



Imran Khan-led Pak govt is considering a proposal to borrow gold from citizens to increase the country's forex reserves that remain on a sliding path despite taking over \$5bn in loans in 3 months, say reports

Iranian Parliament has laid out six conditions for Tehran to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal with global powers in a letter to President Ebrahim Raisi published on Sunday

Australia will welcome int'l tourists on Monday after nearly two years of sealing its borders, relying on high Covid-19 vaccination rates to live with the pandemic as infections decline

UK is set to drop legal requirement to self-isolate for up to 10 days on testing positive for coronavirus as part of the govt's so-called 'living with Covid' plan, Downing Street indicates

Queen Elizabeth II has tested Covid +ve & is experiencing mild symptoms, says Buckingham Palace. In a tweet, PM Modi has wished her speedy recovery



60% vote in 59 UP seats, rise in turnout at Yadav bastion

63.4% Polling In Punjab, Down From 76.8% In '17

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh/Lucknow: Punjab recorded an extensive dip in voter turnout from 76.8% in 2017 to 63.4% till 5pm on Sunday for the single-phase state assembly polls, while the third

► **BJP-SAD tie-up? Netas keep options open, PAGE OPP**

round of UP elections saw a marginal drop in polling at 60%, as opposed to 62.2% five years ago. Figures are likely to change marginally when the EC updates them on Monday.

Held under the shadow of Covid that restricted rallies and door-to-door canvassing as well as a yearlong farmers' stir, the Punjab election saw for the

States must have power to recall gov: Kerala govt

Amid repeated tussles with governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Kerala government has put forward a recommendation to the Centre that state assemblies should have powers to recall the governor. **P 10**

Wankhede booked over bar licence

A criminal case has been filed against NCB's Mumbai ex-zonal director Samir Wankhede for allegedly securing a bar licence fraudulently 25 years ago. **P 10**

New accreditation rules arbitrary: EGI

Editors Guild of India urged government to withdraw the new media accreditation rules, terming them "vague and arbitrary" with "draconian clauses". **P 10**

NE Delhi riots: Bail to 4 in 3 murder cases

Delhi court has granted bail to four persons in three murder cases related to the northeast Delhi riots after the sole witness did not identify the accused. **P 7**

Cop traces ₹17L gold forgotten on train

A quick-thinking cop recently helped a family trace their jewellery worth Rs 17 lakh left behind on the Chennai Express after it reached Mumbai. **P 18**

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DHULL'S DOUBLE DELIGHT DEBUT

India's U-19 World Cup-winning captain Yash Dhull became only the third batter in history after Gujarat's Nari Contractor (1952-53) and Maharashtra's Virag Awate (2012-13) to score a hundred in each innings on Ranji Trophy debut

► Delhi's Dhull (113 not out off 202 balls) and Dhruv Shorey (107 off 165 balls) took Delhi to 228 for no loss in the 2nd innings against Tamil Nadu before the players shook hands for a draw

► Dhull is the 7th Delhi batsman to post a century in each innings of a Ranji match, joining MAK Pataudi (vs

Services, 1964-65), Surinder Khanna (vs K'taka, 1978-79), Madan Lal (vs Rlys, 1980-81), Ajay Sharma (vs Rlys, 1995-96), Raman Lamba (vs Maha, 1996-97) and Rishabh Pant (vs J'Khand, 2016-17)

► In Ahd, less than a day after being dropped from India's Test squad, Pujara struck an 83-ball 91 for Saurashtra

India Win T20 Series 3-0, Do A 'Double' On WI

India (184/5) beat West Indies (167/9) by 17 runs in the 3rd T20I and achieved a rare 'double' after earlier trouncing the visitors 3-0 in the ODIs.

Suryakumar Yadav (65 off 31 balls) put on 91 with Venkatesh Iyer (35 off 19) for 5th wkt as India scored 86 in last 5 overs

FULL COVERAGE **P 15**

HIGHEST JUMP IN VOTING IN MAINPURI

► Third phase of UP election saw a turnout of approx 60% in 59 constituencies across 16 districts of three regions — parts of western UP, Awadh and Bundelkhand

► According to EC, till 5 pm, Mainpuri district recorded highest jump in polling percentage by 1.9, followed by Etah 1.1, Kasganj 0.4% and Auraiya 0.05 %

► Punjab witnessed 63.4% polling on Sunday till 5 pm



SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav and his younger brother Shivpal Yadav

for the single-phase polls to decide fate of 1,304 candidates, including 93 women & two transgenders, contesting from 117 constituencies. Not a single case of poll disruption reported

first time in the state's history a multi-cornered fight as new political combinations sprang up ahead of the polls. The key players include Congress, main opposition party AAP, the SAD-BSP alliance, and the coalition of BJP, ex-CM Amarinder Singh's Punjab Lok Congress and Rajya Sabha member Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa's Shi-

romani Akali Dal (Sanyukt). Farmers' political outfit Sanyukt Samaj Morcha has also thrown in its hat for the first time. Sunday's vote will decide the fate of 1,304 candidates, including 93 women and two transgender aspirants, contesting from 117 constituencies.

► **Mansa repeats history, P 11**

KCR meets Pawar, Uddhav in Mum to discuss non-BJP, non-Cong front

Mumbai: Embattled Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday flew into Mumbai to meet his Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray and NCP president Sharad Pawar for drafting a new agenda for setting up a non-BJP, non-Congress front with 'like-minded' parties. There was unanimity among the three leaders on the urgent need for a 'parivartan' (change), reports **Prafulla Marpakwar.**

The Telangana CM said Pawar "should take a lead in the formation of the front".

Attacking the NDA government over the "politics of revenge", Thackeray said: "We never believed in politics of revenge, it was neither Hindutva nor Indian culture... It's a worsening political environment. We have to bring our country on the right path. Who will be the PM can be discussed later. We will meet many political leaders from today onwards".

► **'Working on a plan', P 11**

'Def consultant' arrested for duping bizmen

The Delhi Police has arrested a "defence consultant" who duped scores of businessmen of crores of rupees on the pretext of helping them bag orders in the defence ministry, international establishments and Army canteens. The accused, K Venkata Krishna Murthi (58), a resident of Dehradun, is a chemical engineer who posed as an ITian having links with top officials of DRDO, police said.

Initial probe revealed that Murthi duped at least 31 people of roughly Rs 3.9 crore. "He charged a 'consultancy fee' at various stages (of tenders) while assuring the victims of a refund if they didn't get the order. He would then disappear with the money," joint CP (EOW) Chhaya Sharma said. **TNN P 8**

PM slams SP, Cong: 'Some parties kind to terrorists, shield them for votebank'

Pankaj.Shah@timesgroup.com

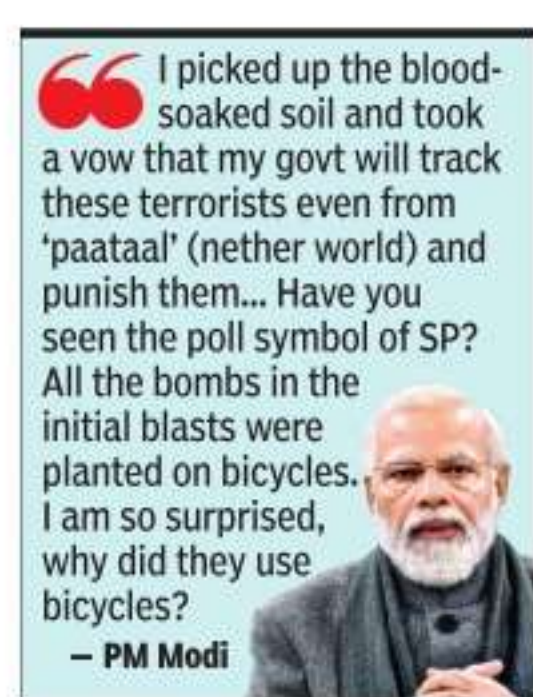
Hardoi/Lucknow: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the conviction of 49 people in the Ahmedabad serial blasts case, calling it the fulfilment of his vow "to bring the perpetrators of jihadi terrorism to justice" and contrasting BJP's commitment to the country with SP's alleged image as "a patron of terrorists".

► **Dad dies day after Pune techie's acquittal, P 10**

Modi said while BJP was committed to uplift the poor and focused on national security, parties like Akhilesh Yadav's SP had been "kind to terrorists". "I maintained silence for so many years since the Ahmedabad serial blasts case was being heard in court," he said. "Today, I am referring to this because these parties have been shielding terrorists just for the sake of protecting their vote bank, which is a very dangerous pattern," he said. "The blasts took place

Amid reunion, Karhal's best turnout since '74

Karhal, the bastion of SP's first family, on Sunday registered 62.3% turnout, the second highest in its history. The highest turnout was in 1974 when the constituency had witnessed 71.4% polling. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is contesting from this high-profile seat while BJP has fielded Union minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel, who is also an ex-PSO of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Meanwhile, the Yadav clan unitedly queued up to vote in their backyard Saifai on Sunday, dousing any undercurrent of tension. With an ailing Mulayam, who was wheeled into a booth at noon to cast vote, serving as the glue, the entire family had fallen in line. **PAGE OPP**



I picked up the blood-soaked soil and took a vow that my govt will track these terrorists even from 'paatal' (nether world) and punish them... Have you seen the poll symbol of SP? All the bombs in the initial blasts were planted on bicycles. I am so surprised, why did they use bicycles? — PM Modi

Yogi's been better CM than I was: Rajnath

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday candidly admitted that Yogi Adityanath has been a better CM of UP than he was. **PAGE OPP**

when I was the CM of Gujarat. I can never forget that day when the earth was reddened by the blood of the victims..."

► **'Seen SP's symbol', P 11**

Girls in 2 K'taka colleges 'agree' to take practical tests today without hijab

SruthySusan.Ulias@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The pre-university (PU) II practical exams for science students in Bengaluru North are scheduled to start on Monday amid the hijab row in Karnataka, with education department officials claiming that students of the minority community have agreed not to wear the religious headscarf while taking the test.

"The Government PU College in Yelahanka and Bapu PU College in Yeshwantpur faced (hijab) protests. I went to both and convinced the students. I told them we have to respect the high court's interim order," Sriram GK, deputy director of PU education of Bangalore North, said.

Girl students had protested outside the Yelahanka college Friday for not being allowed in classrooms in hijab. The college, which has no uniform, had allowed girls in hijab in classrooms until the row broke out.

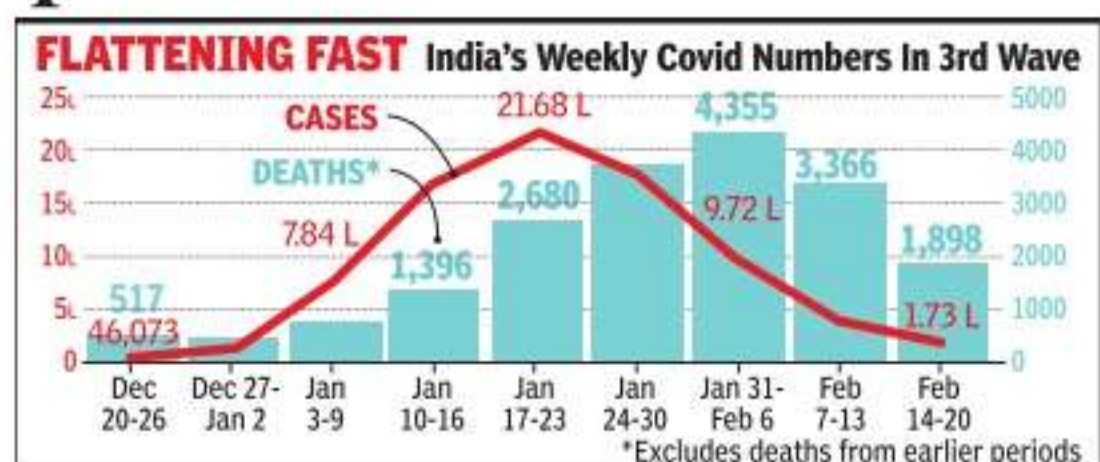
► **Most took hall tickets, P 12**

Omigone? Covid deaths nearly halve in a week, sharp fall in cases continues

Amit.Bhattacharya@timesgroup.com

India's Omicron-driven third wave of Covid-19 appears hurtling towards an early end. While cases continued to fall sharply for the fourth week running, deaths from the virus reduced in the week ending Sunday to a little over half the number reported in the previous seven days.

As the country recorded a second week of declining fatalities, there was a significant drop in deaths in the current week (February 14-20). India saw 1,898 deaths in the week, down 44% from last week's toll of 3,366. These figures exclude deaths from earlier periods that are being added to the toll.



US Omicron toll 176% higher than Delta's

The Omicron wave is breaking, but deaths have surpassed the numbers from the Delta wave in the United States and are about 176% higher. In 14 states, the average daily death toll is higher now than it was two weeks ago. **P 18**

While fresh cases declined for the fourth straight week, each of the past two weeks have seen infections dip by more than half. India reported 1.73

Two votes and dark glasses for conjoined twins

Amritsar: Amritsar-based Sohan Singh and Mohan Singh, who are joined at the hip, exercised their franchise for the first time in the Punjab polls on Sunday. Officials said the conjoined twins, treated as two separate voters, were given dark glasses during voting to maintain the secrecy of their ballots. The twins said they are employed in Punjab State Power Corporation Limited but draw only one salary. **P 11**

Khattar: Haryana job quota won't hit industries

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar has justified the state's 75% domicile quota in private sector, saying the law has been drafted carefully so that the industry is not impacted and at the same time

► **TOI INTERVIEW P 18**
► **Hry mulls amending building bylaws, P 12**

locals are benefited. His remarks, in an interview to Akhilesh Singh, come days after the Supreme Court set aside the HC's stay on the reservation. "If industries don't give jobs to (locals), what use are they," Khattar says. **P 18**

Groom, 8 others killed as SUV falls into river

A 23-year-old bridegroom and his brother were among nine people killed after their SUV fell into Chambal river from a bridge in Rajasthan's Kota Sunday. Police said the driver may have lost control due to morning drowsiness. The wedding party from Sawai Madhopur was on its way to Ujjain. **P 10**

Delhi cop falls to death on wedding day

Anuj Singh, 28, a constable with Delhi Police, was preparing to leave for his wedding venue in Ghaziabad on Sunday when he received a call during the rituals and went up to the terrace of his house in Meerut to take it. He slipped and died while speaking and fell before he could be taken to hospital. **P 10**

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February 21, 2022



BEWARE! THIS IS FAKE

Mobile phones are now prohibited in Afghanistan, everyone has to voluntarily submit their phones to Taliban government



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CWG-era Street Furniture Ready For Retouch

Installed In 2010 Near Sports Venues For Games, Govt Refurbishing Them; To Get Private Player For Upkeep

Sidhartha.Roy@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: During the 2010 Commonwealth Games, Delhi government had beautified roads leading to sports venues by streetscaping, resurfacing of roads, streetlighting, etc. In the past decade, the sleek information panels, benches, toilets, kiosks, etc have not only faced the elements, but also vandalism. Delhi government is now working to bring back their lustre and add more facilities.

Earlier, the area around Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, which was the venue for wrestling, cycling and gymnastics events during CWG, and the stretch up to Moolchand in south Delhi were taken up for maintenance of infrastructure, replacing missing facilities and installing new street furniture. The process has now started on similar facilities near and on roads leading to Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range and Siri Fort Sports Complex, where badminton and squash

events were held.

Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Limited (DTTDC) has floated a tender for a concessionaire for maintenance, operation and installation of street furniture, primarily benches and dustbins, on PWD roads on Build-Operate-Transfer basis.

The bid document states that during CWG, PWD had entrusted the responsibility to DTTDC for entering into concession agreement for developing temporary or semi-permanent street furniture, like traffic or police booths, vending kiosks, public toilets, tree guards, dustbins, information panels, benches, free standing panels, autorickshaw prepaid booths, etc.

One of the clusters included Siri Fort Sports Complex and Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range. Maintenance work would now be carried out on sections of August Kranti Marg, Siri Fort Road, Balbir Saxena Marg and Mehrauli Badarpur Road. The concessionaire can

RESTORING LOST SHEEN

STREET FURNITURE NEAR SIRI FORT SPORTS COMPLEX AND KARNI SINGH SHOOTING RANGE

Facility	Existing	To be installed
Dustbins	2	108
Police booths	5	10
Benches	11	31
Panels and flag poles	2	32
Public toilets	10	5
Vending kiosks	1	6
Information panels	4	4

CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD

During the 2010 Commonwealth Games, Delhi government had taken up a beautification drive of roads through streetscaping, resurfacing, and installing new streetlights and street furniture



Photo: Rajesh Mehta



Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Ltd (DTTDC) had entered into a concession agreement for installation and maintenance of furniture on PWD roads leading to Commonwealth Games venues

Features

- > Dustbins to have twin biodegradable and non-biodegradable bins
- > Prefabricated street furniture, involving minimal on-site work
- > Modular design for easy assembly and shifting, if required
- > Wooden cladding on steel benches to protect people from heated surfaces
- > Vandalism-proof design
- > Full or partial advertisements allowed on all street furniture, except benches and dustbins

earn revenue through advertising on street furniture, except benches and dustbins.

The concessionaire would have to install missing street furniture and repair damaged items in the same design and colour of the existing ones. However, for benches and dustbins, specifications and design could be modified. Public toilets and vending kiosks would have to be kept open for use by the public during operational hours and maintenance would be taken up when permitted by authorities.

As part of the project, 108 new dustbins, 31 new benches, 32 flag-poles, five public toilets, six vending kiosks, 10 police booths and four information panels would be added. The street furniture would be prefabricated, ideally with a modular design, so that not only minimal work would be done on-site, but they would be easy to assemble and shift. The furniture would also be made vandal-proof and steel benches would have wooden cladding to save users from heated or cold surfaces.

7-star Swachhhta ranking in sight, NDMC plans 100% machine cleaning in Lutyens'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To get a seven-star ranking in the forthcoming Swachhhta Survekshan, New Delhi Municipal Council has launched the initiative of "100% mechanical sweeping" of Lutyens' Zone.

NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay said in the first phase mechanical sweeping work would cover 14 blocks and seven radial roads of Connaught Place as it was the biggest and most prominent commercial market situated in the heart of the capital. The entire cleaning work of Connaught Place would be done with the help of mechanised sweepers, pressure jetting ma-



The project will also cover prominent markets in NDMC areas

chines, vacuum litter pickers and other equipment.

"The need of the hour is comprehensive planning of

housekeeping through mechanical means instead of a manual process on the lines of airport housekeeping.

Tenders will be floated within 3-4 months. In the second phase, the project will be implemented for Hanuman Mandir Vatika and Baba Kharak Singh Emporia Building area," said Upadhyay.

According to the proposed Standard Operating Procedures, work at Connaught Place would be divided into seven parts covering the inner, middle and outer circles, radial roads, parking areas, corridors, courtyards, public plaza, footpaths and paved areas. Sweeping, washing, scrubbing and maintenance work would be divided into two parts. In the first duration, sweeping would be done at night after shops close

from 11pm onwards. In the second duration, sweeping would be done during daytime.

Currently, sweeping work in parking areas, corridors, courtyards and pavements are carried out by workers of the health department. Greening of the area is carried out by the horticulture department and mechanised sweeping of the main roads is done by the civil department.

The duration of the tender would be of two years. The private company would use scrubbing machines for corridors and granite footpath of the market and washing of walls, railings and corners would be done through pressure jetting machines.

Beautify roundabouts for Azadi Mahotsav by Mar, corpns told

Siddhanta.Mishra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: All roundabouts in the city will get a facelift by the end of March, with directions issued by Union ministry of urban development to all three municipal corporations.

The issue came up in a meeting held by the lieutenant governor Anil Bajaj last week over the ongoing plans and programs of celebrating 75 years of Independence in the city. The commissioners of the civic bodies—South Delhi Municipal Corporation, North Delhi Municipal Corporation and East Delhi Municipal Corporation were also present in the meet. The corporations were instructed on the identification and then beautification of roundabouts under respective jurisdictions.

MINISTRY LETTER SAYS

The action plan should actively encourage citizens' participation

"Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (AKAM) is a central initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence. The ministry of housing and development had earlier asked all the state administrations to identify roundabouts for beautification with a fixed timeline and the theme of the celebration.

"The action plan should actively encourage citizens' participation," said the ministry's letter to all the states.

The Centre has made the initiative a part of the Swachh Survekshan, where performance under this activity will also be assessed under this year's ranking.

"Prepare an action plan for beautification with a detailed timeline for completion before March 31, 2022, which should encourage the maximum citizen's participation," says an order of the south corporation to all its zonal offices.

During the meeting with Bajaj, it was also announced that the government would work on printing a booklet in vernacular languages, detailing all the activities for celebrating 75 years of Independence.



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No. CGPHC/HQtr/Account/500/2022 Raipur, Date: 18/02/2022

Invitation for expression of interest for takeover of Loan of Rs.599 Crores

Chhattisgarh Police Housing Corporation Ltd. (CGPHCL) is a State Government Company limited by shares. It was incorporated on 14th December, 2011 under the Companies Act 1956 (now Companies Act, 2013), with an objective of ensuring adequate construction of Police Buildings including houses with necessary support infrastructure for Police personnel of the state.

The Corporation was engaged in construction of residential houses under Mukhya Mantri Police Awas Yojna and is having term loans from banks under multiple banking arrangement. The Corporation is looking for better interest rate and terms for a term loan of 599 Crores. In this regard, the Corporation invites banks and financial institutions to submit their expression of interest for providing long term finance of 599 Crores, backed by Sovereign Guarantee from State Govt. of Chhattisgarh.

In this regard a pre-EOI meeting is organised on 28.02.2022 at 04:00 P.M. at the registered office of the Corporation. Interested banks/financial institutions may please attend the same. Note: For any correspondence and communication please send e-mail at cgphcl.finance@gmail.com.

Managing Director



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Dr. Asim Das, Dean

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पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002

// सर्वसंबंधितों को सूचना //

भारत सरकार पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधितों को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स दीपका ओपन कास्ट कोल मार्ग प्रोजेक्ट, साउथ ईस्टर्न कोल फिल्ड्स लिमिटेड, दीपका क्षेत्र, तहसील-कटघोरा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) द्वारा प्रस्तावित क्षमता विस्तार के तहत कोल मार्ग क्षमता-40 मिलियन टन/वर्ष (पीक), लोड एरिया-1999.388 हेक्टेयर पर्यावरण स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव/ विचार/ टीका-टिप्पणी इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, तहसील ऑफिस के पास, रामपुर, कोरबा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 23/03/2022 समय : प्रातः 11.00 बजे, स्थल- प्रगति नगर मैदान, प्रगति नगर कॉलोनी, दीपका, तहसील-कटघोरा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :-

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जायेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाइजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
4. कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु केन्द्र सरकार तथा राज्य शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों को अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथासंशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पठन हेतु डाफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक-सार हिंदी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सीडी (सॉफ्ट कॉपी) डाइरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोरबाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, कीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.), कलेक्टर कार्यालय, कोरबा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, कोरबा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), महामंत्री, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, कोरबा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), अनुविभागीय अधिकारी(राजस्व), कटघोरा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी, नगर पालिका परिषद, दीपका, जिला-कोरबा सरपंच/सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत-बेलदिकरी, झाबर, सिरकी, चैनपुर, रत्तीया, रैकी, मलगाव, हरदी बाजार, अमगाव, रलिया एवं कटकी डबरी एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव

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E-TENDER NOTICE

21.02.2022

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Sl.	E-TENDER	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	BNPM/NCB/UFRD EXTN/638/2021-22	Extension of UFRD shed at ETP area	-
2	BNPM/NCB/SHRINK FILM/0673/2021-22	Supply of Shrink Film	45 MT
3	BNPM/NCB/PGB/SF/0674/2021-22	Pre-qualification Bidding for Security Fibre	23 MT
4	BNPM/NCB/CRI/0675/2021-22	Industrial all risk insurance policy	-
5	BNPM/NCB/CV/0676/2021-22	CISF - Hiring of vehicles Services	-
6	BNPM/NCB/CFMS/0677/2021-22	CISF - canteen and facility management	-
7	BNPM/NCB/CPBP/0678/2021-22	Collapsible plywood packing boxes	ARC
8	BNPM/NCB/679/AIRC-CIVIL/2021-22	Civil and Structural works	ARC

For details and downloading the document and for other live tenders. Please visit our website www.bnpmindia.com and www.tenderwizard.com/BNP Addendum/ corrigendum/ clarifications, if any, shall be displayed only on the website.

Office of the Executive Engineer Trans. Line Maintt.

Division 2nd Pampore

J&K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING e-Bids

e-NIT No. TLMD II/ 27 of 2021-22 dt. : 17.02.2022.

On behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT online e-bids are hereby invited by the Office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-II Pampore from experienced, reputed, competent and financially sound manufacturers/Companies/Firms/Joint Ventures/authorized dealers/contractors fulfilling eligibility and qualification requirements specified in the Bidding Document for "UP GRADATION OF 132 KV MIRBAZAR-WANPOH D/C TRANSMISSION LINE BY WAY OF REPLACING OLD 0.2 ACSR PANTHER BY AACR 37/3.45 FOR PROVIDING SUPPLY TO NAVAYUGA QAZIGUND EXPRESSWAY PVT. LTD. FOR PERMANENT VENTILATION AND DEDICATED POWER ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEM IN J&K UT".

Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of bid document	Period of completion
UP GRADATION OF 132 KV MIRBAZAR-WANPOH D/C TRANSMISSION LINE BY WAY OF REPLACING OLD 0.2 ACSR PANTHER BY AACR 37/3.45 FOR PROVIDING SUPPLY TO NAVAYUGA QAZIGUND EXPRESSWAY PVT. LTD. FOR PERMANENT VENTILATION AND DEDICATED POWER ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEM	150.14 lacs	As per Govt. circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dated 22.12.2020 and Circular No. FD-Codes/ 233/2021-02-27 dated 10.02.2022, bidders are exempted from EMD. However Bidders will have to make a declaration on Stamp Paper of Rs. 100 that in case of any default on account of wrong declaration, submission of fake documents, hiding or concealing any information etc, the bidder will be blacklisted from participating in any of the future bids and the licensee of such bidder will be revoked for a minimum period of three years.	Rs. 3000/- (Non-refundable in the form of DD)	45 days

Procedure for tendering:

1. The bidding documents can be downloaded from website www.jktenders.gov.in from 17.02.2022, 16:30 hrs.
2. The e-bids can be uploaded on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 17.02.2022, 16:30 Hrs. to 04.03.2022 upto 14:00 Hrs.
3. The complete bidding process will be on line.
4. The technical & commercial bids shall be opened on-line in the Office of Executive TLMD-II Pampore on 05.03.2022 at 14:00 Hrs. or any other subsequent day convenient to tender opening authority.
5. Any other information regarding this tender (e-tendering process) can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-II Pampore Kashmir.

Sd/

Executive Engineer

TLMD-II Pampore.

DIP No. : DIPK-NB-7206/21

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³Amount = ₹2,83,500 starting from 15th policy year | ⁴Total = ₹1,09,05,000, Assuming the policy holder survived till end of policy term | ⁵Product features mentioned above are dependent on variant chosen
⁶Tax benefits as per prevailing income tax laws shall apply. Please check with your tax consultant for eligibility.
⁷Source - Report published by Kantar Millward Brown | ⁸For details refer to press release published by CARE (https://www.careratings.com/upload/CompanyFiles/PR/05042021114839_Bajaj_Allianz_Life_Insurance_Company_Limited.pdf) | ⁹Solvency ratio 604% as at 31 December 2021 against IRDAI mandated 150%. | [†]Individual claim settlement ratio FY- 2020-2021.

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On Big Bird Day, Watchers Find Dip In Count, Point At Extra Rain

Huge Numbers Expected In February; Final Report To Be Ready In 2-3 Days

Priyangi.Agarwal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Bird lovers stepped out of their homes early on Sunday to take part in Big Bird Day, the annual event to determine avian species in their natural habitat. Most birders said the density of birds was low this time compared with what was usually sighted in February. The final species count would be prepared in two-three days.

Nikhil Devasar, member, Delhi Bird, said, "We expected a huge number of birds in February, but the density was low this time. The excess rainfall recorded in the past six months caused them to disperse. There used to be a few wetlands earlier, but the intermittent rain recharged many waterbodies. Besides, the weather has become warm and birds might have started leaving."

Another birder, Col Pankaj Sharma, who led a team to Mandoli near Bahadurgarh, said the number of birds was lower than usual this time. "The number of birds sighted on Sunday was nearly half of the density of birds that I saw at the same site on February 6. Due to the change in weather, it seems that migratory birds have started leaving early. They usually start their return journey by mid-March," he added.

Though the birders said major migratory birds found in the region were spotted on Sunday, the rare sightings included Spotted dove in Yamuna, Merin and Short-eared owls at Jhanraula. "Merin is usually sighted once every 4-5 years, while Short-eared owls are not commonly seen," said Devasar.

Pankaj Gupta, a birder who sighted the Spotted dove said, "It is mostly found in the lower hills of eastern and

NOT UP TO THE MARK

Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee



Great cormorants

BIRD COUNT OVER THE YEARS

Biodiversity park	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Special sightings
1. Yamuna Biodiversity Park	102	103	98	83	101	102	Marsh harrier, grey bushchat
2. Aravalli Biodiversity Park	51	63	46	54	46	73	Eastern orphean warbler, black eagle
3. Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park	64	45	53	43	49	43	Small minivet
4. Northern Ridge (Kamla Nehru Ridge)	54	49	59	59	60	58	Indian spotted eagle
5. Neela Hauz Biodiversity Park	26	27	22	33	38	20	Common pochard
6. Tughlaqabad Biodiversity Park	69	55	49	53	51	55	Black-headed ibis
7. Kalindi Biodiversity Park	-	-	-	40	80	69	Barheaded goose and greylag goose

central India. The bird has shattered the winter records of sighting in Delhi."

Around 30 teams visited over 25 sites in Delhi-NCR to record different bird species. Holding binoculars and cameras, the teams followed the set trail for the survey. After spotting a bird, they recorded their sightings on the eBird app. Volunteers were elated to spot different migratory

and residential birds.

At Yamuna Biodiversity Park, the participants were also educated about different species of trees, shrubs and grasses and their role in biodiversity. All seven biodiversity parks spread over an area of about 2,500 acres were a part of the event. Of these, four parks saw an increase in bird species this year compared with last year.

Faiyaz Khudsar, scientist in-charge, Biodiversity Parks Programme, said, "Yamuna and Kalindi biodiversity parks are in the river floodplain and are now known for their functional wetland ecosystems and migratory birds. During winter, we receive about 30 species of migratory birds from Europe, Siberia and Central Asia and China at Yamuna Biodiversity Park

in which Ferruginous pochard is noteworthy among wintering ducks."

Aravalli Biodiversity Park is known for its beautiful restored scrub jungle, thorn forest and Kullu and Dhawa forest communities as typical representatives of Aravalli vegetation, which is home to many migratory and resident terrestrial bird species, added Khudsar.

2 held with 115 kg charas

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police and Uttar Pradesh Police conducted a joint operation and arrested two men with 115 kg of charas. Cops arrested the accused from Jangalgram Nahar on Meerut Expressway. ANI

Max a bit down, but temp to be near 30°C in a week

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Strong surface winds at the speed of 30-40 kmph blew during the day on Sunday, leading to a slight drop in maximum temperature to 24.6 degrees Celsius. However, the Met department has predicted that the maximum temperature is likely to touch 29 degrees Celsius on February 26. The minimum temperature rose to 11.7 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal.

RK Jenamani, senior scientist, India Meteorological Department, said, "Due to strong winds at the speed of 30-40 kmph, which were recorded from 11.30am to 5pm, the day temperature saw a drop. A few days ago, the maximum temperature had reached 27 degrees Celsius. The city is currently experiencing pleasant weather due to strong winds, near normal temperature and moderate air quality."

According to the Met department, the minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to be around 26 and 10 degrees Celsius, respectively, on Monday. However, strong winds at the speed of 20-30 kmph are likely to return on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Two feeble western disturbances are likely to impact this week. Due to this, cloudy sky is expected on February 22 and 25, but there is less chance of rain this month. However, we are monitoring the situation," said Jenamani.

According to IMD, the city has in February so far received 18.6mm rainfall and has already surpassed the normal mark. The normal rainfall for the entire month of February for Safdarjung, which is the city's base station, is 18mm. In contrast, the city

had recorded just 2.6mm rainfall in February 2021.

Meanwhile, strong winds helped Delhi's air quality to remain in the 'moderate' category with an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 173. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), the forecasting body under the Union ministry of earth sciences, said, "Relatively high wind speed kept AQI within 'moderate' category. AQI is likely to degrade slightly on Monday due to low wind speed and weak dispersion. On February 22, AQI is expected to improve to 'lower end of moderate' due to relatively high temperature and wind speed causing strong ventilation. From February 23, low wind speed is likely to degrade air quality to 'poor' category."

173
AQI IN MODERATE CATEGORY IN CITY DUE TO STRONG WINDS

DDA holds nature walk to mark 75th yr of Independence

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Nature walk was organised on Sunday at Yamuna biodiversity park by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) as part of 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

The nature walk on Sunday, the second event of DDA's two-week programme with the theme of 'Rejuvenation of River Yamuna floodplains', was led by ornithologists from Delhi Bird Foundation (DBF), a team of birder enthusiasts. The authority's vice-chairman Manish Kumar Gupta took part in the walk along with other senior officials.

"Over 100 participants, including bird enthusiasts, nature lovers and officers of DDA took part in this walk who were divided in groups led by DBF members," a DDA spokesperson said.

"Around 90 species of birds were spotted by the groups that included resident species and migratory birds from various other countries flocking in and around the site," he said.

SPOKESPERSON SAYS

Over 100 participants, including bird enthusiasts, nature lovers and DDA officers took part in the walk

On February 15, an auto driver, Surender, who was carrying Rs 10 lakh, was waylaid by three people on a bike and robbed of the said amount at gunpoint. "The driver was carrying the cash for one Bhaskar Chand, who runs an electroplating plant at Harsh Vihar. Bhaskar had asked his relative, Surender, to collect the cash from Rohini Sector 15," the officer said.

Police said that after the robbery, they went to a mall and purchased clothes and shoes. They were then planning to go to Manali, but changed their plans at the last moment. TNN

Three held for robbing man of ₹10 lakh

New Delhi: Three people were arrested for robbing a man at gunpoint in outer-north Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy. The accused have been identified as Pawan (26), Amardeep (37) and Shiva (26).

On February 15, an auto driver, Surender, who was carrying Rs 10 lakh, was waylaid by three people on a bike and robbed of the said amount at gunpoint. "The driver was carrying the cash for one Bhaskar Chand, who runs an electroplating plant at Harsh Vihar. Bhaskar had asked his relative, Surender, to collect the cash from Rohini Sector 15," the officer said.

Police said that after the robbery, they went to a mall and purchased clothes and shoes. They were then planning to go to Manali, but changed their plans at the last moment. TNN

Do not miss Education Times, a 4-page pullout with today's issue

DPCC to intensify online check to cut pollutant inflow into Yamuna

Priyangi.Agarwal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee is considering enhancing its online continuous water quality monitoring systems to identify minor drains and industrial outlets, causing pollution in the river. DPCC currently has 18 stations but it has submitted an action plan to Central Pollution Control Board, seeking Rs 21 crore for setting up 44 additional stations at major drains, outlets of industries, Najafgarh drain, and supplementary drains in Delhi.

The capital has around 100 drains, and of these, 18 major drains fall directly in the Yamuna. A senior DPCC official said: "We want to increase our online continuous water quality monitoring systems so that we can identify the stretches, which discharge maximum pollution to the Yamuna. The assessment of water quality of drains and industrial outputs will help us in ascertaining the supplementary drains or industries, which are most polluted. Once we determine the industrial clusters or drains causing pollution, we can take action accordingly." The official added that the



DPCC has submitted an action plan to CPCB for ₹21 crore to set up 44 additional stations at major drains and outlets of industries

agencies concerned can take steps to improve the water quality and DPCC will act against the industries discharging untreated effluents.

TOI had earlier reported that DPCC is planning to map all the drains to regularly check the water quality and to identify the locations where considerable pollutants are entering the Yamuna.

The setting up of new online continuous water quality monitoring systems will take the total number to 62. "We have

submitted our proposal to CPCB. As per the order dated January 22, 2019, the National Green Tribunal has granted approval for utilisation of a 25% environmental compensation fund for specified activities. We have requested to CPCB that the project cost of Rs 21 crore may be reimbursed from the environmental damage compensation fund available with the central agency," said another official.

A new report prepared by DPCC on water quality status of drains after samples were collected in December last year, 20 out of 27 drains, which go into river Yamuna, are not meeting the prescribed parameters in respect to biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). DPCC report said some drains are also flouting prescribed standards of Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS).

In its report, which was submitted to the union ministry of Jal Shakti, DPCC said it has taken action against 1,509 water-polluting industries or units between January to November 2021. Of these units, 1,430 industries were located in conforming areas, while remaining in the non-conforming areas.

Mid-March date to open Chandni Chowk parking

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A parking facility for 1,000 cars will be opened to the public in Chandni Chowk next month.

"Despite several hindrances due to lockdown, pollution ban, etc, we are committed to operationalise a portion of the Gandhi Maidan parking lot by mid-March. Initially, about 1,000 cars can be parked at the facility. Electrical, interior and finishing work are going on at full speed," said North Delhi Municipal Corporation standing committee chairman Jogi Ram Jain.

The multi-level parking facility is spread over 4.5 acres and has total capacity for 2,338 cars. It has six levels, including three underground floors. One floor will be reserved for commercial activities.

The entire parking lot will become operational by September end, said the standing committee chairman. "There is a desperate requirement for parking in the area which is why we are emphasising upon opening a portion of it by mid-March. The facility will benefit traders in nearby markets such as Chawri Bazar, Kinari Bazar, Khari Boli, Nai Sadak and Dariba Kalan who can conveniently park their vehicles



The multilevel parking lot will have space to accommodate 1,000 cars

here," Jain said.

"The complex will be equipped with modern facilities such as CCTV, lifts for passengers, and a firefighting system. It will have a heritage look of Old Delhi," he added.

The parking project, though conceived in 2013, has been long delayed. This led to the north corporation being pulled up by a city court in 2018. "Earlier, the corporation had given September 2021 as the deadline, but there has been a delay because of the construction work being halted due to Covid," said a senior official.

The civic body claims to be simultaneously working on two other parking projects at

Qutab Road and Shiva Market. "Over 70% work at Qutab Road (parking space for 174 vehicles) and 90% work near Shiva Market (parking capacity for 500 cars) have been completed. These will become operational in next three months," said the official.

The Qutab Road parking facility is spread over 1,335 sqm area. It will have seven floors, including two basements and five upper floors. Of these, two floors will be developed as a commercial complex.

"We have also received bids for multilevel parking at Bank Street for 500 vehicles and work will start here soon," said the official.

Ask govt to get Lokayukta in a mth: Plea in HC

New Delhi: A public interest litigation has been filed before Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the AAP government to appoint within one month a Lokayukta as promised by it in its election manifesto of 2020.

The petitioner, Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, a lawyer, stated that the political party came into existence after the historic anti-corruption movement, but the post of Lokayukta has been lying vacant since December 2020.

The petitioner has alleged that Delhi government is not taking steps to weed out the menace of bribery, black money, benami property, tax evasion, profiteering and other economic as well as white-collar offences and therefore, being the protector of fundamental rights, the court has to intervene in the matter of the appointment of a Lokayukta.

"When Justice Reva Khetrapal retired as Delhi Lokayukta, the government did nothing to fill the post till date and hundreds of complaints relating to corruption are pending in the office," the petitioner stated. "AAP promised a stringent and effective Jan Lokpal Bill in 2015 and 2020 election manifesto but rather than enacting the law, it is not even appointing the Lokayukta under outdated ineffective 1995 Act," it added. PTI

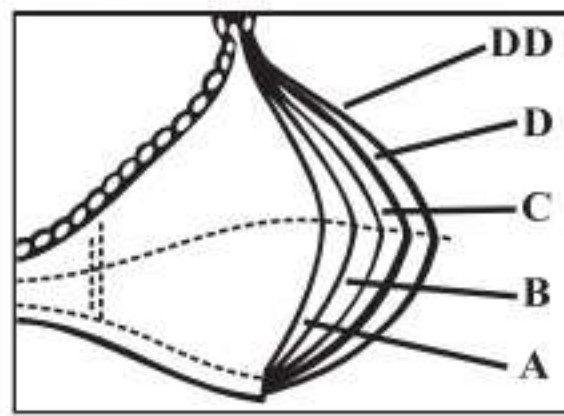
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2-yr expiry: 8k cervical cancer vax wasted

Somrita.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Around 8,000 vials of the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) given for prevention of cervical cancer were wasted at Delhi State Cancer Institute (DSCI) owing to no takers in the past two years. HPV vaccination was first started in Delhi in November 2016 at the Shahdara branch of DSCI, which is the only government institution providing the vaccine for free to adolescent girls aged 11 to 15 years. "We are procuring a fresh supply of the vaccine as the contract with the company based on the old rate has expired. We hope to restart vaccination soon. The company has picked up stock for replacement, but Covid-19 has hampered the process," said DSCI medical director Dr Kishore Singh. An official said due to the lockdowns and the focus being on inoculation against Covid-19, there were hardly any takers for the cervical cancer prevention vaccine. "Around 8,000 vaccines have expired. They had an expiry

A SHOT AT PROTECTION

WHAT ARE HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINES

- HPV vaccines protect against infection with human papillomaviruses (HPV)
- HPV is a group of more than 200 related viruses, of which more than 40 are spread through direct sexual contact
- Among these, two HPV types cause genital warts
- About a dozen HPV types can cause certain types of cancer (cervical, anal, oropharyngeal, penile, vulvar, and vaginal)



NUMBER OF DOSES

- The HPV vaccine is given as a series of shots
- Different dosing schedules, depending on the age when the vaccination series is started
- Children who start the vaccine series before 15 years of age need only two doses to be fully protected
- People who start the series at 15 or older and those who have certain conditions that weaken the immune system need three doses to be fully protected

date of two years. As there was a low turnout in the past two years, they could not be used," added the official.

"Also, we have very little stock left. We have asked the state health department for procurement of the vaccine since we have to import it from other countries. We are not operating in the same manner as in the pre-pande-

mic era, but if anyone comes for the vaccine, we will provide it to them from our limited stock," the official said.

Another official said they were procuring two types of the vaccine from abroad — Cervarix from the UK and Gardasil from the US. "Despite these vaccines being expensive, we are providing them for free to adolescent

girls," added the official from the hospital.

When the programme was launched, it had few takers. "A lot of motivation was required to get the girls to take the vaccine in the initial days. However, with time more girls started coming. Demand surged after 2018 as hesitancy among girls went down. Now, they are more

aware as they have researched why the vaccine is needed," the official said.

Initially, the programme was held in collaboration with schools. Later, with growing awareness, girls started coming on their own.

"We met the principals of both government and private schools and asked them to educate girls on HPV and cervical cancer. We also had to identify the target audience, which was possible only through schools. As of now, we are focusing on east Delhi. We had planned to expand the programme, but couldn't due to lack of manpower and infrastructure," said the official in charge of the programme.

Before the pandemic, the facility was vaccinating 250-300 girls every month. "Since August 2020, we have vaccinated 4,000 girls. Now, around 500 girls who were supposed to take their second and third doses are coming, along with the first timers," said another official. "Even one dose is enough to boost immunity to resist cervical cancer," added the official.

Jab At Home Makes Fight Easy For Many

1,800 Who Can't Go Out Vaccinated So Far

AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Eligibility

Severely disabled | Bedridden | Immobile beneficiaries | Restricted mobility or disability | Special needs that limit accessibility to nearby Covid-19 vaccination centres



Somrita.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

DISTRICT HELPLINE NUMBERS

Central | 011-23270151
New Delhi | 1800 111 323
South | 8287898412
South East | 8595748455
South West | 011-25073502 / 05 / 07 / 08
West | 011-25100093 / 94 / 96 / 97 / 7982661695
North | 011-23645701
North East | 011-22120014
North West | 011-25951182 | 8130854050
Shahdara | 011-22120020
East | 011-22029103

sed, we got a call from the district magistrate and my mother was vaccinated at home. She also got her second and booster doses at home," she said. "Around 50% of the residents in our society are senior citizens who cannot go to vaccination camps. They all have received jabs at home."

DM (SOUTH) SAYS

The pace of vaccination at home during the Omicron wave was restricted to an extent, but we still continued to cater to the requests

Last year, the central government initiated a programme, Near to Home Covid Vaccination Centres, for elderly and differently abled citizens, following which the state authorities, too, rolled out the process of identifying and getting these people vaccinated.

The health department has issued a state helpline number,

along with 11 district helpline numbers, where families can call for the vaccine. "If a call is made to the state helpline number, the details are forwarded to the districts. Asha workers are also visiting the houses and noting down the details of the eligible beneficiaries. So far, we have vaccinated around 220 people at home," said Cheshtha Yadav, district magistrate of North West Delhi.

Sonalika Jiwani, DM (South), said NGOs and residents welfare associations were also helping in identifying the eligible people for home vaccination and those left out.

"We have a helpline, people call us on that. Then, we have a list of people who were given the first dose, so we know when they are supposed to be given the second and booster doses. Now many people are aware about the drive for both aged people and disabled ones," Jiwani pointed out.

"The pace of vaccination at home during the Omicron wave was restricted to an extent, as there was a manpower crisis, but we continued to cater to the requests," she added.

New Delhi: The Delhi government's initiative to provide vaccination at doorstep for those who are severely disabled, bedridden or immobile has been a boon for many beneficiaries who can't go out to get the jab. Approximately 1,800 beneficiaries have been inoculated since the launch of the drive on September 24.

However, a health department official said, "This number may be an underestimation as more such beneficiaries have been covered based on direct requests received at the state and district levels, and on Covid helplines."

Reena Ramachandran, a resident of H block in Saket, said that though she had to initially struggle to get the first dose for her 102-year-old mother, Padma Ranganathan, at home, she didn't have to bother once the government announced the drive.

"We had to raise the issue through the disability commission for the first dose. But as soon as the matter was recogni-

570 Covid cases in 24 hrs, +ve rate now at 1.04%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In the last 24 hours, the national capital recorded 570 new Covid-19 cases, taking the cumulative tally to 18,56,071.

According to the state health department bulletin, the positivity rate has fallen to 1.04 per cent.

This marks a decline of 65 infections as compared with the previous day. Delhi registered 635 new cases on Saturday and the positivity rate was 1.13%.

The virus claimed lives of four more patients in the last 24 hours. The death toll due to the disease in Delhi now stands at 26,101 and the fatality rate is 1.41%.

In last 24 hours, 730 Covid patients recovered from the infection, taking the total recoveries in the capital to 18,27,425.

The city has 2,545 active Covid-19 cases of which 1,742 are currently in home isolation. The total number of containment zones in the city has also gone down. As of now, there are 8583 sealed localities in the city.

During the last 24 hours, 80,310 Covid-19 vaccination doses were administered in the national capital, as per the bulletin. Out of this, 10,018 people were given the first dose of the vaccine while 65,755 got the second dose.

A total of 3,09,91,704 vaccination doses have been administered till date, out of which 1,72,41,297 were first doses, while 1,33,64,877 were second doses in Delhi.

In addition to this, the cumulative Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 175.33 crore on Saturday.

Owing to the dip in cases, since last week, the educational institutes have opened up. The schools reopened for nursery classes to class VIII from last Monday. Earlier, schools reopened for classes IX to XII on February 7.

Last week, after a long gap, Delhi University too opened up and offline classes resumed, to the relief of many students who were missing out on their college life and education.

New Delhi: To ensure that physically challenged individuals are not left unvaccinated, NGOs and several bodies of persons with disabilities (PwD) have sent suggestions to the Union health ministry as asked by Supreme Court. The NGOs opine that such people should be vaccinated without the requirement of any government IDs.

"A large number of PwDs, particularly in rural areas, do not have a valid government IDs. This requirement should not be mandatory for vaccination. People falling under this category should not be limited to the definition provided under Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. It should have a broader ambit," said Lalit Kumar from NGO Evara Foundation, who had filed a PIL last month.

Taking note of the PIL, Supreme Court had asked the government to invite suggestions from all stakeholders and experts. During the hearing, advocate Pankaj Sinha, appearing for the NGO, submitted that the affidavit indicated that 23,678 disabled people had been vaccinated. This figure was indicative of the low rate of vaccination.

Doctors with Disabilities (DwD) said no one should be



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

asked to prove disability as many individuals having specified ailments, such as ataxia, cerebral palsy, leprosy, amputees, intellectual or visual disabilities, faced difficulty during biometrics, so they did not have Aadhaar cards.

"Many vaccination centres insist on Aadhaar despite Supreme Court not making it mandatory. Any other identity card can be used. Wherever possible, PwDs should be strongly encouraged to use UDID as data on those getting vaccinated is not available," DwD suggested.

DwD added that consent for homeless people with psychosocial disabilities could be navigated by nominated representatives. In Delhi, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences Ashray Adhikar Abhiyan serves this purpose.

pose. "States should identify PwDs with high support needs and they should be provided at-home vaccination. Near-to-home CVCs should be constituted in leprosy colonies, mental health institutions and old age homes," it suggested.

Evava Foundation NGO said pre-vaccination doubts and post-vaccination issues of PwDs needed to be addressed by trained medical professionals. "A dedicated centralised 24x7 helpline should be set up. The queries should be only answered by trained healthcare or rehabilitation professionals. The nodal officer in each district should be a domain knowledge expert. He/she should be responsible for all grievance redressals and facilitate vaccination of PwDs. Their details should be made available via all Covid-19 helpline numbers," it added.

Dr Satendra Singh, DwD organisational head, said, "No one is safe from Covid-19 until everyone is safe, which includes the missing 15% PwDs. Researchers, doctors and nurses with disabilities hold the key as they are never involved by the Centre at the NEGVAC, ICMR or Central Advisory Board on Disability level. The health ministry needs to work with the disability sector to achieve inclusive vaccine equity framework."

Don't seek govt IDs from disabled: NGOs to Centre

Somrita.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

Remembering



SHRI SUDHIR SAREEN JI

(03.06.1945 - 21.02.2013)

Time flies fast.
Life goes on at its own pace.
But some Memories can Never
be forgotten or erased
from the mind of the dearest ones.
You will always remain in our thoughts.

Fondly Remembered By

SUNITA SAREEN

SIDDHARTH SAREEN & BHAVNA SAREEN

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS & WELL WISHERS
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REMEMBRANCE
You were our
shining & guiding
light.



Smt. Poonam Nath

November 24, 1952 to
Eternity
To live in the hearts of
those left behind is not to
Die.
Dr. Kashi Nath & Family
D-3/33, Sector-16, Rohini
Delhi.



**In Loving Memory Of
DR. SAURABH ARORA
(21.02.1985 to 02.01.2011)**

A Very Happy Birthday!

Fondly Remembered by -
Family, Relatives & Friends.



