

OPINION 6

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WORLD 8

UKRAINE URGES CALM, SAYING
RUSSIAN INVASION NOT IMMINENT

AVENUES 10

TIME FOR
SUCCESS

DEHRADUN, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹2

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LEAD INDIA
AGAINST WI
12 SPORT1st CDS, Kalyan, Gita Press
head get Padma VibhushanBuddhadev refuses to
accept Padma Bhushan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of Republic Day, the Centre bestowed the Padma Vibhushan award, India's second-highest civilian award, on the country's first Chief of Defence staff, late General Bipin Rawat, and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister late Kalyan Singh. The other two Padma Vibhushan awardees are noted musician Prabha Atre and Gita Press Chairman Radheshyam Khemka (posthumously).

Among the 17 Padma Bhushan awardees, two political leaders from the Congress and the CPI(M) — Ghulam Nabi Azad and former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee figured in the prestigious award list. However, Buddhadeb refused to accept the award. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday came out with a list of 128 distinguished personalities from different fields for Padma Awards.

The list comprises four Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 107 Padma Shri Awards. Out of 128 awardees, 34 are women and the list includes 10 persons from the



category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 posthumous awardees. Padma Awards are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.

The Centre also awarded Padma Bhushan to the country's two Covid vaccine makers Serum Institute's founder Cyrus Poonawala and jointly honoured Bharat Biotech promoters Dr Krishna Ella and wife Suchitra Ella. Indian origin CEO of Google Satya Nadella

and Microsoft CEO Sundar Pichai have been awarded Padma Bhushan. Former Home Secretary and CAG Rajiv Mehrishi, actor Victor Banerjee and Gujarati writer and preacher Swami Sachidanad got Padma Bhushan.

Among the 107 Padma Shri awardees Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra, late IAS officer and Airports Authority Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra, noted singer Sonu Nigam figured in the list.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, who died last year, has been awarded Padma Vibhushan for Public Affairs, while late CDS

General Bipin Rawat got the same honour for Civil Service. Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad will be honored with Padma Bhushan for Public Affairs. Rawat hails from Uttarakhand and Kalyan from Uttar Pradesh, the two States which are headed for Assembly polls. The political significance of the Centre's decision to handpick Azad for giving the Padma award is not lost. Azad comes from Jammu & Kashmir, a Union territory, where the Centre is trying its best to win over the masses through the political process. Azad has been of late sidelined in the Congress and has also been in the news for repeatedly praising PM Narendra Modi.

Cong first family loyalist
RPN Singh joins BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gandhi family loyalist RPN Singh on Tuesday joined the long line of senior Congress leaders deserting the party. The former Union Minister on Tuesday embraced the BJP dealing a blow to the Congress and giving a psychological leg-up to the saffron party in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.

Singh, 57, is a prominent leader and a member of royalty from the Eastern UP. He has been a three-time Congress MLA from Padrauna and a Member of Parliament from Kushinagar.

He joined the BJP shortly after writing a brief letter of resignation to the Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Singh's exit from the party has come as a massive blow to the grand old party in the run-up to Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The Congress leadership was apparently caught by surprise because it named Singh as the "star campaigner" only a few days ago.

A section of the party leaders feels that Singh's exit was good riddance because he had been hobnobbing with the BJP for the last one year to topple the Congress-JMM Jharkhand Government. RPN, known within the Congress circle, was Congress general secretary in charge for the Jharkhand for the



Former Congress leader RPN Singh joins BJP at party office in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

last three years.

Singh, a key Kurmi OBC leader from eastern UP, is the second big exit for the Congress in the State after Jitin Prasad, who is now a Minister in the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP Government in UP.

Addressing the media after joining the party here at the BJP headquarters in the presence of BJP UP in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan, UP party president Swatantra Dev Singh, UP Deputy-Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dr Dinesh Sharma, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, Singh lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, he said, is being "appreciated roundly for linking the ancient

Indian civilisation and culture with the 21st century".

Singh is also seen as BJP's Assembly candidate against OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya who recently left the BJP to join the SP.

Criticising the Congress, his erstwhile party, Singh said, "I spent 32 years in one political party (Congress). But that party has not remained the same as it was before when I joined it. I will work as a 'karyakarta' towards fulfilling PM Modi's dreams for India," said Singh.

He also praised the double-engine Government and the change in the law and order situation in UP.

SC issues notices
to Centre, EC on
guidelines on
'freebies' in polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Centre and the Election Commission on framing of guidelines on "freebies" promised by political parties before elections.

Observing that it was a "serious issue," and "freebie budget" was going beyond the regular Budget, the court sought a response from the poll body and the Union Government in four weeks.

The Chief Justice of India said that the Supreme Court, in a different issue, had directed the poll body to frame guidelines on the matter but the poll body held just one meeting whose outcome is unknown.

"Within the limited scope, we had directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines. But subsequently, they conducted only one meeting after our directions. They sought views from political parties and thereafter I do not know what happened," NV Ramana, the Chief Justice of India, said.

A bench of CJI Ramana, Justice AS Bopanna and Justice Hima Kohli was hearing a plea filed by lawyer and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay saying public funds were being misused by all political parties, pushing States deeper into debt.

Delhi Govt offices to
have only Ambedkar,
Bhagat Singh photos

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

All Delhi Government offices will carry photos of Bhimrao Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh, and no pictures of any political leader, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday.

Kejriwal also made the announcement during the Delhi Government's Republic Day programme that the Government offices will henceforth not even have the Chief Minister's picture.

"The Delhi Government is trying to fulfill the dreams which Babasaheb and Bhagat Singh saw for Indian society. No other Government in the last 75 years tried to walk on the path shown by Dr Ambedkar and Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh. Babasaheb envisioned highest quality of education for every single child of India but no Government could provide that in 75 years, with the education revolution thriving in the State, the Delhi Government diligently working to ensure that we can fulfil Babasaheb's dream," the CM said.

"Both Babasaheb and



Bhagat Singh wanted an independent India wherein success did not depend on one's caste or class and everyone got equal treatment."

Addressing Delhiites on the eve of Republic Day, Kejriwal said the AAP Government increased 25 per cent and worked from starting to transform Delhi schools.

He also mentioned various programmes in Government schools.

"We are not just teaching our students to be good citizens but also inculcating entrepreneurship and Deshbhakti in them. We are establishing the Delhi Teachers' University with the goal of preparing next generation teachers of the highest global standards. Had Dr Ambedkar been here with us in the present, he would have accepted us with open arms and given us his patronage."

Himachal 52nd Statehood
Day: CM announces 31%
DA to State employeesRELAXES
ELECTRICITY
CHARGES UP
TO 60 UNITS

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Tuesday announced 31 per cent DA to all the employees of the State at par with the Central Government employees. He said that this would provide financial benefits of Rs 500 crore to the employees of the State Government. The Chief Minister made this announcement while addressing the state level function of 52nd Statehood Day in Solan. He said that the state has recently implemented new pay scales for employees of the State Government ensuring benefits of about Rs 6000 crore to about 2.25 lakh employees. He said that it was felt that few disparities existed in the new pay scales of few categories. Now, the employees would be given a third option besides two options already given to them, he added.

Thakur also announced

that pensioners of the State Government would also be given pension as per the new pay scales of Punjab government. This would benefit about 1.75 lakh pensioners by providing financial benefits of about Rs 2000 crore.

He further announced an increase in annual income for availing the benefits of various welfare schemes and pensions for the weaker sections of the society from existing Rs 35,000 to Rs 50,000. The benefits of higher scales would be provided immediately to all those constables who were eligible for higher scales, he said.

The Chief Minister announced that the domestic consumers of the state whose electricity consumption is up to 60 units per month would not be charged any fee per electricity unit. They would incur zero cost per unit of electricity consumed. With this decision, domestic consumers whose electricity consumption is up to 125 units, would be charged only one rupee per unit cost. Over 11 lakh domestic consumers would be benefited from this decision and the State government would incur an additional expenditure of Rs 60 crore on providing this relief.

Channi 'Thor', Rahul 'Hulk'
take on 'aliens' in Punjab

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

With the political parties fighting the ballot-battle in the virtual arena amidst restrictions on physical roadshows and rallies for February 20 Punjab polls, Punjab Congress has come up with a latest campaign video - inspired by 2018's Hollywood superhero movie "Avengers" - featuring Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi as the mighty god of thunder "Thor" and Rahul Gandhi as "Bruce Banner".

Through the 34 seconds video, the Congress has virtually declared war against its rival political parties. Sharing it on its social media handles, the party captioned, "We will do whatever it takes to redeem our beloved State from the



clutches of evil forces working against the interest of Punjab and its people."

In the video, Channi can be seen as "Thor" carrying the Stormbreaker, Rahul Gandhi as "Bruce Banner" wearing the Hulkbuster, Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu as 'Captain America', and senior party leader Sunil Kumar Jakhar as "Groot".

Schools for Classes
X to XII to reopen in
Haryana from Feb 1


PNS ■ CHANDIGARH


With the cases of COVID-19 declining in the state, Haryana Government on Tuesday decided to reopen the schools for classes X to XII from February 1 onwards. However, the students who want to continue with online classes would be allowed to do so. At present, the students are attending online classes in the state.

Education Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar said that after reviewing the situation, it has been decided to reopen the schools for classes X, XI and

XII from February 1. Instructions in this regard have been issued to district education officers and others. They have been directed to ensure strict compliance of COVID-19 appropriate behavior, he said.

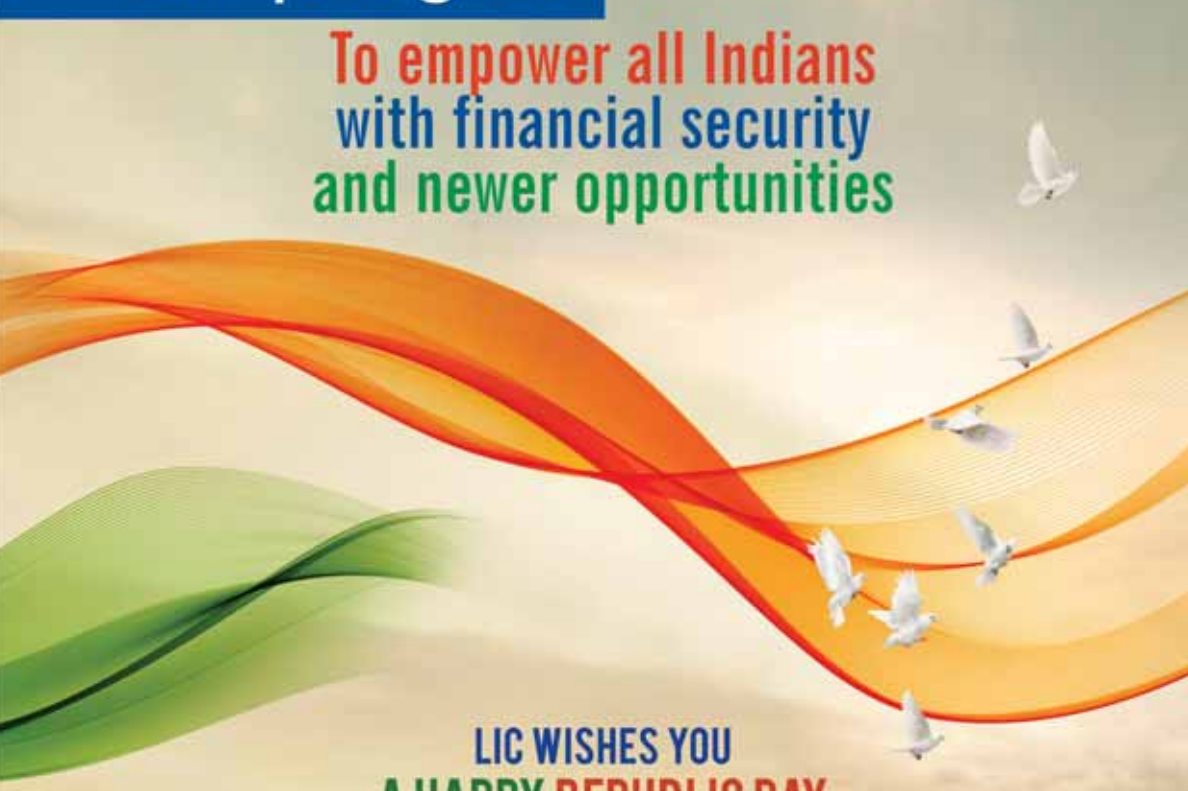
He said 75 percent children (15-18 years) have been given the first dose of COVID vaccination in the state and it has been decided to reopen the schools for students of class X-XII. The decision for other classes will be taken later after reviewing the situation again, he said.






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GUEST COLUMN

In Life and Death



By Krishan Kalra

Pundit Bishambar Lal was the official Pujari in the Sanatan Dharma mandir at Sargodha, a small town in West Pakistan. He was not only the Pujari; he also doubled as the Shastri and read from the scriptures every afternoon. He wasn't there because he had bribed any high-powered managing committee or because his father before him had done the same job. He was there simply because the people of Sargodha loved and admired this humble man, who was their friend, philosopher and guide in many difficult situations.

Punditji – as he was fondly called by everyone in the town – had been the Pujari for five decades. He took care of the moorties in the sanctum sanctorum, while his wife – the Panditayan – swept and scrubbed the rest of the modest temple. He was there when the

people visited the temple early in the morning; applying tilak on their foreheads and giving out channamrit and Prasad. Later, he would make house calls for various poojas, shraddhs, betrothals, marriages, mundans, births, deaths – wherever he was needed. Afternoons were reserved for discourses from the scriptures – first reading shlokas in Sanskrit and then translating them in simple everyday Punjabi. Evenings again, people came to do obeisance – especially on Tuesdays – and Punditji would be there to help them. He was indeed a part of life for everyone in the sleepy little town. And for all his pains, Punditji got only two simple meals a day and a few sets of rough homewashed kurtadhoties. The man just didn't want anything else for himself. All collections in the mandir went to charity.

One morning, while doing his surya-namaskar, after the routine daily bath at the canal, Punditji collapsed and died instantaneously. Other bathers rushed to help but there was no life left in the old man. The saintly man had departed peacefully without any fuss and without any botheration to anyone; so typical of his life. Someone ran and got a tonga to carry the body to the mandir and the one-room apartment behind it where the old couple lived. Another person informed the lady. As the body was kept in the mandir courtyard, Panditayan came

and quietly touched her dead husband's feet. In a low composed voice she told the gathering to wait for her as she also wanted to "accompany her husband" to the cremation ground. "Give me a few minutes to get ready", she said and went into her room. People were aghast. Women did not go with funeral processions those days. Yet, she had asked them to wait, so they didn't have a choice. Half an hour passed but there was no sign of the old lady. All arrangements had been made and they didn't want to delay the cremation. They would again try to dissuade her once she came out. One of the ladies went and knocked at the door. There was no response. She knocked again, still no response. She pushed the door gently; it was open. Inside, the Panditayan sat in Samadhi. As she touched her shoulder the lifeless figure just rolled onto the floor. The woman shrieked and more people rushed inside. Someone felt for the pulse. There was none. The lady had indeed succeeded in "accompanying her husband" on his final journey.

(A veteran of the corporate world, the author now does only voluntary work in various spheres)

President approves medals for six police personnel of U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The President Ram Nath Kovind has approved conferment of be honoured with Police Medals on the occasion of Republic Day on



Wednesday. According to the police headquarters, additional director general of police (administration) Abhinav Kumar has been selected for President's Police Medal (PPM) for distinguished services while five police personnel will be awarded Police Medals for their meritorious service on the 73rd Republic Day. These five medal awardees include the deputy superintendent of police (DySP) of Chamoli district, Dhan Singh Tomar, DySP Nandan Singh Bisht (M) from Police Headquarters, DySP of Pauri, Ganesh Lal, Inspector Mahesh Chandra Chandola (Intelligence headquarters) from Dehradun and sub inspector Ramesh Chandra Bhatt from Champawat. The State's Director General of Police (DGP) Ashok Kumar has congratulated all the medal winners for this achievement.

10 candidates filed nomination in Pauri, 9 in Chamoli

PNS ■ PAURI/ JOSHIMATH

Ten candidates filed their nomination on Tuesday from six Assembly constituencies in Pauri district on Tuesday while two nominations were filed earlier on Monday. So far, a total of 12 candidates have filed their nominations.

