coursing through his entire poetry. It holds in it values and vicissitudes of life's journey, more than the fulfilments of its goals, if at all they exist.

Kashyap has consciously kept the language of his *ghazals* simple avoiding use of difficult and heavy Urdu, and instead, weaving his magic in simple "*Hindustani*" that is much closer to the language that the Hindi heartland speaks. When he does use a few difficult Urdu words of Persian/ Arabic origin — albeit reluctantly — the verses leave behind an enormous impact. The book takes care that the effect is not lost even on those unfamiliar with Urdu diction, through footnotes that carry their English and Hindi translations.

The simplicity of language doesn't stop him though, from imbuing his poetry with a touch of class that one would normally associate with modern masters rather than with first-timers.

The *ghazals* — practically all of them — are superbly crafted, delicately nuanced to unravel layers of meaning upon reading over and over again.

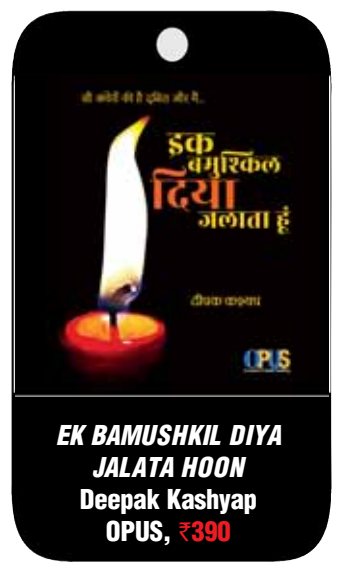
The depth of meaning and repertoire of emotions doesn't come though at the expense of their musical appeal. Most of the *ghazals* are so rich in alliteration and musical resonance that they would be run-away success if turned into musical compositions of matching caliber.

A couple of gems from the book: *Bhoolein Jo Rasmo Raah Toh Is Ahtayaat Se, Humko Malal Apko Sharmindahi Na Ho*; (If estrangement is the way forward, let it come ever so gently. For, when we look back, I shouldn't be rueful and you shouldn't be ashamed)

And then: *Ahista Ahista Chalein Us Maqaam Ko, Sarmaya Jahan Gham Ka Khushi Lootati Na Ho* (Slowly, we must gather ourselves to reach those pinnacles. Where joys don't plunder the wealth of sadness)

Kashyap shares that he was tempted to use the word "*Saman*" instead of "*Sarmaya*" for the sake of simplicity, but in the end settled for the latter, since "*Sarmaya* has a deeper resonance not quite captured by *Saman*".

The book holds the readers interest throughout and each page shines with beautiful and reminiscent imagery. The author seems to make a deliberate attempt not to put his words to deflect the subject with titles or sub titles or chapters. Page 91, however, is in continuity with small stanzas.



EK BAMUSHKIL DIYA JALATA HOON
Deepak Kashyap
OPUS, ₹390

It may seem odd to talk about the Preface of the book — the "*Prastavana*"— at the end, and not at the beginning, of the review. This is on purpose though. For this preface carries a beauty of its own.

Written in even simpler language than the poetry that follows, more Hindi than Urdu in fact, it reads less like a dry introduction of the main section, and more as an endearing anecdotal account of how the poet in Kashyap struggled through the early formative years when he was trying to measure up as a budding civil servant with ever increasing official burdens, and was yet not willing to give up on his latent creative faculties.

Overall, it is a remarkable account of a highly unusual, yet enticing journey of a young man from being a bureaucrat to turning a serious yoga practitioner, then an English author of repute, and finally finding his true calling as an Urdu poet of excellence by letting his poetry absorb and exude all the essence and charm of understated spirituality.

In this age of frenzy and living in the fast lane, this book of *ghazals* may seem to be an oddity at the first glance. But once you start reading the first few lines, it simply sweeps you off your feet.

His earlier title in English "*Yoga: Anatomy and the Journey Within*" has already gone into several editions, winning Indian Defence Ministry's recognition and international acclaim in the process. The author also possesses deep knowledge of Ayurveda.

