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THE MISSING CULTURE
OF STRATEGIC THINKING

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TRUMP'S CASH PLEA COULD
COMPLICATE GOP FUNDRAISING

SPORT 12
AUS BEAT NZ
IN THIRD T20I

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STATE BUDGET

Rural development, education get lion's share

Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon presents ₹91,277 Cr Budget for FY 2021-22

Budget will have far reaching impact in future: CM

PRANAV PRATYUSH ■ RANCHI

State Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon presented the second Budget of Grand Alliance (Congress, JMM and RJD) Government in the State in the tune of ₹91,277 crore for Financial Year 2021-22, focusing primarily on education, rural development, agriculture and allied sectors, health, welfare and social welfare, among others.

The Budget makes provision of ₹75,755.01 crore for revenue expenditure and ₹15,521.99 crore for capital expenditure. For Financial Year 2021-22 ₹37,943.34 crore have been allocated for establishment expenditure, ₹37,008.09 crore for State schemes (including State's part), ₹2,081.34 for Central Sector schemes and ₹12,244.23 crore for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Centre's part).

Sector wise the Budget allocates ₹26,734.05 crore for General Sector, ₹33,625.72 crore for Social Sector and ₹30,917.23 crore for Economic sector. Education and Rural development sectors have got the major share of the Budget with 14.52 and 14.16 per cent of the total expenditure allotted for the two major areas.

In the fiscal year 2021-22, the State will get about ₹23,265.42 crore from its tax revenue and ₹13,500 crore



Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon addresses a Press conference at State Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday. Rural Development Minister Alangir Alam, Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh and Finance secretary Himani Pandey are also seen in the picture
Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

from non-tax revenue, ₹17,891.48 crore from Central assistance, ₹22,050.10 crore as State's share in Central taxes, about ₹14,500 crore from public debt and ₹70 crore will be received from recovery of borrowings and advances.

The growth rate of the State was 6.7 per cent in the year 2019-20 and due to Covid-19 pandemic there is a marked decline

in the growth rate. In comparison to the decline in national GDP to 7.5 per cent, Jharkhand has recorded a decline of 6.9 per cent in FY 2020-21. It is expected that the growth rate in the FY 2021-22 will be 9.5 per cent on constant prices.

Notably, the Government, for the first time, has invested ₹303.87 crore in the Consolidated Sinking Fund,

which will improve the credit rating of the State. In FY 2021-22 a provision of ₹472 crore has been made for investment in the CSF.

Also, for the first time an Outcome Budget on the basis of 21 demands of 11 departments was put up in the State Budget. The Outcome Budget is aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in financial trans-



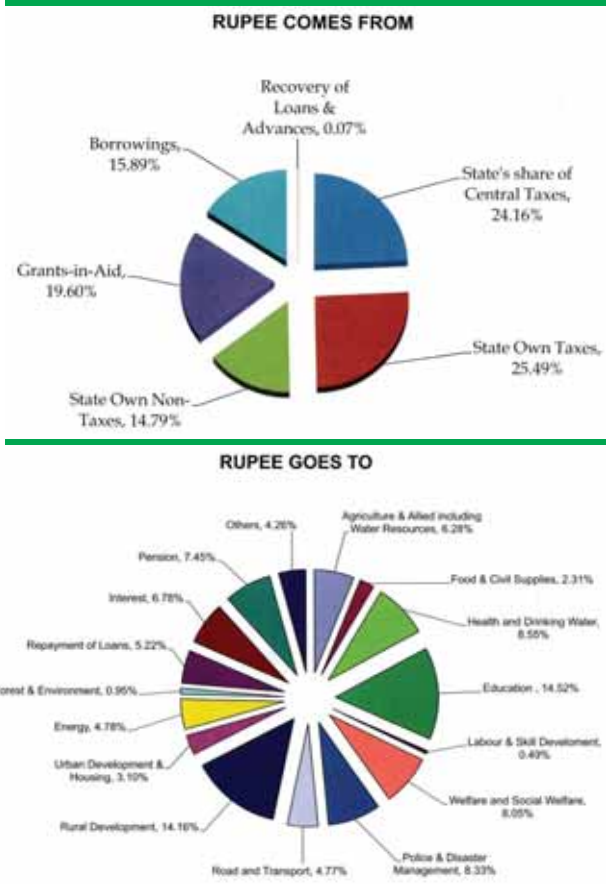
Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon hands over a briefcase containing the State Budget papers to Governor Droupadi Murmu at Raj Bhawan in Ranchi on Wednesday
Pioneer photo

actions and it will also ensure whether the provisions of the Budget are actually benefitting the masses.

The State Government also brought in several schemes and projects in the Budget, including Integrated Birs Gram Vikas Yojna, cultivation of horticulture crops in urban areas, setting up of Jharkhand State Horticulture Promotion Society, establishment of Go Mukti Dham, several new irrigation projects, providing loans to women SHGs, Birs Harit Gram

Scheme, distribution of Dhoti, Saree, Lungi among masses etc.

The Budget also talks about setting up community food centres named after former CM and JMM chief Shib Soren. The scheme, named Gurji Kitchen Scheme, will provide ready to eat food for the common man at the community food centres. The scheme will replace Dal Bhat Kendras and several new such centres will be opened for the benefit of the poor and the marginalised section of society.



In the field of education several model schools will be opened in the State and the Jharkhand Open University will be established to benefit students of far flung areas of Jharkhand.

After the Budget presentation in the Assembly, Chief Minister Hemant Soren said that the Government has a long term plan and the results of the

plans will be far reaching. "In the last 20 years whatever policies were made were for immediate benefits. Therefore, we have made a provision of the outcome Budget this time. We don't just want to make a budget, but want to see the outcome of the Budget. This Budget will prove to be a milestone in the economy of the State," he said.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren receives a bouquet from his wife Kalpana Soren before attending the Budget Session of Jharkhand Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday
Pioneer photo

Covaxin efficacy 81%: Biotech Ph 3 study involved 25,800; it can neutralise UK variant strains

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech on Wednesday said its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin has demonstrated an interim vaccine efficacy of 81 per cent in phase 3 clinical trials. "Analysis from the National Institute of Virology also indicates that vaccine-induced antibodies can neutralise the UK variant strains and other heterologous strains," Bharat Biotech said in a statement.

The trial process involved 25,800 subjects, the largest ever

conducted in India, in partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the pharma firm said adding that the phase 3 study enrolled participants between 18-98 years of age, including 2,433 over the age of 60 and 4,500 with comorbidities.

The first interim analysis is based on 43 cases, of which 36 cases of Covid-19 were observed in the placebo group versus 7 cases observed in the Covaxin group, resulting in a point estimate of vaccine efficacy of 80.6 per cent, Bharat Biotech explained.

"Today is an important

milestone in vaccine discovery, for science and our fight against coronavirus. With today's results from our Phase 3 clinical trials, we have now reported data on our Covid-19 vaccine from Phase 1, 2, and 3 trials involving around 27,000 participants," Bharat Biotech Chairman and Managing Director Krishna Ella said.

Covaxin demonstrates a high clinical efficacy trend against Covid-19 but also significant immunogenicity against the rapidly emerging variants, he added.

In January, drug regulator DCGI had approved Oxford

Covid-19 vaccine Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute, and indigenously developed Covaxin of Bharat Biotech for restricted emergency use in the country, paving the way for a massive inoculation drive.

Covishield had shown an efficacy rate of 70 per cent after two full doses.

However, one of the regimen with a half dose and a full dose showed 90 per cent efficacy against the virus.

Bharat Biotech said the interim analysis of its vaccine included a preliminary review of the safety database, which

showed that severe, serious, and medically attended adverse events occurred at low levels and were balanced between vaccine and placebo groups, the company said.

The trial's conduct and monitoring are as per good clinical practice guidelines and have been outsourced to IQVIA, it added.

The company expects to share further details of the trial results as additional data becomes available, it noted.

Additional interim analysis is planned for 87 cases, and the final analysis is planned for 130 cases, the company said.

Eligible citizens can take Covid jabs 24X7, says Health Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eligible citizens can take Covid-19 vaccine round the clock as per their convenience, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The Ministry also permitted all private hospitals to give Covid vaccine if they adhere to the laid down norms. "The Government has ended the time constraint to increase the speed of vaccination. Citizens of the country can now get vaccinated 24x7 at their convenience," Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said on twitter.

IT raids Kashyap, Taapsee's assets, questions 2 later

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The Income Tax (IT) department officials on Wednesday carried out searches at 30-odd properties and locations linked to Anurag Kashyap and Taapsee Pannu in Mumbai and Pune for alleged tax evasion, while the filmmaker and actress were questioned by the IT officials in Pune.

In a development that is being seen an act of vendetta against Kashyap and Taapsee who have been vociferous critics of the Narendra Modi Government, the IT officials simultaneously zeroed in on several premises in Mumbai and Pune which are linked to erstwhile Phantom Films that was co-promoted by Anurag Kashyap, producers Vikas Bahl and Madhu Mantena, an event management company and a talent management company.

Kashyap and Taapsee were questioned by the IT department officials in Pune in connection with the searches conducted at various places.

Official sources attributed searches to the available information that the IT department had received that the movies made by the productions were showing disproportionately low income, in spite of the fact that their films were hits at the box-office.

The premises of Exceed Entertainment, which is being managed by actor Saif Ali Khan, were searched, while some executives of Kwan Talent Management that manages actor Deepika Padukone and other actors were questioned.

When asked about the IT raids conducted on premises linked to Kashyap and Taapsee, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said at a news briefing in New Delhi: "The Income Tax department probes someone based on whatever information they get. The issue goes to court later."

On allegations that the searches on premises belonging to Kashyap and Taapsee were an off-shoot of criticism of the Government, Javadekar said: "This is too much"

SSB to raise 12 more battalions New formations to fortify Sikkim tri-junction bordering Bhutan, Tibet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has sanctioned raising of a dozen new battalions (about 13,000 personnel) for the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) over the next four years. The SSB guards the frontiers along Nepal and Bhutan.

The new battalions will mostly be deployed to fortify the defences at the tri-junction area in Sikkim that adjoins Bhutan and Tibet and other such vulnerable posts along the two open borders.

The SSB with a present strength of about 90,000 personnel is the lead intelligence agency along 1,751 km open border with Nepal and 699 km boundary with Bhutan.

The 12 new battalions will be raised in phases. Three battalions each will be raised over the next four years.

"The Government has sanctioned to raise new battalions and related establishments for the SSB. The additional manpower will boost border security," a senior Union Home Ministry official said.

The Centre has also sanctioned 548 posts to the force for deployment at four ICPs (integrated check posts) along the



Nepal frontier out of which two are already operational at Jobgani and Raxaul (in Bihar).

The new battalions will be used to reduce inter-border outpost distance, strengthen trade and transit routes along Nepal and Bhutan and fortify the paramilitary's deployments at the tri-junction area in Sikkim.

The tri-junction area is the plateau between India, Bhutan and Tibet and the SSB is deployed just below it on the southern side, being the designated border force for Bhutan

frontier.

In 2017, the Armies of India and China had engaged in an over 70-day standoff in Doklam at this tri-junction.

The additional manpower will also be deployed for upgrading the existing border posts at strategically important locations along the two frontiers besides bolstering the security at the eight ICPs.

The sanction of new battalions and establishments was granted as a follow up to Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewing the operations of

the SSB in October, 2019 and subsequent directions to the paramilitary to conduct a "vulnerability assessment and gap analysis" of the two borders, officials said.

Following this, the SSB came up with a proposal suggesting requirement of 12 new battalions, a frontier headquarters and at least 3 sector headquarters that would be used to enhance logistical and administrative support to its border units as also for deployments for internal security roles in the hinterland.

Will stay away from politics: Sasikala's dramatic pledge

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Weeks ahead of Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections, VK Sasikala, expelled AIADMK leader and close aide of late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, on Wednesday announced "she will stay away from politics," but would pray for the "golden rule" of the late party supremo.

In an announcement that came as a bolt out of the blue, she urged "true supporters of Amma" to work like siblings and ensure Jayalalithaa's "golden rule continues."

"I will stay away from politics and keep praying my sister Puratchi Thalaivi (Jayalalithaa), whom I consider as God, and the Lord Almighty for the establishment of the golden rule of Amma," she said in a statement.

She appealed to Jayalalithaa's "true supporters" to work unitedly in the April 6 elections and prevent "common enemy", DMK, identified as "evil force" by the late CM, from coming to power.



After being released from a Bengaluru prison following completion of a four-year term in an assets case, Sasikala had last month announced her intention to engage in active politics.

Her subsequent political moves, including the stand of the AMMK floated by her nephew TTV Dhinakaran, in the polls was keenly awaited by observers and political parties alike in the State in the context of the crucial elections.

Abducted minor girl recovered from Wasseypur locality

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

A minor girl who was abducted from Pachamba locality of Giridih and was brought to Dhanbad by abductor was recovered from Wasseypur locality by Giridih police with help of Bank More police.

The abductor Mahtab alias Raj had abducted the girl on March 1 and had forcefully brought her to Dhanbad.

The mother of the victim had filed a complaint with

- Abductor Mahtab alias Raj had abducted the girl on March 1 and had forcefully brought her to Dhanbad
- The mother of the victim had filed a complaint with Pachamba police station and had given the identity of the abductor to police on the same day

Pachamba police station and had given the identity of the abductor to police on the same day.

The girl and abductor were

recovered from Wasseypur locality by a team of police led by Nitish Kumar OC- In-charge of Pachamba PS after tracking their mobile location.

Both were brought to Bank More police station and after holding a medical test the girl was produced in court where her statement was recorded under section 164 of CrPC.

The police took the accused to Giridih where he was sent to jail. The girl was handed over to her parents.

अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ अंचल, रैची
लाईन टैक रोड, लकड़ा गोदाम, रैची-834001
E-Mail Id-sercd ranchi-jhr@nic.in

दूरध्वा - 0651-2213738

आवश्यक सूचना
वाद संख्या WP(L) 3919 / 2008 अधीक्षण अभियंता(यांत्रिक), पथ निर्माण विभाग, रैची एवं अन्य बनाव संजय कुमार एवं अन्य मामले में निम्न वादियों को सूचित किया जाता कि माननीय झारखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय, रैची के पारित न्यायादेश के आलोक में औद्योगिक विवाद अधिनियम की धारा-17B के तहत माह फरवरी, 2021 तक के अद्यतन भुगतान के क्रम में सरकारी अथवा गैर सरकारी संस्थान में अनियोजन (Non Employment) संबंधी शपथ पत्र उपलब्ध कराना वांछित है ।

1) श्री अरुण कुमार

2) श्री अशोक कुमार चौधरी

3) श्री शशि रंजन कुमार

4) श्री मुन्नु चौधरी

5) श्री विनोद कुमार

6) श्री परशुराम कुमार

7) श्री पारसनाथ प्र० सिंह

8) श्री कृष्णा प्रसाद

9) श्री विनोद कुमार सिंह

10) श्री जितेन्द्र प्रसाद

11) श्री केशव प्रसाद

12) श्री धर्म प्रकाश सिंह

13) श्री रंजीत कुमार

14) श्री नवनीत कुमार

15) श्री ब्रजेश कुमार सिंह

16) श्री सुदीन कुमार

17) श्री अनिल कुमार

18) श्री उपेन्द्र कुमार सिंह

19) श्री हिमांशु शेखर कुमार

20) श्री उदय प्रताप

21) श्री विजय कुमार

22) श्री सुधीर प्रसाद

23) श्री राजु कुमार

24) श्री संजीव कुमार

25) श्री विरेन्द्र कुमार

26) श्री धर्मराज प्रसाद

27) श्री अरुण प्रसाद

28) श्री संजय कुमार

29) श्री अशोक कुमार

30) श्री जितेन्द्र कुमार

31) श्री राजीव कुमार

32) श्री संजय कुमार

33) श्री अरुण कुमार

34) श्री ललन कुमार सिंह

35) श्री प्रवीण कुमार

36) श्री प्रमोद कुमार सिंह

37) श्री धनंजय कुमार

38) श्री परमानन्द चौधरी

अतः सूचना प्रकाशित होने के उपरांत यथाशीघ्र वांछित कागजात उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित किया जाय, ताकि भुगतान की कार्यवाई शीघ्रता से की जा सके ।

अधीक्षण अभियंता,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ अंचल रैची ।

PR.NO.242879 Road(20-21):D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर
Email ID – eedwsvd.jamshedpur@gmail.com

अल्पकालीनई. निविदा
सूचना संख्या:-RWSS -12/ JSR / 2020-21 दिनांक:-02.03.2021

The undersigned, on behalf of the Government of Jharkhand, invites bids for the work mentioned in table below through e-Procurement from eligible and approved Contractors, registered in with Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Government of Jharkhand, Central Government/ State Govt. or any PSU or any agency of International or National repute may participate in the bid but registration with Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Government of Jharkhand will be essential within a period of two months from date of award after issue of Letter of Acceptance. The bid shall be submitted online in the Website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. The bidder(s) should have necessary portal enrolment with their own Digital Signature Certificate:

क्रमांक	विवरण	विवरणी
1	कार्य का नाम	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of 5.0 M dia R.C.C. Intake well cum pump house, Gangway 40 mtr. Length and 3.00 mtr. Wide, 1.0 MLD capacity Water Treatment Plant, 1 No. ESR Infiltration Gallery, Compound wall, Supplying and laying Raw/Clear Water rising main & Laying Distribution Network, Supplying and Installation of Vertical turbine and Centrifugal pump motor, five years Operation and Maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for work of Junbani Rural Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Jamshedpur on turnkey basis. "Year 2020- 21.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	74632000.00 (सात करोड़ छियालीस लाखबत्तीस हजार)
3	अंतिमजमानतकी राशि	747000.00 (सात लाख सैंतालीस हजार)
4	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	10000.00 (दस हजार)
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय	24Month+3 Month (Trial and Run)
6	बेचसाईड पर अपलोड करने की तिथि	05.03.2021 को 9.00 पूर्वाह्न
7	प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	09.03.2021 को 11.30 पूर्वाह्न, अभियन्ता प्रमुख, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, रैची के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
8	निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	18.03.2021 को 4.00 अपराह्न तक
9	परिमाण विपत्र एवं अंतिमजमानतकी राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि (मूल रूप में) एवं स्थान	19.03.2021 को 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक 1) कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर, 2) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, जमशेदपुर, 3) क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, रैची प्रखंड, रैची।
10	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	20.03.2021 को 5.00 बजे
11	निविदा करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर PHED कॉलोनी, आदित्यपुर प्रांगण, आदित्यपुर।
12	निविदा खोले जाने वाले पदाधिकारी एवं कार्यालय का नाम	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर
13	निविदा करने वाले कार्यालय का संपर्क संख्या	0657 – 2371051
14	ई. प्रोक्युरमेंटसेल का हेल्पलाइन नं०	0651 – 2480345

नोट:- 1. केवलई-निविदाहीस्वीकार किया जायेगा।
2. विस्तृत विवरणी वेबसाईट-https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
3. प्राक्कलित राशि एवं अग्रघन की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर

PR.NO.242933 Drinking Water and Sanitation(20-21):D

Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gumla
(DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE, JHARKHAND)
Jharkhand-835207
Email:dpogumla1@gmail.com, Website: www.gumla.nic.in

EOI Reference No:- 08
Expression of Interest for Selection of Agency for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Micro Lift Solar Based Irrigation System for Promotion of Integrated Agriculture on Turnkey Basis in the Gumla District.

