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OF 'LOTACRACY'!

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FLYING HIGH
WITH DRONES

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

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SEN BREAKS
INTO WORLD'S
TOP 10
12 SPORT

Delhi most polluted Capital again

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 guidelines 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 polluted 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 µg/m3 from 84 µg/m3 in 2020. No cities in India met the WHO's air quality guideline of 5 µg/m3. In 2021, 48 per cent of India's cities exceeded 50



µg/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 PM2.5 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 year.

"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 high 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 guidelines
- 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."

TMC infighting in Birbhum 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-division in Birbhum district on Monday night in an alleged retaliatory attack by the supporters 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.

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 that the 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 on Tuesday

PTI

"Some people entered our village and started hurling 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 Khushi Khatun, a relative of the deceased persons said, "Ten

people have died and six are in 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 spectators."

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."

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

Working on
reducing
accident-prone
areas: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Road Transport Minister 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 Minister also stressed the need to drastically cut down the whopping 1.50 lakh road accident deaths in India, saying his Ministry was working on reducing the 'black-spots' which are accident-prone 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,



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 on Tuesday

PTI

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

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

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.

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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.

The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which provides for a 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 and revenue-generating potential 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

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, the party's strength will be reduced to three.

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 former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi 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 votes.

This was Akhilesh's first State election, as he had taken the MLC route to become the Chief Minister in 2012.

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.

P4

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 reserve.

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 kutchha houses, no contractual employees in Punjab: CM

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister 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 kutchha 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-



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann addresses the Punjab Vidhan Sabha session, in Chandigarh on Tuesday

PTI

sion. 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 Assembly...We will approve the draft legislation in the

sion 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 next Session of the Assembly...We will approve the draft legislation in the

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

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.

Continued on Page 2

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 case.

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 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

Lalu's health deteriorates; airlifted to Delhi AIIMS



Ranchi: Incarcerated Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supreme Lalu Prasad Yadav's health condition has deteriorated, and he has been shifted to AIIMS, New Delhi for better treatment, officials said on Tuesday.

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 Birs Munda Airport Director Vinod Sharma told PTI.

Continued on Page 2

CBI arrests CPT official in ₹45 cr bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

arrested and they are in judicial custody. 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, Indian 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 a loss to the tune of ₹45,40,65,000 was caused to Indian Bank by way of fore-closing/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-

spiracy with each other canvassed 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 investment 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 provisionally 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 ED had attached 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 Court.

'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 facility 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 2015, it noted.

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

PNS ■ KOCHI

A scientific study by environmentalists have found that the destruction 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 chairman 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 disaster.

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 acquiring 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 Delhi.

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...

From Page1

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 autorikshaws will be the same as their petrol-driven 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 and said.

Mann regularises 35K Group C, D staff

From Page1

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 expenditure as a result of the implementation of the Bill.

Claiming that the AAP-led State Government is working day-in, 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.

NORTHERN RAILWAY 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 contracts at the following stations/locations to be closed on 13.04.2022 at 15:00 hrs :				
S. N.	Name of work with its location/Railway Station	Advertise Value/RP of one year in (Rs.)*	Cost of Tender document including 18% GST (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)
1	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
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
3	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
4	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
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
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
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
8	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
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
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
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
12	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Sonapat (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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
*Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the license fee.				607/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR LOST OF DOCUMENTS
To be known to all that I, PARVEEN GULATI S/o Sh. Harboring 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, BBlock, 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. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9999227272 with 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client, Mr. Gurvinder Pal Singh Ahuja S/o Late Mr. Jagtreshwar Singh Ahuja R/o T-169/D, Jeewan Nagar, Gurudwara Balia Sahib Road, New Delhi-110014 do hereby notify for public at large that he is executing the Will Deed of his father Late Mr. Jagtreshwar 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. Jagtreshwar 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 immediate effect.
Amit Anand (Advocate),
102, G.K. House, Plot No.187A, Sant Nagar, New Delhi-110065, M.No. 9958068885

THE PIONEER
CLASSIFIEDS
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 Ghufuran S/o. MD Azam, Resident of C-316, Gali No.16 & 17, Mustafabad Extension, Delhi-110094 have declared that my correct name is MD Ghufuran 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.

