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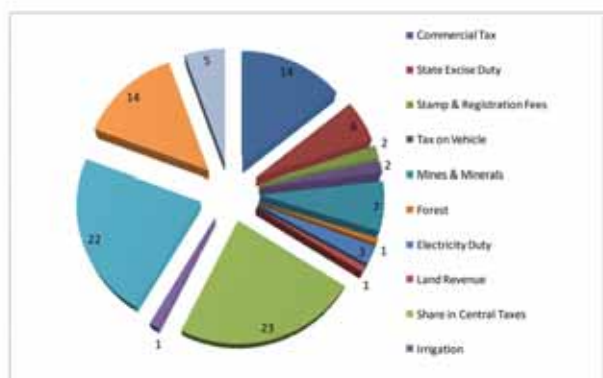
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Baghel's 'Bold Budget to take State to new height

Where The Rupees Comes (In Paise)



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday presented a bold budget with an estimated gross expenditure for 2021-22 at ₹105,213 crore and fiscal deficit pegged at 4.56 percent, and claimed it will take the State to new heights.

Laying the papers in the Assembly, Baghel said the budget embodies the core mantra of 'Garbho Nava Chhattisgarh'. The budget, he said, stood for HEIGHT: H for Holistic development, E for Education, I for Infrastructure, G for Governance, H for Health and T for Transformation.

Baghel who also holds finance portfolio, said total

receipts amounted to ₹97,145 crores, total expenditure ₹97,106 crores, revenue expenditure ₹83,028 crores, capital expenditure ₹13,839 crores and revenue deficit ₹3,702 crores. Thus, the total fiscal deficit

is ₹17,461 crores or 4.56 percent of GSDP.

He added that in the union budget 2021-22, share in central taxes for the State has decreased by ₹4,128 crores as compared to budget provisions of the current

Highlighting the expenditures, the CM said revenue expenditure is 85.50 percent and capital expenditure 14.50 percent

year.

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The expenditure in the social sector is 38 percent and in the economic sector 39 percent. The social sector expenditure is pegged at 15.9 percent, SC/ST development is 2.4 percent, on health 5.9 percent and on women and child development 2.3 percent.

The Chief Minister announced to establish C-Mart to bring all 'Chhattisgarhi' products under one roof.

He said fisheries has been brought under the status of agriculture. The Telghani Development Board, Leather Craftsman Development Board, Iron Craftsman Development Board and Rajak-kar Development Board will be set up to revive rural business skills.

He announced plans to open 119 English medium schools and an autonomous national level boarding school at Nava Raipur as well as construction of an airstrip at remote and backward Korea district.

The 'Bastar Tigers' special force will be formed in all districts of Bastar division which is said to be a game changer for tackling Maoist militancy with local recruits. A Cyber Forensic Lab will come up at the police headquarters.

China blacked out Mumbai in October

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the middle of the stand-off in eastern Ladakh last year, China unleashed coordinated cyberattacks on India's power facilities that may have triggered the massive power outage in Mumbai in October 2020.

The outage led to a countrywide uproar as India's financial capital came to a grinding halt on October 12. Mumbai life-line local trains were shut, hospitals could not carry lifesaving operations and stock exchange remained out of gear for hours.

The cyberattack on power facilities may have been initiated by a group of Chinese hackers, according to a study that first appeared in the *New York Times*.

China-linked threat activity group RedEcho may have planted malware in key power plants in India, said the study. "The Mumbai power cut provides additional evidence suggesting the coordinated targeting of Indian Load Dispatch Centres," said the study.

The study also suggested that some of the country's most sensitive infrastructures are vulnerable to cyberattacks from Chinese hackers.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Power on Monday said there is no impact on operations of Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) due to any malware attack and that prompt actions are taken on advisories issued against such threats.

Modi takes Covid jab; 1 mn register for shots

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Minister for External Affairs (MEA) S Jaishankar received the Covid-19 jab even as more than one million citizens registered themselves on the Co-WIN portal till 1 pm on Monday with India opening up vaccination drive for those over 60 years and within the age bracket of 45 to 59 years with specified comorbidities.

AIIMS chief Dr Randeep Guleria said the Prime Minister's move to take the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine on the very first day of the inoculation drive should eliminate any hesitancy from the minds of people about the vaccine.

Vaccines provided to beneficiaries at the Government health facilities will be entirely



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is administered a Covid-19 vaccine in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

free of cost, while private facilities cannot charge the beneficiary a sum above ₹250 per person per dose (₹150 for vaccines and ₹100 as operational charges).

As the vaccination programme got underway in other places across the country, Venkaiah, Shah, Jaishankar too was vaccinated on Monday.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik also received their shots.

Similarly, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, his wife, and MP daughter Supriya Sule too received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at a civic hospital in Maharashtra while Kumar said vaccines will be provided free to everybody.

PM jokes: Politicians thick-skinned, do you plan to use thick needle

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the nurses administering the Covid-19 vaccine to him on Monday whether they were planning to use some special thick needle as politicians are known to be "very thick-skinned", drawing laughter from the medical staff who immediately felt at ease.

Not afraid of Covid, won't take jabs: Farmer leaders

New Delhi: Protesting farmer leaders in the vulnerable age group on Monday said they are not afraid of coronavirus and won't take vaccine jabs, even as the second phase of vaccination drive got underway to inoculate senior citizens and those above 45 with underlying medical conditions.

Delhi Govt fought pandemic well, says Jain

New Delhi: Delhi fought the coronavirus well and brought down both the positive as well as death rates, said Delhi Health Minister Satyender Jain on Monday. There are challenges but the Delhi Government is ready to deal with it, be it vaccination or health infrastructure.

2022 ASSEMBLY POLLS

Amarinder inducts Prashant Kishor as principal adviser

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With high hopes to repeat the 2017 success story in Punjab, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh succeeded in inducting India's most-sought-after political strategist Prashant Kishor in his team for his 2022 electoral campaign.

A year before Punjab goes to polls in January-February 2022, the Chief Minister on Monday announced to appoint the election strategist as his "Principal Adviser", giving him the status of a Cabinet Minister.

"Happy to share that @PrashantKishor has joined me as my Principal Adviser. Look forward to working together for the betterment of the people of Punjab!" Capt Amarinder broke the news on Twitter.

At present, Prashant Kishor is heading the Trinamool Congress' campaign for the 2021 West Bengal elections, his growing closeness to the party chief Mamata Banerjee becoming a sore point for many senior leaders in the party.

Kishor had first made a name for himself as a poll strategist for Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his maiden



Happy to share that @PrashantKishor has joined me as my Principal Adviser. Look forward to working together for the betterment of the people of Punjab! CAPT AMARINDER BROKE THE NEWS ON TWITTER



Lok Sabha election in 2014. After that, Capt Amarinder had employed Kishor's Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) to handle his poll campaign in Punjab in the 2017 Assembly polls — which led to a resounding victory for the Congress in the State.

The Congress in 2017 had stormed to power by bagging 77 seats in the 117-member assembly. In fact, Kishor was the brain behind Punjab Congress programmes like

"Coffee with Captain" and "Punjab Da Captain" to drum up support for the party.

Last year, Kishor had reportedly told Capt Amarinder that he would be "quite happy" in handling the election campaign of the Congress in Punjab for the 2022 Assembly polls.

"Before the Covid-19 (crisis), I met him (Kishor). I did ask him are you interested (in handling the Punjab Congress campaign). He was very inter-

ested," the Chief Minister had stated in October 2020.

Prashant Kishor has become a much sought after figure for most non-BJP parties to bolster their chances of winning elections. He has previously handled election campaigns for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav.

He also assisted Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and joined the JD(U) but quit the party later over differences. He has also worked on various election campaigns for the Congress.

The 2022 Punjab elections will be crucial for all players involved as the months-long protest against the farm laws have had a huge impact on the politics of the State.

The Congress' support for the farmers' protest helped it sweep the recent urban body polls in Punjab — winning six municipal corporations, emerging as the largest party in the seventh and bagging most of the 109 municipal council and nagar panchayats.

North, east India to be hotter till May: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a harsh winter for the northern States, most parts of the country should brace for a hotter than usual summer this year.

In its summer forecast, India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday forecast that day temperatures are likely to be above normal in north, northeast, parts of east and west India except for south and central India between March and May, which represents the pre-monsoon season for the country.

"The maximum temperatures will be as high as 0.86 degrees Celsius higher than normal across northern, eastern, and western India," the IMD said.

However, the pre-monsoon months of March, April,



and May will provide some respite for the other regions, especially south India, where the mercury is likely to dip as much as 0.57 degrees Celsius from its normal. There is a probability forecast for above maximum temperatures in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gujarat, coastal Maharashtra, Goa and coastal Andhra Pradesh.

The worst impact of the summer will be felt in Odisha

and Chhattisgarh, where maximum temperatures will deviate 0.86-degree Celsius from their usual averages.

Last week, Bhubaneswar was the first region to record 40 degrees Celsius anywhere in India this year. North Indian States such as Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh should brace for summer temperatures anywhere from 0.46-degrees Celsius to 0.71-degree Celsius above normal.

"During the upcoming hot weather season (March to May), above normal seasonal maximum temperatures are likely over most of the subdivisions of north, northwest and northeast India, a few subdivisions from Eastern and Western parts of Central India and few coastal subdivisions of north peninsular India.

NH construction touches record 33 km a day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Road, Transport, and Highways Ministry has achieved the enviable target of constructing record 30 km highway a day. The feat could be achieved after the construction of 11,035 kilometres of national highways this fiscal so far.

Union Road Transport, Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said highway building has achieved a new feat, with the construction touching record 30 km a day. "We have built 11,035 km of highways till date this year. This comes to 32.85 km a day of highway building, which is a record," Gadkari said on the sidelines of an event talking to the media.

Gadkari said that by end of this financial year the construction could go up to 40 km a day.

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World adopted City Govt's initiatives to fight Covid: Jain

The entire 2020 was a Covid year. Not only Delhi and India, but also the entire world was going through a tough time and everyone was fighting the virus. Despite various challenges, Delhi fought the virus and brought down both the positivity and death rates down. In the initial days, everything was new to everyone and people thought the virus would go in summer. The lockdown was also extended but nothing changed. The biggest challenge was how to contain and treat the virus. The Delhi Government proactively worked and adapted itself to the situation and came up with several initiatives which brought the cases down. The Delhi Government's initiatives have been copied and followed widely by the entire nation and the world. For example, plasma therapy and home isolation, were started first by Delhi in the entire world. The first plasma bank in the national Capital was opened on July 4. Later on August 27, America also suggested plasma therapy for Covid 19. Similarly, home isolation was first started by Delhi Government which largely helped it to control and cure

the virus and was followed widely by other States. **Delhi Health Minister Satyender Jain spoke to The Pioneer's Principal Correspondent Sapna Singh on various issues pertaining to Delhi's fight against Covid-19.**

Delhi Government is approaching its target with a low corona positivity rate and zero death, what are the challenges ahead?

The Covid-19 cases have been recorded less than five per cent in the past three months and since one month, the positivity rate is one to half per cent. If it is going below one per cent, we can say the situation is normal because the base is low but still Corona is unpredictable and I will appeal to the masses to wear masks and follow social distancing norms. There was a time when 8,600 cases were recorded but now the situation has been improved.

Challenges ahead are how to create awareness among the masses and to understand how the Covid-19 is acting at different stages. Along with the Central Government, we are learning about Corona's behaviour via research and development model. Certainly,



there are challenges but Delhi Government is also ready to deal with it, be it at vaccination or health infra.

The medical institutions in Delhi are playing pivotal role in the Covid-19-pandemic times but as per the economic survey (GNCTD) 2019-20, the number of medical institutions in Delhi has increased at low rate. Does the Delhi Govt has any plan to expand the institutions?

At present, Delhi has 10,000 beds and our target is to expand these to 15,000, we have started constructions of three new buildings and Covid are purely dedicated to Covid-19 treatment facility — Burari and Ambedkar Nagar. These institutions will be fully operational once the pandemic gets over. One medical institution in Dwarka would have started functioning but covid outbreak halted the project. We have AIIMS-like institutions, for instance, GB Pant. I would say that our institutions are better than those of Centre. Getting



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

treatment in AIIMS or Safdarjung is a tedious process but in our hospitals, people get easier, faster and timely treatment.

Despite the fact that Delhi's population has been increasing at the rate of 10 per cent in every five years, how the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) dispensation will provide health services to its citizens, when the bed ratio is

still 2.94 per thousand population against the World Health Organisation (WHO) prescribed standards – five beds per thousand?

Delhi Government is creating the best health infrastructure in the world. If we go by the WHO standards, we should compare Delhi with other Indian States, and not only India, at the global arena for the coronavirus treatment, we have provided best treat-

ment by increasing bed numbers. Delhi's health model is top treating Covid, and we are being widely appreciated at international level.

The AAP Government has increased its health budget from 11.54 per cent in 2013-14 to 14.89 per cent in 2018-19 as per the economic survey report (GNCTD) 2019-20. However, there are core areas in health sector where

PPP model plays a crucial role. For instance, Delhi Government has joined hands with the private players for providing Dialysis services. How does the Government help common citizens with low cost treatment having a major stake in private entities in critical health infra.. as we have seen in Corona times?

Health is our priority and this year too, the health budget will be higher than the previous one. Our focus will remain on health. We have a transparent system where patients can check the availability of beds. For instance, at present, out of 5,700 beds, 399 beds are occupied and 5,363 are still free for Covid treatment. The Delhi Government is ready to deal with any circumstances because our objective is clear and that is to provide basic health facilities to our people.

Delhi Government has joined hands with private hospitals. Though we cannot make a dedicated facility for dialysis, Government provides free such treatments for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in private hospitals also. LNJP and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospitals have been established to treat life

threatening diseases. **In the digital era when Delhi Government will soon turn out to be one State to have a cloud-based well-being administration system as the facility in healthcare services with the induction of Health Information Management System (HIMS), how is the AAP Government ready for this?**

The Delhi Government is ready for the digital transformation, for it will save time and will help medical staff to provide faster treatment having history details of patients. With a cloud base system, the information and medication will work hand in hand thus will help in both ways.

With 338 Mohalla clinics (Pilot + regular), the AAP claims revolution in health care services. Do you think these clinics may reduce the patients load in big hospitals?

Definitely, the impact will be visible after the number of the clinics reach upto 1,000. Presently, on an average, 50,000 people visit OPDs in these Mohalla clinics across Delhi. If patients get timely, needy and speedy treatment nearby, it will certainly reduce the burden on bigger hospitals.

Covid jab phase-2 begins in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The second phase of the Covid-19 vaccination drive began on Monday in the national Capital, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the jab on the first day. The drive also saw several senior citizens coming forward to take the first shot. Meanwhile, Dr Randeep Guleria, AIIMS Director, said that PM's move to take the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine on the very first day of India opening up the inoculation drive for senior citizens and those aged 45 and above with comorbidities should eliminate any hesitancy from the minds of people about the vaccine. The PM had received the indigenously developed Covaxin jab by Bharat Biotech around 6.30 am on Monday morning after which he was kept under observation for half-an-hour as per protocol, after which he



A medic administers a Covid-19 vaccine to an elderly person during the second phase of the nationwide inoculation drive at Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi on Monday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

left," said the officials.

"Took my first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at AIIMS. Remarkable how our doctors and scientists have worked in quick time to strengthen the global fight against Covid-19," the PM tweeted after taking the vaccine shot. "I appeal to all those who are eligible to take the vaccine. Together, let us make India Covid-19 free!" he said.

"AIIMS was intimidated about the Prime Minister's visit to the hospital to take the vaccine late Sunday night and as such no special arrangement was made for him, Guleria told PTI.

"As it was a week day, he chose to come early in the morning so as not to cause any inconvenience to patients at the hospital," Guleria said.

DTC OK's procurement of 300 low floor CNG buses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on Monday approved the bids for the procurement of 300 Air-Conditioned (AC) low floor electric buses.

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot who was also present in the board meeting said "This decision comes a few months into Delhi Government successfully launching the Delhi EV Policy, under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

and the ongoing full-fledged awareness campaign Switch Delhi encouraging Delhiites to shift to EV. This year will see a thousand new buses being added in DTC and close to 600 new Electric buses inducted under the Cluster scheme too. With the arrival of these 300 electric buses, Delhi will take its first huge leap to its dream of a fully electric public transport in the city."

These 300 Low Floor 12 meters BS-VI compliant Air-Conditioned buses would be equipped with State-of-the-Art facilities like, Real-Time Passenger Information System, CCTVs, Panic Buttons, GPS and other facilities, along with being differently-abled friendly.

Further, to ensure passenger safety, especially of women passengers, these buses would be integrated with the newly built Command and Control Centre of Kashmiri Gate.

Earlier, DTC had floated open tender for the procurement of 300 Low Floor 12 meters full Electric Air-Conditioned buses in December 2020. Prior to this, two tenders have been short-closed owing to various reasons. These 300 Electric Buses, after approval by the Cabinet, will start arriving in October 2021 and the entire induction will be completed by February 2022.

Ex-Miss India Delhi Mansi joins AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Miss India Delhi Mansi Sehgal joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the presence of party leader Raghav Chadha.

Chadha said, "I am delighted that the AAP and Arvind Kejriwal instill confidence in young people to join politics and serve the people, and the AAP family is growing leaps and bounds with each passing day. I welcome Mansi into the AAP family."

Speaking on the occasion, Sehgal, Miss India Delhi 2019, said she was inspired by the honest governance of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and therefore chose to join the AAP. Sehgal is a trained engineer, TedX speaker and an entrepreneur, who has her own startup. In her introduction to the Miss India Delhi pageant, she had spoken about her keen interest in philanthropy and organ donation.

Man killed for objecting to rash riding, three arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old man was allegedly killed while his brother suffered injuries after they objected to a youth riding his motorcycle rashly in the Bindapur area in Delhi's Dwarka area. Police said they have arrested three men in connection with the incident and the weapon used in commission of the crime has also been recovered.

The deceased has been identified as Suraj Prakash Singh while his brother Chander (28) is still undergoing treatment at the local hospital.

According to a senior police official, the incident took place on Sunday night when Suraj along with his brother Chander were on the way to buy fish from a nearby market. "They objected to a man riding his bike rashly. The two sides got into a heated argument and the motorcyclist called his associates and

attacked the brothers with a knife," said the senior police official.

"Suraj died during the course of treatment at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) hospital and his brother Chander is stated to be out of danger. Chander, in his complaint told police that one Kaku was riding his bike rashly. When he objected, they both had a heated argument following which Kaku called his associates. He then attacked Chander and his brother with a knife," he said.

"Police has registered a case under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Bindapur police station and three accused have been arrested in connection with the incident," said Santosh Kumar Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district. The arrested accused have been identified as Piyush Sharma (19) alias Kaku and his associates Sandeep Sharma (31) and Shiv Narayan (32), police said.

Man, juvenile held for firing at constable

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man has been apprehended while a juvenile was apprehended after brief exchange of fire in Delhi's Rohini area. Police said that the accused were involved in firing at Delhi Police constables in Bhalswa Dairy area on February 25.

The accused has been identified as Yogesh Verma, a resident of Bakhtawarpur in the city. Police said that the accused is involved eight cases of auto theft while juvenile was wanted in two attempt to murder case registered at NIA and Bhalswa Dairy police stations.

According to Rajiv Ranjan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outnorth district, on the evening of February 25 at around 06.15 PM,

Constables Sandeep and Bhupender of Bhalswa Dairy police station were on checking duty when three young boys came on a motorcycle having a defective number plate.

"Being suspicious, the police personnel signaled to stop the bikers. They stopped the bike and the pillion rider tried to escape. When the police tried to catch him, he fell and fired on Constable Sandeep while another accused also opened fire. Constable Bhupender, which luckily did not hurt them," said the DCP.

"On the intervening night of Sunday-Monday, specific inputs were received that the person involved in Bhalswa Dairy firing would be coming to Rohini area following which a trap was laid," said the DCP.

80% staffers vaccinated: Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday said that more than 80 per cent of its personnel have received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Earlier, Delhi Police Commissioner, S N Shrivastava had asked the personnel of the force to get COVID-19 vaccine jabs at the earliest, saying there has been no instance of any side effects so far.

In a circular, he had noted that Covid-19 vaccination is essential for everyone's health and priority is being given to personnel till March 1.

According to a senior police official, a total of 66,246 police personnel have got the first dose vaccine till 7 PM on Friday.

13 spa centres sealed for operating without trade licence in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Thirteen spa centres at zone-4 of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) jurisdiction were sealed by a team led by zonal taxation officer of the MCG on Monday after they were found to be operating without valid trade licence, the MCG official said.

The centres were located at Omaze City Centre Mall on the Sohna Road.

Earlier on February 26, the MCG Commissioner had ordered the concerned officials to take action against the establishments who are operating without trade licences.

As per the instructions Joint Commissioner-4 of the MCG, Pradeep Ahlawat had formed a team under the super-

vision of Zonal Taxation Officer Devender Kumar to take action against these establishments.

