**OPINION 6** 

**COMMON CURSE** 

OF 'LOTACRACY'!

**WORLD 8** 

UKRAINE RETAKES KEY KYIV

SUBURB AS BOMBS FALL

WITH DRONES

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

## SEN BREAKS INTO WORLD'S 12 SPORT

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NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

## Delhi most polluted Capital again TMC infighting in Birbhum

City gets tag for 4th time in World Air Quality Report as PM2.5 levels rise; India home to 11 dirty cities

PNS NEW DELHI

India's national Capital Delhi has emerged as the most polluted Capital city in the world for the fourth year in a row in the latest World Air Quality Report for 2021, a period when the countries were gradually opening up the economic activities as Covid-19 cases reported decline.

Clearly, various so-called anti-air pollution steps have not helped in ensuring clean air in the national Capital

In fact, the report found that no country met the World Health Organisation's (WHO) PM2.5 annual air quality guide-lines last year. The WHO analysed PM2.5 air pollution measurements from air monitoring stations in 6,475 cities. This is out of a list of 107

cities in the world. The report prepared by IQAir, a Swiss pollution technology company that monitors air quality, also revealed that smog even rebounded in some regions after a Covid-related dip.

The report said, "India was home to 11 of the 15 most pol-luted cities in Central and South Asia in 2021. Delhi saw a 14.6 per cent increase in PM2.5 concentrations in 2021 with levels rising to 96.4  $\mu g/m3$  from 84  $\mu g/m3$  in 2020. No cities in India met the WHO's air quality guideline of 5  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>. In 2021, 48 per cent of India's cities exceeded 50



ug/m3, or more than 10 times the WHO guideline.

The report is based on PM2.5 data from 6,475 cities in 117 countries around the world. According to the report, "Central and South Asia had some of the world's worst air quality and was home to 46 of the world's 50 most polluted cities" in 2021.

In the Central and South Asia region, including India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, Bhiwadi in

Rajasthan's Alwar was the most polluted regional city, with an average PM 2.5 concentration of 106.2 microgram per cubic metre. The report, based on the updated annual WHO air quality guideline for PM2.5 released in September last year, found fine particle pollution, known as PM2.5, is a major contributing factor to health effects

such as asthma, stroke, heart and lung diseases. While air quality dipped in India, the report found that it improved in China as more than half of the cities in China included in the report saw lower levels of air pollution when compared to the previous

"Pollution levels within the Capital city of Beijing continued a five-year trend of improved air quality, driven by emission control and reduction of coal power plant activity and other nigh emission industries. Central and South Asia had some of the world's worst air

### Not good enough

- No country met the latest WHO air quality guideline for PM2.5 in 2021
- Only 222 out of 6,475 global cities covered in the report met updated WHO PM2.5
- Of 1,887 Asian cities, only four (0.2 per cent) met updated WHO PM2.5 guidelines
- The top five most polluted countries in 2021 were: Bangladesh, Chad, Pakistan Tajikistan, India
- Central and South Asia had some of the world's worst air quality in 2021 and was home to 46 of the world's 50 most polluted cities

quality in 2021 and was home to 46 of the world's 50 most polluted cities," the report said.

The report found that India's PM2.5 averages have returned to pre-Covid levels. India's annual average PM2.5 levels reached 58.1 µg/m3 in 2021, ending a three-year trend of improving air quality. The report states that India is home to 11 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia in 2021 and Delhi saw a 14.6 per cent increase in PM2.5 concentrations."Air pollution has a massive impact on human health in India. It is the second biggest risk factor for disease, and the economic cost of air pollution is estimated to exceed \$150 billion dollars annually."

# village leaves eight dead

BJP demands central rule; Min calls it conspiracy to malign Mamata Govt

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

At least eight people were burnt to death in Bagtui Village of Rampurhat sub-divi-sion in Birbhum district on Monday night in an alleged retaliatory attack by the sup-porters of a Trinamool Congress deputy pradhan Bhadu Sheikh. The incident took place hours after Bhadu Sheikh was bombed to death by the rival faction of his party, sources said sources said.

The incident left six women and two children dead. Six people with substantial burn injuries were undergoing treatment at hospitals in Rampurhat and Kolkata. Despite large police presence, terrified villagers were fleeing the village in hordes, locals said adding thatthe menfolk had already left the village. Even as the Opposition BJP demanded immediate

imposition of Article 355 or 356 and a probe by the CBI or NIA, the Mamata Banerjee Government appointed a Special Investigation Team comprising senior IPS officers Gyanwant Singh, Miraj Khalid and Sanjay Singh.
At least five houses of the

rival group were set on fire by alleged TMC miscreants in their bid to avenge the murder of their leader Bhadu Sheikh, sources said, adding both the groups belonged to the TMC.



Charred remains of the houses after some miscreants set it on fire for allegedly avenging the killing of TMC leader Bhadu Sheikh, at Rampurhat in Birbhum district

"Some people entered our village and started hurling people have died and six are in bombs indiscriminately barely a few hours after Bhadu Sheikh's death. Ten of us took shelter inside a shop and locked it from the inside. Then they threw petrol and torched the shop and two children and six women save for the two of us, were charred to death," said Nazma Biwi admitted in a Kolkata hospital with 40 per cent burns. Another girl

hospital ... I could barely save myself by fleeing to my aunt's house ... already the menfolk had fled the village fearing retaliation after the death of the Upa Pradhan ... all this while the police just sat as silent spec-

On being asked why the neighbours would not come to their rescue, a local requesting anonymity said, "Who would want to come out in the midst

of bombing.

Continued on Page 2

## 'Cost of EVs to be at par with petrol-run vehicles in 2 years'

Working on reducing accident-prone areas: Gadkari

PNS NEW DELHI

 $R^{\mathrm{oad}\ Transport\ Minister}_{\mathrm{Nitin}\ Gadkari\ said\ on}$ Tuesday that in the next two years, the price of electric vehicles (EVs) would be at par with petrol and diesel-run automobiles.

the need to drastically cut down the whopping 1.50 lakh road accident deaths in India, saying his Ministry was working on reducing the 'blackspots' which are accidentprone areas.

Replying in the Lok Sabha on the Demands for Grants for Road Transport and Highways Ministry, 2022-23, Gadkari said the transport and energy scene is rapidly changing with electric and solar energy,



The Minister also stressed Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari speaks in the Lok Sabha during the second part of the Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi or

be the main drivers for replacing conventional energy. This, he said, would greatly improve the environment, noise pollution and cut-down energy

He said fast construction of roads and highways has reduced the time and cost of travelling manifold. "Now,

ethanol and hydrogen going to Meerut can be reached in 35 minutes from Delhi, and Jaipur in two hours, Dehradun in two hours and Amritsar in four. Road connectivity would improve so much in the coming years that one could travel to Ladakh to Srinagar and then straightaway drive to Mumbai," he added.

Continued on Page 2

## **Amendment Bill for** merging of MCDs gets Cabinet nod

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Amendment Bill to unify all three Municipal Corporations in Delhi.

Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which provides for unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi, will be tabled in Parliament soon.

This comes a few days after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) approached the Supreme Court seeking direction to the State Election Commission (SEC) to conduct the MCD polls and accused the BJP-led Central Government of delaying local

body elections. The erstwhile Delhi Municipal Corporation was trifurcated into three Municipal Corporations: South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), and East Delhi Municipal Corporation

(EDMC) in 2011 vide the Delhi Municipal Corporation Amendment Act, 1911 (Delhi Act, 12 Of 2011).

The trifurcation of the corporation was uneven in terms of the territorial divisions tial of each corporation. As a result, there was a huge gap in the resources available to the three corporations, vis-a-vis their obligations. The gap has widened over

a period of time, increasing the financial difficulties of the three Municipal Corporations, leaving them incapacitated to make timely payment of salaries and retirement benefits to their employees and thereby creating serious impediments in maintaining civic services in Delhi," said a Union Minister justifying the Cabinet decision

The SEC had deferred the announcement of the election schedule for the civic bodies, which it was earlier slated to announce on March 9.

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## Akhilesh, Azam quit Lok Sabha

Khushi Khatun, a relative of the

deceased persons said, "Ten

Both retain Assembly seats in a bid to give boost to SP in UP



PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and party MP from Rampur, Azam Khan on Tuesday resigned from the Lok Sabha. Khan has been lodged in Sitapur jail for more than two years.

Akhilesh handed over his resignation to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Delhi on Tuesday

Akhilesh and Azam Khan resigned from the Lok Sabha after winning the recently-held UP Assembly elections from Karhal and Rampur Assembly seats respectively.

Both leaders have appar-

ently decided to retain their Assembly seats in a bid to give a boost to the party in Uttar Pradesh. The Samajwadi Party had won five Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 General Elections. After the recent resignations,

According to Samajwadi Party sources, Akhilesh will lead the party in the State and play the role of Leader of Opposition in the UP Assembly. The decision of the SP leaders also appears to be influenced by the decimation of the Bahujan Samaj Party which won just one Assembly seat in the 2022 State Assembly polls.

the party's strength will be

reduced to three.

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadavled Samaiwadi Party came a distant second in the 2022 Assembly elections, securing 111 seats, a massive increase from 47 in the 2017 polls and a vote share of 32.06

per cent. In the recently-concluded State polls, Akhilesh had won the Karhal seat after securing 1.48 lakh votes, while the BJP's SP Singh Baghel came a distant second by getting over 80,000

This was Akhilesh's first State election, as he had taken the MLC route to become the

Lalu's health deteriorates;

Chief Minister in 2012.

airlifted to

## **CAPSULE**

**LET'S PLEDGE AGAIN TO** SAVE WATER: MODI New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reiterated his call for saving every drop of water on World Water Day and said it is heartening to see water conservation become a mass movement over the past years.

#### TIGER REINTRODUCTION PLAN FOR PALAMU

Ranchi: The dense forests of Palamu, will once again reverberate with the roar of the king of the jungle as the Jharkhand forest department is gearing up to reintroduce big cats once again into the tiger

#### SC ALLOWS REGISTRATION OF BS-VI PU VEHICLES New Delhi: The Supreme Court

on Tuesday permitted registration of BS-VI light and heavy diesel vehicles used for public utility and essential services.

## Mann regularises 35K Group C, D staff No kutcha houses, no contractual employees in Punjab: CM

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Dunjab Chief Minister Panjao Chief Millister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday announced a "historic" decision to regularise the services of State Government's 35,000 Group C and D employees, saying " hun Punjab wich na koi kacha ghar rahega, na koi kacha mulazim (from now on in Punjab, there will be no kutcha house, and no contractual employee)".

Mann also made it clear that Punjab will now be free from dharnas and lathi-charge. "I do not want lathi-charge or turbans or chunnis of protesting employees to fall off...don't want them to face water cannons," he said in a video statement released on his official Twitter handle.

'Today AAP Punjab Govt has taken another historic decision and started the process to regularise 35,000 contractual Government employees...We're here to fulfil every promise made to people before the elec-



tion. We've come to change the system," tweeted Mann along

with the four-minute video. In a move towards ending contractual recruitment in the State, Mann said that the Government will table the Bill for regularising the services of these employees in the next session of the Vidhan Sabha. "I have directed the Chief

Secretary Anirudh Tewari to prepare the draft of a Bill for regularising the services of these employees before the Session of the Assembly...We will approve the draft legislation in the

Assembly and regularise the employees engaged through contract and outsourcing," said

This is the second major decision by the AAP-led Punjab Government after the State Cabinet, in its first meeting, decided to fill 25,000 posts in the various departments, including 10,000 in the Police Department.

The AAP Government's decision came over four months after the previous Charanjit Singh Channi-led Congress Government had announced to regularise the services of 36,000 employees working on contract, ad-hoc, work charged, daily wages and temporary basis in the State. The Channi Government,

on November 11, 2021, had even passed "The Punjab Protection and Regularisation of Contractual Employees Bill-2021", and forwarded it to Governor Banwarilal Purohit for his approval.

## ED attaches ₹6.45 cr immovable assets of Uddhav's brother-in-law

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a major development that prompted the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) to accuse the Modi Government yet again of "misusing" its investigating agencies against its political rivals, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday attached provisionally ₹6.45 crore-worth of immovable properties belonging to a company owned by the brother-in-law of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at Thane in an alleged money laundering

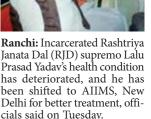
The attached properties, comprising 11 residential flats, belonged to M/s Shree Saibaba Grihanirmiti Private Limited, a company "owned and controlled" by Shridhar Madhav Patankar, the brother of **Continued on Page 2** | Thackeray's wife Rashmi.

The ED made a provisional attachment of the immovable properties, including 11 residential flats in Neelambari housing project at Thane belonging to Shree Saibaba Grihanirmiti Pvt. Ltd, in connection with a money laundering case registered against M/s Pushpak Bullion, one of the Group companies of Pushpak Group on March 6, 2017 under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

Among other things, the ED said in a statement that it had already provisionally attached immovable and movable properties of Pushpak Bullion to the tune of ₹21.46 Crore belonging to one Mahesh Patel, Chandrakant Patel, their family members and companies controlled by them.

Continued on Page 2

# **Delhi AIIMS**



A medical board of the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Ranchi referred him to AIIMS New Delhi, they said. "RJD chief Lalu Prasad has

been taken to Delhi in an air ambulance," Ranchi's Birsa Munda Airport Director Vinod Sharma told PTI.

Continued on Page 2

## **CBI** arrests **CPT** official in ₹45 cr bank fraud case

The CBI has arrested an Assistant Superintendent of Chennai Port Trust (CPT), Chennai in an on-going investigation of a case related to an alleged bank fraud in which fixed deposits of CPT were fore-closed fraudulently causing loss to the Trust to the tune of over ₹45 crore.

The arrested accused S Raghu Bernard was produced before the Special Judge, CBI Cases, Chennai and remanded to judicial custody, the CBI said in a statement here.

Searches were earlier conducted at 40 locations including at Chennai, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Nagercoil which led to recovery of several incriminating documents and material objects. In this case, 17 persons including two foreign nationals have been

Three chargesheets have also been filed against 23 accused.

The CBI had registered a case on July 31, 2020 on a complaint from Indian Bank, Chennai against two private persons; Branch Manager, Îndian Bank, Koyambedu Branch, Chennai and other unknown public servants and private persons on the allegations of committing fraud, forgery, impersonation with the intention to cheat the bank.

It was further alleged that loss to the tune of ₹45,40,65,000 was caused to Indian Bank by way of foreclosing/pre-closing of several term deposits (fixed deposits) created in the name of CPT and also transferring/withdrawing the said amount through various accounts. It alleged that the accused in con-

vassed the Bank and CPT for opening of term deposits in the Koyambedu Branch, Indian Bank and accordingly, 45 Term deposits (FDs) were created during the period between March 2020 and May 2020.

One of the accused allegedly impersonated himself as Deputy Director (Finance) of CPT and opened a fake current account in the name of CPT at Koyambedu Branch, Indian Bank.

After the receipt of invest-ment from the CPT on every occasion, the Bank created term deposit receipts (Bond) against the said investment and the said bond was received by the accused from the bank directly. Instead of delivering the original bond to CPT, the accused made duplicate bonds and submitted the forged bonds to CPT, it added.

## Sandesara Group: ED attaches 5 bank accounts, shares in PMLA case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has pro-Enforcement visionally attached five immovable properties, five bank accounts and shares worth Rs 20.77 crore under provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act in Sandesara Group case.

These attached assets belong to ShimnitUtsch India Private Limited and its directors, the ED said in a statement.

The ED investigation revealed that Sandesaras had diverted Proceeds of Crime of Rs 55.13 crore to the accounts of ShimnitUtsch India Private Limited in the garb of share application money. Out of the said diversion, an amount of Rs 23.50 crore was still lying with Shimnit group and its pro-

moters/directors.Earlier, the attached had movable/immovable properties to the tune of Rs 14,523 crore vide 13 provisional attachment orders in relation to this case. "With this attachment, total attachment in this case stands at Rs 14,543 crore out of the Proceeds of Crime of more than Rs 14,690.95 crore, it said.

As on date, one Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) along with four supplementary complaints have been filed in this case and four arrests have been made by the ED. Nitin Sandesara, Chetan Sandesara, Dipti Chetan Sandesara and Hitesh Patel have been declared fugitives under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act by the Special

### 'Now, free Wi-Fi Net facility available at 6,100 railway stations across country'

PNS NEW DELHI

The high-speed free Wi-Fi internet facility is now available at 6,100 railway stations across country. "The milestone of 6,100 stations with Wi-Fi coverage was reached today (Tuesday) with commissioning of Wi-Fi facilitv at Ubarni railway station (Rae Bareli district, UP) in Lucknow Division of Northern Railway," a statement by RailTel said.

RailTel, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways, said it is close to expanding this coverage to all stations -- except halt stations -- in country. Out of aforementioned 6,100 stations, more than 5,000 stations are in rural areas, it said. The project of providing free Wi-Fi internet facility at stations was envisaged in Railway budget of

## 'Destruction of wetlands for laying Silver Line Rail is loss to Kerala'

A scientific study by envi-ronmentalists have found that the destruc-tion of wetlands for laying the 530 km long Semi High Speed Silver Line Rail would result in Kerala losing crores.

This was stated by Dr G S Vijayan, leading environmental scientist and former chair man of Kerala State Biodiversity Board on Monday while addressing an awareness programme at Kochi. "The destruction of a hectare of wetland would lead to the loss of major loss in tune of crores. It is the wetland in the State that sustains the ecology, greenery and fertility of the land. Once it is gone, everything is gone," said Dr Vijayan. He said that though Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was given a detailed report about the study, the latter has not bothered to even acknowledge its receipt. Prof Madhav Gadgil, who was

in Kochi to deliver the M K Prasad Endowment Lecture on Monday said that the acquiring of land and construction of the semi high speed rail line through the fragile landscape of Kerala would lead to irreversible environmental and ecological dis-

John Peruvanthanam, noted environmentalist, said that the Detailed Project Report of the Silver Line Rail is totally silent about what the Government proposes to do the restoration of environment and ecology which would get destroyed once the land acquir-

ing process was over. 'What has been left unsaid is the destruction of mangroves spread along the 72 km route in Kasaragod and Kannur districts of the State. It is these mangroves that saved Kerala coast fom the tsunami attack of December 2004 and the subsequent high tidal waves that attacked the coastline.

## 2 men found dead in drain at India Int'l Centre in Delhi

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Two men were found dead in a drain on Tuesday evening at India International Centre in central Delhi. Police said that the initial investigation suggest the duo was murdered. The deceased has been identified as Khurshid (31) and Sajjad (34), both residents of Arariya district in Bihar."The reason of the death prima facie appears to be murder.

First Information Report (FIR) is being registered and further investigation is in process," said a senior police official. According to fire officials, they received information at 6.24 PM regarding the incident at India International Centre, Lodhi State, near Kothi number 57. A total of three fire tenders rushed to the site and two bodies were found floating and bloated in the drain, said the senior Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official.

### 2 held for illegally selling domestic gas cylinders, 80 cylinders recovered

Gurugram: A joint team of Chief Minister Flying Squad Gurugram and Food Supply Department of Gurugram on Tuesday raided at Sarhaul village and booked two people for illegally selling domestic gas cylinders. The salutes of the CM flying wing said they received secret information that few people were illegally selling domestic gas cylinders in Gurugram's Sarhaul village

on day to day basis. After information, the teams raised the spot and detained two people identified as Surdeep a resident of Dwarka in Delhi driver of Mahindra Tempo and Rajkumar a resident of South

The teams have seized 80 domestic gas cylinders of Bharat Gas out of which 70 were filled and 10 empty including 2 of Indian Gas and a Mahindra Tempo. During questioning accused disclosed before police they used to bring gas cylinders from Delhi in their tempo and were selling in Sarhaul village of Gurugram for₹1,000 to 1,200 for the past several months.

## 'Cost of EVs to be...

Gadkari said transport on roads could partly be replaced by waterways, ropeways and even flying buses. Urging MPs to adopt hydrogen technologies for transport, Gadkari asked them to take the initiative in their respective districts for converting sewage water to produce green hydrogen. Hydrogen will soon be the cheapest fuel alternative, he said and invited MPs to his house to be driven in a hydrogen-fueled vehicle. "I can say that within a maximum of two years, the cost of electric scooters, cars and autorickshaws will be the same as their petroldriven versions. Prices of lithium-ion batteries are coming down. We are developing this chemistry of zinc-ion, aluminum-ion, sodium-ion batteries. If on petrol, you are spending Rs 100, then on an EV you will spend ₹10 (for using)," Gadkari said. The Minister expressed concern over 1.50 lakh annual deaths in road accidents in the country

## Mann regularises 35K Group C, D staff

Amidst the delay on Governor's nod, the then Chief Minister Channi had even threatened to sit on dharna outside the Raj Bhawan accusing him of deliberately withholding his assent to a bill for regularising 36,000 contractual employees for some political reasons and "under BJP's pressure".

Raising six queries pertaining to the pending court cases, reservation, and funding, the Governor had reverted the said Bill to the Chief Minister's Office on December 31 - days before the model code of conduct was put in force for State Assembly polls. Among other queries, the Governor had asked the Government to explain how the State Government proposes to meet the expen-

diture as a result of the implementation of the Bill. Claiming that the AAP-led State Government is working dayin, day-out to take pro-people decisions, Mann said that these are also appreciated by the people. "During poll campaigning, several contractual employees approached us, met us. They used to say that they were working as contractual employees since 18 years, and the "Sword of Damocles" was hanging over them all the time. They said that they were paid less than the amount they were made to sign on paper, and most the part goes to the contractors or outsourcing companies. And we had promised to regularise them," said Mann.

Pointing out that contractual and outsourcing employees have been holding protests for a long time for the regularisation of their services, he said: "There was no chowk (intersection) or water tank where they were not holding protest.

He added that Government schools do not have teachers, while eligible teachers are protesting by climbing atop water tanks right outside these institutions for jobs. "No job creation is needed for this. We will do that too, but if we first fill the existing posts that are vacant, it would benefit many," he said.

## ED attaches ₹6.45 cr immovable assets of...

From Page1

The attachment sparked instant protests from the MVA leaders, including NCP President Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut who dubbed the ED's move as an act of "political vendetta" indulged in by the Modi government.

Pawar, who was among the other first few MVA leaders to hit out at the Modi government for "misusing" of its investigation machineries against its political rivals, said: The major issue facing the country is the misuse of its investigation machineries by

Going by the amounts involved in the properties attached, it is clear that the Centre has undertaken a mission to harass people for political or other reasons.

the ruling party at the Centre.

Five to ten years ago, the people did not know that there existed an organisation called ED. Now, even the people in villages know the name of ED. Unfortunately, this only goes to prove that Centre is misusing its investigating machineries".

Raut, who was more vicious in his criticism of the "dictatorial" Modi government at Centre, said: "The ED has attached properties under political pressure arising out of by BJP-led government against its political rivals. Without hearing other side, the ED has undertaken the exercise to create sensation.

In states where it is not in power, the ruling BJP wants to prove that through its investigation machinery, it can make its political rival kneel and surrender to it. The ED has issued similar notices to West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee and his wife.

But, we will not bend or kneel before Centre". Once BJP loses elections in states, it begins to misuse its investigation agencies against leaders of the Opposition governments in the states. The BJP government, which runs diuctorial government at the Centre, puts pressure on the investigation agencies to have its way. As per the information provided in Parliament recently, the ED has initiated maximum number of raids and other forms of action in non-BJP states. During the UPA's 11-year-long regime, mere 22 to 23 actions were taken by the

However, after it came to power in 2014, the Modi government has initiated more than 2,500 scuh actions which go to prove how centre is misusing investigating agencies," Raut said.

Reacting to the ED's action against his maternal uncle Patankar, Shridhar Maharashtra minister and Uddhav Thackeray's son Aaditya Thackeray said: "I was in State Legislature all through the day. I don't know anything about ED's attachment of properties (belonging to my uncle)

I will talk about the issue once I gather information about the whole thing. The question that arises from this kind of actions: is ED deliberately targeting MVA leaders and those close to them".