78K families living in slums to get flats

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to provide ‘pucca houses’ to the 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 ben-

Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan scheme



efit in the first phase.

“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 official.

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 added.

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

Course road and Sohna road. Traffic movement would be diverted at Hero Honda chowk towards Subhash chowk and Pataudi 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 KMP,” the statement informed.

“Road section will remain 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.

PNS

PCR got 19.2% less calls on Holi than last year: Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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 two days.

“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.

“A total of 4,928 calls were 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 stated.

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

occasion, the Delhi 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 14-acre 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 CM.

“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.

Doctor sacked following death of 3 heart patients

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following 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 Gandhi 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.

MCD merger: RWAs seek performance audit



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the Union Cabinet giving nod for the unification of three municipal corporations of Delhi (MCD), the Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in the national Capital called for an audit of the performance of municipal departments and more involvement of civil society in the unification process.

According to the letter by the United Resident Joint Action of Delhi (URJA) to Delhi Lieutenant Governor, Anil Bajjal, URJA welcomed the announcement of unification of the three municipalities, but expressed concerns over the methodology with which the process of unification of municipality is undergoing.

“The working quality and financial condition of the trifurcated municipal bodies got strained and as a result, all development work by previous state government was compromised, and the city went back to the condition of what it was during 1995,” the letter stated.

“URJA demands for a ‘performance audit’ of the various departments of the municipal corporation along with the process of grants by state government by the Comptroller

and Auditor General (CAG) within a time-bound period before holding the municipal elections,” it added.

Delhi has five local bodies namely the North, East and South Delhi municipal corporations, the Delhi Cantonment Board and the New Delhi Municipal Council.

The majority of Delhi’s area is covered by the North, South and East Delhi corporations. These three corporations were known as a single entity as Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) before 2012.

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, B S Vohra, the head of East Delhi RWA, said RWAs were always against the trifurcation of MCDs, but it was done anyway.

“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 implementation,” he said.

Delhi HC issues fresh notices to Sonia, Thakur over 2020 riots

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Tuesday issued fresh notices to several political leaders, including Anurag Thakur (BJP), Congress leaders Sonia 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 delivering hate speeches leading to the February 2020 riots amidst protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

A bench of Justices 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 process fees by the petitioners.

“Notices could not be served to the proposed respondents

(politicians, celebrity, activists and others) as process fees were not filed. On the filing of process fees by the petitioners within two days and taking all other steps, let fresh notices be issued to all the proposed respondents,” the bench said.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on April 29. The court, which was dealing with a batch of petitions concerning the 2020 riots in north-east Delhi, issued notice to all proposed respondents – persons against whom action is sought in two petitions.

One impleadment application was filed by petitioner Shaikh Mujtaba Farooq who has sought FIR for hate speech against BJP leaders Anurag Thakur, Kapil Mishra, Parvesh Verma and Abhay Verma.

The other application is by petitioner, ‘Lawyers Voice’, which has sought the registration of hate speech FIRs against Congress leaders Sonia

Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as well as Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan, AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, former AIMIM MLA Warris Pathan, Mehmood Pracha, Harsh Mander, Mufti Mohammad Ismail, Swara Bhasker, Umar Khalid, BG Kolse Patil – former Bombay High Court Judge and others.

The bench said this was a 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 it properly.

“You are making allegations against certain individuals 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.

Yamuna will be cleaned by 2023, says Water Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Water Minister Satyendar Jain Tuesday said the Yamuna River will be completely cleaned by December 2023 and not 2025.

Speaking at a virtual session 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 network in the next 15 months.

