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FCRA REGISTRATION OF 5,800 NGOS CANCELLED

Delhi: About 5,800 NGOs, which did not submit their applications for renewal of FCRA registration, deemed to have ceased to exist, according to law.

TN AGAIN ADOPTS ANTI-NEET BILL

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday adopted again, the anti-NEET Bill, returned days ago to the Government by Governor RN Ravi and the ruling DMK and principal Opposition AIADMK reaffirmed their opposition to the test based on the Dravidian ideology.

SC REFUSES INTERIM BAIL TO AZAM KHAN

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday refused to grant interim bail to Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan for campaigning in the UP Assembly polls.

NARSINGHANAND GETS BAIL IN HARIDWAR CASE

Dehradun: A Haridwar court has granted bail to Dasna temple chief priest Yati Narsinghanand in the controversial Haridwar Dharma Sansad hate speech case.

MP: 17-YR-OLD GIRL GANGRAPED; FACE BIT

Rewa: A man and two minor boys allegedly raped a 17-year-old tribal girl and bit her face after abducting her at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, police said on Tuesday. The victim managed to escape and reached her relative's place.

Modi: Anti-Sikh pogrom, exodus of Kashmiri Pandits Cong's legacy

Cong gripped by ideology of urban Naxals, says PM; Cong walks out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday questioned the legacy of the Congress rule in the country and pointed out that the legacy of the party included the massacre of Sikhs in 1984, the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir, and the Emergency in 1975. The Congress members walked out in protest during Modi's speech.

Launching a scathing attack on the main Opposition party, the aggressive Prime Minister in his 90-minute speech in the Upper House also said the Congress was now gripped by the ideology of urban Naxals.

Participating in the debate on the motion of thanks to the President's address, Modi said if the Congress would not have been at the helm for so many years in the past, incidents like atrocities against Sikhs or exodus of the Pandits would not have taken place.

He also said Mahatma Gandhi was in favour of dis-

mantling the Congress after the country gained Independence. However, it did not happen due to dynastic politics practised by the party and talent was the first casualty, Modi charged. He also said dynastic politics was the biggest threat to democracy.

Listing out the so-called failures of the Congress, Modi said the country saw institutionalised corruption, casteism and regionalism. He claimed that the Congress practised the policy of three systems, including first discredit, then destabilise and then dismiss.

He then read out how several State Governments were dismissed and President's Rule imposed during the Congress' rule. The President's Rule was imposed more than 100 times during the Congress rule spread over 50 odd years, the Prime Minister said. He also said 50 State Governments were also dismissed during that tenure.

When the Congress staged a walkout, Modi said one needs

to listen in a democracy and that the party was used to only preaching to others till now.

The Prime Minister rejected accusations of altering history and said he was only refreshing the memory of some whose histories began only 50 years ago and whose histories were confined to that of a particular family.

Referring to Jawaharlal Nehru, Modi said he was "concerned about his global image", refused to send the Army to help Ram Manohar Lohia led "satyagrahis" working for Goa's independence. The Congress, he added, delayed Goa's independence by 15 years until after India attained freedom.

Modi also listed instances of past Congress Governments muzzling the freedom of expression and cited Lata Mangeshkar's musician brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar being sacked from All India Radio (AIR) for presenting poetry on Veer Savarkar. Lyricist Majrooh Sultanpuri, he added, was jailed for criticising Jawaharlal Nehru. Singer Kishore Kumar too had to suffer during the Emergency, the Prime Minister said.

Whenever someone within the Congress has spoken against a particular family, the results have been there for all to see, Modi said, naming the late Sitaram Kesri.

Continued on Page 2

Hijab clash in Karnataka shuts schools, colleges

Maintain peace, harmony, CM urges students

PNS ■ BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

The hijab controversy in Karnataka took an ugly turn on Tuesday as pro and anti-hijab students clashed in several parts of the State. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai appealed to students to maintain peace and ordered the closure of schools and colleges for three days.

In a tweet, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, "I appeal to all the students, teachers and management of schools and colleges as well as people of Karnataka to maintain peace and harmony. I have ordered the closure of all high schools and colleges for the next three days. All concerned are requested to cooperate."

As protests for and against the hijab intensified at colleges in different parts of Karnataka, State's Home Minister Araga Jnanendra also appealed for peace and said no one should give an opportunity to use the police force.

The Home Minister's warning came as tension pre-



Students wearing saffron turbans stage a protest outside the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial College campus in Udupi district on Tuesday PTI

ailed at some educational institutions in Udupi, Shivamogga, Bagalkote, and other parts, forcing the police and authorities to intervene.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court began hearing the petitions filed by five girls studying in a Government Pre-university College in Udupi, questioning hijab restriction in college. The court appealed to the students to maintain peace and posted the matter for further hearing on Wednesday.

"You (students) are all educated, you have to think about

your future. After two years of Covid-19, this year classes have been conducted in a good way. This is the time for you to prepare for your exams that are coming up in a couple of months," the Home minister said.

Noting that religious forces behind such incidents have to be quelled and everyone should think about the country, the Minister in a video statement said, "We should all stand together as brothers, as the children of this country. Uniform is a sign of equality. Educational institutions are not the place for

practicing our religion or to showcase our costumes.' 'Everyone should maintain peace. Don't give an opportunity to use the police force. I appeal to parents to guide their children and let's all work towards colleges functioning in a peaceful manner.'

Protests erupted at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial College in Udupi after a large group of students wearing saffron stoles and headgears raised slogans on the college campus as hijab-clad Muslim girls were staging a protest demanding justice, forcing the police and college authorities to intervene. Some colleges have declared holidays in the district.

A minor stone petting incident has been reported near a college in Bagalkote and a few students even tried to barge into the campus, whom police dispersed using mild force.

A similar incident was also reported at a college in the Shivamogga district, and police had to intervene to bring the tense situation under control.

According to sources, some students even tried to hoist the saffron flag at the college premises. Similar protests have been reported at colleges in Mandya, Vijayapura, and Gadag districts.

Continued on Page 2

Bodies of seven jawans missing after Arunachal avalanche found

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bodies of all the seven soldiers, part of an Army patrol that was hit by an avalanche in Arunachal Pradesh and who went missing on Sunday, were found on Tuesday after the Army launched a big search and rescue mission, including by mountaineers and helicopters.

Giving details here, the Army said on Tuesday seven Army personnel were struck by an avalanche in the high altitude area of the Kameng Sector.

The rescue operation was launched immediately and bodies of all seven have been recovered from the avalanche site. "Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of everyone involved, all seven have been confirmed dead," the statement said.

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BJP pledges free power in farm, 1 cr job, 10-yr jail for love jihad

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hours before the campaign for the first phase of election in Uttar Pradesh ended on Tuesday, the BJP released its election manifesto called Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra in which the party promised "freebies" like free electricity in the farm sector, a scooter each to college going girl students, and creation of one crore job, including self-employment.

With an eye on the core Hindutva voting bloc, the party also promised to make "love jihad" law more stringent. It promised to bring in a law for 10-year jail and ₹1 lakh penalty to those found guilty in case of what is called "love jihad". It also promised the setting up of anti-corruption organisation units in all 18 divisions and anti-terrorist commando centres in Meerut, Rampur, Azamgarh, Kanpur, and



Bahraich in order to maintain law and order in the State.

"We have fulfilled almost 95 per cent of the promises we had made in the last elections in 2017. We are committed to fulfil the promises which we are making today," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said while releasing the manifesto here.

The 16-page booklet has promised to make UP "number one" economy in the country and jobs to one member of every family. It promised to double the per capita income,

free power for irrigation, strengthening of MSP for wheat and paddy as well as announced that sugarcane dues will be cleared within 14 days.

Shah said Sankalp Patra pays special attention to farmers, crafts persons, workers, women, and the youth. "The BJP manifesto promises two additional LPG cylinders to all the beneficiaries of Ujjwala on the occasion of Holi and Diwali, free scooter to every talented college-going girl. The grant under Kanya Sumangala Yojana has been increased from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000. Besides, the manifesto promises to provide 2 crore tablets or smartphones to students," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the manifesto seeks to bring qualitative change in the life of the 25 crore population of the State.

Continued on Page 2

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Varun protests JNU VC pick: 'mediocre hits youth future'

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP Member of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh Varun Gandhi on Tuesday called out the first press statement of newly-appointed vice-chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Santi Shree Dhulipudi Pandit, and said "such mediocre appointments serve to damage our human capital and our youth's future."

Soon after taking over her charge as vice-chancellor, Pandit issued a statement thanking the Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education for appointing her as the first woman VC of the university.

Varun has come down heavily on her for being appointed as the VC of JNU and singled out "mistakes" in her press statement in English saying it is "an exhibition of illiteracy".

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S Korean Govt, Hyundai regret Kashmir remarks; India summons envoy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

South Korea on Tuesday expressed regret over a social media post by Hyundai Motor expressing solidarity with so-called struggle for free Kashmir. The post was generated by a Pakistani partner of Hyundai Motor.

Foreign Minister of South Korea Chung Eui-yong called his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar on Tuesday morning and said "they regretted the offence caused to the people and Government of India by the social media post". The car manufacturer also expressed regret.

India also summoned South Korean envoy here to lodge its protest. The External Affairs Ministry sought "explanation" from Ambassador Chang Jae-Bok over the social media post put out by Hyundai Pakistan on February 5 — Pakistan's "so called" Kashmir Solidarity Day. Indian envoy in Seoul Ambassador Sripriya

Ranganathan too engaged officials at Hyundai headquarters.

Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here that India's strong displeasure on the unacceptable social media post by Hyundai Pakistan was conveyed to the Indian Ambassador in Seoul.

"It was highlighted that this matter concerned India's territorial integrity, on which there could be no compromise. We expected the company to take appropriate action to properly address these issues," a statement issued by the Ministry said.

"We had seen a social media post on the so-called Kashmir Solidarity Day was made by Hyundai Pakistan. Immediately after this social media post on Sunday, February 6, 2022, our Ambassador in Seoul contacted the Hyundai headquarters and sought an explanation.

The offending post had been removed subsequently.

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BJP's 'plane of lies' won't land in UP this time: Mamata



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit out at UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath saying "the BJP's plane of lies won't be able to land in Uttar Pradesh this time". Both the leaders targeted the UP Chief Minister over Covid-19 mismanagement in the State.

Addressing the media with Akhilesh in Lucknow, Mamata urged people to not waste their vote on the BJP in the coming UP Assembly elections.

Continued on Page 2

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SP promises to make all farmers debt-free by 2025

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav released the party's 88-page manifesto for Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections on Tuesday, promising to make all farmers debt-free by 2025.

The SP has coined the manifesto as 'Samajwadi Vachan Patra' with a tag line 'satya vachan, atoot vaada' (word of honour, unbroken promise).

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow on Tuesday, Akhilesh Yadav said, "I remember that when the SP had released its manifesto in 2012 and then when we formed the government, we held a meeting of all departments related to various promises and fulfilled those promises. With 'satya vachan, atoot vaada', we are going to people with this document as the party manifesto for 2022."

The SP chief said, "In the next four years, by 2025, all farmers will be made 'debt free' if my party comes to power in Uttar Pradesh. A 'karj-mukti' law will be made that will benefit most poor farmers. Our manifesto has promised minimum support price (MSP) for all crops, besides ensuring payment for sugarcane farmers in 15 days. We will form a corpus for this if required. All farmers will get free power for irrigation, interest-free loan, insurance and pension arrangements will be

The SP has coined the manifesto as 'Samajwadi Vachan Patra' with a tag line 'satya vachan, atoot vaada' (word of honour, unbroken promise)

Akhilesh further said that an urban employment guarantee law would be enacted on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGN-REGS). The former chief minister said that there would be 33 per cent reservation for women in government jobs, including the UP Police.

The SP manifesto also promises free education for girls from primary class till post-graduation. Also, a 'Kanya Vidhya Dhan' scheme will be launched again under which girls clearing their class 12 exam will be provided with a one-time amount of Rs 36,000. It also pledges to provide a laptop to all students clearing their class 12 exams.

The SP chief further said, "Samajwadi Pension' will be re-launched, under which elderly people, needy women and families below poverty line (BPL) would be provided Rs 18,000 every year. This will benefit nearly one crore families."

Further, the manifesto says

that samajwadi canteens and 'kirana' (groceries) stores will be established where poor labourers, masons and destitute will get ration and other essentials on concessional rates.

"These canteens will provide 'Samajwadi Thali' for Rs 10. The aim of this scheme is to end the hunger problem in the state. A helpline number for migrant labourers of the state -- '1890 Mazdoor Power Line' -- will also be launched," he said.

Akhilesh also said that a compensation of Rs 25 lakh would be given to the kin of farmers who lost their lives during farmers' protests and a farmers' memorial would also be set up in the state.

In a unique announcement, the SP manifesto also promises one litre free petrol to all two-wheeler holders in the state every month.

Earlier in Agra on Sunday, the Samajwadi Party president had promised to set up a university named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Bateshwar, whose ancestral village Bateshwar is in Agra district.

Akhilesh also promised to upgrade the Bateshwar Fair to international standard and further improve the condition of ghats and temples there.

He targeted the Bharatiya Janata Party for announcing a university after Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Lucknow, which he claimed had not been implemented till date.

Bombay HC issues show-cause notice to Malik

Asks him why action should not be taken against him for breaching undertaking

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to Maharashtra Minister and NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik asking him to explain why should not an action be taken against him for breaching undertakings given to the court and for continuing to defame IRS officer Sameer Wankhede for "breaching" his undertakings to the court and continuing to make defamatory statements against IRS officer Sameer Wankhede.

Two months after Malik

filed an affidavit tending an "unconditional apology" to the Bombay High Court for 'breaching' his undertaking to the court that he would refrain from making statements against Sameer's father Dhyandev Wankhede and his family members, a HC bench of Justices SJ Kathawalla and Milind Jadhav passed an order on a contempt petition filed by Dnyandeo Wankhede, alleging ongoing defamation.

Alluding to Malik's affidavit filed on December 10 wherein he had disputed the veracity of the press conference transcripts, the HC bench said

that the NCP minister should have produced the "correct statements" on record in that case.

"We are therefore not satisfied with the explanation given by Respondent No 1 (Nawab Malik)," the HC bench said, as it directed the High Court registry to issue the show-cause notice under Rules to Regulate Proceedings for Contempt under Article 215 of the Constitution of India and the Contempt of Court Act 1971. The notice is returnable on February 21.

It may be recalled that in an affidavit filed by him on

December 10., 2021 in response to an explanation sought from him by the high court on December 7 as to why a contempt of court notice should not be issued against him for deliberately breaching his assurance to the court, Malik had tendered an "unconditional apology" t the same HC bench of Justices Kathawalla and Jadhav for breaching an undertaking given to the court.

"I tender my unconditional apology to this Honourable Court in respect of the breaches of my undertaking given to this Court as recorded in the

orders dated November 25 and November 29, 2021. I had no intention to disrespect, dishonour, overreach or breach the said order," Malik had stated.

Malik had told the court that the statements were made during the course of media interviews with journalists on several topics over a considerable period of time.

The Minister said that the responses given by him during the course of interviews were made with a belief that they were not covered by the undertaking given by him to the High Court.

BJP's 'plane...

From Page 1

Mamata launched a veiled attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after his physical visit to Bijnor was cancelled citing "bad weather" on Monday, and said, "The BJP's plane of lies won't be able to land in Uttar Pradesh this time."

Targeting the UP Chief Minister, TMC leader said "Yogi Adityanath had come to Bengal to defeat us...where were you when people were dying of Covid," she said. Speaking about the reports of bodies floating in the river Ganga, Mamata asked whether the Uttar Pradesh Government didn't have woods to cremate them.

"We revere Ganga ma. And here you threw dead bodies in the Ganga. Many dead bodies floated to Bengal. We

picked up those bodies and respectfully cremated them. Did you not have wood to cremate the bodies?" she asked rhetorically.

Attacking BJP Akhilesh said, "The BJP deployed its entire strength in West Bengal but they could not defeat Didi. She has come to Lucknow from Kolkata but those from BJP couldn't come to UP from Delhi stating 'bad weather'. BJP's plane of lies won't be able to land in UP this time."

PM Modi on Monday while addressing the Bijnor rally virtually said that his helicopter couldn't leave due to weather conditions, so he thought of holding the rally through video conferencing.

West Bengal Chief Minister said, "History will never forgive those responsible for Hathras, Unnao incidents and bodies dumped in the Ganga in UP during COVID-

19." "CM Yogi Adityanath, where were you when these things were happening? Yogi Ji must apologise to the people of Uttar Pradesh. I urge you all to support Samajwadi party and make them win, defeat BJP. Don't fall for false promises made by BJP.. I will also visit Varanasi on March 3," she said.

Earlier, Banerjee informed that TMC will not contest the Uttar Pradesh elections but will field candidates in the State in the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

"In Uttar Pradesh, I am not going to contest Assembly polls but I am going to support Samajwadi party Chief Akhilesh Yadav. TMC will contest in Uttar Pradesh in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," she said, reflecting her national ambitions in the next general elections. The TMC is seeking to increase its footprint nationally ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

On Tuesday, the BJP

released its manifesto for the UP polls after postponing it for two days as a mark of respect to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar who passed away on Sunday morning. Banerjee said that the saffron party released its manifesto today on hearing that she would be in Lucknow. "Don't know if it is a manifesto or 'Moneyfesto'," she said. The TMC leader asked the BJP to seek forgiveness over the Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which a Union Minister's son is accused of running over protesting farmers. "Do you have any shame? Farmers were protesting and your Minister's son killed farmers by running them over with vehicles. At least seek forgiveness," she said.

The 403-member Uttar Pradesh Assembly is scheduled to go to the polls in seven phases on February 10, 14, 20, 23, 27, March 3, and 7.

Varun...

From Page 1

"This press release from the new JNU VC is an exhibition of illiteracy, littered with grammatical mistakes (would strive vs will strive; students friendly vs student-friendly; excellences vs excellence). Such mediocre appointments serve to damage our human capital and our youth's future," said Varun who had also attached Pandit's letter along with his tweet.

He also said with few higher education institutions at par with global standards "India needs to have the right leaders to shape the journey for universities likely to succeed".

The BJP leader who has been at daggers drawn with his party said the new appointment has "little to offer in academic vision".In his scathing attack against the VC's appointment, Varun said "as such, appointing someone with little to offer in academic vision, credentials or even the ability to communicate, is a path to mediocrity and long-term illiteracy for our human capital".

Varun, who has been for some time challenging his own party on many issues, including its economic policies, went on to say, " We need leaders, with the right values, and discipline - not those who cannot do basic due diligence on their first press release with regards to their appointment".

The BJP MP, in his no-holds-barred indictment of the VC of the JNU, an institution, which has been in the eye of the storm for fiery ideological controversies, also called her "a loudmouth".

"A great institution like JNU needs empathy, sensitivity, and careful steering, not a loudmouth, with little verbal control. Academic credentials and past experience, not retweets, should be the criteria for selection", said Varun.

The BJP MP has opposed the Modi Government's stand on the Minimum Support Price and other Farmers issue and had earlier also shot-off a letter to the Prime Minister demanding "strict action" against Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni, embroiled in the Lakhimpur Kheri massacre.

S Korean...

dom for Kashmir," she said without naming Hyundai.

Similar posts had also appeared from social media handles linked to Kia Motors' dealers/ partners in Pakistan. The companies, she said, do business both in India and Pakistan, and "yet have posted content in solidarity with Pakistan over Kashmir".

"Such posts that are challenging the sovereignty of our country should not be acceptable. It has been surprising that it has been ignored till now. And also keeping in mind that these companies have been flourishing in India for the past many years yet choosing to take stances that are contentious is unacceptable.

Companies must respect the rules and laws of the nation they operate in and should refrain from engaging in political and contentious causes," she said, demanding that the Government ensures apology by the firms for the "seditious posts, and ensure companies that operate here do not challenge the sovereignty of the country".

Earlier in the day Hyundai issued a statement saying it deeply regrets any offence caused to Indians by an "unauthorized" tweet from the account of its Pakistan partner.

