

OPINION 6
HOW AIR INDIA FELL
SHORT OF THE RUNWAY

WORLD 8
SAUDI TO PROVIDE \$4.2 BN TO
PAKISTAN; IMRAN THANKS MBS

SPORT 12
ENGLAND CRUSH BANGLADESH
BY EIGHT WICKETS

BHUBANESWAR, THURSDAY OCTOBER 28, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹4



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WE ARE
BACK: SAIF
ALI KHAN
10 VIVACITY

SC sets up Pegasus probe panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday appointed a three-member panel of cyber experts to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for surveillance of politicians, journalists, corporates and judges, saying every citizen needs protection against privacy violation and mere invocation of “national security by state” does not render the court a “mute spectator”.

The committee comprising three technical members will be supervised by its retired judge Justice RV Raveendran to be assisted by Alok Joshi, former IPS officer (1976 batch) and Sundeeep Oberoi, Chairman, Sub Committee in (International Organisation of Standardisation/International Electro-Technical Commission /Joint Technical Committee).

The three technical members of the committee are: Naveen Kumar Chaudhary Prabaharan P, and Ashwin Anil Gumaste. Chaudhary, the first member of the technical panel, is a Professor (Cyber Security and Digital Forensics) and Dean, National Forensic Sciences University,

Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Prabaharan P is a Professor (School of Engineering), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri, Kerala, and has “two decades of experience in computer science and security areas”.

Third member of the technical committee Gumaste is Institute Chair Associate Professor (Computer Science and Engineering), Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Maharashtra.

The apex court rejected the Centre’s plea to allow it to appoint an expert committee to investigate the allegations on the grounds that such a course of action would violate the settled judicial principle against bias. The top court urged its former judge Justice Raveendran to oversee the functioning of the three member panel and sought a report expeditiously from the committee.

Stating that “justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done,” the bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli rejected the Centre’s vehement submissions on national security saying, “...This does not mean that

the State gets a free pass every time the spectre of ‘national security’ is raised. National security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning. Although this court should be circumspect in encroaching the domain of national security, no omnibus prohibition can be called for against judicial review.”

The top court said in this world of conflicts it is an extremely uphill task to find and select experts who are free from prejudices, are independent and competent, rather than relying upon any Government agencies or any private entity. In the 46 page judgment, the Bench reiterated the need of freedom of press in a democratic society. “Such a scenario might result in self-censorship. This is of particular concern when it relates to the freedom of the press, which is an important pillar of democracy. Such chilling effect on the freedom of speech is an assault on the vital public-watchdog role of the press, which may undermine the ability of the press to provide accurate and reliable information,” said the apex court highlighting freedom of press.

MEA flays China for new land border law

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has taken strong exception to China’s decision to have a new land border law and said such “unilateral” legislation will have implications on the existing bilateral pacts regarding the border.

This response from the Ministry of External Affairs here came on Wednesday after reports said the new boundary law will become operational from January 1 next year. The legislation stipulates that “the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People’s Republic of China are sacred and inviolable”.

Enunciating India’s position, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, “We also expect that China will avoid undertaking action under the pretext of this law which could unilaterally alter the situation in the India-China border areas.”

“We have noted that China has passed a new land boundary law on October 23, 2021. The law states among other things that China abides by treaties concluded with or jointly acceded to by foreign countries on

land boundary affairs. It also has provisions to carry out reorganisation of districts in the border areas,” Bagchi said.

India and China have still not resolved the boundary question. Both sides have agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution to the boundary question through consultations on an equal footing.

“We have also concluded several bilateral agreements, protocols and arrangements to maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC in India-China border areas in the interim,” Bagchi said.

“In this regard, China’s unilateral decision to bring about a legislation which can have implication on our existing bilateral arrangements on border management as well as on the boundary question is of concern to us,” he said. “Such unilateral move will have no bearing on the arrangements that both sides have already reached earlier, whether it is on the boundary question or for maintaining peace and tranquility along the LAC in India-China border areas.”

Upswing as State adds 549 Covid cases, 2 more die, 334 recover

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State on Wednesday reported 549 Covid-19 positive cases in 23 districts and the State pool, with which the total tally jumped to 10,39,818.

Among the newly-infected were 70 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

In the last 24 hours, 72,091 samples were tested and test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.76 per cent. The active cases stood at 4,673. Notably, the State had recorded 433 cases on Tuesday. Among the new cases, 318 cases were reported from quarantine and 231 local contacts. Khordha district reported the day’s highest 296 cases fol-

Among the new cases, 318 cases were reported from quarantine.

lowed by Cuttack with 50, Sambalpur 16, Mayurbhanj and Jajpur 13, Baleswar 12 and Nayagarh 10.

The districts which recorded below-10 cases were Jagatsinghpur and Puri nine each, Deogarh eight, Kendrapada and Sundargarh seven, Dhenkanal and Nuapada six each, Bhadrak and Kalahandi four each, Angul, Bargarh and Jharsuguda two each and Subarnapur, Rayagada, Balangiri one each. Besides, 67 cases were

reported from the State pool.

Two more persons succumbed to the disease, mounting the total death toll to 8,318. Jagatsinghpur and Keonjhar districts reported one death each.

However, 433 more patients recovered, increasing the total recoveries to 10,27,108. State capital Bhubaneswar on the day registered 175 Covid-19 cases, with which the total tally in the city rose to 1,17,766. Of the new cases, 126 were local contacts and 49 quarantine cases.

Notably, the city had recorded 149 cases on Tuesday. 255 persons recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 1,13,476.

Covid still a threat: State official warns people not to be complacent

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the daily Covid-19 cases in the State surging to 549 on Wednesday, Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) CBK Mohanty warned people not to be complacent and let their guard down against the pandemic.

“A surge is being recorded in some countries now. Therefore, don’t let the complacency settle within. The State Government will raise

The surge in number of cases could be attributed to complacency in adhering to Covid appropriate behaviour

the surveillance bar to keep the pandemic in check,” said Mohanty.

“Testing, tracking and treatment will remain our surveillance weapon, and the Health Department is fully

geared for it. At the same time, we urge one and all to adhere to Covid protocols stringently,” he said.

The surge in number of cases could be attributed to complacency in adhering to Covid appropriate behaviour, genetic mutation of the virus and the commencement of the fall season (autumn) in October.

“People have to strictly adhere to Covid norms even if there is one active case in the State,” Mohanty added.



Shri Naveen Patnaik
Hon’ble Chief Minister, Odisha
announces
New Smart Health Card
with New Guidelines of
Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana



DSPL-210



State Government will bear full cost of health services provided to all in Government facilities

Each beneficiary family will get health coverage of Rs.5 lakhs and additional Rs.5 lakhs for the women members of the family per annum in empanelled private hospitals

Buying gold for Dhanteras: Be cautious

SAROJ MISHRA ■
BHUBANESWAR

With this year's Dhanteras (November 2) round the corner, people are bracing up to flock to the jewellery shops to buy gold as it is considered an auspicious day to purchase the yellow metal.

But one has to be careful while making purchases as the raids by the Consumer Welfare Department in the last few years have exposed that even the reputed and top jewellers are rampantly cheating the customers in weight and purity.

The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain even said this in the State Assembly. He informed that many top jewellers in cities like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and other parts of the State are violating the weight and measure standards. The department has collected fines from 27 shops



while it has issued compounding notices to two jewellery shops.

Despite the department's symbolic raids, cheating continues unabated. The ground reality is the fines collected from the violators is very meagre and has led to suspicion that some dishonest officials are

hand-in-glove with the unscrupulous jewellers and letting them off the hook by paying peanuts.

In this scenario, the customer has to fend for himself and has to be extremely well-informed and vigilant from being a victim of cheating.

Most of the time the

modus operandi of the dishonest jewellers is they tamper with the electronic weighing machine using the mode option button. With this, they can adjust the measures according to their convenience resulting in short delivery of the yellow metal purchased in a shop.

A shopkeeper can also dupe consumers by simply placing the weighing machine on an uneven surface, as accurate measurement can be obtained only if the machine is placed on a flat surface. Many traders are seen placing their machines awkwardly either out of ignorance or intentionally.

Besides, another frequent violation indulged by the jewellery shop owners is to include precious stone weight in the total gold weight. Customers have to check the bill thoroughly and ensure that the stone weight is deducted from the gold weight.

Another way in which a customer is cheated by the shop owners is that he is charged for 22 carat gold even though the gold is of a lesser value. An ornament studded with diamonds is usually made with 18 carat gold, but jewellers charge customers for 22 carat gold, said knowledgeable sources.

First Yr UG, PG classes from November 1, 15

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Offline classes for First Year UG and PG students would start in degree colleges and universities across the State from November 1 and November 15, respectively.

The State Government has written to the Principals of all colleges and Vice-Chancellors of all universities in this regard.

"Classroom teaching of First Year U.G. and First Year P.G. students (freshly admitted) for the session 2021-22 will start from 01.11.2021 and 15.11.2021, respectively, in physical mode by following appropriate Covid-19 prevention protocols," the letter read.

There must be an isolation room ready for any emergency. Hostel facilities shall also

be made available for those students who have taken admission in hostels. All possible Covid-19 prevention protocols shall be followed in hostels, the letter added.

Notably, classroom teaching for First Year UG and PG students was suspended due to the Covid-19 situation. However, online classes were underway.

Jai Jagannath, Rasagola Amara: Cuttack girl's reply leaves Zee TV show judges speechless

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even though Odisha has received the Geographical Index (GI) tag for 'Odisha Rasagola' and West Bengal the same for 'Banglar Rosogolla', the verbal battle over the origin of the sweetmeat is far from getting over.

The latest chapter of the debate unfolded at the Zee TV's singing reality show 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' when Shritipadma Dash from Cuttack made a befitting reply to a query of judge Himesh Reshammiya over Rasagola during the auditions.

Before the audition of Dash, Reshammiya had asked several contestants whether Rasagola belongs to West Bengal or Odisha. While all contestants answered in the favour of West Bengal, Dash was the first to differ.

As Dash introduced herself as a resident of Cuttack, Odisha, Reshammiya asked the same question to her saying he was waiting to ask it to someone from Odisha.

"I wouldn't like to take the things further, but Jai Jagannath, Rasagola Amara (Rasagola is ours)...End of



discussion," replied Dash in a confident manner, which left judges, Shankar Mahadevan and Vishal Dadlani, speechless.

As Reshammiya went on to ask, "What about the claims of the people of West Bengal that the sweet belongs to their state", Dash said, "If they are arguing, let them do so. 'Rosogolla' might be theirs, but 'Rasagola' is ours."

A video of the portion of the show has surfaced on various

social media platforms, gaining the praise of Odisha people. A resident of the Shelter Chhak area in Cuttack, Shritipadma is the daughter of music composer and singer Sushil Chandra Dash and Sailabala Dash.

The 20-year-old girl is a second year student of the Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya. She had appeared for the auditions in Mumbai last month and qualified among top 30 contestants.

Patient's kin looted of ₹5 lakh under BSKY: Complaint lodged

TARINI PRASAD PANDA ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

A family here has alleged that without any treatment of their patients, a private hospital had looted them of Rs 5 lakh under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY).

The patient's wife and brother-in-law have lodged a complaint in this regard.

According to reports, one Tattela Apanna (51) of Chudangpur village of Hadubhangi panchayat of Kashinagar block suddenly fell

ill. So he was admitted at District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), Paralakhemundi. After under treatment for three days, he was referred to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Brahampur.

After 8 days of his treatment, the doctors referred him to elsewhere. So the family returned to the village losing all hope and they were unable to shift the patient to a private hospital due to financial constraints. Being a small farmer, Apanna's financial condition was not sound. Still, Apanna's

family took him to Visakhapatnam with financial support under BSKY.

There the patient was put in ICU. The treatment went on for 19 days but there was no outcome. Finally, doctors said the family members that their amount of Rs 5 lakh under BSKY had been exhausted and advised them to take Apanna back home. However, they didn't provide any details of the expenses.

Now, the patient is again under treatment at the DHH, Paralakhemundi.

Cong to enroll 1 million members



AICC observer Dr A Chellakumar is going to launch the party membership drive for 2021-25 at the Congress Bhawan.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Wednesday announced that it would kick-start a massive membership drive in the State on November 1 from the State capital.

PCC vice-president in-charge of organisation Jagneswar Babu said AICC observer Dr A Chellakumar is going to launch the party membership drive for 2021-25 at the Congress Bhawan.

Babu further said AICC general secretary and national media in-charge Randeep Singh Surijywalla, State observer Chellakumar, PCC president Niranjan Patnaik, CLP leader Narasingha Mishra and former PCC president Sarat Pattanaik would visit Mamita Meher's village in Balangir district on Thursday on a fact-finding mission and to console her family.

ASO recruitment process soon

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A recruitment process for a large number of Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) of the Odisha Secretariat for the year 2021 is likely to begin soon as the State Government has written to the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) in this regard. A meeting in this connection was held on October 21 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The OPSC has been asked to undertake the process of recruitment of ASOs as per the commission's schedule. Additional Secretary to Government Dr N Prusty wrote a letter on October 26 to the OPSC Secretary in this regard.

Number system was evolved in ancient India, says IIT Professor

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Though colonial rulers gave an impression that the Indian civilisation lacked in scientific development, the truth is the number and decimal place value system, on which the entire modern scientific development is based, is completely an Indian contribution, according to an expert.

"Due to the effect of colonisation of Indian subcontinent in the 18th and 19th centuries, an impression was created that the

Indian civilisation lacked in scientific development, more so in mathematical sciences. But since the late 19th century, many Indian and other researchers have found this impression to be wrong," Prof Somesh Kumar, Professor of Mathematics at IIT, Kharagpur, said. Attempts to discover knowledge stored in inscriptions, stone carvings, plaques, stamps, seals, charters, tablets and manuscripts including palm leaf manuscripts in different parts of the country have thrown light on the contribu-

tions made by Indian scientists, astronomers, physicians, poets and playwrights, he said while delivering the SOA Fortnightly Academic Lecture on Saturday last. Speaking virtually on the subject 'Evolution of Modern Number System: India's Gift to the World', Prof Kumar said the interesting discovery was that "the number system, decimal place value system on which the entire modern scientific development is based was completely an Indian contribution".

Prof Kumar presented his-

toric evidence through European and Arabic writings in relation to discovery of notations for ten numbers in all Indian regions which firmly established that modern numbers evolved in India and it was the country's unique gift to the world.

"This can be placed as an equivalent to the discovery of fire and wheel in the evolution of human race. Further, through Sanskrit texts, it is established that decimal place value system referred to unique numbers," he said.

HITTING THE BULLSEYE

Mamita Meher murder case: Plain truth out



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

Mahaling is a nondescript little village of Kalahandi district, 67 km away from the headquarters town Bhawanipatna. It has a population of 3,076 from 831 families. Khariar Road, 13 km away, is the nearest town that supplies all kinds of day-to-day materials including non-grain food stuff. One Govinda Sahu, a successful civil contractor in the area, owns a lot of landed property which lay vacant for long. A few sensible locals persuaded Sahu to make available some land to put up a much-needed science college. The idea appealed to him and he agreed to let his land be used provided they made him a member of the governing body. The noble-minded guys agreed and the college came up with ungrudging public support and became immensely popular. Sahu's typical cash-crazy brain decided to put up a feeder English medium school also much in demand across Mahalinga panchayat. Thus an ownership

Sunshine English medium school was put up to be managed like a shop. Sahu did not have to report to any other creature for critical decisions.

The Mahaling college is run absolutely by the chosen committee. It is a public property with routine grants from the Government and occasional support from MP LAD Fund, Western Odisha Development Corporation funds and similar other sources as the college gained reputation too soon. Customarily, the post of president is rotational. No wonder, the moneyed Govinda Sahu too had his turn of being president whom the other governing body members would naturally succumb because he could convince authorities and officials easily owing to his solvent status. The Sahu fellow did not understand law or prevailing norms. So, he grabbed all civil contract and supply jobs of the college to make some easy money. That a core member being a vendor for the organisation creates a conflict of interest issue, no one could ever figure out. The cunning Sahu purposefully projected himself as the boss of the college and got away due to his access to Government officials and money. Many locals could never realise the fact that the Sunshine school was his personal property whereas the Mahaling college belongs to the public and is treated like a Government entity all around the place. It is affiliated to the Sambalpur University and routinely governed by the Higher Education Department

as per rules. Political bigwigs including former Union Minister Bhakta Das, MLAs and more would visit the college as dignitaries at functions, which is no crime by any parameter. Quite naturally, Sahu took lead in all college liaison and public relations activities because he was an accepted community key man. On record, maximum visits have been made by former MPs and MLAs from the contiguous or surrounding constituencies mainly because the college is a very reputed institution in the district. Adhiraj Panigrahi, Congress MLA, like Bhakta Das, is close to Mahaling college, which is just fine. During the pandemic years too, these two dignitaries have visited the college quite often for their appreciation of the institution and maybe their intimacy with Sahu.

Coincidentally, the Minister of State for Home, most certainly without unbridled power or authority in police matters, belongs to the district. So, the college committee would feel proud to have him as chief guest or a person of high dignity whenever big functions or celebrations would happen. This basic truth is probably not known or intentionally ignored by the detractors of the Naveen Patnaik administration.

Govinda Sahu had employed as principal of his personal school one Mamita Meher, a woman from the neighbouring Balangir district. The school is not even a high school. It has facilities for up to Standard-8 only. Not

surprisingly, Mamita would have free access to the college campus and authorities as the campuses are separated by a single wall or two and Govinda is a committee member apart from being land owner.

Mamita suddenly went missing on October 8. Her family members lodged a complaint with police accusing Govinda for she was openly opposing Sahu's ignoble escapades for quite some time. Between October 8 and 14, Govinda kept roaming the streets as a gentleman. Because of his high local stature, police would not ever imagine the school owner Sahu would have anything to do with his own school principal's disappearance. But Mamita's family kept alleging vehemently that Sahu was sexually harassing women employees of the school, which was being opposed by Mamita who had only days before warned Sahu of exposing him and bringing him to book. The public outcry turned furious and police was forced to pick and detain Sahu for questioning at the Titilagarh police barrack.

No one knows how the lights went out and Sahu escaped from the washroom to be tracked down from a sugarcane field miles away. The nearly-acceptable truth is known publicly by now. Only court verdicts are awaited.

At this juncture, it would be unfair to pin Home Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra down as accessory in the whole affair because the college committee has made it amply clear that neither the

Minister was close to any member nor he ever paid regular visits to the campus, let alone stay nights over. He came to the college one last time in January 2020 along with two other senior Ministers for a function. In his inspirational address to the audience, he had said 'he feels great to be amid young people as that transports him to youthful days'. Incidentally, only Bhakta Das and Adhiraj Panigrahi had paid visits to the college in recent months, surely for noble reasons.

Opposition members are so excited to hear Dibya Shankar's name mentioned as an accomplice in the murder case that they have not rested or eaten well since Mamita died.

The college committee members say there is no good enough space to accommodate a dignitary in the campus. Even if the Minister were a debauch or lecher, he would have scores of joints to relax in. The college campus would even not be the last resort. Most significantly, every member of the Naveen Patnaik administration knows just too well that a single errant activity means instant dismissal. The worst grade fool would not risk that deadly penalty!

The hue and cry over the Mamita matter should have died down the moment Govinda Sahu confessed to the crime. Even if police is lax and Sahu-friendly, that would be whipped to make course correction and dig out the facts which is certainly not as complicated as learning rocket science.

Lots of mismatch in probe in Mamita case: BJP demands CBI inquiry

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Wednesday came out heavily on the State Government on the Mamita murder case alleging that there is a lot of mismatch in the police inquiry.