On Tuesday, Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Dhan Singh Rawat and Aam Aadmi Party candidate Gajendra Chauhan filed their nominations from Srinagar constituency. Uttarakhand Kranti Dal candidate Virendra Singh Rawat and Samajwadi Party candidate Jai Prakash filed nominations from Chubbattakhal. The BJP candidate Dileep Rawat filed his nomination from Lansdowne constituency while Congress candidate Surendra Singh Negi filed his nomination from Kotdwara constituency. BJP candidate Renu Bisht and UKD candidate Shanti Prasad Bhatt filed nomination from Yamkeshwar constituency and BJP candidate Raj Kumar Pori and Akhand Bharat Vikas Party candidate Hari Kumar Shah filed nomination



from Pauri constituency. Earlier, on Monday UKD candidate Mohan Kala filed nomination from Srinagar constituency and UKD (Democratic) candidate Annu Pant filed nomination from Chubbattakhal constituency.

In the Chamoli district, BJP candidate Mahendra Prasad Bhatt, Congress candidate Rajendra Bhandari, CPI candidate Vinod Joshi and PPID candidate

Pushkarla Baichwal filed their nominations from Badrinath constituency. CPI-M candidate Kunwar Ram filed his nomination from Tharali constituency. Similarly, four candidates filed their nomination from Karnprayag constituency on Tuesday. These include CPI-ML's Indresh Maikhuri, PPID's Sureshi Devi, BJP's Anil Nautiyal and independent candidate Teeka Prasad Maikhuri.

Always Wear A Mask Stay Safe Stay Happy

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEN/II/MB acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 178-DRM-MB-21-22 closing date 17.02.2022, 16.00 hrs. Name of work: Construction of type 04 nos IV quarter at Malhiabad, Sandila, Balamau and Haridwar station and Office cum store at Haridwar and Sandila station for S & T staff in the section of SSE/WHRI under ADEN/HRH-I. Tender closing date/time: 17.02.2022, 16.00 hrs. Cost of work: Rs. 88,17,740.38/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,76,400/-, Tender Cost: Rs. NIL, Bidding Start Date: 03.02.2022 and Period of Completion: 06 Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For detail information please log into www.ireps.gov.in. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. No.:178-DRM-MB-21-22 Dated: 24.01.2022 165/2022

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26 गणतंत्र दिवस

संदेश

ले. ज. गुरुमीत सिंह (से. नि.)

पीवीएसएम, यूवाईएसएम, एवीएसएम, वीएसएम, राज्यपाल, उत्तराखण्ड

प्रिय प्रदेशवासियों,

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर आप सभी को मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। आज के दिन ही हम भारत के लोगों ने न्याय, स्वतंत्रता, समानता और भाईचारे के प्रति अपना दृढ़ संकल्प व्यक्त किया था। मैं, राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी और संविधान के प्रमुख शिल्पी बाबा साहब डॉ. भीमराव आम्बेडकर सहित सभी महान स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों एवं संविधान निर्माताओं को नमन करता हूँ। मैं, देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा तथा आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिये दिन-रात तैनात रहने वाले सेना एवं सुरक्षा बलों के जवानों को भी प्रणाम करता हूँ।

राज्य गठन के बाद उत्तराखण्ड ने विकास के 21 वर्षों का स्वर्णिम सफर तय किया है, लेकिन अभी भी हमें बहुत कुछ करना शेष है। राज्य आन्दोलनकारियों के सपनों और जनता की भावनाओं के अनुरूप राज्य को तरक्की की नई ऊँचाईयों पर ले जाना है। हमें सामने खड़ी विभिन्न चुनौतियों का डटकर सामना करना है। राज्य में पलायन एक गम्भीर चुनौती है। हमें रिवर्स माइग्रेशन को एक मिशन बनाना होगा।

मुझे उत्तराखण्ड के युवाओं से बहुत उम्मीदें हैं, उन्हें अपने घर-गांव की मिट्टी से जुड़ने के जज्बे को कायम रखना होगा। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि युवा स्थानीय उत्पादों एवं शिल्पों पर आधारित उद्यमों के माध्यम से राज्य में रिवर्स माइग्रेशन का एक नया अध्याय लिखेंगे। युवा राज्य और राष्ट्र का वर्तमान एवं भविष्य हैं, उन्हें अपनी ऊर्जा, रचनात्मक सोच, ईमानदारी और निडरता से राष्ट्र के निर्माण में बढ़-चढ़कर अपनी भागीदारी निभानी होगी। विकास में सबकी समान भागीदारी से ही गणतंत्र की मूल भावना को साकार किया जा सकता है।

मातृ शक्ति के रूप में उत्तराखण्ड की महिलाएं नारी सशक्तीकरण का एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण हैं जोकि स्वर सहायता समूहों के माध्यम से आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण का नया अध्याय लिख रही हैं। उनके द्वारा स्थानीय उत्पादों व शिल्पों पर आधारित स्वरोजगार के लिए किए जा रहे प्रयास सराहनीय हैं। महिलाओं को अच्छी स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएं तथा शिक्षा मुहैया करना हम सबकी जिम्मेदारी है, क्योंकि उन्हें मजबूत किए बिना कोई देश या समाज तरक्की नहीं कर सकता।

विगत दो वर्षों से सम्पूर्ण विश्व कोरोना महमारी से बुरी तरह से प्रभावित है। हम सब ने मिलकर कोविड की चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक सामना करने का प्रयास किया है, लेकिन अभी यह स्वास्थ्य संकट पूर्ण रूप से टला नहीं है। हमें कोविड अनुरूप व्यवहार का सख्ती से पालन करते हुए मिलजुल कर इस चुनौती को हलाना होगा। हमें दृढ़ निश्चय के साथ सामाजिक, आर्थिक, औद्योगिक एवं स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में संगठित होकर आगे बढ़ना होगा।

शिक्षा के द्वारा ही हम विकास, प्रगति, सुख-समृद्धि और खुशहाली के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। अच्छी शिक्षा सिर्फ बड़े शहरों में रहने वाले ही नहीं बल्कि राज्य के दूर-दराज के इलाकों एवं सीमाओं पर बसे अन्तिम गांवों के बच्चों को भी समान रूप से मिले, इसके लिये हमारा अथक प्रयास होना चाहिए।

मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आप सभी प्रदेश एवं देश की खुशहाली और समृद्धि के लिए अपने कर्तव्यों का पूर्ण निष्ठा से पालन करते रहेंगे।

एक बार पुनः आप सभी को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

ले. ज. गुरुमीत सिंह (से. नि.)

पीवीएसएम, यूवाईएसएम, एवीएसएम, वीएसएम

सूचना एवं लोक संपर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जनहित में जारी

Dissent erupts in U'khand Congress over choice of candidates

Ranjit Rawat could contest against Harish Rawat in Ramnagar, former Minister Durgapal resigns from party

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Dissent has erupted in the Congress party after the release of the second list of candidates for the assembly elections. Interestingly the voices of the dissent were less after the Congress party released its first list of 53 candidates but after the second list on Monday night revolt has arisen in many seats.

In Ramnagar where the party has announced candidature of former chief minister Harish Rawat, the executive president of Uttarakhand Congress Ranjit Rawat is showing open defiance. After the announcement of the candidature of Harish Rawat hundreds of supporters of Ranjit Rawat assembled in his



house in Ramnagar. The Congress leadership is trying hard to placate Ranjit and is offering him ticket from Salt assembly but till Tuesday night, the Ranjit Rawat camp was claiming that their leader would enter into the contest as an independent candidate from Ramnagar. In Lalkuan from where the Congress has given its ticket to Sandhya Dalakoti,

the former minister Harish Chandra Durgapal announced rebellion. The senior leader who represented the seat in the election of 2012 resigned from the Congress party and declared that he would contest as an independent candidate from Lalkuan. A similar situation is being witnessed in Rishikesh where senior leader and former minister Shoorveer Singh Sajwan is angry over denial of ticket to him. Here the party has nominated young Jayendra Ramola as its candidate. Alleging something fishy in ticket distribution Sajwan said that he was the only name in the panel and in every survey the party conducted he was on top. Sajwan said he is confident that

the party would reconsider its decision. In Rudrapur also former minister Matbar Singh Kandari has announced his rebellion from Congress. Similarly former MLA Bhimlal Arya has declared that he would contest as an independent from Ghansali assembly.

The supporters of Congress leader Raghuraj Singh Bisht who was the strong contender for the party ticket from Lansdowne assembly held a protest at Congress Bhawan on Tuesday over denial of ticket to their leader. In Lansdowne the Congress has given a ticket to Anukriti Gussain Rawat who is the daughter-in-law of Harak Singh Rawat.

AAP releases fourth list of candidates for Assembly polls

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has released its fourth list of candidates for the Uttarakhand assembly elections scheduled to be held on February 14. The state in-

Bhandari from Pratapnagar. The party has chosen Darshan Dobhal and Sanjay Saini to contest the election from Chakrata (ST) and Haridwar constituencies respectively.



charge of the party Dinesh Mohaniya released the list of 10 candidates on Tuesday evening. According to the list, the party has selected Bhagwati Prasad Mandoli to contest election from Badrinath, Dayal Singh Bisht from Karnprayag, Kishori Nandan Dobhal from Rudrapur, Rawat from Narendra Nagar and Sagar

Nareesh Prince, Chandraprakash Punheda and Babita Chand will contest elections from Roorkee, Pithoragarh and Gangolihat (SC) respectively. The state in-charge said that the party has released the names of a total of 61 candidates and the remaining names will be revealed soon too.

'Malpractice of using liquor to manipulate voters restricts development of constituencies'

PURNIMA BISHT ■ DEHRADUN

Illegal distribution of liquor is a means heavily used by various political parties to bribe and manipulate voters, mostly men, in many parts of Uttarakhand ahead of elections which is probably one of the major reasons for the stunted growth of various constituencies. This is the opinion of several women and young voters who have witnessed this malpractice within their families and elsewhere. They said that though the practice is still followed in the urban areas, it has become more rampant in rural and remote areas. "I have seen most of the men rooting for the candidates who provide them alcohol and chicken. If they do not get sufficient bottles of alcohol and obviously do not vote for it. Though some say they would not vote for the candidate of a certain party because they dislike him or her, they certainly do not say no to alcohol provided to them for free. For them, it is an opportunity to get freebies like alcohol and chicken that lasts only till the polling day," said a 55-year-old Pushpa Negi from Tehri. She said that though women are not offered anything by the parties to influence them to vote, they generally vote for the candidate suggested by the male members of the family. On the question of why women do not vote as per their choice, she replied, "What difference does it make? No matter which party comes to power, it does not pay attention to poor people and only works for their own development. I do not even remember the candidate I voted for the last time." Another 27-year-old woman from Almora, Mamta Bisht said that since most of the men in rural areas do not understand the long-term impact of their votes in choosing a right

or wrong candidate, they see it as a chance to take advantage and go for petty materialistic things like alcohol in exchange for their votes. She said, "I have observed this malpractice since my childhood during every small and big election. It is not just alcohol but sometimes money is also given to lure voters. If a candidate gives a bottle or two of alcohol and a couple of notes to men, many along with their family members get ready to vote for the party. Actually, people do not expect the leaders here to work for their betterment as most of them have remained apathetic to the public's needs. So rather than looking to vote for a good candidate, they enjoy free liquor and money as long as it lasts and this practice will continue to plague the elections here considering the present situations," she opined. Dehradun resident Geeta Singh said that such practices are also carried out in urban areas but less openly than in the rural areas. "The system of illegally distributing alcohol during the election season has also changed with time. Unlike the rural areas, party workers here remain very cautious about to whom they are giving these freebies to as chances of getting caught are higher in cities. However, people are manipulated by the parties for votes and it will continue to go on till the voters take their right to vote seriously. Several campaigns should be run by the administration across the state at least three months before the elections addressing these manipulative tactics of the parties and how badly it can affect their children's future," stated Singh.

It is pertinent to mention here that since imposition of the model code of conduct on January 9, the authorities have seized about 25,676 litres of alcohol worth about Rs 1.19 crore in the state.

Six deaths, 3,893 new cases reported in U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The curve of the contagion of Covid-19 is continuing to surge in Uttarakhand. On Tuesday the health department reported the death of six patients of the disease and found 3,893 new cases of the disease in the state.

The cumulative count of Covid-19 patients in the state is now at 4,07,358 while a total of 3,60,180 patients have recovered from the disease so far. A total of 7,497 people have died in the state so far from Covid-19. The recovery percentage of the disease was at 88.42 per cent on Tuesday. The positivity rate of the disease increased to 13.68 per cent on Tuesday.

The authorities reported the death of two patients from Covid-19 at Gen B C Joshi

hospital (DRDO) Nainital on Tuesday while one patient each died at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital Dehradun, Vinay Vishal hospital Roorkee, Base hospital Kotdwara and CHC Khatima on Tuesday.

The health department reported 1316 new patients from Dehradun, 609 from Haridwar, 585 from Nainital, 290 from Udham Singh Nagar, 214 from Pauri, 189 from Chamoli, 154 from Almora, 108 from Pithoragarh, 100 from Tehri, 90 from Champawat, 84 from Uttarkashi and 64 from Bageshwar on Tuesday.

The active case count of Covid-19 in the state is now at 31,226. Dehradun with 13,446 cases is at the top of the table of



active cases while Haridwar has 4,353 active cases of the disease which is followed by Nainital district with 3,672 active cases. Uttarkashi is at the bottom of the table with 310 active cases of the disease.

In the ongoing vaccination drive 41,488 people were vaccinated in 1231 sessions in the state held on Tuesday.

Governor approves premature release of 175 inmates on R-Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Taking a humane stand, the governor Lieutenant General (retd) Gurmit Singh has granted his assent to the proposal for the premature release of 175 prisoners serving long sentences in various jails of the state on Republic Day. Since the formation of the state, this is the highest number of inmates granted premature release simultaneously on compassionate grounds by the governor. One of the prisoners to be released prematurely was serving a sentence in the prison for more than 47 years. Seven other prisoners were serving sentences in different prisons for more than 40 years. Of these, 26 prisoners were serving sentences of more

than 30 years. Premature release of nine women prisoners has also been approved by Singh. The inmates to be released prematurely include 27 from Sampurnanand Camp in Sitarganj, 52 from central jail in Udham Singh Nagar, 63 from Haridwar district jail, one each from Pauri district jail, Chamoli district jail, central jail Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and central jail Fatehgarh (UP), two from central jail, Bareilly (UP) and 23 other prisoners. The governor has granted his approval for premature release of these inmates on compassionate grounds and on the basis of their good conduct.

AAP's Gopal Rai to arrive on 18-day visit today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The cabinet minister of Delhi and one of the star campaigners of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Gopal Rai will be on an 18-day visit to Uttarakhand to campaign for assembly elections from Wednesday. The media co in-charge of the party, Uma Sisodia informed on Tuesday that Rai will participate in various door to door campaigns and hold meeting with party workers across the state from January 26 to February 12. She said, "On the first day, the AAP leader will visit Ranipur and will hold multiple meetings. The next day, he will participate in door to door campaign in Jwalapur besides holding meetings with workers. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, he will visit Bhagwanpur, Piran Kaliyar, Haridwar rural and Manglaur to participate in campaigns and meetings." Sisodia said that the party has prepared the schedule for Rai till January 31 and the details of the schedule for the remaining 12 days will be released soon.

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Celebrate Indian-ness this Republic Day: Prez to people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said India has shown an unmatched resolve in the face of the extraordinary challenge to humankind posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. A strong and sensitive India is now emerging, he pointed out even as he asked people to celebrate "Indian-ness" this Republic Day.

Day, Kovind noted that democracy, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity form the bedrock of India and stressed that the observance of Fundamental Duties mentioned in the Constitution creates the proper environment for the enjoyment of Fundamental Rights. This year's celebrations may be muted due to the pandemic, but the spirit is as strong as ever, Kovind said. Doctors, nurses and paramedics have risen to the chal-



lenge, working long hours in difficult conditions even at the risk of their lives to attend to patients. Others have kept the

nation moving, managing supply chains and utilities, he said. Hailing the timely interventions by the leadership, policy-makers, administrators and others at the central and state levels during coronavirus pandemic, Kovind said it is a testimony to India's spirit in the face of adversity that the economy is on the move again and is projected to grow at an impressive rate in this fiscal, after going through contraction last year.

"The impressive economic performance is made possible due to improvement in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. I am happy to note that our farmers, especially young farmers with small holdings, are enthusiastically adopting natural farming," the President said. As the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Kovind said he was glad to note that it has been a watershed year for women empowerment

in the armed forces. "Our daughters have broken a glass ceiling, and the permanent commission has now been allowed for women officers in new areas," he said, adding that "consequently, our armed forces will benefit from better gender balance." Also, the talent pipeline for the forces will be strengthened with women coming through Sainik Schools and the prestigious National Defence Academy, the President said.