"As a business policy, Hyundai Motor Company does not comment on political or religious issues in any specific region," Hyundai said in a Twitter post.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice
Open E-tender Notice No.115EE21-22
The DRM (Engg.)/SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 28.02.2022 up to 13:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website - www.irps.gov.in (1) **Name of work:** Tahbazari right of 9362 Square feet Railway land in the section Thanabhirpur under jurisdiction of ADEINTHB for the period 36 months (from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2025). **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.6,05,605.00. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.60,600.00. (2) **Name of work:** Tahbazari right of 5778.12 Square feet Railway land at Mahesh Khunt, North of Gate No. 25/C, in the section Mahesh Khunt under jurisdiction of ADEINTHB for the period 36 months (from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2025). **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.5,36,260.00. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.53,600.00. (3) **Name of work:** Tahbazari right of 6000 Square feet Railway land at Lalpur in the section Lalpur under jurisdiction of ADEINTHB for the period 36 months (from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2025). **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.1,06,480.00. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.10,600.00. (4) **Name of work:** Tahbazari right of 12050 Square feet Railway land at Lalpur New South to Railway crossing in the section New Lalpur under jurisdiction of ADEINTHB for the period 36 months (from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2025). **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.26,980.00. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.26,900.00. (5) **Name of work:** Tahbazari right of 6359.16 Square feet Railway land at Mahesh Khunt in the section Mahesh Khunt under jurisdiction of ADEINTHB for the period 36 months (from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2025). **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.5,98,950.00. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.59,900.00. (6) **Name of work:** Tahbazari right of 375.50 Square feet Railway land at Jhanjharpur Road Imli Chowk in the section Thanabhirpur under jurisdiction of ADEINTHB for the period 36 months (from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2025). **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.73,205.00. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.7,300.00. (7) **Name of work:** Tahbazari right of 5550 Square feet Railway land at High Level on abandoned ghat line between Atalpur - jahanveer Chowk in the Section Thanabhirpur under jurisdiction of ADEINTHB for the period 36 months (from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2025). **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.6,67,097.00. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.66,700.00. (8) **Name of work:** Barauni-Kithar section: Provision of covering, drain, and Sump to improve drainage at LC No. 5C, 4E, 5 and 5F newly constructed UHS. **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.98,72,007.50. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.1,97,500.00. (9) **Name of work:** Left over work for the Construction for Embankment for track and Road in connection with Junction arrangement work within the Railway boundary at Dinkar Gram Simaria Station for the proposed extension of Barauni Thermal Power Station on deposit basis. **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.6,05,96,178.80. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.4,53,000.00. (10) **Name of work:** At Sarai - Construction of Goods office with merchant room, labour huts, toilet complexes and water booths. **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.96,22,766.79. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.1,92,500.00. (11) **Name of work:** At Nazirganj - Provision of directional loop line. **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.2,82,04,563.68. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.2,91,000.00. (12) **Name of work:** At Sonpur - Provision of Water supply arrangement in connection with coach washing cleaning plant (Mechanised) - 01 No. in Demu shed Sonpur. **Approx. cost (In Rs.):** Rs.51,94,049.80. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Rs.1,03,900.00. The above tender notice is available on website www.irps.gov.in RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER: Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. **Divisional Railway Manager/ENG/Sonpur** PR/01634/SEE/ENG/T/21-22/108

Bodies of seven jawans missing after...

From Page 1

The area, located at an altitude of 14,500 feet, was witnessing inclement weather with heavy snowfall since the last few days. The bodies of the soldiers are currently being transferred from the avalanche site to the nearest Army medical facility for further formalities, the Army said.

The Army has to face these hazards while patrolling the high altitude areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China and Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan besides the Siachen glacier.

In fact, more than 1,000 soldiers have died due to vagaries of weather and dangerous terrain in the glacier since the Army took a position in 1984 at the world's highest battlefield. In fact, ten soldiers died in an avalanche when it hit their camp in 2016 there.

These patrols are fraught with danger due to weather conditions including avalanches at high altitudes. In May

2020, two Army soldiers who were part of a patrol-cum-snow-clearing party died after they were caught in an avalanche in Sikkim.

In February 2020, the Government informed Parliament that six Army personnel had died due to avalanches and snow-slides in the Siachen Glacier in 2019, while 11 others were killed in similar incidents elsewhere.

All troops inducted into high-altitude regions are provided adequate training in mountain craft, ice craft, and survival in glaciated terrain in mountains, and in coping with any eventuality like avalanches, and they are also taught to handle medical emergencies.

They are also suitably equipped to undertake the operational challenges and use modern equipment like helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles, snow scooters, avalanche detectors, and mountain clothing.

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छत्तीसगढ़)
क्र.2748 / लो.क.वि./न.पा.नि. / 2022 रायगढ़ दिनांक 07/02/2022
।। ई-प्रोक्वोरमेन्ट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ।।
नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	सि.क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत राशि रु.(लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
1.	92245	CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED SANJAY MARKET COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AT RAIGARH (C.G.)	1328.67	28-02-2022

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेन्ट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
नगर पालिक निगम,
रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

Bhopal Municipal Corporation
Swachh Bharat Mission (Civil)
IInd Floor, Kushabhau Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) Campus, Ambedkar Marg, Near Chetak Bridge, Bhopal (M.P.)
No.:693 Bhopal Date 08.02.2022
Tender for online submissions are invited on website www.mptenders.gov.in under "Live Tender" and Department Name "Bhopal Municipal Corporation" for following work. Detailed NIT, Tender Schedule and other information can be seen on the website www.mptenders.gov.in.

S. NO.	System NIT No.	Name of Work	Tender cost (In Rs.)
1	2022_UAD_183568_1	Engagement of Agency For Installation, Operation And Maintenance of Supervisory Drain Level Alert Tool For Municipal Corporation Bhopal	1,68,00,000/-

● Corrigendum and Amendments for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspaper & correction if any, would be Published on website only.

Executive Engineer (SBM)
Municipal Corporation, Bhopal
T.N.1154/021/022

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Sh. Sandeep Malhotra (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagee/Borrower) is purchasing the Property No. A-3/5, area measuring 75 Sq. Yds., Killa No. 8, Mustafi No. 7/6 Situated at Buzh Bazar Walli Gali, Dal Mill Road Uttam Nagar, New Delhi- 110059 from 1. Sh. Ashek Kumar, 2. Sh. Ramesh Chander, 3. Suminder Kumar who became owner of the said floor vide Relinquishment Deed dated 02.02.2022. Sub-Registrar- II B Jankapuri New Delhi, as Dec No. 755, Book No. 1, Vol No. 7110, Page No. 28-32 on 02.02.2022 executed by Sh. Sat Parkashand Now. Sh. Sandeep Malhotra has agreed to create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and / or objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said property or part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Clients in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 10 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhawan / Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-03), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at (M) 9066701712/9818228636

Hijab...

From Page 1

Last week, the State Government had issued an order to make uniforms prescribed by it or the management of private institutions mandatory for its students at schools and pre-university colleges across the state.

The issue that initially began in January at a government PU College in Udipi where six students, who attended classes wearing head-scarf in violation of the stipulated dress code were asked to leave the campus, has spread to different parts of the state, with Hindu students too responding with saffron shawls.

Hindu students coming with saffron shawls are also being barred from classes.

The row has also taken a political colour, as the ruling has BJP stood strongly in support of uniform related rules being enforced by educational institutions, calling the headscarf, a religious symbol, while the opposition Congress has come out in support of Muslim girls. Meanwhile, the raging hijab controversy in Karnataka reverberated in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdury raised it in the House and asked the Government to give a statement on the issue. The Congress leader said "discrimination" on the basis of religion should not be happening and people are being attacked for wearing hijab.

At this point, there was some uproar from the treasury benches and Speaker Om Birla allowed Karnataka BJP MP Shiv Kumar Udasi to have his say on the issue. Udasi said even though Congress is "making hue and cry" over the hijab, the issue is sub-judice in many states and should not be raised here.

The issue was raised under "matters of urgent public interest" before the House took up the discussion on the general Budget.

Pension process now online to end graft: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government announced that the entire pension process has been transformed online from Tuesday. Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam said the step will end corruption and provide convenience to the public. "This is a one-of-a-kind initiative in the country," the Minister added. Taking to the micro-blogging site Twitter, he said: "Revolutionary step of Arvind Kejriwal Government of Delhi. To eliminate corruption and provide convenience to the public, the entire process of pension is now online. Today the first digital payment has been made. This is a one-of-a-kind initiative in the country. We have been able to reach this point only because of our hon-

est politics." He added, "Earlier this payment could not be made digital due to technical reasons, but the Social Welfare Department of Delhi held several meetings with the Central Government, and found its solution. Now there will be no hindrance or delay in pension cases. The whole process, right from filling of the application form to disbursement of pension, all will be online. Now people will not have to face any inconvenience by standing in queues at Government offices." The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), PPS has been implemented in the Financial Assistance Scheme whose end-to-end digitisation has been completed. The first pension payment through NSAP PPS was done on Tuesday.

Two arms suppliers nabbed in Rohini, weapons seized

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two men were arrested on early Tuesday after a brief exchange of fire in Rohini area for allegedly supplying arms to Lawrence Bishnoi and Kala Jathedi gang, police said. Nine country-made pistols, two automatic pistols, 14 live cartridges, and one car were recovered from their possession, they said. The accused have been identified as Mohammad Ayaz (30) and Rafat Khan (28), both residents of Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh, police said. According to police, they received information that Ayaz, who supplies weapons to Lawrence Bisnoi and Kala Jathedi Gang and wanted in an arms supply case of Delhi, would come to Shahbad Dairy colony road along with his associate to supply weapons in a car between 3.30 am to 4 am. Thereafter, a trap was laid from Mahadev Chowk to

Khera Gaon, Rohini Sector-29 and around 3:50 am, one car was seen coming there. The driver of the car was signaled to stop, but he did not stop and tried to flee from there, a senior police officer said. Ayaz started firing at police. Police also fired and one bullet hit the right thigh of Ayaz and both of them were overpowered. Three round bullets were fired by police and three bullets were fired by accused person, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Brijender Kumar Yadav said. Khan was driving the car. Ayaz has been shifted to MB Hospital where his condition is stated to be out of danger, police said. Ayaz disclosed that he supplies arms to Lawrence Bisnoi Gang. He has been supplying arms from last four years. Khan is the childhood friend of Ayaz, they said. Ayaz was also wanted in a case of SP Badli police station.

Will transform Devbhoomi in five years, pledges Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI /UTTARAKHAND

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will transform the Devbhoomi in five years by implementing new ideas and a comprehensive agenda for the development and prosperity of Uttarakhand, party National Convener Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday while appealing to the BJP and Congress supporters to give AAP a chance in the forthcoming Assembly polls in the State. Addressing the people, Kejriwal said that the Congress ruled for 10 years while the BJP formed the Government here for 11 years and both the parties wreaked havoc on the people and hindered the development of Uttarakhand. "Being a fairly new party, the AAP is bringing in a fresh perspective with an honest CM candidate. We have delivered on our promises and made immense progress in Delhi. Similarly, we have ideated an elaborate agenda with new and revolutionary plans to ensure Uttarakhand's development. We will make healthcare



facilities accessible in even the most remote villages in the State," he added. "Supporters of BJP-Congress will also benefit from free education and healthcare, 24x7 free electricity, and unemployment allowance. Uttarakhand owes thousands of crores as debt thanks to the debacles of the BJP and Congress over 21 years. Along with the myriad of advancements, AAP will not only make Uttarakhand debt-free, but also profitable like Delhi," he said. The AAP Convener further said, "The AAP will build schools across the state in every village to make sure that

quality education is provided to every child in Uttarakhand. We will transform the Government schools, mirroring our Delhi model. "We will create and provide jobs for the youth of Uttarakhand. And an unemployment allowance till said jobs are secured. We will provide free electricity 24x7. We want to build impressive government schools in Uttarakhand. "Health services will be provided from village to village and everyone in Uttarakhand will receive free medical treatment. When we provide electricity for 24 hours a day," he added.

PICTALK



Construction work underway for a bridge over the Yamuna River, in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ensure quality, long-term sustainability of water bodies in Delhi: Anil Baijal

New Delhi: Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday asked officials to ensure quality and long-term sustainability of water bodies in the city. Baijal reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and rejuvenation of water bodies in Delhi with top officials of the Delhi Government. "Advised the officials of the Environment Department and the Delhi Jal Board to ensure synergy with the Delhi Biodiversity Society of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to complement the ongoing efforts towards augmenting water availability in Delhi and to leverage expertise on water related issues for more effective outcomes," Baijal said in a tweet. He complimented the stakeholders for the progress made towards conservation of water and revival of water bodies in Delhi. Emphasis was laid during the meeting on the assessment of the quantity and quality of water in the water bodies to ensure effective utilisation of water and their long-term sustainability. Delhi chief secretary, DDA vice-chairman, additional chief secretary (Environment), principal secretary (environment), DJB CEO, municipal commissioners and other senior officials attended the meeting. **PTI**

Pvt schools' body urges Haryana Govt to open schools in full strength

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

A body of private schools of Haryana has urged the State Government to reopen junior classes in the State. They said if the Government didn't take a call then they would be forced to open schools for all classes on their own. Keeping the Covid pandemic in view Haryana has so far allowed only offline classes for students of classes 10 to 12. A bunch of private schools and parents in Gurugram have demanded that junior classes be reopened at the earliest. Haryana Sikshan Sansthan Sansthan, State president, Dr Yashpal Yadav said that if the Government did not accept their demand, then they will open all classes on their own. There are reports that several private schools have already started calling students of all classes to attend classes in schools. "Earlier we submitted a memorandum to the Gurugram Deputy Commissioner (DC) and even



raised our concern before the District Education Officer (DEO) to start offline classes for the junior wing but we did not get a satisfactory response. We will soon approach Haryana Chief Minister if the schools for all classes are not reopened at the earliest," Yadav said. "The parents have realised that their children will suffer a lot if the schools are not opened with immediate effect. The learning gap between the children and physical appearance before the teacher has already widened a lot. All the children are not capable to attend online classes so It is quite necessary to open schools in full strength in favour of children future," Yadav added. "The parents, teachers, and students have a sense of resentment due to the closure of

schools. A case of Covid-19 is declining day-by-day, now what the government is waiting for. The Government should take an immediate decision regarding the opening of junior classes. Also, It is wrong to open everything and just keep the schools shut," said Rekha Yadav, Chairman, CD International School. Meanwhile, a senior official of the education department requesting anonymity said that "The Covid pandemic is declining, but it has not gone away completely. Several students of classes 10-12 have been vaccinated. But there is no vaccine for the students of junior classes." However, the Directorate of Information, Public Relations & Languages Department in a tweet said, "Schools in Haryana starts from Feb 10 for Class 1 to 9. However, COVID-19 appropriate behaviours will be strictly followed in classes. He added, parents who want to send their children to school can do so. Online classes will also continue."

Doctor shot at by unidentified men outside RTR Hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old resident doctor from Delhi's RTR Hospital was shot at allegedly by unknown persons while the doctor was standing outside the hospital building. The injured doctor has been identified as Hemant, who is under treatment but is stated to be out of danger. According to a senior police official, on Monday night, the doctor was standing outside the hospital building when unknown assailants came in a car and opened fire at him and fled from the spot. "The incident took place at around 8 PM on Tuesday in Dwarka when Dr Hemant was standing outside near the Emergency department of the hospital when a group of assailants parked their car near the building. They got out and opened fire at him following which one of the bullets hit the jawline of the victim," said the senior police official. Even though local tried to stop the accused, they sped away soon after the incident. The guards at the hospital also

tried to stop the accused by closing the main gate but they managed to escape. Personal enmity is suspected to be the reason behind the incident, however, police said that all angles are being looked into to ascertain the exact cause of firing. All CCTV cameras installed inside and outside the hospital premises are being scanned to identify and analyse the suspects involved in the incident, police said. The statement of the injured doctor will be recorded once he is declared fit for it by them, police said. No arrests have been made in the case. The accused are absconding, police said, adding efforts are being taken to nab them. Taking to Twitter on Tuesday, the Delhi Police posted about the incident. "An incident of firing upon a resident doctor has been reported from RTR Hospital, JP Kalan. The victim is undergoing treatment at hospital & is stable. A case under attempt to murder & Arms Act has been registered & multiple teams formed to nab the culprits," the senior police official said.

Fake visa racket busted in city, police arrest six



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of six people, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police has busted a fake visa racket in the national Capital. Police said that they have also recovered equipment used for preparation of fake visas of different countries, especially European nations, from the possession of the accused. A total of 225 passports — 90 Indian, 124 Nepalese and 11 Bangladeshi, a large number of fake visa stickers of different countries etc. were recovered from their possession, police said. The accused have been identified as Sanjeev Kumar (49), Lakhvinder Singh (44), Rajveer Singh (51), Anil Paul (53), Dushyant (38) and Rajkumar (29). According to Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, police received information a few days back that a racket was operating from Delhi which was indulged in preparation

and arrangement of fake visa on passports. "On Friday, police got a tip-off that one Sanjeev will meet his contacts at Janakpuri Institutional area near Gas Godam. Later, a trap was laid and three accused persons were nabbed," said the DCP. During interrogation, Sanjeev revealed that he used to hunt the visa seekers by assuring them that he can easily get them one of any country. He used to apply for visa at VFS Global Pvt. Ltd, Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi and deposit his clients' passport along with the visa application form at the center, said the DCP. He used to give his office address in visa application form so that the rejected forms, along with the clients' passport, couriered to their office which they later used for making fake visa with the help of their associates Paul and Dushyant, who were running the fake visa printing office at Laxmi Nagar area, the DCP said. On Sunday, Paul was apprehended from Laxmi

Nagar. Paul led police to his office at Laxmi Nagar from where his associate Dushyant was arrested. Later, Rajkumar was also nabbed, said the DCP. For preparing fake visa sticker, they used to do the coating of radium on A4 size glossy paper by scan printing method. Then details, including photo of applicant, printed on it by using fine quality colour laser printer using Corel Draw software, police said. After radium coating, hologram was fixed on the visa paper. They have own hologram making unit which include hologram die and heating and pressing unit, they said. Finally, a roll was prepared which was used later. Thereafter, the paper was cut into specified different shapes as per size of visa of particular country, police said. They also print delivery address on same glossy paper and paste on envelop along with barcode sticker. Finally, envelop was handed over to agents for delivery, police added.

DU student tries to immolate himself during protest

Students demand resumption of offline classes
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

During a protest against the Delhi University administration demanding reopening of the University, a 23-year-old student attempted suicide by allegedly trying to set himself ablaze by pouring petrol over his body. Kamal Tiwari, who hails from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, is a first year student of MA Buddhist in DU. Police said he is not injured and is being counselled by professionals. According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, at around 1.45 PM during a protest by CYSS (Chhatra Yuva



Members of various student organisations hold placards as they stage a protest demanding reopening of the Delhi University, outside Arts Faculty in New Delhi on Tuesday

Sangharsh Samiti) against DU Admin, demanding opening of the university, Tiwari tried to

pour petrol over self in order to torch himself. "Police team at the spot immediately stopped him

and he was removed from there and taken to HRH hospital. It is learnt that the said liquid was a mix of petrol and water. Further antecedents are being verified," said the DCP.

Delhi Govt resumes pilgrimage trains for elders from Feb 14

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's free pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens is set to resume from February 14. A train carrying senior citizens will leave for Dwarka in Gujarat on February 14 under the Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana.

Another train will leave for Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu on February 16. People aged 60 and above can avail the scheme. The resumption comes a month after the pilgrimage scheme was stopped due to a spike in Omicron cases. On January 7, a train carrying pilgrims to Tamil Nadu's Vailankanni Church was cancelled.

₹808cr insurance under PMGKP paid to kin of 1,616 healthcare staff

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Families of at least 1,616 deceased healthcare workers who were involved in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic has been paid insurance claims worth Rs 808 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) insurance scheme launched on March 30, 2020.

