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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY AUGUST 26, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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## Terror from Af will be dealt: CDS

General Rawat urges Quad to boost synergy in global war on terror, says India surprised by rapid Af change

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India had anticipated the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan but was "surprised" by the speed of the turn of events, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said here on Wednesday. He also said the country is ready to deal with the possibility of terrorist activity after the latest developments there.

His observations came a day ahead of the all-party meeting called by the Centre to brief various political leaders about the situation in Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will brief the leaders.

Rawat asserted that any possible terrorist activity flowing out of Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and finding its way into India will be firmly dealt with. He also suggested that the Quad nations should boost cooperation in the global war on terrorism.

He also said India was anticipating a Taliban takeover of Afghanistan but the timelines of the latest developments have surprised it, noting that the outfit has not changed over the past 20 years.

"From India's perspective, we were anticipating a Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. We were concerned about how the terrorist activities from Afghanistan could overflow into India," Rawat said.

"And to that extent, our contingency planning had been ongoing and we are prepared for it. Yes, the timelines certainly surprised us. We were anticipating this thing hap-



pening maybe a couple of months down the line," he added.

The CDS made these remarks while addressing an interactive session, with Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command Admiral John Aquilino, organised by the Observer Research Foundation.

Aquilino referred to challenges that India has been facing, specifically with regard to "sovereignty on the Line of Actual Control" as well as the "foundational security concerns" in the South China Sea region, in a clear reference to China's aggressive behaviour.

On the latest developments in Afghanistan, Rawat said India is committed to ensuring a terrorist-free environment in the region.

"As far as Afghanistan is concerned, we will make sure that any activity likely to flow out of Afghanistan and then find its way into India will be dealt with in the manner in which we have been dealing with terrorism in our country," he said.

Continued on Page 2



Taliban fighters search a vehicle at a checkpoint in Kabul on Wednesday

## India to issue only e-visas to Af nationals to prevent ultras' entry

Development comes after Af passports with stamped Indian visas looted in attack

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to prevent the entry of persons with doubtful credentials, India will only allow e-visas to Afghan nationals wanting to come here. This development came amid reports that some Urdu-speaking people attacked the Kabul office of an agency and took away Afghan passports with stamped Indian visas.

Fearing the misuse of the Indian visas to prepare fake



passports that could help terrorists enter India, the Government on Wednesday decided with immediate effect to declare all the earlier visas invalid. Those willing to travel to India were asked to apply for e-visa only, officials said, adding it is mandatory.

"Owing to the prevailing security situation in Afghanistan and streamlining

of the visa process by introduction of the e-Emergency X-Misc visa, it has been decided that all Afghan nationals henceforth must travel to India only on e-visa," the Home Ministry said.

The directive also said visas issued to all Afghanistan nationals, who are currently not in India stand invalidated.

Afghanistan nationals who want to apply for an Indian visa can apply via the Indian Government's official website: indianvisaonline.gov.in.

On the missing passports from the office of an agency handling visas on behalf of India, reports said these could be used by Pakistan-based terrorists to enter India.

## Covid cases shoot up in Kerala; 215 die on Wed

Test positivity rate 19.3% with 31,445 cases, 123 health workers test +ve

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A staggering high number of 31,445 new cases of Covid-19 were detected in Kerala while 215 persons succumbed to the pandemic on Wednesday. The test positivity

rate shot up to 19.03 per cent sending the health workers to a state of confusion.

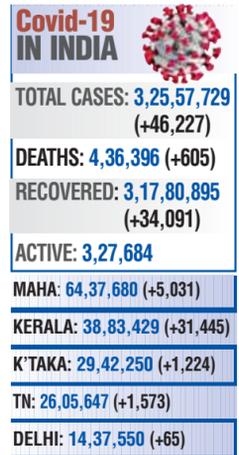
Minister for Health Veena George had told early this week that the State may see daily cases crossing 40,000-mark in the backdrop of the relaxation in Onam holidays.

The Department of Health tested 1.65 lakh samples during the last 24 hours. Health workers accounted for 123 cases on Wednesday and this has caused

serious concern among the medical fraternity.

As on Wednesday, 1.7 lakh Covid-19 patients were under treatment in various hospitals across the State. The official death tally stood at 19,972.

Ernakulam topped the table of districts with the highest number of Covid-19 patients (4048). Thrissur (3865), Kozhikode (3680) and Malappuram (3502) logged more than 3,000 new cases.



## Jab potency sinked from 91% to 66% after Delta spread in US, says study

But vaccination shows 80% effectiveness in preventing infection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The vaccine effectiveness among the frontline workers declined from 91 per cent to 66 per cent after the Delta variant of Covid-19 became prevalent in the country, said a study by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, what came as a relief was that despite the registered decline, the overall vaccine effectiveness was estimated to be 80 per cent in preventing infection during the study period.

The study was conducted between December 14, 2020, and August 14, 2021. It included data from 4,217 participants, including healthcare personnel, first responders, and other frontline workers in eight US locations across six States. They were tested weekly for Covid infection using the RT-PCR method.

At least 83 per cent of the participants were vaccinated with Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna-mRNA, and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccines. About two-thirds of those vaccinated had received the Pfizer Inc-BioNTech SE shot, 2 per cent received Johnson & Johnson's, and the rest received the Moderna Inc vaccine.

The CDC said the findings of the study should be looked at with caution as the vaccine effectiveness might be declining over time.

Continued on Page 2



A health worker collects swab samples of a child for Covid-19 test at Regional Hospital in Kullu on Wednesday

## Taliban won't allow Afghans to leave country: Spokesman

Kabul: Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Afghan citizens will not be allowed to leave the country any more by the ongoing US evacuation process, while also warning that Washington should withdraw all troops and contractors before August 31 deadline and no extension would be possible. Mujahid's remarks came as US President Joe Biden told G7 leaders that he aims to stick with his August 31 deadline to withdraw troops from Afghanistan as long as the Taliban does not disrupt ongoing evacuation operations or airport access.

IANS

## China sets up diplomatic contact with Taliban

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has established its first diplomatic contact with the Taliban in Kabul after the militant group took control of Afghanistan and the two sides now have "smooth and effective communication", a Chinese official said on Wednesday.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a costly two-decade war.

"China and the Afghan

Taliban have smooth and effective communication and consultation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when asked about the talks between the deputy head of the Taliban's political office Abdul Salam Hanafi and Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Wang Yu in Kabul.

"Kabul is naturally an important platform and channel for the two sides to discuss various important matters," Wang said, without disclosing the details.

"We always respect the

sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, follow the principle of non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and adhere to the friendly policy for all the Afghan people," Wang said, adding that China respects the Afghan people's independent choice of their own future. "China also stands ready to continue to develop good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation with Afghanistan and play a constructive role in Afghanistan's peace and reconstruction."

Continued on Page 2

## UK warns Taliban against sealing Af off from world

London: Britain on Wednesday warned the Taliban against attempts to coercively seal off Afghanistan from the rest of the world and urged the militant group to keep its borders open. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said attempts by the Taliban to shut down the country could trigger a "refugee crisis" once Western forces withdrew from Kabul airport on August 31, as migrants make their way to neighbouring countries. He noted that Afghan border was "rugged and wide-ranging" and that efforts to isolate the country from the rest of the world would fail.

## Centre plans to vaccinate all schoolteachers before Sept 5

Centre to provide 2 cr additional jobs to States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As schools are gradually reopening amid fear of Covid-19 third wave and lack of vaccines available for schoolchildren under the age of 18, the Government is planning to

vaccinate all schoolteachers across India on priority before Teacher's Day on September 5.

The Government said it will provide 2 crore additional vaccine doses to States to vaccinate teachers.

"In addition to the plan to provide vaccines to every State this month, more than 2 crore vaccine doses are being made available. We have requested all

the States to try to vaccinate all schoolteachers on priority before Teacher's Day," said Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan too has said that vaccinating teachers will reduce the disruption of the sector that has been hit severely since March last year.