Meanwhile, giving details of attachment of immovable properties made by it, the ED said that it registered a money Pushpak Bullion and group companies on 06.03.2017; under provisions of PMLA, 2002 and had already provisionally attached immovable and movable properties of Pushpak Bullion to tune of Rs. 21.46 Crore belonging to one Mahesh Patel, Chandrakant Patel, their family members and companies controlled by them.

According to ED, its subsequent investigation had revealed that Mahesh Patel siphoned off and layered funds of Pushpak group company M/s Pushpak Realty Developer in connivance with Mr. Nandkishore Chaturvedi (Accommodation Entry provider).

## Lalu's health deteriorates: airlifted to **Delhi AIIMS**

From Page1

Dr Vidyapati, who heads a seven-member team of doctors formed by RIMS to treat Prasad, earlier said, "The medical board recommended that Prasad be referred to AIIMS, New Delhi as his condition has deteriorated." Prasad was sentenced by a

special CBI court to five years imprisonment and slapped with a fine of ₹60 lakh on February 21 after being convicted in the embezzlement of ₹139 crore from Doranda treasury in the fodder scam. The court had convicted

Prasad on February 15 and pronounced the quantum of the sentence after virtually hearing the arguments.

"Prasad's creatinine level has increased to 4.6, which was earlier at 3.5. Blood sugar and blood pressure have been fluc-

tuating.

The sugar level is hovering between 150 and 200 mg/dl," Dr Vidyapati said. The ebullient politician suffers from multiple ailments, including renal problems. "His kidney is functioning at 15-20 per cent capacity," Dr Vidyapati said. Jharkhand IG, Prisons, Manoj

Kumar, said, "The order was given to shift Lalu Prasad to AIIMS, New Delhi. As per

the jail superintendent, on basis of medical board recommendations, sought formal permission for shifting the convicted patient to another hospital." After his conviction in the ₹139.35 crore Doranda treasury embezzlement case, the fifth and final one against him in the fodder scam, the ailing 73-year-old was lodged in the Birsa Munda Central

Jail and then shifted to state-run RIMS on health grounds.In jail since December 2017, Prasad served most of his sentence period at the RIMS. He was taken to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi in January last year after his health condition deteriorated.

### **OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS. Northern Railway. Delhi Division, New Delhi invites online e-tender through website https://ireps.gov.in. for the parking contract

s.	Name of work with its location/Railway Station	Advertise	Cost of Tender	Earnest	Website particulars where	
N.	,	Value/RP	document	Money	complete details of tender	
		of one year	including 18%	Deposit	document can be seen &	
		in (Rs.)*	GST (in Rs.)	(in Rs.)	uploaded	
'	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Delhi Cantt Railway Station (DEC), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 709 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (One) year	3194664	3540	63900	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking 214-2022	
2.	Parking contract of Car at Delhi Sarai Rohilla (DEE), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 1500 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	2530656	3540	50700	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking 215-2022	
	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station (DEE), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 105.52 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	637200	2360	12800	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking216-2022	
١.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Palam Railway Station (PM), "D" Category, with measuring an area of 414.70 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	1029432	2360	20600	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking217-2022	
5.	Parking contract of Car at Gurgaon Railway Station (GGN), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 689.83 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	774847	2360	15500	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking218-2022	
6.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Gurgaon Railway Station (GGN), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 582.31 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	1506874	2360	30200	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking219-2022	
7.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Ghaziabad (Bhoor side) Railway Station (GZB), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 1088.49 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	2809399	3540	56200	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking220-2022	
3.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Ghaziabad (City side) Railway Station (GZB), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 2450.18 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	4633428	3540	92700	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking221-2022	
9.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at New Delhi (PaharGanj side) Railway Station (NDLS), "A-1" Category, with measuring an area of 3429.19 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	17507504	5900	350200	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking222-2022	
10.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Panipat (2nd Entry) Railway Station (PNP), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 390 sq mtrs on As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	1031844	2360	20700	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking223-2022	
11.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Panipat (1st Entry) Railway Station (PNP), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 477 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	933324	2360	18700	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking224-2022	
12.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Sonipat (2nd Entry) Railway Station (SNP), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 1522.56 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	1500015	2360	30000	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking225-2022	
13.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Sonipat (1st Entry) Railway Station (SNP), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 1942.05 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	1956000	2360	39200	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking226-2022	
14.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Kurukshetra (1st Entry) Railway Station (KKDE), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 648 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	1116000	2360	22400	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking227-2022	
15.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Kurukshetra (2nd Entry) Railway Station (KKDE), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 353 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for a period of 01 (one Year)	408000	1180	8200	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking228-2022	
16.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck- Tempo at KM 5/9-15 between DSA-DLI, "A" Category, with measuring an area of 1600 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", for period of Three (03) Years.	16,99,249	5900	102000	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking229-2022	
17.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck- Tempo at Delhi Sadar Bazar (DSB), "D" Category, with measuring an area of 4722.67 sq mtrs on "As Is Where Is Basis", ", for period of Three (03) Years.	15512500	11800	930800	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking230-2022	
18.	Parking contract of Car at Faridabad Railway Station (FDB), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 1364.97 sq mtrs", for period of Three (03) Years.	10,94,267/-	3540	65700	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking231-2022	
19.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo-Vikram Type Vehicles at New Delhi (Ajmeri Gate Side) Railway station (NDLS), "A-1" Category, with measuring an area of 2452.17 sq mtrs , for period of Three (03) Years.	12214259	11800	732900	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking232-2022	
20.	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Ballabhgarh (2nd Entry) Railway Station (BVH), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 851 sq mtrs", on "As Is Where Is Basis", for period of Three (03) years	663168	2360	39800	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking233-2022	
	plicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the license fee.					

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** FOR LOST OF DOCUMENTS

FOR LOST OF DOCUMENTS
To be known to all that I, PARVEEN GULATI S/o Sh.
Hargobind Singh Gulati, R/o B-10, B Block,
Shopping Center, Tagore Garden, Delhi-110027,
have lost his original property Document i.e.
Perpetual Lease Deed in respect of the Property
Bearing No. B-10, B Block, Shopping Center, Tagore
Garden, New Delhi-110027, have been lost, an NCR
Vide LR No: 240405/2022 against this effect has
been lodged in Crime Branch Police Station Delhi. belief to a contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9999227272 with 15 days from the date of publication of this

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, Mr. Gurvinder Pal Singh Ahuja S/d Late Mr. Jagteshwar Singh Ahuja R/o T-169/D, Jeewan Nagar, Gurudwara Bala Sahib Road, New Delhi-110014 do hereby notify for public at large that he is executing the Will Deed of his father Late Mr. Jagteshwar Singh Ahuja after his death, who has expired on 13.04,2021 and as per his will deed made on 29.12.2020 in favour of my client, Any person/s have any objection/claim (s), interest for the proposed Will Deed Registration of aforesaid Late Mr. Jagteshwar Singh Ahuja may contact the undersigned within 2 days from the publication of the notice, failing which the claim of any such person will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and the Will Deed shall be Registered and Application with

mmediate effect. Amit Anand (Advocate), 102, G.K. House, Plot No.187A, Sant Nagar, New Delhi-110065, M.No. 9958068885



### **CHANGE OF NAME**

I, YOGESH GUPTA son of Shri Vinod Kumar Gupta resident of Village Bolni (164), P.O. GarhiBolni, Distt. Rewari, Haryana-123401, states that two of the names YOGESH KUMAR and YOGESH GUPTA is one and the same person and I shall thereafter be known as YOGESH GUPTA for all future purposes.

PD(9163)A I, MD Ghufran S/o. MD Azam, Resident of C-316,

Gali No.16 & 17, Mustafabad Extension, Delhi-110094 have declared that my correct name is MD Ghufran Alam for all future purposes.

PD(9164)A

## Amendment Bill for merging of MCDs gets Cabinet nod

From Page1

Since the deferment, a bitter war of words has ensued between the BJP, which is ruling the three municipal corporations, and the AAP, the ruling party in the Delhi Government.

The Union Cabinet's nod to the Bill to merge the three municipal corporations in Delhi is now likely to escalate the ongoing political tussle between BJP and AAP ahead of the civic polls.

All three corporations in the city are currently ruled by the BJP, which has been controlling the civic bodies since the trifurcation of the erstwhile unified MCD.

## TMC infighting in Birbhum village...

From Page1

Even the fire brigade officials were not being allowed to enter the village." Bhadu Sheikh was bombed to death on Monday afternoon while he was sitting inside a tea stall triggering the counter-attack in

a matter of a few hours. This was the third incident of people's representative being eliminated in the last one week. Last week a Congress and a Trinamool Congress councilor were shot dead at Jhalda in Purulia district and Panihati in the northern fringes of Kolkata.

Contradictory reports on the number of deaths and the reason behind Monday's fire emanated from various quarters with State police chief Manoj Malavya reporting eight deaths whereas a fire brigade official confirmed 10 deaths.

Locals said 16 people had perished. "Today morning the bodies of seven people have been removed from the same house. Earlier ten people were said to have died. The casualty figures given earlier were not correct. A total of eight people have died," Malviya said, adding the SDPO and the Inspector in-charge had been removed.

Fire officials however said, Three charred bodies were taken out initially and then seven were recovered by us," adding that initially the fire officials were stopped by the assailants from rescuing the victims.

Regarding the cause of the arson Trinamool Congress district president Anubrata Mondal said, "I have reports that it was a short circuit that caused the fire," while the police conceded the bombing incident.

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seek performance audit

## **78K families living** in slums to get flats

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

 $W_{\ pucca\ houses'\ to\ the}^{ith\ an\ aim\ to\ provide}$  thousands of families living in JJ clusters across the national Capital, the Delhi Government has launched its 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan' scheme in the city. On Tuesday, the Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal chaired a high-level meeting to review the plans for in-situ rehabilitation of JJ clusters on the Delhi Government lands under the 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan' scheme. The meeting was held at the Delhi Secretariat in the presence of Delhi's Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain.

According to officials, around 78,000 families will be rehabilitated to permanent houses in a phased manner and about 16,000 families will benJahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan scheme



'The Government has set a three-year deadline for the first 16,000 flats and has directed officers to provide all basic facilities to ensure hassle-free rehabilitation. The flats will be developed on the land of the slums itself instead of the previous provision of developing flats inside a 5 kilometers radius," the official added.

"These families will be given houses at the same site as

where they have their slums. Till the time the pucca houses are constructed, these families will be temporarily shifted to the flats of Delhi Government which have already been developed. Special care will be taken to ensure that these temporary flats are also provided near their slums. Once the DUSIB flats get developed, these families will be shifted to them permanently," said another offi-

## Govt's Armed Forces school to be MCD merger: RWAs named after Bhagat Singh: CM

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has announced the development of a special school for armed forces training in the National Capital. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the school will be named after Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh 'Shaheed Bhagat Singh Armed Forces Preparatory

"The school will have a capacity of a total of 200 seats with 100 seats for class 9 and 11 each. High quality training will be given to students by expert faculty and veteran officers from the armed forces will be employed as trainers," said an official adding that students will be prepared to join the National Defence Academy (NDA), Naval Forces, and other armed services in future.

"It is the 23rd of March, the day of martyrdom of Shaheede-Azam Bhagat Singh. On this

Government is making a crucial announcement, as all of you are well aware that on December 20, 2021, the Cabinet had taken a decision and declared that we will build a new and different type of school in Delhi, one where students will be trained in their early years to enlist in the armed forces," said Kejriwal.

The admission in this school and its facilities will be completely free for whoever wishes to join. It will be a residential campus, with separate hostels for boys and girls. A 14acre stretch of land in Jharoda Kalan has been allotted for the development of this campus, where this new and improved school will be built," said the

"State of the art facilities will be available to all students. The way ideal training for officer-like qualities is provided in the armed forces to young men and women, similar qualities will be imbibed in these students; and hence they will be prepared for NDA, Naval Academy, and other armed services in future. Expert faculty will be employed for optimum training of these students. which will include retired veterans from the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force," Said the

CM.
"The admissions have begun, and classes will commence this year for which we have already received 18,000 applications for just 200 seats. The entrance exam for admission in the 9th class will be held on March 27, and that for 11th class will be held on March 28. This aptitude test will be a screening for the applicants as phase one of the admission process. Post clearing this round, selected students will be interviewed after which the final 200 students will be enrolled," said Kejriwal.

## **STAFF REPORTER** NEW within a time-bound period

before holding the municipal elections," it added. With the Union Cabinet giving nod for the unifi-Delhi has five local bodies cation of three municipal cornamely the North, East and porations of Delhi (MCD), the South Delhi municipal corpo-Resident Welfare Associations rations, the Delhi Cantonment (RWAs) in the national Capital Board and the New Delhi called for an audit of the per-Municipal Council. formance of municipal departments and more involve-The majority of Delhi's area is covered by the North,

ment of civil society in the uni-South and East Delhi corporafication process. tions. These three corpora-According to the letter by the United Resident Joint Action of Delhi (URJA) to tions were known as a single entity as Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) before 2012. Delhi Lieutenant Governor, Anil Baijal, URJA welcomed the announcement of unifica-

The then Sheila Dixit government in 2012 decided to trifurcate the MCD.

The move was opposed by the RWAs, saying it had led to unequal distribution of funds and mismanagement as there was no accountability.

Echoing similar concerns, S Vohra, the head of East Delhi RWA, said RWAs were always against the trifurcation of MCDs, but it was done any

"It is good news that they have decided to unify the MCDs. But we feel there should be more participation of civil societies. We suggest that RWA members should be part of the decision-making body of MCDs to ensure proper imple-

## Traffic on Delhi-G'gram expressway may be disrupted today: Police

Gurugram: Traffic on the Delhi-Jaipur Highway number 48 — may be disrupted on Wednesday due to a proposed march from the Kherki Daula toll plaza to Hero Honda Chowk in support of the demand for the creation of an Ahir Regiment in the Indian Army, the Gurugram Police said in a statement This Highway section will be

closed for traffic, the statement Furthermore, following

traffic restrictions and diversions have been planned to minimise public inconvenience. According to the statement, commuters from Jaipur will be directed to Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) just before Kherki Dhaulla toll (Givo Cut) and they can reach their destination via Sohna road. Vehicular traffic from Delhi has been advised to take alternate routes via Golf

The Delhi High Court Tuesday issued fresh

notices to several political lead-

ers, including Anurag Thakur

Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Delhi

Deputy Chief Minister Manish

Sisodia and others (AAP/

AIMIM), on pleas to make

them parties to proceedings

seeking FIR and investigation

against them for allegedly deliv-

ering hate speeches leading to

the February 2020 riots amidst

protests against the Citizenship

Siddharth Mridul and Rajnish

Bhatnagar issued fresh notices

after noting that the earlier

notices issued by the court on

February 28 could not be

served due to non-payment of

(Amendment) Act.

A bench of

Course road and Sohna road.

'All Heavy/Goods vehicles - The road section will be closed for a full day. From Jaipur - All heavy/Goods vehicles are advised to take Kundli Manesar Palwal (KMP) from Panchgaon to go to Delhi as well as Faridabad. Also from Delhi -All heavy/Goods vehicles are advised to take Sohna road and

closed for all the heavy/goods vehicles," it added.

"A number of traffic personnel will be deployed at all the major points to divert vehicles. Commuters are advised to plan their travel accordingly," said Ravinder Singh Tomar, DCP (traffic), Gurugram police.

Delhi HC issues fresh notices to

not filed. On the filing of process

The court listed the matter

for further hearing on April 29.

The court, which was dealing

with a batch of petitions con-

cerning the 2020 riots in north-

east Delhi, issued notice to all

proposed respondents - per-

sons against whom action is

tion was filed by petitioner Shaikh Mujtaba Farooq who

has sought FIR for hate speech

against BJP leaders Anurag

Thakur, Kapil Mishra, Parvesh

petitioner, 'Lawyers Voice',

The other application is by

Verma and Abhay Verma.

One impleadment applica-

sought in two petitions.

Sonia, Thakur over 2020 riots

Traffic movement would be diverted at Hero Honda chowk towards Subhash chowk and Pataudi road.

KMP," the statement informed. "Road section will remain

(politicians, celebrity, activists Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and and others) as process fees were Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as well

fees by the petitioners within two days and taking all other steps, Amanatullah Khan, AIMIM

days and taking all other steps, Amanatullah Khan, AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi,

## Holi than last year: Delhi Police **STAFF REPORTER** NEW

PCR got 19.2% less calls on

The Delhi Police on Tuesday claimed that the police control room (PCR) calls on its helpline this Holi was 19.2 per cent lesser than last year. This year, Holi and Shab-e-Barat fell on the same day. According to data shared by police, in 2022, the festival was celebrated on March 17 and 18, and a total of 11,614 PCR calls were received on

"While in 2021, the holi festival was celebrated on March 28 and 29 and the total calls received on these two days were 14,371. There was a significant decline of 32.8 per cent in the number of PCR calls related to quarrels or brawls," as per the data.

as Deputy CM Manish Sisodia,

Pathan, Mehmood Pracha,

Mander,

Mohammad Ismail, Swara

Bhasker, Umar Khalid, BG

Kolse Patil — former Bombay

High Court Judge and others.

matter where the Supreme Court, while dealing with one

of the petitions, had asked the

high court to expeditiously

dispose of the plea and now the

petitioners were not pursuing

"You are making allegations against certain individu-

als and now they are not before

us as you did not file process

fees and notice is not issued to

them. We need all material of

service on record before we

proceed," the bench said

properly.

The bench said this was a

Mufti

found related to quarrels this year in comparison to 7,331 calls in 2021. The percentage of calls of quarrel vis-a-vis total calls received has also shown a downtrend. In 2021, it was 51 per cent whereas in 2022, it was found to be only 42 per cent, the data

The maximum number of 1,080 PCR calls were received from Dwarka district this year, whereas the maximum 562 calls related to quarrel were from Outer North district, the data showed.

The least number of PCR as well as quarrel related calls — 143 and 38 calls — were received from New Delhi district, it stated.

Last year, the maximum number of 1,304 PCR calls

Water Minister Satyendar Jain Tuesday said the

Yamuna River will be com-

pletely cleaned by December

Speaking at a virtual ses-

sion organised by Assocham,

he said that all the wastewater

in Delhi will be tapped in the

next six months and all areas

will be linked to the sewer net-

work in the next 15 months.

by December 2023 and not

2025. All the drains will be

completely cleaned... I am con-

fident. We will invite you all to

take a dip in any stretch of the

drains in Delhi will be so clean

that you will find fish in the

"The Yamuna and all the

river in Delhi," he said.

"We will clean the Yamuna

2023 and not 2025.

Yamuna will be

says Water Min

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI water," Jain said.

cleaned by 2023,

while 711 calls related to quarrels were received from the South district, it said.

Similarly, the least numbers of 131 PCR calls were received from New Delhi district which also got the 42 calls related to quarrels last year, it In order to ensure that the

festivals remains peaceful, the police had made elaborate security arrangements, and taken a host of measures, including maintaining optimal visibility of the force, intensive patrolling, integrated picket checking, presence of adequate number of traffic personnel violations/drunken driving, additional deployment of force in sensitive pockets, etc,

in the next five to 10 years,

Delhi's groundwater table will

be as good as it was 50 years

ago. "We conducted an exper-

iment on 25 acres of land at

Palla (on the northern outskirts

of the capital near the Delhi-

Haryana border)... It proved

successful and we are replicat-

increase in drinking water sup-

ply, Delhi aims to achieve a

sewage treatment capacity of

around 1,000 million gallons a

744 million gallons of sewage a day, while the DJB supplies

around 935 MGD of drinking

water against the demand of

day in the near future.

Jain said considering the

Delhi generates around

ing it now," he said.

## Doctor sacked following death of 3 heart patients

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $\Gamma$  pollowing the death of three patients with heart blockage earlier this month at Delhi Government-run Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital in the city, an Associate Professor of cardiology, who was working on contractual basis, was sacked on orders from the Delhi Secretariat.

According to a senior official, an action against the doctor was initiated on March 10 before a four-member committee was set up to review the matter.

The professor, who was working on contractual basis at Rajiv Ğandhi Super Specialty Hospital in east Delhi, was terminated from service after the death of three patients with heart blockage earlier this month on orders from the Delhi Secretariat," said the official.

## ernment by the Comptroller mentation," he said. Kejriwal writes to Shah for regularisation of NDMC staff

tion of the three municipalities,

but expressed concerns over

the methodology with which

the process of unification of

"The working quality and

municipality is undergoing.

financial condition of the tri-

furcated municipal bodies got

strained and as a result, all

development work by previous

state government was com-

promised, and the city went

back to the condition of what

it was during 1995," the letter

formance audit' of the various

departments of the municipal

corporation along with the

process of grants by state gov-

"URJA demands for a 'per-

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has written a letter to Union Home Minister Council in its Amit Shah, seeking regularisa- meeting Council's (NDMC) 'regular muster roll' (C and D group)

In the letter, Kejriwal wrote that there are around 4,500 employees in NDMC who are presently working as regular muster roll (RMR) and are waiting to become regular employees of NDMC.

Through his letter, Kejriwal also drew Shah's attention to the issue of approval of recruitment rules of Group 'C' posts in NDMC for grant of permanent employee status to these employees.

The proposal for approval of draft recruitment rules of group C posts in NDMC had been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) vide let-

September 25, 2020 stated the letter. "Subsequently

revised proposal was sent through letter dated April 16, 2021. These RMRs are waiting for many years for

their regularization against the existing vacancies in NDMC in the erstwhile group 'D' (now upgraded to Group 'C' posts)," the letter further said.

"In this regard, various communications and replies sent to MHA are being enclosed for ready references. These employees have devoted a number of years as TMR and RMR in NDMC and are suffering for long for want of regularization as regular employ-



"Keeping in view of the urgency of the matter, it is kindly requested to issue necessary directions for speedy approval of the draft recruitment rules of Group C so that these RMR employees can be made regular NDMC employees and would resolve their long pending grievance," Kejriwal further said in the let-

#### process fees by the petitioners. which has sought the registration of hate speech FIRs against "Notices could not be served to the proposed respondents Congress leaders Sonia Post-reunification, new civic body will be stronger, Mayor's position

will rise: Sitting and former Mayors PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the Centre likely to introduce a bill in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament to reunify the three municipal corporations in Delhi, many serving and former mayors on Tuesday said a unified civic body will be "stronger", development projects will get "fast-tracked" and the position of mayor will "receive a boost".

Senior BJP leader and former South Delhi mayor Subhash Arya, 77, welcomed the proposed unification and said it would lead to further streamlining civic services.

"The new unified civic body will be a stronger one and the position of mayor will rise significantly, and it will be equivalent to that of a CM, as it was when we had a unified MCD. Also, we are hopeful that financial condition would also be enhanced through appropriate measures," he told PTI. Arya had served as a leader

of the House and a leader of the opposition in unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). All three corporations in

> trolling the civic bodies since the trifurcation of the erstwhile unified MCD and also from 2012-2017 prior to it. The BJP and the AAP have been at loggerheads for the past several years over the issue of

civic funds, and accused each

other of "playing politics" over

the city are currently ruled by

the BJP, which has been con-

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday gave its nod to a bill to merge the three municipal corporations in Delhi, a move that is likely to escalate the ongoing political tussle between the BJP and the AAP ahead of the

high-stakes civic polls. The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill is likely to be introduced in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament, sources in the government said

Hot morning, min temp 22.5 degrees Celsius



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital experienced a hot morning on Tuesday with the minimum temperature settling at 22.5 degrees Celsius, five notches above the normal, according to official data.

The relative humidity at 8:30 am was 69 per cent, the India Meteorological Department stated.

Delhi had recorded its highest maximum temperature of the season on Monday. It had logged a high of 36.6 degrees Celsius and a low of 20.5 degrees Celsius.

The maximum temperature on Tuesday is likely to hover around 36 degrees Celsius and strong surface winds have been forecast.

The air quality index (AQI) of Delhi was in the 'poor' category (reading 215) in the morning, according to Central Pollution Control Board data at An AQI between zero and

50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, and 401 on the Bill, saying it can give its response on the proposed

## Bill to merge 3 civic bodies mere 'tactic' to delay polls, won't help save BJP: AAP

PTI NEW DELHI

1,150 MGD.