The scheme provides comprehensive personal accident cover of Rs 50 lakh to 22.12 lakh healthcare providers, including community health workers and private health workers, who may have come in direct contact with and were involved in the care of Covid-19 patients and may be at risk of being impacted by the disease.

workers, who may have come in direct contact.

The Centre launched the PMGKP scheme on March 30, 2020, for health workers fighting Covid-19.

The scheme provides comprehensive personal accident cover of Rs 50 lakh to 22.12 lakh healthcare providers, including community health workers and private health workers, who may have come in direct contact with and were involved in the care of Covid-19 patients and may be at risk of being impacted by the disease.

Replying to a supplement

ary question, Mandaviya complemented all doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers for doing exemplary work during the first, second and third wave of the pandemic.

He said the country was able to successfully handle the pandemic because of the efforts of these health workers.

The minister said the government launched the PMGKP scheme to provide an insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh to eligible beneficiaries. The scheme has been extended several times.

Mandaviya said insurance claims amounting to Rs 808

crore under this limit of Rs 50 lakh have been paid to families of 1,616 health workers. In a written reply, Mandaviya said 201 compensation claims amounting to Rs 100.5 crore had been paid in Maharashtra till January 2022.

As many as 160 claims amounting to Rs 80 crore were paid in Andhra Pradesh.

To another query during Question Hour, the minister said health is a state subject and the related data is collected by the states and then reported to the central government. Mandaviya said the WHO has issued guidelines on collecting

the data on Covid-19 deaths.

Based on these guidelines, the Centre has created a platform and asked the states to submit the data on Covid-19 deaths on it, he added.

So far, all the state governments have submitted data of over 5 lakh deaths caused by Covid-19, Mandaviya said, asserting that the Centre has nothing to hide.

The Centre has also asked states to reconcile the data if they failed to submit it, he said, adding that many states have done that. "We disclose whatever information we get from the states," he said.

New cases continue to decline as India logs 67,597 cases in 24 hrs; death toll up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is seeing a decline in new Covid-19 cases with 67,597 infections registered on Tuesday. Fatalities, however, have been over 1,000 in the past few days taking the death tally to 5,04,062 cases.

The total cases are reported at 4,23,39,611, while the active cases fell below 10 lakh after around 27 days, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The active Covid cases have declined to 9,94,891, comprising 2.35 per cent of the total infections. The national recovery rate improved to 96.46 per cent, the Ministry said.

There was a reduction of 1,14,047 cases in the active Covid-19 case count in a span of 24 hours, as per the data. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 5.02 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 8.30 per cent, it said. The number of people who have recuperated from Covid surged to 4,08,40,658, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent, the data showed.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on



September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore Covid cases on May 4, 2021, and three crore cases on June 23 last year.

The 1,188 new fatalities included 860 from Kerala and 49 from Karnataka, the data stated.

Of the 860 deaths, 14 were reported in the past 24 hours, 113 occurred in the last few days but were not recorded due to late receipt of documents and 733 were designated as Covid-19 deaths after receiving appeals based on the new guidelines of the Centre and the directions of

the Supreme Court, a Kerala government release said on Monday.

A total of 5,05,062 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,43,098 from Maharashtra, 59,115 from Kerala, 39,396 from Karnataka, 37,772 from Tamil Nadu, 25,998 from Delhi, 23,330 from Uttar Pradesh and 20,852 from West Bengal.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

In the meantime, the government said that more than 5 crore adolescents in the 15-18 age group have been administered the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine in the country while the cumulative Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country have exceeded 170.21 crore.

RS employees association thanks Chairman for welfare

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat Employees Association (RSSEA) on Tuesday expressed gratitude to Chairman Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu for taking landmark decisions towards the welfare of the employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

RSSEA also termed tenure of incumbent Chairman as the 'Golden Phase of Rajya Sabha Secretariat' for taking several remarkable decisions in the interest of the employees.

Amongst various initiatives Naidu guided the Secretariat in framing Recruitment Rules for the posts of Secretary, Additional

Secretary and Joint Secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. He also constituted Rules Review Committee that presented its report on the 28th December, 2018 recommending amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).

Keeping in view the overall development of the employees/officials of the Secretariat, Naidu directed secretariat to make rules regarding the rotation and transfer policy of Officers posted in a Section for more than ten years. As a result of this policy, rotation of work amongst more than 225 staff and officers was initiated,

said a Press release from the RSSEA.

Naidu also looked into the Constitution and implementation of the recommendations of the 5th Parliamentary Pay Committee w.r.t. structure of pay, allowances, leave, pensionary benefits and other amenities to the officer and all categories of employees of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariat in the context of the decision of the Government of India on the recommendation of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

Other initiatives taken during the tenure of Naidu includes creation of a Reservation Cell for scrutiniz-

ing the promotional proposals, creation of Welfare Section, introduction of Aadhar enabled biometric attendance system (AeBAS) enabling the employees to mark their attendance twice a day on AeBAS machines, introduction of E-Office software package and File Management System of E-Office Module, creation of Vigilance Section in the Secretariat, a Committee for Rationalization of Cadre strength in various grades, the Financial Incentive Scheme, 2021 for acquiring typing proficiency in Hindi/English language, Gradation List 2020 of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

NDA is 'no data available' Govt: Chidambaram

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Tuesday took a swipe at the Modi Government's annual Budget pointing lacunas and termed it "no data available (NDA) Government".

Initiating a discussion on the Union Budget 2022-23, Chidambaram talked over the ruling dispensation's "failure" to have the record on oxygen shortage deaths, corpses floating in rivers and migrants walking back home during the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

Speaking during the discussion, while former prime minister HD Devegowda expressed concern over the planned river linking projects announced in the Union Budget, saying they will cause shortage of drinking water in Karnataka, former bureaucrat turned politician Jawahar Sircar stated this budget institutionalises the difference between classes in India. The TMC Rajya Sabha member also mentioned that nobody gave the government right to sell-off assets the nation created over 70 years

Chidambaram said unemployment is on the rise in the country and questioned the Centre over the steps taken for the welfare of the common people following reduced subsidies for petroleum, fertiliser, food, among others. "Welfare has been thrown to the wind for 142 billionaires of this country," he said.

Chidambaram spoke immediately after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address. He said he was speaking eloquently about jobs and employment, and as on March 31, 2021, there were 8.72 lakh vacancies in the central government and the government made 78,264 recruitments, leaving nearly 8



lakh vacancies. "This is the statistic I hope the prime minister will welcome and use in his next speech," he said.

On Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech, Chidambaram sarcastically said, "The thing I liked about the finance minister's budget speech is that it was the shortest speech of 90 minutes. 'I am a member of the 'Tukde Tukde' gang, which means 'disruption'. I am worried because in this parliament, a question was asked 'who are members of Tukde Tukde gang' and the honourable minister said 'we have no data available on Tukde Tukde gang'," he said.

"I have some data and want the House to look into it. Last year, the finance minister projected the 2021-22 fiscal deficit as 6.8 per cent. I had cautioned them and said it will not be contained at 6.8 per cent and said we would do better than it," he said, adding "they have done better than 6.8 per cent and they have done 6.9 per cent". On the government's plan to raise Rs 6 lakh crore through National Monetisation Pipeline through selling old infrastructure, he said one year has passed and there is no word on that.

"Railways said 151 passenger trains on 109 routes would be bid out to private sector," he said, adding it was responded with "zero bids". "Why do you make these announcements which you do not have capacity to execute?" he asked.

Cong MPs walk out during PM's reply

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress MPs on Monday staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks to President's address, alleging he was only speaking against the Congress and not on the address. Responding to Modi's attack on the grand old party, Congress leaders mentioned it is because of the Congress there is space for Opposition and dissent and that a party of two MPs is today ruling the country.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said that the Prime Minister was evasive on

the real issues in his speech in Parliament and didn't answer his questions. Responding to PM's remarks on former prime minister Jawahar Lal Nehru leaving Goa under imperial rule to save his own image, Rahul said that his great grandfather served the nation for his entire life and he doesn't need any certificates from anyone. "My great grandfather served the country, I don't need anyone's certificate", Rahul Gandhi said.

On PM's calling Congress a 'dynast-first political party working for its benefits', Rahul Gandhi said the BJP is scared of the Congress as the party only speaks truth and it was visible in the Parliament dur-

ing PM Modi's speech.

He further said that it doesn't matter whether Prime Minister attacks Congress or any political leader, what matters is what the BJP and the Prime Minister is doing. Reiterating his Lok Sabha speech, Rahul said that Modi is dividing the country between rich and poor.

He said that PM Modi is also putting India at risk with his bankrupt foreign policy. "He didn't answer my questions. We need to take the China and Pakistan issue seriously. If PM Modi wants to attack Congress or Jawahar Lal Nehru, be my guest but at least do your job properly," Rahul remarked.

Other Opposition leaders from Shiv Sena, RJD and others also regretted the kind of speech the Prime Minister delivered while delivering motion of thanks to the President's speech. Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said in constantly 'abusing' the former PM Jawaharlal Nehru the current regime in a way is an abuse to the citizens of the day who had chosen Nehru as the PM.

RJD member Manoj Jha said politics is at the lowest ebb when leaders of the day who are leading the nation only like questioning his predecessors and never want to be questioned.

Make representation to Govt for extending deadline for internship, SC tells NEET-PG-2022 aspirants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the MBBS students seeking extending one-year internship deadline beyond May 31, criteria for aspirants for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-PG-22, to make a representation to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and Vikram Nath said that looking at the hardship faced by the aspirants, the MoHFW may decide on the representation within one week from the date of its submission.

"Since the issue which has been raised by the petitioners require some element of determining of facts as well as aspects of policy, we are of the view that the ends of justice will be met by permitting the petitioners to submit a representa-

tion to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, setting out the nature of hardship, which is being faced by the students placed similarly to the petitioners", the bench said, adding: "We, therefore, request that the representation be considered expeditiously within one week of its submission". The bench said that it is not expressing any opinion on the issue at this stage.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the MBBS Students, said that the examination has been extended but there is one important criterion that needs to be looked into.

He said that the criteria are that students appearing for the examination have to complete a one-year mandatory internship by May 31, 2022, to be eligible for the NEET-PG-22 examination. "This May 31, the deadline can be extended by a month or two", he said, adding

that many candidates had joined COVID duties and hence could not commence internships early.

The senior advocate further said that different medical institutions have different internship schedules and some started in May 2021, June 2021, or July 2021.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the six students who have filed the petition, had pointed out that postponement of the exam by 6-8 weeks only impacted the larger relief sought by the petitioners but still some issues remain.

He said the issue which remains was that the deadline of May 31, 2022, has been fixed for completion of a one-year internship which was difficult to meet as the doctors after an announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi have got engaged in COVID duty.

Lucknow IED blast: Al-Qaeda operative held by NIA in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested an Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent/Ansar Ghazwatul Hind (AQIS/AGH) operative in a case of conspiracy by Al-Qaeda to conduct an IED blast in Lucknow.

The NIA arrested one accused person namely Tawheed Ahmad Shah of Akbar Colony, Aribagh, Manchowa, police station Chadoora, Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir in connection with investigation of the case, the agency said in a statement.

The case was registered by Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) Uttar Pradesh as FIR 10/2021



on July 11, 2021 at police station ATS Gominagar against the accused persons who had entered into a conspiracy for recruiting members for Al-Qaeda affiliate AGH (Ansar Ghajwatul Hind) and for committing terrorist acts in Lucknow, it said.

Earlier, the NIA had arrested five accused persons in the case against whom chargesheet was filed on November 5.

"Investigation revealed that the arrested accused Tawheed was the mastermind of the conspiracy for recruitment and to commit terrorist acts in the name of AGH; including procurement of arms, ammunition and explosive materials to be used for attacks in UP," it said, adding, further investigation in the case is continuing.

India to bring disease free cheetahs from abroad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Disease-free, behaviourally sound — not overly imprinted to humans but tolerant — predators-wary, and capable of hunting wild prey. These are 'some' of the 'qualities' that the Government is looking for in Cheetahs that it plans to bring from abroad in the country as part of its wild-cat reintroduction plan.

Other qualities that the Cheetahs should have is that they should be in the reproductive age and "socially tolerant of each other", said an official from the Union Ministry of Environment Ministry. It implies that the 12 to 14 cheetahs that are intended to be brought from South Africa/Namibia/Other African Countries over a period of five years should not be "hostile to each other," explained the offi-



cial.

The Ministry has plans to fit such introduced cheetah with satellite/GSM-GPS-VHF radio-collars before their release in the wild so as to enable monitoring remotely.

Under the 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in

India' the Government is mulling to introduce at least 50 Cheetahs in various national parks over five years.

The Ministry is in the process of holding consultation meetings with African countries for bringing Cheetah.

About 12-14 wild Cheetahs

(8-10 males and 4-6 females) for establishing a new cheetah population would be imported, as a founder stock for five years initially and then as may be required by the program, as per the official.

Cheetah is the only large carnivore to have become extinct in the 1950s in India. Initially, the plan to reintroduce cheetahs was in 2021, however, it got delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea to bring back the species was first conceived in 2009 by the then Union Environment Minister Jairam ramesh.

Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, Rs. 38.70 crore has been allocated to the cheetah introduction project for the years 2021-22 to 2025-26, said Union Environment Minister Ashwani Kumar Choubey.

"The primary aim is to

establish a free-ranging population of cheetahs in and around KNP in Madhya Pradesh. Further, this population in KNP will be managed as a metapopulation with other two to three established populations of cheetah in India with occasional 'immigrants' brought in from Africa, as and when needed," notes the Action Plan document prepared by the Ministry to initiate Cheetah reintroduction plan in the country.

The other sites recommended for holding and conservation breeding of cheetah in India, in controlled wild conditions are Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary — Bhainsrorgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, both in Madhya Pradesh, Shahgarh bulge in Jaisalmer, Mukundara Tiger Reserve, both in Rajasthan.

e-Notice for Request for Proposal

No. SSA/MIS/Esst/O&M/50/2022/8848 Date: 08.02.2022

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam invites online RFP from interested trust/private entity/ charitable organization/NGO for implementation of the scheme of operationalization of 97 nos. of Model High Schools in Tea Garden Areas in the State of Assam in a PPP mode and Model Schools will be operationalized from 1st April 2022. These educational institutions under PPP mode will have proper infrastructure and facilities with stipulations on pupil-teachers ratio, ICT usage, holistic educational environment, appropriate curriculum and emphasis on output and outcome.

The RFP document can be downloaded from <https://assamtenders.gov.in> pertaining to eligibility, scope of work, terms and conditions etc., and the interested trust/private entity/ charitable organization/NGO who has downloaded the RFP documents containing the details terms and conditions from the website shall submit their proposal online on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in> with proof of payment of EMD of Rs. 1,00,000/- (One lakh) only valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission in favour of Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam in the form of Demand draft/ Bankers Cheque payable at Guwahati. The RFP should be submitted online with detail proposal on or before the scheduled date and time of submission of RFP. The EMD furnished by the successful trust/ private entity/ charitable organization/NGO will be converted into security deposit and shall be returned on successful completion of contract obligations unless adjusted.

RFP processing fee of Rs. 1000/- (one thousand) only shall have to be furnished in offline mode in the form of Demand Draft/ Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam. To participate in the RFP through online process the interested trust/ private entity/ charitable organization/NGO should have valid Digital Signature Certificate to be registered in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

The RFP will be received online up-to 1.30 PM on 28/02/2022 and will be opened on the same day at 2.30 PM in the office of the Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19. Samagra Shiksha, Assam reserves the right to amend or cancel the RFP without assigning any notice or reason thereof.

Sd/- Executive Director
Samagra Shiksha, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/3249/21

2008 AHMEDABAD SERIAL BLASTS CASE

49 people convicted, 28 set free

20 explosions shook city on July 26; 56 killed, 200 injured in serial blasts

Ahmedabad: A special court here on Tuesday convicted 49 persons in the case related to the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts which had claimed 56 lives and left over 200 injured. In his verdict, which came 13 years after the deadly blasts, special judge A R Patel acquitted 28 accused, giving them the benefit of doubt.

As many as 20 explosions had ripped through the city on July 26, 2008. The hearing on the quantum of punishment for the convicts will start from Wednesday, the court said. Those who were held guilty included Safdar Nagori, Javed Ahmed and Atikur Rehman.

Among those acquitted were Mohammad Irfan, Nasir Ahmad and Shakeel Ahmed. The 49 were convicted under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Explosive Substances Act and the Damage to Public Property Act. One accused was also convicted under the Arms Act.

The accused were convicted under IPC sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 121 (a) (conspiracy to wage war or attempt to wage war against the nation) and 124 (a) (sedition), and section 16(1)(a)(b) of

the UAPA which concerns terrorist acts.

The convicts can attract a maximum punishment of death or imprisonment for life, and the prosecution will seek capital punishment for some of them, said special public prosecutor Amit Patel.

The prosecution argued before the court -- specially designated to conduct trial in the case -- that the blasts were an act of terrorism, he said, adding that as many as 547 charge sheets were filed and 1,163 witnesses examined.

"Twenty-eight other accused were acquitted by the court giving them the benefit of doubt. Details will be clear from the full judgement which we have not yet gone through," the prosecutor said. Of 28 acquitted, all but six have one or more other cases pending against them or are already serving sentences in past cases including under the Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act and cases investigated by the NIA, Patel said.

Hence, only six out of 28 acquitted persons will be released from jail, he added. Further, the trial of four other accused who were arrested later has not started and the

prosecution has sought that they be tried jointly, Patel said.

Among those awaiting trial is Yasin Bhatkal, a leader of the terror organization Indian Mujahideen (IM). According to investigation agencies, the IM was involved in a string of bombings across the country including the 2008 Ahmedabad blasts.

Of 15 wanted accused, two died in police encounter in Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and one died in Kerala. A couple of accused are believed to be hiding in Pakistan.

Three of the acquitted accused were also booked for allegedly digging a tunnel under the Sabarmati jail here in a bid to escape which was foiled by the police in February 2013, Patel said.

The convicts are currently lodged in six jails across India, including 32 in Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad. Others are lodged in jails at Talaja (near Mumbai), Bengaluru, Jaipur, Gaya and Bhopal, officials said.

All 77 accused who were on trial were presented before the

court via video conference on Tuesday. They will remain present in the same way during the hearing on quantum of sen-

tence, prosecutor Patel said. P G Vaghela, one of the investigating officers, said phone calls analysis and human intelligence proved useful in cracking the case.

The trial against 77 accused ended in September 2021. When it began in December 2009, charges had been framed against 78 persons, but one of them turned approver and was granted pardon.

Twenty bombs went off in different areas of Ahmedabad city between 6:32 pm and 7:45 pm on July 26, 2008, killing 56 and injuring 246 others. As many as 29 live bombs were also found in Surat though none of them exploded. The trial was conducted after the court merged all 35 FIRs.

The Gujarat government had transferred the investigation to the Ahmedabad crime branch. Present Gujarat director general of police Ashish Bhatia, who was then joint commissioner of police, had supervised the probe.

A total of nine judges presided over the trial at different times, starting with Bela Trivedi in whose court charges were framed on February 15, 2010.

Justice Trivedi is now a Supreme Court judge. Special

judge A R Patel who delivered the verdict had taken over the trial from June 14, 2017, prosecutor Patel said. Police had claimed that members of the IM, a radicalized faction of the banned Students Islamic

Movement of India (SIMI), were behind the blasts. IM planned the blasts as a revenge for the 2002 post-Godhra riots in Gujarat in which over a thousand persons, most of them from the Muslim community, had died, as per the investigators.

For survivors, the blasts left permanent physical as well as psychological scars. Yash Vyas was only 10 years old when he suffered severe burn injuries in the blast at a hospital ward in Asarva area.

"I am still suffering from partial hearing impairment because of the explosion. I spent nearly four months in the ICU while my father and elder brother Rohan, who was then 12 years old, died in the blast.

I miss them. My mother and grandmother suffered a lot all these years and our struggle still continues," he said. His father Dushyant Vyas was a lab technician in a cancer medical facility located on the civil hospital campus.