"13 spa centres were sealed on Monday by the MCG team. These centres were being run without obtaining a valid trade license from the MCG. It is mandatory for all commercial outlets to obtain a necessary business licence under section 331, 335 and 336 of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994," Pradeep Ahlawat, Joint Commissioner zone-4 of the MCG said.

"We had received a complaint that these establishments are being operated illegally in the Omaze City Centre Mall. Based on the complaint received, sealing action was taken on Monday," the officer said.

Stalker who attacked cop held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 40-year-old man who had allegedly attacked a Delhi Police constable when he went to apprehend him for harassing a woman.

The accused has been identified as Shivram, a resident of Sangam Vihar in South Delhi.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, a woman had filed a complaint against the man at KM Pur police station on Saturday.

"She had alleged that he abused, molested and misbehaved with her, police said. The accused also threatened her of dire consequences and forced her to meet him. After receiving the complaint, Sub Inspectors Komal and Sandeep Yadav and Constable Nehru

rushed to the spot near INA circle where the accused had called the woman to meet him," said the DCP.

"When Shivram spotted the presence of a police team, he ran away and jumped into a drain. Constable Nehru chased him and Shivram hit him with a brick on his forehead. The accused was overpowered and both he and Nehru were taken to AIIMS for treatment," said the DCP.

"A case under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered against Shivram and he was subsequently arrested. During investigation, it was revealed that the accused Shivram used to work in Civil Defence and he was harassing the woman by stalking her with an intent to outrage her modesty," said the DCP.

Trader robbed of ₹10L in posh area of GZB

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD

A trader was robbed of ₹10 lakh by two unidentified scooter-borne armed robbers in Ghaziabad. Police said that the incident occurred on Monday at about 11:00 am in posh commercial hub of Raj Nagar District Centre (RDC) in the city.

According to a senior police official, the cashier Nitin Sharma of KR Foods Private Limited, dealing in cow butter (Ghee) product came to deposit the cash of rupees ten lakh in the RDC branch of HDFC bank.

"As he stepped out of his car, two robbers intercepted him and on the gun point, they took the bag containing cash," said the senior police official.

NDMC opens pension help desk for employees retiring in 1 year

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To facilitate and assist employees who are retiring within a year, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has introduced a Pension Help Desk on every first Monday of the month.

The Financial Advisor, Pushkal Upadhyay inaugurated the first Pension Help Desk at NDMC Convention Centre. Inaugurating the Desk, Upadhyay said that NDMC is not only careful for its employees but continues to take care of them as pensioners as well. To alleviate their problems, the civic body will operate the desk on the first Monday of each month to facilitate pensioners retiring within a year to assist them in filling up all the forms.

Rlys surpasses last year's cumulative freight loading

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways has surpassed last year's cumulative freight loading on 28th February in spite of Covid-19 challenges.

The Ministry said that freight figures continue to maintain the high momentum in terms of loading, earning and speed in the month of February 2021 as well for Indian Railways. Yesterday's loading crossed five million tonnes.

"As on 28 February, Indian Railways cumulative freight loading was 1102.17 million tonnes for this year which is higher compared to last year for the same period (1102.1 million tonnes). On a month to month basis up to February 28, the Indian Railways loading was 112.25 million tonnes, which is almost 10 per cent higher compared to loading up to



February 28 of last year. (102.21 million tonnes)," it said.

On a day to day basis, the freight loading of Indian Railways was 5.23 million tonnes, which is 36 per cent higher compared to last year's loading for the same date (3.83 million tonnes).

The average speed of freight trains in the month of February 2021 was 46.09 kmph which is more than double as

for the same period (Rs 10305.02 crores). On 28th February 2021 Indian Railways earned Rs 509.44 crores from freight loading which is 34 per cent higher compared to last year's earnings for the same day (Rs 378.56 crores).

It is worth mentioning that a number of concessions/discounts are also being given in Indian Railways to make Railways Freight movement very attractive. Strong emergence of business development units in zones and divisions, constant dialogue with the industry and logistics service providers, faster speed etc are adding to the robust growth of freight business for the Railways.

It may be noted that COVID 19 has been used by Indian Railways as an opportunity to improve all-round efficiencies and performances.

IGIA bags award for 'Best airport by size and Region' for 2020

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has emerged as the 'Best Airport by Size and Region' in Asia-Pacific for 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic had a dramatic impact on global passenger traffic in 2020 as well as changing customer perceptions and expectations of the airport experience. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, DIAL showed its efforts in providing a superior customer experience under trying circumstances.

The Airport Service Quality programme is the world's leading airport customer experience measurement and benchmarking programme. The ASQ Departures



programme measures passenger's satisfaction across 34 key performance indicators. More than half of the world's traveller pass through an ASQ airport.

ACI adopted the rigorous quality control process for the ASQ awards programme to ensure the benchmarking and findings from the ASQ survey remained of the highest quality during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the achievement, Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO-DIAL men-

tioned, "We are proud to see the continued recognition received by Delhi Airport in Airport Service Quality over the past several years. Delhi Airport has consistently raised the bar in terms of service and operational excellence. DIAL has once again consolidated its position on the world aviation map. I commend the efforts made by the employees of DIAL and that of all stakeholders in the IGIA community. This award is a testimony of continued improvements in passenger-service that Delhi Airport has witnessed since DIAL took over its operations in 2006. The award demonstrates DIAL's strong focus on operational efficiencies and resilient approach towards service delivery."

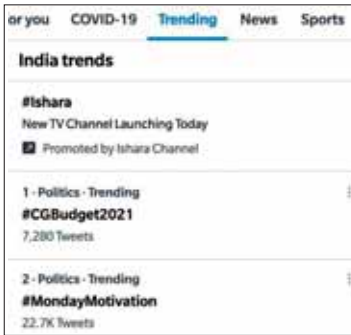
C'garh budget trends on Twitter

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh annual budget presented by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday was well received on the Twitter.

After Baghel tabled the budget in the Assembly, #CGBudget2021 began to tweet and soon the hashtag was on top in Twitter's India trends for about three hours, a press release said.

A total of 28,314 tweets were seen on the micro blogging website and it



reached around 88 lakh people. Ministers, MLAs and public representatives across the country tweeted about the budget.

People appreciated the provisions for three new medical colleges and provisions for employment opportunities in rural areas. Also welcomed were announcements related to infrastructure development, roads and bridges in Naxalite areas, opening of 119 English medium schools and 10 new colleges.

Budget Highlights 2021-22



1. Formation of a special police force, Bastar Tigers, in all districts of Bastar division
2. Establishment of "C-Mart" store to make Chhattisgarhi arts, crafts, forest produce, agriculture and all other types of products and cuisines available under one roof
3. Setting up rural industrial park similar to Pauni Pasari scheme in cities
4. Fisheries to get same status as agriculture
5. Four new development boards constituted to revive traditional rural business skills - Telghani, leather craftsman, iron craftsman and Razakar Development Board
6. New justice scheme will be launched for rural agricultural landless labourers
7. "Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendu Patta Collector Social Security Scheme" for Tendu Patta collector families
8. Assistance of ₹5 lakh to journalists on accidental death
9. Lump sum assistance of ₹5,000 to women under Kaushalya Maternity Scheme on birth of second girl child
10. Mukhyamantri Darsa Development Scheme to facilitate farmers to reach the fields
11. Establishment of Chhattisgarh Cultural Zone on the lines of Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal, in Nava Raipur
12. Provision of ₹30 crores for Shri Ram Vangaman tourism complex
13. 119 new English schools under Swami Atmanand English Medium School Scheme
14. Establishment of National Level Boarding School at Nava Raipur
15. Provision of ₹5.85 crores for Padma Likhna Abhiyan Yojana
16. Establishment of 7 new colleges
17. Graduation courses started in 14 colleges and PG courses in 15 colleges
18. Establishment of 9 boys and 9 new girls hostels
19. Building 6 new colleges
20. Establishment of 2 new ITIs
21. Provision of new items totalling ₹504 crores for construction of 12 railway overbridges, 151 new bridges, 585 roads
22. Provision of ₹12 crore for construction of 104 roads and 116 bridges in Naxalite affected rural areas.
23. Provision of ₹300 crore for new irrigation schemes
24. Provision of 45 crores for new water supply schemes in urban areas
25. Establishment of Gems and Jewellery Park at Pandri Raipur
26. Provision for extension of electric line to facilitate irrigation of fields along rivers
27. Establishment of Bio Ethanol Exhibition Site Plant in Village Godhi, Bemetara
28. Establishment of 11 new tehsils and 5 new subdivisions
29. Creation of 2,200 new posts of women home guards in girls hostels, ashrams
30. Government takes over Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College Durg
31. Provision of ₹5,703 crore for Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana
32. Provision of 2,500 crore under Krishak Jeevan Jyoti Yojana
33. ₹150 crores for energization of agricultural pumps, provision of 530 crores under Saur Sujala.
34. Target set for disbursement of Short-term agricultural loan worth ₹5,900 crore without interest to farmers
35. Provision of ₹175 crores for Godhan Nyaya Yojana
36. Establishment of state level helpdesk centre for unorganized workers
37. Provision of ₹150 crores for Chhattisgarh Roads and Infrastructure Development Corporation for construction of 3,900 km long roads and bridges costing 5,225 crore
38. Provision of ₹100 crores for Mukhyamantri Sugam Sadak Yojana
39. Provision of ₹940 crores for 24 roads of length of 825 km in the ADB Phase-3 project.
40. Provision of ₹152 crores for 4 major irrigation projects Arpa Bhaishajhar, Kelo, Rajiv Samoda Diversion and Sandhur
41. Monthly Stationary Allowance of Patwaris increased by ₹250
42. Honorarium of Swachhta Didis to be increased from ₹5,000 to ₹6,000
43. A provision of ₹300 crores for the construction of new medical colleges Kanker, Korba and Mahasamund
44. Establishment of Community Health Centre at Sanna, Jashpur, Shivrinarayan-Janjgir and 30 bed hospital at Risali-Bhilai
45. Provision of 13 crores for the Chief Minister Haat Bazar Clinic Scheme

Covid vaccination for elderly begins in C'garh



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The coronavirus vaccination for the elderly began in Chhattisgarh on Monday, the Health Department said. "The vaccine was received by elderly people. By Monday evening, 3,259 persons had received vaccine shots," said Dr Amar Singh, the Immunization Officer.

No case of side effects was reported, Dr Amar said, adding health and frontline workers who were left out also received the vaccine shot.

Vaccination of people between 45 and 59 years also started. These people have to present a certificate of co-morbidity signed by a registered medical practitioner. In all, 509 people between

45 to 59 years received the first dose of vaccine, Dr Thakur said.

Chhattisgarh has set a target of vaccinating 30 lakh elderly people.

Health officials said that for vaccination Aadhar card is the most preferred identity proof document. Apart from Aadhar voter id, passport, PAN card, pension documents or any other photo id card issued by the competent authority is acceptable.

Covid vaccine is free of cost in government hospitals while private hospitals will charge ₹250.

The Health Department has appealed to people who have received the first dose of Covid vaccine to strictly follow Covid appropriate behaviour. It is fully effective only after the second dose of vaccine is taken.

Opposition backs Cong MLA over corruption

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Commotion enveloped the Chhattisgarh Assembly on Monday after opposition members strongly backed Congress MLA Santram Netam when he alleged corruption in the procurement of computers and accessories in the Tribal Welfare Department.

The opposition demanded a probe by a Joint Parliamentary Committee or an investigation to be led by a Minister or a senior officer. Tribal Welfare minister Dr Premei Singh Tekam promised to look into the matter.

It was during Question Hour that MLA Netam raised the issue of procurement of computers, printers, photocopy machines and projectors and sought to know the details of payment made to various agencies.

Minister Tekam replied that no payment was made to five agencies when their

equipment did not pass the specifications test. The orders were cancelled. A process is on to blacklist them.

One agency cleared the quality check but the payment was pending, Tekam said.

The Tribal Commissioner had written on September 2, 2020 that irregularities are involved but after three months denied this was so, said Netam.

Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik said since a ruling party member is raising corruption charges, a thorough probe should be held. Dharamjeet Singh (JCC-J) also sought a probe.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ravindra Choubey intervened saying members should not paint all executives in bad colour. But as the Congress MLA and opposition members stood up seeking a probe, Minister Tekam pledged to look into the matter.

Vishwanath invites CM to mega cricket event



RAIPUR: Renowned Indian cricketer Gundappa Vishwanath on Monday paid a courtesy call on Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and invited him to the opening ceremony of the Road Safety World Series Cricket League on March 5.

The tournament will be held from March 5 to 21 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Nava Raipur. A total of 15 matches will be organized, with leading players from various countries taking part.

Vishwanath invited the Chief Minister for the opening ceremony and presented him the first ticket of the match. He also gifted a bat as a memento.

CM launches first flight service from Bilaspur

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh's second largest city, joined India's air map on Monday as Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel virtually launched the first flight connecting New Delhi.

"Today is a very important day for Chhattisgarh," Baghel said on the occasion at the Bilasa Devi Kewat Airport (Chakarbhatha). "The old dream of connecting Bilaspur by air has come true."

Baghel joined the inauguration from his office in the Assembly premises. The ceremony was presided over by Union Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

Assembly Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant, Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Ravindra Chaubey, other cabinet ministers and MLAs were present. The Chief Minister said



various organizations, civil society and the state government have been making consistent efforts to get Bilaspur on the air map.

He praised Puri for acting promptly so that the flight could start within a month.

Baghel said the people of the region will be able to travel to New Delhi, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

He urged Puri to start an international air service from Raipur, saying the Raipur Airport has been developed for international flights. He also sought flights

to Dehradun and Ranchi.

He also said that if the airline starts a morning flight after night stay, the government will reduce the rate of VAT on ATF in Chhattisgarh. Currently, 4 percent VAT is applicable on ATF.

Puri said that with the introduction of this air service, business and tourism will flourish in this region.

He said ₹130 crores have been spent on the development of the Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur. Construction of a new terminal building in Raipur is under consideration.

The Chief Minister interacted with the passengers of Bilaspur traveling on the first flight.

Two flights of aircraft (72 seating) will operate from Bilaspur to Delhi on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The first flight will leave Delhi and reach Bilaspur at 3.20 am via Jabalpur and return to Delhi from Bilaspur at 3.45 pm via Prayagraj. The second flight will reach Bilaspur from Delhi at 4 pm via Prayagraj and will go from Bilaspur to New Delhi via Jabalpur at 4.30 pm.

Transgenders to don 'khaki' in C'garh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Thirteen transgenders have been recruited as constables in the Chhattisgarh Police.

They include Deepika Yadav, Shree Sahu, Nishu Kshatriya, Shivanya Patel, Naina Sori, Sonia Janghel, Krishi Tandi and Saburi Yadav from Raipur district.

The others are, Sunil Yadav from Bilaspur, Komal Sahu from Dhamtari, Akshara from Ambikapur and Kamta and Neha from Rajnandgaon districts.

Their selection followed the recruitment of 2,259 police constables in the exam held in 2017-18. While, Dolly from Rajnandgaon and Ruchi Yadav from Bilaspur district



are on the waiting list.

Vidya Rajput, a Member of Third Gender Welfare Board in the government, told The Pioneer that due to stigma, people

transgenders from family and society.

Now a message has gone that the transgender community too can perform like anyone else and that they too are

entitled to a respectable life.

She expressed her gratitude to the Chhattisgarh government and police.

One of the constables, Krishi Tandi, said: "I am very happy today. I have no words to express my happiness. All 13 of us worked very hard for this exam."

"This was an opportunity that can change our lives. So everyone worked hard day and night," Tandi said.

Komal Sahu added: "This news is still unbelievable to me because I never thought I will ever get a reputed job and respect in society."

Of total, 2259 post, 2038 including 1736 men, 289 women and 13 transgenders have been selected and two transgenders are in waiting whereas 221 posts are vacant.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

Tender Notice
(1st Call)

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

| NIT No./ System Tender No. | Name of Work | Probable amount of contract |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 169/71036 | WHITE WASHING, COLOUR WASHING, PUTTY, DISTEMPERING & PAINTING WORK IN, MEKAHARA HOSPITAL SECTION RAIPUR (C.G.) | Rs. 30.00 Lakh |
| 170/71037 | WHITE WASHING/COLOUR WASHING, IN R.B. & N.R.B. UNDER CONST. SUB-DN. NO-2 RAIPUR | Rs. 25.00 Lakh |

Last date of tender Download up to 18.03.2021 17:30 PM

● Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1 Raipur (C.G.)

G- 87442/4 Ryp/Dtd 1.3.21

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIV. SURAJPUR
DISTT. SURAJPUR (C.G.)

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (Eoi)
Eoi No.20/2021 System No-72003

Subject: Inviting Eoi for Rate Contract for Item of Survey and preparation of Details Project Report

On behalf of District Water and Sanitation Mission, District Surajpur The Executive Engineer, PHE District Surajpur invites Expression of Interest (Eoi) for the following item of Survey and preparation of Detailed Project Reports for Retrofitting/ Single Village Scheme from the registered firms having experience of similar nature of work. The firms may submit their offer for the Rate contract for item of survey and preparation of Detailed Project Reports works under PHE District Surajpur Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Chhattisgarh, subject to fulfillment of required eligibility criteria.

1. Name of the Work:-

| Sr. No. | Description of work |
|---------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1 | Carrying out topographical survey Total station survey and review of the data available for survey work and planning of the schemes for water supply schemes under and as per the guidelines of Jal Jeevan Mission and CG PHE. |
| 2 | Preparation of detailed designs of all the components of the SVS and preparation of cost estimates based on CG PHE USOR-2020 Calculation of annual maintenance cost and other standard features of the SVS and formulation of salient features and report for the complete water supply scheme. |
| 3 | Preparation of drawings such as Index plan, key plan, flow diagram, plotting and corrections to the L sections provided by PHED/service provider. Preparing the BOQ of all the components as per the instructions of Engineer in Charge. Submission of the scheme in soft copy & 5 hard copies |
| 4 | Preparation of power point presentation, compliance of the remarks till the final approval |

Quantity of works - 500

Remarks - The rates of all items (1 to 4) should be inclusive of, the cost of all equipment's, man power, transportation, data collection, drawings and cost of all software required for completing all the activities related to survey

The detailed Eoi document will be available in the e-procurement portal <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted online in the portal <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> on or before 17:30 hrs of 15.03.2021 In no case manual Eoi will be entertained.

Executive Engineer,
Public Health Engineering Division
Surajpur (C.G.)

G- 87463/4 Ryp/Dtd 1.3.21

Opp sees plot in PM taking Covid shot

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Politics erupted over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vaccination on Monday as the Opposition accused him of using the occasion for electoral gains while the BJP sought the nation to "speak in one voice" in the battle against coronavirus and sought the Opposition to not to come up with "wild theories" and politicise the vaccination drive.

Politicising Modi getting his first vaccine dose in the second-phase scheduled for senior citizens, Trinamool Congress MP Shantanu Sen claimed that the Prime Minister's jab was "publicity" adding, "Photograph is more important than protocol".

Commenting on Modi's "changed appearance", he claimed that the PM's "newly grown Rabinidrik beard" would have become invisible if he had worn a mask. Adding 'God save India', the Trinamool MP added that Mamata Banerjee was "saving Bengal".

Several other politicians like Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and SP's Akhilesh

Yadav have politicised vaccination as a BJP "stunt".

Chowdhury said, "In PM's inoculation visuals, there was gamcha of Assam, and nurses from Kerala and Puducherry".

Kicking off part-2 of India's Covid vaccination programme, Prime Minister Modi received his first jab of the vaccine on Monday at All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, sporting an Assamese Gamcha.

He got a jab by nurses-Sister Niveda & sister Rosamma hailing from Puducherry and Tamil Nadu respectively.

The event soon turned into political name calling in the backdrop of high pitch poll campaigns in five States, including Bengal, Assam and Tamil Nadu and Kerala, going for Assembly elections by the march-end and the next month.

BJP hits back with Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad stressing the need to speak in one voice to battle-out coronavirus pandemic as BJP president JP Nadda demand-

ed that the Opposition should stop resorting to "wild theories" to criticise Indian achievement.

Prasad said Modi had worn Assamese gamcha and Mundu last year when he had appealed to light a lamp to fight corona. "Then there were no elections", Prasad said and taking a swipe up suggested to Chowdhury to wear all Bengali symbols when he gets himself vaccinated.

BJP chief said that the Opposition party comes up with "wild theories" to ridicule India's achievements.

"Congress and the Opposition is not proud of anything Indian. They should introspect about how their lies on the COVID-19 vaccine will be used by vested interest groups for their own agendas. People of India have been rejecting such politics and will keep doing so in the future", Nadda tweeted.

Union aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri also took a swipe at the opposition leaders, saying they are on a quest for permanent political marginalisation.

Maha, Kerala, 3 others lead Covid surge in country



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five States—Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat —continue to cause serious concern for the Centre by showing a consistent surge in new Covid-19 cases. Put together, they contributed 84 per cent of the 15,510 fresh infections reported in a day on Monday.