“We will clean the Yamuna by December 2023 and not 2025. All the drains will be completely cleaned... I am confident. We will invite you all to take a dip in any stretch of the river in Delhi,” he said.

“The Yamuna and all the drains in Delhi will be so clean that you will find fish in the

water,” Jain said.

The minister also said that in the next five to 10 years, Delhi’s groundwater table will be as good as it was 50 years ago. “We conducted an experiment 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 replicating it now,” he said.

Jain said considering the increase in drinking water supply, Delhi aims to achieve a sewage treatment capacity of around 1,000 million gallons a day in the near future.

Delhi generates around 744 million gallons of sewage a day, while the DJB supplies around 935 MGD of drinking water against the demand of 1,150 MGD.

Kejriwal writes to Shah for regularisation of NDMC staff

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has written a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking regularisation of New Delhi Municipal Council’s (NDMC) ‘regular muster roll’ (C and D group) employees.

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-

ter dated September 25, 2020 after approval of the Council in its meeting on August 4, 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-



ees of NDMC,” the letter further added.

“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 letter.

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 the city are currently ruled by the BJP, which has been controlling 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 it.

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 9:45 am.

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 and 500 severe.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Tuesday dubbed the Union Cabinet’s nod to a Bill for unification of three municipal corporations of Delhi mere “tactics” to delay the civic polls, but asserted that Delhiites have made up their minds to oust the BJP.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led party urged the Delhi State Election Commission not to “buckle” under pressure of the BJP government and to conduct the municipal elections on time as the new civic bodies have to be formed before May 18.

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 bodies.

The AAP, however, refrained from commenting on the Bill, saying it can give its response on the proposed

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 move.

According to sources in the government, the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill is likely to be introduced in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament. Rai said the merger of the three municipal corporations in Delhi would not make “any difference”.

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.

Two rainwater tanks of 9 million litre capacity being installed: DIAL

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The 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 (IGI) airport.

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 airport 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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The steep hike 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), V 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

the house for nearly 50 minutes 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.

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



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 said.

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

Opposition parties punch hole in UDAN scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Tuesday in Lok Sabha sought to punch holes in the Government's regional connectivity 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 the future." Former Civil 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, Congress 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 airline.

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.

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 systems.

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 Rajnath 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 aircraft.

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

Centre closely monitoring virus trajectory: MoS Health

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday told the Rajya Sabha that it is closely following the virus trajectory 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.

In 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 virus.

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.



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 mathematical model and submitted the same to a pre-print server for experts to comment. The same is not peer-reviewed, Pawar said.

Modelling studies are based on a certain set of inputs either based on real-world scenarios or approximations of those inputs that are not available (which may vary in accuracy according to the technique used), she stated.

"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 video-conference 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 world.

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.

Cong prez continues to engage with G23 leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 (CWC) 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 chance.

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 like-minded parties in states.

Union Cabinet hikes MSP of raw jute by ₹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 of 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.

Israel PM's visit to strengthen bilateral cooperation: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

Israel 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 knowledge-based 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 will continue 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 India'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 of 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 their child.

The FSSAI must understand that packaged foods that are high in salt, sugar, fat (HFSF), 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 it to 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 pandemic, CCPA took stringent action against misleading advertisements whereby 13 companies withdrew their advertisements and three companies made corrective advertisements.

Further, to safeguard consumer interest against misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices, CCPA has also issued two advisories.

FIRST COLUMN

A DIGITAL-FIRST ECOSYSTEM

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



OMKAR **RAI**

Indian 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 knowledge-based economy but also accelerating the pace of employment generation 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 start-up 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. Start-ups 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 sooner rather than later.

(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



ARUN **SINHA**

The 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 leaders belonging to the particular caste 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-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 organization. The party deepened the connection 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 therefore a victory of deep casteism over shallow casteism.

The party cannot take a high moral stand that its politics is casteless and nationalist. The 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 social 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. 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 form.