Continued on Page 2

## Cong leadership quashes revolt against Amarinder, says polls under Captain

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after four Punjab Cabinet Ministers and more than two dozen Congress legislators raised a banner of revolt against Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh's leadership, their efforts to replace him were put to a naught — for time being — by the Congress central leadership on Wednesday.

Punjab party affairs in-charge Harish Rawat has made it clear to the "aggrieved" party leaders who met him in Dehradun, that the Congress would go to the polls next year under Capt Amarinder's leadership.

Rawat's declaration not only comes as a setback to the dissidents seeking Capt Amarinder's ouster from the Chief Minister's post, but has also resulted in the deepening of crisis within the party after fresh tremors on Tuesday.

Apparently undeterred, the dissident faction, seeking Capt



Amarinder's replacement, has reached the national Capital to take up the issue with the party high command, and is making constant effort to get an appointment with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi or party vice-president Rahul Gandhi. Making things worse for the ruling Congress, the party apparently faced a vertical split as two power centres were created within the State party unit after the elevation of Navjot Singh Sidhu as the Punjab Congress chief despite stern opposition by Capt Amarinder.

Continued on Page 2

## SC gives 2-week deadline to HC to decide Delhi top cop's fate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has to decide the fate of Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana within two weeks.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the two-week time frame to the HC to dispose of the petition challenging the appointment of Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner, just four days before his retirement as chief of the Border Security Force (BSF).

A bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said since a plea has already been filed in the High Court, let it give its judgment on the subject.

The SC, however, said it would keep pending a PIL filed by advocate Prashant Bhusan on behalf of NGO CPIL, till the HC has given its final order.

Detailed report on P4

## Day after bail, Rane gets 'no coercive action' pledge

Maha Govt informs its decision to HC

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A day after a Mahad Taluka court granted him bail in the "tight-slap-slug" case, Union Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Narayan Rane on Wednesday received a further relief in the Bombay High Court, as the Maharashtra Government informed the court that "no coercive action" would be taken against him till September 17 in the FIR registered against him for his remarks against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

When the case filed by Rane's lawyers came up for hearing before a HC bench of Justices SS Shinde and NJ Jamadar, Special Counsel for the Maharashtra Government Amit Desai told the court that even in the absence of proper documentation of FIRs filed against the Union Minister, he was willing to make a statement



Union Minister Narayan Rane addresses a Press conference at his residence at Juhu in Mumbai on Wednesday

at the outset that "no coercive action" would be taken in the Nashik FIR till the next hearing scheduled for September 17.

Desai submitted to the court that the petition filed by Rane's lawyers challenging the case filed against the Union Minister mentioned the details of only one FIR filed by the Nashik police, while there was mention of details of FIRs filed against the BJP leaders in other police stations in the State. In the absence of the details of all the cases, Desai said it would be

difficult for him to proceed in the matter.

Earlier, advocate Satish Maneshinde, representing Rane, pressed for no coercive action in the other FIRs, as he apprehended that the police might take action against his client in other FIRs in the interim period.

Maneshinde told the HC that there were statements issued in the press, including by State Cabinet Ministers, that "whatever we want to achieve, we have achieved".

Continued on Page 2

## DDMA expert panel suggests phase-wise resumption of school reopening in Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An expert committee set up by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has recommended a phase-wise reopening of schools in the national Capital, according to sources.

In its report submitted on Wednesday, the panel recommended that students from senior classes be called in the first phase followed by the middle-grade students and ultimately the primary classes, they said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said his Government wants the schools to be reopened as soon as possible but is evaluating all factors to ensure the safety of students.

"The panel has submitted its report today. The recommendations include reopening of schools for all classes but in a phase-wise manner. The report will be studied in detail and a final decision will be taken soon in this regard," a source said.

## CAPSULE

**PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH APPOINTED BSF DG**  
 New Delhi: Pankaj Kumar Singh, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service officer, was on Wednesday appointed as director general of the country's largest border guarding force BSF. Singh is a Rajasthan cadre officer and is presently serving as the special director general (DG) of the force that guards over 6,300 kms of the Indian frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

**OVER 60 CR VACCINE DOSES GIVEN IN INDIA**  
 New Delhi: The cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country surpassed the 60-crore mark on Wednesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.



An Indian Air Force fighter aircraft MIG-21 Bison on fire after it crashed in Barmer on Wednesday

## U'khand: Dhama lifts freeze on DA payment, hikes it to 28 %

**Dehradun:** Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Wednesday lifted the freeze on payment of dearness allowance to State Government employees and increased it from 17 to 28 per cent.

Making the announcement in the State Assembly during its ongoing monsoon session, Dhama said the increased DA will be paid with effect from July 1 along with arrears.

The announcement comes as a big relief for around 1,60,000 Government employees and nearly 1,50,000 pensioners who will benefit from it.

The DA freeze had been imposed last year in keeping with a similar decision by the Centre. **PTI**

# Rajasthan panchayat samiti elections today

**Jaipur:** Voting for the first phase of elections of zila parishad and panchayat samiti members will be held in six districts of Rajasthan on Thursday, officials said.

The polling will take place from 7.30 am to 5.30 pm at 3,599 polling booths in Bharatpur, Dausa, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sawai Madhopur and Sirohi districts. State election commissioner P S Mehra said all preparations for the elections have been completed.

He said adequate number of security personnel have been deployed to ensure free and fair polls and all Covid-related guidelines will be followed.

In the first phase, 1,721 candidates are in the fray and a total of 26.55 lakh voters will be able to exercise their franchise.

A total of 77,94,300 voters are registered in the six districts, of which 41.23 lakh are male and 36.71 lakh are female.

The elections are being held in three phases for a total of 200 zila parishad members and 1,564 panchayat samiti members.

The second and third phase of polling will be held on August 29 and September 1 while the counting of votes will take place on September 4 at the district headquarters.

One zila parishad member and 26 panchayat samiti members have already been elected unopposed.

The election of pramukh and pradhan will be held on September 6 while the election of up-pramukh and up-pradhan will be held on September 7. **PTI**

## Rajesh Thakur JPCC head, Vincent Meghalaya Cong's

**New Delhi:** In the wake of intense infighting in the Jharkhand and Meghalaya Congress units, party president Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday changed the guards in both the State. While party MLA Rajesh Thakur was appointed Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) chief replacing Rameshwar Oraon, Congress Lok Sabha MP Vincent H Pala was handed the baton in Meghalaya by replacing Celestine Lyngdoh.

Along with JPCC president, four working presidents have also been appointed. Geeta Koda, a parliamentarian and wife of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda, is the most high-profile name in the list.

Geeta Koda is a two-time member of the legislative Assembly from the iron ore belt in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. She also won as Congress can-

didate from Singhbhum Lok Sabha seat and became MP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Apart from Geeta Koda, Bandhu Tikrey, Jaleswar Mahato and Shahzada Anwar have also been made the working presidents.

The restructuring of Jharkhand unit comes almost two years after the JMM-Congress led storm to power in the state with a clear majority.

Congress party, in its official order, thanked the outgoing PCC President Dr Rameshwar Oraon and 4 other working presidents for their valuable contribution in strengthening the party.

Sonia while appointing new PCC in Meghalaya also appointed three new Working Presidents - Armapreen Lyngdoh, Marathon Sangma and James Lyngdoh. **PNS**

## Guj Govt moves HC seeking removal of stay on section 5 of anti-conversion law

**Ahmedabad:** The Gujarat Government on Wednesday approached the State high court seeking rectification in its recent order in which it stayed the operation of section 5 of the new anti-conversion law.

The Government told the Gujarat High Court that section 5 of the Gujarat Freedom Of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021 has nothing to do with marriage per se. The court agreed to hear the government's contention.

