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THE ELECTRIC CHALLENGE

WORLD 8
WORLD LEADERS CALL FOR NEW INT'L PANDEMIC TREATY

AVENUES 10
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AGUERO TO LEAVE MAN CITY
12 SPORT

Keep following the Instructions, after Corona Vaccination

Monday & Tuesday Mega Vaccination

Wear Mask Properly

Wash hands regularly with soap and water or use sanitizer

Maintain 2 Gaj Social Distance

In case of any symptoms get Tested for Covid-19 and immediately isolate yourself

Be aware and make others aware

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

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CAPSULE

PRESIDENT STABLE AFTER CARDIAC BYPASS SURGERY

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday underwent a cardiac bypass surgery at the AIIMS here, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said. The surgery was successful and his condition is stable, it said.

CARS OF TN SPEAKER, MINISTER COLLIDE

Coimbatore: Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker P Dhanapal and Municipal Administration Minister SP Velumani escaped unhurt after their cars collided near Tirupur, while they were going to attend an election rally in Dharapuram, to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday afternoon.

UP: MINOR GIRL SETS HERSELF ON FIRE

Hamirpur: A 15-year-old girl set herself ablaze at a village here on Tuesday morning after allegedly being molested by a boy, police said.

LESBIAN DUO'S PARENTS SENT FOR COUNSELLING

Chennai: The Madras High Court has asked the parents of two women, who were in a live-in relationship, to subject themselves to counselling by a specialist in the field, to face the matter wisely.

Covid situation alarming, be on guard: Govt

States told to prepare action plan, convert hospitals into Covid facilities, ramp up testing, isolate, trace contacts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday sounded the alarm over India's Covid-19 situation which, it warned, is going from "bad to worse" and becoming a "huge cause of worry". Stressing that the "whole country is at risk" and nobody should be complacent, the Union Health Ministry asked the States to prepare a district action plan, convert hospitals to dedicated Covid facilities yet again, ramp up testing with focus on RT-PCR, isolate promptly, trace contact, and boost healthcare resources.

India has recorded 56,211 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, which, in some relief, is 17 per cent lower than the day before, taking the total tally to 1,20,95,855 on Tuesday. Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh account for 80.17 per cent of the total active cases in India, whereas 19 States and UTs have higher coronavirus cases per million than the national average.

At a Press conference here



A health worker takes a sample from a sadhu for the Covid-19 test at Shri Harihar Udasin Ashram in New Delhi on Tuesday

on the Covid-19 situation in the country, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that 10 districts, with 8 in Maharashtra alone, have reported nearly 6 lakh cases in March. The 10 districts also include Delhi taken as a whole.

"The 10 districts with maximum active Covid-19 cases are Pune (59,475), Mumbai (46,248), Nagpur (45,322), Thane (35,264), Nashik (26,553), Aurangabad (21,282),

Bengaluru Urban (16,259), Nanded (15,171), Delhi (8,032) and Ahmednagar (7,952).

Continued on Page 2

PUNJAB SCHOOLS, COLLEGES TO REMAIN SHUT TILL APRIL 10

Chandigarh: The Punjab Government on Tuesday extended restrictions to tackle coronavirus with schools and colleges to remain shut for another 10 days.

'Covaxin, Covishield effective against UK, Brazilian variants'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday said that Covaxin and Covishield are effective against the UK and Brazilian variant of SARS-CoV-2. "Work against South African variant is going on," said Union Health Secretary Bharat Bhushan.

Of the 11,064 genome samples of coronavirus sequenced, the UK variant has been detected in 807, South African variant in 47 and Brazilian variant in one.

He said that India will open Covid-19 vaccination for everyone aged above 45 years from April 1, irrespective of whether they have any comorbidity or not.

"Everyone in the eligible age group can register on the CoWIN platform for vaccination or can visit the vaccination Centre after 3 pm with any identity document. Usually people with Aadhaar card & voter ID. But you can also produce bank passbook, passport, ration card," said the official at

a Press conference here.

However, reports of glitches in CoWIN app as well as some hospitals showing negligence during the vaccination process seem to be deterring many from coming forward to take the jab.

Take the case of Nirupama Cairie (58), who even after eight days of taking the first dose of Covishield, continues to reel with severe side effects of the jab. She alleged the private hospital where she was registered for vaccination did not follow the norms.

"I had registered on CoWIN app and scheduled my vaccination appointment at a private hospital in Noida, Uttar Pradesh and went for my first dose on March 22nd 2021. Without bothering to look into my medical papers about my co-morbidities, the hospital staff vaccinated me which left me with severe itching all over my body," said Nirupama.

Continued on Page 2

Follow Covid norms, impose 'spot fines' DGCA tells airports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the rising number of Covid cases across the country, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday asked airports to enhance surveillance and explore the possibility of imposing "spot fines" on those who violate Covid-19 protocols. In an advisory issued to airports, the DGCA noted that compliance of some airports to Covid-19 guidelines weren't satisfactory.

"All airport operators, therefore, are requested to ensure that the instructions on Covid-19 protocol from the standpoint of wearing a face mask properly, covering nose and mouth, as well as maintaining social distance norms within the airport premises are followed scrupulously," the circular said.

Airports have been given a strict SOP as part of the measures being taken to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus as India stares at a second more lethal wave. Accordingly, all airport operators can increase surveillance in this regard, the DGCA said.

Continued on Page 2

VISTARA ROLLS BACK PAY CUTS

New Delhi: Vistara will be rolling back pay cuts for a few categories of employees, starting April. These pay cuts were implemented last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic leading to severe financial issues for the aviation industry.

LDF like Judas, betrayed Kerala for gold, says Modi

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/DHARAPURAM

The countdown for the April 6 elections in Kerala and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assemblies began on Tuesday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the campaign against the CPI (M)-led LDF in Kerala and the DMK-led Opposition in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Addressing an election rally at Palakkad, from where the legendary engineer E Sreedharan is contesting as a BJP candidate, Prime Minister Modi lambasted the Marxists whom he described as Judas who betrayed Jesus Christ for 30 silver coins.

"Judas betrayed Lord Jesus Christ for 30 silver coins. But the CPI(M) betrayed Kerala and the country for some gold bars," the Prime Minister said in a thundering voice as the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting as part an election campaign in support of their NDA allied candidates, ahead of Tamil Nadu Assembly polls at Dharapuram in Tiruppur district on Tuesday

thousands who had gathered to listen to him roared in approval.

Modi reminded the people of Kerala how the CPI(M) systematically destroyed the age-old custom and tradition of Sabarimala shrine. "While the CPI(M) was destroying the

cultural fabric of the State, the Congress-led UDF watched it in silence," charged the Prime Minister.

He also reminded the people of the State about the match fixing between the CPI (M) and the Congress.

Continued on Page 2

BJP worker killed, wife of man who canvassed for Adhikari gangraped

BJP candidate hurt; Shah raps TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ NANDIGRAM/HALDIA

Campaign for second phase of Bengal polling came to an end on Tuesday with reports of violence coming from several places.

Former India cricketer Ashok Dinda, who is contesting on a BJP ticket from Moyna, sustained back and shoulder injuries in an attack by TMC supporters.

Elsewhere, a BJP candidate was attacked at Tamruk by TMC men and he had to be hospitalised, sources said, adding another BJP worker was beaten to death at Egra in East Midnapore.

Allegedly gangraped by TMC supporters, the woman,

the wife of a BJP supporter who had campaigned with Suwendu Adhikari even on Monday evening, was in a critical condition, sources said. The Election Commission had sought reports of the incident.

Even as reports of violence came in, war of words ensued between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Home Minister Amit Shah with each blaming the other's outfit for the volatile situation in Bengal.

Shah on Tuesday reiterated that his party would win 200-plus seats, before condemning the TMC Government for creating an atmosphere of violence in the State, even as Mamata hit back accusing the BJP of importing and harbouring criminals in Nandigram and other parts of the State with a "vicious design of rigging the polls."

Continued on Page 2

Incentivise to boost vehicle scrapping: Centre to States

Notification calls for various discounts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to incentivise the owners of old vehicles to go for scrapping, the Centre on Tuesday directed the transport departments of the States through a gazette notification to give discounts on registration fee and road taxes as per the vehicle scrapping policy that will come into effect from October this year.

Some of the incentives notified are: scrap value for the old vehicle given by the scrapping centre, expected to be 4-6 per cent of the price of a new vehicle; a road-tax rebate of up to 25 per cent for new personal vehicles and up to 15 per cent for new commercial vehicles from the States besides an additional discount of 5 per cent by auto companies against



motor vehicles, which are over 15-year-old. Besides, there are 17 lakh medium and heavy vehicles, which are over 15-year-old, and plying without fitness certificates.

The Centre early this year had proposed a slew of measures to ensure that vehicles over 15 years old stay off the road. This included a steep rise in fee for renewal of fitness certificate for old commercial vehicles, increasing the fee for renewal of registration of private vehicles that are over 20 years old.

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari during the Budget session had announced that all the stakeholders could be a contributor for a green tax in the country to help reduce pollution.

As per Government estimates, currently there are 51 lakh light motor vehicles in the country, which are over 20-year-old and 34 lakh light

motor vehicles, which are over 15-year-old. Besides, there are 17 lakh medium and heavy vehicles, which are over 15-year-old, and plying without fitness certificates.

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Continued on Page 2

4 cops hurt as Sikhs wielding swords attack them, 22 held

PNS ■ NANDED

A mob of sword-wielding Sikhs on Monday attacked policemen, injuring at least four of them, after being denied permission to hold a public procession in Nanded due to the coronavirus pandemic, an official said. 22 people have been arrested for the attack.

A viral video showed the sword-wielding mob barging out of the gurdwara, breaking the barricades put up by police and attacking the policemen. Several vehicles were also damaged in the violence.

Nanded Range DIG Nisar Tamboli said the condition of one of the four constables was serious.

Detailed report on P5

Vaze present at meeting where Hiran's murder was planned: NIA

Mumbai: Suspended Mumbai Police officer Sachin Vaze and former policeman Vinayak Shinde were present at the meeting where the murder of Thane-based businessman Mansukh Hiran was planned, the NIA told the court on Tuesday and added Vaze had used a mobile phone to contact a "conspirator".

The NIA, however, didn't name the conspirator.

The investigating agency also said that it was close to unravelling the conspiracy and the motive behind the crime.

The special court judge P R Sitre has extended till April 7 the NIA custody of Shinde and another accused Naresh Gor, a cricket bookie, in the murder case.

Hiran, a Thane resident, had been in possession of an



their remand on Tuesday.

The NIA told the court that its probe revealed that Vaze and Shinde were present at the meeting where the murder of Hiran was planned.

Continued on Page 2

RETD JUDGE TO PROBE ALLEGATIONS RAISED BY PARAM BIR AGAINST MAHA HOME MINISTER

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Government on Tuesday set up a committee headed by a retired judge of High Court to probe the corruption allegations levelled by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh against State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

Ultras plan to loot J&K cops' safety gear

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In what could be an ominous sign of the impending trouble, the RAW has warned that the terror groups in Jammu & Kashmir have decided to loot protective gear from the security forces, even by killing them, in the Valley. The terrorists have already been snatching weapons from the forces' personnel in both the Valley as well as the Maoist-hit States.

The Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), country's premier external intelligence agency, has warned that the terror groups operating in Jammu & Kashmir are planning to acquire protective gear like bulletproof helmets by any means like snatching, stealing or even killing security forces personnel.

The agency said that Maoists are also estimated to have been using bullet-resistant



helmets and bulletproof vests snatched from the security forces in Chhattisgarh.

The input was generated by the RAW on March 19 and has been passed on to stakeholders engaged in law and order roles as also counter-terror operations in the Valley like the Army, Rashtriya Rifles and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), sources said.

As per the chatter of mili-

tant outfits on the social media, intercepted by RAW, Abdul Ghani Khwaja (AI Badr Operational Commander) died due to bullet injury in the head and he could have survived, if he had been wearing the bulletproof helmet, sources said, adding liquidation of Khwaja has prompted the terror groups to acquire bulletproof helmets.

Khawaja was killed by the security forces in an operation in Sopore on March 9. After the killing of Khwaja, the terrorist outfits have tasked their cadres to make efforts to acquire bulletproof helmets "by any means, including snatching, stealing or even by killing security forces personnel."

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61 mn doses of Covid vaccine administered in India, 64 mn sent to 84 nations: Vardhan

New Delhi: In India, 61 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have already been administered, while 64 million doses have been given to 84 nations under various programmes, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Tuesday.

Virtually participating in a panel discussion on vaccine production and distribution across Asia at the 'World Immunisation and Logistics Summit', he detailed how the infrastructure of India's universal immunization programme provided a pivot for its COVID-19 vaccine drive. The virtual conference brought together over 1,000 attendees from around the region and the world to discuss key issues of global supply chains as the world faces the largest and most complex logistical operation in history in an effort to deliver life-saving vaccines worldwide, the health ministry said in a statement. It said the panel was informed how India is scaling up production of COVID-19 vaccines and how the government was working with local and international partners to ensure timely distribution of the same.

Reminding everyone that India produces 60 per cent of the world's vaccine, Vardhan

said, "More than 61 million vaccine doses have already been administered in our country and 64 million doses have been given to 84 countries under various programmes. We always feel that benefits of science be delivered to the whole world." At the summit, he showcased India's vaccine drive, the development of two vaccines -- Covishield and Covaxin -- as well as the priority pyramid of beneficiaries.

The Union health minister said that half a dozen vaccines are under clinical trial and around one dozen are in pre-clinical trial which are being monitored by an expert group for vaccine NEGVAC, Vardhan said.

Applauding initiatives for collaboration, including the HOPE consortium, as a welcome step, he observed, "It is going to help in shaping the future policy for equitable distribution of the vaccine." This will strengthen the efforts of WHO in their commitment to ensuring that there is a common platform invalidation, all manufacturing companies of the world are on the same page and all stakeholders are committed to equitable distribution of vaccine, the minister said. "We have learnt from each other's experiences and from various guidelines. **PTI**

Kerala reports over 2,300 Covid-19 cases

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala logged 2,389 positive cases, including 13 health workers, on Tuesday, pushing the total caseload to 11.21 lakh and the active cases to 24,650, the state government said.

As many as 1946 people have been cured of the infection, taking the total recoveries to 10,92,365. In the last 24 hours ending at 2 pm, 58,557 samples have been tested and the test positivity rate was 4.08 per cent. So far, 1,31,09,437 samples have been sent for testing. Kozhikode recorded the highest number of cases 325, followed by Ernakulam 283, Malappuram 250, Kannur 248 and Thiruvananthapuram 225, while Pathnamthitta had the least at 62, health minister K K Shailaja said in a press release. The toll has gone up to 4,606 with the addition of 16 recent deaths and the total number of cases has touched 11,21,931.

Over 90k Covid vaccine doses administered in Goa till Mar 15: Minister

PTI ■ PANAJI

Of more than 1.6 lakh COVID-19 Vaccine doses allotted to Goa, the state has administered 90,590 doses till March 15, state Health Minister Vishwajit Rane told the legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question tabled by Independent MLA Rohan Khaunte, Rane said as of March 15, a total of 69,980 doses of vaccines had remained in the state.

"The total quantum of vaccines allotted to Goa is 1,60,570 doses, of which 90,590 have been utilised till March 15," the minister said. The quantity of doses in the next batch of vaccine for states will be decided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, depending on utilisation and stock availability in the state as per the eVIN portal, he said.

An email requesting for the next lot of vaccine has been sent to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, he said.

Till March 15, of 17,516 registered frontline workers, 12,798 have been inoculated at government hospitals and centres and nine in private hospitals, Rane said, adding that only one severe AEFI (adverse event following immunisation) had been reported as on date. At least 4,718 frontline COVID-19 workers are yet to be vaccinated, the minister said.

Cong suffering from 'mental bankruptcy', alleges Nadda

Dharmapur/Bilasipara: BJP President J P Nadda on Tuesday alleged that the Congress is suffering from "mental bankruptcy" as it has aligned with political parties on religious lines in the current round of elections in the states.

The Congress has joined hands with the political parties on religious lines be it Kerala, West Bengal or Assam, Nadda said while addressing election rallies in Assam. "At the same time it has entered into alliances with the Left parties in Bengal and Assam but in Kerala, it is fighting against them. This exposes the party's mental bankruptcy", he said at a poll rally. He alleged that the Congress has divided the society on different criterion, including religion, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured that all people get benefits of various schemes on the basis of their need and not on any other

considerations. The Prime Minister has always insisted on inclusion of all sections by emphasising on 'Sabka saath, sabka vikash aur sabka vishwas' unlike the Congress which had divided society on the basis of caste, class and religion for nearly seventy years after Independence. "Congress todne ka kaam karta hain, aur Modiji jodne ka (Congress divides but Modiji unifies)", he added.

The BJP president further that Congress leaders claim that there have been no development during the last five years in Assam, but "actually they cannot see it, as they have not developed". "Rahul Gandhi accuses us of 'Jumlebarji' (hypocrisy) but keeps silent about the 'jumlebarji' by his grand-mother, father and mother who only gave slogans and did nothing to solve the problems of the country. **PTI**

BJP worker killed...

From Page 1

Speaking to the reporters in the morning he said "after reaching Nandigram, I got a sad news about how a woman was raped within a 5-km of the place where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is staying," wondering how a woman could be raped when the Chief Minister herself a woman was staying within five km of the area.

Saying that the "large crowd assembling in the roadshows only show that the people have made up their minds to bring about a change...Suvendu Adhikari is winning from here," Shah said, adding "Change is the mood in Bengal and Nandigram will show the way. The victory margin of the BJP should be so big that no politician will dare to fool people with false promises ever again... The party that will win Nandigram will form the Government in Bengal." He said, "If you defeat Mamata Didi here, the TMC will be automatically be defeated in other parts of the State."

Dinda who first "hid beneath the car seat and then ran with the help of my security and took shelter in a BDO office," said "one of my workers has been severely hit and he has been hospitalised. My vehicle has been completely damaged and I have received injuries to my back and shoulder."

The TMC supporters returning from a roadshow held by TMC MP and

actor Nusrat Jahan attacked Dinda's car, sources said. The EC has sought a report on the incident sources said.

Shah, who conducted two other roadshows at Debra and Keshpur rode a four-km stretch between Bethuria and Reyapara with Adhikari by his side. Apart from Shah cine star Mithun Chakrabarty too led a roadshow at Nandigram with thousands of people joining the walk.

Hitting back at the Home Minister and his party, Mamata said it was the BJP which was creating problem in Bengal. "They have brought outsiders... we have already brought this to the notice of the Election Commission that police men from the BJP-ruled States are coming to Bengal to create violence ... but the Commission has not taken any action... we have information how they are harbouring criminals in various guest houses here... is this the way you win elections by creating terror," Mamata who travelled more than 5 km on wheel-chair said. Betraying a tad lack of confidence apparently in the changed polarised atmosphere in Nandigram where the minorities account for about 23.5 per cent vote share, the Chief Minister said, "I could have contested from my home seat Bhawanipore also but I came to contest from Nandigram because I had longed for it... When I put this proposal during a rally many youth expressed their enthusiasm and so I am here... I hope Nandigram will not return me empty handed."

Coal mining case: CBI questions mastermind

New Delhi: The CBI on Tuesday questioned Anup Majhi, the alleged mastermind of illegal coal mining in Eastern Coalfields Ltd mines in Ansol (West Bengal), in connection with the coal pilferage scam. He was grilled at the agency's office in Kolkata. Earlier, the Supreme Court had restrained the agency from arresting Majhi till April 6. "The petitioner shall not be arrested until April 6. This order has been passed without going into the merit of the case. We clarify that this order will not restrain the investigation," a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud had said.

The bench, also comprising Justices M R Shah and Sanjiv Khanna, directed that Majhi shall cooperate in the probe in the case. The multi-crore coal pilferage scam is related to the Eastern Coalfields Ltd mines in the Kunustoria and Kajora areas in West Bengal. The CBI had registered an FIR in November last year against the alleged kingpin of the pilferage racket, Manjhi alias Lala, ECL general managers Amit Kumar Dhar and Jayesh Chandra Rai, ECL security chief Tanmay Das, Kunustoria area security inspector Dhananjay Rai and Kajora area security in-charge Debashish Mukherjee. **PNS**

SUV PLANTING-BUSINESSMAN HIRAN MURDER CASES

Remand of convicted cop, bookie extended till Apr 7

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A special NIA court on Tuesday remanded till April 7 a convicted constable and a bookie arrested earlier by Maharashtra's Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) in the extended custody of the NIA in the case involving the alleged murder of businessman Mansukh Hiran, even as the NIA seized a white Mitsubishi Outlander allegedly owned by arrested Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze.

After hearing the submissions made by the Prosecution, the Special Court extended the remand of convicted Mumbai Police constable Vinayak B. Shinde (51) and a cricket bookie Naresh R. Gaur (31), till April 7.

Shinde and Gaud were arrested by Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on March 21 a day after the Union Home Ministry asking the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to take over the investigations into the murder of

Hiran, whose body was recovered from the marshy Reti-Bunder creek Mumbra in the neighbouring Thane district on March 5.

While seeking 10 day custody of Shinde and Gaud, NIA Special Public Prosecutor Sunil Gonsalves told the court that the investigating agency had seized two mobile, one iPhone, 7 SIM cards, a blank cover of SIM card, a note with 14 mobile numbers mentioned including 5 in the name of arrested-suspected cop and prime accused Sachin Vaze with

'Ok' written (for activation) beside them.

Gonsalves also informed the court that Gaur had given those 5 numbers to co-accused Shinde who in turn gave it to Vaze.

These numbers, the SPP said, were allegedly used for the conspiracy and crime pertaining to the explosive laden SUV Scorpio planting case and the subsequent alleged murder of Hiran, whose body was recovered from the Mumbra creek on March 5.

LDF like Judas betrayed Kerala for gold, says Modi

From Page 1

"Here in Kerala they oppose each other while in the rest of the country they are alliance partners. In Kerala the secret deal between them is to rule and loot the State alternately. We saw the youth in the State who agitated for employment getting lathi-charged by the police," said the Prime Minister.

A Muslim woman who wanted to seek the blessings of Modi by touching his feet was asked by the Prime Minister not to do so and he himself touched her feet.

The campaign pitch in Tamil Nadu touched new heights as Modi unleashed a scathing attack on the DMK and its allies. Addressing a mammoth rally at Tirupur where BJP's State chief Dr Murugan is the party's candidate, the Prime Minister came down heavily on the

derogatory comments on women in Tamil Nadu made by A Raja, former Union Minister for Telecommunications during the UPA regime. Raja has used unparliamentary and obscene comments while mentioning about Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy's mother.

Without naming Raja, the Prime Minister said the UPA led by the DMK has launched an outdated 2G Missile to attack Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy's mother. "The attack was targeted against the women of Tamil Nadu. If the DMK comes to power it would target women in the State and I do pray that such things do not take place in the State," he said.

Modi reminded the voters about the physical assault carried out by the DMK on former Chief

Minister Jayalalitha inside the Legislative Assembly. "How can we forget the incidents of March 29, 1989 when the DMK's MLAs physically assaulted Amma Jayalalithaaji while the Legislative Assembly was in session? It was the most despicable incident," said the Prime Minister.

Later in the evening, addressing an election rally at Puducherry, the Prime Minister described the previous Government of the Union Territory led by N Narayanasamy as a disaster. "In a long list of non-performing Congress Governments over the years, the previous Puducherry Government has a special place. The Delhi High Command and Government of Puducherry failed on all fronts; take any sector - education, filling of medical seats, welfare of SC-STs,

there was only loot," said the Prime Minister.

"I have seen many elections but the 2021 elections in Puducherry is unique for the fact that the sitting Chief Minister has been denied a ticket. So many years of loyalty, lifting the slippers of his leader, doing wrong translation to impress his leader. Still no ticket.

This clearly shows how much of a disaster his Govt has turned out to be," said Modi. He said MLAs belonging to Congress were openly talking about corruption, directly linked to the family of the former Chief Minister.

Election fever touched the zenith by the end of Tuesday as the Prime Minister set the agenda for debate and discussion in the run up to the April 6 election in the two States and the Union Territory.