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 short, a political party that wants 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?

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THE SOCIAL 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.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

Will 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 his rise.

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**

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

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 independents.

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.

Ukraine retakes key Kyiv suburb even as super bombs rain

AP ■ KYIV

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 the streets.

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 Ukrainians.

Early Tuesday, Ukrainian 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-

tially take other northwest suburbs, Bucha, Hostomel and Irpin, some of which had been under attack almost since Russia's military invaded almost a month ago.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces are increasingly concentrating their air power and artillery on Ukraine's cities and the civilians living there.

The invasion has driven 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 population, according to the United

Nations. The U.N. Has confirmed over 900 civilian deaths 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 primary objective. The bulk of Moscow's forces remain miles from the center, but missiles 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.

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."

Ukraine refugee exodus surpasses 3.5 million

AP ■ GENEVA

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 II.

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.

The 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 survived several Nazi concentration camps during World War II but was killed last week during an attack in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. He was 96.

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 multi-story 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 sale.

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 himself.

UK-bound Ukraine 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 Ukraine.

Biden warns US companies of potential Russian cyberattacks

AP ■ RICHMOND

President Joe Biden is urging U.S. Companies to make sure their digital doors are locked tight because of "evolving intelligence" that Russia is considering launching cyberattacks 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 defenses and has urged com-

panies to back up their data, turn on multifactor authentication and take other steps to improve cyber hygiene.

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 activity," like scanning websites and hunting for vulnerabilities, that is common among nation-state hackers.

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

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 out, too.

"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 will.

9 mn kids to be vaccinated against polio in Africa

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

Apolio has been launched this week in four countries in southern and eastern Africa after an outbreak was confirmed in Malawi. The urgent vaccination drive has started in Malawi where drops 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

noida

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

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 & corrigendum etc.

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

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**.

Sd/-
(S.C. Mishra)
**Sr. Project Engineer
(Public Health) Noida.**

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

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 Hundred 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 602/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी जिला-बालोद(झारखंड)

निविदा क्र.347 से 366/ले.शा./का.अ./लो.स्वा.या.खण्ड / 2022

बालोद, दिनांक : 16-03-2022

ई-प्राक्योरमेंट प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ऑनलाईन निविदाएं प्रारंभ -ए में प्रशिक्षित दर पर नीचे उल्लिखित कार्य के विभिन्न कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बालोद द्वारा के एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था ई-रजिस्ट्रेशन की सक्षम वेबो में पंजीकृत उद्देश्यों से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण - बालोद जिले के वि.स्वा. बालोद, डी.डी. गुरुद्वारा ई एच डीडीलोकारा के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत रेट्रोफिट एवं एकेल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजना का कार्य।

क्र. / विवरण	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
1 347/95497	विकासखंड डीडीलोकारा ग्राम औरी	रु. 64.74 लाख
2 348/95502	विकासखंड डीडीलोकारा ग्राम अण्डी (सोनबरसापाड़ा)	रु. 60.07 लाख
3 349/95503	विकासखंड गुरुद्वारा ग्राम मिलाई	रु. 61.54 लाख
4 350/95504	विकासखंड गुरुद्वारा ग्राम बरसापाड़ा	रु. 120.17 लाख
5 351/95505	विकासखंड डीडीलोकारा ग्राम थिख्ताई खुई	रु. 59.36 लाख
6 352/95506	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम मुजुमहान	रु. 113.77 लाख
7 353/95507	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम दरबारी नवागांव	रु. 96.11 लाख
8 354/95508	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम खैरवाडी	रु. 78.96 लाख
9 355/95509	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम कोई	रु. 76.57 लाख
10 356/95511	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम ओम्पा	रु. 109.30 लाख
11 357/95512	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम बिरेतरा	रु. 97.90 लाख
12 358/95513	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम गोरपाल	रु. 76.27 लाख
13 359/95514	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम खरखुली	रु. 67.84 लाख
14 360/95515	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम जगतारा	रु. 126.54 लाख
15 361/95516	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम मनीद	रु. 77.12 लाख
16 362/95517	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम घुमका	रु. 121.29 लाख
17 363/95519	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम जमगांव (न)	रु. 132.78 लाख
18 364/95520	विकासखंड बालोद ग्राम परसोदा	रु. 141.05 लाख
19 365/95521	विकासखंड डीडी ग्राम बरहनी	रु. 95.06 लाख
20 366/95522	विकासखंड डीडी ग्राम कोपेदेरा	रु. 119.92 लाख