"I am confident that India is better placed today to meet the challenges of the future," Kovind said, adding that new opportunities await the next generation. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, Kovind said he would have liked us to celebrate Republic Day by striving to become better human beings and contributing towards the making of a better India and a better world. "Two days ago, on 23rd

January, all of us observed the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, who had adopted the energising salutation of 'Jai-Hind'. His quest for independence and his ambition to make India proud inspire all of us," the President said. Referring to a visit to his village in Kanpur, he also urged the people to remember their roots and work for the development of their native village, city and country.

Neeraj awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twelve security forces personnel from the Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were awarded Shaurya Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind on the eve of Republic Day on Tuesday. Olympic javelin gold medal winner in the Tokyo Games Neeraj Chopra was awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM). He is a Subedar in the Rajputana Rifles. This gallantry medal is the third-highest during peacetime. Five of the six awardees of the Army this year were conferred the medal posthumously. Most of them sacrificed their lives fighting militants in Jammu & Kashmir. Similarly, four of the six CRPF personnel were also awarded the medal posthumously. Giving details here on Wednesday, Defence Ministry officials said the President has



approved awards of 384 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of 73rd Republic Day celebrations. These include 12 Shaurya Chakras, 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals (PVSM), 04 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 53 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (AVSM), 13 Yudh Seva Medals, 03 Bar to Vishisht Seva Medals, 122 Vishisht Seva Medals (VSM), 03 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 02

Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 40 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 08 Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), and 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty). The Shaurya Chakra awardees are Naib Subedar Sreejith M (posthumous), Havildar Anil Kumar Tomar (posthumous), Havildar Kashiray Bammanalli (posthumous), Havildar Pinku Kumar (posthumous), Sepoy M Jaswanth Kumar Reddy (posthumous), and Rifleman Rakesh Sharma. The CRPF Shaurya Chakra awardees include Commandant Dilip Malik, Assistant Commandant Anirudh Pratap Singh, Head Constable Ajeet Singh (posthumous), Constable Vikas Kumar (posthumous), Constable Puranand (posthumous) and Head Constable Kuldeep Kumar Urawan (posthumous).

939 service medals announced on eve of R-Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday announced a total of 939 service medals, including 189 for gallantry, for personnel of various Central and State police forces on the eve of Republic Day. However, no one has been awarded the topmost president's police medal for gallantry (PPMG) this time. Among the 189 gallantry awards, 134 personnel are being awarded for their gallant action in the Jammu and Kashmir region, 47 for their bravery in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and one personnel for similar conduct in the north-east region. The highest number of bravery medals, 115, have been awarded to the Jammu and Kashmir Police, followed by 30 to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 10 to the Chhattisgarh Police, nine to the Odisha Police, seven to the Maharashtra Police, three each to the border guarding forces of Indo-Tibetan Border Police



(ITBP) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and two to the Border Security Force (BSF), among others. Eighty-eight personnel have been awarded the distinguished service medal while 662 have been given the meritorious service medal. 42 fire service medals, 37 correctional service medals for police personnel and 51 'Jeevan Rakshak Padak' were also announced. The 'Jeevan Rakshak' series of medals are given for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person.

Sanjeev Kumar Yadav IPS of Delhi Police Cell is among the Gallantry Medal winners. 53 personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) have been decorated with various police service medals including gallantry decorations. Constables Anand Oraon and Sunder Singh have been awarded the PMG for thwarting smuggling bids by armed smugglers along the India-Bangladesh international border in West Bengal. 18 personnel of the India-China LAC guarding force Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) have been decorated with various police service medals including gallantry decorations. The PMG has been given to the team of Assistant Commandant Ashok Kumar, Inspectors Suresh Lal and Neela Singh for neutralising two wanted Maoists during a fierce encounter in the left wing extremism-affected area of Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district in February, 2018. A huge assortment of arms and ammunition was also recovered after the operation. Among the distinguished service medal awardees is DIG Ajay Pal Singh who joined the mountain-warfare trained force as an officer in 1990. DIG Ramakant Sharma and GC Upadhyay have also been awarded the distinguished service medal. CBI officers probing post poll violence cases in West Bengal besides the one who busted big bribery cases in Railways are among 29 agency sleuths awarded police medals. Joint Director Rammish Geer, who led the probe in cases like housing scam allegedly involving the then Union minister Sheila Kaul, Naval war room leak case, kidnapping of an NRI businessman and his release besides other high profile anti-corruption cases, received the coveted President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service. He was among the four CBI joint directors rushed from Delhi to West Bengal to oversee post poll violence cases reported in the state last year.

75% ICU Covid survivors grapple with health problems

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least 75 per cent of the Covid-19 survivors, who were treated in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), experience physical, mental and/or cognitive problems one-year post ICU, according to a large-scale MONITOR-IC study published in the journal JAMA. The study was led by Radboud university medical center, in which the health status of ICU survivors is monitored with questionnaires up to five years after ICU admission. The study regarding long-term health problems was conducted among 246 Covid-19 patients (176 men/70 women) who were treated in the intensive care unit (ICU) in the Netherlands. Their mean age was 61 years. Using questionnaires, they were asked how they were doing one-year post ICU. Worldwide, this is the first scientific research regarding long-term problems among Covid-19 ICU survivors. Patients in this study were admitted to the ICU during the first Covid-19 surge between March and July 2020. Majority of patients experience health problems one-year post ICU. This study shows that three quarters of the Covid-19 ICU survivors experience problems one-year post ICU. These are primarily physical problems, whereby half of the patients experience feelings of fatigue. Other physical problems are e.g. a reduced condition, pain, muscle weakness and shortness of breath. Also, mental symptoms are common; one in five Covid-19 ICU survivors experience feelings of anxiety or post-traumatic stress. Furthermore, one in six have cognitive problems such as memory or attention problems. These various problems negatively affect former ICU patients' daily lives. Over half of them indicate that they have work-related problems because of the health problems: they reduced their working hours; they are still on sick leave or have even given up their job. Yet another study has said that about 50 per cent of people infected with Covid-19 during the first wave of infections in 2020 may have long-term and even permanent changes to their sense of smell. Scientists at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm found this after they ran comprehensive tests on 100 individuals who caught Covid in the first wave of infections in 2020.

Extended FCRA registration of 11,594 NGOs which applied within cut-off date, Govt tells SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registrations of 11,594 NGOs, which applied within the cut-off date, have already been extended. Taking note of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's submission, a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar refused to pass an interim direction that FCRA registrations of all organisations that were valid as on September 30 last year ought to be continued until further orders. The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar, said the petitioners are free to make representation to the concerned authorities which may be considered on its merits in accordance with law. The FCRA registration is mandatory for any association and NGO to receive foreign funding. Mehta told the top court that 11,594 NGOs had applied within the cut-off date and their registrations have been extended for the time being. The apex court, which is seized of a plea filed by a US-based NGO seeking quashing of the Centre's alleged decision by which 5,789 entities lost their FCRA registration, was dealing with arguments regarding interim relief in the matter. While referring to Mehta's submission, the top court said that in light of the stand taken by the authorities, it doesn't intend to pass such interim direction as prayed. The bench said the petition would be listed after the

judgement is pronounced on a batch of pleas, including those which have raised issues concerning the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (Amendment) Act, 2020. Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for the US based NGO said they have the information which is available in public domain as per which there are around 6,000 NGOs whose registrations have not been extended for whatever reasons. The bench told Hegde that the Solicitor General has submitted that those who have applied, there registration has been extended. "If those 6,000 NGOs have chosen not to apply for registration, that means they do not want to continue in the present regime," the bench observed. There were 22,762 FCRA-registered organisations till December 31, 2021. On January 1, the number came down to 16,829. These are considered "live" organisations. The officials had said the FCRA licences of 18,778 organisations were expiring between September 29, 2020 and December 31, 2021. Out of them, as many as 12,989 organisations have applied for renewal of the FCRA licence between September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2021. Since 5,789 organisations did not apply for the renewal of the FCRA licence, they were deemed to have ceased to be registered organisations, an official had said. In addition to them, renewal application of 179 organisations were also rejected by the Home Ministry due to different reasons.

As home isolation cases up, Mandaviya tells States, UTs to bolster teleconsultations

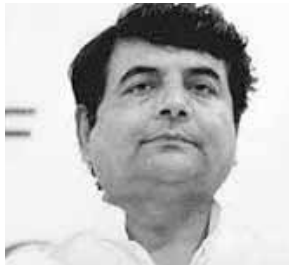
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the majority of Covid-19 patients recuperate in home isolation, the Union Health Ministry is banking on teleconsultation services to provide timely care to them. On Tuesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya asked states to adopt the hub and spoke model and open additional teleconsultation centres. "This will enable beneficiaries to access advice from experts stationed at district hubs," it said. He said the government's e-Sanjeevani telemedicine system has provided services to more than 2.6 crore beneficiaries where people can seek medical advice from the confines of their homes," he said during an interaction with health ministers, senior bureaucrats and administrators of nine states and union territories. These were Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, Ladakh and Uttar Pradesh, according to a statement from the health ministry. Mandaviya also urged the health ministers and state authorities to plug the existing gaps by efficiently utilizing the amount sanctioned for various infra projects. On the importance of teleconsultation services, Mandaviya urged them "This will prove to be a game-changer and will be of immense value and importance for the hard-to-reach and far-flung areas, and especially in the northern regions in the current winter season," he highlighted. He advised the states and union territories to ensure that those in home isolation are efficiently monitored in line with the national guidelines. This will ensure that the vulnerable categories of active cases in home isolation get the required medical help in a timely manner, the statement said. The virtual meeting was held to review public health preparedness for containment and management of Covid and the progress of the national Covid 9 vaccination campaign.

UP ELECTIONS Star campaigner RPN's exit a massive blow to Congress

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and a Congress leader for over three decades, RPN Singh's exit from the party has come as a massive blow for the grand old party just few days before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections and just a day after he was named a star campaigner of the party. A section of the party leaders felt that the exit of Singh, who was incharge of party affairs in Jharkhand, is 'good riddance' since he was allegedly working against the Congress-JMM combine in the State. However, another section termed it as yet another alarm bell for the party leadership to wake up from slumber to put the house in order. The Congress late in the evening appointed Avinash Pandey as the AICC general secretary incharge in place of Singh. Singh, a key Kurmi OBC leader from eastern UP, is the second big exit for the Congress in the state after Jitin Prasada, who is now a minister in the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in UP. He had been giving enough



indications to leave the Congress since the run up to 2019 General Elections. AICC sources said he had not been attending the party meetings in the last several months though he was full time incharge for the Jharkhand Congress. Soon after Singh announced his resignation from the party, Jharkhand Barkagaon MLA Amba Prasad alleged that Singh had since several months been attempting to dislodge the Congress-JMM coalition government and that there were reports about him being in touch with BJP leaders. "The party leadership had been cautioned on several occasions about his anti-party activities. Every true member of Congress is happy with him (RPN) going to BJP," Amba Prasad tweeted. RPN posted his resignation

letter addressed to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, "Today, at a time, we are celebrating the formation of our great Republic, I begin a new chapter in my political journey. Jai Hind." Kunwar Ratanjit Pratap Narain Singh, popularly known as Raja Sahab of Padrauna, was a former Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Congress-led UPA government. Jyotiraditya Scindia's exit was among the triggers for a big churn in the party that led to 23 leaders writing to Sonia Gandhi asking for 'visible and full-time' leadership and collective decision-making. Scindia, Prasada, and Singh, all Doon school pals, were Rahul Gandhi aides and were in the Council of Ministers of the Manmohan Singh Congress led UPA governments. As the media was abuzz with RPN switching over to BJP, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinath at a Press conference quoted Priyanka Gandhi as saying that the "battle which Congress party is fighting can be fought only with bravery" and "cowards can't fight it".

Law Minister slams 'elements' trying to 'discredit' EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday called for increasing the voter turnout

to at least 75 per cent in the next Lok Sabha elections while Union Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju said "elements" trying to discredit the

Election Commission (EC) were actually trying to discredit the democratic process of the country. The minister also said the courts have a right to make observations on the Commission but the judges will also have to think about the language being used.

In his message at an event on the occasion of the 12th National Voters Day, Naidu said as a nation we must think and arrive at a consensus to have simultaneous elections to all the three tiers of federal set up and move towards better governance by focusing on all-round development of our people. Naidu was the chief guest at the event but could not attend the function as he is in home isolation in Hyderabad after testing positive for COVID-19. The event was also attended by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey and representatives of recognised polit-



ical parties, including Trinamool Congress, BSP, BJP, CPI, Congress and National People's Party. Naidu's message was read out in Hindi and English. The vice president said the country has come a long way from the first general elections of 1952 when only 44.87 per cent of the eligible voters turned up to vote. In the last general elections in 2019, 67.40 per cent or more than two-third of the eligible voters exercised their franchise, he noted. Rijiju said, people who want to challenge democracy have found a way of doing so by challenging the poll panel. The minister said the way EC has handled challenges from time to time, there is little scope to criticise it. He, however, did

not name the "elements" he was referring to. In a democracy, people are free to criticise the EC, but the criticism should be based on logic, he said, adding that the language used should be within civic norms. "If the courts says on EC, it can. Courts have a right. But the judges will have to think about what language they are using. Under what circumstances EC is working has to be understood," he said. Referring to the recent passage of a bill on electoral reforms, the minister said due to "ruckus" in the House he felt "handicapped" as he could not explain in detail the reforms being ushered in. CEC Chandra said the Commission has made arrangements for holding "Covid-safe" elections in the five states going to Assembly polls. The Commission conferred national awards for the best electoral practices to officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different spheres.

Govt imposes curbs on export of human hair

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a sharp rise in instances of hair smuggling to China that has squeezed raw material supplies for Indian exporters of hair products, the government on Tuesday put restrictions on the export of human hair. Earlier, hair exports were allowed without any restriction. As per the new norms, now an exporter would have to seek permission or licence from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce to ship hair outside India. Last year, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence busted a scam involving Chinese nationals in exporting human hairs from Bengaluru to China via Myanmar. Bangladesh has now emerged as the new transit hub for human hair smugglers. While high quality locks go for anywhere between Rs. 4,000 to

Rs. 15,000 per kg, the lower quality human hair 'waste' starts at a comparatively measly Rs. 4 per kg. In a notification, the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi on Tuesday said, the export policy of human hair, unworked, whether or not washed or scoured; waste of human hair or any other form of raw human hair...Has been put under restricted category, with immediate effect. The hair export market in India is worth Rs 6,000-8000 crore — 5 per cent of the hair comes from donations at temples and rest through collection of comb waste across villages. China, Hong Kong, Brazil and Italy are among the top five markets for India, when it comes to human hair exports. It is used for making wigs, false beards, eyebrows, extensions and also in extraction of a protein used in the baking

industry. It's used to make calligraphy brushes, wig making, cloth making, soy sauce, suit linings, and furniture. It's enlisted to clean up oil spills. It's even a part of the bagel-making process at Dunkin' Donuts. A large chunk of the hair exported comes from the ritual of hair tonsuring at the famous Tirumala Venkateswara Temple in Andhra Pradesh where thousands of devotees offer their hair to Lord Venkateshwara every day. It is estimated that over a ton of hair is collected at the temple on a daily basis. Welcoming the move, member of Human Hair and Hair Products Manufacturers and Exporters Association of India Sunil Eamani said that it was their long-pending demand. "Now with this restriction, only genuine exporters will be able to export the product," he said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Life before death

The vaccination drive in terror-hit regions hasn't run into any problem, which is a good sign

On June 8 last year, Weyan, a tiny hamlet in Kashmir's Bandipora district, became India's first village to vaccinate its entire adult population against COVID-19. In a few days, Jammu and Kashmir will become India's second State, after Himachal Pradesh, to vaccinate all those over 18. The achievements are noteworthy considering health workers had to brave inaccessible terrain, non-existent communication facilities, terrible weather and terrorism to complete the process of giving the first dose of the vaccine to all. The State's vaccination drive carried on in the face of frequent incidents of cross-border terrorism in one of the most hostile international border areas of the world. The drive stayed on course despite a wave of killings throughout October 2021 when terrorists targeted non-Kashmiris, members of minority communities and did not spare even daily wage labourers. The surge in violence left 33 dead. However, the health workers were welcomed wherever they went, especially in areas known for separatist sentiments. The presence of security forces accompanying the teams caused no reservation among the locals, who overcame their wariness to receive the doses. The possibility of some separatist elements or sympathisers surreptitiously getting a free dose by the State cannot be ruled out. For once, the fear of terror paled before the fear of the unseen virus. That brings us to the moot issue: Do anti-State elements, whether terrorists, militants, insurgents, Naxalites or Maoists have a right to COVID-19 vaccines?