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Ultras plan...

From Page 1

During counter-terror operations, the security forces have to simultaneously manage fire, both in the front and rearwards as the locals indulge in arson and stone pelting to deter the troops from capturing or eliminating the hold up terrorists. "The terror groups have also acquired armour piercing rounds to target bullet-resistant vehicles of the forces as both the stakeholders in the security establishment as well as the manufacturers reveal specifications of the level of armour protection in the open domain while tending or marketing of their products. There is no coherent policy of keeping classified the technical specifications like the level of protection provided by the armour used in the vehicles or protective gear used by the forces there," a DIG rank official with the intelligence wing of the CRPF said here. While the terror groups seek to remain dynamic and keep changing their tactics at the behest of Pakistan's covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the agencies here have not issued any advisory to the forces not to reveal protection details of the armoured vehicles or protective body gears while procurement of such vehicles and equipment through open bidding, another official said.

'Covaxin, Covishield effective...

From Page 1

"The hospital staff did give me an injection but post-vaccination care was nil. Within 2 hours of my leaving for home I suffered severe asthmatic attack, high fever, breathing distress and cough. My family doctor has put me on all medications including steroids. The effects reduced but continue but I am still suffering. My doctor has suggested me not to take the second dose."

Nirupama who happens to be the wife of a former IAS officer also alleged that she got two vaccination certificates with PAN card number which is not hers. Finally after her several complaints when she got yet another vaccination certificate, it had wrong date of March 25, 2021 as the date of vaccination, she alleged and asserted that she will never suggest that particular hospital for vaccination as well as the particular company's vaccine.

Dr Rahul Bhargava Director and Head, Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram voiced concerns that the Government is neither sharing data on re-infection, or those getting infected with coronavirus nor about those who are reporting adverse impact post vaccination.

He said that the Government should provide data on the number of people being inoculated with the Covaxin and Covishield and how many are getting infected despite getting the two doses of the jabs.

Vaze present at meeting where Hiran's...

From Page 1

The agency said it needs to question the accused duo regarding the recovery of seven SIM cards, some mobile phones and a CPU during the probe.

These SIM cards and cell phones were recovered from Shinde, the court was told.

Special public prosecutor for NIA Sunil Gonsalves told the court that the probe team found a piece of paper during the probe listing 14 mobile phone numbers, of which five numbers were given to Vaze.

One of the mobile phones was also given to Waze, which he used for contacting "conspirator" to kill Hiran, the agency told the court.

The NIA further said the agency is closer to unravel the conspiracy and the motive behind killing Hiran. Shinde's lawyer Gautam Jain submitted that no role in the crime has been attributed to the accused other than the delivery of the SIM cards.

He said Shinde's further remand is not required as he has been in the custody of the probe agencies (first the ATS and then the NIA) for almost nine days.

Gor's lawyer Aftab Diamondwale told the court that his client's role was restricted to providing the SIM cards and that he is not connected to the (murder) case.

Diamondwale told the court that Gor has been falsely implicated in the case. **PTI**

Public Notice

My client Sh. Narinder Singh S/o Sh. Chanan Singh R/o WZ/435, Gali No.8 Krishna Park Extn., Near Gurudwara P.O. Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18 has disowned/debarred his son Sh. Indrajit Singh S/o Sh. Narinder Singh his wife Smt. Sarabjit Kaur and their daughter Ms. Jasmah Kaur from all movable and immovable properties and severed all their relation with them as they are not in control of my clients. If anybody deals with them, He/She shall do so at his/her own risk and my clients shall not be responsible for any acts like deeds.

Ravinder Kaur (Advocate) D/1657-A/2011

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that my client SMT. SHEELA ARORA W/o LATE SHRI VINOD KUMAR ARORA R/o WZ-182, Third Floor, Lajwanti Garden, New Delhi has disowned and debarred her son namely Nitin Arora & his wife Navdeep Kaur from all her movable and immovable properties with immediate effect because of their constant fighting at home and outside and loss of my client mental peace, harassment, torture, cruelty, atrocities committed by them against my client. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk, cost and responsibility thereof. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.

KUNAL KUKREJA - ADVOCATE
Chamber No. 391, Eastern Wings Civil Side, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

Covid...

From Page 1

Though technically speaking, Delhi has many districts, it has been taken as one district, said Bhushan who has also written to Chief Secretaries and Administrators of all States/UTs, highlighting specific district-level strategies with proactive and focused action to contain the cluster outbreaks of corona cases in some districts from overflowing into other regions.

NITI Aayog member (Health) VK Paul said, "Covid-19 situation is turning from bad to worse. In the last few weeks, especially in some States, it is a huge cause for worry. No State, no part of the country or district should be complacent."

"We are facing an increasingly severe and intense situation, more so surely in some districts. But the whole country is potentially at risk

and therefore all efforts to contain and save lives should be taken.

"Hospital and ICU preparations have to be readied. If the cases increase rapidly, the healthcare system would be overwhelmed," Paul said.

About surge in case positivity rates, Bhushan said Maharashtra last week had an average positivity rate of 23 per cent, followed by Punjab 8.82 per cent, Chattisgarh 8.24 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 7.82 per cent, Tamil Nadu 2.5 per cent, Karnataka 2.45 per cent, Gujarat 2.22 per cent, and Delhi 2.04 per cent.

The average national positivity rate during last week was 5.65 per cent. All States and Union Territories are reporting a surge in cases and there is a need to significantly and exponentially increase the number of Covid-19 tests. The proportion of RT-PCR tests need to be increased too, Bhushan said.

In his letter to the States/UTs, the Health Secretary asked all districts to prepare a District Action Plan with clear timelines and responsibilities. "While RT-PCR test proportion must be more than 70 per cent as this impacts on positivity rate, an Emergency Operations Centre with a team to monitor the indicators, their growth, and spread 24x7 should be set up. The District Magistrate should review this twice a day and firm up a strategy for action.

Containment zones (CZ) in compliance with the SOPs issued by the Ministry should be dynamic and the district should take into account the evolving situation and clustering of cases and review on a daily basis. "All districts with high caseload and fast growth of cases must ensure 100 per cent saturation vaccination of the priority age group of 45 year and above, in the coming two weeks," said the official in the letter.

Follow Covid norms, impose 'spot fines'...

From Page 1

"The possibility of taking punitive action, such as levy of spot fines in accordance with the law, shall also be explored with the local police authorities so as to serve as a deterrent for violation of Covid-19 protocol," it stated.

The March 13 circular had asked the airport operators to hand over the passengers, who are not following the Covid-19 protocol even after repeated warnings, to the security agencies. Moreover, it had asked the airlines to de-board the passengers who refused to adhere to Covid-19 norms even after repeated warnings and consider banning them from flying for at least three months.

Till last week, three Indian carriers had started the process of putting 15 domestic travellers on no-fly list. These 15 are likely to be barred from flying for up to three months, under DGCA's unruly flyer norms. Of these 15 passengers, three were offloaded before take-off for refusing to wear PPE gown as required on their middle seats or masks. The other 12 were handed over to police on landing at the destination.

The DGCA said that it has approved 18,843 flights per week from 108 airports on the summer schedule, which begins on the last Sunday of March and ends on the last Sunday of October. "It may be noted that 18,843 departures per week have been finalised to/from 108 airports. Out of these 108 airports, Bareilly, Bilaspur, Kurnool and Rupasi are the new airports proposed by the scheduled airlines," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said on Twitter.

It said IndiGo's 8,749 weekly flights and SpiceJet's 2,854 have been approved for the summer schedule. GoAir's 1,747 flights, Air India's 1,683, Vistara's 1,288 and AirAsia India's 1,243 have also been approved.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता निर्माण खण्ड-2, लोहोनिविदो, गाजियाबाद						
पत्रांक : 237 / 4ए-कैम्प		दिनांक : 23.3.21				
क्र. सं.	जिला	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (₹0 लाख में)	बरोहर वनराशि (₹0 लाख में)	निविदा का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
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		खिन्दोडा से घोल्डी मार्ग की विशेष मरम्मत का कार्य।	32.00	3.20	2000+300 + GST 18%	2 माह
		विद्यापुर से बखरवा मार्ग की विशेष मरम्मत का कार्य।	3.50	0.35	150+500 + GST 18%	2 माह
		सैदपुर से हदयपुर माण्डोला मार्ग की विशेष मरम्मत का कार्य।	19.00	1.90	500+300 + GST 18%	2 माह
		डीलना गेट से चुड़ियाला मार्ग की विशेष मरम्मत का कार्य।	21.00	2.10	2000+300 + GST 18%	2 माह
		फलोदा लिंग मार्ग की विशेष मरम्मत का कार्य।	21.50	2.15	2000+300 + GST 18%	2 माह
		फजलगाढ़ से फलोदा मार्ग की विशेष मरम्मत का कार्य।	14.10	1.41	500+300 + GST 18%	2 माह
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उपरो 18306 दिनांक 30.3.2021 विज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।						

Normal, ICU beds being increased for Covid +ve

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With Delhi reported 992 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Tuesday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the number of beds in normal and ICU "Intensive Care Unit" is being increased to deal with the situation and urged people to take all the precaution to check the coronavirus.

"In view of Covid situation developing in Del, no of normal n ICU beds reserved for Covid is being increased in a few hospitals. This will improve bed availability We r keeping close watch and will take all steps necessary. There is nothing to worry. But pl follow all precautions," Kejriwal tweeted.

The positivity rate stands at 2.70 per cent. These new infections pushed the tally to 660611, while 642166 patients have recovered from the virus. The active cases reached to 7429 on Tuesday, according to



the health bulletin issued by the health department of the Delhi Government.

A total of 36,757 tests, including 28618 RT-PCR tests, were conducted a day ago, the bulletin said.

The number of people under home isolation rose to 4832 and containment zones rose to 1903, it said.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain had on Saturday dismissed any possibility of imposing

Swiss Ambassador lauds Delhi Covid management

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met Switzerland Ambassador Ralf Heckner in Delhi Secretariat on Tuesday and discussed the steps taken by his Government for the effective management of Covid-19, promotion of tourism and dealing with pollution etc.

During the meeting, Ambassador Heckner praised the various steps taken by the Delhi Government to deal with Covid-19 despite difficult circumstances.

Kejriwal spoke about how they did not allow any bed shortages even when Covid was at its peak in the city, with the Delhi Government even launching a mobile application, which helped one find out bed availability in hospitals. He also spoke about how the Delhi Government will implement a Health Information Management System (MIMS) soon, whereby every Delhi citizen will get a health card, detailing their entire medical history.

"The Delhi Government not only succeeded in dealing



with Covid-19, but also provided good health facilities to patients in hospitals. The government adopted the method of home isolation to deal with Covid-19. Under this method, serious patients were admitted to the hospital, while under treatment patients were provided treatment at their home. The home isolation method was very successful and later it was adopted in other states of India and outside India," he said during the meeting.

Kejriwal said that the Delhi government launched an app with the aim of providing beds

easily in hospitals. "Information on the current status of available beds and those occupied could be found on the app. Those who were required to be admitted to a hospital could get information about empty beds in the hospital and they could go to the hospital for treatment. The app helped people a lot and there was no shortage of beds for anyone," he added.

The chief minister also discussed in the measures being taken to tackle pollution in Delhi. Kejriwal said that the Delhi government is serious about controlling pollution in Delhi, with the government taking several steps to combat pollution, including implementing a progressive EV policy.

"The Delhi government is also taking the support of IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Delhi and TERL. Both, IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Delhi have developed a technology, which allows one to identify the actual source of pollution occurring at certain places during a certain period of time. This technique will identify the actual source of pollution at that place at a given

time. When the source is known, it will be easy to take necessary steps. Under the pilot project, super sites and mobile sites will be installed in the hotspot areas of Delhi," he said.

In this meeting, Kejriwal also expressed the need for cooperation to promote tourism in Delhi. He told

Ambassador Heckner that the Delhi Government is taking various steps to promote the tourism industry in the city and working on a number of schemes.

He also discussed the Swiss companies working in the tourism sector to invest in Delhi, so that tourism in Delhi can be promoted.

700 challaned for violating Covid-19 norms on Holi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strict action against those violating Covid-19 norms, the Delhi Police issued challans to over 700 people who were found not wearing a face mask at public across the national capital on Holi. Officials said that authorities have been asked by the Lieutenant Governor to intensify drive against violations of Covid norms.

According to a data shared by the police till 4 pm on Holi,

730 challans were issued to people for not wearing a face mask while nine people were fined for not adhering to social distancing norms. Three people were issued challan for spitting in public places.

A total of 5,73,457 challans have been issued in the national capital since June 15, police said.

Meanwhile, 94 face masks were distributed by the police in the city on Holi, officials said, adding that 4,27,258 masks have been distributed by the force since June 15.

Air in Delhi 'poor', likely to deteriorate

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Due to a strong dust storm, the air quality in Delhi was recorded as 'poor' with 301 micro grams per cubic concentration of Particulate Matter - 10.

According to the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI), the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded 251.

City's Anand Vihar recorded highest levels of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) with PM 10 and 2.5 recorded 308 and 325 respectively.

Scientists from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said air quality is likely to deteriorate further as strong, westerly winds are likely to blow over the city till April 1.

"The change in the color of sky is mainly due to the dust, the dust particles from Rajasthan are affecting air quality, these conditions will continue till April 1 following which temperature will rise further," a MeF scientist said.

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) in its weath-

er forecast said that the overall air quality is in the high end of the moderate category. "Surface winds are moderate and forecasted to stay high for the next 72 hours. Better ventilation is forecasted however, an increase in coarse dust contribution in suspended particles is expected due to the dust raising high winds. Chance for significant long-range transport of dust from the arid region for a short period exists. AQI is likely to stay in the Poor to Moderate category for the next three days," SAFAR said.

The air quality in the national capital was recorded in the poor category. The air quality index (AQI) was 202 at 9.05 am, real-time data of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, and 401 and 500 severe.

On Monday, the maximum temperature shot up to 40.1 degrees Celsius, making it the hottest day in March since March 31, 1945.

City's pollution down by 15% due to Govt's efforts: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Cabinet Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday claimed that the measures taken by the AAP-led Delhi Government to curb pollution have been successful as according to a study, Delhi's pollution has decreased by 15 per cent.

Rai presented the report by iqair.com, a Sweden-based organisation and the second one was by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). The report by IQ Air revealed that the capital has dropped down to the 10th spot among polluted cities in the world and the one by CSE revealed that Delhi's PM 2.5 has decreased at the rate of 25 per cent between 2018 and 2020.

"Among the world's most polluted cities, Delhi has dropped down to the 10th position, as the report by IQ Air revealed. Among the top 10 of this report are seven of Uttar Pradesh's cities and states, including Lucknow, Kanpur, Noida, and Bulandshahr. The report also reveals that Delhi's pollution has decreased by 15 per cent," he said.

The CSE's report also disclosed that Delhi is the first state in India to have shut

down those power plants which emit harmful gases and the first state to have 39 Air Quality Monitoring Systems, he said, accusing the municipal corporations in Delhi carelessness is behind the fire incident of the Ghazipur landfill as revealed by the 'Delhi Pollution Control Committee' report.

Following the unfortunate incident of the fire in Ghazipur Landfill, Rai made an earnest request to the central government to analyze these reports and said that the incident was a result of careless working by MCD and the Delhi government shall file a complaint against the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Underlining the five major points mentioned in the report by the Centre for Science and Environment, he said, "First, the report highlights that Delhi is the first state to have shut down those power plants which emit harmful gases. Despite Supreme Court's rulings, 12 such plants are operational in the neighbouring areas of Delhi, and the central government has not done anything in this regard."

The second one is that the city is the first state to have initiated 13 hotspots which initi-

ate measures at the micro-level to curb pollution, right from dust particles to expansion of the green-belt. The third one, Delhi is the first state to have provided PNG Gas at subsidised rates to its industrial sector. The fourth one is, Delhi is the first state to have installed 39 Air Quality Monitoring Systems which analyze and take concrete steps to decrease the AQI index. A lot of other neighbouring states which have these systems do not work effectively, leading to increased air pollution. The fifth one is, the EV policy launched by the Delhi government and its constant efforts to enforce it will help in curbing air pollution," he said.

Delhi government's efforts in expanding its green-belt have been successful, whose report the government will be publishing very soon. "Delhi is the first state to have launched the Tree Transplantation Policy, which is inclusive of afforestation measures. Moreover, we have made a policy in which 80 per cent of the plants will be transplanted," Rai said.

Rai further added that the Delhi Government is going to conduct a two-day conference with environmental experts



Dust storm in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

that will primarily focus on curbing pollution of the national capital.

Highlighting the complacency of neighbouring areas, Rai said "Neighbouring states play a major role in curtailing pollution in Delhi. If Ghaziabad has a high pollution rate, Delhi will inevitably suffer. Furthermore, Noida, Greater Noida or Gurgaon are polluted severely, it will have an impact on the state of Delhi's

air pollution. Hence, I request the central government to analyze these two reports and make efforts like shutting down

dangerous power plants or putting an end to diesel-oriented generators by providing 24-7 electricity.

Switch Delhi EV awareness campaign enters final week; focus on sensitising youth

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The eighth and the final week of the 'Switch Delhi' EV (electric vehicles) awareness campaign will focus on sensitising the youth of Delhi on the benefits of e-vehicles.

The city Government's EV policy/Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said "The youth of Delhi can play a huge role in making the EV movement in Delhi a mass movement. I appeal to the youth to make their first vehicle purchase an electric one."

"Youth is the most important section in any country, especially in a young country such as India. They can drive change and be the torchbearers of this movement. The Delhi government will engage with the youth via the Switch Delhi campaign to motivate them to adopt EVs and contribute to a cleaner and greener Delhi," he added.

With the wide range of financial and non-financial incentives offered under EV policy, youth can obtain benefits in buying an EV.

"By switching to electric two wheelers which have very low operating costs, an individual can make an annual saving of approximately Rs 22,000 as compared to using petrol scooter and Rs 20,000 as

compared to a petrol bike," Gahlot said.

Gahlot added, "An average electric two wheeler provides a lifetime savings of 1.98 tonnes of carbon emissions as compared to an average petrol two wheelers, which is equivalent to planting 11 trees."

"Youth, by adopting EVs instead of motorised vehicles, can set an example. I am sure that the youth of Delhi will become torchbearers of this movement and spread the message to the rest of the country to adopt electric vehicles," Gahlot said.

The minister said "Delhi's youth has the power to transform Delhi by adopting EVs and can help reduce vehicular pollution levels in the capital. The youth is an active stakeholder in helping achieve the vision of making Delhi the EV capital of India."

Switch Delhi is an eight-week mass awareness campaign by the Government to sensitize every Delhiite about the benefits of switching to EVs to the environment as well as to make them aware of the incentives and infrastructure being developed under Delhi's EV policy.

The campaign aims at informing, and motivating each person in Delhi to switch from polluting vehicles to zero-emission electric vehicles.

DBSE general body conducts first meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the Delhi Board of School Education's (DBSE) general body was held on Tuesday in which matters regarding the registration and the constitution of the board were discussed.

The meeting was attended by the nominated and ex-officio members of the board.

"The agenda of the first meeting included appraisal regarding the registration of the DBSE under the Society Registration Act, 1860, the constitution of the DBSE and its functioning from the academic session 2021-2022, and the appraisal of the members/nominated members of the general body of the Board," according to a statement issued by the Sisodia.

Sisodia said that the DBSE will discourage rote-learning, bring continuous formative assessments and promote growth mindsets in students.

"The purpose of the Delhi Board of School Education is three-fold. First, the Board will move away from the practice of rote-learning and move towards giving a holistic picture of each learner, which goes beyond scholastic ability in subjects to include values and skills required in the future such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration. Secondly, it will emphasise on continuous formative assessments.

"The main aim of setting up the board is that the assessment system should become a 'Partner of Learning and not an Authority of Testing'. And third, we want to encourage a growth mindset among students, which would be strengthened by making it a part of regular assessment," Sisodia said.

The Delhi Cabinet had approved the setting up of the DBSE on March 6, following which the society for the Board was registered on March 19.

Sisodia added that the DBSE will also empower teachers to achieve their full potential by giving them "timely feedback on specific actions they take to help every child in their classroom".

"...Often, the style and frequency of our assessments leaves little room for teachers to change their teaching plan so as to help individual learners in areas where they need help. With a more personalized and continuous form of assessment, teachers will receive actionable inputs on how they can help learners overcome difficulties they may be facing in the classroom," he said.

Sisodia presided over the first meeting of the Delhi Board of School Education as its president. The meeting was attended by the nominated and ex-officio members.

The agenda of the first meeting included appraisal regarding the registration of the Delhi Board of School Education under the Society Registration Act, 1860, the constitution of the Delhi Board of School Education and its functioning from the academic session 2021-2022, and the appraisal of the Members / Nominated Members of the General Body of the Board.

The Delhi Cabinet had approved the setting up of the Delhi Board of School Education on 6th March 2021, after which the society for the Board was registered on 19th March 2021. The DBSE is formed with the objectives to manage quality and standard in school education, design/conduct holistic learning assessments, amplify learner's skills, and knowledge among its affiliated schools in NCT of Delhi.

BJP functionary hangs himself at park in Hari Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 58-year-old BJP functionary in Delhi hanged himself at a park in West Delhi's Hari Nagar over a family dispute. The deceased has been identified as Gurvinder Singh (58), a resident of Fateh Nagar. Police said that Singh was head of the Legal Department of the BJP's West Delhi district unit.

According to a senior police official, Singh's body was found hanging at Jheel Wala Park on Monday, following a minor dispute with his family. "His son Ishwender Singh reached the spot and identified the body which was later sent for postmortem. Further investigation is on," said the senior police official.

Rise in temp: Fire cases up

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the rise in temperature, the cases of fire have also started to rise. On Tuesday, two fire incidents were reported in the National Capital. Officials said that no one was injured in the incidents at JJ cluster near Bawana and office at ISBT in Kashmiri.

In the first incident, a fire broke out at a slum cluster in JJ colony in outer Delhi's Bawana area on Tuesday but no injury was reported. Officials said that around 100 jhuggies were damaged in the fire.

According to fire department, a call about the fire was received at around 12.36 pm and 15 fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire was brought under control.

MCD turning Delhi into Mosquito Capital: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak accused the BJP- ruled Municipal Corporation of transforming the national capital into the Mosquito Capital.

Pathak said that the civic bodies have not started fogging in the national capital to curb the mosquito's spread. He said that the AAP demands the Corporations to begin the fogging within 48 hours or else the citizens of Delhi will take to the streets.

However, responding to the claim, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the AAP

SC lawyer mowed down by car in Civil Lines area on Holi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 31 year-old Supreme Court lawyer was mowed down by a car in Civil lines area on Holi. Police said that they have arrested the accused.

The deceased Aditya Chanakya Boxipatro, a resident of Odisha, who was practising in SC. Police said that the accused has been identified as 67-year-old Preeti Gupta, a resident of Bengali market.

According to police, at 3:15 pm on March 29, a PCR call regarding the accident was received following which a police team was dispatched for the spot.

"The accident between a

Royal Enfield and a Toyota Glanza had occurred in the civil lines. The bike was being driven by Aditya who was taken to Parmanand hospital in where he died during the treatment," said the police official.

G'gram reduces response time from 18 to 12 minutes to aid accident victims

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In an order to provide timely medical help to accident victims the regional transport authority (RTA) of Gurugram has claimed that the authority in collaboration with the health department and the traffic police have reduced an earlier response time from 18 minutes in November in 2020 to 12 minutes in February this year so far.

Medical experts said that

the first hour after the mishap is considered the golden hour, and a delay of a few minutes could claim the victim's life. In several cases, the victims died due to excessive bleeding and lack of timely medical help.

RTA officials said that they had analysed data for the month of November 2020 and it found that it takes 18 minutes on average for a road accident victim to get medical aid. RTA officials say that since February this time has been reduced to 12 minutes.

"We have asked the chief medical officer (CMO) Gurugram, Virender Yadav to coordinate with the private health facilities in the city and work out an arrangement under which the private hospital nearest to the accident site can send their ambulance. This practice will surely cut down the response time and will help in saving valuable lives," said Gurugram RTA secretary, Dhaarna Yadav.