1. निविदा समीक्षण प्रारंभ की तिथि 25/03/2022

2. निविदा समीक्षण की अंतिम तिथि 05/04/2022

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, सर्वोपरि राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विधि, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.esgate.gov.in> दिनांक 25 03 2022 से एवं कार्यालयीन समय पर कार्यालय में देखे जा सकते हैं।

दस्तावेज / कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बालोद जिला बालोद (झारखंड)

R.O.No - 68908/6
R.O. Date - 22/03/2022

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 be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sl. 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 Bldg. Division,	3011/-

Note:-

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
Janasanyog/C/13734/21

Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

India's new envoy to China Rawat meets SCO Secretary-General

PTI ■ BEIJING

India's new Ambassador to 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 grouping.

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

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 innovation and traditional medicine among the SCO member states.

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 previously 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 2 1/2 years in 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 as bogus.

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

PTI ■ COLOMBO



Sri Lanka's Parliament on Tuesday approved amendments 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 carrying 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 1% higher as RIL, Infosys gain

Mumbai: Benchmark stock indices 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 equities.

After opening lower, the 30-share 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-day hiatus.

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.

Gains in the broader market

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 amid mixed cues. Initially, the bias

was slightly on the negative side in 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 Russia-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 agency said.

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**

Parl Panel asks to assess upto what extent PMGKAY helped beneficiaries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 further or not.

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 of beneficiaries.

"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-

tional allocation of food-grains from the Central Pool at 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 2021-22.

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 number 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 initiative.

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." **PTI**

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 country.

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." **PNS**

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

New Delhi: The number of Indian 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 report.

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 pandemic.

About 95 per cent of workers surveyed in India acknowledged 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 pandemic. "...Over the next year, the number of India workers requiring dig-

ital skills for their jobs is projected to increase 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 non-profit 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 skills. 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, 12-week course that prepares individuals for careers in cloud computing. **PTI**

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

New Delhi: Gold declined marginally by ₹22 to ₹ 51,415 per 10 grams here on Tuesday in line with weak global cues, according to HDFC Securities.

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 trade.

In the international mar-

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

"Gold prices traded marginally down with spot prices at 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 said. **PTI**

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 hubs in five cities in India, Infosys said in a statement.

The company had acquired US-based Wongdoody, which offers creative and marketing services, in a USD 75 million deal in 2018.

"To consummate the transaction, Infosys will also acquire Germany-based Kristall 247 for 3,000 euros (about ₹2.5 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 bonuses."

With more than 300 digital experts, oddity is one of the largest independent digital 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," Infosys President Ravi Kumar S said. 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. **PTI**

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 is looking to raise ₹500 crore through its IPO.

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

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-Ukraine war.

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 energy supplies at risk. Sanctions seem unlikely to be rescinded any time soon," the agency said.

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 3.5 per cent.