His inclination towards engaging himself and simultaneously others into reading and leisure can be measured in the very thought of conceptualising the launch and then success of Indian Railway's first ever on-board bilingual monthly magazine "*Rail Bandhu*" published for several years by The Pioneer newspaper group.

Transformational moment in India-Bangladesh ties

March 26 marks the 50th year of Bangladesh's liberation — a genocidal war in which three million perished and over 200,000 were women raped and several wounded after Pakistan Army launched an attack on March 25 midnight on unarmed Bangladeshis: men, women and children.

The attack started in Dhaka University targeting students' halls, especially the Jagannath Hall which housed the minorities and Rokeya Hall that housed the women students — the most vulnerable groups in the mayhem created by the Pakistan Army.

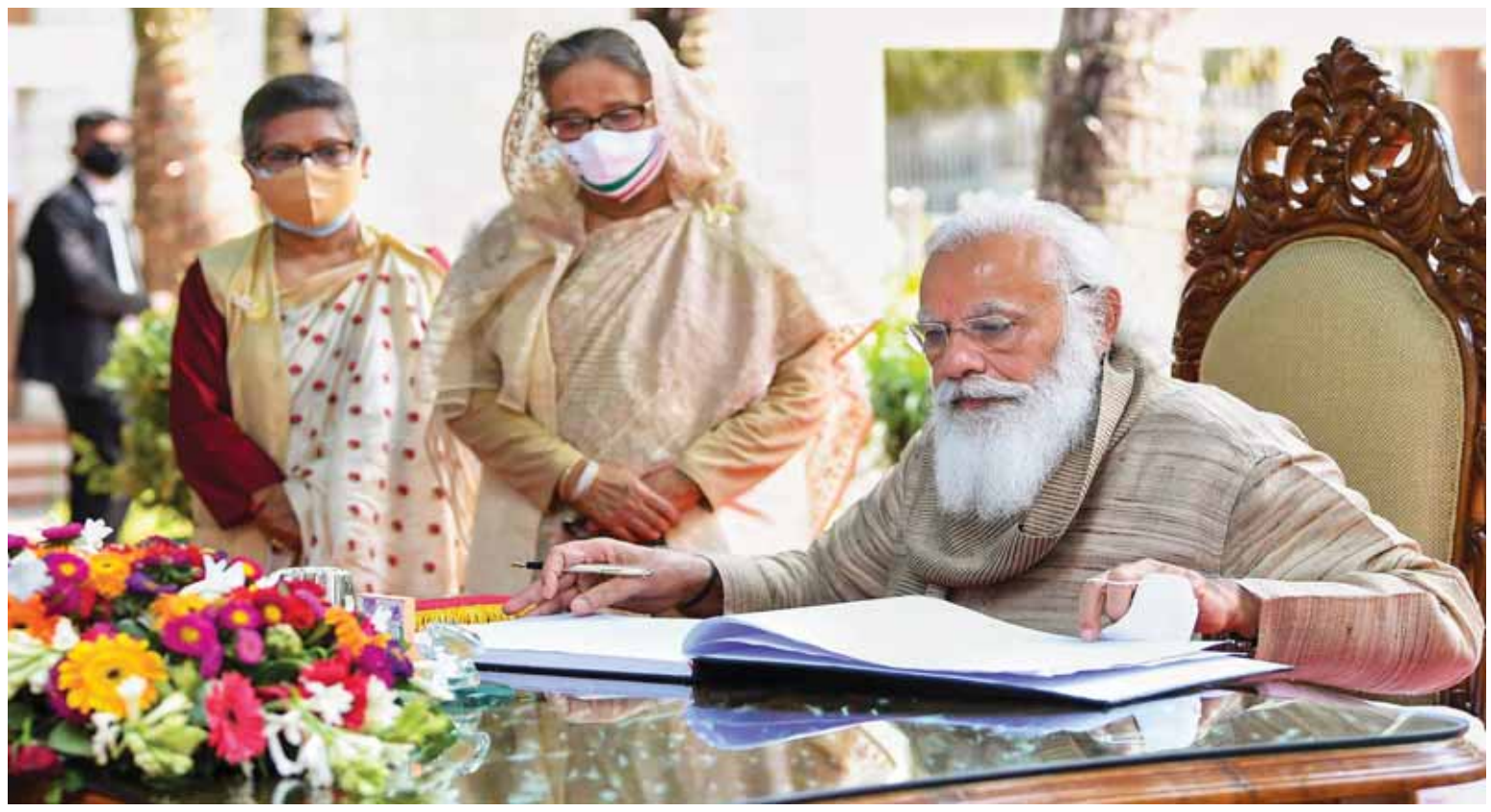
The war started after Bangladesh declared Independence after the party of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the elected leader of the country, emerged victorious in the 1970 election — the first ever election in Pakistan based on universal adult suffrage.