Under international humanitarian law, in situations of conflict, the wounded and sick are entitled to medical care. During the pandemic that we currently face, such care can include a vaccine. The State, which alone can acquire the vaccine, arranges for it to reach across the country. It will respect its human rights duties towards the population living in the conflict areas. The resistance groups have the primary responsibility for the wellbeing of those living in their area of influence. Whether in J&K that witnesses terror attacks, the 'Red Corridor' districts in central India that brave Maoist attacks, or the deep interiors of some States in the Northeast which have a brush with insurgency, the issue must have cropped up when security agencies were preparing for the vaccination drive. In Maharashtra, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, there were reports of the virus infecting Maoist cadres deep inside forests. Many may have succumbed for lack of medical care. The lockdowns or movement restrictions prevented couriers and sympathisers from reaching medicine or oxygen cylinders to them. What we do know is that the vaccination drives were never disturbed. In the Northeast, too, the drives never met with harm. The insurgents, like the Maoists, must have realised the danger of the virus spreading in their areas. The States did offer anti-COVID treatment and vaccine doses to those who surrendered. It is not known how many acceded to the call. Parliament must debate the issue and give shape to a protocol for the future.

PICTALK



People walk past a sand sculpture on the theme of the 73rd Republic Day, in Puri

PTI

Happy R-Day

But it's time for agencies to work professionally and to let the suffocating security cover go

As India celebrates its 73rd Republic Day today, there is a multi-layered security ring enveloping the Capital. Of course, the pandemic is a hindrance to the grandiosity of celebrations for a couple of years now. But, that apart, is there really a need to insulate the normal, common Indians from their national celebration? Why shouldn't they be allowed to be part of the joy, pride and festivities as those who claim to be the top layer among equals, that too in the name of protecting the latter? And from whom; one's own countrymen? Of course one remembers what happened at the Red Fort this day last year. But one also distinctly remembers that when former US President Bill Clinton visited India towards the turn of last century, there was minimal inconvenience caused by the Secret Service people. They would diligently check all equipment besides mandatorily body-checking all incoming persons but they would never be overly intrusive. Why can't our security agencies be as professional? The only reason, it appears, is that they are still unsure of their own abilities; therefore, they'd rather issue advisories banning all sorts of items to a VVIP venue.

There is no denying that any untoward incident on such a momentous occasion would come as a major embarrassment for the Government and the security establishment but another way of looking at it is, as some politicians have said in the past, women shouldn't venture out of their homes late at night because rapists are on the prowl. Well, rather than advising a well-meaning, perhaps late-working, woman to stay indoors, shouldn't the police rather focus on increasing its presence on the streets and aim for crime prevention rather than trying to solve it after their laxity has allowed it to be executed? Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has informed that more than 27,000 personnel of the force have been deployed for security duty and anti-terror measures have also been intensified. Delhi Police is also getting assistance from 65 companies of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF). Anti-terror measures are intensified comprising of the checking of hotels, vehicles, blockades of several locations, among others. All of this is good, but the moot point is: Don't victimise innocent citizens. May hope and peace always be in the country! Happy Republic Day.

The eternal flame can't be partial to our soldiers



ASHOK K MEHTA

The 'othering' of Indian soldiers in colonial times was the biggest disservice to the collective memory of the armed forces; it must be rectified now

In his book *Surrender at Dacca: Birth of a Nation*, Lt Gen JFR Jacob utilised one page to state: "The rifle and helmet that forms the centrepiece of the Amar Jawan War Memorial at India Gate once belonged to a soldier unknown to history who died on the battlefield on the outskirts of Jessore. There is no inscription on this monument." Then he recalls the legendary inscription at Kohima which, he says, is "appropriate for our jawans who laid down their lives in the rice paddies of Bangladesh: Let us not forget them."

India Gate and, under its canopy, the statue of the Unknown Soldier of 1971 war — called the Amar Jawan Jyoti — have become enduring symbols of nation's gratitude to the armed forces. Inside the India Gate arch are etched names of some Indian soldiers who fought in World War I and Third Afghan war — not the complete lineup of Indians who fought colonial wars of pre-Independence India. The National War Memorial that came up in 2019 recorded the names of all martyrs in wars, and internal stability operations after Independence. The 'othering' of soldiers in colonial times was the biggest disservice to the collective memory of the armed forces. The discrimination between British Indian Army and the Indian Army should have been challenged by Service Chiefs when Governments would ignore commemoration of battles fought by Indian troops abroad. Even now, the NWM has no place for the 'others' as India Gate was never an inclusive salute as it excluded those who fell in pre-Independence wars.

Thousands are buried across Europe, Middle East, SE Asia and N Africa. India's contribution to the Great Wars and other campaigns was outstanding. Field Marshal Claude Auchinleck said that Britain would not have won the wars without Indian Army's contribution. Even Prime Minister Winston Churchill praised the unsurpassed bravery of Indian troops. Of the 1.4mn Indians in World War I, 74,000 were killed and 64,350 wounded. About 2,200 decorations were



won by Indian soldiers. In World War II, 2.5mn took part; 87,000 were killed with 34,354 wounded. Including 18 Victoria Crosses, 4,000 decorations were awarded.

According to an Army source, the fusion of two flames and shifting the India Gate flame to NWM does not mean that the four urns surrounding the Unknown Soldier will be extinguished. One will continue to glow eternally, celebrating India's only military victory in 1,000 years. But there will be one NWM, not two. That still leaves several questions. Will one of the four urns continue to burn; will the tri-service guard remain under India Gate; will the statue of the Unknown Soldier be ultimately shifted to NWM? And who will occupy the vacated space. When the NWM was inaugurated, Government said the sanctity of the eternal flame will be maintained at India Gate. We are not sure. Last Sunday, the hologram of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was installed in the empty canopy near India Gate which once contained King George V's statue. Once his granite statue is sculpted, he will become the top contender for the space under India Gate. Prime Minister Modi said: "The heroes whose mem-

“THE MERGING OF FLAMES AND TRANSFERRING IT TO NWM IS 'OTHERING' SACRIFICES OF PRE-INDEPENDENCE ERA SOLDIERS. THEIR VALOUR MUST NOT ONLY BE ACKNOWLEDGED BUT A SUITABLE MEMORIAL BE ADDED TO THE NWM BY THE NEXT REPUBLIC DAY TO HONOUR THEM

ory was being erased post-Independence are now being revived. The country is correcting its mistakes." One hopes he will rectify the omission of the British Indian Army martyrs from the NWM.

Almost 90 per cent of military traditions and regimental ethos, ethics and values are drawn from pre-Independence period, including Beating Retreat, colour presentations, gallantry awards and battle honours. Nearly 80 per cent of our regiments were raised 150-200 years ago. Almost everything in the military is carry-over of British relics and traditions; we must accept it unhesitatingly. Regiments still celebrate battle honours and gallantry awards that were won in the Great Wars. But we are still arguing about renaming Aurangzeb Roads and railway stations. Britain ruled for more than a century and created an empire that stretched from Belize to Hong Kong, surpassing the conquest of even the Mongols.

Today, Britain's tiny military has lost none of its sheen though its empire is gone. The entire British Army has dwindled to smaller than our 43 Gorkha battalions. Still, the glory lingers on and will never extinguish due to

embedded traditions. India has a lot to learn from its military history. India this year will surpass Britain's GDP to become the fourth biggest economy. The process of Indianisation has been extremely slow and in the wrong areas.

Beating Retreat is a very solemn ceremony. Introducing Indian instruments and theatrics ill-fit this grand and somber ritual. Dropping the hymn *Abide With Me* with lyrics composed in the aftermath of India's humiliating defeat in 1962 is not an enthusiastic end to the ceremony.

In erasing the past, the Government is committing the mistake of compartmentalising military history; then and now, theirs and ours. The merging of flames and transferring it to NWM is 'othering' the sacrifices of the pre-Independence era soldiers. Their valour must not only be acknowledged but a suitable memorial be added to the NWM by the next Republic Day to honour them.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BUDGET FOR EQUITABLE ECONOMY

Sir — Never before has a Budget demanded greater insight, acumen and earnest pragmatism. This one must go far beyond juggling the ledger and marquee headings to invite kudos from the Dalal Street. It ought to be all about restoring lost employment in the middle, lower middle classes and daily wagers, besides creating fresh avenues. This economy was already on jobless growth for four years. From a pandemic peak in unemployment of near 14 per cent, we are at 7.9 per cent in December 2021. Compare this with 2017-2018, at 4.7 per cent. Between 2019-20 and December 2021, the manufacturing sector lost 9.8 million jobs, services sector 1.8 million.

But most worrisome should be the drop in salaried jobs, which points to an unstable economy starved of investment. Without new investments, India will not be able to generate the kind of employment it needs. Rising interest rates and a depreciating currency make it worse. The Budget needs to focus on these issues. These sectors are in dire straits; earlier due to demonetisation, now pulverised by COVID. One of the key objectives of this year's Budget ought to be on employment returning to the class that needs to reclaim its lost purchasing power.

R Narayanan | Navi Mumbai

CONG'S DOWNSIDE CONTINUES

Sir — In yet another severe setback to the Congress, which is struggling to keep its house in order ahead of the Assembly election in five States, Congress heavyweight and former Minister RPN Singh quit the party and joined the BJP. The resignation comes a day after the Congress named him among its list of star campaigners for the Uttar Pradesh polls. This is a body blow to Priyanka Vadra, leading the party from the front in UP. It is pathetic that party has remained clueless about internal bickering; it is completely out of sync with ground realities.

The party's central command, especially Gandhi scions Rahul and Priyanka,

The eternal flame of patriotism



The recent merging of Amar Jawan Jyoti with the newly instituted flame in the imposing National War Memorial (NWM), which was dedicated to the nation on February 25, 2019, must not be seen through a political lens. In fact, it has given a definite shape to our independent existence where the sacrifice of every soldier is recognised. Covering an area of over 40 acres with names of more than 26,000 fallen heroes

etched in granite invokes deep memories that should serve as inspiration. History is replete with examples of countries erecting war memorials, thereby remembering the supreme sacrifices made by their jawans. They continually remind us that we exist as a free nation because of the sacrifices of these brave soldiers.

Considering that a memorial was constructed in 1921 by Edward Lutyens in the memory of soldiers who lost their lives in World War I and the Third Anglo-Afghan war, the names of a few British officers and soldiers also find mention there. It does not represent the sacrifices made by soldiers either during World War II or the wars fought by India since 1947. This anomaly was removed by setting up the NWM and now Amar Jawan Jyoti will serve as an integral part of it. The new memorial will infuse new vigour in all Indians and keep the fire of patriotism burning.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

are incapable of leading the party in situations that demand tactical strategies and smart moves. At the 2019 Congress Working Committee meeting, RPN Singh was the only Team Rahul member to point out that personal attacks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi had boomeranged. But instead of evaluating the point, the Gandhis began distancing him. It only implies that the party brass needs only yes-men around them. The murky state of affairs suggests its downfall is getting accelerated by the day.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

ACCOLADES FOR SMRITI MANDHANA

Sir — Cricket is a game of luck, so winning an award in a calendar year solely depends on lady luck. India women's cricket star Smriti Mandhana won the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year in style despite stiff competition. Pakistan dominated the men's awards with two coveted prizes. However, it was Joe Root, despite his side not faring well at

the international level, who bagged the Men's Cricketer of the Year award. Mandhana, who also made it to the ICC T20 Women's Team of the Year, piped fellow nominees Tanmay Beaumont and others in a tight contest.

The southpaw had won the award in 2018 as well when she was also named Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year, making her only the second women's player to win the highest individual distinction in the overall category. Virat 'King' Kohli was nowhere near the top in the charts this time. The Indian team lost to Pakistan and New Zealand and the captain wanted to save his neck and preferred Ashwin to win the next three games. Anyway, it was a solace that Smriti Mandhana got the better of the other competitors and kept the Indian flag flying at the international level.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

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SOUNDBITE

Just like you came forward for the cleanliness drive, do the same for the Vocal for Local campaign.



Prime Minister
— Narendra Modi



I congratulate Justice Ayesha Malik on becoming the first woman judge of the Supreme Court.

Pakistan PM
— Imran Khan

I have not really been impressed by any political party, that they have an ideology I can blindly follow.



Actor
— Raveena Tandon



I am truly honoured to receive the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021.

Indian opener
— Smriti Mandhana

I am in touch with every caste and community. They want us to defeat the BJP...change is inevitable.



Samajwadi Party chief
— Akhilesh Yadav

FIRST COLUMN

ADULT MARRIAGE ISN'T THE GOVT'S BUSINESS

How will increasing the marriageable age empower women or make them self-reliant?



S KALYANASUNDARAM

The Government is considering to change the eligibility of Indian girls getting married from 18 to 21. The intent of the Bill isto “make them self-reliant and to enable them to take decisions themselves”. An amendment seeks to define a child as a male or female who has not completed 21 years of age. How will increasing the marriageable age empower women or make them self-reliant? Gender equality per se is achieved with 21 becoming the marriageable age o men and women. But this stipulation for men itself is totally arbitrary and to make gender equality, men’s marriageable age should have been brought down to 18. Parity does not mean taking away the right or privilege from one group. When the government wants to decide the minimum age for marriage, strangely it claims that it is going to empower girls to decide on their own. As per Indian Majority Act, 1875 18 is the age for attaining majority. But,as per the same Act, a child appoint-



ed with a guardian by the court attains majority after completion of 21 years. Through Indian Majority (Amendment) Act 1999, Section 3 has been replaced with the following: “Age of majority of persons domiciled in India. — (1) every person domiciled in India shall attain the age of majority on his completing the age of eighteen years and not before.” So, whoever completes the age of 18 years the person is a major and cannot be treated as a child. Hence the proposed amendment with the nomenclature Prohibition of ‘child’ marriage act is a misnomer. Our law permits 18-year-olds, without representation by a guardian,to enter into any contract, own properties, pursue jobs, drive heavy vehicles in most states,and vote in elections. But the government wants to prescribe an age limit for marriage that too by branding the persons attaining majority as children. While introducing the Constitution (Sixty first Amendment) Act, 1988, the government stated as follows: ‘The present-day youth are literate and enlightened and the lowering of the voting age would provide to the unrepresented youth of the country an opportunity to give vent to their feelings and help them become a part of the political process. The present-day youth are very much politically conscious. It is, therefore, proposed to reduce the voting age from 21 years to 18 years.’ Is it not ridiculous to suddenly change the gear and say that girls of 18 years cannot decide on their own and hence should not marry?

UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children’s Fund, is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. Even UNICEF regards only the marriage of a minor (a person below the adult age) as child marriage and a violation of rights. It is a different matter that most of the girls and boys are not getting married even after they are eligible as per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. As per a survey conducted with a sample of 10,005 respondents by YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey, one in four young adults in India do not want to marry. As norms and values around marriage and family life change, the Indian youth too are being influenced by recent trends. Compared to a decade ago, youth are now marrying later in life. This has been again brought out by Lokniti-CSDS Youth Studies in 2016 and 2007 which show the proportion of married youth decreased by eight percentage points from 55 per cent in 2007 to 47 per cent in 2016. The government must drop this amendment bill which is retrograde.

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

The US is in the grip of inflation

The American policy makers are diverting attention from the real cause of inflation — excessive expansion of money supply

Although inflation is a common phenomenon in most countries of the world including India, many past generations of Americans have never suffered the brunt of inflation. But in the last one year, the rate of inflation in America has reached around seven percent, and that has started affecting the lives of ordinary Americans. Ruling Democrats are fearing the consequences of the same in the 2022 mid-term elections. On the one hand, Covid-19, which has destroyed the jobs of 22 million Americans, has also caused a 30 percent drop in annual production, while on the other, Americans are facing further hardships due to rising inflation.

The question is, how America was saved from inflation in the past, and how it will come out of the grip of current. Inflation has been registered in almost every item of daily needs — eight percent increase in the price of eggs, 58 percent in the price of petrol, 14 percent increase in the prices of other groceries. Some American economists believe that due to US Government’s bailout packages to revive the economy from the effects of COVID-19, there was an unprecedented increase in demand in the country. However, due to supply disruptions, the prices of goods are increasing fast. Economists believe that due to rising inflation, wage rates are also increasing, which may lead to a spiral effect on inflation. Experts believe that the pent-up demand of the Covid-19 period is also retuning back now.

During the pandemic period many people with permanent income also could not spend their incomes fully. Now, with return of normalcy, they are spending more on tourism, fuel, food items, restaurants, entertainment, etc. It is believed that as supply conditions improve, it will be possible to control inflation. But there is almost a consensus that there is no immediate relief from it.