The Union Health Ministry said on Monday, India's total number of active Covid-19 cases was recorded at 1,68,627, comprising 1.52 per cent of the total infections.

Maharashtra alone accounts for 46.39 per cent of India's total active cases, followed by Kerala with 29.49 per cent. "A total of 15 states and union territories have registered more than 1,000 active

cases. Kerala and Maharashtra are the two states with over 10,000 active cases, while the rest of the 13 States and UTs have between 1,000-10,000 active cases", the Ministry said.

The total number of cases with the UK, South Africa and Brazil variants of SARS-CoV-2 in the country as on date has reached 213, the Ministry said.

A total 15,510 new cases were registered in a span of 24 hours. Maharashtra continues to report the highest daily new cases at 8,293, followed by Kerala with 3,254 cases while Punjab has reported 579 new cases.

The Centre is continuously engaging with the states and union territories manifesting higher number of active cases and those reporting a rise in the daily new Covid-19 cases.



States and UTs have been advised to maintain a continuing rigorous vigil for containing the spread of COVID-19. Need for effective testing, comprehensive tracking, prompt isolation of positive cases and quick quarantine of close con-

tacts are strongly emphasised, the Ministry said.

"Eight states are displaying an upward trajectory in the daily new cases," it underlined.

So far, a total of 1,43,01,266 vaccine doses have been administered to beneficiaries

The total number of cases with the UK, South Africa and Brazil variants of SARS-CoV-2 in the country as on date has reached 213

through 2,92,312 sessions. These include the first dose to 66,69,985 healthcare workers, second dose to 24,56,191 healthcare workers and 51,75,090 frontline workers who have taken the first dose.

"The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination has commenced from today for those who are over 60 years of age and for people aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions.

"A simplified process of registration has been set up, whereby potential beneficiaries can have the option of advance self-registration, on-site registration or facilitated cohort registration," the ministry said.

Five States account for 86.79 per cent of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties of 62 deaths. Kerala followed with 15 daily deaths and Punjab has reported seven fatalities in a span of 24 hours.

A total of 20 States and UTs have not reported any Covid-19 deaths in the last 24 hours.

FPOs will prevent rural migration to cities: Tomar



Union Ministers of State for Agriculture & Farmer Welfare Parshottam Rupala and Kailash Choudhary giving the FPO Registration Certificate to a women FPO on the occasion of anniversary of the Central Government Scheme FPO of the Union Ministry of Agriculture. Union Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal and Additional Secretary Agriculture Dr Abhilash Likhri were also present on the occasion on Monday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Farmer Processing Organisation (FPO) 'Krishak Utpadak Sangathan Evam Audyanik Viparan Sahkari Samiti' from Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi, Prime Minister's Parliamentary Constituency has become the country's first agricultural entity to be registered under the ambit of the Cooperative Societies Act.

Generally, the FPOs are registered under the Companies Act. But, this is the first time that such an entity has been established under the Cooperative Societies Act as the part of the Government's Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)" to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs. More FPOs are on the way under the scheme.

One of the implementing agencies of the scheme, the National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC), an apex finance entity under the Union Agriculture Ministry, will handhold the Varanasi-based FPO for next five years in helping it setting up the multi-service center

facilities for mushroom production and cultivation while the green chilli drying system will be equipped with dryers with vacuum nitrogen drying capacities. It was registered on February 26, 2021, as part of the "Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)" scheme which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 29, last year.

It aims at bringing small and marginal farmers on a bigger platform as a joint entity to help them become 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in the long run.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the scheme on Monday, Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar tweeted that FPOs will help to improve the rural economy and create employment opportunities for rural sector in the villages itself and this will prevent migration to cities. Later at an event online, Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare termed the FPOs' scheme as a game changer in the country's agriculture ecosystem and said that "FPOs will make farming more viable

by aggregating land."

"Formation of FPOs is not just a scheme but it is a plan to give a new dimension to Indian Agriculture in a new India. We will ensure that each FPO is a role model in itself," he said at the event which was also attended by Kailash Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare besides senior officials from the concerned departments from the Ministry and implementing agencies like NABARD.

Sanjay Agrawal, Union Agriculture Secretary said that in each block there should be an FPO which acts as catalyst for institutional infrastructure while Sundeep Nayak, Managing Director of the NCDC, said that the farmers in the country are keen to set up FPOs as it will help them boost their income and make them self-sustaining.

"This is just the beginning", he said adding that more than 2200 FPOs produce clusters have been allocated for the formation of FPOs in the current year. "The Government aims at transforming agriculture into a sustainable enterprise through FPOs," Nayak said.

6th Swachchh Survekshan launched to foster healthy contest among cities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With 2,000 assessors who will go on the field to assess the performance of cities this time, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) on Monday launched the field assessment of Swachchh Survekshan (SS) 2021, which is dubbed as the world largest cleanliness drive.

Launching the sixth edition of the SS 2021, Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of HUA said that this year Swachh Survekshan will get over 3 crore citizen feedback through various platforms and focus would be on parameters pertaining to wastewater treatment and reuse along with faecal sludge. Similarly, the crucial issues of legacy waste management and remediation of landfills have also been brought to the fore in this edition of Survekshan.

Every year, the on-field assessments for SS takes place between January 4-31. However, the same had been delayed by two months due to the COVID pandemic and will now be conducted between 1-28 March 2021. The second phase of SBM-U for a period of 5 years (2021-26) has recently been announced in the Union Budget of 2021.

Speaking at the webinar, Mishra said, "SS has led to a spirit of healthy competition among cities and towns of India. The journey that started in 2016 with only 73 cities with million plus population has grown manifold, with 434 cities in 2017, 4,203 cities in 2018, 4,237 cities in 2019 and 4,242 cities in SS 2020, including 62 Cantonment Boards. Cities have been regularly filling in their data, updating their progress in the MIS along with running several citizen centric campaigns in preparation of SS 2021. Today, we are happy to formally kick off the survey as more than 2,000 assessors get ready to go on the field to assess the performance of cities".

The Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large scale citizen participation.



THE SWACHCHH SURVEKSHAN WAS INTRODUCED BY MOHUA IN 2016 AS A COMPETITIVE FRAMEWORK TO ENCOURAGE CITIES TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF URBAN SANITATION

encouraging large scale citizen participation.

Since its launch in 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) has made significant progress in the area of both sanitation and solid waste management. 4,360 Urban ULBs have been declared ODF, 2158 cities certified ODF+ and 551 cities certified ODF++. Moreover, 66 lakhs individual household toilets and over 6 lakhs community/public toilets have been constructed/ or are under construction. Additionally, nearly 60,000 toilets across 2,900+ cities have been made live on Google Maps. In the area of solid waste management, 97% of wards have 100% door-to-door collection while 68% of the total waste generated is being processed. A total of six cities have been certified as 5 Star, 86 as 3 star and 65 as 1 star under the Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities.

The next phase of the Mission will focus extensively on aspects of sustainable sanitation including faecal sludge and wastewater management, along with holistic solid waste management with a focus on curbing and ultimately eliminating the use of single-use plastic (SUP), reducing air pollution through effective management of construction & demolition waste, and reducing soil pollution through remediation of legacy dumpsites.

SC denies relief to married Govt servant accused of rape

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"Are you willing to marry her," was the question posed to a public servant, who is accused of repeatedly raping a minor girl but when the Supreme Court on Monday was told that he is already married he was asked to seek regular bail from the court concerned.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde was hearing a plea filed by the accused who is serving as a technician in Maharashtra State Electricity Production Company Ltd and has moved the apex court against the Bombay High Court February 5 order which had cancelled the anticipatory bail granted to him in the case.

When the hearing commenced, the bench also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, asked the accused "Are you willing to marry her?"

"If you are willing to marry her then we can consider it, otherwise you will go to jail," observed the bench adding "We are not forcing



you to marry."

After taking instructions on the query posed by the bench, the counsel appearing for the petitioner, said the accused was initially willing to marry the girl but she had refused and now he was married to someone else.

As the counsel said that the accused is a public servant, the bench said, "You should have thought this before seducing and raping the girl. You knew that you are a government servant".

The counsel said that charges in the case are yet to be framed.

"You apply for regular bail. We will stay arrest," the bench said.

The apex court granted the accused protection from arrest for four weeks.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by the accused against the Bombay High Court's February 5 order cancelling the anticipatory bail granted to him by the trial court in January last year.

He has also been accused of offences punishable under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Plea in SC against EC call to hold poll in Bengal in 8 phases



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea challenging the Election Commission's decision to conduct Assembly elections over eight phases in West Bengal was filed in the Supreme Court on Monday.

The plea, filed by lawyer M L Sharma, seeks the apex court's direction to the poll panel to stop it from conducting eight-phase elections in the State as it violates Article 14 (right to life) and Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

On February 26, the Election Commission announced the schedule for assembly elections to be held in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and in Puducherry. While the Trinamool Congress Party-led West Bengal will have elections over eight rounds from March 27-April 29, polling in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry will be held in one phase on April 6 and in Assam over three phases.

The plea, which may come up for hearing in few days, also seeks a direction to the CBI to register an FIR into the alleged chanting of religious slogans during electioneering in West Bengal.

Coal mining: SC to deal with legal issue if intra-court appeal can be filed in HC in criminal cases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, hearing an appeal against a Calcutta High Court order allowing CBI probe into an alleged coal mining and transportation case, Monday said it would first examine a legal issue whether an intra-court appeal can be entertained by the high court in a criminal matter against an order of a single judge bench.

A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud, meanwhile, granted time to CBI to file its response to the appeal of Anup Majee, the director of a company engaged in purchase and sale of the dry fuel, which is an accused in a case of alleged illegal coal trading in the Asansol-Raniganj belt of West Bengal.

Majee, in his plea, has challenged the Calcutta High Court order which allowed the CBI to investigate a case of alleged illegal mining and transportation of coal in West Bengal without the State's consent.

In the proceedings conducted through video conferencing, the bench, also comprising Justice M R Shah, referred to an earlier judgement in which it was held that a letter patent appeal (LPA), also known as intra-court appeal, would lie in the high court against the order of a single judge bench in a criminal case.

"We are concerned with the issue of maintainability of LPA before the division bench. We are not concerned with subsequent development," the bench

said.

It adjourned the hearing on Majee's plea to March 10 after accepting the request of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who was representing the CBI.

Earlier, the bench had issued notices to Centre and CBI and had sought their response by March 1 on the plea which claimed that the central probe agency lacked jurisdiction to lodge an FIR in the case after the withdrawal of general consent by the West Bengal Government in 2018.

It, however, had refused to grant protection to Majee.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for West Bengal government, had said that he supported the contention of Majee on the question of law as there was no consent given to the CBI to investigate the case after West Bengal withdrew its general consent.

On February 12, a division bench of the Calcutta High Court had stayed a single bench order that had restricted a CBI investigation into alleged illegal mining and transportation of coal to just "railway areas" of the state and rejected the plea of Majee for grant of protection from any coercive action against him.

It has been observed that if the process of investigation is stalled at this stage, material evidence which may have to be collected can get lost and the accused may be able to achieve the objective for which "frivolous litigation" has been filed.

NIA arrests four drug traffickers from Srinagar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Monday arrested four alleged drug traffickers from Srinagar in connection with the Handwara Narco-Terrorism Case.

The arrested accused are Altaf Ahmed Shah (Dangherpora), Kheer Bhawani, Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir) Showkat Ahmad Parray (Paray Mohalla, Wangipora Sumbal, Bandipora, J&K), Mudasar Ahmad Dar (Wanduna, Shopian, J & K) and Amin

Allaie alias Hilal Mir (Near Petrol Pump, Shan-e-Kashmir National Highway Sangam, Bijbehara, Anantnag, J&K).

The case relates to seizure of 21 kg of heroin and cash amount of Rs 1,35,89,850 from the members of a drugs syndicate operating in the Valley.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 183/2020 dated June 11, 2020 at Handwara in Kupwara district wherein during checking of vehicles at Kairo Bridge, Handwara, accused Abdul



Momin Peer's Hyundai Creta vehicle was intercepted by police at a naka and during search Rs 20 Lakhs along with two kg heroin was recovered and seized.

search Rs 20 Lakhs along with two kg heroin was recovered and seized.

Yogi: Jewar airport Govt's top priority

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday that his Government has accorded top priority to the development of the Jewar International Airport in Noida.

He said that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the speed, transparency and execution as per the schedule of this project has demonstrated the new work culture of the state. It has been decided to increase the number of airstrips from two to six at this airport, he informed.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the work of the Zurich Airport International AG, a developer selected for Jewar airport, and assured their representatives of all possible help to be provided by the government.

Adityanath was reviewing the progress of the project on Monday on the occasion of the signing of the 'state support agreement' between Yamuna

International Airport Private Limited and Noida International Airport Limited, constituted by Zurich Airport International AG, the chosen developer for Jewar airport.

The Chief Minister recalled that the Jewar airport project was lying pending with the previous governments for almost 30 years.

"We decided in March 2017 itself that this project would be completed on priority in the interest of the country and the state," he said.

In 2017, Lucknow and Varanasi had the only operational airports in the state. In just three years, five more airports, including in Gorakhpur, Hindon, Agra, Prayagraj and now Bareilly, have become operational.

There were only two international airports in the country's largest state (Lucknow and Varanasi), but now there will be five international air-

ports with the addition of Jewar, Kushinagar and Ayodhya to the list.

The Chief Minister said that he was of the view that good connectivity expedites the development process. "The process of operationalisation of 21 airports and seven runways is underway. The effort is to make Uttar Pradesh soar in the field of civil aviation," he stated.

Reviewing the displacement and subsequent rehabilitation of the families affected by the construction of Jewar airport, the Chief Minister said that dialogue should be established with these families and they should have a better displacement mechanism.

He directed the concerned officials to address this issue within one week, saying that the process of allotment of plots to the displaced population should be conducted with complete transparency. **IANS**

Around 64% voting in local body polls in Gujarat; counting today

Gandhinagar: There was an average of around 64% polling in the local body elections for municipalities, district and tehsil panchayats in Gujarat on Sunday. Voting for 8,473 seats in municipalities, 980 in district panchayats and 4,773 in taluka panchayats took place across 36,008 booths. The counting of votes will take place on March 2.

According to the State Election Commission (SEC), around 64 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the elections to Gujarat's 81 municipalities, 31 district panchayats and 231 taluka panchayats which were held in a largely peaceful manner.

As per the figures provided by the State Election Commission (SEC), there was 58.82 per cent voter turnout across 81 municipalities, 65.80 per cent in 31 district panchayats, and 66.60 per cent in 231 taluka panchayats.

The average voting percentage across all these local bodies together was around 63.74 per cent.

The SEC officials said voting for 8,473 seats, comprising 2,720 in 680 wards in 81 municipalities, 980 in 31 district panchayats and 4,773 in 231 taluka panchayats took place across 36,008 booths.

Out of them, 237 seats remained unopposed,

and no forms were filled for two seats in taluka panchayat.

The elections were held on a total 8,235 seats for which the BJP had fielded 8,161 candidates, Congress 7,778, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) 2,090, among others, said the SEC.

Besides these, by-elections for two seats in taluka panchayats and 24 seats in municipalities, was also held on Sunday, where there was 47.63 per cent voter turnout in municipality by-elections and 68.65 per cent in taluka panchayats by-elections.

Gujarat BJP president CR Paatil led a road show in Navsari, while Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Paresh Dhanani, took part in a motorcycle rally in Amreli. Aam Aadmi Party head and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal sought votes during a road show in Surat on the last day of campaigning on Friday.

For the first time, the All India Majlis-e-Itehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) has fielded candidates in minority-dominated seats in Godhra, Modasa and Bharuch municipalities.

According to the Director General of Police Ashish Bhatia, over 44,000 policemen along with 54,000 Home Guards were deployed to ensure incident-free voting on Sunday. **IANS**

Interfaith couple's 'marriage' put on hold endlessly

FIANS ■ BAREILLY

Four months ago, a 27-year-old Muslim man had allegedly 'eloped' with a girl from another faith to get married, which had created a lot of sensation. The man was later caught and jailed for over a month.

The couple has since been waiting for permission from the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) to get 'legally' married but has been asked to wait for another month.

The couple has an Allahabad high court order, giving them freedom to get married and an exemption from notice period under special circumstances by the marriage officer.

SDM Sadar area, Vishu Raja, said, "The law favours the couple, but they would have to wait for a police report to ensure there is no law-and-order issue. The couple had

come with their friends who agreed to sign as witnesses on Saturday but the girl's family is still against the marriage."

The SDM said that the couple represented themselves personally, as well as through their legal counsels, for the application of marriage under the special act. They produced an Allahabad high court order which stated that days of notice period can be exempted under special circumstances by the marriage officer.

"The judgement favours them. However, we are seeking a verification report on 12 points to ensure that neither of the persons is already married, their actual place of residence, possibility of law-and-order issue, etc. Police report is crucial here as well. This proceeding may take less than 30 days to complete and the permission would be granted to the couple for marriage after that," said the SDM.

Youth held for raping 3-yr-old girl in Bihar

Patna: A 20-year-old youth has been arrested by the Bihar police for allegedly raping a three-year-old girl in the state's Jamui district on Monday.

The accused has been identified as Hareram Manjhi, who is a native of Dhamana village near the Aliganj police station in Jamui district.

He had come to Khutauna village to attend the marriage of his cousin brother. Manjhi spotted the victim who was playing outside her house at nearly 9 a.m. He lifted her and took her to a nearby deserted house and raped her. The victim's screams were not heard by anybody due to the loud music being played at the marriage venue nearby.

After committing the crime, Manjhi tried to flee from the village but the vil-

SP of Jamui district said, "We have registered an FIR under the POCSO Act and arrested the accused. He has been sent to judicial custody"

lagers became suspicious and caught him.

They found the girl lying in the deserted house, bleeding profusely. Following this, the villagers handed Manjhi over to the police. Pramod Kumar Mandal, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Jamui district said, "We have registered an FIR under the POCSO Act and arrested the accused. He has been sent to judicial custody."

"We will soon file a chargesheet in the matter and are committed to bring up the matter in a fast track court for speedy justice," Mandal said. **IANS**

Kumbh Sandesh Yatra from Kanyakumari to Haridwar starts

Kanyakumari: Kumbh Sandesh Yatra, aimed at spreading the message on the significance of Kumbh Mela, started from Vivekananda Centre in Kanyakumari on Saturday. The yatra was flagged off by Swami Chaityananand Maharaj, Vivekananda Ashramam, Kanyakumari and Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, BJP national co-in-charge, Tamil Nadu.

The 25 days yatra being organised by the Gramodaya Chamber of Commerce and Technology will cover 5000 km before concluding in Haridwar. "Started from Kanyakumari, the Rath Yatra will travel via all four places where the Kumbh Mela is held, including Nasik, Ujjain, and Prayagraj and reach Delhi and later to Haridwar," said Haridwar-based Divya Prema Service Mission president Ashish Gautham. **PNS**

UP girls to train in self-defence

Lucknow: Under the ongoing Mission Shakti programme, girl students in more than 40,000 upper primary schools will learn self-defence techniques between March 1 and 31.

According to Vijay Kiran Anand, Director-General of School Education, "These classes will help rural students boost their self-confidence and self-esteem. It is time for the girls of class 6 to 8 to learn self-defence techniques. Participants will also be given certificates."

He further said that the education department has 10,748 physical education instructors who have been given the responsibility to train girl students.

The department has made a provision of Rs 3,000 per school for the purpose.

The trainers will train girls in their own school and a nearby schools as well, said the official. He said that the main purpose of self-defence training is to make the girls physically and mentally self-dependent so that they can face any situation. **IANS**

J&K Police arrest JeM terror associate

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested a person, who was helping the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists, at Awantipora in South Kashmir's Pulwama district and recovered incriminating material from his possession, police said on Monday.

Police said following specific information about presence of terrorists in Larow Jagir Tral, police along with army's 42RR and the CRPF launched a search operation in the area.

During searches one terrorist associate of the JeM, identified as Muzamil Qadir Bhat, a resident of Larow Jagir Tral was arrested. "Incriminating material of proscribed terror outfit JeM has been recovered from his possession. On his disclosure, one hand grenade was also recovered which he had concealed in the compound of his home," police said.

Police said preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested person was in contact with JeM commander in Tral. **IANS**



Students wearing masks attend a class after schools resumed for the students of classes 1st to 5th, with certain Covid-19 safety guidelines, in Mirzapur on Monday. **PTI**

Stalin turns 68, DMK releases campaign song

Chennai: DMK President MK Stalin turned 68 on Monday and the party marked the occasion by releasing a campaign song for the April 6 Assembly elections.

The song titled "Stalin dance varaaru, vidiyal than poraru" (Stalin is going to come and ensure dawn) was released by senior DMK leader Duraimurugan.