SL NO	INFORMATION/SUBJECT	DETAIL
1	NAME OF WORK	SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF MICRO LIFT SOLAR BASED IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR PROMOTION OF INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE ON TURNKEY BASIS IN THE GUMLA DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND.
2	DATE OF PUBLICATION OF BID	04.03.2021
3	EOI COST	RS 5,000 (IN FORM OF DD) IN FAVOR OF 'DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, GUMLA' PAYABLE AT GUMLA (EXEMPTED FOR MSME) NON REFUNDABLE
4	EARNEST MONEY TO BE DEPOSITED (EMD)	RS 2,00,000 (RS TWO LACS ONLY IN FORM OF DD) IN FAVOR OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, GUMLA' PAYABLE AT GUMLA (FOR MSME THIS IS EXEMPTED) • IN CASE OF UNSUCCESSFUL BIDDER, THE AMOUNT WILL BE REFUNDABLE WITHIN A WEEK OF WORKING DAYS • THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL RECEIVE THE EMD AMOUNT AFTER THE WORK COMPLETION
5	LAST DATE & TIME FOR BID SUBMISSION	Date : 24.03.2021 Time : 02.00 P.M
6	DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF BID	Date : 25.03.2021 Time : 11.30 A.M
7	BID OPENING PLACE	OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, COLLECTORIATE BUILDING, GUMLA
8	DATE AND TIME OF POWER POINT PRESENTATION	Date : 26.03.2021 Time : 12.30 P.M
9	INVITING EOI & BID SUBMISSION PLACE	OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICER, VIKAS BHAWAN, GUMLA, JHARKHAND-835207
10	HELPLINE NO	DPO Gumla 9006872832
11	BID VALIDITY	90 DAYS

Note :- details are available at Website: www.gumla.nic.in.
PR 242863 (Gumla) 20-21 (D)

D.C.
Gumla.

Ratan Tata visits Tata Motors plant

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Tata Motors' Jamshedpur witnessed an august gathering of dignitaries and honorary guests to commemorate the 182nd birth anniversary of Jamsetji Nsserwanji Tata. Employees from Tata Motors as well as Tata Groups paid reverence to the founder.

The day-long celebration started with Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, and Tata Sons Chairman, N Chandrasekaran offering floral tribute to our founding father along with other dignitaries across group companies.

The chairman emeritus and group chairman met all the factory heads along with the senior leadership team of Tata Motors.



The growth story and the new range of BSVI Commercial Vehicles were specially showcased by the team on the momentous occasion. Sustainability has always

been the mantra of Tata Motors hence like every year this year the entire plant was decorated with flowers. This year's USP is the newly upgraded state of the art engine facility along with a special vehicle display.

Commenting on the occasion Vishal Badshah, Head Jamshedpur Plant, Tata Motors said "March 3rd is a special time for Jamshedpur as the whole city decks up to celebrate the founder's day. It is an absolute pleasure and honor to host Chairman Emeritus Group and Group Chairman and other special dignitaries from other group companies to Jamshedpur Plant. This is a very special year for Tata Motors Family as we are also celebrating our 75 years of the journey.

Farewell to superannuating employees in CCL



PNS ■ RANCHI

Personnel working in various departments of CCL Headquarters – Dr. Manju Mishra, CMS CCL, Medical Department; Shiva Ram Banerjee, General Manager (Security), Security Department; Anil Kumar Sao, Head of the Department/Chief Manager (Finance), IAD Department; Bharat Bhushan Srivastava, Accountant-A-1, Finance-EPR Department; Md. Salim Khan, Driver, Cat VI, General Administration Department were given today a warm farewell during "SammanSamaroh" held at CCL Headquarters.

On the occasion, a film based on Superannuating Personnel was screened during the 'Samman Samaroh'. The

superannuating personnel through the video filmshared their work experience and views.

All the superannuating personnel wished for success of the company and expressed confidence that the company would play an important role in meeting the energy needs of the country in the video.

CMD PM Prasad addressing the retiring personnel said that contribution of each retiring personnel has been invaluable which has resulted in record breaking performance of company with each passing year.

Director Technical (Operations) VK Srivastava, Director (Finance) NK Aggarwal and CVO SK Sinha extended best wishes for their second innings post retirement.

Director (Personnel), ECL Vinay Ranjan, who is in additional charge of CCL, sent his best wishes and advised to remain active in post-retirement life and contribute towards the welfare of the society.

General Manager (Welfare) Dr. AK Singh welcomed the retired workers, the guest of the ceremony. On this occasion, the General Managers, Heads of Departments, Medical Officers of the Central Hospital, Gandhinagar and employees of various departments of the CCL Headquarters and families of retired personnel were present to observe the "Samman Samaroh" following social distancing.

The employees of the Welfare Department played a significant role in making the Samman Samaroh a success.

HUDCO organises DoPT training for All India Service Officers



PNS ■ RANCHI

Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Durga Shanker Mishra, inaugurated a week-long in-service training programme- 'Financing Urban Infrastructure and Services in India', for All India Service Officers. The Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India sponsored training programme is organized by HUDCO's Research & Training Institute (HSMI) at New Delhi.

The training is designed to address key issues in financing urban infrastructure and impart

necessary skills for successful execution of such projects.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Mishra outlined the contours of urban infrastructure financing and explained how the Government of India is leveraging its resources to generate more funds from other sources, including private investment in projects.

Addressing the participants, Kamran Rizvi, Additional Secretary, MoHUA and CMD, HUDCO, highlighted the Government of India initiatives to tackle challenges in urban infrastructure financing.

Canara Bank, Circle Office holds Mega Retail Expo



PNS ■ RANCHI

Canara Bank, Circle Office, Ranchi Organised a Mega Retail Expo at NIEFT Ground, here on Wednesday. The expo was inaugurated by Hitesh Goel, General Manager & Circle Head.

Reputed builders like Budhiya Bagan, Sai Oasis, Symphony City, Global Infra, Anadi Group, Vinayak Developers etc, Direct Selling Agents and car dealers like Maruti Nexa, Premsons Motors, S S Motors Tata, JP Hundai, Maruti Arena Premsons, Dilip Kia, Victory Honda, Vals Wagon, Renault, Diara Ford, BMW, Madan Motors, Heritage Honda etc participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Circle Head Hitesh Goel said that Canara Bank was a pioneer in education Loans and the bank offers all types of retail loans like housing loan, vehicle loan, loan against property,

education loan and other personal loans at highly competitive rates. He said that the importance of gold jewellery is very important in Indian society. Therefore, loans are being made available by Canara Bank at a cheaper rate of interest.

Goel also distributed disbursement cheques/sanction towards Home, Education and Car loan beneficiaries in the Mega Retail expo.

Binod Nemani, Member, JSIA, Ashok Kumar Prasad, DGM, P K Chanda, AGM, Bijay Shankar Jha, AGM, Sanjiv Kumar, AGM, Navin Kumar, AGM & RO Head, Ranchi, executives from Circle Office, Regional Office, Ranchi and RAH, Ranchi were present at the event along with local branch officials and Marketing officers.

Expo venue at NIEFT Ground, Ranchi, wore festive look with Stalls of Builders and Car Dealers with scores of visitors.

NOTICE

I, Neha Dvivedi, R/o-Kaushalya Bhavan, New Latma, Ranchi-834003, Ph no. 8340227813. It is notified for information that I have lost my original 12th Marksheet (CBSE) Roll no. 5620108 and 10th Pass Certificate (JAC) roll no. 01114. Ref: JOFS Complaint no. 524568.

MV RAO JOINS AS MD & CEO OF CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

PNS ■ RANCHI

MatamVenkata Rao has taken over charge as Managing Director & CEO of Central Bank of India with effect from March 1, 2021.

Prior to joining the current assignment, Rao was Executive Director, Canara Bank for more than three years where he played a pivotal role in the Bank's progress and in amalgamation of Syndicate Bank with Canara Bank.



Matam Venkata Rao is a Post Graduate in Agriculture from Sri Venkateshwara Agriculture College, Tirupati,

Prior to joining the current assignment, Rao was Executive Director, Canara Bank for more than three years where he played a pivotal role in the Bank's progress and in amalgamation of Syndicate Bank with Canara Bank

Andhra Pradesh. He is a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers. A seasoned banker with

varied experience, Matam Venkata Rao joined Allahabad Bank as Agricultural Field Officer in 1988 and worked in various capacities in different geographical areas of the country. As General Manager of Allahabad Bank, he headed Bank's important verticals like Wholesale & Retail Banking.

He was also instrumental in launching a transformative project in Allahabad Bank to bring focus on Asset-centric banking.

STATEBUDGET

BJP PRESENTS PARALLEL BUDGET PROTESTING AGAINST GOVT POLICIES

MLAs create chaos; blow whistle, raise slogans inside House

ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI

The State BJP which has been protesting against the State Government in Assembly for past few days, on Wednesday devised a new way of protest — the day when State Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon presented the State budget. The BJP legislators citing State Government's failure in utilisation of previous budgetary allocation presented a 'parallel Budget' in the House.

Former Minister and Khunti MLA, Neelkanth Singh Munda, who was in the role of Finance Minister kept reading the old budget of Raghubar Das government tenure in the Assembly as part of protest while Oraon read the budget. Munda spoke at length for more than one hour, while Oraon presented the State budget. While Munda read out



Opposition party MLAs wearing saffron t-shirts with slogans on it during a protest against the State Government amid the ongoing Budget Session of Jharkhand Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday

Raghubar Das Government's old budget from his dais, other BJP legislators sitting on the floor kept on raising slogans against the State Government. Munda said, "We decided to present a parallel budget in the House as the present Government has failed on all sectors. The present Government has failed to utilise even 20 per cent of budgetary allocation for financial year 2020-21. As the present

Government has failed in all fronts even in spending budgetary allocation we decided to present the parallel budget." Munda added, "The present Government has stopped all welfare schemes and those schemes, which are running are old schemes with the present Government only changing their names." Clad in saffron T-shirts and kurtas bearing slogans against the Hemant govern-



BJP MLA Nilkanth Singh Munda shows Budget copy of former Chief Minister's Raghubar Das along with other party MLAs blowing whistle during a protest against the State Government amid the ongoing Budget Session of Jharkhand Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday

ment, the BJP MLAs resorted to protest both inside and outside the House. The saffron dress, which they wore bore slogans against the government for scrapping state recruitment policy, law and order issues, joblessness among others. Some of the BJP legislators also indulged in whistling, which the Speaker objected to. Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto said, "The Opposition should maintain decorum in the House. The House will not tolerate such behaviour

where a legislator blows the whistle when the Finance Minister is presenting the budget." Later on, on the instructions of Speaker Sindri MLA Indrajeet Mahto was marshalled out from the House. Earlier, Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto was forced to adjourn the House till 12 noon due to BJP's continuous protest. Meanwhile, ruling party legislators have strongly objected to the BJP lawmakers' activity. As the House began, Congress's Poriyaat MLA Pradeep Yadav

objected to BJP MLAs present inside the House in saffron costumes demanding their ouster. Speaker later asked BJP lawmakers to maintain decorum and shed the saffron dresses which they denied forcing him to adjourn the house amid the pandemonium. Congress legislator from Jamtara Irfan Ansari said, "The BJP lawmakers' activity is unconstitutional as this is not the way of protest in democracy on the day when the State budget was presented."

JMM, Cong hails budget, BJP terms it 'visionless'

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State Budget for financial year 2021-22 evoked contrasting reactions, with the Opposition (BJP and AJSU) criticising it and calling it a visionless budget, while the JMM and Congress hailing it as a visionary budget which has been prepared keeping all sections of society in mind. JMM spokesperson and party general secretary, Supriyo Bhattacharya terming the budget as inclusive budget said, "For the first time Jharkhand has got a budget, which has focused on development and emancipation of all sections of society especially the poor and down-trodden." He said, "Gurujee (JMM Chief Shibu Soren) vision is that people living in this state get two time meals without any difficulties. Chief Minister Hemant Soren fulfilling the dreams of Guruji has decided to launch Gurujee canteen under which people will get nutritious and hygienic meals at ₹5 per plate."



State Congress Committee Spokespersons Alok Kumar Dubey, Lal Kishore Nath Shahdeo along with others during a press conference at party office in Ranchi on Wednesday

Bhattacharya also said, "The State Government keeping in mind MGN-REGA workers has also decided to increase the daily remuneration of MGNREGA from ₹194 to ₹225 which is ₹31 more than what MGNREGA workers in other states get." Also focus has been made in developing rural industries as allocation has been made in animal husbandry and fisheries.

Echoing the views of Bhattacharya, State Congress leadership too have welcomed the budget. State Congress spokesperson Alok Dubey said, "Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon has presented the budget, which is the aspiration of people. The budget focused on the life and livelihood of an individual." Dubey said it is for the first time



State BJP president and Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash addresses media persons in Ranchi on Wednesday

since the creation of the state that there is provision of an outcome budget. The outcome budget is a progress card on what various departments have done with the amount assigned in the previous annual Budget. It measures the outcomes of all government programmes and whether the money has been spent for the purpose it was sanctioned.



Jharkhand Mukti Morcha General Secretary-cum-Spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya during a press conference in Ranchi on Wednesday

Another Congress spokesperson Lal Kishore Nath Shahdeo said, "Despite lack of support and cooperation from the state government the budget aims at strengthening its own resources. MNGRA remuneration has been increased from ₹194 to ₹225 and the State will bear an expense of ₹300 crore in its exchequer." However, the opposition BJP has termed the budget as visionless. State BJP president Deepak Prakash said, "The budget has failed to meet the expectations of poor, youth, farmers and women." He said, "The budget only focuses on utilization of centre schemes. The State government has tried to rename old schemes launched by Raghubar Das government." The BJP president also attacked the State government for its failure in utilising last year budgetary allocation. AJSU president Sudesh Mahto said, "The State Government budget has failed to meet the people aspirations and poll promises it has made in the last assembly election."

BUDGET EVOKES MIXED REACTION

COLOURS OF DEMOCRACY

1 | Chief Minister Hemant Soren poses for a photograph with BJP MLAs during the ongoing Budget Session of Jharkhand Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

2 | Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon hands over a briefcase containing the State Budget papers to Chief Minister Hemant Soren in Ranchi on Wednesday Pioneer photo

3 | BJP Legislative Party leader Babulal Marandi coming-out from the House after attending Budget session of State Assembly, in Ranchi on Wednesday Ratan Lal | Pioneer

4 | Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon presents the annual Budget 2021-22 of the State in the Assembly during the ongoing Budget session of Jharkhand Assembly in Ranchi on Wednesday TV photo

NO MAJOR SIDE EFFECTS OF VACCINE ON SENIOR CITIZENS, SAYS DOCS

No AEFI reported in first two days

PNS ■ RANCHI

None of the over 4,000 senior citizens and middle-agers with comorbid conditions inoculated in the State so far has reported major adverse events following immunization, putting to rest the apprehensions over side effects of the vaccine on people who were frail or elderly, officials spearheading the vaccination programme in the state said on Wednesday. Although the state does not maintain a separate data of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) for senior citizens and people with comorbid conditions, the State Immunization Officer Dr. Ajit Prasad said that none of the senior citizens complained of severe adverse events following the first jab of Covishield vaccine in Jharkhand. "Minor adverse events like mild fever or body ache are common. However, none of the senior citizens vaccinated in the state so far have complained of

major health issues following the immunization," said Dr. Prasad, adding that the lack of AEFI cases among senior citizens was likely to encourage more people to overcome their fear of the vaccine and get the jab as soon as possible. As per data with the state government, more than 270 cases of AEFI have been reported in Jharkhand so far. However, the ratio of those suffering from adverse events was quite low to the number of people who have got inoculated in the state. Over 3 lakh people have been administered the first dose of the Covishield vaccine in Jharkhand so far and not even 1 per cent of them have complained of severe adverse events following immunization, reveals government data. As per the Standard

Operating Procedure (SOP), every beneficiary is kept under observation for at least 30 minutes after he or she is administered the vaccine jab. While some beneficiaries complain of dizziness, lightheadedness and racing heart rate during this period, a majority of the symptoms are mostly related to anxiety, doctors say. The beneficiaries are also thoroughly examined before the jab is administered to them in order to ensure that they are fit to get the injection. While no major AEFI cases have come to light in the state, a 50-year-old healthcare worker died hardly 33 hours after taking the first dose of the vaccine in Ranchi in the first week of February. His post-mortem was performed at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), and the health department is probing the matter. Doctors said that he did not suffer from any comorbid condition, but his death could not be directly linked to the vaccine.



A woman being administered the Covid-19 vaccine at Sadar Hospital in Ranchi on Wednesday Pioneer photo

Most private schools in Capital to reopen from new session

ONLY ONLINE EXAMS FOR ALL CLASSES

PNS ■ RANCHI

Most of the renowned private schools in Ranchi have decided to resume regular offline classes from the beginning of the new session in April despite the Government's nod to call students of class 8, 9 and 11 to school. Representatives of various private schools, which have decided to continue with online classes, said that schools will already be under pressure of conducting online exams for the students and following the Covid-19 protocols could get more challenging during such times. Principal of JVM Shaymli, Samarjeet Jana said that the school will only hold online exams for students of all classes in the month of March and resume regular classes only when the new session begins in April. "Regular classes for students of class 8, 9 and 11 will not resume before the month of April. The students will directly resume regular classes once the new session begins," said Jana. Delhi Public School in



View of a private school in the city Pioneer photo

Ranchi has also decided to resume regular classes for students of classes 8, 9 and 11 in April. The principal of the school, Ram Singh said that the school administration will focus on conducting online exams as of now. An official from Oxford Public School said that parents were not keen to send their children to school for regular classes as cases of Covid-19 infection have increased lately. The government has stated in its directive that students can be called to schools only if they submit a consent letter signed by their parents. Schools across Jharkhand

will not be allowed to hold offline examinations for students other than those who will appear for the board exams until further notice, a directive from the Home, Prison & Disaster Management Department stated on February 23, further clarifying that schools have to continue offering online classes even after offline classes resume on March 1. The examinees appearing for board exams as well as other exams will be exempted from the restrictions enforced on containment areas, the notification from the government stated, adding that the admit card of examinees will be treated as their entry pass outside containment zones. As per government directive, offline exams will only be conducted for students of class 10 and class 12. Private schools across Jharkhand have remained closed for over a year now since the imposition of a nationwide lockdown in the wake of the Covid-19 virus. However, all schools in the state conducted the entire academic session via online classes. Even exams were conducted online.

INBRIEF

ECR GM CONDUCTS WINDOW TRAILING INSPECTION

General Manager, East Central Railway Lalit Chandra Trivedi on Wednesday conducted window trailing inspection of Patna-Buxar railway block of Danapur division. He also stopped at Arrah and Buxar stations and took stock of passenger facility, circulating area etc available at these stations. DRM Sunil Kumar and other senior officials of Danapur division were present during the inspection. In the order of window trailing inspection, the GM made a thorough inspection of the passenger facility, cleanliness etc available at Arrah Junction. Besides, the GM also inspected the beautification work of the new station building and booking office and the main gate of the station under construction in the south direction of Arrah station. He also stopped at Buxar station, where he made a thorough inspection and said that construction of the rail portion of ROB will start soon. Along with this, the State government will be requested to complete the work of the approach quickly so that there will be ease in the movement of trains going to the Goods shed. The GM assured that the Buxar station building would be developed accordingly, keeping in view the mythological and historical significance of Buxar.



DWA DISTRIBUTES FOOD AMONG NEEDY

The Doctors Wives Association once again joined hands with Roti Bank and distributed food to approximately 200 underprivileged patients/attendants at RIMS. The President, Kamlesh Middha along with Rashmi Sinha, Shobha Kumar, Nita Sahay, Arti Sinha (Treasurer), Renu Tiwari, Pallavi Sharan, Usha Pandey and Anju Singh were present at the venue to lend their helping hands.



RRD, DRM INAUGURATES CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The Divisional Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament was inaugurated by DRM Neeraj Ambastha at Birsu Munda Stadium here on Wednesday. On this occasion, the DRM said that sports helps everyone to keep one's body fit, healthy and fresh. A total of 10 teams from different departments are participating in the inter-departmental tennis ball cricket tournament, which is divided into two groups. The inaugural match of this cricket tournament was played today between the Commerce Department and the Railway Protection Force of the division and the RPF team won the match by 10 wickets. The second match of the tournament was played between the Engineering and Medical / Personnel / Railway Recruitment Board. The Engineering department won this match by 87 runs. The final match of the tournament will be played on Sunday 14/03/2021.



SBI TEAM SEALS FACTORY IN JAMSHEDPUR

The team of State Bank of India, SAARB, Ranchi under the leadership of Neelam Manisha Khes, Chief Manager, on Wednesday taking possession of M/s Maps Auto Component Pvt. Ltd. located at C-44, Industrial Area, Adityapur, Jamshedpur sealed the factory. It is to be known that the said company is guilty of not repaying the dues of the State Bank of India, despite many requests and discounts received under various schemes. Therefore, today the bank sealed the factory by taking possession of the immovable property deposited in the bank of the company.