The AAP on Tuesday dubbed the Union Cabinet's nod to a Bill for unicorporations of Delhi mere "tactics" to delay the civic polls, but asserted that Delhiites have made up their minds to oust

The Arvind Kejriwal-led party urged the Delhi State Election Commission not to "buckle" under pressure of the BIP government and to conduct the municipal elections on time as the new civic bodies have to be formed before May

It also appealed to the BJP to let the poll panel conduct the election and not to run away from it under the excuse of unification of the civic

The AAP, however, refrained from commenting amendments only after it appears in the public domain.

Slamming the Centre over the move, AAP's Delhi unit convenor and Environment Minister Gopal Rai alleged that the government brought the Bill to delay the civic polls as the BJP was set to lose the elections. The BJP should "give up"

its efforts to keep the municipal elections on hold as it would not change its fate, he added. "The longer the BJP delays

the election, the more loses it will suffer," Rai told reporters when asked to comment on the According to sources in the

government, the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill is likely is be introduced in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament. Rai said the merger of the three municipal corporations in Delhi would not make "any dif-

Reunification of civic bodies will help BJP attempt image makeover, say its leaders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the Centre likely to bring a Bill in the coming days to reunify three existing municipal corporations in the city, many in the Delhi BJP, ruling the civic bodies since 2007, believed that the move will give the party a chance to attempt an image makeover and fight anti-incumbency against it in future polls.

The dates of polls for 272 wards of North, East and South Delhi Municipal Corporations due in April are yet to be announced by the State Election Commission amid developments related to reunification process.

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday gave its nod to the Bill to merge the three municipal corporations in Delhi, sources in the government said.

The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill is likely to be introduced in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament, they said.

9 million litre capacity being installed: DIAL

Two rainwater tanks of

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ **N**EW DELHI

**T**he Delhi International ▲ Airport Limited (DIAL) on Tuesday said that they are establishing two rainwater storage tanks of a total nine million litre capacity at Indira Gandhi International

According to the statement issued by the DIAL, the two reservoirs – one near Terminal 1 and the other near Terminal 2 of Delhi airport – will become operational in the coming monsoon. "These would help the air-

port store about nine million litres of rainwater. Once commissioned, the stored rainwater would be able to supplement the demand of water and will help in water sustenance at the airport," the DIAL further stated.

Over the years, DIAL has installed more than 350 rainwater-harvesting structures and is currently adding additional 300 such structures at the Delhi airport, it mentioned.

## Parl sees protest over rise in fuel prices

NEW DELHI

The steep hike in prices of The steep nike in prices of fuel and cooking gas on Tuesday led to vociferous protests in Parliament. While Rajya Sabha witnessed disruptions with the Opposition forcing adjournment of proceedings, the Lok Sabha had Opposition parties stage a brief walkout. In Rajya Sabha, agitated MPs from the Congress and TMC carried placards and raised slogans. Some of them then trooped into the well of the house. The first adjournment came shortly after the proceedings commenced for the day.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu did not allow a discussion on fuel price hike. He said he had not accepted notices given by Shaktisinh Gohil (Congress), Dola Sen (TMC), Sivadasan, Elamaram Kareem and John Brittas (CPM) under rule 267, requiring setting aside of the listed agenda to take up a discussion. As the chair started Zero Hour, the TMC members came into the well carrying placards. Congress, Left, Samajwadi Party and Shiv Sena MPs were up on their feet, some shouting slogans. Naidu then adjourned

at 11.10 am. Similar scenes were witnessed when the house reassembled with the determined Opposition trying to raise the issue. Deputy Chairman Harivansh tried to reason with them and appealed for smooth functioning of the Question Hour. The chair also asked TMC leader Derek O'Brien to call his party MPs back to their seats.

The protesting members did not relent and Harivansh then adjourned the house till 2pm. Petrol and diesel prices were on Tuesday hiked by 80 paise a litre each while domestic cooking gas LPG rates were increased by Rs 50 per cylinder after four and half months.

Raising the issue after Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the opposition parties had been claiming that the prices of diesel and petrol would increase after the election process. Members of the Congress, TMC, NCP, DMK and Left parties raised slogans from their seats against fuel price hike and demanded a rollback. The opposition parties had tried to raise issue of as soon as Lok Sabha met for Question Hour, but were disallowed by Speaker Om Birla.

## Opposition parties punch hole in UDAN scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

he Opposition on Tuesday In Lok Sabha sought to punch holes in the Government's regional con-nectivity scheme UDAN claiming that less than 50 per cent routes awarded under the marquee initiative were operational and only a fraction were functioning without subsidy.

BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy who is also a commercial pilot urged for the need to develop 30-40 greenfield airports in the country to cater to the requirement of ever increasing number of air passengers.

Participating in the discussion on demands for grants for the Civil Aviation Ministry, he said that upgrading existing airports and using defence enclaves for civil aviation "is not Former Civil the future." Aviation Minister Rudy said the capacity of existing airports or brown field airports cannot be increased beyond a point even after incurring huge expenditure. Similarly, the airports at defence enclaves cannot be upgraded as air force planes do not need CAT-3 or night landing facilities which are essential for operating large civilian aircraft. He asked the government to expedite development of a new airport at Patna and focus on "developing 25, 30 or 40 greenfield airports in the country.

Rudy said that the first revolution in the civilian aviation sector was started by the father of current Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Madhavrao Scindia who opened the sector by allowing private airlines.

Initiating a discussion in Lok Sabha, Čongress member Ravneet Singh Bittu said only 405 routes out of the 948 awarded by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) since October 2016 were operational as on December 2021. Bittu also voiced concern over the budgetary cuts for Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB).

"In wake of recent air crash in China, I would urge minister to seek greater allocations for three divisions at revised estimate stage," said Bittu, a Lok Sabha member from Ludhiana. Trinamool member Mahua Moitra also questioned the lower allocation for the UDAN scheme. She demanded that the civil aviation ministry be scrapped and merged to create a holistic ministry for transport as it was no longer in the business of running a national air-

DMK member S R Parthiban wondered how the UDAN scheme would succeed when private airline operators were looking for profitable routes. Bittu also flagged concerns about double night shifts for pilots, claiming that it resulted in fatigue and could have serious consequences.

## Centre closely monitoring virus trajectory: MoS Health

WELFARE

It is an independent study

conducted by a team of researchers from the

Department of Mathematics

and Statistics at the institute

that has prepared a mathe-

matical model and submitted

the same to a pre-print server

for experts to comment. The

same is not peer-reviewed,

based on a certain set of inputs

either based on real-world sce-

narios or approximations of

those inputs that are not avail-

able (which may vary in accu-

racy according to the technique

Modelling studies are

Pawar said.

used), she stated.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday told the Rajya Sabha that it is closely following the virus tra-jectory globally, given the emergence of its new variants even as it almost rejected various mathematical models meant for predicting coronavirus waves, saying that they have repeatedly failed to give reliable results due to a small sample size.

În a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar further said the network of Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) of laboratories is undertaking whole genome sequencing of samples for a timely detection of the mutant variants of the

On whether researchers at the Indian institutes of technology (IITs) have predicted a fourth wave of the pandemic in the country between June and August, she said the IIT Kanpur has clarified that it has not forecast a fourth wave of Covid-19.

"Often these studies involve taking a relatively small actual sample and extrapolating the result to the entire population. While this may achieve near accurate results for a small homogenous country or region, such techniques have failed repeatedly to give reliable results for a large, diverse population," the minister said. Later, at the launch of the

BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre and Workshop on Vaccine Cooperation through videoconference here, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that India is willing to offer its robust manufacturing industry for developing vaccines for BRICS countries as well as the

India has one of the world's largest vaccine manufacturing industries which supplies vaccines to more than 150 countries and meets 65-70 per cent of the WHO's vaccine requirements, Mandaviya said "India is willing to offer its robust vaccine manufacturing industry for developing vaccines for BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) as well as the world," the minister said.

## **PM Modi urges citizens to** save every drop of water

PNS NEW DELHI

On World Water Day Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for saving every drop of water and said it is heartening to see water conservation become a mass movement over the last few years. "On World Water Day, let's reaffirm our pledge to save every drop of water. Our nation is undertaking numerous measures like Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure water conservation and access to clean drinking water for our citizens," Modi said in a tweet.

"Over the last few years, it is heartening to see water conservation become a mass movement, with innovative efforts taking place in all parts of the nation. I would like to appreciate all those individuals and organisations who are working towards saving water,' he said. He also appreciated all individuals and organisations

— विश्व जल दिवस जल जीवन मिशन से घर-घर पहुंची खुशियों की धारा देश में पानी के मुद्दों को सुलझाने के लिए सरकार ने जल शक्ति का गठन किया,

working towards saving water. Modi posted a video that showed his earlier messages about the importance of water preservation and his government's efforts in this regard. 'Together, let's further water conservation and contribute to a sustainable planet. Every drop saved helps our people and enhances our progress," he

Referring to a tweet from the Jal Shakti Ministry, he said the Jal Jeevan Mission, a pro-

gramme aimed at bringing piped water to every household, is proving very effective in making the lives of women simple. The resolve of taking water to every house will be fulfilled with people's participation, he added. The ministry had said that over six crore houses have been given piped water in the last two-and-half years under Modi's leadership. There was a time when women had to travel a long distance to

## Aatmanirbhar Bharat: Govt to acquire desi Def equipment worth ₹8 K cr RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

In a determined bid to promote local industry in defence production, the Government on Tuesday gave the nod for acquiring indigenous equipment worth over Rs 8,500 crores. It also approved a scheme worth nearly Rs 400 crores for innovations by the Indian entrepreneurs for developing world class weapon sys-

These major decisions were taken in the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in its meeting on Tuesday here chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. It is the apex body to approve the proposals for acquisitions.

Giving details later, defence ministry officials said later Rainath accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for Capital Acquisition proposals of Armed Forces amounting to Rs 8,357 crore. As an impetus to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', all of these proposals have been approved under 'Buy (Indian

IDDM)' category with focus on indigenous design and development and manufacturing in India. The AoNs accorded by the DAC include procurement of Night Sight (Image Intensifier), Light Vehicles GS 4X4, Air Defence Fire Control Radar (Light) and GSAT 7B Satellite. Acquisition of these equipment and systems will enhance operational preparedness of Armed Forces by providing better visibility, enhanced mobility, improved communication and increased capability of detecting enemy

In a path-breaking initiative to encourage innovation, the DAC also accorded consolidated AoN for procurements amounting to Rs 380.43 crore from the iDEX startups and MSMEs. To accelerate the pace of indigenisation, achieve self-reliance in defence and to facilitate Ease of Doing Business for defence industry, the DAC approved effecting the following policy initiatives in the DAP-2020. These include

all modernisation requirements of defence forces to be indige nously sourced and import to be resorted to only as exception. To reduce financial burden on the defence industry, requirement of IPBG is to be dispensed with and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be introduced as bid security and PCIP cover upto contract stage. EMD will be applicable only for proposals of Rs 100 Cr and above and MSMEs and Startups will be exempted from Vendors whose products

are successfully trial evaluated will be provided a certificate to that effect. IDEX and Make II procedures have been simplified thereby compressing timelines and ensuring early placement of contracts on successful iDEX and Make II vendors.

Rajnath gave the go=ahead for procurement of 14 items worth Rs 380.43 crore from the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) startups and MSMEs. These items will be procured by the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. The DAC also approved the new simplified procedure for procurement from iDEX startups and MSMEs. This would fast-track the procurement from the startups/MSMEs. The procurement cycle

from the AON to contract signing will be around 22 weeks as per the new procedure. Suitable incorporation will be made in the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2022. The DAC also approved the simplified procedure for Make-II category projects on similar lines of iDEX procedure and would considerably bring down the time taken from prototype development to Contract signing in Make-II projects.

The iDEX, a game changer in the Defence eco-system, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018 with the objective of fostering innovation and incorporating cutting-edge and disruptive technologies in the Armed Forces in a quick timeframe. The iDEX scheme, since

its initiative in 2018, has now gathered momentum, and it is expected that around 25-40 items after the successful prototyping by the iDEX star-tups/MSMEs, will be ready for procurement by this year end.

The iDEX scheme has been instituted under the over-arching mission of the defence ministry to achieve self-reliance and indigenisation. The iDEX is catalysing the vibrant energy of our startup eco-system and is today steering trans-disciplinary innovations.

An enterprising network of experts from the Services, DPSUs, Industry, Academia, iDEX officials and the startups/MSMEs are involved in the process of co-creation and co-innovation. The aim is to provide atleast 50 world class solutions to the Armed Forces and the defence industry in the near future. The five editions of DISC and the various Open Challenges have been a huge success and have witnessed tremendous interest and participation from the startups.

## Cong prez continues to engage with G23 leaders

In line of fire for the recent Assembly poll debacle, Congress president Sonia Gandhi continued to engage with the dissident leaders, particularly with the Group of 23 (G23) affiliations, and met Deputy Leader of Congress in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma and Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari on Tuesday.

This meeting has come within days of her meeting with Ghulam Nabi Azad and her son Rahul Gandhi's meeting with Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Azad, Hooda, Sharma, Tewari are members of group of 23 senior disgruntled and dissenting party leaders who have advocated an overhaul of the grand old party. Sources said Sonia is expected to meet other leaders

of the G-23 as well in the coming days and before she conducts a second Congress Working Committee (ČWC) meeting shortly.

The first was chaired by her two days after the assembly poll results after which the leadership, particularly Sonia, Rahul and General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, were blamed for the rout in five states including Punjab, Goa and Uttarakhand where it had a formidable

Sonia held discussions on resolving internal party issues and it is learnt that during the meeting, the leaders suggested ways to strengthen the party and revive it to help take on the BJP in the next round of elections in more States including Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat within a year. Anand Sharma is

a big leader from Himachal Pradesh. Another Congress Rajya Sabha MP and a leader of the G-23, Vivek Tankha, was also present during the meeting on Tuesday at Sonia's residence. Tuesday's interaction was part of the series of meetings that the Congress top leadership is having with some of the leaders who have raised critical organisational issues and have suggested measures to revamp the party.

These meetings are being held amidst indications that some of the G-23 leaders may be accommodated in the CWC or a new body like the Parliamentary Board, which will be responsible for all policy decisions including finalising chief ministerial candidates and tie-ups with likeminded parties in states.

## Union Cabinet hikes MSP of raw jute by | Israel PM's visit to strengthen ₹250 to ₹4,750 per quintal for 2022-23

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday increased the minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute by ₹250 to ₹4,750 per quintal for the 2022-23 season. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also approved extension of applicability of 'New Investment Policy-2012' for three upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni. The CCEA approval of increasing MSP of raw jute is based on recommendations

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. "The MSP of raw jute (TDN3 equivalent to TD5 grade) has been fixed at ₹4,750 per quintal for 2022-23 season with an increase of ₹250 over previous year. This would

ensure a return of 60.53 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production," an official statement said. Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as Central Government nodal agency to undertake price support operations and losses incurred, if any, in such operations, will be fully reimbursed by Centre."It assures a minimum of 50 per cent as margin of profit. It is one of important and progressive steps towards ensuring better remunerative returns to jute growers and to incentivise quality jute fibre," the statement said. HURL, incorporated in June, 2016, is a joint venture of Coal India Ltd, NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation. It is reviving erstwhile Gorakhpur and Sindri Units of FCIL and Barauni Unit of GFCL by setting up new gas based urea plants with an installed capacity of 12.7 lakhtonnes per annum.

## bilateral cooperation: MEA PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

▼srael Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's visit to India from April 3-5 is expected to further strengthen the excellent bilateral cooperation in diverse areas such as agriculture, water, trade and science and technology, the Ministry of External Affairs said here on Tuesday.

The Pioneer had on Tuesday reported about his visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visit marks 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and India. Incidentally, Modi was the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel in 2017. Officially announcing Bennett's visit to India, the external affairs ministry said Israeli PM will

undertake the three-day visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two leaders had earlier met on the sidelines of COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021, and also had a telephonic conversation on August 16, 2021, the ministry statement noted.

The visit by Bennett would be his first to India in his capacity as prime minister. India and Israel elevated their bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership during Modi's historic visit to Israel in July 2017, the statement noted.

Since then, the two countries have continued to deepen their strategic partnership, with a focus on innovation and research as two knowledgebased economies. The visit by the Israeli PM is expected to further strengthen our excellent bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including in agriculture, water, trade, education and science and technology, the statement said. Earlier, Bennett had said he will be visiting India in the first week of April to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

between the two countries. "I am delighted to pay my first official visit to India at the invitation of my friend, Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi, and together we willcontinue leading the way for our countries' relations," Bennett had said. "Modi restarted relations between India and Israel, and this is of historic importance. The relations between our two unique cultures, Indian culture and the Jewish culture, are deep, and they rely on deep appreciation and meaningful collaborations," he had said.

## Few takers for FSSAI's health rating for packaged food

PNS NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standard ▲ Authority of Índia's (FSSAI) proposed plan to introduce Health Star Rating (HSR) for packaged food products as recommended by the private institution, IIM Ahmedabad, has not gone down well with the consumer organisations and doctors who strongly felt that such "a system can be easily manipulated by the industry".

As per the 'Health Star' rating system, packaged foods will display the number of stars on the front of the pack, indicating how healthy or unhealthy it is depending upon the amount of salt, sugar and fat it has. These are on the lines of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) star rating for electrical appliances."This is where problem lies. Industry can easily manipulate the system as food products high in sugar or fat that

deserve a low rating (1 star) could get a moderate rating (3 or even 4 stars) only because they contain some positive nutrients (for example, fruit and nut chocolates)," explained Dr Arun Gupta from Nutrition Advocacy for Public Interest (NAPi) and central coordinator of the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India. NAPi , representing the

consumers' organizations seeking mandatory pictorial warning labels on all processed food high in salt, sugar and fats, has now sought the Niti Aayog intervention in the matter.

In fact, the IIM report too talks about our point of view that "There is scientific evidence which proves that warning labels deter people from picking up unhealthy packaged food," said Dr Gupta. Yet, the HSR system has been favoured to please the industry at cost of the health the consumers, he

added."What is purpose of having such a system if it is not able to help people, particularly parents, to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy food for The FSSAI must under-

stand that packaged foods that are high in salt, sugar, fat (HFSS), are the main cause for the increasing number of non communicable diseases such as diabetes and stroke. Only a simple warning FOPL can check as has been happening in Chile," Dr Gupta said matter-of-factly.

The consumer activists have also pointed out that in the backdrop of a recent study conducted by the AIIMS, Rishikesh which has stated that a majority of consumers prefer simple labeling, the FSSAI should call for a wider consultation before introducing (HSR) system. Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), Jaipur,

Consumer Voice, New Delhi,

and Citizen consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), Chennai too have questioned the decision of FSSAI in going ahead with HSR label without proper consultation with stakeholders and that too when processes are in initial stages.

'Consumers, especially from the districts, rarely look for star labels on products," said Saroja Sundaram, Executive Director, CAG, a member of the Council of Consumers International.

George Cheriyan from CUTS International, Asim Sanyal from Consumer Voice and Amit Khurana, CSE too opposed HSR Model for India due to reasons that health star ratings are taken with a positive connotation and do not meet intention of FOPL regarding warning for negative nutrients, which may be overwhelmed by positive nutrients in the algorithm design for HSR.

## GSK fined ₹10L for misleading Sensodyne ad PNS NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has slapped a fine of Rs 10 lakh on GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare Ltd, the manufacturers of Sensodyne toothpaste products, and also directed it to discontinue the misleading advertisement within seven days.

The Sensodyne toothpaste advertisement claiming it is 'Recommended by dentists worldwide' and is the 'World's No 1 sensitivity toothpaste," was found to be misleading. Last month, the CCPA imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on the online home shopping company, Naaptol, and ordered itto drop its misleading advertisements. According to the CCPA, advertisements which show endorsements by foreign dentists have

been ordered to be discontinued. The CCPA, headed by IAS Nidhi Khare, "recently passed order against misleading advertisements of Sensodyne products which make claims Recommended by dentists worldwide' and 'World's No 1 sensitivity toothpaste," the CCPA said in a statement.

Earlier, on February 9, 2022, the CCPA had passed an order directing discontinuation of advertisement of Sensodyne products which show endorsement by foreign dentists.

The CCPA had initiated suo-moto action against advertisement of Sensodyne products on various platforms including television, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. The ads show dentists practising outside India (UK) endorsing the use of Sensodyne products namely Sensodyne Rapid Relief and Sensodyne Fresh Gel for protection against teeth sensitivity.

These advertisements make claims that Sensodyne is 'Recommended by dentists worldwide', 'World's No. 1 sensitivity toothpaste' and 'clinically proven relief, works in 60 seconds', the CCPA said.

"After examination of the

response submitted by the company, CCPA observed that the two market surveys submitted by company in support of its claims 'Recommended by dentists worldwide' and 'World's No.1 sensitivity toothpaste' made in advertisements were conducted only with dentists in India. "No cogent study or material were submitted by company to substantiate claims made in advertisements or indicate any worldwide prominence of Sensodyne products. Thus, the claims were observed to be bereft of any reason or justification," the ministry said. With respect to claim of 'clinically

proven relief, works in 60 sec-

onds', the CCPA had written to Drugs Controller General of India, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to furnish its comments on the correctness of the claims made by the company.

The CDSCO has directed Assistant Drug Controller, Licensing Authority, Silvassa to investigate claims made by company since product in question is manufactured under cosmetic license granted by State Licensing Authority, Silvassa. In wake of consumer sensitivity around Covid-19 pandemić, CCPA took stringent action against misleading advertisements whereby 13 companies withdrew their advertisements and three companies made corrective advertisements. Further, to safeguard con-

sumer interest against misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices, CCPA has also issued two advisories.

### YOGI'S SECOND TERM

## Stage set for grand oath ceremony

grand swearing-in ceremony of the second Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh at the sprawling Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ikana stadium in the state capital on March 25.

According to sources, an all important meeting of the BJP legislature party to elect its leader will be held Thursday evening, in which Union Union Home Minister Amit Shah and former Chief Minister of Jharkhand Raghubar Das will take part as observer and co-

The formality of electing Yogi Adityanath as the new chief minister will be done in the meeting, they said on Tuesdav. Shah will also deliberate on the constitution of the Ministry in the meeting with the newly elected MLAs, they said.

On Monday, State unit president of the party Swatantra Dev Singh and general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal had held a meeting with party office bearers, during which they were assigned with responsibilities for the swearing-in ceremony. After coming to power with full

vis-à-vis Jammu & Kashmir

which reflect national interests

do not align with that of the

Congress Party. @INCIndia remains disconnected with

expressed his views on the film The Kashmir Files. "What hap-

pened in Kashmir was nothing short of genocide. Hindus from

Kashmir, Doda, Bhaderwah &

Kishtwar were killed & driven

out of their homeland. I was in

Srinagar in 1989. My family suf-

fered irreparable losses there-

after. Hundreds lost their lives.

30 years on justice & closure

awaits all those who suffered as

a consequence of this brutal

genocide. It is clear who the

players & enablers were.

Shameful to see those in denial"

, Maharaja Hari Singh's grand-

Recently Singh had also

ground realities".

majority in 2017 assembly elections, the BJP had chosen Adityanath, the five-term MP from Gorakhpur, as the state CM, and had also made him the leader of the BJP legislature party. On March 19, 2017, Yogi took the oath as chief minister of UP along with two deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma, as well as other minis-During the recently

concluded assembly elections, BJP and its allies together posted victory on 273 of the total 403

## Swearing-in of Pramod Sawant as

PM Modi to attend ceremony "My position on critical issues

Panaji: The swearing-in ceremony of Pramod Sawant as Goa's Chief Minister will be held on March 28 and prominent BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will attend the event.