On Monday, Stalin paid floral tributes at the memorials of his father and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, the founder of Dravidian politics, C.N. Annadurai, besides visiting the memorial of E.V.S. Periyar, the rationalist leader of Tamil Nadu. While addressing a DMK leadership meet, Stalin said that if voted to power, he will strive to make Tamil Nadu the best state in all spheres of life.

Several programmes, including sporting events, were organised by the DMK youth wing across the state to mark the occasion.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, BJP leader Kushbh Sundar and MNM leader and Tamil superstar Kamal Haasan extended their wishes to the DMK leader on his birthday.

With DMK out of power in Tamil Nadu since the past 10 years, the onus is on Stalin to script a grand comeback for the party in the coming Assembly elections. And the party converted his birthday celebrations as an opportunity to connect with the masses with programmes held across all the 284 constituencies in the state. **IANS**

Arunachal reports zero Covid cases for 10 days

Itanagar/Agartala: Arunachal Pradesh has reported zero Covid cases during the last ten days, even as the state's recovery rate stands at 99.67 per cent, the second highest in the country after the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu having a recovery rate at 99.82 per cent, health officials said on Monday.

According to the data released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday, the total Covid-19 positive cases in Arunachal Pradesh were 16,836, while the number of recoveries stood at 16,780.

In all, 56 patients have succumbed to the coronavirus in the northeastern state registering the fatality rate of 0.33 per cent. As per the information released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the recovery rate of seven of the eight northeastern states excluding Sikkim is above 98 per cent.

Sikkim's recovery rate is 97.05 per cent and mortality rate is 2.20 per cent, the third highest in India after Punjab (3.20 per cent) and Maharashtra (2.42 per cent).

The northeastern state of Mizoram among the 28 states in India has the distinction of having the lowest death rate of 0.23 per cent and the state's recovery rate is 99.21 per cent. Mizoram was the lone state in India where there was no Covid-19 related death until October 28 last year even as the first death was reported in India on January 30, 2020.

According to the health

officials in Aizawl on Monday, Mizoram has so far reported 4,423 Covid-19 cases with ten people having died.

While 4,393 people have recovered from the infectious virus, there were 20 active cases as on Monday. The officials said that all the ten deaths were in two -- Aizawl (9) and Serchhip (1) -- of the state's 11 districts.

Meanwhile, in a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus, officials in Meghalaya said that the night curfew (11 p.m. in the night to 5 a.m. in the morning) would remain in force in Shillong and other adjoining areas under the East Khasi Hills district for the next seven days from Monday.

Besides Shillong, the night curfew is being extended from time to time in Mizoram capital Aizawl.

According to the officials of the Health and Family Welfare Department of Assam, the state had reported its first death due to coronavirus on April 10 last year.

The first death in Assam, as well as in the northeastern region, was reported from Hailakandi district in southern Assam where a middle aged man, who had gone abroad, succumbed to Covid-19 at the Silchar Medical College and Hospital.

In Assam, 2,17,537 people have so far been infected by the dreaded virus and 2,14,830 people recovered from the disease with the recovery and mortality rates are 98.76 per cent and 0.50 per cent respectively. The state's active cases on Monday were 1,615. **IANS**

Girl knocks at court door after tolerating torture of child marriage for 12 yrs

FIANS ■ JAIPUR

After suffering for 12 long years subsequent to marriage at the tender age of seven, 18-year-old Mansi Gurjar has finally summoned courage to initiate steps to annul her child marriage.

A resident of Paladi village of Rajasthan's Bhilwara district, Mansi knocked the doors of Bhilwara's Family Court and filed the case for annulment of her child marriage on which Family Court Judge Mukesh Bhargava has issued summons to her so-called 'husband'.

Manasi elicited the support of Dr. Kriti Bharti, Managing Trustee and Rehabilitation Psychologist of Sarathi Trust, Jodhpur, in her quest to break free from child marriage. Dr. Bharti, known for launching a campaign that facilitates annulment of child marriages, said that Mansi, 18, was married at the age of seven in 2009 to a young man from Banera tehsil.

The child bride is busy pursuing her first year of graduation. Her marriage took place in 2009 under social pressure. All of seven years, old, Mansi realised what had happened only a few years ago.

After Mansi became an adult, she refused to accept the marriage. Since then, her in-laws have been putting pressure on her family and Mansi. They've even threatened the family with dire consequences. Certain caste panchs have also been threatening the family of penalty and social boycott if the child marriage was annulled.

Mansi and her family became depressed for a long time owing to pressure and personal fear of caste panchayats. Now, with help from Dr. Kriti Bharti of Sarathi Trust, Mansi has shown courage to annul the child marriage. Dr. Bharti helped Mansi file a child marriage annulment case in the family court of Bhilwara District. In the petition, Dr. Bharti pleaded on behalf of Mansi and presented the facts related to her age and other facts in the court.

Centre owes ₹29,290 cr to Mahas as GST compensation: Maha Guv

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari said here on Monday that the Centre owed a sizeable sum of Rs 29,290 to the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government as Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation.

Addressing a joint sitting of the Maharashtra Legislature on the first day of the State Legislature, Koshiyari said: "By the end of February 2021, out of the Rs 46,950 crore due to my Government as Goods and Services Tax Compensation, the Central Government has paid just Rs 6140 crore and Rs 11,520 crore as loan for Goods and Services Tax compensation. Goods and Services Tax Compensation to the tune of Rs 29,290 crore is overdue from the Centre".

Lamenting that the State economy had slowed down because of the Covid lockdown, medical emergency and natural calamities, the Governor said: "Of the revenue collection target of Rs 3,47,456 crore, the State has collected just Rs 1,88,542 crore at the end of January 2021. This is 35 per cent less than the budgetary estimate and 21 per cent lower than the collection in the same period in the previous year."

The Governor said that the state government was pursuing with the Government of India for increasing the grant in aid receivable to my State in accordance with the recommendations of the Central

Finance Commission.

"Last year was not only a year of medical emergency but also presented several economic challenges. As jobs and livelihoods were affected, my Government undertook massive humanitarian aid programmes," he said. The Governor said that in view of the pandemic situation and the economic condition, the State government is pursuing with the Centre to increase the latter's contribution to central schemes "To stimulate the economy, my government has provided for 75 per cent of the budgetary provision for capital expenditure and released 100 per cent money to the Local Development Fund, DPC schemes and Dongri Vikas Karyakram," the Governor noted.

Alluding to the success 'My Family, My Responsibility' scheme of the chief minister, Koshiyari said that through as an 'innovative health checkup mission in the country', the state government had carried out two rounds of surveys, the stage government had reached out to all the families in the state. During the survey, it had examined high-risk persons and senior citizens and detected many Covid-19 cases which helped chart out the state health map. "By participation of citizens in the management of Covid-19 pandemic, our state ensured successful control of this epidemic. But the battle against Covid-19 is still on and now the 'Me Jababdar' (My Accountability) mission has been

launched," the Governor said.

Koshiyari said that the state government had effectively combated the pandemic by reducing the number of active cases, dealing successfully with problem areas like Dharavi (Mumbai slum), first to set up jumbo (field) corona hospitals, implementing the Mahatma Phule Jeevandayi Yojana to prevent exorbitant charges for treatment.

The government had also augmented testing facilities and regulated testing fees, hiked capacity in public hospitals and reserved beds in private hospitals at affordable rates, for public benefit, he said.

Stressing on the need for "constant Vigil" on safety measures as the Covid-19 dangers have not passed with the imminent possibility of a 'second wave', the Governor stressed on physical distancing norms, face-masks, washing hands, etc.

The Governor said that the State was also implementing the Covid-19 vaccination programme and investing in public health infrastructure by approving new medical colleges for Sindhudurg, Nashik and Osmanabad, with plans for more in future. Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, his deputy Ajit Pawar, Leaders of Opposition in rhine Assembly and Council respectively Devendra Fadnis and Pravin Darekar, ministers and legislators from both the houses were present at the Joint sitting of members from both the Houses of the State Legislature.

Bovines smuggled in water tanker rescued by Kathua cops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NJAMMU

Alert jawans of Kathua police in Jammu region late Sunday night foiled a cow smuggling bid after intercepting a water tanker near Satkey Chak and rescued nine bovines packed inside the modified cavity.

However, the driver of the water tanker managed to give a slip to the police party deployed at one of the security checkpoints along the National highway. In the last one month Kathua police has successfully foiled 16 bovine smuggling bids and rescued over 200 bovines.

At present Kathua police is catering for over 500 bovines, kept in a cowshed in Kathua. These bovines were rescued by the police teams while they were being illegally transported towards the Kashmir valley.

Senior Superintendent of Police,



Kathua Shailendra Mishra said, "late Sunday night a rare type of bovine smuggling bid was noticed in which a

water tanker was being used for illegal transportation of animals".

He said a water tanker bearing Reg.No.JK02AD-5569 was intercepted by the police teams. When the driver was directed to stop for checking, the driver of the water tanker parked the vehicle way behind the naka point and fled away from the spot taking advantage of the darkness.

During checking of the said tanker 09 bovines were found loaded inside the tanker.

According to a written statement issued by the Kathua police, "A case vide FIR No. 100/2021 Under Sections 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act has been registered in P/S Kathua and further investigation has been set into motion".

Congress appoints 7 new dist chiefs in UP

Lucknow: The Congress has appointed seven new presidents for district unit in Deoria, Maharajganj, Jalaun, Kanpur, Unnao, Bulandshahr, and Lucknow City (South).

An official statement from the All India Congress Committee said that the Congress President has approved the proposal of the appointment of presidents of seven district/city Congress committees in Uttar Pradesh with immediate effect.

Ramji Giri has been appointed president of Deoria district, Sharad Singh Babloo for Maharajganj district, Rajiv Narayan Mishra for Jalaun district, Amit Kumar Pandey for Kanpur Nagar.

The DCC of Unnao district will have Arti Bajpai as its president and Bulandshahr District and Lucknow City (South) will have Sheopal Singh and Dilpreet Singh, respectively. **IANS**



Members of Karnataka sheep and goat breeders during a protest to demand the implementation of Sadashiva Commission recommendations, in Bengaluru on Monday. **PTI**

Taming the virus

The second phase of the vaccination drive began with the PM and his ministerial colleagues taking the jab

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the way, a battery of eminent political leaders on Monday took the anti-COVID shot as the country saw the launch of the second phase of vaccination drive and reports of a successful start to the campaign coming in from across India. Prominent among those who took the first dose on the first day of the second phase were Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Jitendra Singh, S Jaishankar, Som Prakash, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and NCP president Sharad Pawar. Kickstarting the second phase of the immunisation programme, the Prime Minister received his first dose of Covaxin at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi. In a light vein and seeking to put them at ease, the Prime Minister asked the nurses administering him the vaccine whether they planned to use “some special thick needle” as politicians are known to be “very thick-skinned”. People above 60 years of age and those above 45 with comorbidities are eligible to get the jabs in this phase. The second phase of the vaccination drive will cover 10 crore people across the country. So far, 1.45 crore people in two priority groups, healthcare and frontline workers, have received the shots of Covishield and Covaxin in the first phase.

The second phase of vaccination comes at a time when India’s active COVID cases are largely under control, but eight States — Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh — have been a cause of concern, reporting an upswing in daily cases in the last two weeks. India’s COVID-19 tally rose above the 11 million-mark on Monday as the country logged in 15,510 new cases in a span of 24 hours. A total of 106 fatalities were reported on Sunday, taking the death toll to over 1.57 lakh. The number of active cases currently stands at 1,68,627, a level last seen at the end of January and pointing to the re-emergence of the virus after a period of containment of the COVID outbreak. After months of staying indoors and strictly practising social distancing and hygiene norms, the number of cases had finally come under control but suddenly the pandemic outbreak has spiralled out of hand. Perhaps, the eagerness to get back into action or the reports of a declining caseload are offering a false sense of security and pushing an increasing number of Indians into vulnerability, which shouldn’t be the case. If we let down our guard now, India with its population may find it nigh impossible to break free from the clutches of this virus.

PICTALK



A mural depicting Pope Francis in Baghdad, Iraq

AP

Overt bonhomie

By praising Modi, Azad is consolidating his position within the dissenter group

There is nothing unusual in leaders of rival parties having a cordial relationship despite serious political differences. But what makes such “friendships” different from the others is their public display. The bonhomie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad is a case in point. Recently, the manner in which Azad heaped praises on Modi indicates that it is something more than just geniality. Everybody appreciated when the PM first displayed it while bidding an emotional farewell to the Congress stalwart on his retirement from the Rajya Sabha. Azad echoed the sentiments as the occasion called for it. However, Azad heaping praises on the PM in Jammu, that too, a day after a few senior Congress leaders reiterated their call for leadership change, has a political message. Being one of the most senior members of the group of 23 Congressmen — unofficially termed “G23” — Azad wants to carve a space for himself within this faction and also tell the party that it must go by the advice of its “elders”. It seems that this group is sending a message that sidelining the old guard will only prove counterproductive to the

party’s interests. Azad is sending a clear message to the party high command that if tall leaders like former Union Ministers Kapil Sibal, Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari, former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and others can stand by his side even if he heaps praises on Modi, they can also go the extra mile and stand in complete defiance of the leadership. He is increasing his bargaining power within the Congress.

By praising Modi, Azad is basically consolidating his position within the dissenter group. Modi, being an astute politician, must be aware of what Azad is up to. With the Congress old guard speaking out against the leadership, it is clear that all is not well within the “Grand Old Party”. Moreover, the G23 leaders are trying to stay relevant by upping the ante against the party leadership. They don’t want to loosen their hold on the party. The BJP has already parted ways with many of its tall leaders by creating a “Margdarshak Mandal” and these seniors are now just in an advisory role. The Congress old guard must be apprehensive of meeting the same fate. At least the restlessness shown by these Congress leaders points to this line of thought. On the other hand, it would not suffice to blame the Gandhis alone for the electoral losses that the Congress has suffered in the past few years. It was a failure on the part of these veteran leaders also. However, whether these veterans would be successful in bringing about reforms in the party, saving their positions, influencing party decisions, increasing their bargaining power or will Rahul Gandhi give an opportunity to the youngsters to lead the party and gradually do away with the “rusted bolts”, only time will tell. Well, as we eagerly wait for what Modi or Azad say next on their bonhomie, we shall continue watching the high-voltage Congress drama.

Beware of Pak’s softening stand

It is a temporary move to tide over the crises Pakistan is facing. The moment its rulers find some relief, the agreement will turn into a mere piece of paper

One mistake Indians must not make is to read Pakistan through Indian eyes. Normally, anything that leads to peace should be welcome. Similarly, we should welcome the fact that Pakistan has agreed to cessation of the ongoing hostilities with us and honour the ceasefire pact of 2003.

Yet, one must interject a note of caution here. This is because quite a few Indians, including expert observers, have interpreted the venom from Islamabad on Kashmir for years as revenge for India dismembering their country in 1971. In actual fact, as soon as the anger of the defeat was forgotten, the Pakistanis were relieved that the “dark short people” — as the Bengalis are contemptuously referred to by Pakistanis — who were a majority of their population, were finally gotten rid of.

Poet Mohammad Iqbal, who was also a leading light of the Muslim League, as its president had in 1930 at Prayagraj (then Allahabad) proposed a separate Muslim homeland which comprised only the north western provinces. He made no mention of Bengal or any part thereof. The larger Pakistan was for MA Jinnah’s glorification; he began by dreaming of six provinces, four in the west and two in the east, including Assam. Through his League colleague who was the Premier of Assam for several years after 1939, Mohd Saad Ali, he had nearly succeeded in recording that the *adivasis* were not Hindu but animists. This was to bring down the Hindu percentage of population and draw Assam into Pakistan when the moment of decision came. When Jinnah could not get Assam, except the district of Sylhet, Bengal and Punjab were divided by Sir Cyril Radcliffe, the lawyer dispatched by London. Jinnah was sorely disappointed at getting what he called “a moth-eaten Pakistan”.

Here, it has to be iterated that Jinnah did not represent the ultimate choice of any Pakistani except the Gujarati-speaking businessmen like the Khojas and Memons who wanted to get



rich quickly by avoiding competition against Indian business communities and crossing over to the new State, where they would have to compete only against the Punjabi and Sindhi farmers. For the rest, Jinnah pleaded brilliantly for those Muslims who wanted or half-wished a separate homeland. This was Jinnah’s role in actuality; his fee was his place in history’s hall of fame. Fortunately for him, he died within 13 months of Independence. The word *mohajir*, a term for Muslims from Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar migrating to Pakistan, came into circulation soon thereafter. But *mohajirs* soon found themselves not only unwelcome but also the target of ethnic hostility in the newly carved out Muslim homeland. Jinnah’s deputy Liaquat Ali Khan, from UP, was assassinated a mere four years after Pakistan had been carved out.

What prevails in Pakistan now is the will of the West Punjabis who are two-thirds of the country’s population. Their need for Kashmir has been to keep the country together and paper over their dominance of everything, which is now a bone of contention. Plus, they portray India as a great threat to the



WHAT PREVAILS IN PAKISTAN NOW IS THE WILL OF THE WEST PUNJABIS WHO ARE TWO-THIRDS OF THE COUNTRY’S POPULATION. THEIR NEED FOR KASHMIR HAS BEEN TO KEEP THE COUNTRY TOGETHER AND PAPER OVER THEIR DOMINANCE OF EVERYTHING

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HAIL INDIA’S VACCINATION DRIVE

Sir — The second phase of India’s vaccination drive has been rolled out and Prime Minister Narendra Modi got the first shot of COVAXIN, the India-researched and produced COVID-19 vaccine (produced by Bharat Biotech) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi. The drive aims to cover 10 crore people across the country. So far, more than 1.5 crore people have received the jabs.

Mostly the elderly would benefit in the second phase. This phase is a nationwide drive to inoculate people above 60 years of age and those above 45 years with co-morbidities. Several old people were seen at the centres to get themselves inoculated. The self-registration process in Co-WIN module has allowed people to get as many as four people registered, pick slots at their nearby vaccination centre and reschedule the appointment. Thus, the vaccination pace is expected to increase in the coming days.

A lot of hard work has gone into reaching this phase wherein the Government has started to vaccinate general population. We must rely on our vaccines as they are absolutely safe and are being used all over the world. In the coming days, we hope that the process will pick up pace and get completed in record time. On the other hand, there is also the need to worry as the country reported a single-day rise of 16,752 cases in the last 24 hours, the highest in the last 30 days, taking the overall tally to 1,10,96,731 on Sunday.

CK Ramani | Mumbai

PINK-BALL TEST MATCH MAGIC

Sir — When cricket matches like T-20s and ODIs are making life hell for the bowlers with batting-friendly surfaces, Test matches of late, especially pink-ball day-night Test matches, have come like a whiff of fresh air for the bowlers. The pink-ball Test cricket is still evolving and teams are still getting to grips with the ball that was tough to handle for a spinner due to the extra

Win-win situation for India, Pak



The ceasefire between India and Pakistan is a win-win situation for both the nations and for the border population in the two countries. A renewed pledge last week by both the neighbours to adhere to a ceasefire pact along the Line of Control (LoC) and international border in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is working on the ground.

We must hope that both the nations will stick to the agreed terms to address each other’s core

issues and concerns which have the potential to disturb peace in the region and lead to violence. However, the peace agreement would face its biggest test over the next few months when the snow will melt. It is because terrorists’ ranks might infiltrate through the routes which are inaccessible in winter as they are clogged due to heavy snowfall.

The adherence to the ceasefire agreement is a welcome proposition, as it will prevent the unnecessary loss of lives of soldiers and civilians residing in border areas. It will also bring some normalcy to the India-Pakistan bilateral ties. The easing of military tensions could also have a positive impact on the situation in J&K and all political parties there have welcomed the ceasefire agreement. If Indian and Pakistan are able to resolve their issues, it will send a message that bilateral issues could be resolved through talks and democratic means rather than through violence and terrorism.

P Senthil | Mumbai

gloss on it. Also, there have been only 16 pink-ball Test matches in the world and many of those have finished fairly early. There have been some abysmal batting performances, like in the pink-ball Tests India and England have played.

The pink ball is bringing new dimensions to the game, and the players need to adopt these. If one plays more and more, he would obviously get used to it. Cricketers were playing with the red ball for a long period of time, then they shifted to the white ball. That’s how the format keeps on evolving and, with this new dimension, more action is expected in the coming days. Not only the players but also spectators will enjoy more pink-ball game in the coming days.

V Nagendra Kumar | Hyderabad

CONDUCT AN IMPARTIAL INQUIRY

Sir — It is good on the part of Maharashtra Forest Minister Sanjay Rathod to resign from his post after the Opposition BJP linked him to a 23-year-

old woman’s alleged death by suicide in Pune. This will pave the way for an impartial enquiry in the case.