This was end of journey of Pakistan as a nation state based on two-nation theory. The Bengalis who had overwhelmingly supported the Pakistan movement were the first one to reject the state that denied their separate cultural-linguistic identity, exploited them economically and denied to respect the voters' mandate.

In this war of liberation, in spite of all odds, India stood with the people of Bangladesh. Not only hosting ten million of refugees, but diplomatically mobilising the world opinion and drawing their attention to the enormity of violence and the challenges of hosting the refugees. In fact, at one stage the refugee population surpassed the population of the state of Tripura that borders Bangladesh.

Yet, like the Government, people opened their homes in the bordering Indian States, supported them and contributed funds for supporting the refugees. They took the refugees as members of their family. Without such large scale support by Indian people it would have been difficult for the Government of India to host the refugees.

On March 31, 1971, Indian Parliament passed a resolution saying the Pakistan Army's brutality unleashed on unarmed people is "systematic decimation of people which amounts to genocide" and recorded "its profound conviction that the historic upsurge of the 70 million people or East Bengal will triumph".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi writes in the visitors' book after paying tribute at the mausoleum of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj district in Bangladesh on Saturday. Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina is also seen PTI

The main objective of Pakistan was to cleanse the country of Mujib's supporters and sympathisers and they were helped by local collaborators to identify those who were considered a threat to Pakistan military regime for demanding the recognition of the election mandate.

In the March 7 speech, Mujib gave a call saying that this time it is the war of liberation, the war of freedom exhorting people to go ahead with it even if he is absent — anticipating his arrest or elimination. As the refugee flowed into India, Pakistan projected that these people are infiltrators who have been expelled.

India's then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi speaking in the Lok Sabha, after a visit to the border States to assess the condition of refugees, had said, "This is an insult to the aspirations and spontaneous sacrifices of the people of Bangladesh, and a calculated attempt by the rulers of Pakistan to make India a scapegoat for their own misdeeds."

She warned, "Pakistan cannot seek a solution to its internal problem in India by pushing its own people out."

Though many countries, especially China and the United States, referred to this uprising as "internal problem" some thought that by providing aid to the refugees they would be able to pacify India.

The increased influx of 60,000 people per day only reflected the stark reality and the enormity of the crisis. India tried to cut down on non-plan expenditure, raised fare on the tickets for long distance travel, the entire Cabinet donated their salaries, people and other voluntary organisations raised money to support the refugees financially where as people of the bordering villages opened their home and hearth to look after the refugees.

Schools were shut down to accommodate the refugees. After 13 days of war, Bangladesh was liberated by India-Bangladesh joint force in which the Indian Army lost more than 3,000 personnel.

Bangladesh was accorded recognition as a nation state on December 6.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh Liberation war, Modi addressed the national programme in Dhaka and remembered the Bengali martyrs and Indian soldiers who laid down their lives for the liberation of Bangladesh.

He also conferred the Gandhi peace prize on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for "his outstanding contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods."

Modi on Saturday visited the mausoleum of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and paid floral tributes to him, becoming the first-ever foreign Head of State or Head of Government to pay homage at the grave of "Bangabandhu" at Tungipara in southwestern Bangladesh.

This is significant as Bangladesh is observing the Mujib Barsho, the birth centenary of Mujib.

It was he who laid the foundation stone for a strong India-Bangladesh relation shared by strong bonds of history and geography, charactering this relationship as "eternal and enduring".