US policy makers are trying to blame this record inflation on supply chain problems and shortage of raw materials, but most economists are citing the rising money supply as the main reason. It is true that the sudden spurt in consumer demand after the temporary relief from COVID-19 has led to a shortage of goods, but this is not the main reason for inflation in America.

Many policy makers in the US are saying that due to the shortage of goods, sellers have started raising prices. Therefore, inflation can also be curbed by price controls. But we must understand that one of the disadvantages of price control is that it reduces the incentive of producers to produce more. There is an apprehension that due to this (price control), the consumers may face shortage of goods.

But one area where price controls



AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS ALSO RECOGNISE THAT THEIR PEOPLE HAVE HUGE SAVINGS AND THEY WANT TO MAKE UP FOR THE GOODS AND SERVICES WHICH THEY COULD NOT ENJOY DURING COVID-19. BUT IT HAS TO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REAL REASON FOR THE SURPLUS FUNDS LEFT WITH PEOPLE IS THE DISTRIBUTION OF HUGE AMOUNTS OF FINANCIAL BAILOUT PACKAGES BY THE US ADMINISTRATION

(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



can play an effective role is the pharmaceutical sector. It is well known that American pharmaceutical companies charge high prices for drugs in the name of reward for intellectual property. Controlling drug prices can certainly give a huge relief to the consumers.

American policy makers are trying to cover up their past mistakes with a variety of arguments to divert attention from the real causes of inflation; and that mistake is the excessive expansion of money supply. It is a historical fact that the main reason for inflation all over the globe had been the expansion of money supply.

Irving Fisher’s quantity theory of money has been used for centuries to explain the phenomenon of inflation. According to modified version of this theory, if the total output of goods and services or ‘the volume of transactions’ in the economy remains the same, then the price level increases in proportion to the increase in the quantity of money. It is worth noting that first in the name of ‘quantitative easing’ (QEs) for a huge bailout package to overcome the financial crisis starting from 2007-08 and to compensate for the impact of the decline in the economy due to COVID-19 in the last almost two

years, the US Administration has been expanding quantity of money. Many economists believe that due to this huge increase in the quantity of money, inflation is now becoming uncontrollable.

American policy makers also recognize that people in America have huge savings with them and they want to make up for the goods and services, which they could not enjoy during Covid-19. But it has to be understood that the real reason for the surplus funds left with the people is the distribution of huge amounts of financial bailout packages by the US administration. Due to the limited income of the government due to the pandemic, the increase in inflation has become inevitable due to printing of the amount of currency in circulation by the Government and consequently a large increase in the money supply. Significantly, between November 2020 and November 2021, the total currency with the public in USA increased by \$1.56 trillion, i.e., an increase of 7.6 percent. But the increase in the supply of M1 money was even more, that is, 15.7 percent.

Bailout package by the US government to create additional currency is nothing new; however, in recent times there has been some decline in the popularity of

the dollar as global currency, which is being fast replaced by the Chinese currency yuan. Further, in order to give boost to US manufacturing, the US administration has been becoming more and more protective, resulting in fall in export of dollars. In such a situation, the supply of dollars outside the US is decreasing, due to which the fear of inflation in the US have increased due to increasing amounts of dollars with the public in US. It seems that if this trend continues in the future, then the increasing money supply in the US will continue to cause inflation in the future as well.

Manufacturing output in the US had been declining for a long time and most of the GDP in the US is derived from services. In that too, a large part of America’s GDP is the income earned abroad by American companies, due to which America has been receiving a huge amount of taxation. But for some time now, American companies have been trying to avoid this taxation in various ways. These companies are mostly e-commerce and tech companies. For this reason, the US government may have to resort to the creation of additional currency to meet its expenses in the future also, which may lead to further inflation.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THIEVES DON'T LIKE A MOONLIT NIGHT. THOSE WHO ARE PROMISING FREE ELECTRICITY KEPT PEOPLE IN DARKNESS FOR YEARS. —UP CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH




WHAT DOES THE CHIEF MINISTER KNOW ABOUT ELECTRICITY FACTORS? THERE IS NO BIGGER A LIAR THAN THE CM. —SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV

Tableau politics mars Republic Day preparations

The Centre and the States should together evolve a fair tableaux selection process without any heartburn to any stakeholder

Petty politics ought not to ruin the solemn atmosphere in celebrating the Republic Day or Independence Day. Unfortunately, more avoidable controversies arise between the ruling party and the opposition. For instance, while there is a well-established system for selecting the tableaux, the process always becomes a flashpoint for regional politics. This year too, there is furore in the opposition-ruled states as the Centre rejected the tableaux of West Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, among others. Chief Ministers like Mamata Banerjee and M.K. Stalin have written to the Prime Minister to reconsider the decision but in vain.

Only 12 states eventually made it to the list, including



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

poll-bound states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Goa. The selection criteria was that the R-Day parade must reflect the cultural diversity of India and the role of various communities in building modern India. Why shouldnot every State get an opportunity to display things it wants to? This year Republic Day is important because the theme is India@75 and getting a place in the parade is a matter of prestige for the states. It is also amidst the Covid pandemic which has shattered the globe.

On the 75th Republic Day on Friday, one must recall the first Republic Day in 1950. It was a simple affair. The then last Governor-General of India, C. Rajagopalachari, read out the proclamation of the new Republic and the election

of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, as the first President of India, at 10.18 AM on a chilly Thursday morning.

The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on January 26, 1950. Historically it was on January 26, 1930, Congress committed the nationalist movement to Purna Swaraj (total independence). Delhi held the first



Republic Day at the Irwin Amphitheatre (now Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium). There were no performances and floats. It was a simple function with the Army band, flag hoisting, and national anthem. The tradition of a parade began only from the next Republic Day. It is the main attraction of India’s Republic Day celebrations, which last for three days since then.

The Parade is primarily a military affair. The might of our defence services, including the latest tanks, missiles, radar systems, air force planes, defence communications systems, etc., mounted on trucks, are paraded, followed by a cultural pageant comprising tableaux. It is here that the participant states showcase their

unique culture and achievements to the nation. The selection depends on a combination of factors, including visual appeal, idea, theme, music, and micro detailing.

From 1950 and 1954, the parades were held at the Red Fort, National stadium, Kingsway Camp, and the Ramlila ground. It was from 1955 that Rajpath became the regular venue. It was discontinued in 1963 when the country was engaged in war with China, and was replaced by a procession of leaders led by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, his cabinet members, political representatives from states, students and teachers from Delhi University, etc. The Parade was restored the following year.

Although they were disap-

pointed with the Centre’s rejection of tableau, the concerned opposition chief ministers have gone to the media to showcase their themes in their states. They feel the Centre was playing politics in the selection. Mamata Banerjee raised a point that their tableau commemorated the contributions of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary and carried portraits of other leaders like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. She has decided to come out with the same tableau during the Republic Day parade on Red Road in Kolkata.

Tamil Nadu’s Stalin also proposes showcasing the rejected tableau in Chennai in the Republic Day parade and also taking it to other districts in Tamil Nadu.

It does not behove to follow petty politics. While it is true that the sombre ceremony should not be disturbed by this kind of petty politics, one option could be to give a chance to all states. India is, after all, a Union of States. If there is a time constraint for some reason, the authorities could adopt the lottery system. The other option for the rejected states is to follow Mamata and Stalin to show off in the state R-Day celebrations.

The display of the unique culture of each state brought to Delhi parade with their floats and dances might create the sense of the new nation in the Union of States. It is time that the Centre and the states come together and evolve a good selection process without any heartburn.

Ukraine urges calm, saying Russian invasion not imminent

AP ■ KIVY

Ukraine's leaders sought to reassure nation that a feared invasion from neighbouring Russia was not imminent, even as they acknowledged threat is real and prepared to accept a shipment of American military equipment Tuesday to shore up their defences.

Russia has denied it is planning an assault, but it has massed an estimated 100,000 troops near Ukraine in recent weeks, leading United States and its NATO allies to rush to prepare for a possible war.

Several rounds of high stakes diplomacy have failed to yield any breakthroughs, and this week tensions escalated further. NATO said it was bolstering its deterrence in Baltic Sea region, and US ordered 8,500 troops on higher alert to potentially deploy to Europe as part of an alliance "response force" if necessary.

The State Department has ordered families of all American personnel at US Embassy in Kyiv to leave country, and it said that nonessential embassy staff could leave.

Britain said it, too, was withdrawing some diplomats and dependents from its embassy. In Ukraine, however, authorities have sought to project calm. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Monday that situation was "under control" and that there is

On Nuclear talks, Iran says 'ready' as US asserts 'direct meeting'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ■ WASHINGTON

Iran for the first time Monday said it was open to direct nuclear negotiations with the United States, which declared itself ready to hold talks "urgently" -- in a possible turning point in efforts to salvage the 2015 nuclear accord.

Tehran has been engaged since last year in talks with the five other world powers still part of the agreement, which offered sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

After unilaterally withdrawing in 2018 under then-president Donald Trump, Washington has been taking part indirectly in the Vienna negotiations, which seek to bring the United States back into the nuclear accord and ensure Iran returns to its commitments.

But Washington has said on multiple occasions it would prefer to hold direct talks, and on Monday Iran's foreign minister said his country would consider doing so if it proved the key to a "good agreement" to salvage the floundering deal.

"If during the negotiation process we get to a point that reaching a good agreement with solid guarantees requires a level of talks with the US, we will not ignore that in our work schedule," said Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

A US State Department spokesman reiterated after the Iranian comments that the United States is "prepared to meet directly."

"We have long held the position that it would be more productive to engage with Iran directly, on both JCPOA negotiations and other issues," the spokesperson said, referring to the nuclear deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"Given the pace of Iran's nuclear advances, we are almost out of time to reach an understanding on mutual return to full implementation of the JCPOA," the official added.

Iran is currently negotiating directly with the deal's other signatories: Germany, France, China and Britain. The talks, which started last April, were suspended two months later as Iran elected ultraconservative President Ebrahim Raisi, resuming in late November.

US-Iran ties have been severed since April 1980, just months after the fall of the shah and the occupation of the American embassy by Islamist students loyal to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Relations worsened significantly after Washington withdrew from the nuclear deal and reimposed biting economic sanctions, prompting Tehran to begin rolling back its own commitments.

US child abuse report: Deaths of Black children up in pandemic

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The latest national child welfare report shows an increase in the number of Black children who died, even though fewer abuse-related fatalities were investigated in the yearlong period that included the first several months of the pandemic.

The findings were released in the 2020 Child Maltreatment Report, issued Friday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The report covers data from October 2019 to September 2020 and only partially reflects how COVID-19 disrupted the work of child welfare.

"Disparities that were present before the pandemic were intensified, and COVID-19 exposed gaps in our human services delivery system," Aysha E. Schomburg, of the department's Children's Bureau, said in a statement.

The report noted an overall 10per cent drop in the number of child protective services cases handled by states in the early days of the pandemic. That's a troubling trend that the Associated Press first reported last year with an analysis of state child welfare data.

The federal data confirm a drop by hundreds of thousands in documented cases of child abuse reports, investigations, substantiated allegations and support for at-risk families. But experts say that's not necessarily good news - children

were out of the public eye during the pandemic, and some cases likely weren't reported until they became more severe, if at all.

The numbers on fatalities in particular are concerning, because such cases are notoriously underreported, said Amy Harfeld, of the Children's Advocacy Institute. Social workers often investigate a child's death only if the family had already been involved with a child welfare agency.

"The numbers that we know of are not reflective of the numbers that are experienced," Harfeld said.

Federal officials highlighted a 4per cent decrease in child abuse and neglect-related deaths, though the data also show a roughly 17per cent increase in the number of Black children who died when compared with the previous year's report.

The latest report identified 504 Black children who died - 73 more than the previous tally. This means Black children are now three times more likely to die of suspected child abuse or neglect than white children, according to report.

The agency did not immediately comment on disparity but broadly acknowledged challenges ahead. "While data in today's report shows a decrease in child maltreatment, there is still work to do," said JooYeon Chang, the acting assistant secretary for Administration for Children and Families.

Pakistan slips further on Corruption Perceptions Index, ranks 140 out of 180 countries: Transparency report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has dropped 16 spots on the global Corruption Perceptions Index for 2021 and is ranked 140th out of 180 countries, Transparency International said in a report

on Tuesday, in a major blow to Prime Minister Imran Khan's government which came to power on the promise of introducing a clean governance system.

The report released by the Berlin-based non-profit organisation formed to combat global corruption said that corruption levels remain at a standstill worldwide, with 86 per cent of countries making little to no progress in the last 10 years.

In its 2021 edition, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), drawing on 13 expert assessments and surveys of business executives.

In 2020, Pakistan's CPI was 31 and it was ranked 124 out of 180 countries. According to Transparency International, the country's corruption score has now deteriorated to 28 while it is ranked 140 out of the total 180 countries on the index.

Comparatively, India's score stands at 40 and is ranked 85, while Bangladesh's CPI is 26 and stands at 147th position. Explaining the causes of low score of Pakistan, the report

said the absence of the "rule of law" and "state capture" were the main reasons. The report comes at a time when Prime Minister Khan is under pressure to improve the performance of his government which came to power in 2018 on the promise of introducing a clean governance system.

His advisor on accountability, Shehzad Akbar, stepped down on Monday amidst reports of his poor performance to bring the corrupt elements under the law.

To add to Khan's woes, Justice (ret'd) Nasira Iqbal, Vice-Chair of Transparency International Pakistan, said that the ranking of Pakistan under the PTI government has gradually come down.

In 2019, it was 120th out of 180 countries, in 2020, it was 124th and in 2021 it worsened further to 140, she said. In contrast, in 2018, during Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) period, Pakistan's ranking was 117 out of 180 countries. Former prime minister and PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi while addressing media said that report showed that Khan's government is corrupt and incompetent.

"This government is most corrupt government in entire history of Pakistan," he said, and demanded Khan step down immediately. The CPI global average remains unchanged at 43 for the tenth year in a row, and two-thirds of countries score below 50, the report said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Kasum Lata W/o Mr. Ved Prakash is the current owner of Property Bearing Plot Nos. 38 and 39, Now Known as RZ-38-39, area measuring 96 Sq. Yds., Khazra No. 184, Situated in the Area of Village Nadpur, colony Kinnera & Durga Park, New Delhi by virtue of Sale Deed dt. 13.09.2021 regd. vide doc. no. 8786, and she is intending to mortgage the same to Citi Housing Finance Ltd. The 1. Original GPA, ATS and Will dt. 28.02.1986; 2. Original GPA, ATS and Will dt. 15.05.1986; 3. Original GPA, SPA, ATS and Will dt. 19.05.1994 pertaining to the aforesaid property have been lost and FIR No. bearing no. NDR No. 1781/2014 has been registered on 08.11.2014 with Police Station Janakpuri Delhi Police.
If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 15 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Raghav Tewari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110017
Mob. +91-8076188328

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2022/JAN/02 DTD. 07-01-2022
Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CON/2022/JAN/02 Dtd: 07-01-2022 against Tender No. CE/CONA-G/PA/2022/01 and CE/CONIA-G/PA/2022/02 is published in IREPS. For detail, please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in.
Chief Engineer/CON-3, Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Construction Organization
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PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Sh. Rajeev Agarwal S/o Late Shri Jagdish Prasad and his wife Smt. Sudha Agarwal R/o Old Address A-810, Oxy Homez, Near Koyla Enclave, Bhopura, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 present address C-506, Oxy Homez, Near Koyla Enclave, Bhopura, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 has debarred his son Nitish Agarwal and his wife Rekha Agarwal from his all moveable-immovable properties, social relations and severed all his relations due to their bad conduct and misbehaviour. My client shall not be responsible for any act of them in future. Since they are not loyal for my client and any bodies dealing would be at their risks and costs.
Mahender Kumar Bhardwaj (Advocate)
Ch.No.G-308, Karkardooma Court Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Shweta Tibrewal W/o Shri Uttam Kumar Tibrewal, and her husband, R/o old address A-810, Oxy Homez, Near Koyla Enclave, Bhopura, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 present address D-1008, Oxy Homez, Near Koyla Enclave, Bhopura, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 has debarred his brother Nitish Agarwal and his wife Rekha Agarwal from his all moveable, immovable properties, social relations and severed all his relations due to their bad conduct and misbehaviour. My client shall not be responsible for any act of them in future. Since they are not loyal for my client and any bodies dealing would be at their risks and costs.
Mahender Kumar Bhardwaj (Advocate)
Ch.No.G-308, Karkardooma Court Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby stated that the originals of all the title documents in respect of the following property owned by M/s. Texmaco Infrastructure and Holdings Limited (earlier known as Birla Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills) have been lost / misplaced somewhere and are not traceable:
Khasra numbers: 3 at Village Delhi Gaon, Tehsil and District Delhi and bearing Plot Nos. 12119-12207 P.O. Roshnara Road, Roshnara Extension, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-07, known as 'Roshnara Building, Shakti Nagar or Shivaji Line earlier known as Peel Building.
Notice is hereby given to the public at large that no person / entity should deal with, use or transact in any manner, on the basis of the title documents, with respect to the above mentioned property, and any person / entity in custody of the title documents of the above mentioned property or having any knowledge thereof is hereby called upon to contact the undersigned.
Sanjay Pahwa
Mobile- 9873747274

