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NATIONAL INTEGRITY,
COHESIVE PEOPLE

WORLD 8

CHINA CITES CORONA ON PACKAGING,
DESPITE DOUBTS ABROAD

AVENUES 10

LAND OF
OPPORTUNITIES

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Step up Covid testing, States told

Detection, isolation
key to stem spread
of pandemic: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The numbers of daily Covid-19 cases have come down in several States without any reversal in positivity rate. Taking note of this trend to play with the numbers, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has asked the States to increase the pace of testing "in a strategic manner".

Issuing an updated set of guidelines for the care of Covid-19 patients, the Ministry has urged doctors to avoid the use of steroids and to test patients for tuberculosis if severe coughing persists. According to the revised guidelines steroid use increases the risk of secondary infections, such as black fungus and must, thus, be avoided.

In a letter to States and UTs on Monday, additional secretary in the Union Health Ministry Arti Ahuja advised them to immediately increase the testing in a strategic manner keeping in view the trend of case positivity in specific areas.

Referring to the Ministry's earlier letters and the Home Ministry advisory of December 27 last year laying out the broad framework of pandemic management in the context of Omicron, Ahuja said testing remains a key and crucial com-

ponent. "However, it is seen from the data available on the ICMR portal that testing has declined in many States and Union Territories," she wrote. The additional health secretary said in all advisories on testing issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), including the latest on January 10, the basic objective remains early detection of cases for quick isolation and care.

In addition, testing remains a key strategy for pandemic management as it helps in the identification of new clusters and new hotspots of infection which can, in turn, facilitate immediate action for containment such as setting up of containment zones, contact tracing, quarantining, isolation and follow-up.

This can enable the State and district administrations to curb the spread of infection. Also this will ensure a reduction in mortality and morbidity. "Progression of disease to a severe category can be averted by strategic testing of those who are at high risk and more vulnerable, as well as in areas where the spread is likely to be higher," Ahuja said.

Reiterating the advisory on purposive testing strategy issued by the ICMR on January 10, she said in community settings all those who are symptomatic must be tested and all at-risk contacts of laboratory-confirmed cases must also be tested.

Continued on Page 2



Workers carry Covid waste from a State Government-run Covid hospital for dumping in Kolkata on Tuesday

PTI

Covid cases rise 58 times in 3 weeks in paramilitary forces

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 active cases swelled Cover 58 times in the last three weeks in the paramilitary ranks, from just 148 cases on December 28 to 8,671 cases as on Monday. During the period, two deaths were recorded, taking the toll due to Covid-19 to 350 in the forces' ranks.

The combined tally of Covid-19 cases in the paramilitary ranks has crossed the one lakh mark with a tally of 1,00,210 cases.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) topped the list with 2,764 active Covid-19 cases followed by 2,747 cases in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and 1,330

cases in the Border Security Force (BSF).

The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has 1,018 active cases followed by 586 cases in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), 149 cases in National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 77 cases in National Security Guard (NSG).

Continued on Page 2

Bhagwant Mann picked as AAP's Punjab CM face



Delhi CM and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal with party's Chief Ministerial candidate Bhagwant Singh Mann ahead of Punjab polls, in Mohali

PTI

MONIKA MALIK ■
CHANDIGARH/MOHALI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday decided to bet on its trusted general Bhagwant Mann to win the electoral battle in Punjab, and named him as the party's Chief Ministerial candidate.

Since 2014, comedian-turned-politician Mann has remained AAP's face not only in Punjab but also in the

national politics — being the only party MP to tide through the Modi wave that swept the nation in 2019 Lok Sabha polls. And the announcement of two-time MP from Sangrur as AAP's CM face in Punjab did not come as a surprise to many.

AAP's national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced Mann as "AAP da CM" in Punjab. Continued on Page 2

Channi's nephew among men raided for illegal mining

Cong cries foul

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Days ahead of the high-octane Punjab Assembly elections, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday carried out searches at multiple locations in Punjab, including the Mohali residence of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's nephew, in connection with an illegal sand mining case.

In all, the raids were conducted in Ludhiana, Mohali, and Pathankot districts, including the offices, residences as well as godowns of several accused companies. As per reports, about a dozen premises of the Chief Minister's relatives have been raided by the ED officials at different places including Mohali (Homeland Heights), Ludhiana and even Panchkula (in Haryana).

The raids were reportedly conducted in a money laundering case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act based on an FIR registered in 2018 by the

Punjab Police against one Kudrat Deep Singh, the main accused, who owns a quarry in Nawanshahr.

It has been learnt that Kudrat Deep Singh had formed two companies, and the director of one of the companies was Bhupinder Singh Honey — Chief Minister Channi's nephew.

The illegal sand mining case was initially registered by the Punjab Police at Rahon police station of Nawanshahr on the complaint of the mining officer under section 21(1) and 4(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation of Development) Act, 1957, and under section 379, 420, 465, 467, 468 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code. There were 26 accused in the case, most of them truck drivers.

As per the FIR, the police had stopped 30 tipper trucks filled with sand, most of which was taken from an area that was not marked for mining. Several types of machinery were also recovered, which were not to be used for mining at the site.

Continued on Page 2

Cong's Def Band deal with Devas 'fraud on India': FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday accused the Congress-led UPA of entering into a "fraud" and "scandalous" deal with Devas Multimedia by allocating S-band spectrum used by the defence for "pittance".

At a Press conference, she said the Government is now fighting in every court to save taxpayers' money that would otherwise go towards paying for arbitration awards that Devas has won against the cancellation of the 2005 deal. She said the Supreme Court on January 17 comprehensively upheld the liquidation of Devas Multimedia on grounds that it was incorporated with fraudulent intentions.

Her comments came as Devas shareholders pursue Indian assets abroad to recover USD 1.29 billion that international arbitration tribunals awarded over a cancelled satellite contract. They have got a French court order for freezing Indian properties in Paris and are seeking Air India funds in Canada. The 2005 agreement was "a fraud on people of India, fraud against the country," she said, adding the S-band spectrum, which is otherwise



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

used for defence purposes only, was given away for a pittance.

Devas, she said, promised to deliver on things for which it didn't even have rights. In 2005, Devas Multimedia signed an agreement with Antrix — the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) — to provide multimedia services to

mobile users using the leased S-band satellite spectrum. The deal was cancelled in 2011 on the ground that the auction of the broadband spectrum was mired in fraud and that the Government needed the S-band satellite spectrum for national security and other social purposes.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

No tie-up with SP even for 100 seats: Chandreshekhar

Noida: Aazad Samaj Party chief Chandrashekhar Azad on Tuesday said it will no longer approach the SP for a tie-up for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections even if Akhilesh Yadav offers it 100 seats. Azad said his party is open to stitching an alliance with others and maintained that his fight has always been with the BJP.

GATE EXAM: ASPIRANTS WANT POSTPONEMENT

New Delhi: Over 23,000 candidates appearing for the GATE in February have joined a petition demanding the exam be postponed in view of the third wave of Covid-19.

BIHAR DOCTOR TOOK 5 COVID VACCINE SHOTS

Patna: The Bihar Government has ordered an investigation after records showed that a Patna-based civil surgeon was administered five shots of the Covid-19 vaccine.

NEPAL RENAMES IT TO 'MADHES PRADESH'

Kathmandu: Nepal's south-eastern Province 2 has been renamed Madhes Pradesh with Janakpur retained as its capital, settling a long-standing debate on the region's official reference after it was made a province in 2015.

R-Day events shadowed by Covid to have many firsts

Auto drivers, safai workers get spl invite; max 7,000 visitors allowed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Republic Day parade this year will have many firsts to mark 75 years of Independence. People, who never get an opportunity to witness the event at Rajpath will get special invitations. They include auto-rickshaw drivers, safai karamcharis and construction labour to name a few.

But the pandemic has cast its shadow on the Republic Day parade. Only 5,000 to 7,000 vis-



Indian Coast Guard personnel during the rehearsal for Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

itors are allowed to be at Rajpath as against 25,000 last year.

At the same time, National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets will visit the homes of 5,000

martyrs on January 26 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be paying homage to the

brave hearts at the National War Memorial here before the parade commences.

The cadets will present a letter signed by the Prime Minister to the next of the kin of the martyrs whose names are etched at the National War Memorial, sources said here on Tuesday.

Announcing that henceforth, the Republic Day week will commence from January 23, the birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose, they said the week will end on January 30, the martyrdom day of Mahatma Gandhi.

In another first, the Prime Minister will give away awards on January 23 evening at the India Gate to those engaged in disaster management. The award was instituted in 2018.

Continued on Page 2

Why women's intake in NDA only 19, same as last yr: SC to Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to explain why despite its orders, the intake of women candidates in the National Defence Academy (NDA) for the year 2022 has been restricted to 19, the figure the same as last year.

The apex court asked the Centre to place the figures on record about the total number of candidates, including women, who have appeared in the NDA examination 2021, for entrance tests for Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) and for Rashtriya Military School (RMS).

A bench of Justices Sanjay



Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, that the Government will have to explain why the figure of 19 women has been fixed for the year 2022 as per the notification issued by UPSC.

"The figure is the same as for the 2021 test. Last year, you said that it was due to infra-

structure problems that the intake of women will be less. Now, again for the year 2022, you have proposed to take the same number of women candidates. Why have you fixed this figure? You have to explain this. 19 seats cannot be for all times to come. It was only an ad hoc measure," the bench said.

Continued on Page 2

Rs 30L ex-gratia for death of on-duty poll personnel

Death could be due to Covid or any other reasons

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a significant development, the State Election Commission (SEC) has revised the scale for payment of ex-gratia amount to families of those, who die or sustain injuries leading to incapacitation, whether

by accident or any other means, in course of election duty.

The revised amount will also be applicable to those, who die of Covid 19 during the ensuing Panchayat Polls-2022 and thereafter, including by-elections. As per the revised order, Rs 30 lakh will be provided as ex-gratia, if any poll personnel die of Covid during election duty. Besides, Covid affected will avail cashless medical treatment the cost of which would be borne by the Gov-

ernment. However, the death certificate specifying the reason of death has to be issued by a medical officer and countersigned by the CDMO concerned certifying specifically that the death is caused due to Covid-19 Rs 30 lakh ex-gratia will also be given in case of death caused due to any violent act of extremist or anti-social elements like bomb blast and armed attacks.

Rs 15 lakh will be given in case of death arising out of and in course

of election duty due to any other reasons. The same amount will be provided as compensation in case of permanent disability (i.e. loss of limb, eyesight etc) caused due to any violent act of extremist or anti-social elements. This apart, Rs 7.50 lakh compensation will be extended to those on-duty election personnel, who will suffer permanent disability (i.e. loss of limb, eye sight etc.), whether by accident or by any other means arising out of and in course

of election duty. A maximum of Rs 2 lakh will be given for grievous injuries and multiple fractures caused by accident or by any other means arising out of and in course of election duty leading to temporary and prolonged incapacitation, said an order issued by the SEC.

The duty period will be counted from the date and time of reporting for election duty before the Election Officer till the date he/she is relieved.

‘Use latest forest laws for social infra projects’

Govt also wants land bank for compensatory afforestation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra on Tuesday advised the Secretaries of different departments to make use of the latest provisions of forest laws for expeditious implementation of the critical infrastructure and development projects. He was having an interactive session on forest diversion proposals held on digital mode from the Lokseba Bhawan in which Additional Chief Secretary Dr Mona Sharma outlined the issues for discussion.

Mahapatra also directed to develop a foolproof online

software, through which the forest diversion proposals could be dealt right from the time of initiation to the final sanction and issue of the certificates. He said, “Forest Department officers should be properly oriented and appraised about the recent permissive provisions of the law that allow infrastructure projects and other developmental interventions in the forestland.” He directed the department to circulate a simplified guideline with frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers among the district- and field-level officers of both the forest and user departments. Dr Sharma said that around 13 types of essential projects could be approved under the latest FRA. These include schools, dispensary, fair price shops, electric and telecommunication lines,

tanks, drinking water projects, minor irrigation projects, canal, water harvesting structures, clean energy, skill training centre, roads and community centres. Permission of the use of forestland to the extent of one hectare could be given by the DFOs.

Mahapatra directed to identify appropriate land for compensatory afforestation (CA) in lieu of the diverted forest for maintaining ecological balance over the years. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force Sishir Kumar Ratho advised that the land identified for land bank should be permissible and appropriate for CA. He advised that the land categories like the degraded revenue forest, patara jungle, jhada jungle, etc., would be ideal for CA.

SIC, AG offices shut

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Hearings in the office of the State Information Commission (SIC) have been suspended from Wednesday till further orders in view of the Covid-19 situation. The SIC office would, however, function with roster duty by 50 per cent of the staffs, an official release said.

The State Lakayukta office would remain closed from January 19 to 21 due to the pandemic situation. Besides, the grievance cell of the AG office here would be shut till further orders for the same reason. Pensioners, PF beneficiaries and other visitors have been asked to visit cag.gov.in/ae/odisha/en or call on phone 0674-2392006.

Taskforce to curb drugs trade formed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has formed a taskforce to curb the narcotic drugs trade under the chairmanship of former DGP Abhay. The multidisciplinary taskforce also consists of Secretaries of various departments like Home, Health, Excise, School & Mass Education, Social Justice & Empowerment, IT, Information & Public Relations. The Chairman can assign special studies for sub-committees and appoint State- or national-level experts. The taskforce has been asked

to take steps to bring the drug addicts to social mainstream. The taskforce would work in close coordination with Central Government agencies like Narcotics Control Bureau and Home, Social Justice & Empowerment, Health & Family Welfare, Finance, Revenue Ministries. Abhay was appointed Chairman of the taskforce after his retirement. He had worked as Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau in 2018. As the taskforce Chairman, he has been given the rank of Chief Secretary.

‘Appoint Mausumi as dist Red Cross VP’



Bhadrak DM urged

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Red Cross State Branch Protection Committee, Odisha on Tuesday urged the Bhadrak district Collector to appoint Mausumi Mohanty as the vice-president of the District Red Cross Committee.

In a letter the committee has mentioned that Mohanty by virtue of his honesty donated the total left out amount of Rs 40 lakh to

the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (Rs 30 lakh) and Red Cross fund (Rs 10 lakh). She had got this amount from public as donations for the treatment of her husband who was struggling with life being affected by Covid-19 during peak of second wave last year.

“Only a committed and honest person can do this as she sets an example for all of us,” said committee convenor Dillip Dashsharma. Dashsharma has also intimated to the Governor about her work.

Cold wave again grips State

Several places below 15 deg

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Cold wave conditions have again gripped the State with several places recording minimum (night) temperature below 15 degree Celsius on Monday night. Daringbadi and Keonjhar were the coldest places, recording night temperature of 9 degree.

Other places that recorded night temperatures of less than 15 degrees were Sundargarh (12), Baripada (10.5), Baleswar (11.5), Jharsuguda (9.8), Hirakud (11.6),

Sambalpur (12.4), Talcher (12), Jajpur (12), Cuttack and Bhubaneswar (12.6 each), Bhadrak (14.2), Chandbali (10.8), Balangir (12), Sonepur (11), Boudh (12), Angul (11.6), Titilagarh (10.3), Phulbani (10), Nayagarh (11), Paradip (14.1), Bhawanipatna (12.5), Chhatrapur (13) and Koraput (14.5), the Regional Centre of IMD here said.

There would be no large change in minimum temperature during next two days and it would gradually rise by 3 to 4 degree Celsius in subsequent three days, the IMD added.

State honours para-athlete Kamalakant

For his world record feat

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Sports and Youth Services Department on Monday felicitated para-athlete Kamalakant Nayak with a cash award of Rs 1 lakh for his world record feat.

Nayak covered a distance of 213 km in a wheelchair in 24 hours ending on Sunday. If his marathon wheelchair drive is approved by the Guinness Book of World Records, he would break the present record of 182.4 km (113.34 miles) achieved by Mario Trindade of Portugal in 24 hours in 2007.

Nayak covered the distance of 1.14 km between the city’s Rajmahal Square and Master Canteen Square for 189 times. He



started turning wheels from 4.30 pm on January 15 and stopped at 4.30 pm on January 16.

Sports and Youth Services De-

partment Secretary R Vineel Krishna felicitated him in a function at the Kalinga Stadium here. “The Department of Sports and

Youth Services will provide all necessary assistance to Kamalakant to participate in the Paralympics,” the Secretary said.

Coal crunch ----- MSMEs in dire straits; CM intervention urged

OASME writes to Patnaik

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With no respite in sight to the ongoing coal crisis that continues to affect the survival of the local industries, the Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME) has written to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik requesting his intervention.

In a letter to Chief Minister, OASME secretary general Satwik Swain said, “Despite the untiring efforts of the Government to support the industry, the con-

tinuing coal shortage due to stoppage/curtailment of coal supplies and rakes has threatened the very survival of local industries with the risk of loss of lakhs of livelihood and closure of thousands of MSMEs in the State.” He said that since August 2021, the CPPs are getting just 40-50% of the required coal supplies, creating a backlog of over 1,500 coal rakes, since most of the available coal rakes are being diverted away from CPPs. “Odisha holds 25% of the total coal deposit of the country. Out of the 150 million tons of coal produced through Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

(MCA), 65% is being transferred to other States and only 35% is reserved for Odisha industries, against the actual minimum requirement of 55% for local CPPs,” said the letter.

Prompt action is needed to be taken for the immediate resumption of coal and rake supplies from MCL, to help meet 100% coal requirement of the local CPP-based industries of Odisha. The timely action could be in the greater interest of thousands of MSMEs and save lakhs of people from the loss of employment and livelihoods, the letter added.

‘Remove Centre’s hoardings’

BJD submits memo to SEC

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A BJD delegation on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the State Election Commission (SEC) demanding removal of all BJP-led Central Governments’ hoardings, banners, and posters across the State as they violate the Model Code of Conduct in force during the panchayat elections.

The BJD alleged that a

large number of hoardings, banners and posters are found at petrol pumps, highways, railway stations, airports and other Central Government installations and offices. “These promote the BJP-led Central Government’s programmes, schemes, projects in violation of the Model Code of Conduct,” the memorandum said. The delegation included Sasmit Patra, Sulata Deo, Lenin Mohanty, Shremayee Mishra and Ipsita Sahoo.

‘Make IEC on Covid more useful’

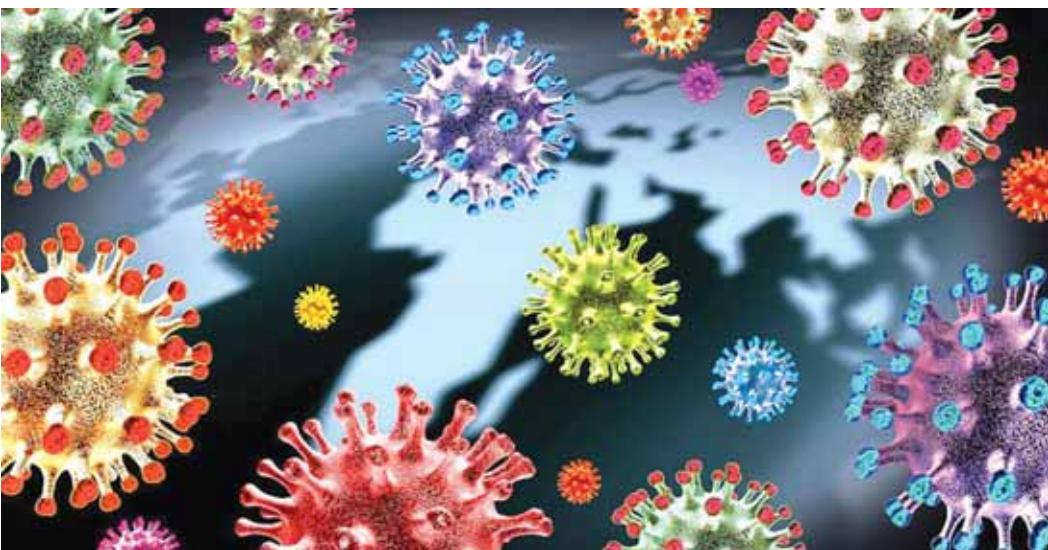
CS reviews situation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Make the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign against Covid more prescriptive and useful for the people already infected by the virus, directed Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra while reviewing the IEC on Covid-appropriate behaviour on Tuesday.