The audio clip which surfaced on social media two days after her death, in which two men are talking about the woman’s death, should be sent to forensic science laboratory for examination. The BJP has claimed that one of the men in the audio clip is Rathod while the Shiv Sena leader has denied the charge. On the other hand, responding to the Opposition’s demand for a case against the Minister, Chief Minister Thackeray said a First Information Report (FIR) can’t be registered before investigation. The Maha Vikas Aghadi Government must get the case investigated by the Central agencies for a free and impartial investigation. The CM must act and think out-of-the-box to save his image.

MR Jayanthi | Coimbatore

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



PRAFULL GORADIA

some settlement with the US. If not, the rulers would wait for circumstances to change; for a true *momin*, his faith in Allah the Merciful is infinite. We must not compare it with the mind of a thinking or reticent Hindu.

Another possibility might be that Pakistan’s real ruler, General Bajwa, wants to ease India’s pressure on his eastern Indian front and use it to settle his scores with Baluchistan, like General Tikka had tried to do in East Pakistan in 1971. Bajwa may have been advised that the Baloch province is so rich in resources that it could greatly help in solving Pakistan’s economic problems. But to exploit these resources would take time, peace and complete control. I concede that this possibility may sound too farfetched, but unless Islamabad takes some drastic steps, how can it keep the economic wheels of Pakistan rolling? If it depends on Chinese loans, Pakistan could become a Beijing protectorate inch by inch, as one has already begun to see with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor coming into play.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)

SOUND BITE

Overall, 192 hospitals have been prepared in Delhi, of which 136 are private hospitals and 56 are Government-run hospitals.



Delhi Health Minister —Satyendar Jain



Workers across America are voting on whether to organise a union in their workplace. It’s an important choice that should be made without intimidation by employers.

American President —Joe Biden

I am very specific about the roles that I come on board with. It takes a lot of courage to say no but I am glad I have the privilege to do that.



Actor —Vijayendra Kumeria



Landing in Bombay or Mumbai, as it is called now, was a total culture shock, there were just people everywhere, there were cars and bikes and animals and rats and cats running along the footpath.

Former Australia captain —Steve Waugh

The Uttar Pradesh Government has accorded top priority to the development of the Jewar International Airport in Noida.



UP Chief Minister —Yogi Adityanath

FIRST COLUMN

MANY FORTUNES AT STAKE

The forthcoming Assembly polls to five States will go a long way in shaping regional and national parties' future



KALYANI SHANKAR

The forthcoming Assembly elections to five States, three of which are in the South, will go a long way in shaping most regional and national parties' political future. The polls are crucial for the three national parties, the Congress, the BJP and the Left and for regional parties, too. The Congress lost its only foothold in the South, the Union Territory of Puducherry, last week. By citing Puducherry's example, the Congress' opponents want to show ahead of the polls that the party would not be able to hold its MLAs together even if they were voted for. The southern States have gone into the hands of regional parties because the people lost faith in the Congress which controlled almost all the States in the South at one point in time. An alliance with the JD(S) in Karnataka, the TDP in Andhra Pradesh and the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu (TN) had helped the BJP extend its influence in the South. The Congress has found allies in the DMK, the JD(S) and the UDF's coalition partners in Kerala like the Muslim League.



The regional parties have strong leaders who can attract voters with their personality. There is JD(S) in Karnataka, the TDP and YSRCP in Andhra, TRS in Telangana, the AIADMK and DMK in TN which are shining examples of this. Except for the AIADMK, all these parties are essentially family fiefdoms of the Gowdas, Naidus and Raos. Some parties like the DMK, JD(S), TRS and the TDP have already transferred power to the second generation. Neither the BJP nor the Congress has cultivated leaders to match these regional satraps' aura. As for the Left, its ideology has no relevance for the present generation. The BJP's core agenda has no attraction for the South and the Congress is vague about its ideology. Nonetheless, the BJP is trying to spread its wings in the Southern States in the forthcoming elections. The latest topping game in Puducherry shows that the defectors from the Congress and the DMK have joined the BJP, including two Ministers. The BJP could only capture Karnataka in the South. This is because of many reasons, including an absence of strong local leaders. Plus, the BJP is also perceived as a North Indian party and then there is also the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal in the South is relatively limited and his charm may not necessarily beat that of regional satraps. The BJP considers each election, even a panchayat poll, as crucial as the Lok Sabha polls. Hence, they have adopted several steps to seal their win in an increasing number of States. They include expanding the BJP's base, projecting Modi as a doer and wooing leaders from other parties. The Dravidian parties had held sway since 1967 when the DMK wrested TN from the Congress in 1967. Since then, the Congress has aligned with one Dravidian party or the other. The BJP has been accused of ruling the State by proxy after AIADMK chief J Jayalalithaa's demise in 2016. TN alternates between the DMK and the AIADMK, and now it is the turn of the DMK.

Kerala is the only State under the control of the Left parties and it, too, alternates between the CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF, and this time it is the turn of the UDF. The RSS has done a lot of work in Kerala and though the BJP has doubled its vote share since 1998, it has a long way to go. After getting its first-ever MLA elected on a BJP ticket in Kerala in 2016, the party is trying to become a reasonable force by cobbling together a coalition. But it's still some distance away from breaking the hold of the two other national parties and failed to open an account in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. To conquer the South, the three national parties must face the might of 15 regional parties or join them. For parties like the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, AGP in Assam, the AIADMK, and the DMK in TN and NR Congress in Puducherry, these polls will be a "do or die battle." A win in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, and TN will restore the Congress' fortunes. The CPI(M) has to protect its turf in Kerala. The BJP will shine with an improvement in all the five States. *(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)*

CPSU privatisation an uphill task

The Centre should de-bureaucratise the process of running PSUs. This should be done even before privatisation is taken up

Under a big bang approach to privatisation announced in the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has divided the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in two broad categories i.e. strategic and non-strategic. Whereas the former is broken up into four subgroups: Atomic energy, space and defence; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; banking, insurance and financial services, the latter includes all other sectors such as hotel and tourist services, industrial and consumer goods, trading, marketing and so on. As per the plan, all PSUs in non-strategic sectors will be privatised and all loss-making enterprises in this category will be closed. In the strategic sector, too, the Government will be open to privatisation with the caveat that at least one undertaking (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sector.

When seen in the backdrop of the Union Government having made an indiscriminate entry in almost every conceivable business activity, including areas such as hotel and tourist services where it had no business to be present in the first place, any initiative aimed at exiting from all of these is welcome. This has the potential to unlock value and generate huge revenue because of the high valuation that the real estate and properties under these PSUs command. As regards the strategic sector, though the Government does not rule out privatisation, the caveat of retaining a maximum of four undertakings in the public sector can defeat the purpose. For instance, currently there are around 12 oil PSUs ranging from upstream oil producers like the ONGC and OIL to downstream oil refining and fuel marketing firms IOC, BPCL and HPCL to gas transporter GAIL India Limited and engineering firm Engineers India Limited. These 12 could be consolidated into four behemoths through a process of merger and amalgamation, leaving no space for privatisation whatsoever.

Why does the Government want to put this caveat? What does it fear? Sans this, will it compromise national interest? In the above example, consider an extreme scenario, in which there is not even one PSU and the entire oil and gas space is occupied by private enterprises. Are we to infer that this will compromise India's energy security? If this were to be the case, then why not reserve this sector exclusively for PSUs? Why allow even one private company? This line of argument is bizarre. For ensuring security in strategic items, the critical requirement is to have a minimum number of companies to ensure there is adequate competition and supply in the market. Who those firms are —whether owned by private promoters or the Government —should not matter.

In the 1970s-80s, when India needed to develop these sectors and private players were unwilling to invest, it made sense for the Government to take the lead. Since then, lot of water has flown down the Ganga. Currently, there is considerable interest among private investors and the Government itself is inviting them. Therefore, any arbitrary restriction should be avoided. Any decision to privatise a PSU



THE GOVERNMENT MAY SET UP A HOLDING COMPANY — ON THE LINES OF A BANK INVESTMENT COMPANY RECOMMENDED BY AN RBI COMMITTEE UNDER P NAYAK — WHERE ALL ITS SHARES IN PSUs WILL BE VESTED. IT SHOULD AUTHORISE THE HOLDING COMPANY TO TAKE ALL DECISIONS, INCLUDING SHARE SALE TO PRIVATE INVESTORS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MANAGEMENT

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



should be taken on the merit of each case, irrespective of whether it is in a strategic or non-strategic area. Likewise, the mandatory closure of any loss-making enterprise should apply to all such entities without any distinction. National security concerns are always best addressed through strong, resilient and responsive regulatory and surveillance mechanisms.

Implementation is far more important than the policy. In this regard, the score of the Modi Government during the last seven years or so (it was pursued under a sophisticated nomenclature 'strategic disinvestment') has been disappointing. Except for two big ticket sales like the divestment of its 51.11 per cent shareholding in HPCL in 2017-18 and 52.63 per cent stake in the REC in 2018-19, there is nothing much to show. Even these sales can't be termed as privatisation as the buyers were ONGC and PFC respectively — both PSUs.

As per the original plan, 51.11 per cent shares of the Union Government in HPCL were to be sold to a private investor. But things did not pan out as planned and in January 2018, the Government had to ask ONGC to pick up the entire stake, as it desperately needed money to meet the fiscal deficit (FD) target. In the case of REC too, it asked the PFC to buy. During 2018-19, Air India was also put on the block but failed.

During 2019-20, besides resur-recting that offer, the Government also took up sale of all of its shareholding in BPCL (53.29 per cent); CONCOR (30 per cent); SCI (63.75 per cent); NEEPCO (100 per cent) and THDC India Limited (75 per cent). Sans NEEPCO and THDC which were sold to NTPC — a CPSU in the power sector — others made no progress. During 2020-21, COVID-19 spoilt the party. For 2021-22, there is not much hope either. The target for proceeds for disinvestment speaks for itself. At ₹1,75,000 crore, this is substantially lower than the target for 2020-21 (₹2,10,000 crore). This is despite adding two Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and one general insurance company to the list of those (Air India, BPCL, SCI, CONCOR, LIC) already under the hammer. The mandarins in the Finance Ministry have sensed that some disinvestments may not go through, others would fetch lower valuation.

There are four major bottlenecks in the way like policy flip-flops (it stymied Air India's sale in 2018-19/2019-20); bureaucratic red tape (but for this, HPCL could have got a private suitor and BPCL's sale could have happened in 2019/20); thrusting decisions on PSU Boards under a typical top-down approach; linking share sale to meeting the FD target. The last two reasons have the inevitable effect of delaying and reducing

realisation from every sale.

The Budget offers nothing to address any of these bottlenecks. Under a business as usual approach, it will take several years, if not decades, for the sale process to get completed. The decision to set up an empowered group of secretaries to address the concerns of potential investors won't be of much help as even under this arrangement, bureaucrats will continue to rule the roost.

The Centre should de-bureaucratise the process of running PSUs. This should be done even before privatisation is taken up. The Government may set up a holding company — on the lines of a bank investment company recommended by an RBI committee under P Nayak — where all its shares in PSUs will be vested. It should authorise the holding company to take all decisions, including share sale to private investors, in consultation with the management. To be manned by eminent professionals drawn from respective fields, the company should to be given full autonomy in its working.

This mechanism will also help in de-linking divestment from the Budget exercise and give much-needed flexibility to the holding company to decide the contours and timing of sale, taking into account the market conditions so as to maximise the proceeds from sales.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

YOU SHAMELESSLY BETRAYED 40 LAKH BELEAGUERED UNEMPLOYED YOUTH OF TELANGANA WITH YOUR FAKE AND FABRICATED STATEMENT. —CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON DASOJU SRAVAN



1.32 LAKH JOBS WERE GIVEN IN GOVT SECTOR IN THE LAST SIX YEARS. CONGRESS COULD FILL JUST 10,000 POSTS IN TELANGANA FROM 2004-2014. —TRS LEADER KT RAMA RAO

AI making a place for itself in modern healthcare

AI-guided machines are capable of performing minute surgeries with accuracy and help in transporting substances which are unsafe for humans

In today's world we are surrounded by Artificial Intelligence (AI) which finds its application everywhere, from science fiction to local hospitals. AI helps medical professionals by relieving them of routine tasks and also makes medical procedures safer and pocket-friendly for patients.

Further, AI-guided machines are also capable of performing minute surgeries with accuracy and help in transporting substances, which are unsafe for humans to handle. In medical systems, call centre staff for websites has increasingly been replaced by chatbots that use Natural Language Processing (NLP) to provide callers with information and manage queries.

In various hospitals and other health institutes, AI technologies such as fuzzy



KM CHERIAN

The writer is a Padma Shri awardee and cardiothoracic surgeon credited with India's first bypass. He is Chairman and CEO of Frontier Lifeline Hospital. The views expressed are personal.

systems, Bayesian networks, artificial neural networks and smart hybrid systems are being used.

AI in medicine can be differentiated into two subtypes — virtual and real. The physical segment deals with robotics that helps in procedures, for instance smart prosthetics for people with disabilities and the treatment of the elderly. The interactive components range from applications for electronic health record systems to neural network-based guide in care decisions for patients.

There is increasing use of AI-powered robots in the surgical environment. Robotics technology can be applied in many areas that directly affect patient care. Some of their applications include disinfecting patient rooms and operating sets and reducing the risks for

patients and medical personnel.

They can be used in laboratories to take samples and transport, analyse and store them. Also, the robotic lab assistant can exactly locate the vessel from which the blood is required to be taken and extract the sample without causing pain and anxiety to the patients, who are troubled a lot by the multiple pokes that a doctor or nurse makes for finding a good vein.

AI software also helps primary healthcare doctors in identifying patients who need additional treatment and have specific protocols. It will be used by medical practitioners for commenting, reviewing patient conversations and so on.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world and adversely affected multiple layers of our society. Frontline



workers and particularly those who have been in direct contact with patients are exposed to major risk.

To mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus and to protect healthcare workers and patients, medical services had been largely restricted, including the cancellation of elective surgeries. This result-

ed in a substantial burden for patients and economic loss for various hospitals. It is in situations like this that AI-robot surgeries could be a powerful tool to maintain surgical volumes while at the same time mitigating the fear of contamination by operating procedures on patients without healthcare workers coming in physical contact.

While talking about the Coronavirus, it is imperative to mention that using AI to predict its pattern was able to help mitigate the crisis to some extent. For instance — BlueDot — a Canadian organisation specialising in infectious disease forecasting, used AI to gather data from multiple points.

It was able to predict the COVID-19 outbreak and alert people around, even before the World Health Organisation (WHO) did so.

Similarly, an AI-powered chatbot, based in Singapore named SGDormBot, helped in mass screening for symptoms among migrant workers.

The pandemic has also highlighted the need for rapid screening and testing of patients to improve treatment pathways and reduce the risk of cross-infection. The use of AI here, for accessing electronic health records (EHR) of routinely-ordered tests and vital signs can produce an effective tool to screen patients in emergency departments and hospital admission units.

Data collected from EHRs can be further supplemented with data from wearable technology such as smart watches or mobile health apps and medical devices.

With the potential application of AI within the

healthcare system, the question remains how this will affect the workforce. According to McKinsey Global Institute, 50 per cent of companies say that automation will decrease the number of full-time staff by 2022 and that by 2030, robots will replace 800 million workers across the world.

Also, automation of clerical processes could potentially have an impact on the non-clinical workforce of the healthcare system. Specialties such as radiology where imaging reports can be automated and produced by AI algorithms may well be the reality.

Of course, the ethics of data sharing and privacy implications for patients and their insurers is debatable. As we enter a brave new world with AI, it entails certain benefits and limitations.

DEFYING LETHAL SHOOTINGS Myanmar protesters back on streets

AP ■ YANGON, MYANMAR

Police in Myanmar's biggest city fired tear gas Monday at defiant crowds who returned to the streets to protest last month's coup, despite reports that security forces had killed at least 18 people a day earlier.

The protesters in Yangon were chased as they tried to gather at their usual meeting spot at the Hledan Center intersection. Demonstrators scattered and sought in vain to rinse the irritating gas from their eyes, but later regrouped.

The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar after five decades of military rule. It came Feb. 1, the same day a newly elected Parliament was supposed to take office. Ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party would have led that government, but instead she was detained along with



In this image from video, anti-coup protesters run away from tear gas launched by security forces on Monday AP

President Win Myint and other senior officials.

The army has leveled several charges against Suu Kyi — an apparent effort by the military to provide a legal veneer for her detention and potentially to bar her from running

in the election the junta has promised to hold in one year. On Monday, Suu Kyi made a court appearance via video-conference and was charged with two more offenses, her lawyer Khin Maung Zaw told reporters.

UN atomic watchdog: Deal with Iran key to full inspections

Berlin: A temporary agreement with Iran to allow United Nations inspectors continued access to the country's atomic facilities lays the groundwork for the return to full verification measures if and when Tehran allows it, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said Monday.

Iran began restricting international inspections last week, but under a last-minute deal worked out during a trip to Tehran by Rafael Grossi, the head of the Vienna-based UN atomic watchdog, some access was preserved.

Under the agreement, Iran will no longer share surveillance footage of its nuclear facilities with the IAEA but it has promised to preserve the tapes for three months. It will then hand them over to the IAEA if it is granted sanctions relief. Otherwise, Iran has vowed to erase the tapes, narrowing the window for a diplomatic breakthrough. Inspections are a critical part of

the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

Since President Donald Trump pulled the US unilaterally out of the deal in 2018, Iran has been slowly increasing its violation of the pact by enriching more uranium than allowed, and to a greater purity than allowed, among other things.

The violations have been intended to put pressure on the other signatories to the deal — Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — to come up with ways to offset the economic devastation caused by American sanctions, but so far they have not been able to come up with a solution suitable to Iran.

US President Joe Biden has said he is ready to join talks with Iran and world powers to discuss a return to the deal. The new restrictions on inspections complicate matters, and, in effect, set the clock ticking on coming up with some sort of a resolution. AP

France's Sarkozy convicted of corruption, sentenced to jail

AP ■ PARIS

A Paris court on Monday found French former President Nicolas Sarkozy guilty of corruption and influence peddling and sentenced him to one year in prison and a two-year suspended sentence.

The 66-year-old politician, who was president from 2007 to 2012, was convicted for having tried to illegally obtain information from a senior magistrate in 2014 about a legal action in which he was involved. The court said Sarkozy is entitled to request to be detained at home with an electronic bracelet.

This is the first time in France's modern history that a former president has been convicted of corruption.

Sarkozy's co-defendants — his lawyer and longtime friend Thierry Herzog, 65, and now-retired magistrate Gilbert Azibert, 74 — were also found guilty and given the same sentence as the politician. AP



Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy arrives at the courtroom on Monday AP

The court found that Sarkozy and his co-defendants sealed a "pact of corruption," based on "consistent and serious evidence."

The court said the facts were "particularly serious" given that they were committed by a former president who used his status to help a magistrate who had served his personal interest. In addition, as a

lawyer by training, he was "perfectly informed" about committing an illegal action, the court said.

Sarkozy had firmly denied all the allegations against him during the 10-day trial that took place at the end of last year. The corruption trial focused on phone conversations that took place in February 2014.

Hungarian PM threatens to quit conservative political group

AP ■ BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

Hungary's right-wing Prime Minister has threatened to pull his party out of its group in the European Union's legislature as the conservative group edges closer to excluding its largest Hungarian delegation.

In a letter on Sunday to chairman of the European People's Party (EPP) group in the European Parliament

Manfred Weber, Prime Minister Viktor Orban condemned a group proposal agreed to on Friday that would allow for entire parties to be excluded from the center-right EPP, rather than just individual MEPs as currently allowed.

Orban wrote that the proposed rules, which are expected to pass with a two-thirds vote at an EPP group meeting on Wednesday.

Trump calls for Republican party unity; says Biden admin 'anti-jobs', 'anti-science'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In his first public speech since leaving office in January, former US president Donald Trump indicated he might launch a third presidential bid in 2024, called for Republican Party unity and slammed the Joe Biden administration, saying it was "anti-jobs" and "anti-science".

"We will take back the House. We will win the Senate and then a Republican president would triumph the White House. I wonder, who that will be," he said amidst cheers from his supporters at the annual session of the Conservative Political Action Committee in Orlando, Florida.

Though 74-year-old Trump multiple times in his

speech stopped short from announcing that he will run for president 2024, he gave enough indications that he is moving in that direction.

Trump indicates to run for 2024; says we've gone from 'America first to America last' in 1 month
PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In his first public speech since leaving office, former US president Donald Trump has called for Republican Party unity while indicating that he might launch a third presidential bid in 2024 even as he slammed the Biden administration, claiming that the country has gone from "America First" to "America Last" in just one month.

Netanyahu claims Iran behind blast on Israeli-owned ship

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday accused Iran of attacking an Israeli-owned ship in the Gulf of Oman last week.

Netanyahu spoke to Israeli public broadcaster Kan and said that "it was indeed an act by Iran, that's clear."

"Iran is the greatest enemy of Israel, I am determined to halt it. We are hitting it in the entire region," Netanyahu said.

The mysterious explosion struck the Israeli-owned MV Helios Ray, a Bahamian-flagged roll-on, roll-off vehicle cargo ship, as it was sailing out of the Middle East on its way to Singapore on Friday.