Party State president Samir Mohanty said the Chief Minister who was taking immediate action on any misconduct of any Minister during the BJD-BJP coalition rule, has kept mum on the alleged link of a Minister in the Mamita case.

A 15-member fact-finding team led by Mohanty had visited Mamita's family on



Tuesday. BJP leader former DGP Prakash Mishra alleged that the law is not taking its own course as claimed. Police had refused to receive an FIR of Mamita's

family. The party leaders demanded a CBI inquiry into the case and that the Mahaling school be named as Mamita Meher Memorial Institute.

PPT starts vigilance awareness campaign

PNS ■ PARADIP

With an aim to bring transparency and improve efficiency in all systems, the Paradip Port Trust (PPT) began a week-long observation of vigilance awareness from October 26.

The campaign on the theme "Independent India@75: Self-Reliance with Integrity" would continue till November 1. On the first day, the campaign started with administrator's pledge by PPT Chairman PL Haranadh to the employees. A spot quiz contest on vigilance knowledge was also held among the employees.

Haranadh also launched an "online bill processing and payment system" for contactors



and vendors of PPT. With this, the complete billing cycle would reduce to mere two days in a transparent manner with minimal manual interference, he said.

During the Vigilance Awareness Week, an online debate competition among local school students and other activities related to vigilance awareness have been planned. The PPT employees are

also taking integrity e-pledge through the PPT and CVC websites. Each department is also conducting stakeholders' meets for awareness on corruption issues relating to the functioning of their particular departments.

Several hoardings have been displayed in the locality for creating public awareness. The valedictory function would be held on November 1.

Frequent transfers of JSpur Collectors hit dev works

KAHNU NANDA ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The administrative and developmental works as well as providing service of good governance to people in Jagatsinghpur district have taken a severe beating due to frequent transfer of Collectors within a short span of time.

From February 2019 to October 2021 as many as five Collectors have assumed office and got transferred subsequently.

On October 21 Collector Sangram Keshari Mohapatra was transferred to Khurda district and he was replaced by 2015 batch IAS Parul Patawari.

It started with the then Collector Yamini Sarangi who was shifted from Jagatsinghpur in February 2019 and Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar had joined as the new Collector subsequently. After conducting successful general elections in 2019 and handling post-restoration works of cyclone

'Fani,' the woman Collector was shifted in June 2019 and Mohapatra had assumed office as district Collector.

Mohapatra had settled down and involved himself in welfare works and successfully launched e-governance works in the district. Moreover, he effectively implemented Covid 19 pandemic preventive measures during consecutive lockdown and shutdowns and also during unlock process in the district, but Tirtol by-poll forced him from leaving Jagatsinghpur.

Following direction from the ECI, the State Government transferred Mohapatra since he is a native of Jagatsinghpur. Besides, Congress and a few political parties had charged him with a bias towards the ruling BJD.

Later, Saroj Kumar Mishra took over on October 5, 2020. Mishra conducted the Tirtol by-poll successfully and concentrated in Covid 19 works in the district. Strangely,

the State Government effected a transfer order and relocated Mohapatra to Jagatsinghpur district again. Mishra was transferred to Rayagada.

Sources informed that people are now expressing displeasure at the State Government for repeated transfer of Collectors in a short period of time.

As a district Collector plays a key role in organising and supervising developmental works and revenue collection, frequent transfer of Collector has impacted the execution of works in a negative way.

Furthermore, the State Government plans to hold Panchayat elections in a few months. Notifications for reservation of seats have been published.

The public has been given liberty to file their complaints before the Collector. In this crucial situation shifting the Collector is uncalled-for, suggested residents.

Prepare error-free voter list by Oct 30: Ganjam Collector tells officials



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Ganjam district administration has issued instructions to all the Panchayat Officers to prepare an error-free voters list latest by October 30, sources said.

The administration has also instructed the officials to ensure that the names of those voters who, meanwhile, either have shifted to other places or transferred or died, are carefully deleted from the voters list based on concrete proof or evidence with utmost care and

caution.

On the directions of the District Collector Vijaya Amruta Kulange, a meeting was organised through video-conferencing here on Monday in which the Additional Collector Leena Kumar Khes presided over.

In the meeting, the Deputy Collector of Chatrapur Priya Ranjan Prusty informed the members that, the existing voters' list was prepared according to the 2011 census report.

The meeting, among other issues, stressed on the need of

identifying and preparing of the list of voting centers/polling booths expeditiously, mostly based on the approved voting centers/polling booths of 2017.

Similarly, the officials have also been directed to prepare the list of 'counting centers' having the provision or scope of 'strong rooms' and other relevant facilities so as to make the counting smoothly and hassle-free. Among others, all the Deputy Collectors of the district, BDOs, Executive Officers, and Gram Panchayat Officers joined the virtual meet.

XIM HR school holds business conclave

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The XIM University School of Human Resource Management organised a business conclave on Saturday last that focused on 'Bespoke Compensation-Is That a Future Reality?'

Addressing the gathering, HCL Technologies vice-president HR Amrita Das shared her observations on developing a compensation structure keeping in mind the needs of a



multigenerational workforce.. Bennett Coleman Company Limited Director HR and CHRO Amit Das high-

lighted the fast-changing employee demographics and diverse workplaces. Such diverse workplaces require reg-

ular overhauling and benchmarking of the incentive structures.

Quality Kiosk Technologies CHRO Shourya K Chakravarty focussed on finding the right mix of compensation and benefits such as health insurance and vacations.

NHRD Bhubaneswar Chapter president Dr Shantanu Rath spoke on the importance of customized and non-standardized compensation strate-

gies and the challenges HR leaders will face due to a hybrid workforce in devising a strategy.

A number of teams from across the country participated in the competition and from among them 11 teams were shortlisted for the final round.

These teams presented their research on topics ranging from Hybrid Workforce, Multigenerational Workforce, and Digital HR.

Minus Majhi, Cong weak in its traditional forte, S Odisha



LALIT MISHRA

As predicted by The Pioneer, Congress Committee working president, former MP of Nabarangpur, young tribal Turk of the Rahul Gandhi team Pradeep Majhi has expressed his desire to join the BJD after resigning from the Congress a few days back.

In a Press conference convened by him, he thanked Rahul and the Congress for helping him to serve the tribal people while simultaneously predicting a doomsday for the State unit of the party. Very importantly, he remarked that the Congress has no possibility of coming to power in the State in foreseeable future due to various issues while the BJD shall continue in the State power for next three decades.

Before resigning from the

Congress, Majhi had a futile counselling meeting with former Congress president, Rahul Gandhi, arranged by the former Kalahandi Congress MP and Bihar -in-Charge Bhakta Charan Das.

Though Niranjan Patnaik, the PCC president and Tara Prasad Bahinipati, the Koraput MLA who is the lone Congress MLA from Jeypur unreserved Assembly seat from the undivided tribal dominated Koraput district observed that the departure of Majhi and a few tribal Congress leaders will have no impact on the Congress vote bank in the undivided Koraput district, but it is a foregone conclusion that the BJD shall gain massively by inducting Majhi and a few other former Congress leaders that include former MLAs of Laxmipur and Kotapad constituencies and Block level Congress leaders of the district.

The departure of Majhi and others shall have also a cascading effect on the Congress tribal leaders of south Odisha.

Majhi was projecting himself as a State level tribal leader by raising his voice against atrocities against tribals, non-allotment of forest land to the tribals and many other issues in the State which no other tribal leaders used to do before him. Thus he was emerging as a Congress tribal face in the State.

Even Dalit and OBC leaders of the State Congress were never seen raising their voice against caste-related deprivation issues in the State as a result of which they could not become State level caste leaders even though the party had given them various portfolios. But Majhi, in spite of his laudable work, was neither given the State -unit president charge nor was given the responsibility of other State-units in Congress.

Before Majhi, former tribal leader of the undivided Koraput district and former Congress Chief Minister Giridhar Gamang had left Congress to join the BJD. However, it was a consolation for the party to get back the Koraput Lok Sabha seat in the last general election.

Since 1998 Parliament election, the Congress has been steadily losing its base in Odisha. In 1999 general election, the party had won Dhenkanal and Koraput MP seats and in 2004, the party had bagged Brahmapur and Koraput MP seats. Though the Congress came to power at the Center in 2004, it was reeling under severe anti-incumbency of previous State-power in the Odisha. The electoral situation of the party improved a little in 2009, after the collapse of BJD-BJP coalition and it could win six Parliament seats from

south, west and coastal Odisha such as Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Baleswar. However, the party could not carry forward the support of the people of the south and the west Odisha further to 2014 and 2019 general elections. It lost all Parliament seats in the State in 2014 and won only Koraput seat in 2019 poll. It lost all tribal Assembly seats in the undivided Koraput district in 2019 elections.

To retain its vote share, the Congress could have focused more on west and south Odisha and its traditional social support groups like the Dalits, the tribals and the minorities. In absence of such strategies by successive PCC presidents and the AICC- Odisha-in-charges, the BJD reached out to these social groups who were once with the Congress.

Recently, the BJD is seen mobilising the tribals in each district. It has been inducting tribals leaders from various parties. The Odisha Government has been developing hockey sports to attract the tribal youths of Sundergarh. To woo the Santali tribals of the State, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has demanded the inclusion of Ho-language in the Constitution. The State Government is reaching out to PVTGS during the Covid-19 pandemic. District level bodies

for tribal development have been set up.

On the other hand, the Congress is unable to check the political migration of its leaders. It had lost a former Leader of the Opposition in House, Bhupinder Singh, to the BJD, before the 2014 poll. It had also lost its working president, Naba Das, to the BJD before 2019 election. Now it has lost another working president, Majhi. Unless, the party puts a new and young PCC president like Mohammad Moquim or Ramesh Jena or Satpagiri Ulaka or anyone and implement a time bound reform-plan, the Odisha -Congress is feared to slip further in the forthcoming local body polls. Had Majhi been given a respectable responsibility like Bhakta Charan Das or Satpagiri Ulaka or had the intra-party conflict in the undivided Koraput district been resolved, perhaps he would have not left the party.

Now two things are happening due to fall of the Congress in the State. Its leaders are defecting to the BJD and the BJD. Secondly, the vote share of the BJD is increasing in the State as has occupied the place of Congress as the principal opposition in the Assembly. Therefore, it is said that the Congress is helping the BJD in the State amid the latter's 'Congress-Mukt campaign.'

Mamita murder: Overwhelming support to S'pur BJP bandh

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

A dawn-to-dusk bandh call given by BJP on the demands of CBI inquiry into Mamita Meher murder case and removal of Minister Divya Shankar Mishra passed off peacefully here with spontaneous response from the public.

MLAs of Bengali and Sambalpur Nauri Naik and Jayanarayan Mishra, respectively, BJP Kishan Morcha president Pradeep Purohit, district president Girish Patel, Annapurna Barik and Jhunu Pradhan led the Bandh at different places.

Since, it is a woman humiliating issue, very less efforts were needed to convince people. When the businessmen kept the shutters of their organization down; banks, Government offices and all others also remained closed. Major commercial vehicles also remained off the road.

However, looking at the necessity of the people, the bandh organisers spared the emergency services.

Looking at the situation, massive police deployment was seen all over the district including Kuchinda, Rairakhol, Burla, Hirakud, Bamra etc to prevent any untoward situation.

D'nal Laxmi puja: Deity worshipped in 38 pandals; Covid norms violated



PNS ■ DHENKANAL

The famous Laxmipuja of Dhenkanal, which started first from Panja Sahi during the year 1923, has of late grown in terms of size and spread, besides in glitz and glamour.

So much so that the Puja is being held in as many as 38 Mandaps by now. The 39th Mandap could not come out this year as the district administration did not permit for the same.

Crowd pulling items like Dollas, Zoo, Maut ki Kuen, apart from food stalls and Gramashree Mela, were not allowed this year, due to the Covid restrictions. However, rush of visitors was seen at the makeshift shops on the footpath, violating all norms.

The police administration appears to have deliberately overlooked the violations, including congregation of people and many going with wearing mask. The police however had not issued vehicle passes to seniors persons, differently abled and journalists this year to put a break on crowd.

Discontentment was brewing among permanent traders of the town, as they had lost their business due to Corona guidelines.

There are strict instructions to the shoppers on opening and closing of the shops and transacting business.

The performance of traditional Kumarutsav, which is linked to Kumara Purnima and Laxmipuja were not allowed this year as well.

Call to restore land grabbed by MLA Das



PNS ■ BALESWAR

The BYJM, the youth wing of district BJP, staged demonstration in front of the Collectorate here demanding immediate execution of an Orissa High Court order which stated eviction of an encroached land by Bhograi BJD MLA and former Minister Ananta Das.

The agitators besides stating that the court order on a writ petition directed the district administration to vacate the encroached patch of land by Das also threatened that they

would step up their agitation in coming days if the order was not carried out within the stipulated period.

BYJM district president Rajesh Mohapatra said they won't rest till eviction is carried out. The agitators later submitted a memorandum to the district Collector.

"Das has been in power for over 15 years and he held several responsible posts as a minister in the Odisha Government. Earlier, he had obstructed the road construction of a stretch between Tamulia- Chandipur

undertaken by the DRDO establishment, which delayed the project. With a lot of difficulties it was cleared. In the current case, he has encroached on a sizable patch of Government land adjacent to his residence at Balasore near Kendriya Vidyalaya. The HC issued directions to the district administration on October 18 to evict the encroached land. But, the administration didn't execute the order," said Mohapatra.

BJP media coordinator of the party, Srinibas Pradhan also spoke.

INBRIEFS

BJP BARI LEADER MALLICK TO JOIN BJD TOMORROW

Jaipur: Bishwaranjan Mallick, who was BJP candidate from the Bari Assembly constituency in the last elections, has resigned from the party and would join the BJD along with his supporters at the ruling party office in Bhubaneswar on October 29. "Since the BJP has done nothing for Bari, my goal is to work with the Bari people remaining in the BJD," Mallick said.



CONG MOURNS SN SUBARAO'S DEATH



Bhubaneswar: A condolence meeting was held at the Congress Bhawan here to pay tribute to founder of National Youth Project and well-known Gandhian Dr SN Subarao, who passed away on Wednesday at a hospital in Jaipur. Leaders at the meeting recalled Subarao's great contributions to the nation. Chairing the meeting, State Seva Dal president Aryakumar Janendra described him as a youth icon who inspired millions of youths. PCC vice-president Jangeswar Bbau, general secretary Chinmay Sundar Das and spokesperson Mnaoranjana Das and other leaders also spoke.

KALIKESH DONATES ₹2L FOR SAMALESHAWRI TEMPLE



Balangir: Former Balangir MP Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo on Wednesday visited the Samaleshawri temple here, the roof of which had collapsed recently. He discussed with PWD officials, the Municipality Executive Officer and priests regarding the steps needed for development of the temple, which late Pruthwiraj Singh Deo had constructed. "Our family was closely associated with this temple besides the people of Balangir," said Kalikesh Singh Deo and donated Rs 2 lakh from his personal fund to the district Collector for the temple's reconstruction.

MCT HOLDS CLEANLINESS DRIVE IN PARADIP



Paradip: While cleanliness programmes in Paradip has slowed down during the epidemic, a leading philanthropic voluntary organisation, MANSA Charitable Trust (MCT), has continued its cleanup drive in the port city. It undertook cleanliness activities at Badapadia Market on Sunday as part of its celebration of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Trust chairperson Mrutyunjaya Mishra said during the Swachhata Abhiyan volunteers undertook a cleanliness drive and motivated the people to follow suit.

KARATE BELT AWARD FEST HELD IN PARADIP

Paradip: The International Gosoko-Rio du (IGK) Association on Monday organised a belt award ceremony for successful karatekas who excelled in the belt test. Under the direct supervision of State secretary and head coach Sanjay Saha, Saransh Kumar, Srsti Singh and Vaishnavi Hansda won the black belt. Besides, 30 other karatekas were given colour belts. Scribes Sasanka Sekhar Acharya and Deepak Kumar Das joined as guests and presented the belts. The programme was coordinated by managing secretary, IGK, Sanjay Mishra and assisted by Karate coach Subhas Pradhan.

Electrocution death: NHRC seeks compliance report from CS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Odisha Chief Secretary to submit a compliance report of payment of Rs 3 lakh along with the proof of payment in a case of electrocution death and injury. Adjudicating the petitions and reports of the State filed by Supreme Court lawyer and human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order seeking the report within six weeks.

One Santanu Biswal got electrocuted and another person Kedar Barik got seriously injured at Panchutikri village under Chandbali block of Bhadrak district in 2018 due to negligence of the Energy Department. None came to the rescue of the victims even as they writhed in pain on the road, Tripathy alleged and sought for criminal action against the errant officials and compensation for the victims.

After notice and report submitted by the State, the NHRC held that the report itself has stated that the accident has occurred because of negligence and non-maintenance of NESCO staff.

Modi India’s best admin, says Shah



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the most successful administrator of the country after independence, saying he has taken India into a different trajectory in the spheres of eradication of poverty, economic development, national security and foreign policy.

Shah was addressing a conference on “Delivering Democracy: Reviewing two decades of Narendra Modi as head of Government”, organised by BJP’s training and research centre Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.

Shah said Modi became Chief Minister of Gujarat two decades ago without having any administrative experience and proved himself as a successful administrator despite

facing a difficult situation at that time. The Home Minister said in 2014 when the Manmohan Singh Government was in power, there was a “policy paralysis everywhere” and every member of the Cabinet thought of himself or herself as the Prime Minister while the “Prime Minister was not considered as Prime Minister.”

“There was no national security policy. India’s honour had been lost. There were scams of ₹12 lakh crore and an impression had been created that Indian democracy will collapse,” he said. But when the Modi Government came to power in 2014, Shah said, people started thinking that “how things would improve, the system would improve”. He said India’s problems are not just of the administration or economic development but its honour has to be protected, the country’s culture should be preserved and its security should be ensured.

“Even though Narendra Modi considers himself as the ‘pradhan sewak’, I can say with conviction that he is the most successful administrator the country ever had after independence. Because he covered all these points and took India to a different level,” said Shah. Referring to a series of decisions taken by the Modi Government in the last seven years, Shah said when demonetisation was announced in 2016, they knew that there was a risk as the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election was due but people stood behind Modi and supported the decision. The people realised that it was announced to check black money and Modi had no other intentions, he said.

The Home Minister said the law against Triple Talaq, one rank and one pension and creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff were all difficult decisions. With the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, the Home Minister said, Jammu and Kashmir has been completely integrated with the union of India, not a single riot has taken place anywhere in the country and there has been no murmur after the Supreme Court decision on Ram Janmabhoomi.

Health Ministers’ meeting held over ramping up jab drive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday met the State Health Ministers to discuss ramping up the Covid-19 vaccination drive in the country among other measures such as ensuring stepping up health services in case infections start rising at a fast pace.

Mandaviya’s meeting with the State Health Ministers assumes significance as the Central Government on October 23 reviewed the status and progress of Covid vaccination with States/UTs. Health Ministers from around 18 States and health secretaries from remaining States had participated in the meeting. Sources said that Health Ministers pointed out people’s complacency towards Covid-19 for poor show on second doses status. So far just 30 per cent have been inoculated a second dose i.e. are fully vaccinated.

In the meantime, Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, reviewed the progress of Covid vaccination with health secretaries and mission directors of National Health Mission (NHM) of states and UTs, through video conference and urged them to increase the pace and coverage



India’s Covid-19 vaccination coverage has crossed 103 crore

of the second dose of Covid vaccines.

This came in the backdrop of the country achieving the milestone of administering 100 crore doses on October 21, 2021.