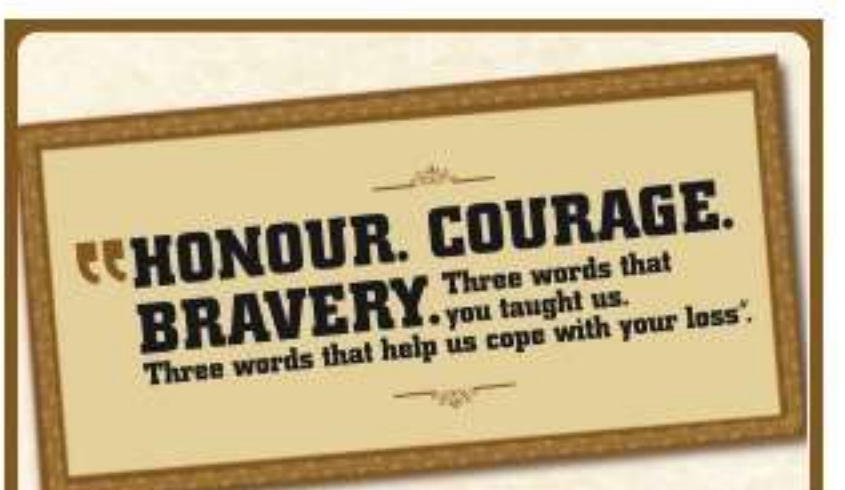
**In Loving Memory of
Sd. Awtar Singh Vedi
(12.10.1935-21.02.2013)**

Sdn. Gurmeet Kaur Vedi
Your unbound love,
affection and blessings
are always felt by us.
Your teachings will
forever be engraved on our hearts and
mind. May Babajee bless your souls and
your spirits continue to guide us. All
Family Members and Friends. (9811045089)



**In loving memory of Shri
Ravindra Mohan Saxena**

Our respectful homage to
our loving and inspiring
father, husband, whose
ideals guide our lives.
I hold you in my heart
until we meet again in heaven....
**Kusum, Sudhir, Ghazala, Yogesh, Shruti
and Abhishek**



The silent joy of remembering a loved one.
The moments you shared together.
Little moments that make life beautiful.
Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours.
Colleagues. With all those whose lives
the departed Soul has touched. Because while life goes on,
when you share memories, they stay on forever.

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(1939-2021)**

wife of Maman Chand Gupta
passed away peacefully on
21st February 2021 in Delhi

A universal mother,
remembered for her
warm generosity, magnetic
personality, fearless spirit,
unshakeable faith and a
life well lived for her
children and society

Deeply Remembered by
**Maman Chand Gupta,
Aruna, Usha, Praveen, Ashok,
Archana, Pradeep, Neeru
& all family members.**

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Why cheating case not filed, SEBI asked

Usha.Das@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court has sought explanation from the deputy general manager of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), as to why a matter related to cheating of 1868 investors was not reported to the police as the allegations of cheating and forgery were apparently made out of the material available with the authorities.

Additional sessions judge Dharmender Rana noted in the order that perusal of the complaint revealed that the accused have allegedly siphoned off investors' money and were shying away from complying with the directions of SEBI for getting an independent audit conducted.

The court further noted that it was revealed that the accused have claimed to have paid a sum of about Rs

3.08 crores to about 1868 investors and only Rs 10.0 lakhs was pending for payment to about 60 investors.

"However, despite numerous directions from SEBI, accused persons avoided to undergo independent audit to test the veracity of their claim. It is further revealed that as per the auditor of the accused persons itself, it is revealed that payments were made to non-existing entities and the accused have fudged up the record to cover up the misdeeds," it stated in an order on February 19.

"Before proceeding ahead, I deem it appropriate to call for a report from the worthy deputy general manager, SEBI that as to why matter was not reported to the police as apparently allegations of cheating and forgery are made out from the material available with SEBI authorities," the judge said.

Small fires up, count down at home in 2 yrs

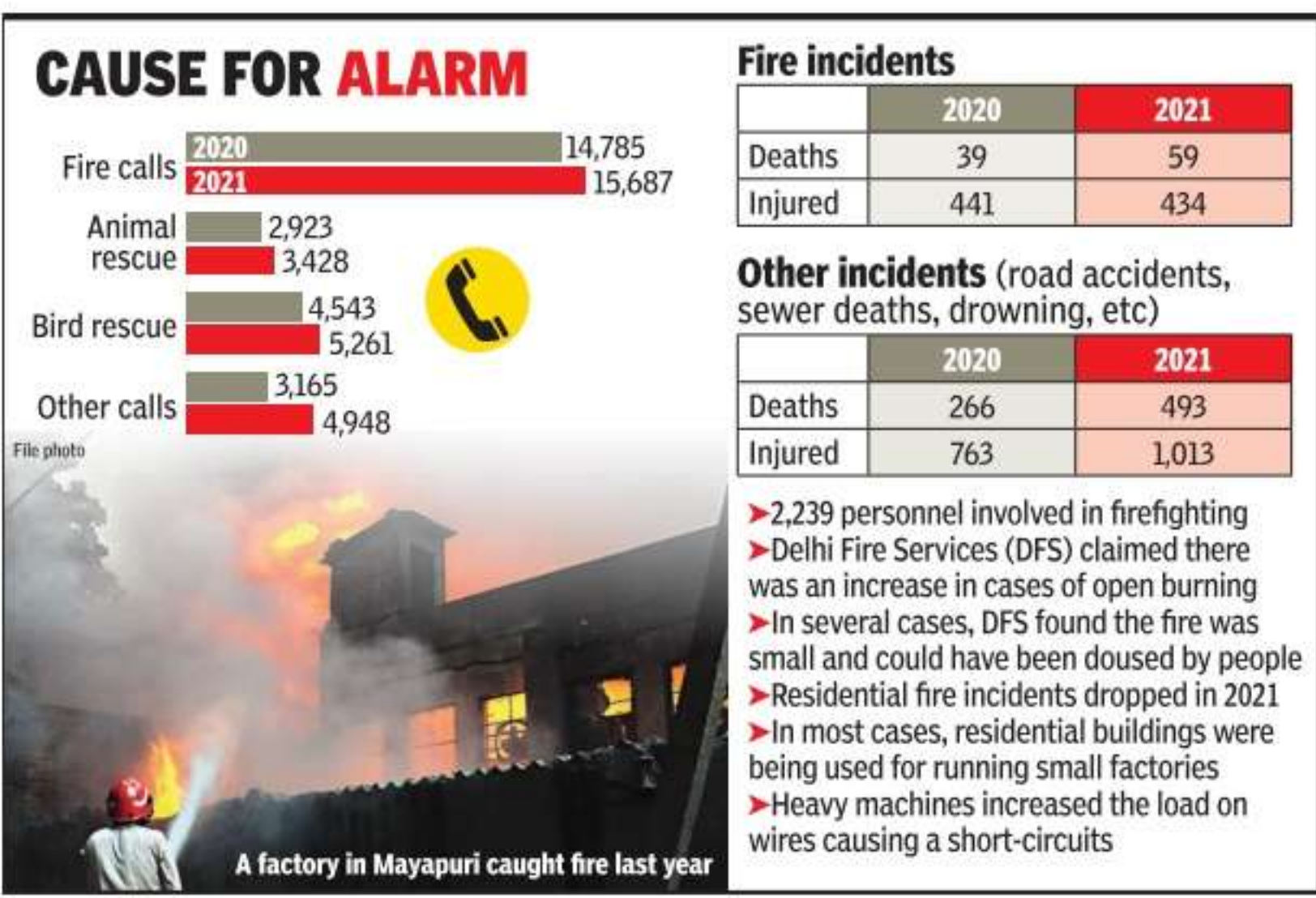
Industrial Fires Increased; Carelessness, Electrical Fault, Arson Main Causes, Says DFS

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: An analysis of fire incidents in the past two years has revealed that small fires rose by 10% in 2021, while residential fires decreased by 3.5%. Data of Delhi Fire Service (DFS) showed that in 2020 about 14,785 fire incidents were reported, while firefighters attended to 15,687 calls last year.

According to firefighters, there are mainly three reasons behind the fires — carelessness, electrical fault, and in rare cases arson — apart from the process failures.

In 2020, there were 9,512 small fire incidents and 10,592 in 2021. "There has been an increase in open burning incidents, which adversely affects the environment. This reflects behavioural changes among people. Earlier, people would douse small fires, but now they prefer to call the fire brigade," said an assistant divisional officer from DFS, adding that sometimes burning beedis



or cigarette stubs thrown on waste resulted in fire.

Last year, 3,506 residential fire incidents were reported and 3,633 in 2020. "The reduction in residential fires indicates a decrease in activities resulting in their occurrence and decrease in electrical loads, which often leads to overheating," an officer said.

There was an increase in industrial fire incidents. About 367 such incidents were reported last year compared with 357 in 2020. "During the lockdown, factories were closed. The machines, which

were shut for a long period, were restarted without any servicing due to which chances of short circuit increased," said a firefighter.

Fire incidents in business areas, like offices, decreased slightly as 189 cases were reported last year compared with 206 in 2020.

There was also a decrease in fires in shops and other mercantile properties. About 604 such cases were reported last year and 674 in 2020. There were 167 storage fire incidents reported last year compared with 165 in 2020. Similarly, 34 fire incidents were reported last year in places with a gathering of more than 50 people, like restaurants and railway stations, compared with 28 in 2020.

In educational institutes, about 42 such cases were reported in 2020 and 43 in 2021. About 40 cases were reported from hospitals, nursing homes, jail, etc last year, while 38 were reported in 2020.

DFS said improper wiring played an important role in fire incidents. Atul Garg, DFS director, said, "People should ensure that electrical wiring of houses and offices are properly maintained. The use of multiple machines or electronic equipment increases the load on wires, which can result in fires. In most cases, we found overloading resulted in fires, so regular maintenance of wires is very important. There should not be any improper wiring."

The presence of combustible materials in factories, restaurants and pubs played an important role in the spread of fires. About 145 cases were reported from JJ clusters in 2021 and 130 in 2020.

"JJ clusters have highly combustible materials, which increases the risk of fires. In several cases, slum residents were found storing huge quantities of rags, plastic, bottles, etc. An electrical spark or somebody leaving a burning object near such materials can easily lead to fires," the officer said.

24-yr-old charred to death, brother hurt in west Delhi fire

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man died while his brother was critically injured in a fire incident reported from west Delhi's Uttam Nagar on Sunday.

The fire department received a call at 10.15am about a fire incident at Om Vihar in Uttam Nagar. Two fire tenders rushed to the spot. "There was a blast in a chemical drum — used for sticking foam. Two boys suffered 90% burn injuries in the incident. They were taken to a hospital," said a fire department officer.

According to police, a crime team reached the spot. On inspection, burnt clothes and foam were found dumped near the door of a room on the first floor of the house. Upon inquiry, cops found that Allaiddin, the victim's father, had put an immersion rod in water to heat it. "Allaiddin repairs sofa and bed. The foam found was used for repairing sofas. The fire

was triggered by a short circuit," an officer said.

Talim (29) and Sahil (24) were working with their father at the time of the incident. "Sahil was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Talim was referred to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment," the officer said.

A case under sections 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings) and 304 A (causing death by negligence) was registered and further investigation in the case was on.

According to an officer, foam is a highly combustible material and it acted as a catalyst, causing the fire to spread fast.

24-yr-old woman got mom Witness didn't identify, 4 get killed for property, caught bail in 3 riots murder cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 24-year-old woman was arrested for getting her mother killed with the help of a man in south Delhi's Ambedkar Nagar on Friday. Investigators claimed that she tried to pass off the incident as a robbery gone wrong. The other accused was also arrested.

On Friday, the PCR received a call regarding the incident after which a team rushed to the spot in Madangir. "We saw a woman lying on a bed in a pool of blood. Her throat was slit with a sharp weapon. The deceased was a BJP worker and involved in small-time financial work. In 2003, her husband was murdered. In 2007, she contested the municipal polls, but lost," said an officer.

DCP (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said, "During investigation, her daughter, who was at the spot, claimed that at 9.30pm two masked men forcefully entered the house and killed her mother during a robbery."

As the woman kept changing her statement, the cops got suspicious. The scene of the crime was inspected and no sign of struggle was found in the room. All articles were found intact. There was a deep incised wound on the deceased's neck and a lot of blood was scattered on the bedsheet. But no drop of blood was found at the spot.

When the team under inspectors Satyabir Singh and Santosh Kumar Rawat questioned the daughter repeatedly, she finally admitted that she and her boyfriend's friend killed her mother and tried to pass it off as

POLICE SAY

The accused was married to a man and they also have a four-year-old son. However, she left her husband and started to live with her boyfriend. The victim threatened to disown her from the property

robbery gone awry.

"The accused woman was married to a man from Greater Noida. They also have a four-year-old son. However, she left her husband and started to live with her boyfriend, who stays in Dakshinpur," said the officer.

The victim was not happy and wanted her daughter to break off the relationship and start living with her husband again. "She threatened to disown her from the property. The woman was also frustrated as her mother had stopped helping her financially," the officer said.

The woman then hatched a plan to kill her mother and roped in her boyfriend's friend, who was allegedly infatuated with her. On Friday, she gave tea mixed with sleeping pills to her mother and maternal uncle Sanjay. When both of them lost consciousness, she called the man, who slit the woman's throat with a surgical blade and threw the weapon out of the window. Later, she gave her mother's jewellery and cash to the man and asked him to flee.

Usha.Das@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi has granted bail to four people in three murder cases related to the northeast Delhi riots after the sole eyewitness did not identify the accused during his deposition.

Additional sessions judge Virender Bhat granted relief to Ashok Kumar, Jitender Kumar, Ajay and Shubham on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 10,000 with one surety of like amount each. The accused had sought bail after witness Shashi Kant did not identify them.

The court noted that keeping in mind the nature of the deposition of the witness, the special public prosecutor, appearing for police, fairly submitted that he had no objection to the bail applications.

"Considering the nature of the testimony of witness Shashi Kant, which was recorded in this case and taking into account no objection given by the SPP, the bail application is hereby allowed," it said in similar orders passed

on the three cases related to rioting in Dayalpur. It directed the accused not to leave the territory of NCT of Delhi during the trial and to appear before the court on each and every date of hearing.

The cases relate to the alleged murder of Ashfaaq, Zakir and Mehtab, who were caught and severely beaten up by a mob during the communal violence on February 25, 2020, which ultimately led to their death.

A perusal of the postmortem report of deceased Zakir revealed that he had received as many as 22 injuries, out of which seven injuries were so grave in nature that they themselves were sufficient to cause death of any person in ordinary course of nature.

At the stage of hearing of their earlier bail arguments, the court had noted that the eyewitness, who was a resident of the locality, had duly identified the accused allegedly indulging in rioting while one of them was carrying a sword.

The postmortem of Mehtab showed that he had received 11 injuries, out of which three injuries were opined to be caused by a sharp-edged sword and were so grave in nature that they themselves were sufficient to cause death of any person in ordinary course of nature.

At the stage of hearing of their earlier bail arguments, the court had noted that the eyewitness, who was a resident of the locality, had duly identified the accused allegedly indulging in rioting while one of them was carrying a sword.

10k

RUPES BAIL BOND WITH ONE SURETY OF LIKE AMOUNT EACH WAS ALSO PAID BY ACCUSED

Next-gen DMRC app to offer virtual mall, tourism hub

Sidhartha.Roy@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Metro is going to launch a 'DMRC FuNB' mobile application, which would allow Metro users to shop from 'homegrown' stores through a virtual mall. The app would also offer other features, like information through live commentary on nearby areas that Metro train passes through, exclusive offers on services, booking cabs, etc.

A Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) official said that the organisation is creating

purchasing products would be provided with benefits such as cash back, apart from loyalty or rewards programme," he said.

Apart from the virtual mall, the DMRC FuNB application would also have a feature named Tourism Hub, which would give the user access to a "powered tourism experience", the official said.

"There will be live commentary when a Delhi Metro train passes by attractions, local events, and customised curated experiences. For this, travel and tourism partners in Delhi NCR will be on-boarded by DMRC," he said.

The official said that DMRC is looking for aggregators to on-board and manage different partners so that the digital platform provides a seamless customer experience. "We are planning a first-of-its-kind, next-generation digital platform," he said.

"Through a single touchpoint on the digital platform, users would be able to make online purchases of goods and services," he said. The official said that from buying electronics, apparel, and grocery to ordering food and booking a cab, to buying tickets for events and curated walks to vouchers and coupons, the platform is expected to meet all such online requirements in one place. "Personalised offers would be made to users based on parameters like demographics and online activity," he said.

Gang member who attacked PCR vans, absconded caught

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police arrested a member of a Mewat-based syndicate who was involved in a dozen cases of robbery, rape and attacks on police.

The accused has been identified as Rakesh alias Bhundu, a resident of Nuh in Haryana. According to DCP Jasmeet Singh, Rakesh was wanted for attacking four PCR vans and police staff while being chased by cops last year. In April 2021, Rakesh along with four associates had kidnapped a 15-year-old girl from her house in Nuh. They took her in their car and allegedly gang raped her, police said. The cell had received information about the movement of the suspect near Lado Sarai and laid a trap. "In June 2021, Rakesh and his associates were fleeing in a truck with stolen cows from Delhi. As cops chased them, they started pelting stones, glass bottles at the PCR vans," the DCP added. TNN

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MISSING



The person showed in the photo named **Nippin Clement** Aged 32, S/o Clement, Erikkiluvila Purayidam, Poovar Desom, Poovar Village, Neyyattinkara Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram Dist was missing from his house 25.12.2021 onwards. He has about 155 cm height, White complexion and fat physique. At the time of missing he was wearing dark and light Blue coloured Jersey (Name 'Nippin' is printed at back side) and dark Blue coloured shorts. A case is registered at Poovar Police Station as Cr. 1980/2021 U/ Sec: 57 of KP Act. Any information receives regarding the person may kindly intimate in either of the phone numbers given below.

Inspector of Police, Poovar : 9497987026
Sub Inspector of Police, Poovar : 9497906030
Police Station, Poovar : 0471 2211100. (353/F2/2022/I&PRD)

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Sd/- Shri.T.V.N.A.R. Kumar, Dt.18/02/2022, Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Vijayawada

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Former cop DERC's new ombudsman

the first centre to start fetal blood transfusions in the country having performed more than 1,500 procedures so far. "We are probably performing the maximum number of such procedures in the world presently. In the last 10 years, we have started and perfected the procedures for managing complicated twin pregnancies that need treatment inside the womb using laser and radiofrequency ablation. We have also got experience of inserting shunts for draining fluids from bladder or the lungs and managing various fetal heart rate abnormalities inside the womb," Dr Dardwal said.

But these forums cannot be moved in matters related to the unauthorised use or theft of electricity and meter tampering among others. PTJ

"Murthi assured to help the businessmen in getting purchase orders, tenders and bids in ministry of defence, CSD canteens, international agencies, etc. He took money in advance as

ected families. While a structural audit of Paradiso has been ordered, no details on the scope of work have been shared with us. Similarly, an FIR has been registered against the Chintels MD and others but no arrest has been made so far. The administration is only giving verbal assurances," Varun Dhamija, a resident of the condo, said. Had the administration had acted on the residents' complaint last year, he added, such

On February 14, the town and country planning department had written to the director of IIT-Delhi for conducting an audit of the buildings at Paradiso, where a vertical collapse of five living rooms led to the deaths of two residents on February

Bath told **TOI** that officials will try to get the flats vacated amicably without using any force or causing any inconvenience to the residents. "We held a meeting with families in Green View and explained to them about the situation. A team will again visit the society on Monday," he said. **TNN**

e-TENDER NOTICE
The ADG & ICA of Correctional Services, W.B., for and on behalf of the Governor of W.B., invites e-tenders for supply of Dietary and Misc articles to 08 (eight) Districts, namely, Alipurduar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Dima Haspur, Dum Dima, Diphongor, Jalpaiguri, Jhapa, Kamrup, Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Malda, Medinipur, Murshidabad, Bardhaman, Jalpaiguri & Balurghat & Alipore Women's Correctional Institutions, respectively. The e-tendering period shall be from 01.04.2022 to 30.09.2022. Tender submission closing date: 30.09.2022. Dated: 08.08.2022. Date of uploading and documents download starts: 08.08.2022. 17.00 hrs. onwards. The submission of tender: 29.03.2022 by 17.00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in. The ADG & ICA of Correctional Services, W.B., reserves the rights to cancel any or all e-tenders without showing any reasons. Sd/- ADG & ICA of Correctional Services, W.B. ICA-T3094/4/2022

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(शाखा-सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी) वन विभाग, सप्तगढ़ भुवन, मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल
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विज्ञप्ति
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G-22859/21

Adventures in Gadgetland

CITY CITY BANG BANG
SANTOSH DESAI



In the 70s, when we first bought a tape recorder, those little boxes with a few buttons, one of them red, their role was largely to record the sound of our own voices. The idea that music could be played back on it never really occurred to us, at least not in the beginning. The wonder of listening to our own voices, trapped in a little box for eternity, was by itself enough. The earliest recordings were of our performances — a poem, a joke, some funny *shayaris*, a song punctuated with large gulps of air between the words and some very laboured and self-conscious conversation. Hearing ourselves revealed something hitherto hidden to us — the pitch, the timbre, the sound of the laugh, the squeals of delight — all felt like an out-of-body experience. We could listen to, and inflict on others, what in retrospect were thoroughly unentertaining snippets of silliness over and over again.

It was the experience of capturing a sense of our living selves, as against photographs that immortalised us by freezing our existence, that was exhilarating. To a generation that associated recorded voices only with the famous or the truly talented, the idea of hearing one's own voice coming out of a gadget felt a little miraculous. It is strange how that specific need of self-recognition seems to have disappeared or more likely dissolved into video recordings of the self.

The first impression that a new gadget made in those constrained times often had nothing to do with its eventual function. In the case of the tape recorder, it had also to do with the fact that in its earliest days, there were no pre-recorded cassettes that were easily available, so the act of recording music was a painful song-by-song effort, which involved connecting a tinny tape-recorder to an even tinier transistor. However, in the case of the refrigerator, it was because the wonder lay elsewhere.

When the first refrigerator came, ice

was magic. Cold water was great too, but ice cubes, the unlikely junction of winter and geometry, were mesmerising. The first few days were spent crunching ice loudly, for where else did one access an unlimited supply of this delightful but occasional form of water? The fridge's main function — that of preserving food — was of little interest. In fact, even today, in many parts of India, the preference for fresh food is so strong that the fridge is little more than a cupboard that makes ice and keeps water cold.

But the 70s and 80s were times when gadgets were monuments. Imposing, sacred, to be approached with the greatest reverence and not a little fear. They were installations that exuded mystery and

The gadget was part of the act of establishing one's world. Bit by bit, we crystallised our existence by filling out our homes. The function these gadgets served was important, but even more important was their value as objects to be owned

needed to be dealt with only by Important People, namely the men of the house. We never had a record player and had access to it only when we went to an uncle's house. No religious rite has been carried out with greater ceremony; the Japanese tea ritual is a quick act compared with the fastidious and highly elaborate regimen for playing music on the gramophone, as it was then called. It involved first removing the ornate cover from the stereo system, carefully selecting a disc from a neatly stacked pile of options, wiping the cover of the album, slowly, really slowly extracting the record from the sleeve, caressing it clean with the merest whisper of a cloth, placing it with adoring care in its slot, lifting the needle as gingerly as if were a vial of toxic plutonium, waiting purposefully just for the heck of it before finally uniting the needle with its destined groove, and letting the music flow.

Small increments in functionality

could lead to big changes in the way we lived. When the radio became the transistor, many other things changed. The gadget became less of a monument and more a personal accessory. The transistor attached itself into the entrails of our lives, as it went where we went, in our bedrooms, bathrooms and even in the basket of our bicycles. As a consequence, film songs entered the crevices of our lives, acting as a moving map of our moods, the articulator of the unsaid, the extrapolator of the mundane into the sublime. Songs became personal documents, secret friends that saw a part of us that no one else ever did. The act of humming a song to oneself had always rendered a public good private, but the transistor made this personal ownership official. The device of the *farmaish* created some sort of common currency of the popular without surrendering entirely to it.

The gadget was part of the act of establishing one's world. Bit by bit, we crystallised our existence by filling out our homes. *Ghar basana*, the gradual setting up of the home, was nothing but the act of populating it with facilities and meaning. Prosperity rippled around us, forming a protective moat. The function these gadgets served was important, but even more important was their value as objects to be owned. They expanded our sense of self, stretching the boundaries of our empires bit by bit. They represented what we were capable of by their presence more than by their use.

The gadget, if anything, is even more central to our lives today. While we may own our share of blenders, hairdryers, air fryers, home theatres and the like, there is really only one gadget at the heart of everything we do. The mobile phone today is a master-key of all devices. It packs so much functionality in its petite form that we have exhausted any concept of wonder usually associated with the gadget. We take the magic of the phone for granted as we await the next upgrade. The gadget still changes our lives in small and important ways, but perhaps it does not excite the emotions it once did.

santosh365@gmail.com

Investor expo to be held for Business Blasters: Govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday held a review meeting with officials for the second round of the Business Blasters programme. The Delhi government said that in the second round of the programme, an investors' expo will be organised where the top 100 teams will be evaluated by industrialists and experts, who will invest in the teams.

The government said that 1,000 teams, that were selected from the first round will present their ideas at 28 Delhi government schools in a panel comprising of industrialists, education department officials and members from different universities of Delhi.

"The panel will review these ideas, assess them on set parameters and select them for the third phase of business blasters. The top 100 teams selected by the expert panel will be presented at an investors' expo organised by the Delhi government where the ideas will be assessed by successful entrepreneurs and experts from universities," officials said.