In 1st day on job, new WTO chief pushes for fisheries deal

AP ■ GENEVA

The new head of the World Trade Organization threw her support behind long-fruited efforts among member countries to agree on fisheries subsidies that could reduce overfishing, calling the efforts a top priority as she took office on Monday.

Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a Nigerian economist and former government minister, donned a mask and doled out elbow bumps — Covid-19 oblige — as she took up the job at WTO

headquarters on the banks of Lake Geneva.

"I am coming into one of the most important institutions in the world and we have a lot of work to do," said Okonjo-Iweala, 66, who is both the first woman and the first African to hold the job. "I feel ready to go."

Negotiators have been tasked with striking an agreement that could help eliminate subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and prohibit some fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.

Democratic voting Bill would make biggest changes in decades

Washington: As Congress begins debate this week on sweeping voting and ethics legislation, Democrats and Republicans can agree on one thing: If signed into law, it would usher in the biggest overhaul of US elections law in at least a generation. House

Resolution 1, Democrats' 791-page bill, would touch virtually every aspect of the electoral process — striking down hurdles to voting erected in the name of election security, curbing partisan gerrymandering and curtailing the influence of big money. AP

"KAVYAM"-AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Advertisement is invited to inform general public at large regarding cancellation of units of already allotted customers through the 1st draw of lots dated 24.06.2019 and 2nd draw of lots dated 01.08.2020 due to non-payment despite several reminders, in the Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project Kavyam is being developed by Agrante Realty Ltd Sector-108, Gurugram, Haryana, as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. www.tczpharyana.gov.in).

| S. No. | Allotted Unit No | Application No. | Name | Co-App. |
|--------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2530 | TA5-1003 | Mr. Satya Prakash | MS. BABLI KUMARI |
| 2 | 2653 | TA3-1201 | Mr. Abhishek Chhajuram Agarwal | N/A |
| 3 | 2793 | TC-805 | Mr. Adarsh Kumar | N/A |
| 4 | 3407 | TD-1106 | Mr. Rakesh Yadav | N/A |
| 5 | 3409 | TD-1706 | Ms. Riti Yadav | N/A |
| 6 | 3639 | TA3-1101 | Mr. Veenet Verma | N/A |
| 7 | 3688 | TB-204 | Mr. Nitin | N/A |
| 8 | 3690 | TA5-202 | Mr. Sombir | N/A |

It is to inform to all above allottees that it is last & final opportunity to restore the cancellation after making the all dues till date within seven working days, otherwise it shall be considered as cancelled and the same shall be allotted to the aspiring applicants under the applicable provisions of policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof.

Regd Office: Agrante Realty Ltd 704 7th Floor DLF Tower-B, Jasoia, New Delhi, CIN:U70101DL2013PLC248731
Contact at: - website: www.kavyamhomes.com; 011-41924100-199, 8800499674

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public: I other legal heirs if any that Mrs. Sudesh Kumar was owner of the property No. 151, Area measuring 500 sq. yds., Block-H, Phase-I, Ashok Vihar, Delhi by virtue of conveyance deed dated 24.01.2002 having registration No. 20120, who expired on 19.08.2016 leaving behind Mrs. Renu Jain, Mrs. Suman Gupta, Mrs. Namal Jindal & Mrs. Anita Jindal all surviving members of late Mr. Brij Lal and Late Mrs. Sudesh Kumar. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned Surviving members want to sell the said property to someone who is taking home loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objections upon the said property's sale Mortgage, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocate & Consultants)
202, 1st Floor, 25, Shivaji Marg, West Nagar, New Delhi-110017
Ph: 011-41122729, 28, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public that my clients, Sh. Narinder Kumar Singh & Son Late Sh. Om Prakash Singh aged about 65 years and his wife namely Smt. Nisha Singh & Son H. No. 131, Street No. 13, C-Block, Balbir Nagar Ext. Delhi-110032 have deposed their daughter namely Dipanshi Singh for all their movable and immovable property and severed their relationship with her as a result of sufferings and harassment due to unsocial, aggressive, and inhuman act & behavior of their above mentioned daughter. If anybody keeps any relation or deals with her in any manner whatsoever, he/she will be doing solely at his/her own risk and consequences and my clients shall not be responsible for the act of Dipanshi Singh.

Ashok Thagel (Advocate)
Ch.No.477 (LGF), Civil Wing, Taz Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

(See proviso to rule 8(i))
Notice for sale of Immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable 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/ | 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. | Mr. Rajvinder Singh Bedi (Borrower), Mrs. Anu Sharma (Co-Borrower), (LBDEL00002422645) | 5th Floor Tower-D, Chintels Paradiso, Sector-109, Flat No-D-504, Gurugram, Haryana, 122005 Area 2630 Sq. Ft. | Rs. 89,53,852/- (as on February 19, 2021) | Rs. 1,30,00,000/- | April 5, 2021 From 12:00 Noon To 01:00 PM | April 16, 2021, From 12:00 Noon 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 Mortgagee's noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till April 15, 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, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110055, and there after they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before April 15, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110055 on or before April 15, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/ 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. Augoe Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorized 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 02, 2021
Place: Delhi/INCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that 1. Mrs. Namita Piyus Agarwal and 2. Mr. Piyus Gaurishankar Agarwal are the owners of flat no. 3 (Three), on Third Floor (Still+ Second Floor), admeasuring 148.70 Sq. Mtrs of Bullup area in the building known as Space Twinkle Apartment constructed on Plot No. 206 /A out of S. no. 728/101/136 to 25A/37 lying and being at Nashik within the limits of Nashik Municipal Corporation, Nashik. Further notice is hereby given that the original Deed of Apartment and registration receipt thereof registered at Sr. No. 6159-2006 on 04.10.2006 in the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances at Nashik executed by Space Developers Corporation in favour of 1. Mrs. Namita Piyus Agarwal and 2. Mr. Piyus Gaurishankar Agarwal is lost and unavailable with the Owners and the owners state that the same is not deposited with any bank or lender as security or otherwise or no charge is created on the property.

It is informed to all persons that if any one finds original Deed of Apartment and registration receipt or has the original document with him is hereby required submit the same to the undersigned within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Dated this 02nd day of March, 2021

Advocate Ramesh Kumar
D/1173/2013
L-54/1924, First 60 Feet Road
Molarband Extension, Badapur Border
New Delhi - 1100144

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one man namely **Mohd. Farid, S/o Mehbub, R/o Mohalla Khel, Ward No. 8, Kasba Kandhla, Distt. Shamli, U.P. Age: About 36 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'5", Face: Oval, Built: Strong, Hair: Black, ID Mark: Mentally Weak, Wearing: Red colour sweater, dark brown colour pant and black colour slipper in his feet, has been missing Lady Harding hospital, New Delhi since 03.02.2021 at 11:30 am. from the area of P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. In this regards a case DD No. 24-A Dated 07.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this missing man please inform undersigned.**

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/226/ND/2021

SHO
PS Mandir Marg, New Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23366730, 8750870522

colour slipper in his feet, has been missing Lady Harding hospital, New Delhi since 03.02.2021 at 11:30 am. from the area of P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. In this regards a case DD No. 24-A Dated 07.02.2021 has been registered at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this missing man please inform undersigned.

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Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/226/ND/2021

SHO
PS Mandir Marg, New Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23366730, 8750870522

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/TW, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM NO. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Name of work | "Provision of OFC & associated equipments in Attari-Amritsar-Dera Baba Nanak & Batala-Qadian Sections of FZR Division." |
| 2 | Approximate cost of the work | Rs. 3,73,29,333.80 (Three Crore Seventy Three Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three and paise Eighty only). |
| 3 | Cost of tender form | Nil |
| 4 | Address from where tender document can be downloaded | Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 02.03.2021 before 11:30 hrs. |
| 5 | Earnest money | Nil |
| 6 | Completion period | 09 (Nine) months. |
| 7 | Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender | Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 09.03.2021 up to 11:30 hrs of 23.03.2021. |
| 8 | Detailed Tender Notice | Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in . |

No. 172-Sig/TW/NR/T-03 Date: 01.03.2021 458/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UJVNL LTD.
H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharanji Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC02586 Website: www.ujvnl.com

Ro.No.-181 Time Extension Notice-I Dated: 01.03.2021

The dates of "e"-Tender Notice No: 19-e/EE(G)/CPH/2020-21 "Safety & Security Equipment at Chibro Power House" due to unavoidable circumstances invited by Executive Engineer (G) Chibro Power House for is extended as follows.

Last date of submission of bid in the portal: 08-03-2021 up to 14:00
Last date of submission of hard copy: 09-03-2021 from 17:00 Hrs.
Date of opening of the bid Part-I on website: 10-03-2021 from 10:00
All other condition shall be same as previous. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in" EE(G), Chibro

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/TW, Divisional Railway Manager Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online Open E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under note work

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of work | "Provision of OFC & associated equipments in Amritsar-Pattikhermangan & Beas-Goldindwal-Tarn Taran Sections of FZR Division" |
| Approximate Cost of the work | Rs. 24,47,66,231.17 (Four Crore Forty Seven Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty One and paise Seventeen only) |
| Cost of tender form | Nil |
| Address from where tender document can be downloaded | Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 02.03.2021 from 11:30 hrs. |
| Earnest Money | Nil |
| Completion period | 11 (Eleven) months. |
| Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender | Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 09.03.2021 up to 11:30 hrs. of 23.03.2021 Date of tender Opening : 23.03.2021 at 11:30 hrs. |
| Detailed Tender Notice | Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in |

No. 172-Sig/TW/NR/T-04 Date: 01.03.2021 459/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one female fetus was found dead at BG-7, Kotli No. 134, White House, Paschim Vihar, Delhi on 16.02.2021, at 08.40 am. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 52/21 u/s 315 IPC, Dated 16.02.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi

The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, D/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 4-5 months fetus, Complexion: Fair, Height: 9" Inch. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead female fetus but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead female fetus please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi
Ph: 011-25263471, 25267286

DP/171/OD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely: Lado, D/o Ram Khilwan, R/o H. No. 2400/1, Gali No. 19, Shadipur, Village Patel Nagar, New Delhi, has been missing since 15-01-2021 from the Jurisdiction of P.S. Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi, Age: 16 years, Height: 4'2", Complexion : Fair, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Blue Color Suit & Black Color Trouser and Black Shoes in her feet.

In this regard a FIR No. 18/21 dated 16.01.2021, U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368639, 24368641
DP/672/CD/2021

Sensex surges 750 pts as investors cheer Q3 GDP

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex surged nearly 750 points and NSE Nifty rallied over 232 points on Monday as investors cheered the domestic economy returning to positive territory after two quarters of contraction.

The 30-share BSE index briefly traded above the 50,000-mark in day trade before closing at 49,849.84, showing a rise of 749.85 points or 1.53 per cent. Of the Sensex constituents, 29 closed with gains. Likewise, the NSE barometer Nifty settled with a gain of 232.40 points or 1.60 per cent at 14,761.55.

Top performers were PowerGrid, ONGC, Ultratech Cement, Asian Paint, Kotak Bank and Titan – rising as much as 5.94 per cent.

“Positive global cues and US yields retreating from highs led to a strong opening today with Indices sustaining gains throughout the day. The broader markets saw energetic buying momentum across PSU basket and sectors like Paints & Speciality Chemicals,” S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities said.

After two consecutive quarters of contraction, the Indian economy has finally entered an expansionary path. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 0.4 per

cent in the October-December 2020 period compared with the same period a year back, data released by the National Statistics Office on Friday showed.

High-frequency indicators were pointing towards the fact that the domestic economy is slowly entering the recovery

Rupee drops 8 paise to 73.55 against dollar as oil spikes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee dropped by 8 paise to close at 73.55 against the US dollar on Monday, extending its falling streak to a third day due to spike in global crude oil prices and strong American currency.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened lower at 73.76 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.19.

The local currency finally ended at 73.55 against the American currency, registering a fall of 8 paise over its previous closing.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at 73.47 against the American currency.

path.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, “Domestic markets kick-started the month on a strong footing with increased optimism led by GDP reaching positive numbers, improving auto numbers and steady PMI manufacturing data.”

Gold price rises ₹241; silver jumps ₹781

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Monday rose by ₹241 to ₹45,520 per 10 grams in the national capital in line with the strong global bullion market trend, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹45,279 per 10 grams in the previous trading session. Silver also jumped by ₹781 to ₹68,877 per kg, compared with the previous close of 68,096 per kg. HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said, “Spot prices for 24 karat gold in Delhi rose by ₹241, in line with the recovery in global gold prices while rupee appreciation capped upside.” The spot rupee was trading around 16 paise stronger against the dollar, halting three days of loss, during the intra-day session, HDFC Securities added.

₹77,146 cr bids for spectrum on Day 1

Govt says response better than expected

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's first auction of spectrum in five years attracted Rs 77,146 crore of bids on the opening day on Monday with Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea participating in the bidding process – a response that the government said was better than expected.

There were, however, no takers for spectrum in 700 MHz and 2500 MHz bands on the first day, and the auctions will continue and conclude on Tuesday.

About 2,308.80 MHz of spectrum, that carry telecom signals, in seven bands worth nearly Rs 4 lakh crore at the reserve or start price, was offered for bidding in the auc-

tion that began on Monday. Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Rs 77,146 crore worth of spectrum was bid on the first day but there were no takers for the airwaves in the premium 700 MHz as also 2500 MHz bands.

The response from players and the bids received surpassed government's internal estimates, that had anticipated bids worth Rs 45,000 crore.

“The winning bids that have come till 6 PM today is Rs 77,146 crore. We thought since there are only three players, and spectrum replacement is happening...Our estimation was that the bids will touch about Rs 45,000 crore, but it is a matter of assurance that it has gone as high as Rs 77,146 crore,” Prasad said.

The bidder-wise details were not available immediately. A total of 2,308.80 MHz

spectrum is being put to auction, out of which there have been bids for 849.20 MHz so far, an official release said.

Bids were received in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz and 2300 MHz bands, as players gave the prized 700 MHz band a miss on the first day of auctions.

“Total value of spectrum put to auction was about Rs 4 lakh crore. In this, 700 MHz band was a costly band, and that cost itself is Rs 1.97 lakh crore,” the minister said adding that the government will take a call on 700 MHz band, used for 5G, in case it remains unsold in the ongoing auctions. Excluding 700 MHz and 2500 MHz bands, the bidding accounted for 60 per cent of the spectrum that was put to auction.

The 700 MHz band went unsold during the 2016 auc-

tions, too. During 2016, when there were seven bidders, the spectrum sold was 41 per cent by quantity and 12 per cent by value of the total spectrum put to auction. The corresponding figures in the 2021 spectrum auction so far are 37 per cent and 19 per cent respectively, with three participants.

Spectrum will be offered for assignment for a validity period of 20 years. Successful bidders can pay entire bid amount in one go (upfront), or exercise an option to pay a certain amount (25 per cent for spectrum won in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz bands or 50 per cent for spectrum won in 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz bands) upfront with remaining amount in a maximum up to 16 equated annual instalments, after a moratorium of two years.

Automakers report double digit sales growth in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading car makers Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Tata Motors reported robust sales growth in the domestic market in February as the demand for personal mobility amid COVID-19 pandemic continues to drive the market.

Others, including Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), Mahindra & Mahindra, and Honda Cars India, also reported strong wholesale dispatches to dealers last month.

The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said its domestic sales increased 11.8 per cent to 1,52,983 units last month, as against 1,36,849 units in February 2020.

PM says farmers should get more avenues to sell crops

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday emphasised on farmers getting more avenues to sell crops and said a food processing revolution was needed in the country for value addition to farm produce and to realise better prices.

Addressing a webinar on effective implementation of Budget provisions regarding the Agriculture Ministry, he

underlined the need for increased participation of private players in the farm sector, including in research and development (R&D) work.

Without making any direct reference to the three new farm reform laws or to the three-month-old agitation by farmers, Modi said there is a need for expanding options for the country's farming community to sell agri produce.

GST collections rise 7% to ₹1.13L cr in Feb

The collection is, however, lower than the record ₹1,19,875 crore collected in the previous month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections crossed the ₹1 lakh crore-mark for the fifth month in a row in February, rising 7 per cent to over ₹1.13 lakh crore, indicating economic recovery, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

The collection is, however, lower than the record ₹1,19,875 crore collected in the previous month. The gross GST revenue collected in February 2021 is ₹1,13,143 crore, of which CGST is ₹21,092 crore, SGST is ₹27,273 crore, IGST is ₹55,253 crore (including ₹24,382 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹9,525 crore (including ₹660 crore collected on import of goods). “In line with the trend of recovery in the GST revenues over past five months, the revenues for the month of February 2021 are 7 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.”

“During the month, revenues from import of goods were 15 per cent higher and the revenues from the domestic transaction (including import of services) are 5 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year,” the ministry said in a statement.

गया नगर निगम
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-**E-Tender- 25/2020-21**
(ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

- विज्ञापन सूचना का पदनाम एवं पता : नगर आयुक्त, गया नगर निगम
- कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि : दिनांक- 26.02.2021
- कोटेशन प्रारम्भ करने की तिथि/समय : दिनांक 18.03.2021 को 10:00 बजे से (on website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
- ग्री बिड मीटिंग का समय स्थान/तिथि : समय 11:00 बजे, स्थान-कार्यालय, गया नगर निगम दिनांक- 19.03.2021
- संवेदक द्वारा कोटेशन अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय : दिनांक- 25.03.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक (on website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय : दिनांक- 27.03.2021 के 15:30 बजे से (on website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
- अग्रदूत, सभी मूल शब्द एवं Existing Commitment का मूल कागजात तथा परिणाम : दिनांक 27.03.2021 को 15:00 बजे तक निम्न के मूल को बैंक गारंटी जमा करने की 1. मुख्य अतिथि, बुद्धको, राजपुल, पटना। 2. अतिथि अभियंता, माया प्रमोडल, गया। 3. नगर आयुक्त, गया नगर निगम कार्यालय, गया।
- कार्य का विवरण:-

| क्र.सं. | योजना का नाम | अग्रदूत की राशि (बैंक गारंटी के रूप में) | परिणाम विवरण का मूल्य (Through online payment) | Bid Processing Fee (Through online payment) | कार्य की अवधि |
|---------|--|--|--|---|---------------|
| 1 | गया नगर निगम अंतर्गत विष्णुपद स्मरान घाट का संजालन, सम्पूर्ण परिसर क्षेत्र का साफ-सफाई एवं रख-रखाव का कार्य। | 25000 | 1250 | AS PER EPROC | 05 वर्ष |

9. कोटेशन की वैधता अवधि : 120 दिन

10. कोटेशन कागजात अपलोड करने से पूर्व संवेदक को “Bid Processing Fee” & Transaction Processing Fee निम्न विधि से जमा करना होगा:-

(i) “Bid Processing Fee” & Transaction Processing Fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet payment gateway (Credit/debit Card), Net banking, Online Challan, NEFT/RTGS.

(ii) “Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-Procurement portal www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in before the date and time specified in the NIT. The department doesn't take any responsibility for the delay/Non Submission of Tender/Non Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/Holidays or any other reason.”

11. कोई भी संवेदक को केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार/लोक उपक्रम में निविदा हो अथवा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय/राष्ट्रीय स्तर के हो कोटेशन में भाग ले सकते हैं परन्तु उक्त कार्य का लेटर ऑफ एक्सेप्टेंस प्राप्त होने के बाद एवं एकराशनाम के पूर्व वह निगम विमान/ग्रामीण कार्य विमान/वाणिज्य कार्य हेतु यथोचित विमान में निरन्धन कराना अनिवार्य होगा। यदि मचन का निर्माण कार्य होगा, तो भवन निर्माण कार्य का निबंधन भी मान्य होगा।

12. विस्तृत कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> अथवा state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar में देखा जा सकता है।

PR- 013599 (N.N.) 2020-21

किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपदा प्रत्यक्ष के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

LPG price hiked again by ₹25; ATF price up 6.5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cooking gas LPG price was on Monday hiked by Rs 25 per cylinder across all categories, including subsidised fuel and those availed by Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries - the fourth increase in rates in a month's time. LPG prices have gone up by Rs 125 per 14.2-kg cylinder since the beginning of February, price data from state-owned oil marketing companies showed.

Also, jet fuel prices were hiked by a steep 6.5 per cent on the back of a rally in international oil prices.

A 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi now costs Rs 819 as against Rs 794 at which they were supplied on Sunday.

The increase is applicable across all categories, including subsidised and non-subsidised users.

LPG is available only at one rate, market price, across the country. The government, however, gives a small subsidy to select customers. However, this subsidy has been eliminated in metros and major cities through successive price increases over the past couple of years.

So, in places like Delhi, there is no subsidy paid to customers since May 2020 and all LPG users pay the market price, which currently is Rs 819.

An oil company official said a small subsidy is paid to customers in remote and far-flung areas to make up for the higher price arising from freight charges.