Additional Chief Secretary Health Raj Kumar Sharma outlined the issues for discussion. Mahapatra said that as many patients are in home isolation, they should be very clearly informed about the norms of isolation, daily care like measuring of oxygen level, which number to contact for getting doctor’s advice, what precautions to take, what

to do at the time of emergency, and how to avail emergency services like ambulance, hospitalisation, etc. The people also should be clearly told about care of the elderly, pregnant women and persons with comorbidity. He further said the IEC campaign should also contain the telephone numbers of the persons whom a patient in home isolation could contact for getting health services. The rapid response teams (RRTs) were advised to form area-wise WhatsApp groups taking all positive patients so that the patients could communicate their health conditions to the RRTs. It was seen that 12 types of Covid awareness texts, eight types of CAB messages, different AV clips on LED boards, advisories through electronic and social media, and audiovisual jingles



are being disseminated through different media.

Principal Secretary Informa-

tion and Public Relations Bishnupada Sethi said appropriate contents would be redesigned in

collaboration with the State Institute for Health and Family Welfare for different media and audiences.

Poll code violation

School Principal, SDPO suspended

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

The Kendrapada Sub-Collector and President of the Governing Body of Maa Tarini Higher Secondary School on Tuesday suspended school Principal Bikash Chandra Das for violating the model code of conduct for the panchayat elections.

Salipur SDPO Prasant Majhi was also suspended by the Central Range IG on the same charge. Earlier in the day, the State Election Commission (SEC) had recommended suspension of the Principal and the SDPO for allegedly violating the model code of conduct by organising a political meeting



despite enforcement of the guideline ahead of the panchayat elections. The SEC recommended that the School and Mass Education Department suspend the Principal

over poll code violation. Besides, it asked district Collector Amrit Raturaj to register a case against the Principal under Section 188 IPC. Taking strong cognisance of the presence of the Salipur SDPO during the event, the SEC recommended the Director General of Police (DGP) to immediately suspend the police officer and place him at the Police Headquarters. Both the recommendations were made by the SEC based on a report by the Collector. Earlier, on Monday, a video showing a meeting being organised on the premises of the school went viral on social media platforms. Sources said the

meeting was held to canvas for the aspiring Sarpanch candidate of Gadaromita GP Sanghamitra Mohapatra, The Samajwadi Lohia Vahini State secretary Pradip mishra, r activist Pratap Mohanty, and Manoranjan Samal knocked at the doors of the SEC and alleged violation of code of conduct and Covid protocols.

Even though the video showed hundreds of people participating in the meeting, SDPO Majhi claimed that it was a family function and denied any violation of the model code of conduct. Soon after the telecast of the news, the administration had ordered a probe into the incident.

In Jajpur

Tea seller returns purse to owner

PNS ■ JAJPUR

A poor tea seller near Jaraka Junction on NH-16 under the Dharmasala police station in Jajpur district has earned lavish praise for his honesty. Krishnachandra Dalei had found a wallet with Rs 4,000 and a Voter ID card from the road near his shop. From the voter card, he knew that it belonged to one Biren Pingua of Domuhani in Bangirposi of Mayurbhanj district. He asked his son to post in social media about the recovery of the wallet. On Tuesday, Biren arrived at the Jaraka police outpost. After proving his identity, he got back the purse. He said on December 19, he was on his way to Paradip by his motorcycle when he lost the wallet and the documents.

Bloomberg Challenge: R'kela in Top 15 Cities

Only Indian city to earn ranking; to get 1 Million USD

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Smartcity Rourkela ranks among the Top 15 Cities of the world under the Bloomberg Global Mayors Challenge 2021. This makes the city eligible for a grant of USD 1 million from Bloomberg Philanthropies and technical assistance to carry out innovation over the next three years.

Rourkela, one of the five Municipal Corporations and a leading

industrial town of Odisha, is the only Indian city to make the honour. Under Global Mayors Challenge, Rourkela has developed a sustainable model which augments the income of women and small time traders of the city while promoting the use of technology. As part of the project, the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has developed a cold storage facility at the local Veer Surendra Sai (VSS) Market in partnership with a NIT Rourkela based startup and managed by women self help group members. With the solution, the local farmers and fruit traders have



been able to enhance their income by preserving their produce and preventing any wastage. In addition, fresh vegetables and fruits are delivered to people's doorsteps, es-

pecially in times of Covid 19. All of this is being managed by members of women self help groups using mobile apps. While developing the ecosystem and helping all the stakeholders, the model helps the women largely in augmenting their livelihoods. Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) Dr Subhankar Mohapatra expressed his happiness after winning the challenge. He appreciated the role of team RMC, Technical Partner Koel Fresh, research students and alumnus of NIT Rourkela who have shown commendable effort in the last 6 months.

Notably, 99 countries from around the world took part in the Global Mayors Challenge held in June 2021. At a critical time such as the Covid https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/clear_dot.gif pandemic, the competition focused on proposals from 630 cities on economic recovery and overall growth, health and welfare, climate and environment, and good governance and equality. Of these, 50 cities, including Rourkela, were finalists among proposals for innovative and modern projects. Currently, Rourkela is the only city from India to have made the cut among top 15 cities globally.

Scrap recycling: B'pur ITI bags award

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Government ITI, Brahmapur has bagged the Greener Tomorrow Award-2021 for recycling.

Union Minister of Environment Aswini Kumar Choubey highly appreciated the recycling work from scraps done by the institute. Principal of the ITI Dr Rajat Kumar Panigrahy said that the method is highly sustainable as throughout the year scraps are generated and available locally. This method of imparting skill through waste management is innovative. Notably, the work has been accepted in the national level and published in the book chapter "Recycling of Scrap from Technical Institutes: A Case Study, Government ITI Berhampur" in the book captioned



"Waste Management as Economic Industry towards Circular Economy" published by Springer Nature, Singapore Private Limited, one of the leading book publishers of the world. The general public/school children are highly educated and are made aware of waste management to reuse the waste. Particularly the institute trainees will be warriors of the planet to lead sustainability, Institute Principal Dr Panigrahy claimed. The elephant sculpture park

and tiger sculpture park, the brain child of the Government ITI, Brahmapur make a very good social message to protect the wild animals, Dr Panigrahy pointed out.

Speaking on the innovative process, Dr Panigrahy said they collect automobile scraps, metal scrap, e-waste, plastic waste, iron bars from demolished buildings and transformers to use them in highly valued scrap sculptures through various engineering process.

S'pur DM, SP visit accident-prone chowk

Ask authorities to complete road, flyover at Ainthapali

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

In view of frequent accidents and loss of valuable lives thereby, Sambalpur Collector Divyajyoti Parida and SP B Gangadhar accompanied by senior officials from Works department visited the accident prone Ainthapali Chowk, known as Virsha Munda Chowk, to chalk out plans to stop accidents.

The route connects Mumbai, Kolkata, Cuttack and Ranchi including one to Sambalpur city and hence its importance and traffic flow can be easily imagined. But due to poor road condition of the chowk situated at the very entrance of the city in the eastern end, acci-

dents are quite common. Hence, there are massive public resentments. The Collector and SP instructed the departmental officials to remodel and widen the roads and evict encroachments in all directions to facilitate smooth flow of traffic. At the same time, they asked the authorities to expedite the work for the proposed flyover on it to ease the traffic. It needs to be mentioned here that former Collector of Sambalpur Subham Saxena was very hard on NHAI authorities who were making inordinate delay to begin the flyover work. The NHAI was taking a very casual view to speed up the project and complete it.

However, after a recent fatal accident here again, the new Collector has taken up the project with all seriousness.

Hate speeches reflection of bad values, thoughts

So, spread love



ABASH PARIDA

"Hate Debate: Should Hate Be Punished as A Crime", a book by Paul Iganski reveals the relationship between hate speech and hate crimes. Hate speech is the reflection of bad values and thoughts. It paves way to hate crimes or violence in society. If the impact of hate speech is pathological as well as deviant then who should be punished for this? Those who commit the hate crimes or those spread the prejudices and motivate the violence? Further, adding to Paul's concern, why are these prejudices so rampant and spreading like an epidemic?

As a sociologist, I may refer Zawdaki's "Well-earned Theory." It tells that the members of a particular group or community having bad reputation are victimized by other groups or communities those

are numerically stronger. For instance, Minority and marginal groups and communities have bad reputation in India, which make them prone to discrimination, both physical and digital. To be very specific, there is a public discourse about Muslims which focuses on some issues such as responsible for population growth, anti-nationalist, forced marriage, beef eaters, polygamous, female genital mutilation, veil etc. This is not true always. Islamophobia is growing and it is displaying in hate speech forms. As per a survey by Boomlive.in it is revealed that Islamophobia has increased in social media because fake narratives are widely accepted by the users. A narrative says Hindus suffer because of minority appeasement. Haridwar Dhram Sansad case is the live example of hate speech against Muslims. We advocate secularism, multiculturalism, melting pot society or group rights but in reality there is huge trust deficit for minor communities.

There is no stopping for hate speech. Another ripple effect of hate speech in online had come to surface when photos of hundreds of Muslim women were uploaded illegally by an app called GitHub by the name of 'Bulli Bai.' This app had encouraged people for auctioning those women through online. In just a span of 7 months Muslim women are again targeted through the auction site. Last year 'Sulli

Deals' controversy was in roof but no action has been taken against the culprits. In both the cases Bulli Bai and Sulli Deals, women photos are displayed and are labeled like a product to sell. Needless to say, Sulli Deals and Bulli Bai are the few examples of women harassment out of many.

These are not all about only Muslims females; women around the world irrespective of caste, race and religion are the victims of hate speech. Yes, we have to admit that online or digital misogyny is a women rights issue as well as a global tragedy. As per a report by Equality Lab on Quantum Of Hate Speech On Facebook In India, it is reported that Islamophobia tops the list. Anti-Muslim sentiments hate speech is at top with 37% of total hate speech. False News has 17% of space in hate speech. Gender related or misogynist hate speech content and Dalit or caste related hate speech have 13% of share each respectively. Violence hate speech has 11% and anti-religious content has 9% of total hate speech in Facebook.

Hate speech is deadly dangerous for India as well as for the world. It is overriding communities on communities. Muslims across the globe are projected as antinationalist. Nationalism is a collective effort. Voices of many women, girls, transgender and Dalits are abused and choked

through hate speech. Many women do not want to be in social media due to the fear of online harassment or abuse. It is a threat to their freedom. There is no specific definition for hate speech. As per the Law Commission of India, hate speech is an incitement to hatred against a race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and religious belief. Similarly, The Bureau Of Police Research And Development has defined hate speech in terms of a threat, abuse and target of one individual or group towards another individual or group based on the identity. The United Nation is having a strong concern on hate speech. As per the UN, hate speech has been increasing since 1950s. Further to this, it has become one of the strong reasons for violence across the globe.

During the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the quantum of hate speech has increased. For example, some ethnic groups, migrants and foreigners have been victimized by hate speech and held responsible for spreading covid virus. Journalists, medical and health workers are also subjected to fall as victims of hate speech. Hate speech is a threat to society when it is circulated by political leaders, religious leaders, role models and Government officials. Hate speech is a danger to human rights. It attacks on tolerance and social inclusion. It damages peace, social solidarity and diversity. Hate

speech has many reflections. It may come in the forms of xenophobia, islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racism and intolerance or may be in form misogyny. The reasons are very hard to find. Ideological difference, threat, prejudices and superiority complexes are some reasons of hate speech.

There are many laws and efforts in India to curb the menace of hate speech. Still it is observed there is a spike in the number of cases registered under Section 153A and 153AA. These two IPC sections say 'Promotion of enmity between groups on the basis of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc.' Further, it is alarming for India that during 2015-2020, there is a more than four times increase in the number of cases registered under 153A. There are many IPC sections such as 153B, 295A, 298, 505(1) meant to control the hate speech. Also, the United Nations has emphasized on some plan of actions and strategies on hate speech. The UN has been promoting the efforts to find out the root cause and drivers of hate speech. A clear cut demarcation should be done to know the difference between freedom of speech and hate speech. Responsibilities should be given to civil societies, media along with social media to curb the quantum of hate speech. (Dr Parida is an assistant professor. email id: abash.parida@gmail.com)

INBRIEF

BHARATIYA SAHITYA PARISHAD HOLDS STATE MEET

Bhubaneswar : The annual meeting of the Akhila Bharatiya Sahitya Parishad Odisha branch was held on Sunday. The meeting chaired by Dr Smarapriya Mishra elected KISS Emeritus Professor Raghunath Panda as president, Dr Smarapriya Mishra, Dr Abhay Kumar Nayak vice- presidents, Dr Santosh Mohapatra general secretary, Narayan Nayk organisation secretary, Biranchi Nrayan Panda, Pratibha Priyadarshini and Er Satyajit Nayak secretaries and Er Pradipta Kumar Dash treasurer. Chief guest national general secretary Russi Kumar spoke on the role of writers. State secretary Mohapatra presented the annual report.



AWAAZ HOLDS MEET ON URDU LANGUAGE



Bhubaneswar : The AWAAZ in collaboration with the National Urdu Language Development Council held a seminar at Majhihara village in the Balipatna area. The meeting was attended by Delhi University Prof Dr Abdur Rehaman, Youth for Voluntary Work chairman Mir Mohammed Ali, Moulai Iftekar Kashim and Moulai Amanati Ali as guest speakers. The seminar was coordinated by Mohmed Khan.

PRAMOD PATI FILM AWARD FOR CAMERAMAN SRINIVAS

Bhubaneswar : The Pramod Pati Trust on Monday announced the Pramod Pati Film Award-2022 for senior cameraman Srinivas Mohapatra. The award function is scheduled on January 20 on the 48th death anniversary of Pati. Trust chairman Shyam Sundar Mahapatra and secretary Golak Bihari Singh said Srniwas Mohapatra is a skilled cameraman at the national level and a cinematographer of many Hindi and Odia films.

HANDICRAFTS ASST DIR HELD TAKING BRIBE

Jajpur : Pravat Mishra, Assistant Director, Handicrafts of Jajpur Road and Laxmipriya Maharana, Master Craftsman, were apprehended by the Vigilance police while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 on Tuesday. The bribe was being accepted through Maharana. The bribe was offered by the complainant to facilitate payment of his pending bills of Rs 76,500. Later, searches were conducted at the Dual Height Apartment in Patia, Bhubaneswar, Mishra's rented house at Badambadi, Cuttack, paternal house at Sundargarh and residential house of Maharana in Jajpur district.

BALANGIR STAFFS TRAINED FOR TIGER ESTIMATION

Balangir : Training of field staffs to carry out the All India Tiger Estimation-2022 in the Balangir Forest Division was held on Monday. The tiger estimation will be conducted in the division from January 20 to 25. Divisional Forest Officer Nitish Kumar imparted a technical knowhow hands-on training to the staffs regarding the use of MSTrIPES ECOLOGICAL Apps to be used for the tiger estimation this year. Journalist and Honorary Wildlife Warden Sudhir Mishra, JIIT Botany Lecturer Arindam Parichha and DEO, Balangir Forest Division Santosh Rana coordinated the programme.



COVID AWARENESS CAMP IN BODEN



Nuapada : A Covid awareness camp was jointly organised by the Nuapada Nehru Yuva Kendra and the Jai Jagannath Club Rokal at Rokal, Boden block on Monday. A public appeal was made to wear mask, maintain social distancing and wash hands. "Everyone was encouraged to take part in the fight to win the pandemic and cope up with the difficult decisions taken by the Government for the purpose," said the organisers. Youth volunteers distributed masks. Senior citizens were motivated to take precaution dose of Covid vaccine. Anjali Shabar, Ishwar Majhi from NYK attended as guests.

Odisha to conduct polls in disputed Kotia villages

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Election Commission (SEC) is taking all necessary steps to conduct panchayat elections in Kotia during the ensuing polls, giving a clear message to Andhra Pradesh which is claiming Kotia villages under its boundary. During a recent meeting with Collectors and SPs, State Election Commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi had asked them to give special attention for holding Panchayat elections in Kotia Gram Panchayat under Pottangi Block. In February last year, the Andhra Pradesh Government had issued notification for conduct of the rural polls in Kotia despite the Odisha Government having approached the Supreme Court. Both Odisha and Andhra are engaged in a five-decade-long tussle over the ownership of 21 of the 28 villages in Kotia Panchayat and the case is pending in Supreme Court since 1968. Peeved with frequent intrusions by Andhra and execution of various welfare programmes in Kotia, the Odisha Government had

announced a special package worth Rs 150 crore for development of the disputed Panchayat in April 2018. During general elections to PRIs, 2017, polling could not be held in two Zilla Parishad zones of Chitrakonda Block including 18 Gram Panchayats of Malkangiri district due to the security situation. Hence, the SEC has asked that adequate precautions be taken at all levels and special preparations be made to ensure that the election process starting with nominations are held smoothly in the coming Panchayat elections. The Collectors and SPs of both the districts have been asked to appraise the prevailing situation in these Blocks. Meanwhile, the Commission has decided for CCTV coverage of hypersensitive booths taking into account the availability of CCTVs and the requirement of funds. One videographer will be exclusively kept at the disposal of General Observer and one/two videographer(s) will be engaged per Block on the day of poll. Prior approval of the Commission is required before installation of CCTVs.

JSW higher-ups visit project sites

Talk to villagers

PNS ■ JAGATSinghpur

Senior JSW officers and company executives visited proposed project site villages such as Dhinkia, Gadakujanga and Nuagaon under Erasama block on Tuesday. The visiting company higher-ups held discussions with affected villagers with regard to their difficulty evolving during betel vines demolition and land acquisition as well as distribution of compensation. Many villagers pleaded giving priority on employment to the displaced families and betel vines growers. In reply, the JSW authority assured the villagers that special rehabilitation

and resettlement compensation packages would be launched for the affected people before going ahead with a plan to set up a steel plant. The compensation announced by the JSW is way above the provisions outlined in the R&R policy of the Odisha Government, the JSW officers said. The visiting company officials inspected the boundary wall construction site from Patana to Govindapur, besides instructing to speed up the betel vine survey and its demolition. The visiting company officials included CEO Ranjan Naik, JSW mines chief BRK Padhi, human resources head Sreejit Mishra, Paradip project chief Subrat Sahu and company's Paradip executives.

REPUBLICDAY2022: BEATING THE RETREAT EVENT

1K drones to mark 75 yrs of Independence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will join the elite club of nations during the Beating Retreat ceremony here on January 29 when more than 1,000 locally made drones will depict 75 years of Independence at Rajpath. US, China and Russia are the other three countries in the world to have the capability to launch 1,000 drones simultaneously for events of such magnitude and size.

Giving details here about the exceptional event, defence ministry sources said on Tuesday the drones show is brainchild of a start-up venture of the Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Delhi.

Moreover, for the first time, on the parapet of the North Block and the South Block, there will be a laser projection mapping show to commemorate

75 years of independence, they added. This is the first time that the Beating the Retreat ceremony will have a laser show and a drone show, officials said.

These two shows will take place in addition to the foot-tapping music and classical renditions that are there every year at the ceremony, they said.

Botlab, a startup from IIT-Delhi, will put up the drone show with nearly 1,000 drones. It will be themed on 75 years of independence. With this launch, India will become the fourth country to conduct a drone show of this size that has been designed and conceptualised indigenously, sources said. The Beating the Retreat ceremony marks a centuries-old military tradition, dating back to the days when troops disengaged from battle at sunset.

New Delhi: Eastern Command chief Lt General Manoj Pande will be



the next Vice Chief of Army after incumbent Lt General C P Mohanty retires this month end. Pande will be senior most after present Army Chief General M M Naravane retires in April end. If the government follows the tradition of appointing the senior most officer as the top boss, Pande will then be the next Army chief, sources said here on Tuesday adding he will be the

first officer from the Engineer Corps if he makes it to top. The government is yet to select the next Chief of Defence Staff after first CDS General Bipin Rawat died in a helicopter crash in December last year.

As soon as the buglers sounded the "retreat", the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield.

PM interacts with BJP men in Varanasi digitally

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing his election campaign under Covid-19 restrictions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday digitally interacted with BJP workers in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and asked those at booth-level to make farmers aware of central schemes benefiting them.

In the first of such interactions following the announcement of poll dates by the Election Commission (EC), the Prime Minister said that the BJP is set to carry forward its election campaign till January 22.

Modi connected with an estimated 10,000 BJP workers



and included those from booth, district and State level BJP functionaries.

On account of the EC's restrictions on physical rallies due to the spread of Omicron virus the Prime Minister's interaction seen as poll campaign- held through audio-

conferencing.