They further said that the top 10 teams that are selected at the expo will get direct admission to BBA courses in universities that come under Delhi government.

"The 1,000 teams selected for the second round are receiving regular guidance and mentorship from experts and industrialists. Through this programme, the Delhi government's vision is to prepare youth who can become job providers and not job seekers and who can contribute to the economic development of the country," the government said in a statement.

DU, JNU vice-chancellors meet, discuss implementation of NEP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The vice-chancellors of Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University have held discussions on the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

In a tweet Sunday, JNU said that among other things, "the heads of the two leading universities discussed strategies to accelerate the implementation process of NEP."

Speaking to TOI, DU VC Yogesh Singh said that while

his meeting with Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, the vice-chancellor of JNU, was a courtesy call, there were discussions on the policy.

"We did discuss the NEP implementation but frameworks for DU and JNU will be quite different. JNU primarily has post-graduate courses and not many bachelor's courses. For DU, on the other hand, the framework is only for undergraduate courses. For PG courses, we will be discussing and debating the framework only

after a year or two when the requirement arises," Singh said.

DU will be implementing the NEP 2020 from the upcoming academic session where a four-year undergraduate programme will be offered to students. According to the framework to be adopted by DU, students with a three-year undergraduate course can pursue a two-year PG degree while those with a four-year UG course will be able to complete their master's programme in a year.

DU to give 1.7 lakh degrees digitally at 98th convocation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi University (DU) is set to hold its 98th convocation on Saturday, where it will give digital degrees to nearly 1.73 lakh students.

Senior officials said that the graduates would also receive the printed degrees within a month of the convocation.

"On the day of the convocation, we will release the digital degrees and all students who completed their respective courses in 2021 will be receiving emails for the same. We have sent all the data for printing the hard copies already," said DS Rawat, DU's dean of examinations.

"We should receive the same by the second week of March, after which individual verification of the degrees will occur. Once this is done, the degrees will be sent to the respective colleges and students can collect the same," he said.

The varsity's move to issue

printed degrees to graduates is aimed at reducing woes faced by students as it takes at least a couple of years to get the degrees after graduation.

According to data shared by varsity officials, over 77,500 undergraduate and post-graduate students will be receiving their degrees this year.

Over 91,800 undergraduate and 1126 post-graduate students from the School of Open Learning will get their degrees in the next two months. Officials added that 650 PhD students would also be awarded their degrees this year.

"Earlier data was collected through colleges and it ended up being a time-consuming process," Rawat said.

"But this year, we are nearly ready with the degrees as we collected the data directly through the new examination form. Hence, the mark sheet and admit card data was ready and could be sent for printing," he explained.

Suspect in city murder case caught in Jaipur

New Delhi: A 26-year-old suspect was detained from Jaipur on Sunday in connection with the murder case of a woman in north Delhi, police said. The accused, who was planning to flee to a safer place, will reach Delhi at night for interrogation. The victim was found dead in her room on Friday. According to her family, her phone was switched off in the evening. Around 9.30 pm, a cop answered the phone and asked them to reach the police station, they said.

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PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE - PT 010/2021-22 Date: 21-02-2022

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For further details about this tender, Please visit our website <https://www.tifrr.res.in/index.php/commercial-tenders>

Administrative Officer

IIT hopes to create drug molecules to treat Alzheimer's

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi have designed and demonstrated a new strategy for developing potential drug molecules that can be used for treating various diseases like encephalitis and protein aggregation diseases such as Alzheimer's.

IIT SAYS

Molecules have shapes just like objects. Designing and synthesising molecules with diverse shapes is an art in itself

Presently, computer-aided rational drug discovery is utilised to find target molecules for a particular protein target and it takes a considerable amount of time, according to IIT.

"Drugs are mostly organic molecules that interact with molecules present in the human body. The molecules in the body are bigger in size and are typically called macromolecules. The researchers have come up with a chemical strategy ba-

sed on the macromolecular mimicry. Molecules have shapes just like objects. Designing and synthesising molecules with diverse shapes is an art in itself. Mimicking the macromolecular interface by uniquely shaped small molecules is an approach adopted by the research group," the institute said.

Professor V Haridas of IIT Delhi's chemistry department collaborated with virologist professor Guruprasad Medigeshi of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute and biochemist professor Bishwajit Kundu of Kusuma School of Biological Sciences, IIT Delhi, for the research work.

"The tools of organic chemistry and biophysics were utilised to design molecules that target protein interface. We used this strategy to design drug molecules, which could be useful for treatment of Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV), the main cause for viral encephalitis in Southeast Asian countries and protein aggregation diseases such as Alzheimer's. We have also patented the JEV inhibitor drug molecule," the professor said.

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GOVT WORKING TO MAKE ARUNACHAL A MAJOR GATEWAY TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, SAYS PM MODI

MEHBOOBA URGES PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR GUPKAR ALLIANCE TO DEFEAT BJP IN NEXT J&K POLLS



Wanted: A super vaccine that fights all coronavirus variants

Variants have made last year's vaccines less effective, and new coronaviruses that start new pandemics might be on the horizon. It's time for a vaccine that can fight them all

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

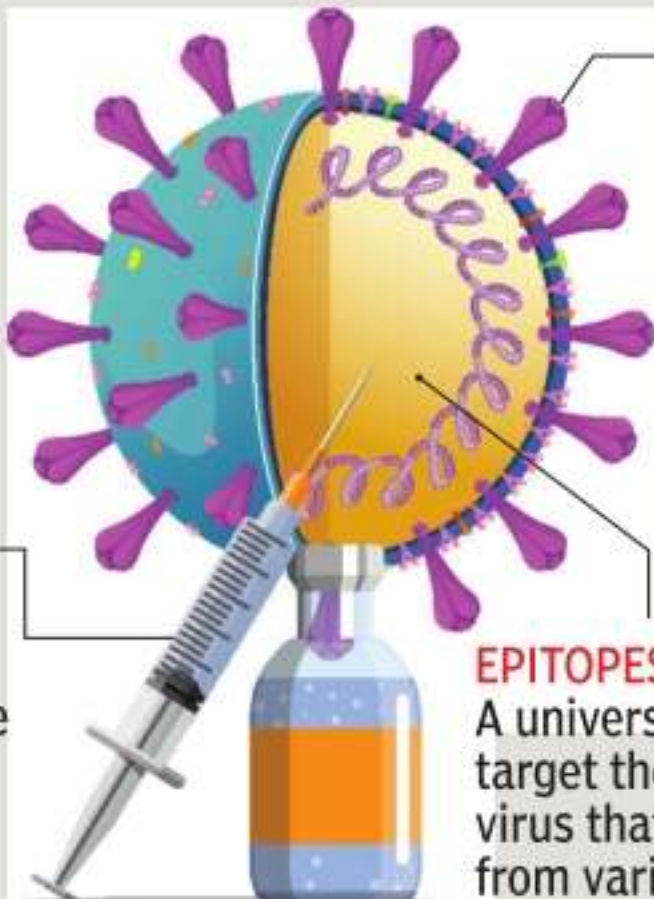
Death visited every neighbourhood in last summer's Delta wave, but it was a time of low vaccination. Omicron's sweep across the country in December and January was unexpected though.

In Israel, health workers got infected even after taking two booster shots. A Financial Times report says: "A fourth dose of the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine was largely ineffective in stopping Omicron infections despite increasing antibodies."

In a way, vaccine makers acknowledge this reality while recommending more booster shots. But from the public's point of view, boosters are inconvenient, expensive and, perhaps, impractical.

SHIFTING TARGETS

VACCINES Existing coronavirus vaccines train the immune system to neutralise the spike proteins. But the spike mutates, so vaccines become less effective as new variants arise



SPIKE PROTEINS The spike proteins on a coronavirus's surface enable it to attach to the target's cells

EPITOPES A universal vaccine would target those parts of the virus that don't change from variant to variant

of Covid vaccines where "we knew what the target was: it was there, it was right in front of us," he says in the FT article, a universal vaccine will be targeted at genetic sequences that are not known.

But new research shows making such a vaccine is possible. So far, all coronavirus vaccines have targeted the virus's spike protein, which is prone to mutation.

So, for a universal vaccine scientists are aiming at those parts of the virus that do not change from variant to variant. If the immune system could be trained to recognise these "conserved" parts, also known as "epitopes" - a vaccine targeting a range of coronaviruses would be possible.

A SHOT OF HOPE

search is awaiting phase-I results of its pan-coronavirus vaccine candidate. FT mentions another potential universal vaccine being developed by the firm DIOSynVax.

Massachusetts-based VBI Vaccines has taken a different approach. Instead of identifying the stable virus parts or epitopes, it has placed the spike proteins of three different coronaviruses that cause SARS, MERS and Covid on particles that resemble a virus and induce the immune system to react.

Need For Universal Vaccine

In December, American disease expert Anthony Fauci and two of his colleagues made a case for a universal vaccine in the New England Journal of Medicine. They said Covid is unlikely to go away, and existing vaccines won't be able to stop the rise of its new variants.

A recent article in Nature also calls for making "variant-proof" vaccines because the "protection offered by a booster dose is transient and will wane with time". It says we need vaccines that prevent infection as much as severe disease.

Work In Progress

The idea of a universal vaccine is not new. Scientists have been trying to make a universal flu shot for over 10 years. Clinical trials of a candidate vaccine started in 2019, but it's not approved for the market so far.

Fauci and other experts admit a universal vaccine for Covid variants and future coronaviruses won't materialise anytime soon. Unlike the current crop

Looking Beyond Coronaviruses

Other scientists have been trying to find a way to boost immunity against not just coronaviruses but all types of pathogens. The New Yorker describes it as "broad spectrum" immunity.

They have known for years that vaccines for one disease sometimes improve immunity against other diseases also. For example, in the Soviet Union people were given the oral polio vaccine every year as protection against flu.

Scientists have also observed that vaccines containing a live, weakened germ - such as BCG, OPV and the MV vaccine for measles - produce stronger overall immunity than vaccines containing just a part of the germ.

The New Yorker says, "In theory, we could use a preexisting vaccine to protect against a new virus while more specific vaccines are still being developed." This approach could reduce the initial severity of a new pandemic.

"It wouldn't halt a virus's progression, but it might slow it, and perhaps spare the most vulnerable some of the worst effects," the New Yorker says.

Source: Media reports

Getty Images/iStockphoto



Kameng river flows through Dirang valley in Arunachal Pradesh. The state, along with Meghalaya, forms the biggest carbon sinks in India

'Move Will Aid India Achieve Climate Goals'

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: With experts demanding a separate body to deal with issues linked climate change for long, states have proposed setting up a dedicated 'environmental council' like GST council to implement India's climate action at all levels.

Although the Centre has an apex committee, comprising members from 13 key ministries, to coordinate actions for achieving India's climate goal under the Paris Agreement, the idea to have a separate council came up during the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) where state representatives, including ministers, proposed having such an independent body for more focused action.

They pointed out that the implementation aspects of climate action, be it mitigation, adaptation and resilience, often falls on the state governments and therefore there should be a dedicated body composed of representatives from the Centre and all the states/Union Territories (UTs).

"On the lines of the GST Council, if we have the environment and forest ministers of all states along with the Union minister of environment in a council, I think that is where we can set targets and policies at the national level and implement at the state level," said Aaditya Thackeray, environment minister of Maharashtra.

Participating in a 'ministerial session on sub-national leadership for inclusive green growth' at WSDS, organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Thackeray suggested putting out an annual environment report. "We can think of an 'ease of living' report that lists out environmental steps and targets, and what can be done in terms of climate action such as mitigation, adaptation and resilience," he said.

At the session, moderated by TERI director general, Vibha Dhawan, the ministers highlighted the need for new measures and yardsticks to assess and tackle climate change related impacts.

Emphasising the crucial role of sub-national governance to tackle climate change, James K Sangma, environment and forest minister of Meghalaya, said, "The need of the hour is to have a concerted effort where all the states come together, put aside their differences and work collectively."

Pointing out that Meghalaya along with Arunachal form the biggest carbon sinks crucial for India to honour the commitments made under the Paris Agreement, Sangma also put forth the need for the north-eastern region to be a unique green laboratory. "Meghalaya aspires to be a leader to create a green bloc coalition to find solutions to fast depleting natural assets," he said.

Echoing Thackeray's suggestion, Palaniivel Thiagarajan, finance minister of Tamil Nadu, said, "While policies are framed at the national level, bulk of the work is to be done at these levels."

Rajiv Saxena | TNN

Kota: Nine persons, including a bridegroom and his brother, were killed on the spot after their SUV fell into the Chambal river from a bridge in Rajasthan's Kota city early Sunday morning. The groom, 23-year-old Avinash Valmiki who was to wed Sunday evening, was travelling with his friends and relatives in the SUV, while other members of the wedding party were in a bus. The wedding procession was from Chauth ka Barwada in Sawai Madhopur and was on its way to Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.

The driver is believed to have taken the lower bridge not open to traffic instead of the main bridge out of confusion. The fatal fall claimed the lives of all the occupants. The other deceased include Avinash's 30-year-old brother Keshav and driver 35-year-old Islam Khan.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Twitter takes down Guj BJP post on verdict

Pune: For the Peerbhoy family living in Pune Cantonment area, the last two days have swung from happiness to sorrow. On Friday, Mohammed Mansoor Asghar Peerbhoy, a techie, was acquitted by a special court in Gujarat in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case, and on Saturday, his father Asghar (78) died of heart attack.

He (Asghar) was hugely relieved after hearing about Mansoor's acquittal on Friday. He was not keeping well for the last four-five months and breathed his last on Saturday," Mansoor's mother BA Peerbhoy (76) told TOI on Sunday.

She said they had communicated the news of his father's death to Mansoor in Ahmedabad jail. "We hope the court's verdict will help him in the other two cases pending against him before the courts in Mumbai and Delhi," she added.

The atmosphere was som-

bre at the Peerbhoy residence, a first-floor flat in a society on Ambedkar Road, where a steady stream of visitors, mostly relatives, arrived to offer condolences or called them on the phone. "The case has taken a heavy toll on all of us, apart from ruining my son's life," said Mansoor's mother, a retired schoolteacher. "He had a high-paying job with a software company and had no time for indulging in the alleged activities. But he lost the job after his arrest. All these

years, we have been travelling from Pune to Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Delhi in connection with the cases that are interlinked," she said.

She said the only bright spot in all these years was the support they got from their neighbours and relatives, who had faith in Mansoor and believed he was not involved in any criminal act.

A total of 56 people had died and 200 others were injured in a series of bomb blasts in Ahmedabad on July 26, 2008.

Islamabad: Pakistan's maritime authorities have arrested 31 Indian fishermen and seized five of their vessels for allegedly fishing in the country's territorial waters, officials said on Sunday.

The Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) said that it apprehended the intruding vessels on Friday during patrolling in the Pakistan Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The PMSA said that one of its "ship apprehended five Indian fishing boats along with 31 crew."

The boats were towed to Karachi for further legal proceedings as per Pakistani Law and UN Convention on Law of the Sea, it said.

Pakistan and India regularly arrest fishermen from either side for violating the maritime boundary which is poorly marked at some points.

Fishermen from Pakistan and India usually end up in jails after they are arrested for fishing illegally in each other's territorial waters. PTI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Editors Guild of India on Sunday urged the government to withdraw the new Central Media Accreditation Guidelines on grounds that the guidelines are "vague and arbitrary" and that "draconian clauses" have been included in it with an intent to restrict any critical and investigative reporting of government affairs.

EGI also said the Press Information Bureau, which issued the guidelines, should undertake "a meaningful consultation" with all stakeholders to come up with revised guidelines.

"The Editors Guild of India is deeply concerned about the newly released Central Media Accreditation Guidelines issued by the Press Information Bureau of India, which lays down the rules for giving accreditation to journalists for ac-

The Editors Guild of India said the Press Information Bureau should undertake 'a meaningful consultation' with all stakeholders to come up with revised guidelines

cessing and reporting from the headquarters of Government of India," EGI said in a statement.

It also referred to as "arbitrary" and "manifestly vague and subjective", the provisions of the guidelines and objected to journalists being denied an opportunity to be heard before their accreditation is cancelled.

"Most surprisingly, 'defamation' has been included as a ground for cancellation," the EGI said.

A new clause requiring police verification added

without defining the contours of such verification, the Editors Guild of India said can grant unfettered powers to the police for denying accreditation to journalists who seen as critical of the government, since no standards have been prescribed.

"It is clear that these vague, arbitrary, and draconian clauses have been included with an intent to restrict any critical and investigative reporting of government affairs," it said adding that guidelines were introduced without any prior consultation with journalists' bodies, media organisations or any other relevant stakeholders.

"The Guild therefore demands a withdrawal of these guidelines and urges the PIB to undertake meaningful consultation with all the stakeholders if it is intent on revising them," the Editors Guild of India said.

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A 30-year-old Delhi Police constable died after allegedly falling off the terrace of his house in a village here on Sunday, police said. The incident took place when Anuj Kumar was talking on his phone at home in Kutbi village before leaving for his marriage ceremony in Loni, Ghaziabad, they said.

The body was sent for a post-mortem examination, the police said.

Meanwhile, two bodies were found in separate places on the railway tracks at Khatoli in the district, police officials said. One of the victims was identified as Ramesh Chand Saini. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination, they said. PTI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: Amid repeated tussles with governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the Kerala government has put forward a recommendation to the Centre that the state assemblies should have powers to recall the governor.

"In Article 156, an amendment be proposed to give the state government concerned a say in the matter of recall of governor," the government said in response to remarks by the Justice (retd) Madan Mohan Punchhi Commission appointed to suggest changes in the Centre-state relations.

The government has recommended that the state legislature should be empowered to

remove the governor in case of violation of the Constitution, lapses in duty of the chancellor or intaking criminal prosecution procedures.

"...as far as the governor is concerned, in addition to constitutional functions, he is entrusted with certain statutory functions such as chancellor of universities. Therefore specific grounds such as violation of Constitution or failure of discharge of his functions should be incorporated in Article 156," says the note titled "Final views of the state of Kerala" approved by the cabinet.

Khan had run into serious differences of opinion with the government on many occasions, with the latest being that of him accusing the government of trying to "control" the Raj Bhavan. He has raised charges against the government on appointment of ministers' personal staff and said such staff are not entitled to pension benefits anywhere in the country. He had locked horns with the government on appointments in universities and the Lok Ayukta Act amendment earlier. The note says, "Article 155 need an amendment in such a way that the governor of a state shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the state concerned and the appointment shall be effected from a panel furnished by the state."

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



SETTING AN EXAMPLE: Shabana

Thane: Someone who is abandoned by her family at four, along with a year-old kid brother, and reared at an orphanage would elicit pity perhaps even years later. Not much would be expected of such a child, given how cruel fate was to her. But meet Shabana Shaikh, who has set an example for many others like her. Now 22 years old, the feisty girl didn't allow circumstances to dampen her spirits, and recently secured a seat in a medical college after clearing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, or NEET, thus achieving the first step towards realising her dream of becoming a doctor.

Shabana was found with her brother at a Mumbai hospital around 18 years ago and

was brought to an orphanage in Badlapur. Though the girl had initially clammed up, keeping to herself and not speaking to anyone, the staff could see that she was clever, outshining the other children her age in assigned educational tasks. But little did they think that the child would do the institution proud one day. "Shabana always showed exemplary performance at studies. Later on, we encouraged

her to pursue any field of her choice. She always said she wanted to be a doctor. Little did we realise that one day she would surprise us all," said Padma Gudhe, superintendent at Bombay Teen Challenge orphanage.

Shabana, who is fond of singing, told TOI she was encouraged to take up medicine by the orphanage trustees, who ensured she was never deprived of adequate study material. She had attempted NEET two years ago too, but wasn't satisfied with her scores. So she re-attempted the test last year, and got a place in an Aurangabad college.

"I don't remember my biological family who left me and my brother to fend for ourselves. Instead of looking back and pitying myself for that, I focussed on creating a better

future for myself and the orphanage, which is now my family and has supported me throughout. My friends here are proud of me. They have always helped me with routine chores so that I could focus on my studies. Because of them, I could study for eight to ten hours at a stretch, daily, and prepare for the medical entrance exam," said Shabana, who wants to specialise in gynaecology and serve society.

Social activists say the girl has set an example for others to emulate as many facing a similar situation in life often tend to lose hope and waver from their ambitions.

Shabana's achievement has drawn the attention of Thane collector Rajesh Narvekar, who recently felicitated her and assured assistance, whenever required.

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Sameer Wankhede, who was on deputation with NCB, was repatriated to his parent department, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, on completion of tenure in January

Mumbai: A criminal case has been registered against Narcotics Control Bureau's former Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede following a complaint by the excise department for allegedly fraudulently securing a bar licence over two decades ago.

TOI was the first to report that Wankhede, though ineligible, had secured the permit for the bar on October 27, 1997, following which the excise department initiated a probe against him. Later, NCP minister Nawab Malik had lodged a complaint to the Central Vigilance Commission and state excise commissioner alleging that it was wrong for Wankhede to hold the licence as he belongs to the All India Service, which he joined in 2006.

Significantly, when Wankhede had applied for the permit on February 13, 1997, his father, Dnyandev, was an inspector in the excise department.

Then Wankhede had admitted to TOI that he did possess the licence for a long time, but after he took up the government job, he had given the power of attorney in the name of his father, while on Sunday, he said: "The FIR has been lodged after 25 years; then I was a child. What else can I say, all is evident

to the nation."

After hearing Wankhede's counsel on February 1, Thane collector Rajesh Narvekar had scrapped the bar licence for blatant violation of the Maharashtra Prohibition Rules.

Based on documents submitted by the excise department, Narvekar found that Wankhede had obtained the permit on October 27, 1997, through willful misrepresentation or fraud. Then Wankhede was less than 18 years of age against the required age of

21. In his application, Wankhede did not mention his date of birth, but merely submitted that he is an adult.

On Saturday, Thane excise inspector Satyawan Shankar Gogawale submitted a complaint to Kopri police, following which an offence was registered against Wankhede under the Indian Penal Code sections 181 (false statement on oath before a public servant), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant), 420 (cheating), 465 (punishment for forgery), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document).

Wankhede, who was on deputation with NCB, was repatriated to his parent department, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, on completion of tenure in January.

Working on a plan, sure that anti-BJP parties will join us: KCR



Telangana CM K Chandrababhan Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis in Mumbai on Sunday

► Continued from P1

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole welcomed Rao's efforts to organise an anti-BJP front, but said that no such front can be successful unless it takes help of Congress.

Rao's visit comes a week after West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee reached out to regional leaders and MK Stalin to push for a non-BJP, non-Congress federal front and set up meetings of opposition CMs. Rao said a good beginning has been made, and he will soon meet Thackeray again in Hyderabad. He said he is also trying to organise a meeting of anti-BJP like-minded parties in Baranasi, Pawar's hometown. "We are working out a strong action plan, I am sure anti-BJP parties will join us as early as possible," Rao added.

Endorsing the views expressed by Rao, Thackeray said: "Our marathon discussion revolved around current political situation, particularly the politics of revenge and deteriorating Centre-state relations." Addressing a joint press conference, Thackeray and Rao said the NDA leadership was expected to speak on developmental issues and provide a new roadmap, but unfortunately the entire focus is on defaming others and trumpeting one's achievements.

"We have to change, bring in parivartan," they said. Among those who attended the meeting at Varsha, the CM's official residence in Mumbai, were Thackeray's son Tejas, industries minister Subhash Desai, urban development minister Eknath Shinde, MPs Sanjay Raut and Arvind Sawant, while Rao was accompanied by MPs Ranjeet Reddy, Santosh Kumar, B P Patil and veteran actor Prakash Raj.

Rao said while Maharashtra shares a 1,000km border with Telangana, the relations between the two states are friendly and all-out efforts should be made for the development of both states.

U'khand BJP MLA alleges 'internal plot'

Dehradun: Incumbent BJP MLA and party's candidate from Yamunotri assembly constituency, Kedar Singh Rawat, has complained of "internal plotting" against him by some local leaders. He has alleged that despite attempts made by some party leaders to ensure his defeat, he would win the seat, albeit by a reduced margin. Notably, Rawat has held the seat since 2007. Speaking to TOI, Rawat said, "Some party workers worked against me and made efforts to ensure my defeat in Yamunotri. However, despite their attempts, we are winning the seat." **TNN**

CBI probing other unidentified Sebi, NSE officials too

► Continued from P1

The Central Bureau of Investigation has also issued lookout circulars against Ramkrishna, Narain and former COO Anand Subramanian to prevent them from leaving the country.

The probing agency had booked stock broker Sanjay Gupta, owner and promoter of Delhi based OPG Securities Pvt. Ltd, in 2018 for allegedly making gains by getting early access to the stock market trading system, they said.