As per the latest data released by the Union Health Ministry, India’s Covid-19 vaccination coverage has crossed 103 crore. “India’s Covid-19 vaccination coverage has crossed 103 crore landmark milestones (1,03,48,36,594). More than 51 lakh (51,56,054) vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm on October 26,” the Ministry stated in its release. So far, 41,10,37,440 first doses of Covid-19 vaccines and 13,11,13,078 second doses have been administered in the age group of 18-44 years.

India determined to protect its maritime interests, says Rajnath



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With China increasingly asserting itself in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean region, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said India is determined to protect its maritime interests. At the same time, it supports the maintenance of rule-based maritime systems, he said.

Making these observations, Rajnath said New Delhi backs systems as mandated under UN Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS), 1982. He also noted while the seas offer abundant opportunities for sustenance and growth of the mankind, they pose challenges such as terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking and climate change.

Delivering the key note address at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021, being held virtually from October 27-29, 2021, he also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s description of the Indo-Pacific as a natural region, where destinies of entities are interlinked.

Rajnath said the seas are a vital communication link to facilitate transport of goods, exchange of ideas, catalysing



innovations and contributing to bringing the world closer. “Although the Indo-Pacific is characterised by diversity, marked by a multiplicity of cultures, ethnicities, economic models, governance systems and varied aspirations, the oceans remain a common binding link,” he said.

On the issue of terrorism, the minister called for a cooperative response to these challenges which, he said, has considerable trans-national implications.

Sharing his views on the broad theme of IPRD 2021, ‘Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges and Way Ahead,’ Rajnath said, it dwells upon the region’s past, gauges the present and then arrives at tenets that will form the foundation of maritime strategies for the future.

First conducted in 2018, the IPRD is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy and is the

principal manifestation of the Navy’s engagement at the strategic-level.

Addressing the seminar, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said the Indian Navy is working on “tailor-made” solutions to help friendly countries confront pressing challenges in the maritime domain with a broader aim to emerge as a preferred security partner and make a real contribution for an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Without naming China, he also talked about some states applying “land-centric” territorial mindsets in the basic idea of global commerce in the Indo-Pacific with an attempt to seek greater domination and control that has created challenges to global rules.

He also said there has been a “day-to-day” competition for influence in the Indo-Pacific that brings with it attendant and evolving challenges, noting that the rules of game are “constantly changing”.

Cong, Left welcome SC move on Pegasus panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and the Left parties on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court order of setting up an expert committee on the Pegasus spyware issue and said it has negated alleged attempts of the Government to evade and divert attention in the name of national security.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said he was happy with the Supreme Court’s decision to order an independent probe into the Pegasus issue and it was a “big step” towards getting to “the truth”. “I hope they (Supreme Court) will do their job and provide justice.

“But this is a deeper problem. If the Prime Minister is using this as a personal tool... if the data is arriving on the Prime Minister’s desk, then it is totally criminal...”

“We will follow it up,” Rahul said, while claiming that the government of Karnataka “was toppled using Pegasus spyware”.

Attacking the Government, the CPM said the “Government had refused to give a categorical answer to the Supreme Court whether any State agency used Pegasus spyware or not.”

Rahul said the Congress

would continue to raise the issue in Parliament seeking answers from the government as tapping of constitutional functionaries and opposition leaders was a “criminal act” and “an illegal action”.

He added that only the Prime Minister or the Home Minister could have authorised tapping of phones using the Pegasus software.

Attacking further on the issue y Rahul said the Congress had been asking the Government three questions—who had authorised the use of Pegasus spyware, who all were targeted, and whether any other country was also in possession of the Pegasus data. But the government has not given a reply.

“Pegasus is an attempt to crush Indian democracy. It is an attempt to make sure that the vibrancy of the democracy, the conversations that take place in a democracy are crushed and people are controlled,” he said.

“There is the institution of Parliament where we will raise this again and we will try to have a debate in Parliament.

“I am pretty sure that the BJP will not like that debate. So, they will make sure that that debate is stalled. But we will try to hold that debate,” he said.

BJP flays Rahul over Pegasus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting-out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the BJP on Wednesday said that the Supreme Court’s decision to constitute an expert committee to look into the alleged use of the Pegasus software for surveillance is in line with the Government’s affidavit on the matter.

The party lashed-out at Rahul for his attack on the Government following the court’s judgment, saying is using the same vocabulary and repeats himself whatever be the issue to target the BJP Government.

“The Government had categorically said (in court) that we are of the opinion that in order to counter the false narrative of certain vested interest groups it would be fair if we establish a committee of experts to look into the issue. This is what has happened,” BJP spokesperson

Sambit Patra said, welcoming the order.

To a question that the court declined the Government’s submission to allow it to appoint an expert panel, Patra said this is not an issue as “experts are experts”.

The Supreme Court has appointed a three-member panel of cyber experts to probe

the alleged use of the Israeli spyware for surveillance of certain people in India, saying that the state cannot get a “free pass” every time the spectre of national security is raised and it cannot be the “bugbear” that the judiciary shies away from.

Declining the vehement submission of the Central Government to permit it to appoint an expert panel on its own, the court said such a course would violate settled judicial principle against bias as “justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done”.

Rahul alleged that the suspected use of Pegasus for snooping is an “attempt to crush Indian democracy”, and said it is a “big step that the Supreme Court has said that they are going to look into this matter. I am confident that we will get the truth out of this”.

Hitting back, Patra said, “Rahul Gandhi has a habit of speaking lies and spreading confusion. He has nothing new to offer, uses the same vocabulary and repeats the same thing like ‘democracy is in danger’ or ‘BJP is attacking ‘Constitution’ on everything. Such is his repetition you won’t be able to say which press conference of him was done on which issue.”

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Elderly people in the country require a specific kind of care and treatment and they should get that, doctors and lawmakers on Wednesday said as they battled for a policy exclusively for the holistic welfare of the sector.

Dr Anil Jain, Rajya Sabha member promised that he will raise the issue in the next session of the Parliament to ensure that there are better old age homes and health services to ensure a dignified life to the elderly. “A majority of senior citizens don’t have the means to live a quality life and are spending their lives in old age homes. In fact, old age homes are not part of Indian culture,” he said at a national conference on ‘geriatric health care’ organised by DadiDada Foundation here. The organisation is working for the welfare of the senior citizens in the country.

Vijay Sampla, (Chairman, National Commission of Scheduled Castes) touched upon various issues confronting the senior citizens while Gopal Krishna Agarwal, BJP national spokesperson went on to talk about how the government is constantly trying to improve the geriatric health care system in the country. Though it is a slow



process, the government is keeping in mind the issue and moving towards fixing it, he said.

The aim for this National Conference was to raise awareness about the need for a geriatric health care system in a country where a huge population, around 18 crore, comprises the elderly.

The experts felt that with demographic transition underway in India, the elderly population is projected to rise to 12 per cent of the total population by 2025. “The ever-increasing elderly population poses social and financial challenges and puts immense strain on the health system due to a marked shift toward chronic non-communicable diseases,” they said.

“The elderly should be considered and a policy for efficient healthcare for them should be created” Muni Shankar Pandey, Director of Dadidada foundation said. “People of various age groups were being treated the same way, which was not advisable. The elderly require a specific

kind of care and treatment and they should get that,” he added. Health experts at the conference agreed.

Dr. Rahul Bhargava, hematologist from Fortis Hospital in Gurugram said that in India, the elderly people suffer from dual medical problems, i.e. both communicable as well as non-communicable diseases. “Cancer is becoming treatable now and at the same time it is one of the major issues among the elderly specifically. In elderly males, most common cancers are lung, prostate, larynx, oral cavity, and oesophagus. In females, most common cancers are breast, followed by

cervix and ovary,” Dr Bhargava said.

On the other hand, Dr LK Tripathi, nephrologist from Artemis Hospital talked about various metabolic disorders faced during old age and how to strengthen a person’s metabolism while Dr Rabin Chakrabarti, cardiologist, Medical Hospital in Kolkata dwelled in detail about the different forms of cardiovascular diseases and how they can affect the elderly.

Similarly, themes related to depression and anxiety were taken up by Dr Ashwani Kumar, psychiatrist from Max Hospital in Gurugram.

Centre notifies 4-year integrated teacher education programme



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In line with the New Education Policy (NEP), the Centre on Wednesday notified a four-year integrated teacher education programme. Now, the BEd course will be integrated and will be of four-year duration.

As per the Ministry of Education notification, students who pursue a four-year BEd degree will get BA and BEd or BSc and BEd or BCom and BEd degrees together. Usually, it would take students five years to complete these two degrees. The integrated degree would offer both degrees and save a year for students.

Earlier the Education Ministry had announced that the new integrated course will help create teachers who are in sync with the new education policy. As the education policy introduces several changes in the curriculum including teaching in regional language, teaching coding to school kids

among others, the new degrees will prepare teachers accordingly and will have a new curriculum.

The Government aims at making the four-year integrated BEd the minimum degree required for teaching by 2030. National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) under the Ministry of Education has devised the curriculum of this course in such a way that it enables a student-teacher to get a degree in education as well as a specialised discipline such as history, mathematics, science, arts, economics, or commerce.

The commencement of Four Year ITEP will be from the academic session 2022-23. Admission for the same will be carried out by the National Testing Agency (NTA) through the National Common Entrance Test (NCET). This course will be offered by multidisciplinary institutions and will become the minimal degree qualification for school-teachers.

Covid might act differently depending on time of day, claim scientists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In what could give new insight into how the coronavirus is being tested and treated, a team of scientists have claimed that the virus might act differently depending on the time of day and the body’s circadian rhythms.

In other words, Covid-19 virus shedding—when infected cells release infectious virus particles into the blood and mucus—appears to be more active in the middle of the day due to modulation of the immune system by our biological clock.

Their results also indicate that viral load is lower after 8 p.m. “If people choose to get tested at that time, there could be a higher chance of a false-negative result. False negatives can be harmful to the community and for the patient, who might not seek additional care due to their negative test result,” suggested Carl Johnson, Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Biological Sciences who collaborated with Candace McNaughton, former adjunct assistant professor of emer-

gency medicine, and Thomas Lasko, associate professor of biomedical informatics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, to determine if the percentage of people testing positive for Covid-19 varies based on time of day.

They found that the data support the hypothesis that Covid-19 acts differently in the body based on our natural circadian rhythm, which has also been implied by studies of other viral and bacterial infections.

“Taking a Covid-19 test at the optimal time of day improves test sensitivity and will help us to be accurate in diagnosing people who may be infected but asymptomatic,” Johnson said.

A difference in Covid-19 viral shedding throughout the day is important information that may inform how we test for and treat the virus. As Johnson and his co-authors report, the peak shedding in the afternoon, when patients are more likely to interact with others or seek medical care, could play a role in increasing the spread of the virus in hospitals and the wider community.

Air travel set to become easier for divyang

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air travel is set to become a bit easier for disabled people, if one goes by the draft ‘Accessibility Standards and Guidelines for Civil Aviation’, issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The ministry has given three weeks for people to send their comments and suggestions on the draft after which final guidelines will be issued. As per the draft, during the screening of prosthetics, the airport security—which is handled by the CISF at most of the airports—might use X-ray, explosive trace detection devices or visual checks according to their requirement. The move comes after dancer-actor Sudha Chandran posted a video, recounting her ordeal of removing her prosthetic limb every time during a security check at any airport.

In a video that went viral recently, Chandran narrated her ordeal of how she was made to remove her prosthetic limb every time during a security check at any airport and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for better treatment of differently-abled people at airports. After the incident, the CISF issued an apology on social media.

Increased communication with people marks 4 yrs of Venkaiah in office

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A manifold increase in public communication through media to keep the people aware of the functioning of the Rajya Sabha has marked the four years in office of M.Venkaiah Naidu as the Chairman of the House.

Since the assumption of Office as Chairman of Rajya Sabha in August, 2017 by M.Venkaiah Naidu, 491 Press Releases/Communication Products have been issued on various aspects of the functioning of the House and the Secretariat.

This comes to an unprecedented more than two such releases (2.36) per week. While the Media Unit of the Secretariat put out 263 releases, the Chairman’s Office circulated 228 during the last four years.

This order of communication output per week is four and a half times that of the preceding five years. During 2012-17, a total of 135 media communication products were issued which comes to two releases per week (0.519 per week).

A report in this regard was

submitted to Naidu by the Secretary General Dr.P.P.K. Ramacharyulu further to a review of the communication outreach during the last four years.

The Rajya Sabha secretariat noted during the review that the outreach effort has been intensified in pursuance of the direction of the Chairman to bring the House closer to the people by keeping them informed of various aspects of its functioning.

He thanked the media for keen interest shown in amplifying the messages about various aspects of the functioning of the House during the last four years.

A large number of the communication products issued were based on extensive research undertaken in respect of variation in the productivity of the House over time through time series analysis, total volume of legislation since 1952 including the landmark ones, time share of legislation and other items of the business of the House, changed dynamics of the House in terms of the strength of the ruling and opposition parties in the House.

LAKHIMPURI KHERI KILLINGS

SIT invites witnesses to depose without fear



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To facilitate the eyewitnesses to come forward and record their statements, the Special Investigative Team (SIT) formed to probe the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, on Wednesday, released the contact numbers of its members.

The SIT in a statement also assured protection to the witnesses, saying that details of such people would be kept confidential if they wanted and they would be given adequate security.

quate security.

“This is to inform that a special investigation team has been constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government in the Lakhimpur Kheri district incident of October 3, 2021, headed by Deputy Inspector General of Police Upendra Kumar Agrawal. Therefore, it is requested to the people that if any eyewitness wants to provide his evidence in relation to this incident, then he can approach the SIT. The SIT will keep the name and address of the witness and eyewitness

confidential and will also provide security,” the statement reads.

The SIT has released the mobile numbers of members in the advertisements.

Sources said that the above move was made by the SIT after the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Uttar Pradesh government to provide protection to the witnesses in the October 3 violence in Lakhimpur Kheri where eight persons, including four farmers, were killed during a farmers’ protest.

NCB, Mumbai cops launch separate probes into ₹8 cr bribe charge against Wankhede

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

A vigilance team of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and a Mumbai police team headed by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACB) on Wednesday launched independent investigations into the allegation of ₹ 8 crore ‘extortion’ attempt and other excesses made by “panch witness” in the mid-sea drug bust case Prabhakar R Sail against the NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede.

While the NCB has launched the vigilance inquiry into Sail’s charges on the basis of a report submitted by its Deputy Director-General, South West Region Mutha Ashok Jain to the bureau’s Director General on October 24, the Mumbai police have begun the probe on the basis of complaints registered with at least four police stations in the metropolis.

Taking cognisance of “several vigilance-related allegations” made by Sail in his notarised affidavit released the media, Jain had said on Sunday: “...As some of the contents of the affidavit relate to the vigilance matters, I am hereby forwarding the affidavit to the Director General of Narcotic Control Bureau and

requesting for further action”.

Alluding to the affidavit released to the media by Sail, “a witness who has given details of movements and activities on October 2” -- the day the mid-sea bust was registered, Mutha Jain had also said: “As he is a witness in the case and as the case is before the honourable court and sub-judge, he needs to submit his prayer to the honourable court rather than (release it) through social media if he has anything to say. In addition, there are several vigilance related allegations against certain persons in the affidavit which are based on overhearing by Prabhakar”.

On his part, Wankhede has categorically denied the allegations against him.

Talking to media persons, Deputy Director General (DDG) of northern region Gyaneshwar Singh – who is heading the probe – said: “We have started the inquiry... This is a very sensitive investigation, too early to share anything... We shall enquire all aspects and later inform the media of the developments”.

In his sensational affidavit, Sail has among other things said that Wankhede’s colleague had taken his signatures on 10 blank papers.

Among other things, Sail

has made a serious allegation that he “overheard” Kiran Gosavi, for whom he works as a personal bodyguard” and who is also an “independent” witness in the case, while talking one Sam D’Souza, as saying: “you put a bomb of Rs 25 crore, let’s settle for Rs 18 crore and give 8 crore to Sameer Wankhede”.

Gosavi is one of the nine independent witnesses in the mid-sea drug bust case in which SRK’s eldest son Aryan Khan and seven others were detained on October 2 and formally arrested on October 3.

Gosavi is an “absconding accused” booked for allegedly duping a Pune-based man on the pretext of offering a job in Malaysia.

Sail also stated in his affidavit that he had seen Pooja Dadlani (Shah Rukh Khan’s manager) talking to Gosavi. He also claimed that on being told so by Gosavi, he went to a location some time later to collect Rs 50 lakh cash and that he collected “two bags filled with cash”.

Sail claimed that he carried the two bags of cash and delivered them to Sam D’souza near Trident Hotel in south Mumbai. “However, when he (Sam D’souza) counted the case, it was only Rs 38 lacs,” he stated in the affidavit.

Mamata does ‘chai pe charcha’ in Darjeeling, walks to meet people

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

For a change after the grand success in April-May Assembly elections it is the turn of Bengal Chief Minister to embark on Chai pe Charcha (dialogue over the tea cup).

The Chief Minister, who is on a four-day administrative trip of North Bengal, on Wednesday walked 16 km in Himalayan town of Kurseong in Darjeeling district interacting in the process with scores of hill people while during the walk and while sitting at a tea stall for a gossip over tea cup.

“She was quite fit and negotiated the hilly inclines very smoothly,” said one of the officials adding she asked passers by about their well-being,, problems and advised them about corona protocols.”

The Chief Minister who walked 8 km from the circuit house to Mahanadi and back will spend two nights in the hill town before coming down to Siliguri on Thursday. From Siliguri she will visit Goa for a 3-day political programme. Banerjee is being accompanied by her two ministers Indrani Sen and Arup Biswas.

“She connected very well with the people of the Hills and



File picture

they looked quite happy getting the Chief Minister in the midst of them...no other Chief Minister had done this before to them, they said,” Biswas was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress on Thursday demanded that arrest and questioning of Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari following Supreme Court order on Pegasus issue.

Party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that “the court order only vindicates our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s earlier views on the issue,” adding “the way Suwendu Adhikari had said that he had the recordings of all the leaders he should be arrested and questioned regarding the claim he made.”

Trekkers’ bodies arrive in Bengal amid pall of gloom

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A blanket of gloom tended to have descended on parts of Bengal including Kolkata following the death of 11 trekkers who perished in the last week’s inclement weather in Uttarakhand.

While five bodies were flown in on Monday the mortal remains of the remaining victims would soon be brought back to the State, State Government which was in constant touch with the Uttarakhand authorities said.

According to sources some more trekkers were still missing and “we are in touch with the Uttarakhand Government to trace the victims,” said an official adding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had asked the administration to bring back the victims as early as possible. The 150 tourists who were stuck up in the mountain state would also be brought back at the earliest, they said.

According to sources those who perished while in their expedition to Harsil-Chitkul route were Sadhan Basak (63), Shibayan Das (28), Pritam Roy (22), Sagar De (27), Chandra Sekhar Das (34) and Sarit Sekhar Das (35). They were



from Thakurpukur, Kalighat and other areas around Kolkata.

Shibayan Das from Kalighat had left for Chitkul-Harsil route on October 11. He had called his brother, Subhojit, on October 14 to say he would climb to a higher altitude the next day. “He was to climb with other unknown trekkers and was supposed to return to lower areas by October 22 ... but who knew an avalanche would come and take them away,” he said.

Meanwhile bodies of another five trekkers have been recovered from the higher altitudes of Bageshwar, local district administration said on Tuesday adding the bodies would be sent back to Kolkata after postmortem. Tuesday’s retrieval of bodies take the total number of dead to 16, sources said.