On August 19, the high court had stayed sections 3, 4, 4A to 4C, 5, 6 and 6A of the 2021 amended Act pending further hearing, saying that they "shall not operate merely because a marriage is solemnised by a person of one religion with a person of another religion without force or by allurement or by fraudulent means and such marriages cannot be termed as marriages for the purposes of unlawful conversion". **PTI**

## 1 killed, 2 injured in Tripura landslides

**Agartala:** A 21-year-old man was killed and two children were injured on Wednesday in two separate landslides caused by incessant rain in South Tripura district, a senior official said.

One Narayan Bhowmik, a daily wage labourer, died at 4 am when the mud house, where he

was sleeping, collapsed on him at Sarasima village in Belonai subdivision. In a separate incident, two brothers - Rasel Miah (12) and Rahim Miah (11) - were injured in neighbouring Jherjheri village when another landslide hit their home, the official said.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar wrote in a post on social media that he was in constant touch with the local authorities and monitoring the overall situation. He also said that assistance would be provided to every affected individual. **PTI**

## Jab potency sinked from...

**From Page 1**

The other limiting factors could be poor precision in estimates due to the limited number of weeks of observation and few infections among the participants, the CDC said. "Although these interim findings suggest a moderate reduction in the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines in preventing infection, the sustained two-thirds reduction in infection risk underscores the continued importance and benefits of Covid-19 vaccination," researchers wrote in the agency's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

The observational study tracked more than 4,000 health-care workers, first responders, and other front-line personnel in eight US locations

across six States from December 2020 to August 2021. They were tested weekly for Covid infection, and about 83% were vaccinated.

The findings echo earlier evidence from Israel and the UK suggesting Covid vaccines lost some potency in preventing infections over time as the delta variant spread. These and other research results will be under scrutiny next week as CDC advisers weigh the Biden administration's plan to administer booster doses to most vaccine recipients in the US. The number of citizens and kids hospitalized with Covid-19 is rising across the US, a trend health experts attribute to the Delta variant being more likely to infect children than the original Alpha strain.

## China sets up diplomatic contact...

**From Page 1**

China along with Pakistan and Russia kept its embassy open in Kabul while India, the US and other countries closed down their diplomatic missions after the Taliban took control of Kabul on August 15.

Since the Taliban entry into Kabul which had caught the world by surprise resulting in large scale evacuations by the US and its allies, China which had hosted a Taliban delegation headed by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar last month remained calm and called for an inclusive Government in Kabul.

In his talks with Baradar, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had asked the militant group to sever its links with terror groups especially the Uyghur Muslim militant group from

Xinjiang, the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM).

Baradar reportedly assured Wang that the Taliban will not permit the ETIM from operating from Afghanistan and called for Chinese investments in the war-torn country.

After the Taliban took control of Kabul, China called for the formation of an open, inclusive, and broadly representative government adopting moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies and conform to the aspiration of its people and the common expectation of the international community.

Last month, China had replaced its special envoy to Afghanistan Liu Jian with its former Ambassador to Qatar, Jordan and Ireland, Yue Xiao Yong.

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, Nalin Kumar Gupta, R/o H No 003, Daisy tower, Omare Green Valley, Sector 41-42, Faridabad, Haryana-121010 have changed my son name from Atharva Garg to Atharv Gupta vide affidavit dated 25.08.2021 for all future purposes.**

**PD(9056)A**

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**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER**

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony, N. E. Railway, Gorakhpur for & behalf of President of India Invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work:

**Tender Notice No. 03-2021-Colony, Description of work:** Operation and comprehensive maintenance of different capacity of D.G. set of various makes installed at various locations at Gorakhpur for a period of 02 years. **Approx Value ₹:** Rs. 6007729.20. **E.M.D. Money ₹:** Zero. **Cost of Tender Form - Zero. Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter - 24 Months.**

E-tender online will be submitted upto 15:00 Hrs on dated 21.09.2021. Manual offer is not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway IREPS official website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony, CPROEL - 39 N.E.R./Gorakhpur

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## Day after bail...

**From Page 1**

On its part, the HC bench clarified that it was not willing to grant any relief without having all details in the petition. "We are not saying no, but we need a basis for quashing of FIRs, pleadings, grounds, etc," the HC bench said.

Desai stated that while the State Government was willing to make a statement that "no coercive action" would be taken against Rane till the next hearing, the accused Minister also ought to give any undertaking to the court that he would not make any offensive statements considering he is protected.

Maneshinde responded by submitting that his client (Rane) was not going to take any steps that would

curb his freedom of speech.

Maneshinde pointed out that if such an undertaking was expected from his client, then even the prosecution's client is required to show restraint in making statements.

After hearing both the sides, the HC bench noted that the court was expecting both parties to act within the framework of law and adjourned the matter for September 17, 2021.

Rane -- who was arrested at Sangameshwar in Ratnagiri district on Tuesday afternoon over his "tight slap" remark against the Chief Minister -- was booked by way of (multiple FIRs under Sections 153A(2) (promoting enmity causing disharmony in society), 500 (defamation) and 505(2) (inciting violence) of the Indian Penal Code.

Talking to media persons during the course of "Jan Aashirwad Yatra,"

Rane had on Monday slammed the Chief Minister by saying, "What kind of a Chief Minister do we have? He does not know anything about our Independence Day. He does not know many years have gone by since India got Independence. Had I been there, I would have given him a tight slap."

Rane's arrest came after at least four FIRs were registered at Nashik, Pune, Raigad and Thane against Rane on Tuesday over his questionable remarks made against the Chief Minister on Monday.

In his petition before the High Court, Rane submitted that "he is innocent and has been falsely implicated in this crime".

Rane also stated in his petition that "effects of the words must be judged from the standards of the reasonable, strong minded firm and

courageous men and not those of weak and vacillating minds nor of those who scent danger in every hostile point of view".

Rane told the court that the multiple FIRs which had already been filed or were lodged against him were aimed at harassing him through false cases.

In a related development, the Mahad court - while granting bail to Rane in the "tight slap slur" case - said the police were "justified" in arresting the Union MSMEs Minister for his remarks against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The court directed Rane not to "repeat" such statements.

While initially remanding Rane to Magisterial custody till September 4, Mahad Court Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) SS Patil ruled, "Considering the reason of arrest and

reasons discussed above (in the order), I found that arrest is justified".

The JMFC held that there are grounds in the Criminal Procedure Code when "a police officer can arrest anybody without a warrant".

Immediately after he was sent to magisterial custody for 10 days, Rane's lawyers -- Rajendra Shirodkar and Sangram Desai -- moved the same court for bail which was granted by JMFC Patil late on Tuesday night.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Prakash Joshi strongly opposed the bail, submitting that the accused was a Union Minister who could make similar statements which could lead to disharmony among the people.

However, the JMFC held that "no prejudice will be caused to the prosecution if the accused (Rane) is released on bail on certain terms and conditions".

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AWANTIPORA**  
E-Mail: [phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com](mailto:phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com)

**TENDER DOCUMENT (Technical Bid-Vol-1)**  
**TOP SHEET**

**E-NIT S. NO 4th attempt : 67/PHA of 2021-22**  
**Reference:- 1st attempt under NIT No. 40/PHA of 2021-22 (No response)**  
**2nd attempt under NIT No. 51/PHA of 2021-22 (No response)**  
**3rd attempt under NIT No. 55/PHA of 2021-22 (No response)**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Three Years which includes 12 months of DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/ Companies/Joint Venture of reputed in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Division Awantipora and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Awantipora.