Speaking to the workers the Prime Minister reaffirmed the BJP's commitment towards development of the state with double-engine at work.

Restoration of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, women empowerment, infrastructure

and healthcare development were among the subjects that came up for discussion during the interaction.

Modi spoke to BJP workers who informed him of their "regular interactions with poor who are provided with food and other essentials".

Prime Minister asked BJP workers "to convince farmers about central schemes about their well-being", saying they need to create awareness among farmers.

Modi said his government has made all inclusive schemes for the farmers that is to say "beej se bazaar tak", he said.

The Prime Minister also asked BJP workers to encourage farmers in their region to go for "natural farming and

thus reduce the cost of their produce."

The polls in UP will be held in seven phases starting February 10.

Top BJP leaders including BJP president J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah ND State election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan along with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have been currently holding meetings of the BJP's core committee here to finalise candidates' list and seat-sharing arrangement with allies like the Apna Dal and the Nishad Party.

On Saturday, the BJP released the list of candidates for 57 out of 58 seats in the first phase and for 48 out of 55 in the second phase.

‘Disturbing trend’: SC on courts deciding rape, murder cases in haste

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed concern over the "disturbing tendency" of trial courts deciding cases involving rape and murder charges in haste as it commuted the death sentence of a man, convicted for raping and killing a 11-year-old girl, to 30 years imprisonment.

A bench, headed by Justice L. Nageswara Rao and comprising Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna, said: "It is travesty of justice as the appellant was not given a fair opportunity to defend himself. This is a classic case indicating the disturbing tendency of trial courts adjudicating criminal cases involving rape and murder in haste. It is trite law that an accused is entitled for a fair trial which is guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution."

The bench added that adequate opportunity to produce relevant material on the question of death sentence should be provided to the accused by the trial court.

The judgment came on an appeal filed by Bhagwani, whose appeal challenging the death sentence awarded by the trial court was dismissed by the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

The top court noted that the accused was 25 years old on the date of commission of the offence and belongs to a Scheduled Tribes community, eking his livelihood by doing manual labour. It added that no evidence has been placed by the prosecution on record to show



that there is no probability of rehabilitation and reformation of the accused and the question of an alternative option to death sentence is foreclosed.

"The appellant had no criminal antecedents before the commission of crime for which he has been convicted. There is nothing adverse that has been reported against his conduct in jail. Therefore, the death sentence requires to be commuted to life imprisonment," noted the bench, sentencing him to 30 years imprisonment for committing rape and murder of a hapless girl.

The incident occurred in April 2017 and the other accused Satish died during the pendency of his appeal.

IANS

Servomax India MD held in ₹402 cr fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Avasarala Venkateswara Rao, Promoter and Managing Director of Servomax India Private Limited (SIPL) on money laundering charges for causing a loss of around Rs 402 crore to a consortium of Public Sector Banks by indulging in various fraudulent practices.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of CBI FIR dated February 2, 2018 Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, forgery for the purpose of cheating and using forged documents as genuine.

Investigation by ED revealed that SIPL had taken

loans from a consortium of banks and Rao was the promoter cum Key Managerial Person who was responsible for the entire business operations. Rao indulged in fraudulent transactions and the loan amounts were not repaid, and the consortium of Banks suffered a non-performing asset (NPA) of Rs 402 crore, the ED said.

The accused firm SIPL had circulated loan amounts to various related entities to inflate its books of accounts to become eligible for higher loans and had issued letters of credit (LCs) to related entities without any real purchase of goods and which ultimately devolved causing losses of Rs 267 crore to the banks, it said.

The ED investigation

established that Avasarala Venkateswara Rao was continuously indulging in benami transactions and had diverted loan funds for personal benefit. He has used a web of more than 50 entities to route proceeds of crime and layer the same.

Rao was non-cooperative during the investigation and was not supplying documents of his own business entities on one pretext or the other. Once the loan accounts became NPA, he was using his own shell entity (with his employee as controlling Director) to initiate the CIRP (Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process) by fraudulently declaring it to be a creditor by passing bogus journal entries.

Rao even managed to get



his own person appointed as Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) for some time. He has also managed to retain the brand name of 'Servomax' illegally and even during the CIRP process, he controlled the website of the company and diverted work orders to his related entities.

Based on the investigation done till date and the material evidence available on record, he was arrested under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act and was produced before the PMLA Special Court Hyderabad on Tuesday. The Court has remanded him to 14-day judicial custody.

Vikram Dev appointed as Air India CMD: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A 1993 batch IAS officer of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, Vikram Dev Dutt, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Ltd as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday. He has been appointed as the Air India chief in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

Dutt's appointment comes nearly a month after the Competition Commission approved Tata Group's proposed acquisition of Air India, Air India Express, and AISATS.

Prior to this, Dutt was appointed as Principal Secretary for Health and Family Welfare Department of the Delhi government in June 2020. However, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Anil Bajjal transferred the IAS officer of AGMUT 1993 batch and posted him as principal secretary of the Services department in

March 2021. Dutt, in 2020, assumed the charge of Delhi's Health and Family Welfare Department as principal secretary to push government's measures to contain the COVID-19 cases in the national capital.

Talace Pvt Ltd, part of Tata Group, is to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Air India and Air

India Express and a 50 percent shareholding in Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd (AISATS).

The Tata group firm had emerged as the winning bidder for Air India in October 2021, with a bid worth Rs 18,000 crore. It will pay Rs 2,700 crore cash and take over Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt.

Over 50 lakh HCWs, frontline workers get booster dose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said over 50 lakh healthcare and frontline workers and citizens aged 60 years

or above have received 'Precaution Dose' since January 10. With the administration of nearly 80 lakh vaccine doses in a span of 24 hours, the cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country

has exceeded 158.04 crore as per provisional reports till 7 am. Taking to Twitter, the Union minister wrote "Another Day, Another Milestone over 50 lakh healthcare and frontline workers and citizens aged 60 years or above have received Precaution Dose, since 10th January. I request all those who are eligible to get their precaution dose at the earliest".

India began administering precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers, frontline workers including personnel deployed for election duty and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10 amid the country witnessing a spike in coronavirus infections fuelled by Omicron variant of the virus.

However, the countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16, 2021 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with

specified co-morbid conditions. The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1, 2021.

The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination has commenced from January 3 this year for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.



Ensure only Covaxin given to 15-18 group: Bharat Biotech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Raising concern over unapproved vaccines being administered to children, Bharat Biotech on Tuesday issued a statement urging healthcare workers to be "vigilant" and ensure only Covaxin is being administered to the

age group of 15-18 years. The statement comes after the company received reports of other vaccines, which have not been approved for children, being administered to the newly eligible group.

"We have received several reports of other Covid-19 vaccines being administered to

individuals in the 15-18 years age group," the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker said in a statement, shared on Twitter.

"We humbly request healthcare workers to be highly vigilant and ensure that only Covaxin is administered to individuals in the 15-18 years age group," it added.

EC adds new column to mention expenditure on digital campaigning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has added a new column in candidates' election expenditure returns to submit information on money spent on digital campaigning in the upcoming polls in five states. The candidates used to mention money spent on digital campaigning in previous elections also, but this is for the first time that a dedicated column has been created to "capture" details of such expenditure.

In a bid to check the spread of COVID-19, the poll panel has extended a ban on holding physical rallies, roadshows and similar physical campaigning events till January 22. With the ban on outdoor physical events in place, parties are using digital and online platforms to reach out to voters. The new column has been created for the first time for elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur by tweaking the format of returns.

"Parties and candidates (so

far) used to disclose on their own such expenditure ... They used to provide details of expenditure on things like digital vans ... They used to show expenditure under this category. Now, a dedicated point has been created to capture such expenditure from this (set of) polls," a functionary explained.

The functionary said it is not for the first time such disclosure by the candidates and parties will be made. "But the manner of disclosure now is dedicated," the functionary explained. According to section 10A of the Representation of the People Act 1951, a candidate who fails to lodge his or her election expenditures within the prescribed time is liable to be disqualified by EC for a period of three years from contesting polls.

Ahead of the announcement of the election schedule, the expenditure limit for candidates for campaigning was hiked by the government based on the recommendations of the poll panel.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/Pre-Primary/Gen.Corres/189/2018/8531 Date: 17.01.2022

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission(Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed Manufacturer/Authorized Dealer/ Distributor of manufacturer of plastic moulded furniture for supply of Low Height Plastic Table and Chair.

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, 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/2919/21

Didi to visit UP on Feb 8 in support of Akhilesh

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress is likely to throw its weight behind Samajwadi Party and Akhilesh Yadav in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections, senior SP leader and former Bengal Minister Kiranmoy Nanda who was on Tuesday sent to meet Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as a special emissary of Yadav said.

Nanda said that the Bengal Chief Minister would visit UP on February 8 where she would hold a meeting with the SP chief.

The former Bengal Fisheries Minister — in Buddhadeb Bhattacharya cabinet — and presently the vice-president of SP, said, Banerjee and Yadav would hold a virtual press meeting in Lucknow



and Varanasi.

“The TMC ... does not want to contest in UP. All seats will be given to Akhilesh Yadav,” Nanda was quoted as saying.

The SP leader also said that “a large section of the political society thinks that Mamata Banerjee is the principal face against the BJP in India,” and



hence his party would like to go with her.

According to sources the SP leadership also requested Banerjee to join Yadav in campaign in UP. Whether Banerjee had given words was not known. The TMC however did not demand any seat in the north India State for now, sources said.

UP court rejects bail plea of SP MLA Nahid Hasan

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A special court in Kairana in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday rejected the bail plea of Samajwadi Party MLA Nahid Hasan, arrested last week in a case under the stringent Gangsters Act.

Hasan, who was arrested on January 15, has filed his nomination from the Kairana assembly constituency on a Samajwadi Party ticket for the February 10 election.

MP/MLA special court judge Subodh Singh said there was no case for bail and rejected Hasan's plea. Hasan's lawyer said they would move the high court soon seeking his bail.

According to Government lawyer Ashok Pundhir, the legislator was sent to 14-day judicial custody by a court in Kairana in Shamli district on January 15.

According to police, 40 people, including Hasan, were booked last year. While most of the accused were released on bail, Hasan had failed to surrender in court following which a non-bailable warrant was issued against him and he was arrested.

Earlier, the police had invoked the stringent Gangsters Act against the 34-year-old MLA from Kairana.

According to an affidavit filed with his nomination, Hasan, who did his BBA from Australia in 2010, is an accused in 16 cases lodged in police stations of Shamli, Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar districts.

All the cases are pending in courts and Hasan has so far not been convicted in any of them.

Under attack over fielding candidates with a criminal background in Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday alleged that his party leaders have been framed in false cases by the ruling BJP.

Yadav also described as BJP-sponsored a PIL which sought a direction from the Supreme Court to the Election Commission to de-register any political party which violates the directions of the apex court on making public information about their candidate's criminal record. **PTI**

Army rescues civilians stuck in avalanche in J&K's Kupwara

PNS ■ JAMMU

More than two dozen stranded passengers were safely rescued by the jawans of the Indian Army and GREF near Chowkibal-Tangdhar road amid fresh spell of snow-fall in the last 24 hours in North Kashmir district of Kupwara.

The passenger vehicles were stuck on the Tangdhar-Chowkibal axis, following which the nearest Army unit was alerted and a rescue operation launched.

According to local reports, some of the passengers stranded in the area had a narrow escape as their vehicles were stuck in the avalanche prone areas.

According to a Defence spokesman, the civilians, which included a child, were evacuated to safety by the Army rescue team. The spokesman said two rescue teams comprising avalanche rescue teams from the Indian Army and a team of GREF were mobilized for rescuing the



civilians who were stuck in their vehicles.

"Despite adverse weather conditions compounded by twin avalanches, 14 civilians were rescued and brought to Neelam and 16 civilians to NC pass, which is also commonly known as Sadhna pass. All the rescued civilians were provided food, medical care and shelter for the night", defence spokesman added. He said twelve vehicles were later retrieved during the day on 18 January, post avalanche and snow slides clearance from the road. GREF played a difficult but stellar role in snow clearance amidst dangerous conditions.

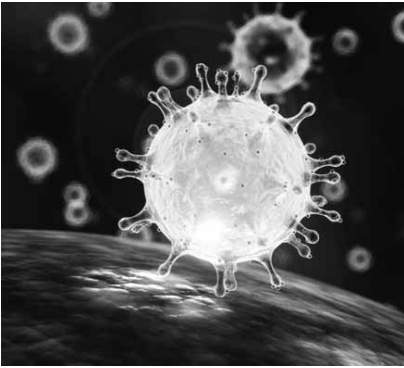
Daily Covid cases shoot past 28,400 in Kerala Schools and Colleges to be shut in State

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Situation in Kerala has taken a turn for the worse as the Minister for Health Veena George said in a release that 28,481 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 during the last 24 hours and death toll reached 51,026 by Tuesday evening.

The *Pioneer* has been quoting medical doctors and front line warriors who had warned that the Covid-19 situation in Kerala was going out of control as the Safety Protocols like wearing face masks, maintaining social distance and crowding in public places were ignored by the population as well as the administration.

The Test Positivity Rate on Tuesday was 35.27 per cent. The Government of Kerala had given up releasing the TPR figures following a dip in the number of daily pandemic cases diagnosed in the State. On Tuesday, Education Minister V Sivankutty was tested positive and was admitted to a city hospital. The minister was opposing the plea from all sections of the society to close down schools in the backdrop of the



increase in the Covid-19 cases. By Tuesday evening, sources in Government secretariat confirmed that the all schools and colleges would be shut down in the State.

More than 500 employees (drivers and conductors) of Kerala State Road Transport Corporations were tested positive for the pandemic and this forced the public sector unit to cancel many schedules. A senior nurse in Varkkala government hospital, described as a front line covid warrior, suc-

cumbed to the pandemic which she contracted while attending to patients in the Covid-19 ward.

Dr Rajiv Pillai, a frontline medical doctor, working among the Covid-19 patients too was tested positive and has been quarantined at home. The situation in the capital city as well as in Ernakulam district continued to be alarming. The triennial CPI(M) conferences are being cited as one of the reasons for spurt in the number of Covid-19 cases in the State. The "Mega Thiruvathirakali" (a traditional song and dance programme eulogizing Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan) held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam and Thrissur which saw the participation of more than 1,500 women artists is being blamed for the hike in the Covid-19 cases.

Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, party secretary, said on Tuesday that safety protocols may have to be reworked for holding the State Conference of the party at Kochi next month and the Party Congress scheduled to be held in Kannur during April 2022.

J&K logs nearly 5K new cases

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday recorded close to 5,000 fresh cases of coronavirus with both Jammu and Srinagar districts reporting more than 900 cases while three Covid-19 patients died in the last 24 hours.

The majority of front line health workers in different medical colleges and other health institutions have tested positive adversely impacting the health care services. To run the show the staff of Government Ayurvedic hospital has been diverted to the GMC Jammu along with final year MBBS students, nurses and other para-medical staff.

In Jammu region alone over 450 health care workers have been tested positive in the last couple of days while over 250 doctors and paramedics

were isolated after they contracted coronavirus while delivering health care services in Kashmir valley. The UT administration has already stalled planned surgeries across different health institutions and running emergency services only to break the chain of coronavirus.

According to a health bulletin, the total active positive cases have crossed the barrier of 20,000 in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. A total number of 4651 cases were detected on Tuesday, 3015 from Kashmir region and 1546 from Jammu region. More than 74,000 tests were conducted on Tuesday.

Night curfew has already been imposed in the UT to prevent the spread of the virus while all educational institutions have been closed down. Weekend curfew was also imposed last week.

Rajnath writes to Didi on Netaji tableau exclusion

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid raging controversy over the Centre's alleged "misdemeanour" in rejecting Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's tableau for the Republic Day parade, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday wrote a letter to Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee clearing the Union Government's stance on why the decision to exclude Bengal's tableau on Bose taken.

Claiming that the "selection process for the tableaux in the Republic Day parade is very transparent," Singh said that a committee of experts from the field of art, culture, music and dance was responsible for the selection of tableaux and that the selection of such tableaux was done after a series of evaluations.

The Defence Minister wrote, "I respect your feelings

and would like to personally inform you that out of the 29 proposals received from states/union territories this year, 12 have been selected." Then he hoped that the letter would resolve all suspicions she had.

The Chief Minister had on Sunday written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi registering her protest against dropping of Bengal's tableau featuring Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the year of his 125th birth anniversary.

While Singh hoped to resolve the issue through the letter Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asked the parties that be to "stop seeing bad politics in a display that celebrates India," even as she tweeted "States, GoI ministries & PSUs send proposals for Republic Day tableaux every year. The duration of Parade

itself is limited. An Expert Committee of eminences from the arts shortlist from those received. For RD 2022, GoI received 56 proposals; 21 were shortlisted."

Closing her argument she said: "Incidentally, this year the tableau of CPWDGOV includes Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose... Stop seeing bad politics in a display that celebrates India."

Meanwhile the ruling Trinamool Congress and Bengal intellectuals continued to see "bad politics" in the Centre's decision even as they said that last year Netaji's 125th anniversary was started by the BJP Government as Bengal was going to polls but the tableaux of the great hero was dropped this year because the polls were over and the BJP had lost in it.

Mala Roy the TMC MP from South Kolkata --- where

Bose lived before living in the darkness of a night for Germany via Afghanistan --- said "it is very unfortunate ... I have no words to express ... never was a tableaux rejected in such a manner ... as this is not only an insult to Netaji but also an insult to the people of India."

The Left too criticized the Centre for "acting in a mean manner by rejecting Netaji's tableau."

Nirbhed Roy, a critic and a scholar said that "in rejecting Netaji's tableaux the Centre had shown a sick mentality ... peculiar to less enlightened and uneducated people only ... They name the Kolkata Port after Shyama Prasad Mukherjee while use Netaji's name for elections ... this shows their meanness of mind ... Netaji did not belong to Bengal only ... he belonged to the whole country."



5-month-old Oscar swims inside the penguin enclosure at Byculla Zoo in Mumbai on Tuesday

PTI

HC commutes death sentence of sisters who killed children

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nearly seven and a half years it stayed the execution of two gallow-bound Kolhapur sisters Renuka Shinde and Seema Gavit whose mercy petitions had been rejected by then President Pranab Mukerjee, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday commuted the two sisters' death sentence to life imprisonments, after pulling up the officers of the State Government for the inordinate delay in deciding on their mercy petitions.

Passing strictures against the officers of the Maharashtra Government for the delay of "seven years, ten months and 15 days" in deciding the mercy petitions of two Kolhapur sisters who were convicted for the murder of six children, a HC bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sarang Kotwal attributed the commutation of the two convicts from capital punishment to life imprisonment to the "gross delay" in the disposal of mercy petitions.

"...the position of law that unexplained and gross delay in disposal of mercy petitions may result in commuting the death sentence was already holding the field when the mercy petitions by and on behalf of the Petitioners were made. Despite this legal position, wholly due to the casual approach of the officers of the Respondent- State, the mercy petitions were not decided for seven years, ten months and 15 days," the two Judges observed, while commuting the death sentence of two

Kolhapur sisters' death sentence to life imprisonments.

"Though the procedure for deciding the mercy petitions mandates speed and expediency, the State machinery showed indifference and laxity at each stage of processing the files. That it took seven years only for the movement of files such a grave issue is unacceptable when electronic communications were available to be used. The argument of the State that the Petitioners should be executed even today overlooks that it is the dereliction of its officers that is the cause for commuting the death sentence to that of life imprisonment," the Judges noted.

"The State represents the interest of the society in the criminal justice system. The Respondent-State not only has violated the constitutional rights of the Petitioners but also failed the innocent victims of these heinous crimes," the Judges said.

While rejecting the petitioners' prayer that they be directed to be released on bail forthwith having completed 25 years of imprisonment, the HC bench noted: "That is so because the legal position is that sentence for imprisonment for life is for the remainder of the convict's life unless the Competent Authority remits the remaining sentence. The crimes committed by the Petitioners are heinous. The brutality shown by the Petitioners in murdering innocent children is beyond words to condemn".