RANCHI DISTRICT BOXING TOURNEY FROM MARCH 8

Ranchi District Boxing Association has decided to hold the Second District Boxing Tournament from March 8 to 10. An urgent meeting of the working committee was held regarding the preparations and schedule announcement under the aegis of its vice president Mangal Toppo at the state capital on Wednesday. The information was conveyed by Dr GC Baskey, member of the association cum faculty member at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University.

Swarnim Vijay Mashaal arrives at Ranchi

PNS ■ RANCHI

To mark the 50th anniversary of 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to 1971 War heroes on 16 December 2020 and lit a 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal: Victory Torch' from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial in New Delhi. Four torches lit from the Victory Torch were sent in all four directions of the Country aimed at spreading awareness about the valour and indomitable spirit of Indian soldiers amongst the populace. One of the torches, carried towards Eastern India, reached Ranchi Military Station on Wednesday. The torch was welcomed at Jharkhand War Memorial with lot of zeal and enthusiasm in presence of senior military officers from Cockerel Division, veterans and NCC cadets. Meanwhile, in another event at Raj Bhavan, Governor Droupadi Murmu felicitated Vincent Ekka son of Lance Naik Albert Ekka, Param Veer



Chakra (Posthumous). During the event, the Governor said that Albert Ekka's supreme sacrifice for the motherland has upheld the tradition of valour and sacrifice set by Bhagwan Birsa Munda. She urged the youth of Jharkhand to come forward and contribute in nation building by joining the Armed Forces. In the subsequent commemorative events planned from March 3 to 6, a cultural event along with display of various military weapons and equipment is being organised at Morhabadi Ground on 04 March and a military band show with a photo exhibition highlighting the valour of Indian Army in 1971 War will be organised at Jharkhand War Memorial on March 5, subsequent to which it will be flagged off to Panagarh on March 6.

Central Coalfields Limited
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(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company (CCL www.centralcoalfields.in/). CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>.

MILITARY COMMANDERS' MEET

In a first, jawans to share views with PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major step to involve jawans in military matters including operational doctrine, some of them, for the first time ever, will share their views with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the forthcoming Combined Commanders' conference.

The top level meeting held annually will take place in Kevadia in Gujarat later this week where Chief of Defence Staff(CDS)and three Services chiefs besides other senior officers will discuss the entire gamut of issues pertaining to defence forces. They will stay in tents for the two-day meet to be held near Sardar Vallabhai Patel's statue.

Incidentally, this move to involve jawans in the conclave comes in the backdrop of Modi holding such high-profile meets outside the national capital since he assumed charge in 2014. One such conference was held some years back in the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. Another combined commanders' conference was held at the Indian Military



Academy(IMA), Dehradun.

As regards the first ever participation of the common soldiers, sources said here on Wednesday the idea came from the Prime Minister's Office(PMO).

They said a group of Junior Commissioned Officers(JCO) and non-commissioned officers(NCO) from the IAF, Army and Navy will give their suggestions on topics including operations and functioning of the forces.

This is the first time personnel below officer rank(PBOR) will take part in such a top level brainstorming session, they said. Moreover, bureaucrats heading several departments in the sensitive defence ministry are also likely to update the Prime Minister about issues relating to their wings, sources said.

The conference will see briefings by top officials on the ongoing projects of their respective departments along with future projects they would be undertaking.

Chief of Defence Staff(CDS)General Bipin Rawat, who also holds the post of Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, will give a presentation about status of various reforms initiated to achieve synergy amongst the three Services. He will also update the top-echelon regarding formation of new tri-services commands and the progress made in the existing structures.

Focusing on creation of theatre commands to fight modern day warfare, senior officers are likely to brief the commanders and the Prime Minister about the ongoing process, sources said.

The Combined Commanders' Conference will be attended by the commander-in-chief rank officers of the three services. This includes 20 officers from different commands and formations from across the country.

Modi: Need to overcome language barriers for allowing talent to flourish

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that the new National Education Policy (NEP) encourages the use of local languages, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday stressed the need for working in this regard on a mission mode to overcome linguistic barriers in the education system so that the talent of those from rural areas and the poor is allowed to flourish.

Addressing a webinar on the effective implementation of the provisions in the Union Budget for the education sector, Modi said it is the responsibility of the academics and experts of every language to make available the best content in the country and the world in Indian languages.

"Limiting knowledge and research is a big injustice to the country's potential. With this thinking, the doors of several sectors such as space, atomic energy, DRDO, agriculture, are being opened for our talented youngsters," the prime minister said.

Modi said education, skill, research and innovation were the second biggest focus of the budget after health. "The Union

Budget has broadened our efforts to link education with employability and entrepreneurial capability," he said. As a result of these efforts, he said, India is now among the top three countries in the world in terms of scientific publications, the number of PhD scholars and the start-up ecosystem.

Modi said India has joined the top 50 countries in the Global Innovation Index and is continuously improving. To build a self-reliant India, it is important that youngsters have confidence in themselves, he said, asserting that it comes only when they have complete faith in their education and knowledge.

Stressing the importance of local languages in the education system, Modi said experts know that language plays an important role in understanding a subject.

"From primary to higher education, we have to ensure that the best content is available to the youngsters of the country in Indian languages," Modi said. It is necessary to produce content in Indian languages? for every area of expertise, be it medical, engineering, technology or management, he added.

All private hospitals can give Covid shots with riders: Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to speed up the pace of the coronavirus vaccination drive as well as ensure that vaccines are not left unutilized, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday permitted all private hospitals to give Covid vaccine if they adhere to the laid down norms while allowing citizens to take vaccine round the clock as per their convenience.

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan shared this information on twitter, stating that : "The government has ended the time constraint to increase the speed of vaccination. Citizens of the country can now get vaccinated 24x7 at their convenience."

The move aims to ensure the maximum number of people who are eligible under the second phase of the vaccina-

tion drive are vaccinated. Those above 60 years and above 45 years having comorbidities are being inoculated under the second phase of the vaccination which was kicked off from March 1.

The Ministry has also given permission to private hospitals to administer the Covid-19 vaccine to those who are eligible.

A senior official from the Union Health Ministry that in a meeting chaired by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan and other officials, it was decided that "all government health facilities, including all private hospitals empanelled under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PM JAY) and similar State Health Insurance Schemes can function as Covid

Vaccination Centers (CVCs), subject to them mandatorily adhering to some specific norms."

The Ministry urged the states and Union territories (UTs) to utilise 100 per cent capacities of all private hospitals under the said category to enable them to effectively function as vaccination centres. They were also asked the states to regularly collaborate with the private hospitals to ensure that their optimum capacities for vaccination are fully utilised.

The Ministry also allowed private hospitals not empanelled with the Government to operate as CVCs "if they have adequate number of vaccinators, adequate space for observation of the vaccinated, adequate cold chain arrangement and adequate arrangement for management of AEFI."

Congress leaders target UP Govt over law and order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit out at the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh Government on Wednesday over the law and order situation in the State. "Under the BJP rule, Uttar Pradesh is becoming worse day by day. Such disorder in law and order spares none — it is a curse for every community," Rahaul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi with the hashtags #Hathras #Bulandshahr.

He also tagged a photo of the funeral procession of a 50-

year-old man who was allegedly shot dead in Hathras district by a person out on bail in a case of molesting the victim's daughter. Priyanka Gandhi alleged one family or the other can be heard "screaming for justice" every day in Uttar Pradesh, contrary to Yogi Adityanath government's "propaganda".

Their attacks on the BJP dispensation came in the backdrop of the Hathras shooting as well as an incident in Bulandshahr where the body of a 12-year-old girl was exhumed from a pit days after she went missing. "The father of a girl who did not take back a case

of molestation was murdered in Hathras. The body of a girl, who had been missing for several days in Bulandshahr, was found buried in a house," Priyanka said in a tweet in Hindi.

"Contrary to the UP government's false propaganda on crime, every day one family or the other is screaming for justice," she said. Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and other Congress leaders have been attacking the Adityanath government over law and order situation in the state, alleging that criminal activities were on the rise, a claim denied by the state government.

BJP VICTORY IN GUJ LOCAL POLLS

Voters' confidence rising each year: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday described the sweeping BJP victory in Gujarat local polls as peoples' vote of confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development and reform policies including the new farm laws.

"If we convert massive victory into 182 Vidhan Sabha segments in Gujarat it comes to 155 assembly seats" said the senior BJP leader adding "confidence of voters" is rising each year even after BJP's "uninterrupted 38 years rule" in the State.

Addressing a press conference here after the win in local polls, Javadekar said rural farmers have voted for "Modi's Vikas mode, his leadership and reforms including in the farm sector..this is the message.." he said.

The Minister said Congress had made farmers and governance an issue as their main poll planks and "even spoke from LPG shaped platforms and stages".

The BJP won all 31 Zila Parishads and Congress drew a zero. "Out of the 879 seats, the BJP which had last time won 368 has now won 800 seats," said Javadekar pointing to massive surge in numbers.

He said th Congress defeat is stark as even their MLAs and their sons and relatives standing for municipal elections bit dust and lost polls. He cited the example of MLA Niranjal Patel contesting from two seats and losing both of them.

Javadekar said at Taluka level, the BJP won 196 seats out of 231 seats while the Congress won only 18 seats.

In the municipalities, the BJP won



72 out of the 81 seats with Congress winning only one.

"Congress drew zero seats in 18 municipalities and even Congress MLA lost poll", said BJP leader

He said BJP's sweep in tribal areas was also quite marked. He pointed out that the son of Bhartiya Tribal Party also lost his seat.

Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comment that the BJP was attacking institutions which Congress did not fill even in Emergency, BJP leader said it was laughable as the Congress had hit all institutions including the media.

On Rahul comparing RSS with madrasas, Javadekar said, "Rahul will take time to understand RSS. RSS is the biggest school of patriotism and inspiring nationalism is it's task"

On the question of Income Tax department raiding film stars 'not cosying up' to the BJP, the Minister said "investigating agencies take up cases on merit and investigate".

BJP to finalise first list of candidates for 5 Assembly polls today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Election Committee (CEC) of the BJP will meet on Thursday to finalise its first list of candidates for the upcoming five assembly polls.

The party is likely to clear its candidates for the first phase of the polls, scheduled for March 27, in Assam and West Bengal.

The Party President headed meet is also expected to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is to begin his poll campaign, post the announcement of election dates, from Kolkata's Parade ground on March seven.

The BJP core groups of West Bengal and Assam will deliberate with the central leadership, including party president JP Nadda, to whet the list of probable candidates. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and state party chief Ranjeet Kumar Dass will be part of deliberations for their state, while key organisational leaders from West Bengal, including state party chief Dilip Ghosh, will attend the meeting to discuss the names of candidates for their state.

Elections in Assam will be conducted in three phases on March 27, April 1 and April 6, while polling in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry will take place in a single phase on April 6.

Elections for the West Bengal assembly will be held in eight phases, up from seven last time, beginning with polling for 30 seats on March 27.



IAF chief visits Colombo to mark Sri Lankan Air Force's 70th anniv



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IAF chief RKS Bhadauria arrived in Colombo on Wednesday on an invitation from Sri Lanka Air Force chief Sudarshana Pathirana. The Lankan air force is celebrating its 70th anniversary on March 2 and presentation of the President's colours to two of its Units on March 5.

Giving details of Bhadauria's schedule, officials said here on Wednesday he attended the inaugural ceremony on Wednesday during which a Flypast and Aerobatic Display was scheduled.

The air show at Galle Face Colombo saw the participation of an IAF contingent comprising Suryakiran and Sarang Aerobatic Display Teams and Tejas Light Combat Aircraft(LCA). The IAF contingent arrived in Colombo on February 27. The flypast was significant and reminiscent of the IAF's Suryakiran Display Team performance at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of SLAF, two decades ago.



A Chin refugee from Myanmar tries to tear apart Chinese flag during a protest against military coup in Myanmar in New Delhi on Wednesday

ECI organises briefing meeting for poll observers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission(EC) on Wednesday organised a briefing meeting for Observers who would be deployed for the upcoming assembly polls in five States—West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The meeting was a virtual cum physical gathering which saw the participation of more than 1650 General, Police and Expenditure Observers joining virtually from 120 locations across the country. Officers from IAS,

IPS, IRS and other Central Services have been included to be deployed as General, Police and Expenditure Observers.

Addressing the Observers, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said observers will have additional role in randomization of forces and its deployment. Arora asked the observers to visit the Polling Booths to check due facilitation to senior citizens, Persons with Disabilities and women voters to ensure the Commission's commitment to the principle of inclusive elections.

CBI arrests J&K Govt official in bribe case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Patwari, Bemina, Budgam (J&K), for accepting a bribe of ₹13,000 from the complainant.

A case was registered against the Patwari Mohammad Afzal on the allegations of demanding a bribe of ₹35,000 from the complainant for mutation of the land. It was further alleged that the bribe was negotiated to ₹23,000 out of

which an amount of ₹10,000 was already paid.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the Patwari red handed while demanding and accepting the remaining bribe amount of ₹13,000.

Searches were conducted at the residence of the accused which led to recovery of incriminating documents.

The arrested accused was produced before the Competent Court and remanded to three days police custody.

SC to hear anticipatory bail plea of Amazon Prime Video's India head today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear on Thursday the plea of Amazon Prime Video's India head Aparna Purohit challenging the Allahabad High Court order rejecting her anticipatory bail in connection with the FIRs lodged against her over web series "Tandav".

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and R Subhash Reddy, which was to hear Purohit's plea on Wednesday, listed it for consideration on Thursday as the bench was sitting till 1

PM only.

She has been accused of inappropriate depiction of Uttar Pradesh police personnel, Hindu deities and an adverse portrayal of a character playing the prime minister in the web series.

Earlier, the apex court, on January 27, had declined to grant interim protection from any coercive action to Ali Abbas Zafar, Director of the web series, Purohit, producer Himanshu Mehra, the show's writer Gaurav Solanki and actor Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub.

SC seeks response of NIA on Gautam Navlakha's bail plea in Bhima Koregaon case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a response from the National Investigation Agency on the bail plea of activist Gautam Navlakha in the alleged Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

A bench comprising Justices UU Lalit and KM Joseph issued notice to the probe agency on the plea of the activist against the Bombay High Court order of February 8 dismissing his bail plea.

Initially, the bench, which was hearing some other matter even after 4.30 pm, was of the view that the hearing on Navlakha's plea be fixed for consideration on Thursday.

However, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the activist, said that he has been waiting for the case for few hours.

In the brief hearing conducted through video conferencing, the bench issued notice to NIA and sought its response by March 15.

Is it fair to kick the ladder you climbed to reach in life: Khurshid asks G-23

New Delhi: The disquiet within the Congress continues to grow with senior party leader Salman Khurshid asking 'Group of 23' leaders in an 'open letter' if they were changing their goal posts and whether it was fair on their part to kick the ladder that they climbed to reach the top storey of life.

Khurshid, a former Union minister, asked them to worry about how they would be judged in history than to seek a better place in the present.

He said they along with other Congress leaders must show the ordinary party workers across the country the path out of the present darkness towards sunshine instead of raising concerns about what they received, while noting that sacrifice cannot come with pre-conditions of success.

He also quoted former US President John Kennedy's words "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country (read party)", to say that the thousands of unnamed Congress cadres, who gave to the Congress, but unavoidably received little or nothing in return, too believe in democracy unlike the G-23 leaders who have an impressive history of achievements.

"We thought the G-23 made their point and were suitably informed that party elections will be held when appropriate (something they agreed to in their interaction with the Congress president and later at the CWC). But are they changing the goal posts once again with the public display of disquiet (or reservations) in Jammu and as we are being told, very soon in Haryana," he asked in the open letter.

"Gumnam of Congress too care about democracy", Khurshid said in the letter.

The senior Congress leader said the growing dark footprint of communal forces has pushed the party into "forced errors" of becoming self conscious.

"As a result we shy away from speaking about minorities and put on a public display of identifying with the cultural symbols of the majority that have largely been appropriated by the BJP. We have been forced to accept 'mistakes' made by our heroes because public mood appears to require it. Obviously this calls for careful balancing of reality and perception, strategy and ideology," he noted.

DMK-Cong ties on verge of collapse

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The time-tested ties between the DMK and the Congress is on the verge of collapse and there are strong indications from the Grand Old Party of dumping the Dravidian major and launching a Third Front. “The Congress High Command is thoroughly unhappy with the intransigent attitude of the DMK. It has so far offered as 20 seats while we have sought at least 25 seats,” a senior Congress leader told *The Pioneer*.

The leader said on condition of anonymity that one cannot rule out the possibilities of the Congress parting ways with the DMK. “For us self-respect is important than a few seats. We know well that the DMK is out to throttle us,” said the leader. He disclosed that Rahul Gandhi MP, who campaigned in southern Tamil Nadu for the last three-days returned to Delhi disappointed with the approach of the DMK.

Meanwhile sources close to chief minister Edappadi Palaniswamy told

The Pioneer that there was no chance of V K Sasikala, TTV Dhinakaran and the AMMK getting accommodated in the AIADMK front. “Our alliance partners are the BJP, the PMK, the Tamil Maanila Congress and Puthiya Tamilakaam. We have kept the doors opened for Vijayakanth too,” said the source.

Rahul Gandhi drew unprecedented crowd during his three-day visit to southern Tamil Nadu which concluded late Monday evening at Kanyakumari. Thousands participated in all the public meetings he addressed in these districts. “What stood out this time was his mingling with the common man and this prompted more and more people to gather in all the venues,” said a security professional who had accompanied the leader in his campaign trip.

“We did not organise any crowd for Rahul Gandhi. The crowd turn out in all these places were spontaneous. It was a morale booster to the Congress cadre in the State. We ourselves were surprised with the ease

with which he communicated and exchanged ideas with grassroot level workers and cadre. If the party could sustain this tempo, I am sure we will register impressive wins,” said C D Meyyapan, AICC secretary who accompanied Rahul Gandhi in his tour.

There is general agreement that the crowd turn-out for his meetings has surprised even the DMK leadership. But the DMK-Congress seat sharing talks remained inconclusive as the Dravidian major was not willing to make any compromise than what it had offered to the Grand Old Party, 21 seats. That all is not well within the two alliance partners was known for some time.

As the time for filing the nomination is drawing closer, there are talks of a Third Front featuring actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan, AISMK of another actor R Sarath Kumar and the Indian National Congress. Sarath Kumar and his wife Radhika called on Kamal Haasan and expressed their solidarity with

the latter who has declared himself as the future chief minister of the State.

Wednesday saw V Ponraj, former technical assistant to late President A P J Abdul Kalam joining Haasan’s MNM. Ponraj, a former scientific officer at one of the DRDO laboratories was the technical assistant to the former president, he describes himself as scientific advisor to the President.

There were reports that another film actor -turned-politician Vijayakanth is likely to join either the DMK-led front or Haasan’s MNM. “The AIADMK has not responded to Vijayakanth’s demand for more seats. Chief Minister Palaniswamy and his deputy Panneerselvam were upset over the parallel discussions being held between Vijayakanth’s DMDK and the DMK, Vijayakanth is known for his simultaneous secret parleys with political rivals even as he holds seat sharing discussions with others,” said a senior AIADMK leader.

Maha hostel girls forced to dance naked by cops, probe ordered

ANS ■ MUMBAI

In a shocker, girls in a Jalgaon hostel were allegedly forced to strip naked and dance before some police personnel, the Maharashtra legislature was informed here on Wednesday.

Taking cognizance of the issue raised by the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Maha Vikas Aghadi government announced a time-bound probe into the incident.

BJP legislator from Chikhli Shweta Mahale who raised the matter, said the women inmates who did not cooperate with the police were told to remove their clothes and dance naked.

“The women in the hostel now live in sheer fear. They must be made to feel secure. The incident is a blot on the face of the state. The police who are supposed to protect have become aggressors,” Mahale said.