**For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.**  
The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "<http://jktenders.gov.in>" as per schedule of dates given below:-

1. Publishing date of NIT :- 23.08.2021..... 01:00 PM
2. Download start date :- 23.08.2021..... 01:00 PM
3. Bid submission start date :- 23.08.2021..... 01:00 PM
4. Bid submission end date :- 31.08.2021..... 4:00 PM
5. Bid opening date (Technical Cover) :- 31.08.2021..... 4:05 PM

**S. No. 1 Name of Work :-** Providing water supply facilities to: 1) Panchayat Shar A (Ghar Shaar), 2) Panchayat Wuyan Bala, 3) Panchayat Ghar Wuyan Payeen, 4) Panchayat Ghar Meej, 5) Panchayat Ghar Patal Bagh, 6) Panchayat Ghar Androosa, 7) Panchayat Ghar Kreechoo, 8) Panchayat Ghar Nehama, 9) Panchayat Ghar Hatiwara, 10) Community Centre Complex Gundbal, 11) Panchayat Ghar Sambora, 12) Vocational Training Centre Dusoo (New Building), 13) PHC Kadermoh (New Building), 14) PHC Zantrag (New Building), 15) PHC Dusoo (New Building), 16) Police Post (Located in Grid Station Pamapore), 17) Health Sub-Centre Gundbal Ladoo, 18) NTPHC Lelhpora, 19) Health Centre K. Koot, Banderpora & Lelhar, 20) Panchayat Ghar Larkipora, Padgampora & Banderpora, 21) Panchayat Ghar Amirabad, 22) Panchayat Ghar Madoora A&B, 23) Panchayat Ghar Nagbal, 24) Panchayat Ghar & PHC Mandoora, 25) Panchayat Ghar Pinglish, 26) Gujjar & Bakewal Hostel Batnoor, 27) Panchayat Ghar Karmulla, 28) CRC Pinglish, 29) PHC Bargam, 30) PHC Shekargah, 31) PHC Naibugh, 32) Panchayat Ghar Panzoo, & 33) Panchayat Ghar Lurgam (under JMM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

**Major Head of Account : Jal Veeran Mission (JMM)**  
**Position of AAA :- Accorded**

- 15 All the valves should be SCADA Compactable.
- 17.0 The validity of the offer shall be 90 days from the date of opening "Price Bid".
- 18.0 For any clarification the Bidders can contact divisional office or can email the Department at the email - [phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com](mailto:phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com).
- 19.0 Any item of work which is required for satisfactory completion of the scheme / individual activity shall be exclusively responsibility of the contractor and no additional cost shall be paid to the contractor.
- 20.0 In case of any disputes /differences, the jurisdiction shall be to the Courts situated in Srinagar only. Supplies, if involved any, will be deducted at prevalent stock rates at the time of tender for such material. We look forward to your active participation.

**For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir**  
Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
(JSD) PHE Division Awantipora

No. DIPK-7235/21 Dated: 25-08-2021

## Centre plans to vaccinate all...

**From Page 1**

"Schools across the country have been shut since March 2020. Students have been carrying out studies in online mode, however, due to lack of devices, lack of proper internet connection, many students have not been able to attend classes. Hence, vaccination for teachers is being prioritized," said a senior official from the Union Health Ministry.

While countries like the United States, Canada, and now Singapore have approved vaccination for children, India is yet to roll out such a policy for its population below 18. The fear among parents has worsened as several reports suggest that children might be hit harder in the third wave of the pandemic.

There are over 80 million teachers across the country, but it is believed that a majority of them have already got their vaccine over the past few months amid India's vaccination drive. Some States have already given teachers priority status considering their role in reopening classes in schools.

Even UNESCO had urged countries, including India, to prioritise teachers for inoculation. "While the protection of teachers is essential for schools to reopen safely, just 21 out of 197 countries-accounting for 18 million primary and secondary teachers-prioritize teachers in the first phase of vaccination efforts. Another 37 countries include teachers as a priority group for the 2nd phase of vaccinations," the UN body had said earlier this year.

## Cong leadership...

**From Page 1**

Ahead of crucial 2022 Assembly polls, the Congress party is struggling with severe infighting with a faction, owing allegiance to Sidhu, raising the demand for replacing the Chief Minister with election just about six months away. Retorting, several leaders came out in open support of the Chief Minister blaming Sidhu and "dissident" Ministers for the prevailing crisis within the Congress.

Notably, four Ministers, claiming the support of about 30 legislators, on Tuesday revolted against the Chief Minister seeking his removal from the high command maintaining that they did not have faith in Capt Amarinder as far as fulfilling the pre-poll promises are concerned.

A day later, a group of four Ministers - Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, and Charanjit Singh Channi, and three MLAs - Barindermeet Singh Pahara, Kulbir Singh Zira, and Surjit Singh Dhiman, met the party affairs-in-charge Harish Rawat in Dehradun for three-long-hours, and returned empty-handed after Uttarakhand's former Chief Minister is learnt to have told them that the Chief Minister will not be changed.

Even as Rawat maintained that the leaders had some "concerns", and "no one is against anyone", sources told The Pioneer that when the leaders raised the demand of replacing the Chief Minister, Rawat respectfully made it clear that the next elections will be fought under Capt Amarinder.

Rawat, it has been learnt, also assured them that their concerns and complaints will be conveyed to the party high command, while also reassuring that everything will be sorted put soon and the Government will be fulfilling all the pre-poll promises in the

next few months well before the elections.

On the other hand, Punjab Congress' general secretary in-charge Pargat Singh reached New Delhi and was trying to get an appointment to meet the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal. It has been learnt that the group of Ministers and MLAs have also reached the national Capital and may meet Sonia and Rahul on Thursday.

Rawat, after the meeting, told the media that the four Ministers and three MLAs met him to express their concerns. "They are concerned about the chances of the party's victory in the State. They said that they're not against anyone, and they want to go to the polls with a clear roadmap so that we win," said Rawat.

He said the Punjab Congress leaders also had some grievances about the functioning of the State and district administrations. "If a Congress MLA considers himself insecure and thinks that the administration can try to make them lose or work against them, then it's a matter of concern," said Rawat, adding that he would discuss the matter with senior leaders and also party high command.

At the same time, Rawat sent a stern message to Punjab Congress chief, making it clear that he has been given the responsibility of Punjab Congress president's post and not the entire Congress.

"Sidhu has come from a different environment and we have entrusted him with the responsibility of the post of Congress president in Punjab after seeing many things. It does not mean that the entire Congress has been handed over to him," he said while adding, "The truth is that we will go to the polls in 2022 under the leadership of Amarinder Singh."

Rawat also maintained that there was "no threat to the

party or Government in Punjab".

"There's no threat to our chances of victory either. These people themselves will give way to chances of our victory. A solution will be brought soon," he added.

Meanwhile, Punjab Congress general secretary organisation Pargat Singh suggested that the party high command should ask the Chief Minister to convene a meeting of all MLAs, under the supervision of the AICC observer, and decide after discussing with them.

"There is resentment in MLAs against the Chief Minister over non-settlement of major issues, like sacrilege, drugs, power purchase agreements, which still stand as it was," he said.

Amidst fresh tremors in Punjab Congress unit, several leaders, including legislators and parliamentarians on Wednesday came out in support of the Chief Minister, lashing out at the "dissidents" for harming the party ahead of the 2022 polls. Leading the charge and upping the ante against the Sidhu camp, Chief Minister's wife and Patiala MP Preetneet Kaur blamed Punjab Congress chief for the party's situation. "Of course, he started it, it's his advisors. CM showed maturity and largeness of heart. Once the high command decided that Sidhu was coming, Chief Minister said it's Congress chief's decision, and I abide by it," she said.

She asked those who have raised a banner of revolt against the Chief Minister to refrain from raking up such issues as it was "damaging" the party ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections. At the same time, she praised the Chief Minister for leading the party to "many victories", and taking Punjab on a "road to progress".

Two more legislators - Nathu Ram and Satkar Kaur - denied to have attended the anti-Chief Minister meeting.

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# 'Centre asked Govt not to probe O<sub>2</sub> shortage deaths'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has told the Delhi Government that there is "no need" to set up a panel to probe oxygen shortage deaths in the national Capital as the Supreme Court has formed a National Task Force (NTF) to look into the matter. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said that Mandaviya's directive was in response to a letter he had written to the Union Health Minister on the formation of the panel.