The agency is also probing unidentified officials of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and National Stock Exchange (NSE), Mumbai, and other unknown people. "It was alleged that the owner and promoter of said private company abused the server architecture of NSE in conspiracy with unknown officials of NSE. It was also alleged that unknown officials of NSE, Mumbai had provided unfair access to said company using the co-location facility during

BJP talking terror to skirt jobs & fuel price issues: Akhilesh

'Govt Has Left 11L Posts In State Depts Vacant For No Reason'

Pervez Iqbal Siddiqui
@timesgroup.com

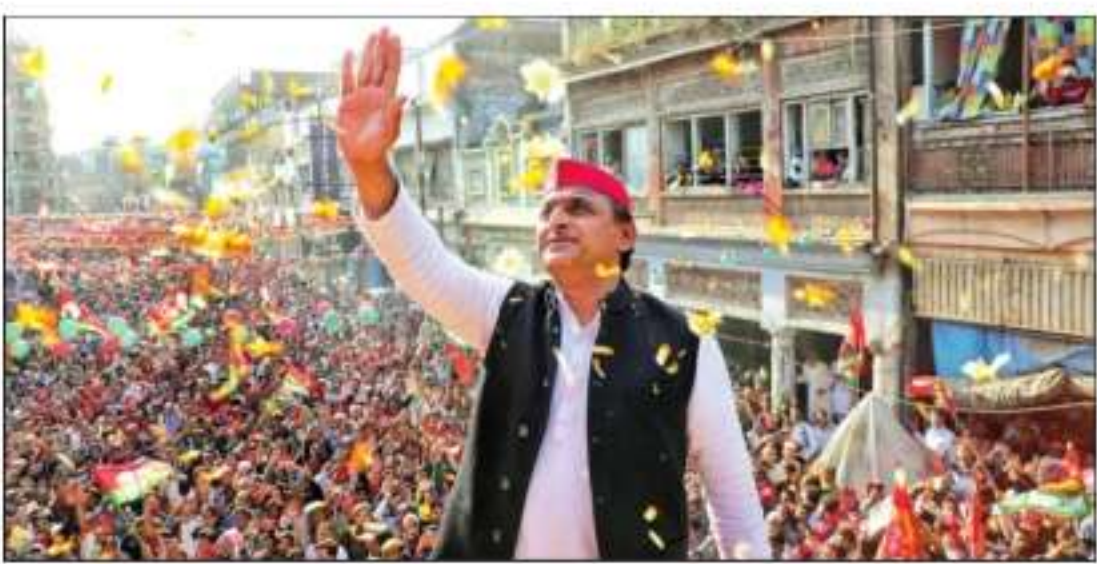
Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said BJP leaders are talking about terrorism in their election speeches when the common man is looking for solutions to rising fuel prices and unemployment.

He said this was being done to divert attention from the main issues.

"Chunav ho raha hai Unao mein, aur baat kar rahe hain atankवाद ki ... kisano ko khaad chahiye, naujavano ko naukri chahiye aur BJP ke log atankwad ki baat kar rahe hain (Elections are taking place in Unnao and they (BJP) are talking about terrorism. Farmers want fertilizers, youth want jobs ... and BJP leaders are talking about terrorism)," he said at a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao.

He addressed public meetings in Ayodhya and Barabanki where he appealed to the people to vote for SP candidates in their respective areas.

His statement came in apparent reference to BJP leadership accusing the SP of supporting terrorists.



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav during a roadshow in Kanpur

accused the party of being kind to terrorists.

Promising to fill up vacancies in a time bound manner if the SP government is formed, Akhilesh said BJP has left 11 lakh vacancies in the state and had thus deprived 11 lakh youth of a dignified livelihood for five years for reasons best known to the BJP.

"The government went to the Supreme Court to ensure that 69,000 protesting teachers did not get a job. This is how it (BJP) has kept them away from employment," he said.

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BATTLEGROUND
UTTAR PRADESH

MOTHER DEMOCRACY



EXERCISING HER RIGHT: A woman carrying her infant shows her inked finger after casting her vote in Kanpur on Sunday during the third phase of voting in Uttar Pradesh assembly polls

Mansa repeats history, sees highest turnout in Punjab

► Continued from P1

Votes will be counted on March 10 together with four other states going to the polls. In UP, the third round includes the 'Yadav belt' where 59 constituencies of 16 districts across three regions—parts of west UP, Awadh and Bundelkhand—voted on Sunday.

Voting was peaceful, barring a few minor infractions. Three out of four constituencies in Mainpuri district—the stronghold of Samajwadi Party—recorded a jump in polling percentage. Such as the Yadav bastion of Karhal recorded a turnout of 62.32% by 5pm, up 3.04% from the previous polls. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is contesting the assembly elections for the first time from Karhal, while BJP has fielded Union state minister SP Singh Baghel. In 2017, it recorded 59.28% turnout. The seat made history with the second highest turnout since 1951. Mehro-

ni seat of Lalitpur district, won by BJP candidate Manohar Lal in 2017, clocked the highest turnout of 71% with the district recording a maximum 69.05% voting, a 2.96% fall in polling percentage.

It was followed by Etah at 65.70%, Mahoba 64.56%, Hathras 63.14%, Kasganj 63.04%, Kannauj 61.93%, Pirozabad 61.89%, Mainpuri 61.51%, Hamirpur 60.56%, Auraiya 60.42%, Jalaun 59.93%, Kanpur Dehat 59.87%, Farrukhabad 59.13%, Etawah 58.33%, Jhansi 57.52% and Kanpur Nagar 56.14%.

UP chief electoral officer Ajay Kumar Shukla said: "No official complaint on discrepancies was received. Polling closed at 6pm following a one-hour extension due to Covid protocols. The day passed off peacefully with minor snags in EVMs at some places. These machines were swiftly replaced." In Etah, 10 people were arrested for allegedly casting fake votes in the Ali-

ganj Marhara assembly constituency. Punjab chief election officer S Karuna Raju said his office will share on Monday the updated voting percentage as polling was allowed till 6pm.

Raju said not a single case of disruption of poll and inducement of voters came to the notice of the EC. However, he said that some minor poll-related incidents were witnessed for which total 18 FIRs were registered to avert any untoward incident.

Mansa district in Malwa region of the state continued its earlier trend of having the highest poll percentage among all the 23 districts of the state. It polled 77.21% votes. This district also topped the chart in the 2017 assembly polls by polling 86.73% votes. Similarly, as the Mohali district had recorded the lowest voting percentage of 71.48% in the 2017 assembly elections, this time too it recorded the worst voter turnout with 68.26% till 5pm.

Kanpur mayor faces FIR over poll photo

The state election commission ordered lodging of an FIR against senior BJP functionary and Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur mayor Pramila Pandey for getting herself photographed while casting her vote inside a polling booth and then uploading the frame on her personal Facebook page, report **Faiz Rahman Siddiqui and Abhinav Malhotra**. She was booked for—breaching secrecy protocol and violating poll panel guidelines inside a booth at Hudson School premises. Kanpur Nagar's district election officer Neha Sharma said at least three complaints of poll code violations were recorded and FIRs were lodged against offenders. Besides the mayor, the district election officer has also lodged an FIR against the former president of BJYM, Nawab Singh, for breaching the secrecy protocol.

Cong to have social media in-charges even at booth level

New Delhi: Even as it struggles to tackle conventional challenges, Congress has set in motion a process to have social media in-charges right at the polling booth-level, in a strategy to deepen its communication and propaganda machine to the lowest rung of politics to counter BJP's aggressive poll campaign, reports **Subodh Ghildiyal**.

Congress has decided to have social media in-charges at three basic levels—district, assembly and polling booth.

The party will make appointments and complete the training for countrywide social media in-charges by June 30. The idea of having a man to monitor the Congress voice at these bottom rungs of political ladder across states stems from the realisation that the party is weak in influencing voters with instant communication and amplifying issues that can mould opinions.

A national or state-level communication directed from the top often gets diffused as it percolates down, with party strategists advocating that workers have to be deputised to amplify the party line or campaign material down at the polling booth-level.

Congress will also have WhatsApp groups at polling booth level country-wide, in which all the active members being enrolled during the ongoing membership drive will be members. Last year, Congress interviewed lakhs of social media volunteers who expressed interest to work for the party, as part of a strategy to spread its net.

Also, Congress will soon hold a training session for all its senior leaders and office-bearers in states on social media and how to optimally use it. AICC has told the state units that they should instruct leaders on the same, said sources.

PM: UP voters won't betray me; oppn will blame BJP vax

Pankaj Shah@timesgroup.com

Hardoi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cited a video clip of an elderly woman from UP purportedly explaining why she is beholden to him as a reflection of why the electorate would never "betray" him.

"Ye logon mein aam charcha hai ki humne Modi ka namak khaya hai... hum usey dhokha nahi denge (The buzz among the people is that 'we have benefited from Modi's largesse... we won't betray him')," he said at a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi, which will go to polls in the fourth phase. The PM hastened to add that the truth was "hum sabne Ma Bharti ka namak khaya hai... Hindustan ka namak khaya hai (we all have survived on Ma Bharti and Hindustan's benevolence)".

He said the Centre's flagship Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana and free ration to the poor during the pandemic were all part of NDA's commitment to uplift of the underprivileged.

Unnao saw him cranking up the pitch further as he said the poll outcome on March 10 would see opponents blaming



PM Narendra Modi at a public meet in Hardoi on Sunday

their defeat on the "BJP vaccine" that converted votes in the saffron party's favour.

"These people will say on March 10 that BJP won because people pressed the lotus button under the influence of the BJP vaccine."

Contrary to the perception that the Modi government would try to steer clear of talking about the pandemic because of the damage wreaked by the virus last year, Modi has been playing up the vaccination campaign at meetings, asking people whether they got the shots and whether they had to pay for it. "We inoculated people without any discrimination in terms of class and caste," he said on Sunday, accusing the opposition of spreading canards against the "made-in-India" vaccine so

Seen SP's symbol? Ahd bombs were planted on bicycles: Modi

► Continued from P1

I can never forget that day when the earth was reddened by the blood of the victims. The tears wouldn't stop flowing. I picked up the blood-soaked soil and took a vow that my government will track these terrorists even from 'paatal' (nether world) and punish them."

Modi sought to link SP's poll symbol, the bicycle, to the terror attacks, reminding the crowd that one of the blasts on July 26, 2008, took place at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital and that the Indian Mujahideen bombers had planted explosives on bicycles.

"Have you seen the poll symbol of SP? All the bombs in the initial blasts were planted on bicycles. I am so surprised, why did they use bicycles?" he said, also accusing the erstwhile SP government of withdrawing cases against terrorists responsible for 14 attacks in the state.

"In 2006, there was a blast at the Sankat Mochan temple in Varanasi and Kashi railway station. But after the SP government came to government, it decided to revoke a



Supporters of a BJP candidate in masks of PM Modi during an election campaign in West Bengal's South Dinajpur district on Sunday

case against an accused named Shamim Ahmad in 2013. Similarly, in 2007, there was a blast on the Lucknow court premises, but the SP government tried to withdraw the case against accused Tariq Kasmir. The court, however, didn't allow this to happen and he was given a life term," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also targeted the Congress leadership, claiming they would refer to Osama bin Laden as "Osama ji". He referred to Congress veteran Salman

Khurshid's claim in public that Sonia Gandhi broke down on seeing photographs of the bodies of the IM members killed in the Batla House encounter with Delhi police.

On Saturday, Union I&B minister Anurag Thakur held up an undated picture of Ahmedabad terror convict Mohammad Saif's father Shabbad Ahmad with SP chief Akhilesh and questioned whether the latter was there to "feed him biryani".

Thakur claimed Ahmad was an SP functionary.

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश (लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन) लिक रोड 3 प्रकरा कॉलोनी, भोपाल- 462004						
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विज्ञापन						
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, म.प्र. के अंतर्गत सविदा आधार पर राज्य / संघाग स्तरीय सविदा पदों की पूर्ति हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। यह अनुबंध 31 मार्च 2022 तक के लिये होगा, जिसे आगामी वर्षों की वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृत अनुसार नवीनीकृत किया जा सकेगा। पद का विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-						
S. No.	Position Name	Essential Qualification, Experience, and Skills	No. of Vacancies	Category Wise Classification	Honoraria in INR (Per Month)	Post Sanctioned
1	Contractual Female CLMC Manager	1:- Essential Qualification, Experience:- Female Candidates having Masters degree in Public Health / Hospital Management / Food & Nutrition or any other health related science with at least 55% marks (without rounding off) from recognized University/ institution in India and DCA/Computer foundation course. 2:- Essential Work Experience:- Minimum 2 years experience in a hospital setting / Diagnostic Laboratory / Blood Bank 3:- Desirable:- Past experience of working in comprehensive location management center/ lactation management unit.	2	1 (UR, Female), 1 (OBC, Female)	Rs. 25000/-	J.P Hospital (DH) Bhopal and MCH, MGM Medical college Indore
2	Consultant FPLMIS (Supply Chain Management)	1:- Essential Educational Qualification:- MSW or MBA + PGDCA or higher qualification in Computer Application. 2:- Work Experience Minimum 05 years of experience in management/ implementation of public health initiatives. Minimum 03 years of experience in Family Welfare program. Minimum 03 years of experience in data management in online software application in public health system at state level.	1	-	Rs. 45000/-	State Level
3	Consultant FPLMIS (FPLMIS & FPIIS)	1:- Essential Educational Qualification:- MSW or MBA + PGDCA or higher qualification in Computer Application. 2:- Work Experience:- Minimum 05 years of experience in management/ implementation of public health initiatives. Minimum 03 years of experience in beneficiary oriented schemes. Minimum 03 years of experience in data management in online software application in public health system at state level.	1	-	Rs. 45000/-	State Level
आवेदन सेम्स लिमिटेड के वेब पोर्टल www.sams.co.in के माध्यम से किया जा सकता है, आवेदन के लिए लिंक दिनांक 21.02.2022 से उपलब्ध किया जायेगा। ऑन लाइन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 23.03.2022 है। ऑफ लाइन आवेदन किसी भी स्थिति में मान्य / स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। उपरोक्त सविदा रिक्त पदों हेतु निर्धारित शैक्षणिक योग्यता, अनुभव, अन्य विवरण एवं नियम पुस्तिका लिमिटेड के वेब पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध रहेगी।						
निर्धारित प्रारूप में नहीं किये गए अथवा अपूर्ण आवेदन स्वयंमन निरस्त माने जायेंगे।						
1. अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।						
2. मिशन संचालक, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश किसी भी आवेदन को बिना कारण बताए स्वीकृत/अथवा भर्ती प्रक्रिया को निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।						
<div style="text-align: right;"> Sd/- Executive Engineer, E.G.S. (P.W.) Division, Dhule </div>						
<div style="text-align: center;"> दो गज दूरी मार्क है जरूरी जब तक कोरोना की दवाइ नहीं, तब तक कोई हिलाइ नहीं। G-22838/21 </div>						

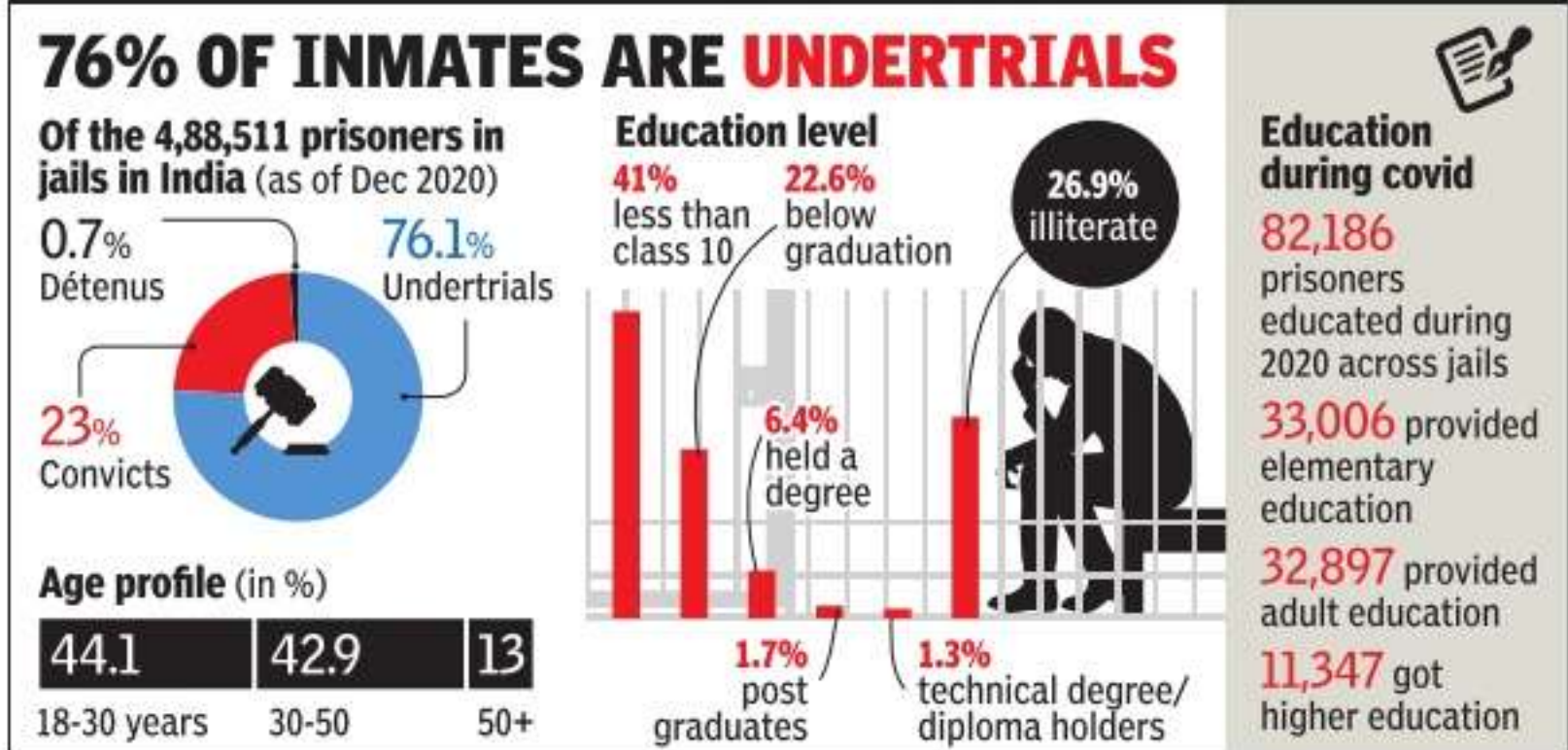
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA E.G.S. (P.W.) DIVISION, DHULE Email ID: egsdhule.ee@mahapwd.gov.in E-Tender Notice No. 17 For 2021-22					
On Line E-Tender in B-1 Form for the following work invited by Executive Engineer, E.G.S. (P.W.) Division Dhule Telephone No. (02562-288763) from any bidder who satisfy the qualifying. This Tender Notice is available on www.mahapwd.gov.in / https://mahatenders.gov.in Portal.					
Sr. No.	NAME OF WORK	Approximate Value of Work Rs.	Bid Security	Cost of Document	Contractor Class
1	Improvement to Shahada Sangavi Hated Road SH-1 Km. 104/330 to 110/00 & 112/00 to 113/740 & 118/00 to 121/00 Tal. Shirpur Dist. Dhule (Sec.- Joyada to Khambale & Khambheda to Satrasen Fata)	₹ 2,26,67,317/-	1,50,000/-	₹ 1120/- (Including GST)	Any bidder who satisfy the qualifying criteria
TENDER SCHEDULE					
Sr. No.	PWD Dept. Stage	Vendor Stage	Start Date & Time	Expiry Date & Time	
1	Main Tender Release		21/02/2022 10.00 AM	21/02/2022 18.00 PM	
2		Main Tender Document Downloading & Online Bid Preparation (T1 & C1)	21/02/2022 18.00 PM	08/03/2022 17.45 PM	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SCHEDULE					
1	Date, Time and Venue of Pre Bid	On 01/03/2022 Time 12.00 Hours in the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Dhule			
2	Date, Time & Venue of Opening of Technical Bid (Envelope No. 1)	On 10/03/2022 Time 11.00 Hours (If possible) in the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Dhule			
3	Date, Time & Venue of Opening of Commercial Bid (Envelope No. 2)	On 10/03/2022 Time 11.00 Hours (If possible) in the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Dhule			
1. All eligible / Interested Bidders are required to be enrolled on portal https://mahatenders.gov.in before downloading tender documents and participate in E-Tendering.					
2. Bidders are requested to contact on following telephone numbers any doubts / information / difficulty regarding online enrollment or obtaining digital certificate Contact us (NIC) The 24 x 7 Toll Free No. : 1800 3070 2232 Mobile No. : 8879002344- Vinayak Agre E-mail : eproc.maharashtra@gmail.com , cppp-support@nic.in					
3. Tender Document Fee and EMD to be paid via Online E-Payment Gateway mode only. EMD exemption certificate shall not be considered. EMD compulsory to be paid from Bidder's Bank account only. The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website https://mahatenders.gov.in					
4. The bidder shall submit the Hard Copy in "Sealed Envelope" of Technical & Financial Bids as specified in NIT after the online submission of Bid ("Bid Lock") within 72 hrs.					
5. Other instructions can be seen in the tender form. All or any one of the tender may be rejected by the competent authority.					
6. The Electronic Tendering system for Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra will be available on separate Sub Portal with URL https://mahatenders.gov.in as part of the Electronic Tendering System of Government of Maharashtra which is available on the Portal https://mahatenders.gov.in					
No. Tender/537/2022 Date : 11/02/2022 DGIPR/2021-2022/4518					

Despite Covid, prisoners produced goods worth ₹223cr in 2020: Report

Ambika.Pandit
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The impact of the pandemic has been felt strongly in the units steering reform and rehabilitation activities through vocational training for prisoners. Despite the pandemic, the inmates managed to produce goods worth around Rs 223 crore in 2020. This, however, is a significant decline from Rs 846 crore worth of goods produced in the previous year, as per NCRB's 'Prisons Statistics India Report'.

In 2019, Telangana had reported the highest gross value of sale proceeds of Rs 599 crore, followed by Tamil Nadu (Rs 73 crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 29 crore). The value of goods produced per inmate in that year was highest in Telangana (Rs 9 lakh), followed by Tamil Nadu (Rs 49,611) and Chandigarh (Rs 41,478). However, in 2020, the year of the pandemic, Tamil



Nadu reported the highest gross value of sale proceeds of Rs 66.7 crore, followed by Telangana (Rs 45 crore) and Bihar (Rs 20.5 crore). The value of goods produced per inmate was highest in Telangana (Rs 73,619), followed by Tamil Nadu (Rs 46,649) and Chandigarh (Rs 27,395).

Highlighting reform and rehab measures and best

practices in various prisons, the report said 42,976 inmates were provided with vocational training in 2020 and the maximum number of prisoners were trained in tailoring (11.6%), followed by agriculture (10.8%), carpentry (8.1%) and weaving.

As part of the rehab exercise prisoners engaged in labour are paid a nominal

wage based on their skill sets. An average of around Rs 106, Rs 88 and Rs 85 were paid per day to skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled prisoners respectively. However, the rates vary in different states. The report also highlights some examples of vocational training resulting in production of products of market value.

Govt: Charter flights may be availed for Ukraine exit

► Continued from P 1

The advisory followed continued tensions between Russia and Nato over Ukraine. UK PM Boris Johnson accused Russia Sunday of planning the "biggest war since 1945".

"In view of the continued high levels of tensions and uncertainties with respect to the situation in Ukraine, all Indian nationals whose stay is not deemed essential and all Indian students are advised to leave Ukraine temporarily," the Indian embassy in Kyiv said. It said available commercial flights, and charter flights may be availed for travel, for an "orderly and timely departure" from Ukraine.

"Indian students are advised to also get in touch with respective student contractors for updates on charter flights, and also



RISING TENSION

continue to follow the embassy Facebook, website and Twitter for any update," the embassy said.

While looking to ensure the safety and security of close to 20,000 Indian nationals in Ukraine, India has continued to walk the diplomatic tightrope on the issue, with foreign minister S Jaishankar saying on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference that diplomacy was the answer to the crisis. He said the situation called for a very differ-

4 of Kerala family found dead, suicide pact suspected

Ramavarman T | TNN

Thrissur: In an apparent suicide pact, a software engineer, his wife and two minor daughters were found dead at their house at Uzhuvath Kadavu near Kodungallur in Kerala on Sunday morning. They were identified as Ashif (40), wife Abeera (35) and daughters Ashara Fathima (14) and Anounissa (7).

Reports said the smell of carbon monoxide was emanating from their room which had all its windows and doors closed. The gaps in windows were reportedly plugged using tapes, neighbours said. Thrissur rural district police chief Aishwarya Dongre said a suicide note had also been recovered from the house. It said financial crisis was behind the suicide, she said.

The family was staying on the first floor while Ashif's ailing mother and sister were staying downstairs. The sister alerted neighbours and relatives after finding that their room was locked from inside and they were not coming out



Along with their parents, Ashara (14) and Anounissa (7) were also found dead in their house

even at 10am. They were found dead in the room when the door was forcibly opened with the help of local activists.

Police sources said the suicide note also warned of dangers of barging into the room because of the presence of carbon monoxide. As per preliminary information, the gas was produced in the room by mixing chemical compounds like calcium carbonate and zinc oxide and burning it in charcoal. Some of these items were reportedly purchased through an online platform.

Police suspect that the gas was used to avert the pain of death.

Haryana mulls tweaked laws for building safety

Manvir.Saini@timesgroup.com

Chandigarh: The Haryana government is mulling amendments in building by-laws for the investor-friendly but with additional safety norms to ensure safety of occupants before or after buying flats in multi-storied group housing societies.

While urban local bodies, town and country planning department and Haryana Sheri Vikas Pradhikaran have been told to work on issues related to updated and better safety norms for buildings, at the same time, the government is also exploring the possibility of giving more powers to the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA) for safety audits and other related issues.