Talking to reporters on Tuesday, Sawant said the ceremony would be held at Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium near here on March 28 at 11 am. Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president JP Nadda, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Chief Ministers of seven BJP-ruled states would

The BJP has already submitted a letter of support of 25 MLAs to Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai, who has invited them to form the next

## J&K safe for business, L-G tells visiting Gulf CEOs

T ieutenant Governor Manoj LSinha on Tuesday addressed the Gulf Countries' Investment Summit at SKICC, Srinagar which is aimed at providing a platform for the foreign business delegates to explore a host of investment opportunities in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor highlighted the scope for J&K and GCC companies' economic cooperation to make J&K UT, paradise on earth, as the most beautiful investment destination in the

The Lt Governor said that the visit of CEOs of top companies, entrepreneurs, start-up representatives, exporters in J&K is an expression of confidence of the industry leaders in the potential for business cooperation between J&K and Gulf countries.

The CEO of Century Financial, Bal Krishen, a native of Jammu's Doda region, who headed the delegation of businessmen said that the delegation has visited I&K with a clear mindset for investments.

He termed the visit of busi-

ness delegates from the Gulf a huge step towards growth and development of UT, and said that it will lay a strong foundation for a better and prosperous future where dreams and aspirations transform into reality.

He called for a joint effort between Government and businessmen to create opportunities for the welfare of people in J&K and lauded the UT Government for providing the people with the right opportunities and Ease of Doing Business. He also urged the delegates to seriously consider the local talent from

शहीदों की चिताओं पर लगेंगे हर बरस मेले

वतन पे मिटने वालों का यही बाकी निशां होगा

Lede at the state of the state

ship with Gulf countries has undergone a massive evolution which is being translated into a vibrant, revitalised economic partnership with J&K that will not only diversify our export basket but will also create a conducive environment for the expansion of the existing trade,

the Lt Governor observed. "We have worked with a coherent framework in the last two years to harness immense natural resources, economic potential of J&K," said the Lt Governor.

Under the guidance of

and Home Minister Amit Shah, we have also worked out a blueprint to unlock investment flows from compliance and restrictions, he said. Over ₹70,000 crores worth investment proposals have been received within a year, he added.

We promise to provide global standard end-to-end facilities for the businesses, skilled workforce, transparent and hassle-free regulatory mechanism, and creation of necessary infrastructure wherever required, the Lt Governor

आज़ादीका

अमृत महोत्सव

## Now, Karan Singh's son Vikramaditya quits Cong

Jammu: Vikramaditya Singh, elder son of former Sadar-e-Riyasat and Congress stalwart Dr Karan Singh on Tuesday resigned from the primary membership of the party, claiming it has "failed to realize and reflect the sentiments and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir'

Singh had joined Congress party in October 2018 after quitting Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Singh had started his political innings by first joining the PDP in the presence of Mufti Mohd Sayeed and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti in the month of August 2014. On Tuesday afternoon

Singh himself posted a copy of his resignation letter on his twitter timeline in which he clearly stated he submitted his resignation to Congress President Sonia Gandhi on

## Goa CM on Mar 28 In a brief message on his twitter timeline Singh clarified,

attend the ceremony, he said.

## son wrote on his twitter timeline. Police constable martyred in gunfight with terrorists in Srinagar

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

head of the crucial meeting Anof the Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha with the entrepreneurs and CEOs from Gulf countries, who are on a four-day long visit to explore business opportunities in J&K, a brief shoot out was reported at Soura area of Srinagar city in which a selection grade constable attained to his fatal injuries in the hospital on Tuesday.

The shootout followed three back to back terrorist strikes in Budgam, Pulwama and Tral areas of Central and South Kashmir districts on Monday in which a civilian was killed while two non-local labourers had

Interacting with the media after attending the wreath laying ceremony of martyred police cop identified as Amir Husaain Lone, hailing from Kupwara, Inspector General of police,Kashmir range Vijay Kumar said, "a three member group of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorists were roaming around in the area in a red colored four wheeler". He said while a police team was covertly chasing them a brief shootout took place.

A police jawan and one of the terrorists received bullet

injuries. The police jawan was rushed to the nearby hospital where he succumbed to his fatal injuries while the terrorists managed to fled away from the spot. We are tracking their footprints and very soon they will be neutralised, IGP claimed.

Since March 1, 2022 around 11 hardcore terrorists have been neutralsied in different anti-terrorist operations.

Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday visited the SMHS hospital to enquire about the well being of two labourers - Bisujeet Kumar from Bihar and Muhammad Akram from Bijnoor, Uttar Pradesh who had sustained injuries in the recent terrorist attacks at Pulwama and

The Lieutenant Governor met the injured labourers and assured them of the best possible health facility for their treatment.

While condemning the terrorist attacks on civilians, the Lt Governor asserted that the government is determined to eliminate terrorism and perpetrators of despicable terror attacks will

be brought to justice soon. In Jammu, DGP Dilbagh Singh said targeted killings will continue to remain a challenge

a presence of gun and terrorists in the Valley.

He also said security forces

are alert at the border to foil infiltration attempts of terrorists. When was not targeted killings a challenge? This (targeted killings) challenge is always there until there is presence of gun, terrorists and involvement of Pakistan," Singh told reporters after flagging off patrolling duties.

Terrorists and their mentors are present everywhere. Such incidents (grenade attacks and targeted killings) take place due to their (terrorist) activities,"

The DGP said J&K Police has been quick to solve incidents of targeted killings and action as per law has been taken against the guilty.

"A large number of terrorists have been neutralised," he

Replying to a question on infiltration, the police chief said the border grid is alert to foil any such activity. "Any such attempt (from across the border), will not be allowed."

The motor bikes were provided to the JKP by Hero MotoCorp through CSR initiative for border patrolling and for for security agencies till there is women's squads in the cities.

भारत मां के महान सपूतों भगत सिंह, राजगुरु एवं सुखदेव

शहीदी दिवस

23 मार्च, 2022

शहादत

को शत-शत नमन

Laders Constant

 आज़ादी के क्रांतिदूत अमर शहीद वीर भगत सिंह, सुखदेव और राजगुरु को शहीदी दिवस पर शत-शत नमन। मां भारती के इन महान सपूतों का बलिदान देश की हर पीढ़ी के लिए प्रेरणास्रोत बना रहेगा। जय हिंद! " - नरेन्द्र मोदी



सूचना, जन सम्पर्क एवं भाषा विभाग, हरियाणा











### BJP leader shot dead in front of liquor shop in Maharajganj PNS LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident, BJP leader and leading lawyer Gaurav Jaiswal was shot dead in front of a liquor shop in Chiruha area of Maharajganj late on Monday night. The deceased was the nephew of Municipality Board Chairman Krishna Gopal Jaiswal.

As per reports, Gaurav was called at the liquor shop by someone over a phone call. As he reached there, the assailant shot Gaurav in the head and fled from the spot. The victim was rushed to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival. The killing led to tension in the area and within no time, hundreds of supporters and party leaders converged on the spot and staged a protest demanding the arrest of the assailant. Later on the assurance of senior officers, the protesters allowed the body to be taken for autopsy.

## Priyanka, Sandeep in line of fire after UP poll debacle

PNS LUCKNOW

ongress general secretary →Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and her secretary Sandeep Singh find themselves in the line of fire for her party's annihilation in the recent Assembly polls in which the party's tally

shrank to just two legislators. State Congress leaders demanded the immediate removal of Priyanka claiming that since she was the in-charge of UP, she should also face the music for the party's pathetic poll show.In an open letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday, UP Congress leader Zeeshan Haider, demanded that Priyanka be removed as general secretary as the party fought UP elections under her leadership. Recently, Haider was expelled from the party for accusing Priyanka's 'servant' for being responsible for the poll debacle. Haider stressed that as UP in-charge, Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra was equally responsible for the party's poor like former UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu, who was asked to quit after the results.

He said that it was unfair to only blame Lallu for the poll debacle. Jaider pointed out that after Congress' debacle in the 2012 Assembly elections, the then UP in-charge Digvijaya Singh and UP Congress chief Rita Bahuguna Joshi had to resign from their positions. Soon after the results of Assembly polls were declared on March 10, Haider had raised the banner of revolt against the Congress brass in the state. Earlier he was the party's electronic media and Urdu press coordinator. Besides Haider, another expelled leader Konark Dixit, who recently led Congress workers to AICC and tried to meet Sonia Gandhi and apprise her of the reasons behind the defeat, also supported the removal of Priyanka. www.dailypioneer.com

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- PAPER WITH PASSION

## **Shifting goalposts**

The common test for admission to Central varsities is a shocker for Class XII students

The University Grants Commission (UGC) proposes a common undergraduate admissions test for Central universities in India beginning this July. It is to be called the Common University Entrance Test (CUET). The test score will be the only criterion for admission. It has three sections, conducted in two shifts in a single day. The first will test the students' aptitude in languages, the second relates to domain-specific questions, and the final section is about current affairs, numerical ability, logical and quantitative reasoning. The test is compulsory for all the 45 Central universities funded by the UGC. JNU, BHU, AMU and Jamia Millia Islamia are among the institutions to conduct the first CUET. India thus joins a host of countries, like China and Japan and the US, which take the common admission test route for centralised admissions to undergraduate courses. The announcement comes as a surprise to parents of students who will take the Class XII board exams next month. The UGC gives zero weightage to Class XII marks. Then what is the point in preparing hard for the exams, the students ask in despair. So far, the only thing they know is that they have to get 100 per cent marks in all subjects — the prevalent irrational

cut-off percentage for undergraduate admissions in top city colleges. The parents say that with the introduction of CUET, the students will join CUET tutorials that are bound to spring up overnight.

In CUET's defence, the proposal is designed to give all students, irrespective of their backgrounds, a fair and equal chance of success. It is to be seen whether or not it transforms over time into a meritocratic system that opens the doors for "elite" education. There is a reason for worry. The All India Survey on Higher Education revealed that the Gross Enrolment Ratio for the 18-23 age group in India was

27.4 per cent in 2017-18 (82 per cent in the US). This means out of the total population in the age group, only 27.4 per cent attended college and university. What about the rest of them? They may have stopped education after completing or failing Class XII or failed to secure admission to undergraduate programmes. The figure may have improved over the years, but the number of students stopping education at Class XII must still be substantial. The introduction of CUET will not help this section. A simultaneous attempt is required to encourage them to complete Class XII and go for higher education or vocational training, as the case may be. Total education is what the National Education Policy is all about and the UGC is part of the set-up. The Commission may have to review its decision not to count the Class XII marks. Rather, it should standardise the evaluation methods of the State and Central boards so that the marks are realistic and then apportion a certain weightage to these as the second criterion for admission after the CUET score.



People play with colours during a procession in celebration of the festival of 'Rang Panchami' in Indore

## A rough ride

The N-threat amid the ongoing invasion of Ukraine is an alarm for the entire world

uch water has flown down the Moskva since the day Russian infantry and artillery units started off from their barracks to invade Ukraine. Later, they were **V** ■ even followed by a 60-km-long convoy of Russian armoured vehicles in the Kremlin's hitherto-unsuccessful attempts to breach the defences of Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. But they haven't been able to taste success in their endeavour so far in the face of strength and resilience shown by Ukraine, whose President Volodymyr Zelenskiy turned into an unlikely hero overnight when he snubbed a US offer to be



evacuated from the war-ravaged country with a terse: "The fight is here. I need ammunition, not a ride." And he's been true to his word, so far. In his latest address, Zelenskiy has ruled out surrender and said his country would rather be "destroyed" before it surrenders its cities to invading Russian forces. However, keeping the gate for negotiations also open, he doubled down on a call for direct talks with Russian "aggressor" Vladimir Putin as the key to ending the war. Just a few days earlier, Zelenskiy had warned that unless "direct talks" took place, the quickly escalating situation may lead to a third world war.

Now, there is another global fallout that has been brought to the attention of the world leaders. The farmers of Ukraine, which is one of the largest producers and supplier of grains, are unable to sow and farm in the face of the Russian attack and shelling, and Zelenskiy warns that the Russia war could lead to famine in other nations even as the Ukraine refugee exodus has surpassed 3.5 million. Meanwhile, President Putin, following up on his macho pursuits, has warned he would cleanse Russia of the "scum and traitors" who work covertly for the US and its allies. He has also ordered a nuclear war evacuation drill amid the escalating tension. As the Russia-Ukraine war goes on along with negotiations, Moscow has claimed to have used its advanced hypersonic missile on Ukraine. With all indications that Putin might be inching towards a nuclear war, the report of a nuclear evacuation drill has shocked even Kremlin officials. There are even reports that Putin has moved unidentified members of his immediate family to a hi-tech underground bunker, which is a whole underground city, in the Altai mountains of Siberia. Be that as it may, the 'N' word doesn't portend well for anybody involved in the war, or even otherwise.

# Common curse of 'Lotacracy'!



India and Pakistan have a common societal culture dating back centuries but they also share the blemish of self-serving political turncoats

he civilisational lands of Bharat were vivisected with different belief systems in 1947. If Nehru had hauntingly posited, "we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance", days earlier, Jinnah had loftily stated: "We are starting in the days where there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle: that we are all citizens, and equal citizens, of one State.' Tellingly, the only speech of Jinnah that clearly outlines the contours of his conceptualised Pakistan, strangely, is without audio recording! Author Khalid Ahmad in Pakistan Behind Ideological Mask notes that many Muslim League members attempted modifying the progressive passages — till the bigoted Zia-ul-Haq bluntly expunged the speech from Government media and textbooks.

Nonetheless, 75 years after Independence in the Indian subcontinent, it is the chronological minnow and till then non-existent Bangladesh ('East Pakistan' till 1971) which has fructified and harnessed its potential, relatively speaking. It seems there is a mad race across both sides of the Line of Control to outdo each other in stymieing the narrative and inherent promise, with thundering jingoism and populism, that postures a lot more than it delivers. Oddly, the rallying cry in India of 'Achche Din' (days of prosperity) or 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' (everyone's cooperation, everyone's progress, everyone's confidence) and in Pakistan the empty thunder of '*Naya Pakistan*' (New Pakistan) or *'Ŕiyasat-e-Madina*' (Holy prophet's principles governing the State of Medina) beyond partisan passions and loyalties, cold statistics pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or various other societal indexes by independent giodai ranking agencies reflect a starkly worrisome picture.

Since the fount of societal culture besetting both countries was ed saga, which had a more than

common, there are many similarities that underlie our utterances, habits and moorings. The spouted globular vessel (colloquially called a 'lota' on both sides), typically made of brass or copper, has been in this ancient land since 2nd millennium BC. The functional vessel for multiple usages has birthed many idioms — the most widely used being 'Bey pendey ka lota' (a spherical vessel without a base which tends to roll in any direction). Commonly used to describe an undependable, unfaithful or unhinged person who could 'bend with the wind, as it were. Expectedly, the murky and unreliable world of partisan politics remains the obviplayground of its metaphorical exponents, and therefore our cultural cousins from across the LOC have coined a hilarious dimension to the various 'types' of democracy that afflicts us both ie, 'Lotacracy' (adding to the basic definition of democracy as the 'rule of the people,' to a more (un)qualified, 'rule of the peo-

India has just about finished with its electioneering to the various State Assemblies with the most polarising, debasing and bitterly contest-

ple, who cannot be trusted to

stay true to their words').



THE MURKY WORLD OF PARTISAN **POLITICS REMAINS** THE OBVIOUS PLAYGROUND OF ITS METAPHORICAL EXPONENTS, AND THEREFORE OUR **CULTURAL COUSINS** FROM ACROSS THE LOC HAVE COINED A HILARIOUS **DIMENSION TO THE** VARIOUS 'TYPES' OF DEMOCRACY THAT AFFLICTS US BOTH

fair share of its own turncoats (Lotas), who till the proverbial enlightenment leading to the shift had been waxing eloquently a completely different tune. Some won, some lost, but the sad reality is that all parties without exception had entertained these Lotas and the Indian citizens and India's continuing experiment in democracy was poorer for the same. Many of the current Ministers in the Union Cabinet and even Chief Ministers/Ministers in State Governments have had a hopping and fleet-footed past. But the Pakistanis are no better, and their tryst with Lotacracy is staring Prime Minister Imran Khan in the face as he undergoes a no-trust vote in the National Assembly. Besides the Opposition parties, supposedly 24 of Imran's own Lotas (estranged lawmakers) have taken shelter in enemy quarters! A desperate Imran unconvincingly tried to woo back his party lawmakers by saying, "Time has changed as there is no more room for changa manga (horse-trading) politics" — ironically, his lawmakers are disagreeing with the exact same thing ie, nothing has changed in so-called Naya *Pakistan* and, if anything, gov ernance has gone from bad to worse. Sounding extremely

sanctimonious, Imran warned

his Lotas, "There is a market to purchase conscience of the people through illegal pelf", especially rich coming from a man whose Cabinet is stuffed with suchlike Lotas.

The spirit of mufad ki siyasat (politics of self-interest) infects both countries, and the fleeting ideology can be gleefully traded at the drop of a hat. As winning dispensations on both sides had sought for votes on the platform of 'change' (Naya there, Badlaav here) – the only 'change' is the extent of revisionism and referencing of the 'past' to justify the sad morass of the present. Namecalling dissidents as Lotas may be convenient for Imran as he fights an uphill battle of his own creation, but his dark instincts are given away by his cuss language, intimidatory tactics and sheer lies that he is invoking to protect his Government. He is clearly not fighting Lotacracy as he cavalierly postures, but only reaping the consequences of him worsening the system. Lotacracy could have been funny, but for the debilitating consequences that it breeds.

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



### **NO TO RELIGIOUS TEXTS IN SCHOOLS**

Sir — Close on the heels of the Karnataka High Court's hijab verdict upholding the ban on wearing hijab on the premises of educational institutions, the Karnataka Government has decided to introduce the *Bhagavad Gita* in the school syllabus from the next academic year. True, the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita have enormous significance. On the other hand, it shouldn't be included as a subject in school syllabus. It is a sacred book of Hindus; what is the logic of introducing it in schools where students of other religions also study? Is it right to force them to study the Gita?

Education must not be mixed with religion. It must inculcate secularism in students, not communalism. India is a country of religious pluralism. If the Gita becomes a part of school syllabus, what about the Quran and the Bible? This is clearly another case of religious discrimination and segregation. Education is imparted for character formation and personality development. It widens students' outlook and develops positive attitudes in them. While people have the right to follow religions of their choice, it must not become a part of studies. Developing religious feelings among schoolchildren is dangerous. The sanctity of educational institutions must be preserved.

Venu GS | Kollam

### PM SLEEPS FOR ONLY TWO HOURS?

Sir — For the last few years, the nation's political climate has been made such that an impression is being made that only one party is right for this country. That all other parties don't work, that they are corrupt and dynasts. What can be a greater hymn and anthem of praise for his high command when Maharashtra president Chandrakant Patil claims that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sleeps for only two hours. Not only this, he is doing further experiments for the future so that he doesn't have to sleep even for two minutes and spend the

## Fuel price hike will hit us hard



s expected, after staying unchanged for over four months (137 days, to be precise) due to the Assembly elections in five States, the prices of petrol and diesel have been increased. The fuel price hike is by 80 paise per litre. This comes after the price of diesel for bulk users was increased by ₹25 per litre on Sunday (March 20). After the fresh round of ₹0.8 hike, petrol in Delhi will cost ₹96.21 while diesel will cost

₹87.47. In Mumbai, petrol would cost ₹110.78 and diesel would stand at ₹94.94. The price of petrol in Chennai would increase to ₹102.20 while diesel will cost ₹92.23. In Kolkata, petrol will cost ₹05.47 and diesel ₹90.59 per litre.

The price of petrol in Bengaluru will now be ₹101.38 and diesel will be ₹85.81 per litre. The latest petrol and diesel price hike now means that consumers across India will have to shell out more money for fuel, and will be under heavy burden due to the high inflation rate and alarming increase in the prices of all essential items. This is India's worst fuel hike since the global oil prices skyrocketed after Russia invaded Ukraine last month. India, the third largest oil importer and consumer in the world, relies on fuel from overseas for 85 per cent of its requirement, which is a serious cause of concern

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

entire 24 hours in the service of the nation and its people.

Till about five-seven years ago, it was said that Modi ji works for 18 hours. Now it is being increased to 24 hours. When the researchers of science and the human brain will come to know that such a human being is roaming this earth who never sleeps, it will be nothing short of a miracle for them. If this happens, then there will be a great revolution in the field of biology globally. People will only work all their life, not rest. That means that the production of the world will at least double. After that, no one on earth will have to face scarcity of any kind!

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

**BECOMING A DEVELOPED NATION** Sir — Since Independence, India has been known as a developing country, however in the coming years, no doubt that it will reach the level of a developed country. India already ranks among the top five nations by its tremendous achievements in science, technology,

agriculture and pharmaceutical sectors. The youth from villages have been migrating to cities in search of work as there are no or fewer opportunities for employment in villages. They leave behind the good quality of life in the vil-

lage for the poor quality of life in cities. For the purpose of stopping migration from villages to cities and creating work opportunities in villages, the Government is taking the initiative to make villages 'smart' for our citizens. There is no doubt that the time has come when we are turning our nation's villages into smart villages which will not lag behind cities in any manner whatsoever. Dholpur village in Rajasthan was the first smart village. Many more smart villages are soon to turn into reality. I am proud to say that we are Indians. In a few years, we will be one of the developed nations, for sure

Ruchika Pareek | Jaipur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Inflation is a tax on all Indians. Record price rise had crushed people even before the Ukraine war began.



**Congress leader** — Rahul Gandhi



not try to normalise relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin (after the invasion).

The West must

**British Prime Minister** – Boris Johnson

I think it's (avoiding social media) a big detox in my life

I'm very happy



- .Iohn Abraham



it is to play in big tournaments. I am mentally and physically prepared.

Indian shuttler — Lakshya Sen

Alarming for our national security! Is Modi Govt ceding territory to China's 1959

claimed border?



Congress spokesperson Randeep Suriewala www.dailypioneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

## **FIRST COLUMN**

## A DIGITAL-FIRST **ECOSYSTEM**

The Govt's initiative, India Stack, has revolutionised fintech sector



OMKAR RAI

ndian IT Industry has moved up the value chain over the last three and half decades. IT Industry which is having a size of \$194 billion has empowered Government, industries, and academia for achieving their mandate in an accelerated manner. The strong foundation of IT Industry is also helping the government in executing its vision of becoming the country as a digitally empowered society. This Industry has enabled policymakers to plan and roll out the digital initiatives in a short span of time with desired outcomes. Digital push by the government through its initiative, i.e., India Stack, has changed the entire landscape of the fintech sector. The efforts of the government to encourage start-ups over the years through a set of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives have started paying rich dividends by not only creating a culture of the knowledgebased economy but also accelerating the pace of employment gener-



ation across the nation. The biggest testimony to the success of the Digital India and Start-up India programs is the emergence of unicorns across the sectors making India the global unicorn hub. According to the estimates, as of January 2022, India had as many as 83 unicorns with a total valuation of \$277.77 billion. It's a number that was even difficult to visualize a couple of years ago. What is significant is that the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating second wave of coronavirus did not deter the budding entrepreneurs from moving ahead with their ideas and realizing big dreams. During the pandemic, the policy framework allowed the start-ups to progress unhindered along their innovation journey to become unicorns.

India's ever-increasing number of start-ups reflects its strong startup ecosystem, in conjunction with its comprehensive policy framework, and the willingness of young, enterprising Indians to experiment with their innovative ideas and pursue their hope of becoming big and making India proud. With a humble beginning about six years ago, today the country has about 61,400 recognized start-ups as of January 2022. During 2021, the union government has recognized over 14,000 start-ups as against 733 in 2016-17. This is a clear reflection of the rapid growth of the start-up culture in the country and the opportunities to which the educated and enterprising youth are aspiring. Budget 2022 is focused on the digital economy which in any case leverages the potential of IT Industry in a big way. By encouraging digital payment, establishing a digital university, and launching digital currency, the government is marching to transform the country into a digital nation. A market-driven economy requires the support and encouragement of budding entrepreneurs, which is why Budget 2022 announced more perks for start-ups. Startups established before March 31, 2022, were provided a tax incentive for three consecutive years out of ten years from incorporation however Budget 2022 has extended one more year of tax incentive for the eligible start-up, that is, up to March 31, 2023. The extension of the tax incentive-awarding period is much-welcomed by the industry and will surely encourage budding entrepreneurs to never stop working hard to one day become unicorns. India has become a hub of technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and piloting employment-rich economic growth. Now, Tier 2 and 3 cities are emerging as the next frontier for talent and economic growth across the country to bring a level playing field across all regions. Budget 2022 firmly reiterates the government's commitment to innovation and technology, with the IT sector set to grow across the board, with technology emerging as the fastest-growing segment. As start-ups and unicorns proliferate, the country will be able to move ahead at an accelerated pace and realize the \$5 trillion economy

(The writer is an IT thought leader and leading Technophile. The views expressed are personal.)