The two countries in the past decade have made progress. After the ratification of landmark land boundary agreement which in itself is a history for implementing territorial adjustment and demarcating the border without acrimony and bloodshed, India also accepted the verdict on maritime boundary as adjudicated through international arbitration.

The demarcation of both land and maritime boundaries paved the way for comprehensive mechanism to manage the border, joint anti-terror military exercises, coordinated patrol by the navies of the two countries as well as coast guards.

Bangladesh put to rest the mistrust and suspicion by handing over Indian insurgent groups who were sheltered in Bangladesh by the previous Bangladesh Nationalist Party coalition regime.

The two countries have signed mutual legal assistance. There are annual bilateral talks between the Home Ministers/Secretaries, Foreign Ministers/Secretaries, Border Guard Bangladesh and the Border Security Force of India, between the District Magistrates and the Superintendents of Police of the border districts on both sides of the border.

Several connectivity projects are being implements under the lines of credit that will reestablish the historical connectivity that existed between the two countries. Bangladesh receives 28 per cent of India's development budget which is around $10 billion. Projects in the field of power, railways, road and transport, health & technical education, shipping and solar-based connectivity are being implemented under the Lines of Credit India has extended.

The restoration of the Chilahati-Haldibari railway line and Karimganj/ Mahisasan (India)-Shahbazpur (Bangladesh) is underway. The Agartala-Akhaura rail project is under construction, financed by a grant from India. There are many firsts between the two countries. Tripura opened the first waterway with Bangladesh — the 90-km long Sonamura-Daudkandi route — apart from other waterways that facilitate trade. The last year witnessed the first container train reaching Bangladesh. The first parcel train carried chilli from Andhra Pradesh to Dhaka; in June a record 100 freight trains were run between the two countries carrying essential items like sugar, maize, spices and finished products.

About 2 million metric tons per year of cargo is moved by rail. Ninety-nine per cent of the cargo that is moved by rail is Bangladeshi imports from India. The two countries have connected their electricity grids for electricity trade.

India's focus has been people of Bangladesh. Not only it provides the largest number of visas to Bangladeshis but it has concentrated on High Impact Community Development Projects which are implemented through Indian grants.

A total number of 63 projects with grant aid worth $160 million has already been implemented. India has established of 36 community clinics in five districts of Bangladesh and 11 water treatment plants in Bangladesh which will help common people.

All these projects are executed by the locals and have helped in contributing to employment generation.

In the spirit of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam and the Neighbourhood First policy, India unfolded the Vaccine Maitri programme and provided the Covid-19 vaccine to its neighbours. It has gifted two million vaccines to Bangladesh.

However, major irritant remains. Water sharing is one of the issues that often threaten to derail the bilateral relations. There are 54 common rivers the two countries share. Over the period of time siltation, encroachment of river bank and barrage has affected the flow of the water. The need of the hour is to take basin approach to management and conservation.

Bangladesh is one of the India's closest neighbours with which it shares largest land boundary. The relation is marked by mutual trust and respect as is evident by high-level visits. This is Modi's second visit to Bangladesh. The socio-cultural aspect of the bilateral relations and people to people contact has remained life-blood of the ties. This has the capacity to make the two states overcome the challenges they face. In the golden jubilee year of diplomatic relations, the progress that the two countries have made in bilateral relations and cooperation would remain a Sonali Adhyay (Golden Chapter) in their foreign policy.

(The writer is a Research Fellow at South Asia Centre, MP-IDSA)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh on its 50th Liberation day and his becoming first head of any state/Government to pay homage at Bangabandhu Mausoleum have given a fresh impetus to the bilateral relations. The spirit of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam and the Neighbourhood First policy have the potential to further cement the bonhomie between the two countries

SMRUTI S PATTANAIK

PERSPECTIVE

Gamut of India-Pakistan relations

The visionary initiatives of the Government of India to strengthen India's relations with its neighbouring countries have set up a solid foundation and it reflects the leadership's will to showcase India as a peace-loving nation in a true sense

ASIF RAMEEZ DAUDI

India has always been a peace-loving country trying its best to maintain cordial and mutual relations with all its neighbours. India's ethical stand and historical efforts to promote peace and cooperation not only encourage harmony butalso reflect how sincerely it recognises that peace brings prosperity and development whereas violence certainly has an adverse effect.