Gurugram has a large number of private hospitals and

these are located in almost every corner of the district. All these private hospitals along with private ambulance operators together own around 500 ambulances in Gurugram.

Therefore, the nearest private hospital is in the best position to provide timely medical help to road mishap victims, said RTA officials.

Yadav informed that in many cases, commuters take accident victims to the nearest private hospital on their own, but private hospitals do not

keep records of such instances.

"Private hospitals should alert the health department officials after admitting any accident victim. At present, they are only informing police," said Yadav, adding that she has asked health officials to prepare records of the time lapse between road accidents and death of victims and find out ways to reduce response time.

The RTA official revealed that, in 2021 around 55 people lost their lives in road accidents

in the city while in 2020 around 380 people had died in accidents.

According to data shared by the police, in 2019 around 433 people had died in road mishaps.

Apart from this, in 2018 a number of 446 deaths were reported in Gurugram. In 2017 the number of fatalities stood at 415 in 2016 around 435 death cases were reported and in 2015 at least 400 people lost their lives on the multiple stretches of the district.

PM's Bangladesh visit violation of MCC, TMC files plaint

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has registered a complaint with the Election Commission (EC) flagging what it calls a violation of "democratic ethics" and the Model Code of Conduct by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his official visit to Bangladesh last week.

In a complaint (dated March 28) by TMC leader and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien addressed to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), the West Bengal's ruling party has raised objections to PM Modi's programmes in Bangladesh on March 27, the second day of the visit. Earlier, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had slammed PM Modi over the timing of his Bangladesh visit and said the trip was aimed at the Assembly polls in Bengal.

The subject line of the letter read: "Gross violation of democratic ethics and the Model Code of Conduct by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Bangladesh."

"We have no objection whatsoever to his visit to Bangladesh for this official purpose. After all, India played a critical role in the liberation of Bangladesh. West Bengal, in particular, made an immense contribution to the heroic struggle of our fellow Bengalis in (what



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a rally on the last day of the campaign for the 2nd phase of Assembly elections, in Nandigram on Tuesday

was then) East Pakistan from freedom from the brutal regime in West Pakistan.

"However, the All India Trinamool Congress strongly objects to Shri Modi's programmes in Bangladesh on March 27. These had nothing to do with either the 50th anniversary of the independence of

Bangladesh or the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu'. Rather, they were solely and exclusively intended to influence the voting pattern in certain constituencies in the ongoing elections to the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal," O'Brien said in the letter.

"No Indian Prime Minister has so brazenly indulged in an unethical and undemocratic act and violated the Model Code of Conduct by indirectly campaigning for his party from foreign soil," he said.

The TMC leader further alleged that the political motive behind Modi's visit is proven by the fact that he took along with him BJP MP from West Bengal Santanu Thakur, who holds no official position in the government of India.

"No MP or representative from the Trinamool Congress or other parties was invited to accompany the PM. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has thus grossly misused his official position to interfere from foreign soil in the election process in West Bengal," O'Brien said.

Modi visited Bangladesh from March 26 to 27 to attend the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the country's independence and the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman following an invitation from his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina.

Cong wants Himanta Biswa debarred from campaigning for Assam polls, writes to EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday wrote to the Election Commission urging it to debar BJP leader and Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma from campaigning for the Assam Assembly election for allegedly "threatening" its ally and Bodoland People's Front chief Hagrama Mohilary of sending him to jail. The Congress further charged that by the said threats, Sarma has also attempted to influence the voters to not vote for the INC alliance, including Mohilary's BPF.

Addressing the media on the sidelines of a rally, Sarma had said that Mohilary will be jailed if found to be "encouraging" former NDFB militant M Batha to return to the jungles.

In a three pages letter to poll body, the Congress alleged, "We would like to draw this Hon'ble Commission's urgent attention towards senior BJP leader, Himanta Biswa Sarma's open public threats, who foreseeing the looming defeat of his party, has made

blatant, scandalous and intimidating statements on 29.03.2021 wherein he has openly threatened his opponent party, INC alliance partner & Bodoland People's Front Chairperson Shri Hagrama Mohilary of sending him to jail by misusing the Central Agency - NIA which is under the direct administrative control of the BJP-led Central Government."

The party further alleged that Sarma has said that the BJP will ensure that NIA investigates and implicates Mohilary and that he is sent to jail. It also accused Sarma of attempting to influence the voters to not vote for Congress' alliance, including Mohilary's party.

"Sarma has sought to cast a malicious and malafide impression on the public at large, that on account of the undue strength of the BJP led Central government manning the Central agencies, Sarma is in an undue position to control/ misuse the NIA and hence capable of sending Mohilary to jail. This is a clear message to the voters in order to influence them to not vote for INC

alliance including the BPF by completely unconstitutional means and propaganda," the letter read.

The Congress further said that the central investigative agencies are not the tools of the party in power at the Centre to be used for electoral gains. It also alleged that the BJP leader has been "terrorising its opponents of false implications, jail, curtailing personal liberty by misusing central Investigating agencies".

The party also urged the EC to disqualify the candidature of Sarma from the Assembly elections and prohibit him from campaigning during the remaining election period in Assam. It also requested the poll panel to issue directions for the filing of a complaint against Sarma for violation of, "inter-alia, Sections 123(2)(a)(i), 123(4), 123(7) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 and Section 171C of the Indian Penal Code". Sarma is contesting the ongoing state elections on a BJP ticket from Jalukbari, that will vote in the final phase of the three-phase election, on April 6.

ITBP plans to double its women contingent for LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) that secures the frontier along China has plans to double its women contingent from the present 500 to 1,000 for deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and Northeast.

The move comes amid a standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh since May last year. However, under the disengagement process that began on February 10, both the countries' troops have moved back from their positions at the Pangong Tso Lake's northern and southern banks.

In a first, the ITBP had in 2019 raised a women contingent comprising 500 troops of ITBP, breaking the proverbial glass ceiling and traditionally a male forte of deployment at high-altitude border posts along the Indo-China border with treacherous sub-zero tem-



peratures and difficulties of survival in cold desert. The Contingent was subjected to rigorous 44 weeks of training in battle craft and mountain survival. Like their male counterparts, the women combatants had undergone grueling drills and learnt to handle weapons, read maps, gather intelligence and were trained in command tactics, official had then said.

Earlier, women in the paramilitary force were deployed for maintaining law and order and VIP duties and were also posted at the cantonments and

hospitals. The total number of women troops in ITBP was 2,000, mostly constables, head-constables, sub-inspectors and inspectors posted at various places.

"We are now also planning to recruit women officers in ITBP in supervisory and combat roles. A proposal for recruitment of officers in the rank of commandants and assistant commandants has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs," said an ITBP official.

As the first line of defence, the ITBP secures the 3,488km border with China that passes through the five states of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The 90,000-strong ITBP was raised on October 24, 1962, exclusively securing the Chinese frontier after the Indo-China war.

ED attaches benami property worth ₹152.48 crore of Unitech Group

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday attached 12 land pieces measuring 48.56 acres in Gurugram, Haryana, worth Rs. 152.48 crore, owned by promoters of Unitech Group through proxy/benami entities.

The benami entities are styled as Crown Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd, Kore Communities India Pvt. Ltd. and Joshu Gurgaon SEZ Pvt. Ltd. These three companies are the part of one Trikar Group/ Kore Group which is the benami investment of Chandra family of Unitech Group, the ED said.

The ED had initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by Delhi Police.

"During money laundering investigation, it is revealed that for purchasing of these properties, funds were transferred through Singapore-based companies namely Joshu Pte. Ltd.,

The source of funds in these Singapore-based companies was from a Cayman Island based entity namely Trikar Fund Limited (SPC)

Trikar Residential Developers Pte. Ltd and Trikar Property opportunity Pte. Ltd during the period 2015-2020," the agency said in a statement.

The source of funds in these Singapore-based companies was from a Cayman Island based entity namely Trikar Fund Limited (SPC) which is being controlled by the Chandra Family through another Cayman based entity Trikar Asset Management Ltd SPC, it said.

The ED had conducted searches at 35 premises in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Mumbai. Analysis of seized records followed by the admissions of various accused persons, the benami structure (of

companies) has been unearthed.

Further investigation revealed that the promoters of Unitech Group, Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra, had illegally diverted more than Rs 2,000 crore to Cyprus and Cayman Island. "It is highly likely that this Benami investment is the part of the fund diverted to Cayman Island and Cyprus," it added.

The ED case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act was filed after studying multiple FIRs filed by the Delhi Police economic offences wing (EOW) against the promoters of Unitech as also the company. One of the cases relates to the accused allegedly failing to complete a housing project on the scheduled time in Gurgaon.

Before the initiation of the criminal cases by the Delhi Police and subsequent probe by the ED, the Unitech was a major builder in Delhi and NCR.

India has not lost any territory to China: Army Chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As talks are on between the two countries to defuse tension at the border, Army Chief General MM Naravane said here on Tuesday India has not lost any territory to China. He also said parleys are taking place to ensure disengagement from flash points.

Making these observations, he said a phased disengagement took place from the northern and southern banks of the Pangong Tso(lake) in February. This breakthrough came nearly after ten months of stand-off at multiple points at the Line of Actual Control(LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

Informing that both the armies have withdrawn to their previous positions in the Pangong Lake area, Naravane said India did not lose any territory while negotiating for peace at the LAC.

Reiterating that India has all along favoured dialogue to resolve differences at the border, the Army Chief said talks are now on to defuse tension at other face off sites like Gogra and Hot Springs in Ladakh.

The face-offs began in early May last year beginning with the first incident at the Pangong Tso and then spread to some other sectors. In June, a bloody brawl took place between the soldiers of the two armies resulting in the death of 20 Indian personnel including the



commanding officer. China also lost more than 40 soldiers though there is no official confirmation from the other side. On the ever-present threat of a two-front war simultaneously with China and Pakistan, the Army Chief said there are challenges and the Indian armed forces are prepared to meet any threat.

On the recent agreement with Pakistan to uphold ceasefire on the Line of Control(LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir, Naravane said the situation on the border is peaceful for the past one month.

In late February, the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan issued a joint statement saying two sides will adhere to the 2003 agreement on maintaining ceasefire on the LOC. Firing stopped from midnight of February 24-25.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Jal Shakti Department State Mission Directorate,
Jal Jeevan Mission J&K Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/ Jammu
(email: info.jjmjk@jk.gov.in.)

NOTICE
Subject: NIT No:06 of 2021 Dated: 02/03/2021 issued for 'engagement of Media Management Agency (Social/ Electronic/ Print) for successful implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in UT of J&K.
It is notified that the below mentioned critical dates mentioned in the above captioned NIT, are extended up-to the dates shown against each.
S.No. 1. Particulars :- Bid submission end Date & Time :- 29.03.2021; 05:00 PM, Extended Date & Time :- 05.04.2021; 05:00 PM
S.No. 2. Particulars :- Technical Bid opening Date & Time :- 30.03.2021; 03:00 PM, Extended Date & Time :- 06.04.2021; 03:00 PM
S.No. 3. Particulars :- Last Date for Submission of Hard copies of Technical Proposals :- 01.04.2021; 05:00 PM, Extended Date & Time :- 07.04.2021; 05:00 PM
Sd/- Addl. Mission Director
State Mission Directorate, JMM (J&K)

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of passengers that due to operational reasons, following Special Trains will remain cancelled on the dates shown against each :-

Train No. & Train Name	Date from originating station
05483 Alipurduar Jn - Delhi Jn. Express Special	01.04.2021 to 30.04.2021
05484 Delhi Jn. - Alipurduar Jn Express Special	03.04.2021 to 02.05.2021
05074 Tanakpur - Singrauli Triveni Express Special (Via Bareilly & Lucknow)	02.04.2021 to 16.04.2021
05073 Singrauli - Tanakpur Triveni Express Special (Via Lucknow & Bareilly)	03.04.2021 to 17.04.2021
05076 Tanakpur - Shaktinagar Triveni Express Special (Via Bareilly, Hardoi & Lucknow)	01.04.2021 to 15.04.2021
05075 Shaktinagar - Tanakpur Triveni Express Special (Via Lucknow, Hardoi & Bareilly)	02.04.2021 to 16.04.2021

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139
NORTHERN RAILWAY
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

CSIR recommends anti-Covid sewage, air surveillance in Parl

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's premier scientific body, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has recommended setting up sewage and air surveillance systems in Parliament to detect the prevalence of Covid-19 to estimate the number of people infected in a population to be used to understand the progression of infection even when mass scale tests for individuals are not possible.

A presentation in this regard was made on Tuesday before Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu who, being the chairperson of Rajya Sabha, said he would discuss the issue with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the government.

Elaborating on the relevance of sewage surveillance in his presentation, Director General of CSIR Shekhar C Mande said, "Covid-19 patients shed SAR-CoV-2 in stools. Apart from symptomatic individuals, asymptomatic people also shed the virus in their stools."

Sewage surveillance provides a qualitative as well as a quantitative estimate of the number of people infected in a population and could be used to understand the progression of Covid-19 even when mass scale tests for individuals are not possible, an official statement said quoting the CSIR chief.

It is a measure to

comprehensively monitor the prevalence of the disease in communities in real time, Mande said.

Presenting data of sewage surveillance carried out to find the trend of infection in Hyderabad, Allahabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Nagpur, Puducherry and Chennai, he said it provides an unbiased estimate of numbers since the sampling is not done at the individual level.

Mande said that sewage surveillance of Covid-19 would not only help understand the present epidemiology of the disease but would be an indispensable tool for early and easier detection of future coronavirus outbreaks.

However, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has already asked sewage water treatment plants to ensure adopting all covid-19 precautions for its workers to protect them from SARS CoV2 infection as virus found in sewage water may be a source of transmission of disease.

"We are already conducting surveillance of SARS CoV2 virus in biomedical waste and wastewater. We have recently observed that viral RNA is found in sewage water and there is a high possibility in biomedical waste too.

"However, currently there is no evidence that virus transmission occurs through sewage, but if that is, which we still may not know, the workers in the sewage treatment plants may be highly susceptible to the infection," said T K Joshi, member, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) task force on air pollution and health.

SC takes note of traffic problem in Kaushambi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has taken note of the traffic management problem in Ghaziabad's Kaushambi area and constituted a committee comprising representatives of the statutory authorities of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh so that a "coordinated and concerted effort" can be made to resolve the issue.

The apex court, which said that a "comprehensive traffic management plan" should be presented before it, observed that a resolution of the issue would not be possible unless all the authorities concerned jointly agree on a concrete effort to manage the traffic problems.

A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud constituted a committee consisting of Divisional Commissioner Meerut, Chairperson of the Ghaziabad Development Authority, District Magistrate Ghaziabad, Transport Secretary of Delhi government, Municipal Commissioner of East Delhi Municipal Corporation and other concerned authorities.

The bench, also comprising Justices M R Shah and Sanjiv Khanna, said that Ghaziabad's District Magistrate shall be the nodal officer of committee.

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	HARYANA SEEDS DEV. CORPN. LTD.	HOPE BAGS 40 KG SIZE AND 12 OTHER WORKS	31.03.2021 06.04.2021	5.21 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	8168607110 sfaohsdcl@gmail.com
2	THE ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD. A UNIT OF HDDCF LTD.	PURCHASE OF KHOYA PAN FOR MAKING KHOYA CAPACITY 120 LITER / HOUR	30.03.2021 05.04.2021	5000/-	www.vitandia.org.in	01262-277364 vitarotak@gmail.com
3	MC JHAJJAR	PREPARE SAZRA BASE KEY PLAN OF WHOLE M.C. JHAJJAR LIMIT & PREPARE SEPARATE MAP OF LAL DOKRA , APPROVED JUN APPROVED COLONY, WARD WISE, M.C LAND AND DEMARCATION THROUGH DIFFERENTIAL GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM MACHINE.	26.03.2021 05.04.2021	EMD 50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813551830 sjsecymcjhajjar@gmail.com
4	HPGCL	SUPPLY OF SUBMERSIBLE PUMP	23.03.2021 24.04.2021	28000/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023873 Xenprocl@yahoo.com
5	HPGCL	SUPPLY OF HOT END BASKET FOR AIR PRE-HEATER.	CLOSING DATE 22.04.2021	1.47 LACS	Etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023873 Xenprocl@yahoo.com
6	HPGCL	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF HT SYSTEM INCLUDE 66KV, 11KV LINE & STREET LIGHT OF POWER HOUSES A, B, C, ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF HT SYSTEM INCLUDE 66KV LINE & STREET LIGHT OF POWER HOUSES A,B,C,D HYDEL COLONY AT WTC HE PROJECT BHUDKALAN.	16.03.2021 12.04.2021	27000/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in	9355869377 xenrehydel.dctprp@hpgcl.org.in
7	MC JHAJJAR	PROVIDING RCC PRECAST BOUNDARY WALL COMPLETE IN CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION JHAJJAR.	CLOSING DATE 06.04.2021	EMD 49980/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8930000765 sjsecymcjhajjar@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocmurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO 2384

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Ansaar, S/o Mohd. Mousim, (2) Ajhar, S/o Ansaar & (3) Majhar, S/o Ansaar, R/o B-385, Agar Nagar, Prem Nagar-III, Kirari, Delhi have Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 838/2018, dated: 27.08.2018, U/S 323/341/354/354(A)/506/509/34 IPC, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Ansaar, (2) Ajhar, (3) Majhar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Ansaar, (2) Ajhar, (3) Majhar have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Ansaar, (2) Ajhar, (3) Majhar of FIR No. 838/2018, dated: 27.08.2018, U/S 323/341/354/354(A)/506/509/34 IPC, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 28.05.2021.

By Order
Ms. Saniya Dalal,
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 18,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/751/RD/2021(Court Matter)

VIOLENCE BY SWORD WIELDING SIKHS 14 held for attacking policemen in Nanded

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

A day after a video clip that showed a sword-wielding mob come out of a gurdwara at Nanded, break the barricades and attack the policemen stationed to prevent them taking out a procession went viral, the local police on Tuesday arrested 14 persons in connection with the attack on the policemen.

Having registered three FIRs against 64 unidentified persons allegedly involved in the attack on policemen that took place at the Sri Hazur Sahib gurdwara on Monday, the Wazirabad police in Nanded district of Maharashtra region arrested 14 persons on Tuesday.

The irate mob had attacked the police after it was denied permission to hold a 'Hola Mohalla' public procession as part of the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In all, four constables were injured, while six vehicles were also damaged in the violence.

A video clip that surfaced immediately after the incident showed an angry sword-wielding mob barge out of the gurdwara, break

the barricades put up by police and attack the policemen.

The local police said that the condition of one of the four injured policemen was "serious".

"The gurdwara committee had assured us that they would abide by our directives and hold the event inside the gurdwara premises... We are trying to ascertain if any member of the gurdwara committee had a role in the incident," a senior police officer said.

Meanwhile, the Wazirabad police have booked the 14 arrested persons on charges of attempt to murder, rioting and other sections of IPC and under provisions of the Arms Act.

"We are looking out for other absconding people named in the three FIRs registered in connection with the incident," the police officer said.

The violence broke out when the "Nishan Sahib" -- a triangular saffron-colour flag furling outside a gurdwara on a steel pole covered with a saffron cloth -- was brought at the Gurdwara gate late on Monday afternoon.

Some of the participants got into verbal exchanges with the police.

Mohan Bhagwat to inaugurate Sanskar Bharati's 'Kala Sankul'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RSS head Mohan Bhagwat will inaugurate 'Kala Sankul' (campus), a modern complex for art and culture where artists from across the nation will showcase their talent, on April 2 here at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg.

Kala Sankul, an art and culture activity complex dedicated to showcasing a number of genres including art, literature, and theater in an integrated format and will be extensively promoted, according to an RSS press statement.

The Kala Sankul, under 'Sanskar Bharati', is designed with many amenities for the art and culture field, including a rich library equipped with art and culture books, an art gallery, auditorium, studio, and conference rooms encompassed in a single complex. 'Kala Sankul' will be positioned as the most renowned and major center of art and culture, said the press statement.

Sanskar Bharati is a cultural organization, which is "committed and devoted to try and implant national values in the folk lives through the traditional, classical, folk, and modern arts of India", it said.

"Even in the era of massive advancement in art and culture, Sanskar Bharati has been implementing an irrevocable mantra 'Sa Kala Ya Vimuktaye' which has been continuous since the past four decades and to give a concrete shape to these objectives, 'Kala Sankul' is being established", said the statement

Twenty 20, a nemesis for political parties in Kerala?

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The CPI(M) which swears by the adage "LDF for Sure" and the Congress offering "Clean and Transparent governance" are worried about a political outfit launched in 2012 and its mind boggling growth in Ernakulam district.

Twenty 20, which came into existence in 2012 thanks to an initiative by Sabu Jacob, scion of a corporate family, wrested power from conventional parties by winning all the 20 wards of Kizhakkambalam Panchayath in the 2015 election to the local bodies.

What Kizhakkambalam Panchayath saw in the last five years was something hitherto unseen in the State. The dilapidated roads passing through the Panchayath and the ring roads were re-laid and rebuilt by the Panchayath. All roads spot footpath and well designed drainage system that made waterlogging a distant memory. Not only that, the Panchayath constructed safe walls for houses along the road side.

"We have seen such roads only in television programmes on foreign countries, not in India," said Suresh Gopinath, a young auditor. He said he

was not at all surprised by the growth of Twenty 20 over the last five years. "They deserve the public acceptability because they have delivered what they promised in their manifesto. This political group is a threat to both the Congress and the CPI(M)," said Gopinath.

The recent election to the local bodies in the State saw Twenty 20 spreading its success to four more Panchayaths in the district. "When we assumed power in Kizhakkambalam in 2015, the panchayath had liabilities of Rs 39 lakh. We completed our five year tenure in 2020 by investing an amount of Rs 13 crore 57 lakh as fixed deposit as reserve fund of the panchayath," Sabu Jacob, President and chief coordinator of Twenty 20, told The Pioneer. He said it was for the first time in India the village roads were built with state-of-the-art technology using BM&B C tarring, which makes the road strong and sturdy. "We do have visitors from other parts of the State to get a glimpse of these roads," said Jacob. Roads are just a part of the development works initiated by Twenty 20.

Those without roofs over their head were given beautifully built houses with modern facilities during

the last five years. Houses that were built by the UDF Government in 1969 under the Lakshman Veedu Project were demolished and re-constructed using modern technology. The villages in the Panchayath spot 72 God's Villas where one can feel the happiness and satisfaction of the residents, mainly casual labourers and people below poverty line.

Two more institutions built during the tenure of the Twenty 20 deserve special mention. The Food Security Market and the various health schemes launched for the poor and downtrodden in the society have become benchmarks for other political parties.

While Dr G Madhavan Nair, former chairman, Space Commission, said he does not have words to describe the kind of development he saw in Kizhakkambalam, film actor-turned-Kamal Haasan declared that his mission was to emerge as a hero in real life like Sabu Jacob. With proven track records, the Twenty 20 has fielded candidates in eight constituencies in Ernakulam district. According to political pundits, the Kunnathunadu assembly constituency is sure to get the Twenty 20 way.

The fact that Kochuexp

Pawar rushed to hospital after abdominal pain

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar who has been unwell since Sunday, was rushed to the Breach Candy Hospital here Tuesday, after he developed fresh abdominal pains.

Eighty-year-old Pawar, who was in the normal course was to be admitted to the hospital on Wednesday for an endoscopy and surgery for removal of gallbladder stones, was taken to the Breach Candy Hospital after he complained of pain in the abdomen.

"In the normal course, Pawarsaheb was to be admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital tomorrow, for an endoscopy and surgery. But, after he developed pain in the abdomen, he was taken to the Breach Candy Hospital today," NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said.

"After his treatment and further examination, the doctors attending on him at the hospital will take a call on his surgery," Malik said.

Earlier, Pawar was on a blood thinner medication. The doctors advised him to stop the medication, pending his surgery.

Meanwhile, several prominent personalities including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar and others have enquired about Pawar's health and wished him a speedy recovery.

Retired judge Chandiwala appointed to probe charges against Maharashtra HM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Ten days after Mumbai's former police commissioner Param Bir Singh made a sensational allegation of corruption against State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday appointed retired judge of the Bombay High Court Kailash Uttamchand Chandiwala to probe the former CP's charges against Deshmukh.