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby stated that the originals of all the title documents in respect of the following property owned by M/s. Texmaco Infrastructure and Holdings Limited (earlier known as Birla Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills) have been lost / misplaced somewhere and are not traceable:
Khasra numbers: 197 (0-12),198 (0-17),199 (0-3),200 (1-00),213 (33-03),214 (0-15), 218(2-11) at Village Delhi Gaon, Tehsil and District Delhi and bearing Plot Nos. 6938 to 7157, 7167,7184,7158 to 7166,7168 to 7177 and 7183 P.O. Birla Lines, Delhi-07, known as 'Birla Lines or officer flats earlier known as Acharwaia Bagh.
Notice is hereby given to the public at large that no person / entity should deal with, use or transact in any manner, on the basis of the title documents, with respect to the above mentioned property, and any person / entity in custody of the title documents of the above mentioned property or having any knowledge thereof is hereby called upon to contact the undersigned.
Sanjay Pahwa
Mobile-9873747274

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI- 221004
Bid No. :E-57/2021-22 E-TENDERS Date: 25.01.2022
E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence:-S.No. - Tender no. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. S.N. 1, 05225012, (14.02.2022), **Angular contact thrust ball bearing**, 1 No., S.N. 2, 05225013, (14.02.2022), **Pneumatic polyurethane tube**, 1 Set., S.N. 3, 05225014, (14.02.2022), **Diameter 27 mm single insert drill kit**, 2 Set., S.N. 4, 05215181A, (15.02.2022), **Die and punch**, 1 Set., S.N. 5, 05225010, (15.02.2022), **D/R Spherical roller bearing**, 16 Nos., S.N. 6, 05225023, (15.02.2022), **Spare parts for tow truck**, 1 Set., S.N. 7, 05225015, (17.02.2022), **Special Type D Shackle Clamp**, 40 Nos., S.N. 8, 03201063, (14.02.2022), **Tube Cu**, PL No. 29170321, 5104.50 Mtr., S.N. 9, 03211653A, (14.02.2022), **Flexible Hose Assy**, PL No. 29230123, 423 Set., S.N. 10, 03211706, (17.02.2022), **Cab Side Door**, PL No. 29170916, 40 Set., S.N. 11, 03221004, (15.02.2022), **Valve Auto Drain**, PL No. 17390059, 331 Nos., S.N. 12, 03211600, (08.02.2022), **Description: Aluminium Finish Strip, Part No. 93120230**, Quantity 4284.73 Kg., S.N. 13, 03211020, (14.02.2022), **Description: Pinion 20 teeth, Part No. 29420039**, Quantity 235 Nos., S.N. 14, 08211005 Advertise Tender, (18.02.2022), (1) Key Multiplier-2 for Tractor Compartment as per Specn. CLW/ES/3/0049/F, PL No. 29387091, Qty-239, Sets. (2) Key Multiplier-1 for M/C Compartment as per Specn. CLW/ES/3/0049/F, PL No. 29388004, Qty-239, Sets. **Note:** The details of above tenders are available in www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in. **Corrigendum No. 1**, Tender No: 08211243, Bid Inv. No. 54, Existing due date: 07.02.2022, Revised due date: 21.02.2022. Existing Qty. 422 Nos., Revised Qty.: 1395 Nos., **Corrigendum No. 2**, Tender No: 03211068, Bid No. E-51, Details of corrigendum: Tender (due to open on 27.01.2022) has been Postponed and due to open on 02.02.2022. **Corrigendum No. 3**, Tender No: 09211207 Single Core Cable Part No. 29600108, Bid No. E-53, Revision-1, Details of corrigendum: The Tender conditions has been revised and now the same will be opened on 17.02.2022 instead of 07.02.2022 with revised tender conditions, **Corrigendum No. 4**, Tender No: 04211463, Bid No. E-51, Revision-1, Details of Correction: This Tender will be open on 04.02.2022 for qty. 358 Nos instead of 212 Nos. **Note:** All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.
PRO/BLW/S-65 PCMM
[f](http://banaraslocowork) [t](http://banaraslocowork) [w](http://banaraslocowork) [b](http://banaraslocowork) Website: <http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in>

UK PM Johnson hit with new row as Scotland Yard opens 'partygate' probe

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's embattled Prime Minister Boris Johnson is on Tuesday facing fresh allegations in ongoing "partygate" scandal as details emerged of a surprise 56th birthday cake "party", organised for him at peak of first COVID lockdown in June 2020.

The scandal continues to spiral out ahead of an internal Cabinet Office inquiry report, expected this week, as Scotland Yard confirmed that Metropolitan Police will investigate potential lockdown breaches related to alleged parties at Boris Johnson's office-residence at 10 Downing Street, as well as other government offices in London.

"As a result firstly of information provided by Cabinet Office inquiry team and secondly by officers own assessment, I can confirm that Met is now investigating a number of events that took place at Downing Street and Whitehall in last two years," Met Police Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick told London Assembly Police and Crime Committee at Mayor of London's office.

"I should stress that we are now investigating does not mean fixed penalty notices will necessarily be issued in every instance and to every person involved.

We will not be giving a running commentary on our current investigations but I can assure you we will give updates at significant points," she said.

Earlier, Downing Street said Johnson, who turned 56 on June 19, 2020, was present at an event "for less than 10 minutes" as his staff "gathered briefly" to wish him a happy birthday.

The strict lockdown rules imposed at the time to contain the spread of coronavirus banned most indoor gatherings involving more than two people.

But ITV News' reported on Monday night that up to 30 people attended event, sang Happy Birthday and were served cake.

The event reportedly took place in Cabinet Room of Downing Street just after 2 pm local time that day and had been arranged as a surprise for Johnson by his then fiancée and now wife, Carrie Symonds, after he returned from an official trip to a school in Hertfordshire.

"A group of staff working in Number 10 that day gathered briefly in Cabinet Room after a meeting to wish PM a happy birthday.

Soldiers declare military junta in control in Burkina Faso

AP ■ OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

More than a dozen mutinous soldiers declared Monday on state television that a military junta had seized control of Burkina Faso after detaining the democratically elected president following a day of gunbattles in the capital of the West African country.

The military coup in a nation that was once a bastion of stability was the third of its kind in the region in the last 18 months, creating upheaval in some of the countries hardest hit by Islamic extremist attacks.

Capt. Sidsore Kabere Ouédraogo said the Patriotic Movement for Safeguarding and Restoration "has decided to assume its responsibilities before history." The soldiers put an end to President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré's presidency because of the deteriorating security situation and the president's inability to manage the crisis, he said.

It was not immediately known where Kaboré was, and the junta spokesman said only that the coup had taken place "without any physical violence against those arrested, who are being held in a safe place, with respect for their dignity."

A soldier in the mutiny, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of situation, told The Associated Press that Kaboré had submitted his resignation. The new military regime said it had suspended Burkina Faso's constitution and dissolved the National Assembly.

Abrupt lockdowns loom over Beijing life ahead of Olympics

AP ■ BEIJING

Beijing residents are coping with abrupt local lockdowns and sweeping COVID-19 testing requirements as the Chinese capital seeks to prevent a coronavirus outbreak ahead of Winter Olympics that opens in less than two weeks.

The lockdowns are part of China's "zero tolerance" measures to fight the pandemic that have been ratcheted-up ahead of Games. Those now include requiring tests for anyone who purchases medications to treat cold, cough, fever and other maladies.

University student Cheryl Zhang said that health code app that all Chinese have installed on their smart phones began notifying her to get tested after she bought medication four days previously.

"I was seriously panicking," said Zhang, who was taking a stroll across street from Olympic Village. "But when I got to hospital and saw medical workers striving to keep things in order, I didn't feel angry any more.

The problem was sorted out very quickly."Such purchases are tracked via a smart phone app that requires customers to swipe their information when they buy health supplies or simply enter pharmacies.

China strictly controls sales of medications and a doctor's prescription is often required for ordinary cold medications or even vitamins.

A notice posted at a Beijing pharmacy Tuesday said anyone who had bought any of four types of medication over past two weeks was required to obtain a test within 72 hours.

Thailand first in Asia to move to decriminalise marijuana

AP ■ BANGKOK

Thailand on Tuesday became the first country in Asia to approve the de facto decriminalization of marijuana, though authorities have left a grey area around its recreational use.

Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul announced that the Narcotics Control Board had approved the dropping cannabis from the ministry's list of controlled drugs.

The delisting by the ministry's Food and Drug Administration will now need to be formally signed by the health minister and enters into effect 120 days after its publication in the government gazette. It follows the removal of cannabis — a plant species to which both marijuana and hemp belong — last month from the list of illegal drugs under Thailand's Narcotics



FILE - Thailand's Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul shows off a bottle of extracted cannabis oil during a press conference at his ministry in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019. Thailand on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022, became the first country in Asia to approve the de facto decriminalization of marijuana, as its anti-narcotics agency agreed to have the Health Ministry drop cannabis from its list of controlled drugs. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit, File)

Law. Police and lawyers contacted by The Associated Press

said it was unclear if possession of marijuana would no longer

European court says Turkey violated journalist's rights

AP ■ ANKARA, TURKEY

The European Court of Human Rights ruled Tuesday that Turkey violated the rights of German-Turkish journalist Deniz Yucel, who was jailed in Turkey for a year and later convicted of engaging in propaganda in favor of Kurdish rebels.

The Strasbourg, France-based court ruled that the pre-trial detention of Deniz — a correspondent for Germany's Die Welt newspaper— amounted to a violation of his right to liberty and security as well as his right to freedom of expression. It also ruled that journalist had not been adequately compensated for his unlawful detention.

"The Court ruled that Mr. Yucel had been placed and retained in pre-trial detention in absence of plausible reasons to suspect him of committing a criminal offense," a court statement said.

Yucel was arrested in Istanbul as part of a vast government clampdown in the wake of July 2016 coup attempt, and charged with propaganda on behalf terror groups, including outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK.

He was held in pretrial detention for a year and returned to Germany after his release. In 2020, a court in Istanbul convicted Yucel of charge of engaging in terrorist propaganda and sentenced him in absentia to more than two years and nine months in prison. A year earlier, the

Thai PM arrives in Saudi Arabia, easing diamond heist row

Thailand's prime minister arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday for the first high-level meeting since relations between nations soured three decades ago over a sensational jewelry heist that led to a diplomatic row and string of mysterious killings.

The official visit by Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to Riyadh signals nations are seeking to thaw ties, long chilled by the 1989 scandal. Saudi Arabia downgraded its diplomatic relations with Thailand over theft that became known as Blue Diamond affair.

While Prayuth's visit marked a major breakthrough, his discreet arrival in the country hinted at lingering tension.

A notably low-ranking official, the deputy governor of Riyadh, received the prime minister at the airport without the typical live TV report.

Hours later, however, the country's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman gave Prayuth more of a royal welcome, guiding prime minister down lavender carpet rolled out for important state visits and taking him to king's Al-Yamamah Palace for talks.

The Saudi government statement about visit was vague, saying only it showed the kingdoms' "keenness to strengthen joint relations and build bridges of communication with all countries around world."

removes all parts of the plant from the list. Health Minister Anutin has been the driving force behind decriminalizing marijuana. He is the leader of the Bhumjai Thai Party, a major partner in the country's coalition government, and campaigned in the 2019 general election for legalization of marijuana production to aid farmers. The latest measure is also seen as helping to promote cannabis products as a major industry in Thailand.

Anutin said last week that the FDA's delisting "responds to the government's urgent policy in developing marijuana and hemp for medical and health care benefits, developing technology and creating income for the public." His party announced that on Wednesday it will propose in Parliament a draft Cannabis Act to clarify the legal status of marijuana.

IMF cuts economy growth forecast to 9% in FY22

Washington: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's economic growth forecast to 9 per cent for the current fiscal year ending March 31, joining a host of agencies which have downgraded their projections on concerns over the impact of a spread of new variant of coronavirus on business activity and mobility.

In its latest update of World Economic Outlook on Tuesday, the Washington-based international financial institution, which had in October last year projected a 9.5 per cent GDP growth for India, put the forecast for the next fiscal FY23 (April 2022 to March 2023) at 7.1 per cent.

The Indian economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The IMF's forecast for the current financial year is less than 9.2 per cent that the government's Central Statistics Office has predicted and 9.5 per cent that the Reserve Bank of India has estimated. Its forecast is lower than the 9.5 per cent projection by S&P and 9.3 per cent by Moody's but more than the

8.3 per cent projection by the World Bank and 8.4 per cent by Fitch.

According to the IMF, India's prospects for 2023 are marked up on expected improvements to credit growth and, subsequently, investment and consumption, building on better-than-anticipated performance of the financial sector.

The IMF said that global growth is expected to moderate from 5.9 in 2021 to 4.4 per cent in 2022, half a percentage point lower for 2022 than in the October WEO, largely reflecting forecast markdwns in the two largest economies -- the US and China. A revised assumption removing the Build Back Better fiscal policy package from the baseline, earlier withdrawal of monetary accommodation, and continued supply shortages produced a downward 1.2 percentage-point revision for the United States, it said.

In China, pandemic-induced disruptions related to the zero-tolerance COVID-19 policy and protracted financial stress among property developers have induced a 0.8 percentage-point downgrade.

The global growth is expected to slow to 3.8 per cent in 2023. "Although this is 0.2 percentage point higher than in the previous forecast, the upgrade largely reflects a mechanical pickup after current drags on growth dissipate in the second half of 2022. The forecast is conditional on adverse health outcomes declining to low levels in most countries by end-2022, assuming vaccination rates improve worldwide and therapies become more effective," said the report.

In a blog post, IMF's chief economist Gita Gopinath wrote that the continuing global recovery faces multiple challenges as the pandemic enters its third year. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant has led to renewed mobility restrictions in many countries and increased labour shortages, she said.

Supply disruptions still weigh on activity and are contributing to higher inflation, adding to pressures from strong demand and elevated food and energy prices, Gopinath wrote.

Benchmarks halt 5-day rout as bargain hunters move in; Maruti spurts

Mumbai: Market benchmarks managed closed in the green on Tuesday after five sessions of steep losses as investors accumulated recently-battered banking, auto and FMCG counters amid a supportive trend in European equities.

However, traders said the overall sentiment remains cautious ahead of a crucial two-day meeting of the US Federal Reserve where it will take a call on its rate hike trajectory.

Russia-Ukraine tensions, stubborn inflation and unabated selling by foreign funds are the other risk factors in the near-term, they added.

After plunging below the 57,000-level in opening trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum as the session progressed to finish 366.64 points or 0.64 per cent higher at 57,858.15.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 128.85 points or 0.75 per cent to close at 17,277.95.

Maruti topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 6.88 per cent after the country's largest carmaker posted a consolidated net profit at Rs 1,041.8 crore for the December quarter -- down 48 per cent y-o-y but well above analyst estimates.

Axis Bank, SBI, IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid and NTPC were among the other prominent gainers, spurring as much as

Gold rises ₹86; silver tanks ₹522



New Delhi: Gold prices rose by ₹86 to ₹48,555 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday on local demand and rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹48,469 per 10 gram. Silver declined by ₹ 522 to ₹ 63,907 per kg from ₹64,429 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee declined by 16 paise to 74.67 against the US dollar on Tuesday.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,841 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.78 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading marginally down at USD 1,841 per ounce on Tuesday," Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC securities said.

Govt should consider categorising EVs in priority lending sector: Omega Seiki Mobility

Mumbai: Electric vehicle maker Omega Seiki Mobility (OSM) has said the government should consider categorising EVs in the priority lending sector to further strengthen the segment, besides export concessions, to help the manufacturers tap new markets.

In its pre-Budget expectations, OSM also expressed hope that the Union Budget includes announcements related to lowering of GST rates on raw materials, especially for the electric vehicle (EV) players.

This played a key role in the progress of electrification of the domestic automotive sector. However, the financial year 2022-23 is the time to start firing on all cylinders, Omega Seiki said.

"We are expecting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to usher in good news for the EV sector. "To further strengthen the EV market, the government should consider categorising EVs in the priority lending sector. It will make EVs more affordable for the users and help in incentivising the whole transition," the company said.