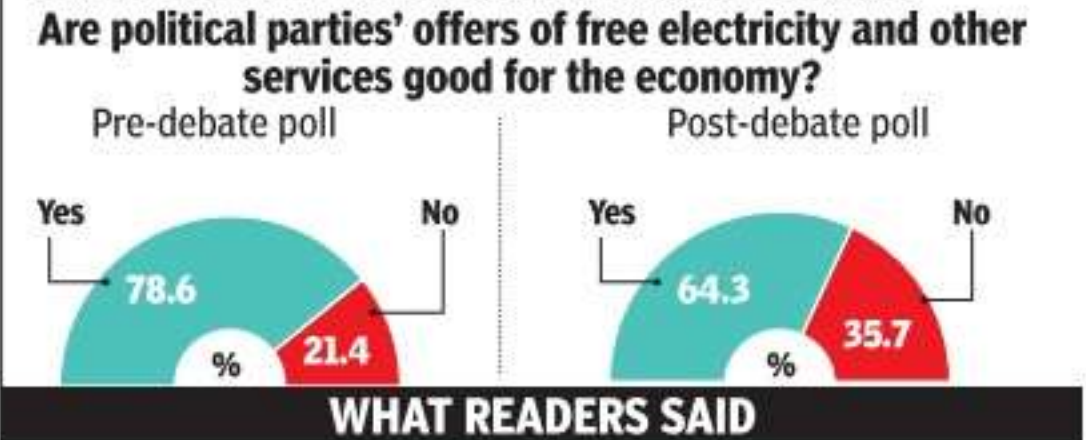
Senior officials in the chief minister's office said

work towards this direction has already begun and there is a possibility of bringing some changes ahead of the assembly session. "Let's see how it works out. But, the government is serious over the issue of safety measures for those living in the multistorey buildings. A lot of things have come out and more will tumble out as we conclude safety audit in other buildings," said officials.

Meanwhile, in a related development at Gurugram, chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar said work will be done to develop safe, convenient group housing societies across the state so that people living in these societies can get all the necessary facilities in a time-bound manner. The problems of people in these societies will also be resolved at the earliest, he said.

'POLL FREEBIES ARE BAD ECONOMICS'

With elections ongoing in five states, parties have promised voters free electricity, water and other services. But readers said that's not good economics in response to this week's Times FaceOff debate. NR Bhanumurthy, vice-chancellor at the Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics University, argued poll freebies are inefficient expenditures, while Arun Kumar, professor at the Institute of Social Sciences, said they provide necessary services to marginalised groups



Arun Kumar's views can be endorsed but with a rider that over a period of time the marginalised must be assisted till they can look after themselves. Otherwise it will become a never ending process — @KChandrasekhar

Freebies or rather subsidies for education, health and agriculture are essential for uplifting the deprived. Other freebies are unproductive and drain the state's exchequer — @Samuthiram1952

Empowering, motivating common people to 'stand up again' is a prime ethical duty of an elected government. Carefully structured and administered freebies,

linked to health, education and basic necessities may actually speed up economic recovery by improving quality of human capital — @anupontweet

Freebies are certainly horrific policies, a brainchild of cunning politicians for selfish gains. Freebies are a termite that will make the youth laid back and unproductive — @DineshMendiratta

Nothing in life is free including the air we breathe. Governance takes a hit with poll freebies where candidates enter the fray to do social service but start to amass wealth with no holds barred — @VaidyanathanMS

Hijab row: K'taka panel wary of violation of children's rights

Asks Cops To Initiate Action Against Erring Reporters

Shreyas.HS@timesgroup.com

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has asked the police department to initiate action against some reporters for allegedly violating the rights of children during the coverage of the hijab controversy.

The president and the secretary of the commission have written a letter — which TOI has accessed — to director general-inspector general of police Praveen Sood, citing several instances of violation that have come to their notice. The commission has also opined that this (coverage) is causing humiliation to schoolchildren wearing hijab.

Over the last fortnight, several videos showing children of



Shiv Sena Dogra Front supporters hold a protest in Jammu on Sunday

It has come to our knowledge that some reporters are filming children removing their burqa and hijab on school campuses, the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights said

the minority community were circulated in the media, with many of which were shot by reporters from electronic media.

The commission said: "It has come to our knowledge that some reporters are filming children while removing burqa and hijab on school campuses. Besides, some

scribes are chasing the pupils to capture them on cameras."

Action needs to be taken to avoid humiliation and trouble caused by the media, the commission chiefs said, and asked Sood to identify sensitive areas in the state and step up security to protect the privacy and rights of children.

'Murder' of anti-CAA activist triggers clashes in Bengal

Rupak Banerjee | TNN

Howrah: Two days after an Indian Secular Front (ISF) member and anti-CAA activist who had been receiving phone threats was allegedly pushed to his death from the terrace of his home in Bengal's Amta, protesters clashed with police in Kolkata on Sunday even as his father demanded a CBI inquiry into the circumstances of his death.

The uproar over the alleged murder of Anis Khan (28), an Aliah University alumnus and journalism student at Kalyani University, led state DGP Manoj Malaviya to direct Howrah (rural) SP Soumya Roy to immediately institute an inquiry led by an officer of DSP rank.

One of the suspects had visited Anis's house dressed as a cop, the family said.

"Anis stood up against any wrong. We are not happy with the police probe into his death. His father is not happy with the progress of the inquiry ei-

Anis Khan (28) was on the terrace on Friday when four suspects entered his home and allegedly pushed him to his death. His father has sought a CBI investigation

ther: We are demanding CM Mamata Banerjee's intervention. Anis' killers should be arrested soon," said theatre artiste Koushik Sen, who visited his house and spoke to his father Salam Khan.

Protesters from SFI, of which Anis had been a member before joining ISF, and DYFI were involved in an altercation with cops near Amta police station after they broke through barricades. A local police team was prevented from entering the victim's house as protesters blocked their way.

A team of forensic ex-

perts later reached Anis's residence and collected samples. They also tried to recreate the sequence of events that led to his death on Friday.

Over the past few years, Anis had taken part in several agitations, including the one against CAA. ISF functionary Nawsad Siddique said on Saturday that the victim had been getting repeated threats over the phone.

Anis was on the terrace of his home on Friday night when four suspects entered and allegedly pushed him to his death.

His father said police were yet to identify even one of the suspects. "I can't trust the police. They took so much time to reach our home that night, and that was enough for killers to flee. Only a CBI enquiry can unveil the truth," he said. Sources in Howrah police said two cases were registered against Anis at Bagnan police station. A warrant had been issued in one of those cases, they said.

Most students have collected hall tickets, says principal

► Continued from P 1

The PU II practical exams are not simultaneously conducted across Karnataka. Instead, the department has fixed the window for educational districts to complete the exam before March 25. Exams are underway in Mysuru, Mandya, Udipi and Dakshina Kannada districts.

Most science students have collected their hall tickets at Government PU College in Yelahanka, Bengaluru, said principal Palaksha T. "On Monday and Tuesday, we've exams for students from other colleges since our college is an exam centre. Our students will take the exam from Wednesday. They have agreed not to wear the hijab and collected the hall tickets," Palaksha said.

Hindu activist hacked to death in K'taka; lens on hate angle

Bengaluru: Tension prevailed in Shivamogga, Karnataka, after a 26-year-old Hindu activist was hacked to death by unidentified persons around 9.30pm on Sunday. He has been identified as Harsha, a tailor from Seeghatti in

Though police have not ruled out old enmity, they suspect that the activist's communal posts on social media could be the trigger. He is said to have received threats earlier

Shivamogga, about 270km from Bengaluru.

Though police have not ruled out old enmity, they suspect his communal posts on social media could be the trigger. He is said to have received threats earlier.

Police tightened security across the town. TNN

VACCINE TRACKER

State/UT	% of 15+ population covered	
	Both Shots	At least one shot
India	76.4	94.9
Jammu & Kashmir	100	100
Himachal Pradesh	100	100
Andhra Pradesh	95.3	100
Gujarat	91.9	98.9
Madhya Pradesh	90.8	96.9
Uttarakhand	90.2	98.5
Telangana	89.2	100
Karnataka	89.2	100
Delhi	83	100
Kerala	82.5	99.3
Haryana	80.5	100
Odisha	76.8	93.5
Rajasthan	76.6	95.4
Chhattisgarh	76.5	92
Assam	75.4	90.9
West Bengal	74.6	90.3
Uttar Pradesh	72.2	100
Tamil Nadu	67.7	90.7
Maharashtra	66.8	89.3
Punjab	65.7	92.5
Bihar	62.7	80.7
NE minus Assam	55.4	71
Jharkhand	51.6	81.1

Source: Health ministry for vaccination, Census projections for pop. Data as of 7 am on Feb 20

Tehsildar, wife held for woman constable's murder in UP

Lucknow: A day after ascertaining the identity of the 25-year-old woman constable, whose body was recovered from a drain behind the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences here on Thursday, police on Sunday arrested her lover, a tehsildar, his wife and an aide.

"During probe, it surfaced that the deceased, Ruchi Singh Chauhan, fell in love with tehsildar Padmesh Srivastava two years back after coming in contact with him through Facebook," ADGP east Qasim Abidi told TOI. She later started exerting pressure on Padmesh, threatening to frame him in a case, police said. At this juncture, the accused planned to eliminate her and his wife helped him in executing the plan. TNN

Online degrees to have flexibility of regular programmes

► Continued from P 1

There will not be any requirement of 'one batch passout' in conventional programmes so as to offer the same programme in open & distance learning (ODL) and online mode. In the current structure, courses taught in universities don't vary, though the medium of instruction could be either digital or conventional.

All online degrees will have the flexibility of conventional programmes in accordance with NEP 2020 — such as the four-year undergraduate programme with multiple entry and exit facilities. UGC chairperson M Jagadeesh Kumar said the online, ODL and conventional degrees will be of equal value.

All this has been done with the underlying goal of pushing up India's gross enrolment ratio to 50% in the next 13 years in

line with the NEP target. It recorded an uptick from 26.3% in 2018-19 to 27.1% in 2019-20 for the 18-23 age group.

"Like NEP, which is built on the five pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability, the online education ecosystem will be developed on the same principles," said Kumar. The new reforms will be notified as amendments in current regulations issued during the pandemic on September 4, 2020, he said.

Stating that barring professional and technical programmes that need laboratories and those programmes prohibited by any regulatory authority, he said online degrees can be offered for all other programmes. "Also, many universities may not have a physical model programme — for instance, in machine learning, data science, artificial intelligence and financial management. But they would like

to offer that in online mode. So, even if you don't have this degree on the conventional physical campus, you can still offer these programmes online," Kumar explained.

Currently, universities are offering 120 UG, 229 PG and two PG diploma programmes online. The choice is limited because only courses taught conventionally can be offered digitally.

"The new regulatory framework is to enable all autonomous colleges to offer online education because if we stick to only universities, it becomes limited. There are a large number of high-quality autonomous colleges in India. This will enhance access for learners. And we will have these institutes participating and offering both UG and PG programmes online. These online degrees will be just like degrees obtained from physical university," he said.

RESHAPING HIGHER EDUCATION

UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 (Amendment)

900 autonomous colleges will also be able to offer courses & degrees on online mode from July 2022

- Colleges/ higher education institutions, apart from universities in top 100, in top in respective category twice of the preceding three NIRF rankings eligible
- Colleges/ higher education institutions having NAAC grade of minimum 3.3 will also be eligible
- Colleges/ higher education institutions need not be running the course in conventional mode to be offered in online mode
- Admission criteria for UG programmes is senior secondary pass

- Admission criteria for PG programmes is under graduate degree pass
- Students can earn credits & deposit them in Academic Bank of Credit from other than parent college
- Students can make multiple exit & entry
- Students enrolled in online programmes will have digital access to library resources
- Colleges will be free to decide on minimum attendance required for online classes as against mandatory 75% for in-classroom programmes

- Course curriculum, credit structure & learning outcome for online programmes to be same as that conventional programmes
- Two mode of examinations — online proctored or NTA to conduct computer based semester exams

CURRENTLY
59 higher education institutions are offering 351 UG & PG programmes

Discipline wise

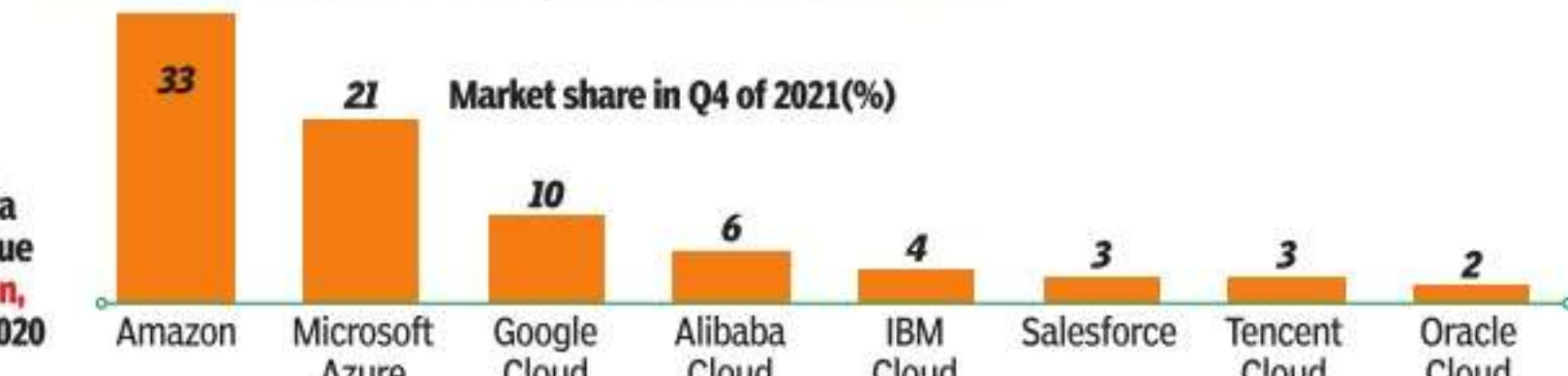
Science	50%
Arts/ Humanities	35%

Amazon's Cloud Infra Share Beats Both Google, MS In Q4

In Q4 2021, global cloud infrastructure service revenues surpassed \$50 billion for the first time, bringing the industry total for the year to \$178 billion. Amazon and Microsoft accounted for more than half in the final three months of 2021, with the eight largest providers controlling roughly 80% of the market. Amazon's slice in the worldwide cloud infrastructure pie amounted to 33% in Q4 of 2021, still exceeding the combined market share of its two largest competitors, Microsoft and Google

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022



(Source: Synergy Research Group)

Statutory auditors may not get large cos' non-audit ops

Govt Explores Possibility Of Joint Audit For Some Entities

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government is looking to ban statutory auditors from taking up non-audit work on "public interest" companies — which means those that are listed or are above a certain threshold — and their subsidiaries.

Besides, it is exploring the possibility of joint audit for certain companies as part of the amendments to the Companies Act, for which a Bill is planned to be introduced during the Budget session of Parliament that reconvenes next month, sources told TOI.

The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA), which will pilot the Bill, is currently engaged in consultations and is yet to decide the final details of the legislation, which will also need inter-ministerial discussion and a go-ahead from the Union Cabinet.

While both the issues — joint audit and ban on non-audit work by audit firms — have been discussed in the past, the government has been reluc-

PUBLIC INTEREST COMPANIES

Listed	Unlisted	Banks	Insurance companies
5,563	1,156	83	18
Both issues — Joint audit and ban on non-audit work by audit firms — were discussed earlier			
Government has been reluctant to legislate due to opposition from CAs			
Move will come as a setback for Big Four firms, including Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, and also for some large Indian players			

Source: NFRA

tant to legislate on the issue principally due to opposition from chartered accountants, a powerful interest group.

The move will come as a setback for not just the Big Four firms, including Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, that operate through a network of firms, but also for some of the large Indian players. Sources indicated that the plan is to restrict it to "public interest". Companies will be modelled on the lines of the regime under the National

Financial Reporting Agency (NFRA), which supervises the functioning of 6,820 companies and their auditors and audit firms. On Friday, the agency said that all listed companies, as well as unlisted companies with paid-up capital of over Rs 500 crore, or turnover of over Rs 1,000 crore or with debt and deposits of Rs 500 crore or more are under its ambit. In addition, insurance companies, banks, power generation and distribution companies and those govern-

ned by special laws are monitored by NFRA.

The fresh discussions around the ban on non-audit work follows the experience with several entities that have faced a crisis in recent years, including IL&FS, and some of the troubled banks and non-banking finance companies, where the role of auditors has come under scrutiny.

Similarly, on the issue of joint audit, MCA had almost dropped the plan after a report by a committee under former finance secretary Ashok Chawla, but has re-opened the issue, despite protests from industry chambers and other interest groups that fear that the cost will rise significantly.

If RBI's experience in dealing with tighter regulations for auditors is anything to go by, the government will face a volley of protest. Last year, the RBI had mandated a three-year term for auditors, a mandatory cooling off and checks on non-audit activities for banks, finance companies and mortgage players.

5 cos submit ₹1.5L cr plans to set up chip, display plants

New Delhi: The government has received proposals from five companies for setting up electronic chip and display manufacturing plants with investment of over Rs 1.5 lakh crore, an official statement said over the weekend. Vedanta Foxconn JV, IGSS Ventures and ISMC propose to set up electronic chip manufacturing plants with \$13.6 billion investment and have sought support of \$5.6 billion from the Centre under the Rs 76,000-crore 'Semicon India' programme.

"The applications have been received for setting up 28-nanometer (nm) to 65nm semiconductor fabs with capacity of approximately 120,000 wafers per month," the statement said. The government is providing

1.4L JOBS SEEN IN NEXT 4 YRS

financial support of up to 40% for chips above 28nm to 45nm and up to 30% for setting up manufacturing units for 45nm to 65nm wafers.

Vedanta and Elest have proposed to set up display manufacturing units with projected investment of \$6.7 billion. They have sought support of \$2.7 billion from Centre under the scheme for setting up of display fabs. The government expects investments of around Rs 1.7 lakh crore and 1.4 lakh jobs to be created in four years under the incentive scheme for semiconductors approved by the Cabinet. PTI

Cos delay IPO plans to avoid LIC clash

No Offer For 3 Weeks Around Insurer's Mega Listing That May Suck \$10Bn Out Of System

Reeba Zachariah & Partha Sinha | TNN

Mumbai: A chemicals company, which had received markets regulator Sebi's approval to float an initial public offering (IPO), is going slow with its equity-raise plans, thanks to LIC's forthcoming mega listing that is expected to suck out \$10-billion from the system. Similarly, a drug maker, which plans to give a partial exit to its long-time investor through the IPO, has postponed its primary market debut.

Some of the merchant bankers TOI spoke to said that several companies that have filed documents with Sebi to go public are waiting for LIC's mammoth IPO to get over, after which they plan to launch their maiden public offerings. "Companies do not want their offers to clash with that of LIC's. We do not expect to see any other IPO being launched up to 10 days before the LIC offer opens and 15 days after it closes," said one of the leading merchant bankers.

Equirus MD Ajay Garg said, "While the size and scale of LIC's IPO is large and unprecedented, let us not forget that its timelines and potential have been communicated to the market well in advance. In all prudence, it is better for the companies launching IPOs to stay away during LIC's as liquidity for others will be weak."

According to Garg, it's just a 2-3 weeks' phenomenon, which is unlikely to stall any of the long-term capital-raising options for companies in any manner. "In all fairness, if an IPO of this scale and size goes through, it will only reinforce the confidence of investors in the capital markets and will increase India's weight significantly and help with more allocation to the market. We are also going to see an

unprecedented new set of retail investors participating in the capital market, which will be long-term positive."

A recent report by Axis Capital said 41 companies have the regulatory go-ahead to launch their IPOs. BVG India, which handles the cleaning and maintenance of, among others, the Prime Minister's residence, Parliament House and several other facilities, plans to raise around Rs 1,300 crore via an IPO. It's delaying its plan to launch the offer. "We hope to launch our IPO by the end of March. But LIC's IPO could lead to revisiting of the timelines," said BVG India chairman H R Gaikwad. "We shall

tual fund distributors in terms of average assets under management and commission received.

The LIC IPO, expected to be the nation's biggest-ever and the fourth-biggest of any insurer globally, is just one concern of companies that are looking to tap primary market. From April 1, new IPO norms will come in, something that "will change the way IPOs are subscribed", according to Arun Kejriwal of Kejriwal Research.

Sebi, among other rules, has mandated that companies that go for an IPO saying that they will acquire some entity can only use 25% of the amount raised for M&A,

HITTING PAUSE BUTTON?

A few forthcoming IPOs with date of Sebi approval that's still valid:	
Delhivery	Jan 13
Global Health	Jan 21
Keventer Agro	Dec 16
Emcure Pharma	Dec 8
Sterilite Power	Dec 2
VLCC	Nov 25
One Mobikwik	Oct 7
Go Airlines	Aug 26

Some new IPO norms to come into play from April:	
	> IPO anchors will be locked for 30 days for half of what they get in IPO, and 90 days for remaining half
	> HNIs will see 1/3rd allotment for applications of ₹2-10L, and 2/3rds for over ₹10L

(Source: Axis Capital, Sebi)

reschedule the IPO launch according to advice from investment bankers and legal counsels with respect to its timing and applicability of the new norms, which will come into play from April 1, 2022."

There is a small number of companies also willing to take the risk of launching an IPO just ahead of the life insurer's. "We are planning and hopeful of launching our IPO in March ahead of the LIC IPO," said Prudent Corporate Advisory Services founder Sanjay Shah. Gujarat-based Prudent is one of the largest independent retail wealth management services firms (excluding banks and brokers) in India and among the top mu-

plus a maximum of 10% for general corporate purposes. This, said merchant bankers, will reduce the quantum of IPO size.

The government, which plans to sell 5% in LIC, has set a March deadline for the life insurer's listing. Kejriwal said, "The RBI has stipulated that no investor can borrow more than Rs 1 crore to apply in an IPO. At the same time, Sebi has laid down the splitting of the IPO HNI-NII (non-institutional investor) category into two with one-third of the bucket size of HNI portion of IPOs for Rs 2 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, and the second bucket of two-thirds in size of the total HNI-NII portion at Rs 10 lakh and above."

Insurtech co Coverfox turns around, eyes 3x biz in FY23

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Mumbai: Online insurance distributor Coverfox, which is now controlled by private equity investors led by Aavaana Capital after the exit of its founders, has recouped revenues and slashed its burn rate by 90%. The company has almost halved monthly expenditure and is pursuing a strategy of embedding its insurtech with partners to gain market share.

Coverfox faced an existential crisis two years ago when the founders of the company — CEO Premanshu Singh and its chief technology officer Devendra Rane — quit weeks before the country went into a lockdown in March 2020.

"We started this year with monthly revenues of Rs 1 crore, but we are ending it with Rs 7.5 crore. It took 21 months to get the revenue back to where it was and reduce the burn from Rs 8 crore a month to Rs 70-80 lakh," said Coverfox CEO San-

FOUNDERS QUIT 2 YEARS AGO

jib Jha. In FY22, the company expects to do Rs 40 crore of revenue and aims to triple this to Rs 127 crore in FY23.

In the last week of March 2020, Jha — co-founder of Aavaana Capital and one of the investors — was brought in to take charge during the crisis. Coverfox ended FY21 with Rs 23 crore of revenues as funds had dried up and Jha undertook a move to change the business model from being a lead-generation platform to a technology company with the capability to simplify insurance purchase and embed its pipeline to various insurers on different digital platforms.

The company is also channelling its insurance-buying platforms through a mobile app. It is now generating commission revenues of Rs 7 crore a month, against which it is burning Rs 80 lakh of shareholder funds.

Delhi stadium added to asset monetisation list

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New Delhi: The government will soon appoint a transaction adviser for the asset monetisation of the capital's Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium and the Indira Gandhi Sports complex has been added to the list, after resolving the security and other related issues.

Sources said once the transaction adviser is in place for JLN Stadium, the process of rolling out bids would be stepped up and could spill into the next financial year. They said that security and other issues linked to the monetisation of the Indira Gandhi Sports complex have been resolved and the process would be rolled out as well.

The Indira Gandhi Stadium, along with two regional centres at Zirakpur and

TO GATHER PACE

The total value of assets considered for monetisation by the sports ministry is estimated at ₹11,450 crore for FY2022-2025

FY 2022	₹1,650 cr
FY 2023	₹2,100 cr
FY 2024	₹3,200 cr
FY 2025	₹4,500 cr

Source: NMP, Niti Aayog

Bangalore had also been identified for the asset monetisation plan and the process is likely to be wrapped up in the next financial year. Sources had said that there were concerns that the potential to monetise the Indira Gandhi Stadium may be limited due to its location near the Yamuna riverbed and some historical monuments in the area as well as its proximity to the Delhi Assem-

bly. However, the sources said these concerns have been resolved. Under the national asset monetisation pipeline, the sports ministry has a target of raising Rs 1,650 crore in the fiscal year 2022.

Sources said under the proposed national monetisation pipeline (NMP), the surplus land at JLN stadium could be used for setting up a shopping mall, offices and hostels, among other facilities. The NMP announced last year had said JLN Stadium is expected to be a pioneer in creating a financially sustainable sporting model in India through an OMDA (operation management and development agreement) based PPP concession agreement for integrated development, with shared usage of sports facilities.

The target under the NMP for the current year is estimated at Rs 88,000 crore.

3 Guj highway stretches may be lined up for sale

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New Delhi: The government may look to add three highway stretches from Gujarat to the asset monetisation pipeline after they were handed back to the National Highways Authority of India after end of the 15-year concession period.

The Centre's target to mop up Rs 45,000 crore from monetisation of highway projects is expected to get a boost during the next financial year as the roads are high toll earners, sources told TOI.

The three projects in Gujarat, with a cumulative length of 377 km, can be monetised to generate Rs 18,000-20,000 crore, the sources said.

The current toll revenue of these six-laned highway projects — Vadodra-Baruch, Baruch-Surat and Surat-Dahisar — is around Rs 1,700 crore. The NHAI has been monetising projects for 20 years to get upfront payment from successful bidders.

TOTAL 377KM

These were among the first few projects, which were bid out by the NHAI under the build, operate and transfer (BOT-Toll) model of public-private-partnership (PPP). The first stretch had gone to Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and it had made upfront one-time payment of around Rs 475 crore and the other two projects were

bagged by the IRB — one with payment and another on revenue-sharing model.