Seek forgiveness from people before asking for vote: Didi to BJP

Mamata visits UP to campaign for Samajwadi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday attacked the BJP telling it to ask for forgiveness from people before asking for vote.

Launching a scathing attack on the saffron party on a whole range of issues from an election rally in Uttar Pradesh Banerjee said, "the BJP is asking for votes but before asking for votes they should ask for forgiveness for what was done in Unnao ... They should ask for forgiveness for what happened in Hathras before asking for votes."

Attacking BJP for the enactment of Citizenship Amendment Act Banerjee said, "they are asking for votes but they should ask for forgiveness for the CAA."The Trinamool Congress chief had on Monday left for Lucknow to address a virtual meeting in support of Samajwadi Party.

Raising the farmers' issue, the Bengal Chief Minister asked whether BJP had any repen-

tance for the farmers' death during farm movement. "Have they asked for forgiveness for the farmers' deaths ... First let them ask for forgiveness for that before asking for votes."

Banerjee who was earlier invited by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav to campaign for his party in UP said that her party would have liked to contest against the BJP but decided to refrain from doing so because "there is no point in allowing opposition votes to get divided."

To this Congress Lok Sabha leader and Bengal Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury questioned her "double standards" in Goa and UP."If she knows that division of votes will give BJP a better chance then why the TMC is contesting against the Congress in Goa," the Congress leader asked.

Meanwhile in an unrelated development the infighting continued both in the BJP and TMC over distribution of tickets for the upcoming elections to 108 civic boards if Bengal.

While hundreds of rebel TMC men continued to protest in a dozen of districts the disgruntled BJP workers too protested in Nadia, West Midnapore and other places.

CBI arrests 3 in Bengal for post-poll violence

Kolkata: The CBI, which is probing cases of post-assembly poll violence in Bengal, has arrested three persons in connection with the murder of Biswajit Mahesh, who was known to be a supporter of the BJP, a source in the agency said on Tuesday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had on November 11 last year filed a case against five accused for Mahesh's death in West Midnapore, in compliance with the orders of the Calcutta High Court, the source said.

Mahesh was allegedly attacked with an iron rod and a sword on May 4, 2021, shortly after the declaration of assembly poll results in the state, and his body thrown in a pond.

He was later taken to Sabang hospital, where doctors declared him "brought dead".

The BJP had alleged that workers of the ruling TMC carried out attacks on its activists and supporters, in the aftermath of the elections.

The high court had on August 19 ruled that probe into post-poll violence cases involving rape and murder be held by the CBI, taking note of an NHRC report in the matter. **PTI**

TN Assembly passes anti-NEET Bill again; Bill with Guv for nod

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday adopted again, the anti-NEET Bill, returned days ago to the Government by Governor RN Ravi and the ruling DMK and principal opposition AIADMK reaffirmed their opposition to the test based on the Dravidian ideology.

Chief Minister M K Stalin labelled NEET a killer exam and said he believed that the Governor would forward without any delay the Bill re-adopted, now to the President for his assent.

"It is the Constitutional duty of the Governor to forward it to the President. I think and expect the Governor to do that duty hereafter at least," he said.

The Bill was passed followed discussions that stretched to 3 hours and the test was yet again dismissed by Stalin as one that went against the principles of Constitution including social justice and equality.

As per the Constitution, the action of Ravi in sending back the Bill to the Assembly was not a correct decision, the government said.

The CM targeted the governor on the return of the Bill and said it raised questions over

Centre-state relations. He wondered if the action of the governor in sending back the Bill that was enacted based on a policy decision and which was passed by a duly elected government, did not go against the principle of democracy.

He said the governor was only an appointee, apparently pointing to the supremacy of a duly elected government. If this was the case, "believing whom would the people vote, based on what belief would people vote?" he asked.

Citing the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-state relations, he said the governor should forward a Bill, if it contradicted a law passed by Parliament, to the President immediately for his assent if advised by the state cabinet. The governor must abide by the advice of the council of ministers, he said.

The TN Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill was passed on September 13, 2021 by the Assembly. On Tuesday, it was adopted amid thumping of desks and Speaker M Appavu announced that it has been adopted unanimously.

The Speaker said the Bill would be sent to Raj Bhavan

today to forward it to the Centre to get Presidential assent.

Stalin implied DMK's long standing opposition to the institution of governor by citing a remark made in 1967 by party founder and late Chief Minister, CN Annadurai. "I believe that our governor will not create such a situation," He expressed confidence that Ravi would forward the Bill to the President without any delay.

Stalin apparently slammed the governor for returning the Bill and said by sending it back, the right of Tamil Nadu and the Assembly's sovereignty have been questioned. It was an attack on the state's autonomy and the doctrine of cooperative federalism has been turned topsy-turvy and that is a matter of grief and concern, he said. Earlier, the BJP led by its floor leader Nainar Nagenthiran staged a walkout raising its objection to the move. The resolution for the passage of the Bill was piloted by Stalin. The Chief Minister, referring to the communique of the governor on the return of the Bill on February 1, said the reasons adduced by him were not correct.

Ravi, citing the Justice AK Rajan panel recommendations



Students hold placards as they stage a protest against Tamil Nadu Governor's stand on anti-NEET Bill, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday **PTI**

on NEET, said they were based on "guess," but it was data-driven and based on the opinions furnished by nearly one lakh people, Stalin said.

Reiterating his government's stand against the qualifying test, the CM said "NEET is not an education system but only a system to coach medical aspirants." The test favoured private coaching institutions which collected lakhs from students.

"We are seeking exemption from NEET for the sake of students who could not spend so much money to get coached," Stalin said.

NEET obstructed the education right of poor and ordinary students. He pointed to the national test related irregularities and arrests which also includes impersonation and a CBI case. NEET, which witnessed bungling, was brought to sideline poor and ordinary students in the name of qualification.

"That is why we are opposing it and seeking exemption. Rather than a test, it is a killer of students. It is not a test but an altar," he said and referred to aspirants including Ariyalur Anitha who had died by suicide after failing to crack the test.

Kerala HC upholds Centre's ban on Malayalam news channel Media One

KOCHI: Justice N Nagesh of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday upheld the order issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting revoking the license of Media One, a Malayalam news channel owned by Madhyamam Broadcasting Ltd. The channel authorities and the Kerala Union of Working Journalists in a writ petition had sought the dismissal of the Centre's order revoking the license.

Though the order was issued last month, Justice Nagesh had allowed the channel to continue broadcasting pending reply from the ministry. The judge had asked the ministry to submit in a sealed cover the reasons for

revoking the license of the channel. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry had told the court that the revoking of the license was based on inputs provided by the intelligence agencies to the Union Home Ministry. The Ministry of Home Affairs had passed on the input to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry which in turn revoked the channel's license.

The MIB in a sealed cover had submitted to the court the details provided by the MHA that led it to take the decision. Justice Nagesh in his order on Tuesday said that a perusal of the intelligence information found that the ministry's denial of license to the company was

in tune with the intelligence inputs. "Going through the files, I found that the Ministry has called for intelligence inputs. Based on the intelligence inputs, the committee of officers has found that security clearance should not be given. The Ministry has decided to accept the finding of the Committee of officers. There are inputs justifying the denial of security clearance to the channel. Therefore I am dismissing the writ petition," said the Judge.

Later, the channel authorities said in a release that it was closing down the transmission and would approach a Division Bench challenging the Single Bench order. **PNS**

Bishop, 5 other priests held in sand mining case in Tirunelveli

CHENNAI: Seventy-year-old Samuel Mar Irenious, bishop of Syro Malankara Catholic Church, and five other priests of the Church were arrested by the CB-CID officials of Tamil Nadu Police from Tirunelveli on Saturday.

The arrest is based on a directive by the Madras High Court following complaints given by environmental activists in Tirunelveli who alleged about illegal sand mining and quarrying taking place along the banks of Thaamarabharani river including the 300 acre stretch of land owned by the Syro Malankara Church.

Bishop Irenious and a priest by name Jose Chamalkkala complained of uneasiness immediately after the arrest and were hospi-

talised. The other four persons were presented before a court in Tirunelveli and were remanded and sent them to the sub-jail.

According to a media release issued by the Bishop's Palace, the Church owns 300 acres of land at Ambasamudram on the banks of Thamarabharani River and it has been given on lease to one Manuel George. George has been cultivating the land but following the outbreak of Covid-19, the Church officials were in the dark about the goings on in the land. The Church had initiated moves to get the land back from George following complaints of illegal sand mining in the land. Efforts were on to get the Bishop and others released on bail. **PNS**

Assam Govt submits affidavit on police encounters in HC

Guwahati: The Assam Government has filed a detailed affidavit on the police encounters before the Gauhati High Court as sought by it last month.

The high court on Tuesday deferred the hearing of a public interest litigation (PIL) related to the incidents till February 10.

Hearing the PIL, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Soumitra Saikia had on January 11 asked the state government to file the affidavit on the police encounters that have been taking place since the BJP returned to power in May last year.

"The Assam government filed the affidavit yesterday as

sought by the high court. The court has now decided to hear the case on "Thursday," state Advocate General Devajit Lon Saikia told PTI.

The Assam government had on January 25 failed to submit the affidavit and the court, giving it more time, deferred hearing of the case till Tuesday.

Besides the Assam government, state police DGP, law and justice department, National Human Rights Commission and Assam Human Rights Commission have been named as respondents in the PIL filed by advocate Arif Md Yeasin Jwadder.

The petitioner sought an enquiry into the encounters by an independent agency such as CBI, SIT or any police team

from other states under the supervision of the court.

He has also sought a judicial enquiry by a sitting Judge of the Gauhati High Court in the incidents and monetary compensation to the victims' families after due verification.

Jwadder claimed in the PIL that more than 80 fake encounters between Assam Police and alleged accused have taken place since May last year, when Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took charge, resulting in 28 deaths and more than 48 injuries.

The people killed or injured were not dreaded criminals and the modus operandi of the police had been the same in all the encounters, the PIL claimed. **PTI**

Maha Cong slams PM remark on Covid spread

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Charging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had — in his speech made in Lok Sabha on Monday — "insulted" the 12 crore people of Maharashtra through his "false" accusation that the State Government had contributed to the spread of Covid-19 infection, the State Congress on Tuesday demanded an apology from Modi.

Talking to media persons here, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole said that his party would stage a demonstration in front of the BJP

offices in the state to demand an apology for making "false" allegations against the State Government. "Congress party workers will hold demonstrations in front of BJP offices tomorrow. If the BJP leaders in the state have any respect for Maharashtra, they should also protest against the Prime Minister's statement. Otherwise they will be recorded as traitors in the history of the state," Patole said.

Accusing Modi of being the "main spreader" of the Covid-19 Patole said: "By attending events like Namaste

Trump during the early days of the pandemic, Narendra Modi is the real spreader of the Covid19 virus in the country. Those migrant workers who are being referred to as Covid spreaders by Modiji are the real Covid warriors".

"When the workers were suffering, rather than easing their woes, the Prime Minister was appealing to the public to light lamps and beat plates. He himself was busy feeding the peacocks inside his residence. He had left the common man to fend for himself during the pandemic and was more concerned

about his industrialist friends who were being distributed public own assets of the country," the State Congress chief said.

Patole said that since the people of Maharashtra unseated the BJP from power, all BJP leaders from the state to Delhi were showing their hatred against the state by hatching false conspiracies to discredit the state. "But, the Prime Minister has crossed all the boundaries. He has not only displayed his hatred for the state but he has also insulted Maharashtra. He has forgotten that he is the Prime Minister for the whole

country. By making such statements, he has done away with the dignity of the PM's post and has reduced the post to that of a BJP campaigner".

Recalling the initiatives taken by the MVA government to deal with the Covid-19 situation in general and migrant workers in particular, Patole said that the Uddhav Thackeray dispensation helped everyone in distress at that time. "Arrangements were made to provide meals and tickets to the workers and laborers to ensure that they were escorted safely and with full dignity to their homes".



Students pray after they attend a class at 'Paray Sikshalaya', an outdoor learning initiative started by the West Bengal Government to follow all Covid-19 protocols, for students under VIII standard, in Kolkata on Tuesday **PTI**

FIRST COLUMN

ART IN THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC

There's *the* question: Have we entered a new era of artistic expression?



GUNJAN SHRIVASTAVA

What does the pandemic mean for an artist in India today? ‘Survive, evolve, and thrive’ has been the mantra of the last few years, and never has it been more evident than in the world of art. Given the expansive nature of the creative spectrum in India, the art industry has painstakingly tried to build and create an ecosystem that nurtured talent and inspiration. From galleries, studios, creators, curators, and the likes, recognition has always been the ultimate goal and an arduous task at that. The ‘starving artist’ was never just a moniker, but a written description of the economic uncertainty and challenging circumstances that come with being an artist. So when the pandemic arrived in all its disruptive glory - the art world was shaken and forced yet again to refocus and rebuild. In the face of adversity and these challenging times, grit and agility were the need of the



hour, and artists, as well as the art community, rose to the occasion. But in this new normal, what could artists look forward to? Going digital was no longer an option but a means of self-preservation. And while the beginning of this change seemed uncomfortable, what it did do was, introduce unique opportunities for the art community to interact, collaborate and create in newer, more engaging ways. Institutions, organizations, and gallerists have now turned to virtual galleries to spotlight new and upcoming talent, while artists use social media as a launchpad to present new collections. For artists that use performance as a form of expression, hybrid models that combines a physical stage with a virtual audience have helped in keeping the art alive and thriving. The digital debut of the critically acclaimed play Sea Wall by Simon Stephens, starring Jim Sarbh, proves just that. In fact, the digital revolution has broken down geographical boundaries and has given Indian artists the opportunity to present their work on a more global scale. The series of digital initiatives launched by the Serendipity Arts Foundation in 2020 are perfect examples of this shift and evolution. Furthermore, the pandemic has changed the narrative of expression and served almost as an inspiration to create for a lot of artists. Take, for example, Mumbai-based artist, Dhruvi Acharya who found solace in creating a series of watercolor on paper paintings that depicted the tremendous struggles of migrant workers, medics, and people in general, during the pandemic. In fact, this new normal even gave local artists an opportunity to showcase their skill and talent. Delhi’s first street art gallery in the Lodhi Art District which was reserved and intended for international graffiti artists now adorns pandemic-themed murals created by local talent. Thus, raising the question, have we entered a new era of artistic expression?

With that said there are still a lot of development and preventive measures that need to be ushered in, in order to try and alleviate the impact of unforeseen events like COVID-19 on India’s artists. India’s creative economy continues to be significantly fragmented and while digital communities like the ArtX Company or C3 are working to bring some semblance of order, there needs to be an overall framework in place to support India’s artistic community. The pandemic presented an almost dichotomous proposal to artists in India. It brought inconceivable havoc while also posing as a catalyst of incredible change and opportunity. On the one hand, artists had to face the loss of a sense of home, with galleries, studios, and theatres being shut down, but on the other, the digital realm opened up new possibilities, presented a gateway to a wider audience, and even in some instances ‘inspired’.

(The writer is a professional artist, educator and co-founder of You Lead India Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

Support grassroots student innovations

Local needs generate curiosity among students. That needs to be sustained by Government efforts to result in scientific innovation



BIJU DHARMAPALAN



KAPIL K. TRIPATHI

Science progresses not through our research institutions alone but through the success of innovations made by a layman without having any scientific knowledge. The best innovations come from our rural folk who live with nature. It is the need and necessity that generate curiosity in the minds of humans. This curiosity, in turn, triggers his response to tide over adverse situations. Our scientists who sit within the four walls of research institutions rarely follow nature’s clues to identify a scientific problem. They usually depend on published research papers to locate a problem.

Most of them rarely accept anything that is not published in scientific journals or think out of the box. There will not be any precedence to do work in that area in such instances. That means there will not be any reference material to start the work. Science survives only through innovations; for that, our scientists should come out of the lab and see the problems that affect society. They have to work to find a solution for that.

Students, especially school children, have good observation power, and they continually formulate questions in their minds. Often, they ask these questions, often treated as absurd questions, to their teachers. There are only very few teachers in our education system who entertains such nasty questions from students. It’s these questions that awaken the pursuit of innovation among the students. To promote such innovations from our curious minds, the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India has started the ‘Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research’ (INSPIRE) Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge).

DST is executing this award through National Innovation Foundation - India (NIF), an autonomous body of DST, which aims to motivate students of classes 6 to 10. This award scheme aims to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children. Under this scheme, schools can nominate the five best original ideas/innovations of students. The top 1,00,000 ideas received that can address societal needs through Science & Technology are shortlisted by NIF. The shortlisted students will get INSPIRE Award of INR 10,000.

It is always an inspiration to go through the paths taken by our young researchers. How have they identified a problem? How do they pursue the work despite difficulties? What are the challenges they faced? How their parents and teachers support them? All these can have bearing on the next-generation innovators.

These questions that crept into the mind of our young innovators are answered through the programme Vigyanveer. It is a popular science programme telecast on the



IT’S HEARTENING TO NOTICE THAT OUR YOUNG MINDS HAVE TOUCHED UPON EVERY ISSUE AN ORDINARY CITIZEN OF OUR COUNTRY ENCOUNTERS IN THEIR DAILY LIFE. THE VAST AREA OF THEIR RESEARCH SHOWS THAT INDIA INDEED HAS BIG BRAINS FOR THE FUTURE. THEIR ONLY SATISFACTION IS THAT THEY HAVE DEVELOPED SOMETHING FOR SOCIETY, FOR THE NATION

(Dharmapalan is a science writer. Tripathi is as Scientist F at Vigyan Prasar, Govt. of India, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



India Science Channel, managed by Vigyan Prasar, DST. This science series is specially designed to propagate and popularise the innovations of students who won the prestigious INSPIRE Award MANAK. In each series, one award-winning innovation and its innovator are showcased.

Amazingly, most of our young innovators have identified problems from their day-to-day experiences. One of the episodes of Vigyanveer highlights K. Shrawani, a student of Bibinagar village in Telangana, who understood the risk faced by farmers during farming and made a life-saving device for them. Increasing electrical energy generation is an area of concern. Riddhi Tiwari, a student of the Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh, has developed a unique model that can increase the electricity generating capacity of standard solar power panels.

Similarly, Jitendra, a student living in a village in Rajasthan, developed an automatic swing. This swing takes care of children when their parents do fieldwork and protects children from any unknown danger.

Another student M. Abhishek, from Telangana, made a machine that can be used to fill grains in sacks in less time and without much effort. This unique innovation saves the farmers’ time and reduces the labour involved in loading the grain. Vandana Kumari, a student of Mahuakheda village of Etah, Uttar Pradesh, made a unique device to solve her father’s troubles in plucking fruits from trees full of thorns.

Microscope holds a vital role in understanding fundamental biological concepts in science education. Even though children from city-

bred schools are fortunate to have the hands-on experience, many schools in rural regions of the country don’t have many laboratory facilities. When Ananya Singh realized that many students don’t have a facility like a microscope for their studies, she developed a low-cost microscope from waste plastic bottles. She named this as ‘Plastoscope’, which is low cost and can be easily carried in a school bag. Managing a house is a tedious task for our homemakers. For helping his mother, Shailendra from Udaipur, Rajasthan, has developed an automatic device to help her mother clean the house.

Similarly, Dharmendra Yadav, a student living in the Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh, created a unique movable toilet after seeing the difficulties of his grandmother. Vibha, a student from Karnataka, developed a fantastic innovation that will reduce fuel consumption in the kitchen and reduce the cooking time. Navshri Thakur, a student of Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, designed a unique machine to ease her mother’s trouble in the kitchen. This machine can do many tasks in the kitchen together, and it does not even require electricity to run.

Manual scavenging is an inhuman attitude prevailing in our society. Many oppressed members of our community are cleaning the public toilets without any safety measures. Sulochana Kakodia, a student from a tribal-dominated area of Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh named Gummach Khamaria, took the problem of manual toilet cleaning as her inspiration and made a machine that can clean the toilet without touching hands. Similarly, Ayush, a student from Bangalore, discovered a unique way to prevent accidents due to open manholes.