The grave impact of terror and violence doesn't affect only a particular region but all its neighbouring countries as well. Therefore, India has constantly contributed to promoting the welfare of the people of South Asia, strengthening collective self-reliance, mutual assistance in various fields and cooperation with the international and regional organisations developing historical relations after becoming the SAARC member.

Even during the cold war when the world was divided into two parts, India strove to remain non-aligned. This shows India's dynamic and constructive policies of pursuing India's dignity and veracity in a polarised world, which is worth appreciating. But, India has never compromised with others when its safety & security are at stake.

The India-Pakistan relationship remains one of the most discussed topics in the contemporary world. Both the countries had numerous military conflicts ranging from nuclear threats to conventional wars. Though some potential solutions to the rivalry have periodically been tabled, no signs of the final conclusion have been noticed yet.

After the most noteworthy India-Pakistan peace-process under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1998, now the momentous and visionary initiatives of the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen India's relations with its neighbouring countries are another convivial boulevard that further evidences India as a peace-loving nation in a true sense.

Realising the changed global order and economic importance of the region, the UAE according to media reports, initiated and brokered to ease the present stand-off between the two countries. This is not a new phenomenon, there had been some power which played important roles as brokers and potential peace-makers in the past as well.

For example,the USA following the war of 1965, the Soviet's role in hosting peace talks in Tashkent following the 1965 war, the USA again acted as a broker at critical points such as the 1999 Kargil War.

As a matter of fact, in the contemporary global scenario, India is undeniably a highly credible voice with incredible foreign policies, so India doesn't need any external third-party mediation. India is more than capable of handling all its issues independently. However, since India believes in regional peace and cooperation, it always respects the external opinion elegantly.

The concerns of the third-party mediators and well-wishers further intensify the efficacy and gravitas of the strong Indian foreign policies and initiatives that leave substantial impacts on the overall interests of other countries as well.

There is a liberal perspective that trade brings peace between the nations. Europe has learnt lessons from two world wars. The loss in human life and in material goods was beyond any calculation. The economic consequences changed Europe from creditor to debtor. England that had once been the superpower went back to scratches and had an overseas debt of 3.355 million pound after the war. Therefore, the leadership of both countries should explore all possible options to solve the perpetual disputes on all issues.

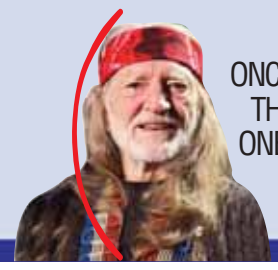
According to the Directorate General of foreign trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, bilateral trade between India and Pakistan in 2015-16 was approximately $2.61 billion which according to Future Direction Magazine's report is a very small part of its overall trade as both sides recognise that bilateral trade has the potential to reach US$30 billion, ten times its current value.

According to International Affairs and Global Strategy reports, India and Pakistan are doing trade through two channels. The official trade which takes place through border to border directly and the other one is unofficial or illegal trade via third countries.

Though the formal trade is meagre with the current volume around $2.61 billion, the informal trade volume is massive about $8-10 billion. About 90 per centof India and Pakistan trade is consistently informal. If their trade and-commerce relations stabilise, it will augment the formal trade and both the nations can develop and prosper paving the way for trade and business that eventually shall abate the poverty and unemployment in both the countries.

The present positive developments may provide a golden opportunity for both the nations to start dialogue, opening new doors to enhance the bilateral, social, political and economic relations. It is a fact that India-Pakistan relations have significant impacts on the stability in Asia and on the global order. Having said that, if the peace-process begins, this will send a robust message to the Indian subcontinent in particular and the entire world in general.