It may be recalled that the trial

court had on June 21, 2001 held Renuka and her Seema Mohan Gavit guilty of killing only six children and convicted them to death for six murders. When the matter came up in appeal before it later, the Bombay High Court later on September 9, 2004 ruled that the Prosecution could prove conclusively the involvement of the two sisters in the murder of five children - Santosh (2), Anjali alias Pinky (2), Shraddha alias Rani alias Bhagyashree (one year, nine months), Kranti (9 years) and Bhavana (1 year, six months). Subsequently on August 31, 2006, a two-member bench of the Supreme Court - comprising Justices K G Balakrishnan and G P Mathur - confirmed the death sentence awarded to the two Kolhapur sisters.

In late July 2014, the then President Pranab Mukherjee rejected their mercy petition by President Pranab Mukherjee.

In its order commuting the two Kolhapur sisters, the HC bench noted: "While confirming the death sentence, the High Court found no mitigating circumstances, nor any material that the Petitioners could be reformed or introduced in the society as responsible citizens. The Supreme Court dismissed their appeals observing that there are no circumstances in favour of the Petitioners, and they were a menace to the society".

"Therefore, if and when the issue of remission of the Petitioners sentence arises for consideration, we have no doubt that the Competent Authority

will consider the gravity of the offences, the adverse observations of this Court and the Supreme Court that the Petitioners are beyond being reformed. As a result, the death sentences imposed on the Petitioners - Renuka Kiran Shinde and Seema Mohan Gavit be and hereby are commuted to one of the life imprisonments," the two Judges ruled.

"The warrant to execute the death sentence of the Petitioners, which was not given effect during the pendency and hearing of this Petition, is cancelled and set aside," the HC bench added.

It may be recalled that between 1990 and 1996, the mother and the Kolhapur daughters had created a sensation by managing to kidnap more than three dozen children - mostly infants and others aged below 12 - forcing them into begging, thefts, keep them half-fed, ensured they did not run away and continued to commit a series of big and small crimes, totalling to over 125 as per police records. In one such theft attempt at a public market place, Seema was caught but Renuka, standing nearby with a kidnapped boy, suddenly banged his head on the footpath.

As the child bled profusely and screamed, the entire crowd's attention was diverted and the sisters vanished to safety, with their modus operandi succeeding handsomely.

Over the five years from among the 40-plus children they abducted, the police could prove the kidnappings of Santosh, Bunty, Swati, Guddu, Meena,

Raja, Shraddha, Kranti, Gauri and Pankaj and brutal killings of Santosh, Shraddha, Gauri, Pankaj and Anjali.

The killings were calculated, calm and coldblooded - one 18-month old boy was killed by hammering his head repeatedly on an iron rod at a bus stand as the trio giggled and ate vada-paav. They killed another two-and-half-year old girl, stuffed her body in a bag and took it to a cinema theatre where they coolly watched a film and later dumped it on the way home.

A year-old boy was killed by repeatedly hammering his head on the stony footpath, another child was inflicted with 42 wounds, and they drew designs on another child of around 4 years.

In 1996, owing to some feuds over the loot-share, at one point, Anjanabai, Renuka and Seema decided to kill her step-daughter from her ex-husband, but a tip-off to the police led to their arrest. Raids on their home proved to be a clincher, the discovery of many children's clothes and toys, and with Renuka's husband Kiran turning an approver, the Kolhapur Police finally cracked the sensational case, as the erstwhile royal city of the Chhatrapatis heaved a sigh of relief.

Initially, the three accused - the mother and two daughters - remained tight-lipped but after Kiran's statement, Renuka blurted out everything, revealing the gory details of over 40 kidnappings-cum-murders, though the police could ultimately prove 13 abductions and 5 killings.

To make higher education affordable, TN University adds more courses online

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Chennai based Hindustan University is getting ready to live with Covid-19 pandemic as well as for the post-pandemic days with a state-of-the-art teaching process. A revolutionary scheme to bring higher education to the doorsteps of students at affordable cost is on the anvil and the university hopes to establish its commanding presence in the world of education through this system.

Chennai based Hindustan University is the first institution to make use of the opportunity offered by the pandemic and lock down. The on-line classes launched by the University during the pandemic induced lockdown has been extended and more and more degree/post graduate degree courses have been added to the list of courses. "We have graduate and post graduate programmes in management, marketing, humanities and English literature. These courses lead to the award of MBA, MCA and MA in English literature," Ami Agarwal, head, Centre for Open and Digital

Education (CODE), told *The Pioneer*. The university is offering six graduate and post graduate programmes which would help the students to walk into the world of opportunities with boldness, said Agarwal, a mathematics teacher-turned-educational entrepreneur who has studied the potential of on-line courses.

She said there were 150 new students who have joined for these on-line graduate and post graduate courses and that include many working professionals. "These are all students who are upskilling and re-skilling their talents," said Agarwal.

She termed the courses revolutionary as it would considerably bring down the cost of education. "The students need not come to the campus at all except for examination. They save money as there is no commutation expenses and no hostel fee. Since they are all matured students who understand the seriousness of life, we do not foresee any problems though we have taken enough measures to tie up them to the courses," said Agarwal.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Mockery

Political goodwill reaches to Dalits only when the elections are around

The Election Commission has postponed the date of voting for the election to the Punjab Assembly from February 14 to 20. By itself the change is not noteworthy; a mere administrative exercise. Politically, however, the significance is not lost on anyone in the country. It is a curious display of unity amid diversity by all political parties to set aside their electoral differences to ensure that the election date does not come in the way of a section of Punjab's electorate conducting an important religious ritual. The deferred election date allows a particular Dalit community to visit Varanasi on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti on February 16. The 'Ravidassias', as the followers of the mystic poet-saint are called, mostly inhabit Punjab's Doaba region and their numbers have a say in 23 Assembly constituencies. Dalits comprise 32 per cent of the State's population. Over a third of them are concentrated in the Doaba. And over 60 per cent of Doaba's Dalits are Ravidassias. This is the political context to the 'humanitarian' gesture by the political parties. After the deferment, the parties are in a race to take credit for it. The prize is such. In a multi-cornered election, anybody bagging the maximum support of the Dalits can dream of an edge in the 117-member Assembly.



Would not the Dalits be wondering why the goodwill of the political parties does not reach out to them when elections are not around? The Dalits, for whom the election date was changed because their votes count, otherwise complain of indifference from these very parties. They are certainly on the path to emancipation because of affirmative actions like reservation, but are as vulnerable today as before to casteist attacks in terms of a ban on entry into temples, sporting a moustache, riding a horse, using cremation grounds and the like. The National Crime Records Bureau tells us that a Dalit in India was the victim of a crime every 10 minutes in 2020 and the situation was no different in 2021. Dalits are attacked for the silliest of excuses — beaten up for wearing leather shoes in Gujarat, paraded naked for swimming in a well in Maharashtra, even killed for sitting cross-legged during a temple ritual in Tamil Nadu. They are subjected to gross and inhuman insults like being urinated upon. In a case from Bihar a month ago, a person who lost a village election blamed the Dalits for his defeat and forced a Dalit to lick spit as punishment. Dalit women and girls are molested, raped and killed at whim. Dalit politics takes centre stage whenever elections are around and sympathy to their cause replaces the usual indifference. If the deferment of the Punjab election date is not to be construed as merely a gesture with a selfish motive, political parties must proactively address discrimination and violence against Dalits and not dismiss them as an embarrassing relic of the past.

PICTALK



Tourists visit the Taj Mahal on a cold winter day

PTI

Due diligence

The CPI(M) is better advised to be responsible and speak in cohesion and unity

Political discourse in Kerala touched the nadir of decency as leaders shout at each other using the choicest of abuses. Though there is no election round the corner in Kerala, political one-upmanship continues to rule the roost. KP Anil Kumar, a Congress leader who defected to the CPI(M) for not getting his share in the reorganisation of the party, was seen threatening K Sudhakaran, the Pradesh Congress chief of dire consequences. "We will lynch Sudhakaran like a mad dog in the streets of Kerala," shouted Kumar while addressing a public meeting. The recent murder of an activist of the SFI owing allegiance to the CPI(M) is the root cause of the outbursts by Anil Kumar. The CPI(M), which returned to power in the 2021 Assembly election much against the precedence of the party in power biting the dust in the subsequent election, should have shown maturity and restraint on the murder of its own activist. Though the police has arrested three Congress workers in connection with the murder, the CPI(M) leaders allege Sudhakaran to be the master brain behind the killing. The media in Kerala known for its pro-CPI(M) stance parroted the allegation and blacked out the version of Sudhakaran from the narrative. This led to a verbal



duel between the PCC chief and journalists at the Press Club in the Capital.

Media is entrusted with the responsibility of reporting facts and they should never misinterpret words. Let it be done by political observers or commentators to suit their line of thinking. If the media has strong evidence linking Sudhakaran to the murder, it could ask him for clarification and not accuse him of a crime about which he was in the dark. Sudhakaran, who is known for his boldness and uprightness has always been an eyesore for the Marxists because of his ability to take the comrades head on in northern Kerala's party villages where only the writ of the Marxists run whoever is in power in Thiruvananthapuram. The CPI(M) is better advised to speak in cohesion and unity. Polit Bureau member SR Pillai was heard alleging that India is tormenting China. Party's State secretary Kodiya Balakrishnan is on record declaring that India got independence because of the CPI(M), a political outfit that was formed in 1964. Re-education is a must for leaders and cadres alike because of the information technology era in which we live.

National integrity, cohesive people

Despite the Partition on religious lines, we are still religious factions whose ultimate loyalties are similar to those of Indians in the UK



PRAFULL GORADIA

The anniversary of Capitol Insurrection — when an incumbent President Donald Trump gestured through an apparent revolt that he was not accepting the electoral verdict in favour of Democrat Joe Biden — was all over the media last fortnight. Some writers seem to suggest that the Red States in the USA (Republican majority) could be prepared to separate from the Blue ones (Democratic majority). That might be a split between the Liberal and the Conservatives Americans, but by no means is wide enough to justify the breakup of the country. Lest one forgets, a bitter Civil War was fought for four years from 1861 to 1865 between the northern Yanks and the southern Confederates. Abraham Lincoln led the former with a missionary zeal, winning the war and preserving the Union, gaining recognition as the greatest President of the USA.

It is, however, true that being a creation of random immigration from the 15th century onwards, the USA does not have an integrated ethos. There are people of European, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Hispanic, Arab and other Islamic origins. Most Indians do not raise their political heads. The others have a political muscle which they could use to further their cause. Indian-origin citizens, when they show up at cricket grounds in the UK, cheer the ethnic team, i.e., India, despite themselves holding British passports. Nevertheless, this is not a desirable symptom because it reflects that the nation does not have a single ethos and holds out a threat of a breakup which we are discussing.

But why go far? India has one single ethos plus several other political sentiments. Despite the partition on entirely religious lines in 1947, we are still religious factions whose ultimate loyalties are similar to those of Indians in the UK. Unlike the USA and the UK, India has not undergone random immigrations. India's is a unique tale, which can be told by a historian who cannot justify its lack of an integrated ethos that can ensure national unity for all times and under all circumstances.



There are times when circumstances override national interests. In fact, until the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, there was little by way of a national awakening. If there was an ideology, it was either religion or language.

More than circumstances, the fault lay with the leadership at points of time of the countries concerned. Take France, for example. As a gesture of civilisation, Paris declared its overseas empire to be metropolitan France. This made it easily possible for people from French colonies like Algeria, Morocco, etc., to emigrate to the cities and towns of France. Today, this European country has two huge segments of people, European and African. Being culturally and religiously very different, they find it difficult to coexist. Germany and Turkey were allies during the two world wars. There were many Turks who did not have sufficient employment whereas Germany wanted cheaper labour. The former, therefore, arrived in droves to make Deutschland their home but Berlin insisted that they could settle only as guest workers, not as citizens. But what happens to children born to such guest workers? To add



THERE ARE TIMES WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES OVERRIDE NATIONAL INTERESTS. IN FACT, UNTIL THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY, THERE WAS LITTLE BY WAY OF A NATIONAL AWAKENING. IF THERE WAS AN IDEOLOGY, IT WAS EITHER RELIGION OR LANGUAGE

further to the population of Asians in the country, when refugees recently came rushing in from the civil war-ravaged Syria, Chancellor (now former) Angela Merkel welcomed many of them.

Britain made the same mistake after World War II when it needed cheaper labour. There were ready arrivals from the West Indies, India and Pakistan. Now there are problems with civic living in this multi-racial national life. In the 17th and the 18th centuries, the USA imported slaves from West Africa on a large scale. As we have noted, there was a four-year civil war between the northern States who wanted to abolish slavery and the southern ones, who saw this evil and inhuman institution as their legitimate way of life. But the American leadership did not learn their lesson and freely allowed in more and more settlers. The Democratic Party supports them whereas the Republicans wish to largely retain the white (European) character of the USA. Hence the Blue versus Red States divergence referred to above.

Who is India to give advice to these countries? It has also blundered. At Partition time and throughout 1946-47, the Muslim League insisted on an

exchange of population as the homeland called Pakistan was for all the Islamic people of the subcontinent. Dr Rajendra Prasad, Independent India's first President, wrote a book on the subject called India Divided, offering an answer for those who could not move out. They could stay on, but not as citizens. Instead, they would be treated as aliens with residence visas, sans political rights. Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah endorsed Dr Prasad's views. But Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru not only opposed this practical solution, but were unjust to millions of people. The distinguished Pakistani scholar Ayesha Jalal in her book *The Sole Spokesman* has raised the question: why Partition then? The Muslim-majority provinces like Punjab and Bengal did not need nor want the break; it were mainly the Muslim-minority provinces like UP and Bombay Presidency which pressed for it. Eventually, their minorities largely got left behind in India. What a fiasco it has turned out to be?

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIRTY POLITICS OVER TABLEAUX

Sir — The exclusion of tableaux proposed by Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal from this year's Republic Day Parade has no rational explanation or justification; it constitutes a politically motivated and biased move to exclude what is not in conformity with Hindu Right's exclusive Hindutva or Hindu nationalist narrative and agenda and a response to the electoral defeats inflicted on the BJP in the aforesaid States. India is a federal Republic for the ruling dispensation to be so summarily dismissive of regional pride. We are totally justified in saying that the Republic Day pageantry should showcase India's diversity. We are not so naive as to believe that the Union Government had no role in nixing the tableaux of the three Opposition-ruled States and the 'apolitical subject experts' found them without merit 'after due process and deliberations' and took the decision.

By dropping the tableau of West Bengal featuring Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, Swami Vivekananda, Nazrul Islam and Birsu Munda and the tableau of Tamil Nadu portraying Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar, VO Chidambaram, Rani Velu Nachiyar and Maruthu Brothers, the Modi Government has betrayed the kind of patriotism it practises. As a descendant of those political forces that took no part in the freedom struggle, the BJP does not seem to be quite interested in celebrating India's valiant freedom fighters on the occasion of the Republic Day.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

BANK SERVICES NEED IMPROVEMENT

Sir — It has been reported that the State Bank of India (SBI) has hiked the interest on fixed deposits. The hike is nothing but a pittance. What was 4.9 per cent is now 5.1 per cent. It means an increase of 20 paise over the previous rate. Does this require publicity? The publicity given indicates as though we are living in the 1950s when a rupee was able to

Kohli will only emerge stronger



In the majority of team sports, a captain is as good as his team. A win, and the captain takes most of the credit. A loss, and the captain is panned more than anybody else. There is no denying that there were, and there will be, exceptional captains. Great captains are born leaders who marshal their team members with a deep sense of instinct. Their gut feelings almost always fall in place when they carry their teams to glory. These leaders are respected and loved — generally these don't go together. In recent

times, Saurav Ganguly and MS Dhoni were two Indian cricket captains who commanded awe and affection in equal measure. The former was flamboyant while the latter kept to himself. But the end result was the same. Players who played under Ganguly and Dhoni recall their association with the two with admiration and fondness.

Everything was not hunky-dory in the Indian dressing room, and Kohli's reported rift with Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin will rankle. But nothing can beat his repeated display of tantrums on the ground that prompted experts to call him "immature". The Cape Town Test against South Africa saw Kohli in full blast on the field; not as a batsman but as a captain. That said, free from the captaincy burden, master batsman Virat Kohli should regain his pristine touch, and carry India to more victories with his batting exploits.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

fetch 20 seers (not kgs) of rice.

The quality of service in banks has been deteriorating. Bank customers have been given the responsibility of making pass book entries by themselves in the machine kept outside. Installation of ATM machines has further reduced the work burden of bank employees in the case of withdrawal of deposit amount. When a bank account holder shifts to another place, a single request letter to transfer his account to the bank branch of his choice does not draw the attention of the concerned to consider the request. Fixed Deposits account is also not being transferred easily on request. Because of this, aged persons in particular are facing an ordeal of traveling to the bank where the account was held earlier. The difficulty is more pronounced at a time when the corona is at its peak.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

RAJAPPA'S DEMISE IS A BIG LOSS

Sir — The passing away of veteran journalist Sam Rajappa, whose name is syn-

onymous with the Kolkata based daily The Statesman, is a huge loss to Indian print journalism. His rich experience in the profession, deep knowledge in politics, and absolute command over the English language, have all made him one of the finest ever Indian journalists. A fact well known by contemporary journalists that Sam Rajappa strongly favoured and followed "Queen's English" throughout his journalistic career and never compromised on the language, both in style and grammar.

Years ago, I was working with a leading publication office in Chennai, located close to The Statesman's office, and I had the opportunity to interact with Mr Rajappa a few times. Not only was he affable and down-to-earth, but I also found him to be an encyclopedia, who could reel out information on any subject at the drop of a hat.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

All-out war between Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek. Mamata's pictures missing from posters in Diamond Harbour.

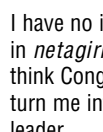


BJP leader — Amit Malviya



I don't regret it (my arrest) for a second. This is our country and we have no other.

Kremlin's critic — Alexei Navalny



I have no interest in *netagiri* but I think Congress will turn me into a leader.



Film director — Kangana Ranaut



Saleem Malik had this smug look on his face, like, 'You should have taken the cash'.

Australia ex-bowler — Shane Warne



Hi Mr Elon @elonmusk. I'm from Tamil Nadu. Welcome to India's EV capital. #tnforpartnership



TN Industries Minister — Thangam Thennarasu

FIRST COLUMN

NEET AND THE POLITICS OF TAMIL NADU

That the test is against social justice is a fallacy



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Tension is brewing between Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK and state Governor over the latter not forwarding the Tamil Nadu Admission Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill 2021, passed by the Legislative Assembly, for consideration of the President. The bill seeks to bypass the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical students in Tamil Nadu by allowing admissions to be made based on marks obtained by students in Class XII or Plus Two. All parties, except the BJP, support the Bill. As it attempts to bypass a Central law, the Bill needs Presidential assent to come into force. Now as the state governor has not acted on the legislation sent to him, the state government has put pressure on him. Various DMK MPs tried to meet the President of India but in vain. They had to satisfy themselves by submitting a memorandum to the President's office. Their meeting with the Union Home Minister also did not materialise. A meet-



ing of all the legislature parties chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister was conducted on January 8 to take necessary legal steps to abolish NEET. The meeting decided to take other state governments into confidence and put up a collective fight against NEET. Senior BJP leader and MLA Vanathi Srinivasan rightly denied the contention of the Dravidian parties that NEET for medical admissions was against the principles of social justice and the reservation policy followed in Tamil Nadu. When all the reservations applicable for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Class, etc., are intact even after NEET system, how is it against any social justice? Hence, the contention that NEET affects social justice is a blatant lie.

The Constitution backs the governor who "shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent therefrom or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President." When it is not a Money bill there is no compulsion for him to return the bill immediately. Even if the said bill is sent to the President, the Central Government in all likelihood may not agree for giving consent for the legislation of the Tamil Nadu Government due to the following factors. First, the TN legislation is against the Central Government Act and any tinkering will amount to violation of a Supreme Court ruling. Secondly, among all the states in India, only Tamil Nadu is against NEET and there is no political compulsion for Centre to side with the TN government. Thirdly, the ruling dispensation in TN is politically against BJP at the Centre and there is no need for BJP to help DMK to fulfil its election promise. Fourthly, even when BJP's alliance partner AIADMK was in power in TN, the BJP government was not inclined to remove NEET. When the GO issued by the TN Government for admission to academic year 2017-18, it was contested by the students from CBSE stream. While delivering the judgement the following comments were made by the judge: "The case as projected by the Government by treating the students from the CBSE Board undoubtedly indicates the mind of the State Government that they want to look at those students as though they do not belong to this State." It seems still the present state government has not learnt any lesson from the above observation. More number of students from Tamil Nadu have cleared NEET this year. Among the top 50,000 national rank holders, the number of TN students has increased to 2874 this year, as against 2747 last year. Hence there is no truth in the statement that TN students cannot pursue medical education due to introduction of NEET.