LPG prices were hiked first by Rs 25 per cylinder on February 4, followed by a Rs 50 per cylinder increase on February 15 and Rs 25 raise on February 25.

Prices have been on the rise since December and rates have cumulatively gone up by Rs 175 per cylinder.

PM taking vax to build trust in vaccination drive: Biotech

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine would go a long way in building confidence in the ongoing nationwide vaccination process against the pandemic, Bharat Biotech said on Monday.

The PM on Monday took his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at AIIMS here and appealed to all those who are eligible to get inoculated. Nurse P Niveda, who hails from Puducherry, administered Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN to the prime minister. “We thank the Prime Minister for taking the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine himself and are deeply appreciative of the gesture. This has set a powerful example for all Indians to follow, which will go a long way in reducing vaccine hesitancy and building confidence in immunisation against the pandemic, he added.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

| Sr. No. | NAME OF DEPARTMENT | NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER | OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE | AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES | WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT | NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|---------|--|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,AMBALA | INTERLOCKING PAVAR BLOCK ON SERVICE ROAD OF DANGHERI SUB MINOR + 3 OTHER WORKS | CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021 | 29.97 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 01712973270 xensyambala@gmail.com |
| 2 | PANCHAYATI RAJ,KARNAL | 2 NO. WORKS CONST. & RENOVATION OF DY. DIRECTOR AND SDO OFFICE 1 NO. WORK BUS QUE SHELTER 3 NO. WORKS ANGANWARI CENTRES AND ONE OTHER WORKS | 25.02.2021 13.03.2021 | 69.53 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 9416209875 prexeeng.kr@gmail.com |
| 3 | PANCHAYATI RAJ,KARNAL | LAYING OF RCC PIPELINE FROM THREE POND TO PANCHAYAT LAND IN VILLAGE CHAND SAMAND | 25.02.2021 13.03.2021 | 24.85 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 0184-2262916 prexeeng.kr@gmail.com |
| 4 | PWD B&R, PANCHKULA | TENDER FOR THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. AYURVEDIC DISPENSARY (AYUSH WING) AT BARWALA IN PANCHKULA DISTT. | 01.03.2021 15.03.2021 | 10.76 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 0172-2920477 pwnd-eeep-panchkula@hry.nic.in |
| 5 | FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS HARYANA, CHANDIGARH | E-TENDER NOTICE FOR LABOUR AND CARTAGE AND TRANSPORTATION FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 | 05.03.2021 15.03.2021 | 5% OF TENDER VALUE | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 0172-2705866 |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 1982

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely **Ashwani S/o Dharmpal R/o H.No.125, Near Mogra Chakki, Near Harijan Choupal, Qutubgarh, Delhi Aged-23 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 17.02.2021 at about 4:30 AM from his residence vide **DD No.99A Dated 17.02.2021** registered at Police Station Kanjhawala, Delhi. His physical description is as under-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Hair:** Black, **Clothing:** White coloured T-shirt, Blue Lower & Blue coloured sports shoes in feet

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

Sd/-
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
FAX No. : 011-24368639
DP/682/RD/2021

SHO, Kanjhawala, Delhi
Tel.: 011-25951485
Mob.: 8750870324

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Priya D/o Joyti Bahadur R/o D-14/255, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi Aged-25 Years** has been reported missing since 15.02.2021 at about 11:15 AM from her residence vide **DD No.56A Dated 17.02.2021** registered at Police Station South Rohini, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'11", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, ID: A mole on nose, **Clothing:** White, black grey coloured Sweater, white, red coloured salwar and Sandal in feet.

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

Sd/-
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
FAX No. : 011-24368639
DP/693/RD/2021

SHO, South Rohini, Delhi
Tel.: 011-27512189, 27510515

NOTICE

“**IRAKESH SHARMA, ADVOCATE**, on behalf of my client Smt. Parul Joshi 22, Vindiyachal Apartment, Inder Endive, Rohtak Road, New Delhi-110087, caused this notice to the General Public that Property No SCD 142 was allotted in the name of Mrs Daya Pant w/o Late KC Pant R/o 22, Vindiyachal Apartment, Inder Endave, Rohtak Road, New Delhi 110087 Now, Mrs. Daya Pant has expired on 17/01/2018 and accordingly the name of Mrs Parul Joshi is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned property. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach Ms/ DLF Ltd. or the undersigned within 10 days of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
Rakesh Sharma, Advocate
Chamber 87/88 District Court
Sector 8, Lawyers Chamber,
Guru Gram, Haryana

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

(See proviso to rule 8(i))
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immoveable 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/ | 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 |
|---------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | (A) Mohammad Ali Hasan (Borrower), Nargis Parveen (Co-borrower) LBDEL00002378631 | (C) Flat No. 39, LIG, Fourth Floor, Block B5, Sector 34, Pocket 1, Rohini, New Delhi 110085. Area: 344 Sq. ft. | (D) Rs. 14,43,292/- as on February 20, 2021. | (E) Rs. 9,00,000/- | (F) March 15, 2021 From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM | (G) March 24, 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/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **March 23, 2021** before 05:00 PM 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, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh Delhi- 110055** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **March 23, 2021** before 05:00 PM 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 at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110055** on or before **March 23, 2021** before 05:00 PM. 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. **Augoe 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 02, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

DOCYARD


DR COL VIJAY DUTTA

Senior Consultant
- Internal Medicine

INDIAN SPINAL INJURIES
CENTRE



Take care of your throat



Dysphagia, a medical condition that makes swallowing of food or fluid difficult, is one of the lesser-known side effects of COVID-19 infection. The condition has so far been observed as a fallout of viral and bacterial infections, pharyngeal and esophageal obstructions or other palate problems and neurological diseases. Dysphagia was witnessed in maximum cases of severe cases of COVID-19, especially those who developed acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and were ventilated.

There are a few ways to feel better even if one has this condition:

- Think of baby food and bring your food to that consistency. Include a lot of fluid such as juices to the diet. As you get comfortable, slowly shift to a normal diet. Chew the food completely before swallowing
- Sit upright when you eat or drink. Start with liquids using straw. Do not lay down or bend while eating or drinking. Stand or walk for a minimum of 30 minutes after meals
- Small portion sizes help to ease the discomfort of dysphagia. Clear your mouth completely before taking the next bite.

Most of the COVID-19 patients also experienced a change in their voice, ranging from a rough one to a deeper-pitched one or a mere whisper. The inflammation of vocal cords is exacerbated by long periods of coughing

The inflammation of vocal cords is exacerbated by long periods of coughing. Such an effort makes the vocal folds put extra effort to clear any mucus from lungs and throat, in the process making them swollen and inflamed.

Easing the sore throat and post-COVID voice problem can be done by following these steps:

- Keep yourself well hydrated with warm fluids. Drink about two liters of fluid (plain water and fresh juices) daily. Avoid caffeine or alcohol as they can aggravate the condition
- Warm saline gargles and steam inhalation for at least 15 minutes
- Try to rest your voice as much as possible.

If you are in hospital then you must keep a few things in mind that comprises immediately informing the concerned Doctor or paramedical staff immediately if you are feeling more short of breath during or after the meals.

If you are recovering at home, then you must be careful about a few things and directly inform your General Physician if you are facing problems while eating or drinking something and coughing or choking while having your food. Such patients should avoid shouting, smoking or chewing tobacco and going in dusty areas. Medicated lozenges can also be used.

SUMMERCOOLERS

PAPAYA: Papayas are rich in Vitamin C, fibre and antioxidants which prevent cholesterol build up in your arteries and boosts immunity, apart from the several other health benefits.

It also helps in weight loss because the fibre content in papaya leaves you feeling full and clears your bowel movement.

It is also a rich source of phytonutrients and flavonoids that prevent your cells from undergoing free radical damage. Some studies have also linked the consumption of papaya to reduced risk of colon and prostate cancer.

The presence of various vitamins and nutrients also help in preventing the skin from free radical damage thereby keeping all the signs of ageing at bay.

Several studies have shown that eating papayas also help in maintaining and improving heart health.

Use garlic. Garlic can help in killing the harmful bacteria that causes dental plaque and can also help in relieving toothache. Crush a clove of garlic and



Get ready for COVID jab

DR KANCHAN SANYAL lists the precautions one should take and things to keep in mind before going for the vaccine

With India beginning the COVID-19 vaccination phase 2 from March 1 administering vaccines to those above the age of 60 and people with other medical diseases, it won't be too long when people above 50 and less will also be able to receive the jab.

Despite the fact that the virus is a new and a highly transmissible one, the medical fraternity has learnt immensely from it in the last year. It has managed to fight the disease, analyse and lay down protocols for the treatments, and above all, have worked from all parts of the world together as one to produce reliable and safe vaccines in record time.

Therefore, as your much awaited turn rolls in, here are some precautions you should remember to adhere to before you go to the health facility for your inoculation.

Some of these precautions apply to any vaccine you may have taken before this.

- Take normal diet the evening before the vaccine.
- Avoid alcohol before the injection (and for a few days after). This helps in reducing any mild side effects you may have.
- Clarify with your physician about your underlying illnesses and medical history (the Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Govt. of India has issued clear guidelines and your physician will be aware of this).

Precautions specific to the COVID-19 vaccine:

- The three basics of COVID-19 preventive measures will have to be followed (i.e. wearing a mask, hand hygiene and social distancing) at the vaccination site and in public places.
- Cough/sneeze etiquette should be practiced in all areas.
- Register yourself for the vaccine and go to the centre designated to you on the date intimated.
- Do not worry about side effects. Any vaccine can have side effects but they are minuscule compared to the good they do to the individual and to the society.

Vaccines are voluntary, so decide for yourself but remember that we already have a vast experience in vaccines, tried and tested in many diseases to make the world a healthy place for ourselves and our children.

With the COVID-19 vaccines, we have learnt to deal with this disease scientifically, clearly and with optimism.

The writer is Advisor, Wellness and Wellbeing, Columbia Pacific Communities

Do not worry about side effects. Any vaccine can have side effects but they are minuscule compared to the good they do to the individual and to the society

How to get your dose

Eligible people can register themselves on the platform from Monday, March 1, 9 am onwards. The platform can be accessed via web or through a mobile application.

Eligible beneficiaries can register at the CO-WIN 2.0 portal through their mobile number following a step by step process. After registration, the application will show the government and private hospitals serving as Covid Vaccination Centres (CVC) with the date and time of the available schedules. The beneficiary would be able to choose the CVC of his/her choice and book an appointment for vaccination.

IANS

Beauty Lies Within

For a flawless skin, lustrous hair and a slim figure, good health must be on top of the list, says SHAHNAZ HUSSAIN

Good health and beauty are two sides of the same coin. For a flawless skin, lustrous hair and a slim figure, good health must be on top of the list. A healthy woman is also better equipped to deal with the stresses of daily life. A body that is healthy is imperative for preserving beauty and building up immunity.

The right diet is absolutely essential to good looks. A diet for beauty should be high in vitamin-rich foods and low in carbohydrates and sugar. The answer is to choose from a variety of foods, to ensure a balanced diet. Fresh fruits, raw salads, sprouted grains and yogurt should be included in the daily diet. Have whole grain cereals. Reduce tea and coffee and have freshly extracted fruit and vegetable juices, lassi and clear soups. Avoid fried snacks, rich gravies and desserts, and confectionary items. Add the juice of a lemon to a glass of water and have it first thing in the morning. Drinking adequate water helps to eliminate toxins and wastes from the system.

Exercise, together with a balanced diet, can work wonders. Not only does it build up stamina and strength, but improves blood circulation to the skin and scalp. Every tissue of the body needs oxygen, so begin your exercises by doing deep breathing in front of an open window. Check with your doctor before beginning regular exercise. Walking is good physical activity, as it exercises all the muscle groups. The ancient Indian doctrine of Yoga has attained universal popularity today. In fact, it has become very relevant to modern lifestyle, bringing about harmony of body and mind.

Pay attention to cleansing and daily hygiene. Improper daily hygiene can undermine the health in a number of ways. The skin is influenced by many external factors, like dirt, chemical pollutants, bacteria and virus. By daily washing, bathing and cleaning, we can remove impurities and keep ourselves free from infections. A daily bath, or shower, is a must, especially on returning home. During the ancient times, infusions were used to wash the body. Soak neem leaves in hot water and let it stand overnight. Use the water to bathe the next morning.

Adequate sleep is also essential for fitness. Sleep is a way of restoring energy to the body and is nature's best cure. It is a beauty treatment in itself.

A positive mental attitude is also important, because mind and body are closely related. All of us encounter a certain amount of stress and anxiety in our daily life. It is a matter of learning how to cope with it. We have to train our minds towards positive thinking and relaxation. Regular patterns of rest and exercise, along with hobbies and interests certainly help. Some people are so aware of the world around them. They are always keen to learn new things. Hobbies, interests and new activities can actually be very relaxing to the mind. They also give another dimension to the personality.

Indeed, the finest foundation for beauty consists of some common factors, which we often overlook.

The writer is founder of The Shahnaz Husain Group

DadiKaKehna

Toothaches are common, especially if one prefers to eat a lot of sweets.

ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help ease the pain without much hassle

We all might have had a toothache at least once in a while. While as painful it is, it is also extremely annoying. Here are a few remedies that can help relieve the pain.

Rinse with salt water. Salt water is a natural disinfectant. One can rinse their mouth twice to relieve the pain and inflammation caused by bacteria.

Use garlic. Garlic can help in killing the harmful bacteria that causes dental plaque and can also help in relieving toothache. Crush a clove of garlic and

apply it to the affected area and let it sit for five minutes. Alternatively, you can also chew a clove of garlic.

Cloves can help. Cloves are known to relieve toothache and reduce inflammation for many years. Dab a small amount of clove oil onto a cotton ball and apply it to the affected area. You may want to dilute the clove oil with a few drops of a carrier oil, like olive oil, or water. Do this a few times per day.

You can also add a drop of clove oil to a small glass of water and make a mouthwash. Use it twice daily for best results.

India has issued clear guidelines and your physician will be aware of this).

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vaccination site and in public places.

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Regular exercise is key

Experts talk us through the thyroid disorders, reasons and how one can keep them at bay

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), one of the apex trade associations of the country successfully organised another edition of the webinar series on 'Illness to Wellness' campaign, themed around "Thyroid & Related Disorders - Impact on Health". ASSOCHAM organised this webinar with an objective to cascade mass awareness and disseminate knowledge & wisdom for prevention and treatment of thyroid.

The virtual event was graced by a team of eminent Gastroenterologists, hepatologist who shared their valuable inputs on causes, trends and recent advancements in the treatment of thyroid.

The ASSOCHAM's campaign running under a CSR initiative supported by SAVLON, aims at promoting healthy living with a keen focus on wellness and preventive health through healthy

habits, diet, exercise, and holistic health.

Sharing his perspective, Dr Joshi said: "Thyroid disorder occurs when thyroid gland does not work properly either permanently or temporarily. However, the disease is treatable and one needs to consult endocrinologists once in three months and in some cases only once in a year."

Dr Joshi also emphasised on following healthy lifestyle, balanced diet and follow regular exercise regime.

Addressing the ASSOCHAM webinar, Dr Tripathi talked about the various thyroid disorders in detail. He said, the commonest thyroid disorder is Hypothyroidism, followed by Hyperthyroidism. Hypothyroidism can affect the entire life span of a human from congenital hypothyroidism at birth, to juvenile hypothyroidism, adult onset hypothyroidism and even in the elderly age group. The

treatment of hypothyroidism is generally lifelong, but it is easy to begin and continue and is without side effects.

Dr Kapoor, in his address also explained thyroid is a butterfly shaped gland in the neck which weighs about 18 grams it is not a disease. The under functioning glands leads to hypothyroidism and the over functioning gland leads to hyperthyroidism.

On behalf of the chamber, Rajput said that following a regular exercise regime, maintaining healthy weight together with low fat, low sugar, low rice and high fibre diet can go a long way for everyone to keep such ailments at bay.

He added: "In India over 42 million people suffer from thyroid ailments and 1 in 10 adults suffer from hypothyroidism, a condition in which the thyroid gland doesn't produce the required hormones to meet the needs of the body. It can also cause serious complications during pregnancy."

INBRIEF

A Central Fabrication Unit for prosthetics and orthotics is being developed at Narayan Seva Sansthan with support from Rotary Foundation. The unit will provide artificial limbs and equipment to bolster NSS global campaign for empowering the differently-abled. The cutting-edge technology installed at the unit will ensure quality and affordable prosthetics and will help to bring down the cost of the procedures.

During the programme Rotary governor (District 6900), Rajesh Agrawal said: "To give a fresh start to the differently-abled, NSS is serving needy individuals by offering services such as free food, operative surgery, limbs, education, and skills. With setting up for artificial limb manufacturing, which will bring us additional accomplishment to change the lives of differently-abled people."

In a two-phase project, Global Grant by Rotary Foundation, Rotary Club Emory-Druid Hills(USA District-6900), Rotary Club Udaipur Mewar budget is USD 182995 passed in the first phase.

Speaking on occasion Prashant Agarwal, President, Narayan Seva Sansthan said: "Due to the Rotary Foundation, our various efforts to establish this unit have now been successful. NSS hopes that the installation of the central manufacturing unit will meet the demands and release of the patient load to achieve stability in the quality of equipment manufactured in a short period of time."



Nano influencers are proving to be the next big leap for social media. By TEAM VIVA

As the world experiences the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an upsurge in people turning active on social media. This phase has unlocked the creative minds and pushed people to explore relatively fresh opportunities. Aradhana Srivastava, Public Relations Expert from Savin Communication says, "Social Platforms have hidden potential, if cultivated fairly can yield exceptional output both in matter of content and vogue."

Social Media has always been a highly interactive platform catering to users of a young generation, giving rise to a new community called "Influencers." These social media connoisseurs have turned into a driving force for the national economy in the most surprising way. They are the first preference of any brand because of their better reach among millions of Instagram users and creators.

Welcome the nano influencers

The latest community of influencers added to the Instagram family is popularly called "Nano Influencers." These are the social media warriors with the power to influence a small group of 1000-5000 people and have the ability to nurture communities with specific interests and influence.

Partnering with nano-influencers is fast becoming a major strategy point for



brands with budgetary constraints due to the pandemic. A report by Marketing Week projected that 52 per cent of brands are planning to collaborate with more nano-influencers in the forthcoming months and 44 per cent of brands who are already collaborating, plan to continue their association with

these new-age agents of social media growth. Engaging with such influencers is not only cost-effective but also helpful in reaching highly engaged audiences.

New-age celebs

Remember the ice bucket challenge? Those were the days when film



celebrities used to set trends that went viral but the situation has flipped now. Nowadays, it is the Nano influencers' who are driving public opinion in a micro-manner than global celebrities. No wonder that this community has become the new-age celebs and has even motivated various brands to collaborate.

Taking over competition

Nano-influencers may take over from the micro-influencers as key brand partners in the coming years. Micro-influencers who have followers between 5k to 100k have been the premiere preference for any brand campaigns for the past couple of years but it is being observed that nano influencers have established a closer relationship with their audience and are considered a more reliable option to take the brand forward.

The need of the hour

Since there are thousands of nano influencers creating content for Instagram, brands look for a platform through which they can directly pick the right influencer for their needs. One such forthcoming platform is 'We The Influencers.' It is an online community of talented and enthusiastic influencers from all across the country. This platform will cater to a common room for both the brand and the influencer, allowing them to communicate and create fruitful collaborations.

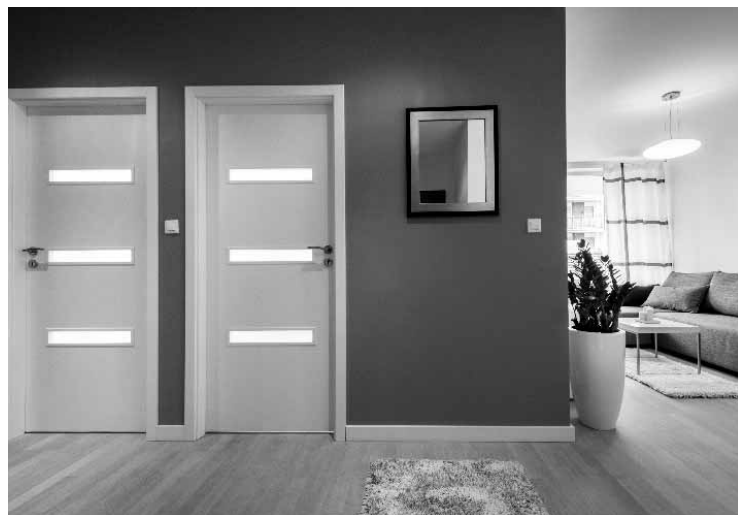
A helpful companion

Marketing specialists are searching for creators with an individual approach and who enjoy the trust of their followers. Since the nano influencers tick both the boxes, they've become the ideal companion for brands looking for new ways to spread their message. What makes this association better is the fact that these young guns are also highly dedicated to their work and are open to learning new things.