“This is a shameful incident. A video clip shows police making the girls nude. This must be thoroughly investigated. We must deal with this matter sensitively,” said Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis, as some members demanded sacking of the MVA government and others shouted ‘shame, shame’ in the House.

They urged Home Minister Anil Deshmukh to order an inquiry and immediately suspend the police officials involved in the incident.

“This is a very unfortunate incident. We have appointed a four-member committee to probe the incident and submit its report within 48 hours. Necessary action will be taken as per the rules after the probe report is received,” Deshmukh informed the House.

Minister for Women & Child Development (Mrs) Yashomati Thakur said that all the evidence would be collected and probed and

those found guilty would not be spared.

The incident allegedly took place on March 1 at the government-run Ashadeep Women’s Hostel in Ganeshnagar area of Jalgaon and a video of the dance party went viral.

A local NGO, Jananayak Foundation, complained to Collector Abhijit Raut and demanded a probe into the matter, as the hostel falls under the Women & Child Welfare Department.

According to the complaint, some local police personnel and others reportedly entered the hostel premises to ‘investigate’ certain things and coerced the women inmates to undress and dance before them.

When the girls refused to do so, they were threatened with dire consequences like murder. The inmates later narrated their plight from the hostel windows.

Didi may file nomination from Nandigram on Mar 11

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The once hotbed bed of Mamata Banerjee’s land movement that helped her overthrow the world’s longest surviving democratically elected Marxist Government in 2011 Nandigram is once again ready to hog the national limelight with two of State’s tallest leaders preparing to face each other in the coming Assembly elections.

Come March 11, the Bengal Chief Minister is likely to return to file her nomination from the Nandigram Assembly seat. And according to inside reports she will face none other than her once blue-eyed boy and former Bengal Minister Suvendu Adhikari who left the TMC last November to join the BJP.

The TMC sources said the Chief Minister would file her

nomination for the Nandigram seat either at Haldia or Tamluk. Nandigram in East Midnapore will go to polls in the second phase.

Banerjee is currently an MLA from Bhawanipore Assembly seat in South Kolkata from where her party trailed by a few thousand votes in the 2019 parliamentary elections.

The Chief Minister had during a mass rally at Nandigram offered to contest from the seat saying “Nandigram has always been lucky for me ... it gave me overwhelming support in my land movement ... and so I will like to contest this time from this seat. For me Nandigram and Bhawanipore are like two sisters.”

Apart from being a son of a former Union Minister and TMC MP Sisir Adhikari, Suvendu is the elder brother

Dibyendu Adhikari also an MP.Suvendu Adhikari had openly dared Banerjee to contest from the seat and face defeat. “I challenge Didi to fight from Nandigram ... Of my party gives me a ticket from this seat I will take her on ... even if someone else contests from here I vouch for that possible BJP candidate that if I cannot defeat the Chief Minister by at least half-a-lakh votes then I will leave politics,” Adhikari said.

Nandigram has a healthy share of minority votes pegged at about 23.5 percent. Though the TMC is confident of polling the entire minority vote from this area, local sources say the Indian Secular Front --- founded by Muslim cleric Abbas Siddiqui --- which has tied up with the Left Front and the Congress may queer the pitch for her.

On the other hand the Adhikari whose family has a long political history from the area looks more com fortable in the current polarized atmosphere in Bengal politics.

Sources in the BJP said Adhikari’s name had been finalized for Nandigram seat adding other TMC leaders who had quit that party join the saffron outfit would also be given tickets.

Accordingly former Minister Rajib Banerjee will be fielded from Domjur in Howrah district whereas Chandramani Shukla the father of slain BJP leader Chandramani Shukla will be fielded from Bhatpara or Naihati, sources said.

Former TMC MLA, and Asansol Mayor Jitendra Tiwari who on Tuesday joined the BJP will also be fielded from his old constituency Pandaveshtar,

sources said . The central election committee of BJP is likely to finalise its candidate list for the first phase on March 5,

TMC wants PM posters removed

Kolkata: The ruling Trinamool Congress has raised objections to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s pictures being used for advertisements of various Central schemes.

A delegation of TMC leaders on Wednesday met Election Commission officials and alleged that the use of the Prime Minister’s pictures on advertisements of central schemes including the vaccination certificates --- distributed by the Union Health Ministry --- went against the model code of conduct.

Seeking the intervention of the ECI so that the posters and

sources said adding each district committee has been asked to send 4-5 probable names for the purpose.

hoardings carrying the Prime Minister’s photograph could be removed Bengal minister Firhad Hakim on Wednesday said “Prime Minister Narendra Modi happens to be the main campaigner of the BJP in this Assembly elections. Apart from being the Prime Minister he is also a politician who is seeking support for his party during rallies. In this situation, using his photo in vaccination certificates is akin to influencing voters and violates the model code of conduct ... we have requested the EC to remove his photo in hoardings promoting central schemes at petrol pumps.”



Naga sadhus participate in a procession ahead of Kumbh Mela 2021, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in Haridwar on Wednesday

On Women’s Day, CM Yogi to focus on women farmers

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath Government will celebrate International Women’s Day with a special focus on women farmers.

The department of agriculture will be organising about 250 seminars with a special focus on women farmers and groups and more than 30,000 women farmers and entrepreneurs will be imparted training.

For promoting women farmers, the department of agriculture will also be holding interactive sessions with scientists and officers who will be sharing new techniques of progressive farming.

To be conducted virtually, the programme will be held on March 8 for three .

For imparting technical knowledge and solution to the agricultural problems, special interactive programmes will be held with women scientists and experts of universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Lucknow.Under the first module of Rabi Session 2020-21, a three-day Kisan Pathshala with a total of 5 lakh participants will be organised in 8000 gram panchayats.

In addition, five tehsildars will be awarded by the revenue department on March 8 for the

disposal of grievances of women.

Along with this, tehsildars and revenue inspectors who have made maximum registries of women account holders under the Varasat campaign will also be awarded.

The chief minister, meanwhile, has directed all government departments to organize programmes related to women empowerment on the occasion of international women’s day on March 8.

These programmes will be held under the ongoing Mission Shakti and will continue till April. **IANS**

J&K clocks 104 fresh Covid cases; no death

Jammu: J&K on Wednesday reported 104 new Covid-19 cases, even as 49 were discharged after recovery, health officials said.

The Union Territory has recorded zero death in the last 24 hours.

An official bulletin said 104 tested positive on Wednesday, 17 from Jammu division and 87 from Kashmir division while 49 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery.

So far, 126,693 people have been infected with coronavirus in J&K out of which 123,860 have recovered and 1,958 patients have succumbed to the dreaded virus. **IANS**

Akrabad case: Important clues found in teenager murder case, police very close to crack it

Aligarh: The police have almost come close to the revelation in the murder case of a 14-year-old Scheduled Caste girl from Akrabad area during the attempted rape. By the third day, till Tuesday late night, everything was clear to the police.

Earlier, the SSP reached the village and worked for hours to find clues with the entire team at the scene and the surrounding fields. As per the information received till late night, the police has given confession in the statements and some evidence has also been recovered. The police is working on linking these evidence. At the same time, evidence from the accused has also been sent for forensic matching.

SSP Muniraj ji reached the spot and all the five teams

involved in the investigation were also present there. During this time, the police, considering the site as the center, searched every single piece of the field in its 500 meter radius and worked on the evidence there. During this time, what the police got and what they did not get, the police will tell at the time of the revelation. But it is so sure that the police team kept searching till late night under the leadership of SSP.

SSP Muniraj Ji said, “It is true we have been under suspicion in probe that has been going on for three consecutive days, due to which the interrogation was going on till late in the night. The work of matching some facts remains. As soon as something is clear, only then something can be told. **PNS**

Owner throws lavish party on horse’s birthday, cuts 50-pound cake

IANS ■ ARRAYSAHARSA (BIHAR)

Usually one is invited for the birthday party of a child or an adult, but in a unique case a man from Bihar’s Saharsa district celebrated his horse’s birthday by throwing a lavish party. He also cut a 50-pound cake and invited a large number of people for a delicious meal.

Rajneesh Kumar alias Golu Yadav, a resident of Panchwati Chowk in Saharsa district, celebrated his horse Chetak’s second birthday on Monday evening.

Golu loves Chetak like his own child. On Monday morning, Chetak was given a bath and was decked up for his birthday celebration in the evening.

Golu Yadav said Chetak is like a member of his family and refused to call him an animal. He said that Chetak’s first birthday was also celebrated in a similar fashion.

The cake was placed in front of Chetak. There was also a picture of him on the cake as well as his name. Afterwards, the cake was cut by Golu and firecrackers were burst. A large number of people living near Golu’s house attended the celebration.

Golu says that he has not celebrated his own birthday till date but celebrates Chetak’s birthday every year. He said he had brought Chetak to his home at the tender age of six months and initially reared him on milk.

Golu confessed, “I have brought up Chetak like my own child. I have given him more love than my own children. “

Golu says that both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes were served at this party. Expressing unhappiness over violence against animals, Golu says that today the animals are more loyal than human beings.

Golu Yadav appealed to the people that they should never consider an animal as only an animal but should treat it as a member of their family. He gave a message to the people to love animals.

Golu’s love for his horse has been the talk of the town. People say that Golu is a role model not only for Saharsa but for the whole of Bihar.

Golu Yadav celebrates birthday of his horse Chetak, cut cake, the party.Golu Yadav celebrates birthday of his horse Chetak, cut cake, the party.Golu Yadav celebrates birthday of his horse Chetak, cut cake, the party.

Police announce ₹1L reward on prime accused in Hathras farmer murder case

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ HATHRAS

Police has announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh on accused Gaurav Songra, who shot and killed a farmer in broad daylight in village Naujalpur of Sasni area of Hathras district. The police has also announced a reward of Rs 25 thousand each on the other two accused. One accused has been arrested in the case so far.

It may be recalled that on Monday, a farmer who was digging potatoes in the field was shot dead in broad daylight. About two and a half years ago, the farmer filed a lawsuit that Gaurav entered his house and molested his daughter. Now Gaurav was pressing to withdraw the suit and marry his younger daughter. The

deceased’s daughter lodged a police complaint against six people, including four nominees, on the basis of which a case was registered and the police arrested one of the accused. The remaining accused are being searched.

The dead body was handed over to the family members after immediate postmortem by the police administration. On Tuesday, the nephew offered fire to the body. The atmosphere of the village and family is inconsolable. On the other hand, the police has arrested one of the accused.

On receiving information, the elder brother of the deceased also came to the village. He lives in Mumbai. He and other relatives got angry after seeing the dead body. He refused to cre-

mate the body until the arrest of the accused. After much persuasion, he prepared for the last rites. The younger daughter was crying bitterly, demanding an encounter of the accused.

Gaurav wanted to marry younger daughter forcibly.

The wife of the deceased wept, saying that Gaurav, along with his companions, killed her husband. Gaurav was adamant about forcibly marrying her younger daughter. Though Gaurav is already married. He had threatened her husband that if he did not marry the daughter, he would kill him.

The molestation case was refused to be withdrawn.The farmer had filed a report against accused Gaurav on 16 July 2018, accusing him of sneaking into the house.



Anganwadi workers participate in a protest rally demanding equal pay as Government employees, in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Goa Port to set up special ferry service for inbound cruise tourists

Panaji : Goa’s only major port, the Mormugao Port Trust, operated by the Centre is planning to develop a ferry circuit to cater to the international cruise ship tourists visiting the State.

Speaking virtually at the Maritime India Summit 2021, Chairman of the Trust E. Ramesh Kumar said that the ferry service would connect several beach destinations in the coastal states, both in North Goa and South Goa districts.

“The ferry service that we are planning is designated to be on three or four identified routes whether from South of

Goa to Dona Paula and onwards, South of Goa to Captain of Ports jetty at Panaji and onwards to Old Goa or from South of Goa to any of the beach destinations like Candolim, Calangute, Baga and so on,” Kumar said.

“With a dedicated colour-coded ferry service, we are also contemplating to receive passengers on the other side with hop-on-hop-off buses, with the same colour codes with refreshments served en route, multilingual audio commentary,” he also said.

The top official also said that the Port Trust was also in

the process of setting a commercial hub spread over 4,000 sq mt area near the port terminal itself for visiting cruise-ship holidayers.

“There is a unique feature of this commercial hub which is going to be primarily designed to depict the old Goan culture imbued with modern facilities. It also embodies in it the rich culture of various states and exhibiting three essential ingredients whether it is handicraft, handloom or the cuisine of various states or the cultural forms including music and dance,” Kumar said. **IANS**

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Split house

The Congress rift, already out in the open, is only widening ahead of the crucial Assembly polls

At a time when leaders belonging to other political parties are upping the ante against their opponents in a bid to be successful at the hustings and form the Government in the five States/Union Territory going to polls soon, the Congress biggies are busy sparring among themselves. The fault lines run deep and, in all likelihood if one goes by its current state of inertia, the ‘Grand Old Party’ is heading towards yet another poll drubbing. The G23 (Group of dissenters) is clearly pitted against the “loyalists” on the issue of the Congress tying up with the Indian Secular Front (ISF) of Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui for the battle royal in politically-sensitive West Bengal. Deputy leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma, who is part of the G23, objected to the party aligning with the Islamic outfit and asserted that the tie-up “militates against the core ideology” of the Congress and that the alliance needed to be endorsed by the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party’s highest decision-making body. Recently, Ghulam Nabi Azad — who is a prominent leader of the dissenting group — heaped praises on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These senior leaders are making all-out efforts to stay relevant and they don’t want to lose their hold on the party. On the other hand, the Congress joining hands with a fundamentalist group in West Bengal ought to raise the question whether the party has compromised on its secular credentials?

The “soft Hindutva” card played by Congress leaders, including the Gandhi scion, has failed to elicit the desired outcome in a series of elections. Further, the Congress has been selectively applying the policy of minority appeasement but, apart from a few stray successes, it has failed to make any major breakthrough. The BJP has proved to be too formidable for the Congress and the regional parties have expanded their base at the cost of the ‘Grand Old Party’. This time, too, the Congress seems to have selectively played the appeasement card by aligning with Pirzada, who wields considerable influence among Muslims in South Bengal. Despite the fact that Pirzada has a dubious record of making controversial remarks, the Congress leaders shared the stage with him at a joint rally on Sunday. The Congress aligning with a fundamental party will either increase its vote percentage or it will prove counterproductive to its image in the long run; we’ll know in due course. Moreover, Rahul Gandhi’s foot-in-mouth disease has only added to the party’s miseries. The differences within the party point to the fact that Rahul’s leadership is not strong enough to bind the members together and settle their disputes. West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has accused Sharma and Azad of playing to the BJP’s gallery, saying that they are serving the polarising agenda of the saffron party. Well, whether these “dissenters” are pushing for reforms or only serving the BJP’s agenda, the Congress’ internal fight only weakens it and further damages its prospects in the forthcoming Assembly elections. It is time for the Congress leaders to resolve the internal feud and steer the party out of the ongoing crisis.



Workers at the Bhagtanwala dumpsite in Amritsar clear out waste on Wednesday

PTI

Mea culpa

Rahul is not responsible for the actions of his forebears, but he cannot escape his legacy for better or for worse

Political legacies and succession are not a uniquely Indian thing. The success of leaders like Justin Trudeau, Shinzo Abe and even Xi Jinping for that matter are demonstrable proof that even today, family political legacies are a giant step up the political ladder. A name, a family name in politics and the subsequent recognition is a powerful tool. But it can also be a huge burden, a cross to carry. And the prime example of someone who carries both the blessing and the curse of political recognition is Rahul Gandhi. The past and, in all likelihood, future president of the Indian National Congress, India’s only national Opposition party of relevance, is led by this scion of the Nehru-Gandhi family whose history every Indian knows. No matter where he goes. Rahul’s rallies and road shows are well-attended. But it is the curse, that means that many of the millions who might attend his rallies in a year, will not vote for the Congress in elections; such is the legacy of that party and its dominant family.

There is no insinuation here that Rahul is responsible for the actions of his great-grandfather, grandmother or father. Jawaharlal Nehru, a convenient whipping boy for some these days, died even before Rahul was born. He was five years old when his grandmother, Indira Gandhi, declared the Emergency and a teenager when his father, Rajiv Gandhi, was caught up in the Bofors scandal. He has also suffered more than most, to suffer two violent deaths in the family in full public gaze is not something any of us will endure. The scale of that suffering is something we will never comprehend and, thus, never truly empathise with. Yet, because he, and even his sister Priyanka, ask for votes in the name of the positive aspects of that legacy, they cannot escape the ills and mistakes. Yes, Rahul should attack the Narendra Modi Government on the engagements with China in Ladakh, but he must acknowledge the mistakes of 1962 as well. He cannot proclaim that democracy is under threat without admitting that he senses this because of the Emergency his grandmother declared. Acknowledging this fact now is a huge step by the Congress leader. He was not responsible for the mistakes of the past and admitting that fact is something that should mark an improvement in the way he is perceived among the electoral public.

The missing culture of strategic thinking

India’s restive relationships in the neighbourhood and its own internal governance parameters remain worryingly underleveraged and skittish



BHOPINDER SINGH

In the early 1990s, American thinker George Tanham had set the cat among the pigeons by mentioning “India’s relative lack of strategic thinking”. His observations suggested minimal preparedness in terms of an “active” vision or pre-emptive doctrines, as opposed to an inherently “reactive” instinct, that rattled Indian apologists who pointed to the civilisational literature on statecraft, strategy and philosophy of governance.

However, “nonalignment” (not “neutrality”, as commonly misinterpreted) was a definitive and unique aspect of Independent India’s foreign, commercial and military thinking. The admixture of “morality” into its strategic decision-making process differentiated India from the co-timed trajectory and outcomes of China, which also played a similar game of balance of power, albeit with hard-nosed realpolitik. The metamorphoses of a bipolar world to a polycentric order further blurred India’s strategic choices, as it continued sounding preachy, platitudinous and verbose. On the other hand, the conjoined nature of the “military-industrial” establishment under a single-party rule in China afforded it to chisel a seamless national vision and an uninterrupted strategic process to fructify the same.

Further, India’s obsessive passion for electoral politics, combined with structural silos of bureaucracy, diplomacy and the military ensured a sub-optimal and fractured approach towards possible self-realisation. Ironically, India’s restless democracy, regional parties with narrow agendas and increasingly disinterested politicians who mistook “India’s arrival on the world stage” to equal strategic thinking, continued to let it down. Even now, political brouhaha and grandstanding aside, India’s restive relationships in the neighbourhood and its own internal governance parameters remain worryingly underleveraged, incoherent and skittish.

The Indian system has failed to allow nonpartisan and “heeded-to” platforms of specialists who could formulate and advo-



cate strategic outcomes beyond petty partisan comeuppance. The recent Indo-Sino dissonances on the Line of Actual Control have yet again exposed the “reactive” nature of Indian governance and politics, irrespective of the dispensation in power. Rote insistence of Chinese “deceit”, while true, should not have been unexpected. Getting tripped by the Chinese is an inadvertent admission of the absence of strategic foresight that cannot be contextualised to the past only. An unbudgeted ₹20,775 crore was spent to buy emergency hardware in the recent standoff!

Strategic thinking necessitates lateral thinking and specialist angularities but the recent events suggest the clear under-appreciation of the security sensitivities. Unlike other participative democracies like the US, the UK and so on, the direct “voice” of Indian security must navigate through the labyrinth of filters, priorities and disinterested politico-bureaucrats. Though countries like Pakistan, where the military is considered a “State within a State”, are reflective of the other side of extremity, which has even more debilitating consequences. Simplistic arguments of the “guns over

“SIMPLISTIC ARGUMENTS OF THE ‘GUNS OVER BUTTER’ NATURE HAVE LED TO THE MISPLACED NOTION THAT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRESS, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY CAN BE MANAGED ONLY AT THE COST OF OPTIMUM INVESTMENTS IN SECURITY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BRACE FOR A GRUELLING SUMMER

Sir — This refers to the editorial ‘Scorcher ahead!’ (March 3). Going by the India Meteorological Department’s (IMD) forecast, we have to brace for temperatures several notches higher than usual this summer. It is really disheartening as many people, including the homeless, don’t have the resources to beat the heat. Gadgets like electric fans, coolers, fridges, air-conditioners (ACs) and water coolers, besides power generators or inverters are not available to the poor.