Many people are living with disabilities. To support such ‘divyagyan’, students have developed innovative technologies. K Sreeja, a student of Godavarikhani, Telangana, has made such a unique cap and stick that can bring a new ray of hope to the lives of blind people. Mainuddin, living in the Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh, has developed a leg-controlled computer mouse that will make disabled people work with a computer. Similarly, Madhav Lavakare, a Delhi student, understands the pain of deaf people and invented smart glasses. With the help of Transcribe Glass, deaf people can easily understand what a person is saying in front of them.

Safety issues of women and older people are always a matter of concern. Siddhi Pandey, a student living in Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, has created a device to solve the problem of molestation. This device will surprise the maniacs who harass women and bring them to the ground by giving them an electric shock. Parv Kapoor, a student living in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, saw his grandfather’s troubles and significantly made a digital security alarm watch to help the elderly.

It is heartening to notice that our young minds have touched upon every issue an ordinary citizen of our country encounters in their daily life. The vast area of their research shows that India indeed has big brains for the future. Their only satisfaction is that they have developed something for the society, something for the nation. This is evident from their smiling faces. The instincts create curiosity in these young people, and we need to carry forward these basic scientific instincts to build a self-reliant country.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THESE CRIMINALS WHO HAD FLED UP ARE ITCHING TO COME BACK. THEY WANT TO SEEK REVENGE...THEY WANT TO ENSURE DIVISION IN THE NAME OF CASTE.
— PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



BIJNOR MEIN DHOOP KHIL RAHI HAI, LEKIN BHAJAPA KA MAUSAM KHARAB HAI (MODI DIDN’T TRAVEL TO BIJNOR DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER).
— RLD CHIEF JAYANT CHAUDHARY

Unity lessons for Congress, Opposition for 2024

If the Opposition is to survive, it must rebuild itself from the States upward. The current five State Assembly polls are crucial in this regard

India is missing an effective Opposition at the Centre and in States as it tries to check the surge of ruling BJP. Political equations often change before polls as enemies become friends and vice-versa. BSP and Congress came together in 1996. SP and the BSP came together in the early nineties, and Congress and SP joined hands in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

When the situation requires, opposition parties do not mind combining to check the ruling party as multi-cornered contests only give the ruling party a chance for victory as the votes are splintered.

If the Opposition is to survive, it must rebuild itself from the states upward. The current five state Assembly polls are crucial in this regard.



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

Putting up a joint candidate against BJP or tactical understanding within the Opposition parties would have had more victory. It does not mean that the entire Opposition should come together, but a broad coalition would have gone a long way.

There are many reasons for the disunity among the opposition parties. Congress has failed to lead the Opposition as a pan-national party since 2014. The party continues to live in its past glory while the regional satraps feel they are much more effective in opposing BJP in their respective states.

The challenge before the Opposition is how to defeat BJP. Although the 2024 Lok Sabha elections are two and half years away, BJP has already



started making moves. These five state Assembly polls are crucial because they will indicate the direction for the future. BJP wants to retain UP at all costs. As the Congress weakens, India misses a strong, credible national opposition inside and outside Parliament.

While individually, each opposition party talks about the need for unity, they seem

to be more at war within their respective parties rather than taking on the ruling party.

Many leaders like Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal, Yogi Adityanath are ambitious and nurture prime ministerial ambitions. But what is crucial is who or which party dominates India’s Opposition in the future. Unfortunately for Congress, the party is now a junior partner in a coalition while regional parties play a significant role in their respective states. That is where the competition lies.

There is war within Congress. The party faces factionalism and indiscipline. There is erosion and infighting in UP and Punjab as senior leaders from ‘Team Rahul’ like Jitin Prasada and RPN Singh has left for BJP. To humour

cricketer Navjot Sidhu, the Gandhi siblings foolishly sacked chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh though the party could have easily won Punjab.

Congress and BSP fight for the same groups. In UP, it is the Dalit and Brahmin votes. AAP and SAD are principal opponents of Congress in Punjab. AIMIM and Congress compete for the minority vote in Telangana. Congress and Aam Admi Party are rivals in UP, Punjab, and Goa.

Congress has spurned the offer of NCP and Shiv Sena (its Maharashtra coalition partners) to form a front in Goa. Mamata Banerjee never misses a chance to make snide remarks against Congress. So does Mayawati, but she attacks both SP and the Congress in

UP.

Then there are ego clashes among the regional chieftains. The regional satraps are not keen to work under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. The Opposition needs a new narrative and effective strategy to win. While BJP has cornered the committed Hindu vote, there are floating Hindu votes. It cannot succeed without the support of a section of Hindus. Rahul Gandhi perhaps realizes this, which is why he has been talking of a difference between Hindutva and Hinduism.

With a proper strategy and strong leadership, the Congress could regain its lost glory. For instance, in 180 sets of 542 in Lok Sabha, the fight is direct between Congress and the BJP. There are over 350

seats where the regional parties are dominant, including states like Uttar Pradesh (80), Maharashtra (48), West Bengal (42), Bihar (40), Tamil Nadu (39), Andhra Pradesh (25), Odisha (21) and Telangana (17), etc. They are Madhya Pradesh (29), Karnataka (28), Gujarat (26), Rajasthan (25), Assam (14), Punjab (13), Chhattisgarh (11) and Haryana (10), etc.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a secret weapon. The weak Congress party and disunited Opposition keep BJP in power. So, part of the solution is within the hands of the opposition. Instead of fighting among themselves, the opposition needs to unite in a healthy democracy. Unless the opposition parties BJP is likely to return in 2024.

Macron tries to defuse Ukraine crisis; no breakthrough so far

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

French President Emmanuel Macron brought his diplomatic effort to defuse the crisis over Ukraine to its capital of Kyiv on Tuesday, a day after hours of talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin yielded no apparent breakthrough.

Macron met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as fears of a possible Russian invasion mount. Moscow has massed over 100,000 troops near Ukraine's borders, but insists it has no plans to attack.

The Kremlin wants guarantees from the West that NATO will not accept Ukraine and other former Soviet nations as members, that it halt weapon deployments there and roll back its forces from Eastern Europe — demands the U.S. and NATO reject as non-starters.

Western leaders in recent weeks have engaged in multiple rounds of diplomacy in the hope of de-escalating the tensions and preventing an attack. High-level talks have taken place against the backdrop of military drills in Russia and Belarus. On Tuesday, Russia's Defense Ministry said six large landing ships were moving

from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea for exercises. Macron's talks with Putin on Monday lasted more than five hours, and the French leader told reporters that they allowed him to ensure that "there's no degradation and no (further) escalation." He said he did not expect Putin to make any "gestures", saying his objective was to "prevent an escalation and open new perspectives. ... That objective is met."

Macron said Putin "set a collective trap" when he initiated the exchange of written documents with the U.S. Moscow submitted its demands to Washington in the form of draft agreements that were released to the public, and insisted on a written response, which was leaked to the press.

"In the history of diplomacy, there was never a crisis that has been settled by exchanges of letters which are to be made public afterward," he said, adding that is why he decided to travel to Moscow for direct talks.

Putin said after the meeting that the U.S. and NATO ignored Moscow's demands, but signaled his readiness to continue talking. NATO, U.S. and European leaders flatly reject the demands that they say

challenge NATO's core principles, like shutting the door to Ukraine or other countries that might seek membership; but they have offered to talk about other Russian security concerns in Europe.

Putin warned that Ukraine membership in NATO could trigger a war between Russia and the alliance should Kyiv move to retake the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014. In that case, he said, European countries would be drawn into a military conflict with Russia where "there will be no winners."

U.S. President Joe Biden has said that any prospect of Ukraine entering NATO "in the near term is not very likely," but he and other NATO member nations and NATO itself refuse to rule out Ukraine's entry into the alliance at a future date. Biden met in Washington on Monday with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who also will travel to Kyiv and Moscow on Feb. 14-15.

Biden vowed that the Nord Stream 2 Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline, which has been completed but is not yet operating, will be blocked "if Russia invades, that means tanks and troops crossing the border of Ukraine again."

Biden threatens: No gas pipeline if Russia invades Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

In a flurry of diplomacy across two continents, President Joe Biden met with Germany's new leader Monday and vowed the crucial Nord Stream 2 Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline will be blocked if Russia further invades Ukraine.

Russia's Vladimir Putin retorted that the U.S. And its allies are the only ones talking invasion. Putin and French President

Emmanuel Macron met for more than five hours in Moscow at the same time Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke at the White House in efforts to defuse the crisis before armed conflict breaks out. Russia has massed thousands of troops at the Ukraine border, adding military might almost daily.

The White House has expressed increasing alarm about the prospects of war, and Biden has been looking to solidify support among

European allies for economy-jarring sanctions against Russia if it attacks. "If Russia invades, that means tanks and troops crossing the border of Ukraine again, then there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2," Biden said. "We will bring an end to it." That would hurt Russia economically but also cause supply problems for Germany.

Construction of the pipeline has been completed, but it is not yet operating. "We are jointly ready, and all of NATO is ready," Biden said, referring to the powerful Western alliance, though Ukraine is not a member.

While Biden reiterated with certitude that the pipeline would not move forward, Scholz stressed the need to keep some ambiguity about sanctions in order to press Russia to de-escalate the crisis. "It's necessary for Russia to understand that a lot more could happen than they've perhaps calculated with themselves," Scholz said.

Mauritius presses claim versus UK for Indian Ocean islands

AP ■ BANGKOK

A delegation from Mauritius is set to sail Tuesday to the Chagos Islands to press the country's claim for the strategically important Indian Ocean archipelago, which is also claimed by Britain and is home to an American military base.

It is the first time Mauritius has embarked upon an expedition to the islands without seeking the permission of the United Kingdom. Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said in a statement, adding it is a "concrete step" in "exercising its sovereignty and sovereign rights in relation to the Chagos Archipelago."

Those rights were strengthened in 2019 by a non-binding opinion from the International Criminal Court, which said that Britain had unlawfully carved up Mauritius, an archipelago nation whose main island is some 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) off the southeast coast of Africa.

The Chagos islands were a part of Mauritius until Britain separated them a few years before Mauritius became independent from British colonial rule in 1968. The United Nations General Assembly followed that opinion with a resolution two months later demanding that Britain end its "colonial administration" of the Chagos Islands, which



Protesters hold banners outside World Court in The Hague, Netherlands, Sept. 3, 2018, where judges listen to arguments in a case on whether Britain illegally maintains sovereignty over Chagos Islands. A delegation from Mauritius was sailing Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, to the Chagos Islands to press country's claim for strategically important Indian Ocean archipelago, which is also claimed by Britain and is home to an American military base (AP Photo/Mike Corder, File)

include U.S. military base on Diego Garcia, and return them to Mauritius. Even Pope Francis weighed in, saying that Britain should obey the U.N. resolution.

Thus far, however, Britain, which calls archipelago a "British Indian Ocean Territory," has refused to abide by non-binding decisions. It has argued that Chagos archipelago has been under its sovereignty since 1814 and that its continued presence there is strategically important. Britain's Foreign Office did not immediately respond to requests for comment on current expedition. In his statement, Jugnauth recalled ICJ ruling and said that

"continued administration of the Chagos archipelago by the United Kingdom constituted a wrongful act." His office did not immediately respond to an email seeking further comment.

Jugnauth has repeatedly said that ending British administration, however, would have no implications for the U.S. military base at Diego Garcia, which he has said Mauritius is committed to maintaining.

Britain sealed a deal in 1966 allowing U.S. to use Diego Garcia for defense purposes. The United States maintains a base there for aircraft and ships and has backed Britain in legal dispute with Mauritius.

US and Russia clash over use and impact of UN sanctions

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United States and its allies clashed with Russia and China in U.N. Security Council on Monday over the usefulness and impact of U.N. sanctions, which are currently imposed on countries from North Korea to Yemen and Congo as well as al-Qaida and Islamic State extremist groups and their affiliates and supporters.

Russia, which holds council presidency this meeting and chose the topic -- preventing humanitarian and unintended consequences of sanctions -- also lashed out at unilateral

sanctions imposed by United States, European Union and other countries and groups. U.N. political chief Rosemary DiCarlo told council there are 14 U.N. sanctions regimes: As examples, in Libya, Mali, South Sudan and Yemen they support conflict resolution; in Guinea Bissau they aim to deter unconstitutional changes of government; in Central African Republic, Congo and Somalia they curb illicit exploitation of natural resources that fund armed groups; in North Korea, they target proliferation activities; and they constrain Islamic State and al-Qaida terrorist threats.

DiCarlo said U.N. sanctions are no longer "blunt instrument they once were." Since 1990s, they have undergone changes to minimize possible adverse consequences on civilians and third countries, and Security Council has included and provided humanitarian exemptions in most sanctions regimes, she said. Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador

Dmitry Polyansky, who chaired meeting, said many sanctions regimes interfere with plans for state-building and economic development, pointing to Central African Republic and Sudan and calling measures on Guinea Bissau "anachronistic."

The Security Council needs "to take greater heed of what authorities of states under sanctions think" and be more realistic in setting benchmarks to lift them to make sure they don't turn into "a mission impossible," he said.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield countered that sanctions are "a potent tool" that "make it harder for terrorists to raise funds via international financial systems," and have slowed development of "certain capabilities" in North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Sanctions also "constrain resources of those who would spoil peace processes, threaten UN peacekeepers, commit atrocities, and obstruct humanitarian assistance," she said.

White House: Top scientist resigns over treatment of staff

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden's top science adviser Eric Lander resigned, hours after the White House confirmed that an internal investigation found credible evidence that he mistreated his staff, marking the first Cabinet-level departure of the Biden administration.

An internal review last year, prompted by a workplace complaint, found evidence that Lander, the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and science adviser to Biden, bullied staffers and treated them disrespectfully.

The White House rebuked Lander over his interactions with his staff, but initially signaled Monday that he would be allowed to remain on the job, despite Biden's Inauguration Day assertion that he expected "honesty and decency" from all who worked for his administration and would fire anyone who shows

disrespect to others "on the spot." But later Monday evening, press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden had accepted Lander's resignation with "gratitude for his work at OTSP on the pandemic, the Cancer Moonshot, climate change, and other key priorities."

Lander, in his resignation letter, said, "I am devastated that I caused hurt to past and present colleagues by the way in which I have spoken to them." "I believe it is not possible to continue effectively in my role, and the work of this office is far too important to be hindered," he added.

The White House said Biden did not request Lander's resignation. Earlier Monday, Psaki said senior administration officials had met with Lander about his actions and management of the office, but indicated he would be allowed to stay in the job, saying the administration was following a "process" to handle workplace complaints.

UN: 13 million people face severe hunger in Horn of Africa

AP ■ KAMPALA, UGANDA

Drought conditions have left an estimated 13 million people facing severe hunger in the Horn of Africa, according to the United Nations World Food Program.

People in a region including Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya face the driest conditions recorded since 1981, the agency reported Tuesday, calling for immediate assistance to forestall a major humanitarian crisis.

Drought conditions are affecting pastoral and farming communities across southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, south-eastern and northern Kenya, and south-central Somalia. Malnutrition rates are high in the region. WFP said it needs \$327 million to look after the urgent needs of 4.5 million people over the next six months and help communities become more resilient to extreme climate shocks.

"Three consecutive failed rainy seasons have decimated crops and caused abnormally high livestock deaths," it said in a statement. "Shortages of water and pasture are forcing families from their homes and leading to increased conflict between communities."

China locks down southern city as omicron surges

AP ■ BEIJING

China has ordered inhabitants of the southern city of Baize to stay home and suspended transportation links amid a surge in COVID-19 cases at least partly linked to the omicron variant.

Classes have been suspended, non-essential businesses closed and mass testing of residents ordered. Restaurants are only permitted to serve take-out. Traffic lights have been switched to red only to remind drivers to stay home.

As of Tuesday, 135 cases had been reported in the city — at least two of them found to be omicron, health authorities said. The city has become the latest to be placed under lockdown in keeping with China's "zero-tolerance" approach to the pandemic. The policy requires strict measures be applied even when only a small number of cases have been found.

A major concern is preventing outbreaks during the ongoing Beijing Winter Olympic Games. No new cases were reported in the Chinese capital on Tuesday. More than 30 athletes at the Beijing Olympics are in isolation facilities after testing positive for the coronavirus, organizers said

Tuesday. The average stay in isolation is seven days. Baize has an urban population of about 1.4 million, with another 3 million in the large surrounding rural area that abuts the Vietnamese border.

State media reported customs clearance at crossing points of Longbang and Pingmeng were delayed, causing further disruptions to cross-border trade that have already inflicted major losses on Vietnamese fruit farmers who rely on the Chinese market for much of their revenue.

The first cases in Baize were reported Saturday at the tail end of Lunar New Year holiday, when many Chinese travel vast distances to their hometowns. For third year running, the government asked people to remain in place to avoid a major spread, although such calls had only a slight effect on numbers of trips taken.

Despite occasional regional outbreak, China has largely brought pandemic under control through lockdowns, mass testing, case tracing, mask mandates and other strict measures. Almost 85% of population is fully vaccinated, according to Our World in Data, although questions have been raised about efficacy of Chinese vaccines, particularly against omicron strain.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh. Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Somya Jain (Borrower) LBNOD00002007549	C-3/125, Tower- C3, 12th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Area- 1555 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 71,02,820/- as on December 24, 2021.	Rs. 31,00,000/- Rs.3,10,000/-	February 15, 2022 From 12 Noon to 03:00 PM	February 24, 2022, From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Dharmendra Kumar (Borrower) Sumita Singh (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002029333	C-4/121, Tower- C4, 12th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Area- 1548 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 68,12,485/- as on December 24, 2021.	Rs. 31,00,000/- Rs.3,10,000/-	February 15, 2022 From 12 Noon to 03:00 PM	February 24, 2022, From 11:30 AM Onwards
3.	Dharmendra Kumar (Co Borrowers) Sumita Singh (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002030018	D-5/134, Tower- D5, 13th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Area- 1207 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 60,90,428/- as on December 24, 2021.	Rs. 25,00,000/- Rs.2,50,000/-	February 15, 2022 From 12 Noon to 03:00 PM	February 24, 2022, From 12:00 Noon Onwards
4.	Mange Ram Jain (Borrower) Anamika Jain (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002011506	D-2/134, Tower- D2, 13th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Area- 1207 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 54,15,438/- as on December 24, 2021.	Rs. 25,00,000/- Rs.2,50,000/-	February 15, 2022 From 12 Noon to 03:00 PM	February 24, 2022, From 12:30 PM Onwards
5.	Mange Ram Jain (Borrower) Anamika Jain (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002029715	D-2/131, Tower- D2, 13th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Area- 1207 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 52,77,616/- as on December 24, 2021.	Rs. 25,00,000/- Rs.2,50,000/-	February 15, 2022 From 12 Noon to 03:00 PM	February 24, 2022, From 01:00 PM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com/>) of our auction agency **M/S NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **February 23, 2022** before **05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005**, and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **February 23, 2022** before **05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005**, or before **February 23, 2022** before **05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/ IPO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**.