"We have amicably completed the process of getting back the projects with no claims or counter-claims. This is also a successful example of how BOT-Toll projects can be managed well, protecting interests of the government agency and private players. These are completed operational projects and the tolling has stabilised over years," said an official.

He added that this is also the first case where an entire corridor will be back to NHAI at the end of the stipulated concession (contract) period after settling all issues amicably.

IT cos hire record no. of freshers

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Chennai: A combination of increased digitisation projects and rising attrition at the mid and senior level at IT companies is bringing record job opportunities for fresher engineering talent. With most IT firms looking to pay premium for specialised skills, the average pay for freshers has also gone up across campuses.

IT companies including TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Accenture and Capgemini have already added over 2.3 lakh new graduate talent in fiscal year 2022 — a record figure — and have conveyed plans

ADDRESSING ATTRITION

Company	FY22 fresher hiring target	Freshers already hired in nine months
TCS	1,05,000 (E)	77,000
Infosys	55,000	41,250 (E)
Wipro	17,500	15,000
HCL	22,000	15,787
Cognizant	33,000*	33,000
Accenture	16,000 (India)	35,000

Source: Unearthinsight (based on estimates and company reports)
*Cognizant's number relates to Jan-Dec 2021, rest is for April 2021 to March 2022 (E: Estimated)

to expand their fresher hiring programme in fiscal 2023, industry estimates show.

Research firm Unearthinsight estimated in a recent report that, by the end of fiscal

2022, the fresher additions at the top IT services firms will stand at 3.5-3.6 lakh, with proportion of fresher talent in these firms at the 14-18% mark. "The IT industry

growth outlook remains intact, despite the pandemic and this financial year; the industry is likely to achieve best ever revenue growth and will continue to add workforce according to the estimates," Unearthinsight founder & CEO Gaurav Vasu said.

Sriram Rajagopal, managing partner at talent sourcing firm Diamondpick, said engineering graduates are likely to have more than one job option to choose from if they do their part right. "We've hired almost more than 8,000 people from (tier-2) centres in the last couple of quarters," Tech Mahindra chief people officer Harshvendra Soin said earlier this month.

It's right time to pitch for FDI: Industry secy

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Anurag Jain, the secretary for promotion of industry and internal trade, is upbeat on industrial performance and FDI. In an interview, he talks to TOI about deciding on FTA after extensive consultations with industry. Excerpts:

How is the progress on Gati Shakti? Are more sectors coming in?

The idea is to break silos and bring about more efficiency through a whole-of-government approach. The organisation structure is in place. We have around 500 layers (on the GIS map) now under the National Master Plan at the central level. We have spoken to the state governments and identified 24 layers, including land revenue records, so that they can put their data and will help plan better. We have moved a lot, and by April we will start utilising it for the projects. The second part is economic ministries beyond basic infrastructure. The map shows the infrastructure right now and where it will be in 2024-25.

Will Rs 1-lakh-crore support for states speed up their integration?

Additional funds for infrastructure will be spent under the Gati Shakti concept, so you will get better quality spending, planning will be better, and implementation will be faster. The impact will be more than what it would have been under normal circumstances.

Are you seeing better capacity utilisation in sectors and are certain industries have started adding capacity?

It has started to an extent. IIP

has improved and the growth in manufacturing will be higher than services after a long time. As a result, industry's share of the economy will rise. A lot of steps have been taken place, such as PLI, and some of the trade agreements will help boost manufacturing.

Indian industry often complains of an adverse impact of FTA. How justified are the concerns?

We are undertaking extensive consultations with industry. Finally, a call is taken by the government and safeguards

There is a reluctance in certain countries and companies to invest in some markets, which is also part of a strategy to diversify production chain in a post-Covid world. Are we seeing some of that reflecting in India's FDI numbers?

The way the global situation is changing, next 18-30 months are most crucial for FDI. Most supply chains are realigning themselves and major decisions for new investment destinations are happening. This is the right



IIP has improved and growth in manufacturing activity will be higher than services after a long time. As a result, industry's share of the economy will rise

Additional funds for infrastructure will be spent under Gati Shakti concept, so you will get better quality spending, planning will be better, and implementation will be faster

We are undertaking extensive consultations with industry (On FTAs). Finally, a call is taken by the government and safeguards are put in place to check misuse

ANURAG JAIN | SECRETARY FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE

are put in place to check misuse. Every country has certain comparative advantages, you may be efficient in one and I may be good at something else. When we take a collaborative approach, it can be beneficial for both. One has to strike a fine balance.

What is the expectation on FDI inflows this year and for next financial year?

We have created a facilitative mechanism and opened the sectors a lot. It depends on several factors, including liquidity, the geopolitical situation and investment climate across several countries.

What is the experience with single-window clearance?

We have got 15 states and 20 departments on board and 11 more departments will be on-boarded by March-end. We are in talks with remaining states, some of them don't have a single-window approval. There are some end-to-end decisions that have been taken place through the platform. Lot of improvements are being undertaken by some of the departments.

JUST LIKE THAT

AJIT NINAN



Magnetic India



A thought for today
*No Government can be long secure
without a formidable Opposition*

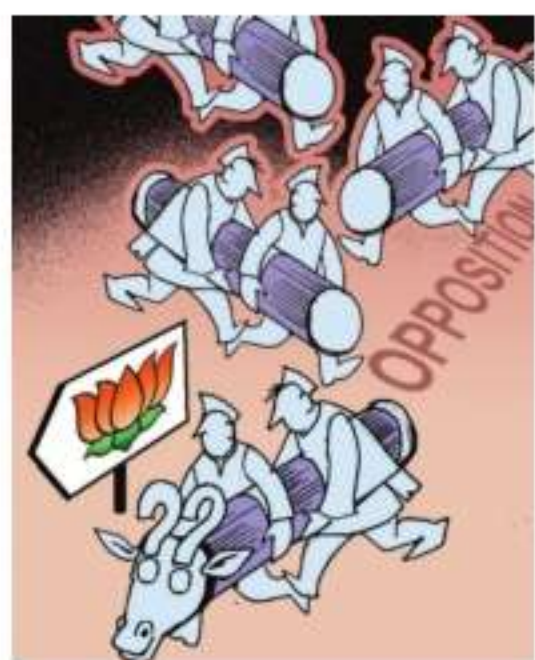
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

2024 Is Far Away

State poll results are important. But recently they have been poor predictors for national polls

Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao's meeting with Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray and NCP supremo Sharad Pawar represents another attempt by regional parties to find answers to BJP's national dominance. Meanwhile, the ongoing five-state assembly elections are witnessing SP in UP, AAP in Punjab and NPP in Manipur offering resistance to BJP, and Congress. But if opposition parties do well in this round, a big if, what might it mean for national elections in 2024? Going by recent history, all extrapolations should be consumed with large helpings of salt, even though it is true that a major state victory does provide political impetus.

Congress's strong showing in three Hindi heartland states in 2018 was supposed to have a bearing on BJP's 2019 LS poll performance.



But it hardly mattered. There is now all round recognition that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has partly altered the dynamics of national elections. Voters in some states may also be distinguishing between a vote for Modi at the national level and BJP in states. So, it can work badly for BJP, too. Post its huge LS win in 2019, BJP faced adverse or not-too-happy outcomes in Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Delhi and Bengal.

What is undisputed is that regional parties are struggling to spot a durable national alternative or a pan-India leader to take on Modi. Parties like TMC and AAP are attempting to tackle this by testing waters in multiple states. Another reality check for some regional parties is their struggle in LS polls, even against Congress. In 2019, AAP trailed behind BJP and Congress in vote share in Delhi. TRS, which trounced a grand alliance of Congress-led opposition parties in 2018, had to share the honours with BJP and Congress six months later. Similarly, in Kerala, CPM, though dominant in the assembly and panchayats, was decimated by Congress-led UDF in 2019.

No less facile is the talk of UP elections as the semifinal before 2024. There are other states that matter: Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh this year; and Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana in 2023, are all poised to witness intense contestation. But then again, if, say, BJP wins in Telangana and Congress in MP – it doesn't necessarily mean that 2024 will see a saffron surge in the south and GOP revitalisation in the heartland. In 2017, Congress almost wrested Gujarat from BJP. In 2019, it got thumped. So, an assembly poll win in UP is great for BJP or SP. But it is no predictor for 2024.

Paradiso Lost

Shabby construction is taking a toll across urban India, as municipal regulators sleep on their job

As challenging as the long haul to take possession of one's home can be in India, the multi-storeyed cave-in at Gurgaon's Chintels Paradiso complex highlights what home-buyers are up against even afterwards. Even as two FIRs have been filed, including one naming the directors of the real estate company, the structural engineers and the architect, and an SIT has begun investigating the case, the district's town and country planner has declared four more towers in the building complex unfit for living. Identifying and punishing the guilty is a necessary part of the restitution process. But actually preventing the building collapses that have become a common story across urban India needs fixing a more fundamental regulatory rot.



The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act makes provision for the promoter rectifying structural defects without further charge if they are brought to its notice within five years of handing over possession. But, first, this five-year provision is woefully inadequate given that a person invests in a home for her lifetime and her children's beyond that. Second, legal expenses here would both be considerable and on top of EMI and

rent. Rather than homeowners from Shimla and Delhi to Mumbai and Bengaluru wretchedly chasing compensation and justice, municipal regulators must do their job properly in the first place.

In the Chintels case, not only the original structural audit but also its follow-up after a roof slab collapsed last July, were evidently subpar. Failures to enforce state building bylaws and to make sure that the National Building Code of India is followed, are tied to rampant corruption. But equally, municipal authorities are very poor in engineering, geological and other building forensics skills. This is also a reminder of the limits of new CMs to deliver change, as long as local governance is overwhelmingly corrupt and/or inept.

Dress code for girls

XX chromosome comes with its own wardrobe, which schools soberly monitor

Shinie Antony



The devil may wear Prada, but schoolgirls in India don't. Female fashion in classrooms is set by moth-eaten school manuals and high-fiving parents and principals. It all begins at the school gate, where a snitch is stationed to look you up and down, and culminates on the assembly ground where you are called out by name. The walk of shame is to the principal's room for a) skirt too short, b) shirt too tight, c) lack of a slip... Modesty has always been a woman's job; no rapist should be able to stand in a court and say, 'but her collar button was undone, milord.' The XX chromosome comes with its own wardrobe.

The big bully in the school playground is the uniform seller. He measures you two sizes larger so you can wear it till the day you die and also leaves ample cloth to be let out. Schools gladly swapped skirts for salwar suits when the latter went national. Dupattas were primly pinned to the shoulder or unsightly vests added. An all-female college in Kerala where students had to wear saris suspended whoever wore anything else. A Bangalore college used to employ a dress inspector who personally pulled out tops tucked into waistbands; girls got around by wearing untucked tops just an inch past the belt. In another college where pre-university teenagers must don salwar-kameez, parents are urgently summoned if pants reveal ankle, kurta is kurti and dupatta a stole or scarf. College is not willing to accept that it all shrunk in the wash.

There are stray parents who exult in the micro mini a daughter wears, which is code for 'we are modern western type ji.' But mostly young girls must dash into the mall loo to shed their sartorial sobriety. Some pin their skirts up to keep it cool, some flick the tie askew. By the time daddy comes to pick up, they are back in baggy jeans and T-shirts loose enough to hide a full-term pregnancy.

There is no rest though for those in charge of hemlines and necklines. In this guarding of virtue 24/7, women become each other's unsolicited chaperones. They will suddenly pat your bra strap into place, though it's costlier than the blouse and deserves a little red carpet of its own. Or bend with a tut-tut to tug your sari over your heels. This is India – your mortality is directly proportionate to your morality.

For India, The Reality Of 5%

Why recent high growth numbers will not be sustainable for either this country or the world

Ruchir Sharma



A hot spurt for global growth is generating breathless headlines. India is on pace to be "the world's fastest growing large economy" and France is posting its "strongest growth in 52 years". President Joe Biden cites the latest quarterly growth data as evidence that the US is growing "faster than China" and is "finally building an American economy for the 21st century".

Alas, 2021 looked so good only because so many economies contracted sharply the year before. This bounce back blip says nothing about the 21st century. The question is how fast economies can grow after the pandemic, once base effects fade and stimulus recedes. Trends in demographics and productivity suggest the global economy is likely to grow even more slowly in the 2020s than it did last decade.

A brief history shows why. After the Second World War, the baby boom nearly doubled global population growth to 2%, a historic high. Productivity growth tripled to around 2%, boosted by new technologies and a massive investment boom. With more workers, each producing more, global GDP growth also doubled to an unprecedented level, close to 4%. The postwar miracle was in full swing by the 1950s.

In the 1980s, cracks appeared. Population growth ebbed as fertility rates declined. Productivity growth started to slow, for a number of hotly debated reasons. But new forces emerged to keep the growth miracle era alive.

First, a debt boom. With inflation under control, central banks could slash interest rates to record lows, while financial liberalisation allowed for much more lending and borrowing. Second, a new free-market consensus opened borders to trade, money, workers and, later, data. Juiced by debt and globalisation, global GDP kept growing at nearly 4%.

The financial crisis of 2008 marked a major turn. Flows of trade and people slowed; flows of money collapsed. Only data flows carried on growing. Burnt by



the crisis, many households in the developed world cut back debt. While total debt continued to swell, driven by governments and corporations, it did so at a slower pace, providing a weaker boost to growth.

Global productivity growth fell back towards 1%, even as labour-saving digital technology continued to spread. With a predictable lag, falling birth rates started to cramp growth in the working population (aged 16-64), which has dropped from 1.5% to about 1% worldwide.

These forces explain why the global economy grew at barely over 2.5% a year in the 2010s – the slowest decadal pace in postwar history. The four "Ds" – depopulation, declining productivity, deglobalisation and debt – all weighed on economic growth. The pandemic has only magnified those factors.

The virus aggravated the pressures of depopulation on growth, triggering a wave of retirement and quitting, a global migration bust, and a baby bust even in India. India's birth rate had already fallen below the global average, and the decline appears to have accelerated

Global economy grew at barely over 2.5% a year in the 2010s. Four Ds – depopulation, declining productivity, deglobalisation and debt – weighed on economic growth. The pandemic has only magnified those factors, triggering a wave of retirement and quitting, a global migration bust, and a baby bust even in India

significantly during the pandemic, based on early numbers.

Historical data shows that it is very rare for any country to sustain an annual growth rate of more than 6% once the growth rate of the working age population falls below 2%. India's working age population growth first fell below 2% in 2010 and the decline

After 2 Years, Case For Returning To Office This March

Human interaction is the key fuel for every organisation, and we are running short on it

Harsh Goenka



Work-office routine as we knew it consisted of a series of daily rituals. Dress codes, the commute, the exchange of pleasantries at the workplace, informal banter, meetings, bonding with colleagues over tea and coffee, discussions, arguments, teaming up to finalise policy, presentations or perhaps make deals, staying on late, bidding good-nights, the list is endless.

The Covid-19 pandemic abruptly brought this typical work routine to a halt, forcing us to experiment with novel concepts of remote working. Work from home became the new norm. And with that, casual dressing, make-shift workspaces, multi-tasking in the home environment, digital meetings, calendar invites and juggling time with family have gained acceptance.

Once the pandemic is over there could be many who would be tempted with the idea that working from home could provide the perfect work-life balance. But the question is, is that the best way forward? And the answer, when we look deep into why a common physical office matters, is a resounding NO.

'Culture eats strategy for breakfast'

An important reason for this is a fundamental facet of organisational functioning – work culture. At the root of every organisation is its culture or ethos. The oft-quoted Peter Drucker phrase "culture eats strategy for breakfast" is a testimony to the importance of this all-pervading facet of every organisation. Within its ecosystem, human interaction remains the most significant fuel. The prolonged persistence of the pandemic is beginning to erode this capital and threaten its very existence. How do we prevent this erosion?

One of the recent developments affecting organisations has been the extremely unusual and high rate of



ONCE UPON A TIME: Office samosa party

attrition. This is more prevalent in the technology sector and despite the efforts of companies to stem it, the attrition has been rising. While there may be many reasons for this, one of the driving forces is the lack of personal interaction and the eventual loss of a sense of belonging. Being together in a common workplace builds unity and helps remove the sense of isolation and makes us feel we are part of something much bigger, having a larger purpose.

After the third wave, three options

In the wake of the third wave, local administrations in cities called for a partial shutdown and reduced commercial and social activity. At this juncture, it was an unavoidable necessity in order to stem the rapid flare-up in infections. Once we pass this wave, it is important that organisations educate people on the subjective benefits of in-office working because that aspect in spite of being so vital is least understood.

There are some solutions that are worth exploring. One is a hybrid model option where people work

remotely for part of the week and at the workplace for the other part. This will help alleviate some of the downsides of WFH. Also it will help shake off the inertia developed with remote working in the last two years.

Another option is to categorise people into those that mandatorily need to work from office and those that can have a more flexible schedule. The advantage of this model is that the core group that are critical to driving the business and are those that come face to face with customers are able to engage in the physical workplace.

A third option, which I personally do not advocate, would be to make it mandatory for all to attend all the time.

Reconnect all levels of the organisation

Besides these, seeking inputs and involvement of people from all levels of the organisation on major decisions can help raise the feeling of empowerment. A robust communication within the organisation is also important. Leaders should find the time to engage with people in small groups or even individually where necessary, to motivate and keep people engaged so that the cultural fabric is kept intact. Reward and recognise people who further your culture. Treat people with empathy and kindness. All of these can be differentiators that ensure the organisation is well connected culturally.

A soothsayer warned Julius Caesar, "Beware the Ides of March." Mid March 2020, the planet encountered a life-threatening virus which forced us into isolation, into our limited residential spaces. It was necessary and unavoidable. Two years into the pandemic, whether we believe we are at the end of the beginning or at the beginning of the end, the efforts to reconnect must start now. At stake are the energy and enthusiasm and vibrancy and everything else at the workplace that we have cultivated which collectively we refer to as our organisational culture. We must carefully nurture it back to life.

The writer is chairman of RPG Enterprises

dilbert



What You're Longing For Is Also Longing For You

Sumit Paul

While reading Persian mystic Jalaluddin Rumi, I stumbled upon a soul-gladdening thought that made me pause and go into a state of trance: 'Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They've been with each other all along.' What a heart-warming thought. Reading these lines brought to mind Hafiz Shirazi's immortal verse: 'Love is perennial. It chooses the lovers, not the other way round.'

True love is divine in nature – Ishq-e-Haqeeqi. Walt Whitman wrote in the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*, "We existed forever for each other/Waiting for that moment to be divinely aware." This is the turning point in love: To be aware of that precise moment when both understand that they have loved each other through ages and births, as a

young Muhammad Iqbal put it: 'Dil dhadakta tab bhi tha/ Par aaj ye ayaan hua/ Hum mein hain aap/ Aur aap mein hum/ Iss baat ka irfaan hua' – Heart throbbed then as well/ But today I've realised that you're in me and I'm in you/ This is the greatest realisation.

'Tishnagi gar aab zoyad az bahaan/ Ab hum zoyad ba-aalam tishnagaan' – It's not only the thirst that longs for water/ Water also craves the thirsty man. This Persian couplet by Rumi resonates with all of us. We all search for the ultimate with a blinkered vision, not knowing that what we have been looking for is not separate from us. Our search for truth begins and ends at our very doorstep.

Remember, what you're longing for is also longing for you. To quote Asadullah

Khan Ghalib, 'Hum hain mushtaaq aur woh bezaar/ Ilahi ye maajra kya hai?' – I'm agog, and my beloved is also restless/ God, what's going on?

Metaphysically, all things come out of our inner self, the recesses of the soul. We remain unaware of it and try to find that in the clamour and clutter of the outer world. We're just like the musk-deer that keeps running after musk, which it contains in its navel. As Krishnabhari 'Noor' put it: 'Main daudta phira jiski khatir/ Woh toh pahle se tha dil mein haazir' – What I hankered after/ That existed already in my heart.

Adi Shankara's mystic interpretation of Advait or non-dualism deserves a mention here: That all are essentially divine. Divinity resides in all of us as an inalienable entity. God, or whatever

you may call it, is not separate from the jiva. Further explanation leads to the Upanishads' lofty proclamation, Aham Brahmasmi – I'm Brahmn; and 'Tat tvam asi' – Thou art That. Islamic tasawwuf, spirituality, also proclaims the same thing: An-Al-Haq, You're the Supreme, the ultimate Truth.

Human beings are unrealised souls. They're like fallen angels, as Iqbal put it: 'Raah bhakta farishta hoon main/ Jannat hai mera ashiyaana' – I'm an angel who has lost his way/ Otherwise, paradise is my abode. We're unaware of our own divinity and the innate potential. That we carry an ocean of possibilities and a plethora of opportunities is still elusive to us. Kabir rightly said, 'Tu moko dhondhe kidhar/ Main toh hoon tere andar' – Where do you look for me?/ I'm forever within you. If only we understood this simple key to a blissful life!

Sacred space

Love That's Blissful

Love in absolute purity gives strength ... Ultimate love is love for love's sake – pure love. We love spontaneously, simply, effortlessly and purely without any fear of mental, social or moral bondage, desire, need and expectation. This highest form of love is guided by true wisdom and bestows bliss and joy.

Meena Om



WOODS MUM ON RETURN DATE, WILL ATTEND MASTERS CHAMPIONS DINNER

DIEGO SCHWARTZMAN TO FACE SPANISH TEENAGER CARLOS ALCARAZ IN RIO OPEN FINAL

Diego Schwartzman

Ranji Scores

Group A: MP 274 and 251 (Shubham Sharma 103 not out; Chintan Gaja 6/48) beat Gujarat 331 and 88 (Kumar Kartikeya Singh 5/34, Shubham Sharma 2/7) Points: MP 6, Gujarat 0.

Group B: Baroda 181 and 255 lost to Bengal 88 and 350/6; 91.3 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 79, Shahbaz Ahmed 71 not out, Abhishek Porel 53 not out). Points: Bengal 6, Baroda 0. Hyderabad 347 and 269/8 declared. Chandigarh 216 and 183; 50.5 overs (Arslan Khan 68; Ravi Teja 6/41). Points: Hyderabad 6, Chandigarh 0.

Group C: Karnataka: 481 & 223 for 9 in 63.2 overs (R Samarth 83; Amit Mishra 4 for 58, Karn Sharma 3 for 47) drew Railways 426 in 128.3 overs (Arindam Ghosh 105, Mohammad Saif 84) and 69 for 4 in 33 overs. Karnataka: 3 points, Railways: 1 Pondicherry: 343 & 124 in 45.5 overs (Parvez Rasool six for 29) lost to J&K 426 in 114.1 overs (Qamran Iqbal 96, Abdul Samad 103) and 45 for 2 in 12.4 overs. J&K: 6 points, Pondicherry: 0.

Group D: Mumbai: 544/7 decl. drew Saurashtra: 220 and 372/9 in 116 overs (Snell Patel 98, Cheteshwar Pujara 91; Shams Mulani 7/114). Mumbai: 3 points, Saurashtra: 1 Goa: 181 & 394/5 drew Odisha: 189 & 239/7. Odisha: 3 points, Goa: 1.

Group E: Services 176 and 204 lost to Uttarakhand 248 and 136 for 1 in 28.3 overs (Jay Bista 87 not out). Uttarakhand: 6 points, Services: 0.

Rajasthan 275 and 316 beat Andhra 224 and 209 in 53.3 overs (S Sharma 4 for 32). Rajasthan: 6 points, Andhra: 0.

Group F: Haryana 556 and 81/1 drew Tripura 436; 159 overs (Samit Gohel 122, Rajat Dey 67). Points: Haryana: 3, Tripura: 1. Himachal Pradesh 354 and 402/8; 115.4 overs (Akash Vasisht 140, Praveen Thakur 103 not out) drew Punjab 526. Match drawn. Points: Punjab 3, Himachal 1.

Group G: Maharashtra 415 beat Assam 248 and 160 (Satyajit Bachhav 7/45). Maharashtra: 7 points, Assam: 1 UP 301 and 280/6 (Saurabh Kumar 81 not out) drew Vidarbha 548/6 (Faiz Fazal 192, Akshay Wadkar 102 not out; Saurabh Kumar 3/160). Vidarbha: 3 points, UP: 1.

Group H: Delhi 452 and 228/0 in 60.5 overs (Yash Dhull 113 not out; Dhruv Shorey 107 not out) drew Tamil Nadu 494 in 107.5 overs. TN: 3 points, Delhi: 1.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

14 Number of successive bilateral series wins registered by India across formats in India since October 2019 - their best winning streak at home.

65 Suryakumar Yadav's score, his career-best score in T20Is, bettering the 62 against New Zealand in Jaipur on Nov 17, 2021. His fourth fifty is his first against the West Indies.

86 Runs scored by India in the last five overs - an Indian record, bettering the 80 against England in Durban on September 19, 2007.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

194.54 Suryakumar Yadav's strike rate, along with his runs tally of 107 at 53.50, are the highest by an Indian batter in the just-concluded series against West Indies.