Further, power cuts will add to the woes of the common man. We have not been able to generate electricity from solar and wind power for large-scale public distribution. Ironically, climate change and atmospheric imbalance have caused natural calamities like drought, floods, storms and inclement weather causing huge loss to flora, fauna and human lives. It is incumbent upon us to fight climate change so that we may have a greener and cleaner planet for future generations.

However, the Government must take adequate measures to provide relief to the homeless in the summer. Shelter homes should be provided with water coolers, if not ACs, and fridge for cold drinking water. It is also the responsibility of all of us to make arrangements for drinking water for birds and stray animals. An earthen pot or utensil full of water outside the door or window will help the avian and animal species in quenching their thirst. We must also not forget to water the plants regularly.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

WE CANNOT LOSE BATTLE AGAINST COVID

Sir — We should be really thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking the job as it will inspire millions of others to get themselves inoculated. It is important that more private hospitals and even small private dispensaries be allowed to vaccinate, as these will be closer to homes and allow the elders to get vaccinated without the trouble of covering long distances.

In the next phase, vaccination should be carried out in remote villages and tribal areas inside forests. Further, it has come to light that the provisional certificates

Plight of mohajirs in Pakistan



The plight of mohajirs in Pakistan is hard to explain in words. The mohajirs are Muslim immigrants of multi-ethnic origin and their descendants, who migrated from various regions of India to settle in Pakistan following the Partition. However, Prafull Goradia’s lucid article ‘Beware of Pak’s softening stand’ (March 2) mentions their plight and states that they “find themselves not only unwelcome but also targets of eth-

nic hostility in the newly-created country”. Successive Pakistani Governments have remained indifferent to the woes of the mohajirs and even the courts in Pakistan are of no help. The author has lamented that he was personally witness to this discrimination when he visited Pakistan to conduct a two-week international course on short-wave radio broadcasting for countries of the sub-Asian region, extending from China to Iran. The enthusiasm for the creation of Pakistan in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was noted by the then Viceroy Lord Wavell in 1945 and communicated to the Secretary of State for India in England, saying: “The idea of Pakistan was stronger in the Muslim minority provinces than in Pakistan’s provinces”. The fate of the mohajirs is, therefore, a lesson for all those who wish to divide any country on religious or any other basis. Further, the Governments of both the countries and the United Nations must take steps to change the situation on the ground and help those who are discriminated.

BP Srivastava | Noida

issued to the people who got vaccinated carry the PM’s image and that, too, without a mask, which is unethical. If at all any image is necessary, it should be that of Corona warriors or of the scientific community who the PM has been appreciating. India’s vaccination programme has brought laurels to itself. We have supplied indigenously-developed vaccines to the world when other countries needed it the most. India’s reputation has increased manifold. We cannot afford to lose this battle at this juncture and we all must wear masks and sanitise our hands regularly.

N Nagarajan | Secunderabad

PRONOUNCE THE NAME CORRECTLY

Sir — A parent has complained that her child’s teacher does not pronounce the child’s name correctly. The teacher shortened the name as the full name was apparently difficult to say. I have myself faced this problem a number of times over my 35 years of teaching. Some names, when pronounced

correctly, sounded the same as English swear words, so roll call could be challenging. Some were just too long or contained too many consonants for me to pronounce easily and I always prefaced any roll call with the statement that I would do my best.

I know that a mispronounced name can be annoying although not offensive if they try to do their best, but many students found ‘Fitzgerald’ difficult to pronounce. Apparently the “tz” sound is difficult in many languages. Some of the mispronunciations were actually funny but I tried not to laugh at my own name. The main consideration is that people should do their best and that we should be willing to accept these efforts. Teachers already find the job challenging and most find that the parent feedback/complaints only add to the stress. The world as a whole needs to relax in these times of difficulty.

Dennis Fitzgerald | Melbourne

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

process remains unknown. There is no direct participation of the Armed Forces in its decision-making process. Routine media reporting of the “hand” of the National Security Advisor in resolving security situations notwithstanding, it belies the moot question as to why such a situation evolved in the first place?

The national “shaper” of strategic thinking is usually the political leadership of the day — today, the assertive and challenging voices within the ruling party, like a Jaswant, Shourie or Yashwant (who were given a free rein in the earlier NDA Governments), are clearly missing. The impact of domestic politics is supreme even in our international relations: Trump-backing, for example, exposed the predominance of partisanship. Institutions need to be strengthened, not diluted; specialists need to be empowered and not controlled, and only then will the latent potential of India truly fructify. The know-all attitude does incalculable harm to the culture of strategic thinking.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

SOUNDBITE

Nirmala Sitharaman is leading from the front and using her officials for political needs. What’s happening is a clear violation of the election norms.

Kerala Finance Minister — Thomas Issac

Active vigilance is pivotal to thwart any attempt to disrupt the efforts by the armed forces in rooting out terrorism from the troubled tribal regions of North and South Waziristan.

Pakistan Army chief — Qamar Javed Bajwa

Sholay is a cult movie but I must add that it was one of the toughest roles I have done because of various conditions. I was shooting barefoot, and that too in Bangalore, in the month of May.

Actor — Hema Malini

I don’t understand why a cricket ball or cricket pitch is brought into focus. Why don’t we just focus on the fact that the batsmen were just not skilled enough to play on the pitch.

India cricket captain — Virat Kohli

A new tradition of ‘Hackathons’ for start-ups has been created in the country, which is becoming a huge force for both the youth and industry of the country.

Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

FIRST COLUMN

THE CROWN PRINCE OF AMATEURS

MBS is frightening but a Saudi leader that the US President won't even talk to does not have a great future



GWYNNE DYER

If Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the *de facto* ruler of Saudi Arabia, were a burglar, he wouldn't be George Clooney in 'Ocean's Eleven.' He'd be a cartoon burglar in a carnival mask and a top with black-and-white horizontal stripes, carrying a sack labelled 'SWAG.' He's not a burglar, of course. And 'MBS', as he is universally known, was back in the news when the US Government released a declassified assessment by US Intelligence agencies confirming his responsibility for the murder of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018. Donald Trump sat on the report, defended MBS, and said his own experts were wrong. "I saved his ass!" Trump boasted to *Fox News*. But Khashoggi was working for the *Washington Post* when he was killed and Joe Biden takes a dim view of foreign leaders murdering American journalists even if they aren't citizens. It must be bewildering for MBS as two months ago the US President was his best buddy, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was his second-best buddy and Russia's President Vladimir Putin had honorary buddy status too. Now Biden has replaced Trump, Netanyahu may also be out after this month's elections and Putin isn't answering his texts.

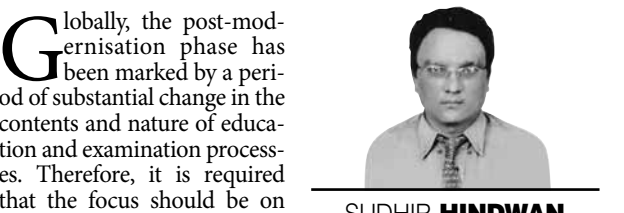


Biden didn't just publish the report on Khashoggi's murder. He ended US support for MBS' foolish, futile war in Yemen, put US arms sales on hold and refused to speak to MBS. Biden finally called Saudi Arabia, but would only talk to MBS' 85-year-old father, King Salman. So there's been much speculation about what Biden can or should do next about the Mad Killer of Riyadh, and the answer is — nothing at all. Just give him enough rope and he'll hang himself. He's ruthless but he is also ignorant about how the rest of the world works and certainly not smart. If my pipes burst, I call the plumber. If my car breaks down, I take it to the garage. If I'm very rich and I want somebody killed, I find a hit-man and have the job done professionally. I don't get a few of my mates to do it; I hire an expert. MBS sent a team of 15 men — 15 — to Turkey on a private plane, bringing the tools to kill and dismember Khashoggi with them. It was one of Istanbul's smaller airports, but the Turks were certainly going to record when they landed and when they left. Then they lured Khashoggi to the Saudi consulate to pick up some papers so he could marry his Turkish fiancée. Wait a minute. MBS thought it would be a cool idea to kill Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in a country that is hostile to the Saudi regime? He sent seven members of his own personal security force as part of the team. And they didn't even sweep the consulate for Turkish bugs in the room where they killed and dismembered Khashoggi? It was an amateur night for slow learners. The hit team even sent a Khashoggi body double dressed in his clothes out the back door to be seen leaving the consulate by the security cameras. The Turks had the whole story in 24 hours, with the Saudi regime retreating from one lie to another before blaming it on "rogue operators" three weeks later. By then you'd think MBS would have seen the error of his ways. But not our boy. Two weeks later, MBS sends another Saudi hit team to Canada to kill another self-exiled critic of the regime, Saad al-Jabri. Amateur night again. The novice assassins deny knowing one another and are refused entry to Canada by immigration officials. This attempted hit has never been officially confirmed but a document published by *Public Safety Canada* in August 2020 comes very close indeed. The fact that Prime Minister Trudeau was the first leader who received the Turkish recordings of the Khashoggi murder to go public with them just around that time adds weight to the allegation. MBS is frightening but he's really not very bright. And a Saudi leader that the US President won't even talk to does not have a brilliant future. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.' The views expressed are personal.)

A move towards self-reliance in the education system

Integrated academic programmes are needed to provide supplemental support to teaching and learning in various disciplines, making it relevant in current circumstances

Globally, the post-modernisation phase has been marked by a period of substantial change in the contents and nature of education and examination processes. Therefore, it is required that the focus should be on demonstrating how new models of reform and education can be used in real life experiments with democracy, the environment, globalisation and governance. There's a need to show how new ways of higher education will drive change and instill confidence among the masses and explain how latest research and happenings in the field of education across the globe can be disseminated so as to upgrade research and teaching accordingly. Plus, we have to find ways to do away with manipulation and nepotism; ensure policy brings good change and frame ways to reform the examination



SUDHIR HINDWAN

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

India badly needs a uniform law on bail

The country cannot continue to rely on the conscience of its judges without going into the root of the problem

Disha Ravi, an Indian youth climate change activist, was granted bail recently by a Delhi court in connection with a case where it was alleged that she was involved in the making of an online toolkit related to the ongoing farmers' protest last month. Additional Sessions Judge Dharmendra Rana granted her bail, holding that "citizens are conscience keepers of a Government in any democratic nation and they cannot be put behind bars simply because they chose to disagree with the State's policies." In a landmark order on bail, Judge Rana went on to state that "the offence of sedition cannot be invoked to minister to the wounded vanity of the Government" and that "difference of opinion, disagreement, divergence and dissent are signs of a healthy democracy." He added, "An aware and assertive citizenry, in contradistinction to an indifferent or docile citizenry, is indisputably a sign of a healthy and vibrant democracy."

This is, without doubt, a brave verdict. Little did anyone expect that a judge from the lower judiciary in Delhi would red flag the police and stand up to the State, thereby upholding basic constitutional values of liberty and freedom. But, here's the catch! Not everyone in the judiciary is Judge Rana and neither is everyone as lucky as Disha. Munawar Faruqi, a stand-up comedian, was arrested on January 1 this year in a case where he was alleged to have insulted and outraged the religious feelings of a particular community. The Supreme Court granted him bail after more than five weeks of imprisonment noting that the evidence against him was "vague." The court also said that none of the procedural requirements of arrest, as laid down by the Supreme Court in the 2014 landmark judgment of Armesh Kumar vs the State of Bihar case, was followed by the police.

These are, however, only a few examples. The likes of Safoora Zargar, Siddique Kappan, Meeran Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Gautam Navlakha, Stan Swamy, Akhil Gogoi and many other common citizens have suffered the uncertainties that involve bail petitions. They were either denied bail for months (in some cases years) or were not granted one at all. This is a big problem! If citizens in this country can be easily put behind bars without a trial, only to be released months later with the help of a delayed intervention by the courts, then constitutional principles will easily turn to dust. Such a situation is even more dangerous when the courts have, in a majority of these cases, eventually ruled that the arrests were either illegal, unwarranted or not necessary. It is, therefore, significant for us to understand that the law on bail in India is highly oppressive. In fact, so much so that it manifests itself in the form of three-tier layered oppression.

Advocate Abhinav Sekhri who happened to argue Disha's bail plea states that the age-old saying "Bail, not Jail" is in fact a myth. Let us see how. At the bottom of this layer is the State or the executive that has the power to categorise and classify crimes as bailable and non-bailable. So, if tomorrow the State decides that begging is a non-bailable offence — resultantly, all beggars on the streets will be immediately arrested with-



ONCE WE HAVE REVIEWED AND RECLASSIFIED OUR LAWS INTO BAILABLE AND NON-BAILABLE OFFENCES, FIXED THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL POLICE OFFICERS, LET THE COURTS BE GUIDED BY OBJECTIVE STATUTORY CRITERIA AND NOT BY THEIR SUBJECTIVE CONSCIENCE

Tiwary and Singh are from the National Law University, Visakhapatnam. The views expressed are personal.



out a warrant and put behind bars. The trial will go on at its own pace and the accused will spend years in prison without being proven guilty. It isn't shocking, therefore, that India is the only country where 70 per cent of prisoners are undertrials, most of whom are poor and are languishing in jails for years.

In the middle of this layer is the police that has the power to invoke a non-bailable offence against an accused. Even though the law grants certain procedural safeguards, the police has to work at the whims and fancies of its political masters.

Lastly, at the top of the layer is the judiciary, which, in bail petitions, is completely guided by the conscience of the respective judges. There are no statutory objective criteria and individual judges are required to judge each case on its own merits. Such a situation poses itself as an irony as well as a set of contradictions. On the one hand where the Constitution grants essential rights such as "equality before the law" and "equal protection of the law", procedural due process and substantive due process, liberty and right to life to every citizen of this country, bail petitions, on the other hand, are heard with no objectivity or set criteria. Cases of identical nature are dealt with differently by different courts and different judges.

Therefore, a solution lies in

getting to the root of the problem. If we have to reduce the arbitrary power of the State, we need to review our antiquated laws on arrest and custody that were enacted by an oppressive British regime to control Indians and curb dissent during the freedom movement. An 1861 Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) cannot continue to decide the fate of millions of Indians in Independent India. Laws of sedition that give unbridled rights to the executive to act arbitrarily need to be done away with. At his sedition trial, even Mahatma Gandhi had unequivocally pointed out that Section 124-A was a "prince among the political sections of the Indian Penal Code designed to suppress the liberty of the citizen." Countries like New Zealand, the UK and Australia have already gotten rid of their sedition laws and it is time India follows suit.

At the second level, we need to fix individual responsibility of police officers who, under the CrPC have been given the powers of arrest and detention. An analogy can be drawn with International Humanitarian Law. During the war crimes trials that took place after World War-II, many defendants invoked superior orders as a defence, claiming that they could not be held accountable for the crimes committed because they were only following the orders of their superi-

ors. The case law of these trials eventually resulted in the development of a customary rule applicable in all armed conflicts, whereby obeying a superior order does not relieve a subordinate of criminal responsibility, if the subordinate knew that the act ordered was unlawful, or if he should have known so because of its manifestly unlawful nature. Where an order is manifestly unlawful, all combatants have a customary duty to disobey. Similarly, in domestic laws, the police officer carrying out an illegal arrest without following due process of law needs to be held accountable even if he was following the orders.

Once we have reviewed and reclassified our laws into bailable and non-bailable offences, fixed the accountability of individual police officers, let the courts be guided by objective statutory criteria and not by their subjective conscience. The reason why we have to thank the conscience of judges like Rana is because of the subjectivity that pervades our bail laws.

The optimism that our judiciary has and will continue to have the likes of Judge Rana is a hope and hope alone cannot be our saviour in times of extreme distress. We have to act. As Benjamin Franklin rightly said, "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

DEMOCRACIES FUNCTION BECAUSE INSTITUTIONS OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY. THAT IS BEING ATTACKED IN INDIA (BY) ONE BIG INSTITUTION CALLED THE RSS. —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



IT WILL TAKE RAHUL GANDHI A LOT OF TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE RSS. THE RSS IS THE BIGGEST SCHOOL OF PATRIOTISM IN THE WORLD. —UNION MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

system to ensure that only talent gets selected. The higher education system's recent attempt to ensure a high level of partnership among institutions through equity and access to all, shows the level of insight in empowering and motivating students and faculty members across the board. Besides, the pursuit of the National Education Policy (NEP) to cover school, adult, higher education and efforts towards promotion of Indian languages and online education exhibit tremendous effort towards enhancement of the overall educational scenario. The sum and substance of the argument is to ensure that the new educational changes have brought in clean governance and accountability in education through a fresh perspective and a framework for key demands of higher education, while maintaining a synergy

among various stakeholders, particularly the youth. The provision to lay norms for designing new required structures is to ensure affordability to social justice. It goes without saying that many positive changes have been ensured through positive perspectives. Another welcome regulation is to monitor institutes mainly on the basis of research, academic excellence, its linkages and employability. There appears to be a clear framework of defining how the process of segregation of monitoring and financial powers in opening and shutting down of an institute would ensure transparency in the decision-making process. There have been lots of arguments among academicians about selection in higher education; and in this regard perhaps the main challenge is the pattern of selection in the contemporary context of increasing



international, inter-dependence and global change.

Recent developments have established a new basis for understanding the changing nature of polity and community. Perhaps there may be some modification in the examination system without which the process of reform may only remain a chimera. We ought to bring in changes to test the potential of students by testing the ability not only on academic excellence but also by judging their ability and knowledge about new information and

comprehending their level of social responsibility. The strength of the higher education system lies in creating its internal dynamism by ensuring inclusive growth. Even an excellent system is influenced by the people who make a difference. Human and financial relations and dealings are not as simple as they appear to be and require constant monitoring by competent authorities. The provisions of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) on par with the IITs, IIMs, the National Research Foundation, the National Educational Technology Forum and Indian Institutes of Translation and Interpretation would create an environment for students to reach their potential by encouraging academic excellence of a global level, embracing new information on the one hand and

opening new areas of job-oriented courses on the other. Besides, it would help in understanding social responsibility. In addition to this, a new approach can also provide a clear way forward for students in multidisciplinary studies. Tremendous efforts have been made for making the entire apparatus of higher education foolproof, yet there are always a few takeaways to new vistas of aggrandisement and making the entire process low cost and more people-intensive. There is always scope to improve course contents through academic discourse by bringing about changes through cognitive discourse, plus seeking multiple options and viewpoints in order to help in forming an integrated team consisting of only meritorious members for holistic development of social sciences. Plus, there is a need for

introducing new innovative mechanisms in social sciences designed to help students identify career goals available in the field of social sciences. More integrated academic programmes and services are needed that provide supplemental support to both teaching and learning in numerous and diverse disciplines making it more relevant in the current circumstances. Growth and enrichment of students and the community, both inside and outside of the classroom through community development exercise; more research centres to ensure academic excellence in many disciplines; exclusive intellectual skills designed to prepare students to engage in nuances of socio-economic and political issues related to the global order are the way forward to help our students carve out a niche for themselves.

Trump’s cash plea could complicate GOP fundraising

AP ■ ORLANDO

Trump needs you,” one fundraising email implored.

“President Trump’s Legacy is in your hands,” another pleaded.

Others advertised “Miss Me Yet?” T-shirts featuring Donald Trump’s smiling face.

While some Republicans grapple with how fiercely to embrace the former President, the organisations charged with raising money for the party are going all in.

The Republican National Committee and the party’s congressional campaign arms are eager to cash in on Trump’s lure with small donors ahead of next year’s midterm elections, when the GOP hopes to regain control of at least one chamber of Congress.

But there’s a problem: Trump himself. In his first speech since leaving office, the former president encouraged

loyalists to give directly to him, essentially bypassing the traditional groups that raise money for GOP candidates.

“There’s only one way to contribute to our efforts to elect America First’ Republican conservatives and, in turn, to make America great again,” Trump said Sunday at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando, Florida. “And that’s through Save America PAC and donaldtrump.Com.” The comment was particularly notable because Trump is generally loath to ask for money in person.