# BJP's victory doesn't mean end of casteism



The party cannot take a moral high stand that its politics is casteless and nationalist; the party is not breaking up caste but reinforcing it

he BJP's claim that its victory in Uttar Pradesh was a victory against casteism does not have any legs to stand upon. It was definitely a tempestuous victory against the Samajwadi Party which, while relying predominantly upon Yadav vote, tried to mobilize other backward castes, but that victory was not a victory of a 'casteless' party over a 'casteist' party but a victory of a party with a better-nurtured and better-oiled caste coalition over a party with a weaker one.

Of course, hyper-nationalism and Hindutva played a role. But the BJP used them as a rope to string together the caste boats rowing with their separate flags in the social Ganga. The boats have

not gone away.

The BJP primarily succeeded by offering itself as a political instrument to the backward castes and dalits that were hostile to Yadav ascendancy and dominance. The five years of Akhilesh rule (2012-2017), which was perceived both by the Yadavs and the non-Yadavs as 'Yadav raj' for contrarian reasons, broadcast seeds of anti-Yadav sentiment that yielded a plentiful harvest to the BJP.

The BJP did not go to the voters with a casteless stance that would have been befitting a nationalist party. It did not say, "Whether one is a Yadav, a Teli, a Maurya, a Jatav or a Pasi, all are members of the same family. Let all of us get together to build the nation." It did not work to foster a brotherhood of the Yadavs and the Telis, Mauryas, Jatavs and Pasis. On the contrary, it worked to foment hostility and widen the gulf between the Yadavs and other backward castes and the Jatavs and other scheduled castes for its political benefit.

Of course, it only did what Nitish Kumar had done in Bihar. Much like the Samajwadi Party in UP, the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar had come to be dominated by the Yadavs. Nitish Kumar wove a coalition of non-Yadav backward castes. He added to it a new category of 'Mahadalits' to isolate the Dusadhs that were the leading caste among Dalits in order to build a formidable electoral base, which is still paying him.

But the BJP went beyond Nitish Kumar. It organized meetings of representatives of every caste to which its were invited to speak. It identified 'community leaders' in every caste with whom the local BJP workers were directed to keep in active touch. Through these 'community leaders' the party workers were to spread awareness among the voters of the caste of the 'benefits' the Modi government at the Centre and the Yogi government in the state had brought to the community. For instance, the BJP workers told the Kumhars, the potters, of the Yogi government's schemes to promote their craft and well-



HIERARCHY **PERSISTS BECAUSE** THERE ARE DEEP-ROOTED, MISCONCEIVED **NOTIONS ABOUT PURITY OF BLOOD AND** REBIRTH IN **ACCORDANCE** WITH KARMA. THESE NOTIONS ARE THE LEGS ON WHICH THE EDIFICE OF SOCIAL HIERARCHY STANDS. THE **BJP HAS NEVER ATTACKED** THOSE LEGS

(The writer is an independent journalist and author. The views *expressed are personal.)* 



THE SOCIAL

being by buying 12 lakh diyas from them to light across the city

of Ayodhya on Diwali 2021. While the party used the community leaders as influencers of the members of the caste, it deepened its connection with castes by appointing politicians representing them to important positions in the party organiza-tion. The party deepened the con-nection further by selecting candidates from the castes. It was because of the depth of connection with the non-Yadav backward castes and non-Jatav scheduled castes that the BJP outwitted the Samajwadi Party that tried to cobble together a coalition of backward castes and non-Jatav communities just before the elections.

The BJP's victory was there-

fore a victory of deep casteism over shallow casteism.

party is not breaking up caste but reinforcing it, much like other political parties have done and do.

Caste exists in three different forms. One is political form. The BJP, like other parties, is using the political expression of the castes to gain support in elections. The expression keeps changing. The castes keep shifting their patronage from one party to another. The political party in the government changes. But the political organizations of the castes do not. The BJP cannot make us believe that it has melted castes with its rainbow coalition. The rainbow will vanish today or tomorrow. The second form of caste is

social organization. If the BJP wants to break up caste it has to break up the social hierarchy of caste. How many of the Thakurs in UP are willing to accept a Maurya son-in-law or a Pasi daughter-in-law? Can a Jatav buy land and build a house in the Brahmanstreet in a village? Just before elections, Yogi Adityanath got himself photographed dining at a neat-looking house of a dalit. But how many men and women of upper castes inter-dine with those of dalit communities? How many people from the lower castes get invited to weddings in upper caste homes?

The social hierarchy persists The party cannot take a high because there are deep-rooted, moral stand that its politics is asteless and nationalist. The misconceived notions about purity of blood and rebirth in accordance with karma. These notions are the legs on which the edifice of social hierarchy stands. The BJP has never attacked those legs. It has not done so, because that would imply an attack on the beliefs and traditions of Hinduism, something which it exists to champion and sustain without any room for questioning.

The third form of caste is economic organization. For centuries, each caste was destined to follow a certain occupation. The occupations had a ranking from low to high, which formed the basis for untouchability, segregation and hierarchy. With industrialization and urbanization, the links between caste and occupation are weakening. However, the members of lower castes are still seen and treated as lower castes, even though they might be in other occupations-occupations away from the village, in industry or trade. The social form of caste seems to have a longer life than its economic

The persistence of the social form of caste does not mean that it will never go away. While there are many examples of its persistence, there are also several examples of its blurring. The way to break down caste is to put the lower castes in occupations hitherto held by higher castes. In to root out casteism has to make job creation in industry and trade its main instrument. Is the BJP doing that in UP? According to the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy, of the total population of 70.99 million youth in the 15-29 age group in the state, only 12.17 million (or about 17 percent) were employed in September-December 2021. How can the linkage between caste and occupation be broken?

IF THE SPEAKER'S NON-DEMOCRATIC THINKING (COMES IN THE WAY)... I WILL PROPOSE THE OPPOSITION PARTIES DON'T LEAVE THE HALL. — PPP CHAIRPERSON **BILAWAL BHUTTO-ZARDARI** 





GET BACK, YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN. LIKE A FATHER FORGIVES HIS CHILDREN. — PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER **IMRAN KHAN** 

## Kejriwal as challenger to both Modi and Congress?

Since the BJP wins around 40% votes, Kejriwal is eying the other 60%. But he has to share it with Congress and other regional satraps

Till the Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal emerge as a challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress Party, or both? No doubt winning Punjab will encourage him to spread his Aam Admi Party's wings to other states, but can he achieve his ambition? It may be difficult as the other regional satraps have a firm hold on their fiefdoms to check

Whatever may be the game plan, it will be a long haul. Even if Kejriwal wins half a dozen states by 2024, it will be a Himalayan task to compete with Modi or Congress, which still has a national presence despite its decay. Already, Kejriwal's supporters are projecting him as a national leader who could threaten Modi.



KALYANI **SHANKAR** 

Some say his goal may not be 2024 but 2028 or even later. After all, he has age on his side.

Kejriwal is a shrewd, manipulative, sensationalist, and ambitious politician who is in a hurry to achieve higher peaks. After joining India Against Corruption movement led by Anna Hazare and taking centre stage as a spokesman for the movement, Kejriwal became known. He quickly seized the moment and launched his Aam Admi Party in 2012. After winning with a thumping majority in Delhi, not once or twice but thrice, Kejriwal became a dictator in the past eight years and threw away most of the founder members who were a threat to him. He even distanced himself from Anna Hazare. He started building a personality cult around



himself. AAP and the Congress are now more or less equal in one sense that they both rule only two states. "It is time to bring revolution to the country. We have wasted 75 years now. There is no time to waste. Everyone should join AAP. AAP is not the name of the Party. It is the name of the revolution. AAP is a name for fulfilling Bhagat Singh's dreams" Kejriwal roared after winning Punjab. What is Kejriwal's strategy? Since the dominant BJP wins around 40% votes, who do the rest vote for? Kejriwal is eying that 60 percent. But he has to share this with Congress, other regional satraps, and even

The first step is to grab the voter base of the Congress party, which includes Dalits and Muslims. Even in Punjab, his main target was Congress. AAP leader Raghav Chadha has openly said AAP would be the 'national and natural replacement to the Congress.'

Other regional satraps like K.Chandrasekhar Rao, Mamata Banerjee, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and Naveen Patnaik, to name a few, have all come to power by luring away the voters of the Grand Old Party.

Kejriwal's second step is to spread to other states. The AAP chief has been eyeing states where there is a direct fight between the BJP and Congress. There are over 200 seats where the two parties are

dominant. He wants to project

himself as the alternative asking the voters to give his 'Delhi model' a chance. If he succeeds, it will be only at the cost of the Congress, as is seen in Punjab.

The third is to get an entry into the regional satrap-ruled states. After getting a foothold in Goa, Kejriwal is looking at Telangana, where he is planning a state-wide padayatra soon. He has already tried in Karnataka. The calculations of AAP's entry into Tamil Nadu riding piggyback on filmstar Kamal Hasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam have fizzled out. The MNM has failed to make any progress in the State. Some say that the AAP is spreading the butter thinly, beyond its capacity to build. But AAP is drunk with

Punjab's success and plans to

field its candidates in Himachal

and Gujarat first and then take

it to other States. But there is a complex problem for Kejriwal. As this trend grows, the BJP would want Congress to remain somewhat relevant to check the rise of AAP. After all, Modi has been targeting the Congress misrule even eight years after becoming Prime Minister, which shows that Congress is a convenient whipping horse. Therefore, in states where the AAP may emerge as a third force, the BJP would like Congress to stay alive.

Incidentally, many non -BJP chief ministers like Mamata Banerjee, KCR, M.K. Stalin, and others are trying to build a non-BJP front but Kejriwal is not in a hurry to join them though he has not said no. But before 2024, he has to decide whether to go along with the new coalition or stay aloof.

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

## Ukraine retakes key Kyiv suburb even as super bombs rain

Ukraine said it retook a strategically important suburb of Kyiv early Tuesday, as Russian forces squeezed other areas near the capital and their attack on the embattled southern port of Mariupol raged unabated. Two "super powerful bombs" rocked Mariupol on Tuesday as Ukrainian authorities made a fresh attempt at rescuing civilians from the besieged port city which has suffered relentless shelling since Russia's invasion began almost a month ago.

More than 200,000 people are trapped in the strategic city described by those who managed to escape as a "freezing hellscape riddled with dead bodies and destroyed buildings", Human Rights Watch said, quoting figures provided by a local official.

"We know that there will not be enough space for everyone" on Tuesday, but "we will try to carry out the evacuation until we have gotten all the inhabitants of Mariupol out,' vowed Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk in a video address.

Explosions and bursts of gunfire shook Kyiv, and black smoke rose from a spot in the north. Intensified artillery fire could be heard from the northwest, where Russia has sought



to encircle and capture several suburban areas of the capital, a crucial target.

Residents sheltered at home or underground under a 35-hour curfew imposed by authorities in the capital that runs to Wednesday morning.

Russian forces also pressed their siege of Mariupol after the southern port city's defenders refused demands to surrender, with fleeing civilians describing relentless bombardments and corpses lying in

But the Kremlin's ground offensive in other parts of the country advanced slowly or not at all, knocked back by lethal hit-and-run attacks by the

troops forced Russian forces out of the Kyiv suburb of Makariv after a fierce battle, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said. The regained territory allowed Ukrainian forces to retake control of a key highway and block Russian troops from surrounding Kyiv from the northwest.

Still, the Defense Ministry said Russian forces battling toward Kyiv were able to par-

while saying the real toll is probably much higher. Estimates of Russian military deaths vary, but even conservative figures are in the low thousands. U.S. And British officials say Kyiv remains Russia's pri-

mary objective. The bulk of Moscow's forces remain miles from the center, but missiles and artillery have destroyed and artillery have destroyed apartment buildings and a large shopping mall, which was left a smoking ruin after being hit late Sunday by strikes that killed eight people, according to emergency officials ing to emergency officials.

A senior U.S. Defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the military's assessment, said Russia had increased air sorties over the past two days, carrying out as many as 300 over a 24-hour period, and has fired more than 1,100 missiles into Ukraine since the invasion began.

U.S. President Joe Biden, who is heading to Europe later in the week to meet with allies, suggested Monday evening that worse may be still to come.

"Putin's back is against the wall," Biden said. "He wasn't anticipating the extent or the strength of our unity. And the more his back is against the wall, the greater the severity of the tactics he may employ.

Nations. The U.N. Has confirmed over 900 civilian deaths exodus surpasses 3.5 million

> The UN refugee agency says more than 3.5 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion, passing another milestone in an exodus that has led to Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War

UNHCR reported Tuesday that 3.53 million people have left Ukraine, with Poland taking in the lion's share - more than 2.1 million - followed by Romania with more than 540,000 and Moldova with more than 367,000.

Shortly after the invasion on Feb. 24, UNHCR predicted that some 4 million refugees might leave Ukraine, though it has been re-assessing that prediction. The outflows have been slowing in recent days after peaking at more than 200,000 each on two straight days in early March.

International Organization for Migration estimates that nearly 6.5 million people are internally displaced within Ukraine, suggesting that some if not most of them might to flee abroad if the war continues.

### Germany honours survivor of Nazi camps killed in Ukraine

**AP** ■ BERLIN

Germany's parliament on Tuesday paid tribute to Boris Romanchenko, who sur-vived several Nazi concentration camps during World War II but was killed last week during an attack in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. He

The Buchenwald concentration camp memorial said on Monday that Romanchenko, who survived Buchenwald as well as camps at Peenemuende, Dora and Bergen-Belsen, was killed on Friday.

It said that, according to his granddaughter, the multistory building where he lived was hit by a projectile.

Romanchenko was dedicated to keeping alive the memory of Nazi crimes and was vice president of the International Buchenwald-Dora Committee, the memorial said.

Opening a session of Germany's parliament on Tuesday, deputy speaker Katrin Goering-Eckardt paid tribute to Romanchenko.

Russian Nobel winner sells medal for refugees

**AP** ■ MOSCOW

Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov says he wants to auction off his 2021 Nobel Peace Prize medal to raise funds for Ukrainian refugees.

Muratov called Tuesday in the independent Novaya Gazeta newspaper, which he edits, for people to "share with refugees, the wounded and children who need urgent treatment what is dear to you and has a value for others". Muratov is asking auction houses about the possibility of organising a

Muratov said last year he was giving away his share of the Nobel prize money to causes including independent media, a Moscow hospice, and care for children with spinal problems. He said he wouldn't keep any

UK-bound orphans stuck in Poland awaiting paperwork

Warsaw, Mar 22 (AP) Dozens of Ukrainian orphans and their carers who are headed to refuge in the UK were on Tuesday stuck in Poland due to missing paperwork from

## Biden warns US companies of potential Russian cyberattacks

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden is urging}}_{\text{U.S. Companies to make}}$ sure their digital doors are locked tight because of "evolving intelligence" that Russia is considering launching cyber-attacks against critical infrastructure targets as the war in Ukraine continues.

Biden's top cybersecurity aide, Anne Neuberger, expressed frustration at a White House press briefing Monday that some critical infrastructure entities have ignored alerts from federal agencies to fix known problems in software that could be exploited by Russian hackers.

"Notwithstanding these

repeated warnings, we continue to see adversaries compromising systems that use known vulnerabilities for which there are patches," said Neuberger, who is the president's deputy national security adviser for cyber and emerging technologies. "That makes it far easier for attackers than it needs to be."

The federal government has been providing warnings to U.S. Companies of the threats posed by Russian state hackers since long before the country invaded Ukraine last month. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has launched a "Shields Up" campaign aimed at helping companies strengthen their defences and has urged com-

turn on multifactor authentication and take other steps to improve

Neuberger said there's no intelligence suggesting a specific Russian cyberattack against U.S. Targets, but she did add that there has been increase in "preparatory activty," like scanning websites and hunting for vulnerabilities, that is common among nation-state hackers.

In a statement, Biden said Russia could launch an cyberattack against U.S. Targets as retaliation for "the unprecedented economic costs we've imposed" on Russia through

## Ukrainian refugees speak of bombs, half-empty cities, hunger

AP MEDYKA

Yulia Bondarieva spent 10 days in a basement as Russian planes flew over and bombs were falling on the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. Having reached safety in Poland, Bondarieva's only wish now is for her twin sister in the besieged city of Mariupol to get

urbs, Bucha, Hostomel and

Irpin, some of which had been

under attack almost since

Russia's military invaded

Putin's forces are increasingly

concentrating their air power

and artillery on Ukraine's cities

and the civilians living there.

more than 10 million people

from their homes, a number

similar to the population of Portugal and almost a quarter

of Ukraine's pre-war popula-tion, according to the United

The invasion has driven

Russian President Vladimir

almost a month ago.

"They have been in the basement since Feb. 24, they have not been out at all, Bondarieva said. "They are running out of food and water." Bondarieva, 24, managed

to speak to her sister on the phone recently. The fear of what will happen to her in the encircled and bombed-out city that is going through some of the worst fighting in the war has been overwhelming.

"She does not know how to leave the city," Bondarieva said after arriving in the Polish border town of Medyka. Before the war, Mariupol

had a population of about 430,000, and about a quarter got out shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. Leaving the besieged city later became nearly impossible. Tens of thousands escaped over the past week by way of a humanitarian corridor, including 3,000 on Monday, but other attempts have been thwarted by the fighting. The Mariupol City Council has asserted that several thousand residents were taken into Russia against their

## Slain photojournalist Danish Siddiqui's parents lodge complaint in ICC against Taliban

PTI NEW DELHI

The family of slain Pulitzer-winningphotojournalist Danish Siddiqui has lodged a complaint with InternationalCriminal Court to probe his killing and to bring responsible, including high-level commanders and leaders of the Taliban, theirlawyer Avi Singh said on Tuesday.

assignment in Afghanistan when he was killedon July 16 last year. The journalist was covering clashes between Afghan troops and the Taliban in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar city.

Addressing a press conference, Singh said the formal complaint hasbeen filed against Taliban commanders, includ-Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, Supreme Commander of the

Taliban; Mullah Hassan

Akhund, Head of the Taliban

Leadership Council; Mawlawi

Governor spokesperson; and Mullah AbdulGhani Baradar, Head of Taliban's Political Office in

The complaint has also

been filed against local commanders as wellas perpetrators. Singh said they will also be seeking help from the Indian governmentin

'We have just filed before the International Criminal Court (ICC)a complaint with regard to the condition of war crimes and crimesagainst humanity on and about July 16 in the context of Pulitzerprize winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui's murder," he

The lawyer said the complaint has been filed on behalf of Siddiqui'sparents — Akhtar Siddiqui and Shahida Akhtar.

#### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी जिला-बालोद(छ०ग०) बालोद, दिनांक : 16-03-2022 निविदा क्र.347 से 366 / ले.शा. / का.अ. / लो.स्वा.या.खण्ड / 2022

ई–प्राक्योरमेंट प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ऑनलाईन निविदाएं प्रपत्र –ए में प्रतिशत दर पर नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिये कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिक खण्ड बालोद द्वारा व एकीकृत पंजीवन व्यवस्था ई-रजिस्ट्रेशन की सक्षम क्षेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारी से आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्य का विवरण — बालोद जिले के वि.ख. बालोद, डौण्डी, गुण्डरदेही एवं डौण्डीलोहारा के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन अतर्गत रेट्रोफिट एवं

	ान.सू क./सिस्टम न	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित सागत (क. लाख में)
3	347/95497	विकासखंड डीण्डीलोहारा ग्राम औरी	ਲ. 64.74 ਜਾਰ
2	348/95502	विकासखंड ढौण्डीलोहारा ग्राम अण्डी (सोनबरसापारा )	रू. 60.07लाख
3	249/95503	विकासखंड गुण्डरदेही ग्राम मिलाई	क. 61.54 लाख
4	350/95504	विकासखंड गुण्डरदेही ग्राम भरदाकला	क 120.17 लाख
5	351/95505	विकासखंड डीण्डीलोहारा ग्राम चिल्हाटी खुर्द	ৰু 59.36 <b>না</b> জ
6	352/95506	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम मुजगहन	क. 112.77 लाख
7	353/95507	विकासखड बालोद ग्राम दरबारी नवागांव	क 96.11 लाख
8	354/95508	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम खेरथाडीह	क 78.96 ਜਾਰ
9	355/95509	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम कांड़े	क 76.57 लाख
10	356/95511	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम ओरमा	<b>ਨ 109.30 ਜਾ</b> ਕ
11	357/95512	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम बिरेतरा	रू 97.90 लाख
12	358/95513	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम गोरूपाल	क 76,27 लाख
13	359/95514	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम खरथुली	₹. 67.84 लाख
14	360/95515	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम जगतरा	क. 126.54लाख
15	361/95516	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम मनौद	ਜ. 77.12 <b>ਜਾ</b> ਗ
16	362/95517	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम घुमका	रू 121.29 साख
17	363/95519	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम जामगांव (ब)	रू 132.78 लाख
18	364/95520	विकासखंड बोलाद ग्राम परसोदा	क 141.05 सम्ब
19	365/95521	विकासखंड डीण्डी ग्राम बन्हनी	क 95.06 लाख
20	366/95522	विकासखंड डौण्डी ग्राम कोपेडेरा	ਨ 119.92 ਜਾਰ

बिंड समिशान की अंतिम विधि 05/04/2022 उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्ते, घरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विद्यप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी

प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल http://eproc.egstate.gov.in दिनांक 25 03 2022 से एवं कार्यालयीन समय पर कार्यालय में देखे जा सकते है।

हस्ता / कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बालोद जिला बालोद (छ0ग०)

### **GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING: ASSAM: CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3.

### No. CE/TB-III/37/2022/2

### **PRESS NOTICE**

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings) Health & Education, Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following works under P.W.D. (Bldg), Assam from registered contractors having requisite experience in similar nature of work. Details may

SI. No.	State/ Package	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Time of completion	Bid Security (2% for General, and 1% for Reserved category) to be drawn in favour of	Cost of Bid (Rs.)
1.	LPM Oxygen/Morigaon Covid Care Hospital	Providing Power Supply to the 1000 LPM Oxygen generation plant under DRDO at Morigaon COVID Care Hospital, Morigaon (Electrical including Civil Works of DG Set Foundation and Shed and SNCU/OT 20 Patient Supply & Installation of Medical Gas Pipeline)	100.36	30 (thirty) days	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Morigaon District Territorial Bidg. Division,	3011/-

Janasanyog/C/13734/21

- 1. NIT value may be changed during uploading of tender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.
- 2. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sd/ Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building) **Health & Education** Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

## 9 mn kids to be vaccinated against polio in Africa

drive to vaccinate more than nine million children against A drive to vaccinate more than time manner. Some Apolio has been launched this week in four countries in southern and eastern Africa after an outbreak was confirmed in Malawi. of the inoculation are being placed in the mouths of children across the country. The vaccination campaign will be expanded on Thursday to include the neighbouring countries of Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, according to UNICEF which is working with the governments and other partners to eradicate the virus.

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar,(U.P

### **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these website

for any changes/ amendments & conigendumete.				
S.No.	Job no.	Name of Work	Amount	
1	17/SPE/PE	Supply of Cleaning Material	75,34,210.30	
	(PH-01)/	for One Year to Public		
	2021-22	Health Dept. Store, Sec-39,		
		Noida.		

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 05/04/2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 06/04/2022 at 11.00 AM.

Office Sector-39

(S.C. Mishra) Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health) Noida.