(The writer is a retired banker. The views expressed are personal.)

Caste coalition in UP at crossroads

OBCs may have been satisfied with the call of Mandirs and mutts, but what they want is true empowerment where they have an equal share of power



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party got a major setback when a tall OBC leader representing the numerically dominant Kushwaha, quit Yogi's cabinet and later joined Samajwadi Party with a vow to finish the BJP from the State. The day he joined SP, Swamy Prasad Maurya claimed that "it is a history that the party I leave is finished with the passage of time". It could be a boastful assertion which he made when probably he got swayed by the massive crowd that assembled at the Samajwadi Party office to welcome him. But this switch is an indication that the rainbow coalition of upper caste, backward, and Dalits which the BJP had stitched assiduously in the last seven years has started crumbling.

The importance of Swami Prasad Maurya could be gauged from the fact that after him quitting the Government, two more ministers and around a dozen BJP lawmakers, all non-Yadav OBC leaders, resigned from the party. They have shown their loyalty to Maurya and claimed that they will swim with him. The indications are more desertions may follow. Incidentally, the majority of them were originally with BSP and had joined BJP along with Maurya after deserting Mayawati.

The revolt by these OBCs leaders against the BJP leadership ahead of the crucial UP assembly elections has come as a shot in the arm for the opposition Samajwadi party. Akhilesh Yadav tweeted a picture of himself with Maurya and wrote: "Saamajik nyay kaa inqalabhoga, baae me badlavhoga (There will be a revolution in the field or social justice and there will be change in UP)".

The sudden political development caught the BJP leadership, which appears to have grown complacent after three back-to-back electoral successes in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and the 2017 UP assembly elections, unawares. This victory centered around the support of backward communities, which account for 54 percent of the population. This support base was built brick by brick by Amit Shah in 2016 when he was the national president of the party. He was the one who picked up Swamy Prasad Maurya and persuaded him to join BJP along with his supporters. The BJP needs to introspect as to why and how this support group disintegrated putting the party in a soup.

The resentment among backward against the Chief Minister Yogi is not new. The anger was simmering for the last couple of years. There is an impression that the BJP Government is pro-Thakur because Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath belongs to that caste. Word started spreading that the members of the backward community were being ignored.

Even the Deputy Chief Minister in the Yogi cabinet, Keshav Prasad Maurya, himself an OBC who belongs to the same caste as Swamy Prasad Maurya, showed



IN THE BUDGET FOR 2021-22, THE FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNC

(The writer is Political Editor, Lucknow Edition. The views expressed are personal.)



his annoyance at the way the members of the backward community were ignored. The RSS leadership placated him and early last year when Yogi along with senior BJP leaders had a luncheon meeting with Maurya at his residence. The indications were that "everything has been sorted out" but the meeting failed to douse the anger of the backwards.

Political analysts, however, point out that the BJP in the last eight years with its social engineering politics along with the benefits through 'Direct benefit transfer' (DBT) believed that it has upstaged the caste-based identity politics. The BJP leadership believed that the members from the SC and the OBCs are no longer attracted to caste lines. It is believed that the economic needs of this section have been fulfilled by the Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath governments in the last five years through the free distribution of food grains.

In fact, BJP mis-read the trend. Free distribution of food grains does not lead to empowerment of any caste. It is a feelgood factor for shorter period of time but at a longer run, it proved detrimental for the party. There is a belief among the villagers that the freebie scheme which has started, will not be withdrawn by the next government.

The way OBC leaders are leaving BJP is not a good sign for the ruling party particularly when an election bugle has been sounded because leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya and his colleagues still command clout in their respective communities and enjoy ideologi-

cal weightage.

The voters from the OBCs and SCs will face the dilemma on the day of voting whether to respond to the traditional optics of caste appeal or go with the politics of economic and social empowerment. The Yadavs are already with Samajwadi Party and after leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya, Lalji Verma, and Ram Achal Rajbhar joined SP, now Akhilesh has become the focal point around whom the backward politics will revolve now.

What has happened last week is a clear indication that caste-based politics is threatening to upstage *Hindutva* politics, despite the saffron-clad Yogi Adityanath is the *Hindutva* icon for the BJP and the party's campaign is revolving around Ram Janmabhoomi and Kashi Vishwanath Dham. There were rumours that Yogi would comment assembly elections from Ayodhya but later it was communicated he would contest from Gorakhpur.

BJP continued to play around the arrogance of Yogi by projecting him as the staunch *Hindutva* icon. Slogans like "Raj tilak ki karo tayari, aa rahen hai bhagwadhari (Get ready for coronation as a saffron-clad is coming)" were shared widely during the digital campaign kicked off two days back.

The party added further doses of *Hindutva* by propagating the construction of Ram Mandir and the inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Dham as its achievements. A new twist was added to this *Hindutva* story when BJP leaders started talking about Mathura.

In contrast, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav who had contested the 2017 election on the development plank with the tagline of "Kaam bolta hai", chose realpolitik as he shed all inhibitions and joined the caste bandwagon. He started his crusade by first asking for the caste-based census and even gave a slogan of "85 vs15" indicating that the OBCs were 85 percent of the population while the upper castes were a minuscule minority of 15 percent.

He followed it up by scouting for new caste-based parties as allies. He even made it clear that Samajwadi Party will never have any trucks with big parties. He patched up with his estranged uncle Shivalp Yadav to consolidate the backward caste vote bank. The creation of a large coalition of the neglected, excluded and undocumented backward castes and Dalits could be a game-changer for the Samajwadi Party.

On the other hand, BJP's social engineering tactics meant regrouping of the non-Yadav, non-Jatav OBC, and Dalit sub-castes in its favour. But what had happened in last two days is a clear indication that the members of the backward community are now asking for their pound of flesh. They are satisfied with the call of Mandirs or mutts but they want empowerment in the true sense — where they have an equal share of power. This has crumbled the cookie of *Hindutva*.

In short, the ghost of Mandal is out of Kamandal and it is set to turn the UP election on its head.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

MY ASSESSMENT THAT THE AAP WILL ONLY FRACTURE THE NON-BJP VOTE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY ARVIND KEJRIWAL. —CONGRESS LEADER P CHIDAMBARAM



GOANS WILL VOTE WHERE THEY SEE HOPE AND THE CONGRESS IS HOPE FOR THE BJP, NOT GOANS. —DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

OBC is the new catchphrase in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh

Akhilesh has astutely moved away from his father's trusted Muslim-Yadav formula to a new kind of social engineering for a larger social coalition

Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has emerged as the primary challenger to the BJP in the February Assembly polls now that the poll scene is explicit.

The massive turnout at the young Yadav chieftain's election rallies is testimony to Akhilesh's growing popularity. Most psephologists say that the polls have become a bi-polar contest between the Samajwadi Party and BJP. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also remarked about the growing support base saying 'Lal topi' (red cap) is a 'Lal batti' (red light) for UP.

Yadav Junior came out of the shadows of his father and former chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav a long time ago,



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

and today he is the only leader for his party. Akhilesh has gone through many ups and downs in his two decades of political life. Leading the election campaign for the coalition, he is a much more mature politician today.

SP's political strategy is well calibrated. Akhilesh has strengthened himself within the party and sorted out his family fights with his uncle Shivalp Yadav who is now back in the fold.

Single-handedly he stitched up alliances, particularly with Jayant Chaudhary-led Rashtriya Lok Dal. What is working to the benefit of the SP is the support from the farmers community in western Uttar Pradesh. They have been upset with the BJP for almost one year, as the Centre did not



heed their protests against the three farm laws passed in Parliament in 2019. The Jats hold the key in Western UP and they back RLD.

The junior Yadav has astutely moved away from his father's trusted Muslim-Yadav formula to a new kind of social engineering for a larger social coalition. Akhilesh has learned lessons the hard way. He had experimented with several combinations. As joining hands

with Congress in the 2017 Assembly elections and with the BSP in 2019 polls failed to yield the desired results, he is now depending on smaller caste-based regional parties, particularly those with a non-Yadav OBC base. He has roped in smaller parties like Rashtriya Lok Dal, Mahan Dal, Sanjay Singh Chouhan's Democratic (Socialist) Party, Krishna Patel's Apna Dal (Communist), Rajesh Siddhartha's Political Justice, and Ram Raj Singh Patel's Akhil Bhartiya Kisan Sena.

Interestingly, the SP chief has promised a caste census if elected to power. Though backward classes parties have been in power in Uttar Pradesh since the early 1990s, his predecessors did not take any risk.

His calculations are based on the Samajwadi Party's internal survey which revealed that in the 2017 elections, over 50 per cent of OBCs voted for BJP while around 15 per cent supported SP. Akhilesh has given an open invitation to all parties and sections to join him in throwing out the BJP.

He successfully poached on several OBC leaders from the BJP, including Swami Prasad Maurya, in his efforts to broaden his party's social base. Two influential ministers and some MLAs quit BJP and joined SP days before the poll announcement. Swami Prasad Maurya, a powerful OBC leader and five-time MLA, joined BJP in 2016 after quitting Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party. Many from BSP like Yogesh Verma, Mithai Lal Bharti have already

switched to SP.

As for countering Kamandal politics, Akhilesh has embraced the "me too" line to counter BJP's politics. He has also promised to establish Vishnu Nagar and a massive statue of Parashuram on the Purvanchal expressway.

He raises other issues like Covid handling, development, law, and order, poor health infrastructure, reservation, and inflation. He also presents the controversial incidents in Gorakhpur, Hathras, and Unnao.

BJP is counting on Brand Narendra Modi to get votes. Yogi is contesting for the Assembly for the first time. The BJP seems to be banking on the polarisation of Jat votes like in the 2017 polls to maintain its dominance.

To counter the SP caste strategy, BJP has given tickets to 44 OBC names, including 16 Jats, followed by 43 upper castes and 19 from Scheduled Castes. The list indicates that the BJP is hopeful of getting the Jat votes in western UP, where the rural community is concentrated.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who leads the Congress in UP is banking on women's votes and has promised all kinds of freebies. The BSP chief Mayawati is lying low but working quietly after her party's miserable performance in 2017 and 2019.

UP is known for casting votes on a caste basis. Whether Akhilesh's Mandal politics or BJP's Kamandal politics works in these polls is a million-dollar question.

China cites corona on packaging, despite doubts abroad

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese state media say parcels mailed from overseas may have spread the omicron variant of the coronavirus in Beijing and elsewhere, despite doubts among overseas health experts that the virus can be transmitted via packaging.

The State Post Bureau said it has ordered stronger measures to ventilate and disinfect sites where items mailed from overseas are handled. Postal workers must wear protective equipment, receive booster shots and undergo regular testing, it said on its website. International

packages must be isolated, cleaned and held for a waiting period to ensure they are free from the virus, it said. Global health experts say the virus mainly spreads through respiratory droplets when infected people breathe, speak, cough and sneeze. The World Health

Organization says coronaviruses "need a live animal or human host to multiply and survive and cannot multiply on the surface of food packages."

However, China has repeatedly emphasized what it calls the danger of infections from packaging, despite only trace amounts of the virus being found on such items, and has boosted testing of frozen food and other items shipped from overseas.

The Communist Party newspaper Global Times cited the Beijing Center for Disease Control and virologists as linking recent infections to packages from abroad. It said Tuesday that investigators found people newly infected had picked up packages mailed from Canada and the U.S.

China has locked down parts of Beijing's Haidian district following the detection of four cases, just weeks before the capital is to host the Winter Olympic Games. Another per-

son in the southern technology hub of Shenzhen who tested positive for omicron handled packages sent from North America, the newspaper said.

An additional case was reported in the city's Chaoyang district, and an office building in Shunyi, where the capital's main international airport is located, was placed under lockdown with all inside required to undergo testing after a suspected case was reported.

Local schools in Beijing have mostly been moved online in the two weeks before the start of the Lunar New Year holiday on Jan. 31.China remains on high alert for new outbreaks ahead of the Olympics.

Around 20 million people are under lockdown and mass testing has been ordered in entire cities where cases have been discovered. Beijing Games organizers announced Monday that only "selected" spectators will be permitted at

the events, which officially open Feb. 4. Beijing had already announced that no fans from outside the country will be permitted and has not offered tickets to the general public.

China has largely avoided major virus outbreaks with lockdowns, mass testing and travel restrictions, although it continues to fight surges in several cities, including the port of Tianjin, about an hour from Beijing. One city that has endured weeks of lockdown under China's "zero-COVID"

policy appears to have received some relief. Falling numbers of cases in Xi'an, a city of 13 million famed as the home of the Terracotta Warrior statue army, have prompted authorities to gradually allow people to leave their homes and return to work.

Just one additional case was reported in the city among China's 127 new domestically transmitted cases announced on Tuesday.

Japan ready to expand Covid restrictions as infections spike

Tokyo: Japan's government is preparing social restrictions in Tokyo and other regions as the omicron variant of the coronavirus infects more people. Japan has never had a lockdown during the pandemic but has focused instead on asking restaurants and bars to close early. Crowds are back in many parts of Japan, with people packing stores and events, while COVID-19 cases jump. The order will be finalised this week and is likely to take effect Friday for Tokyo and nine other regions, including Chiba, Kanagawa, Aichi and Kumamoto, the government spokesman said Tuesday. An order was issued earlier this month for Okinawa, Yamaguchi and Hiroshima prefectures. Other areas seeing

surging infections, such as Osaka, may be added later. "The infections are rising at an unprecedented speed," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

Worries are growing about infections spreading so quickly that hospital systems may get stretched thin, he said. He acknowledged additional action may be needed if the numbers of people shoot up, required to undergo quarantine or hospitalisation. About 80 per cent of the Japanese population have received two vaccine shots, but only 1 per cent the booster. The government has promised to speed up boosters, but most people won't be getting them until after March or later, under the current schedule. **AP**

Nepal's Province 2 bordering India named 'Madhes Pradesh'

Kathmandu: Nepal's south-eastern Province 2 bordering India has been named Madhes Pradesh with Janakpur retained as its capital, settling a long-standing debate on the region's official reference after it was made a province in 2015. The Provincial Assembly on Monday voted in two-thirds majority for both decisions. Of the 99 voting members, 78 voted for Janakpur as capital and 80 voted for the provincial name Madhes. Madhes is Nepal's smallest province in terms of area but second largest in terms of population. It borders India (Bihar) in the south and has eight districts - Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha and Saptari. Majority of the population in the region is of Indian descent and Maithili is the most widely spoken language. Senior Lokatantrik

Samajwadi Party leader Rajendra Mahato said the new province name is a milestone in Nepal moving towards complete federalism, with the identity of Madhesi. Colloquially Madhesi means people from the southern plains. In Hindu religious text, Madesh refers to Lord Shiva. Province 2, or Madhes Pradesh now, was formed after Nepal's new Constitution came into effect in September 2015, turning the country into a 'Federal Democratic Republic'. Before attaining provincial status, Madhesi parties had extensively campaigned for greater rights, representation and autonomy. Nearly 50 people had died in agitations between September 2015 and February 2016. The provincial government declared a public holiday on Tuesday to mark the occasion. **PTI**

Malta legislator becomes 3rd female EU Parliament president

Brussels: Roberta Metsola, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of European Union's parliament Tuesday, putting women in three of four biggest jobs in 27-nation bloc. Metsola succeeds Italian Socialist David Sassoli, who died last week. She is only third woman elected to post. Her birthday was Tuesday, and at age 43, she is the European Parliament's youngest president. Metsola was the candidate of the parliament's biggest group, and she received 458 of 616 votes cast Tuesday. She had already been acting president since Sassoli's Jan 11 death. **AP**


MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392
Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 201 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act"), notice is hereby given that Modi Rubber Limited (the "Company") is proposing to make and application to the Central Government to obtain approval under Section 196, 203 read with Schedule V and other applicable provisions of the Act, for re-appointment of Mr. Alok Kumar Modi (DIN-00174374) as Managing Director of the Company for a period of 5 years i.e. from 01st October, 2021 to 30 September, 2026.
Any person having any objection to the above proposal may, if he/she so desires, communicated his/her objection(s) in writing, duly substantiated within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, "A" Wing Shastri Bhawan Garage, No.14, Dr Rajendra Prasad Rd, New Delhi, Delhi 110001 with a copy of the same to the application Company at the aforementioned registered/ Corporate office.
By order of the Board
For Modi Rubber Limited
Sd/-
(S K Bajpai)
Place : New Delhi
Date : January 18, 2022
Head - Legal & Co. Secretary

Sale Notice
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS SUBODH KUMAR, CM(M) 602/2020 & CM APPL 30659/2020	Vehicle No-UP14TF6208, Make & Model - RENAULT LODGY RXE, Manu Year-2016, Reserve Price : Rs 125000, EMD Amount-Rs 12,500, DD/PO is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED Payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO at site with KYC
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Rajesh Kumar Tiwari, CS (COMM) No. 945/20	Vehicle No- UP16AS1600, Make & Model- AUDI A6 2.0 TDI, Manu. Year-2013, Reserve Price: Rs.8,00,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.80,000, DD/PO is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED Payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO at site with KYC
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Parmesh, Suit No. 2206/2018	Vehicle No- DL3SDR3086, Make & Model - Hero HF-Deluxe, Manu. Year-2017,
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. MOHD. GULSHAT, CS SCJ 2314/18	Vehicle No- DL10ST6474, Make & Model- Yamaha Motors Pvt. Ltd SZ -RR, Manu Year- 2017
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. HEMANT VERMA, CS (COMM) NO 770/19	Vehicle No-UP16BQ3857, Make & Model - MARUTI UDYOG LTD SWIFT DZIRE ZXI, Manu. Year-2017
ICICI BANK LTD VS ASHISH KUMAR, CS (COMM) No. 1374/2020	Vehicle No-DL4CAZ1019, Make & Model - HYUNDAI I20 MAGNA + CRDI, Manu Year- 2019

Auction Date: 27-January-2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurgaon-122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
And

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. PREM LATA, CS No. 1137/2021	Vehicle No-DL8CAP7287, Make & Model - MARUTI UDYOG LTD SWIFT LXI, Manu. Year-2016
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs ATA ABBAS CS No. 3387/18	Vehicle No-DL1RTB2176, Make & Model - MARUTI UDYOG LTD WAGON R LXI, Manu. Year-2016, Reserve Price : Rs 90000, EMD Amount: Rs 9,000 DD/PO is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED Payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO at site with KYC

Auction Date: 3-February-2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurgaon-122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participants are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction sitewith original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favour of ICICI bank Limited, payable at Delhi (Wherein applicable) to participate in the auction..
Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount wherein applicable) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited.
The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Asha Sethi is owner of DDA Flat No. 337, Ground Floor, Block-D, Pocket-6, Sector-06, Category-IIG, Rohini, Delhi (the said property) by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 09.12.2021, registration No. 12221, executed by Mrs. Himani Sethi & Mr. Jatin Sethi after demise of Mr. Jagdish Kumar Sethi who was owner of the said property by virtue of conveyance deed dated 24.08.2007, registration No. 15268, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mrs. Asha Sethi of the above property its sale / Mortgage / litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 2nd Floor, 23, Shweta Marg, Near Rajgarh N, Delhi-15 Ph: 011-44112527-28, kumarandassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mr. Rajeev Jindal & Mrs. Asha Jindal were joint owners of the Dwelling Unit No. A2/301, on Third Floor, super area admeasuring 1735 Sq. Ft., "Silver Estate", Plot No. 25, Block-F, Sector-50, Vardh, Delhi. Gautam Buch Nagar, U.P (the said property) by virtue Sub case deed dated 28.02.2008 Registration No. 2913, and after demise of Mrs. Asha Jindal her husband Mr. Rajeev Jindal is claiming ownership of remaining 1/2 share of the said property by virtue of Mutation Letter dated 05.01.2022 in the record of India Authority. All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, to Mr. Sachin Behar who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. Rajeev Jindal its Sale / Mortgage / litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 2nd Floor, 23, Shweta Marg, Near Rajgarh N, Delhi-15 Ph: 011-44112527-28, kumarandassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD
No. ACE-II/2021-22/313 Date: 18.01.2022
NIT : 07/2021-22
Bids for (1) External Electrification, Decorative Lighting, HV AC and Fire Fighting work for development of Fountain Square at V.T. road, Mansarovar, RHB, Jaipur. (2) Lighting work of Jogging track at City Park Mansarovar, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders from 20.01.2022 (6.00 PM) to 09.02.2022 upto 6.00 PM. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state & <http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb development website>.
UBN :- (1) RHB2122WSOB00232 (2) RHB2122WSOB00233
Raj.Samwad/C/0060/2021-2022 Addl. Chief Engineer-III, Jaipur

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड राजेन्द्र पार्क चौक, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)
दूरभाष क्र. 0778-23236633, E-mail:- eedurg-phc-geo@nic.in
पृ.क्र. 85 /तथा (निविदा) / का.अ./ लो.स्वा.यं.खंड /2022
दुर्ग, दिनांक :- 14.01.2022
// ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना //

छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से लोक निर्माण विभाग छ.ग. शासन में एकीकृत पंजीजन प्रणाली अंतर्गत 'बी. सी' एवं उच्च श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र "ए" में प्रतिशत दर पर दुर्ग जिले के विकासखंड दुर्ग के निम्नलिखित ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत सिंगल विलेज नलजल प्रदाय योजना योजनांतर्गत विभिन्न कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	नि.सू.क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्र.	विकासखंड	ग्राम का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
1.	208 / 14.01.2022	90797	दुर्ग	आगटी, मासामाट, रुदा	170.45
2.	209 / 14.01.2022	90798	दुर्ग	चंदखुरी	346.22
3.	210 / 14.01.2022	90799	दुर्ग	गिसेगांव, कोलिहापुरी	336.38
4.	211 / 14.01.2022	90800	दुर्ग	करगाडीह, दुमडीह	213.35
5.	212 / 14.01.2022	90801	दुर्ग	अजोटी, कोडिया	262.20

नोट:- उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबपोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> दिनांक 24.01.2022 से देखे जा सकते हैं तथा बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 31.01.2022 है।

हस्ता / - कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

No.SSA/Esst/EPB/VI-VIII/2021-22/473/2021/8529 Date : 17.01.2022
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Sikshas) invites tender from reputed exercise book manufacturers through e-Tendering process for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class –VI & VII (Single Line and Plain).
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, 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.