Briefing the media online, Sisodia also recalled Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal twice rejecting the city Government's request to form the panel. Citing Mandaviya's replies to the city Government, Sisodia said, "The Health Minister in his letter said to us that there is a Supreme Court-appointed task force to probe the matter and mentioned that there is no need for a probe panel."

"However, the task force has the mandate to probe the issues pertaining to demand and supply of oxygen for the pandemic," he added.

Mandaviya has said that out of the 12 points for reference for the apex court's panel, five are related to oxygen while the Deputy Chief Minister noted and pointed out that none of these five points pertain to oxygen shortage-related deaths. Sisodia, who was nodal Minister during the second wave of the Covid-19 pan-



demia, said that such a big fraud has never happened in the country. "If the Supreme Court-appointed panel is probing the deaths, why did the Central Government ask states to submit data on deaths due to lack of oxygen," he added.

Targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled Central Government, Sisodia alleged that the Modi Government does not want a probe into deaths due to oxygen shortage because the truth of their negligence will come out.

Notably, Sisodia had written to Mandaviya earlier this month, seeking permission to form the committee.

Reading Mandaviya's response to the Delhi Government, Sisodia said, "If you look at the mandate of the task force which the Minister

is citing to deny permission to the city Government to form the committee, the task force looked into the distribution of oxygen and supply chain matter; when the NTF is not meant to look into death matters, why will it probe?"

Sisodia also said that the Union Health Minister Mandaviya had pointed to the Supreme Court's constituted sub-group claiming Delhi government does not require another panel to probe Oxygen related deaths.

"This sub-group, having an AIIMS director, a doctor from Max, a Delhi government officer and Central government representative was constituted to look into the matters pertaining to distribution and inventory, not to investigate the deaths due to lack of oxygen," Sisodia asserted.

## MUKHYAMANTRI COVID-19 PARIWAR ARTHIK SAHAYATA YOJANA

### Hold surveys; there should be minimum rejection: Gautam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Wednesday chaired a meeting on the Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Pariwar Arthik Sahayata Yojana, to expedite disbursement of financial assistance to those who lost their family members to the infection. Directing the officials of the department concerned, Gautam said, "People are facing issues while applying for the scheme. A major problem is the issuance of survival member certificates. These certificates are not issued on time, which is creating pendency in approving these cases. The application process should be hassle-free. There should be a sensitisation among the officers who are going for home visits where families have lost a loved one. We should not create any additional burden on them."

The Minister stressed upon

the fact that there should be minimal rejection rates in this scheme. He ordered the Magistrates to conduct ground surveys to identify families and discussed how, in many cases the person died because of the coronavirus but their reports came after two-three days. Such cases need to be identified, and a list needs to be prepared so that they also come under the ambit of the scheme.

A total of 3,103 applications for monthly pension have been received so far by the department under the scheme out of which 665 have been approved.

As many as 4,881 applications for one-time ex-gratia have been received by the department, out of which 686 have been approved.

The Minister ordered the department and the Magistrates to speed up the process of disbursement of financial aid.



# One more nabbed for hate slogans at Jantar Mantar



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested one more person for allegedly raising anti-Muslim slogans during a protest near the national Capital's Jantar Mantar on August 8.

The accused, identified as Uttam Upadhyay was arrested from Ghaziabad on Sunday, police said.

The police said he was the main person who was seen raising slogans in a video that surfaced on social media.

Seven people, including advocate and former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay, have

already been arrested in the case.

The slogans, the police said, were raised during the August 8 protest organised by the Bharat Jodo Andolan near Jantar Mantar.

The earlier arrests were made after an FIR was registered at the Connaught Place Police Station.

It pertained to provocative sloganeering at the programme, the police said.

Apart from Ashwini Upadhyay, Preet Singh, Deepak Singh, Deepak Kumar, Vinod Sharma, Vinit Bajpai and Sushil Tiwari were arrested, they said.

Preet Singh is the director of 'Save India Foundation' while Deepak Singh, Deepak Kumar and Vinod Sharma are associated with different Right-wing organisations.

Hundreds of people had attended the protest organised by Bharat Jodo Andolan.

Shipra Srivastava, media in-charge of Bharat Jodo Andolan, had said that the protest was held under the leadership of Ashwini Upadhyay.

However, she denied any links to those who raised anti-Muslim slogans. Ashwini Upadhyay, too, had denied any involvement in the incident.

# BJP slams AAP over delay in Yamuna cleaning

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Targeting ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Adesh Gupta said the Kejriwal Government made false promises with people.

Gupta, said that in 2015, the Kejriwal Government ensured Yamuna river will be cleaned in next five months and now municipal elections are approaching, the AAP Ministers have started again talking on Yamuna cleaning.

He said the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has submitted their report on industrial effluents and sewage contaminating Yamuna, and the Deputy Chief Minister also made a budgetary provision of 2074 crore for cleaning Yamuna, then why the Kejriwal Government is taking time.

"Rising levels of pollution in Yamuna and slow progress of AAP Government has shown their failure," adding, "Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal himself had expressed displeasure and concern with officers on Yamuna pollution earlier in April this year," the BJP leader said.

"From 2018-21, the AAP had spent ₹200 crore on the cleaning of drains alone but reality was different.

The river here seems to have taken the shape of a dirty drain to such an extent that one can't even stand there.

During Corona times in 2020-21, the Kejriwal government spent ₹152 crore on cleaning the river Yamuna but all this seems to have gone down the drain as the river has become even more polluted," he added.



# Two new tech courses for prison inmates

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Prisons department on Wednesday said that they are going to start two new courses for the inmates of Rohini jail in the national Capital. The four-month electrician course and six-month automobile-related course will begin from September.

According to a senior prison official, Jan Shikshan Sansthan Prayas, an NGO, will give training to inmates under the skill development programme of the Government.

"A total of 40 inmates have been selected for both the courses. There will be two-hour classes for five days a week, they said, adding that after completing the course, the inmates will get a certificate. The prisons department has given its approval and a Memorandum of Understanding is likely to be signed soon," he said.

"Under the project, instructors will train inmates with an aim to provide them life skills so that they can start a new life and make a living," he said adding that the department will ensure that Covid-appropriate behaviour, including social distancing, is followed.

The first Covid case in Rohini jail was reported on



May 13 last year. At present, there are no active cases inside the jail.

Meanwhile, the process of vaccination in three city jails - Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini - is underway and a total of 10,885 doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered

to the inmates so far.

The prisons department had launched a Covid vaccination drive for the inmates in the 45-plus age category on March 18, while the inoculation of the inmates in the 18-44 age group began on May 18.

# MCG finishes probe into illegal lifting of C&D waste

Gurugram: The officials of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) have completed their investigation in the matter of illegal lifting of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste and violating the rules in the agreement signed with the MCG on behalf of IL&FS Company.

It has been revealed during the investigation the company did not even give the correct records. The record given by the company was incomplete. It has also been revealed in the investigation that according to the terms of the agreement, the company can sublet only a part of its work to another agency, but the company has sublet its entire work to another agency, violating the rules. It has been also revealed in the investigation that the company did not inform the civic body about subletting the work, nor was permission taken from the MCG.

On Monday, Investigating Officer, Joint Commissioner Pradeep Ahlawat had submitted the investigation report to the Municipal Commissioner and Mayor Madhu Azad.

According to corporation sources, in the investigation, the company has violated the rules of the agreement.

The MCG has signed a 20-year agreement with the company for the disposal of debris



in the city. It is written in the agreement that the company cannot sublet its work to any other agency, but despite this, the company has sublet the debris disposal work to any other agency by violating the rules.

After the matter was exposed, on July 30, Mayor Madhu Azad handed over the investigation to Joint Commissioner Pradeep Ahlawat to investigate the whole matter, after completing the investigation, the Joint Commissioner on Monday submitted the investigation report to MCG commissioner Mukesh Kumar Ahuja and the Mayor.

According to the sources, the company has been given only the work of disposal of

debris, but the company first sublet its work to another company by violating the rules of the agreement.