The appointment of a single-member judicial committee to go into the allegations made by Singh against the State Home Minister came two days after the latter himself gave an indication to that effect.

It may be recalled that on March 20, the former commissioner of police had alleged that State Home Minister Deshmukh had asked now

arrested and suspended police officer Sachin Vaze last month to "collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources.

On his part, Deshmukh -- in a tweet put in the evening -- had debunked Singh's charge and said: "The former Commissioner of Police, Parambir Singh has made false allegations in order to save himself as the involvement of Sachin Waze in Mukesh Ambani & Mansukh Hirens case is becoming clearer from the investigation carried out so far & threads are leading to Mr. Singh as well".

In the terms of reference for the judicial probe ordered by it, the state government said that the retired judge would look into whether the former Police Commissioner had produced any evidence to establish that either Deshmukh

or any officer in the Home Minister's office had indulged in any irregularity or crime.

"The probe panel will also look into whether there was any substance in the information provided by Assistant Commissioner of Police Sanjay Patil, then Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze to Singh, based on which the latter made allegations of corruption against the State Home Minister in his letter dated March 20, 2021. It will also suggest whether there is a need to order a probe by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) or any other agency," the government notification announcing the judicial probe stated.

Justice (retired) Kailash Uttamchand Chandiwala-headed Judicial committee to submit its report to the state government within next six months.

BMC makes available 2,269 additional Covid beds to patients in pvt hospitals

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Amid the continued spurt in the Covid-19 cases in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday announced that it was making additional 2,269 Covid beds available to our citizens in private hospitals (including 360 ICUs) with immediate effect.

"We will be making additional 2269 Covid beds available to our citizens in private hospitals (including 360 ICUs) with immediate effect," Mumbai Municipal Commissioner I S Chahal said here.

"This will be in addition to more than 3000 beds currently vacant in Mumbai for covid patients (including currently vacant 450 beds in private hospitals)," Chahal said.

Chahal said that the BMC was also operationalising additional

1500 beds in Jumbo field hospitals this week to take vacant beds to approx. 7000 by the weekend.

The Municipal commissioner, however, made it clear that no bed would be allotted directly to anyone by hospitals.

"All allotment of hospital beds shall be through 24 WARD WAR ROOMS only & therefore no one should try to procure a positive covid report directly from Testing Labs. Otherwise, they will find it difficult to get beds anywhere," he said.

"Let the name come to us in our line list from labs at midnight and we will go to their homes with beds early next morning as we have been doing since last June. Let us all follow the system please," Chahal said.

Chahal, it may be recalled, had said last week that the BMC geared itself to handle 10,000 Covid-19 patients per day.

Chahal had said that the BMC was preparing to increase the total availability of DCHC/DCH Covid beds from 13,733 to 21,000 in the next 15 days in various hospitals of Mumbai. "Assuming that the number of positives in the due course of time in Mumbai increases to 10,000 per day with assumption that 15 per cent of these would be symptomatic -- requiring beds as per ICMR guidelines," Chahal had said.

He had pointed out that assuming that every symptomatic patient requires bed and considering a 14 days' bed occupancy, the total beds needed to handle 10,000 cases per day for a period of next six to eight weeks, around 21,000 beds would be needed.

Chahal had said that the mortality rate is low -- 4.6 per day and 0.3 per cent of the total positive cases between 10 February-24 March.

Edgy calm in Bengal as campaign ends for 2nd phase polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ NANDIGRAM

An uneasy lull descends at Muhammadpur Bazaar a tiny hamlet in Nandigram as the sun dips below the western rim. There was a skirmish between TMC and BJP workers a little while ago as the saffron supporters shouted Jai Shri Ram at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's convoy and the Trinamool cadres charged back menacingly. The central forces had a trying to keep the two sides away. Even as the rival sides retreat for the time being they vow reprisal.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is pitted against her former Man Friday-turned BJP nominee Suvendu Adhikari in Nandigram --- that goes to polls on April 1 --- with a

young and active CPI(M) candidate Minakshi Mukherjee giving valiant chase to her high-profile opponents.

A comment by Home Minister Amit Shah hours ago that the party that wins Nandigram will form the Government seems to have charged up an already ignited atmosphere.

With the campaign for the second phase polling coming to an end on Tuesday motley crowds collect hesitantly at the tea shops discussing hot topics. "Who knows what is there in store for us in the coming days," says Khagen Jana a local who like many Nandigram residents want the politics and politicians out of the place.

With news of attacks and counterattacks filtering in from neighbouring villages gossipers

who had collected at Ibrahim's tea stall gradually fade away.

"We want to live peacefully, we want jobs, we are not concerned as to who is coming here from Delhi or Kolkata... Just leave us alone. Enough of using Nandigram as a ladder to realize political dreams... we do not want violence," says Abbas a local farmer who walked back home for more than 300 km from Bhubaneswar during the lockdown.

"Why do these leaders use so harsh words for each other? Why do they have to polarize the atmosphere like this? What Lord Rama or Allah has to do with the elections, an Arpan Maiti unemployed postgraduate --- who unsuccessfully attempted two TET (Teachers' Eligibility Test) exams --- from

Reyapara wonders. But like many others he two feels like an ant in the artificial show of titans.

Asfaquddin an old man from Sonachura admits Nandigram of breaking along communal lines "perhaps for the first time after Independence. "Hindus and Muslims were together during the Nandigram movement ... but today there is a unexplained divide ... Now we hear that all that land movement during 2007 was fake and a part of some big master plan ... I think the earlier regime was better. But still we have no other way but to support ..." he stops short of naming Mamata Banerjee.

True, Nandigram has not seen a tensed and polarized election like this before. Not

even during the Left rule. With Tuesday being the last day for campaigning for the second phase of polling the boon-docks of Nandigram saw at least half a dozen road shows by the Chief Minister on one side and Home Minister on the other. True as well that Lord Rama is a comparatively new deity in this part of Bengal that largely worshipped Durga, Kali, Saraswati, Laxmi, Siva and Narayan.

On what lay ahead of the contestants he boldly says, "the candidate who will be able to catch most of the Left votes ... effectively Nandigram has about 35 percent Left voters most of who would not like their votes to go waste ... you know what I am saying. In that case if they vote in lot for Minakshi she may win but

they won't... In that case even the side that manages to get half of the Left votes will win."

Like him another local farmer says how the CPI(M) workers "are so angry with the present government that they will vote only for the party will bring a change ... they are working for the CPI(M) but this time round they may vote for some other party ... you can understand what I am saying... The would not let us vote for years ... they would fine us lakhs of rupees if we went to CPI(M) rallies... I sold my land to pay that fine ... they would make us do sit-ups in public for doing CPI(M)... a time has come to pay back."

But with lot many people choosing not to say anything, Nandigram is anybody's game and anybody's guess.

Ailing Buddha's audio message to voters after six years

PNS ■ KOLKATA

For the first time in more than six years former Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Tuesday addressed the public releasing an audio tape and asking the people to back the Left-democratic-secular forces and defeat the conspirators like TMC and BJP who had come to ruin Bengal.

Coming down heavily on the two parties ailing Bhattacharjee who is almost bed-ridden for years said only

the Left-Congress-ISF alliance could pull Bengal out of the present anarchy that the State was win. Earlier he had in a written statement said how his version --- of a deep-rooted conspiracy --- stood vindicated more than 14 years after the Nandigram police firing that killed 14 people.

This, after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from a rally at Nandigram on Sunday said that Suvendu Adhikari and his father and MP Sisir Adhikari were behind the Nandigram police firing.

J&K: Colourful performances mark the 2nd day of Fulkari 2021

Jammu: The splendour and richness of Jammu came alive once again on the second day of "Fulkari 2021" a two days festival of folk, colours and music organized by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with Atlas Event Management Company. The musical evening at Gulshan Ground opened with a power packed performance by "Saptak Classical Fusion Band" from Jammu. The local band is amongst the top 100 performers of India's Got Talent Season 3. Their performance on "Uss Dogreian aakhnean Shaane kenne" gained a lot of applause from the crowd. Another attractive pre-

sentation of this programme was fusion dance performance by Rakesh Kona and group. The dance filled the air with rhythms of Dogri and Punjabi fusion on this very special festive evening.

The main highlights of the evening were live performances by famous playback singer and performer "Titliyan fame" and "Afsana Khan, Television Actress Prerna Bhat and "VePathra" fame Gursaz. The soulful voice of Afsana Khan left the audience spell-bound. The Celebrity artists appreciated Jammu for their love and warmth they had showered on them since the very beginning of the festival.

Astrologers doubt Stalin's chances of becoming CM

CHENNAI: In what could be a shock to the DMK-led alliance, a journal on astrology has said that M K Stalin, Leader of the Opposition, who is also the party chief would not be able to form a government after the April 6 election to the State assembly.

This is in contrast to the 'findings' of opinion polls held by various media houses in Tamil Nadu which forecast that the DMK-led front would demolish the ruling AIADMK

and its allies in the assembly election.

Stalin himself had said at Salem that the DMK and its alliance would win all 234 seats. "People of Tamil Nadu will see a House without Opposition after the April 6 election," he had declared. But Gayatri Devi Vasudev, editor, Modern Astrology told The Pioneer that planetary positions do not favour the DMK and Stalin. "The AIADMK is likely to retain power in Tamil Nadu," she said.



Millennium City Expressways Private Limited

Registered Address: IGI Toll Plaza Building, Opp. Radisson Hotel, Mahipalpur New Delhi-110037

PUBLIC NOTICE ON REVISED FEE (TOLL) RATES AT KM-42 Kherki Daula Toll Plaza & IGI Toll Plaza

APPLICABLE FROM 1st April 2021

Category Of Vehicle	At Indira Gandhi International Airport road Toll Plaza		At KM-42 Toll Plaza Kherki Daula	
	Fee for single Journey	Fee for monthly pass valid for 40 trips/30days	Fee for single Journey	Fee for monthly pass valid for 40 trips/30days
Car/JEEP/Van or Light Motor Vehicle	20	(Personal) - 405 (Commercial) - 535	70	(Personal) - 765 (Commercial) - 1,010
Light commercial vehicle	30	800	100	1,490
Mini Bus	30	800	100	1,490
Bus (Two axle)	60	1,600	205	3,035
Truck (Two axle)	60	1,600	205	3,035
Multi Axle Vehicle	60	1,600	205	3,035

The Public are hereby informed that pursuant to approval of revised user fee rate vide letter no. PIU/DH/05/01/09/2020-21/1952 dated 30/03/2021 of NHAI, the user fee rates for use of section from Km 14+300 to Km 42 (NH-48) (tollable length for toll Plaza at km-42 is 27.7 km) and (tollable length for toll Plaza at IGI is 4.4 km, at the intersection with Indira Gandhi International Airport road) of NH-48 (old NH-8) are going to be revised as under w.e.f. 1st April 2021, at KM 42 Toll Plaza (Chainage 42+000 Km, Kherki Daula) and IGI Toll Plaza (Chainage 19+100 Km, IGI, Mahipalpur) into the state of Delhi-Haryana

- The Rate for Monthly pass (30 Days) applicable for any personal and commercial Traffic
- The above rates are applicable for a complete length of 27.7 Km at KM-42 Kherki Daula Toll Plaza and for Indira Gandhi International Airport road Toll Plaza
- Above mentioned user fee rates will be collected through Fast Tag only. (Refer MORTH OM No.H-20516/02/2020- Toll dated 13 Feb 2021 & NHAI Circular no. NHAI/100%/ETC/2020 dated 14.02.2021, GSR 298, dt.15th May 2020) states, "Provided further that user of the vehicle not fitted with "FASTag" or vehicle without valid, functional "FASTag" entering into "FASTag lane" of the Fee plazas shall pay a fee equivalent to two times of the fee applicable to that category of vehicles as per sub-rule (2) of rule 4".
- The following rate shall be applicable for the vehicles wishing to avail the concessional pass facility for 30days from the date and time of recharge
 - Local Personal Traffic : 50% of the applicable fee for the specific category of vehicle
 - Local personal traffic means and includes a personal vehicle which is registered with the Concessionaire at one of the Toll Plazas as plying routinely on the project highway without crossing more than one of the toll plazas
 - Local Commercial Traffic : 66% of the applicable fee for the specific category of the vehicle
- *Local personal traffic means any commercial vehicle including buses, trucks, light motor vehicles or taxis engaged in carrying goods and passengers registered with the Receiver/Selectee/New Concessionaire at one of the Toll Plazas as plying routinely on the project highway without crossing more than one of the toll plazas
- The List of exempted vehicles is given in Schedule-G of Concession Agreement and in the GSR 476 (E) dt.19th Feb-2014
- The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 2 to 10 times of the applicable fee to make use of highway .
- For viewing the fee notification dated 19th Feb.2014 published in the Gazette Notification. Letter of NHAI no. no. PIU/DH/05/01/09/2020-21/1952 dated 30-03-2021 containing approval of revised rates and provision in the concession agreement.
- Name and address are as under for any enquiry and/or giving complaints /suggestion:

Name of Representatives	Concessionaire	IC	PIU of NHAI
		Sh. Suraj Bhardwaj (CEO)	Sh. T. Srinivas (Team Leader)

Address: IGI Toll Plaza, Opposite to Radisson Hotel, Mahipalpur New Delhi-110037

Unit 514, 515 and 516, 5th Floor, Suncity Success Tower, Golf Course Extension Road, Sector-65 Gurgaon-122005 (Haryana)

PIU Gurgaon, Delhi Gurugram Border Dundhera NH-48 KM-24 Milestone Gurgaon-122016

Contact Nos. 8130947438 0124-2841160 0124-2970000 & 0124-2970111

FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of the corporate debtor	Kopargaoan Ahmednagar Tollways (Phase I) Private Limited
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	15th October, 2012
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered	Registrar of Companies, Delhi
4 Corporate identity number of corporate debtor	U45203HR2012PTC047422
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Reg. Office: 510, 5th Floor, ABW Tower, IFFCO Chok MG Road, Gurgaon-122002. Toll Plaza: Kopargaoan Ahmednagar Tollways Phase-1 A/p Nirmal Pimpri, Tal Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar-423107.
6 Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	Date of Order: 7th October, 2019
7 Date of invitation of expression of interest	31st March, 2021
8 Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ("Code")	The eligibility criteria is mentioned in detailed Invitation for Expression of Interest to submit Resolution Plans
9 Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	The norms of ineligibility under Section 29A of the Code are mentioned in the detailed Invitation for Expression of Interest to submit Resolution Plan.
10 Last date for receipt of expression of interest	15th April, 2021
11 Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	23rd April, 2021
12 Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	28th April, 2021
13 Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	07th May, 2021
14 Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	28th April, 2021
15 Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	The Resolution Professional will share the documents through Electronic Mail or Virtual Data Room in accordance with the provisions of the Code and Regulations made thereunder.
16 Last date for submission of resolution plans	28th May, 2021
17 Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Manner shall be specified in the request for resolution plans.
18 Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	04th June, 2021
19 Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Mr. Udayraj Patwardhan IP Registration No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P0024/2016-17/10057
20 Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Name: Mr. Udayraj Patwardhan Address: Sumedha Management Solutions Private Limited, C-703, Marathon Innova, Lower Panel West, Mumbai-400013. Email ID: udayraj_patwardhan@sumedhamanagement.com
21 Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Address: Sumedha Management Solutions Private Limited, 809-810, 8th Floor, B Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Lower Panel (West), Mumbai-400013. Email ID: katpi@sumedhamanagement.com
22 Further Details are available at or with	Same as Sr.No.21 above.
23 Date of publication of Form G	31st March, 2021

Notes:

- The dates mentioned above are subject to grant of extension/exclusion off from the CIRP period by the Adjudicating Authority.
- The RP / COC shall have discretion to change the criteria for the EOI at any point of time.
- RP / COC reserves the right to cancel or modify the process / application without assigning any reason and without any liability whatsoever.
- Detailed invitation for expression of interest specifying criteria, ineligibility norms under section 29A of Code etc. can be requested through email on katpi@sumedhamanagement.com

Date: 30th March, 2021

Place: Mumbai

Sd/-
Mr. Udayraj Patwardhan
Resolution Professional for Kopargaoan Ahmednagar Tollways (Phase I) Private Limited
IP Registration No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P0024/2016-17/10057



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Lockdown pains

The talk of another round of lockdown in Maharashtra should alert us to religiously follow the standard protocols

Even as the number of active Coronavirus cases continues to spiral up, several State Governments are considering the possibility of imposing another round of lockdown even as severe restrictions have already been put in place in select districts across States. Maharashtra alone has recorded nearly six lakh cases in March, with the spurt in cases being also reported from Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Kerala and Karnataka, among others. The question of whether a "full lockdown" will return to contain the spread of the virus has been hanging in the air for some time now though the Centre has made it clear that there won't be a national lockdown. At the same time, however, it has advised the States to take remedial measures at the local level. But it is proving to be an onerous task amid the spate of festivals, especially since people have spent almost an entire year staying behind closed doors and this has given rise to fatigue within, besides the fact that the citizenry isn't thinking twice before crowding public spaces such as market-places, cinema theatres or election rallies, virtually mocking the standard protocols. Adding to the worry of the various States' administration is the fact that the new strains of the virus are far more virulent and there are apprehensions that the vaccines developed and allowed for use so far may not be entirely effective in the ongoing fight against

COVID-19. In a sense, the new variants have effectively put paid to the collective heroic efforts of the frontline workers, especially the doctors, scientists and virologists.

The sorry state of affairs in the State has prompted the Maharashtra Government to draw up a road map for another possible lockdown though the plan has elicited sharp reactions from most political parties who are obviously scared of serious public backlash, should the Sena-NCP-Congress alliance Government decide to go down that path. Now the coalition Government is likely to take a decision on the issue in early April after reviewing the situation. While there is no denying the fact that the livelihood cost of a lockdown is quite high in terms of unemployment and economic and trade losses, equally true is the fact that unless a wide-ranging public awareness exercise is re-launched on a war footing and the vaccination drive is ramped up expeditiously, there shall be no let-up in the number of active COVID-19 cases. There is an urgent need on the part of all of us, the Governments and the people alike, to not lower our guard and religiously follow the standard operating procedures as advised by the medical fraternity and cleared by the Government. A lot of damage has already been done, with India now standing at the sixth spot among the countries worst hit by the accursed virus, but still not everything is lost. Fully and honestly observing the laid down protocols is the only surefire way we can keep ourselves, our families and society out of harm's way.

PICTALK



A city neighbourhood is seen shrouded in haze during cloudy and dusty weather, in Jaipur

PTI

Sizzling summer

Delhi regularly clocks temperatures in the 40s in summer, but not in March!

Summer heat is not unusual for residents of North India, but rarely does the thermometer register above 40°C in March anywhere in the northern plains. But the temperature did cross 40°C in the Capital earlier this week and those are bad portends for the approaching summer season. The Met Department described it as an aberration and noted that higher winds over the coming days will allow the temperature to drop. But this is just another indication of an extreme weather event. Delhi's highest temperature for March in 76 years. And the alarming frequency of such extreme events, such as the coldest, hottest, driest or wettest months in living memory, is only becoming more frequent and that is just an after-effect of climate change, which whether we like it or not is impacting our lives. The irony of this situation will be that those who can afford it will start turning on their air-conditioners sooner rather than later this year and that will just dump more heat and pollutants into the atmosphere. Increasingly affordable cooling might keep people more comfortable and one should not begrudge it, but there is an environmental cost involved for this physical comfort.

India has been on an aggressive path to adopting renewables as this country, with its massive population, is but naturally one of the largest emitters of carbon in the world. Yet India faces more scrutiny of the impact of her actions on the climate than the western nations who are failing in their attempts to decarbonise radically with the sole exception possibly of the United Kingdom, which has weaned itself off polluting thermal energy, an ironic impact of Margaret Thatcher's war on the coal mining unions almost 40 years ago. The rest of the developed world must do more rather than constantly hector India and other developing nations. It is ironic that even global ambassadors of the green movement have been spectacularly hypocritical in their actions. One can only hope that Monday was an aberration in Delhi and that the summer will not be as brutal, but given recent history there will be more stories of melting roads and there will be hundreds of fatalities due to the heat. This newspaper would like to remind its readers to stay well hydrated and keep themselves cool this summer.

The electric challenge

Higher fuel prices are convincing more people to think electric for next vehicle even though, ironically, the Government is subsidising eventual revenue loss

During a recent round of increase in petrol and diesel prices, many crocodile tears were shed by the politicians of all hues. The Centre and State Governments have raised incredible sums of money from excise duties, surcharges and cess on petrol and diesel. But the recent price surges saw the reality of ₹100 a litre petrol in some States, and with Black Swan events continuing to take place, such as the Suez Canal blockage, and oil producers' cartel OPEC talking of production cuts, crude oil prices will not dramatically decline anytime soon. With the Reserve Bank of India keeping the rupee's exchange rate against the dollar steady, prices at the pump might not come down soon. With an ambitious infrastructure building programme and higher agricultural expenditure on the cards, the Centre will need funds and the amount it takes from every litre of petrol or diesel will only go up. Petrol at ₹100 a litre will be a reality nationwide sooner rather than later, and at the current rate of increase, ₹120 a litre for ordinary petrol will be a reality by the next general elections.

Why talk about fuel prices in a column about vehicle electrification? Because fuel prices are both the greatest opportunity as well as the biggest challenge for this. The opportunity is simple, because whether we like it or not, a cogent argument can be made that higher taxes on petrol and diesel are like a carbon consumption tax. If you do not want to pay this tax, go electric. As an automotive reviewer for almost two decades, this columnist has driven several electric vehicles, even living with them for a few weeks. This gave me the opportunity to evaluate their running costs in a real-world situation and on something like the Hyundai Kona and Tata Nexon EV, this came to a rupee a kilometre even at the peak unit rate of power in Delhi. A similar vehicle with a petrol or diesel engine would have running fuel costs between ₹6-10 per km at the current rates.

There are many arguments against electric vehicles. The more fallacious ones surround the fact that polluting thermal energy



constitutes a majority of India's power mix. But again, like fuel prices at the pump, that is being a victim of the present. India is aggressively changing its energy mix with more solar and wind energy sources coming onstream. But the one that cannot be escaped is the fact that electric vehicles are much more expensive than internal combustion engine vehicles and leave India vulnerable to a whole new cluster of nations that dominate natural resources in this arena, much like India was beholden to oil-producing Arab nations for years. And in electric vehicles, India has been very slow compared to China; not only has China hoovered up Lithium and other vital resources but also by establishing a manufacturing ecosystem around electric vehicles and batteries, poses an existential threat to Indian automotive manufacturing.

The automotive industry in India directly employs close to 15 million people, indirectly employing five-six times as many in varied other sectors, from components to logistics to sales and even the vibrant automotive media. There is a realisation that the industry has to pivot to cleaner alternatives as air pollution and fuel prices are a concern. However, it is not going to be

HAVE THE GOVERNMENTS THOUGHT ABOUT JUST HOW WILL THEY MAKE UP FOR THE LAKHS OF CRORES OF LOST PETROLEUM TAXATION? THE CENTRAL, STATE AND CITY GOVERNMENTS ARE INCENTIVISING PEOPLE TO BUY VEHICLES THAT WILL EVENTUALLY COST THEM THEIR LUNCH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MODI'S BANGLADESH VISIT IS HISTORIC

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bangladesh visit is really remarkable and historic as well. Modi reiterated India's "sincere and continued efforts" to conclude the Teesta water-sharing agreement in consultation with relevant stakeholders during his talks with Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina. Both India and Bangladesh share common goals and challenges and the two countries should remain focused on dealing with challenges like terrorism.

A new passenger train connecting Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri on the Indian side was also inaugurated jointly by Modi and Hasina via video conference. This is the third passenger train after Maitree Express (Dhaka-Kolkata) and Bandhan Express (Kolkata-Kolkata) running between the two neighbouring countries. This will strengthen the people-to-people ties between both the nations. PM Modi reached Dhaka at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart for the twin occasions of the neighbouring country's 50 years of nationhood and the centenary of Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman. However, it cannot be seen in isolation with the elections in West Bengal.

The Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh is likely to not just consolidate in general the Hindu voters who have migrated from the neighbouring country but also attract in particular the Matuas in favour of the BJP. Also, Modi courted controversy when he said: "I must have been 20-22 years old when my colleagues and I participated in the Satyagraha for Bangladesh's freedom. I even courted arrest for the same." After which social media has been abuzz with many disbelieving the Prime Minister's claims. However, we have no reason to disbelieve our PM.

S Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

WE CANNOT BE COMPLACENT

Sir — The second wave of the Coronavirus is posing a huge challenge has to be looked at and understood in terms of the dual phenomena of transmission and mutation. It is understandable that people

Goa Government is clueless



In light of the rise in new cases, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, on the recommendation of the State COVID-19 task force, has reportedly asked officials to prepare a plan for implementation of another lockdown, which will have minimum impact on the economy of the State. While Maharashtra and Karnataka have imposed the strictest travel guidelines so far, Kerala has recently made the RT-PCR test mandatory for people travelling to the State. This move has been

prompted by the signals of a second wave of COVID-19 emerging from Maharashtra and Punjab. Yet, Goa continues to keep its borders open for all visitors from various States without any restrictions whatsoever, unmindful of the deteriorating scenario vis-à-vis the pandemic across several regions in the country.

It is quite ironic that even today the State is bothered by the prospects of not celebrating festivals as was evident from the political reactions of a few Opposition parties which strongly voiced their opinion against the imposition of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in Goa. But was the order promulgating Section 144 in the State logical by any yardstick? While the Government saw religious congregations and festival revelries in public places as a possible threat considering that the gatherings could cause a spike in the infections; it is rather surprising that it palpably has no answer to the tourists running amok along the beaches, defying protocols and the laws of the land. The authorities seem to be clueless about addressing the issue of large assembly of visitors on the beaches.

Pachu Menon | Goa

grew weary of the pandemic. It is evident from the way they go about their business despite the spike in cases. The crowds break norms at festivals and election rallies and roadshows. This is when it is entirely inadvisable to lower the guard and make conditions conducive for the contagion to spread and take its toll.

There is nothing called individual safety in a pandemic; we must all understand that no one is safe till everyone is safe. Vaccination is the life-saving pharmacological intervention now in progress with varying degrees of success. At this juncture, it would be foolhardy to let the ongoing vaccination drive, that has covered less than six per cent of the country's population, lull us into a false sense of security.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

BOYCOTT THE POLITICS OF HATE

Sir — Hate politics has overshadowed the

an easy task, although increasing consumer preference for electric vehicles will be a major driver for change.

But to truly drive electrification, the products have to be desirable, and affordable. The perfect electric motorcycle considered by a large industry player has what that company calls the "70 Trifecta", a range of 70 km, a top speed of 70 km per hour and costs ₹70,000. Fulfilling the first two criteria is relatively easy to fit a bigger and better battery, the third is the challenge in India. And if prices of important raw materials go up, the price of Lithium Carbonate has doubled since bottoming out in late 2020, it will only drive prices higher. And similar issues exist in passenger vehicles; even if lower-range urban commuter hatchbacks are a model chosen for India, would a consumer be willing to pay 50 per cent more, say ₹9 lakh vis-a-vis ₹6 lakh, even if they knew that over a lifetime of eight years and 1,00,000 km of driving they would save ₹6-7 lakh in running costs if benchmarked at today's petrol prices? May be. But would they pay ₹12 lakh for such a car even if net-let they will end up saving money? And then there is the biggest problem for the Government. If mass electric

vehicle adoption takes place in the next five-six years, have the Governments thought about just how they will make up for the lakhs of crores of lost petroleum taxation? Here is the bizarre irony of the situation: The Central, State and city Governments are incentivising people to buy vehicles that will eventually cost them their lunch. After all, even the most dedicated petrolhead will not be able to argue with the fuel costs involved.

While a bureaucrat will come up with ideas to cover the revenue shortfall, but what will that entail? The reduction of electricity subsidies for one, and maybe even increased taxes on electricity including a cut from fast-charging stations? Of course, even if there is rapid adoption of electric vehicles in India, it will not replace internal combustion engines totally. Far from it, recently the Delhi Government and Tata Motors got into a disagreement regarding the range of the Tata Nexon EV, proving that not only is range anxiety real, but it can impact policy issues as well.

This is the first part of a series on electric vehicle adoption and policy issues around the same in India.

(The author is Managing Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

SOUNDBITE

Will review the surge of COVID-19 cases in Delhi and the availability of Intensive Care Unit beds, especially for Coronavirus patients.

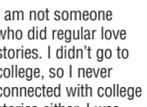


Delhi Health Minister — Sateynder Jain



90 per cent of adult Americans will be eligible to get vaccinated by April 19, the remaining 10 per cent will be eligible by May 1.

US President — Joe Biden



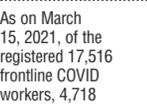
I am not someone who did regular love stories. I didn't go to college, so I never connected with college stories either. I was not somebody who was a big fan of regular, commercial cinema.

Actor — Rana Daggubati



Unfortunately, I have tested positive for COVID-19. I am feeling OK and I have quarantined myself by following all the guidelines.

India women's T20I captain — Harmanpreet Kaur



As on March 15, 2021, of the registered 17,516 frontline COVID workers, 4,718 workers are yet to be vaccinated.

Goa Health Minister — Vishwajit Rane

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

KERALA: DOOR TO LEFT RESURGENCE

Vijayan's welfare schemes are his strength. A win in Kerala will be a morale booster for the Left



KALYANI SHANKAR

The Assembly elections in four States and a Union Territory — Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry — will decide whether the Left parties will survive or perish. Voters of both West Bengal and Kerala are crucial for the future of the Left. The communists are ruling only in Kerala. Today, the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the CPI-Marxists (M) together have only five seats in the Lok Sabha. Since 2004, continuous defeats in the Lok Sabha and the Assembly elections, the lack of media attention, failure on their part to attract youth and so on, have resulted in the Left parties gradually losing relevance in Indian politics. It is now almost the last chapter for the communists in India. In recent times, the first major electoral jolt to the Left came from West Bengal when the comrades lost the State to the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in 2011 after ruling it for 33 years. The Left front also lost the 2016 polls to the TMC, though it won Kerala. The Left lost the Tripura Assembly elections in February 2018 when the BJP unseated the CPI (M) from power. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Kerala gave a decisive verdict to the



Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). Kerala has been alternating between the Congress-led UDF and the CPI (M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF). One has to understand the history of the communist movement in India to understand their current crisis. The CPI was born in 1925. After India's Independence in 1947, the CPI became the main Opposition party. The erstwhile Madras Presidency saw the presence of Communist legislators and the movement also picked up in the linguistically carved Andhra Pradesh. The movement was led by strong leaders like EMS Namboodiripad and P Jeevanandam.

Comrade Namboodiripad headed the first Communist Party Government in April 1957 in Kerala. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru dismissed his Government in 1959 following the 'Liberation Struggle'. The CPI (M) came after the party split in 1964 on ideological grounds. The Left played an important role during the late 70s in uniting the Opposition when Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency. Further, during the Rajiv Gandhi regime, the Left parties joined hands to oust him and form an alternative Government led by VP Singh. Throughout the 90s, the Left continued to influence coalition politics at the national level. In 2004, the Left had a significant contingent of 59 seats to support the Congress-led coalition to keep the BJP out of power. However, their decline started in 2008 when they decided to withdraw support to the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government on the Indo-US nuclear Bill.

The Left Front in West Bengal is yet to recover the shock it received in 2011. There is no leader to match Mamata Banerjee in the State. She systematically finished the Left and the Congress in these 10 years. But the Kerala story is different. Here, the Left parties have to face the Congress and the BJP, which is aiming to improve its performance in the State. However, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan faces the polls despite allegations of corruption, the mess-up in the Sabarimala issue and so on. The LDF has won 516 gram panchayats to the UDF's 374 and 10 district panchayats to the UDF's four recently. The saffron party failed to make much headway, though it did notch up a few gains in the gram panchayats. The Pinarayi Government has made inroads into the UDF's traditional vote bank. It has also stitched up an advantageous alliance with the Kerala Congress (Mani), a regionally powerful party that significantly influences the Christians. Above all, Vijayan's crisis management and welfare schemes are his strength. A win in Kerala will be a morale booster for the Left parties.

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

Vehicle scrapping needs more incentives

If the owner goes for scrapping, he is promised a total benefit of 11 per cent, including scrap compensation of nearly five per cent, discount five per cent and one per cent rebate in road tax



UTTAM GUPTA

On March 18, 2021, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced in the Lok Sabha a "voluntary" vehicle scrapping policy which will lay the foundation for what he termed the "Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Programme" and enable the Indian automobile industry to more than double its turnover from the current ₹450,000 crore to ₹10,00,000 crore in a few years. Besides, it will have a salutary effect on environment due to the mitigated vehicular pollution.

Apart from it, other benefits are expected by way of reduction in fuel consumption (as old vehicles get replaced by more fuel-efficient new ones) and cut in import bill; boost to inclusive development as investment flows into setting up scrapping and fitness centres thus creating jobs; increased safety on the roads and reduction in accidents; reining in input costs for industries such as automobile, steel, electronics, white goods and so on and increase in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection. So, how will the Government realise it? What are its possibilities? Will the intended outcomes flow? Currently, there are 51 lakh vehicles in India which are older than 20 years while 34 lakh vehicles are more than 15 years old but less than 20 years and 17 lakh vehicles older than 15 years, but without renewed fitness certificate. Based on the premise that vehicles older than 15 years are considered to be more polluting and less fuel efficient, the policy architecture is founded on two major pillars — incentivise owners of such vehicles to go for scrap and disincentivise hanging on to the old vehicle.

The owner going for scrapping will get four-six per cent of ex-showroom price of the new vehicle as compensation termed 'scrap compensation'; five per cent discount on the purchase of the new vehicle; rebate on the road tax at the rate of 25 per cent for personal vehicles (generally, States collect this tax at four per cent, so 25 per cent rebate comes to one per cent). The policy also moots waiver of the registration fee for a new vehicle purchased on production of the 'scrap certificate' issued against the scrapped vehicle.

As for the disincentives, the policy suggests hike in fee for renewal of registration (₹5,000 for a car older than 15 years, up from ₹600 at present) and fitness certificate renewal fees, stiff penalties for delay in renewals and imposition of the so-called 'green tax' by the States on such vehicles. All personal vehicles will have to undergo mandatory automated fitness test after 20 years to ply on the roads (for commercial vehicles, the threshold is 15 years). If they don't pass, those vehicles will be de-registered and impounded by the transport authorities, pronouncing it as "end of life vehicle".

If the owner goes for scrapping, he is promised a total benefit of 11 per cent including scrap compensation of around five per cent (average of four-six per cent), discount five per cent and one per cent rebate in road tax. Against this, he can easily realise at least 15 per cent by selling. So, he won't opt for scrapping.

Even 11 per cent incentive on scrapping is not guaranteed. Road tax being a major revenue source for States and given their precarious finances (this scenario is unlikely to change until 2024-25), they are unlikely to give any rebate. As for the balance 10 per cent, the onus is entirely on auto compa-



THE OWNER GOING FOR SCRAPPING WILL GET FOUR-SIX PER CENT OF EX-SHOWROOM PRICE OF THE NEW VEHICLE AS COMPENSATION, TERMED 'SCRAP COMPENSATION'; FIVE PER CENT DISCOUNT ON THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW VEHICLE; AND REBATE ON THE ROAD TAX AT THE RATE OF 25 PER CENT FOR PERSONAL VEHICLES. THE POLICY ALSO MOOTS WAIVER OF THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR A NEW VEHICLE PURCHASED ON PRODUCTION OF THE 'SCRAP CERTIFICATE' ISSUED AGAINST THE SCRAPPED VEHICLE

The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.



nies. If they don't oblige (a lot will depend on individual firms, their cost dynamics and, in particular, how much they gain by way of reduction in cost of raw materials and components due to scrap purchase), the scale will be further tilted against scrapping.

However, a more likely scenario for the majority of old car owners is one wherein they retain it after renewing the registration. They belong to the middle or lower middle class, their resource position being pretty tight. They had financed purchase of their vehicle (albeit old) from loan. Many of them may have only recently completed servicing that loan. So, they will all go for this option. Even the increased registration charges and imposition of green tax won't deter them (compare a few thousand they need to spend on paying these charges against a minimum ₹5 lakh-₹6 lakh on purchase of a new car).

The policy, too, is liberal towards them. Barring vehicles owned by the Government or its agencies, panchayats and State transport undertakings and so on which have to be mandatorily scrapped after reaching 15 years of age, all personal vehicles will have to go for a fitness test only after 20 years. Those more than 15 years but less than 20 years will get the registration renewed sans test.

On balance, therefore, the pol-

icy may not prompt the owners of aged vehicles to go for scrapping on a large scale. However, things could look different — tilting the scale in favor of abandonment of old vehicles and making way for new ones — if the GST Council accedes to Gadkari's suggestion for exempting new vehicles purchased against the scrapped vehicles from levy of the GST. At present, automobiles attract tax at the rate of 28 per cent and if this becomes zero (for those deciding to dump the old and buy new), this will be a big boost. But given the huge revenue implications, this is easier said than done.

Meanwhile, there is an order of the Supreme Court (2015) validating a National Green Tribunal (NGT) directive that prohibited petrol vehicles older than 15 years from plying in the National Capital Region (NCR) (for diesel cars, the threshold is 10 years). The order is not just a negation of the extant law which provides for registration renewal on completion of 15 years from the date of first registration but also presumes that all such cars become unfit for plying after attaining this age. Even as the policy lays emphasis on fitness rather than the age of a vehicle and is structured around incentives and disincentives, the court order militates against this. In fact, the order renders the policy infructuous in the

NCR. It also creates an anomalous situation whereby the vehicle owners in other States have the freedom of choice (scrap versus retention or resale) while those in the NCR are forced to scrap their aged vehicles or resort to desperate sale and buy a new one, thereby plunging into another round of financial nightmare. The Union Government should take urgent steps to correct this anomalous situation. It may either approach the top court to relent; alternatively, bring about necessary amendment in the Motor Vehicles Act (MVA) to reflect the policy intent that is using fitness as the sole criterion irrespective of the vehicle's age for determining whether it can be allowed to run. Concomitantly, it should go for setting up of the required network of testing infrastructure to be operated by trained manpower having impeccable credentials so that scope for malpractices and corruption is completely eliminated and only those vehicles which pass the test — as per specified norms — are allowed.

As regards the scrapping of old vehicles and making way for new more fuel-efficient and less polluting vehicles on the intended scale, it should endeavour to make the incentives more attractive. Giving exemption from the GST could be the way forward.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

ANGUISHED OVER THE DEMISE OF BENGAL'S DAUGHTER BEATEN BY THE TMC GOONS. THE PAIN AND WOUNDS OF HER FAMILY WILL HAUNT DIDI.

— UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH



AMIT SHAH HAS TWEETED TO COMMENT ON BENGAL'S CONDITION. WHY DOES HE KEEP MUM ON UTTAR PRADESH, HATHRAS?

—WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE

Subtle security challenge and catch-22 situation for nations

Migration at times creates the problems of human trafficking and refugees across the globe. In certain pockets, it has created quagmire and terrorism

The heads of the States of the Quad Group — India, Australia, Japan and the US — recently held a meeting to counter the Chinese threat and to ensure a free and secure Indo-Pacific. Analysts are of the view that it will provide the much-needed impetus to work out a new security road map in dealing with most obnoxious forms of modern terrorism. It is a welcome development as it would provide a platform for multilayered security cooperation to deal with various other issues like funding of terrorist activities, policing cooperation and dealing with cyber threat through enhancing the technological innovation and tightening border and maritime security information-gathering exercise.

Cooperation and coordination in aggrandisement towards communication capability and management of secu-



SUDHIR HINDWAN

The writer is a professor and expert on strategic affairs. The views expressed are personal.

urity arrangements to deal with any kind of threat is the main credo of relevance. With the changing times the parameter of national interest is also becoming more dynamic. Another important area which requires immediate attention on the part of cooperation to develop a mechanism to deal with the chemical weapons in the possession of the new breed of terrorists. Actually chemical weapons are normally not easily detectable and are easily transportable compared with conventional weapons. The revolution in communication network and growth of international narcotic trade spread through the Golden Triangle on the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand and the Golden Crescent through the network of Afghanistan and Pakistan have posed new forms of threat.

The nations need to change their strategy, keeping in view

the changing dynamics of the world order on account of new threats, some very apparent but a few extremely subtle. A couple of years ago there was the news of 50 refugees found dead near eastern Austria along Slovakia and Hungarian border which brought forward a debate on the tedious issue of illegal migration and related crime.

In the search for survival in the competitive world order, many people from underdeveloped societies have moved to European countries for greenery pastures, sometimes through illegal transit. In another such incident a few years ago, a boat carrying more than 80 illegal migrants drowned in Libya. It is high time that European countries developed sophisticated mechanism to handle the problem head on as it has already caused severe tension between various countries. The issue of migration at times creates the



problems of human trafficking and refugees across the globe. In certain pockets, the problems of migration and refugees have created quagmire and terrorism. The problem of refugees who have fled due to disturbances in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan has added a new dimension to the existing problem of violence and crime in Central Asian Republics.

Afghanistan is a clear example of such a situation wherein

refugees were misled and organised into a deadly force. Despite various steps taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there has not been any significant improvement in their conditions. Contrary to the claims made by nations about the distribution of resources for refugee welfare, extreme economic vulnerability has worsened their lot. According to a survey, over 70 per cent of the 26 million refugees in the world are women and children. Although most countries have faced the problem, it has assumed alarming proportions in Afghanistan, Rwanda, Vietnam, Bosnia, Cambodia, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Zaire, Bangladesh and South and Central America.

Most refugees have taken shelter in nearby countries. The serious problems in Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos compelled

people to seek refuge in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. The victims in African countries have taken refuge in Somalia, Kenya and Zambia. The issue of refugees at times becomes crucial due to their exploitation by many illegal and antisocial elements. The following measures can be suggested for addressing the problems of refugees: Development of local infrastructure to create self-sufficiency, increasing the role of Non-Governmental Organisations, extensive training to the staff involved in rescue operations, coordination between the local units and the UNHCR, financial support for implementation of new programmes and so on.

There have been instances where refugee camps were attacked by the armed forces of countries across the border. Many Governments have for-

mulated policies to deal with this alarming situation. But many nefarious actors interpret these steps as surrender to international criticism. In such a situation, the role of security forces becomes very crucial. The strength of success in handling the problem of refugees lies in creating internal dynamism by ensuring inclusive growth and addressing the plight head on and taking care of the security concern and law and order threats, if any, collectively.

The recent international changes might have brought some hopes of reform and change in the international arena but there are mounting tensions across the globe due to the rise in religious-based terror. No country can afford to compromise on its security despite having deep feelings and tremendous magnanimous outlook towards the problem of refugees.

Death toll in Myanmar's anti-coup protests top 500

Nay Pyi Taw: The number of pro-democracy protesters killed in the ongoing demonstrations in Myanmar against the February 1 military coup has surpassed the grim 500 mark, a monitoring group said on Tuesday.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) puts the nationwide death toll at 510, after another 14 people lost their lives at the hands of security forces on Monday, reports dpa news agency.

The deteriorating situation in Myanmar is alarming the international community, especially after 110 deaths were reported on March 27 alone, with the European Union calling it "a day of terror".

The latest crackdown was in Yangon's South Dagon township, where witnesses say that, during the past two days, the military has carried out a



Anti-coup protesters attend to an injured rallyist during a demonstration in Yangon, Myanmar on Tuesday. Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha denied on Tuesday that his country's security forces have sent villagers back to Myanmar who fled from military airstrikes and said his government is ready to shelter anyone who is escaping fighting.

campaign of destruction that laid waste to whole neighbourhoods.

The General Strike Committee of Nationalities, one of the main groups behind the protests, on Monday urged Myanmar's ethnic armed groups to stand on the side of protesters.

On Tuesday, three such groups heeded the call.

In a joint statement, they "strongly denounced" the military's actions and said they share their sympathies with the family members of those who have lost their lives fighting for Myanmar.

The military must immediately stop their attacks and engage in political dialogue, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, Palaung State Liberation Front and the Arakan Army said in the statement.

"If Myanmar's military doesn't do the above mentioned facts and continue (the killings), our three partner groups will cooperate with all nationalities who are joining Myanmar's spring revolution in terms of self-defence," it added.

The military seized control of the South-East Asian country after an election which former de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling National League for Democracy party won by a landslide.

The Army has had Suu Kyi under house arrest since February 1.

China reduces elected seats in HK legislature

Hong Kong: China has sharply reduced the number of directly elected seats in Hong Kong's legislature in a setback for the territory's already beleaguered democracy movement.

The changes were announced on Tuesday after a two-day meeting of China's top legislature.

The legislature will be expanded to 90 seats, and only 20 will be elected by the public. Currently, half of the 70-seat legislature — 35 seats — is directly elected.

The move is part of a two-phase effort to rein in political protest and opposition in Hong Kong, which is part of China but has had a more liberal political system as a former British colony. China imposed a national security law on Hong Kong last year and is following up this year with a revamp of the electoral process.

The crackdown comes in the wake of months of pro-democracy protests in 2019 that brought hundreds of thousands to the streets and turned violent as the government resisted the movement's demands.

"It's a very sad day for Hong Kong. The election system is completely dismantled," said former lawmaker and Democratic Party member Emily Lau.

"They are going to get rid of opposition voices because under this new system, which is so oppressive and restrictive, I don't think any self-respecting individual will want to take part," Lau said.

Ship that blocked Suez freed, investigation starts

Suez (Egypt): Experts boarded the massive container ship on Tuesday that had blocked Egypt's vital Suez Canal and disrupted global trade for nearly a week, seeking answers to a single question that could have billions of dollars in legal repercussions: What went wrong?

As convoys of ships again began travelling through the artery linking the Mediterranean and Red Seas, a canal service provider said more than 300 vessels carrying everything from crude oil to cattle were still waiting for their turn in a process that will take days.

Egyptian government officials, insurers, shippers and others similarly waited for more details about what caused the skyscraper-sized Ever Given to become wedged across the canal on March 23.

When blame gets assigned, it will likely lead to years of litigation to recoup the costs of repairing the ship, fixing the canal and reimbursing those who saw their cargo shipments disrupted. Since the vessel is



A cargo ship sails through the town of Ismailia, Egypt, on Tuesday as traffic resumed through the Suez canal after it was blocked by a massive ship that had been stuck sideways for nearly a week.

owned by a Japanese firm, operated by a Taiwanese shipper, flagged in Panama and now stuck in Egypt, matters quickly become an international morass.

"This ship is a multinational conglomeration," said Capt. John Konrad, the founder and CEO of the shipping news website captain.com.

Experts boarded the Ever Given as it idled Tuesday in Egypt's Great Bitter Lake, just north of the site where it previously blocked the canal. A senior canal pilot, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists, told The Associated Press that experts were looking for signs of damage and trying to determine why the vessel ran aground.

There could be significant damage to the ship, Konrad warned. Stuck for days across the canal, the ship's middle rose and fell with the tide, bending up and down under the tremendous weight of some 20,000 containers across its 400-meter (quarter-mile) length.

On Monday, when workers partially floated the ship, all that pressure came forward to its bow. "Structural integrity is No. 1. You know, there was a lot of strain on that ship as it was sagging in the waterway," Konrad said. "They have to check everything for cracks and particularly that rudder and the propeller in the back that's connected to the engine room."

World leaders call for new int'l pandemic treaty

Brussels: Twenty-five world leaders have supported a proposal from European Council President Charles Michel to draw up a new international treaty on pandemic preparedness in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis.

Leaders including UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha signed an opinion piece along with Michel and World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, dpa news agency reported.

"There will be other pandemics and other major health emergencies. No single government or multilateral agency can address this threat alone," the piece, published on Tuesday, said. The article made the case for a new agreement anchored in the WHO's constitution that would improve global preparedness for pandemics and ability to respond.

A treaty would provide a framework for international cooperation to immediately exchange information at the start of possible pandemics, and channel global resources for research into possible treatments and vaccines, Michel said at a virtual press conference with Tedros on Tuesday.