(The writer is a faculty member of King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah)



ONCE YOU REPLACE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS WITH POSITIVE ONES, YOU'LL START HAVING POSITIVE RESULTS
— WILLIE NELSON

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

ARIES March 21-April 19

This week happiness and prosperity is on the cards. There is good news waiting for you, and you will have reasons to feel joy. A sense of contentment in the material and spiritual world would make you feel enthusiastic about life. You will be full of energy and enjoy good health. On the work front, you will have a healthy stint. Your colleague or a close friend will need your attention. By the end of the week, you may ponder over your accomplishments and bring some improvement to your schedule. On the personal front, settlement in a new house, or support and encouragement from the spouse is indicated. Singles, you need to be clear about what you want from a relationship before going ahead.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday

TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will be in a state of confusion. You will have a tough time finding a solution to an unexpected problem. Your mind will be ruled by the two most powerful emotions — apprehension and fear and this will not allow you to sleep at night. This is a challenging situation for everyone in the family. Workload will keep you stressed. Your professional life will see the fiery side to your personality. It is very important to take time off from the busy schedule. Delegate your duties and try to balance between works and emotions. As the week comes to an end, you will gain confidence to control situations that were making you agitated. Couples may plan to watch a movie or a picnic for relaxation and better bonding.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday

GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week will see the best of your capabilities and genius and creativity will be your forte. You will have the abilities to manage multiple tasks at a time. You are versatile and your expertise will be acknowledged by others. Workwise this week you will be quite busy. There will be a time when you have to take important decisions related to your professional and personal life. This decision will activate you and you be able to handle many issues. Midweek, a new job opportunity will come your way. You will have a tempting job offer with a higher salary and perks. On the personal front, you will be high on emotions, and hence, making you almost a home bird. It is recommended to spend time in artistic pursuits.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Saturday

CANCER June 21-July 22

This week all your efforts and hard work will pay off. You have toiled a lot, now is the time to reap the fruits. You will experience the power and authority in your thoughts and actions. On the work front, promotion or assigning an important designation is on the cards. For those who are in the field of politics, this is the time to act selflessly and speak the truth. Your image as an influential business person or as a high profile officer will make a mark. On the personal front, you will see the results of your previous Karmas or deeds. Due to your misdeeds that will be scrutinised, the possibility of a negative situation arising is likely. So, mind your action and don't do anything for which you might regret later.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday

LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you let your sentiments and emotions rule your heart and mind in contradiction to your personality. You will have the opportunity to negotiate, resolve conflict or settle issues with important people in your life. Surrender yourself to the higher wisdom and conquer material temptation. Giving up something to gain something better is on the cards. Workwise, your patience and endurance will be put to test. On the personal front, you are likely to make amends with your family. Irrespective of negotiations, stay in balance. You may need time alone to re-evaluate your life and situation/the four-fold process that is experienced on the levels of consciousness — mental, emotional, spiritual and physical.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Tuesday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week finances, awareness of personal value and worth etc. are the core issues that will draw your attention. Good news from a woman or feminine sources is indicated. You will be health-conscious and may visit a doctor for medical checkups. On the work front, new ideas will enable you to make better decisions like whether or not to invest time or money in a new enterprise. You will be financially secure with strong investments. On the relationship front, the money will be spent on love and entertainment and you shall be in a romantic state of mind. Grooming yourself, going to a spa or saloon for relaxation is on the cards. Stay away from possessiveness and an overly cautious approach to life.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Thursday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week your search for a mentor in life who opens the pathways to wisdom and insight for others comes to end. This person will provide you with the comfort and help, you require. You are likely to experience mental grief or agony. On the career front, trust yourself and follow the rules and regulations of the company. The dreams of the past will sink in and new ones will arise. Stay calm and quiet and allow things to take their own course without intervention or control. Those related to the transport business will have reasons to smile. On the personal front, you will put your family in focus than usual and conditions all around won't be at their best. Some help from a male friend or relative is indicated. You will experience high energy and vitality in your daily life.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your luck shall favour you in getting good opportunities and you may make more profits than you initially calculated. You are likely to have an abundance of prosperity and growth in your health, wealth and family happiness. This is the time when all you females will feel full of creativity and be productive. On the career front, your work will be acknowledged and recognised by the senior authority. Great success is indicated. Chances are that your company may select you for a course or training. On the personal front, you are likely to feel stability and a sense of security on both mental and physical levels. The knowledge and the experience you possess are invaluable and will be best utilised this week. You are going to support and motivate others.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will enjoy good family life and happiness. The beginning of a very happy relationship is on the cards. The children in the family are happiness in disguise. You will be optimistic throughout the week. Career-wise, a tough decision in your work area will demand your attention. You are bound to follow the company's system and discipline. By the end of the week, you must balance work and pleasure. Your passion, greed and desires will rise high making you lazy. There are chances of last-minute changes and as long as you are not caught off guard, you can handle everything. Opportunity to make quick money is indicated, as is misunderstanding with the elders. So, make effort to stay away from conflict.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