MP bypolls golden opportunity for people to ask BJP about status of tall promises: Sachin Pilot

Khandwa (MP): Though the October 30 bypolls in Madhya Pradesh will not have any bearing on the stability of the State Government but they have presented a golden opportunity to the people to ask BJP about the status of various ‘tall promises’ made by it, especially doubling of the income of farmers, senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot said on Wednesday.

Pilot was addressing a meeting in Barwah town for the Khandwa Lok Sabha byelection where Congress has fielded former MLA Rajnarayan Singh Purni against BJP’s Gyaneshwar Patil. The high-decibel campaign for the bypolls to four constituencies, including one Lok Sabha seat and three Assembly segments, where 55 candidates are in the fray in the straight contest between ruling BJP and opposition Congress, ended on Wednesday evening.

The counting of votes will be taken up on November 2.

“Though these bypolls will neither make nor destabilise the present government, it gives us a golden opportunity to give a message to the nation by asking BJP what has happened to the tall promises made by it? Whether farmers’ income doubled?” Pilot asked the audience.

Farmers have been agitating for the repeal of three farm laws for the last one year (at the borders of Delhi) but the government’s eyes and ears are closed. There is a crisis of power and fertilizers in MP, he alleged.

“The BJP government has a plan to



put a lock on mandis through these black laws,” Pilot, who holds considerable clout in the Gurjar community of Rajasthan, said.

Farmers are the backbone of the economy but the BJP government has no concern for the people.

“People have seen the truth of the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. They (BJP) are hellbent on provoking people in the name of religion and language whereas Congress always believes in uniting people in the name of brotherhood,” the former deputy CM of Rajasthan said.

Pilot also slammed the government over the rising prices of fuel, LPG, vegetables and other essential commodities.

“Inflation is rising but the government is busy doing politics of publishing photos and advertisements,” he alleged.

Pilot said they (BJP) talked about wiping out corruption, “but everybody knows the situation in the country and only a few capitalists are getting benefitted whereas farmers are suffering”.

PTI

Rajbhar announces tie-up with SP, says Akhilesh Yadav will be next CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar announced his party’s alliance with Samajwadi Party and claimed that Akhilesh Yadav would be the next Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Rajbhar said in a public meeting in Mau district on Wednesday that Akhilesh Yadav would become the Chief Minister of UP in 2022.

In the presence of SP president, Rajbhar said if SP-SBSP alliance came to power it would waive domestic electricity bills for five years. He said after “khela hobe” in Bengal, “khade-da hobe” (wipe out) in UP as people of the State were waiting for BJP’s farewell.

“If BJP leaders come to ask for votes, then question them about inflation. If the Akhilesh government is formed, the poor will get free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh, police personnel will do duty for eight hours, policemen will be deployed near home districts, old government pension schemes will be restored and government schools will provide facilities like private schools,” he said.

Addressing the public meeting in Haldarpur in Mau district, Rajbhar said, “I have brought the next chief minister Akhilesh Yadav here.”

“The electricity bills of the poor will be waived as soon as our government is formed. The biggest liars

in the world are Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh. Now, Yogi’s departure from Uttar Pradesh is a foregone conclusion.”

Raising the problem of the government employees, Rajbhar said that the anomalies in the pay scales of government employees in the state had to be removed and the duty of police personnel would be for eight hours and one day’s holiday every week.

Attacking the BJP, Rajbhar said, “After tomorrow, the BJP will start spreading rumours that Om Prakash Rajbhar said that now our party SBSP has decided that the next chief minister of Uttar Pradesh will be Akhilesh Yadav. He said that at this time not Hindus but the country, the Constitution, the government property is in danger. We will save it by forming a government with Akhilesh Yadav. PM Narendra Modi used to say that the country will not let it be sold and is slowly selling it,” he said.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said, “The rights of the poor, oppressed, exploited, deprived, Dalits, backward, minorities, workers, farmers, women, youth, teachers, businessmen, employed and professionals would be protected. Against the false and BJP power for defence, Mau’s Haldarpur Maidan will prove to be the Kurukshetra of a political great war”.

Re-enactment of the Indian Army’s landing in Srinagar in 1947 carried out

PNS ■ JAMMU

A re-enactment of the Indian Army’s landing in Srinagar in 1947 following Pakistani tribal raids was carried out at Air Force Station in Srinagar on Wednesday.

The re-enactment of the historic event was organised at Old Air Field, Srinagar to pay obeisance to the brave soldiers and people of Jammu & Kashmir who laid down their lives, and also to honour the next of kin of war heroes who participated in the 1947-48 War.

27 October is celebrated as ‘Infantry Day’ by the Indian Army to commemorate the arrival of the Indian Army at Budgam Airfield to protect Jammu & Kashmir after the ‘Instrument of Accession’ was signed on 26 October 1947 between Maharaja Hari Singh and the Republic of India.

The historic event marking the Infantry day was organised as part of celebration for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and 75th year of Air landed operations of the Indian Army at Budgam Airport.

1st SIKH, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Dewan Ranjit Rai, who later laid down his life at Baramulla, changed the course of the war, wherein people and soldiers of state forces of Jammu & Kashmir and the Indian Army fought alongside valiantly, to evict Pakistani forces, driving them out of most of Jammu & Kashmir till ceasefire on 05 January 1949.

The event was witnessed by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, Air Marshal Amit Dev, Air



Officer Commanding-In-Chief, Western Air Command, Lieutenant General Devendra Pratap Pandey, General Officer Commanding 15 Corps along with several other civil and military dignitaries. In addition, the next of kin of war veterans who travelled from across the country to be a part of this mega event were felicitated.

On the occasion, ‘Saviours of Kashmir’ war memorial at ‘Ground Zero’ of 27 October 1947 was also dedicated by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Srinagar International Airport.

The memorial commemorates the arrival of Indian Army in Indian Air Force aircrafts at Srinagar Airport in 1947 and

the stellar role played by Major Somnath Sharma, Param Vir Chakra, Brigadier Rajinder Singh, Maha Vir Chakra Maqbool Sherwani, the gallant son of Kashmir, in India’s historic victory in its 1st war after independence.

The memorial has been recently renovated to include the busts of Brigadier Rajinder Singh, Mahavir Chakra and Maqbool Sherwani, alongside the existing bust of Major Somnath Sharma, Param Vir Chakra, as a tribute to the invaluable contribution of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and erstwhile State Forces of Jammu & Kashmir in evicting Pakistani Army and Qabaili invaders.

NIA raids 17 locations in J&K in Jamaat-e-Islami terror funding case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at 17 locations in seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir in Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) Terror Funding Case.

The searches were conducted at 17 locations in Anantnag, Kulgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam, Kishtwar and Jammu districts of Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said.

The case was registered by the NIA on February 5, 2021 in connection with the separatist and secessionist activities of JeI, an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act even after its proscription on February 28, 2019.

“The members of the organisation have been collecting funds domestically and abroad which are being used for violent and secessionist activities. JeI has also been motivating impressionable youth of Kashmir and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K to participate in disruptive secessionist activities, the NIA said in a statement.

Searches conducted on Wednesday included the premises of office bearers and members of JeI. During the searches, various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects, it further said, adding investigation in the case continues.

In August, the agency had conducted similar searches at multiple locations in fourteen districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with JeI terror funding case.

The searches were conducted in conjunction with the Jammu and Kashmir police and CRPF at 56 locations in Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar and Rajouri districts the Valley.

The agency conducted the searches at the premises of office bearers of the proscribed association, its members and also offices of trusts purportedly run by JeI. During the searches, various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects.

T20 WC: Rajasthan teacher, who celebrated Pak victory against India, arrested

Jaipur: A private school teacher in Rajasthan’s Udaipur was on Wednesday arrested, a day after she was sacked by the school management for allegedly posting a WhatsApp status celebrating Pakistan’s victory over India in a T20 Cricket World Cup match.

Police had registered a case against her on Tuesday.

Nafeesa Attari, a teacher at Neerja Modi School Udaipur, had posted a picture of Pakistani players with the caption, “Jeeet gayeeee, We wonnn,” after India’s loss to Pakistan.

After screenshots of her WhatsApp status went viral on social media, the school management had on Tuesday terminated her from the job.

“The teacher was arrested today morning,” Amba Mata Station House Officer Narpat Singh said.

He said Attari has been arrested under IPC Section 153 (B) (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration).

Earlier, apologising for her WhatsApp post, Attari had released a video statement saying she did not intend to hurt anyone’s sentiments.

“Someone messaged me asking whether I supported Pakistan. As the message contained emojis and it was a fun environment, I replied, ‘Yes’. However, that doesn’t mean that I support Pakistan. I am an Indian and I love my country. I love India as much as everyone else does,” Attari said in her video message.

“As soon as I realised that I have made a mistake, I deleted the post. I am sorry if I have hurt anybody’s sentiments,” she said.

India lost its first match of the T20 World Cup, against Pakistan, by 10 wickets on Sunday.

PTI



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Right to marry

If same-sex couples can live together and adopt children, they can also marry

The Union Government is unlikely to support legal sanctions to same-sex marriages. Its stand in the Delhi High Court hearing a bunch of cases to approve such marriages is consistently against them. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta explained the Government's stand in the Court once again this week. He is clear that marriage is permissible only between a biological man and a biological woman as per the law. For him, a spouse means husband and wife, as in a heterosexual couple. In the same case this February, the Centre said marriage depends on "age-old customs, rituals, practices, cultural ethos and societal values". The Centre put forth four arguments. One, it is for the legislature, not judiciary, to enforce "social morality" based on "Indian ethos" that sanctions marriage. Two, marriage happens between two individuals and does not fall under an individual's domain of privacy. Three, marriage is a public recognition of a relationship and statutory rights and obligations are attached to it. The final argument is clinching: same-sex individuals living together is incomparable with the concept of "Indian family unit" which means husband, wife and child. The Centre insists that the marriage of same-sex individuals can neither be a fundamental right nor can the right to privacy be extended to it.



The Centre's argument draws strength from what the Supreme Court did not say in its landmark 2018 judgment in the Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India case. The Court struck down section 377 of the IPC that criminalised consensual sex between same-sex individuals. It said the Section "prohibits LGBT persons from expressing their sexual orientation and engaging in sexual conduct in private...." The Court decriminalised such consensual sex in 'private' but did not legalise 'public' actions like marriages between such couples. Legalising these marriages is a natural corollary to decriminalising sexual relations between same-sex individuals. Homosexuals, by extending the same logic, cannot be deprived of the reality of falling in love, getting married and living just like heterosexual couples. Denying them the right to marry is to stigmatise their relationships and that is a parochial and conservative approach in a world with fast-evolving social mores. Hitherto, Indian society lived by traditions that defined people's limits, behaviour and duties according to their gender. However, things have changed. The rights and choices of the individual matter more than gender. Glass ceilings are being broken by women and now by members of the LGBT community. Adoption of children is as legal as natural procreation. Live-in relationships may be considered immoral by some but that they are not an offence in the eye of law. If same-sex couples can live-in and adopt children, revolutionising the concept of "family", they can also marry. Society is made up of all kinds of individuals with exclusive rights to none. And no tradition is ever written in stone.

PICTALK



Grey-headed Swamphens fight at a pond in Ghaziabad

PTI

Good lord!

Kejriwal is going all out to woo Hindu voters ahead of the UP Assembly polls early next year

After heartily wooing the minority community, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is now seeking the blessings of Lord Ram to make a mark, if not win, in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh election. A day after he visited Ayodhya for Ram Lalla *darshan*, the Delhi Government has added Ayodhya as one of the destinations in its popular free pilgrimage scheme, 'Mukhya Mantri Teerth Yatra Yojana'.



By doing so, Kejriwal is taking on the BJP head-on and hopes to beat it in its own game. Under the scheme, the Delhi Government bears the expenses of about 77,000 pilgrims above the age of 60 every year. This scheme was frowned upon by the seculars for playing to and abetting religious sentiments. The Ram Mandir construction and resolution of the temple dispute by the court are likely to be a major poll plank in Uttar Pradesh. Though the AAP has largely kept Hindu-related issues at an arm's distance, this move shows a paradigm shift in its strategy. Even earlier, Kejriwal has been criticised for not honouring his secular credentials. He was often called out for not doing enough in the recent Delhi riots and named the "B-team of the BJP" by his political opponents.

Though UP is still a few months away from elections, the stakes are so high that almost all parties, including the BJP, are not letting up their efforts. The AAP is enthused with its initial success in Punjab and Goa and has made forays into other States, too. Now betting big on UP, it formally kicked off its poll campaign in September this year. Right from the start, the AAP seems to be giving a clear message that it is not against the construction of the Ram temple. By doing so, it wants to reach out to the Hindu voters disgruntled with the BJP. To send a clear message to these voters, senior AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh had offered prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi and Hanumangarhi shrines in the temple town before Kejriwal's visit. The AAP knows well that freebies work. So along with the endorsement for the Ram temple, it is also offering 300 units of electricity free of cost to all domestic consumers and promised to waive outstanding bills of 38 lakh families in UP if it wins the Assembly election. The AAP will contest all 403 seats in UP.

How Air India fell short of the runway



PRAFULL GORADIA

People in Government seldom appreciate that overheads can bring down companies. That made Air India a treasure trove for too many employees

The plight of Air India would not have dipped so low had a 1983 advice given in a national daily been followed. The company might be Government owned but three or four, preferably six or seven or more financial institutions beginning with LIC, Unit Trust, IDBI and nationalised banks should have held Air India through share. They would be entitled to dividends, if any. The company would be a member of the stock exchanges as well as chambers of commerce. Their senior representatives would attend the shareholders' meetings et al.

The premier airline was a business and it should have been run as such and not like a zamindari. The acting zamindar was usually a joint secretary of the Government of India. He might have been a perfect bureaucrat but was likely to be wedded to the correct procedure and not oriented towards profit. He would have worried more about the audit than about results. That is not how a business is run. Companies owned and run by the Government are euphemistically called "public sector" without the realisation that it is an appendix of State capitalism. Where is the public as an owner, either direct or indirect?

The joint secretary, being from a cadre, was obliged to upgrade passengers free of charge. I have once travelled to London business class with my family. Many of the seats in the aircraft were filled at the last minute, before departure, with odd persons with whom I did not enjoy travelling. Mind you, I am not a snob; I have brushed shoulders with all kinds in politics. These appeared to be mostly relatives or friends of trade union leaders who had been obliged so as to maintain industrial peace. In a Government, one had to do so; any effort to solve any case of industrial tension needed the blessings of senior officers, if not the Board of Directors. For officers, it was best to maintain good relations with trade union leaders, if necessary with soft peddling.

To travel with such elements



was irksome enough for us. For European travellers, one can imagine, it would be anathema. If say, 20 per cent shareholding was also sold to the public, it would appear in public perception to be a company like any other. Industrial action would then be easier to take. For years Larsen & Toubro was 54 per cent financial institution held and yet ran like a private company and gave decent returns to its shareholders. It was only when Reliance Industries bought out some shares from some of the financial institutions that the 54 per cent came into public limelight.

Another set of contributors to the sickness of Air India was the VIPs and ministers, whose recommendations had to be implemented. Whether the person was required or not, he or she generally had to be appointed. Whether he was qualified was rarely commented upon. People in Government seldom appreciate that overheads can bring down companies. That has made Air India a treasure house of too many employees, at least four times more than required.

VVIPs climbed even higher heights. As soon as UPA-I



YES, INDIA HAS A LARGE TRADING CLASS AND SMALL TO MEDIUM INDUSTRY RUNNERS. BUT FOR THE SIZE OF ITS ECONOMY AND THE DIMENSION OF ITS NEEDS, THERE ARE NOT MANY CANDIDATES AROUND

came to power in 2004, a minister took off to Europe and bought a large number of aircraft. He repeated his performance soon thereafter by flying to the USA to acquire Boeing aircraft for Air India. The earlier lot of Airbus planes were for Indian Airlines. To top up his exploits, he had both the airlines amalgamated. No questions were really asked nor answered. The cost of borrowing drove the final nail on the coffin.

The bitter Air India experience need not forever condemn public money being invested in industry. For a simple reason, India does not have a sizable and sufficient number of industrialists to industrialise the economy. Any old trader is not a potential industrialist. Yes, India has a large trading class and small to medium industry runners. But setting up a large industry requires a longer vision, a modicum of integrity, the ability to build the project rapidly before inflation overruns the cost, and ultimately the ability to manage a large industry.

For the size of our economy and the dimension of India's needs, there are not many candidates around. In

the liberal days of Indira Gandhi onwards, it was easy to borrow money from the bigger banks. Quite a few big, impressive houses, apparently successful, owe more they own. That is alright when a substantial part of the debt is from one's own shareholders and not from bankers. Hence, let the Government play its part as an indirect shareholder in a reputable house. Additionally, invite, induce and attract foreign houses but not in consumer products.

Let the foreign company suggest what they would like to manufacture. Thereafter, the Government can verify whether the particular product is required in India. If it is, let the foreign firm decide how much and what percentage it wishes to invest. Then a public issue could be launched. What does not get subscribed can be filled up by the institution or banks. If the foreign firms, to feel secure, request the institution to fill the gap between 51 per cent and what it invests, say 15 or 17 per cent, it should be done.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A FAIR PROBE INTO THE PEGASUS ISSUE

Sir — The apex court setting up an independent probe panel with a retired Supreme Court judge at the helm, to investigate into the Pegasus snooping affair in India is welcome. With this decision, it has apparently given utmost importance to the protection of fundamental rights of the individual, as the ultimate custodian of the Constitution. The Union Government has not come clear, when asked by the Court on the issue of Pegasus — an Israeli snooping software that was allegedly used to spy on political rivals. In this snooping affair, under the guise of threat to national security, the fundamental right to privacy of the citizen and right to freedom of the press are being seemingly subverted by the State or by some private entities, which is a dangerous sign for a healthy democracy.

The Government has every right and duty to snoop into the activities of suspected terrorists or their supporters in a legally sanctioned manner. But it has no right to infringe upon the fundamental rights of citizens; overtly or covertly at its whims and fancies. Now the apex Court has settled the issue by reconfirming the primacy of fundamental rights and their place at high pedestal on the ladder of democracy.

DVG Sankararao | Vizianagaram

BIGOTRY DISGUISED AS SENTIMENTS

Sir — The celebrated filmmaker Prakash Jha had to face the wrath of the self-righteous group the Bajrang Dal, over the making of web series Ashram in Madhya Pradesh. This is not a healthy precedent to any civilised society and the nation. The attacks on film directors and writers over petty issues isn't a new phenomenon but a new trend in our country taken up by the pseudo champion of moral policing. The self-righteous group Bajrang Dal should have first registered the complaint to the administration over the objectionable materials and raised complaints on Ashram nomenclature per se, instead of resorting to hooliganism to grab the attention for a wrong reason.

The Captain wants a payback



Captain Amarinder Singh has declared that he is going to form a new political party and the Election Commission will soon clear its name and symbol. The Captain has announced that his party will contest on all the Assembly seats and will have seat adjustment with other like-minded parties. He is likely to meet Amit Shah on Thursday on the issue of farmers' agitation. He also informed that he has not met any farm leader and also confirmed that talks

are already going on between farm leaders and the Government and is hopeful of some concrete solution on the issue very soon. The former Punjab Chief Minister has been successful in conveying the message that he was deeply humiliated by the Congress high command; challenging that the grand old party will have to pay for it.