NOTE: The corrigendum published on February 2, 2022 in THE PIONEER- HINDI page no. 3 and THE PIONEER- ENGLISH page no. 8 to postpone the auction till February 28, 2022 stands cancelled and henceforth the said corrigendum has no relevance to the scheduled auction.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284** or **M/S NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029966/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1.M/S NexXen Solutions Private Limited** **2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

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

Date: February 09, 2022
Place: Delhi

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender

No.SSA/Esstt/IE-AD/397/2021/8823 Date : 07.02.2022

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from reputed supplier for supply of Assistive Devices.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director,
SSA, Assam,
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/3252/21

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/TT/FLN Materials/284/2021/8829 Date : 07.02.2022

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from Reputed Agency for procurement and supply of Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN) materials as Students Numeracy Tool Kit of Classes I to III for schools of Assam.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha
(SSA), Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/3252/21

FORM G
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1. Name of the corporate debtor	XION GEMS & JEWELLERS PRIVATE LTD
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	02/01/2006
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies – Delhi
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U36910DL2006PTC144318
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Shop No. G-12A, G/F, Plot No. H-3, Vardhaman Plaza, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	25-10-2021
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	09-02-2022
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	The details can be obtained by sending an email to RP on irp.xiongems@gmail.com
9. Norms of eligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	The details can be obtained by sending an email to RP on irp.xiongems@gmail.com
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	01-03-2022
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	11-03-2022
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	16-03-2022
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	26-03-2022
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	16-03-2022
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Will be shared in electronic form (through e-mail) with the eligible prospective resolution applicant.
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	15-04-2022 upto 05:00 p.m.
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	In electronic form to the email IDs mentioned against at serial no. 21. An additional physical copy shall also be submitted in a sealed envelope containing duly signed hard copy at the address mentioned against at S.No. 21 so as to reach on or before the last date before 05:00 p.m
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	As soon as approved by Committee of Creditors
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Deepak Kumar Garg ISBI/IA-002/IF-N00796/2019-2020/12560
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Deepak Kumar Garg Address registered with Board: Shanti Bhawan, Tirth Road, Street No 4, Modinagar -201204 Email registered with Board: deepakgarg07@rediffmail.com
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Address for Correspondence: 411, Essel House, Asaf Ali Road, Delhi-110002 Email ID: irp.xiongems@gmail.com
22. Further Details are available at or with	The details can be obtained by sending an email to irp.xiongems@gmail.com
23. Date of publication of Form G	09-02-2022

Sd/-
Deepak Kumar Garg, Resolution Professional
ISBI/IA-002/IF-N00796/2019-2020/12560
XION GEMS & Jewellers Private Limited

Date:09-02-2022
Place: Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Alka Chauhan W/o Mr. Lakh Raj Chauhan is owner of Freehold Built-up Property Bearing No. 117-A, Bottom to Top, with road/tenure rights, area measuring 67.5 Sq. Yards, Gali No. 2, out of Khazra No. 52/27, Situated in the area of Village Shaokor Pur, Delhi-estate Delhi about known as Rampura, Ti Nagar Delhi-110035 was Gift Deed Dated 27.03.2017 as Regd. No. 3027 to be financed by M/s. DMI Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Branch Delhi Delhi The Original Sale Deed Doc. No. 3521, in Book No. I We. No. 126, on Pages No. 49-52, on dated 25.11.1997 in the office of S.R. Delhi, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and FIR No. 59989/2022 has been registered on 20.01.2022 with Crime Branch Delhi.

If any person has any claim on the aforesaid property, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property documents, within 14 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or interests in respect of the aforesaid property.

Sushil Kumar Singh (Advocate)
Office F-10, LGF, Jangpura Extn.,
New Delhi Ph: 011-403-48896.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby brought to the notice of the public at large, Lease Deed dated 23.06.2011 executed by Noida Authority in favor of M/s SMC Power Generation Ltd. Plot No. 15, in Block-A, Sector- 136, Noida, Uttar Pradesh has been lost. SMC Power Generation Ltd. has availed credit facility from HDFC Bank Ltd. Anyone in public as large if claims in the aforesaid property, write to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of the said claim.

Sushil Kumar Singh (Advocate)
Office F-10, LGF, Jangpura Extn.,
New Delhi Ph: 011-403-48896.

Public Notice

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Mohammad Mehdi issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID Card No. 2139171 has been found missing and/or lost on 09-02-2022. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return it to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, S.D. Tower, Sector - 08, Rohini, Delhi 110085.

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID Card No. 2139171.

Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

For ICICI Bank Limited
Date: 09-02-2022
Place: New Delhi

GOVT ON TESLA

Can't have a situation where market is India but jobs are in China

New Delhi: Making it clear that relaxations will not be provided to US-based electric vehicles major Tesla unless it participates in manufacturing activities in India, Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar on Tuesday said there cannot be a situation where the market is India but jobs are created in China.

The minister of state for heavy industries also told the Lok Sabha during Question Hour that the company is yet to apply for schemes as per the government's policy.

Last year, the Elon Musk-led company sought a reduction in import duties on electric vehicles (EVs) in India but the Ministry of Heavy Industries asked the firm to start manufacturing its iconic EVs in the country before any tax concessions can be considered.

Gurjar said the government has Production Linked Incentives for automobile and auto components as well as for manufacturing Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery. Both schemes are open for domestic as well as foreign entities.

Responding to a query on Tesla, the minister said "the company wants workers from

China and market of India. This is not possible in Modi Government... Our Government's policy is that if india market is to be used, job opportunities will have to be given to Indians."

The minister's reply came in response to a question by Congress member K Suresh on whether the government would invite Tesla to enter the Indian market and steps being taken to promote mass production of electric vehicles in the country.

"Want to ask the member if they want india's money to go to China? That company has not applied as per our policy. For that (company), doors of India are open, they can come apply as per policy, set up company, give jobs to our people, increase government revenue," the minister said. "Modiji ki sarkar mein ye nahi ho sakta ki rozgar Cheen ko aur market Bharat ki... Modiji sarkar ki neeti hai ki agar market Bharat ki hai, rozgar bhi Bharat ke logon ko milega.... (Under Modi government, it cannot happen that jobs are in China while market is India... The government's policy is that if the market is India, then peope in India should get jobs)," Gurjar said.

Markets snap 3-day losing streak; RIL leads rebound

Mumbai: Snapping their three-day losing run, market benchmarks ticked higher after a see-saw session on Tuesday on fog-end buying in energy, metal and finance counters amid a firm trend in global markets.

Covering-up of short positions by bears also supported the late recovery in stocks, traders said.

After swinging between gains and losses, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally closed 187.39 points or 0.33 per cent higher at 57,808.58. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 53.15 points or 0.31 per cent to 17,266.75.

Tata Steel topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 3.10 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, Titan, Asian Paints and Axis Bank.

In contrast, PowerGrid, TCS, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Kotak Bank, L&T and HDFC twins were among the losers, shedding as much as 1.66 per cent.

Of the Sensex constituents, 19 shares

closed higher while 11 were in the red.

"Indian equities were highly volatile today, swaying between gains and losses while managing to close on a positive note. Selling pressure from FIIs was countered by bargain hunting by domestic investors.

"European shares advanced over ECB President's comments stating that there are lower chances of a measurable tightening of monetary policy, which helped in comforting global investors," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel began its three-day deliberations on Tuesday to decide the next monetary policy in the backdrop of Budget 2022-23, inflationary concerns and evolving geopolitical situation.

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said, "As policymakers face one of the fastest pace of price increases in the developed markets, global stock markets

are facing a challenge in pricing the likely actions by central bankers."

PTI

Rupee weakens 5 paise to 74.74 a dollar

Mumbai: The rupee edged lower by 5 paise to close at 74.74 against the US dollar on Tuesday as stronger greenback, elevated crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows weighed on forex market sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.65 a dollar and later touched an intra-day high of 74.57 and a low of 74.80. The local unit finally ended the day at 74.74, down 5 paise from the previous close.

In the previous session on Friday, the rupee had settled at 74.69 against the greenback.

The forex market was closed on Monday as Maharashtra had declared February 7 as public holiday to mourn the demise of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar.

Electoral bonds worth ₹324 cr encashed by political parties in FY21

New Delhi: Electoral bonds worth ₹324.36 cr were encashed by various political parties in 2020-21, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed Parliament on Tuesday.

State Bank of India is the authorised bank to issue and encash electoral bonds.

The political party-wise detail of electoral bonds encashment is not collated centrally at SBI, he said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. During 2020-21, 14th and 15 tranches of

electoral bonds were issued and encashed.

In another reply, Chaudhary said the electoral bonds amounting to ₹1,212.86 crore were encashed by political parties in the 19th tranche of electoral bonds.

As per the guidelines, the bond under this scheme may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India, and a person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals. **PTI**

CSC Grameen eStore and Adani Capital to extend business loans to VLEs

New Delhi: CSC Grameen eStore, a subsidiary of Common Service Centers under Ministry of Information Technology, and Adani Capital have joined hands for extending business loans to Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) for purchasing products to be sold to customers through the e-commerce platform.

As per the agreement, the Distributor VLEs working in CSC Grameen eStore can avail loan up to Rs. three lakhs. The facility will initially be available for the VLEs of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Dr. Dinesh Tyagi, Managing Director, CSC SPV said, "VLEs running Grameen

eStores are not only servicing people in rural areas, but also generating huge employment opportunities by employing rural youth. Till date, these eStores have delivered 40 lakh orders. With the loan facility available to the eStore VLEs, they will be able to purchase products in demand without waiting for capital and deliver them to the doorsteps of the customers."

The Grameen e-Store, launched in April 2020, offers a large range of products including local handicrafts, groceries, and consumer durables in far-flung areas. It has touched the business of Rs. 450 crores since its launch. The e-store is run by over two lakh VLEs across the country. **PNS**

Adani Wilmar shares debut with discount; recover later to settle with over 16 gain

New Delhi: Shares of Adani Wilmar Ltd on Tuesday made a tepid market debut but soon recovered the lost ground to surge over 16 per cent against the issue price of ₹ 230.

The stock made its debut at ₹221, a discount of 3.91 per cent from the issue price on BSE. But, it soon recovered the lost ground and jumped 15.30 per cent to settle at Rs 265.20.

Similarly, on NSE, it declined 1.30 per cent to list at ₹227. But, the stock bounced back and zoomed 16.23 per cent to close at ₹267.35. The company commanded a market valuation of ₹34,467.48 crore on BSE. **PTI**

MediBuddy ropes in Amitabh Bachchan as brand ambassador

New Delhi: Leading digital healthcare platform MediBuddy on Tuesday said it has roped in Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan as its brand ambassador.

MediBuddy gives users 24x7 access to specialist doctors online via video call, at-home lab tests, home delivery of medicines, mental health support and other health care services.

"It is an absolute honor to be associated with him whose name alone carries so much credibility, trust, and respect. Bachchan to cinema is what MediBuddy aims to be to the Indian healthcare system," MediBuddy co-founder and CEO Satish Kannan said in a statement.

Demand for senior living homes up amid Covid; to rise further on ageing population: Report

New Delhi: The demand for housing for senior citizens has improved amid the COVID-19 pandemic and is likely to grow in the coming years, driven by focus on health and well-being coupled with fast ageing population, according to Housing.Com.

Realty portal Housing.Com, which is a part of REA India, on Tuesday released a report on 'The Silver Economy - A perspective on senior living in India'. "Senior Living Housing is poised to become an important residential asset class as demand for retirement homes is likely to grow exponentially over the next three decades with India's fast ageing population," it said in a statement.

Senior living housing, which is currently at a very nascent stage, has come into focus after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. **PTI**


NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum
Corrigendum for the work of "Work contract for complete Stripping and fitment of Mechanical and Electrical items viz. Furnishing items, Lavatory refurbishment, Passenger amenities, plumbing items, Biotank, Vestibule rubber Fall plate, pantry items and other misc. electrical items including supply of Material as per scope of work for 10 LWSCZAC coaches at RCNK, SNP"

In ref. to the subject tender due on 21.02.2022. The following amendment in Annexure-3 of the tender documents are being issued:-

- The description for item at S.No. 3 of Annexure-3 may be read as "EPDM RUBBER packing 3MS strip (DECOUPLING) For Floor L=2000MM LW 41101 ALT.b".
- The QPC for item at S.No. 8 of Annexure-3 may be read as "8" instead of "4".
- The unit for item at S.No. 15 of Annexure-3 may be read as "Set" instead of "No".
- The specification for item at S.No. 19 of Annexure-3 may read as "SEATS FOR LHB 2ND AC CHAIR CAR COACHES (78 SEATER), WITH CUSHIONING MATERIAL POLYURETHANE FOAM (MMDTS-19020 REV. 03) or Silicon Foam (RDSO SPEC. RDSO/2013/CG-13, as per spec: MDTs-219 REV.03."

No. E File No. 94869 Date : 03.02.2022

272/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE


UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
(Telephones: 0135- 2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508)
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं. 62, दिनांक: 07.02.2022

E- Tender Time Extension Notice-1

Due to unavoidable circumstance the Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M) SHP, UJVN Ltd., Rishikesh, hereby extends the date of bids invitation for NIT as per details given below:

1. NIT No. 10/EE (E&M)/SHP/Rishikesh/2021-22 "Design, Detail Engineering, Supply, Transportation, Installation, Commissioning and Testing etc. of Electromechanical Equipment at 2x1125 kW Pilangad SHP in District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand on Turnkey Basis."

2. NIT No. 11/EE (E&M)/SHP/Rishikesh/2021-22 "Design, Detail Engineering, Supply, Transportation, Installation, Commissioning and Testing etc. of Electromechanical Equipment at 2x1500kW Urgam SHP in District Chamoli, Uttarakhand on Turnkey Basis."

Last Date for submission of Bid on website : 16.02.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs
Last Date for submission of Hard copy of : 17.02.2022 at 16:00 Hrs
original documents
Date of opening of tender : 19.02.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://ukntenders.gov.in>. **Executive Engineer (E&M)(SHP), Rishikesh**

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water Division, Sgr.
Gist of e-Tender.
e-NIT No: -PHE/GWDS/ 74 of 02/2022
For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.
S.No 1. Name of work :- Construction 01 No. 125 mm machine drilled hand pump well at Kral Check in District Shopian.
No. of Hand Pump Wells :- 01 No.
Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs :- Rs. 3.25 Lacs
Cost of Tender Document :- Rs. 200/-
Time of completion :- 5 Days
Class of Contract :- Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells
Technical Sanction:- PHE/GWD/115 of 02/2022
Programme :- UT-CAPEX
Accord of Administrative Approval No: PHE/MCN/Works-33 of 02/2021, Dated: 22-02-2021.

Critical Dates / Information.

- Publishing Date :-** 08-02-2022 (04:00 P.M)
- Period of Downloading of Bids :-** 08-02-2022 (04:00 P.M) to 18-02-2022 (02:00 P.M)
- Period of Submission of bids :-** 08-02-2022 (04:00 P.M) to 18-02-2022 (02:00 P.M)
- Date of opening of Tender. :-** 19-02-2022 (02:00 P.M)
- Tender Receiving Authority:** Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar/Kashmir-190011.
- Document Cost : Non-Refundable** in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply).
- Bid Validity Period: 180 Days**
- The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on **www.Jktenders.gov.in**
- The bidder shall uploaded Scan copy of CDR / FDR and T.R.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Sgr.

No. DIPK-17746/21
Dated: 07-02-2022

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED
Registered Office : Behrampur Road, Khandsa Village, Gurugram, Haryana- 122001, India, Tel: +91 (0124) - 4809756
CIN: UL17226HR1984PLC033384 | E mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com | Website : www.ashnoortext.com

Statement of Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended 31 December 2021
(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended		Standalone Previous Year Ended
		31-12-2021	30-09-2021	31-12-2021	31-12-2020	
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (Net)	7,317.64	6,315.67	18,528.36	7,469.01	11,875.37
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	360.94	326.72	994.61	414.46	630.28
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	360.94	326.72	994.61	414.45	697.87
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	262.83	255.80	757.09	315.28	542.15
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	262.83	255.80	757.09	315.28	542.15
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1,273.95	1,273.95	1,273.95	1,273.95	1,273.95
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	2,880.05
8	Securities Premium Account	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00
9	Net Worth	4,911.09	4,648.26	4,911.09	3,927.13	4,154.00
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	10,180.80	9,293.55	10,180.80	5,921.99	7,577.95
11	Outstanding Redeemable Perferences Shares	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.07	2.00	2.07	1.51	1.82
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (before and after extraordinary items)					
	1. Basic:	2.06	2.01	5.94	2.47	4.25
	2. Diluted:	2.06	2.01	5.94	2.47	4.25
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	3.90	6.67	4.88	1.58	2.05
17	Interest Service coverage Ratio	4.57	8.61	5.89	3.93	4.81

Notes:

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the Bombay Stock Exchange i.e. www.bseindia.in and on web site of the Company i.e. www.ashnoortext.com

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited
Sd/-
Suneel Gupta
Managing Director
DIN - 00052084

Place : Gurugram, Haryana
Date : 7-2-2022

Domestic air passenger traffic falls 43 pc to 64 lakh in January: Ica

Mumbai: Domestic air passenger traffic plunged around 43 per cent month-on-month at 64 lakh in January 2022 as the third wave of the pandemic and the resultant restrictions by State Governments kept flyers away from air travel, Ica said on Tuesday.

The domestic passenger volume in December 2021 was recorded at 112 lakh.

The rating agency said it is expecting the recovery process to remain subdued during March quarter and that the jet fuel prices continue to be a drag on the sector. The passenger traffic declined 17 per cent last month over 77 lakh passengers transported by domestic airlines on local routes in January 2021, Ica said.

Also, airlines deployed 7 per cent lower capacity in January 2022, which saw 62,979 departures against 67,877 departures recorded in the corresponding month of 2021, it

said, noting that on a sequential basis, the number of departures in January was lower 27 per cent due to emergence of the new COVID-19 variant.

The sequential recovery slumped in January 2022 with emergence of the new variant (Omicron) and related restrictions impacting the leisure travel segment along with existing subdued demand from the corporate traveller segment, said Suprio Banerjee, Vice President & Sector Head, Ica.

The same is also reflected as passenger traffic during April-January period of 2021-22 remained around 45 per cent lower than the period year earlier, he stated.

"The emergence of the new COVID variant and reactionary air travel restrictions will keep the recovery prospects subdued for the domestic airlines sector in the current quarter," he added. **PTI**

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
No.SSA/Esstt/IE-AD/397/2021/8822 Date : 07.02.2022
The Notice inviting e-tender vide No.SSA/Esstt/IE-AD/397/2021/7724 Dated 03.12.2021 for supply of Assistive Devices is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.
Sd/-Mission Director,
SSA, Assam,
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/CF/3255/21

EXTENSION OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
No.RMSA/AG/1024/2018/8825 Date : 07.02.2022
The Notice inviting e-tender vide No. RMSA/AG/1024/2018/8572 Date :18.01.2022 for supply of Sanitary Napkin is hereby extended up to 14.02.2022 up to 2.00 P.M.
The tender will be received up to 2.00 P.M. of 14.02.2022 and will be opened on 14.02.2022 at 3.00 P.M.
Sd/-Mission Director,
SSA, Assam,
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/CF/3255/21



A report says that 78 per cent and 84 per cent of respondents hailing from the metro and tier-2 cities, respectively, were eager to join a profession in the gaming sector, DAKSHITA KHANDELWAL tells us more

How often do you get hooked to a game? Do these exciting game environments, challenging levels, and multiple features make you wonder how thrilling would it be to design one from scratch? It indeed sounds thrilling to develop a gaming universe using the ideas that are your brainchild. Gaming has become popular among individuals across all age groups, and this trend has indirectly motivated many youngsters to look at it from a career perspective. The advent of the internet and unprecedented access to technology have added to the demand for games and accelerated the overall growth of this industry.

With over 2.34 billion gamers present globally, this sector has come a long way in establishing itself as a fast-evolving segment in the entertainment arena. As per NASSCOM, the overall business done by the Indian gaming industry stands at \$890 million and more than 100 game development organisations are operating in the sub-continent. The versatility and exponential growth of this sector are making it more than just a pass-time or hobby. Today, many aspirants are considering it as a viable career option. According to a recent survey conducted by the HP India Gaming Landscape Report, 78 per cent and 84 per cent of respondents hailing from

the metro and tier-2 cities, respectively, were eager to join a profession in the gaming field.

Having established that gaming is becoming a preferred career choice, what professional options are present within its vast gambit?

Game Designer

In simple terms, a game designer is the architect of the game. They play a critical role in planning and defining all the elements present. Right from creating the various in-game settings, rules, story flow, levels, characters, vehicles to weapons, fall under the purview of a designer. In short, as a game designer, you are responsible for the entire game environment. It is a well-suited role for those with a creative mind and interest in designing.