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** 

### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E Tender for the following work

1	Name of Work	Annual Zone for maintenance of Bridge including painting and greasing on steel girder bridge and other bridge including ROB's in the SSE/W/DLI/Line under ADEN/DLI
2	Approx Cost of Work	Rs.99,99,999/-(Rupees Ninety Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundered Ninety Nine Only).
3	Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rs. Two Lakh Only).
4	Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	19.04.2022 @15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

 The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/01/2022-23/W-3 Dated: 21.03.2022 602/202

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

#### Muhammad Mujahid, Minister of Defence, Taliban; Gul Agha Sherzai, Siddiqui, 38, was on Kandahar Province; Zabbihullah Mujahid, Taliban

India's new envoy to

## China Rawat meets SCO Secretary-General

**PTI** BEIJING

ing.

ndia's new Ambassador to India's new Amountain China Pradeep K Rawat on Tuesday met the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Zhang Ming here and discussed various initiatives proposed by India and the country's upcoming presidency of the eight-member group-

"Ambassador Pradeep K. Rawat met SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming today," the Indian Embassy here tweet-

Both the officials discussed in detail "India's initiatives in the SCO including "#Startups & #Innovation, #Traditional Medicine" as well India's upcoming SCO Presidency 2022-23," it added.

India has proposed new initiatives for cooperation in

areas like startups and innovaamong the SCO member

India is due to take over the presidency of the SCO organisation from September this year. Currently, Uzbekistan is holding the chair of the organisation.

Rawat, who was previous-

ly India's Ambassador to the Netherlands, took charge of his posting in China this month. Chinese diplomat Zhang

took charge as the new Secretary-General of the SCO in January this year. He succeeded Vladimir Norov, former Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan. The Beijing-headquartered

SCO is an eight-member economic and security bloc which has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.

## Navalny sentenced to 9 years in prison by Russian court

**AP** MOSCOW

Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was convicted of fraud and contempt of court and sentenced to nine years in a maximum security prison on Tuesday.

A judge also ruled that Navalny would have to pay a fine of 1.2 million rubles (about \$11,500).

Navalny is currently serving another prison sentence of 1/2 vears a prison colony east of Moscow.

His associates have said the new trial was intended to keep Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's longtime foe, behind bars for as long as possible. Navalny has rejected the charges

## Sri Lanka's Parliament approves amendments to harsh anti-terror law

 $S^{\rm ri\ Lanka's\ Parliament\ on}_{
m Tuesday\ approved\ amend-}$ ments to the country's controversial counter-terrorism law, which has drawn widespread international criticism for its harsh provisions.

The bill to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Temporary Provisions) of 1979 was approved with 86 votes in favour and 35 against in the 225-member assembly. The main Opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB), the main Tamil minority party TNA and the NPP voted against the

amendments. The Sri Lankan government by a gazette notification in late January announced amendments to PTA, which the officials described as its bid to make the law fall in line with international standards of counter-terror legislation.

The amendments gazetted included steps such as the

reduction of the period of detention, magistrates visiting the places of detention to eliminate torture, lawyers to be given access to detainees, allow communication with relatives, to expedite hearing of cases and the introduction of a new section to allow bail for PTA detainees.

Foreign Minister G L Peiris told parliament that the government is of the view that the law needs amending in consideration of the social transformations that have taken place since when it was originally enacted. The Opposition argued that the amendments were inadequate.

MA Sumanthiran, the main speaker for the TNA

said, "the amendment is a puerile attempt at pulling wool over the eyes of the world. It makes absolutely no change on the ground". The TNA has been carry-

ing out an island wide signature campaign to force the repealing of the PTA.The European Parliament in June 2021 had called for the repeal of the PTA and urged the EU Commission to consider temporarily withdrawing Sri Lanka's access to GSP+, a favoured trade concession for the island's exports. GSP+ preferences for Sri

Lanka were withdrawn in 2010 due to significant shortcomings in the country's implementation of three UN human rights conventions.

## Sensex, Nifty rebound to settle | Parl Panel asks to assess upto what 1% higher as RIL, Infosys gain

Sensex and Nifty made a spirited recovery to close over 1 per cent higher on Tuesday, riding on gains in Reliance Industries, Infosys and TCS amid a recovery in global equi-

After opening lower, the 30share BSE Sensex had plunged to a day's low of 56,930.30 points on concerns over inflation and growth as India hiked fuel prices after a 137-

However, the barometer rebounded in afternoon trade in line with gains in European and Asian stocks. The BSE Sensex closed up by 696.81 points or 1.22 per cent at 57,989.30 as 26 of its constituents ended in green.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 197.90 points or 1.16 per cent to finish at 17,315.50.

"We witnessed good rebound in markets driven by buying in Reliance. Market recovery after the morning fall is a good sign for Indian market. In coming days, we still expect volatility to persist till the war situation between Russia and Ukraine and crude price stabilize,' said Rahul Sharma of Equity 99.

were marginal compared to the benchmark index, with the BSE midcap index gaining 0.17 per cent and smallcap gauge 0.15 per cent. Tech Mahindra emerged as the

lead gainer with a jump of 3.83 per cent, followed by RIL (2.59 per cent), Bajaj Finserv (2.46 per cent), ITC (2.21 per cent), TCS (2.09 per cent), Kotak Mahindra Bank (1.88 per cent) and Infosys (1.87 per cent). In contrast, Hindustan Unilever Limited, Nestle India, NTPC, and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

"The domestic market started with a negative bias taking cues from rising crude prices and hawkish signals from Fed on aggressive policy tightening. However, the trend reversed as European markets opened on a positive note buoyed by hope that Ukraine may consider working towards a truce," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among BSE sectoral indices, energy (1.96 per cent), oil and gas (1.94 per cent), IT (1.93 per cent) and Teck (1.76 per cent) were the biggest gainers.

"Markets posted strong gains and settled around the day's high Gains in the broader market amid mixed cues. Initially, the bias

continuation to Monday's fall, however a strong surge in the select index majors from IT, energy, and banking space completely changed the tone in the latter half," Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading higher in mid-session deals. Equity exchanges in Shanghai, Seoul, Hong Kong and Tokyo ended with significant gains.

Meanwhile, rating agency Fitch has slashed India's growth forecast for the next fiscal to 8.5 per cent from 10.3 per cent, citing sharply high energy prices on account of the ssia-Ukraine war.

'The war in Ukraine and economic sanctions on Russia have put global energy supplies at risk. Sanctions seem unlikely to be rescinded any time soon," the State-run oil marketing firms

hiked petrol and diesel prices by 80 paise a litre each while domestic cooking gas LPG rates were increased by ₹50 per cylinder, ending an over four-and-a-half month election-related hiatus in rate revision, fanning inflation fears. PTI

# extent PMGKAY helped beneficiaries

A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has asked the department to make an objective assessment to find out, upto what extent the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) has helped beneficiaries and how long it needs to be continued further. Under the scheme, of the 759 lakh metric tons of foodgrain was allocated to States and Union Territories, 667.4 lakh metric tons was lifted and 625.56 lakh metric distributed under five phases to poor and needy people due to economic disruptions caused by the pandemic in the country. The scheme has cost the government to the tune of ₹2, 68,348 crore so far. The scheme is likely to end by March 2022. It is not cleared whether the Government is planning to extend the scheme fur-

The report tabled in Parliament Tuesday noted that the Department has not carried out or proposed a Study or an objective assessment of the Scheme - in terms of Capital Outlay and Expenditure and their final outcome on the lives

The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to make an objective assessment to find out, upto what extent the Scheme has helped beneficiaries and how long it needs to be continued further," the report said.

The Committee applauded the government that they had launched scheme like PMGKAY under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package as part of the Economic Response to COVID -19, for addi-

Pool @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/National Food Security Act(NFSA) (Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) & Priority Households(PHH)) including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for a total period of 19 months during the year 2020-21 and

The Committee noted that during the years 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021- 22, value of Transit Losses is ₹257.92 Crore, Rs. 426.85 Crore and ₹295.65 Crore (till December, 2021) respectively. 'Though, in terms of value, Transit Losses have come down to ₹295.65 Crore during 2021-22 till December, 2021, the amount is still more than the year 2019-20 i.e. ₹257.92 Crore," the report said. The Committee observed that these losses are still too high and needs to be reduced further. The Committee further noted that total num-

ber of regular/surprise checks undertaken by the Headquarter Vigilance Squad during the last three years, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 are 76, 31 and . 58 respectively, which is very less, keeping in view the magnanimity of transition work involved. "Any damage of foodgrains that occurs due to human error should be thoroughly investigated and responsibility for the, losses should be fixed. Regular monthly inspection and constant monitoring are also required to check the losses. The Committee, therefore, recommended that vigorous efforts should be made to minimize the Transit Losses and to increase the number and frequency of surprise checks," the report said.

## IHCL to eliminate single-use plastic at hotels by 2030

New Delhi: Tata group hospitality firm Indian Hotels Co Ltd (IHCL) on Tuesday said it will completely eliminate single-use plastic across all its hotels by 2030, besides committing to skill 1 lakh youths in the next five years as part of its sustainability and social impact measures under a newly launched initiative, Paathya.

The company has outlined a host of short and long-term goals for 2030 with a commitment to sustainability, social impact and growth. These include ensuring 100 per cent

reuse of wastewater, 50 per cent of energy to come from renewables and 100 per cent of the company's hotels certified to a global sustainability standard.

"By 2030, all (our) hotels will be single-use plastic-free, have onsite organic waste management systems, and all of the wastewater will be recycled or reused. Also, 100 per cent of all of our hotels will be EarthCheck certified," IHCL

Managing Director & CEO Puneet Chhatwal said while launching the Paathya

Amongst other initiatives that will make a large impact, he further said, "50 per cent of our energy will come from renewables and over 50 per cent of raw materials will be sourced locally and there will be 100 per cent adoption of supplier code of conduct by tier-one suppliers."

## CSC invests in ONDC to promote e-commerce and logistics in rural areas

New Delhi: Common Services Centers, under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, has invested in the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to promote e-commerce and logistics in rural areas. ONDC is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is based on open protocol.It will enable buyers and sellers across segments, such as mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel, to be visible and transact. The platform aims to create new opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises and small traders by helping them get on online platforms, said a statement from the CSC. Apart from investing in the platform, CSC will

also integrate its e-commerce application, CSC Grameen eStore with ONDC to support the rural e-commerce market. The integration will help small and medium enterprises and local businesses in rural areas to access customers across the coun-

Elaborating on the partnership, Dr. Dinesh Tyagi, MD, CSC SPV, said, "It is for the first time that CSC has invested in an initiative like this. ONDC will democratise digital commerce by moving to an open network. According to an Accenture report, rural customers are increasingly aspiring to buy branded products.

With the CSC Grameen eStore being integrated with ONDC, companies can look towards reaching out to the rural market through the network of over 3 lakh Grameen eStores across the country. The partnership will also generate employment opportunities for rural youth by enabling a last mile logistics network."

## Number of Indian workers requiring digital skills set to rise by 27.3 mn in 1 yr: Report

New Delhi: The number of Indian ital skills for their jobs is projected to workers requiring digital skills for their jobs is set to rise by 27.3 million, representing seven per cent of India's workforce, over the next year, according to a

Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.Com company, released findings from a new research report that revealed digital skills training needs have become more pronounced amid the About 95 per cent of workers surveyed in India acknowl-

edged that they require more digital skills -- the ability and knowledge to apply digital technologies for tasks in the workplace -- in order to cope with changes in their jobs due to the COVID-19 pan-"...Over the next year, the number of India workers requiring digincrease by 27.3 million, representing 7 per cent of India's workforce," according to the report.

That said, only 45 per cent of employers in India have a training plan in place, which could affect their competitiveness in areas such as productivity, innovation and employee retention. The 'Building Digital Skills for the Changing Workforce' report, prepared by strategy and economic consulting firm AlphaBeta and commissioned by AWS, surveyed 1,012 digitally skilled workers in technology and non-technology roles, and 303 employers in India, with representation from public, private, and nonprofit sectors of different industries. The ability to use cloud-based tools, such as cloud developer tools, as well as online collaboration, accounting, and customer relationship management (CRM) software will be the most in-demand skill required by employers by 2025, followed by technical support and cybersecurity The findings also highlight the need for more advanced cloud computing skills, including machine learning

and cloud architecture design. These skills are expected to be in high demand in businesses from healthcare to agriculture, fintech to media and entertainment, the report said." O v e r the course of the pandemic, we have seen organisations of all sizes accelerate their digital transformation plans, driving an increased need for employers and their workers to advance skills training for cloud computing, cybersecurity, and machine learning," noted Rahul Sharma,

President, Public Sector - Amazon Internet Services Private Limited (AISPL), AWS India and South Asia. AWS is investing heavily as part of its global endeavour to provide free cloud computing skills training to 29 million people. AWS offers over 500 free digital training courses. To prepare the next generation of professionals for early cloud careers, and to build a diverse pipeline of entry-level talent into the workforce, AWS partners with higher education institutions, non-profits, workforce development organisations, governments, and employers on a range of digital upskilling programmes. In India, this includes programmes like AWS re/Start, which is a free, full-time, 12week course that prepares individuals for careers in cloud computing.

## Gold marginally lower at ₹51,415 per 10g; silver gains ₹162

Pandemic keeps uber rich off

charities, contribution drops

from 18% to 11%: Report

New Delhi: Gold declined margin-ally by ₹22 to ₹ 51,415 per 10 grams here on Tuesday in line with weak global cues, accord-

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹51,437 per 10 grams.

Silver, in contrast, gained ₹162 to ₹68,137 per kg from ₹67,975 per kg in the previous

In the international mar-

Mumbai: In spite of a massive

jump in the number of the uber

rich and rich becoming richer,

their contributions to charity con-

tinued to decline during the Covid-

19 pandemic when a whopping

200 million-plus were forced into

responsibility) spends have

increased from 12 per cent in FY15

(two years into mandatory CSR

spends) to 23 per cent in FY21,

charity by the uber rich slipped

from 18 per cent of the total fund-

ing in FY15 to a paltry 11 per cent

in FY21, says global consultancy

Bain & Company and charity-

focused domestic consultancy

Dasra in their India Philanthropy

from private foreign companies has

contracted from around 26 per

cent in overall private giving in

FY15 to around 15 per cent in

companies has grown at a moder-

ate rate of 8-10 per cent annually during this period, primarily aided

social funding gap of ₹8 lakh

crore in FY21, which will further

widen to ₹ 10 lakh crore by FY26,

as the rich continue to keep their

purse strings tight, warns the

pandemic years have seen the

rich/family offices driven charities

falling while CSR spends helping

According to the findings,

by CSR contributions.

Donation by private domestic

The steep decline has left a

The report said that donation

While CSR (corporate social

poverty, says a report.

Report 2022.

FY21.

ket, gold was trading lower at USD 1,928 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 25.18 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded marat COMEX trading at USD 1,928 per ounce on Tuesday. Gold prices traded weak on stronger dollar and rise in the US bond yields," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst Commodities Tapan Patel

overall funding towards the social

sector investments, thus meeting

the UN's sustainable developmen-

increased by 12 per cent annually

between FY15 and FY21 to 8.3 per

cent of GDP. FY21 saw the fund-

ing jumping by 20 per cent to 8.3

per cent of GDP, but this is partly

due to the increased government

dole-outs amid the pandemic, and

more because of the record 6.6 per

ities across three funder segments

-- CSR, retail giving, and family

philanthropies. Total social sector

funding in the country has seen a

12 per cent annual growth over the

The report categorises char-

cent contraction in the GDP.

Funding towards social sector

tal goals (SDG).

## Infosys to acquire digital marketing agency Oddity for around ₹419 cr

**New Delhi:** IT company Infosys will acquire Oddity -- a Germany-based digital marketing, experience, and commerce agency -- in an all cash deal for 50 million euros (about ₹419 crore), the company said on Tuesday. As part of Infosys' digital experience and

design offering, oddity will become part of Wongdoody and join its network of studios across Seattle, Los Angeles, New York, Providence, Houston, and London, and design

The company had acquired US-based Wongdoody, which offers creative and marketing services, in a USD 75 million deal in "To consummate the transaction, will also acquire Germany-based Kristall 247 for 3,000 euros (about ₹2.5 **PTI** | lakh)," the Indian IT firm said.

Infosys said the cost of acquisition for oddity is "up to 50 million euros, including earn-out, management incentives and bonus-With more than 300 digital experts, oddity is one of the largest independent dig-

ital agencies, the statement said. 'With oddity's digital commerce and marketing knowledge as well as its metaverse-ready set-up, it is the perfect complement to Infosys' prowess in technological transformation,"

Oddity has a comprehensive service portfolio comprising digital-first brand management and communication, in-house production, including virtual and augmented reality, experience design and e-commerce services across Europe and China, the statement said.

Acquisition of oddity is expected to close during the first quarter of FY23.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that certificate no-20019, 20020, 20021, 20022 Distinctive Nos-1062856-1062865, 1062866-1062875, 1062876-1062885, 1062886-1062895, folio no-0054551 for 40 Equity Shares Rs. 10/- each in SAREGAMA INDIA LIMITED, standing in the name of NEERA RANI GOYAL has been lost and that an application for the issue of duplicate certificate in respect thereof has been made to the company to whom any objection should be made within 15 days from the date of this announcement. The public are cautioned against dealing in any way these shares Date:23-03-2022 Place:Delhi

NCR/FIR No. LR No:241008/2022 has

notice at below address

DEEPJYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE A-13, LGF, South Extn-II.

New Delhi-49 # 011-26262610, 11, 12

## Subject: Transfer of ownership in respect of A45, Second Floor with

Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001

roof rights, Ashok Nagar, Ghaziabad -201001. WHEREAS the said Rita Katyal has

died on 28/01/2022.
WHEREAS Mrs. Shweta Kakkar (Daughter) and Mr. Hitesh Katyal (Son), legal heirs of the said Late Rita Katyal intend to apply for the transfer of the said property in their favour being the only legal heirs of the said Rita Katyal.

If any person is having any objection against the transfer of said property A45, Second Floor with roof rights, Ashok Nagar, Ghaziabad -201001 in favour of Mrs. Shweta Kakkar (Daughter) and Mr. Hitesh Katyal (Son), legal heirs of the said Late Rita Katyal, he/she /they can submit Rita Katyal, he/she /they can submit objection in writing to the office of the undersigned, alongwith supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the concerned Authority may sanction the mutation of the property as per the records & may not entertain subsequent claim, thereupon.

Mr. Subash Bhat (Advocate Add: Trinity Legal Partners, C-401 The Courtyard, Nirvana Country Sector 50, Gurgaon, Haryana subash.bhat@trinitylegalpartners.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company. That Mrs. Sarvajit Kaur is claiming owner fattorney holder of Property bearing No. A-581, area measuring 43 sq., Yds., out of Khasra No. 183 Situated in the area of Village Sadhora Kalan, at Shastin Nagar, Delhi. "the said property". by virtue of GPA, Agreement and will all dated 27.04.1987, executed by Mrs. Bimla Sharma. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner/attorney holder want to sell the said property to Mr. Raw Kumar who is taking Loan from Fullerton for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above claiming owner /attorney holder of the said property, its sale /Mortgage/litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultatis) 200, Jund Fong. 22. Shiney Marg, Most Maga, N. Delhi 15 Rb. 1011-4111/2577-26. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nnl.com/secutes.advocate@gnowl.com/ A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Saagar Bhargava S/o Dr. Anup Bhargava R/o Avantika Appartment 189/1, Block-B, Swimming Pool Bangur Avenue, North-24, Paraganas West Bengal-700055 and Ms. Aastha Dua D/o Mr. Rajat Dua R/o D-67, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector-21, Noida Gautam Budha Nagar (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned, any person nterested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 13-04-2022 in the office of

Deputy Collector/ I/C City Magistrate/ Marriage Officer Noida Gautam Budh Nagar

#### LOST & FOUND It is hereby informed to the

General Public that I, Ms. Renu No.-7, Jakhuali, Sonepat, Haryana, have lost the property document, payment receipt and (Gatta copy) and Allotment etter, Unit No.-172, Water Side Floor. Kundli. On 07-03-2022. Any one finding the said documents is kindly requested to the same to me, on the above-mentioned address. Email id: anikalhanda85@gmail.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Inis is to inform to all concern that Mr. Khem Singh Agarwal S/o Sh. Moti Ram Agarwal R/o 91 Nayabans Delhi (U.P.) had sold the said property on General Power of Attorney basis to the following person(s)General Power of (A.F.) has sout the sale properly of the telear Prower of Attorney was executed on in favour of Mrs. Anzum Afroz W/O Mbold. Asif K/O 12/41. Rastrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-I10004 (whose death on dated: 24/07/2017) which is Registered Agreement to Sell & WILL is executed in Favour of Mohd. Asif S/O Badlu Khan R/O 12/41, Rastrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-I10004, so it is informed to all concern that the said Property No. Flat No. B-12, 117A, & Flat No. B-12, 168D, Udalgiri-I, Janta flat Sector-34, Nolda, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) is going to transferred in favour of Mohd. Asif S/O Badlu Khan R/O 12/41, Rastrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-I10004, if anyone transferred in favour of Mohd. Asif S/O Badlu Khan R/O 12/41, Rastrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-I10004, if anyone has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.



**MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR UNIVERSITY** KUMARHATTI-SOLAN (HP) (Established under HP Govt. Act No.22 of 2010 and approved by U/S 22 of the UGC Act, 1956)

### ADMISSION NOTICE-MBBS (2021-22)

Applications are invited for admission to MBBS course Mop-up round (NRI Seats) counselling 2021-22 in M.M. Medical College & Hospital, a constituent institute of M.M. University, Kumarhatti, Solan from NEET qualified NRI eligible candidates from All India as per the Guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P (C) No. 689/2017 dated 22/08/2017.

The application form and instructions are available on the websites www.mmusolan.org and mmmch.mmusolan.org. The application form along with NEET score card and DD of Rs. 10000 in name of MMU, Solan to be submitted in the M.M. University Office by 24.03.2022, 5:00 PM. Counseling of registered candidates will be done in the Administrative Office of the M.M. University, Kumarhatti-Solan on 25.03.2022 from 9:00 AM onwards. The candidates should attend the counseling physically with all original documents and fees. After the seat allotment, the fee is to be deposited on the spot. Ph. 01792-268267

Website: www.mmusolan.org, Email: info@mmusolan.org



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of M.M. University, Kumarhatti, Solan from all NEET qualified candidates.

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Website: www.mmusolan.org, Email: info@mmusolan.org

### past five years ending FY21 when the fund inflows saw a sharp 20 per cent jump as a result of the increased government expendi-

However, gaps remain, says the report, adding, with the total flow of funds at an average 7 per cent of GDP in recent years (8.3 per cent in 2021), "we are still short of Niti Aayog's estimate of annual funding needed to achieve the SDG commitments by 2030".

As a result, the deficit is of a whopping ₹8 lakh crore in FY21, which will jump to ₹ 10 lakh crore in FY26, if the same trajectory continues, warns the report which also notes that the two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unplanned lockdowns have pushed more than 200 million into pover-

## Sresta Natural, Maini Precision, Campus Activewear get Sebi nod to float IPOs

New Delhi: Organic food company Sresta Natural, engineering solutions provider Maini Precision Products and TPG Capital-backed Campus Activewear have received markets regulator Sebi's go ahead to raise funds through initial share sale offers.

These companies, which filed their preliminary papers with Sebi between December 2021 and January 2022, obtained observation letters from Sebi during March 15-17, an update with the regulator showed on Tuesday. In Sebi's parlance, its observation implies go-ahead to launch an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

As per the draft papers, organic food company Sresta Natural looking to raise ₹500 crore through its

The IPO will be a primary issuance of equity shares of ₹50 crore and an offerfor-sale (OFS) of up to 70.30 lakh equity shares by the shareholders.