The hyperactive nature of communication is not a good situation for you. This week you will keep yourself busy as you can't sit idle. Career-wise, this is the time to take a break from your work and relax for some time to regain your energy and resources. In midweek, a sudden change in the situation may surprise you. Using your wisdom and diplomacy, you will be able to solve the problem. Your knowledge will help you to face a challenging situation. Those who are facing a legal hassle will come out as a winner without any charges. On the personal front, this week you need to keep your emotions in check. Your mind will take charge of your heart to hold back many subtle feelings. You will gain a position of trust and authority. Avoid conflict.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Friday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

The week you will chase your dreams of finances, love and work. You will enjoy the journey of achieving your dreams and get fruitful results. On the professional front, you will have sudden earnings and profits, making you financially stable. A person of the opposite sex will help you promote your professional work. The initial days will be dedicated to all your work and most likely you will meet with success. On the personal front, a marriage proposal or strengthening of bonding with someone you love is indicated. With this, the focus will shift from creative ventures to romantic interests. Love is surely on the rise, but do not flirt with too many, as you may end up in trouble. Overall, the week is favourable.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Wednesday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week the focus shall be on ways to increase wealth. Meditation, self-examination and re-evaluation of life's goal are also on the cards. You are likely to be very choosy and calculative, in all the matters of life. A new spiritual spark or guidance will boost your confidence. On the career front, work and business will keep you busy and the efforts you put in now will show in the time to come. It is important to restrict the finances and spend wisely. Money investment, getting a loan are all looking positive if you start the process this week. Amidst financial gain, new ideas to make the best use of finances will take place. On the personal front, emotions have taken the back seat. You will be tough at heart and completely dedicated to your work.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday

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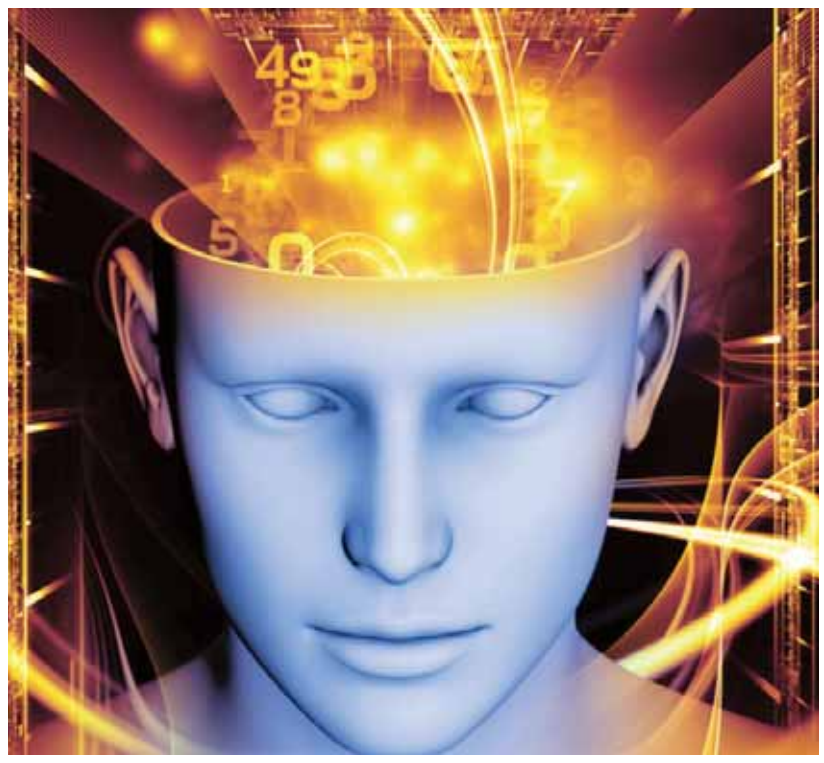
ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Reclaiming power of mind