In UP, 40 per cent seats will be allotted to women (as per Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi) and today, Harish Rawat declared that the same formula may be adopted in Uttarakhand. Apparently, it can not be denied that the same formula may be applied in Punjab also. Punjab has become a ground for personal and sentimental politics. Earlier, Navjot Singh Sidhu was acting like an 'unguided missile' and now the Captain appears to be a wounded and desperate lion who is moving ahead on the lines of revenge and payback.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

It is meaningless they are now trying to object and interfere in the making of web series when it has already completed two seasons successfully. The veteran film director was caught in a bind of political fury and discourse for trying to mirror the true image of our society through his film. All this unnecessary ruckus created by the Bajrang Dal including the Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra, over nomenclature of fictional film is a dire attempt to look at the piece of an art with a parochial mindset and for a political mileage.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Bagrakote

SHOWING SOLIDARITY THROUGH SPORTS

Sir — South Africa opener Quinton de Kock has triggered a needless controversy by refusing to take a "knee" before the start of the T20 World Cup game against West Indies. If De Kock's stance is an objection to the directive issued by Cricket South Africa (CSA), it could mean the end of his participation in the

World Cup, and possibly cost him his international career. Taking a knee has become a popular symbol to show solidarity with the 'Black Lives Matter' movement which gained momentum following the brutal killing of the African-American George Floyd by a white Minneapolis police officer.

It is part of a long history of players and athletes using sport as a platform to draw attention to the racial inequalities that communities experience. Systemic racism exists across the world and cricket is not immune to the scourge, as it commits itself to bring changes amid the BLM Foundation, whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy. Meanwhile, the situation which has now exploded at a World Cup, is an indictment of the leadership of CSA, which was racked by management issues over the last couple of years.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

I was fortunate that I got the chance to bow before Ram Lalla and I wish everyone must get this chance.

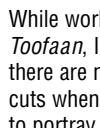


Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal



It isn't enough just to invest in our physical infrastructure — we also have to invest in our people.

US President — Joe Biden



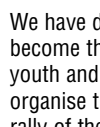
While working on *Toofaan*, I realised there are no short-cuts when you want to portray a character like Aziz.

Actor — Farhan Akhtar



I've heard a lot of good things about the Pakistan Premier League from other players. It's something to consider in the future.

New Zealand skipper — Kane Williamson



We have decided to become the voice of youth and will organise the biggest rally of the country against unemployment.

RJD leader — Tejashwi Yadav



FIRST COLUMN

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND SKILL FRAMEWORK

Vocational courses and community colleges are a viable alternative to tertiary education



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

India does not have enough higher educational institutions to accommodate even half of its young population. When it comes to vocational training, only 10 per cent of the workforce in India is formally trained, compared to 96 per cent in Korea, 80 per cent in Japan and 68 per cent in the United Kingdom. There are two important issues which need to be addressed. First, there are not enough vocational education providers. Secondly, the current public perception of vocational courses is problematic; such courses are often seen as a refuge for those who have failed to make a mark in mainstream education. We have to change this perception by creating awareness about vocational education and providing career counseling at an early age in schools. India has an ambitious goal to train 500 million of its citizens by 2022 with skills and competencies for participation in the present and future labour market. Therefore, the viable alternative to formal tertiary education is Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Community Colleges which will directly contribute to skilled workforce and the nation's economy. We have to give due emphasis to the role of Community Colleges in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, through National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). Although the concept of Community college has not been accepted by the educational system of India as such, it has created its own his-



tory in the last two decades. At present, there are more than 500 community colleges in the country. How are Indian Community colleges different from the two existing vocational systems — the two-year Industrial Technical Institutes and the three year Polytechnics? Both these programmes are skill and job-oriented and supply trained personnel to industries. Community colleges should have a clear mandate and agenda of its own which is to prepare the youth for the workforce in a year or two by giving them skill-oriented education alone with some life skills.

There has to be some other motivating factor to attract students to Community Colleges. It is the responsibility of Community Colleges to identify such factors and project them as their Unique Selling Points. The difference lies in the fact that the collegiate level vocational education offers only apprenticeship training and vocationalization of first-degree level whereas Community colleges offer a range of multi-focused programmes in occupational and technical and in continuing education. The courses offered by the colleges are designed to meet the workforce needs of the regions in which the colleges are located. Another purpose of Community colleges is to offer "bridge" courses to complete higher certifications, ensure employability and competency of the individual trained, teach life skills and communication in English and provide training in personal, social, language, communication and creative skills. The role of Community Colleges in implementing NVEQF is crucial for the development of vocational education and skill development. NVEQF is a descriptive framework that organizes qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge along with the skills. These levels are defined in terms of learning outcomes or competencies the learner must possess regardless of whether they were acquired through formal, non-formal or informal education and training. Given the framework of the NEP, having a strong emphasis on skill-based vocational education, the role of Community Colleges in implementing NSQF would be significant as it will follow a modular, credit-based system that keeps abreast of technological and other workforce changes.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

Taliban: Sanctions and recognition

Given the reach and lethality of ISIS, the Taliban may not withstand pressure from the international terror group in the long run unless Al-Qaeda is roped in for countermeasure



RAKESH K SINGH

The Taliban's outreach to the international community is driven mainly by the existential crisis the outfit is facing back home due to both the presence and lethality of the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) that holds the potential to challenge and overthrow the current regime in Kabul essentially supplanted by Pakistan's covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The Taliban is seeking to first get the Interim Cabinet members' designated terrorist tag removed. At least 14 members of the Interim Cabinet are designated terrorists of the UN as well as the US sanctions lists. With such a designation, Taliban cabinet representatives cannot move around freely amid apprehension of fatal drone strikes against them. The Taliban is also vying for international recognition from the global community or at least as many countries as possible in the region and beyond.

Once recognized by the international community, the Taliban will be able to put across its viewpoints at various forums of the UN as also seeking funding assistance for its messed-up economy from the IMF and WB.

The Taliban will then also be able to negotiate military assistance from the UN member-states in the name of counter-terrorism on Afghan soil by anti-Taliban groups like ISKP.

The Taliban is habituated to survive on illicit financing through extortion and garnering proceeds from sale of narcotics. The recognition of its regime will help Taliban in transforming the black economy into white money channels.

These factors have compelled the Taliban to pitch in for international recognition and portray itself as Taliban 2.0, radically dissimilar from the outfit's regime that ruled the roost in Afghanistan till 2001.

Notwithstanding the Taliban propaganda ruling out any threat from ISIS, the fact is that ISKP is a profound and dangerous competitor to Al Qaeda to whom the Taliban owes allegiance.

The Taliban is essentially a local terror group with influence being limited to Afghanistan and completely unlike the ISIS that has a cadre and funding base from multiple ethnicities and geographies.

In a worrying fact, the ISIS has some significant presence on the ground and has been able to inflict four major terror attacks on the Afghan soil post-takeover of Kabul by Taliban on August 15, including the deadly Kabul airport hit amid the then ongoing US troops' withdrawal and fatal attacks on Shia mosques in Kunduz and Kandahar.

With active connivance and assistance from the ISI, the Taliban has been able to deceive the international community in seizing power in Afghanistan in a swift advance and without any resistance either from the erstwhile Afghan National Defence Force or any militia.

But the Taliban cannot deal with the



THE TALIBAN HAVE BEEN MAINLY TRAINED IN PERPETRATING INSURGENCY BUT TACKLING INSURGENCY IS AN ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT BALLGAME. THE ISI MASTERMINDS DELIBERATELY KEPT THE OUTFIT AWAY FROM GAINING SUCH CRAFT

(The writer is a Special Correspondent, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)



situation at the international level on its own after it has grabbed power in Kabul.

By engaging in multilateral meets like the Moscow format, the Taliban is buying time to gain international recognition and keep the anti-Taliban forces at a relative bay by participating in such overtures.

Taliban has been mainly trained in perpetrating insurgency but tackling insurgency is an altogether different ball game. The ISI masterminds have deliberately kept the outfit away from gaining such craft.

The Taliban apprehends that if ISIS continues with its bombing spree and spreads traction among the Afghan society and enlarges the area of influence, all the other anti-Taliban forces will rally under it to overthrow the current regime in Kabul.

Given the reach and lethality of ISIS, the Taliban may not withstand the pressure from the international terror group in the long run unless Al Qaeda is roped in for the countermeasure.

In this backdrop, the Taliban is left with two broad choices for survival—one to get recognition for its regime in Kabul and subsequently get military assistance to counter ISIS or ally with Al Qaeda which can pool in its fighters from various countries to check ISIS or its Afghan affiliate ISKP.

In its bid to seek international recognition, the Taliban is also portraying that it does not want Al Qaeda fighters and this is the reason why it is seeking sanctity from the global comity of nations for its regime in Kabul.

For its international recogni-

tion project, the Taliban has fielded Anas Haqqani, the Home Minister of the interim government and Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Foreign Minister, for addressing the internal and external dimensions of the Afghan challenge.

While Haqqani is seeking to update the international community on the need to check dissidence in the Afghan society as well in the pockets on the Afghanistan-Pakistan region dominated by a large population of the Pakhtun ethnicity who could come in handy for taking refuge in the event of the international community or a group of countries deciding to decimate the Taliban to protect their own sovereign interests.

Haqqani is also tasked with the onus to keep Baloch insurgents in check so as to deny foreign agencies like the Mossad and Research and Analysis Wing the opportunity to carry out anti-terror action in Pakistan from Afghan soil.

Muttaqi is tasked to ensure external security by checking Iran from attacking Afghanistan through the ISIS or bombings by the Russians who see the turmoil in the war-ravaged country as a threat to their respective sovereign interests.

The Taliban leadership is also clear that it has reached the stage of forming an interim government with ISI help but is also aware of the need to balance between the ISI and the international community.

Taliban is further aware that despite being helped by the ISI to control Kabul, it cannot be seen as a puppet of Pakistan beyond a point as international recognition eludes the regime.

Despite its overtures and

pledge to form an inclusive government in line with the desire of the international community, Taliban has so far been getting help exclusively from China because of its strategic location and Pakistan's back-channel support in roping in Beijing to rescue the Taliban from the plethora of mess it is facing.

Now, the Taliban is aiming to have a direct communication with China to maximize the cooperation it is getting from Beijing and simultaneously sideline Pakistan to shed its image as an ISI puppet.

Fully aware of the Pakistani machinations in both Kabul and within Taliban, Russia did not invite the Pakistani pointsman Gulbuddin Hekmatyar heading the Hizb-e-Islami faction of Taliban for the Moscow format dialogue underway in the Russian capital. Hekmatyar has issued a statement that Moscow talks would fail as all sections of Afghan society have not been represented in the talks.

While 10 countries including India and China participated in the Moscow talks, none of the countries, not even China, is willing to grant recognition to the Taliban.

The Taliban was initially buoyant over the vast number of American equipment left behind by the allied forces but now it is realizing that these machines could threaten its existence if ISIS gets hold of them. The Taliban cannot use American weapons due to lack of training.

The complexity of the Afghan problem makes the situation in Afghanistan pregnant with all possibilities including bombing by the Russians or an onset of a Shia insurgency.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I WILL BE FORMING A NEW PARTY. THE NAME AND THE SYMBOL WILL BE ANNOUNCED ONCE THE ELECTION COMMISSION CLEARS IT.
—FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER
CAPT AMARINDER SINGH



THE LAST TIME YOU FORMED YOUR OWN PARTY, YOU GARNERED ONLY 856 VOTES. THE PEOPLE OF PUNJAB ARE WAITING TO PUNISH YOU AGAIN.
—PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF
NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU

The need today: Localising solutions

An inclusive process of planning and programme deployment is the only way to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to benefits

When we met Rama Krishna, our heart was broken. His wife was in the hospital and he needed money for her treatment. Krishna and his family were enrolled for health benefits under the Building and Other Construction Workers (regulation of employment and conditions of service) Act, 1996. However, the paperwork he needed to avail the benefits was too cumbersome. He needed his Aadhaar card, hospital bills, proof of work, marriage certificate, details of any dependents and so much more. Finally, he could not convince his union leader to give him proof of his last salary slip. And thus, he could not avail the benefits. He needed the money immedi-



RWITIKA BHATTACHARYA | KRISHNA LAVU

(Bhattacharya is the CEO of Swaniti Initiative. Lavu is a Member of the Lok Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

ately for treatment. While we were able to help him out then, we wondered how many more Krishnas were out there. Krishna's situation pointed to a systemic issue where the willingness to want to deliver basic services remains but a top-down program design is becoming a hindrance in accessing these programs.

From loan waivers to scholarship for marginalized communities, there is no dearth of programs that serve vulnerable populations. However, with the programs being designed by those sitting in the State and national Capitals often means a disconnect to reality. The result is that these programs become hard to operationalize and ultimately do not yield intended benefits. Therefore, it is



critical to work with communities to develop solutions, provide local talent who can help design and deliver on problems and create a culture of bottom-up planning.

An inclusive process of planning and program deployment is the only way to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to benefits.

Consider for example the District Minerals Trust Fund that uses the cess of mining companies in to address com-

munity needs. Districts who have been adversely affected by mining have complete discretion on how they want to use resources for hyperlocal needs. In Ramgarh and Chattra, the administration conducted Gram Sabhas and local stakeholder meetings and recognized the need for more sustainable and high paying jobs than those offered by the mining industry.

Thus, rather than look for jobs with skills that might not be easily available, these districts brought in green and renewable opportunities like solarization of agriculture sector and created related jobs. The result is higher paying local jobs with sustainability. A culture of identifying local needs with the flexibility of using funds has allowed these

districts to create hyperlocal solutions. Rather than routing funding through schemes, there is significant merit in providing discretionary funds for districts as well.

Resources are often not enough. It is important to match them with personnel on the ground who can provide feedback about community condition. Andhra has designed the village volunteer program with similar intentions in mind. Every 100-200 households have a young person helping them with access to programs and benefits. When lockdown was affecting most of the country with no one being able to access banks, government offices, etc. village volunteers accessed this pressing gap and were mobilized to withdraw the cash and deliver

er the amount to each household. The money became the lifeline for most families who continue to remain dependent on pensions and social welfare to ensure a functioning household. It is critical to have people within communities who can identify errors and work with the government to help overcome them. While in some situations local NGOs are stepping in to provide needed support, there needs to be systems and human capital to do so.

Finally, in order to ensure such a model comes into play, it is important to have a culture of appreciating the local opinion. The second wave of the covid pandemic highlighted the importance of letting communities decide the most appropriate response. In

the process, models emerged of how districts were able to mobilize resources and talent to bridge this gap. We saw districts with a strong agricultural belt being willing to keep mandis open over the week-end. Whereas others choosing to go in to complete lockdown. The diversity within India demands for each community to adopt to local needs. There needs to be a strategic shift toward providing much assistance and insights to districts.

Only when we empower our local administrations with the resources to take independent decisions can we design and implement effective solutions. Otherwise, the stories of more Rama Krishnas will continue to emerge, plagued by systemic issues.

GLOBE TROTTER

SUDAN ARRESTS 3 CRITICS AS PRESSURE MOUNTS
Cairo: Sudanese security forces detained three prominent pro-democracy figures overnight, their relatives and other activists said on Wednesday, as pressure mounted on the country's military following its coup.

EGYPTAIR FLIGHT RETURNS AFTER THREAT MESSAGE
Cairo: A Moscow-bound EgyptAir flight returned to the Egyptian capital shortly after takeoff Wednesday after a threatening message was found onboard, authorities said.

US ISSUES ITS PASSPORT WITH 'X' GENDER MARKER
Denver: The United States has issued its first passport with an "X" gender designation—a milestone in the recognition of the rights of people who don't identify as male or female — and expects to be able to offer the option more broadly.

US asks UK court to permit extradition of WikiLeaks' Assange

AP ■ LONDON

The United States asked Britain's High Court on Wednesday to overturn a judge's decision that Julian Assange should not be sent to the United States to face espionage charges, promising that

NATO's Afghan mission hit by 'mission creep,' official says

AP ■ BRUSSELS

NATO's security operation in Afghanistan became a victim of "mission creep" as the military organisation allowed itself to be dragged into helping rebuild the impoverished, conflict-torn country, the official leading a process of drawing lessons from the mission said on Wednesday. Assistant Secretary-General for Operations John Manza and NATO's 30 deputy national envoys are compiling a report on almost two decades of work in Afghanistan. They were tasked with the job after the Afghan president fled and the NATO-trained Afghan army collapsed when President Joe Biden announced that he

was pulling U.S. troops out, paving the way for the Taliban to seize power. Manza told European Union lawmakers that of the big lessons being discussed by his team – which also includes input from military and political experts, including from Afghanistan – "the most obvious one is mission creep." NATO took over the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in 2003, almost two years after a U.S.-led coalition invaded the country to oust the Taliban for harboring Osama bin Laden, the deceased al-Qaeda leader. Manza explained that it initially had around 5,000 troops based mostly in and around the

capital Kabul, but that within 3 years its focus shifted to "tackling the root causes of terrorism" by helping to rebuild a landlocked country riven by ethnic and tribal divisions and with a poorly educated population. NATO troop numbers increased to around 60,000 by 2006, with military-civilian teams spread around the largely lawless country trying to foster economic growth and better governance in almost every province. "This really substantial increase did not have the desired effects," Manza said. "The insurgency was still gaining strength. The nation was still suffering greatly from corruption and governmental performance was not improving."

Saudi to provide \$4.2 bn to Pak; Imran thanks MBS

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide \$4.2 billion worth of assistance to cash-strapped Pakistan to support its economy, it emerged on Wednesday after Prime Minister Imran Khan held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in Riyadh this week. Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry took to Twitter to announce the assistance which came just two days after Khan paid a three-day visit to the Gulf kingdom. "Saudi Arabia's announcement supports Pakistan with 3 billion US dollars as deposit in Pakistan central bank and also financing refined petroleum



products with 1.2 billion US dollars during the year," he said in a tweet. Prime Minister Khan thanked Crown Prince Salman for the generous aid when Pakistan's economy was facing difficulties.

Nepal's Chief Justice refuses to step down

Kathmandu: Nepal Supreme Court Chief Justice Chandra Shumsher Rana has refused to resign from his post amidst allegations that he helped his brother-in-law secure a berth in the Sher Bahadur Deuba-led Cabinet, triggering an unusual judicial crisis.