It said that the revised guidelines issued by the power ministry to accelerate the e-mobility transition in the coun-

Sebi notifies stricter norms for appointment of managing director at listed cos

New Delhi: Putting in place stringent norms, Sebi has said that a person rejected by shareholders at a general meeting can be appointed or re-appointed as a managing director or whole time director or manager, only after providing detailed justifications and ensuring compliance with various conditions.

"The appointment or a re-appointment of a person, including as a Managing Director (MD) or a Whole Time Director (WTD) or a Manager, who was earlier rejected by the shareholders at a general meeting, shall be done only with the prior approval of the shareholders," Sebi said in a notification on Monday. For considering the appointment or re-appointment of such a person earlier rejected by the shareholders, there should be a detailed explanation and justification by the company's nomination and remuneration committee and the board of directors for recommending the person.

Best Agrolife Q3 profit jumps to ₹15.5 cr; revenue at ₹232 cr

New Delhi: Agro-chemical firm Best Agrolife Ltd on Tuesday reported a sharp jump in its net profit to ₹15.5 crore for the quarter ended in December.

Its net profit stood at ₹ 2.7 crore in the year-ago period.

The company recorded revenue of ₹232.5 crore in the third quarter of this fiscal as against ₹56.8 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, the company said in a statement.

Vimal Alawadhi, MD of Best Agrolife, said the performance is expected to be sustainable in Q4, FY22, as the production in newly set up formulation unit will commence.

During the coming quarters, he said the strategic entry in the international business will also open up a new profitable vertical for the company.

Future Retail in SC to avert defaulter tag; independent directors reject Amazon brought offer

New Delhi: Embattled retailer Future Retail Ltd (FRL) on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court to avert insolvency proceedings over missing a loan repayment deadline, even as its independent directors rejected an Amazon-supported offer to sell the company businesses at less than a third of what Mukesh Ambani's Reliance is offering.

India's second-largest retailer, which operates multi-brand retail chains such as Big Bazaar, Easyday and Heritage, failed to pay Rs 3,494.56 crore to lenders by the due date of December-end and sought a 30-day grace period to resolve the situation.

Unable to find money, it moved the apex court seeking to restrain its lenders from declaring the company a defaulter, which can invite initiation of insolvency proceedings.

In the petition, Future cited its dispute with partner Amazon, which has stalled its Rs 24,713 crore retail asset sale to Reliance, to seek a restraint on lenders from declaring it as a non-performing asset (NPA), court filings showed.

In the petition, which also contained a January 15 letter from the State Bank of India (SBI) warning it of the possibility of initiating insolvency proceedings if it did pay its dues, Future asked for more time for loan payment and requested the Supreme Court to "extend the timeline stipulated under the

Govt confers Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to SEEDS

New Delhi: As an acknowledgement of their exemplary work in disaster management, the Government of India has felicitated Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) with the "Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021" in the institutional category.

SEEDS co-founder Manu Gupta said the award bears testimony to the fact that we are on the right path.

Anshu Sharma, Another co-founder of SEEDS, said, "SEEDS has constantly evolved to cater to the needs of communities with changing times."

CONSTRUCTION OF STATION BUILDING & OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS

Tender Notice No.: CON/2022/JAN/05; Dated: 20-01-2022. Open tender (through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/ firm(s) for the following works:- SN-1. Tender No. CE-CON-D-K-BLD-2022-01. Name of work: Construction of Moolm Station Building, Passenger Platform, CC Drain, Platform wall, P.P Shed, Over head Tank, Approach road, Development of Circulating area, staff quarters & other ancillary buildings etc. in connection with Dimpapur - Kohima New Line Project. Approx. value: ₹15,27,85,387.65. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 18-02-2022 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 18-02-2022. For Details Please visit www.irops.gov.in.

Chief Engineer/Con/6, Maligaon Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned works: S.No. 01, Name of the work with its location : Design, fabrication, supply, installation, erection, testing & commissioning of 3 Phase 11/0.433 KV power supply arrangement and associated electrical works at T-18 Depot at Shakurbasti in connection with Setting up maintenance Depot for Trainsets at Shakurbasti, Northern Railway. E-tender No. WP/Elect/Trainsets-SSB-WT-01(Open), SI No. 02, Approx. Cost of the work : Rs. 63610352/-, S.No. 03 Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 468100/-, S.No. 04 Date and time for closing of tender: 03.03.2022 up to 13.00 hrs. S.No. 05 Website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website: www.irops.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at office of CAO/WP, Chamber Bhawan, J.C. Road, Patna-800001. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document along with full information is available on website <http://www.irops.gov.in>. Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/WP Workshop Project Organisation, Patna PR/01555/WPO/Elec/TI/21-22/56

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD

No. : ACE-I/RHB/JPR/2021-22/592 Dt. 20.01.2022

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Bids for 1. Construction of Library Building in Coaching Hub at Sector-16, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur 2. ARC work of Providing, Laying, Jointing, Testing of DI/HDPPE pipe line with interconnection works and construction of tube well & the work of Providing, Laying, Jointing & Testing of Sewerage line with manhole the jurisdiction of Division PHE-I, RHB, Jaipur 3. ARC work of Providing, Laying, Jointing, Testing of DI/HDPPE pipe line with interconnection works and construction of tube well & the work of Providing, Laying, Jointing & Testing of Sewerage line with manhole the jurisdiction of Division PHE-II, RHB, Jaipur 4. Overlay of existing Internal Roads & Construction of New Internal Roads of Sector-03, MIG-B Zone, I.G. Nagar, Jaipur 5. ARC work of Repair and maintenance of electric works at different RHB Residential Schemes under ACE-I RHB, Jaipur 6. External electrification & street light work for remaining developed area at Mahala Residential Scheme, RHB, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders from Date 27.01.2022 to 16.02.2022 upto 6:00PM. 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> department website.

UBN: RHB2122WLOB00238, RHB2122WSOB00239, RHB2122WSRC00237, RHB2122WSOB00242, RHB2122WSOB00240, RHB2122WSOB00241

Raj.Samwadi/CI/11003/2021-22 Addl. Chief Engineer-I, Jaipur

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE

REGISTRATION OF PANEL OF RETAIL SHOPS FOR SURGICAL ITEMS

Applications on prescribed Performa are invited from Retail Shops located within 5 Km of Northern Railway Central Hospital New Delhi, for Registration of Panel of Retail shops for supply of Branded supply of Disposable/ Surgical Items (Sutures, ligatures, CAPD Bag and IV Fluids) under Retail Local Purchase in Northern Railway Central Hospital New Delhi.

The application form along with copy of terms and conditions can be obtained from and deposited in Room No. 26, between 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on payment of Rs. 500/- to be deposited in cash with Divisional Cashier Baroda House, New Delhi or by way of Bank Draft in Favour of FA&CAO (E)/ Northern Railway or can be downloaded from Northern Railway website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in under head tender. The last date for receiving the application form is 21.02.2022 at 11:00 AM. The application can be deposited in Room No. 26 on all working days between 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.



SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

172/2022

TIME FOR SUCCESS

Stepping into 2022, the role of HR professionals is more critical now than it was before. They are the ones who will reconsider the basic tenets of their company, says SONICA ARON



It wouldn't be wrong to say that companies, to a great extent, be it in any industry, have met or are gradually meeting the challenges of the current global health crisis situation. However, as we move towards the post-pandemic era, their strategies and policies of the past will no longer meet the needs of the evolving workforce.

The last two years have changed a lot. Not just the way we work, though it has become evident that remote and hybrid working models can be as effective as erstwhile physical/ in-person working models if managed effectively. The changes go deeper. People have changed in the way they think of work, work-life balance, their expectations from employers, their growth and job satisfaction.

Hence, organisations will need to evolve and adapt management styles that are flexible, responsive, and established around employee speak, including more connection, simplification and automation, demographic shifts, and much more.

Stepping into 2022, the role of HR professionals is critical than ever before as they are the ones who will reevaluate the basic tenets of their company in order to support the right shift, balancing between business growth needs, employee experience and retention.

Role of HR in organisational success

♦ **Establish a healthy culture:** It is one of the most important predictors of how effectively a company achieves its goals. Employees that are glad to come to work will be more

driven to move the company forward in the long run. It's possible that a company's culture could use a makeover. Connecting with people to understand what they expect in today's times is key. Is it Real time communication? Is it transparency? Is it real time feedback? Is it about owning their own learning?

After determining the workforce expectations, it is important to act on it and ensure that everyone in the business is on the same page so that everyone can contribute to moving the new corporate culture forward. It will require a holistic approach and not just reprinting slogans. It will need changing processes, policies, ways of working and embedding key behaviours in day-to-day transactions.

It will require being receptive to new ideas and opinions, on how to do things differently, deploying new processes and practises.

♦ **Change with the times:** The world has changed and will continue to evolve over time. Employees' needs will also vary because of this. We will need to take chances and adapt – not be hesitant to implement new processes and solutions to fulfil your employees' ever-changing demands. Offering customised perks and ways of working could be one way to meet such needs.

Depending on where they are in life, employees may seek different benefits and work arrangements. An employee who is responsible for a family of four will most likely want and desire a different benefits package and work environment than a

HR will continue to be the driving force behind many new strategies and policies, as we have witnessed over the last two years, such as improving employee experience, developing new organisational models, creating a more flexible workforce, and much more

recent college graduate who is just starting out in their profession. Before making any decisions, It would be critical to understand the demographic landscape of the organisation in detail and understand employee life stages and needs.

♦ **Map skill gaps:** Every company probably requires specific expertise as business models and markets have evolved. By speaking with several departments, one may get a good idea of which functional and behavioural competencies individuals, teams, managers, and leaders require right now and which they will require in the future. Then, to address those needs, plan the capability building agenda, and talent acquisition agenda accordingly.

♦ **Target employee retention:** We have all witnessed the big quit and we are all aware of the tangible and intangible costs associated with voluntary attrition. It is not always easy to find a replacement on time, leading to productivity loss; loss of tacit knowledge, experience, clients; added extra responsibilities for existing employees, resulting in overwork, burnout and more attrition. Creating a culture where employees feel valued, included, where their contribution is recognized and appreciated, where they feel happy and have fun is critical. A holistic approach to employee retention goes beyond fun Fridays, zero meeting hours and birthday celebrations. An employee experiences an organisation each day, each moment through their managers and their peers, and building psychologically safe team envi-

ronments is key to retention. This would be a key role of the HR function in 2022, given that most businesses would be on an ambitious growth path, they should not lose sight of this goal.

♦ **Understand business strategy:** End of the day, People are the business's most important asset, and the HR function is the custodian of this asset. The deeper the HR function understands the company's business plan, the more effectively they can leverage the human potential in the organisation through the right policies, processes, structures, and culture.

HR function is like the arterial system that runs across the organisation, across C-suite leaders, departmental managers, and employees, disseminating the purpose, main objectives, and cultural values of your company. Possessing sound knowledge of both business tasks and of employees' needs, expectations, skills, competencies, and aspirations, they have the lethal combination of making businesses succeed.

The world of HR is constantly changing, and new trends will emerge. HR will continue to be the driving force behind many new strategies and policies, as we have witnessed over the last two years, such as improving employee experience, developing new organisational models, creating a more flexible workforce, and much more. 2022 is going to be yet another exciting year for the HR function!

The writer is Founder and Managing Partner, Marching Sheep

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

— Cesar Chavez

LLB AND LLM

The University of Manchester's law programme is recognised by the Bar Council of India and offers a distinctive approach to legal education that brings together a research-informed and practice-led approach to the study of law.

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College Board's UniTalk India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

UniTalk India, an event for the Indian students wishing to study in India or abroad, was held virtually on January 20, 2022. This special UniTalk helped with the needs of students during the pandemic. College Board brought together few of its top member uni-

versities from India and the US. They provided insight into admissions processes and policies to facilitate student applications. Admissions professionals will talk about how undergraduate programs in India and the U.S. are changing, as well as the career opportunities these programmes lead to.

Social campaigns to eliminate child labour

Awareness campaigns are almost commonly used to create effective communication skills and listening skills. Being aware is extremely important and there are many methods to create awareness. You need to check your thoughts as well and see if they are positive or negative. Circulating positive thoughts is most important to grow in life. There are huge benefits of self-awareness, firstly developing empathy, better communication & listening skills, better leadership qualities, affluent decision-making skills, increased creativity and seeing the perspective of others. It also leads to better decision making. Spreading the word about something important, Mohammed Rashid Khan has planned many such awareness campaigns. One of the things that need attention in India is child labour. This is a grave



problem and causes a huge impact on the future of the nation.

Cryptork makes a mission to let people aware of child labour and this will help in leveraging the thoughts. In this, people have started many social media campaigns to make people aware of child labour and make all the people aware that children are meant to study and make the future. They are not the tools for earning.

Economics, a master discipline

It is hard to imagine a world where economics becomes irrelevant, for it is in the

very nature of human beings to strive for a better life, says

DR ADITYA KUVALEKAR

With global vaccination efforts and tackling new variant waves, the world is learning to live with the COVID-19 pandemic. This has arguably been the greatest challenge humanity has faced since World War-II, and just like WWII, this pandemic will fundamentally alter aspects of our lives. From the possibility of permanent remote work to a radical shift to the service-based, online nature of businesses, we are facing unfathomable and unpredictable changes to how we live, work, eat and travel. Businesses will, and already have, shut down, new industries will arrive and thrive, old and established jobs will disappear, jobs that were once thought to be niche will suddenly show an exponential rise. It is very hard for anyone to predict what changes will be witnessed over the next few years.

Therefore, this is, perhaps, a very good time to invest in skills for the future. What makes the current climate special are two factors. First is that COVID-19 led to restructuring of the economy and demand for previously popular industries may be suppressed for a long time. Second, while the economic recovery has begun, it may take a while before it is nearly complete. Therefore, now is a good time to invest in skills that are likely to be in demand when the market is hot.

This is particularly relevant for students deciding what to study at university. While the idealistic view of doing what you are passionate about may sound romantic in the-

ory, there are many who, justifiably, view education as a means of attaining a good lifestyle, and therefore wish to choose a subject that is likely to be rewarded in the subsequent labour market.

Career opportunities

Economics already offers immensely lucrative career opportunities. The range of job opportunities includes consulting firms, financial firms, government organisations, international organisations such as the World Bank and the IMF, NGOs for those interested in working in the development sector, to industries such as big tech and financial journalism.

For example, leading technology giants such as Google, Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft recruit economists every year with large salaries. It is harder to think of a career path that can offer as diverse opportunities as economics.

There are many universities that have designed the undergraduate and master's programs keeping these options in mind. As a result, an economics student can learn from a wide range of experts specialising in development economics, macroeconomics, to even FinTech and Big Data, the new buzzwords. In fact, considering the growing importance of understanding the concepts of economics and proficiency in programming, universities started to offer a BSc Economics with Computing.

Economics, a master discipline

Pursuing such courses are likely to be intellectually and materially rewarding. For

WHAT MAKES THE CURRENT SCENARIO SPECIAL ARE TWO FACTORS. FIRST IS THAT COVID-19 LED TO RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMY AND DEMAND FOR PREVIOUSLY POPULAR INDUSTRIES MAY BE SUPPRESSED FOR A LONG TIME. SECOND, WHILE THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY HAS BEGUN, IT MAY TAKE A WHILE BEFORE IT IS NEARLY COMPLETE

one, economics as a discipline borrows heavily from diverse fields ranging from philosophy and mathematics to psychology and history. Therefore, a student will be exposed to a wide range of topics, which will be good for both their professional and personal development.

Second, a good command of the basics of economics is a tremendously valuable skill in analysing complex, real-world problems, and is therefore extremely valuable in the labour market. This is why studying economics can lead to some of the highest-paid jobs – starting salaries in the UK for someone with a masters in economics are often upwards of £60,000 - £75,000.

Also, most students are concerned about the safety aspect, and economics is perhaps safer than any other discipline. In the 1970s, there was buzz around engineering, in the 1990s it was programming, in the 2000s it was finance, and now it's big data and machine learning. However, economics has always maintained its steady presence offering a range of job prospects for students.

It is harder to imagine a world where economics – a science of prosperity – becomes irrelevant, for it is in the very nature of human beings to strive for a better life. Therefore, if you are a student, or a parent, thinking of a career choice for undergraduate or a postgraduate degree, economics is perhaps second to none. Take the plunge!

The writer is Lecturer, Department of Economics University of Essex, UK

4th edition of ICEIL at Amity University

PNS ■ UTTAR PRADESH

The Amity University organised the Valedictory Ceremony of 4th Edition of International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership (ICEIL 2022). Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Minister of State, MSME was the Chief Guest while renowned Film Maker Subhash Ghai was the Guest of Honor.