International oil prices started rising this year and jumped to a 13-year 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 prices. 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 though it is still well below its implied pre-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. **PTI**

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**

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 Khedi/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 NCR/FIR No. LR No:241008/2022 has been lodged with Delhi Police. 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 notice at below address. **DEEPIYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE** A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 011-26262610, 11, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer of ownership in respect of A45, Second Floor with roof rights, Ashok Nagar, Ghaziabad -201001 In respect of 100% share upon the intestate death of Mrs. Rita Katyarl resident of A45, First Floor, Ashok Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001 WHEREAS Rita Katyarl was the owner of A45, Second Floor with roof rights, Ashok Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001. WHEREAS the said Rita Katyarl has died on 28/01/2022. WHEREAS Mrs. Shweta Kakkar (Daughter) and Mr. Hitesh Katyarl (Son), legal heirs of the said Late Rita Katyarl intend to apply for the transfer of the said property in their favour being the only legal heirs of the said Rita Katyarl. 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 Katyarl (Son), legal heirs of the said Late Rita Katyarl, he/she may 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

Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company, that Mrs. Sarvejit Kaur is claiming owner /attorney holder of Property bearing No. A-381, area measuring 43 sq. yds, out of Khassa No. 183 Situated in the area of Village Sadhona Kalan, at Shastri 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. Ravi Kumar who is taking Loan from Fullerton for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection upon the ownership of above mentioned claiming owner /attorney holder of the said property, its sale /Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing or the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)** 200, Indraprastha, Sector 23, Dwarka, New Delhi-110028. Ph: 011-4111-2573, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

LOST & FOUND

It is hereby informed to the General Public that **I, Ms. Renu D/o Krishan Pal**, R/o Ward No.-7, Jakhuali, Sonapat, Haryana, have lost the property document, payment receipt and (Gatta copy) and Allotment Letter, 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 : anikalhandaa85@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Saagar Bhargava S/o Dr. Anup Bhargava R/o Avantika Apartment 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 interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 13-04-2022 in the office of the undersigned.

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



MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR UNIVERSITY
KUMARHATTI-SOLAN (HP)
 (Established under HP Govt. Act No.22 of 2010 and approved by UIS 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 counselling physically with all original documents and fees. After the seat allotment, the fee is to be deposited on the spot. **Ph. 01792-268267** **REGISTRAR**
 Website: www.mmusolan.org, Email: info@mmusolan.org



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

In her budget speech, Indian Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman spoke about the drone shakti scheme, encouraging drones as a service in our country. Undoubtedly, drones have evolved from defense-only 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. In 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 ecosystem.

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 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 radio waves such as wi-fi. 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 portability.

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



FLYING HIGH WITH DRONES

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

ery, Unmanned cargo transport, Aerial photography for journalism and film, gathering 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, time, 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 technology to deliver vaccines in remote areas. A lot depends

upon drone technology for the growth of the Agriculture sector. 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



Prabhat Sinha
IT Expert & Amazon Bestseller Author of Innovate & Seize Your Success

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 billion 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 several 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 anti-drone 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.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
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' full-time 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, economics, business studies, a subject area with a strong quantitative component, no prior knowledge 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 (IAD) in collaboration with Kingston School of Art, London offers undergraduate programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers post-graduate 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 generation of designers and design thinkers at its state-of-the-art campus in New Delhi.



To know more about the admission process and scholarships, visit our website.

Website: www.iid.edu.in
Admissions Process: IAD Entrance Test

Last date to apply: 2nd April, 2022

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 prestigious 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.

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

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 merit.

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 15, 2022

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 own pace.

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



Sumesh Nair
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 alternative 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 studies.

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 globally.

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 intelligence 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!



KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Alternate asset industry provides alternatives to traditional ways of investing in the capital markets. PE Front Office solution is intuitive, easy-to-use, 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

Alternate Asset industry. The solution is 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.

The papers were written 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-

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 19.

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

SpeakIn honours IAS officers for administrative distinction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At an awards function in New Delhi, 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 Experts.

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

of the contribution of civil services fraternity to governance and public administration, the IAS officers were honoured for addressing some of the biggest and most arduous 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 currently the CEO of Niti Aayog.

He has been a key driver of the "Make in India" and "Startup India" initiatives. He also drove

the "Ease of Doing Business" initiative. 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 lives."

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 services."

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 Service.