Suryakumar Yadav drives at Eden Gardens on Sunday

Romario Shephard blazed briefly, but those weren't enough. Like the ODIs, the T20I series was a clean sweep for India with this 17-run win. West Indies, meanwhile, will have a lot to introspect. For the record, India had beaten New Zealand 3-0 too, in their previous T20I series at home. The major talking point during the West Indies innings was injury to Deepak Chahar, who pulled a muscle before the last ball of his second over, the third of the innings. Having already dismissed the West Indies openers, Chahar's walking off the ground was a blow to India, although in the context of the match it did not matter much. The Sunday show-stopper was a great effort by India's fifth-wicket pair of Yadav and Iyer, considering that the 100th run came in the 16th over of the innings. The partnership was worth 91 runs, coming in

only 37 balls, with the last five overs fetching 86. A crowd of around 20,000 watched and roared as all this unfolded. Suryakumar scored 65 off just 31 deliveries, which had seven sixes. His only boundary, a brilliant cover drive, had even the West Indians applauding. He perished on the innings' last ball, going for maximum again. Venkatesh remained unbeaten on 35 and had two sixes too in his 19-ball stay. He also snapped up two wickets. It was to be a day of experiments for India, who started off with four changes, two forced and two by choice, handing medium-pacer Avesh Khan his debut. While Shreyas Iyer and Ruturaj Gaikwad came in for Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant, Shardul Thakur and Avesh replaced the rested Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Chahar 6, S Hope c Kishan b Chahar 8, N Pooran c Kishan b Thakur 6, R Powell c Thakur b Patel 25, K Pollard c Bishnoi b V Iyer 5, J Holder c S Iyer b V Iyer 2, R Chase b Patel 12, R Shephard c Sharma b Patel 29, F Allen n.o. 5, D Drakes c Sharma b Thakur 4, H Walsh n.o. 0; Extras: (lb3, w7) 10; Total: (9 wickets) 167; FoW: 1-6, 2-26, 3-73, 4-82, 5-87, 6-100, 7-148, 8-158, 9-166; Bowling: Chahar 1.5-0-15-2, Khan 4-0-42-0, V Iyer 2.1-0-23-2, Thakur 4-0-33-2, Bishnoi 4-0-29-0, Patel 4-0-22-3.

West Indies: K Mayers c Kishan b

Harbhajan Singh

I wouldn't deny for once that I have been very disappointed with India not being able to defend challenging totals like 270 and 279 in back-to-back games against the White Ferns. Save Jhulan Goswami, who is still as good as gold, and Deepti Sharma, who has been able to hit the ideal length for an off-break bowler on these surfaces, the others need to put in more concerted effort. For young pacers like Renuka Singh Thakur and Simran Dil Bahadur, I believe there is a lot of room for improvement. They certainly need to bowl in better areas against a world-class batting lineup. They are still inex-

perienced and as they play more matches at this level, they will certainly get better. But having said that, I believe that one needs to adapt to the challenges of international cricket quickly. It's the elite level and it's not your learning ground but a platform where you need to win matches for your country regularly. If you want to learn, then domestic cricket is the place to do that and when you come here, you have to deliver for the team. And, if you are not able to execute the plans, then you need to go back to the drawing board and work with coaches on corrective measures. So, when you are playing the next game, it should be visible that a course correction has happened. The quicker they show progress the better it will be for India, with the World Cup round the corner. Also I believe that fielding needs a lot of improvement as there are far too many easy singles being given and New Zealand have converted ones into twos without much fuss. On New Zealand grounds, you need to cut down the angles and have more players in single saving positions. That's how you create pressure in the end overs and force them to take risks. You don't wait for them to make mistakes. In the last match, bowlers conceded singles as well as boundaries, which is not doing them any good. Expecting a better show and a more potent combination for the fourth game with Jhulan, Meghana, Rajeshwari, Deepti and Poonam being my choice of attack. PMG

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India: R Gaikwad c Mayers b Holder 4, I Kishan b Chase 34, S Iyer c Holder b Walsh 25, R Sharma b Drakes 7, S Yadav c Powell b Shepherd 65, V Iyer n.o. 35; Extras: (lb10, w4): 14; Total (5 wickets): 184; FoW: 1-10, 2-63, 3-66, 4-93, 5-184; Bowling: Holder 4-0-29-1, Shepherd 4-0-50-1, Chase 4-0-23-1, Walsh 4-0-30-1, Drakes 3-0-37-1, Allen 1-0-5-0

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SUPER SUBS

Leeds: Second-half goals from substitutes Fred and Anthony Elanga earned Manchester United a 4-2 victory over Leeds United in a thriller at Elland Road in the Premier League on Sunday.

In a red-hot atmosphere, the visitors took the lead in the 34th minute, with captain Harry Maguire heading home to score his side's first league goal from a corner all season. As the rain became more torrential, United compounded the home side's woes when Bruno Fernandes squeezed another header into the net.

Seemingly dead and buried, Leeds turned the match on its head with two goals in less than a minute early in the second to lift the roof off Elland Road. Spanish forward Rodrigo's cross managed to loop over United stopper David de Gea before



BATTLEGROUND: United players react as Anthony Elanga is hit by an object thrown from the stands

Fred And Elanga Step Up From The Bench To Secure United 4-2 Win In Red-Hot Leeds Cauldron

'Kane' in the neck for Pep!

Pep Guardiola once labelled Tottenham Hotspur 'the Harry Kane side' and the Spaniard was left marvelling at the striker as his two goals loosened Manchester City's grip on the EPL title race.

It was only City's third league defeat of the season but their second to Tottenham. The champions now have only a six-point lead over Liverpool, who have a game in hand. Jurgen Klopp's men visit the Etihad in April.

"Tottenham have a lot of quality, they give the ball to Harry Kane. They are really good up front. In the first half they have the goal, no more.

"In the second half they have one attack with Harry Kane at the start and they score. They are clinical. They have Kane and Son and (Dejan) Kulusevski." REUTERS

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Barcelona roll back to fourth; Sevilla slip

Valencia: Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored his first two goals for Barcelona in a convincing 4-1 win at Valencia on Sunday, lifting his side to fourth place in LaLiga.

It was the eighth and ninth goals of the season for the former Arsenal striker, who last found the net for the Gunners in October in a 3-1 win over Aston Villa. Frenkie de Jong and Pedri also scored for Barcelona, who looked much improved after struggling at the start of the season. Carlos Soler scored a consolation goal for the locals.

The win lifted Barcelona into fourth place on 42 points from 24 games, tied with Atletico who are fifth on goal difference. Real Madrid top the table with 57 points.

Sevilla stumbled again in the Spanish title race as a 1-1 draw away at Espanyol left Real Madrid with a six-point lead at the top.



TAKING FLIGHT: Barcelona's new signing Aubameyang celebrates after scoring against Valencia

Another slip means Sevilla have now won only once in their last five league games, allowing Madrid to maintain a commanding advantage, despite Carlo Ancelotti's side suffering a dip in form themselves.

Rafa Mir put Sevilla in front at Cornella but Sergi Darder equalised for Espanyol early in the second half.

Julen Lopetegui's team still have to play Real Madrid at home in April, two weeks after visiting Barcelona at Camp Nou, but they are in danger of letting Madrid drift through the second half of the season, without a serious rival to challenge them.

Real Madrid dug deep in a 3-0 home win against lowly Alaves, scoring all three in the last 27 minutes after the visitors gave them a few scares early on at the Bernabeu. AGENCIES

CITY 'APPALLED' BY FODEN ATTACK

Manchester City said they were "shocked and appalled" by an attack on midfielder Phil Foden and his family after a video appeared to show them involved in a scuffle at Saturday's fight between Amir Khan and Kell Brook at the Manchester Arena.

NEYMAR SCORES, MISSES PENALTY AS PSG SLUMP TO NANTES DEFEAT

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain were brought back down to earth after their Champions League win over Real Madrid as they slumped to a 3-1 defeat at Nantes in Ligue 1.

Nantes raced into a stunning 3-0 lead at the break - the first time PSG had conceded three goals before half-time in over two years. Neymar gave PSG hope with his first goal since last Nov, but then saw a 59th-minute spot-kick saved. The giants remain 13 points clear of Marseille.

Rebic avoids embarrassment for Milan; Mourinho sent off

Salerno: Serie A leaders AC Milan averted a shock defeat to basement club Salernitana with Ante Rebic rescuing a 2-2 draw with a late strike. Roma came back from two goals down to salvage a 2-2 draw at home to Verona but coach Jose Mourinho was sent off. AGENCIES

Hannah beats the men, wins mixed title

Sydney: Former US LPGA champion Hannah Green made history by becoming the first woman to win a mixed-gender professional golf tournament with a four-shot victory at the TPS Murray River event in Australia. The world number 30 shot a five-under-par 66 to clinch the title. "It's weird. I don't normally have golf dreams - very, very rarely - but I actually had one last night of me after winning," Green said. Green went into the final round in a four-way tie for the lead with Andrew Evans, Matthew Millar and Blake Collyer.

DJ sticking with PGA Tour

A proposed Saudi-financed rival golf league took a big hit when Dustin Johnson said he was "fully committed" to stay with the PGA Tour.

Chile's Niemann leads by 3

Joaquin Niemann fired a 3-under par 68 to take a three-shot lead at the Genesis Invitational with a record total of 9-under 194 at Riviera CC. AGENCIES

Former India coach Akramov passes away

New Delhi: Former Indian football team coach Rustam Akramov, who introduced the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia to the international game in 1995 and took the Blue Tigers to their highest-ever FIFA ranking, has died in Uzbekistan. He was 73.

The Uzbek coach died on February 15, according to the official website of the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan. Akramov was in charge of the national team from 1995 to 1997.

Akramov gave a teenage Baichung Bhutia his debut in a Nehru Cup match against Thailand in March 1995. Akramov helped Bhutia shape up as a striker instead of the attacking midfielder role he played at club level. The Indian team under Akramov was full of great players like IM Vijayan, Carlton Chapman and Bruno Coutinho, besides a young Bhutia. The team rose to 94th in the Feb 1996 FIFA rankings. PTI

Jamshedpur close in on semifinals

Vasco: Jamshedpur FC breezed past Chennaiyin 4-1 in a lopsided Indian Super League (ISL) match to move to the second place on Sunday.

Ritwik Das (23rd), Boris Singh (33rd) and Daniel Chima Chukwu (40th) got on the score-sheet before Deepak Devrani scored an own goal (46th) as Jamshedpur made it three wins to rack up 31 points from 16 matches. They are one point behind league leaders Hyderabad FC with a game in

hand. For Chennaiyin, Nerijus Valskis (62nd) scored a consolation goal against his former side. Chennaiyin are eighth in the table with 20 points from 17 matches and are all but out of a semifinal berth.

Jamshedpur bossed the game from the start with Boris warming Dejitt Majumder's gloves early on with an effort from the right-wing. The Red Miners saw a lot more of the ball and that translated into a goal soon. Greg Stewart's corner was headed back by Peter Hartley as Chennaiyin failed to clear their lines.

Ritwik was on hand and the in-form midfielder guided the ball on the rise into the back of the net past Dejitt. PTI

BAYERN RIDE ON LEWA BRACE

Berlin: Two goals from Robert Lewandowski saw Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich come from behind to beat bottom club Greuther Furth 4-1 and avoid a second successive shock defeat on Sunday.

A week after they slumped to a 4-2 defeat at Bochum, Bayern survived another scare against a promoted side as Lewandowski scored his eighth brace of the season to haul his side out of trouble. The win keeps the league leaders comfortably ahead of second-placed Dortmund.

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

FM Nirmala will be on a two-day visit to Mumbai from Monday, where she will hold post-Budget discussion with stakeholders from Maharashtra

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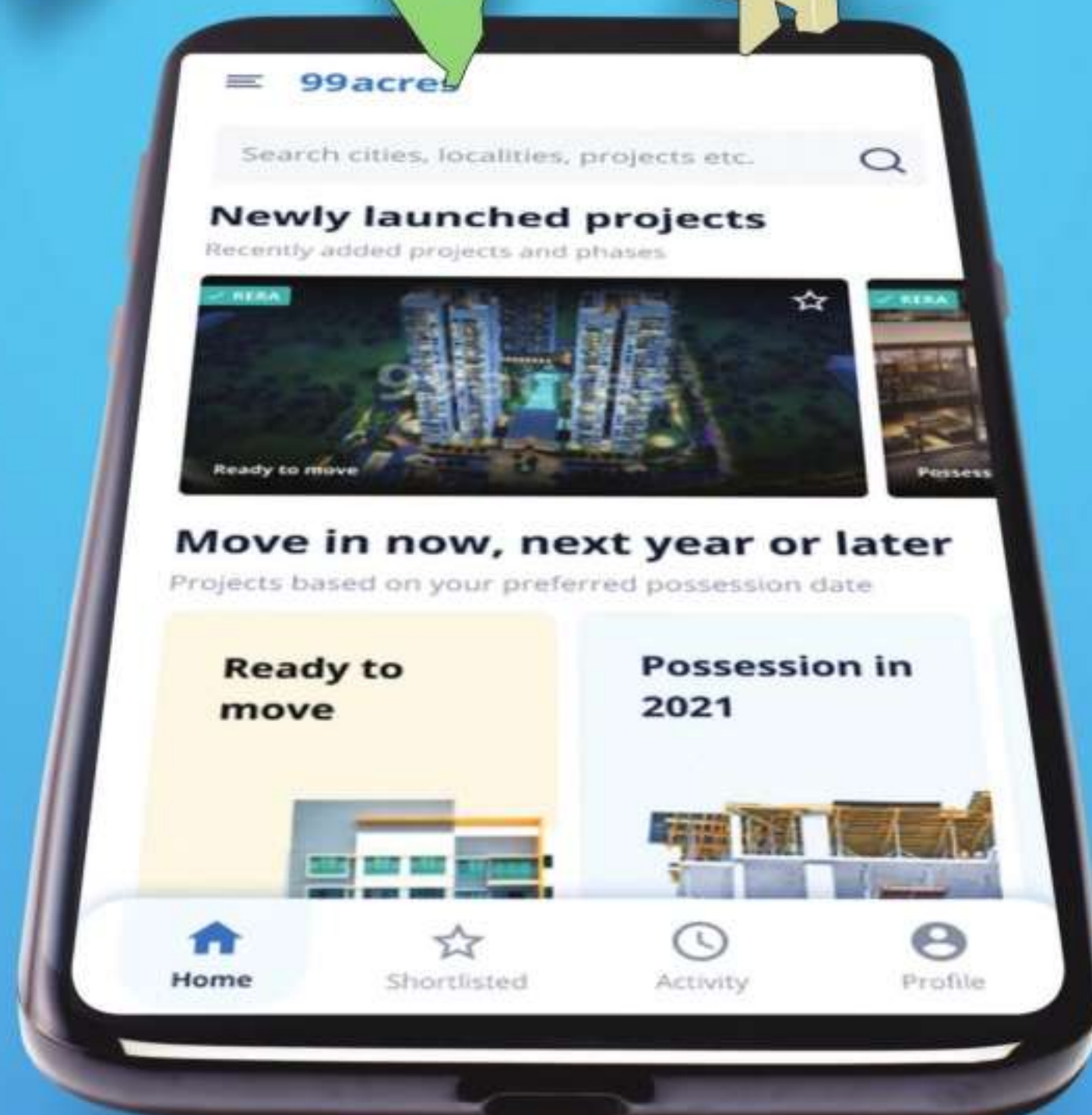
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JAISHANKAR STARTS 3-DAY VISIT TO FRANCE DURING WHICH HE WILL ATTEND EU MINISTERIAL FORUM FOR COOPERATION IN INDO-PACIFIC AMID CHINA TENSION

UGC to let 900 autonomous colleges offer online degrees

Value Will Be Same As That Of Regular Ones

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Come 2022-23 academic session, students who cannot get into their target college due to high cutoffs need not be disappointed and grudgingly go for their second choice. That's because in addition to universities, nearly 900 autonomous colleges across the country will be able to offer courses remotely from July onwards as the government opens up the online education sector in a major reform to achieve 50% gross enrolment ratio by 2035 in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

NO NOD FROM UGC NEEDED

- Class 12 & UG pass will be eligibility criteria for admission to UG & PG courses
- Colleges will not need to take prior approval of the UGC
- Evaluation will be done via online proctored exam or computer-based test



- by National Testing Agency
- No distinguishing between online & conventional degrees
- 75% attendance for online programmes will not be mandatory
- New regulations for online programmes to be notified in March this year

“If we stick to only universities, it becomes limited. There are a large number of high-quality autonomous colleges in the country. This will enhance access for learners...”

—M JAGADESH KUMAR, UGC CHAIRPERSON

Currently, only universities are allowed to offer online degrees. However, the new move will allow autonomous colleges securing ranks in the top 100 list in respective subject category twice in the preceding three rankings of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) or having

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grade of minimum 3.26 to award online degrees without prior approval of the University Grants Commission (UGC), but in compliance with the regulations.

Also, unlike in conventional programmes where aspi-

licants are required to have a certain score at the Class 12 level, eligibility for admission to these online undergraduate degree programmes will be simply “senior secondary pass”. Similarly, for admission to online postgraduate degree programmes, the eligibility will be “pass” in the relevant undergraduate course.

The draft for the amendment in the existing UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 is being finalised and will be available for feedback from stakeholders this week. The new framework, accessed exclusively by TOI, will let higher educational institutions, including autonomous colleges, teach courses in emerging areas that may not be possible in in-person mode.

► **Flexibility in progs, P 12**

NSE fraud: CBI quizzes ex-CEO Ravi Narain

The CBI on Saturday interrogated former NSE director Ravi Narain, who served as the CEO before Chitra Ramakrishna, in connection with its ongoing probe related to the alleged abuse of colocation facility by an NSE stockbroker, officials said on Sunday.

The investigators lobbed several sharp questions, but Narain was reportedly evasive. He may be called again for further questioning. On Friday, the agency had questioned Ramkrishna.

► **CBI probing others, P 11**

Govt asks diplomats' kin, students to leave Ukraine

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With the Ukraine situation still on a knife edge, the government on Sunday asked the family members of all Indian diplomats in the country to return to India. The decision suggests a rethink on the prevailing security situation by Indian authorities who had so far maintained the Indian mission will continue to function normally.

Earlier, in another advisory, the government asked all Indian students, as also other Indian nationals whose stay is not essential, to leave Ukraine. It advised them

US: Biden 'ready to engage' with Putin

Amid fears of invasion of Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron agreed on the need for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. US said President Biden was ready to engage with Putin “at any time, in any format”. **P 18**

to make use of available commercial flights for timely and orderly departure.

► **'Use charter flights', P 12**

Pak arrests 31 Indian fishermen

Pakistan Maritime Security Agency seized five Indian boats from its Exclusive Economic Zone on Friday and arrested 31 Indian fishermen for allegedly fishing in the country's territorial waters.

The boats were towed to Karachi for further legal proceedings according to Pakistani Law and UN Convention on Law of the Sea.

Going by lists of prisoners exchanged by the two countries at the start of this year, 577 fishermen were among 628 Indian prisoners lodged in Pakistan's jails. **P 10**

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With united show, Yadav clan sends message to heartland

Members Of Family Vow Allegiance To Akhilesh

Faiz.Siddiqui@timesgroup.com

Kanpur: After six years, the body language of the first family of Samajwadi Party appeared robust with the Yadav clan unitedly queuing up to vote in their backyard Saifai on Sunday, dousing any undercurrent of tension. With ailing SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, who wheeled into a booth at noon to cast his vote, serving as the glue, the entire Yadav family had fallen in line.

Family sources confirmed to **TOI** that MSY had a word with Akhilesh's once-estranged uncle Shivpal a night before and emphasised on the need to deliver a message of unity in the entire Yadav heartland and beyond.

And it was not since 2016 that Mulayam's cousin Ram Gopal Yadav and his once-feuding brother Shivpal appeared in a photo-op. Not just this, in a rare show of unity, the duo inspected the Abhinav Vidyalaya booth in Jaswantnagar and Shivpal touched his feet to seek blessings. The message from Saifai was unanimous — the entire Yadav clan was rock-solid behind Akhilesh to crown him chief minister. The Yadav clan's stance was in sharp contrast to its fragmented position in the run-up to 2017 assembly elections.

BJP worker shot at, SP MLA hurt in Mainpuri poll violence

Agra: A BJP worker was allegedly shot at and injured by Samajwadi Party workers during a clash at Avadh Nagar polling booth in UP's Mainpuri city on Sunday evening. Earlier during the day, sitting MLA from Samajwadi Party, Raj Kumar Yadav, sustained injuries after being attacked allegedly by BJP workers. Both incidents took place after allegations of bogus voting were levelled at the two polling booths.

Former district president of BJP in Mainpuri, Alok Gupta, accused Samajwadi Party workers of allegedly shooting their party worker. He claimed, "They shot at our councillor but the bullet hit our party worker, Aman Pandey, who was standing there." **TNN**

Langur now part of team to guard UP EVM strongroom

Pilibhit: Days after a troop of monkeys damaged 34 CCTV cameras around a makeshift election strong room at the APMC complex in UP's Pilibhit, a langur has been deployed to protect the equipment, reports **Keshav Agarwal**.

Divisional forest officer of social forestry division, Sanjeev Kumar, said a team from the department had caught a langur in response to the district administration's "urgent request". "We took verbal permission from the field director of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve before trapping the langur," Kumar said. Meanwhile, a complaint was filed by a wildlife activist against the local authorities and forest officials for using the langur.



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav with wife Dimple in UP's Saifai on Sunday

SP not safe even in its fortress: Modi

In an apparent reference to the Karhal constituency from where SP president Akhilesh Yadav was in the fray in the third phase of polling in UP elections on Sunday, PM Modi said that SP was poised to lose from the seat it considered the "safest", reports **Pankaj Shah**. Addressing a rally in Unnao, Modi, without naming anyone, said the opposition leader had to rope in his ailing father, requesting him to secure the seat.

"One can gauge the mood when the CM candidate of a party himself is insecure in his seat," Modi said.

MSY's brother Abhay Ram Yadav was the early bird. He rode pillion on a bike to cast his vote at 7am and soon the other family members followed suit. "Make no mistake,

queued up to vote. Talking to reporters, Ram Gopal was emphatic that SP had already won the poll battle in the third phase and Yogi Adityanath will manage to bag only 20% votes. "Akhilesh will win Karhal by a mammoth margin and the BJP candidate will forfeit his deposit," he said.

► **Related reports, P 11**

my nephew Akhilesh is returning to power and will be CM," said Abhay Ram. After party general secretary Ram Gopal's tryst with the vote, Shivpal was next in line, followed by son Aditya. Then came Ram Gopal's elder brother Chetram Yadav. Later, Akhilesh and his wife Dimple

Joining the chorus, Shivpal, who's contesting from Jaswantnagar on the SP symbol, said Akhilesh's government will be formed in the state. "I have the blessings of 'Netaji' (Mulayam Singh Yadav) and even I will be victorious in Jaswantnagar with record votes," he said.

Yogi has been better CM than I was, says Rajnath

Kapil.Dixit@timesgroup.com

Prayagraj: Union defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday candidly admitted that Yogi Adityanath has been a better chief minister of UP than he was.

Addressing an election rally at Kalhooganj in Pratapgarh district, Singh, who was UP chief minister from 2000 to 2002, said, "Chief minister Yogi Adityanath put all efforts in restoring the law and order in the state and maintaining it, and his model is being appreciated across the country."

Bringing law and order back on track and improving



Union minister Rajnath Singh with BJP's Aparna Yadav on Sunday

it was a priority for overall development of the state and Yogi has achieved this suc-

cessfully, he said.

"Now goons and mafia prefer to stay inside jails. Yogi's bulldozers have become the talk of the town and I have even advised him to purchase more bulldozers," the defence minister said.

The properties of mafia and goons are being demolished and the Yogi-led state government is now constructing houses for the poor on that land, he added.

The defence minister also praised chief minister Yogi's active role for the construction of the international airport at Jewar and said thousands of people would get jobs because of it.

Will BJP & SAD ally again? Netas keep options open

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: BJP has neither accepted nor denied the possibility of a post-poll alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in Punjab, preferring instead to wait it out till the election results are out on March 10. The two parties ended their almost 24-year al-



Former Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal, his son and SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, daughter-in-law and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, and granddaughter Harkirat cast their votes in Bathinda on Sunday

liance after SAD walked out over three contentious farm laws that kept the state on the brink for over a year.

"Let the public mandate come first. I am not saying yes or no to any possibility," BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said on Sunday. He was reacting to a statement purportedly made by Bikram Singh Majithia, the SAD legis-

lator and candidate for Amritsar East constituency.

A media organisation quoted Majithia as saying that SAD will decide on forming an alliance with BJP after the poll results are out. Majithia later said he was misquoted. "Our alliance is with BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party) only," he said. Speculation about a possible BJP-SAD tie-up has been

doing the rounds lately, with people citing PM Modi sparing the SAD first family (former CM Parkash Singh Badal and his son and party chief CM Sukhbir Singh Badal) in his speeches during his extensive campaign in the state before Sunday's vote. He also called SAD patriarch Parkash Singh Badal after he tested positive for Covid in January.

EC relaxes poll curbs further, allows more star campaigners

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Announcing more relaxations in its Covid-19 guidelines, the Election Commission on Sunday raised the maximum limit for star campaigners to 40 from 30 for recognised national and state parties and to 20 from 15 for the rest of them.

The poll panel has given political parties time until 5pm on February 23 to submit the names of their additional star campaigners. This means that the new star campaigners can join electioneering from the fifth phase onwards, as campaigning for the fourth phase ends on Monday.

The latest relaxation in Co-



A groom after casting his ballot in Amritsar on Sunday

vid curbs comes against the backdrop of receding numbers of both active and new Covid-10 cases, particularly in UP where polling is mid-way

and Manipur where it is yet to begin. Also, the restrictions put in place in the wake of outbreak of third wave are being lifted in a phased manner.

Sood asked to stay at home after SAD plaint

Bathinda: Catching Bollywood actor Sonu Sood out in Moga on the polling day despite not being a voter, the district authorities impounded his car and confined him to home for the day, reports **Neel Kamal**.

The action came after the SAD claimed to have spotted Sood influencing voters outside some polling booths at Lande. Not a registered voter of Moga, Sonu was supposed to leave the town after the campaign came to an end on the evening of February 18. His sister, Malvika Sood Sachar, is a Congress candidate for this seat.