Verma said, "I'm extremely delighted to be present here today and would like to congratulate Amity for organizing such a wonderful conference which promotes and encourages entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership amongst the youth of our country."

"I'm glad to be present here on this occasion and remember my meetings with Dr. Aseem Chauhan in Mumbai and also with

Honourable Founder President of Amity Education Group, Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, when I started my Film Institute, Whistling Woods. He has been my first Guru and mentor for starting this institute. It is only by following his principles that I could establish Whistling Woods successfully," Ghai said.

Dr Aseem Chauhan, Chancellor, Amity University, Haryana, said, "The

Conference aimed at bringing the start-ups, Entrepreneurship aspirants, SMEs, Incubates, Academicians, Researchers, Bankers, Venture Capitalists, Accelerators, Investors, Financial Experts, Corporate Leaders etc., from varied fields, on a common platform to promote Entrepreneurship & Innovation and exchange of best Business Practices, Trends, etc.

VIT-AP's international conference ICAMEMS

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The first International Conference on Advances in Mechanical Engineering & Material Science (ICAMEMS) was held virtually at VIT AP University, Amaravati from January 22 to 24, 2022.

Chief guest S Balchandran, Executive Chairman and CEO, Buimerc Corporation Ltd, Dubai, UAE emphasised the role of mechanical, civil and electrical engineering in building blocks of current technologies development. The recent years of pandemic has started a new era of reflection and technologies play a vital role with the uni-



versities efforts in developing technologies for the needs of society.

Dr Mohammad Younis, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering,

Binghamton University, State University of New York, USA motivated students to make use of the conference to develop technologies based on the challenges the society faced.

Dr S V Kota Reddy, Vice Chancellor, VIT-AP highlighted the role of multidisciplinary research and innovation for development of technologies with patent filing. The participants are going to present the research findings in the areas of materials and mechanical engineering for the benefit of the scientific community.

Dr C L V Sivakumar, Registrar, faculty, scholars and staff were also present.



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"A Nation's Culture Resides in The Hearts and in The Soul of its People"

Rohit fit to lead India against WI

Bhuvneshwar and Ashwin, after their indifferent performance against SA in their 0-3 ODI series defeat, will come under scanner

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's white-ball captain Rohit Sharma is "fit" and ready to lead the side against the West Indies in a six-match white-ball series starting February 6 with the three ODIs in Ahmedabad. However, the team selection meeting, which is set to happen this week, will be an interesting one as some senior players like Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Ravichandran Ashwin, after their indifferent performance against South Africa in their 0-3 ODI series defeat, will come under the scanner.

But Rohit is ready to lead the side after a left hamstring injury ruled him out of the South Africa tour. The T20 matches against the Caribbean team are set to be held from February 16 to 20 in Kolkata. "Rohit is fit and available for the series against the West Indies," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"By the time, the West Indies series starts, it will be more than seven and half weeks of rehabilitation and recuperation for Rohit. "He is already training in

Mumbai and is expected to be in Bangalore for the fitness test and get a formal okay from the National Cricket Academy," the source informed.

ROHIT SET TO BE NAMED TEST CAPTAIN TOO

It is almost certain that for the time being, Rohit will be named the Test captain although BCCI will be looking at other options considering his workload and the responsibility that comes with leading India in two back-to-back World Cups in 2022 and 2023.

It is understood that KL Rahul's first stint as captain hasn't gone as per expectations and for now, he will have to remain an apprentice under Rohit till he is seen to be ready to lead the national team in near future.

Under Rahul, India lost all four international games in South Africa and for men who matter in Indian cricket, he hasn't exactly come across as a proactive captain.

It is understood that Rahul's performance as Lucknow Super Giants captain will be keenly monitored

during this edition of the IPL.

HARDIK PANDYA'S COMEBACK



Hardik Pandya has been bowling in the nets and even though it is not clear whether he can bowl full tilt but Venkatesh Iyer's relative

ROHIT WILL BE NAMED THE TEST CAPTAIN ALTHOUGH BCCI WILL BE LOOKING AT OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERING HIS WORKLOAD AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH LEADING INDIA IN TWO BACK-TO-BACK WORLD CUPS IN 2022 AND 2023



inexperience at No.6 and Rahul Dravid's admission that the colourful Baroda man was missed, can pave the way for his comeback against the West Indies.

"You have to remember after the T20 World Cup, Hardik was dropped and not rested because of his fitness. The selectors wanted to send him a message after his underwhelming show at World T20 but he is too good a player to be kept out for long.

"If not against West Indies, then he will surely be back against Sri Lanka," the source added.

Ravindra Jadeja also seems to be close to attaining full fitness and will play either against West Indies or in the next assignment against Sri Lanka.

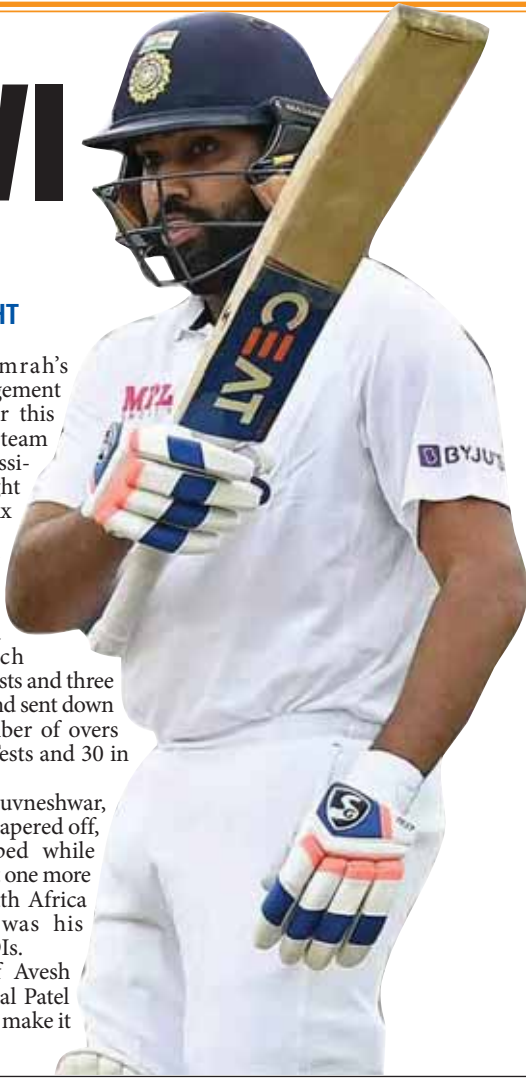
BUMRAH MIGHT BE RESTED

Jasprit Bumrah's workload management is paramount for this current Indian team and there is a possibility that he might be rested for the six matches.

This is after Bumrah played all six games in South Africa which, which included three Tests and three 50-over games, and sent down the highest number of overs (104.5 overs in Tests and 30 in ODIs).

However, Bhuvneshwar, whose form has tapered off, might be dropped while Ashwin might get one more series as the South Africa white-ball leg was his comeback in ODIs.

The likes of Avesh Khan and Harshal Patel could once again make it to the T20 team.



You can't win every game, it's a temporary phase for Team India, says Ravi Shastri

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri does not see any reason to press the panic button after the team's shocking Test and ODI series loss to an under-strength South Africa as he believes it is a "temporary phase" and the side will tide over it soon.

In the backdrop of Virat Kohli's departure as captain from all formats, India, under stand-in skipper KL Rahul, were blanked 0-3 in the ODIs to cap a forgettable tour to South Africa.

India had earlier suffered back-to-back defeats in

Wanderers and Cape Town to lose the Test series 1-2. At the end of that series, Kohli stepped down from captaincy in the longest format, marking the end of an era in Indian cricket.

"If you lose one series, you people start criticising... You can't win every game, there will be wins and losses," Shastri, who ended his tenure after the T20 World Cup in UAE last year, told PTI on the sidelines of the ongoing Legends League Cricket.

The ODI series defeat in South Africa was their first after Kohli was sacked as skipper in the 50-over format in December last year.



Shastri said he did not follow a single ball of the South Africa series but refused to believe that the standard has dropped. "How can the standard go

down suddenly? For five years, you have been number one side in the world," he asserted.

Keeping in mind the T20 World Cup in Australia in October, India have a packed white-ball calendar and will be hosting West Indies, Sri Lanka and South Africa this year.

With IPL being a 10-team affair this time, the home season would stretch till June before the Indians leave for England to play the final Test of a series that was halted midway last year due to a COVID-19 outbreak, followed by three T20Is and 3 ODIs.

Shastri maintained that there's nothing to worry about and dismissed the recent set-

backs as a temporary phase.

"When you have a win ratio of 65 per cent over the last five years, what is there to worry about? What is there to worry about, our rival teams should worry," he said.

Kohli announced his decision to quit as Test skipper a day after the team lost 1-2. Shastri such decisions should be respected as it boils down to individual choice.

"It's his choice. You have to respect his decision. There is a time for everything. A lot of big players in the past have left captaincy when they felt they wanted to focus on their batting or on their cricket.

Focussed on winning Asian Games to qualify for Paris Olympics, youngsters will get opportunities: Sreejesh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh on Tuesday said the Indian men's hockey side's main focus is qualifying for the Paris Olympics by winning the Asian Games this year besides giving opportunities to youngsters.

He said that a lot of youngsters will be given opportunities in a hectic year for the team in which it will compete in marquee events like the Commonwealth Games and Asiad. The Tokyo Olympic bronze medal-winning side will begin the year with the FIH Hockey Pro League, starting next month.

"After every Olympics we



plan for next four years. So after Tokyo we have already started planning for the Paris Olympics," Sreejesh said during a virtual media interaction.

"There are a lot of changes that are going to happen in the team (for Paris), lot of new comers are going to be added into the core group," he added.

Sreejesh is a part of the International Institute of Sports Management's initiative in which 18 of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics medalists have come together to recite the national anthem in a video, which was released on Monday. Asked if it is the right time to groom youngsters with the Paris Olympics only two years away, Sreejesh said with several fixtures line up, it will be good to give the junior players a chance.

"I didn't say we will get a lot of the youngsters straight into the team but their addition in the core group will give them more opportunity. We are starting this year with the Pro League before Asian Games and CWG."



सूरजमल विश्वविद्यालय, किच्छा

प्रवेश सूचना

सूरजमल विश्वविद्यालय, किच्छा में सत्र 2021-2022 हेतु सरकार द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त निम्नलिखित पाठ्यक्रमों में स्नातक व स्नातकोत्तर स्तर पर प्रवेश प्रारम्भ किए जा रहे हैं। विश्वविद्यालय के प्रोफेशनल पाठ्यक्रमों का लक्ष्य- "कौशल विकास" व "अध्ययन के दौरान मानदेय" (Earn while you learn) उपलब्ध करवाना होगा। इसी श्रेणी में विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा नवोन्मेषी पाठ्यक्रम संचालित किए जा रहे हैं जो विद्यार्थियों को ज्ञान-विज्ञान की नवीनतम विधाओं से जोड़ेंगे जिनमें रोजगार की असीमित सम्भावनाएं होंगी।

कम्प्यूटर विज्ञान, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं इंजीनियरिंग

BCA, B.Sc. (IT), M.Sc. (IT), MCA
B.Tech. in CSE with specializations - General, AIML, DSCT.
B.Tech in Aeronautical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Civil Engineering, Biotechnology Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Automation and Robotics, Petroleum Engineering, Instrumentation Engineering, Ceramic Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Structural Engineering, Mechanical Engineering

गणित एवं सांख्यिकी

B.Sc. (Hons.) in Mathematics, M.Sc. (Mathematics), M.Sc. (Integrated Mathematics), M.Sc. (Statistics), M.Sc. (Actuarial science), M.Sc. (Financial Mathematics and Computation), Post Graduate Diploma in Mathematics and statistics

वाणिज्य एवं प्रबन्धन

B.Com. (Hons.), M.Com., MBA, BBA (Healthcare Management), BBA (Aviation and Hospitality Management), BBA (Digital Marketing), BBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management), BBA (Hotel Management), BBA (Banking and Finance)

प्रोफेशनल पाठ्यक्रम

Bachelor of Vocational Education (B.Voc) in Hospitality Management, B.Voc. (Retail Management), B.Voc. (Banking and Finance), B.Voc. (Patient Care Management), B.Voc. (Airport Management), Diploma in Community Medical Service and Essential Drugs, Bachelor of Designing (UX & UI Design), PG Diploma with specialization in UX & UI Design, ALML, DSCT., B.Sc- CS with specialization in AIML, DSCT, UX & UI Design., BCA with specialization in DSCT, UX & UI Design. B.A. (Fashion & Interior Design), Gaming & Animation with VFX

नर्सिंग एवं पैरामेडिकल

B.Sc.Nursing, GNM, Post Basic Nursing, M.Sc. Nursing, B.Opto, BMRIT, BPT, BMLT

अध्यापक शिक्षा

B.Ed., B.PEd., D.Ed., DLEd., B.El.Ed., BTC

कृषि विज्ञान

B.Sc. Agriculture, B.Sc. Fisheries, B.Sc. Food Technology

पॉलिटेक्निक डिप्लोमा

Electrical Engineering , Mechanical Engineering , Civil Engineering

SL. NO.	COURSE	FEES (PER SEM)
1.	BCA	21,000.00
2.	B.Sc. IT	21,000.00
3.	M.Sc. IT	28,000.00
4.	MCA	45,000.00
5.	B.Com (H)	21,000.00
6.	BBA(AI Specialization)	21,000.00
7.	MBA	45,000.00
8.	M.Com	16,000.00
9.	Bachelor of Vocational Education (B.Voc) in Hospitality Management	30,000.00
10.	B.Voc. (Retail Management)	30,000.00
11.	B.Voc. (Banking and Finance)	30,000.00
12.	B.Voc. (Patient Care Management)	30,000.00
13.	B.Voc. (Airport management)	27,000.00
14.	Diploma in Community Medical Service and Essential Drugs	20,000.00
15.	Bachelor of designing (UX & UI Design)	30,000.00
16.	PG Diploma with specialization in UX & UI Design, ALML, DSCT	30,000.00
17.	B.Sc- CS with specialization in AIML, DSCT, UX & UI Design.	28,000.00
18.	BCA with specialization in DSCT, UX & UI Design.	28,000.00
19.	B.A. (Fashion & Interior Design)	28,000.00
20.	Gaming & Animation with VFX	30,000.00
21.	B.Sc. Agriculture	27,000.00
22.	B.Sc. Fisheries	27,000.00
23.	B.Sc. Food Technology	37,500.00
24.	B.Tech. (All Discipline)	45,000.00
25.	B.Sc. (Hons.) in Mathematics	21,000.00
26.	M.Sc. (Mathematics)	24,000.00
27.	M.Sc. (Statistics)	24,000.00
28.	M.Sc. (Integrated Mathematics)	30,000.00
29.	M.Sc. (Auctorial science)	28,000.00
30.	M.Sc. (Financial Mathematics and computation)	28,000.00
31.	Graduate Diploma in Mathematics and Statistics	20,000.00
32.	B.Sc. Nursing	1,45,000.00(per year with hostel, fooding and books)
33.	GNM	1,35,000.00 (per year with hostel, fooding and books)
34.	Post Basic Nursing	1,35,000.00 (per year with hostel, fooding and books)
35.	M.Sc. Nursing	1,55,000.00 (per year with hostel, fooding and books)
36.	Polytechnic Diploma (All Discipline)	30,000.00
37.	BMLT/B.Opto/Radiology	50,000.00
38.	B.Ed	30,000.00
40.	Integrated B.Ed.	25,000.00
41.	Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed.)	30,000.00
42.	Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed.)	25,000.00
43.	Bachelor of Elementary Education (B.El.Ed.)	25,000.00
44.	Basic Training Certificate (BTC)	25,000.00



कुलाचिपति
स्वामी सन्त्यप्रकाशनन्द
सरस्वती जी



स्व. सूरजमल अग्रवाल जी



सचिव
श्री श्रीनिवास शर्मा जी

नोट- इच्छुक विद्यार्थी विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.smu.ac.in पर online आवेदन कर सकते हैं अथवा विश्वविद्यालय के प्रवेश काउन्टर से संपर्क कर आवेदन फार्म जमा कर सकते हैं। आवेदन फार्म जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि 27.01.2022 है। प्रवेश मेरिट लिस्ट के अनुसार दिये जायेंगे। सीमित सीटें उपलब्ध हैं।

सूरजमल विश्वविद्यालय, दोपहरिया, किच्छा, जिला-उधम सिंह नगर, उत्तराखण्ड- 263148 मो०- 9837242760, 8006565222

ई-मेल आईडी - info@smu.ac.in, वेबसाइट- www.smu.ac.in