Then the particular company also started illegal recovery in the name of lifting debris from different locations. Whereas the corporation has given the task of lifting the debris from the houses of the people to some other agency. All these things have been mentioned in the investigation report.

"The inquiry report has been sent to me by the Joint Commissioner. Based on the investigation, strict action will be taken against the concerned company. This will also be discussed with the Municipal Commissioner," Mayor Madhu Azad, said.

# Illicit affair, money behind G'gram murders

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Police have had a breakthrough in the brutal incident in which a retired Army man allegedly killed his daughter-in-law, his tenant and two members of the tenant's family in Gurugram's Rajendra Park area as the prime accused Rao Rai Singh has made a crucial disclosure before the cops.

A highly-placed source within the police told The Pioneer that the prime accused confessed that he was enraged over the alleged illicit relationship between his daughter-in-law Sunita (32) and tenant Krishan Tiwari (41). Also, Krishan owed around Rs 60,000 to the accused as he had not paid his house rent since January.

"These were the sole reasons for the massacre confessed by the accused before the police. He said there was constant bad blood at home for the

last two years and the tenant was neither vacating the residence nor ending the alleged relationship," sources said.

Sources further said that Rao Rai Singh's wife had also accompanied him to the tenant's house on the day of the incident but did not participate in the murders.

The accused had also revealed to the police that earlier in January he had seen his daughter-in-law and the tenant in a compromise position and again on August 21 he had witnessed the same. Since then he was looking for an opportunity to commit the crime.

This opportunity came in the wee hours of Tuesday when the culprit's son Anand Yadav left for a trip to Khatu Shyam in Rajasthan on August 23.

"Following his plan and in the wee hours of Tuesday (August 24), Singh had first attacked his daughter-in-law Sunita Yadav, who was sleeping on the first floor. Presuming

her dead he went to the second floor.

He broke open the tenant's door and killed Krishan Tiwari, his wife Anamika and attacked their nine-year-old daughter with a sharp weapon.

The three-year-old daughter of Krishan Tiwari, was also attacked by Singh but somehow she survived the assault.

Thereafter, he went back to his house, changed and washed his blood-stained clothes. However, upon hearing the screams of his injured daughter-in-law he again went to her room and killed her and also went to his tenant's house where he found the nine-year-old girl still breathing. So he attacked her again and killed her. After committing the murders, the accused had informed his son over the phone about the crime.

The accused then came out of his house, fed some cows and cleaned the street in front of his house. He then went to

the police station along with the murder weapon and surrendered before the Rajendra Park police.

A CCTV footage of the accused has surfaced in which he can be seen going towards the police station with the murder weapon to surrender.

Sources further claimed that the investigation teams have also checked phone locations and CCTV footage of different toll plazas and dhabas to verify the whereabouts of Singh's son Anand Yadav, whom the former soldier had claimed was not involved in the ghastly crime.

"The police investigation is at a preliminary stage. The motive behind the incident is yet to be known. However, allegations made by the victim's family will be thoroughly investigated. We have evidence against the prime accused and his wife," Rajeev Yadav, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Udyog Vihar said.

## PICTALK



Health Minister Satyendar Jain after inaugurating the Rapid Response Centre for Covid-19 patients at the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

# Set up Security Force Court: MHA to CRPF

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has directed the CRPF to take immediate action for incorporating the provision of Security Force Court "as available in Acts and Rules of other CAPFs" for expediting disciplinary action against Group 'A' officers. The move comes as the CRPF takes "undue long time" in finalisation of disciplinary cases against cadre officers.



period of time.

"Undue long time in finalisation of disciplinary cases of CRPF has been viewed seriously by the competent authority. The competent authority has, therefore, been directed that CRPF may include the provision of Security Force Court as available in the Acts and Rules of other CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces) for initiating disciplinary action against delinquent officers, so that such cases are finalised within minimum time," the Ministry said in its letter.

The Ministry directed its legal officer to coordinate with the CRPF for incorporating the provision of SFC for expeditious disciplinary action against the officers.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is an armed force of the Union under the Home Ministry and the Acts

and Rules are akin to the defence forces which provide for an in-house court for taking timely disciplinary action.

While officials welcomed the move to set up the SFC, a section of officials said it is a ploy against the cadre officials liable to be exploited by the IPS officers deputed to the CRPF. Retired senior officials of the CRPF said the provision of the SFC must apply uniformly to the Group 'A' or cadre officers, IPS officers and other ranks to strengthen the culture of discipline in the Force by swiftly taking action against erring officials.

A section of serving officials said there is an actual requirement of setting tribunals on the lines of the Armed Forces Tribunals for adjudication of disputes arising out of administrative decisions of the Force impacting the personnel.

# Decide within 2 weeks plea challenging Asthana's as Delhi top cop, SC tells HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Delhi High Court to decide within two weeks the plea pending before it challenging the appointment of Rakesh Asthana as the Delhi Police Commissioner.

The Special Bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant permitted Prashant Bhushan headed NGO, 'Centre for Public Interest Litigation' (CPIL), to move the Delhi High Court to intervene in the pending plea against Asthana's appointment. Supreme Court also directed to list the matter to another Bench after two weeks as the petition narrated Chief Justice's observation against Asthana during CBI Director's selection.

The 1984-batch IPS officer Asthana was shifted to the Union cadre from Gujarat cadre and appointed Commissioner on July 27 -- four days before his superannuation on July 31 -- for a tenure of one year.

The petition, moved by advocate Prashant Bhushan, urged the court to set aside the Centre's order to appoint Asthana after extending his service period. The CJI Ramana expressed his inability to hear the PIL saying, "I had expressed my views during the selection



of CBI Director".

"There are two issues. One is about my participation... I had expressed views about the selection of this gentleman in the CBI Director selection. Second thing...As somebody has filed a petition in the High Court, rightly or wrongly. We understand that time is of the essence of the matter. So, we will fix a time limit of two weeks for the high court to decide the case and we will have the benefit of the high court judgment also," CJI Ramana said.

Bhushan alleged foul play saying sometimes "ambush petitions" by simply resorting to "cut-paste" are filed in collusion with the government. The bench gave Bhushan the liberty to intervene in the pending petition or file a fresh

**The bench gave Bhushan the liberty to intervene in the pending petition or file a fresh one before the high court**

one before the high court. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, opposed the PIL saying the matter pertained to the appointment of police chief of a state and the high court concerned should deal with it. He said the high court may be granted some more time instead of two weeks as so far no notice has been issued to the Centre which will have to file its response.

# SC: Will likely pass comprehensive order on Pegasus next week



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that it will likely pass a comprehensive order next week on the batch of petitions related to Pegasus Snooptage. The Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, said this while hearing a plea challenging the decision of the West Bengal Government to set up of a two-member Commission of Inquiry headed by retired Supreme Court judge, Justice Madan Lokur to probe into allegations surrounding use of Pegasus by Government of India.

"We are saying that next week we will pass a comprehensive order," the Bench remarked. The plea filed by a Global Village Foundation Public Charitable Trust,

argued through noted lawyer Harish Salve challenged the decision of the Mamata Banerjee Government to probe Pegasus by way of a judicial commission. Judges said that they will hear the plea next week along with other petitions related to the matter seeking probe into the scandal.

Salve, appearing for the trust, said that the commission of inquiry should not proceed with the probe till the Supreme Court hears the plea next week. Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the West Bengal Government, initially opposed the same.

The Courtsaid that it will be passing a comprehensive order next week and if the Lokur commission proceeds in the meanwhile, then the Supreme Court will be forced to pass orders today.

# Sugarcane growers to get ₹290 per quintal from mill owners



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A head of assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday increased the minimum price sugar mills pay to sugarcane growers by ₹5 per quintal to ₹290 a quintal for the next marketing year 2021-22 starting from October amid protests by sugarcane grower farmers. The decision will benefit around 5 crore sugarcane farmers and their dependents, as well as about 5 lakh workers employed in sugar mills and related ancillary activities. The government has ruled out any immediate increase in the selling price of sugar.

Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Food and

Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal said the FRP has been increased to ₹290 per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10 per cent. He said a premium of ₹2.90/quintal will be provided for each 0.1 per cent increase in recovery over and above 10 per cent. There will be a reduction in FRP by ₹2.90/quintal for every 0.1 per cent decrease in recovery.

To protect the interest of farmers, Goyal said the government has decided that there would be no deduction where recovery is below 9.5 per cent. "Such farmers will get ₹275.50 per quintal for sugarcane in ensuing sugar season 2021-22 in place of ₹270.75 per quintal in the current sugar season 2020-21," the minister said.

The central government

announces the FRP, the minimum price that mills have to pay to cane growers, every year before start of the sugarcane crushing season. However, many state governments, including Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, have been announcing their sugarcane rates (state advised price or SAP) over and above the FRP. The government had fixed sugarcane FRP at ₹285 per quintal for the current 2020-21 marketing year.

The cost of production of sugarcane for the sugar season 2021-22 is ₹155 per quintal. The FRP of ₹290 per quintal at a recovery rate of 10 per cent is higher by 87 per cent over production cost, he said, adding that sugar cane farming is more remunerative than other crops.

# CA among 18 booked in ₹209 cr bank fraud case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has filed a chargesheet before a designated court at Jaipur against 18 accused, including a Chartered Accountant, businessman, other private persons and officials of Syndicate Bank besides three private firms in a bank fraud case of ₹209 crore.

The CBI had registered a case on March 23, 2017 on a complaint from Syndicate Bank, Regional office, Jaipur against six private persons including the Chartered Accountant, a builder, two AGMs of Syndicate Bank, two Chief Managers and other unknown public servants/private persons.

It was alleged in the complaint that 118 loan accounts were sanctioned and disbursed by three branches of Syndicate Bank. These loan accounts were housing loan accounts,

term loan accounts for purchase of commercial property of World Trade Park (WTP), overdraft limits and Foreign Letter of Credits.

It was further alleged that Udaipur-based Chartered Accountant Bharat Bomb along-with his employees and others hatched a conspiracy with the branch officials of MI Road and Malviya Nagar branches in Jaipur and another one at Udaipur and got various credit facilities sanctioned.

The accused thereby cheated the bank to the tune of ₹209.93 crore on the basis of forged and fabricated documents, bills, quotations and certificates. It was also alleged that several of the borrowers were found to be ordinary employees in firms owned by the accused CA and others who were not eligible for such high value loans.

# ED raids 8 premises of human hair exporters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has carried out search operations at 8 premises of human hair merchants/exporters in Hyderabad and in West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The FEMA probe is an outcome of the Chinese online betting racket.

During the money laundering investigation by ED against Chinese Online Betting Applications, it was noticed that hawala payments to the tune of Rs 16 crore were paid to human hair merchants. Consequently, FEMA investigation was initiated against the hair merchants based in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

During the FEMA investigation by ED, it was found that many domestic merchants were aggregating and selling the raw hair to foreign merchants based in Hyderabad, Guwahati and Kolkata. The hair was then smuggled out of India by road via points at Moreh (Manipur), Zokhawthar (Mizoram), Aizawl (Mizoram) to Mandalay (Myanmar). Ultimately, it finds its way to China, where these are labeled as domestic Chinese hair and processed, the agency said in a statement.

Through such transactions, the Chinese traders were able to avoid import duty of 28 percent



at the time of import and also earn 8 per cent export incentives at the time of export, by claiming smuggled Indian hair as Chinese hair. Many Indian exporters are also suspected to be under-valuing the exported human hair in terms of value/quality to evade import duties in the recipient country, it said.

During the search operation, the ED has seized 12 mobile phones, three laptops, one computer, handwritten dairies, 'kacha' account books and loose sheets containing incriminating information.

Total unaccounted cash of Rs 2.90 crore was also seized from the possession of the hair merchants. These exporters/merchants could not explain the source of the seized cash found at their premises.

Further, it was also found that two Hyderabad-based merchants had received Rs 3.38 crore for domestic sale to Northeast merchants through illegal Chinese App (Linkyun

Technology Private Limited and Dokypay Technology Private Limited) in the company's Paytm accounts.

It was also noticed that few Myanmar citizens are permanently stationed in Hyderabad and are purchasing human hair locally for exporting it to Myanmar by using the IEC code of Indian persons/entities at under-valued prices. The difference amount is settled either locally or through hawala channels, it further said.

The ED is analyzing the purchase and sale/export prices and quality. Prima facie it is suspected that human hair exported to Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Austria among other such countries are under-invoiced.

Evidence has further revealed that some entities have been receiving payments against sale of human hair in the bank account of their employees and subsequently cash is withdrawn and handed over to their owners.

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Joginder Kumar (Borrower), Sunita Devi (Co-Borrower) LBBWD00003939712	Flat No.- 3803, Second Floor The Park, Block C Kharsa No 200, 201, 202, 191, 181, 192, 519/182, 518/1, Village Shahpur, Tehsil Tijara Bhiwadi- 301411 Super Builtup Area- 1125 Sq Ft	Rs. 26,14,964/- as on August 13, 2021	Rs. 17,00,000/- Rs. 1,70,000/-	September 02, 2021 From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM	September 17, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **September 16, 2021 before 05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **September 16, 2021 before 05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005** on or before **September 16, 2021 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284** or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on **9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC**, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: **August 26, 2021**  
Place: **Delhi NCR**

Authorized Officer  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

# 30% Indians suffering from hypertension, finds study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of adults living with hypertension worldwide has doubled over the past three decades, with over 30 per cent of Indians suffering from high blood pressure, according to a mega study published in The Lancet journal Wednesday.

What was more disturbing was that nearly half of the people studied — 41 per cent women and 51 per cent men — in 2019 were unaware of their condition, it said adding as many as 53 per cent of the women and 62 per cent of the men with the condition were not treated.

The number of people suffering from hypertension has increased to 626 million women and 652 million men in 2019, from an estimated 331 million women and 317 million men in 1990, said the researchers after analyzing blood pressure measurements over three decades from more than 100 million people in 184 countries.

Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Brazil, Turkey,

and Iran were among the countries that have seen significant improvements in treatment and control rates over the past three decades, the researchers said.

This, according to the researchers, shows that the expansion of universal health coverage and strengthening primary care have been instrumental in improving hypertension care and reducing the severity of the condition.

Canada and Peru had the lowest proportion of people with hypertension in 2019 at around 1 in 4. Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and some countries in western Europe — including Switzerland, Spain, and the UK — were found to have the lowest hypertension rates among women, while Eritrea, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and the Solomon Islands had the lowest rates among men (less than 25 per cent).

At the other extreme, more than half of the women studied in Paraguay and Tuvalu in 2019 were found to have hypertension. Among men, this was the case in Argentina, Paraguay,

Tajikistan and several countries in central and eastern Europe (i.e. Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Belarus, and Croatia).

High blood pressure, one of the leading risk factors for stroke, heart disease, and kidney disease, is linked to more than 8.5 million deaths worldwide each year, the study said.

Past studies have shown that lowering blood pressure can reduce the number of strokes by 35-40 per cent, heart attacks by 20-25 per cent, and heart failure by around 50 per cent.

"Despite medical and pharmacological advances over decades, global progress in hypertension management has been slow, and the vast majority of people with hypertension remain untreated, with large disadvantages in low- and middle-income countries," Majid Ezzati, a professor at Imperial College London and the senior author of the study, said in a statement accompanying the study.

# Break monsoon accountable for poor rainfall: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday break monsoon conditions are prevailing resulting in poor rainfall over most parts of central, western and north India. These regions are likely to see subdued rainfall in the next four days while the eastern part of the country is likely to see an increase in rainfall activity.