A section of the Supreme Court justices has demanded Chief Justice Rana's resignation while some lawyers have decided to boycott the apex court. During a meeting with 15 apex court justices, Rana said that he is not going to step down just because voices were raised in the streets and in the media for him to quit the top post. **PTI**

Blast in Myanmar city highlights escalating violence

Bangkok: Midday bombings near a busy government office injured at least nine people in Myanmar's second biggest city on Wednesday, in what appeared to be the latest high-profile attack by militants opposed to the country's military rulers. Other attacks by foes of the government were also reported on social media sympathetic to the opposition. Shootings and bombings in Myanmar's cities and armed clashes in the countryside are daily occurrences, and UN officials and other observers have warned that unrest triggered by the military's seizure of power in February is spinning toward civil war. **AP**

Watchdog: 30 recent cases of violence to Afghan journalists

Islamabad: More than 30 instances of violence and threats of violence against Afghan journalists were recorded in the last two months, with nearly 90% committed by the Taliban, a

media watchdog said. More than 40% of the cases recorded by The Afghanistan National Journalists Union were physical beatings and another 40% were verbal threats of violence. **AP**



Lava flows from a volcano as it continues to erupt on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain on Wednesday. **AP**

DIRECTORATE TECHNICAL EDUCATION
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पत्रांक-3089 / नि०ब्रा०शि० / स्टोर कर्मच० / 2021-22 दिनांक-27 अक्टूबर 2021

ई० निविदा सूचना

निदेशालय, प्राविधिक शिक्षा, उत्तराखण्ड के अधीन विभिन्न राजकीय पॉलीटेक्निक संस्थानों में कम्प्यूटर्स के क्रय हेतु ई० निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई० निविदा दिनांक 28/10/2021 से उत्तराखण्ड शासन के ई० निविदा पोर्टल www.uktenders.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। ई० निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 11/11/2021 है। विस्तृत जानकारी उत्तराखण्ड शासन की ई० निविदा पोर्टल www.uktenders.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

निदेशक
प्राविधिक शिक्षा, उत्तराखण्ड

जनसंपर्क संचालनालय छत्तीसगढ़ शासन
इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़

क्रमांक / 4082 / जनसं / वि.अ.प. / 2021 फोन- 0771-2221616 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक : 26/10/2021

गणतंत्र दिवस परेड 2020 के अवसर पर नई दिल्ली में व्यनित होने पर प्रदर्शित की जाने वाली छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य की झांकी निर्माण के लिए अल्पकालिक द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जनसंपर्क संचालनालय, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, नवा रायपुर की ओर से नई दिल्ली में आयोजित होने वाली गणतंत्र दिवस 2022 की राष्ट्रीय परेड में चयन होने पर प्रदर्शित होने वाली झांकी की डिजाईन/मॉडल प्रस्तुत करने तथा अनुमोदन प्रस्ताव तथा खा मंत्रालय के निर्देशानुसार फेब्रिकेशन आदि कार्य कर झांकी तैयार करने हेतु र्न्-की आधार पर अनुभवी झांकी/टेब्ल्यू निर्माताओं / फर्मों से गृहबंद अल्पकालिक द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

इच्छुक (झांकी) टेब्ल्यू नर्माता / फर्म जनसंपर्क विभाग की वेबसाईट www.dprcg.gov.in & www.cg.nic.in/dpr से निविदा प्रारूप,नियम-शर्तें डाउनलोड कर निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क राशि रु. 2,000/- (दो हजार रुपए मात्र) (वापसी योग्य नहीं) का "संचालक, जनसंपर्क संचालनालय/रायपुर" के नाम से रायपुर में देय डिमाण्ड ड्रॉफ्ट टैक्निकल विड लिफाफा के साथ जमा करना अनिवार्य है। उक्त निविदा में किसी प्रकार परिवर्तन अथवा संशोधन होने पर जानकारी उक्त वेबसाईट में प्रदर्शित की जायेगी। संशोधन सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदाकर्ता जिन्होंने पूर्वे में प्रथम निविदा भरा है, उनके निविदा प्रपत्र ग्राह्य होंगे।

(1) पूर्णतः भरे प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 08/11/2021 दोपहर 2 बजे तक।
(2) तकनीकी प्रस्ताव प्रपत्र खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 08/11/2021 सायं 3 बजे से।

आयुक्त
जनसंपर्क संचालनालय
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

R.o.No. 64748/3
R.o.Date. 26/10/2021

Office of the Superintending Engineer
1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora
Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 7829/ Nivida-01/2021 Dated : 27/10/2021

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)
E-TENDER NOTICE

The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Single Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 01/11/2021 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	Construction of Road from Kanda- Saniudiyar Motor Road to Bhadora- Bajiroad under State Sector in District Bageshwar (Phase- 2 Stage- I) Length - 5.00 Km.	Rs. 4000.00 + 18% GST	1.42 Lakh	120 Days	12 Months	Category "D" & above (Road Works)
2	Construction of Khadlek- Bhanar- Dana- Tikta Motor Road in Kapkot Constituency Distt- Bageshwar Under State Sector Length - 4.00 Km. (Phase- 2 Stage- I)	Rs. 3000.00 + 18% GST	0.81 Lakh	120 Days	9 Months	Category "D" & above (Road Works)

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below- mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Shivam Jewellers/ Narmada Devi/ Krishan Kumar Verman/ A/c No. 629205027350/ 629260003833	Residential Property Of Krishan Kumar Verman and Narmada Devi Situated at House No- 65, SF, Block AH, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi- 110088/ October 26, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 36,52,642/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : October 28, 2021
Place: Delhi/ Ncr

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to upgrade the Rail Infrastructure, Railways have decided to undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking and Non-Interlocking work at Hindupur and Devarapalle stations for doubling of Yelahanka and Pendukonda section from 15.11.2021 to 20.11.2021. To execute this work following trains will be diverted as per the details given below:

Train No. & Name	Diverted Via	Skipping Stoppage	Date (from the Originating Station)
06078 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Coimbatore Jn. SF Festival Special	Via - Gooty, Kadapa, Renigunta Jn., Jolarpettai Jn. & Salem Jn.	Anantapur, Dharmavaram Jn., Hindupur, Yelahanka Jn., Krishnarajapuram	17.11.2021
02684 Lucknow - Yesvantpur Jn. Festival Express Special	Via -Dhone Jn., Pendekallu Jn., Guntakal Jn., Bellari Jn., Chikijaur Jn., Tumakur & Yesvantpur Jn.	Gooty, Anantapur, Dharmavaram Jn., Hindupur & Yelahanka Jn.	18.11.2021

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

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19, may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Visit RailMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app.

24/10/2021

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Please join us on **75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

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

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

QUOTATION NOTICE

Quotations are invited affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 from the manufacturer/dealer for supply of the following verification equipments indicating rates as per specification below for the year 2022. The quotation will be received by the Controller of Legal Metrology, Assam, Guwahati-7 up to 2 PM of the 16th Nov'2021 and will be opened on the same day at 4 PM in presence of the Quotationer or their representatives.

Item	Particulars	Font Size
A. (i) Year Punch, 2022 4 nos in a set. (Size 1,2,3 & 4)	(I)Size 1. length = 9.5 cm. 2. length = 9.0 cm. 3. length = 10.5 cm. 4. length = 12.0 cm.	12 18 24 27
(ii) Year Plier dies, 2022 4 nos in a set. (Size A,B,C & D)	(II) Size- 12 mm diameter.	

General Condition.

- The verification equipments should be made of best Steel and well tempered. If any defect is found in the aforesaid item within six month from the date of use then the replacement will have to be made free of cost.
- The Quotationer should deliver the articles in good conditions at the office of the Controller of Legal Metrology, Assam, Guwahati within 30 days on receipt of the formal supply order at their own cost.
- The rates should be valid up to 12 months from the date of acceptance of the quotation.
- The rates and taxes payable should be indicated against each item separately and should be F.O.R. destination.
- The Quotationer must furnish attested copy of the income tax clearance certificate (Pan Card) and GST Certificate along with their quotation.
- The Controller of Legal Metrology, Assam is not bound to accept the lowest or any other quotation.
- The decision of the Controller of Legal Metrology, Assam will be final in all respect.

Sd/- (S. N. Baishya)
Controller of Legal Metrology (I/C),
Assam : Guwahati.

Jansanyog/C/7158/21

US, China sparring over Taiwan heats up anew

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States and China are stepping up their war of words over Taiwan in a long-simmering dispute that has significant implications for the power dynamic in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. Amid a surge in Chinese military activity near the island that China regards as a renegade province and has vowed to reclaim by force if necessary, Washington and Beijing have launched new campaigns for global support for their respective positions, each using the stern and lofty language of sovereignty and international precedent. And neither is backing down. While the disagreement over Taiwan isn't new and has long vexed relations between the countries, recent developments suggest the two are coming closer to confrontation. Last week, President Joe Biden

set off alarm bells in Beijing by saying the U.S. has a firm commitment to help Taiwan defend itself in the event of a Chinese attack. China protested and the Biden administration sought to play down the comments. White House, State Department and Pentagon officials all said the president did not mean to imply any changes in the U.S. "one-China policy," which recognizes Beijing but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei. The officials took pains to say that America's commitment to Taiwan remains steadfast but continues to be guided by a policy of "strategic ambiguity" over military-related specifics that falls short of a treaty-enshrined mutual defense pact. Since then, however, the administration has upped the ante on the diplomatic front.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of Rail Pasengers that Railways have decided to restore the stoppage to the following trains at Getor Jagatpura Railway station from the dates shown as under:

Train No. & Name	Additional Stoppage	Arr.	Dep.	Effective from
04311 Bareilly- Bhuj Express Special	At Getor	17:18	17:20	From 28.10.2021
04321 Bareilly- Bhuj Special	Jagatpura station	17:18	17:20	From 29.10.2021

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

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139	Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download Railmadad App
75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

24/10/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Sumita Devi is owner of Property bearing No. N-130, New No. 14-130/A, area measuring 49 sq., Ydg. off of Rect. No. 21, Kila No. 23, Situated in the area of Village Khyasia, Delhi State Delhi colony known as Vishnu Garden, North Block Gali No. 7, New Delhi, vide a registered Gift Deed dated 18.01.2021, registration No. 640, executed by Mr. Ramend Kumar. All persons are hereby informed that, above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Aale Raaz Khan who is taking a Loan from Fullerton India Home Finance company Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the owner ship of Mrs. Sumita Devi in respect of the said property is sale (Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
201, 2nd Floor, 23 Shivaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-110028
Ph: 011-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **Radhey Shyam Paharia** S/o Shiv Singh & his wife Seema W/o Radhey Shyam Paharia R/o M-298, 1st floor, Guru Harkishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar,ND-87 have debarred & disowned their Son **Joginder Paharia** & his wife **Aarti** from their movable and immovable properties due to their misbehavior to my clients. My Clients have also severed all their relation with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk.

Ramesh Chander Anand (Adv.) C1-56, Western Wing, Tis Hazari

ADMISSION NOTICE

Applications are invited for **DPSE (2021-23) under Management Quota for Affiliated Institutes of SCERT (Govt. of Delhi)**

For further details, please contact: **Satyam International Polytechnic** GD Block, Near Pitampura Metro Station, Pitampura, Delhi-110088 Ph: 27317069

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bin Bahadur Thapa S/o. Gang Bahadur Thapa R/o. B-104, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110049 since 1992 do hereby declares that I have applied for Indian Citizenship & before that reside at Pandara Road, New Delhi, India since 1984 to 1992. Kindly Provide the Citizenship of India.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	Improvement work of MOZ, THJ, NGL and TPZ stations of Delhi Division.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 42,04,534/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time - 17.11.2021 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1367 Dated: 26.10.2021. 2438/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Bid No. E-33/2021-22 E-TENDERS Dated: 23.10.2021

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the president of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registrations on **IREPS** The details of tenders are in the following sequence S.No., Tender No.(Due Date), Description and Quantity. (1) 10211290, (18.11.2021) Bearing Asm. Part No. 16080609, 339 Nos. (2) 10211282, (24.11.2021) Seal Ring Assembly Part No. 16080567, 922 Nos. (3) 10211293, (24.11.2021) Bearing Spherical Seal Thrust Part No. 16150442, 437 Nos. (4) 10211282, (24.11.2021) Bearing Part No. 16150430, 1784 Nos. (5) 10211210B, (16.11.2021) 0240A, 0241A/0453 to PL No. 29176204 QTY: 569 Nos. (16) 0211046 (25.11.2021) ASM to PL No. 17240074 & Drg No. 40001043 and Purchase specification no. BLWD/DES/MISC-274, as per Drg. No.40001043 Alt-Bb as per Spec: as per Drg. Qty-628 Nos.(PL No. 17240074), (12) 08211006 Advertise Tender, (22.11.2021) (1) KEY MULTIPLIER- 2 FOR M/C COMPARTMENT CAT NO. P/2/0158, C&D No. T020/83, CLWV Spec No.- CLW/ES/3/0049/F as per Spec. CLW/ES/3/0049/F QTY-6 Sets. (PL No. 29387991) (2) KEY MULTIPLIER-1 For M/C COMPARTMENT, CAT NO. P/2/0158, C&D No. T020/82 Spec No.-CLW/ES/3/0049/F as per Spec. CLW/ES/3/0049/F QTY-66 Sets. (PL No. 29388004) (3) 08211004 Advertise Tender, (15.12.2021) SPHERIBLOC CAT NO./R/0008 C&D No. T205/004 C&D No. T222/003 Spec: RDSO SPECN. No. RDSO/2007/EL/SP/EC/0051 Rev.3, QTY-5679 Nos. (PL No. 29100203). (14) 07210185, (08.11.2021) PL No. 29170631 Fire Extinguisher & Bracket, 555 Nos. (15) 06211186, (16.11.2021) COMPLETE PANEL-A, PANEL-C (WITHOUT DRIVER DISPLAY UNIT) & PANEL- D ALONG WITH ALL EQUIPMENTS, HARDWARES, WIRING/CABLING specification: CLW/ES/3/0239/B, 0240A, 0241A/0453 to PL No. 29176204 QTY: 569 Nos. (16) 0211046 (25.11.2021) E-Type Coupler, P L No. 29130037, 453 Nos. (17) 03211045 (25.11.2021) High Capacity Draft Gear, P L No. 29130049, 478 Nos. (18) 03211007A (19.11.2021) Brake Control system, P L No. 29180016, 290 Set. Note: For Complete details of EMD and downloading of tender documents and Hindi Version also available at website www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in. Corrigendum Notice - Date: 25.10.2021, Bid No.: E-29, Tender No. 09210123 FL LAMP CORRIGENDUM LIGHTING PL No. 2961010, Revision-1, Details of Corrigendum- The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 12.11.2021 instead of 03.11.2021 Note: All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.

P.R.O./BLW-S-38 PCMM

f t i @ /blwvaranasi Website- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in

10% power outage likely due to coal shortage: Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Crisil Rating on Wednesday warned that despite the respite from a temporary fall in power demand, a tenth of the thermal capacity is still vulnerable to the outage as it sees coal-stock remaining in single-digit days through the rest of the year.

Recently, the agency had said that the ongoing coal shortage could debilitate corporate India if it lingers on for long.

About 10 per cent of the 209 gw, to be precise 20 gw capacity of coal-based private power stations remain vulnerable to outage amid surging coal demand. Despite the recent dip in demand (10 per cent over October 16 and 17) due to heavy rains, coal shortage persists as their inventory is only for 5 days, the report said.

Over half of these capacities do not have fuel supply

'MoRTH giving enormous thrust on improving nation's logistics'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) is giving enormous thrust on improving Logistics in the country and taking steps to bring efficiency into logistics management.

Delivering a talk on “Improving Operational Efficiency in Logistics Infrastructure; Multimodal Integrated Logistics Parks; Technologies...” at ‘Smart Mobility Conference 2021’ at Pragati Maidan in the Capital, Joint Secretary (Logistics), Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Suman Prasad Singh, said: “Our present focus to have integrated planning of transport network development. We should not develop it in silos, That’s why the “GatiShakti” portal has already come.” “So far as infrastructure of MoRTH is concerned, our basic purpose is to reduce the travel time.

There are instances near ports, when a distance of 10 km, sometimes takes more than 24 hours to cover. The reason is not the distance but many other factors like traffic restrictions,” he said.

agreements, which increase their reliance on coal, either through imports or through e-auction where prices remain elevated, both these may force these plants to shutter operations for a few days as their operating cost may outweigh revenue.

Coal shortage is acute despite domestic supply rising 16 per cent in Q2FY22 over the same period in the pre-pandemic FY20, partly due to substitute non-coking coal imports falling over 20 per cent and depleted coal stock at the plants.

Another problem is the erratic domestic supplies due to seasonal rains impacting mining. Overall coal supply grew around 8 per cent.

Meanwhile, domestic e-auction premia have jumped over 130 per cent over the Coal India notified rate in September, from 80 per cent in September 2019 due to the supply shortage.

Skilling varsity venture to create 3,000 jobs

New Delhi: With an aim to create 3,000 jobs within next 36 months by creating a pool of qualified job-ready skilled resources in the diagnostic sector, Healthians in collaboration with Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) has announced the launch of the on-the-job training programme of selected youth candidates. “With an initiative like this, we intend to create a robust training platform for aspiring healthcare professionals,” said Deepak Sahni, founder and CEO, Healthians. The SVSU CV said the collaboration will provide opportunities for sharing and emulating best practices and learning from each other, to address public health challenges.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abir Thapa S/o. Bin Bahadur Thapa R/o. B-104, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110049 do hereby declares that I have applied for Indian Citizenship & residing at the above mentioned address as born and brought up here in, since 2001. Kindly Provide the Citizenship of India.

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road,
Near Hanuman Setu Mandir,
Lucknow- 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

Summons For Filing Reply & Appearance By Publication
O. A. No. 455/2021
Date: 13/10/2021
Summons to defendant under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

Original Application
No. 455/2021
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
MR. SACHIN KUMAR KAUSHAL & OTHERS ...Defendants
To,
1.MR. SACHIN KUMAR KAUSHAL
C-517, NRI CITY, Greater Noida-- 201308, U.P
Also At: Flat No-004, Floor No. 0, Avion Rose wood, Tower B4, Village Khanpur Tehsil Tizara City, Bhiwadi 301019.
Also at: Yatharth Wellness Hospital N H 32, Sector- Omega 1st Gr. Noida, Noida-201308.
2. MRS. SWATI GUPTA
C-517, NRI CITY, Greater Noida- 201308, U.P
Also At: Flat No-004, Floor No. 0, Avion Rose wood, Tower B4, Village Khanpur Tehsil Tizara City, Bhiwadi 301019.
3. AVALON PROJECTS PVT. LTD.
Registered Office: 64, Scindia House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Corporate Office: 9th Floor, SAS Tower, Near Medicity, Sector- 38, Gurgaon-122001

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **24.11.2021 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal,
Lucknow

LPG price may be hiked next week

PETROL, DIESEL RATES UP AGAIN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cooking gas LPG prices may be hiked next week after under-recovery on the fuel widened to over ₹100 per cylinder, sources said insisting that the rate hike, including the quantum of increase, is dependent on Government permission.

If allowed, this will be the fifth increase in cooking gas rates across all categories — households using subsidised gas for cooking and heating purposes, non-subsidised fuel and industrial-sized gas.

LPG rates were last hiked by ₹15 per cylinder on October 6, taking the total increase in rates since July to ₹90 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

Sources with direct knowledge of the matter said state-owned oil marketing companies have not been allowed to align retail selling price with the cost, and no government subsidy has so far been approved to bridge the gap.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of AAM AADMI PARIVARTAN PARTY The office of the party is located at SATYA SAI COLONY, PREET VIHAR, NEAR SUMERVILLE SCHOOL, CHHAPRAULA, GAUTAM BUDD NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH- 201009 This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 Name/address of the office-bearers of the party are as follows:
President/ MANOJ KUMAR DAHIYA
Chairman: S/O SHRI RAGHVI R SINGH DAHIYA, VILLA LAKHAN MAJARA, DIST-ROHTAK, HARYANA-124512
General Secretary/ SAGAR SHUKLA S/O SHRI AJAY SHUKLA, H.NO.29/63, CHIHPI TOLA, THANA, RAKABGANJ, TEHSIL- AGRA, DIST- AGRA, UTTAR PRADESH- 282003
Treasurer: REKHA W/O MANOJ KUMAR DAHIYA VILL-LAKHAN MAJARA, DIST-ROHTAK, HARYANA-124512

If any one has any objection to the registration of AAM AADMI PARIVARTAN PARTY they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road,
Near Hanuman Setu Mandir,
Lucknow- 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

Summons For Filing Reply & Appearance By Publication
O. A. No. 450/2021
Date: 13/10/2021
Summons to defendant under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

Original Application
No. 450/2021
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
MR. VAIBHAV RAMASHANKAR SHARMA & OTHERS ...Defendants
To,
1. MR VAIBHAV RAMASHANKAR SHARMA (Borrower),
Flat No. 906, 9th floor
Meghdutam Encore- Tower A Sport, Sector- Adjoining
Techzone- IV, Plot no. GH-05, Greater Noida- 201307
Also At: E-4 1405, Rutu Towers, Patli Pada, Ghod bundar Road, Thane- 400607
2. MRS. PUJA SHARMA (Co-Borrower),
Flat No. 906, 9th floor
Meghdutam Encore- Tower A Sport, Sector- Adjoining
Techzone- IV, Plot no. GH-05, Greater Noida- 201307.
Also At: Flat No. 10A, Tower B Viceroy Park, Thakur Village, Kandiwali, Mumbai Kannad- 431103
3. PALM DEVELOPERS PVT LTD.
Registered Office at : 304 Sitaram Mansion, 718/21 Joshi road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005. Corporate Office at : 6th Floor, Matrix Tower, B-4, Sec-132, Expressway, Noida- 201301, U.P.