TREND TOOL

Decoding fusion

Design your spaces by combining elegance with durability



Do you often find yourself juggling to achieve a fine balance between the lifespan and design of our interiors? Trust us, it's not a herculean task. Undoubtedly, home decor must be planned very thoughtfully whether you are re-purposing the space or thinking of some minor tweaks. There are various elements and aspects to keep in mind, such as the climate in your city and the design aesthetics. Today, the evolving technology and innovations have ensured the integration of all these elements under one roof. Parul Mittal, Director, Greenlam Industries Ltd shares a few simple decor themes that offer you the best of both worlds – durability and design.

A SOOTHING FACELIFT

The entry of your house is usually through the living room which sets the tone for the entire home and leaves the first impression. Therefore, a minimal and clean look is needed for such spaces. Calming shades give your mind, body and soul a certain level of relaxation. Throw muted shades of yellow

and grey to your cushions placed on a sofa set in muted blue. These colours will instantly infuse a comforting vibe around your space. The best way to distinguish your colour scheme is by keeping your walls, door and floor crisp white.

While visual impact of doors must not be compromised as they are some of the most visible design elements in the house, its resistance and lifespan should top your checklist.

WONDERS OF NATURAL WOOD

The majestic grandeur and simplicity of a natural element like wood is just limitless. Wood holds the power to make an unmatched statement and looks absolutely charming when used for home interiors. If you have cream or off-white interiors, opting for a darker shade of wooden doorset to complement the entire ambience. Keep your area spick and span by placing minimal kitchen essentials out in the open. Make it look more modern by showcas-

ing your silver crockery and glassware in open cabinets.

OPTIMISTICALLY YOURS

We all have stepped into a new year with positivity and hopefulness. How about we paint this outlook all over the house to ensure every touch point encourages you? Spill the pantone colour 'Ultimate Gray' on your walls to add an instant warmth and comfort. Since, we are talking about all the earthy tones, we suggest going for a crisp yet classic white shade for doors. It will not only exude sheer panache but also a strong sense of calmness. Make your space functional and minimal; this can be done by placing a statement sofa and a mini-breakfast table in opposite directions.

Every element of your house speaks to you and brings along a purpose to fulfill. The three distinct decor looks are an inspiration for designing a space that brings élan as well as ensures durability. So, think no further and get on with curating your own dream-like haven.

REMEMBERING HIS CANVAS

Artist SAYED HAIDER RAZA, who would have turned 100 this year, lives through his works even today. By UMA NAIR

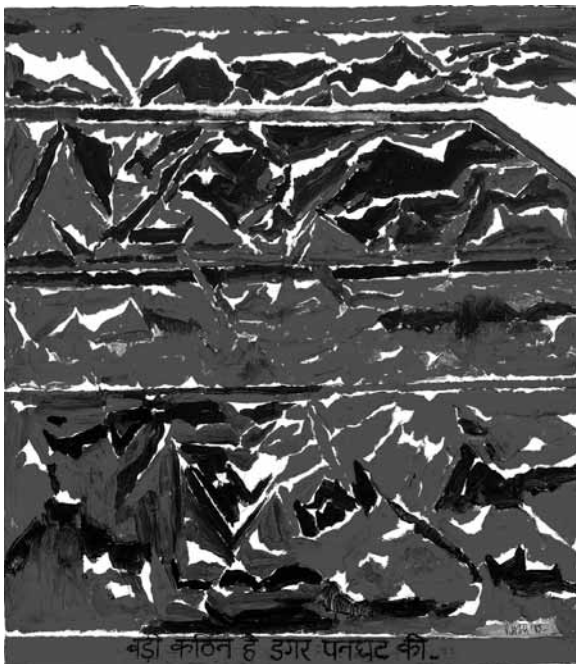
At the art gallery, Akar Prakar, there are canvasses created by Sayed Haider Raza in his last few years. They are a testimony to his love for painting and clearly prove that he was a pilgrim of deeper intensities in geometry and symbolism.

Amongst all the works in this seminal show, it is *Shantibindu* that strikes a deep chord in this critic. In a conversation to me in 2004 on the eve of his 85th birthday, he said, "My *bindu* is primarily a philosophical expression, an act of faith in the infinite, an affirmation of spirituality. When I sit down in front of one of my paintings to contemplate, I suddenly feel a great expansion of the spirit, I feel like a man liberated from the wants of material desires, a man who belongs to the vastness of the present and past.

Shantibindu tryst

Raza Sahib's tryst with the *Shantibindu* began in the 1990s. The black orb that went beyond the black sun into infinite realms and references gave way to a set of concentric geometric circles that formed a suffused ethereal *Bindu*, which looked like a symphony of peace created for a vista of harmonies. For Raza, the recurring *Bindu* became a new corollary on canvas with infinite variations.

The *Shantibindu* for Raza was an exemplification of *Purusha Prakriti* principles. These principles dwell on the infinite, on dualities and deeper philosophies of the inner spirit and outer realities of nature's relativity. Born of a meditative mooring,

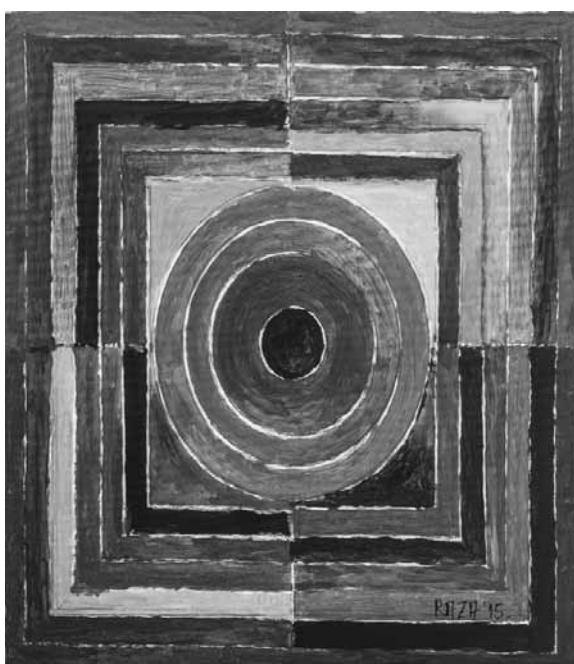


his *bindu* was the device of a spiritual firmament. The softly nuanced pastel toned circles resonate with a harmony emanating from the epicentre. Their terracotta and soft tinted colour tones form an elegant exemplar. The *Shantibindu* became

an iconic nucleus in which the central core was an energy that created a ritual.

Nostalgia and memory

Looking at this show highlights the power and prowess of his paint-



ings that come rushing into human memory. His early landscapes of European cities, churches, glowing ember like landscapes that spoke of his passion for nocturnes, his midnight moorings of works like *Tapovan*, *La Terre*, *Saurashtra*,

Rajasthan and his *Shantibindu* series, all become a part of his pilgrimage of painting. India's avant grade artist who combined expressionist brushwork with the symbolism of geometry woven into personal memory lives through his works.

Ayushmann praises CISF

The armed forces of India have been on the front-line of the COVID-19 pandemic in India, protecting the citizens of the country while being in harm's way. Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana, who is currently shooting for his next, *Anek*, directed by Anubhav Sinha, has been deeply moved seeing the commendable work that the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in Guwahati has been doing. The youth icon was requested to send a video message to the entire unit stationed in Assam and Ayushmann sent them a heartfelt thank you.

In the video, Ayushmann says, "I would like to congratulate all the majors and soldiers from the CISF Guwahati regiment on how right since COVID-19 unfolded, until now, they have contributed to the aviation security with patience and valour. I truly salute all your efforts to serve. I truly hope you stay safe and healthy."

Ayushmann has always been inspired by the army men in India who selflessly devote their lives to protect others. The actor has also been deeply moved by the pandemic and how it has impacted people from every strata. He has also composed some heartfelt poems on this sufferings of



people during the pandemic, which instantly became a rage in the country. The actor will be shooting for *Anek* right through March before jumping onto his next film, *Doctor G*.

TRENDBLAZER



KANGANA REMINISCES ABOUT CHILDHOOD

Bollywood actor **KANGANA RANAUT** has reminisced about her childhood as it is her birthday month.

Kangana shared a childhood picture on Instagram. In the image, a young Kangana is seen dressed in salwaar kameez.

Alongside the image, she wrote: "My birthday month, growing up grannies told stories that after a sister another girl child birth disappointed everyone..."

fairtalk

ADAH SHARMA



"I've always felt more comfortable around animals than humans. I'm the most uncomfortable in social places like parties with people I don't know. But put me in a forest with animals and I feel at home. Animals are uncomplicated, easy to interact with. They live in the moment. I recently rescued an injured bird while shooting and named it Twitter."

dailytalk

VINAY PATHAK



"I remember our screening at the Berlinale where barring me, Udit and her parents, the rest of the audience in the screening theatre, which was a full house, was an entirely international audience. The way the audience reacted to the story after the screening was overwhelming. *Dust* is an Indian film with a global appeal and that is why we touched the right chords."

HOW ELLIE KEPT HER PREGNANCY PRIVATE

Singer **ELLIE GOULDING** reveals she used her husband **Casper Jopling's** coat to hide her pregnancy for the first six months.

Chatting on a show, Ellie was asked how her pregnancy is going and how she hid it. "It's different. I stole my husband's coat for about six months," she revealed.





India opener Rohit Sharma bats during nets session ahead of fourth Test against England @BCCI

India's top guns go full throttle at nets

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Big guns Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane went full throttle at the nets as the Indian cricket on Monday trained in earnest for the upcoming fourth and final Test against England.

The fourth Test starts here on Thursday.

Captain Kohli, his deputy Rahane and senior opener Rohit were seen batting at the nets in a video posted by the BCCI on Twitter.

The three senior players drove, pulled and flicked against the fast

bowlers and spinners at the Narendra Modi Stadium here.

Head coach Ravi Shastri was seen interacting with Rohit and Kohli before the two star batsmen sat together for a discussion.

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel, who bagged 11 wickets in India's thumping win in the pink ball third Test at the same venue, was seen rolling his arms over at the nets against some of the world's best batsmen.

They were also seen fielding with Rahane, standing next to Rohit in the second slip position, taking a one-handed diving catch to his right.

Eng didn't prepare well for spin challenge: Richards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

West Indian batting legend Viv Richards is not amused with past and present English cricketers "moaning and groaning" about the spin-friendly pitches in India and said the visitors did not prepare well for the challenge.

The newly-laid Motera track in Ahmedabad became a subject of debate after India crushed England inside two days in the third Test to go 2-1 up in the four-match series. The severe criticism came from former England captains like Michael Vaughan and a section of the British media.

All the chatter has not gone down well with Richards, whose incredible range of strokes and fearless approach to the game terrorised the best of bowlers in his prime in every corner of the cricketing world.

"I've been asked questions recently about the Test match that was played in India, the second and third Test match against England.

"And I am a little confused about the question really because there seems to be a lot of moaning and groaning about the wicket that they were playing on," Richards said in a video posted on his Facebook page.

"I just felt that the ones who are moaning, in my opinion, should realise that there are times that you're going to get a seaming track, a ball that is basically jumping off a good length and everyone thinks that's a problem for batters," he reasoned.



England all-rounder Ben Stokes plays shot against India during third Test in Ahmedabad @BCCI/Twitter

The 68-year-old pointed out that playing in India has mostly been about tackling quality spinners and that England may not have done their homework properly ahead of the tour.

Weighing in on the debate, the batting great said, "... But now you've seen the other side, and this is why I think it was given the name Test match cricket, because of the test of the mind and will and everything else that goes with it when you're competing.

"And the complaints have been that the wicket is spinning too much and all that sorts of stuff. This is another

side of the coin guys.

"People seem to forget that if you're going to India, you should expect that. You are going to spin land. You should basically prepare yourself to know what you're going to encounter."

Richards said that India have pushed England out of their comfort zone, weeks after the visitors started the series with a big win.

"Ever since that first Test match, England were in their comfort zone. They have now been taken out of their comfort zone at present and they have got to find ways and means to cope with what they are going

to encounter.

"Spin is also a part of the game, this is what a Test match brings. The Indian pacers have been brilliant over the past few years in terms of substance, the wicket-taking ability and stuff like that."

The legend urged the English team to work harder and face the challenge resolutely.

"...Now that you're in India, you are going to encounter things and have got to find a way. You're going to get dirty. There is nothing in the rule book that says I've got to score my runs in pretty, classical ways," he said.

England appoint Trescothick as batting coach

London: England on Monday appointed former opener Marcus Trescothick as the new batting coach of the national team, besides roping in Jon Lewis and New Zealand's Jeetan Patel as bowling and spin bowling coaches on permanent basis.

These three are part of the four new appointments to England's coaching set-up, which is being headed by chief coach Chris Silverwood.

Trescothick will take over from Jonathan Trott, who replaced South African Jacques Kallis in the ongoing tour. Kallis had played the role of a batting consultant for England in Sri Lanka.

"...I'm really excited about the calibre of the individuals that we've appointed into these specialist roles. Marcus, Jon and Jeetan have demonstrated their ability at the highest level and also show huge potential for the future," ECB performance director Mo Bobat said in a statement.

Trescothick, who scored over 10,000 international runs across formats between 2000 and 2006, is expected to take up his new role in mid-March after stepping down from his position as assistant coach at Somerset.

PTI

Maxi eager to learn from Kohli



PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is chuffed about playing alongside and learning from Virat Kohli in the upcoming IPL, calling the Indian captain "the pinnacle of the game" for his dominance across formats. The Kohli-led RCB bought Maxwell, who was released by Punjab Kings, for a whopping ₹14.25 crore at the auctions last month.

"It's (RCB stint) going to be next level," Maxwell told *Australian Associated Press*. "He's (Kohli) been the pinnacle of the game for a while as a multi-for-

'Virat is like modern day hero'

New Delhi: Australian great Steve Waugh feels that Virat Kohli is like a "modern-day hero" who represents the "new attitude of India" of taking everything head on with a mind set of nothing is impossible.

In a 60-minute documentary titled, *Capturing Cricket: Steve Waugh in India*, the former Australia captain said that Kohli is loved by the fans for his attitude of not being intimidated by an opposition.

mat player from Tests all the way to T20s. "He's been able to adapt his game, dominate for a long period of time and deal with the Indian pressure of being their captain and their best player," Maxwell added.

The Indian Premier League is scheduled to start in the second week of April and the swashbuckling all-rounder hopes to pick up some leadership qualities from the Indian skipper, who will also be Maxwell's captain at RCB.

"I'm looking forward to watching him go about his work, not just in games but in training, and hopefully tapping into some of the leadership stuff and try and learn off him."

"What they love about Kohli is that it's like the new attitude of India, get stuck in, don't be intimidated. Take everything on and anything is achievable and possible. But he's like the modern-day hero," Waugh was quoted as saying in a media release after the launch of the documentary.

The documentary captures the very essence and undying love for the game in India through the lens of Waugh and is brought by *discovery+*. PNS

Mumbai trounce HP by 200 runs

Iyer-led side remain unbeaten in league stage to advance in Hazare knockouts

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Domestic giants Mumbai trounced Himachal Pradesh by 200 runs in their final Elite Group D game here on Monday to remain unbeaten in the league stage of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Mumbai had won their first four matches against Delhi, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Rajasthan.

Opting to bat at the Sai Mansingh Stadium, Mumbai posted an imposing 321/9, courtesy Shardul Thakur's 92, Suryakumar Yadav's 91 and Aditya Tare's 83 after a top-order failure.

Himachal were then bundled out for a meagre 121, with leg-spinner Prashant Solanki (4/31) shining with the ball.

After losing four for 49, Suryakumar began the rescue act and toyed with the Himachal attack, striking 15 boundaries on his way to a 75-ball 91.

He found an able ally in the experienced Tare (83 off 98 balls; 6x4; 1x6) who played the perfect second fiddle as the duo forged a 99-run fifth wicket stand to rally the innings.

After Suryakumar fell in the 31st over, Tare and Shardul added 112 runs for the sixth wicket, as they tackled the



Himachal attack with ease.

Shardul, one of the heroes of the Brisbane Test against Australia, hammered six boundaries and as many sixes, as he cantered to 92 in just 57 balls.

Thanks to Shardul's hitting, Mumbai crossed the 300-run mark, but Tare's patient knock was equally important as he anchored the innings and supported the aggressors.

In the other two Elite Group D league games, Maharashtra thrashed Puducherry by 137 runs, while Delhi defeated Rajasthan by eight wickets.

SAURASHTRA IN Q/F

In Group E games at Kolkata, Saurashtra suffered a shocking 62-run loss at the

hands of Services but still managed to finish as group toppers and qualified for the knock-out phase.

Saurashtra finished with 16 points, four clear of Chandigarh whose direct qualification hopes were dashed with an eight-wicket loss to Jammu & Kashmir at the Jadavpur University second campus in Saltlake.

At the 22 Yards Academy in Saltlake, Services rode on Rahul Singh Gahlaut's career-best 158 to post a challenging 301 for seven and in reply Saurashtra were bundled out for 233 in 43.1 overs.

Elsewhere at Eden Gardens, hosts Bengal lose by five wickets against Haryana.

U'KHAND PIP ASSAM

Uttarakhand thrashed Sikkim by 145 runs to remain unbeaten in the Plate group, and clinch a spot in the knockout phase, pipping Assam by virtue of a better net run-rate.

Assam completed its engagements with a crushing 182-run win over Mizoram.

Both Uttarakhand and Assam finished with an all-win record but the former qualified for the next stage due to a higher NRR (3.273) as against the latter's 1.909. Meghalaya edged Nagaland to the third spot by virtue of a superior NRR despite securing 16 points. They were followed by Sikkim (4 points), Arunachal Pradesh (2), Mizoram (2) and Manipur (0).

Reds answer critics with win

AFF ■ SHEFFIELD

Jurgen Klopp believes Liverpool can prove the doubters that have written their season off wrong after snapping a four-game Premier League losing streak to win 2-0 at Sheffield United on Sunday.

The English champions' title defence has been decimated by injuries and they face a battle just to qualify for next season's Champions League via a top-four finish.

Klopp's men remain in sixth, but are now just two points behind fourth-placed West Ham and can leapfrog Chelsea in fifth when the Blues visit Anfield on Thursday.

"Plenty of people have written us off. That's fine," said Klopp. "With all the problems we have had, we're still around the exciting places."

Jordan Henderson has been added to Liverpool's long-term injury list, while goalkeeper Alisson Becker was absent after



he lost his father this week.

But the Championship-bound Blades proved the perfect opponents for Klopp's men to restore some confidence as Curtis Jones' second-half strike and Kean Bryan's own goal got the Reds back to winning ways.

"This was about us showing we're still there," added Klopp.

"We play Chelsea on Thursday, we have to show it again. We have to win football games, we know that. There's no way into the Champions League without results."

Sheffield United are still 15 points adrift of safety at the bottom of the table and manager Chris Wilder admitted his side lacked the quality to challenge even a depleted Liverpool.

Milan back on track

AFF ■ ROME

Milan won an intense battle with rivals Roma at the Stadio Olimpico in the Italian capital on Sunday night, as Stefano Pioli's side push for a first league title since 2011.

A Franck Kessie penalty gave Milan the lead five minutes before the break after Federico Fazio fouled Davide Calabria.

Jordan Veretout pulled Roma level five minutes after the break with an arrowed shot, but the away side were soon back in front.

Ante Rebic drilled home the winner eight minutes later after collecting a pass from Alexis Saelemaekers following a poor clearance from Roma goalkeeper Pau Lopez.

Off-form Milan star Zlatan Ibrahimovic had been substituted shortly before Croatia international Rebic scored the decisive goal.

"I told the lads that two games (losses) cannot take away the confidence build up

over a year," said Pioli.

"It's an important win at a decisive moment in the season which takes us out of



Atlético keep rivals at bay

AFF ■ VILLARREAL

Atletico Madrid bounced back from recent poor form with a hard-fought 2-0 win at Villarreal on Sunday that allowed the La Liga pace-setters to extend their lead to five points.

An own goal from Alfonso Pedraza and Joao Felix's powerful strike gave Atletico a precious win after a wobble which had allowed Barcelona and Real Madrid to gain ground in the title race.

Diego Simeone's side had come into the match off the back of a Champions League last 16 defeat to Chelsea and a league run in which they picked up just five points from

two very strange weeks."

Earlier, Napoli's record goalscorer, Dries Mertens, returned from injury to help the southerners boost their Champions League hopes with a 2-0 win over local rivals Benevento, to



Joao Felix scores Atletico Madrid's second goal against Villarreal @ATM/Twitter

their previous four matches. However, the win ensures Atletico hold second-placed Barca at bay and crucially

keeps the gap between them and rivals Real Madrid at six points ahead of next weekend's local derby.

half an hour for his 131st Napoli goal.

Matteo Politano turned in the second in the 66th minute, with Gattuso's side holding on for the points despite Kalidou Koulibaly's sending-off 10 minutes from time.