It amounts to the latest salvo in the battle to shape the future of the GOP, with Trump making clear that he holds no allegiance to the party’s traditional fundraising operation as he tries to consolidate power.

That could help him add to an already commanding war chest, aiding his effort to influence the party. Save America

has more than USD 80 million cash on hand, including USD 3 million raised after the CPAC speech, according to a person familiar with the total.

Some of that money could help Trump settle scores with incumbent members of Congress who have crossed him.

In his Sunday speech, Trump read aloud the names of every Republican who voted against him and called for them to be defeated. He’s already endorsed a Republican challenger to GOP Rep. Anthony Gonzalez of Ohio, who voted to impeach him over the U.S. Capitol riot.

“Trump’s call to give directly to him shows that the normal organs of the party ... Are going to have to fight for relevance in the 2022 cycle,” said Dan Eberhart, a longtime Republican donor who has given large sums to all three as well as to Trump’s campaign.

US will engage China from position of strength: Blinken will say in foreign policy speech

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Antony Blinken in his first major foreign policy speech on Wednesday would describe the US’ relationship with China as the “biggest geopolitical test” of the 21st century and say that Washington will engage Beijing from a position of strength.

In his speech, Blinken would spell out eight aspects of how American diplomacy will carry out the strategy of President Joe Biden, including plans to restore America’s global leadership.

“We will manage the biggest geopolitical test of the 21st century: our relationship with China,” Blinken will say, according to the excerpts of his speech released by the State Department. “China is the

only country with the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to seriously challenge the stable and open international system — all the rules, values, and relationships that make the world work the way we want it to,” Blinken will say.

Asserting that the US relationship with China will be competitive when it should be, collaborative when it can be and adversarial when it must be, the top diplomat will say that the US will engage China from a position of strength.

“That requires working with allies and partners, not denigrating them. It requires engaging in diplomacy and in international organizations, because where we have pulled back, China has filled in,” he will say.

Biden health pick taking heat for support of abortion rights

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden’s pick for Health Secretary is taking heat from Republicans for his actions in support of abortion rights. They want to define him — and the new administration — as out of the mainstream.

The nomination of Xavier Becerra faces a key vote Wednesday in the Senate Finance committee. It’s a test, too, for national groups opposed to abortion, trying to deny a president who favors abortion rights his choice to run the Department of Health and Human Services.

Becerra is paying a price for defending, as California attorney general, some of the nation’s most liberal laws and policies on abortion rights.

“It goes to show that California abortion policies are progressive enough that

being associated with them is something that anti-abortion lawmakers want to make disqualifying for a Cabinet position,” said Mary Ziegler, a law professor at Florida State University, who specializes in the legal history of reproduction.

Nationally, the abortion issue appears in flux. Lawmakers in 19 state legislatures have introduced almost 50 bills this year to ban most or all abortions, according to the nonpartisan Guttmacher Institute. In South Carolina, Republican Gov. Henry McMaster signed a measure banning most abortions, though it was almost immediately suspended by a federal judge.

Abortion opponents are hoping that litigation over a state law will reach the Supreme Court, now clearly leaning to the right.

US forces: Rockets hit airbase in Iraq hosting US troops

AP ■ BAGHDAD

At least 10 rockets targeted a military base in western Iraq that hosts US-led coalition troops on Wednesday, the coalition and the Iraqi military said. It was not immediately known if there were any casualties.

The rockets struck Ain al-Asad airbase in Anbar province at 7:20 am, spokesman Col. Wayne Marotto said.

Later, the Iraqi military released a statement saying the attack did not cause significant losses and that security forces had found the launch pad used for the missiles. An Iraqi military official said they had been found in the al-Baghdadi area of Anbar, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to brief media.

It was the first attack since the U.S. Struck Iran-aligned militia targets along the Iraq-Syria border last week that killed one militiaman.

Myanmar security forces kill at least 6 protesters



Anti-coup protesters run as one of them discharges a fire extinguisher to counter the impact of tear gas fired by riot policemen in Yangon, Myanmar, Wednesday

AP ■ YANGON

Myanmar security forces shot and killed at least six people on Wednesday, according to accounts on social media and local news reports, as authorities extend their lethal crackdown on protests against last month’s coup.

Multiple reports from several cities and towns, difficult to independently confirm, said police used live ammunition as well as tear gas and rubber bullets to violently disperse protesters.

In Myingyan in central Myanmar, multiple social media posts reported the shooting death of a 14-year-old boy. A second death was reported later.

At least four other deaths were reported elsewhere. Demonstrators have regularly

flooded the streets of cities across the country since the military seized power on Feb. 1 and ousted the elected government of leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Their numbers have remained high even as security forces have repeatedly fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds to disperse the crowds, and arrested protesters en masse.

On Sunday, the U.N. Human Rights Office said it believed at least 18 people were killed that day.

The escalation of violence has led to increased diplomatic efforts to resolve Myanmar’s political crisis.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to hold a closed meeting on the situation on Friday, council diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of an official announcement.

Myanmar authorities charge Associated Press journalist

AP ■ YANGON

Authorities in Myanmar have charged Associated Press journalist Thein Zaw and five other members of the media with violating a public order law that could see them imprisoned for up to three years, a lawyer said Tuesday.

The six were arrested while covering protests against the February 1 military coup in Myanmar that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The group includes journalists for Myanmar Now, Myanmar Photo Agency, 7Day News, Zee Kwet online news and a freelancer.

Lawyer Tin Zar Oo, who represents Thein Zaw, said the six have been charged under a law that punishes anyone who causes fear among the public, knowingly spreads false news, or agitates directly or indirectly for a criminal offense against a government employee.

The law was amended by the junta last month to broaden its scope and increase the maximum prison term from two years. AP’s Thein Zaw, 32, was taken into custody on Saturday morning in Yangon, the country’s largest city. He is reported to be held in Insein Prison in northern Yangon, notorious for housing political prisoners under previous military regimes.

According to the lawyer, Thein Zaw was remanded into

custody by a court and can be held until March 12 without another hearing or further action. The AP has called for his immediate release.

“Independent journalists must be allowed to freely and safely report the news without fear of retribution,” Ian Phillips, AP vice president for international news, said after the arrest. “AP decries in the strongest terms the arbitrary detention of Thein Zaw.”

The Committee to Protect Journalists joined that call.

“Myanmar authorities must release all journalists being held behind bars and stop threatening and harassing reporters for merely doing their jobs of covering anti-coup street protests,” said Shawn Crispin, CPJ’s senior Southeast Asia representative. “Myanmar must not return to the past dark ages where military rulers jailed journalists to stifle and censor news reporting.”

Thein Zaw was arrested as police charged toward protesters gathered at an intersection in Yangon that has become a meeting point for demonstrators.

Authorities escalated their crackdown on the protesters this past weekend, carrying out mass arrests and using lethal force. The UN Human Rights offices said it believes at least 18 people were shot dead Sunday in several cities when security forces opened fire on demonstrating crowds.

Kuwait swears in new Govt amid mounting crises

AP ■ DUBAI

Kuwait’s new Cabinet was sworn in Wednesday, state-run media reported, weeks after the government quit amid a deepening deadlock with parliament that has blocked badly needed reforms in the tiny oil-rich Gulf Arab state.

Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah swapped out four ministers whose selections had angered various lawmakers for less contentious, veteran politicians, an apparent gesture to appease parliament.

The worsening rift between Kuwait’s emir-appointed government and elected parliament presents the first significant challenge to Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who ascended the throne last fall.

The infighting has diminished public confidence, caused instability and hastened the country’s worst debt crisis since the 1990 Iraqi invasion. As Kuwait’s general reserve fund runs out of cash, lawmakers skeptical of deep-rooted corruption have prevented the government from borrowing as other Gulf states have done in response to the coronavirus pandemic and low crude prices.

Kuwait stands out among the hereditary sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf for its ram-bunctious parliament and robust political debate.

ISIS claims killing of 3 female media workers in Afghan

AP ■ KABUL

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the killing of three women working for a local radio and TV station in eastern Afghanistan, the latest in a spike in targeted killings across the war-torn country.

Dozens of people gathered Wednesday for the funerals of the three media workers.

The women were gunned down on Tuesday in separate attacks, according to the news editor of the privately owned station and officials in Nangarhar province.

Afghan officials said police arrested the alleged killer of the

three, identifying him as Qari Baser and insisting he was a Taliban — a claim promptly denied by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. Nangarhar police chief, Gen. Juma Gul Hemat, said Baser had used a pistol with a silencer in the attacks.

He was arrested shortly after the attacks by police in Jalalabad, the provincial capital. The IS claim, posted late Tuesday, contradicted the Afghan government’s accusations against the Taliban.

The militants said the three female journalists were targeted because they worked for one of the “media stations loyal to the apostate Afghan government” in Jalalabad.

Yemen’s rebels say latest US sanctions will prolong war

AP ■ CAIRO

Yemen’s Iran-backed rebels on Wednesday warned that the U.S. Sanctions imposed the previous day on two of their military leaders would only prolong the conflict in the improvised Arab country.

President Joe Biden’s administration slapped sanctions on Tuesday on two Houthi leaders, citing their alleged roles in cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia and shipping vessels in the Red Sea.

Rebel leaders Monsour al-Saadi and Ahmed al-Hamzi were responsible for attacks “impacting Yemeni civilians, bordering nations, and commercial vessels in international waters,” the departments of State and Treasury said.

They said the Houthis play “a significant role in the conflict in Yemen and exacerbate the dire humanitarian plight of the Yemeni people.”

Mohammed Abdul-Salam, a spokesman for the Houthis, said the sanctions have shown the U.S. “does not attempt to stop the aggression and lift the siege on Yemen.”

The sanctions have also shown that the U.S. “is responsible for prolonging the war and worsening the humanitarian crisis,” according to al-Saadi.

Al-Saadi heads the Houthis’ naval forces and masterminded attacks on ships in the Red Sea, while al-Hamzi supervised missile and explosive-laden drone attacks in Yemen and on Saudi Arabia, the Treasury Department alleged.

The sanctions came just weeks after the Biden administration removed the Houthis from a broader terrorism blacklist in a bid to ease civilian suffering in the country.

However, since the reversal of that designation, which was made in the waning days of former President Donald Trump’s administration, the Houthis have stepped up attacks in Yemen and on Saudi Arabia, mainly with ballistic missiles and explosive-laden drones. Yemen’s war started in 2014 when the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country’s north.

Ambedkar International Centre moves California court to join caste discrimination case

WASHINGTON: The Ambedkar International Center (AIC), a US-based organization fighting against caste discrimination on Tuesday approached the California Supreme Court to be admitted as an amicus curiae in a case that involves caste discrimination in the workplace.

Amicus curiae, literally meaning “friend of the court”, is a person or organization who is not party to the litigation at hand, but is allowed to advise the court on a point of law or fact directly concerning the lawsuit.

The California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) vs Cisco Systems Inc, Sundar Iyer and Ramana Kompella case of caste discrimination in the workplace is scheduled for hearing on March 9.

California regulators last year sued Cisco Systems, saying an engineer faced discrimination at the company’s Silicon Valley headquarters because he is a Dalit Indian.

The State of California alleges that a major tech-industry employer violated civil rights laws by discriminating against a worker of Indian-origin because he was born into a lower caste.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Rajesh Kumar S/o Sh. Tek Chand and Smt. Renu W/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar both R/o RZ-17/290, Gali No.5, Geetanjali Park, New Delhi, West Sagar Pur, South West Delhi, Delhi-110004 have severed all their relations with their son namely Ashish Kumar S/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar Aged about 23 years resident of RZ-67, Gali No.2, Block-K, Harijan Basti, West Sagar Pur, South West Delhi, Delhi-110046 due to acts, conduct and behaviour. My clients have no control over him. My client disinterested him all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him shall be doing so at his/her own cost, risk and consequences.

Sd/- P. Sharma (Advocate)
Seat No.28, Hall No.2, Dwarika Court Complex, Sec.-10, New Delhi-110075

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Tender Notice Nos.: BCT/20-21/365 & BCT/20-21/366, dt. 01.03.2021 DOP 06.04.2021 Existing as (Date of Opening) for both tenders: 06.04.2021 To be read as (Date of Opening) for both tenders: 26.03.2021. All other terms & conditions remain the same. 0704

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Public Notice: Loss of ID card:

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Mr. RAVI PANKAJ, issued by ICICI Bank Ltd, having ID card no. 06090 has been found lost on 25/02/2021. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to The Manager, Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Ltd., S.D.Tower, Rohini, Delhi-110085.

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Ltd., are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no.-06090. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

Date: 04.03.2021 Sd/-
Place: Delhi For ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

I on behalf of my client Mrs. Poonam Balli W/o Late Naveen Balli R/o B-18, 3rd floor Moti Nagar, New Delhi do hereby serve notice to the public at large that my client above said is the sole and exclusive owner of properties i.e. 1) LIG FLAT NO.576, FIRST FLOOR, PCKET 13, DWARKA, NEW DELHI 2) PLOT NO.136, K-1, VILLAGE HASTAL 80 SOYDS MOHAN GARDEN, NEW DELHI 3) LOCKER NO.321, STATE BANK OF INDIA, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI. And have lost/misplaced the original Letter of Administration P.C. No.21/11 dated 05-02-2013 issued by the court of Sh. Alok Aggarwal, ADJ., Dwarka, New Delhi. Anybody dealing with the property(ies) or the said document without my client shall do so at his/her risk and responsibility and shall also be liable for civil and criminal action.

Anjum Kumar (Advocate)
Ch.No.X-9, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that I, Suraj Sharma is purchasing the House No. A-267, MIG Flat on Ground Floor at Distt Vihar Sector-8, THA, Tehsil & Brij, Ghaziabad, (U.P) from Rohit Bandhu, Akshay Bandhu, Kamna Veda Arya and Kamlesh legal heirs of Late Prakash. Mr. Prakash was the absolute owner of the same vide Transfer Deed dated 03.05.2002 (Doc. 2649)

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

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

Govt. of Bihar

Department of Science and Technology

Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul

Beena Road, Ward No.-24, Supaul-852131

Website:- www.scesupaul.org and E-mail:- supaulcollege@gmail.com

Corrigendum

With reference to the notice no. **SCE/E-TEN/01/2020-21** and PR. No. 013216 (SCI.&TECH) 2020-21 inviting e-tender, published in the different newspapers on 23.02.2021, the following amendments are being hereby notified therein:

- The date and time of Opening of Technical Bids should be read as **12.03.2021 at 10.30 AM.**
- The e-procurement website address should be read as **<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>** and the concerned **eProc 2.0 Help Desk** address/contact details can be accessed from the “**Contact Us**” section of the **eproc2** website.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Principal

PR. No. 013799 (Sci. & Tech.) 2020-21 Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सख्यो हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

Kenya receives 1 million vaccines from COVAX

AP ■ NAIROBI

Kenya has received just over 1 million doses of a Covid-19 vaccine in the first batch from the global COVAX initiative that was created to ensure that low- and middle-income countries have fair access to vaccines.

Some 1.02 million doses of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, arrived in Nairobi early Wednesday, according to a joint statement from UNICEF, the World Health Organization, international vaccine alliance GAVI and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

Kenyan Health Minister Mutahi Kagwe expressed excitement and optimism that the vaccines would help stop the spread of the coronavirus that has forced the East African country to partially lock down its economy with devastating consequences for many citizens.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-VIII, AMBEDHKAR CHOWK, JAMMU

Email: xentlcd01@gmail.com, Fax No: 0191-2451732

(NOTICE INVITING TENDER)

e-NIT No: TLMD-VIII/J/31 of 2020-21 DATED: 25/02/2021

Executive Engineer TLMD-VIII, JKPTCL, Jammu, for and on behalf of Managing Director of JKPTCL, Jammu, wishes to receive online fresh e-bids for “**Stringing of second circuit of 132KV barn-jourian transmission line on already existing double circuit towers of 132 KV S/C Barn-Jourian transmission line along with construction of 132 KV Line bay at 132/33 KV Grid Station Jourian**” inall respects as specified in technical specification. Submission of e-bid against this standard Bidding Document (SBD) shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedure, terms and conditions of the standard bidding document with full understanding of its implications. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Interested bidders may view/download the e-bid document, submit their e-bid online upto date and time mentioned in the table below:

Scope Of The Work :- Stringing of second circuit of 132KV barn-jourian transmission line on already existing double circuit towers of 132 KV S/C Barn-Jourian transmission line along with construction of 132 KV Line bay at 132/33 KV Grid Station Jourian

Estimated Cost :- Rs. 560.00 Lacs (Rupees Five hundred Sixty lacs only), **Earnest Money :-** Rs. 11.20 Lacs (Rupees Eleven lacs Twenty thousand only) Pledged to Executive Engineer TLMD-VIII, JKPTCL, Jammu. **Cost Of Tender Documents :-** Rs. 10000 (Rupees Ten Thousand only) Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer TLMD-VIII, JKPTCL, Jammu., **Last Date of e-bids submission online :-** Upto 18/03/2020 4:00 PM, **Class of Contractor :-** 'A' Class

Other Details:

- Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document :-** The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <http://jktenders.gov.in> from date 26-02-2021 (1600 Hrs onwards)
- Pre-bid meeting :-** Shall be conducted on 05-03-2021 at 1200Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-VIII, Jammu J&K.
- e-Bid submission (starts) date & time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format and hard copy) :-** 26-02-2021 from 1600Hrs
- e-Bid and hard copy submission (end) date & time :-** 19-03-2021 up to 1600Hrs

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

No.: DIP/J-4578-P/20
Dated :- 02.03.2021

India's services sector expands at fastest rate

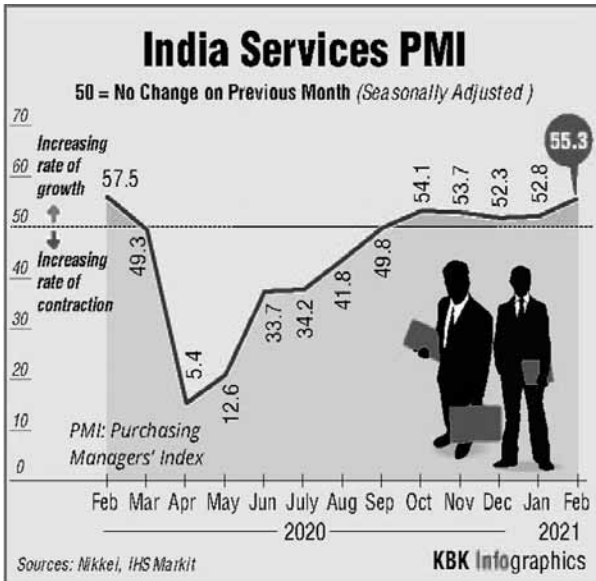
Employment falls further, says survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's services activity expanded at the fastest rate in a year during February, while employment fell further and companies noted the sharpest rise in overall expenses, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index rose from 52.8 in January to 55.3 in February, pointing to the sharpest rate of expansion in output in a year amid improved demand and more favourable market conditions. The index was above the critical 50 mark that separates growth from contraction for the fifth month in a row during February as the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines led to an improvement in business confidence towards growth prospects.

While, new work intakes expanded for the fifth straight month, panellists continued to indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restric-



tions curbed international demand for their services.

"New export orders declined for the twelfth month running, albeit at the weakest rate since last March," the survey noted.

Meanwhile, Indian private

sector output rose at the quickest pace in four months during February. The Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output, increased from 55.8 in January to 57.3 in February.

Need to ensure India is recognised as a quality conscious nation at global level, says Goyal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday stressed on improving Indian quality standards to ensure that India is recognised as a quality-conscious country with which people can do business

Need of the hour is to reduce logistics cost: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said the need of the hour is to reduce logistics cost in the country as India cannot be competitive if this cost remains high.

He also said the investments in the Sagarmala project will boost the country's maritime infrastructure, expand freight corridors, make freight more cost-effective and bring down the current logistics cost, which is estimated to be about 13-14 per cent. The investments would help in reducing this cost to a more acceptable benchmark of 8 per cent, and that is "the need of the hour today and India cannot be competitive as long as our logistics cost remain so high," he said at the Maritime India Summit.