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **22.11.2021 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal,
Lucknow

1.5 bn Indians to be connected to internet in 2 yrs; country's AI tech to lead globally: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to almost double its internet user base in the next two years with the BharatNet project connecting more homes across rural India, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday.

He said India, not China, is the world's largest connected nation on the internet in the world as China has more intranet connectivity and they have walled off their internet.

"India is going to be one of the largest connected nations in the world. I already think India is the largest connected country in the world because China is not connected because it has an intranet, walled off island that pretends to be the internet. "Even if you believe for a

minute that they are on the internet, we are going to be one of the largest nations in the world," Chandrasekhar said at an ASSOCHAM conference.

He added that the country has around 800 million people on the internet at present.

"As the rural broadband internet connectivity programme of the BharatNet starts kicking in and lighting up homes in the villages, we will have 1.5 billion Indians being connected to the internet over the next two years," Chandrasekhar said.

He said internet connectivity is going to drive the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem in the country and will get preference globally as it will be developed with ethics under the guidance of data privacy rules.

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, India
Phone No. 0141-2228066, 2228064 Website: http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
CIN: U24232RJ2011SGC035067 E-mail: edprmsc@nic.in

Ref. No.: F.02 (338)/RMSC/PROCUREMENT/DRUGNIB-27/2021/11658 Dated:- 22/10/2021

Notice Inviting E-Bid

E-bids are invited upto 06.00 PM of 11.11.2021 for E-BID FOR RATE CONTRACT CUM SUPPLY AND EMPANELMENT OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES. Details of NIB may be seen in the Bidding Documents at our office or at the website of State Public procurement Portal <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> (UBN: MSC2122GLOB000099) www.dipronline.org, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in> and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement) RMSC/

Raj.Samwad/C/7650/2021-22

UJVN LIMITED
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H. O. "UJJWAL", MAHARANI BAGH, CMS ROAD, DEHRADUN -248006, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC023896
Toll: 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, website: www.ujvnl.com

Tender Notice Date : 27.10.2021

No. 795

Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation) Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. -05/EE(G-MB-I)/2021-22 & 06/EE(G-MB-I)/2021-22
Name of work: (1)Gardening Plantation & other associated miscellaneous work at Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi for the period of one year. (2)Testing of Transformer Oil of various Transformers installed at Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi.
Estimated cost: ₹ 665395.00 (Taxes Extra) & ₹ 99550.00 (Taxes Extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website : 28.10.2021 at 16:00 hrs.
Last date of submission of tender : 18.11.2021 at 16:00 hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com".
Executive Engineer (Generation)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SEARCH FOR MISSING

**Sanjay Rai**

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Namely: Sanjay Rai, S/o Ram Singh Rai, R/o: H.No.- 2003, Street No. 57, Block-B, Sant Nagar, Burari, New Delhi** has been missing since **18.10.2021** at 06:00 pm. from A-59, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi from the area of P.S. Naraina, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 42A dated 19.10.2021** has been registered at P.S. Naraina, New Delhi. The description of the missing male is as under- **Age:** 50 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'11", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Green colour shirt, black colour pant and brown colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/600/WD/2021
Tel.No. 011-25891181, 8750871122
SHO
P.S. Naraina, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

**Amrita Kumari**

General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Amrita Kumari D/o Shri Awdesh Pashwan R/o H.No. B-129, Jawahar Camp, Kirti Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 16.10.2021 from the area of P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No 462/21 U/s 363 IPC dated 17.10.2021 has been registered at Police Station Kirti Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Age: 14 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Long & Black, **Wearing:** White & Grey Colour Suit & Salwar and Black Colour Shoes (School dress).
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Kirti Nagar, Delhi at E-mail Id-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Phone: **SHO**
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/598/WD/2021
P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi
West Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-25438719, 25190462

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely : Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : about 30-35 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Shallow Face : Oval, Identification : A Tattoo of "ॐ" on right hand Wearing : Hospital dress** has been found dead at AIIMS Trauma Center Hospital, Delhi on 21.10.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 18A dated 21.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at Subzi Mandi, Mortuary, Delhi
Any person having any information or clue about this dead person may kindly inform to the following:- **SHO :**
P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-24356743, 8750871311
DP/358/RLY/2021

Air India asks Govt depts to clear dues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Air India stopped the credit facility for buying of air tickets after sale, the Department of Expenditure has issued an order directing all ministries and departments to clear its dues immediately. The department has also ordered that air tickets from Air India may be purchased in cash till further instructions. “Recently, the Government of India has decided to disinvest Air India, the process of disinvestment of Air India and Air India Express is ongoing. Air India has

stopped extending credit facility on account of purchase of air tickets. Therefore, all ministries and departments are directed to clear Air India’s dues immediately. Air tickets from Air India may be purchased in cash till further instructions,” the department said in an office memorandum on Wednesday. The department has further directed ministries and departments to brought out these instructions to the notice of their subordinate offices/institutes, under the administrative control for further compliance.

Rising tea imports cause of concern: Planters’ body

Kolkata: A body of tea planters on Wednesday expressed concern over rising imports of the commodity and said a minimum price should be fixed for shipments arriving from overseas to protect the domestic units.

Indian Tea Association said imports in 2020 increased by 47 per cent as compared to 2019, and by 176 per cent in the first six months of the current calendar year as against the corresponding period.

BSES
BSES Yamuna Power Limited

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER **Date: 28.10.2021**

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

NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/21-22/RS/SV/29	SUPPLY,INSTALLATION,TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 11 KV DRY TYPE PACKAGE SUB-STATION OF 1.6 AND 2 MVA DT RATING	5.50 crore	5,50,000	20.11.2021, 15:00 HRS	22.11.2021, 15:00 HRS
CMC/BY/21-22/RS/SV/32	SUPPLY OF SINGLE PHASE OIL FILLED COMPLETELY SELF PROTECTED (CSP) TRANSFORMER OF RATING 25KVA 6.35/0.240KV	2.55 crore	5,10,000	20.11.2021, 15:00 HRS	22.11.2021, 16:00 HRS

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submiton of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com --> **BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD --> Tender --> Open Tenders.**
Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd.Off- BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-41247111 | Fax:011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old L&N & ICICI New L&N)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunil Gupta/ Suman Gupta/ (196000443393 & QZGRN00005014029)	Plot No-11, Second Floor, Block- A, Jhilmil Colony, Shahdra, New Delhi/ October 22, 2021	June 03, 2021 Rs. 24,08,025/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Zahir Mohd/ Tabassum Begam (19000001856 & QZDEL00005042813)	WZ- 166 2nd Flr Rear Portion Building Khasra No. 94, Khewat No. 54/52 Lal Dora Abadi Vill Shadipur Ranjit Nagar Delhi/ October 22, 2021	June 03, 2021 Rs. 19,78,443/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Devender Singh/ Dimpal Kushwah (19600044085 & QZGRN0005009725)	House No. 1447-C/13,1st Floor Rear LHS Khasra No. 600/93, Gali No. 3 Govindpuri Kalkaji New Delhi/ October 25, 2021	June 03, 2021 Rs. 11,14,116/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Durga Prasad Tiwari / Shobha Devi (13100001977 & QZNOD00005016405)	Property No. C-8A, 2nd Floor Rear Side Without Roof Right, Block- C, Khasra No. 333, Village Bindapur, Subhash Park,uttam Nagar, Delhi/ October 25, 2021	June 03, 2021 Rs. 16,29,654/-	Delhi/ Ncr
5.	Sachin Kumar Sharma/ Navin Kumar Sharma (19800041483 & QZPTU00005013043)	Plot No. B-195, Upper Ground Floor Back Side, Kh No. 10/16-23 Gali No. 5 Sainik Nagar, Village Matiala Uttam Nagar, New Delhi/ October 25, 2021	June 03, 2021 Rs. 30,57,842/-	Delhi/ Ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : October 28, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR **Authorized Officer**
ICICI Bank Limited

Chola
Enter a better life

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001
Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005.

POSSESSION NOTICE - Under Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been included in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.
The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column[E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.
Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges & expenses before notification of sale.

SR. NO	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER/ S & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED	DATE OF SYMBOLIC POSSESSION
A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	Loan Account No. X0HEHDE00001131137 & X0HEDEF00002033747 1. RAJESH SHARMA - 65-A F/F Kishan Kunj Extn Part-I Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092 2. RAJNI SHARMA - 65-A Kishan Kunj Extn Part-1, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092 3. M/S J M D DIESEL - D-9208A Ground Floor Laxmi Nagar Delhi, New Delhi - 110092	10.06.2021	Rs. 384,50,30,55/- as on 10.06.2021	All that piece and parcel of the property in First Floor Flat area 100 sq. yds. built on Property No. 65-A, out of Rect.No. 54, Killa No. 02, situated in village Khureji Khaj, in Gali No. 2, Krishan Kunj Extn. Part-I, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi	22-10-2021
2.	Loan Account No. X0HEHDE00000236835 1. RAVINDER KUMAR NO 527/A/3B JAWALA NAGAR SHAHDARA NEW DELHI, New Delhi- 110032 2. ANITA DEVI NO 527/A/3B Jawala Nagar Shahdara New Delhi, New Delhi - 110032	12.06.2021	Rs. 8806803.38 as on 09-06-2021	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.544 (New) Old property No. 527-A/3/B measuring 145 sq.yds falling in Khasra No.3137/2568/704, Village Chandrawali alias Shahdara, Jwala Nagar, Illaqua Shahdara, Delhi.	22-10-2021
3.	Loan Account No. X0HEHDE00000922571 1. RAM AVTER CHAUDHAREY 2. MALTI DEVI All residing at : 10377 Lalita Park Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092	12.06.2021	Rs. 2600121.47 as on 09-06-2021	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing entire Flst Floor without roof rights of admeasuring 37 Sq.yds built on property no. 10/377, L Type, out of Khasra No.18, situated at Lalita Park Laxmi Nagar, Village Shakarpur Khas, Shahdra, Delhi.	22-10-2021
4.	Loan Account No. X0HEHDE00001306365 1. ANUJ KUMAR VARSENEY 2. VINAY KUMAR, 3. MRS. MANJU All residing at: Flat No. 55B, PKT A-DDA Flats Mayur Vihar - II, New Delhi - 110096 4. GYAN CHANDRA, 5. DAYA VATI Both residing at: 317 B Nai Basti Ward 5 Chandausa Moradabad, Moradabad - 244001	12.06.2021	Rs. 30,46,399.81 as on 09-06-2021	All that piece and Parcel of the property bearing No.55-8, on Ground Floor, Category -I/G, in Pocket-A-1 situated in the layout plan of Housing Eastate at Kondli Ghoroli Phase-II known as Mayur Vihar Phase-III, Delhi	22-10-2021
5.	Loan Account No. X0HEHDE00001355028 1. SHYAM SUNDER SHARMA 2. VIMMY SHARMA Both residing at: A-53/1, CHANDER LOK SHAHDARA MANDOLI ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110093	10.06.2021	Rs. 36,84,749.67 as on 09-06-2021	Built up Second Floor without roof rights of property bearing No.15, Old No.49-B, measuring 100 Sq.yards, out of Khasra No. 533, situated at village Siktarpur, in the abadi of Chanderkol Colony, Shahdra Delhi.	21-10-2021
6.	Loan Account No. X0HEHDE00001394681 1. SATYA VEER JAIN 2. SARITA JAIN, 3. RAHUL JAIN Both residing at: V-549 GALI NO-18 VIHAY PARK MAUJUPUR, NEW DELHI - 110053	12.06.2021	Rs. 41,89,711.05 as on 09-06-2021	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.V-214 admeasuring 50 sq.yds i.e., 41.80 sq.mtrs out of Khasra No.44 situated in the area of Village Moujpur, in the abadi of Gali No.18 Vijay Park, Moujpur, Shahdara, Delhi.	21-10-2021
7.	Loan Account No. X0HEELD00001918988 & X0HEELD00001918990 1. BAL KISHAN Shop Plot-43, Pandav Nagar Shakarpur, New Delhi - 110092 2. PRAVESH RANI Shop Plot-43, Pandav Nagar Shakarpur, New Delhi - 110092 3. PREETI NAYYAR Shop Plot-43, Pandav Nagar Shakarpur, New Delhi - 110092 4. SAI BHOJNALAYA Shop Plot-43, Pandav Nagar Shakarpur				



With Covid-19 being a distant memory, and every Indian state throwing their borders wide-open for tourists, we Indians are back at it, travelling, with vengeance. Thomas Cook India, a leading integrated travel services company, conducted a study which revealed some surprising insights.

The pandemic had virtually thrown the travel and hospitality industry in a state of disarray last year, and it wasn't expected to improve anytime soon. However, on that particular count, most of us were wrong. Bookings, done with the assistance of Thomas Cook India, reflect a 60 per cent month-on-month growth, ever since the Covid situation was taken stock of, with vaccinations, shared Romil Pant, the senior vice-president of Leisure Travel at Thomas Cook India recently.

"There has been a jump of over 300 per cent, with respect to bookings, when we compare the data from September 2019, much before the pandemic, with the numbers generated for September 2021. This surge can best be attributed to lockdown fatigue and pent-up urge to travel," he postulated, before sharing other noteworthy trends.

A surge in demand for the forthcoming festive and winter season, Expo 2020 Dubai and honeymoon travel due to the marriage season in the North is powering travel growth from Delhi. "At this point in time, Thomas Cook India is back to

BACK IN BUSINESS

India's travel industry has been witnessing a strong surge in the past few months, contrary to expectations, says ROMIL PANT, senior vice-president of Leisure Travel, Thomas Cook India. By CHRISTY VARGHESE

65 per cent of pre-pandemic level bookings; with domestic travel at an impressive 290 per cent and international at 55 per cent," he revealed.

As per Pant, travelling with India is the best possible option, for those who seek leisure, "With the most prominent factor being ease of communication, it might take a while before we see international travel achieving pre-pandemic numbers. Let's consider you test positive for Covid in India, away from your hometown, the language divide does not play a huge role and all our packages are equipped with TravShield — a comprehensive safe travel programme, in association with Apollo Clinics. TravShield gets you free rescheduling and cancellation, if you are afflicted with



Covid, you are entitled to insurance; in short, we are here for you. However, while travelling overseas, it is not as simple as that. Getting the permissions in place from the embassy/consulate, that might take a while."

He went on to elaborate on some details that one might overlook while travelling, for instance, the cost of the RT-PCR test. "You might be surprised by how easier it is back home, here in India, when it comes to dealing with RT-PCR tests. Every country of the European Union has different costs for the RT-PCR tests, with the cheapest being ₹50. When travelling overseas, you need to take every factor into account. Something Thomas Cook India would be happy to help you with," he shared with a smile.

Other notable trends that he touched upon was how homestays and farm-stays have emerged as the preferred place of stay, after the Covid pandemic. It was not very surprising, though, as tourists opted to stay in places with less people, with many booking a villa for multiple families to stay in, together. He also chose the occasion to clarify that Thomas Cook has been misunderstood as an organisation which exclusively facilitates overseas travel. "To the contrary, we have our agencies spread across the country to help those who wish to see more of our beautiful country. With winter approaching, we have seen a surge in pre-bookings for places and experiences in the Andamans, Goa and Kerala. Even though the number of cases in Kerala might be high, the mortality rate is low. And throw in an administration which pulls all stops for its tourists, no wonder Kerala remains a hot destination."

Currently, as per the study, which takes into account numbers from September 2019 to September 2021, Maldives, Switzerland, France, Russia, Spain, Egypt are the top international destinations. Maldives, with no restrictions throughout, was no surprise on the list. The ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai is also seeing a brisk demand currently, Pant noted.

So, what are you waiting for? Go on and satiate that travel bug, but do your research first and travel safe, whenever you do.

DIY bridal hacks

CHANDNI GOYAL lists five effective home-remedies for brides to glow on their big day

Wedding season is upon us and the brides are excited, nervous and busy. The sheer amount of arrangements can be challenging. There may be no getting around the work, but letting it rob you of your bridal glow is something we just cannot allow. Self-care will have to take top priority in order to get your hair and skin looking their best for your big day. Luckily, this doesn't have to mean expensive spa days or elaborate treatments with an aesthetician. There are many beauty routines that are both simple and affordable that can be practised at home. They can help treat any specific skin problem or be the extra love that your skin needs to help you look fantastic.

Below are a few tips that can be easily incorporated in your routines to glow:

◆Aloe vera gel

Aloe vera gel is the component inside the aloe vera plant that is one of the most commonly used natural remedies, especially as an anti-inflammatory warrior. It helps calm irritated skin, including eczema, dry skin and even minor cuts and burns. Its gel-like texture makes it easily absorbing, making it particularly beneficial to those with oily skin, and its moisturising power makes it a go-to solution for those with dry skin alike. The plant is very easy to grow at home, but in case this is not possible you can choose from a number of pure aloe vera or aloe vera-based products available to buy. For those who have the plant, slice in half an aloe vera leaf and squeeze out the gel. Apply the fresh gel onto your face every day in the evening. Its collagen boosting and anti-scarring properties will help achieve well-hydrated and glowing glass-like skin. For silky and shiny hair, it can also be applied as an overnight hair pack.

◆Get rid of the tan

Sun exposure not only leads to tanning but also harmful UV rays, dark spots and dullness. One simple yet very effective home-remedy to reverse the harsh effects of the sun is a DIY face-pack which is a combination of cucumber, potato and lemon juice mixed together with *besan* (for binding) to be applied on the face. Cucumber calms the skin, potato helps remove a stubborn tan, dark spots and acne marks, whereas lemon juice has a bleaching effect and helps in skin-brightening.

◆Pure almond oil

Pure almond oil when massaged around the eyes for two minutes before bedtime works very well to reduce dark circles and puffiness. Almonds are rich in vitamin E which is healing and also have anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and skin-lightening qualities. Gentle massaging helps improve the blood circulation. Almond oil is particularly gentle on the delicate skin around the eyes. Remember to choose a high quality, preferably cold-pressed version. Consistency is the key here, by including this ritual in your daily night time skin care routine, you should be able to see results after a month or so.

◆Pink lip colour on cheeks

A nice bright pink lip colour is great to



have in your clutch as a last-minute touch up. Warm up the same lip colour on your fingertips and lightly apply on your cheeks for that natural, healthy flush of colour. There is an amazing range of pink lipstick shades — nudes, rosy, peachy — and you can go ahead and play around with it, from choosing something that is closer to your natural lip colour to experimenting with a more striking one.

◆Heal your smile

Our lips work super hard for us. From drinking and eating to talking and smiling they are in constant use and naturally suffer a lot of damage. Add to that the harsh effects of environmental pollution. Dry, cracked or discoloured lips are the result. Adding lip care to our beauty routine should not be overlooked, but it is very important to remember not to overdo it either and also to use a light touch. Over-exfoliation or being too aggressive while scrubbing leads to injury and bleeding. A good homemade remedy to heal your smile is to use honey mixed with granular sugar to scrub your lips. Clean with a soft fibre cloth to reveal lips that don't look chapped or rough. Apply a lip balm or a clear gloss on top so your lips look plump and naturally pink. Once in a while consider taking a complete break from all lip products — including lipsticks, glosses, scrubs and packs — and just let them breathe. During this time, you can just use a little balm to keep your skin nourished and soft.