UPSCALING RURAL EDUCATION

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

As 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 digital 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,
AwalEnglish.com

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-

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 requirement.

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,

EASILY AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL CONTENT 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

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 technologies 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 far-flung 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 requirement.

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

A shift from an analog to digital world, rapid 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 come. This change is

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

MINDIT

fingertips lawyers will have available a detailed legal analysis with predictive outcomes of the legal matters they are working on. But will this mean lawyers will 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 empathetic and following 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 comprehensive-expose 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



China Hong Kong Entrance Scholarships at 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 high-school 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 15, 2022

University of Surrey PhD International Studentships in Biodegradable Polymers, UK

The main purpose of this programme is to provide financial support for those eligible students who are going to take part in a PhD degree in the Department of Chemistry.

Award: Tuition Fees
Course Level: PhD
Eligibility: To be eligible, the applicants must hold a first-class or upper second class BSc or Master's level degree (or international equivalent) in chemistry, biochemistry, or a closely related subject.

Supporting documents: Applicants should include a copy of their CV with marks of completed academic degrees. Email Dr Peter Roth (p.roth@surrey.ac.uk) first to discuss their application.

Admission requirements: Applying at the University, claimants need to meet the minimum entry requirements.

Language requirements: For non-native English speakers: An average score of 6.5 with each individual category at least 6.0 in an Academic IELTS test not older than two years.

How to apply: For taking advantage of this bursary, aspirants are recommended to take admission in the PhD degree at the university. After taking confirmation, seekers can complete the online application form for this grant.

Application deadline: May 20, 2022

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 Home
Stipend – ₹15,000/Month
Link – 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/9693d1
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
Stipend – ₹8,000-15,000/Month
Link – internshala.com/i/41b9c8
Deadline – March 30, 2022

INBRIEF

CAMPUS FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATIONS

Based 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 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 industry-oriented 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

For the last few years, Sanskriti University has been organising a fashion event; this year this show was held at the Megafest called SPARK 2022,

a Techno- Cultural Fest. The show was based on different themes like Mohenjo-Daro, China, Cocktail, Egypt, Hawaiian, Cowboy,

Camouflage, Neoplatus, etc. During the fashion show, students got an opportunity to exhibit their collections designed by them.

WINNER OF CODEKAZE

Coding Ninjas, a platform in the ed-tech space to learn coding and secure placement assistance, is elated to announce the winners after the conclusion of its annual flagship event CodeKaze, which was in its fourth season this

year. 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.



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

Yastika 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 semi-final 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 80-ball 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 better.

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 overs.

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 crease.

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

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 body.

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 yielded 64 runs.

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-finals.

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 line-up easily overhauled the target with 28 balls to spare, leaving South Africa in a scrap for the three other semi-final berths with India, the West Indies and England.

"We had a great first innings and 270 was par, on another day the bowling attack would have defended it," said South Africa captain Sune Luus.

"We just lost it a bit on the field and probably lost a bit of focus... it won't happen again."

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 off 21 balls.

Australia's openers departed cheaply but skipper Lanning stepped up to guide

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 one six.

Tahlia McGrath was Australia's next best batter on 32, with Lanning's teammates content to play cameo roles.



Sen breaks into world's top 10

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian badminton 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 9 with 74,786 points, surpassing reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

Sen had suffered a heart-breaking 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 stunned second seeded Koreans Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan in the quarterfinals.

Commonwealth Games Bronze medalist 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 medalist 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

Pace 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 Azhar Ali, 30, returned to the pavilion five overs early due to



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 rebuild after Pakistan opener

Imam-ul-Haq was trapped leg-before by Australian skipper Pat Cummins on 11. But the pair looked untroubled, putting on 70 for the second wicket. Before Naseem and

Shaheen brought Pakistan back into the game, Cameron Green, 79, and Alex Carey, 67, had frustrated the hosts in the morning session, adding an invaluable 135 for the sixth wicket.