PTI

with confidence.

"We must work towards ensuring India's recognition at the global stage as a quality conscious country, as a country with which people can do business with the confidence that they will get what we say, they will receive what they require. And they can be assured that an Indian product is a high quality product," the Food and Consumer Affairs Minister said.

Speaking at a virtual Workshop on Easing Compliance of BIS Certifications, Goyal said that quality is profit, and it prepares businesses for greater profits and quality speaks for itself, and is not expensive.

"It adds to the productivity, helps businesses to get bigger markets so that they can get economies of scale and helps to eliminate wastage," he pointed out.

"I think now with the onset of an Indian standard one national standard representing quality, productivity, affordability, accessibility, which should truly make the Indian standard a world-wide accepted standard. And when we go anywhere in the world, a standard that we make in India should be respected, recognised, appreciated and be the gold standard of quality," he said.

Goyal called for more and more use of artificial intelligence, big data and other technology-related solutions to help resolve standardisation issues facing industry and other entrepreneurs.

"I do believe that this is a dawn of a new era of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', where digitalisation and efficiency are going to determine India's success in the future... More and more use of artificial intelligence, big data. All of these technology driven solutions will help our industry in a big way," he added.

The certification process will be simplified, stating that BIS should ensure the cost of testing never becomes a detriment to conforming to quality and getting certification, the minister said, adding that there will be reduction of fee for the certification for MSMEs.

Goyal also suggested that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) should operate on the 'QUICK' Model - Quality, Uniformity through One Nation One Standard, Conformity Assessment and Knowledge Sharing.

"Our mantra for the day should be Quick Action, Quick Response, Quick Absorption of best practices and Quicker Ways of Working," he added.

INBRIEF

GHAZIABAD TO FLOAT BONDS WORTH ₹150 CRORE

Ghaziabad: The Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation will issue Public Municipal Bonds worth ₹150 crore in the first week of April. For this, the Mumbai Stock Exchange has completed all preparations for listing the municipal public issue on BSE. This information was given by Municipal Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar during the executive meeting to the Municipal Corporation House.



GOYAL FLAGS OFF SIDDHABALI JAN SHATABDI TRAIN

New Delhi: The Union Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal flagged off Kotdwara-Delhi Junction-Kotdwara Siddhabali Jan Shatabdi Special train through video conferencing on Wednesday along with Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and other dignitaries present at the event site.

CLW PRODUCES 40 PLUS LOCOMOTIVES PER MONTH

Chittaranjan: CLW once again proved its capacity and commitment towards production of locomotives for Indian Railway. From March onwards new challenge in form of Covid-19 has engulfed the entire world and CLW was not untouched with. Due to nationwide lockdown the material supply of different components used in production of locomotive became irregular. The working hours has also restricted. This has impacted the production of locomotives at CLW. Initially production was slow in first quarter of Financial Year 2020-21, yet CLW managed to gain the production figure of 40+ locomotives per month since September 2020.

AYURVEDA BEAUTY PRODUCTS LAUNCHED

New Delhi: After intensive research to meet the increasing demand for the chemical free beauty products based on time-tested ayurvedic system, Kannauj-based Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFC) in Uttar Pradesh under the Union Ministry of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSME) has recently prepared a natural face Serum and fragrance, a technology which has been transferred to Delhi-based firm AIMIL Pharma. Using this technology, the herbal pharma manufacturer has now launched a range of quality beauty products under the brand 'AyouthVeda' for the health conscious beauty market.

JIO, FIREWORK TEAM UP TO OFFER VIDEO STORIES

Mumbai: Reliance Jio has roped in Firework Short Video Platform to offer vertical video "stories" to its 100 million plus KaiOS users in India. "Jio has created a new category of connected users by bringing the KaiOS ecosystem to India and then pioneering app development on these phones, meant for an untapped audience. To have them join the portfolio of Firework publishers is a significant reassurance towards Firework's business leadership as a short video network platform, globally," said CEO of Firework India Sunil Nair.

ZIPAWORLD FORAYS INTO OCEAN FREIGHT

New Delhi: Logistics startup Zipaworld announced its foray in the ocean freight booking segment and expects at least three-fold growth in its turnover in the next financial year on the back of the expansion in its business. Ambrish Kumar, founder of Zipaworld and Group CEO of AAA 2 Innovate Private Ltd, said that the company also plans to come up with an intercity courier service in 2021, which would give further boost to its revenues.

Govt can cut excise duty on petrol, diesel by ₹8.5 a litre without hurting revenues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has room to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by up to ₹8.5 per litre without impacting its target for revenue from the tax on the two fuels, analysts said.

Petrol and diesel prices hover at a historic high following a relentless increase in rates over the past nine months. There have been calls by opposition parties as well as sections of society to the government to reduce excise duty to ease consumer pain.

"We estimate excise duty on auto fuels in FY22 (April 2021 to March 2022), if it is not cut, at ₹4.35 lakh crore versus budget estimate of ₹3.2 lakh crore.

"Thus, even if excise duty is cut by ₹8.5 per litre on or before April 1, 2021, FY22E

budget estimate can be met," ICICI Securities said in a note. It expressed optimism for an excise duty cut given demand recovery, impending privatisation and inflation concerns but expected it to be more modest than ₹8.5 a litre.

Crude oil futures decline on low demand

New Delhi: Crude oil futures on Wednesday fell 1.81 per cent to ₹4,387 per barrel as participants reduced their positions on low demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for March delivery eased by ₹81, or 1.81 per cent, to ₹4,387 per barrel with a business volume of 5,366 lots.

PTI

Rupee logs best single-day gain in 6 months on forex inflows, stocks rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Wednesday surged by 65 paise — its biggest single day spike since September 2020 — to end at 72.72 against the US dollar on the back of weakness in the American dollar and rise in risk appetite in the global markets.

A rally in domestic equities, foreign fund inflows and positive macro data also boosted the rupee sentiment.

Nifty recaptured the 15,200-mark on Wednesday, propped up by intense buying in financial and energy stocks.

At the closing bell, the 30-share Sensex was up 1,147.76 points or 2.28 per cent at 51,444.65 — the biggest single-day rise since February 2. Intraday, the index swung 1,243 points. Likewise, the NSE Nifty climbed 326.50 points or 2.19 per cent to end at 15,245.60 with 43 of its constituents closing in the green. Over the last

three sessions, the Sensex has risen by 2,344.66 points or 4.77 per cent while the Nifty has added 716.45 points or 4.93 per cent.

The Sensex rally was driven by Bajaj FinServ, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, HDFC and Axis Bank. Of the 30 Sensex constituents, 27 closed in the green.

Bajaj Finserv rose the most by 5.15 per cent. Reliance Industries rose by 4.52 per cent a day after its telecom arm

emerged as lead buyer in spectrum auctions. Reliance Jio picked up 488.35 MHz of spectrum in bands such as 800 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2300 MHz for ₹57,122.65 crore.

Analysts said strengthening of spectrum footprints by Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio in the auctions is expected to yield market share gains for the two telcos. Bharti Airtel, which bid about ₹18,699 crore to pick up 355.45 Megahertz, rose by 0.92 per cent.

IEA chief backs India on coal, says no exit without financial support

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lending his weight to India's stand on coal as an energy source, International Energy Agency (IEA) chief Fatih Birol on Wednesday said it won't be fair to ask developing nations to stop using coal without giving international financial assistance to make up for the economic challenge from such a move.

Developing nations like India depend on coal for 60 per cent of their energy, and coal and associated sectors are major employment generators, he said at the Energy Horizons Leadership Dialogue organised by Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

Endorsing the Indian stand of it not being responsible for global pollution, Birol said, "climate change issue we have today, (that is) concentration of carbon in the atmosphere is not an issue of today. It is an issue of almost last 100 years."

UJVN LIMITED
H.O. : 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun - 248006
Tel.: 0135-2763508, 2763808 Fax: 0135-2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

Ref. No.: 189
e-Tender Notice
Office of the Executive Engineer (Gen) Chibro Power House (Dehradun). Invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No.26-e/EE(G)/CPH/2020-21 "Supply of mechanical Tool & Plant items at Chibro Power House".
Tender No. 27-e/EE(G)/CPH/2020-21 "Supply of Slip Ring complete with all accessories of 63 MVA, generator at Chibro Power House".
Estimated cost: ₹ 19,00,000/- GST Extra & ₹ 9,00,000/- GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website: 04.03.21 11:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of bids on website: 24.03.21 up to 17Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"
E.E (G), Chibro
"Avoid Wasteful Use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
AMM/ETD/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against tender no. 44215042. The details are under:-

1	Description of Item	Supply, commissioning and testing of wheel set trolley towing equipment to RDSO TC No. ELSR/TC/0090 Rev 0 or latest along with accessories.
2	Quantity	07 Nos.
3	Tender due on	24.03.2021, 11:00 Hrs.
4	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

Note:- 1) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in E-tender system.
2) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
3) No manual offers are acceptable.
No.: 16144215042/ETD/GZB Dated: 02.03.2021 477/2021
Serving Customers with a Smile

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Jaikaran, S/o Rama Shankar Parsad, R/o Samalka Farm House Ramchandra Hajari, Near Narayan Ashram, NH-8, New Delhi, Age: 15 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Medium, wearing School Uniform, Sky Blue colour Dharidar Shirt, Blue Pant and Black Shoes** in feet, has been missing from his house since 05.08.2019 at 11:00 AM. In this regard a **FIR No. 345/19, dated 06.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/316/SW/2020 Ph. No.: 011-25066105, 25063758

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(Construction Organization)
TENDER NOTICE
The Deputy Chief Engineer /Const./ Northern Railway Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under One-Packet system for the following work:

1. Name of work and location	"Design and drawing of test piles, foundation (open/piles), substructure & super structure (PSC/Steel) in connection with construction of 07 nos. Road over Bridges on Jind-Panipat, Jind-Sonepat, Rohtak-Panipat and Delhi-Ambala section of Northern Railway".
2. Completion period of the work	12 (Twelve) Months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 33.21 Lakhs
4. Earnest Money to be deposited	NIL (However Bid Security Declaration is Mandatory as per Annexure-T)
5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 26.03.2021 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 26.03.2021
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	Tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in from 04.03.2021 to 26.03.2021. Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 12.03.2021 to 26.03.2021 All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office

No 484-Acs-Design& Drawing-ROBs/RUBs-CSB Dated : 03.03.2021. 476/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



In this regard a D.D. No. 39-A U/s 174 Cr.P.C. dated 27.02.2021 has been registered at PS New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO
PS New Delhi Rly. Station, Delhi
Ph. 011-23744073, 23363622

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Mohan Parmar S/o Sultan Singh Parmar R/o C-79, Bhagat Singh Colony, Balabgarh, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 84/15 U/S 408 IPC, P.S. Naraina, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Mohan Parmar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mohan Parmar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mohan Parmar** accused of **FIR No. 84/15 U/S 408 IPC, P.S. Naraina, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.04.2021**.

By Order
Mr. Himanshu Raman Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 20, Main Building,
DP/351/WD/2021 Patiala House Court, New Delhi

CELEBRATE LADAKH

The arts and crafts fair at Dilli Haat give a glimpse into the rich culture of the UT

At the second edition of *Enchanting Ladakh*, the annual art and craft fair organised by the Union territory's Department of Industries and Commerce, saw several people from the Dard Aryan tribe of Ladakh. There were stalls displaying Rajasthani *churan*, Madhubani paintings and Lucknowi *chikan* kurtas.

The event was inaugurated by Ladakh L-G Radha Krishna Mathur in the presence of MP Jamiyang Tsering Namgyal, Feroz Ahmed Khan of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, Tashi Gyalson of LAHDC, Leh, and senior officials from the Union Ministry of Textiles.

Visitors were offered a chance to dress up in the colourful costumes of the Dard Aryans for ₹50 or get pictured with them. Around 76 artisans with their *karigars* from the UT will stay put in Delhi over the next two weeks selling their uniquely crafted handloom and handicraft products such as *pashmi-*



na shawls (called *Lena*), clay models, dry fruits, hand-knitted items and seabuckthorn products.

The deputy secretary of Ladakh's Department of Culture,

Tsewang Paljor, who is a part of the organising committee, said, "We have got artisans from all corners of Leh and Kargil, making sure no unique product or art form is left behind."

He shared that the preference was given to rural artisans and craftsmen. All the proceeds will go directly to the artisans. At the inaugural event, Gyalson said that this is the second edition. "We didn't record good sales in the first edition of the festival. We wanted to make sure that the artisans from Ladakh gets sufficient exposure on a national level," said he.

IN BRIEF

Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has been at the forefront of leading conversation around health, safety and growth of tourism sector amid the on-going pandemic. ITDC has been instrumental in charting precautionary directives, revival for hospitality sector and generating revenues during these unforeseen circumstances of lockdown and social distancing. Post the ease in travel guidelines and resumption of domestic tourism, ITDC along with other industry leaders participated in a webinar organised by Indo Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ISCCI) to discuss the overview of tourism industry in Sri Lanka. G Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chairman and Managing Director, ITDC, joined the discussion along with other eminent dignitaries including Dr Krishna Kumar, Former Union Minister, Government of India, Lt Gen Rakesh Kumar Loomba, PVSM, AVSM, Engineer Naseer Ahmed, Member, Parliament in Sri Lankan Parliament, Dushan Wickramasuriya, Director Marketing of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and Aamir Ali, ED, Sri Lanka Airlines.



The Regional Office of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) celebrated the 65th Foundation Day of the corporation with full enthusiasm. The Regional Manager Rajeev Kumar Bansal and General Manager Rajeev Vinaiak congratulated the officials and motivated them to give their best to meet the corporate goals.

Delhi recently witnessed an evening of mystical Sufi music — *Shaa-e-Sufiyana* — hosted by Vandana and Praveen Gupta. The event was graced by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan; S N Srivastava, Commissioner Police Delhi; Rajesh Aggarwal, Add. Secretary to GOI; Rajesh Aggarwal; DCP Sanjay Bhatia among many others. Soulful performances by Padma Shri Kailash Kher along with Tanura and Sufi dancers kept the audience glued throughout.



Maharashtra Governor felicitates LIC

The Governor of Maharashtra, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, felicitated LIC of India at Raj Bhavan for the commendable work done during the pandemic. Vipin Anand, Managing Director, LIC, received the honour.

During the pandemic, LIC rendered exceptional services to its policyholders and the society as a whole. Death claims arising due to COVID-19 were treated at par with other causes of death and settled on priority. The insurance company has also ensured that other policy payments like Survival Benefit, Policy Maturity, Annuities and Loans were made to policyholders promptly by crediting the amount into the bank



account registered with LIC. For collection of premium, all digital channels were available 24x7 during the lockdown period to ensure that the policies do not lapse.

For combating the pandemic, the insurance company contributed to the PM Cares Fund and CM Relief Fund in different states. The organisation also contributed to the Tata Memorial Hospital and funded the purchase of ambulance with life saving equipment like ventilator, multi channel patient moni-

toring system and more.

The employees and agents of LIC also rose to the occasion and stepped in to combat the challenges posed by the pandemic. To encourage continuation of Risk Cover in the current circumstances of high risk, the company has provided another opportunity to policy holders to revive their lapsed policies by launching Special Revival Campaign. Till date more than 20 lakhs policies have been revived under this campaign.



If everything goes well, the colour of Hindon river will be changed soon. Regarding this, the DM of Ghaziabad, Dr Ajay Shankar Pandey, held a review meeting with officials of the Municipal Corporation and other related departments regarding cleanliness and other arrangements of the Hindon River. In this meeting, the District Magistrate gave tips for rejuvenation of Hindon River to permanent beautification. He said that now a long-term action plan is being made for permanent beautification of the Hindon River so that the river can remain clean.

—Ashok Nirwan

Delhi Govt GST revenue for Feb is 1,982 crore

The total revenue (GST+VAT) collected by Delhi Government for the month of February 2021 is ₹1,982 crore. Out of which SGST is ₹892.48 crore, IGST settlement is ₹606.23 crore and DVAT is ₹483.29 crore. In the previous month i.e. January 2021, SGST collection was ₹922.18 crore, IGST settlement was ₹562.67 crore and DVAT collection was ₹529.72 crore.

The total tax (GST+VAT) revenue of February is the second highest for the FY 2020-21. The combined monthly revenue has been around ₹2,000 crore consecutively for two months. This is approximately 30 per cent increase over the average monthly tax collection including last month (January). Further quarter wise, average monthly tax collection has shown increase and is around ₹2,000 crore in 4th quarter till now. This is about 12.6 per cent higher than the 3rd quarter (Oct-Dec 2020). This is excluding the compensation amount.

The department has taken various initiatives of sending alert SMS to the registered taxpayers for filing timely returns, issuing GSTR-3A notices to return defaulters by 25th of every month. With these initiatives, there is an improvement in the filing of returns over past five months and Delhi SGST revenues has been above ₹800 crore.

MV Rao joins as MD & CEO of Central Bank Of India

Matam Venkata Rao has taken over the charge as Managing Director and CEO of Central Bank of India with effect from March 1, 2021. Prior to joining the current assignment, Rao was the Executive Director of Canara Bank for more than three years, where he played a pivotal role in the bank's progress. He is a Post Graduate in Agriculture from Sri Venkateshwara Agriculture College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. He is a certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers.

He joined Allahabad Bank as Agricultural Field Officer in 1988 and worked in various capacities in different geographical areas of the country. As General Manager of Allahabad Bank, he headed bank's important verticals like



Wholesale and Retail Banking. He was also instrumental in launching a transformative project to bring focus on asset-centric banking.

HUDCO organises DoPT training

Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, inaugurated a week-long in-service training programme — *Financing Urban Infrastructure and Services in India* for All India Service Officers. The Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, sponsored the programme, which is organised by HUDCO's Research & Training Institute (HSMTI). The training is designed to address key issues in financing urban infrastructure and impart necessary skills for successful execution of such projects.

Speaking at the inaugural function, he outlined the contours of urban infrastructure financing and explained how



the Government of India is leveraging its resources to generate more funds from other sources, including private investment in projects. Addressing the participants,

Kamran Rizvi, Additional Secretary, MoHUA & CMD, HUDCO, highlighted the Government of India initiatives to tackle challenges in urban infrastructure financing.

Tata Power-DDL organises power theft awareness session

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DLSA) organised an interactive awareness session on the consequences of electricity theft and its Penal impact for the consumers.

More than 100 Tata Power-DDL consumers participated in the awareness programme. A



number of topics such as power theft scenarios like tapping the electricity network, cable, service wires; tampering with the meter to abstract energy; damaging or destroying electricity meter; using tampered meter, and using electricity for unsanctioned purpose were discussed at length.

The consumers who attended the session were also informed

that electricity theft is a cognizable and non-bailable offense with serious consequences (under the Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003). The convict shall be liable to pay theft/penalty bill twice the applicable tariff for a period of 12 months preceding the date of detection of offense and could also face imprisonment for up to three years.



Empowering tribals

Under the village connect initiative of TRIFED, the officials have been visiting villages with a significant tribal population across the country. Being present on ground level has made TRIFED's officials aware of some remarkable success stories.

The programmes and initiatives have been implemented by TRIFED for making India self-reliant under the *Atmanirbhar Abhiyan*, with the motto *Go Vocal for Local Go Tribal — Mera Van Mera Dhan Mera Udyam*.

One such success story that has come to the fore is in Jawadhu Hills, Tiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu. The *Van Dhan* tribal start-ups programme, a component of the The 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' Scheme, has emerged as a major source of employment for the local tribals.

The Malayali tribal people constitute 92.60 per cent of the total population in this block and their mainstay is through the non-timber forest produce and a variety of trees grown on this patta land such as tamarind, jackfruit, coconut, lemon and plantain and gooseberry.

To help these tribals empower themselves and gain better opportunities, the Jawadhu Hills Tribal Farmer Producer Company was formed in 2020. It falls under the State Balanced Growth Fund for value addition of non-timber forest product and agricultural products. The Company has been formed under the Companies Act 2013 (18 of 2013) and is limited by shares. It consists of members of farmers interest groups, producer groups and self-help groups that have been formed at community level.