Narrative Designer

These are professionals with a knack for storytelling. They work closely with game designers and help them add context to the story. Their work adds the icing on top of the gameplay. They lay the foundation of the story experience the player will have during the game. Narrative designers are responsible for enhancing the entire gaming experience. To be a successful narrative designer, you need to make words your forte. A significant part of your job role will entail writing dialogues for the characters and putting together the in-game text.

As per NASSCOM, the overall business done by the Indian gaming industry stands at \$890 million. More than 100 game development organisations are operating in the subcontinent. The versatility and exponential growth of this sector are making it more than just a hobby

Game Animator/ Visual Artist

You can ideate top-notch characters, objects, sceneries and other elements of the game environment. However, without visual artists and designers to turn these ideas into physical forms, all planning will be washed down the drain. Within this department lie an array of roles like Concept Artists, 3D Modellers, 2D/Texture Artists and many more. Each of these has its set of responsibilities, targets and techniques of doing the job.

Sound Designer/ Audio Engineer

Imagine playing a game without any sound or music? It will get dull. Sound designers and audio engineers play a vital role in keeping the game's realism intact and boredom at bay. They use a plethora of soundtracks and effects like gunshots, car's vroom, crowd noise, helicopter's whirring, and public cheering, among others, to keep the game interesting. Many sound designers even mix tunes and tracks with the help of a variety of software to create the right background music for a game.

Game Developer/ Programmer

They work in liaison with game artists, game designers, game producers and sound technicians. They ensure that the tech-based coding is synchronised with the game design. Their job helps do justice to the creative vision behind every game. A game developer or programmer tests the different codes. They fix the flaws and bugs pointed out by game testers. This role involves complex processes. To create the best possible game; a large team of programmers is required.

Game Tester

Think about a job where your primary task is to play games all day. This is the dream job for all gaming enthusiasts. A game tester does exactly this. They systematically play the test game,

analyse the entire experience and note its performance. They pinpoint the errors and suggest improvements that will make the game more player-friendly. The quality and ease of playing depend on the analysis provided by these game testers.

Game Journalist/Critic

They are an integral part of the entertainment industry. It is through the eyes of these journalists and critics; customers understand the realistic overview of a game. They are professionals who are both gamers and writers. Once a game is launched, they play and explore its dynamics. Post this, they explain its ins and outs to their readers, in lucid terms.

Game Producers

To build and launch an exciting game, finance is a prerequisite that cannot be ignored. Video game producers look after this aspect of the business. They tend to all the financial details and requirements necessary for developing the end-product. They even focus on how the game will be marketed, oversee the workforce, ensure timelines are met and keep an eye on the budget constraints.

No matter what avenue you choose, remember to follow your instincts and give your 100 per cent!

The writer is Managing Partner, Ecole Intuit Lab, New Delhi, Co-founder, JS Institute of Design

QUOTE OF THE DAY

When you educate one person you can change a life, when you educate many you can change the world

— Shai Reshef

PGD IN INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

The Les Roches Marbella announces admissions for Postgraduate Diploma in International Hospitality Management.

Module: The PGD is composed of 6 months of academic classes, including a field trip, followed by a 6-month internship. The academic semester features courses that combine leadership skills and business/operational knowledge. There are two intakes per year, one in March and one in September.

Fee & scholarship: The Postgraduate Diploma in International Hospitality Management at Les Roches Marbella costs 19,955 EUR. As a private institution, Les Roches provides scholarships and financial aid packages for students.

How to apply: To apply for this program, download the application form here and fill in your personal details accordingly. You will be contacted to schedule your admissions assessment. Assessment will include a compulsory interview and may involve a written exercise.

Last call for March 2022



application

Ongoing application process for September 2022

UG, PG AND DIPLOMA IN FASHION STUDIES

The Edu Brain Academy collaborated with the national and international universities offering bachelor programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers postgraduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion technology. The Institute offers these programmes through its creative studio-based education.

Applications: Apply online and offline. No entrance exam

Admissions: Based on Class 10 and 12 marks and merit

Admissions Process: Personal Interview

Deadline: February 27, 2022

<http://www.edubrain.in>

Campus 365 leads the way for women employees

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Campus 365 management has been working to not just house diverse staff, but to offer support to the folks who come from all walks of life and that starts with ensuring that the women of the company (including transwomen) are offered the right conditions. After witnessing several women of the company take days off their regular assigned holidays and work through their pain, the board decided that the one way to maintain their safety was to offer them an extra day off for each menstrual cycle.

The company members also want to encourage an environment of openness and honesty. By providing a safe space for women to voice their concerns and talk about a period of their lives that is completely natural, de-stigmatising periods and women's health.

Mayank Singh, Co-founder & CEO of Campus 365 said, "At Campus 365, we want to foster a culture of trust, truth, and acceptance.

All women (including transgender people) at Campus 365 can avail up to 12 days of period leaves in a year."

Impactful trends of this year

So far 2022 looks promising and it is predicted that this will be one of the most career defining years for people from all walks of life, be it renowned companies or the smallest of buusinesses, says RAMANUJ MUKHERJEE

Over the last two years, the way people work has seen some massive shifts and adjustments. Changes that would have affected work for the generations to come have happened in a short amount of time as the workforces from all over the world experience a paradigm shift. While 2020 was a year filled with speculation and doubt, 2021's predictions pointed in the direction of hope. Now that we've stepped into 2022, it is predicted that this will be one of the most career defining years for people from all walks of life, be it big name companies or even the smallest of businesses.

Here are five very powerful global trends that are shaping the career of every professional in today's world:

Abundance of capital: the private and public markets never had as much capital as it has - thanks to a middle aged global working class pumping in their savings in all kinds of investments. What are the industries and what are the businesses that will attract this capital? You would be better off working for those companies that are better positioned to attract this capital.

Economic populism - a new

generation of bankers more worried about 'income inequality' and less about inflation are printing money to fulfil political objectives, and resulting asset inflation will impact all of our finances and careers. How you plan your finances should take this into account.

Nearshoring: as China becomes increasingly unreliable, politically hostile and under competitive as a trading partner - more countries like Japan and USA will be forced to bring some manufacturing back to their own countries or look for alternative manufacturing countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and maybe even India. This has put a lot of economic equations in flux.

Remote work: this has created unprecedented opportunities for geoarbitrage in services (as opposed to international trade in goods). Till now, this was unthinkable for most organisations outside IT. In 2022, remote work is mainstream. These are early days, but as more organisations learn to work with remote talent and technical tools that enable remote work, the world will begin to look very different in the next 5-10 years.



Ramanuj Mukherjee
Co-Founder & CEO
LawSikho

We are on the cusp of great changes that most professionals do not understand or anticipate. It is important to keep up-to-date with the surroundings and maintain a level headed approach to said changes

Most of us do not anticipate the sweeping changes that are on the way.

Shift to green energy: the most world changing impact will come from increasing global investment to finance the shift away from fossil fuel. Entire new industries of gigantic proportion are springing up. Entire economies will transform due to this shift. For example, India's fundamental economic reality will change as we shift to solar and nuclear energy from petroleum and coal. It would be like lifting a curse on the Indian economy, or cancelling a massive tax, which we pay due to currently being a huge net energy importer.

Also, a silent revolution has happened in the Indian economy already. As UPI transactions have killed a lot of cash - a lot more people have come under the tax net.

Number of people filing ITR has quadrupled. A lot more MSME businesses are within the formal economy today, paying taxes and complying to laws as they have adopted digital payments thanks to speed and volume. Even a local paan shop or juice seller can't operate without

digital payments as consumers overwhelmingly prefer it.

As a result, tax revenue for the government has been rapidly & unprecedentedly growing in India. This augurs well for taxpayers and government spending capacity.

The world is changing. India has already changed. 2021 and 2022 are going to be remembered as the years the consumer and the workforce became aware of their surroundings on such a micro level, that they sought out to fill in the gaps in their professional lives themselves.

We are on the cusp of great changes that most professionals do not understand or anticipate. And while the changes might seem overwhelming and unpredictable (especially with news of major stocks falling, lay-offs and major changes in people's work habits), it is important to keep upto date with the surroundings and maintain a level headed approach to said changes.

Those of you who are reading signs on the wall and aligning your career with these changes stand to benefit greatly.

Entrepreneur's meaning of success

If you are a social media enthusiast and looking for ways to become influential and successful at the same time, following certain techniques can boost your reach and might also help you build better relationships with your audience. Keeping your audience happy could be a task and once you know what makes them like your content, you almost reach your goal.

As we all know Twitter is a great space and a strong space for speaking up, you should also know the ways to tweet in a way that people would invest their time in reading or sharing your tweet. Using more ordered tweets can help you with the same. Using hashtags is very important if you want to target a large number of audience.

On social media, taking a little effort and creating special messages for your clients who are really close or precious to you can be of great help as it sends a message to them that you care and need their support.

Being up-to-date with social media trends is extremely important because people are always looking for something unique and interesting. If you stick to old methods of posting photos and stories, people might not pay much attention to your content. Exploring and experimenting should be your mantra for social media. Keep it creative so that people engage with your content actively.

Unlike Twitter where you are restricted to 140 words, Google+ and Facebook allow you to write longer texts. Your clients from different parts of the world would love to know and engage with your



Ali Haifi Mohammadi
Entrepreneur

work. Keeping active on all social media platforms can help attract more followers and spread your content globally.

By creating groups on Facebook, you allow your followers to freely send you necessary content. What is better than connecting with your clients or audience on social media and getting to know what they like or dislike by one one conversation? It helps them discuss your work with others. You can send recent announcements to them and hear their feedback.

Building relations is very crucial if you want to stay and finding interesting and different ways to do that is your work. Exploring everything that a particular social media platform offers you is a good way to know how you can be creative and how you can put them social media features to use for your own good.

VMC organises vaccination drive for children

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the inoculation drive launched by the Union Health Ministry for children in the age bracket of 15 to 18 years, India's premier coaching institute for JEE and NEET preparation, Vidyamandir Classes, has also ramped up the vaccination activities and launched a vaccination drive across various schools in Delhi. The one-week vaccina-



tion drive is held at various schools across Delhi NCR, with an aim to cover 700 doses amongst children, within the eligible age bracket.

"In sync with Government of India's Largest vaccination drive being conducted, the beat COVID-19 initiative taken by VMC to

vaccinate children in the vicinity is a commendable step which will ensure that they are safeguarded amid the pandemic, and beyond.

We also appeal to all the citizens to support the Government's initiative in fastening the drive, since vaccination is the only pathway towards the victory of mankind over the disease," said Brij Mohan, Co-Founder, Vidyamandir Classes.

CUCET to provide equitable opportunity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With DU and JNU confirmed to be a part of CUCET, admission to most of the central universities through a common entrance test seems to be a reality now. A common entrance for all the universities will put a rest to ever-increasing cut-offs (like DU) and may improve the chances of regional language aspirants as well as it is expected to be conducted in a minimum of 13 scheduled languages. The idea

of having a common entrance test at the undergraduate level is to shift the focus more on developing the critical thinking ability of the students rather than going for rote learning.

Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET), advocated under the National Education Policy 2020 is not a new concept. It was first conducted for admission in 7 central universities for 1,500 seats in undergraduate, postgraduate & integrated courses in 2010. Till

the academic year 2021-22, 12 Central Universities like Assam University, University of Karnataka, University of Kerala, University of Haryana, to name a few, already took admissions through CUCET. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has been assigned the task to conduct the CUCET and as per the report, this may be conducted twice a year from the academic year 2022-23 like the JEE entrance test.

"UGC has directed all 45 centralized universities to take appro-

prate measures for the CUCET from the academic session 2022-2023, & efforts are ongoing at these academic institutions to implement the computer-based exam that is likely to happen in June. The exam is most likely to be divided into two segments- the first one focusing on the general aptitude of the students and the second one may be on the specific subject domain, for which the students are seeking admissions," says Mk Yadav, CMD, AI Testified.

With the nudge of technology and rapidly changing educational trends, ed-tech startups have started playing an essential role in education. By bridging the gap between teaching and understanding, they are creating a cohesive learning environment, says SIDDHARTH MAHESHWARI

Ed-Tech on the rise

Facilitating quality education is one of the most compelling tasks for future development of any economy. For example, India's employability concerns point towards an education system still relying on theoretical knowledge which also serves as the basis for skill evaluation. However, the need is for a curriculum based on skills of tomorrow and practical knowledge of those skills. With the rise of Edtech startups employing technology and adopting Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and IoT for curriculum development and teaching methods, the educational landscape is undergoing dramatic changes.

The new national and global employment standards demand conceptual understanding from students, which can help them develop their skills. This emphasises the importance of outcome-based coursework in providing students with top skills for future growth. With the new National Education Policy of 2020, India is rethinking school education, but it is equally important for the country to revamp higher education



with the idea of instilling practical skills in young students.

Outcome-based education allows students to learn at their own pace and in their environment, eliminating the one-size-fits-all framework of the classroom. It allows students to master concepts in their own time while learning how to think critically, conduct research, and form their own opinions. By providing value-added courses and technical training, outcome-based learning prepares youth for the workplace of tomorrow and helps reduce the training and employee onboarding costs for companies. Furthermore, outcome-based education promotes economic growth by attracting more skilled newcomers to the workforce, increasing employment and employability.

While we do now realise that outcome-based education is the need of the hour, it is still vital to understand what all needs to be done to effectively and efficiently implement this shift in our educational system. First, we need to ensure that the curriculum's emphasis is always on under-

Outcome-based education allows students to master concepts in their own time while learning how to think critically, conduct research, and form their own opinions

standing rather than memorising information within a given timeline. Second, students require conducive learning resources ranging from the most recent technological advancements to mentors who can assist students with personal and professional development. But most importantly, we need to change the assessment methods because there is more to a learner's life than just the competitive desire to be labelled a topper.

With the nudge of technology and rapidly changing educational trends, Edtech startups have started playing an essential role in education. It would not be incorrect to say that the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the resulting restrictions have increased the use of technology in education. In this global crisis, Edtech startups, on the one hand, empowered the students from rural and remote areas to continue their education through the use of eLearning apps. On the other hand, Edtech startups actively assisted various institutions and training centres in bridging the gap between their teaching method-

ologies and technological advancements.

With the primary goal of simplifying the learning process, facilitating inclusive learning, and making the educational system more efficient, Edtech startups are also promoting skill development on a holistic level. By teaching industry-oriented technical skills while also pursuing soft skills for overall personality development, the curriculum most edtech startups are following is helping bridge the gap between teaching and understanding, thus creating a cohesive learning environment.

This new curriculum is regulating and adapting modern educational programmes to societal needs and patterns. And with the current situation forcing one to reconsider the definitions and goals of education in the wake of a new normal, it is safe to say that Edtech is the future of education, and is already bringing about a huge change to the employability of millions of students in India through outcome-based education.

The writer is Co-Founder, Newton School

'Students can be future fashion business leaders'

Fashion Brand Management programmes teach students to be industry experts who can handle a fashion company's business strategically and efficiently, says SAGAR GAUTAM

By teaching students strategic decision-making, leadership, and problem-solving abilities, the course prepares them for careers in both fashion and management.

■Fashion Retailers
A store manager is responsible for a variety of responsibilities, including setting sales goals and promoting items. One of its main responsibilities is to provide the best degree of customer satisfaction possible. The functions and responsibilities of retail managers in the fashion business are the same as they are everywhere.

■Entrepreneur
Fresh entrepreneurs enter the business after deciding to make it on their own. When starting your own business, whether it's launching a boutique or selling wholesale online, make sure to have a plan ahead, backup funds, and complete a market feasibility study before leaving work. Examine your strengths and weaknesses objectively. Explore the marketplace to see what possibilities are developing as well as any risks to future business.

■PR Manager
Public relations professionals that work for apparel companies help to build and maintain a good brand image. They collaborate with marketing experts to create events that increase consumer awareness of the brand and product. In addition, the public relations professional is in charge of writing news releases and responding to media queries.

■Merchandiser
They investigate their clients' historical purchase tendencies to choose what products to provide for a company. Fashion designers typically work with management to create budgets and revenue-generating goods.

■Product Manager
From design conception through production completion, product developers manage the apparel process. They are the primary contact for the apparel firm with the manufacturer, and they are in charge of selecting the best factories for each product.

■Creative Director
The creative directors are responsible for deciding on a clothing season's overarching concept, colour palette, and styling. They might work for a fashion



Sagar Gautam
Maganer Outreach and Admission at The Design Village Noida, TDV

company or a fashion publication. A clothing creative director does trend research and analyses high-level sales data to identify which colours and styles are most likely to be purchased by their clients.

■Fashion Advisor
As a fashion business adviser, provide organisations with the tools they need to create and manage a successful luxury branding business, advising on everything from business strategy and fashion marketing strategies to brand awareness and product distribution optimisation.

■Fashion Consultant
A fashion consultant is someone who holds all of the required knowledge and skills in the fashion and retail industries. Their main purpose is to improve their clients' appearance through clothing while considering their body type, personality, and job ambitions.

■Social Media And Digital Manager
The task of a social media and digital manager is to create content with the target audience in mind. This task also helps with the development of sales plans and campaigns.

We live in a continually changing world where new technologies like Artificial Intelligence and machine learning keep on evolving. On one hand, rapid automation has led to a loss of 60 million jobs in the US alone. But, on the brighter side, it has been estimated that the future tech-driven economy will create close to 97 million jobs worldwide.

2021 has been great for the Indian tech industry, especially the startup ecosystem. Indian startups have raised more than \$33 billion, which amounts to more than the past three years, combined. However, there is a cause of concern- talent

crunch. Did you know that there can be more than 80 million jobs that can go unfilled because of a lack of the right talent?

Because the IT structure is driven by technology, hiring the right tech talent is a great challenge. Only 29 per cent of tech companies believe they have the right team to progress. And, this is just the beginning. The coming years would see more talent crunch as technology will evolve each day challenging the tech companies to up their game to keep up. There are headlines daily about how robots are ready to do everything that a human brain can and at a much faster pace. Additionally, the pandemic has slowed

MIND IT

down the hiring process. Because of the talent crunch, organisations are facing a huge loss in terms of failing to develop projects on time and meeting important deadlines. The current employees are overburdened, the pandemic forced everything to go digital, and so corporates had to augment their existing workforce with skilled tech resources.

In the past year or so, it is definite that you might have heard of the Great

Resignation of 2021. More and more people are quitting their jobs to do something better, or altogether change their careers. But if that is happening, why are businesses facing such a shortage when it comes to tech talent? The reasons can vary from sector to sector. One of the main reasons workers left the workforce was to take care of their children. Schools have been shut for the longest time, and unfortunately, more women have quit their jobs because of gender

imbalance. Another factor may be the fact that more and more workers started embracing remote work models as compared to traditional ones, resulting in an acute shortage of the right people for IT industries.

The truth is that the industry is evolving each day, and it's getting difficult for the educational sector to keep up, contributing as one of the factors for talent crunch. New technologies have emerged, but the college curriculums have remained the same. Students need early exposure.

Talking about the hiring process, gone are the days when people were hired because of something that looked good on paper.

Now, talent and skill set are the priorities. The mission and vision of the candidates are the priorities. Now, companies also have to ensure that the person doesn't find reasons to leave immediately after joining.

The tech talent crunch is expected to grow in the near future because technology is never going to stop. The market is hypercompetitive and the pandemic is stubborn. With speculations like the talent crunch expected to continue for a decade, only time will tell how companies weather this storm.

The writer is Vinay Krishna Gupta, CEO, Founder at Antino



The Cardiff University Master's Excellence Scholarships for UK and EU Students, 2022-2023

Applications are open for Australian Government Awards for students of Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East.

Award: minimum of £3,000 and will be awarded in the form of a tuition fee discount

Course Level: Masters

Eligibility: Applicants are independent to apply for a full-time or a part-time taught master's degree program, MRes Biosciences, and MRes Stem Cell Neurobiology degree programs at the university.

Must not apply for a distance learning programme.

Supporting documents: Curriculum vitae, academic transcripts, and a copy or scan of passport need to be attached.

Admission requirements: A selected candidate must hold a bachelor's degree.

Language requirement: Should have excellent proficiency in the English language.