"The time to act is now," Tedros said, "We must not allow the memories of this crisis to fade and go back to business as usual."

Biden: 90% adult in US eligible to be vaccinated in 3 weeks

Washington: US President Joe Biden has said 90 per cent of adult Americans will be eligible to get Covid-19 vaccination in three weeks.

He told a White House briefing on Monday that while 90 per cent of adult Americans will be eligible to get vaccinated by April 19, the remaining 10 per cent will be eligible by May 1, Xinhua news agency reported.

Biden's remarks came as the country has seen a rise in new Covid-19 cases in 27 states.

EU chief warns of Covid crisis' domino effect

Brussels: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has warned of the "domino effect" of the health crisis brought about by the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

"We risk that the Covid crisis sets off a number of other crises, especially in developing countries," she said while addressing a high-level meeting on international debt architecture and liquidity on Monday. Von der Leyen named those crises as a debt one, an education crisis and a crisis of rising inequalities both between countries and within countries.

Video shows Asian American woman assaulted on NYC street

AP ■ NEW YORK

An Asian American woman was attacked by a man who repeatedly kicked her in front of witnesses who seemingly stood by, according to surveillance footage released by the New York City Police Department. The 65-year-old woman was walking in midtown Manhattan on Monday afternoon when a man came up to her and kicked her in the stomach, knocking her to the ground, the NYPD said.

The man then stomped on the woman's face several times while hurling anti-Asian sentiments at her, police said. He later casually walked away, the footage shows. The woman was hospitalised with serious injuries.

'To ensure 'durable peace' in Afghan, peace in and around country essential'

Dushanbe: Voicing "grave concern" over violence and bloodshed in Afghanistan, India said on Tuesday that there is need for a genuine "double peace" in and around the war-torn country and asked the negotiating parties to engage in good faith, with a serious commitment towards reaching a political solution.

Addressing the 9th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference here in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said that India has been supportive of all the efforts being made to accelerate the dialogue between the Afghan government and the Taliban, including intra-Afghan negotiations.

"For a durable peace in Afghanistan, what we need is a genuine 'double peace', that is, peace within Afghanistan and peace around Afghanistan. It requires harmonising the interests of all, both within and around that country," Jaishankar told the conference attended by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and others.

Syrian President, wife recover from Covid

IAN ■ DAMASCUS

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his wife, Asma, have recovered from the coronavirus and returned to their duties, his office said in a statement on Tuesday.

"After the end of the quarantine period, the disappearance of Covid-19 symptoms, and the negative result of the PCR swabs, President Bashar al-Assad and Asma al-Assad returned starting today to their work normally," dpa news agency quoted the statement as saying.

Pfizer, Moderna Covid vax effective in real world: US CDC

New York: Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's Covid-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing infections in real world conditions, says a new study by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Results showed that following the second dose of vaccine, risk of infection was reduced by 90 per cent two or more weeks after vaccination, the CDC said on Monday. Following a single dose of either vaccine, the participants' risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 was reduced by 80 per cent two or more weeks after vaccination.

3 polio vaccination team members killed in Afghan

Kabul: Three members of a polio vaccination team were killed in two separate incidents in Afghanistans Nangarhar province, officials said on Tuesday.

Provincial police chief Jumagul Hemat told dpa news agency that one member of the team was killed in Police District four of the provincial capital of Jalalabad.

The other two deaths took place in the city's Police District seven.

Hindu temple in Rawalpindi ransacked by assailants

Rawalpindi: Unidentified assailants ransacked a 74-year-old Hindu temple located in Rawalpindi's Purana Qila area.

As per the police authorities, a case has been registered at the Bani Gala station against the attack which took place early Sunday morning.

The authorities said that the temple was being restored and construction and repair work was underway since the last one month.

It was further revealed that due to the restoration process, there were no religious rituals taking place in the temple, nor were there any idols in the premises. "Ten to 12 people came and ransacked the doors and stairs of the temple on its outer side, which affected the construction work," Syed Raza Abbas, Assistant Security Officer, Evacuee Trust Property, Northern Zone, Rawalpindi, said.

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e-Tender Notice Date: 30.03.2021
Office of the EE (M&G), Dhakrani Power Station invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
NIT No. E-44/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:- Strengthening of perimeter lighting system at Dhakrani Power Station
NIT No. E-45/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:- Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Fire Hydrant System at Dhakrani Power Station
Estimated cost: Rs 4600000.00 & Rs 4062600.00 (GST extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 31/03/2021
Last date for submission of bids on website: 21/04/2021 upto 18:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"

Executive Engineer (M&G), Dhakrani
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF NUBERG ZIRAX ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED

1. NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	NUBERG ZIRAX ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED
2. DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	11/07/2017
3. AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED/REGISTERED	REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES- NCT OF DELHI & HARYANA
4. CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	U74999DL2017PTC320487
5. ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	204, SECOND FLOOR, VARDHAMAN SUNRISE PLAZA, WASUNDHARA ENCLAVE, DELHI EAST DELHI 110096
6. LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	25th March, 2021
7. NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR	ANANG KUMAR SHANDILYA, Address- 2ND FLOOR, 1 BLOCK, MOOLCHAND TOWER SECTOR-22, NOIDA-201301 Email Id-advanang@gmail.com Ph. No. - 9711914380 Registration No.- IBS/UPA-002/IF-N00882/2019-20/12826
8. LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	24th April 2021

Notice is hereby given that the NuberG Zirax Engineering Private Limited has commenced voluntary liquidation on 25th March, 2021. The stakeholders of NuberG Zirax Engineering Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 24th April, 2021 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7. The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

ANANG KUMAR SHANDILYA
INSOLVENCY PROFESSIONAL
IBB/UPA-002/IF-N00882/2019-20/12826

DATE: 30th March 2021
PLACE: Noida

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HORTICULTURE (P&M) DIVISION, JAMMU.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No. 75 of 2020-21 Endst No. 501-06 Dated :- 26-03-2021

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K U.T., e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD Railways and other State/Central Governments for the followings works.

S. No. 1. Name of Work :- Balance work for construction of Additional Floor (2nd floor) over under construction extension of Kissan Ghar BR-2 New Delhi.

Estimated cost (Rs in Lacs) :- 149.38
Cost of T/Document (in Rs.) :- Rs. 6,000/-
Earnest Money (in Rs.) :- Rs. 1,00,000/-
Time for completion :- 120 days
Time and date of opening of technical bid :- 20-04-2021 at 1400 hrs
Class of Contractor :- 'A'
AA/Recorded Vd No. & Dt. :- 137-Hort of 2018 dated 26.12.2018
TS No. & Dt. :- 594 of February 2021 dated 04.02.2021
Position of funds :- Demanded

Note :- Contractors who have got contractor cards issued from Kashmir Province. It is mandatory for them to upload their verification certificate of crime branch along with other qualifying documents falling which their tenders will be declared non-responsive.

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications drawings bill of quantities (B.O.Q set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be soon/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01. Date of Issue of Tender Notice :- 26.03.2021
02. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- From 26.03.2021 (18:00 hrs.) upto 23.04.2021 (18:00 P.M.)
03. Bid submission start date :- 26.03.2021 (18:00 hrs.)
04. Bid submission end date :- 23.04.2021 (18:00 hrs.)
05. Date & time of opening of technical bids (on line) :- 24.04.2021 at 14:00 hrs. in the office of the Executive Engineer Horticulture (P&M) Division B.C. Road, Jammu.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Horticulture (P&M) Div. Jammu
No. DIP/J-13827/20 Dated: 29-03-2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Aanchal W/o Rajinder Singh R/o H.No. 132 VPO-Nizampur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from in the area of PS: Kanjhawala, Delhi since 21.03.2021. In this regard, a case **DD No. 119A dated 21.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.** The description of the missing female as under.

Age: 22 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Sky Blue colour Shirt and Gray Colour Lower & White Colour Chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped female then please inform P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

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

Sd/- S.H.O. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Phone: 011-25951486

DP/748/RD/2021



SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Rinki D/o Bani Singh R/o D-20, Som Bazar Road, Begum Vihar, Begumpur, Delhi** Aged-23 Years has been reported missing since 18.03.2021 at 10:00 AM from the area of PS Begumpur, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 2A Dated 19.03.2021** has been registered at Police Station Begumpur, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Shallow, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Black long, **Wearing:** Blue coloured shirt, blue coloured jeans pant and slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Begumpur, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Begumpur, Delhi
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel. : 011-27579030-31
DP/752/RD/2021 Mob. : 8750870323



PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Tej Narayan Jha, S/o Sh. Chatura Nand Jha, R/o: H.No. 29A, Kailash Vihar, Kirari, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 680/2018 dated 23.07.2018 U/s 323/354/354(A)/509 IPC**, registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Tej Narayan Jha** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Tej Narayan Jha** has absconded (or is concealing him self to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Tej Narayan Jha** accused of **FIR No. 680/2018 dated 23.07.2018 U/s 323/354/354(A)/509 IPC**, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.05.2021**.

By Order
Ms. Sania Dalal
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate (North West),
Room No.18, Ground Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/750/RD/2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all concerned that in reference to the advertisement published on 27.03.2021 in newspapers regarding NTPC Exam Special Trains No. 03297/03298 between Patna-Anand Vihar T., Railways have decided to revise the dates of running of the trains as per details:-

Train No.	From - To	Announced Days	Revised Days
03297	Patna - Anand Vihar (T.)	30.03.2021 to 07.04.2021	01.04.2021 to 07.04.2021
03298	Anand Vihar (T.) - Patna	31.03.2021 to 08.04.2021	02.04.2021 to 08.04.2021

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RAILMADAD HELPLINE NO. 139
Visit RailMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.northernrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SC RULING ON TATA TUSSLE My conscience is clear: Cyrus Mistry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI

Ousted Tata Sons Chairman Cyrus Mistry on Tuesday expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court order in the fight against the conglomerate over his ouster, but asserted his conscience was clear and he had no doubt about the direction he took regarding the generational change in leadership during his tenure.

The apex court order on Friday had set aside National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order restoring Mistry as executive chairman of the conglomerate, while allowing appeals filed by the Tata Group.

"Every member of society looks to institutions such as courts to validate and endorse the appropriateness of his or her actions and beliefs. As a minority shareholder of Tata Sons, I am personally disappointed by the outcome of the judgement with respect to our case," Mistry said in a statement.

He further said, "Although I will no longer be able to influence the direction of govern-

I am grateful to my legal team that has remained steadfast and committed beyond the call of duty, through this journey.

"This is another step in the evolution of life for me and my family. We will celebrate the good times and take the knocks on our chins."

Mistry, who had raised several raised issues related to corporate governance and transparency, including alleged Rs 22 crore fraudulent transactions involving non-existent entities in India and Singapore in Tata's joint venture with Air Asia, besides accusing Ratan Tata of feeling insecure about his legacy, said he has reflected on his actions since his exit from the Tata Group.

"Over the last four years, I have had the opportunity to reflect on my actions and on whether I could have handled the generational change in leadership better. In hindsight, while I may have had many imperfections, I have no doubt or erosion of conviction about the direction I chose, the integrity behind my actions and their consequences," he said.

Mistry said his aim at Tata Group, "an iconic institution undergoing a generational change in leadership, was to ensure a robust board-driven system of decision-making and governance that is larger than any one individual."

A key focus was to enable the directors on various boards to discharge their fiduciary duties without fear or favour, while still ensuring that shareholders views were reflected in strategy and actions, he added.

"It continues to be my belief that it is by such a model, that one would protect value for all stakeholders in Tata Sons and its various group companies," Mistry said.

To this end, he said, "My performance was reviewed by nearly 50 independent directors across multiple Tata boards that I served. Beyond the performance metric that speaks for itself and the documented appreciation for my initiatives, I am humbled by the continued support I have received from my former colleagues and other board members."

Investor wealth jumps over ₹6 lakh cr in two trading days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investor wealth surged Rs 16,02,001.9 crore in two days of market rally which was supported by positive global cues.

The 30-share BSE index on Tuesday closed at 50,136.58, an increase of 1,128.08 points or 2.30 per cent. During the day, it gained 1,259.95 points to touch 50,268.45.

On Friday, the benchmark had closed 568.38 points higher. Markets were closed on Monday for Holi.

Driven by the rally, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies soared Rs 6,02,001.9 crore to Rs 2,04,77,472.33 crore in two trading days.

"Beating worries of increasing COVID cases and rising bond yields, the domestic market sparked a rally today as investors turned their focus to economic recovery supported by vaccination drives. Positive openings seen in Asian

Rupee slumps 87 paise to close at 73.38 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee slumped by 87 paise to close at 73.38 (provisional) against the US currency on Tuesday as rising crude oil prices and a strong American currency weighed on investor sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.85 against the greenback and traded in the range of 72.77-73.47 during the day. PTI

Govt approves issuance of electoral bonds from April 1-10

New Delhi: Amidst assembly elections in four states and a Union territory, the government on Tuesday approved issuance of the 16th tranche of electoral bonds which will be open for sale from April 1 to 10.

Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. However, Opposition parties have been raising concerns about alleged opaqueness in funding through such bonds.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has accorded 'no objection' from the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) angle on March 17. PTI

India's 2021 economic output likely to remain below 2019 level: UN report

New Delhi: India's economic output in 2021 is expected to remain below the 2019 level despite roll-out of the vaccine to deal with the menace of the coronavirus pandemic, said a report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) released on Tuesday.

India, according to the 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-COVID-19 resilient economies', is estimated to record an economic growth of 7 per cent in 2021-22, over a contraction of 7.7 per cent witnessed in the previous fiscal on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity. Observing that India entered the pandemic with subdued GDP growth and investment, the report said, "Following one of the most stringent lockdowns in the world, the economic disruptions that the country experienced mounted in the second quarter of 2020."

It added that a subsequent change in lockdown policies and success in reducing infection rates supported an impressive economic turnaround in the third quarter.

"However, the pace of recovery moderated in the fourth quarter with estimated year-on-year growth still close to zero. Despite a robust reduction in new COVID-19 cases and the start of vaccine roll-out, India's 2021 economic output is expected to remain below the 2019 level," it added.

Meanwhile, maintaining low borrowing costs while keeping non-performing loans in check would be a challenge, it added.

In its second advance estimates of national accounts, the National Statistical Office (NSO) has projected an 8 per cent contraction in 2020-21, showing the pandemic impact. PTI

India's inflation 'uncomfortably high': Moody's Analytics

New Delhi: India's inflation is at "uncomfortably high" level, which is an exception among Asian economies, Moody's Analytics said on Tuesday.

Higher fuel prices will keep upward pressure on retail inflation and keep the RBI from offering further rate cuts, said Moody's Analytics, a financial intelligence company.

Retail inflation rose to 5 per cent in February, from 4.1 per cent in January. The Reserve Bank mainly takes into account retail inflation while deciding on the monetary policy.

Core inflation (which excludes food, fuel and light) was up 5.6 per cent in February, from 5.3 per cent in January, Moody's Analytics said, adding India's inflation is "uncomfortably high".

In its macro roundup, Moody's Analytics said inflation is subdued in most of Asia, and expected to only gradually pick up over 2021 because of rising oil prices and economies starting to reopen. Brent crude has climbed 26 per cent this year at around USD 64 per barrel.

It was around USD 30 per barrel in March 2020, when the COVID-19 crisis was near its peak.

"India and the Philippines are exceptions. In these economies, inflation is above comfort levels, adding to the list of challenges for policymakers," it said.

Stating that India's inflation is "worrisome", it said volatile food prices and rising oil prices led retail inflation to exceed the upper band of 6 per cent several times in 2020, inhibiting the RBI's ability to keep accommodative monetary settings in place during the height of the pandemic.

Under the monetary policy framework, RBI has a target for maintaining retail inflation at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent). PTI

Firms mop up record ₹1,88,900 cr in equity capital this fiscal

Mumbai: Led by a record number of QIP issues and IPOs, the pandemic-hit FY21 has been the best for fundraising, with companies raising a record ₹1,88,900 crore in public equity sales during the year, more than double of ₹91,670 crore in the previous fiscal, according to a report.

According to data compiled by PRIME Database on Tuesday, the previous best was in 2017-18 when companies had mopped up Rs 1,75,680 crore.

The year was also good with a record qualified institutional placements worth Rs 78,731 crore and IPOs with Rs 31,268 crore raised through initial public issues, more than half of which took place in the ongoing quarter of the outgoing fiscal.

Of the total Rs 1,88,900 crore, fresh capital amount was Rs 1,36,992 crore (73 per cent); the remaining Rs 51,908 crore being offers for sale.

PRIME Database Managing Director Pranav Haldea said strong retail participation in IPOs, huge listing gains and the highest-ever amount raised through qualified institutional placements (QIPs) and InvITs/REITs were the key highlights of the fiscal.

Similarly, this was the best year for QIPs, with 31 issues mobilising Rs 78,731 crore, the highest ever in a financial year, and this was 54 per cent higher than Rs 51,216 crore raised in 2019-20. The largest QIP was from ICICI Bank raising Rs 15,000 crore, accounting for 19 per cent of the total. PTI

22 air purifiers installed in Faridabad

Faridabad: Goodyear India Limited, in association Municipal Corporation of Faridabad, Corridor Management Unit of Mathura Road, NHAI, and Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA), installed 22 wind purifying units at 3 highly polluted locations at Ballabgarh as part of its CSR initiative 'Solutions to Air Pollution'. IPCA will install, maintain and ensure the upkeep of the advanced air purifiers.

We hope our contribution helps the residents of Ballabgarh and Faridabad to lead a healthier life by breathing cleaner air, said the CMD Goodyear India Limited, Faridabad Deputy Commissioner Yash Pal appreciated Goodyear's contribution.

17,378 'Happiness Kits' for Covid-19 food relief effort

New Delhi: In order to aid the mid-meal beneficiaries during the Covid-19 pandemic that has disrupted ongoing child welfare activities and aggravated malnutrition crisis, Newgen Software, a global provider of digital automation platform, teamed up with The Akshaya Patra Foundation to provide mid-day meals and happiness kits, worth around Rs 1 crore to 17,378 children in Vrindavan, Lucknow and Jhalawar. Priyadarshini Nigam, head of corporate communications, Newgen Software, said, "This collaboration supports our vision of ensuring the holistic development of children."

Aspirants for admission to B Arch need to qualify Aptitude Test

New Delhi: As per Council Regulations of 2020, candidates need to qualify an Aptitude Test in Architecture conducted by the Council for admission to B.Arch. course. Aspirants for B.Arch. course need to register themselves at the portal www.nata.in for NATA 2021 for admission, irrespective of place of study, institution, deemed University, university centrally funded, state funded or private or any other place offering B.Arch degree. Last date of registration for the first test is 01.04.2021. Further details on NATA, are available in the brochure at www.nata.in.

Anshuman Singhania, Mohan Kumar elected ATMA chairman & vice chairman

Mumbai: Anshuman Singhania, managing director of JK Tyre & Industries, and Mohan Kumar executive director, Michelin India, have been unanimously elected as chairman and vice-chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), the national industry body for automotive tyre sector in India, respectively.

Anshuman Singhania is a graduate from Oxford Brookes University, UK and an alumnus of London Business School; while Mohan Kumar is a graduate from NIT Trichy and a post-graduate from IIM Bangalore.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SG033813 Website : www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No: 20/MM-1/BMC-335(XI)/O&M/GHTP/2021- Dated: 26-03-2021

Office of Dy. Chief Engineer, Mech. Mtc. Circle-I, G.H.T.P., Lehra-Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda (Punjab) Pin-151111, Email: se-mm1c-lehra@pspcil.in, Contact No. 96461-17606, Fax No. 0164-2756255 invites E-Tender for Routine, preventive, breakdown maintenance and overhauling jobs (Mechanical works) of Pressure Parts, Wind Box and Burners, Air Pre-Heaters, SCAPHs, ESPs, Aux. PRDS, Dusts, Dampers & Gates, Coal pipes, Soot Blowers, Safety valves, HPI/LP piping and manual valves, Fuel firing system (including fuel oil pump house) etc. of Boilers of 2x210 MW and 2x250 MW BHEL make units of GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat. For details NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 26-03-2021 from 05:00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RO No. 7615512/184/2021/3212

DELHI JAL BOARD; GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER EE (E&M) HP-1
HAIDERPUR WATER WORKS, DELHI-110085

STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE
Press N.I.T. NO.15 (2020-21)

S. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value based on Schedule of rate/ item rate/sum (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money (Refundable) in Rs.	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1.	S/IT/C of non-contact type flow meters at sump of Raw Water Pump House Ph-I & Ph-II at Haiderpur Water Works. (Re-Invited) Tender ID-2021_DJB_202375_2	Item rate	56000/-	1000/-	27.03.2021	15.04.2021

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 569 (2020-21)

Sd/-
(SUNIL KUMAR)
EE(E&M) HP-1

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Amit Pratap Upadhyay (Borrower), Surendra Upadhyay (CO-Borrower) (LBGHZ0002373217)	Flat No. 49, Second Floor, DDA LIG, Pocket -3, Sector- 68, Block - F3, Narela, Delhi - 110040. Area - 376 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 2077439.3 (as on March 23, 2021)	Rs. 10,80,000/- Rs. 1,08,000/-	May 3, 2021 From 12 Noon to 1:00 PM	May 15, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till May 13, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 23, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website on or before May 13, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 23, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 on or before May 13, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augoo Asset Management Pvt.Ltd 3. Props AMC. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: March 31, 2021
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const), Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for the following work:-

Name of work and location	Completion period of the work	Approx. Cost of work	Earnest Money to be deposited	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 500kVA, 63kVA and 30kVA D.G. sets installed in the office complex of CAC/Kashmere Gate, Delhi. CEE/C/Tilak Bridge, Dy. CE/C/SE Road New Delhi, & Dy.CEE/C/Shivaji Bridge for three years.	36 (Thirty Six) Months	₹ 7.84,980/-	₹ 15, 700/-	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 21.04.2021 date on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 21.04.2021.	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 07.04.2021 to 21.04.2021. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the labvoo office.

No. 17-Elect/DYCEE/C/1126E Dated : 27.03.2021 727/2021

Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Smt. Asha Puri and Sh. Swadesh Kumar Puri R/o Flat no. 41, Saakshar Apartments, Block-A-3, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, debarred and disowned their son Mr. Maneet Puri and daughter in law Mrs. Anu Puri from all movable and immovable properties due to disobedience behavior of their daughter in law and also have severed all relation from both of them. Anybody dealing with them shall do the same at his/her own risk, cost and consequences and my client and other family members shall not be responsible for any act and deed of them.

MEENA SHARMA
ADVOCATE, DELHI HIGH COURT
A-5/245, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown** residence and family is **unknown** about 35 years of age was found dead under Lodhi Flyover, Jaitpur, Delhi on 22.03.2021 at 01:00 PM. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 04A, dated 22.03.2021 has been registered at PS. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** Approx. 35 years, **Height:** 5'6" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White Baniyan and Blue Lower.

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

SHO
P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24355758, 24359989
Mob: 8750870929

DP/69/SE/2021

LOST & FOUND

I have lost Original Sale Deed executed by Mr. Vipul Nagpal in favor of Mrs. Neena Nagpal Document No. 4094, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 2589, on Pages 110-118, on dated 04.06.2008. Property bearing Municipal No. 19/310 (New municipal no. 308/9), area measuring 142.64 Sq. Yds. If anyone found please return these documents to 7E Deendayal research institute 5th floor, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, Jhandewalan Extn, Central Delhi-110055.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Anil Kumar**, S/o Kalu Ram, R/o H. No. 1565, Gali No 11, Jain Nagar, Karala Delhi, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Sallow, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and Blue Colour Shoes in his feet has been missing from his home since 16.03.2021 at 9.30 pm. In this regard a DD NO. 71A dated 17.03.2021 has been registered at PS Begumpur, Delhi.