In less than an year, four manufacturing units have already been set up for the processing and packaging of tamarind, minor millet, and honey and pepper. The units, which are being run by the tribals, have started the production in November 2020. The daily production capacity is one tonne. Up until now, in less than four months, the producer company has sold processed products up to ₹12 lakh. The FPO has already been registered as a seller in the Tribes India marketplace and has been selling nine of its processed produce through the platform, thus, gaining a wider market for its goods.

The Jawadhu Hills producer company has been formed with an aim to improve the quality of life of tribals. This is an example of how the *Van Dhan* tribal start-up has been successful in improving the livelihoods of the tribals.



PFC extends financial support

Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has extended its financial support for the construction of two-storied School Building at Dr KB Hegdewar School premises in Bambolim, Goa, as part of its CSR activities. The organisation has provided CSR fund of ₹3 crores for the construction of school, which was inaugurated by Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa along with Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC.

The building block com-

prises of classrooms, laboratories, a multi-purpose hall, faculty rooms and washrooms. PFC hopes that this school building will encourage more parents from marginal sections of the local community to come forward and enroll their children into schools. During the last six years, as part of its CSR responsibility, PFC has also supported many unemployed youth of Goa by training them and helping them gain employment.

The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the VIT-AP School of Business (VSB), VIT-AP University, Alphabeta Inc and Topxight Research Labs was held at VIT-AP University on March 3.

Dr SV Kota Reddy, Vice-chancellor of VIT-AP University said that Alphabeta Inc is a US-based company offering products and services to banks and financial services organisations. He told that FinTech is changing the business models and financial models in a never-seen-before avatar.

"There is a huge demand for qualified FinTech professionals across the globe. Our university addresses this demand through BBA programme with specialisation in FinTech. Our focus is on combining academic rigour with hands-on training. The students will work on real-life projects with latest technologies using the Alphabeta platform. They will get certification after completing the two courses 'FinTech Practice 1 & 2'. By the end of the programme, students will also be able to research on contemporary issues, develop new business/finance models and create patents," he said.

"Students completing BBA Fintech can get into banks and financial services such as Blockchain

VIT-AP signs MoU



Expert, Blockchain App Developer, Financial Analyst, Data Scientist - Finance, Business Analyst, Process Analyst, Compliance Manager, Product Manager and Business Development Manager. The areas where FinTech qualification is in

demand are — Personal Finance, Insurance, Wealth Management, Capital Markets, Lending, Billing/Payments, RegTech, Blockchain/Ledger and Cryptography," added he.

Dr S Jeyavelu, Dean, VIT-AP

School of Business shared the business school is offering BBA with specialisations in Business Analytics, Digital Marketing and FinTech. "Each specialisation has a partner who will provide real life practice and industry approved certification. These certifications will enhance the job opportunities of our students. We also have tie-ups with University of Michigan, Dearborn and Arizona State University, where students can study for two years in India and two years in the USA, and get a degree from our partner universities in the USA," he said.

Siva Visveswaran, Co-founder & CTO, Alphabeta Inc, stated that the growth in the FinTech sector will be primarily driven, not by cost or labour arbitrage, but by innovation using new technologies such as AI, Blockchain, 5G and Big Data Analytics.

"It will require an understanding of the financial ecosystem, analytic and quantitative programming skills, and the ability to solve problems using a design thinking approach," said he.

Match of high-stakes

With WTC final place yet to be confirmed, India ready to cook England's goose

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A ruthless India will not take their foot off the pedal while taking England for another “spin ride” in the high-stakes Test series finale starting Thursday, aiming to not just complete another dominant home performance but also realise their World Test Championship dreams.

Virat Kohli's men need at least a draw to maintain the current 2-1 scoreline to qualify for the Lord's final against New Zealand while England at best can heal Tim Paine's January scars by letting Australia a lucky passage to the summit clash with a win.

While a draw always seems a safe option in a game like this but Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri, with their attacking instincts, wouldn't like to play a defensive game which at times can be counter-productive.

India laid a venomous trap on the refurbished Motera and with the pink ball, demolished England inside two days, messing more with their minds than getting any tangible help from the track.

Axar Patel bowled ramrod straight and England had their heads “spinning” from the start. The play has worked well for the hosts since the second Test in Chennai.

Both Ajinkya Rahane and Zak Crawley felt that the track for the fourth Test looks “similar” to what they got in the previous two matches but the red ball which skids less off the surface compared to the pink one promises to make it a better contest between the two teams.

This is a Test match where England have little to gain save salvaging a bit of pride in a drawn series while India have everything to lose.

Despite being India's most prolific Test captain in terms of numbers, Kohli would be the first one to admit that he hasn't had the kind of success his illustrious predecessor Mahendra Singh Dhoni had with regards the ICC events.

While this is an ICC event of a different kind, no one more than Kohli would be itching for a course correction and build his own lasting legacy as a captain.

For that, he wouldn't pull back punches. And on another track that helps his ‘snipers’ Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin, Kohli would love to see an ‘inflation’ in their current cumulative tally of 42 wickets for the series.

With Indian spinners accounting for 49 of the 60 English wickets in the first three Tests, it was anybody's guess as how things will pan out in the final Test at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Kohli wouldn't have any complaints with his spinners, who have delivered what was expected of them, but the batting has left a lot to be desired in the entire series. It's just that England have been worse in their last four innings.

But that is no sound explanation for Indian batsmen's failure to dominate the proceedings in their own backyard.

Rohit Sharma's 296 runs in three games is 120 runs more than second best Ashwin (176 runs), who got a hundred on a difficult Chepauk track.

Save Rohit, none of the Indian batsmen have felt too comfortable till now on the turners on offer.

Kohli, despite two fifties, hasn't

had the best of times while Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Shubman Gill have all had only one innings of note over three Test matches.

All Kohli would want is a steady, if not exceptional performance, in

games such as these where a failure can leave ‘many a slip between the cup and lip’.

While there won't be any Jasprit Bumrah for the final Test, one of the finest exponents of bowling on sub-continental tracks, Umesh Yadav, is

4th Test. Day 1
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

expected to be back in action.

It remains to be seen whether Ishant Sharma or Mohammed Siraj partner him.

For England, poor team selection has also contributed to their shoddy batting where Joe Root (333 runs), with his first Test double hundred, managed to maintain a fair gap (187 runs) between him and the second highest scorer Ben Stokes (146).

Not having a second specialist spinner in Motera, didn't exactly make the team management look too smart, especially after Joe Root scalped a career-best 5 for 8.

Jack Leach (16 wickets) has done his bit but he does have his own set of limitations and with his pace, which is on an average 10km less than Patel, he is unlikely to always trouble the batsman.

But he would again play a significant role on a similar sort of track and may expect Dom Bess for company. Bess was impressive in the opening Test in Chennai but since then, has cooled his heels.

Virat bats for rotation policy

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India skipper Virat Kohli feels rotation policy is the way forward in the age of bio-bubbles as mental fatigue caused by restrictive quarantines will make it extremely difficult for players to stay hungry.

England have been following a rotation policy in their ongoing tour of India, something that has drawn criticism from legends such as Kevin Pietersen.

Kohli, though, is convinced that as long as players are staying in bio-secure environments, taking intermittent breaks is not a bad idea.

“The kind of systems you have

to follow in the bubble, it can get very monotonous and it is very difficult to keep yourself excited about small things,” Kohli said.

“I feel any format of the game is right place for rotation. No human being can possibly go on for that many number of games throughout of the year. Everyone needs to find windows of having some time off.

“These are the things that need to be considered for as long as you play in the bubble, outside of that it depends on where you stand physically more than mentally. But till the bubble exists, we need to keep the mental factor in the picture as well, because mental fatigue would be a huge, huge factor,” he said.

Kohli said for such a policy to succeed, a solid bench strength is paramount. He was pleased that India do not lack in that aspect.

“Our bench strength becomes way more important because if you have guys hungry, ready, who understand where the game is heading and are brave enough to take on opportunities then you can rotate very easily.

“There are eleven more guys who are ready to win a Test match for India, or One-day or T20 and that is exactly what we are striving towards, we have a clear road-map as to where we need to go in the next four-five years, so that our transition is not difficult at all,” he said.

Too much noise about spin-friendly tracks: Kohli

Ahmedabad: Stop the noise, tighten up that defence and get on with the game — a combative Indian skipper Virat Kohli said on Wednesday ahead of the fourth Test as he navigated persistent queries on the spin-friendly tracks in the country.

“There is always too much noise and too much conversation about spin tacks,” Kohli said at the pre-match press conference.

“I am sure if our media is in a space to contradict those views or present views which say that it is unfair to criticise only spin tracks, then it will be a balanced conversation.”

Kohli, at the end of the third Test, had blamed the batsmen's technique for their failure on the Motera track. “But the unfortunate bit is everyone plays along with that narrative (spinning tracks) and keeps making it news till the time it is relevant. And then a Test match happens, if you win on Day 4 or 5, no one says anything but if it finishes in two days, everyone pounces on the same issue,” he said.

Kohli cited one of India's losses in New Zealand when the team struggled on a seaming pitch. He recalled how it was the batsmen's technique, and not the track, that came in for scrutiny.

“We lost in New Zealand on day three in 36 overs. I am sure none of our people wrote about the pitch. It was how India played badly in New Zealand.”

zealand.

“None of the pitches were criticised, no one came and saw how the pitch was doing, how much the ball was moving and how much grass was there on the pitch,” he said. Kohli said his team has been successful over a period of time for adapting to conditions instead of complaining about them.

“The reason for our success is that we have not cribbed about any pitch we have played on and we will continue to play like that.

“We all need to be honest with ourselves what is the idea behind continuing this narrative and what purpose it serves people who keep continuing the conversation which is one-sided,” he said.

Now that the contest will be played with the red ball, he was asked if the pink ball made it tough for the batsmen, Kohli retorted with a firm no.

“I don't understand why a ball or a pitch, all these things are brought into focus why don't we focus on the fact that batsmen were not skilled enough to play on that pitch properly. It was bizarre display of batting by both the teams.

“...It's not (because) of change in ball-colour. If you make just a ball or a pitch helping the bowler, the focus, then you are not really reading the game properly in my opinion. I don't think the red ball is going to change that whatsoever.”

Kohli was also asked if it is good for the game, from a global fans' perspective, to take undue advantage of home conditions.

“I would love if you ask this question to England, New Zealand and Australia. This question is irrelevant to me at this point of time.”

Another question thrown at him was what he thought of a Test match finishing inside two days.

“We play to win. People should cherish India's win. Not every Test is finishing in two days. If team is playing bad only then it happens, we need to look at things objectively.”

PTI

SINGLES

SANIA-ANDREJA ENTER QATAR SEMIS

DOHA: Indian tennis star Sania Mirza and her Slovenian partner Andreja Klepac sailed into the women's doubles semifinals of the Qatar Open with a straight sets win over their rivals on Wednesday. Sania and Andreja made short work of fourth seeds Anna Blinkova and Gabriela Dabrowski 6-2, 6-0 to reach the last four round. The Indo-Slovenian pair will next play top seeds Czech Republic's Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova.

MEDVEDEV, ZVEREV EXIT IN 1ST ROUND

ROTTERDAM: Top-seeded Daniil Medvedev's 12 aces weren't enough as the Australian Open runner-up was beaten 7-6 (4), 6-4 by Dusan Lajovic in the first round of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament on Wednesday. It wasn't the day's only upset in Rotterdam, with third-seeded Alexander Zverev also losing. Alexander Bublik beat Zverev 7-5, 6-3 to set up a second-round meeting with Tommy Paul.

MARY ASSURES MEDAL IN SPANISH TOURNEY

NEW DELHI: Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom (51kg) was assured of a medal in her first competitive outing since qualifying for the Olympics when she entered the semifinal of the Boxam International Tournament in Castellon on Wednesday. The 37-year-old, who had not competed since her Tokyo qualification, defeated Italian Giordana Sorrentino with a split verdict in the quarterfinal stage of the event.

SHARATH OFF TO A FLYING START

DOHA: Ace Indian paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal advanced to the second round of the WTT Contender series with a hard fought 3-2 win over Czech Republic's Pavel Strizek here on Wednesday. Sharath toiled hard before defeating Strizek 17-15, 9-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9 in the first round. However, Sathiyan Gnanasekaran, made a first round exit after going down to world No 20 Aruna Quadri 7-11, 4-11, 8-11.

STEYN APOLOGISES FOR IPL REMARK

NEW DELHI: South Africa pace great Dale Steyn on Wednesday apologised for his criticism of the IPL, saying he never intended to “degrade or insult”. The 37-year-old pacer said his statement that cricket is sometimes forgotten amid all the money talk in the IPL was taken out of context. “IPL has been nothing short of amazing in my career, as well as other players too. My words were never intended to be degrading, insulting, or comparing of any leagues. Social media and words out of context can often do that,” Steyn tweeted. “My apologies if this has upset anyone.”

SONAM PULLS OUT OF ROME EVENT

NEW DELHI: A freak head injury while training with Sakshi Malik has forced young wrestler Sonam Malik out of the UWW ranking series event in Rome while Tokyo-bound Deepak Punia and Ravi Dahiya have also pulled out of the tournament for different reasons. The Indian squad left this morning for Rome, where the competition will begin on Thursday with Greco Roman wrestlers taking the mat first.

INDIA PLAY 1-1 DRAW AGAINST GERMANY

KREFELD: The Indian men's hockey team played out a 1-1 draw against Germany in the second game of its four-match tour of Europe. Jarmanpreet opened the scoring for India in the fourth minute, while Martin Haner scored the equaliser for Germany. “This match was a good experience for our players. It was a tough match and the team worked hard. Both teams created opportunities and I believe we will learn a lot from this game,” said India's chief coach Graham Reid. India will next play Great Britain on Saturday. Agencies



Ashton Agar celebrates with Matthew Wade after he takes wicket

@ICC/Twitter

Agar's 6/30 keeps Oz alive

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

Spinner Ashton Agar produced the best bowling performance in Australia's T20I history in a 64-run win over New Zealand in Wellington on Wednesday.

Agar's match-turning six for 30, including three in one over, derailed a New Zealand fightback as Australia avoided a series loss in the third match.

Under-fire skipper Aaron Finch hit 69, his best T20I score for more than two years, and Glenn Maxwell smashed 70 from 31 balls.

The result leaves the five-match series at 2-1 in New Zealand's favour with two games to go.

Australia finished their 20 overs at 208/4 after losing the toss and being asked to bat. In reply, New Zealand were bundled out for 144 in 17.1 overs thanks to Agar's heroics.

“Once I started to have the courage to toss the ball up a little bit I got something out of it,” he said. “That was a good lesson I can take out of today moving forward.”

Only four players have taken six wickets in a men's T20I before, none of them from Australia.

“It was an all-round performance from them that was outstanding and it's important for us that we move on quickly,” New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said.

Srikanth, Satwik-Ashwini start Swiss Open with win

PTI ■ BASEL

Top Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth staved off a spirited challenge from compatriot Sameer Verma to make a winning start to his campaign at the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday.

The fourth seeded Indian, who had claimed the title in 2015, took little over an hour to see off 2018 winner Sameer 18-21, 21-18, 21-11 in a hard-fought men's singles opening round match.

Sourabh Verma also won his first round match against Switzerland's Christian Kirchmayr 21-19, 21-18. He faces eight seed Kunlunvit Vitidsarn next.

However, H S Prannoy made an early exit after losing to France's Mark Caljouw 19-21, 21-9, 17-21 in first round.

On Tuesday night, Indian mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa notched up an upset 21-18, 21-10 win over the world No 8 and second-seeded Indonesian pair of Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja in the opening round.

The second seeded Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also won their first round men's doubles match against Christopher Grimley and Matthew Grimley of Scotland 21-18, 19-21, 21-16.

Another Indian shuttler, Pranaav Jerry Chopra, who was returning to action after a Covid-19 pandemic break, didn't have a good outing as he along with his mixed doubles partner N Sikki Reddy lost 18-21, 15-21 to the third-seeded English pair of Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith in 39 minutes.

Man City equal unbeaten record

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City equalled their club record of 28 games unbeaten on Tuesday, hammering Wolverhampton 4-1 to open up a gaping 15-point lead at the top of the Premier League.

Pep Guardiola shuffled his pack at the Etihad against the team who did the league double against them last season as he maintained his club's assault on an unprecedented quadruple.

The champions-elect were made to sweat after Conor Coady cancelled out an early own goal



from Leander Dendoncker but two late goals from Gabriel Jesus and a Riyad Mahrez strike sealed the three points.

City's 28-match unbeaten run in all competitions equals their run from April to December 2017 and they are red-hot favourites to wrap up a third Premier League title in four years.

The victory was their 21st in a row and their 15th straight Premier League win.

City have not trailed for a single minute in any of their past 19 Premier League games — equalling Arsenal's record set in 1998/99. Guardiola hailed his “fantastic team” but said his only focus is on the next game, against cross-town

Juve stay in title race

AFP ■ TURIN

Juventus gave their hopes of a 10th straight Serie A title a timely boost as they beat struggling Spezia 3-0 on Tuesday to move within seven points of league leaders Inter Milan.

Andrea Pirlo's side were frustrated for long periods, but second-half goals from Alvaro Morata, Federico Chiesa and Cristiano Ronaldo clinched an important win.

Juve sit three points behind second-placed AC Milan, who

host Udinese on Wednesday, with Inter Milan four points further clear ahead of their match at Parma on Thursday.

The Turin giants have won the last nine Italian league titles, but have it all to do to deny either of the two Milan clubs from ending that remarkable run.

“We are working to win, if we don't win this season, then we'll congratulate the champions, but as long as there's a mathematical chance, we'll give our all on the pitch,” Morata said.

They are in the best position right now to take them out and we are going to try but they are the champions.

“There is 33 points to play for. Tomorrow our opponents will play, we have one or two days off and prepare for Manchester United at home.”

Pitch looks very similar to last Test: Root

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

England skipper Joe Root on Wednesday said the pitch for the fourth Test looks very similar to the one on which his team was decimated in the third game but the visitors have learnt their lessons to be ready for the challenge starting Thursday.

“It's (the pitch) looking very similar...I think the most important thing is that we learn all the lessons from the last two Test matches and make sure we're back for it,” Root said when asked about the raging debate over the pitch in the last Test and how this one was looking.

“It's important that if we get ourselves in a similar position in the first innings, we really make that count. And try and get some scoreboard pressure in the game, you know, early on,” he said on the eve of the game.

Root said the English batsmen will look to build partnerships.

“I think that as batters if you don't score runs, you will always look at yourselves, you'll always try and find ways to improve and we've certainly done that.



England coach Chris Silverwood, center, and players Ben Foakes, Dom Bess, James Anderson and Stuart Broad chat during team's training session

PTI

“We've looked at a couple of dismissals and how we're going to find ways of building big partnerships and getting some significant scores on it if it is a similar surface this time around,” he added.

‘EVERYONE TRAINED’

England skipper Joe Root also revealed that an illness hit the touring party earlier this week but all members of the squad trained ahead of the fourth Test and are available for selection. The English captain

did not specify the nature of the illness but said he has a full squad to choose from.

He also informed that the team has not finalised its 11 or 12 at this stage but made it clear that off-spinner Dom Bess was up for selection.

“...The guys are fit and available for the game tomorrow. That gives us a little more time to name the squad,” Root said.

“So, everyone in that way is as prepared how they would have liked it for the Test match,” he added.

Zim beat Afghans by 10 wickets

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

A century from skipper Sean Williams coupled with destructive pace bowling from Blessing Muzarabani and Victor Nyauchi led Zimbabwe to a rapid 10-wicket win over Afghanistan in the first Test in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

Williams hit 105 to guide Zimbabwe to 250 all out before Afghanistan — trailing by 119 — were bowled out for 135 in their second innings.

That left Zimbabwe to score 17 runs which they got without any loss to end the match inside two days.

Afghanistan were bowled out for 131 in their first innings.

Lanky pacer Muzarabani finished with 2-14 — six wickets in the match — while his new ball partner Nyauchi took 3-30, also getting six in the match.

This becomes Afghanistan's third defeat in five Tests since gaining status to play the five-day format in 2017.