## Fitch slashes FY23 India growth forecast to 8.5% on high energy prices, inflation

New Delhi: Rating agency Fitch on Tuesday slashed India's growth forecast for the next fiscal to 8.5 per cent from 10.3 per cent, citing soaring energy prices and rising inflation on account of the Russia-

It has revised upwards the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal by 0.6 percentage points to 8.7 per cent. "However, we have lowered our growth forecast for FY 2022-2023 to 8.5 per cent (-1.8 pp) on sharply higher energy prices," Fitch said. For 2023-24, it is estimated at 7 per cent. In its Global economic Outlook-

March 2022, Fitch said the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery is being hit by a potentially huge global supply shock that will reduce growth and push up inflation. "The war in Ukraine and economic

sanctions on Russia have put global ener-

gy supplies at risk. Sanctions seem unlikely to be rescinded any time soon," the agency Last week, another global rating agency Moody's had slashed India's growth estimate for the 2022 calendar year to 9.1 per cent from 9.5 per cent earlier, saying high fuel and fertiliser import bill could limit

capital expenditure. Russia supplies

around 10 per cent of the world's energy, including 17 per cent of its natural gas and 12 per cent of oil. The jump in oil and gas prices will add to industry costs and reduce consumers' real

incomes...Higher energy prices are a given, Fitch said as it has reduced the world GDP growth forecast by 0.7 percentage points to International oil prices 3.5 per cent. started rising this year and jumped to a 13year high of USD 140 per barrel earlier this month as an aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine war. Brent was trading at USD 118.59 per barrel on Tuesday. India relies on overseas purchases to meet about 85 per cent of its oil requirement, making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil Observing that Indian GDP growth was very strong in the December quarter, Fitch said the GDP is more than 6 per cent above its pre-pandemic level

pandemic trend. "High-frequency data indicate that the Indian economy has ridden out the Omicron wave with little damage - in stark contrast with the two previous coronavirus waves in 2020 and 2021," it said.

though it is still well below its implied pre-

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mr. Suresh Sen intends to purchase & mortgage the Plot of land area measuring 66.50 Sq. Yds. i.e. 55.60 Sq. Mts., pertaining to the Khet/Khasra No. 121, situated in the area of Village Surajpur, Pargana Dadri, Tehsil & District Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) with our client Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited against the financial assistance Whereas, out of the entire chain link documents Original Sale Deed dated 21-10-2008 duly registered as Document No. 12524 in favour of Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma was already lost/misplaced and in this regard

If any person(s) having objection with regard to ownership/mortgage of the Said Property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this

**PUBLIC NOTICE** roof rights, Ashok Nagar, Ghaziabad -201001 In respect of 100% share upon the intestate death of Mrs. Rita Katyal resident of A45, First Floor, Ashok

WHEREAS Rita Katyal was the owner of A45, Second Floor with

n her budget speech, Indian Finance Minister, Nirmla ■Sitaraman spoke about the drone shakti scheme, encouraging drones as a service in our country. Undoubtedly, drones have evolved from defenseonly equipment to multi-purpose equipment, which can be used for several sectors like governance, farming, logistics, to name a few. The finance minister proposed extensive use of drones in agriculture, including spraying insecticides and nutrients. The proposed drones-as-a-service (DRaaS) model has capabilities to revamp and boost India's fragmented drone industry for new business and employment avenues. Under the drone shakti scheme, startups will be encouraged to facilitate drone shakti with its application in multiple sectors. În select ITIs, the required courses for skilling will be started in all states, as per the finance minister. Including drones in the ITIs syllabus will enable a robust foundation for a drone-based

Though drones have existed for the last two decades, the last few years have been very significant in the evolution of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. Whether we call it Flying Mini Robots or Miniature Pilotless Aircraft, major drone activities can be identified as flight pilotcan be identified as fight piloting & operation, data analysis, and data processing. Drones are built using IOT technology, which includes a controller from which launch, navigation and landing activities are controlled either with the help of remote controls, mobile apps, or automated. The controllers communicate with the service of radioactive waves such as wifi. Like any other active device, drones also need a power source like a battery or fuel. drones are also equipped with propellers, rotors, and a frame. drones are made up of composite and lightweight materials so that their weight is considerably low with better transportability.

Drones are not only helping the military, but they are also helping businesses with complex activities normally undoable by humans in a timely and effective way. The adoption of drones by businesses is quick as companies across the globe have identified the infinitive potential of drones. It boosts speed, productivity, and efficiency and improves accuracy. Drones are majorly used for Express shipping and deliver the form of Express shipping and deliver the form of the form o



## Drones can reach remote areas with little or no human interference and within the least required effort, time, and energy, says PRABHAT SINHA

information for effective disaster management, Thermal sensor drones for search and rescue operations, Geographic mapping of inaccessible terrain and locations, building safety inspections, Crops monitoring and assessments, Border control surveillance and Law enforcement, Weather forecast for storm tracking, hurricanes, and tornadoes. Drones can reach remote areas with little or no human interference and within the least required effort, and energy. Consequently, drones are getting adopted worldwide, specifically by Military, Commercial, Personal, and Future Technology.

Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation approved a project of the Telangana state Government to use drone tech-

ery, Unmanned cargo transport, Aerial photography for journalism and film, gathering tor. Drones will spray pesticides and micronutrients evenly in farms and be used extensively to monitor crops and identify the challenges faced by farmers. The SVAMITVA scheme launched by the government has helped millions of village residents with property cards. Drones can be effectively used for emergency services like fire protection, healthcare, and flood relief where human intervention risks life. Police departments of several states use drones for law enforcement activities like - search and rescue, crime scene analysis, surveillance, crowd monitoring, etc. Recently Bihar police have started using drones to trace liquor manufacturers and distributors located in remote and densely populated areas to enforce the liquor ban.

An Irish company named Manna began its drone delivery services last year. According to



them, drone delivery is 90 per cent cheaper than car-based delivery. The drone industry looks promising as the drone service market is expected to grow threefold to US\$ 40.7 bil-lion in 2026 from the recent market worth of 13.9 billion in 2021. To boost the growth of the drone sector, the government has banned the import of drones and their raw materials. Lockdown imposed during COVID 19 grew the growth of drone technology as companies, and government organizations started using it exponentially. Major companies like Amazon Prime Air, Zomato, FedEx, Boeing, DHL International GmBH, drone Delivery Canada Corp, Airbus have already started their drone delivery services. The drone sector has become a lucrative career option for youths with rapid growth opportunities. It has the potential to grow and penetrate sev eral other industries with ample employment opportunities.

The growing use of drones in multiple sectors has several associated risks like drone attacks, delivery of weapons, increased terrorism, to name a few. drones are comparatively cheaper than conventional weapons but still can be destructive with a far better reach. Apparently, the number of drone strikes is increasing, we also encountered a drone attack in our country at Jammu airport last year. Consequently, DRDO has developed an antidrone system, and another is in development. The Anti-drone system has soft kill and hard kill options available. Soft kill option jams the drone, hard-kill option shoots down the drone with the help of laser technology, other drone or missile. Government should make strict laws and regulations to prevent the destructive use of drones. Further defense drones should not be procured for nondefense purposes under any circumstances.

## **GOUOTE OF THE**

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

— Cesar Chavez

## MSC FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for its MSc Financial Technology course starting in September 2022. This MSc in Financial Technology (FinTech) teaches the big data techniques, computer programming, and analytics that banks and insurance companies are looking for. Graduates in this field will have a good understanding of the changing nature of finance and how accounting, business information systems, and analytic methods are adapting to the internet as a delivery channel. The course is 12 months' fulltime study in person at the Glasgow city centre campus, with two semesters of classes followed by two projects over the summer.

Eligibility- Minimum second-class Honours degree, or overseas equivalent in: accounting, eeconomics, business studies, a subject area with a strong quantitative component, no prior knowl-edge of finance is required. A minimum of 6.5 IELTS score, with no individual score lower than 5.5.

Fee - £26,050 for international students for 2022/23

## UG AND PG IN FASHION STUDIES

The Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD) in collaboration with Kingston School of Art, London offers undergraduate programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business M a n a g e m e n t , Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers postgraduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion Business Management. The Institute offers these programmes through its creative studio-based education and strives to groom the next gen-

eration of designers and

design thinkers at its state-of-

the-art campus in New Delhi.



To know more about the admission process and schol-

arships, visit our website. Website: www.iiad.edu.in Admissions Process: IIAD Entrance Test

Last date to apply: 2nd

Exam Date: April 9 and

10, 2022 (Online), April 9, 2022 (Offline)

### FASHION DESIGN COURSES AT EDU BRAIN **ACADEMY**

The Edu Brain Academy collaborated with the world's most prestiwith the world's most presti-gious National and International universities offering bachelor programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers post-graduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion technology.

technology.

The Edu Brain Academy recently announced opening of admissions at the Edu Brain Academy School of Design for UG, PG and diploma-level

Applications: Eligible students can apply online and offline. Due to the COVID-19, there is no entrance exam. Admissions will be based on Class 10 and 12 marks and

Eligibility: For the degree course, students should have completed Class 12 from any stream from a recognised board. For the diploma course, students should have passed Class 10 in any stream from an approved school board.

Admissions Process: Personal Interview

Last date to Apply: April

## Emergence of alternative credentials in the past year

There has been a rise in alternative credentials as it bridges the gap between the programmes that higher education institutions offer and the skills that the firms require, says SUMESH NAIR

With rapid transformations in the EdTech space, post-secondary education has drastically changed. Online education has become the new normal. There has been a rise in new credentials that engage millions of students, academicians and learners across the globe. There is a wide range of alternative credentials. These included micro-credentials, digital badges and industry-recognised certificates that grabbed the attention of learners, owing to the huge benefits they offer in terms of upskilling and reskilling. Another reason for the huge demand for these alternative credentials is its affordability. It offers the ease of learning from remote locations with the comfort of learning at one's

Over the past year, there has been a rise in alternative credentials as it bridges the gap between the programmes that higher education institutions offer and the skills that the firms require. COVID19 has changed the perception of education and skills. This has further accelerated the market for 36 billion fully online bachelor's degrees in 2019. To what extent the online degrees or alternative credentials supported, converted or replaced the traditional market is yet to be determined. But the data suggests that the global alternative and micro-credential market still only accounted for \$10B in 2019. However, by 2021, this number



Co-Founder & CEO of Board Infinity LARGE COMPANIES,

**ESPECIALLY TECHNOLOGY** COMPANIES, OFFER **SPECIFICALLY CURATED TRAINING** PROGRAMMES. AMAZON CISCO, GOOGLE, IBM, MICROSOFT AND OTHER **TECH COMPANIES ARE** PROACTIVELY OFFERING **ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALS** PROGRAMMES FOCUSED ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, **ESPECIALLY EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FIELDS** SUCH AS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CYBER SECURITY



grew dramatically. Due to the pandemic, people focussed on upskilling and acquiring knowledge ahead of traditional learning. Reasons for the rise of alter-

native credentials

Offers Flexibility and Additional Knowledge: Higher education has traditionally been dominated by long-term learning models. This consists of carefully curated, ordered and selected curriculums, combined with bodies of knowledge suitable for future roles and professions. The range of standard qualifications is calculated by calculating the learning time which is then divided into smaller modules with generally agreed standards for the overall learning level of each qualification. These small modules (subjects, units, courses, classes) were traditionally not recognised independently beyond credits. Hence, alternative credentials which offer a wider learning scope and flexibility gained momentum as businesses are keen on acquiring resources that have acquired skills beyond course stud-

Higher credibility amongst recruiters: The extent to which traditional post-secondary education models support the rapidly changing industry requirements is controversial. In an environment where rising costs of degrees and formal education exceed government and individual solvency, numerous tools and alternatives have been developed over the last 5-10 years. However, the confusion and complexity of recruiters, options, and models remain. Today, alternative credentials are an effective way of resolving all these issues and gaining the trust of the recruiters.

Growth in the past year As per Class Central, a

MOOCs search engine, there were approximately 900 HEIs offering MOOCs in 2019 across the world. Higher education institutions like Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Michigan, Stanford University, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur and University of Naples Federico II, among others, offer more than 150 courses. Today, several other private organisations offer highly advanced alternative credentials to help learners get highly accredited certifications, accepted by organisations global-

Large companies, especially technology companies, also offer specifically curated training programmes. Amazon, Cisco, Google, IBM, Microsoft and other tech companies are proactively offering alternative credentials programmes focused on information technology, especially emerging technologies fields such as artificial intelli-

gence and cyber security. Today, other private organisations have also ventured into providing advanced training to their employees. The future of alternative credentials lies in further research and development in curating as well as implementing new programs to help learners from every field. While there has been massive growth in the field over the years, this is just the beginning!





lternate asset industry provides alternatives to traditional ways of investing in the capital markets. PE Front Office solution is intuitive, easy-touse, and has a flexible framework that easily allows customising as per the customer's specific functionality, at any given time. PE Front Office is cost-effective, fast & responsive, promises the shortest implementation cycle in the industry using agile methodology and integrates easily with any third-party data information source system, making it the ideal solution.

These solutions drive efficiency and

transparency and help investment professionals make highly informed decisions. Currently, PE Front Office is servicing 100+ customers across 15 countries including USA, Canada, UK, Switzerland, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, Malta, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and India. PE Front Office was founded by Anup Kumar Adlakha and Ankur Agarwal. Anup is a technology entrepreneur having more than 28 years of experience with providing solutions and consulting in IT services, the majority of which are with the Alternative Investment Management industry. "Over the last few years, PE Front Office expanded its presence covering different market segments and geographies delivering a solution for the

SpeakIn honours IAS officers for administrative distinction

comfortably established in the markets which include India, Africa, Europe, UK, and Southeast Asia (Singapore and Hong Kong). In the next few years, we look forward to further accelerating our growth trajectory and establishing a strong presence in the United States and being on the path to being a market leader," says Anup Kumar Adlakha.

Ankur Agarwal, Co-Founder & CTO, has more than 20 years of experience with defining, designing, and implementing large and complex business IT systems across various industry domains, including Private Equity, Insurance, Travel, Media, and Telecom. "Our approach is to communicate in customer's specific terminology, understand the business process, map it to the available functionality and customize the solution if needed. PE Front Office can also integrate easily with any third-party data information source system, making it the ideal solution" says Adlakha.

Having several years of experience in the domain the founders deeply understood the need for a simple and complete Industry-specific technology solution, and hence created a simple, seamless, technology solution to take care of the Alternate Asset Industry requirements.

## Global literature on Coronavirus disease

PNS BANGALORE

Twenty papers published by the learners and instructors of Great Learning as a part of their Capstone projects have been featured by the World Health Organization (WHO) in their global literature on the Coronavirus disease. Great Learning is a leading global edtech company for professional learning and higher education.

during the first and the second peak of COVID-19, and cover a host of topics including forecasting COVID 19 in India using several machine learning models, detecting the severity of COVID-19 through chest X-rays, predicting the hospital beds utilisation for COVID-19 in Telangana, forecasting vaccination drive

in India for herd immunity

and effectiveness of lock-

The papers were written

downs in Karnataka during the second wave.

With this development, Great Learning becomes the first and only Indian edtech company whose learners' capstone projects have been listed by WHO under global literature.

By putting together the 'Global research on Coronavirus disease', WHO is bringing the world's scientists and global health professionals together to accelerate the research and development process and develop new techniques to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

As a part of this, WHO indexes the latest and most credible international multilingual scientific findings and knowledge on COVID

This database represents a comprehensive multilingual source of current literature on the topic.

### PNS ■ NEW DELHI

t an awards function in New ADelhi, SpeakIn recognised and honoured India's Most Distinguished IAS Officers for administrative distinction and for excellence in speech and thought leadership.

SpeakIn is Asia's first and largest consortium of Thought Leaders, Industry Influencers, Speakers, and Subject Matter

At what is being described as India's first and finest celebrations

of the contribution of civil ser- the "Ease of Doing Business" inivices fraternity to governance and public administration, the IAS officers were honoured for addressing some of the biggest and most ardous challenges facing the country and helping resolve them.

Among the ten IAS awardees was Amitabh Kant, a 1980 batch IAS officer, who won the Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Kant is

India" initiatives. He also drove

currently the CEO of Niti Aayog. He has been a key driver of the "Make in India" and "Startup

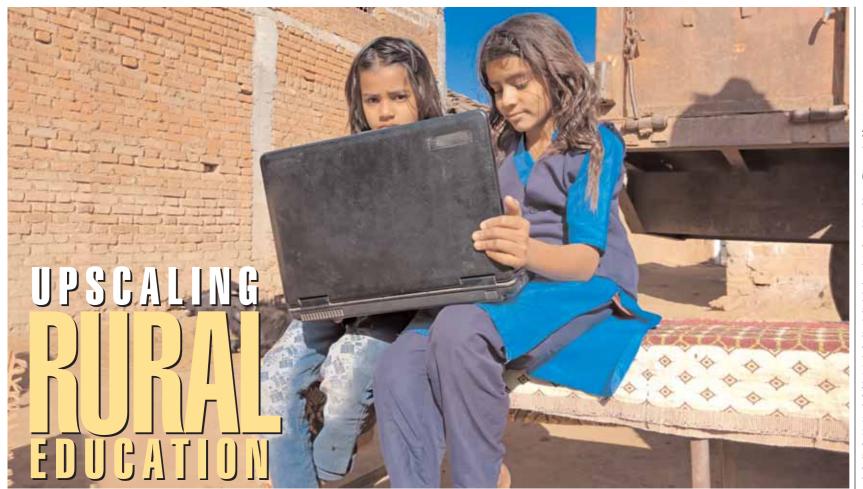
tiative. Accepting his award, Amitabh Kant said, "There is no job content anywhere in the world like the Indian Administrative Service that gives you an opportunity to transform

You can be a great disruptor and bring in radical changes that actually impact the lives of

the people of this country. I thank SpeakIn for recognizing this diligence and to have honoured the leaders in ser-

Others recognised for their stellar contribution included Anil Srivastava, who was awarded for Heavy Industries, Transport and Mobility and Armstrong Pame, recognised for his contribution to Public Policy and Governance. The event was attended by top civil services, corporate and industry thought leaders.

The evening also witnessed a panel discussion on The Business of Public Service—a discussion between leaders of business and the Indian Administrative



While innovation is emerging at the forefront in this digital-driven era, technology is transforming the teaching processes as well as the face of classrooms in rural areas and amongst marginalised populations, says AWAL MADAAN

s the world is transforming, digital resources are evolving with time. This revolution is significant in the rural communities and marginalised sectors as the population is increasing enormously as well as their preferences are undergoing a major shift. Despite this, the resources are unevenly distributed. Due to this factor, there is a substantial difference between the lifestyles of individuals who reside in developed or the urban areas as compared to those in rural areas and remote locations. There is also a huge disparity in the educational experiences. However, with the digital revolution picking up pace, rural areas are bracing up for quality education. Growing prominence of dig-

ital resources in rural areas

The education industry is a constantly evolving market. Ever since the pandemic outbreak, digital adoption witnessed a surge in this segment. As a result, digital resources are used all the more to consume educational content. This concept encompasses learning resources such as apps, software, programs, or websites that ensure students are engaged while learn-



AWAL MADAAN CEO and Founder

ing and help them achieve their learning goals.

The fact of the matter is that rural dwellers do not have access to educational experiences by the advanced institutions as well as channels. While innovation is emerging at the forefront in this digital-driven era, technology is transforming the teaching processes as well as the face of classrooms in rural areas and amongst marginalised populations.

In terms of digital resources, villages are not only catching up with more urbanised areas but are also embarking on a journey of trans-

Biodegradable Polymers, UK

programme is to provide finan-

cial support for those eligible stu-

dents who are going to take part

in a PhD degree in the

Eligibility: To be eligible, the

applicants must hold a first-class

or upper second class BSc or

Master's level degree (or inter-

national equivalent) in chem-

istry, biochemistry, or a closely

Applicants should include a copy

of their CV with marks of com-

pleted academic degrees. Email

Dr Peter Roth (p.roth@sur-

rey.ac.uk) first to discuss their

Applying at the University,

claimants need to meet the min-

For non-native English speakers

individual category at least 6.0 in

an Academic IELTS test not

**How to apply:** For taking advantage of this bursary, aspi-

rants are recommended to take

admission in the PhD degree at

the university. After taking con-

older than two years.

this grant

An average score of 6.5 with each

imum entry requirements.

Admission requirements:

Language requirements:

Supporting documents:

related subject.

application.

Department of Chemistry.

**Award:** Tuition Fees

Course Level: PhD

The main purpose of this

formation. They are now becoming all the more dynamic and are gaining prominence as powerful tools to enhance the learning experiences.

Digital resources upscaling rural education

In recent years, Indian children and youth have become increasingly technology-driven. They are willing to learn and imbibe learning through social media and online channels. Online portals and smart platforms would be of tremendous benefit to school dropouts and adults who have opted out of formal education to support their families. Since education has become an anytime anywhere concept due to rising internet penetration and easy availability of smartphones; the digital content is easily visible on devices and can be accessed as per their convenience. The digital resources can be downloaded and used at a later stage by the learners as per their require-

Although people are using affordable devices like smartphones that are changing the lives of millions of people; they are also upscaling the landscape of rural education in India. Additionally,

the Government of India is offering help to the underprivileged areas by embracing them with 'old' technologies (like radio and television) as well as new-age tech-nologies such as smartphones, apps, and internet services along with digital content.

These can be powerful media of knowledge, cultural exchange, and a broader worldview in farflung areas where the quality of education needs enhancement, there is a lack of resources especially financial and skilled teachers.

As we are bracing towards growth and development, digitization is picking up pace across sectors. As a result, digital transformation in the rural and remote areas is upscaling the educational experiences. The easily available and accessible educational content on digital resources including social media platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, etc. help reach even the remotest of locations. They seamlessly bridge the teaching-learning gap and ensure the provision of digital content in regional languages as well thereby enabling engaged, interactive and high-end learning experiences.

## **'Logistics as a business** is very tricky'

Entrepreneurship and the young generation are synonymous in today's world. Liberal business policies of the Government & state Governments as well as funding scenarios for start-ups have been a boon for young people, says PRADEEP SHUKLA

## TAKE HELP TO PLAN/USE MENTORS

Logistics is a cost that everybody wants to decrease, so efficiency is the key. Logistics companies and service availers would also want the whole system to be responsive. When responsiveness grows, down goes the efficiency, cost of logistics is increased. So treat this part with utmost importance. If you are a low cost logistics model and give better costing and save your client some money, but lower on service levels, it will be an efficient model. If you plan to be a high end model with more cost, you automatically become more responsive, better service levels and you can charge your clients premium for premium services. This can be understood by different courier services. Few charge a very high price, and many others will charge you a low price for the same packet

#### METICULOUSLY PLAN YOUR **FINANCES**

Have you heard about money guzzling businesses? This is one of them. With all practical aspects you want to see in this business, every step will require funds. Because you are a company which has very less to do with computers and technology and high on movement and/or storage of goods. You will need funds. My advice, at least keep 3-6 months money for turnaround of the invested funds. Payments from clients sometimes get delayed. **NETWORK SHAMELESSLY** 

Trust me you have heard me correctly. Getting into business and getting a business are different things. You will need to connect to as many people as possible. Senior, juniors, contemporaries, everybody. Ask for help, hard-shell your start-up. Try to reach people who have higher positions in organisations, but treat them with respect and be humble. Do not act

## smart, you will get nothing. WORK FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES

Personally, this is the most important thing, I love being an entrepreneur. If your team works for you, you work for them. While launching a start-up in this domain, you will need trusted people. Look for like minded people, take intelligent co-founders and on-board guys who can be in your thick



Pradeep Shukla Group Director & CEO PrimoLCS

and thin. If you are surrounded by good people, you get good business, you do good business, and you make good margins. Trust me on that.

BE ASSET LIGHT

Again, this can make you or break you. Do not purchase assets, if you can rent them. Do not invest in purchasing anything until and unless your client pays for it and the cost is amortised for the period of the agreements. Hire trucks, when required, hire warehouses when required. Hire computers as per your need.
ROLE OF INFORMATION

### **TECHNOLOGY**

Pandemic created a situation, where technology has become the integral part no matter what domain we are working on. Similarly in the supply chain field IT plays a crucial role in tracking and monitoring. These tools are Warehouse Management System, GPS Enabled Vehicles Transport Management System Inventory Management System and many more.