निखत खतियार
निखत खतियार, नगर
निखत खतियार, नगर
निखत खतियार, नगर

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

Janasanyog/CF/2919/21

CAPRI GLOBAL
Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005
APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Capri Global Housing Finance Limited (CGHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CGHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S. N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No.LNHEKKD000019544 of our Karkardooma Branch) Balaji Educational Society (Borrower) Sachin S, Kamlesh K, Ompal, Sachin Dagar Electrical, Balaji Institute of Hotel Management & Science (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Plot land admeasuring 104 Sq Yds part of Kharsa No. 873, Village Nistauli, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both. Boundaries as under:- East :- 18 ft Road West :- Other property North :- Other property South :- Other Property	21-06-2021 Rs. 27,09,432/-	14-01-2022

Place : Delhi/NCR. Date: 19-01-2022
Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Housing Finance Limited (CGHFL)

NOTICE
No.Duba/Cons7434/MR/2022-(07)
Date: 12/04/2022.
Mr. Amit Mohan Thadani,
S/o Mohan Bulchand Thadhani.
Resident of A-86 Chankya place Pankha Rd. Delhi Pin: 110059.Delhi, India, Present Address: Sajaya 3 Flat No 404 PO Box737, Dubai,UAE.
And Miss. Raquel Salac Basa
Daughter of Ruben Basa
Resident of 24arayatt Pampanga Philippines
Present Address: Sajaya 3 Flat No 404 Al Qusais, Dubai,UAE.
Mr. Amit Mohan Thadani, Indian national and Ms. Raquel Salac Basa Philippines National Presently Residing in UAE have given notice of intended marriage between them under the foreign marriages act. 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, He/She should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the act/rules within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice on email: Cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in, Cons3.dubai@mea.gov.in
Jitender Singh Negi
Marriage Officer & consul
(consular & Labour)
Consulate General of India
PO Box737, Dubai,UAE.
Fax no. +97143970453,
Email:Cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in,
Cons3.dubai@mea.gov.in
Homepage:www.cgidubai.org

AP ■ MOSCOW

Kazakhstan's influential former leader released a short video on Tuesday in which he talked about violent unrest that engulfed ex-Soviet nation earlier this month and rejected reports alleging that he fled the country amid tensions with current president.

It was first time that Nursultan Nazarbayev, who ran Kazakhstan for 29 years after it gained independence and kept an influential post after stepping down as president in 2019, spoke publicly about the protests and the bloodshed they descended into. Nazarbayev also denied that there were tensions between him and his hand-picked successor, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Some speculated that a rift between two

could have played a role in exacerbating unrest. Protests in Kazakhstan, an oil and gas-rich nation of 19 million in Central Asia, began on Jan. 2 in a small western town over the near-doubling of fuel prices. But they quickly spread across the vast country, growing into a general protest against the authoritarian government and turning into violent riots that killed over 220 people.

Tokayev sought to calm the crowds by announcing a 180-day cap on fuel prices and removing Nazarbayev as head of the National Security Council, an influential post he occupied since stepping down. The move was seen by some as an attempt to end the former leader's patronage that had ignited tensions among Kazakhstan's ruling elite, further fueling the unrest.

In his video address Tuesday, Nazarbayev, 81, rejected these allegations. "There is no conflict or confrontation within the country's elite. The rumours in this regard are completely groundless," he said.

He also brushed off reports that claimed he had fled the country, and backed Tokayev's move to take over as head of the National Security Council. "In 2019, I handed over the presidential authority to Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and have ever since been a retiree, currently enjoying retirement in the capital of Kazakhstan, having never left anywhere. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has the full power, he's the chairman of the Security Council," Nazarbayev said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 40 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Grey Pant, Light Grey Coat, Light Blue Shirt, was found dead at Qudeshiya Ghat, Civil Lines, Delhi on 13.01.2022.

In this regard a DD No. 30A, dated 13.01.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, North District, Delhi. The Dead Body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours for identification.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform the following.

SHO

P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi

DP/1893/N/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23815444, 8750870127

E-com policy: DPIIT meets stakeholder

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Tuesday held a meeting with different stakeholders, including domestic and foreign companies, on the proposed e-commerce policy, an official said.

The meeting was attended by domestic and foreign e-commerce firms besides domestic traders body CAIT (Confederation of All India Traders) and associations related to the MSME sector, the official added.

CAIT in a statement said the meeting was attended by All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF), Retailers Association of India, Laghu Udyog Bharti, and Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME).

Representatives of e-commerce firms, including Amazon and Flipkart, also attended the virtual meeting, which was chaired by DPIIT Additional Secretary Anil Agarwal, along with other senior officials of the ministry.



istry.

Confirming his participation in the meeting, CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said the e-commerce policy should have clear stipulations about transparent operations of e-commerce platforms, easy accessibility and adequate grievance redressal system, and non-discriminatory access of marketplace platforms to all stakeholders and value chain.

It should also have stipulations about the avoidance of conflict of interest among marketplace platforms, sellers and various service providers on the platform.

The meeting holds significance as the department is in the process of formulating the policy.

Cyberattacks surge amid accelerating pace of Covid-driven digitalisation: WEF study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/DAVOS

The accelerating pace of digitalisation, fuelled by the Covid-19 pandemic, has led to a record-breaking year for cybercrime with ransomware attacks rising 151 per cent in 2021, and an average of 270 cyberattacks per organisation being faced, a new study showed on Tuesday.

The World Economic Forum's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022, released during its online Davos Agenda summit, further said that each successful cyber breach cost a company USD 3.6 million (nearly Rs 27 crore) last year, while the average share price of the hacked company underperformed NASDAQ by nearly 3 per cent even six months after the event in case of the breach becoming public.

The WEF said the global digital economy surged on the back of the COVID-19 pandemic, but so has cybercrime and nearly 80 per cent of cyber leaders now consider ransomware a 'danger' and 'threat' to public safety.

At the same time, there is a large perception gap between business executives who think their companies are secure and security leaders who disagree.

Some 92 per cent of business executives surveyed agree that cyber resilience is integrated into enterprise risk-



management strategies, but only 55 per cent of cyber leaders surveyed agreed. This gap between leaders can leave firms vulnerable to attacks as a direct result of incongruous security priorities and policies, the report said.

Even after a threat is detected, the WEF survey conducted in collaboration with Accenture, found that nearly two-thirds would find it challenging to respond to a cybersecurity incident due to the shortage of skills within their team.

Even more troubling is the growing trend that companies need 280 days on average to identify and respond to a cyberattack. To put this into perspective, an incident that occurs on January 1, may not be fully contained until October 8.

"Companies must now embrace cyber resilience -- not only defending against cyberattacks but also preparing

for swift and timely incident response and recovery when an attack does occur," WEF Managing Director Jeremy Jurgens said.

Accenture Chair and CEO Julie Sweet said organisations need to work more closely with ecosystem partners and other third parties to make cybersecurity part of their ecosystem DNA, so they can be resilient and promote customer trust.

The survey also found that less than one-fifth of cyber leaders feel confident that their organisations are cyber resilient.

Also, they do not feel consulted on business decisions, and they struggle to gain the support of decision-makers in prioritizing cyber risks, while recruiting and retaining the right talent is their greatest concern.

Besides, nearly nine in ten see SMEs as the weakest link in the supply chain.

Jewellery industry body urges Govt to reduce GST to 1.25%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) on Tuesday urged the Government to reduce the rate of GST (goods and services tax) to 1.25 per cent.

In its pre-Budget 2022-23 recommendations to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, GJC has sought a cumulative GST rate of 1.25 per cent based on the revenue equivalence principle on gold, precious metals, gems and articles of jewellery made of such goods, the apex industry body said in a statement.

Currently, the GST rate for gems and jewellery is 3 per cent.

The national industry apex body has also urged FM to raise the PAN card limit to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh, as many households in rural India do not hold PAN cards and face difficulty in arranging minimum required jewellery in times of need, especially post-pandemic.

GJC has urged the government that suitable clarification be issued on the minimum quantity of gold, which an individual can deposit under the gold monetisation scheme (GMS), without being questioned by any departmental authorities.

Further, the industry body requested that the EMI facility for the purchase of 22K gold jewellery should be allowed to the gems and jewellery industry, which in turn shall lead to a substantial growth of the business of the industry after the pandemic.

"Our industry has suffered a lot during these harsh times of the pandemic, and it is also identified as one of the 'stressed sectors' in K V Kamath's report.

"Hence, we have proposed changes in Section 40A of the Income Tax Act so that the existing daily cash limit of Rs 10,000 per day be increased to Rs 1,00,000 per day," GJC Chairman Ashish Pethe said.

GJC has also urged the government to waive



off the bank commission (1-1.5 per cent) on the purchase of jewellery through credit cards, thus ensuring a good boost to the 'Digital India' for the gems and jewellery industry, he said.

"We are confident and hopeful that there may be good reliefs announced for our industry during the Budget session," Pethe added.

GJC also urged the government that in case jewellery sold is reinvested in new jewellery, the exemption from capital gain as per Section 54F of the Income Tax Act 1961 should be extended to the gems and jewellery industry.

This will help the industry to move towards organized and compliant business practices, it added.

On making the GMS more effective, GJC emphasised that the government must give exemptions to households for minimum 500 grams of gold deposited, being of ancestral nature, from questioning by any tax department.

The same will make GMS more effective and benefit the government and participants at large, GJC added.

The total deposits accumulated by the banks under the GMS are at around 11.1 tonnes, which is a meagre number as compared to the estimated holdings of 23,000-24,000 tonnes, the industry body stated.

Sensex, Nifty tank around 1% as global equities sink on rate hike worries

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty plunged by around 1 per cent on Tuesday due to sharp losses in auto, metal, and realty stocks amid a global rout in equities triggered by rising US bond yields and a spike in crude oil.

The 30-share index slumped by 554.05 points or 0.90 per cent to end at 60,754.86 with 23 of its constituents ending in the red.

The broader NSE Nifty fell by 195.05 points or 1.07 per cent to 18,113.05. As many 43 Nifty stocks closed with losses while six advanced.

Maruti was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 4 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank and L&T.

On the other hand, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank Dr Reddy's, Titan and Nestle India were the gainers.

Summit India from Jan 20 to discuss NEP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Summit India, in association with Tech Avant-Garde (TAG), on Monday announced the launch of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Education Summit 2022', a three-month-long summit on the changing education landscape in India.

The summit will kick off with a three-day virtual conference from January 20 to 22, 2022, with an inaugural message by President Ram Nath

Kovind.

The conference will feature talks by policymakers, thought leaders and prominent educationists from across the country discussing the nuances of NEP 2020 and Hybrid Learning.

Shyam Jaju, Chairman, Summit India, said, "To take the vision and mission of NEP 2020 forward, we are organizing 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — Virtual Education Summit 2022'"

MFI industry seeks higher credit guarantee scheme in budget

Kolkata: The microfinance sector has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to increase the limit of credit guarantee scheme in the budget for 2022-23.

In the budget representation to the Ministry, the self regulatory body (SRO) of MFIs said the sector is facing a few challenges in terms of higher credit costs and access to low-cost long term funds.

It urged the Finance Minister to extend the quantum of funds under the credit guarantee scheme to the MFIs P Satish, executive director of Sa-Dhan, an SRO, said that the microfinance sector plays an important role in steering growth and consumption which are crucial at this juncture.

According to him, the capital of the smaller MFIs has been impacted due to the pandemic and he urged the government to support them with subordinated debt with tenure ranging from five to seven years.

PTI

3rd Covid wave could reduce housing finance cos' assets growth by 100-200 bps: Report

Mumbai: Crisil Ratings on Tuesday said disruptions due to the third Covid wave could shave off as much as 200 basis points from the growth in assets under management of housing finance companies in the current and next financial years.

However, growth would still be higher compared with average of around two per cent over fiscals 2020 and 2021 though slower than the broad-based 24 per cent logged between fiscals 2011 and 2019, it said in a report.

"The third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic could slash as much as 200 bps (basis points) off Crisil Ratings' base case estimate of 9-11 per cent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in the AUM of housing finance companies for fiscals 2022 and 2023," the report said.

Of the total Housing Finance Companies' (HFCs) AUM (Assets Under Management) of Rs 13.2 lakh

crore as on March 31, 2021, home loans were the largest segment (71 per cent) followed by wholesale loans (18 per cent) and Loans Against Property (11 per cent).

The agency's Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer Krishnan Sitaraman said home loans will be the fastest-growing segment as lenders continue to be selective in the non-housing segment, comprising wholesale and LAP (Loan Against Property) loans.

After relatively low growth in recent years, the home loan segment is expected to clock 12-14 per cent CAGR over fiscals 2022 and 2023, driven by improving sales, better affordability, and a preference for home ownership and larger homes, he said.

"That said, the pandemic's third wave could shave off 100-200 bps of this growth depending on its spread, intensity and duration," Sitaraman said.

PTI

Significant percentage of India's workforce considering changing jobs in 2022: LinkedIn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding the pandemic, India's workforce is optimistic about the future of work, and a significant percentage of professionals are considering changing their jobs this year, according to a report. LinkedIn, the leading online professional network, on Tuesday launched new job-seeker research, which revealed that 82 per cent of professionals in India are considering a job change in 2022.

Based on the responses of 1,111 professionals in India, the survey showed that professionals are leaving their current jobs due to poor work-life balance, not enough money, or greater career ambitions.

When looking for new roles in the new year, professionals in India said flexible working arrangements will be the top priority.

"The pandemic has spurred people to rethink their careers and look for new job opportunities to meet their renewed purpose and priorities in life.

"As confidence in new opportunities grows, it is evident that the Great Reshuffle in India is clearly being led by job seekers, and talent is in the driver's seat right now - with flexibility as their no. 1 priority today," said Ankit Vengurlekar, India Managing Editor, LinkedIn News.

Vengurlekar further said that "our Jobs on the Rise list shows that the demand for tech-savvy talent is growing higher across the IT, healthcare, and business development sectors".

LinkedIn's research further revealed that professionals in India are confident about their job roles, careers, and overall job availability getting better in

Social Justice Min's E-news letter launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Virendra Kumar on Tuesday e-launched Department's first bi-monthly E-news letter during the virtual inauguration of the main building of Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC) at Kozhikode.

"The launch of E-newsletter by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is a meaningful initiative. It will provide information to the people about the policies, schemes and programmes being implemented by the Government for the overall development of divyangians and they can take benefits from the same, the minister said.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/Esstt/EPB-V/2021-22/472/2021/8528 Date : 17.01.2022

Mission Director, Aom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Shiksha) invites tender from reputed exercise book manufacturers through e-Tendering process for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class -V (Single Line and Plain).


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, Aom 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/2919/21

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Manoj Gupta, S/o: Sasi Gupta, Address:** Vegabond Footpath, H.No. 01, Angoori Bagh, Delhi was was admitted in Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital, Delhi. During Treatment doctor declared him dead on **09.01.2022**. The body has been preserved for 72 Hours in Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi's Mortuary, Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 26A, dated 09.01.2022** at P.S. Kotwali, North District, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** 25 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Hair:** Black, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Hospital clothes & bare feet. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121

DP/1894/N/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Ram Kumar, S/o Harender Nath, R/o: F-1/28, Dayalpur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 324/13 U/s 354/457/174 A IPC** registered at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Ram Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ram Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ram Kumar** accused of **FIR No. 324/13 U/s 354/457/174 A IPC**, P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **19.02.2022**.

By Order
Ms. Vijay Shree Rathore,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Karkardooma Courts,
Shahdara, Delhi

DP/1302/NE/2022

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 19.01.2022

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/ RB/CR/DG/0974	AWARD OF WORK FOR CARRYING OUT DT CLEANING/ REVAMPING WORK/ SURVEILLANCE RESOLUTION WORK IN BRPL	3.71 Crores	3.71 Lacs	08.02.2022 15:30 HRS	08.02.2022 15:45 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document :- ₹ 1180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/ submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED

Registered & Corporate Office : 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
Circle Office : Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 38 Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CGCL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S. N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No. LNMEMAY000020713 of our Noida Branch) Supreem Kumar Solanki (Borrower) Lalita (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Land admeasuring 200 Sq Yds., Khewat No. 1740, Village Kalore, Jewar Road, Tehsil Sikandrabad, District Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	12-07-2021 Rs. 21,69,022/-	13-01-2022
2.	(Loan Account No. LNCGCNOITL0000009106 of our Noida Branch) Sumita Yadav (Borrower) Om Prakash Yadav, Power Hub, (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Land admeasuring 100 Sq Yds., Part of Khasra No. 349 (0-2), 352 (0-2), 353 (0-2), Extended Lal Dora abadi, Village Kapashera, New Delhi also known as House No. 101. Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	13-09-2021 Rs. 27,09,630/-	17-01-2022
3.	(Loan Account No. LNMEMOI000014490 of our Noida Branch) Vinod Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Babali Devi (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Land/House admeasuring 146.41 Sq Mtrs., Khasra No. 407 situated at Shankar Vihar Colony, Mauja Paramana, Tehsil Kirawali, District Agra, Uttar Pradesh Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both. Boundaries as Under:- East :- Road West :- Other's Property North :- Other's Property South :- Other's Property	13-09-2021 Rs. 27,58,188/-	18-01-2022
4.	(Loan Account No. LNMEMAY000044531 of our Noida Branch) Satish Kumar (Borrower) Rekha Baisoya (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Property bearing No. 21-C, area admeasuring 746 Sq Fts., Khasra No. 9, situated at Kotla Mubarakpur, Aliganj, Tehsil Hauz Khas (Mehrauli) New Delhi Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	13-09-2021 Rs. 22,13,905/-	14-01-2022

Place : Delhi/NCR Date : 19/01/2022 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL)

Chola

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

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there on within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Name and Address of the Borrower/s	Loan Amount	Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding	Description of the property/ Secured Asset
Loan Account No. - XOHEDHE00001211840, XOHEDTE00002503800, XOHEDDL00001443174, XOHEDDL00000004495, Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. LATE MAHAVIR PRASAD THROUGH ITS LEGAL HEIR At: First Floor 4726 Deputy Ganj North Delhi, New Delhi -110006 Also At: Property No. 17, Block-4, Ground Floor, Roop Nagar, New Delhi-110017 2. KAMLESH GUPTA 3. JITESH GUPTA 4. SURAJ BHAN MAHAVIR PRASAD THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR 2 to 4 At: At: First Floor 4726 Deputy Ganj North Delhi, New Delhi -110006	Rs. 26654029/-	22-11-2021 Rs. 2,49,03,923.80/- as on 11-11-2021 with further interest thereon	All that piece and parcel of the Entire Ground Floor, (the said Floor) built on Municipal No-11184, Old No. Plot No. 17, in Block-4, measuring 249 Sq. Yds., situated at Roop Nagar, Delhi which is bounded as under:- East- Property No. 18, West- Property No. 16, North Road No. 40, South Service Road
Loan Account No. - XOHEDHE00001251867 Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. SATBIR KATARIA At: Q-54 New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Phone No: 9810629801, Email id: mstextile777@gmail.com Also At: M/s. MS TEXTILE , Plot No-1 Bhim Colony, Sarai Allawardi Gurgaon-122001, Phone No. 9810629801 Also At: Property No. Q-54, Out of Khewat No. 434, /439, 435/440, Murba No. 15, Killa No. 23 (8-0), Murba No. 26, Killa No. 3,(8-0) Pwala Khasrupur, Gurgaon, Haryana 2. MRS. SUSHILA At: W/o Satbir Kataria Q-54 New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Phone No: 9810629801	Rs. 35,00,000/-	27-09-2021 Rs. 21,56,526.29/- as on 21-09-2021 with further interest thereon	All that piece and parcel of Property bearing property No. Q-54, area measuring 125 Sq. Yds, Out of Khewat No. -434, /439, -435/440, Murba No. 15, Killa No. 23 (8-0), Murba No. 26, Killa No. 3,(8-0) Pwala Khasrupur, Gurgaon, Haryana, Bounded By: North Plot No. Q-55, South Plot No. Q-53, East Road 20 Ft, West Road 11 Ft.