(The author is the training manager of House of Beauty and Boddess.com.)

Pandemic festivals have grown to be more intimate and close-knit, glorifying the small spaces and their homely vibe. The introverted twist in the celebrations focus on finding joy in the simpler things in life — minimal themes and hygge lifestyles are embraced by people all around the country. Although, a certain part of this new lifestyle tends to miss the laughter-filled gatherings, the ring of the chorus of ceremonial songs, the exchange of wishes with the loved ones and other fanfare that is a part of the package of festivities. A festival dated at this time of the year will turn positive when it strikes a balance between the new and old ways of celebration, with decorated indoors, flower ornamented nooks, diya-lit doors, aesthetically composed pooja rooms and other details that stand out in person or form the backdrop during the video calls with the distant family.

□Reorganising kitchens

Festivities come with an aesthetic tone of their own. The pooja mandates as in mandaps, *torans*, and so on, are sure to fill a major part of the décor. But the secret lies in the details. The extravagance of the pooja calls for a reorganised kitchen and a complete dining makeover. Fresh tablecloths in bright Indian hues shall lay the carpet for the ethnic tableware in pure silver or brass. More traditional statement shall be brought in with pre-loved antique wood showpieces, traditional wall art, motif-patterned throw pillows, bright-hued upholstery, intricate handwoven

Post-pandemic festivities

PUNAM KALRA curates a list of minimal themes and creative ideas to light up your home this Diwali

carpets and more. Artisanal weaves, like ikat and *shibori*, made in breathable cotton, luxurious silk, or warm wool, make for unique upholstery, curtains, carpets and bed linen. They have an inherent pattern play, showing off textures and colours to the fullest.

□Revamping living rooms

The living room calls for a sophisticated, indulgent palette with a touch of mauve, beige or a darker brown. A pastel intervention in the neutrals tend to contemporise the décor, making it ideal for the new ways of celebrating — powder blue, mint green or peach hints leave a trail of playfulness and relaxation in the spaces planned for minimal poojas. Strong colours like blue and red, accented with tonal shades like lime and tangerine look feisty. Muted shades like blush, teal and lilac, create a gentle yet suave ambience. Vivid forest-inspired colours and motifs in wall finishes further add a sensorial freshness. Accompanied by conversational pieces of furniture, lively décor pieces and a lavish choice of luminaires, the space is set in the festive mood.

□Apt sanitisation

In the wake of the pandemic, the mod-



ern-day setup is incomplete without sanitising points and socially-distanced seats. There are virtual celebrations. Online meetings shall be set in a central frame and the numbered guests can be a part of a thoughtful celebration, with the same love and affection as ever. The pandemic celebrations are only a reminder of kindness and gratitude that long for hosting a festival that is safe and undisturbed.

□Adding statement accessories

This festive season can be a celebration of our individualistic dreams and personalities, expressed through an experiential interior aesthetic. A play of minimal maximalism adds a raw and intimate textural feel to the décor. Imaginative furniture forms with statement accessories, chic coffee tables, lively indoor planters and metallic cushions in copper and gold add a touch of glamour and snugness to the room.

Begin with a backdrop that blends with the colour theme of the home, experiment with lattice screens, a carved wooden *jali* or an embossed frame. Group the brassware into a large embellished plate, lined with fresh flowers. When the florals go overwhelming, tone down the colour game with the greens — there are vines, foliage and other contemporary elements that give a whiff of ethereal beauty in the indoors.

□Using exotic scents

Incense sticks in sandalwood, jasmine or other fragrances, along with freshly-

plucked flowers, leave an indulgent vibe. A mix of statement lighting, floor lamps and diffused lighting add to the enchantment of the festivities. A combination of fresh flowers, aroma diffusers, *urulis* and fragrant candles enhance the décor by adding a pleasing aroma to the house. Decorative experiments with choices between handcrafted pieces and minimal origami details draw the fine line between the traditional and modern décor choices. Finely-set orchestrated elements as in the artisanal ware, with or without a rich inlay of semi-precious stones step up the opulence levels. There is a soft spot for everything aureate and glistening. An unmissable layer of diyas, bells or flowers, with a stand-out arch frame or modest wooden alcoves, wraps up the aesthetic of a contemporary festive setup.

□Being eco-conscious

This festive season can be a celebration of our individualistic dreams and personalities, expressed through an experiential interior aesthetic. Imaginative furniture and statement accessories in eco-conscious elements like wood, stone, ceramics and metallic shades, like coffee tables, minimal indoor planters, can add an elegant festive feel to the room. A lasting statement comes from more conscious choice in the décor which goes beyond visual appeal.

(The author is an interior designer and the creative director of I'm the Centre for Applied Arts, a design studio in New Delhi.)

TRENDBLAZER

fairtalk

BADSHAH



"What genuinely inspired me to make the song, *Jugnu*, was just the need of giving something absolutely different from what is going on or what is being heard at this moment. I am talking internationally, because now with what you find on YouTube, the consumption of music has gone universal. It is difficult to stand out as an artiste."

dailytalk

REMO D'SOUZA



"The past year has not been the easiest one for the world and for me, but my family and I have courageously battled through it and here we are. That being said, we had a fabulous season of *Dance+* this year. We always have something new to offer with every season. I hope the audiences are all set to groove with us again."

SAIF-RANI DUO IS BACK WITH A BANG

Actor SAIF ALI KHAN, who will be seen shaking a leg with actress Rani Mukerji after over a decade in the forthcoming film *Bunty Aur Babli 2*, says they needed a hit track such as *Tattoo Waaliye* to dance again.

"Every on-screen *jodi* over the decades has had a unique calling card for audiences. For Rani and me, it has been romantic comedies and we have been lucky to have had chartbusting songs. *Hum Tum* had blockbuster music. Rani and I had a blast filming and dancing to them," he expresses.

MEGAN SET TO GRADUATE SOON

The Grammy winning-rapper, MEGAN THEE STALLION, has revealed that she's set to graduate soon, after studying for her degree in health administration at Texas Southern University.

"I want to do this because I really want my mom to be proud. She saw me going to school before she passed away," she said. "My grandmother used to be a teacher, so she's been after my life about finishing school. I'm doing it for me, but I'm also doing it for the women who made me who I am today," the 26-year-old added.



CISF COMMEMORATES ITS BRAVEHEARTS AT NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL

To celebrate 75 years of the India's Independence as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and to commemorate the martyrs of Police and CAPFs, a 10 days long commemorative event is being organised at National Police Memorial (NPM), Chanakyapuri, New Delhi from October 22-30, 2021 for paying tributes to the martyrs of police and CAPF personnel and to felicitate their families.

On October 26, CISF commemorated the supreme sacrifice made by its valiant bravehearts by organising a day-long grand ceremony at the National Police Memorial, Chanakyapuri and CISF HQs, New Delhi. 126 martyrs of CISF who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, and 52 frontline Covid warriors who lost their lives in the line of duty during the pandemic were commemorated on the occasion.

In the morning session, family members of the CISF martyrs, senior officers and personnel of CISF paid homage to the martyrs by offering flower petals at the Central Sculpture, NPM, and the martyrs' families also visited the 'Wall of Valour' where the names



of all the martyrs of CAPF and police, who made supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation are engraved in stone.

The families were then given a tour of the Police Museum and were shown the short video films that were prepared by the CISF as a tribute to martyrs and on the diverse role of CISF on national security. Later the families of the CISF martyrs were felicitated by the senior officers.

In the afternoon session, M

A Ganapathy, DG of CISF felicitated the families of CISF Martyrs in a function organised at Lawn's of CISF HQs, New Delhi. In his address, Ganapathy remembered the courage and valour of CISF Martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

In the evening session, Ganapathy visited NPM, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi and laid a wreath at the Central Sculpture and paid tributes to the



martyrs. Open air display of movies on freedom struggle, valour and sacrifice of CAPF personnel, and the invaluable contributions of CAPF and Police Bravehearts in the service of the nation were showcased. A retreat ceremony was also organised on the occasion and an attractive display was performed by CISF's band team. Senior officers, personnel and families of CISF of Delhi-NCR based units were present on the occasion.

Innovation at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

Satish Kumar Kashyup, CLW's GM, has launched Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM) for WAG-9 & WAP-5 locomotives under the "Centre of Excellence" project on October 26.

IETM is a digital technical manual that is crafted to suit a specific electronic medium, Viz. PDF, web, HTML, e-book etc. In this era of digitisation, IETM will take over traditional paper-based technical manuals by easing the accessibility, maintenance and improving interactivity.

IETM allows the user to locate required information faster and more easily than is possible with a paper manual. Powerful interactive maintenance procedures, not possible with paper technical manuals, can be made available using the intelligent features of the IETM display.

Advantages of IETM are provided below:

- ❖ 3D/2D CAD reusability
- ❖ User friendly and powerful interactive maintenance procedures
- ❖ Time to learn and understand is reduced
- ❖ Timely availability of accurate knowledge.
- ❖ Accessibility of information from anywhere
- ❖ Reduced need for expensive trained manpower
- ❖ Easy to retrieve and digitally managed
- ❖ End user/learner-centered



Vigilance awareness week at NDMC

To mark the beginning of Vigilance Awareness Week, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Chairman - Shri Dharmendra administered the integrity pledge to the Heads of all the departments in NDMC to fight against corruption and bring transparency in their working at Council Room in Headquarter - Palika Kendra, New Delhi on October 26.

In the Vigilance Awareness Week, NDMC is organizing seminars on experience sharing on the best practices and innovation in transparency with integrity to delivering civic services to the citizens. The seminar will be included lecture by Director, Central Vigilance Commission and Independent External Monitors .



Northern Railways celebrates Vigilance Awareness Week 2021

The Vigilance Awareness Week for the year 2021 was launched by Northern Railway at its headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi on October 26. The week is observed by all government bodies and seeks to spread awareness about the necessity of probity and uprightness. The theme of the week this year is 'Independence India at 75 — self-reliance with integrity'. The oath of integrity was administered by Ashutosh Gangal, the GM of Northern Railways, to senior officers and a large number of railway officials.



Vigilance Awareness Week at Kolkata Metro

Metro Railway, Kolkata is observing Vigilance Awareness Week from October 26 to November, 2021. As part of this programme, Manoj Joshi, Metro Railway's GM administered the integrity pledge to the officers and staff of Metro Railway at Metro Rail Bhavan on October 26, in order to maintain probity and rule of law in all walks of life.



Vigilance Awareness Week at CLW

Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) from October 26 to November 1 under the theme of 'Independent India at 75 — self reliance with integrity'. Satish Kumar Kashyup, the GM of CLW administered the vigilance pledge in the Administrative Office foyer on October 26. RYadav, the chief vigilance officer & SDGM, M K Chatterjee, deputy chief vigilance officer along with other departmental heads, officers and staff were present on this oath-taking ceremony, keeping in mind all Covid protocols. A week-long various in-house and outreach programmes and a seminar/webinar on November 1 are planned as part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2021.



Loan promotion programme by the Bank of India

During a loan promotion programme, Bank of India's Ghaziabad zonal manager, Manoj Kumar and deputy zonal manager, Om Prakash Lal participated in a customer outreach programmes. Bank officials presented detailed information about retail loan, MSME loan and deposit products to the customers. On this occasion, Bank of India sanctioned a loan of 35 crores out of which 20 crores was financed in the agriculture sector.



GGISP University distributes about two lakh German Masks to campus schools and around 115 affiliated colleges as a part of precautionary measures to mitigate the risk of Covid-19.



Rakesh Sharma has won the election in legal service sector and has been elevated to the Central Governing Council of Service Export Promotion Council. Sharma, who has rich experience of over 30 years as an advocate, has been a member of the American Bar Association and the Bar Council of Delhi

Sensitisation of scholarships for the disabled

As a part of activities under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India @75), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 27th October, 2021 organised a virtual conference with the principal secretaries of States and Union Territories dealing with empowerment of persons with disabilities and state nodal officers to sensitise them about the Scholarship Schemes being implemented by the Department for educational empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Dr Prabodh Seth, joint secretary (Scholarship) emphasised the need to disseminate information about the Scholarship Schemes and publicise through advertisements at local level to widen outreach. Since Aadhaar is mandatory for availing the benefit under central sector schemes, he urged the States/UTs to ensure that aadhaar number of beneficiaries are captured at the application time. Further it is incumbent that each educational institutions update their KYC status on the NSP, else the institutes would not be able to ver-



ify the applications.

Dr Virender Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, through his video message reiterated visions of the PM for building an inclusive society and empowering *divyangjan*, thus realising the mantra "*Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*".

The director of Department of School Education & Literacy said that the district collectors have a pivotal role in creating mass awareness about these Scholarship Schemes at district level.

CM reviews preparations for 'Invest Rajasthan-2022' summit

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot previewed the preparations for the State Investor Summit "Invest Rajasthan 2022" to be organised by the State Government at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Center (JECC) in Sitapura, Jaipur in the month of January in a meeting held at the Chief Minister's residence on Monday.

In the meeting, the secretary of Industries Department, Ashutosh AT Pendnekar informed that the summit will include Agriculture Processing, Automobile and Electric Vehicle, Chemical and Petrochemical, IT, Medical and Health, Mines and Minerals, Renewable Energy, Textile, Tourism and ESDM as the thrust sectors. has been included in.

He said that as part of the preparations for the summit, potential investors from within the country and outside the country are being contacted. Investor connect programmes have been organised in Chennai, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Delhi to invite new investors. Programmes will also be held in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kolkata this month.



Pendnekar informed that the investor connect event will be held in Dubai during the Dubai Expo in November. Apart from this, road shows will also be organized in London, Paris, South Korea, Tokyo, New York, Berlin and Singapore. In these programs, along with inviting investors to invest in Rajasthan, Rajasthan will be presented as an investment destination.

The Chief Minister said that the preparations for the summit should be good and for its successful conduct, the Indian embassies located in different countries should be contacted.

Gehlot said that with the objective of accelerating the economy affected by the adverse conditions of Covid and increasing investment and employment, organising the

"Invest Rajasthan" summit can play an important role. He directed that all the departments should work with full cooperation and co-ordination in this investment which should come to the ground. The Chief Minister said that the State Government has made several important policy changes in the direction of ease of doing business. Due to which a positive environment has been created for investing in Rajasthan. The benefits of this initiative of the government should be found in the summit.

Industries Minister, Parsadi Lal Meena, chief secretary Niranjana Arya, principal secretary of Finance, Akhil Arora, the commissioner of BIP, Archana Singh and other officers were present in the meeting.

ITBP Referral Hospital has a new blood bank

Sanjay Arora, the DG of SITBP inaugurated a blood bank at ITBP Referral Hospital, Greater Noida on October 25. This is the first blood centre at the hospital which is dedicated for the treatment of serving and retired CAPF personnel and their family members. It is a 200-bed hospital with all primary specialist's facilities. Since, it is a multispecialty hospital, requirement of blood and blood products was felt on a frequent basis and till it's own blood bank was inaugurated, the hospital was getting it from the nearby hospitals.

It is a step in direction



of self-reliance since the hospital has its own operation theatre, labour room etc and high dependency unit and casualty wards which are working regularly at the hospital required the blood bank facility.

This newly inaugurated blood bank can store more than 300 blood units at a time.

The Referral Hospital has been credited with treating thousands of serving and retired CAPFs and CPOs personnel and family members during pandemic times when ITBP declared it a fully dedicated Covid hospital for 2020 and 2021.



POWERGRID celebrates its 32nd Raising Day

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) celebrated its 32nd Raising Day in virtual mode on October 23, 2021 at all its establishments spread across the country. The chief guest on this occasion was the Union Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy, R K Singh and the guest of honour was Secretary (Power) Government of India, Alok Kumar.

During the programme, R K Singh bestowed awards to employees under the Pratiplal scheme of POWERGRID for Best Regions, Sub-stations, Innovative Ideas et al. An inter-regional cultural event was also conducted in which employees from various regions displayed their artistic cultural prowess.

HUDCO provides ambulances under CSR

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri handed over the keys and flagged off five high-tech ambulances, under HUDCO's CSR grant to Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital on October 22. The keys were handed over to Dr Rana AK Singh, the director and medical superintendent of ABVIMS and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, and Dr SV Arya, medical superintendent of VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital.

The ambulances were handed over in the presence of Kamran Rizvi, the chairman of HUDCO and senior officials of MOHUA, HUDCO and both the hospitals.

The state-of-the-art ambulances, provided at a cost of ₹ 42.13 lakh per vehicle, are fitted with critical life supporting equipment. HUDCO has sanctioned five ambulances with ACLS to New Delhi Hospitals — three to



ABVIMS and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, and two to VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital. Medical equipment in the Ambulance include auto loading stretcher, wheel chair cum stair chair, transport ventilator, syringe infusion pump, multi parameter monitor with EtCO2 (USFDA Certified), fully automated external defibrillator, vacuum splint, portable oxygen cylinder with regulator, emergency kits, rescue tools et al. HUDCO has already provided 10 ambulances to

various states and has supported medical infrastructure projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Puri said that handing over of the five ambulances to hospitals by HUDCO reflects the best in the CSR. He said that under the leadership of the PM Narendra Modi, we have achieved the target of 100 million jobs to contain the Coronavirus. This is a matter of immense pride not only for India but also the whole world is appreciating it. He thanked the frontline health workers and all those involved in the

health sector for this great feat.

Puri said that the corporate sector is also pitching in, and nicely discharging its responsibilities. He said that recently the PM inaugurated the PSA Oxygen Plants under the PM Cares Fund, and the companies from oil and gas sector also provided similar plants.

Congratulating the joint efforts in strengthening the health sector in the country, he said this is the work in progress and efforts towards this will continue.

NSTFDC commemorates tribal entrepreneurs

To boost entrepreneurial ventures of aspiring scheduled tribes in the NorthEast, a grand one-day event was conducted by the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), an apex organisation for the economic development of Scheduled Tribes under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, of India on October 21 at Hotel Japfu, Kohima, Nagaland.

This event was designed to give a boost to the lending schemes of NSTFDC and to spur collaborative arrangement with KVIC, and facilitate implementation of the flagship scheme of the Central Government, Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

As part of celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence, NSTFDC felicitated successful tribal entrepreneurs from the states of Northeast for their excellence in various entrepreneurial ventures. The Minister of Tribal Affairs and Higher Education, Nagaland was the chief guest of the event. The Minister spoke on the simplicity of tribal way of life and enormous scope of entrepreneurship in Nagaland. He appreciated the efforts of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and NSTFDC in organizing such a programme and emphasised that such types of programmes would boost and motivate budding youth entrepreneurs to take up innovative livelihood activities. He also suggested that more awareness camps should be organised to disseminate the various schemes of the government among the target group and to simplify the rules and procedure for availing benefits under such schemes.

On the occasion, the CMD of NSTFDC emphasised on taking up sustainable livelihood



ventures, thereby motivating youth to be job givers rather than job seekers. CMD, thanked the Minister for gracing the occasion and motivating the youth entrepreneurs. NSTFDC board members, Yatinder Prasad, joint secretary and financial advisor, Anupam Trivedi, the executive director of TRIFED and Deepika Kispotta, the DGM of IDBI were also present on the occasion and felicitated the entrepreneurs.

Dr Sukamal Deb, deputy CEO of KVIC's Northeast Zonal Office presented detailed information about the implementation of PMEGP scheme and MoU signed between NSTFDC and KVIC for implementation of the same for the development of tribals.

The chairman of Mizoram Rural Bank and MDs of Meghalaya Co-operative Apex Bank and Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation were also present and shared their views.

Fifty three tribal entrepreneurs who have been successful in establishing business units in various sectors from the state of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura were felicitated during the programme.