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

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

SHO
PS Begumpur, Delhi
DP/753/RD/2021 Ph. : 011-27579029/8750870323

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely** : Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : about 50-55 years, **Height** : 5'6", **Complexion** : Shallow **Injury** : Head Injury, has been found dead between Ele. Pole K.M. No. 13/8-6, Down Railway line, Opposite Mangolpuri Industrial Area, Delhi on 23.03.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 02A dated 23.03.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :
P.S. Sarai Rohilla
Railway Station, Delhi
DP/95/RLY/2021 Tel. No. 011-28711697, 8750871308

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Vinita D/o Dafedar R/o F-123A, Rajeev Nagar, Begumpur, Delhi has been missing since 19.03.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 36A dated 20.03.2021 has been registered at Police Station Begumpur, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age : 21 Years, **Height**: 5'4", **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Hair:** Black long, **Wearing:** Unknown colour suit-salwar.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Begumpur, Delhi at E-mail cid@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: SHO
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

P.S. Begumpur, Delhi
Rohini Distt., Delhi
DP/749/RD/2021 Ph. No. 011-27579030, 27579031, 8750870323

Appeal for Identification

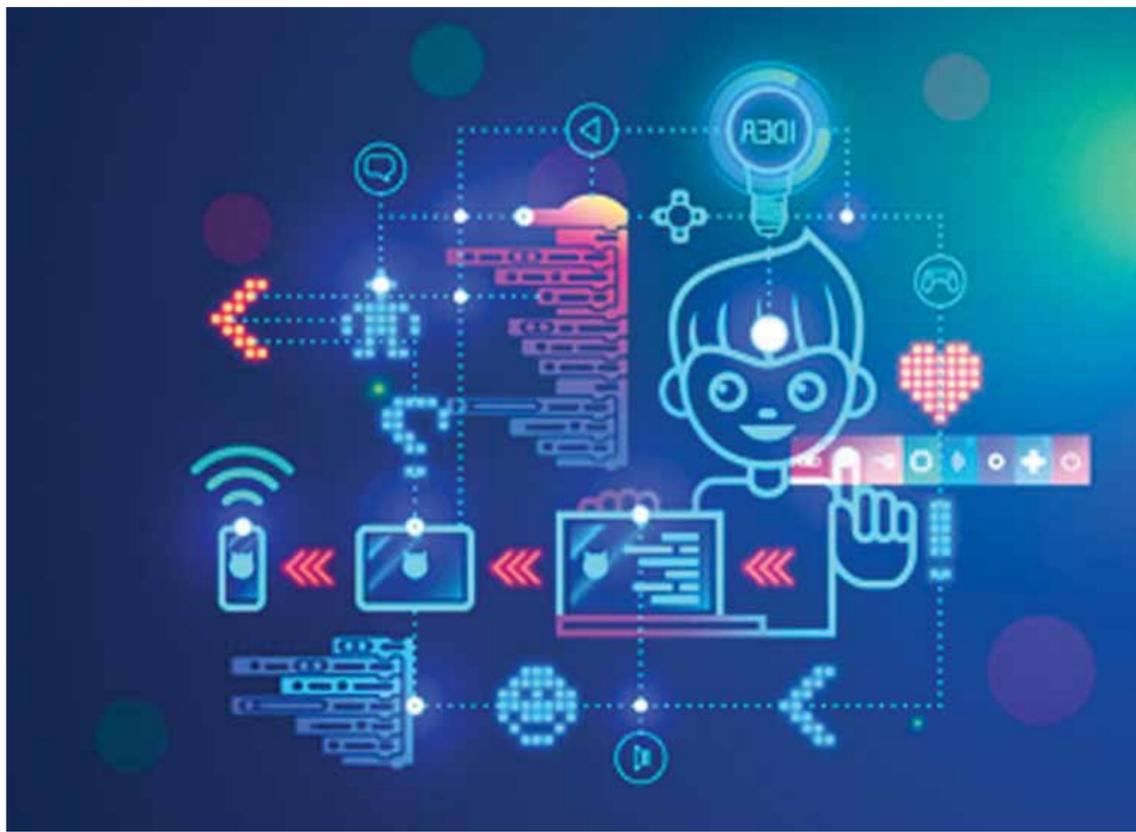
General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown **Age:** About 25-30 years, **Height:** 5'0", **Gender:** Male, **Wearing** : Blue Colour Jeans tag with Calvin Klein & Gray Colour Underwear of M & L and Highly Decomposed Dead Body was found dead on 24.03.2021 Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sec-15, Rohini Delhi.

In this regard, DD No. 24-A Dated 24.03.2021 U/s 174 Cr. P.C. has been lodged at PS K.N.K. Marg, Delhi. Dead body is preserved in BSA Hospital, Rohini, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO
P.S., K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
DP/758/RD/2021 Ph. : 011-27571162, 8750870327

MUSBA HASHMI chats up **ANOOP GAUTAM**, CEO & Co-founder, Tinker Coders, about the reason behind the growing craze of teaching coding in the K-12 segment and whether it is too young an age to learn the subject



Decoding a bright future

QUOTE OF THE DAY
Freedom of speech is unnecessary if the people to whom it is granted do not think for themselves.
— **Mokokoma Mokhonoana**

MSC ROBOTICS

The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for MSc Robotics course starting in September 2021.

Build on your existing knowledge to become an expert in robotics and autonomous systems, with the interdisciplinary skills to join the next generation of engineers. This course helps you translate your existing knowledge and skills and develops them in the key areas of robotics and autonomous systems. You'll learn about sensing and perception, cognition and autonomy, control and planning and robotic devices.

Duration: One year
Eligibility: Minimum of 60 per cent or first class from a reputable university in a numerate subject such as engineering mathematics or physical sciences. Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2021/robotics-msc> or contact: pgtacse@sheffield.ac.uk.

PG PROGRAMME

The Strathclyde Business School (University of Strathclyde) Glasgow invites applications for its new MSc Economics & Policy of Energy & Climate Change course starting in September 2021.

Develop a strong understanding of key issues in environment and energy from policy and economic perspectives, gain practical insight from leading energy and climate change experts and benefit from applied teaching, which focuses on the development of transferable skills and applicable knowledge.

The course offers excellent opportunities to network with energy and climate change specialists from a broad range of organisations. The course is designed to maximise the opportunities for industry engagement. You'll also have the opportunity to take part in events organised by the



Scottish Energy Forum.

Eligibility: Minimum second-class honours degree or overseas equivalent in any subject. Applications are welcome from candidates with significant high-calibre industry or Government experience. 6.5 IELTS score, with no individual score lower than 5.5.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.strath.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/taught/economicspolicyofenergyclimatechange/#whythiscourse>.

MSC PROGRAMME

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) invites applications for the 2021-2022 academic session for the university's most popular courses across Engineering, Science, Humanities and Business streams that are designed to help students with ingenuity, entrepreneurship and leadership skills required for 21st Century job market.

Eligibility: Students who wish to apply must fulfil the General Admission, School/Program-Specific and English Language requirements. The university reviews each application holistically, considering both academic performance and non-academic achievements. For students using Indian Boards exams, the requirements are "Pass Certificates obtained on completion of Standard XII (State and National boards)" and reference score of previous students admitted to HKUST is "overall average of 85% or above".

How to apply: Log on to <https://join.ust.hk/admissions/international-qualifications/>. The students can also visit <https://join.ust.hk/apply>.

The pandemic has seen an increase in K-12 segment students learning coding. What is the reason?

Due to the pandemic, K-12 schools across the globe were forced to adopt online learning. The gradual shift towards online learning from traditional learning methods ignited the continuation of extra-curricular activities and vocational skills through online mode. As a skill, coding is crucial in making young children future-ready to cope with everising technological advancements across all sectors. We are living in the age of Artificial Intelligence and automation. Our upcoming generation will require coding as an inherent skill in order to become employable and even carry out day to day tasks. This is why we have seen a rapid rise in K-12 students learning coding during the pandemic.

Isn't it too early?

Coding is a proven tool to enhance 21st-Century skills like logical thinking, creativity, analytical skills, computational thinking and

problem solving skills. Understanding computers and learning the basics of coding helps children develop a comprehensive understanding of how things work in the real world around them. Critical thinking, a fancy way of saying good thinking, is a skill that can be developed with the help of coding. With the help of block-based programming, kids can understand the cause and effect relationships and can explore a whole different list of options. Creativity, the most sought after skill, can also be developed with coding. The purpose of introducing coding at an early age is not to make future techpreneurs and software engineers but coding is a medium for students to understand the underlying concepts of science and mathematics as they continue to build solutions inspired by their surroundings.

Coding, as being introduced at an early age, will help identify the round pegs in the square holes and motivate students to become thinkers and tinkerers. This will help our youth to

be prepared for any challenges and adversities they might face in the future.

What are some of the courses that children can explore?

Coding is being taught through multiple platforms and children can choose a technology as per their interest like Block-based coding, 3D Designing, Artificial Intelligence & Python, Application Development, Electronics, Robotics and many more. With Tinker Coders, children are able to understand the concepts of programming with in the easiest way possible. Also, students can explore multiple technologies in the initial months with the help of Grade wise courses designed for various grades starting from Grade II-XII and as per their interests and capabilities, they can further pursue coding in the technology of their interest with the help of various internship programmes.

What does the future hold for coding?

With rapid technological

advancements, it has become mandatory to equip the students with the skills and knowledge needed for them to sustain and excel the futuristic jobs accelerated by these advancements. With coding becoming an indispensable part of our life, we are ready to witness exponential growth in the coding market in the upcoming years. The New Education Policy 2020 where coding is being introduced from Class VI onwards as a vocational skill, has accelerated the growth of coding market in India. Even in the pandemic, many companies have witnessed 100 per cent month on month growth in terms of valuation. At the current pace, we are likely to witness an exponential growth in the coding market for kids.

What all initiatives have you taken for the students in rural areas so that they can learn coding?

To bridge the gap of access to technology among all sections of society, we have come up with multiple solutions on which we are working parallelly. Tinker Coders will

play a crucial role in reaching out to the masses having little exposure to computers and laptops as most of our coding platforms work on Smartphone as well. We are launching various programmes that will ease the access to coding and experiential learning through smartphones. Students will be able to access the complete course on their smartphones and will be able to learn coding and make interesting projects, mobile applications through their smartphones itself. To tackle the issue of internet connectivity, the company provides self-learning modules as well, so that the learning process doesn't hamper. With the help of self-learning modules, students could access pre-recorded videos and documents at any particular time. We have collaborated with the schools across India under "De<Code> The Future" campaign where we are targeting to reach to the maximum students who might not have access to facilities like computers, Internet and electricity.

India's education segment is rapidly changing and online learning has become an indispensable part of it. All thanks to technological advancements, marking a new chapter for the sector in the post-Covid world. While other occupations struggled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, educational start-ups and teachers found a common platform of e-learning to engage with learners. EdTech startups are mushrooming at a rapid pace to keep up with the demand in the market.

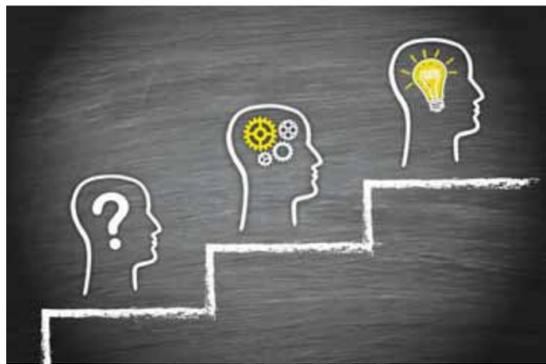
While work-from-home was not entirely a new concept in the pre-Covid days, school-from-home certainly is! Educational institutions were among the first to shut down and the country was faced with a serious predicament — academic discontinuity for millions of students. Enter, e-learning! The pandemic exponentially accelerated adoption of e-learning. Edtech companies that were agile, adapted quickly to the new circumstances and offer more than just online tutoring that existed before the pandemic struck.

With students sequestered at home due to social distancing norms and health concerns, educators had to find efficient and interesting ways to engage students. It became important for solution providers to design lessons to interest the curious learner to learn further, even during the pandemic-induced lockdown.

One reason edtech companies were able to allow students to gain access to best-in-class remote learning is technology. Internet proliferation and increased usage of smartphones has made learning more accessible than ever, even to students

Experience education differently

Experiential learning is a process that allows learners to develop knowledge and skills from their own experience rather than from formal courses, says CHARU NOHERIA



in Tier-II and Tier-III towns. Schools have shifted to online learning and teachers are encouraging students to adopt online learning methods since they are convenient and efficient. The future of education is now set to be student-centric rather than teacher-centric, with the advent and increased adoption of online learning tools.

Experiential learning: Experiential learning is a process that allows learners to develop knowledge and skills from their own experience rather than from formal courses. This is understandable. When you learn to ride a bicycle or to swim, you never forget because you learnt the skills practically. Similarly, when you watch

movies, you retain more - the concepts come to life before your eyes and ears — creating greater retention. How many of us have sat through boring classes and lost interest in subjects because of the traditional methods of teaching and learning? Experiential learning is, therefore, interactive, participative and multi-dimensional. It is only through experiential learning characteristics, when woven into the curriculum, that students will be better prepared to face the complexities of the modern world.

Edtech companies are facilitating live classes, automated attendance, personalised assignments, ready-to-

use presentations, adaptive practice and even instant doubt-clearing, making learning more convenient and efficient, and creating a unified learning solution. These advances in e-learning further help India make the transition to digital education from physical classrooms. And the big difference between the traditional ways and digital education is experiential learning. Hands-on learning, immersive storytelling, gamification, simulations and videos are the best way for students to absorb, retain and apply concepts.

Experiential learning is effective because it closely mimics real-world experiences, structures and monitors those experiences and provides ample opportunities for hands-on doing, experimenting and simulation. Using all these elements produces a powerful learning experience that cannot be replicated by other learning methods.

Today, the classrooms combined with digital learning tools through innovative methods have helped in increasing the student's engagement with personalised learning approach. Artificial intelligence and machine learning have become an integral part of the teaching process that allow students to learn with an understanding.

The writer is Co-Founder and COO, Practically

Sport a successful career

It is an excellent time for students to acquire valuable learning opportunities, as more businesses in the sports industry are now willing to onboard apprentices, says DR NAYANA NIMKAR

In spite of the fact that the effect of the Coronavirus has been very unfavourable to numerous businesses and organisations, it has opened the window to significant learning opportunities for students in sports management and communications programs.

Here's how: The pandemic and the subsequent lockdown had affected businesses all over the globe across nearly all industries. If we talk specifically about the sports industry, we witnessed continuous cancellation or postponement of major sporting events — from football to cricket, rugby, ice hockey, basketball, and even Olympics & Paralympics (now to begin in July, 2021).

While some sporting events and related businesses have resumed their operations and services, the need to reduce the operating costs is still looming. Consequently, the kind of job opportunities and compensation trends in sports industry have also taken a downturn. Although this is a tough situation for experienced workers, it can turn out to be an excellent time for students to acquire valuable learning opportu-

nities, as more businesses in the sports industry are now willing to onboard apprentices and interns to take over the roles to fulfil their business goals at minimised costs.

While most internship and learning opportunities with various businesses can be found on the respective company's website and preferred job portals, it can be hard for students to come face-to-face with these opportunities on their own due to lack of experience and knowledge of where to look. Thus, involvement of administration, academic counseling and placement centers of educational institutes and learning centers can help bridge the gap.

Ideally, the role of institutes and faculty members in this scenario would include:

■ Consulting with business personnel to understand their needs, and figure out and communicate ways in which students and freshers could assist.

■ Collaborating with businesses and arranging guest-speaking sessions by business personnel or academic counselors to share the opportunities and needs of the said business.

■ Guiding students throughout

the process in understanding the business processes, workplace policies, applying their literary knowledge in real-world scenarios, and resolving challenges faced - alongside the actual business mentors.

■ Creating learning strategies such that all student generated content goes through an initial review round by a faculty member before being passed on and presented to the business mentor. Such strategy would help ease the learning process for the students and would leave little to no room for doubts.

Benefits of developing student learning based on participatory sport:

■ It can help students get a firsthand experience of what it is like to work with an actual participatory sport business and add a sense of realism to their learning.

■ It can assist students understand the basics and diverse operations involved in creating and handling any task specific to the business.

■ It will challenge students to improve their critical thinking skills and think of various ways to attract and retain customers.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis School of Sports Sciences

IIM Bodh Gaya launches IPM course

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IIM Bodh Gaya organised introduced their Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) course on March 24, 2021. The institute is all set to launch the five-year course from the academic year 2021.

The course is designed for undergraduate students interested in the management field. Dr Vinita Sahay, Director, IIM Bodh Gaya, said that the number of opportunities for students interested in entering the corporate world is significantly less, especially at the undergraduate level. IPM will be a gateway for 'fresh out of school' students interested in corporate without waiting to reach the post-

graduate level to study.

The first three years will be for undergraduate studies and the latter two years will be for the core management studies, and the IPM course will culminate with an MBA.

The candidates will be assessed through a test called the Joint Integrated Programme in Management Admission Test (JIPMAT). IIM Bodh Gaya and IIM Jammu have come together to conduct JIPMAT across 78 cities in India. The registration will start from 1st April 2021. The assessment will be done based on Class X, XII and entrance test scores. The weightage to the JIPMAT scores, Class X and Class XII percentages will be 70%, 15%, and 15%, respectively.

Set a stage for career in films

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is full of talented people inclined toward acting and storytelling, but they don't know where to start, as a result of various barriers of entry. Geography, language, economic and socio-cultural differences pose real barriers for most when it comes to getting access to high quality theatre education.

The Ekalavya Online School of Drama aims to transcend these obstacles,

and give individuals who seek these opportunities, a space to learn, hone their natural talent, and boost their self-confidence, while teaching them to act and setting the stage for a career in the film and theatre industry.

As online education goes mainstream, the DSM has embraced this medium and designed never before imagined online training modules in acting. Courses that are not just 'gyan' for passive consumption, but

require active participation, performing tasks to camera, with a strong focus on learning-by-doing.

Ekalavya is created by core team members from DSMs highly experienced faculty; theatre actors, directors and teachers, many of whom are national award winners. Since 2008, DSM faculty have created courses that boosted the careers of actors like Ranveer Singh, Kalki Kochli, Richa Chaddha,

Swara Bhaskar, Kunal Kapoor, Gulshan Devaiah, Vicky Kaushal, amongst others.

The Ekalavya Online School of Drama offers preparatory courses in Character Study, Monologue, Expressive Voice, Expressive Body, Script Analysis, Storytelling, Acting for Camera, the Art of Auditioning, among others. In essence, it forms the fundamental textbook for theatre and acting.

Shiksha's MBA Outlook report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shiksha, a part of Info Edge Limited and one of India's leading career and college selection website for students, recently conducted a survey on MBA aspirants titled MBA Outlook 2021 that traces trends on preferences that are gaining traction among Indian students aspiring to pursue higher education in India.

The report provides an overview of popular MBA entrance exams in India, with a particular focus on top

locations in the country for students who want to pursue MBA. The report highlights nine different facets of what MBA aspirants want including, apart from CAT, MAT and CMAT are gaining popularity.

According to report, overall preference for CAT, XAT, SNAP, MICAT, IRMASAT and SPJAT increased by minimum 10% in 2020 when compared to 2019 while preference for exams such as NMAT and IIFT declined by nearly 25% in 2020 over 2019.



An international business development MBA is a career-changing programme that can drastically increase one's chance for promotions on the global front, says PROFESSOR BN MISHRA

Global companies developing businesses across countries have created a diverse and competitive workforce that can run businesses internationally. Graduation from an international business development MBA programme is a career-changing event that can drastically increase chances for promotions on the global front.

Today, every business is going to expand. It is the age of competition and everyone is trying to adopt the money-making technique. Companies that are aiming to expand and establish their business in a foreign country require candidates that are trained to deal with international scenarios and are knowledgeable with the concepts and theories that can be helpful for business' establishment.

Here students are taught about the International Business Law & Ethics, Strategic Marketing & Branding, Intercultural Management & International Negotiation, Management of Innovation, International

Partnerships and Mergers & Acquisition, Advanced Business Planning, Business Plan Jury Presentations, International Economics & Micro Markets to develop skills.

Roles and Responsibilities
International Business Development Managers are expansion wizards who craft successful strategies for taking companies into new avenues to maximise the Return on Assets. They are responsible to monitor the effective implementation of international business development activities. Develop individual business plans for each country. They administer and develop initiatives to increase sales and market development activities.

Help to analyse business strategies and develop improvement plans for the same to provide appropriate growth to the business. They manage all development processes and ensure compliance with government policies and regulations. Assist businesses to identify opportunities and

IT IS THE AGE OF COMPETITION. COMPANIES THAT ARE AIMING TO EXPAND AND ESTABLISH BUSINESS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY REQUIRE CANDIDATES WHO ARE TRAINED TO DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL SCENARIOS AND HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CONCEPTS AND THEORIES THAT CAN HELP BUSINESS' ESTABLISHMENT

develop strategic plans to enhance the same. Manage customer/client communication and maintain an effective relationship with all. Prepare and implement various capture methods for business development. Review competitor plans and the effect of products and services in management. Maintain all communication with Director. Evaluate market trends and provide appropriate support to product development.

Skills Required
Analytical and leadership skills, creativity, business development, market research, logistics, new customers, sales goals, expansion planning, intercultural competence are a must.

Scope
After completing this degree, you can join various enterprises or firms anywhere. Apart from global companies that contend on international markets. For example, airlines and chain restaurants, graduates of international business MBA programme frequently find careers within non-profit organisations, Government agencies, and banks.

quently find careers within non-profit organisations, Government agencies, and banks.

Eligibility
Student must hold a bachelor's degree minimum of three years duration in any of the disciplines & score at least 50 per cent marks in the qualifying exam. You can join this course after completing UG degree in BTech/BArch, Medical, Arts, Humanities and Science. One has to clear the entrance exam, group discussion and personal interview. There is no age limit to apply for this course.

Remuneration
This field has a good opportunity to get handsome salaries. A postgraduate in international business development from a reputed institution can get the initial salary offered range from ₹5 lakh to ₹8 lakh per annum and the designation will be as a business development manager.

The writer is chancellor, Bir Tikendrajit University, Manipur

'Every college student must sit for UPSC'

Preparing for UPSC can be the best thing for graduates. The discipline, vast knowledge and analytical skills one learns are useful, says ROHIT JAIN

What is the best job in country today? Undoubtedly Civil Services will come out as clear winner if we take a poll. The UPSC exam is considered the toughest exam in the country, and it is no joke to crack it. It has earned this reputation because of the intense competition and the vast syllabus the exam has to offer. Yet, why do we not see the best talents of the country making bee-line to prepare for UPSC. Why UPSC is a priority only for a select few?

Preparing for UPSC can be the best thing for our young graduates. The discipline, vast knowledge and analytical skills one learns in the process is useful in any profession.

Only requirement is that aspirants preparing for this exam have to be determined, focused and have high energy if they wish to clear the exam. Any 21-year-old graduate is eligible for the UPSC exam.

Students who begin preparing for UPSC exams while pursuing a degree get a proper lesson in time management. They have to juggle their preparation with the classes and courses they have enrolled in, and they even have to follow a proper timetable. This habit eventually will help them in their professional career, irrespective of the field they choose.

Candidates who get selected are among the brightest and smartest individuals in the country. Not even five per cent of the graduates apply for the UPSC exams each year. Why? Why is the best job in the country not attractive to the majority of Graduates? If each and every student starts appearing for the exam, then the amount of talent to choose from will certainly increase and that would be beneficial for the nation.

The major concern that college students feel is how to manage regular studies along with UPSC preparation? And by getting stuck in this dilemma, most students quit their dream of becoming a Civil Servant one day.

Today the challenge in front of any student is different. In a world of Whatsapp, Youtube and Google, how will one find a trustworthy and concise source of information and content. The lure of availing Free content leads to many wasting precious time. These for-



Rohit Jain
Co-founder, uFaber

mativ years shouldn't be wasted. Keeping in mind the benefits one can get if he/she starts preparing for the exam early in life, We at UPSC Pathshala have also come up with different courses that aim at helping the early starters with proper guidance. The flexibility of this platform makes it even easier for students to prepare for the UPSC exam along with their regular college schedule.

Each individual who is currently enrolled in any university should aim to clear the UPSC exam because there wouldn't be a better time than this to prepare for the examination.