Before equipping the technology one should understand the technology itself. There are start-ups who have invested a lot in technology but all money has gone in vain because it was not up to the mark of their require-

To sustain in the market we have to keep on upgrading our technology however, we must also adapt and choose wisely.

shift from an analog to digital world, Arapid technological advances, emergence of big data and easy access

to all kinds of information are some of the many macro-environmental forces changing the legal landscape. With the hiring of the world's first artificial intelligence lawyer by a US based law firm in the year 2016 we have initiated a tectonic shift in the legal profession. As path-breaking technologies like machine learning, artificial intelligence leave a larger footprint in the professional world, we are heading towards a changed and evolved role for lawyers in the years to

bound to create a ripple effect on content,

pedagogy and emphasis on legal education. With the onset of complete automation being a key characteristic of Industrial Revolution 4.0, the focus of legal education will have to transform completely. Digitisation of the legal profession will make it easier for lawyers to perform research functions in a fraction of time. No longer will chambers or law firms need human resources to perform research based tasks to ascertain the legal position on various propositions thereby wiping out a large function performed by junior lawyers. Using artificial intelligence, at the tip of their

**EASILY AVAILABLE** 

AND ACCESSIBLE

**EDUCATIONAL CONTENT** 

ON DIGITAL RESOURCES

HELP REACH EVEN THE

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HIGH-END LEARNING

**EXPERIENCES** 

fingertips lawyers will have available a detailed legal analysis with predictive outcomes of the legal matters they are be redundant?

Absolutely not, but there will be a need for the future lawyer to focus on developing a humanistic approach, solution providing skills and effective communication skills to work parallel with machines and not be redundant. Law Schools need to move away from solely focusing on the knowledge component and instead focus on building skills like critical thinking, effective communication, being emfollowing a solution based approach. To facilitate learning of these skills, we need to change our approach- application based assessments, assessments to include simulation exercises, more open book examinations, structured courses on communication, client handling and opening the eyes of students to practical problems. We need to break the silos based

approach we possess and instead encourage collaborative teaching between legal academics and professionals. Involving legal professionals will give students a good grounding in pragmatic issues in Court and being dealt with by professionals. Through structured interventions in Law

School we need to focus on skilling students in client counselling, mediation and being empathetic communicators. With the advent of virtual hearings, briefings and arbitrations students must also be adept in interacting over virtual platforms. Complexities in the

intersection between law and business with the digitisation of businesses will require the new age lawyers to be solution providers. To be effective solution providers, legal education will have to be comprehensiveexpose students to multiple disciplines. perspectives and by instilling a good sense of nationalism and societal interest at heart. There has to be a pressing need to include many more courses from areas such as business, humanities, sciences and technology to make them adequately informed legal professionals. The writer is Kritika Padode Bhandari

Trustee, IFIM Institutions



#### hina Hong Kong Entrance Scholarships at Kong University of Waterloo, Canada

The scholarship programme aims to recognise and reward outstanding students from China or Hong Kong who want to undertake a full-time undergraduate degree programme at the university.

Award: \$2,000

Course Level: UG

Eligibility: Applicants must have strong academic performance, students must be from China or Hong Kong

Supporting documents: All the applicants might be required to submit academic transcripts of all the previous schools attended and a copy of their passport.

Admission requirements: Applicants must have a highschool degree certificate with outstanding academic achievement for taking admission.

Language requirement: All international students must verify their English language proficiency by meeting their English language requirements.

How to apply: Applicants must take admission in the undergraduate degree programme at the university. Complete the scholarship application form.

**Application deadline:** April

**ROBOTICS & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** AT BUILD MY PROJECT

> Location - Work From Home Stipend – ₹10,000/Month Link - internshala.com/i/e90697 Deadline - 30th March 2022

#### **IOS APP DEVELOPMENT AT MEDIA MAGIC TECHNOLOGIES**

Location – Work From Home Stipend – ₹16,000/Month Link - internshala.com/i/acf9a7 Deadline – 30th March 2022

**OPERATIONS AT GETMEGA** Location – Work From

Stipend - ₹15,000/Month internshala.com/i/8f446d Deadline - 30th March 2022

#### **MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT AT CODENX**

Location – Work From Home Stipend – ₹10,000/Month Link - internshala.com/i/a18cec Deadline - 30th March 2022

#### **QUALITY ASSURANCE (MATHEMATICS) AT IPREP LEARNING SOLUTIONS**

Location - Work From Home Stipend - ₹15,000-20,000/Month Link – internshala.com/i/9693d<sup>-</sup> Deadline - 30th March 2022

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT VANI AGGARWAL**

Location - Delhi Stipend - ₹4,500-5,500/Month Link - internshala.com/i/bcfc97 Deadline - March 30, 2022

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT EDUTHRILL** Location - Work From Home

firmation, seekers can complete the online application form for Stipend – ₹8,000-15,000/Month Link – internshala.com/i/41b9c8 **Application deadline: May** Deadline - March 30, 2022

### **CAMPUS FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATIONS**

ased on the insights from business leaders of the Country, Lovely Professional University (LPU) has lately been ranked among India's top 10 **Promising Campuses for** Research & Innovations.

A team of Chief Executive Officers, Vice Chancellors, and Industry

WANTED

INTERNS!

veterans from across the country have declared this ranking. This has been

mentioned with illustration by the CEO Insights editorial team in one of its issues.

The magazine holds that LPU is integrating unique teaching pedagogies to offer class leading education.

LPU has been ranked for being a pioneering educator that aims for offering industryoriented education in diverse streams, at a time, including engineering, management, pharmacy, architecture, hospitality, fashion, agriculture, digital marketing, biotechnology, humanities and more.

The magazine recognises the foremost campuses contributing to progress of human existence.

The listing has campuses providing an excellent environment for empowerment innovations of latest products and services.

In fact, the industry academia gap has been a prevalent problem that has been plaguing the Indian higher education sector for many years.

### **MEGAFEST- SPARK 2022**

**WINNER OF CODEKAZE** 

oding Ninjas, a platform in

the ed-tech space to learn

placement assistance, is elated

flagship event CodeKaze, which

to announce the winners after

the conclusion of its annual

was in its fourth season this

Coding and secure

or the last few years, Sanskriti University has been organising a fashion event: this vear this show was held at the Megafest called SPARK 2022.

a Techno- Cultural Camouflage, Fest. The show was During the fashion based on different themes like Mohenio-Daro an opportunity to China, Cocktail Egypt, Hawaiian Cowboy

### collections designed by them.

Neoplatus, etc.

exhibit their

show, students got

Mayank Singhal and Manvitha Royal emerged as the winners of the competition that was held online on March 6, 2022 at 7 pm. The competition was hosted in partnership with Nasscom-Futureskills.

### **NMIMS SIGNS SEVEN MOUS**

mpowerYouth.com, the career-tech platform, announces a partnership with GoDaddy Academy, to bring a series of career enhancement programs to its students The career certification programmes from GoDaddy that will now be available to EmpowerYouth members are Certified Web Professional, Certified Web Developer, Certified Web Architect and Certified Digital Marketing

EmpowerYouth is the

world's first holistic career management platform. The company helps students, specially in tier II and below markets, by providing them with various opportunities including campus placement for jobs internships and making them skill-ready for jobs. In addition, it assists institutions and individuals in providing a career

enhancement engagement model. "At EmpowerYouth.com, we focus on creating a definitive enhanced learning programme for our students and young professionals, leading to

their holistic career

transformation.

Our partnership with GoDaddy is a step to add multiple course platform partners. We hope this partnership will help our

### **COVOCATION CEREMOMY AT IIAD**

ndian Institute of Art and Design's (IIAD) Annual Convocation for Graduating Batches 2020 & 2021 was held at the India International Centre (IIC), Delhi,

Privanka Chaturvedi. Member of Parliament, Raiva Sabha, as chief quest graced the event with her presence. She is well known for her work in fields like Women Empowerment and Education

Dignitaries from IIAD, Dr Jitin Chadha -Director, IIAD, Professor Usha Patel - Dean Academics, IIAD along with other course leaders. Professors and Lecturers were also present at the event to encourage and motivate the students for their achievements. The event was inaugurated by Chaturvedi, followed by the Director and the Dean of IIAD.

### CSD RECONSTITUTES ITS WORKING COMMITTEE

n interaction of National Joint Organising Secretary ABVP- Shri Prafful Akant and Delhi University Teachers Association, President- Prof. A. K. Bhagi with the members of Centre for Social Development, CSD was organised at Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. It was attended by senior professors, professors, teachers and scholars of University

of Delhi. In the interactive session, Centre for Social Development announced its new working committee. The newly constituted committee will be led by Dr Raj Kumar Falwaria as the

Chairman. Other members of the committee are: Luke Khanna, Binit Sinha, Mukesh Bagoria, Sohan Lal - Vice Chairperson; Sunita Mangla, Jay Singh Meena,

Secretary; Sanjiv Yadav, Mithlesh Ranjan, Neha Jingala- Secretary; Mukund Bihari, Narender Bharti, Puneet, Smita Yadav- Joint Secretary; Sunita -Treasurer; Priti, Ekta Raman, Subhash Kumar-Office Secreatry; Jagdish, Alok- IT In charge; Gandharv, Durgesh, Deepak Kumar- Social Media In charge; Prof Pradeep, Dr Manoj Kumar- Coordinator.

Manish Kumar- General

he pioneer

# India keeps semis hopes alive

Yastika's 50, Sneh Rana's all-round display help Mithali & Co beat B'desh by 110 runs in must-win Women's World Cup match

**PTI** ■ HAMILTON

astika Bhatia's gritty half-century and Sneh Rana's all-round performance powered India to a dominating 110-run win over Bangladesh and kept them in the hunt for a semifi-nal spot at the ICC Women's World Cup here on Tuesday.

Opting to bat, India recovered from a mid-innings collapse to post a modest 229 for seven, riding a responsible 80ball 50 by Bhatia and a late flourish from Rana (27) and Pooja Vastrakar (30).

Defending the total, the spinners, led by Rana (4/30), controlled the proceedings as they struck at regular intervals. As a result, India bowled

out Bangladesh for 119 in 40.3 overs to register their third win of the tournament. The big victory helped India improve their net run-rate (0.768) further.

The Mithali Raj-led side will take on South Africa in its final league match on Sunday



Before that game however, if the second-placed Proteas beat West Indies on Thursday, India's semifinal chances will get bet-

India's decision to bring in

senior spinner Poonam Yadav (1/25) in place of pacer Meghna Singh paid dividends. With the spinners operating from both ends on a slow track, Bangladesh struggled to force

the pace and were reeling at 69/5 after 25 overs.

Lata Mondal (24) and Salma Khatun (32) provided some resistance with a 40-run partnership, which was broken by Jhulan Goswami when she dismissed the latter, while Vastrakar accounted for Mondal a few overs later.

The pace duo of Goswami (2/19) and Vastrakar (2/26) shared four wickets between them while the spinners accounted for the rest.

Earlier, Smriti Mandhana (30) and Shafali Verma (42) shared 74 runs for the opening wicket but Ritu Moni (3/37) and Nahida Akter (2/42) shared five wickets between them to reduce India from 74 for no loss to 108 for 4.

Mandhana ended up hitting straight to Fargana Hoque off Akter, while Moni struck twice in two balls in the next over to leave India at 74 for 3 in 15.4

While Verma was stumped by Nigar Sultana, skipper Mithali Raj (0) was out for a first-ball duck as India lost three wickets in quick succession. Vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur (14) then joined Bhatia as the two tried to resurrect the

innings, but the duo scored only 34 runs in 70 balls before a direct throw from Hoque caught the former short of her

Bhatia (50 off 80) and Richa Ghosh (26) then added 54 runs to take India past the 150-run

The duo played at a good pace with Ghosh slamming Lata Mondal (0/20) for successive fours in the 30th over. However, Akter brought

Bangladesh back into the game

when she had Ghosh caught behind while she tried to cut a ball that was too close to her After completing her fifty,

Bhatia too perished in the next ball while trying for a paddle

scoop. Vastrakar (30) and Rana (27) came together at 180 for 6 at the end of 44th over and added 48 runs in 38 balls, taking India past the 200-run mark. With the two going strong, the last 10 overs yield-

> England. "We had a great first innings and 270 was par, on

into the game, Cameron Green, 79, and Alex Carey, 67, "We just lost it a bit on had frustrated the hosts in the morning session, adding an invaluable 135 for the sixth

off 21 balls.

Lanning stepped up to guide

## 5 wins in a row

Skipper Meg Lanning's unbeaten 135 fires Australia to win over SA

**AP** ■ WELLINGTON

Australia captain Meg Lanning smashed an unbeaten 135 to steer the Women's World Cup favourites to a five-wicket win over South Africa in Wellington on Tuesday.

The match brought together the only two undefeated teams at this year's tournament, with Australia already through to the semi-

South Africa had more to play for as a win would have sealed a spot in the top four, and they set a solid target of 272 off the back of 90 from Laura Woolvardt.

However, Australia's formidable batting lineup easily overhauled the target balls to

spare, leaving South Africa in a scrap for the three other semi-final berths with India, the West Indies and

another day the bowling attack would have defended it," said South Africa captain Sune Luus.

the field and probably lost a bit of focus... it won't happen

Australia put South Africa in to bat after winning the toss but struggled to make early inroads as Woolvardt and Lizelle Lee put on an 88-run opening partnership.

Woolvart notched her fourth consecutive half-century at the tournament, supported by Luus's run-a-ball 52 and Marizanne Kapp's 30

Australia's openers departed cheaply but skipper

the six-time champions to 146-3 after 25 overs.

"It sort of became clear to me that I had to bat through after we lost a couple of early

wickets," she said. It was Lanning's 15th ODI century and came of 92 balls, including 13 fours and

Tahlia McGrath was Australia's next best batter on 32, with Lanning's teammates content to play cameo



## Sen breaks into world's top 10

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian badmiton star Lakshya Sen's Silver medal winning feat at the All England Badminton Championships helped him break into the top 10 of the latest BWF World Ranking on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old from Uttarakhand, who became only the fifth Indian ever to reach the summit clash of All England Championships, improved two places to become world number reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

Sen had suffered a heartbreaking straight-game loss to Olympic champion and world No 1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark on Sunday.

The former world junior number one Indian thus became the country's highest ranked men's singles player, surpassing Kidambi Srikanth, who slipped to the 12th spot this week.

Sen has withdrawn from the ongoing Swiss Open due to exhaustion after making the final of the German Open and All England in the last two weeks. Women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also jumped 12 places to reach a career-best world number 34, riding on their maiden semifinal finish at the All England Championship.

The duo, who were promoted to the main draw from the reserve list at Birmingham, had Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan in the quarterfinals.

Commonwealth Games Bronze medallist Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy remained India's best ranked women's doubles pair at world number 20, despite losing a place. Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu remained at world number 7, while Saina climbed two places to 23rd, following a second round defeat at All England.

### 3rd Pak-Aus Test in balance after see-saw day **AP** ■ LAHORE Shaheen brought Pakistan back

 $P_{\mathsf{Shah}}^{\mathsf{ace}}$  spearheads Naseem Shah and Shaheen Shah Afridi knocked over eight wickets and restricted Australia to 391 before Pakistan ended day two of the deciding Test at 90-1 in Lahore on Tuesday. The duo led a late charge to

close the second session as Australia lost their last five wickets for 71 runs after reaching a commanding 320-5 at lunch. Naseem finished with figures of 4-58 and Shaheen 4-79. At stumps, the game was evenly poised and the series

hanging in the balance as

Abdullah Shafique, 45, and

ssessing and bringing out

Assessing and oringing the best version of a play-

er was something that came

Warne,

Watson said on Tuesday.

inaugural edition.

Australian all-rounder Shane

matches for Rajasthan Royals

between 2008 and 2011, led the

side to its only IPL title in the

for me was that Rajasthan were

written off because we didn't

have big names as compared to

the other teams. The advantage

that Rajasthan had was the abil-

Warne, who played 55

The thing that stood out

**'Bringing out best in players** 

came naturally to Warne'

former

bad light. The series is tied at 0-0 after the first two Tests in Rawalpindi and Karachi ended in high-scoring draws. Shafique and Azhar had to Azhar Ali, 30, returned to the rebuild after Pakistan opener pavilion five overs early due to

ity to pull the team together

very quickly," Watson said dur-

ing a Delhi Capitals virtual

what people's roles were and

then tap in to that role. For me,

that was why he was an incred-

ible leader because he knew

how to tap into a players best

knew their skill set and where

they fit in. For me, that's why

Rajasthan did so well in the first

season. He pulled all these

from different cultures and

different phases of their careers

and led from the front.

"He believed in the players

"The incredible skill that

press conference.

Imam-ul-Haq was trapped legbefore by Australian skipper Pat Cummins on 11. But the pair looked untroubled, putting on 70 for the second wicket. Before Naseem and

Fortunes turned after spinner Nauman Ali had Carey legbefore in the fourth over after the break. The wicketkeeper-batsman had hit seven boundaries in his

175-minute knock. Green was then bowled by Naseem after a resolute 223-

minute stay intermittently lit up by nine boundaries. Pakistan were looking to make early inroads at the start of play with the second new ball only five overs in.

## Plessis commands respect, says Kohli Royal Challengers Banglore veteran Virat Kohli says Faf du Plessis' solid leadership skills was a key reason that they planned to grab his services for the upcoming IPL edition.

already and we are excited for him to lead RCB. He will do a tremendous job.

"We get along really well with him, all

of us myself Maxi (Glenn Maxwell) Dinesh Karthik and I think all the guys will enjoy this tournament," he added. Kohli joined the RCB preparatory

camp on Monday. The Indian batting vetsion to quit RCB captaincy as he wanted some space to manage his workload. "It's unbelievable IPL has come this

far. (I'm here with) Renewed energy because I'm off a lot of responsibilities and duties and life is in a very good place. For me, it's all about going about life with a lot of joy and happiness.

"My focus is so clear, it's so precise what I want to do — have a lot of fun and enjoy myself on the field and give myself fully to this team, like I have for many years, without any load."

## RR have fantastic pace attack: Malinga

Miami Open.

Newly-appointed fast bowling coach Lasith Malinga feels Rajasthan Royals have a fantastic pace attack with a good mix of experienced international players, genuine Indian quicks and youngsters.

"I think we have a fantastic pace attack. You've got experienced overseas players like Boult and Coulter-Nile, with whom I've worked before,' Malinga said. "Then we've got genuine Indian fast bowlers in Prasidh (Krishna) and (Navdeep) Saini, who have



proven themselves at the highest level, and some new faces in Anunay Singh, Kuldeep Sen

and Kuldip Yadav. "In T20 cricket, I think little margins really matter, and I'm here to guide them to deliver their best in all situations," he

Talking about joining the new franchise, the 38-year-old, who is also IPL's highest wicket-taker, said he's enjoying his new role. "It is certainly a new thing for me to get into coaching and pass on my experience to the younger players. I have played this role before with Mumbai, and now I'm delighted to be working with

## BCB refuse to give NOC to Taskin Ahmed

Kohli, who has been with Royal

RCB will now be led by four-time IPL

"Getting Faf at the auctions for us, the

2008 and as full-time captain since 2013,

relinquished captaincy after last year's IPL

winner Du Plessis, who was purchased by

the franchise for Rs 7 crore in the mega

plan was very clear. We need a leader in

the change room who commands a lot of

respect. Commands not demands,

because he has been there done that,

Kohli said in video posted by RCB's

Twitter handle. "He's a Test captain, that

profile comes with a lot of accolades

auction last month.

 $B_{\text{was approached by IPL side Lucknow}}^{\text{angladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed, who}}$ Super Giants as a replacement for injured England quick Mark Wood, will not participate in the cash-rich league, the country's cricket board (BCB) has said. According to a report by local media, Super Giants reached out to the 26-year old pacer after Wood was ruled out of the tournament due to an elbow injury. New entrants Super Giants

had paid Rs 7.5 crore for Wood at the IPL auction last month.

However, the Bangladesh

Cricket Board has refused to give Taskin the No-Objection Certificate to take part in the IPL as it clashes with the ongoing tour of South "Since we have two important series like the ongoing home tour of South Africa and

the home series against Sri Lanka, we feel it won't be right for him to take part in the IPL," BCB cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus was quoted as saying by

The Bangladesh cricket team is

currently in South Africa, playing an ODI series which will be followed by two Tests which concludes on April 11, while the IPL begins



 $P_{\text{Juventus at the end of the}}^{\text{aulo Dybala will leave}}$ season after the Serie A club confirmed on Monday that it expires in the summer.

made no offer to Dybala's representatives during a meeting held earlier in the day in

for talks over an extension after a verbal agreement reached in October, which would have bumped his basic salary up to eight million euros (\$9.1 million) a season, had been rolled back by the

> "With the arrival of (strik-Dusan) Vlahovic (in

Juventus' project has changed and part of this change included Dybala's contract which today was not renewed. Arrivabene told reporters. "It would have been easy for Juventus to make a much-

reduced offer but it would have been disrespectful to Now effectively a free agent, Italian media report that Dybala could move to

Juve's fiercest rivals Inter

Milan, with Atletico Madrid

also reportedly keen. The 28-year-old has been dogged by injuries over the last two seasons and Arrivabene suggested that his absences played a part in the

club's decision not to renew. "Paulo is no longer at the centre of the Juventus project, that's why we preferred to make this decision," he said.

"No-one has ever questioned his quality but there were considerations to be made over his appearance numbers and length of his

contract.' Dybala signed for Juventus from Palermo in 2015 and since then has won five Serie A titles and four

Italian Cups. He also played in the team which reached the 2017 Champions League final lost

#### Medvedev, Sabalenka top seeds at Miami Open four spot would mark a best-ever run in this week's rankings and has not reached Miami. $D_{\text{world number one ranking and top}}^{\text{aniil Medvedev will try to reclaim the}}$ And Medvedev has a potential second-round matchup with former world number one Andy Murray, provided the seed with Estonia's Anett Kontaveit third seed Aryna Sabalenka chases her first final in 10 months at the ATP and WTA

Also in Medvedev's quarter of the draw is defending champion Hubert Hurkacz of Poland.

Germany's Alexander Zverev is the second seed with Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas third and Italy's Matteo Berrettini fourth.

a WTA final since last May on Madrid Poland's Iga Swiatek is the second

and Greece's Maria Sakkari fourth. Australia's top-ranked Ashleigh Barty is not in the field, but former world number ones Naomi Osaka and Simona Halep are in the draw.

Romania's Halep could face Britain's 19-year-old Emma Raducanu, the reigning US Open champion, in the third round Japan's Osaka could meet Canada's

19-year-old Leylah Fernandez, the 2021

### Chinese team pulls out of Swiss Open PTI BASEL

The Chinese badminton team has pulled out of the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament which began on Tuesday due to multiple COVID-19 cases and injuries to its players, the game's governing body BWF said. The Badminton World

Federation also said that many players have withdrawn from the tournament after testing positive for the dreaded virus. China had also withdrawn from the Asia Badminton

Team Champion-ships in Malaysia in February due to COVID-19 cases.

# January) the footballing structure at the club has changed.

Dybala to leave Juventus

**AP** ■ TURIN

would not renew the Argentine's contract which Juve CEO Maurizio Arrivabene brought to an end months of speculation when he said that the club had

Dybala had been waiting

to Real Madrid.

#### hardcourt tournament at Hard Rock Stadium, where highest seeds receive first-round byes. Serbia's Novak Djokovic moved into the top spot of the rankings this week, bumping out reigning US Open champion Medvedev after a three-week stay run at Miami.

following his third-round exit at Indian

Men's play starts on Wednesday and

women's play begins on Tuesday in the

The 26-year-old Russian, runner-up



return to the top spot with a semi-final

Medvedev only reached his first Miami quarter-final last year, when he lost to Roberto Bautista Agut, so a last-

Briton gets past Argentina's Federico Delbonis. Murray, a 34-year-old Scotsman and three-time Grand Slam champion, won the Miami crown in 2009 and 2013 but lost his only meeting with Medvedev in Brisbane in 2019.

Sabalenka, of Belarus, fell to fifth in

US Open runner-up who ended Osaka's title defense last year at New York, in the