Date : 19/01/2022 Place **DELHI** Authorised Officer : Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

India is believed to be the epicentre of knowledge and education. The evidence of this is present in places like Takshila and Nalanda. These places had pioneering institutions, and the ruins still stand tall on their grounds. However, over the last few centuries, the legacy of the Indian education system was sadly lost. Post the British rule, Indians realised the existence of these education hubs and excavated their ruins for further study. Since independence, there has been an immense focus on the improvement, growth and development of this critical sector.

The progress of any country is primarily judged by the status of its education and healthcare industries. The Indian education system is expected to reach a valuation of USD 225 billion by FY 2025. The subcontinent is at a crossroads in terms of providing leadership in education.

India is poised to be perhaps a superpower in its own right, and the expectations of the world from India make these two factors especially important as markers for our progress. Further, with the second-largest population across the globe and youngest population in the world, education becomes an imperative aspect for the subcontinent's growth.

Even the states and central governments are realising the cruciality of this sector. The education policies that are being formulated in recent times are embedded with strong reforms that encourage the private sector to contribute to the field of education. The inclusion of private parties will help in boosting the quality of education that is imparted.

There will be greater academic and administrative autonomy, which will lead to the rapid growth of research-oriented institutions. Again more knowledge centres will lead to a majority of the country's youth having access to thorough education. Access, equity and inclusiveness are the fundamental goals the New Education Policy 2020 entails to establish India as a global hotspot for quality education. It aims to provide all the facilities available to students abroad at much lower costs. Such measures are indicators of the fact that this sector has adopted an upward trajectory.

Further, the rapid economic growth in the country is creating an enormous demand for skilled manpower. This growing requirement can only be fulfilled by education institutions preparing students to be future-ready. Many schools and colleges have redesigned their curriculum to adopt an industry-first approach. Students are now gaining theoretical knowledge as well as advancing their skill-set. They are



LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

Rapid economic growth is creating an enormous demand for skilled manpower, which can only be fulfilled by education institutions preparing students to be future-ready, says DR VIJAY PATIL

not only trained to be strong on the theory front. The motive is to imbue in them qualities like critical thinking, analytical skills, creativity and problem-solving, among others. It is safe to say that the development of other industries, be it IT or Finance, depends on the output offered by the education sector.

Looking at the current trend and talking about the next five years, the education market in India is expected to become US\$ 225 billion by 2025. This will eventually put a lot of pressure on the existing educational institutions to fulfil the workforce requirement necessary to facilitate such growth. It will also pave the way for numerous new schools and colleges,



Dr Vijay Patil
MCA President and Chancellor-
DY Patil University, Navi Mumbai

The education policies that are being formulated in recent times are embedded with strong reforms that encourage the private sector to contribute to the field of education. The inclusion of private parties will help in boosting the quality of education that is imparted

increasing the availability of courses, modules, curriculum and institutions for students. There have also been modifications made in the pedagogy, and teachers are encouraging students to indulge in more and more exhibitions, training programmes and internships.

With the wheels of such dynamic changes set in motion, India can become the land of opportunity and a premier destination for education, even for international students.

After all, it is not by accident that there are multiple Indians who perhaps started their education domestically and are now holding leadership positions in companies that are international giants.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.

— Cesar Chavez

MBA PROGRAMME

The University of East Anglia (UEA) is delighted to be running its full-time MBA programme in September 2022. In 2021, the university took the decision to pause entry to the course for a year owing to the uncertainties presented by COVID-19.

But as the University is committed to its values in providing globally responsible business education, the course will run again in September 2022.

The last date of submission of the application is 31 July 2022. The admission process has begun and students can apply by visiting *MBA Master of Business Administration - UEA*

Full details on this process can be obtained from UEA's website: <https://www.uea.ac.uk/>

UG AND PG AT THE DESIGN VILLAGE

The TDV Noida is inviting applications for Admission Bachelor of Design and Master of Design through entrance test. The entrance exam will be



held on 29th January 2022. Students need to fill the application form through the official website.

How to apply: Online application form available on The Design Village official Website. The submission of the Application Form can be done online Rs.2000/.

Admission Process: Open to applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (10+2) from any recognised Board of Education.

Admission will be done on the basis of marks obtained.

Candidates also have to clear the TDV Design Entrance Test of that year followed by an interview for both courses.

Last Date to Apply: 27th January

2-day workshop on Pearson Test of English

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Great Learning, one of India's edtech companies for professional and higher education, has announced that it will be hosting a workshop on PTE (Pearson Test of English Academic) in collaboration with the Pearson Group on January 22 and 23, 2022, at 1 pm. These free-of-cost sessions are designed for students who wish to apply for international universities abroad and acquire more information about PTE, the world's leading computer-based English language test trusted by universities, colleges and Governments.

The interactive workshop will be conducted by master trainers from Pearson Group: Christopher Morley and Gagandeep Singh, who will shed light on the Application Process of PTE, test formats and the preparation tips and strategies.

People can register for the webinar by clicking on this link: https://zoom.us/join/registration/3116420715727/WN_0iapQGwWQOGxUv-hqQmPUQ

It offers comprehensive, industry-relevant programmes across various cutting-edge Technology, Data and Business domains. Great Learning's programs are developed in collaboration with academic institutions like Stanford University, MIT, The University of Texas at Austin, National University Singapore, IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee, IIIT-Delhi, Shiv Nadar University and Great Lakes.

New Term Assessment Policy by CBSE

The latest curriculum prescribed by CBSE endeavours to provide competency-based learning and imbibe the components of the 21st century, which focuses on learning, literacy, and life skills, says MK YADAV

COVID-19 pandemic has changed the entire dynamics of school education. The last two years have been really difficult for our school students. The continuous closure of schools, shifting of classes to online mode, postponement of examinations, and lack of peer group learning has created a wide learning gap in the system.

There is an increased awareness and demand in the education system to integrate the latest technology and techniques in educational systems to shift the pedagogy from rote learning to critical thinking.

To overcome these challenges posed by the pandemic and make our students ready for the 21st century, CBSE has announced term based examination at secondary and senior-secondary level, i.e., from class IX-XII.

The latest curriculum prescribed by CBSE endeavors to provide competency-based learning and imbibe the components of the 21st century, which focuses on learning, literacy, and life skills.

CBSE has categorised the school examination for Class IX-XII into three parts: Term-1 (Nov- Dec), Term-2 (Feb- March), and Practical & Internal Assessment. Both the terms are having equal weightage; the unique syllabus and the syllabus of each term are not overlapping with each other.

Term-1 is having MCQs based questions and there is no practical examination in Term-1. Also, in Term-1 the students would be getting marks and no tag like pass, fail, or compartment. Term-2 will have subjective based questions and it comprises theo-

ry and practical components.


In my opinion, it is a welcoming move. Today, our focus should be to teach the students those skills, which will help them to survive and flourish in the competitive world of today. Unfortunately, the focus of most of the schools currently is on cramming the syllabus and passing the examination. There are very few schools in the country, which focus more on skill-based education than cramming information.

Today, the students need to have conceptual clarity, an exploratory mindset, and do a critical analysis of the information. They should be in a position to sift out the important information especially in this era of information overload and should have clarity about their focus areas. What we decide at present shapes our future.


If the students lack comprehension ability, they won't be able to make a proper decision and will not be able to take charge of their lives. Most of the school students in India still follow a typical trend when it comes to choosing their career, and succumb to parental and peer pressure. Most of them are ignorant about their ability and the field in which they can flourish and lack the decision-making ability.

The new pedagogy followed by CBSE focuses on critical thinking, communication skills, and creativity, which will help the students to deal with the changes, make them more curious, help them in developing an inquisitive mindset, and will transform the way they think about the future.

The type of questions, which are being



THE NEW PEDAGOGY FOLLOWED BY CBSE FOCUSES ON CRITICAL THINKING, COMMUNICATION SKILLS, AND CREATIVITY, WHICH WILL HELP THE STUDENTS TO DEAL WITH THE CHANGES, MAKE THEM MORE CURIOUS, HELP THEM IN DEVELOPING AN INQUISITIVE MINDSET, AND WILL TRANSFORM THE WAY THEY THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE



asked in exams like assertion-reasoning, statement, and conclusion, the case studies will make them ready for the real-life problem-solving scenario.

Also, when we look at the various career-orientated entrance examinations, which are conducted after class 12th, they focus more on the reasoning ability and critical thinking of the students. If this is not being taught at the school level or if students have not developed such a type of ability at the schools level, it gets very difficult for them to crack these exams.

We all are aware of the CUET, which is going to be there for 41 central universities, which will most likely have an objective and subjective type of questions (information through different newspaper articles) and if a Student has practiced such types of questions at the school level, the entrance examination will be a cakewalk for them.

The current term assessment policy will help students to think for themselves, think about future perspectives, and will help them make a calculated decision based on learning, literacy, and various life skills. And last, but not the least, it will reduce the burden and stress of the students. Earlier where students used to fear examinations, now they will enjoy giving these papers.

Finally, I would like to suggest that we should shift our focus to analytical learning for our students from primary schools and develop critical thinking ability from the tender age and give India a better future.

The writer is CMD, AI Testified (Incubated at IIT Kanpur)

Global Employability Test 2022

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Registration to much-awaited Entrance Exam for admissions & scholarships to India's first-ever Employer Funded PG Programme commences in January 2022:

EduCLaaS Singapore & Yangpoo Education has opened its application window for the much-awaited Global Employability Test 2022 — a national level entrance exam conducted for admissions to its two flagship programmes, *Earn*

While You Learn PG Applied MasterCLaaS in Software Engineering, AI-MI & PG Applied MasterCLaaS in Digital Business backed by the alliance of top MNC's across the globe.

Global Employability Test 2022 is conducted by AMCAT (Aspiring Minds Computer Adaptive Test) on Yangpoo's behalf and is designed to check the employability quotient & aptitude of applicants.

These 24 months, full-time, future tech programmes designed

in Asia's innovation & technology capital — Singapore offer six months intense learning by international faculty, industry experts delivered through flipped classes & live-online sessions along with 18 months of paid, virtual, on-the-job training with global companies.

Successfully cracking the GET 2022 will enable students to apply for these one-of-its-kind PG programmes that offer a chance to cover almost 70 per cent of the programme fees.

The GET 2022 consists of

four sections: English Comprehension, Quantitative Ability, Logical Ability, and Domain-based technical skills to check employability as required by the prospective employers supporting the programmes.

It is an online CBT (Computer Based Test) held in a remote proctored mode where students will be supervised via proctoring software that monitors students' computer's desktop, webcam video, and audio.

Yangpoo & EduCLaaS Exam Help Desk — 1800-547-8003.

UG programmes at JKLU

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The educational institute JK Lakshmipat University, is offering early admissions to the students appearing for their Class XII Board Examinations in 2022 or XII passed, for all the UG programmes like B Tech, BBA, B Des, and BCA for the upcoming academic session 2022-2023.

Before candidates apply

for admission, they are advised to check the eligibility criteria laid down by the JK Lakshmipat University. Only those candidates who fulfill the eligibility criteria can fill the application form.

The early admission process is particularly suitable for those who are clear about pursuing engineering, design, or management studies.

The admission will be granted on a first come first

served basis to only those applicants who meet all the admission criteria as defined for respective admission and considered as Provisional Admission.

Early Admissions ensure that the student can be stress-free and can focus on excelling in their Class XII Board examinations. Early Admissions students will get financial benefit in terms of their admission fee paid; admission fee (INR

5000) for the Students taking early admission has been waived off. JKLU offers a limited number of meritorious scholarships on a first-come-first-served basis.

Early Admissions students have an additional advantage of securing these scholarships by early admission offer acceptance.

Last date to apply in early Admission Round 1: 15 February 2022.

The demand for an MBA degree will continue to be high because of the massive returns it has to offer to students. It helps develop leadership skills, business principles, professional networking and makes you job-ready, says DR AKHIL SHAHANI

MBA will be in fashion



Management is one of the most elite professions and hence introducing yourself as an MBA graduate is always a matter of pride. An MBA degree is a perfect way to stimulate one's career. The MBA programme was first offered by Harvard University in Cambridge, MA in 1908. In India, in the year 1953, the Indian Institute of Social Welfare & Business Management was established in Kolkata and was the first college to offer an MBA degree in India.

Since then, the demand for MBA is ever increasing. But you may be wondering, will this demand for MBA be this high always? How long will an MBA degree help one's career is still a question for many.

The demand for an MBA degree is still high and will continue to be high because of the massive returns it has to offer to students. It helps you develop leadership skills, business principles, professional networking and makes you job-ready.

It gives you a push that is essential for entering and sustaining in the market. An MBA degree offers a range of specializations such as marketing to finance, operations to human resources. These specializations develop managerial skills and make you aware of various industry offerings.

From a job market perspective, employers are now looking for highly skilled candidates over novice candidates. Many consulting firms like Deloitte, Larsen & Turbo, Axis Bank, Hindustan liver, Accenture, HDFC Bank, Aditya Birla, and Bain, etc. want employees with MBA qualifications because these candidates possess analytical abilities and domain knowledge that are essential to do the job efficiently.

They prefer candidates with an MBA degree who know how to pitch ideas and sell products or services. Another reason why employers prefer MBA candidates is that the MBA course improves communication skills and helps to develop a student's personality. This complete package of benefits upskills you and helps you succeed in your future.

The demand for MBA will never sink as it has a lot to offer to aspirants and fulfill their dreams, whereas, we strongly believe the demands and its popularity will be towering after decades and ages too and it will never go out of fashion.

A few international & indigenous companies that have a high demand for MBAs are as follows.

■ BCG: The Boston Consulting Group is one of the highest recruiters of MBA students with offices in 45 countries

EMPLOYERS PREFER MBA CANDIDATES AS AN MBA COURSE IMPROVES COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND HELPS DEVELOP A STUDENT'S PERSONALITY. THIS COMPLETE PACKAGE OF BENEFITS UPSKILLS YOU AND FURTHERS THE PROSPECTS

- JP Morgan: The JP Morgan not only employs management graduates from the financial sector but also from other sectors too.
- Microsoft: The company has its offices in 70 countries and it preferably recruits MBA graduates for various positions in finance, marketing, operations, and sales.
- Morgan Stanley: It is a company that offers the best payment to employees and picks MBA graduates in the financial sector for employment.
- TCS: The TCS offers the best remuneration to its employees and hires the finest talent from famed B-Schools for leading positions.
- Infosys: The company looks for young MBA enthusiasts who can help the company succeed and expand greatly. It also provides excellent opportunities to candidates who possess great skills and abilities.
- Wipro: This company too is not behind in the race. It offers the best package to its employees and hunts the best talent with highly skilled and knowledgeable MBA graduates from renowned Institutes.

The writer is MD, Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management, Shahani Group and CEO

‘Change starts with right kind of education’

It is our responsibility to understand effects of our decisions. It is an essential step towards a more sustainable future, says DR JITIN CHADHA

One of the biggest challenges we face as a collective whole is sustainable development. The resources we have are finite, available in limited quantities. Our needs, however, as a growing population are rapidly increasing. As we continue to consume, we are encroaching upon resources that are gradually depleting. There is no denying the fact that we are experiencing the effects of global warming, environmental degradation and climate change around us.

In this context, it has become more important than ever before to understand the implications of our decisions as consumers and contributors to the environment that we live in. As we witnessed alarming levels of pollution in the national capital in the past few days, our attention has been brought back to our surroundings and the world that we reside in.

According to The World Commission on Environment and Development, sustainable design or development is one that 'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Right from how we use the resources that are available to us to creating a more sustainable future, designers are constantly exploring new ways to solve the dichotomy of how limited resources can satiate the infinite demand for them.

The onus does not solely lie with the designer or manufacturers and producers of the products we use. It is also equally, if not more, our responsibility as consumers, as citizens and as part of the larger ecosystem to better understand the effects of our decisions. This is the first and most essential step towards a more sustainable future.

In recent times there has been an increasing awareness about the consequences of our choices, particularly what we choose to consume and how we dispose of our products at an individual and societal level. The age we live in is both blessed and cursed by the one omnipresent influence in our life — social media. While this is a great medium to raise awareness, it is equally important that we practice a more sustainable way of living and working as well.



Dr Jitin Chadha
Director, Indian Institute of Art and Design

In the process of manufacturing new products, companies and designers alike can advocate for the use of greener and more eco friendly materials. This not only helps in minimising energy consumption and waste production but it also goes a long way in optimizing any given product's life cycle. Avoiding chemicals, using recyclable and easily decomposable materials, taking into consideration transport and operation are all imperative facets that need to be thought about when designing and manufacturing a product.

Change, of course, starts with the right kind of education. Equipping the youth of tomorrow with not only the knowledge and awareness of their surroundings but also the skills and aptitude to design equitable solutions to the problems we face as a society is imperative. Creating a new generation of designers, who are conscious, empathetic, ethical and innovative is more important than ever before.

With the kind of multi-disciplinary learning, hands-on approach to problem solving and a practical outlook that colleges are now espousing in their pedagogy, the future looks bright, one where we can live in harmony with our surroundings, one where the impacts of our decisions do not weigh heavily on the environment that nurtures us.

Well-developed communication skills are essential for academic as well as for future perspective; at all levels, students should know to communicate effectively. It is an essential leadership function and a major characteristic of a good leader, the beneficiaries are in many ways like teamwork bonding i.e good skills help the team member to achieve the desired goals. As many colleges make a session on the personality development for students which focuses on all the skills required for an interview or professional life, this can be utilised during academic life. Employees who communicate effectively

with their team members, manager, and corporate leaders are considered as valuable assets.

Innovation and team building: What makes people unique and different in the queue is the ability to speak and openly communicate ideas without fear of anyone and can produce innovative ideas in front of everyone at the table of discussion. Making a strong and effective team is all about communicating well with the team member and solving the puzzles together for any business project. Giving effective strategies collectively working can bring a good conclusive work this, in turn, gives employee

MIND IT

satisfaction and improve morale.

Growth in every perspective: Communication can be observed in either of the two ways internally and externally. That simply means the skills we possessed internally can deliver a message externally if we hold strong expressive language, this can be turned out to be a successful journey in your working life. What makes people differ in their career as everyone has their degree, knowledge, experience but lacks in the

growth? Life is not all about hardworking and continuously working without self-consciousness and awakening about the environment, when you are awakened you can modulate yourself and act as a stimulus towards success. This is proportional to communication skills.

Strong management: When superior team managers are strong communicators they can well manage their teams like assignment of tasks, dispute management,

relationship building, motivation, and other responsibility of management. They are the presenter of their company if holding strong skills they can convince everyone, ability to freely communicate with their peers, colleagues, and superiors.