The perks and the peace of mind the candidate will get after clearing the examination and serving the country would match the efforts he/she puts in today. Saying that appearing in UPSC exams should be made compulsory for students pursuing a degree won't be right as each individual should have the freedom of doing what he or she wants to pursue.

But each student should be made aware that Civil Service is also an attractive option considering that not each profession will give a chance to bring a change in society.

With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, schools globally have had to shut down and endure unprecedented changes. As K-12 educational institutions look for creative ways to impart lessons, hybrid learning models have risen to the occasion as a viable alternative to build and deliver engaging, informative and relevant learning from a distance, even as they prepare for a potential return to the old familiar classroom settings.

Hybrid learning is a virtual learning environment where a web-based platform uses online content and digital delivery channels to enable transfer of knowledge between teachers and students. Quality hybrid learning programs comprise digital study materials, online

activities, and periodic assessments.

Scope
It was during the nationwide lockdown that hybrid learning models were first adopted to ensure that students' education doesn't get hampered. Once schools transitioned from all-remote instructional methods to a blend of virtual and offline classes, teachers were able to take classes both online and in-person. As an outcome, the hybrid learning model is now supplementing various solutions meant for student access.

A tech-enabled classroom needs multiple partners who would work in tandem to create an effective blended learning environment. It entails different categories of

MINDIT

users who have different sets of expectations. Students need to find all resources, instructions and guidelines collated on one platform and be able to reach out to their instructors in case they have any doubts. Similarly, teachers need a virtual platform where they can see and interact with their students, share their notes and other study materials with them, and assess student performance.

The tech staff needs an online platform that is easy to operate and can run smoothly once set up. The school administration

needs visibility and flexibility to check the schedules and collect student fees. Even parents need the online platforms to be seamless so that they can monitor and keep a track on their ward's learning process along with paying their dues.

Hybrid learning in K-12 is projected to witness immense growth in the forthcoming times due to the multiple benefits it offers such as ease of implementation and no geographical limitations.

Since teachers can access data from anywhere, they can instruct students more

efficaciously with mundane tasks taken up by machines, such as grading and assessments. Hybrid learning also presents opportunities to teachers to re-skill and upskill themselves so that they become adept at handling tech.

Hybrid learning will also generate more employment as there will be a surge in demand for skilled teachers and administrative staff within the education industry. In addition, K-12 students will be exposed to high-quality learning coupled with global exposure.

This form of learning has a lot of potential to enhance creativity and provide personalised lessons which in turn will make learning more meaningful for young students. Teachers will have to consider

which kinds of activities would be best suited to online learning as against in-person learning in a hybrid setup.

Content delivery can be carried out online, but teachers will have to focus on student skills which they showcase in offline classes, as this aspect cannot be paid attention to in a synchronous lesson with other students in a virtual session.

The present times call for more bold education regimes that are agile and adaptive to the new-age technologies. As educators and institutions make the necessary adjustments and requisite investments, they can use this challenging time as a favourable opportunity to build a better education system for tomorrow.

The writer is Yogesh Makkar, founder, Kapdec

Scholarship

2022. Nationality: International students (INdian) can apply. Award: £2500-£3000

The Verizon India has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras to launch V Provide Right Opportunity to Power Enabled Learning, a merit-based scholarship programme to pursue BSc in Programming and Data Science.

The aim's to support meritorious students whose annual family income is less than ₹1lakh. Through this scholarship programme, select students will receive financial assistance for four academic terms.

This will provide an opportunity for learners to pursue an undergraduate degree/diploma from IIT Madras regardless of age, location or academic background. In addition, the scholarship will give preference to meritorious women students and students with disabilities.

For more details about the programme, visit: <https://onlineegree.iitm.ac.in>.

The Queen's University, Belfast invites applications for its Undergraduate Awards for the academic year 2021-

DIGITAL MARKETING AT SUSHI STUDIO

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7973930
Deadline: April 7, 2021

PRODUCT MANAGEMENT AT CONTELLIGENZ

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7973931
Deadline: April 8, 2021

PROOFREADING/EDITING AT WORLD TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹19,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7973938
Deadline: April 7, 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT BIZTOAST

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹12,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7973939
Deadline: April 7, 2021

FRONT END DEVELOPMENT AT TECHNEITH

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7973941
Deadline: April 5, 2021

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT OCTANONE ORANGE TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7973942
Deadline: April 8, 2021

FRESHER JOBS REMOTE TRAINEE SOFTWARE ENGINEER AT WIRELEAPPS TECHNOLOGY

Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3-₹3.25 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/7973949
Deadline: April 23, 2021
Skill(s): Java, .NET, AngularJS, Node.js, C Programming, C++ Programming, ReactJS

IN BRIEF

DATA PROTECTION CHALLENGES

The Barracuda released key findings from its latest report titled *The State of Office 365 Backup*. The research surveyed global IT decision makers of which 213 were from India. The idea was to capture their opinions and perspectives about office 365,

data security, backup and recovery, SaaS solutions, and a variety of related topics.

Murali Urs, Country Manager of Barracuda Networks (India)

said: "Amid the dramatically rapid shift to remote working set up and increasing dependence on SharePoint, OneDrive, and teams over the past year, protecting Office 365 data has turned out to be all the more crucial requirement and more challenging. Therefore, organisations are now looking for comprehensive, easy-to-use solutions that are fast to get up, running and include capabilities like granular retention that aren't included in Microsoft's native functionality."

MASK WITH 99.9% FILTRATION EFFICIENCY

Scientists of Centre for Nanosciences & Molecular Medicine at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham have launched a unique three-ply N96 Nano Mask based on cutting-edge nanotechnology. It is cost-effective and offers far superior filtration and breathability than the conventional N95 and surgical masks.

The mask, costing less than ₹200, can be washed up to 30 times for reuse. It is long-lasting, skin-friendly and odor-free, and provides very comfortable wear even for long

durations. The fabric makes it effortless for the wearer to breathe in and out even while providing almost 100% protection against harmful microbes. There are few masks in the world that offer such high breathability (level 2) with maximum protection (99.9 per cent).

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is offering the technology for licensing to others for volume production and bring the cost of the mask further down. The mask with nano-layered filter is lab tested to provide 99.9 per cent

bacterial and virus aerosol filtration as well as 96 per cent particle filtration of more than three microns. It has also been tested by the South India Textile Research Association.

D. CR Reshmi, scientist with Centre for Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, said: "The nano-coating, though sophisticated, involves easy to use technology that is scalable and apt for industrial applications for a variety of filtration products that we are currently working on."

Smart pandemic prevention technology



The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur in collaboration with National Chung Cheng University (CCU), Taiwan has come out with a Smart Pandemic Prevention Technology. The Taiwan-India Joint Collaboration Effort has been made on alleviating the effects of the ensuing global pandemic problem.

CCU and SRMIST have shared smart and advanced technologies resulting in the implementation and deployment of the Smart Pandemic Prevention System (SPPS) which includes smart face recognition, thermal body temperature monitoring and real-time social contact analysis.

A presentation of the results of the "Taiwan-India Joint Collaboration in Smart Pandemic Prevention System" was held online, presided by Vice Chancellor (Interim) of SRMIST Dr C Muthamizchelvan and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Medical and Health Science) of SRMIST Lt Col Dr A Ravi Kumar along with Dr Mu-Min Chen, Deputy Representative of TECC, Dr CT Wang, Director of Science and Technology, TECC, Dr Chadaram Sivaji, Director of International Bilateral Cooperation Division, DST, India.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural

Center (TECC) and Taiwan Education Center (TEC) had invited the Taiwan-India Joint Research Center on Artificial Intelligence organised by the National Chung Cheng University (CCU) and IIT Ropar along with the SRMIST to jointly create a Smart Pandemic Prevention System (SPPS) which is currently deployed on the campuses of both CCU and SRMIST, with the possibility of extending it to hospitals and other hotspot areas where pandemic prevention is of utmost importance.

The system has four main features, including automatic body monitoring and recording, smart face recognition, along with face mask recognition and social contact analysis. Automatic body monitoring was achieved using a thermal camera, but the students and professors worked on making the software checking more accurate. This helped reduce the number of employees that were needed for checking body temperature at each and every entrance/exit on campus.

Face recognition adapted the latest deep neural network model such as MTCNN and MobileFaceNet, with optimisations for Indian faces. Face tracking was achieved using the SORT algorithm. An edge-based version was also developed on the Nvidia Jetson Nano board.

Morris ready to fill Archer's void

South African all-rounder will have added responsibility of leading Royals attack in Jofra's absence besides justifying his 'big price'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

IPL auction's most expensive buy Chris Morris says leading the Rajasthan Royals' pace attack in the absence of injured Jofra Archer in the upcoming IPL will be an added responsibility but it doesn't change his role in the team.

In a major blow to the Royals' campaign, pace spearhead Archer was ruled out of the first half of the tournament due to an elbow injury he suffered during the recently concluded England's tour of India.

In his absence new-recruit Morris is set to lead the fast-bowling attack.

"Every single team that I have played in the IPL, my role has been with the new ball and at the death. That doesn't really change. I have always had fast bowlers in the team and I've been there as supporting act," Morris said at a virtual press conference. "It won't be a new role if I am leading an attack, won't be new if I am supporting. There is a little bit of responsibility when it comes to leading the attack. But like I said, it wouldn't be able to be alien to me," he added.

Morris became the most expensive buy in the IPL auction history with the Royals shelling out ₹16.25 crore for the South African all-rounder last month.

Talking about the pressure that comes with such an expensive price tag, Morris said, "I think it's natural to have a little bit of a pressure when something like that has happened. I'd be lying to you if there wasn't any pressure but fortunately enough in the past, I have been coming in with quite a big price tag on my head.

"At the end of the day, you need to perform, no matter what the price tag is."

Morris feels his role in the team is different to that of fellow all-rounder Ben Stokes, who he feels possess the "magic touch in cricket".

"I think we have got different roles Stokes opens the batting. He is one of the best in the world if not the best. My role is to finish off games with the bat which I hope I can do more of this year.

"With the ball it's different I think he bowled a lot less in the IPL last year than he did in the previous years. But the guy has got the magic touch when it comes to cricket. So, you know, if we feeding off each other in our different



Rajasthan Royals' South African all-rounder Chris Morris arrives to take part in 2021 edition of Indian Premier League

roles on the team, you know, I think we could be quite an interesting duo to come up against," Morris said.

The Royals have a new skipper in Sanju Samson this year. Morris, who has shared the dressing room with the 26-year-old in the IPL before, feels as someone who keeps wickets and also fields, the Indian will have to a lot to offer while leading the side. "I'm obviously quite lucky I've got a very good relationship with Sanju, I have batted with him at Rajasthan and in Delhi. I don't see him as a young captain, I see him as seriously good cricket player, who has got a great cricket brain.

"For a guy who can keep wickets and field he has seen different angles, different approaches from the back and the side. So, you know, I'm sure it's got some good ideas, I'm sure it's got some interesting things that we can discuss when it comes to tactics and to what the plans are."

Humbled to have gone for such a high price tag, Morris said that seeing so many teams interested in his services is a confidence booster.

"I didn't expect to be bought for that much and so many teams to employ my services. It's humbling, I never thought I'd be playing these many IPLs."

The 33-year-old is firmly focussed on winning the IPL.

"Whether T20 World Cup or not it's going to be a very important season. Your main focus is to win the IPL. It's the second biggest trophy, if not the biggest in the year without a World Cup, you want to win as a domestic cricketer."

Fragment of glass found inside Archer's finger

PTI ■ LONDON

An accident while cleaning his fish tank was the cause of Jofra Archer's hand injury that troubled him during the series against India along with an elbow issue and a glass fragment was found lodged in the England pacer's right middle finger that had to be operated.

England's director of cricket Ashley Giles made this revelation while giving an update on Archer, who underwent the surgery on Monday.

"They (surgeons) have operated and I think they found a small fragment of glass still in attendance. It obviously healed but there was part of the fish tank still in his finger," Giles said on BBC's *Tuffers and Vaughan* show.

"This is going to sound like an awful conspiracy... But it's true."

Archer suffered a cut on his right hand's middle finger in the accident that took place at his home at Hove in January prior to the tour of India.

The finger healed sufficiently for Archer to take part in both the Test and T20I legs of the tour but the England management decided it would be prudent to investigate the wound properly after he flew home ahead of the three-match ODI series to undergo treatment on a long-term elbow injury.

Pant will lead Delhi Capitals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Explosive Indian wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant on Tuesday was appointed as the Delhi Capitals captain for the upcoming edition of Indian Premier League.

Pant will step in as captain for the 14th edition of the tournament, for the injured Shreyas Iyer, who hurt his left shoulder during the recently concluded India-England ODI series.

Speaking on the development, Shreyas Iyer said, "When I sustained the shoulder injury, and Delhi Capitals needed a leader for this edition of the IPL, I had no doubt that Rishabh would be the best man for the job. He has all my good wishes to make amazing things happen with our absolutely incredible team."

On his new role, Rishabh Pant said, "Delhi is where I grew up, and where my IPL journey

began six years ago. To lead this team one day is a dream I've always harbored. And today, as that dream comes true, I feel humbled. With an amazing coaching staff, and a plethora of accomplished seniors around me, I can't wait to give my absolute best for Delhi Capitals."

Meanwhile, head coach Ricky Ponting said, "The previous two seasons under Shreyas' leadership have been incredible, and the results speak for them-

selves. This is a tremendous opportunity for young Rishabh, who is coming off successful stints against Australia and England which will no doubt give him the confidence needed to take on a new role that comes with a lot more responsibility. The coaching group is excited to work with him."

This will be Rishabh Pant's debut as IPL captain. The 23-year-old has captained Delhi's state team in the past.



Smith interested in Oz captaincy, Langer says position not available

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Steve Smith is interested in becoming Australia skipper once again if the opportunity comes but head coach Justin Langer has made it clear that the position is not available right now.

The 31-year-old Smith served a one-year ban from playing and was disqualified from leading Australia for two years because of his role in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal in a Test against South Africa.

"I've certainly had a lot of time to think about it and I guess now I've got to a point where if the opportunity did come up again I would be keen," Smith told *News Corp*.

Langer, however, said that the Australian captaincy is currently not available.

"We have two very good captains and two important competitions coming up — an



Ashes and a T20 World Cup. Our future looks good," he was quoted as saying by *ABC Sport*.

"Despite the media chatter there is no captaincy position available," the coach added.

According to the report, the board of Cricket Australia will determine whether Smith can return to captaincy at its next meeting.

"If it was what Cricket Australia wanted and it was what was best for the team at the time, it's certainly something I would be interested in now, that's for sure," Smith said.

Smith acknowledged that the scandal will forever be attached to his name and he has made peace with the dam-

age it caused to his career and reputation. He will, however, not let it get in the way of assuming leadership again.

"I'm always going to have to live with Cape Town regardless of whether I lead again or not. It's always there," he said.

"I've been through all that now. Time keeps moving forward, and I've learnt so much the last few years about myself and grown as a human being.

"I feel as though I'd be in a better place if the opportunity did come up. If it doesn't, that's fine as well and I'd support whoever is in charge the same way I've supported (Test captain) Tim (Paine) and *Finchy* (ODI captain Aaron Finch)."

Paine has been under fire ever since Australia lost a high-stakes Test series to an injury-plagued India earlier this year. Finch, on the other hand, has turned 34.

'Rohit-Dhawan best option for T20 WC'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India should stick to the experienced opening combination of Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan in the T20 World Cup, feels former selector Sarandeep Singh, calling the duo the "best option" despite skipper Virat Kohli's recent interest in the slot.

Sarandeep, whose term ended with India's historic win in Australia earlier this year said: "It was surprising. He (Dhawan) did well in the IPL, he did well in Australia. Whenever he plays he performs. He is mentally very strong. May be they want to try out options but in my view the left-hand right-hand combination of Rohit and Dhawan is the best option for the India at World Cup."

"You can't judge him on basis of one match. He did well in ODIs after that. The IPL will decide a lot of the team. There are no easy places in the team. Ishan Kishan too will need to do exceptionally well to make the team," he added.

He also said that K L Rahul should continue keeping in the ODIs and the in-form Rishabh Pant will have to wait for his turn when Shreyas Iyer returns.

Sarandeep also believes there is no place for Krunal Pandya in the ODI team if Hardik is not bowling.

Kiwis seal T20 series

AP ■ NAPIER

New Zealand beat Bangladesh by 28 runs in the rain-affected second T20 on Tuesday and took a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Sent in by Bangladesh, New Zealand was 173-5 in the 18th over when its innings was cut short by rain. Bangladesh was set a revised winning target of 170 from 16 overs under the Duckworth Lewis system and finished on 142-7.

The series win was New Zealand's seventh at home this season; four of those were in T20s, two in Tests, and one in ODIs.

Amid bizarre scenes, Bangladesh began before match referee Jeff Crowe officially calculated its revised total. The umpires stopped the match with Bangladesh 12-0 after 1.3 overs, waiting for official notification of the new target.

There was a long delay while Crowe worked feverishly at his computer. At one point he had what appeared to be an angry exchange with Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo.

Bangladesh at times looked on pace to succeed in what would have been an extraordinary chase which required them to score mostly at 12 runs per over.

Soumya Sarkar made a half-century from 25 balls and added 81 for the sec-



ond wicket with Mohammad Naim (38) to raise the hopes of the touring team.

Soumya fell to Southee for 51 in the 11th over and Bangladesh's task became insurmountable.

Phillips dismissed Naim and the speedster Milne returned to bowl Mahmudullah and Afif Hossain in the 14th over. Bangladesh slumped from 123-3 to 126-6.

Earlier, New Zealand's innings moved in fits and starts, propelled at the end by Phillips who made an unbeaten 58 from 31 balls — his 50 from 27 deliveries — and Daryl Mitchell, who made 34 from 16.

Barty tops Azarenka in Miami



AFP ■ MIAMI

Former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu prevailed over in-form Garbine Muguruza 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 to reach the Miami Open quarter-finals on Monday while reigning US and Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka extended her win streak to 23 matches by defeat-

ing Belgian 16th seed Elise Mertens 6-3, 6-3.

Top-ranked defending champion Ashleigh Barty battled into the quarter-finals by outlasting former world No 1 Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 while Ukraine's fifth-seeded Elina Svitolina rallied to defeat Czech ninth seed Petra Kvitova 2-6, 7-5, 7-5.

Second seed Osaka will next face Greek 23rd seed Maria Sakkari, who outlasted US 29th seed Jessica Pegula 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (8/6).

While Barty, who had to save a match point on the way to a three-set victory over Kristina Kucova in the second round, plays next against seventh seed Aryna Sabalenka, who downed Czech 19th seed Marketa Vondrousova 6-1, 6-2.

On the men's side, second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated 28th seed Kei Nishikori 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 after an hour and 56 minutes to reach the last 16.

Russian fourth seed Andrey Rublev routed 29th seed Marton Fucsovics 6-2, 6-1, to reach the fourth round.

The 23-year-old from Moscow will next face Croatia's 32-year-old Marin Cilic, the world number 45 who beat Italy's 19-year-old Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-4.

Aguero to leave Manchester City

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Sergio Aguero, Manchester City's all-time leading scorer, will be leaving the club when his contract expires at the end of the season, the team announced on Monday.

Aguero dazzled over an illustrious decade-long spell at City, winning the Premier League title four times, the League Cup on five occasions, and the FA Cup in 2018-19.

The 32-year-old is likely to add to his trophy cabinet before he departs, as City remain in the hunt to win an unprecedented quadruple.

"A huge sense of satisfaction and pride remains in me for having played with Manchester City for a whole 10 seasons — unusual for a professional player this day and age," Aguero wrote in a statement.

"Ten seasons with major achievements, throughout which I was able to become the top historic goalscorer and forging an indelible bond with all those who love this club — people who will always be in my heart."

Aguero famously delivered City's first Premier League title on the final day of the 2011-12 season with a 94th-minute winner against Queens Park Rangers.

SERGIO AGÜERO IS MANCHESTER CITY'S ALL-TIME LEADING GOAL-SCORER, THE TOP-SCORING FOREIGN PLAYER IN PREMIER LEAGUE HISTORY AND HAS SCORED MORE HAT-TRICKS IN THE COMPETITION THAN ANY OTHER PLAYER

The goal bumped crosstown rivals Manchester United out of first place on goal difference.

Commentator Martin Tyler's famous call of Aguero's heroics makes the rounds to this day.

But it is Aguero's longevity as City's go-to striker that sets him apart. The Argentine has scored 257 goals in 384 appearances since joining City from Atletico Madrid in

2011, breaking Eric Brook's 78-year-old record in the process. Among those tallies is a Premier League-record 12 hat-tricks.

Aguero transformed into a complete player upon Pep Guardiola's arrival in 2016, upping his intensity and contributing to the team's build-up play. But several injuries have curtailed his contributions over the past year. Aguero, who also missed time with Covid-19, has started just five matches in all competitions this season.

Team chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak said a statue of Aguero alongside former teammates David Silva and Vincent Kompany will be placed outside the Etihad Stadium.

It's unclear where Aguero will end up next. He previously expressed a desire to return to Argentinian club Independiente, where he started his career, and he's also been linked with Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain, and Juventus. He'll be available on a free transfer.

SINGLES

GUNDOGAN SET TO TAKE OVER CAPTAINCY

BERLIN: Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer will sit out Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against North Macedonia with Manchester City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan set to take over as captain. "Manuel Neuer will stay with the team even though he's not playing. Ilkay Gundogan will be captain if he starts," Germany head coach Joachim Loew said on Tuesday.

BENZEMA TO STAND TRIAL IN OCTOBER

VERSAILLES: Real Madrid star Karim Benzema's trial for "complicity in attempted blackmail" over a sex tape involving former France team-mate Mathieu Valbuena will be held in October, a court official said on Tuesday. Benzema will be tried in Versailles from October 20-22, the court said. The 33-year-old striker faces up to five years in prison and a 75,000-euro fine in the case in which four other men are being prosecuted for attempted blackmail. Benzema is accused of involvement in a plot to extort money from Valbuena by threatening to make the video public.

HARMANPREET KAUR TESTS COVID POSITIVE

PATIALA: The Indian women's T20 team captain Harmanpreet Kaur has tested positive for Covid-19 and is experiencing mild symptoms. Kaur, who did not play in the T20 series against South Africa in Lucknow after injuring herself in the fifth ODI on March 17, got herself tested on Monday after developing mild fever. "She is self-isolating at home. She got tested yesterday and the report came positive today morning. She had mild fever since four days so thought it was best to get tested. She is doing fine otherwise and should recover soon," a source close to the player said.

LEWANDOWSKI OUT FOR 4 WEEKS

MUNICH: Robert Lewandowski was ruled out of Bayern Munich's Champions League quarterfinal against Paris Saint-Germain after the German club said on Tuesday he will be out for four weeks with a knee injury. Lewandowski was hurt on Sunday as Poland beat Andorra 3-0 in World Cup qualifying, and returned to his club for a thorough exam by the medical staff. The injury could also derail Lewandowski's attempt to beat the Bundesliga goal record of 40 in a season. He has 35 from 25 games.

GASPERINI IS SERIE A COACH OF YEAR

BERGAMO: Atalanta boss Gian Piero Gasperini was on Tuesday voted Serie A coach of the year for the second consecutive season. Gasperini won the Panchina d'Oro (the Golden Bench) following a vote of his coaching colleagues in the Italian Coaches' Association. "I dedicate this award to all of Bergamo," said Gasperini, "to the staff and to the players: to everyone, because it is truly a team victory."

CHELSEA VS PORTO CL TIE IN SEVILLE

NYON: Both legs of the Champions League quarter-final between Portuguese club Porto and Premier League side Chelsea will be played in Seville, Spain, due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, UEFA confirmed on Tuesday. The matches will be played at Sevilla's Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium, with the first leg on April 7 and the return on April 13.

BUMRAH STARTS PHYSICAL TRAINING

MUMBAI: Jasprit Bumrah has got down to physical training after returning from his wedding break, ahead of the upcoming IPL season, beginning on April 9. Bumrah, who is currently serving the seven-day mandatory quarantine, was seen lifting weight inside his team hotel room. "Quarantining and getting those reps in," he wrote.

Agencies