How to apply: For being eligible to these positions, candidates must have to reserve a place in a master's degree program at the university. Then, they can complete the online application form for the grants.

Application deadline: Applicants must submit all required application materials

The Imperial College London British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM, UK

These golden funding opportunities are designed for outstanding women candidates who wish to pursue a master's degree for the academic session 2022/2023.

Course Level: Masters

Number of Awards: Five

Each scholarship covers full tuition fees, a monthly stipend for a year, and a return flight.

Supporting documents: Applicants must have all previous documents, academic transcripts and certificates to apply for this study program.

Admission requirements: For taking admission, applicants must have an undergraduate degree from a recognised university.

Language requirements: Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of English proficiency at the higher level required by the University.

How to apply: For applying, applicants need to take admission for a postgraduate degree at the university. After taking acceptance, all admitted freshman applicants should complete the application form through the online portal.

Application deadline: The last date to submit the entries to participate in the following grant is 16 March 2022.

WORDPRESS DEVELOPMENT AT OUTSHADE DIGITAL MEDIA

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000/Month
Link: internshala.com/i/1e0ba9
Deadline: February 17, 2022

MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT AT TAPOP

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000/Month
Link: internshala.com/i/b765c3
Deadline: February 17, 2022

EVENT PRODUCTION AT GROUP FUTURISTA

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹6,000/Month
Link: internshala.com/i/6539dd
Deadline: February 17, 2022

SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION (SEO) AT CANN91 TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹7,000/Month
Link: internshala.com/i/dc8502
Deadline: February 17, 2022

DIGITAL MARKETING AT SYNCONEX TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000/Month
Link: internshala.com/i/a5d4e9
Deadline: February 17, 2022

CONTENT WRITING AT WAY2ONLINE INTERACTIVE

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000/Month
Link: internshala.com/i/336f2b
Deadline: February 17, 2022

OPERATIONS AT OM BOOKS INTERNATIONAL

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000-12,000/Month
Link: internshala.com/i/9d3547
Deadline: February 17, 2022

INBRIEF

NZ REOPENS BORDERS FOR INT STUDENTS

Education New Zealand (Manapou ki te Ao (ENZ) welcomes the Government's announcement to reopen New Zealand's borders. This is a positive step for international education.

The announcement outlined a five-step process for reopening borders from 28 February 2022, initially for New Zealanders to return from Australia and then from the rest of the world.

The Government also announced a fourth border exception class for up to 5,000 international students to enter New Zealand from April 2022 to

study for semester two this year, in addition to the earlier cohorts approved in 2020 and 2021.

From October 2022 normal visa processing will resume, enabling international students to enroll for study in New Zealand in 2023.

ENZ Chief Executive Grant McPherson says today's announcement is an important step towards rebuilding a strengthened and sustainable international education sector. "The border reopening steps outlined today enable the international education sector to progressively open through 2022 for the existing cohorts, with a new much larger cohort able to enter New Zealand for study before semester two."

More details of the new student cohort in due course.

ABWB'S THE ULTIMATE MATH CHAMPIONSHIP

The Aditya Birla World Academy (ABWA), in association with BITS Pilani has organised Infinity 2022 - The Ultimate Math Championship

for students to flex their mathematical acumen and refine their skills in the subject. The preliminary event took place on 8th January 2022 and the final

events will be conducted on 21st and 22nd January 2022. The tournament aims to enhance the analytical and thinking abilities of students by providing.

JKLU'S STUDENTS JOIN IIT GANDHINAGAR

The JK Lakshmi Prasad University's eight BTech students have been selected at IIT Gandhinagar to complete their Semester. Earlier in 2019-2020, seven BTech students were selected in the first semester and two more went

there in the second semester of 2019-20. These selected students are pursuing their bachelor in computer science; they are fluent in multiple programming languages, including Java, Python, R, and some variants of SQL.

IIM KASHIPUR CONDUCTS CONFAB '22

As the CAT 2021 interview rounds have been notified, candidates are loaded with several doubts about the interview process, preparation methods, curriculum and the colleges and to resolve the same, Team Insite, the admissions body of IIM Kashipur organised Confab'22, a two-day Virtual City Meets programme.

In this two day

discussion forum, the team resolved queries regarding the college and processes that follow the admissions phase, discussed the career prospects, pre-MBA preparations, and much more. The event also saw aspirants who applied for the MBA (Analytics) program of IIM Kashipur and had queries regarding the curriculum and scope of doing an MBA in Analytics.

The event was conducted in two slots each, on Feb 5 and Feb 6. It saw an active participation of 600+ aspirants. In order to increase the efficiency of the city meet via virtual mode, break-out rooms were created to ensure one-to-one query resolution for aspirants. The city meet was successful in achieving its end goal of supporting the aspirants.

SANSKRITI UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU WITH EUCLID

The Sanskriti University has signed an MOU with EUCLID (Pole Universitaire Euclide/Euclid University), a specialized intergovernmental organization. This collaboration will provide excellent career opportunities to the students in various departments of technology, management etc.

EUCLID's flagship program is its stan-

dard-setting online master in diplomacy and international affairs or MDIA which has qualified many diplomats globally. EUCLID also offers doctoral-level programs in diplomacy, sustainable development, and international public health, as well as a new joint degree program in international public administration. The MOU will enable the students to pursue lagship programmes.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR PH D SCHOLARS

The Sanskriti University organised an Orientation Programme for PhD Scholars marking the beginning of their journey into the university. The programme was aimed to provide detailed guidance to the PhD Scholars about the regulations and guidelines related to doctoral research and also help the new entrants understand the nature of the university, the educational opportuni-

ties available to them, the values, functions and the Infrastructure of the Sanskriti University. The programme was organised in the blended mode. The students got deep knowledge, skills and competencies about conducting doctoral research and also about publishing research papers.

In welcome address, Sachin Gupta, Chancellor of Sanskriti University said

"We have always emphasized on the importance of research and innovation as this is what leads to the development of a country. Our research scholars have always made us proud by working on various innovations and developing many new products. He congratulated the new entrants."

The students were also addressed by the University's Pro-VC Dr Rakesh Premi.

Confident India aim to seal series against WI

After winning the first ODI convincingly, Rohit Sharma-led Team India will look to continue their domination and win the second ODI and seal the three-match series at the Narendra Modi Stadium, here on Wednesday.

AINS ■ AHMEDABAD

After winning the first ODI convincingly, Rohit Sharma-led Team India will look to continue their domination and win the second ODI and seal the three-match series at the Narendra Modi Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Since India didn't have much trouble in defeating West Indies in the first match, hosts are unlikely to make any changes in their playing XI. However, the focus will be on vice-captain KL Rahul who has joined the team after a family engagement and was seen sweating it out in the nets ahead of the game.

Ishan Kishan, who opened with Rohit in the first ODI did a decent job with a 36-ball 28 and both Deepak Hooda and Suryakumar Yadav also did well to finish the game for India. If Rahul plays, then either of the three among Kishan, Deepak Hooda,

and Suryakumar would have to sit out to accommodate him as Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant and Rohit Sharma are certain to play.

But the management might also choose to play the same XI and win the series and give Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, and Shahrukh Khan a go in the last game of the series.

Speaking on the eve of the match, middle-order batter Suryakumar also didn't reveal much about the inclusion of Rahul and Mayank Agarwal in the playing XI.

"They [Rahul and Mayank] are coming back into the squad after quarantine and it makes our unit really stronger. At the end of the day, it's all team management's call on who's gonna play. But yeah, really happy to have them back," Surya said in a virtual press conference.

Eyes will be there also on Virat Kohli, who will like to get



among the runs and reach his 71st century, which has been in waiting for over two years.

In the bowling department, India had a clinical outing in the previous game, so the team management is unlikely to make any changes. The likes of Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Yuzvendra Chahal, Prasidh Krishna, Shardul Thakur had restricted visitors to a below-par target in the first ODI.

On the other hand, West Indies, who failed to play even 50 overs in the first ODI, will look to improve their form and get going in the series.

The Kieron Pollard-led side need to put a bigger prize on their wicket and have a better shot selection. Along with Jason Holder and Fabian Allen, who batted well, in the first game, the rest of the batters would also have to come good.

The Windies bowlers also need

to be on the mark with line and length as well as the pace. They were taken to task by the Indian batters, especially Rohit.

Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Mayank Agarwal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Surya Kumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Shahrukh Khan.

West Indies: Kieron Pollard (captain), Fabian Allen, Nkrumah Bonner, Darren Bravo, Shamarr Brooks, Jason Holder, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Nicolas Pooran, Kemar Roach, Romario Shepard, Odean Smith, Hayden Walsh Jr

Smriti Mandhana makes big gains in latest ICC ODI rankings for batters

India's top-order batter Smriti Mandhana has risen two places, to fifth, while captain Mithali Raj continues to hold on to her second position in the latest Women's ODI Player Rankings Batters

AINS ■ DUBAI

India's top-order batter Smriti Mandhana has risen two places, to fifth, while captain Mithali Raj continues to hold on to her second position in the latest Women's ODI Player Rankings for Batters released on Tuesday.

Mandhana, on 710 points, has displaced South Africa's Lizelle Lee (702) and England's Tammy Beaumont (696) in the ranking, which is led by Australia's Alyssa Healy (742 points).

Meanwhile, dominant performances in the first two ODIs of the Women's Ashes have seen several Australian players climb the charts in ODI Player Rankings. Having dropped to the second spot after the series against India in September 2021, Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry is back at the top of the



Women's ODI Player Rankings for All-rounders with 407 points. India's Deepti Sharma is fourth with 299 points.

Perry was the 'Player of the Match' in the second ODI, first returning figures of 3/12 to reduce England to 129 all out, before scoring a 40 off 64 balls to take Australia close to victory. Perry also made huge gains in the bowlers' rankings, rising seven spots to break into the top-10

and occupying the No.9 spot.

There hasn't been much for England to cheer about in the ODI leg of the Ashes but Katherine Brunt's all-round brilliance in the first ODI, where she finished with 3/12 and scored 32 not out, sees her gain three spots to No.5 in the all-rounders' rankings. Brunt also jumped a spot to No.6 in the bowlers' rankings.

Despite England ending up on the losing side in the first two ODIs, Sophie Ecclestone bowled economically and jumped to third with a career-best 717 rating points in the ODI Player Rankings for Bowlers, which has India's Jhulan Goswami in second spot.

Perry's teammate Beth Mooney too climbed the charts for batters, rising five places to occupy the third spot behind Mithali Raj after a Player-of-the-Match-winning 73 in

the first ODI of the series.

Tahlia McGrath played a crucial role in Australia sealing the ODI series in the first two ODI, with 48 runs and five wickets. Her strong showing reflected across all three departments in the rankings, where she rose six spots to No.41 for batters, a massive 32 spots to No.52 to bowlers and 20 spots to No. 31 for all-rounders.

The recently-concluded ODI series between South Africa and West Indies also caused some movement in the latest ICC Rankings. West Indies, who were 1-0 down after the first two ODIs, won the final two matches to take the series 2-1.

Opener Laura Wolvaardt broke into the top 10 for batters with a century in the third ODI and a vital 23 that set up South Africa's win in the decider. She rose four places to No. 9.

It was an extremely challenging task to host U-19 World Cup: ICC chief



AINS ■ DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday acknowledged the efforts put in by Cricket West Indies (CWI) in hosting the U-19 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean, which concluded with India defeating England to lift the trophy for the fifth time.

ICC chief executive, Geoff Allardice, said that hosting a 16-team tournament across four countries in pandemic times was an extremely challenging task. "The ICC thanks Cricket West Indies for the successful hosting of the ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022. The event, which showcases the future stars of the game, took place from January 14 to February 5 and saw India crowned champions after 48 games of exciting and competitive cricket. With 16 teams competing across four host countries, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda, the event was successfully and safely delivered with India lifting the trophy for a record fifth time," said ICC in a statement on Tuesday. ICC chief executive, Allardice said, "We are delighted with the successful hosting of the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022. The scale of the operation, hosting 16 teams across four countries during a global pandemic is extremely challenging.



Women's Ashes: Sutherland takes four as Australia complete England humiliation

Young all-rounder Sutherland led the way with 4/31 at Junction Oval as England were bowled out for a paltry 163, before contributions from all the top-four batters ensured Australia cruised home with more than 13 overs to spare.

AINS ■ MELBOURNE

Australia's 20-year-old pace bowler Annabel Sutherland finished with career-best ODI figures of 4/31 to reduce England to 163 before skipper Meg Lanning's half-century took the hosts through to an eight-wicket victory in the final One-day International of the multi-format Ashes on Tuesday. Young all-rounder Sutherland led the way with 4/31 at Junction Oval as England were bowled out for a paltry 163, before contributions from all the top-four batters ensured Australia cruised home with more than 13 overs to spare. The win means Australia finished the multi-format series without a loss and with a 12-4 scoreline. After opting to bat, England lost debutant Emma Lamb (0) and skipper Heather Knight (9) inside the first hour to slump to 19/2 in nine overs. The experienced duo of Tammy Beaumont (50) and Nat Sciver (46) combined to put on an 88-run stand but were extremely cautious in their approach. They couldn't find a single boundary between overs 18-30, and the pressure of scoring big eventually got to both the batters as they fell in a span of five overs. Thereafter, it all went downhill for the visitors. Attacking batter Danni Wyatt (9) was Sutherland's first victim and the wickets continued to fall in quick succession as England lost their last seven wickets for just 39 runs to be dismissed midway through their final over for 163.

While the England batters looked to avoid damage, Australia threw caution to the wind from the start, with openers Alyssa Healy and Rachael Haynes adding 47 runs in the power-play. Freya Davies was the only England bowler who looked like taking a wicket and eventually did, breaking the strong opening stand for 74 by dismissing Healy (42).

Sophie Ecclestone made it two in two overs as she got rid of the other set batter, Haynes, for 31. After the slight setback, skipper Meg Lanning and Ellyse Perry ensured Australia got through to an easy win. Lanning played the aggressor, smashing seven fours and a six en route her unbeaten 57 while Perry was solid at the other end with 31 not out.

Khelo India State Centre of Excellence sanctioned to Maha: Anurag Thakur



AINS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has sanctioned 36 proposals for the establishment of Khelo India Centres, one proposal for the establishment of Khelo India State Centre of Excellence and 11 sports infrastructure projects, to the State of Maharashtra during the last three years.

The Khelo India Scheme is a demand-driven scheme and the proposals are considered based on the technical feasibility of the proposals, their adherence to the prescribed parameters, as well as the availability of funds, Sports minister Anurag Thakur informed Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

To another question, he said that the Ministry has also released a total fund of Rs.87.65 crore till date including Rs.5.49 crore during current Financial Year 2021-22 for establishing/construction of the main campus and for the functioning of temporary campus in Manipur.

The National Sports University, established in Manipur, is a first-of-its-kind university to promote education in the areas of Sports Sciences, Sports Technology, Sports Coaching, besides functioning as the national training centre for selected sports disciplines.

The National Sports University will cater to students and sportspersons from all States and UTs, including those from Rajasthan and Kerala.

"Education comes under the Concurrent List of the Constitution. With the majority of schools falling under respective State Examination Boards, the school curriculum is largely determined by State Governments. However, as per the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 Health and Physical Education is a compulsory subject up to Xth Class, and an optional subject at Higher Secondary Stage.

"90 Extension Centres of STC (Sports Authority of India Training Centre), including 60 Khelo India Centres, and 10 Regular Schools which are part of the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), are operational under Sports Authority of India. Most of the Extension Centres are operational in schools across the country. Further, under the 'State Level Khelo India Centre' vertical of the Khelo India scheme, 04 Kendriya Vidyalayas with residential facilities are operational as Sports Schools since October 2019. Under this vertical, funds at Rs. 1,50,000 per athlete per annum are provided towards expenses on boarding, lodging, education, training, competition exposure, medical by the Government of India," he added.

PCB welcomes Australia's full-strength squad announcement

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is extremely pleased that Australia have announced a full-strength squad for the upcoming series amidst fears that a few top players might skip the tour, the PCB said.

PCB's chief operating officer Faisal Hasnain said the announcement assures them that the series would take place as scheduled.

"It is indeed good news

for Pakistan cricket and fans that they have announced a full-strength squad as they were afraid some of their players might skip the tour," Hasnain said.

Australia will play three Tests, three ODIs and one-off Twenty20 in Pakistan between March 4 and April 5. He also expressed confidence that once Australia completes its tour it would open the doors for full international cricket to return to Pakistan including Test series

against big teams and ICC and ACC events as well.

"This should be a big series as Australia have won the World T20 Cup and the Ashes convincingly and Pakistani players featured prominently in the ICC awards and teams last year," he said.

He said every effort would be made to make the tour a success and added that PCB was constantly in touch with the government and also Cricket Australia.

Chennaiyin FC and FC Goa desperate for victory to keep playoff hopes alive

Teams in desperate need of a victory to keep their flailing top-four hopes alive go head-to-head when both meet in a virtual do-or-die encounter

AINS ■ VASCO (GOA)

Two teams in desperate need of a victory to keep their flailing top-four hopes alive go head-to-head when Chennaiyin FC and FC Goa meet in a virtual do-or-die encounter in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Tilak Maidan Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Chennaiyin dropped to eighth place after their loss to Mumbai City FC the other day, having 19 points from 15 matches. Goa, seated a rung below them, have gone five games without a win and have 15 points from 15 games. The Gaurs have to win all five of their remaining fixtures to stand a chance for a playoff berth.

Both teams know that their fate is hanging by a thread and a win on Wednesday is absolutely necessary to challenge the teams placed above them in the table.

The two teams have struggled to



score this season and the root cause has been their inability to convert their shots into goals. Goa and Chennaiyin have the worst (6.95) and second-worst (8.12) goal conversion rate. The two teams are among four teams to have scored less than 20 goals this season. For Bozidar Bandovic's Chennaiyin, their run of fixtures have the odds stacked against them and if they are to stage a comeback, they have to put their best foot forward. For Chennaiyin, they will face Odisha FC, Jamshedpur FC, Kerala

Lajovic saves crucial Match Points

AINS ■ ARGENTINA

Dusan Lajovic snatched victory from the jaws of defeat at the Argentina Open to reach the second round in Buenos Aires. The fifth seed overcame Frenchman Benoit Paire 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(3), saving three match points en route to his two-hour and four-minute victory at the ATP 250 tournament, on Monday. The Serbian, who is a two-time quarter-finalist in Buenos Aires, saved three match points at 5-4, 40/0 on Paire's serve as he demonstrated his fighting qualities in a hard-fought encounter. Lajovic rallied from a breakdown three times in the decider, before finding his top level in the tie-break to triumph.

The 31-year-old now leads Paire 3-2 in their ATP head-to-

THE SERBIAN, WHO IS A TWO-TIME QUARTER-FINALIST IN BUENOS AIRES, SAVED THREE MATCH POINTS AT 5-4, 40/0 ON PAIRE'S SERVE AS HE DEMONSTRATED HIS FIGHTING QUALITIES IN A HARD-FOUGHT ENCOUNTER.



head series, with this his second victory over the World No. 50 on clay (Sao Paulo 2016). Lajovic will play Federico Coria in the second round after the Argentine ousted Uruguayan Pablo Cuevas 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 in one hour and 55 min-

utes. Paire, who was making his third appearance in Buenos Aires, was looking to build on his Australian Open third-round run this week in Argentina.

In other action, Miomir

Kecmanovic made it a successful day for Serbia, joining countryman Lajovic in the second round. World No. 63 moved past Laslo Djere 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 in one hour and 44 minutes to improve to 4-1 in their ATP Head2Head series. Kecmanovic will next face Argentine qualifier Francisco Cerundolo, who defeated countryman Facundo Bagnis 7-5, 6-2 in one hour and 49 minutes.

Spaniard Fernando Verdasco also advanced as he sealed his first tour-level win since May, defeating Bolivian qualifier Hugo Dellien 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 after two hours and three minutes. The former World No. 7 was making his fourth appearance in Buenos Aires, after first competing at the clay-court event in 2004. He broke four times en route to his first victory over Dellien.