Conference meeting: There was a time when everything opened but the COVID situation made many things shut down and made people work from home, this simply they have to attend the meeting through a video call itself. While conferencing over videos if you can't be confident to put your ideas in front of people then it can make things not understandable. There are virtual

conferences which are held for the meeting are successfully implemented due to the confidence and skills.

Resolves conflict: Many times it happens there is a situation where conflict arises. Effective communication is not about telling who is right or wrong; it's about having open-mind, honest and positive energetic discussions to make everyone satisfied and their needs are met. Your power of making the situation and environment good is the only thing that can make the working culture enjoyable.

The writer is Dr Neelima Kamra, principal, KIIT World School Gurugram



The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for its international UG scholarship for international students wanting to study UG studies at the university.

The scholarship is worth £2,000 per year for courses in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Faculty of Social Sciences and £2,500 per year for Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health and Faculty of Science.

Eligibility: Commence studies of UG degree at the university in September 2022. All undergraduate degree courses are included except for Medicine (A100/A101) and Dentistry (A200); You must choose the university as your firm or insurance choice before 16:00 (UK time) on 17 June 2022.

The scholarship is applicable to each subsequent academic year of study, subject to achieving 60% or above and achieving a minimum of 120 credits in the previous academic year. The scholarship is not applicable to any compulsory or optional years in industry, work placements or year abroad.

How to apply: The scholarship will be awarded automatically; no scholarship application is required in the first or any subsequent years.

To know more: Visit: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/scholarships/undergraduate/international-undergraduate-scholarship-2022>.

national/fees-and-funding/scholarships/undergraduate/international-undergraduate-scholarship-2022.

Applications are invited for 25 Engineering International UG Excellence Scholarships at Monash University, Australia.

Eligibility: Are an international student who is currently in Year 12 (or equivalent), or completed Year 12 (or equivalent) in the previous year, and have not undertaken any other tertiary study. The candidates must have a full offer or a conditional offer on meeting English requirements.

Supporting documents: Submit a transcript, a statement, a copy of educational certificates and other required at the time of application. Check all documents to be emailed. Email your documents as a single PDF to sebs.csu.documents@monash.edu.

Admission requirements: Applicants must have achieved a minimum equivalent ATAR score of 95.00 to take enrolment in an engineering course at Monash.

Language requirement: Before you apply to Monash, you must meet the minimum English language requirements.

How to apply: Applications are not necessary, when you submit a course application at Monash University you will automatically be eligible for the grant programme.

Application deadline: It is March 4, 2022.

FULL STACK DEVELOPMENT AT ADPUSHUP

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹30,000-₹40,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/84089f
Deadline: January 27, 2022

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WHITE PANDA

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/9a5c5b
Deadline: January 27, 2022

PODCAST HOSTING AT THECOINREPUBLIC

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹14,000-₹23,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/56aea9
Deadline: January 27, 2022

MEDIA & PR AT NEWS10INDIA

Location - Delhi, Gurgaon
Stipend - ? 10,000-15,000/Month
Link - internshala.com/i/2378a1
Deadline - 27th January 2022

CONTENT WRITING AT IMPACT MEDIA

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/bb6acb
Deadline - 26th January 2022

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT SOFTICATION TECHNOLOGY

Location - Ranchi, Gurgaon, Noida, Delhi
Stipend - ? 10,000/Month
Link - internshala.com/i/0bc3f9
Deadline: January 25, 2022

DIGITAL MARKETING AT SPYNE

Location: Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Noida
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7279c0
Deadline: January 27, 2022



IN BRIEF

GRANTS & INCUBATION FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, is taking several steps to encourage start-up and entrepreneurial activities. Aimed to boost industrial interactions and start-up activities, Research and Industrial Conclave is being organised from January 20-23, 2022.

Technology incubation centre at the campus allows virtual incubation, and student start-ups are permitted. New grants and incubation are being provided by IIT Guwahati Technology Innovation and Development Foundation. Speaking on the significance of the initiatives,

Professor TG Sitharam, director IIT Guwahati said, "As stated by our Prime Minister we are in the golden era of start-up, being one of the leading institute for research and innovation, IIT Guwahati wishes to contribute to create start-up friendly ecosystem. I invite the entrepreneurs to join us where we provide not only the technical mentorship but also access to our resources and opportunities to work with our faculties and students to develop new technologies."

The start-up can apply through email incharge@iitg.ac.in. It will be evaluated by a committee. Based on its recommendation of council of management of TIC will approve the start-ups for incubation.

GITAM EXTENDS ISDC PARTNERSHIP

The GITAM (Deemed-to-be-University) extended its International Skill Development Corporation partnership to its

Bengaluru campus by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. The aim is to provide degree programmes integrated with

global qualifications. The MoU allows students access to in-depth understanding of industry-oriented finance and analytical tools.

MATH++ DOTS LEARNING COURSE

AUS-based ed-tech start-up has created a new generation unique program called math++ that blends Math with Data and AI thinking, to empower students to meet the demands of the rapidly advancing digital world.

The programme is designed for Classes I to IV. Designed by global social visionaries with over 20 years of experience in Data and AI, the programme is backed by inputs and guidance from experienced leaders globally.

CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATION AWARD FOR START-UPS

The The Indian Institute of Management Udaipur announced Climate Change Innovation Grant for eligible start-ups in association with Meity Startup Hub and corporate partner Transworld Group. The grant focuses on supporting early-stage climate tech ventures whose products or services are explicitly focused on reducing GHG emissions or addressing the impacts of global warming.

The participating start-

ups will receive the opportunity to brainstorm and validate solutions with corporate partner Transworld Group, get tailored training and support, learn and share in a community of like-minded founders in a collaborative environment, incubation, and co-working space at the incubation centre, and also an opportunity to pitch for follow-on funding under other programs of the incubation centre.

Kannan Soundararajan,

CEO, Incubation Centre, IIM Udaipur said, "We want to provide you and your start-up with state-of-the-art mentoring and online training, as well as access to financial support and networking opportunities. The bottom line is success, both for you and your start-up and for the environment with tangible climate solutions."

Each focus area will target ill-effects of the above challenges and will deep-dive into solutions.

HIRING OF HIGHLY SKILLED TECH PROFESSIONALS

The Aarna Network is planning to expand its engineering team in India by hiring technology professionals in cutting edge technologies from across the country. The additional technological capabilities will help expand company portfolio.

Amar Kapadia, CEO of Aarna Networks said: "One of the key values that is guiding

our hiring strategy is that we intend to employ smartly, with an emphasis on quality rather than quantity. It has enabled us to assemble very talented teams of engineers. Our hiring process is completely backed by technology and virtual interactions. We're committed to providing the best possible working environment."

TWO NEW EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

The Anant Centre for Sustainability launched two new executive education programmes delivered via a blended learning model — a one-week certificate course in Designing Affordable Living and a one-year, Entrepreneurs in Residence programme. Interested candidates can enroll in both programmes until February 10, 2022.

The designing affordable living course will str

on March 4, 2022 and the other in February. The course provides 30 students with the ability to build a business that innovates, creates, and sells affordable living products.

The course offers knowledge about various materials used for designing affordable living products, with a deep dive into the properties of laminated corrugated cardboard, a highly affordable material.

By the end of the course, students shall build the prototypes of the products, enhancing learning by integrating theory and practice.

Link for designing affordable living — <https://anu.edu.in/programme/designing-affordable-living/>

Link for Entrepreneur in Residence Program — <https://anu.edu.in/programme/entrepreneurs-in-residence-eir/>

ALL EYES ON VIRAT KOHLI THE BATTER AS INDIA TAKE ON SA

PTI ■ PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA)

The mighty Virat Kohli's presence in the Indian playing eleven as a mere player for the first time in seven years will be keenly followed while his potential successor in red-ball cricket, K L Rahul, will be judged for his captaincy in the three-match ODI series against South Africa beginning here on Wednesday.

Whether he is batting in the middle or fielding at the boundary line, Kohli's every move is tracked but some of that attention will now have to be shared by Rahul.

More importantly, will he be at his usual animated best on the field or will the cricketing world see a rather subdued Kohli after his stunning resignation from Test captaincy brought an end to his innings as official leader of the

team across formats?

He did not want to leave ODI captaincy after relinquishing the role in the shortest format and it led to a war of words with the BCCI on how the entire matter was handled.

His supporters and Indian cricket in general will be hoping that Kohli has put his differences with the BCCI firmly behind him and come Wednesday, he starts a new innings with his willow doing most of the talking. A highly desired century after two years would be cherry on top.

Rahul, who is leading the side in the absence of an injured Rohit Sharma, is expected to turn to Kohli for advice during the series.

Not only Kohli has a major role to play as a batter, but as vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah said on the eve of the series, the star "will always be a leader" in the team.

With the new leadership and

support staff, India will look to win the series with one eye on preparations for the 2023 World Cup and also make up for the disappointment of unexpectedly going down in the Tests last week.

The last time a full strength India played an ODI series was at home against England in March before a second string squad travelled to Sri Lanka in July.

Rahul batted in the middle-order against England but it remains to be seen if he moves back to the top alongside Shikhar Dhawan. Ruturaj Gaikwad, who made the squad following an exceptional domestic season, might have to wait longer for his ODI debut.

It will be crucial three games for the seasoned Dhawan, who has already lost his place in the T20 side. The southpaw has thrived under pressure in the past and will be looking to solidify his

position as the first-choice opener alongside Rohit when the latter returns from injury. Kohli will bat at his usual number three spot while there will be a toss-up between Suryakumar Yadav and Shreyas Iyer for the number four position.

Rishabh Pant is expected to come at number five while Venkatesh Iyer is likely to make his 50-over debut as the all-rounder at six, having shown promise in the T20s against New Zealand.

The two spinners likely to play are Yuzvendra Chahal and R Ashwin, who has made a comeback after more than four years.



K L Rahul set to lead Lucknow IPL franchise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

K L Rahul will captain the yet-to-be-named Lucknow franchise in the upcoming IPL, a league source told PTI on Tuesday.

It is learnt that Rahul is one of the players Lucknow has picked from the draft ahead of the mega auction on February 12 and 13 in Bengaluru.

The other two are likely to be Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and uncapped leg spinner Ravi Bishnoi.

"Rahul will captain Lucknow. The team is deciding on the other two draft picks," an IPL source told PTI. Rahul led Punjab Kings for the past two seasons but did not want to stay at the franchise. Bishnoi was also with Punjab while Stoinis represented Delhi Capitals. RPSG Group had shelled out Rs 7090 crore to buy the Lucknow franchise.

Rahul is currently the stand-in captain of the Indian ODI team in South Africa in the absence of an injured Rohit Sharma.

India eye improved batting performance against Ireland

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)

In-form batter and captain Yash Dhull will be expecting a much improved batting effort from his team when record four-time champions India take on Ireland in their second Group B match of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Having started their campaign with a 45-run win over South Africa, the Indians are brimming with confidence and are expected to steamroll Ireland at the Brian Lara Stadium.

Both India and Ireland have registered wins in their openers. While India beat South Africa, Ireland defeated Uganda by 39 runs.

Dhull single-handedly anchored the Indian innings against the Junior Proteas as they lost both their openers — Harnoor Singh and Angkrish Raghuvanshi early after being put into bat. Dhull added vital 71 runs with Shaikh Rasheed (31) for the third to resurrect the Indian innings first and then stitched valuable contributions with Nishant Sidhu (27), Raj Bawa (13) and Kushal Tambe (35) to give his bowlers a decent target to defend. But come Wednesday, Dhull would be looking for more support from his openers to ease the pressure on middle and lower-order going into the knockout stages of the tournament. If Indian batters were not upto the mark against South Africa, it was completely contrasting performance from the bowling unit. Left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal (5/28) turned out to be the star performer with the ball while right-arm fast bowler Raj Bawa (4/47) gave the perfect support from the other end as India bowled out South Africa for 187 runs.

Jalandhar-born left-handed opener Harnoor, who was India's leading run-getter in the Asia Cup



India vs Ireland
Live from 6:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

with 251 runs in five games and struck an unbeaten 100 against Australia in the team's final warm-up game on January 11, is expected to score a bagful of runs in the tournament but managed only 1 in the opener. Right-arm pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar (1/38), who has played senior cricket for Maharashtra and impressed with his raw pace in the Asia Cup, and left-arm fast bowler Ravi Kumar both had ordinary outings

against South Africa. Meanwhile in the other match of the day, Australia will take on Scotland in a Group D game in Basseterre.

Squads (from):

India: Yash Dhull (c), Harnoor Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, SK Rasheed (vc), Nishant Sindhu, Siddarth Yadav, Aneeshwar Gautam, Dinesh Bana, Aaradhya Yadav, Raj Angad Bawa, Manav Parakh, Kaushal Tambe, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Vasu Vats, Vicky Ostwal, Ravi Kumar, Garv Sangwan.

Ireland: Tim Tector (c), Diarmuid Burke, Joshua Cox, Jack Dickson, Liam Doherty, Jamie Forbes, Daniel Forkin, Matthew Humphreys, Philippus le Roux, Scott MacBeth, Nathan McGuire, Muzamil Sherzad, David Vincent, Luke Whelan, Reuben Wilson.

Former IPL cricketer R Sathish claims “fixing approach”

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former first-class and IPL cricketer Rajagopal Sathish was allegedly offered Rs 40 lakh to fix matches during the Tamil Nadu Premier League 41-year-old Sathish was part of Chepauk Super Gillies squad that won the TNPL last season. The former Tamil Nadu player has also been part of Mumbai Indians, Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. A person named Bunny Anand made the offer to Sathish via Instagram.

"He informed us as well as the International Cricket Council earlier this month that he was offered money through social media. Since we are only facilitators in such cases, we advised him to lodge a police complaint. He has done that and now police will investigate and do the needful," BCCI ACU chief Shabir Khandawala told PTI.

The complaint has been filed with Bengaluru Police.

The TNPL was played from July 19 to August 15 last year.

Asked why Sathish chose to approach the BCCI only now, the ACU chief said: "Whatever the circumstances were, it needs to be seen by the police.

"We don't want to discourage him. If he has decided to come out, our duty is to show him the way," Khandawala, who is a former Gujarat DGP, added.

Prannoy enters second round of Syed Modi badminton



PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India's HS Prannoy entered the second round of the men's singles competition at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament after registering a straight-game win over Ukraine's Danylo Bosniuk but seventh seed

Sourabh Verma was stunned by Azerbaijan's Ade Resky Dwicahyo here on Tuesday.

On a comeback trail, the fifth seeded Prannoy took just 36 minutes to get the better of Bosniuk 21-14 21-18 in his opening match.

A former top-10 player, Prannoy,

who gave a good account of himself before being stopped by 20-year-old Lakshya Sen in the quarterfinals of the India Open last week, will next meet compatriot Priyanshu Rajawat, who got a first round walkover from Rahul Yadav Chittaboina.

However, the tournament was over for fourth seed Sameer Verma after he retired hurt against Ireland's Nhat Nguyen.

Sameer was trailing 2-7 in the first game before he decided to concede the match due to a calf muscle injury, which he had sustained in October last year.

Subhankar Dey also conceded his match against compatriot Kartikey Gulshan Kumar due to an injury when he was trailing 2-9 in the opening game. Later in the day, Sourabh suffered a 15-21 21-19 21-18 first-round defeat to Dwicahyo in a match that lasted one hour and seven minutes.

Among women, Ashmita Chaliha gave a first round walkover to Malvika Bansod, while Aakarshi Kashyap defeated Mugdha Agrey 21-13 21-14 and Anupama Upadhyaya eased past Rituparna Das.

Lakshya reaches career-high 13th

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Lakshya Sen reached a career-high 13th in the latest badminton world rankings after winning the men's singles crown in the India Open, a title triumph in which also lifted the men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty to eighth place.

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and former world number one Kidambi Srikanth remained static at seventh and 10th spots, respectively, even as Satwiksairaj and Chirag moved up two places.

Sen made a jump of four places, moving up from the 17th position with 66470 points to close in on reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew at 12th spot. Sen defeated Yew in the final of the India Open.

Last year, Sen reached the BWF World Championships semifinal where he lost to Srikanth in a hard fought match 21-17, 14-21, 17-21 and settled for a bronze medal.

We hope to break down Iran defence to start with a win: Dennerby

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India head coach Thomas Dennerby on Tuesday said the hosts would aim to break down a strong Iranian defence with an attacking game to eke out a win in their women's AFC Asian Cup opener here on Thursday.

The match against Iran would be crucial for India in their bid to qualify for the quarterfinals. Iran are the lowest ranked team in Group A which also has China and Chinese Taipei. They are ranked at 70th in the world as against India's 55th.

"Our first target is to get to quarter-finals, we think we have a realistic chance to do that. Iran is going to be a real tough game.

We have followed them through videos and they are really a fighting (team)", Dennerby said in

a virtual media interaction.

"They (Iran) have strong defence, they defend very well around their box. It is going to be a challenge for us to score. It is not going to be an easy game. We are hoping that with some creative and good passing game, we can break down their defence," he added.

"We have a lot of players that can create chances and score goals.

We have to be good all through the match." A win against Iran will give India a big chance to make it to the knock-out stage -- the quarterfinals. A quarterfinal berth will virtually ensure at least an Intercontinental Play-offs berth for the 2023 FIFA World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Five teams from the tournament will directly qualify for

the 2023 women's FIFA World Cup while another two will make it to the Intercontinental Play-offs. Australia, which finished runners-up in the last edition of the AFC Asian Cup, have already qualified for the 2023 FIFA World Cup as co-hosts.

"It is a big challenge obviously for us, but it is also a very big opportunity. If we qualify for the quarterfinals, we have a chance for qualifying for the FIFA World Cup next year and that will be huge for Indian football," said captain Ashalata Devi.

"We are hoping that the Asian Cup being hosted in India will give a big boost to women's football in our country. Everyone in the team now wants to play the first match right away," said the pivot of Indian defence with 64 caps under her belt.

Since taking charge of the Indian team in August last year, Dennerby has been trying to change the playing style from a predominantly long ball game to short passing one.

early evening on Day 2.

Ninth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime fended off Emil Ruusuvuori 6-4 0-6 3-6 6-3 6-4, and Maxime Cressy overcame 20 double-faults to upset fellow American and No 22-seeded John Isner 7-6(2) 7-5 6-7(4) 6-7(4) 6-4.

Second-seeded Daniil Medvedev, one of the biggest potential beneficiaries of Djokovic's deportation, had a much more routine first round.

Nine-time champion Djokovic was already back in Serbia — two days after losing his legal challenge to stay in Australia despite being unvaccinated against COVID-19 — when Medvedev went into Rod Laver Arena for a 6-1 6-4 7-6(3) win over Henri Laaksonen.

moving him ahead of Andre Agassi and Ivan Lendl into fifth-place all-time. Match win No 50 is the immediate priority.

"I think there's things in my game I can do better," said Murray, who lost the 2010 final to Roger Federer and four others to Novak Djokovic.

"Would love to have a deep run here, if possible.

"It's something I've not had in one of the Slams since I've come back from the injury, and it's something that's motivating me."

Murray's wasn't the only dramatic five-setter that finished in the



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Five years and five long sets later, five-time Australian Open runner-up Andy Murray finally has won another match at the season-opening Grand Slam tournament.

The former No 1-ranked Murray, playing thanks to a wildcard invitation as he continues his career comeback from hip operations and thoughts of retirement, beat 21st-seeded Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-1 3-6 6-4 6-7(5) 6-4 on Tuesday to reach the second round at Melbourne Park.

He lost a five-setter in the first round in 2019 — a match he, and everyone else, thought might have been his last in Australia — after missing the 2018 edition with an

Andy Murray wins in Australia for 1st time

injury. He missed the 2020 tournament with a pelvic injury and last year's event because of COVID-19.

"It's been a tough three, four years. Put in a lot of work to get back here," Murray said in his post-match TV interview at John Cain Arena, which was formerly known as Hisense and is parochially referred to as the People's Court.

"I've played on this court many times, the atmosphere is incredible. This is the one where I thought I'd played my last.

"Amazing to be back, winning a five-set battle like that. Couldn't ask for more." Murray beat

Basilashvili in a three-hour three-setter last week in Sydney, where he reached the final of the tuneup tournament.

This one went almost four hours.

When the 34-year-old Murray clinched it on his third match point, he turned to the back of the court, closed his eyes and pumped his fists to celebrate.

After walking over to his court-side chair and dropping his racket, he returned to the court, punched the air and yelled "Let's go!"

It was Murray's 49th win in an Australian Open singles match,