In contextual meditation, two tools are put to use — an imagery to focus upon, and a *mantra* specifically dedicated to the symbolic image. The *mantra* is so designed as to excite vibrations that resonate to the spirit underlying the imagery in focus. Say for instance, if one is to focus attention on Ganapati's imagery, there are specific *mantras* dedicated to it. One out of them as advised by the Guru needs to be repeatedly recited, with focus on the imagery. The two tools put to use simultaneously helps becoming one pointed faster. Pursuing the process for a continued stretch of time on a regular basis, one is able to get well tuned and be in harmony with the two. Mind, thus trained as such, wherever one pays attention, remains effortlessly focused. You, thus, would be able to put in your whole into it, which may help you successfully take the task in hand to its logical end.

Both the imagery and the related *mantra* have to be individual specific, based on what particular aspect of one's personality traits would be wanting, warranting necessary correction. Remember, we are all born imperfect, each one of us carrying some inherent habit tendencies and weaknesses. We need to address our individual specific infirmities. We, thus, get over the preconditioning of our mind. Following which, we begin looking at the subject matter under consideration with an open mind. Consequently, we shall be able to look at issues in the right perspective due, which helps picking up right leads. Evidently, the probability of success gets improved. In fact, it will be fair to call it a self-empowerment process, which may help us successfully negotiate the callings of life with ease and comfort.

The concept as such is based on sound reasons. Remember, ancient India's learned masters had very well understood the realities of life in holistic terms. In fact, they were conversant with even subtle realities of life. They understood very well that our personality trends are rooted in the thought seeds parked in the inner realms of mind in energy format. Ostensibly then, for any personality related weakness on our part, there has to be some deficiency in our energy-construct as well. Accordingly, they designed the process in a way that takes care of both the aspects simultaneously, and hence the two tools suggested — imagery in focus and its corresponding *mantra*. To address our personality related weaknesses, if any in practical terms, they wished to drill in our mind a sense of how to ensure measured conduct. This would be achieved by reflecting upon educative import of the imagery in focus. The echoes generated through repeated recitation of the mantra, helps find connect with corresponding energy-source in nature, and augment its absorption level to meet up any void in our energy construct. Thus, came into place, a composite self-awareness and holistic self-healing programme.



Pursuing the contextual meditation process, first, one first gets established in *dharana*. The immediate benefit is that you could remain focused to your priority preferences for longer stretch of time. As you graduate further in the process, over a period of time, spontaneously it leads to the state of *dhyana*. Here after, you don't have to make any conscious efforts as spontaneity becomes rule of the game. You are then in perfect harmony with the imagery in focus and the mantra. That in turn, progressively leads to a state when the *mantra* literally drops. In fact, *mantra* doesn't get really washed away. You still continue doing your round with the *mantra*. But the fact that it would be happening spontaneously, it is not in reckoning. Only the form remains in sight. This is what is termed as being in a state of *savikar samadhi*. As you graduate further, the practitioner's mind, the imagery in focus and the *mantra* turn into a seamless awareness, when neither the *mantra*, nor the image is in sight. We thus, enter into a state of *nirvikar samadhi*. Your individual mind then becomes synonymous with the cosmic consciousness. The whole landscape of mind then becomes accessible with its immeasurable powers, which would know no limits. Wherever you focus attention, intuitively you strike the underlying truth. Evidently, you are at your best.

To conclude, Swami Vikenand's quote becomes imperative: "The history of the world is the history of few men who had faith in themselves; Faith calls out the divinity within you, you can do everything. You fail only when you do not strive sufficiently to manifest "infinite power"

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