Fortunes turned after spinner Nauman Ali had Carey leg-before 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.

'Bringing out best in players came naturally to Warne'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Assessing and bringing out the best version of a player was something that came naturally to "incredible leader" Shane Warne, former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson said on Tuesday.

Warne, who played 55 matches for Rajasthan Royals between 2008 and 2011, led the side to its only IPL title in the inaugural edition.

"The thing that stood out 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-

ity to pull the team together very quickly," Watson said during a Delhi Capitals virtual press conference.

"The incredible skill that Shane Warne had was seeing what people's roles were and then tap in to that role. For me, that was why he was an incredible leader because he knew how to tap into a players best version."

"He believed in the players, 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."

Plessis commands respect, says Kohli

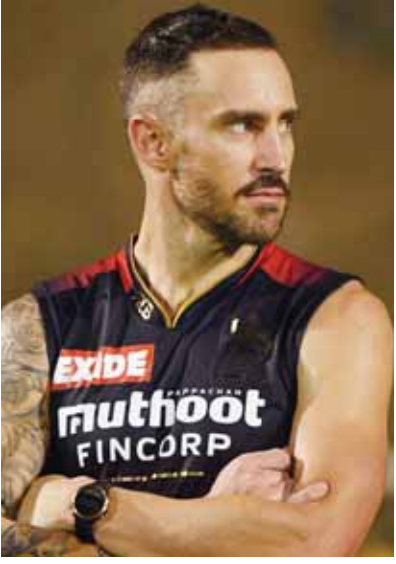
PTI ■ MUMBAI

Royal Challengers Bangalore 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.

Kohli, who has been with Royal Challengers right from the first edition in 2008 and as full-time captain since 2013, relinquished captaincy after last year's IPL.

RCB will now be led by four-time IPL winner Du Plessis, who was purchased by the franchise for Rs 7 crore in the mega auction last month.

"Getting Faf at the auctions for us, the 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



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 veteran had earlier said he made the decision 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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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 Prasadh (Krishna) and (Navdeep) Saini, who have



proven themselves at the highest level, and some new faces in Anunay Singh, Kuldeep Sen

and Kuldeep 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 added.

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 Rajasthan Royals."

BCB refuse to give NOC to Taskin Ahmed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed, who was approached by IPL side Lucknow 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 Africa.

"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 Cricbuzz.

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 on March 26.

Dybala to leave Juventus



AP ■ TURIN

Paulo Dybala will leave Juventus at the end of the season after the Serie A club confirmed on Monday that it would not renew the Argentine's contract which expires in the summer.

Juve CEO Maurizio Arrivabene brought to an end months of speculation when he said that the club had made no offer to Dybala's representatives during a meeting held earlier in the day in Turin.

Dybala had been waiting 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 club.

"With the arrival of (striker Dusan) Vlahovic (in

January) the footballing structure at the club has changed. 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 Paulo."

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 to Real Madrid.

Medvedev, Sabalenka top seeds at Miami Open

AP ■ MIAMI

Daniil Medvedev will try to reclaim the world number one ranking and top seed Aryna Sabalenka chases her first final in 10 months at the ATP and WTA Miami Open.

Men's play starts on Wednesday and women's play begins on Tuesday in the 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 following his third-round exit at Indian Wells.

The 26-year-old Russian, runner-up



at the past two Australian Opens, would return to the top spot with a semi-final run at Miami.

Medvedev only reached his first Miami quarter-final last year, when he lost to Roberto Bautista Agut, so a last-

four spot would mark a best-ever run in Miami.

And Medvedev has a potential second-round matchup with former world number one Andy Murray, provided the 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.

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.

Sabalenka, of Belarus, fell to fifth in

this week's rankings and has not reached a WTA final since last May on Madrid clay.

Poland's Iga Swiatek is the second seed with Estonia's Anett Kontaveit third 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 US Open runner-up who ended Osaka's title defense last year at New York, in the third round.