Month of August has seen a long 'break' in the 1st fortnight, depriving rainfall over the core monsoon area mostly covering central parts of the country. Pan India rainfall deficiency was on the rise throughout and has reached an alarming figure of 10%. Of the 694 districts, 250 received deficient rainfall. The number of districts that received normal rainfall is 288. The excess rainfall received by 120, 26 witnessed large excess rainfall and 16 large deficient

rainfall.

"The current spell of break condition will be short lived and is going to be over soon. Monsoon activity will revive shortly with a decent spread of rain over the eastern, central and northern parts of the country," the IMD said. The IMD said the entire monsoon trough lies close to the foothills of the Himalayas. It is likely to remain there till August 26. "Subdued rainfall activity is likely to continue over the northwest, central India and west coast during the next four days," the IMD said. Heavy rainfall was confined to some parts of East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. Isolated locations in Tamil Nadu also experienced moderate to heavy showers.

Strong southerly or south-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal to northeast India are very likely to continue.

# Modi Govt selling national assets: Didi

# AMU students condemn VC for condoling Kalyan Singh's death

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "hatching a design" to sell out national assets in the name of National Monetisation Pipeline. This, even as her other party colleagues warned that all such moves to alienate national property would be met with strong nationwide protests.

"We condemn this shocking and unfortunate decision (to put national assets on lease)," Banerjee said wondering "who gave them the power to take sell national properties. In the name of NMP they are selling out prime assets of the country ... these properties neither belong to Modi nor BJP" so that they could be sold at the "whims and fancies" of the Central Government.

"This is an unfortunate incident" she said adding the proceeds from the sale of national proper-

ties would be used to suppress the opposition in the country. "But they should remember that the entire country will stand together against such anti-people decision," she said adding the BJP should be ashamed of taking such decisions.

"This so-called leasing out of the national assets is another name of sale ... because these assets will never return to the Government once their management goes into the hands of the privateers ... this is different from what the Trinamool Congress calls Public Private Partnership... this is sheer fraud with the people of the country whose hard-earned money has gone into the building up of these assets," TMC MP Sukhendu Roy earlier said adding "the TMC will start a countrywide

protest against NMP". Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced Rs 6 lakh crore NMP aimed at unlocking value in infrastructure assets ranging from power to road to railways to mining to telecommunication.

The Chief Minister also attacked the BJP for "instigating divisive" politics in Bengal by making demands for partitioning the State.

"The BJP should remember that some stray demands made by some of their ministers and MPs seeking partition of the State will not lead to the break-up of Bengal ... Bengal will never be divided on the wishes of the BJP ministers and MPs ... those days are gone when divisive politics would arouse mass sentiments and some parties fed on it ... till the Trinamool Congress is in power no such demand will be met ... The BJP should know that Bengal is not for division."

# TMC to move ECI for early bypolls

**Kolkata:** The Trinamool Congress leadership would once again move the Election Commission of India demanding early by-elections in seven Assembly seats of the State.

Senior TMC MP Sukhendu Shekhar Roy on Wednesday said that "our delegation will once again approach the ECI for conducting early elections as the time is suitable for it to be conducted... Elections can be held before the Durga Puja," he said adding "the time is also good because currently corona is under control with one percent infectibility rate ... we are hearing of a third wave coming ... so it would be prudent to hold the elections before that."

Roy said that the "ECI should consider the fact that people of seven Assembly seats should not remain unprecedented ... which is why by-elections should be held early."

By-elections are to be held in Bhawanipore in Kolkata, Khardaha in North 24 Parganas, Jangipur and Rezinagar in Murshidabad.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who was defeated by Suwendu Adhikari in Nadigram Assembly seats in the April-May Assembly elections needs get elected to the House within six months which ends in the first week of November. Banerjee is likely to contest from her home turf Bhawanipore.

An unsavoury controversy erupted in Aligarh Muslim University with the university students slamming Vice Chancellor Prof Tariq Mansoor for mourning the death of former Chief Minister of UP Kalyan Singh and issuing a condolence message.

Hate posters were put up on the university campus by the students condemning the vice-chancellor for an "act" that they termed "shame and hurtful to the community". The university administration hurriedly removed the posters and maintained that it was being ascertained who put them up.

On August 22, the vice-chancellor of AMU issued a press note mourning the death of Kalyan Singh through the PRO of the university. In the note, Prof Tariq Mansoor condoled the passing away of the former chief minister of UP and former governor of Rajasthan and said that Kalyan Singh played an important role in public life and the development of Uttar Pradesh. He prayed to the almighty to give peace to the departed soul and his family the strength to bear this immense loss. Mansoor also expressed his condolences and sympathy to Kalyan Singh's son and Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rajveer Singh.

Next day, the news appeared in all local newspapers, after which hate posters were spotted at some places on the campus. "The condolence of the vice chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University on the demise of ex-chief minister of UP Kalyan Singh is not only a matter of shame but also hurts religious sentiments of our community since it is against the ethos, culture and tradition of AMU. Kalyan Singh is not only the main culprit in the demolition of Babri Masjid but also an offender of disdain with regard to the Supreme Court order. Praying for a criminal is an unforgiving crime," the poster displayed on the varsity walls read.

AMU Student's Union president Faizul Hassan feigned ignorance about who was behind the posters.

# RLD seeks judicial probe into Kumbh Mela scam

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Rashtriya Lok Dal has demanded a judicial probe into the alleged Prayagraj Mahakumbh Mela-2019 scam.

In a statement, RLD national spokesperson Anupam Mishra alleged that the corruption in crores of rupees spent on organising the 2019 Prayagraj Kumbh Mela was the tip of an iceberg of scams during the tenure of Yogi Adityanath's Government.

He wondered if Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath would speak on the corruption in the Kumbh Mela while releasing the book 'Prayagraj Kumbh' in which the historical, cultural, economic, environmental and administrative aspects of Prayagraj Kumbh 2019 had been included.

The RLD leader further asked if the chief minister



would recommend an impartial judicial inquiry into this mega-scam.

Mishra said that although the State Government had left no stone unturned to hide this scam, the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) tabled during the monsoon session of UP legislature had exposed it.

He said if the Government had honestly shared all the correct facts related to Kumbh

# Yogi starts distribution of free LPG connections

**UJJWALA 2.0**

**Lucknow:** Aiming to improve the living standards of poor families, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started the distribution of free cooking gas connections under the Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana) on Wednesday.

Enabling households to cook using smoke-free fuels, the Uttar Pradesh government has set a target to provide 20 lakh free cooking gas connections to the poor families under Ujjwala 2.0.

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana under which women of below poverty line (BPL) families are being provided with clean cooking fuel was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ballia (Uttar Pradesh) on May 1, 2016.

Distributing free LPG connections through a virtual programme from his official residence in Lucknow, Yogi Adityanath also interacted with the beneficiaries as many as 10 districts, including Banda, Chitrakoot, Hardoi, Amethi, Farrukhabad, Sonbhadra, Rae Bareilly, Mahoba, Budaun and Fatehpur.

"There cannot be a better example of women empowerment than the Ujjwala scheme through which the Government has succeeded in ensuring a safe and healthy environment for women and children in poor households. Women are the ones who are responsible for feeding their families.

There were eight crore families in the country who did not have LPG connections. Women were forced to cook on wood and coal, which was hazardous for their eyes, lungs, and overall health. To help women get rid of this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pursued the goal of 'Healthy Life, Better Life' through Ujjwala scheme.

This golden scheme has taken care of the health of our mothers and sisters by freeing them from smoke on the one hand and on the other, it has given relief from the trouble of arranging fuel, the struggle of finding dry wood during monsoon and rains and hours in the kitchen," the chief minister told the beneficiaries during his interaction. **PNS**

# Self-immolation bid outside SSP's office

**Aligarh:** A woman tried to set herself ablaze by spraying kerosene outside the SSP office on Wednesday afternoon. The security personnel posted at the gate stopped the woman on sight, after which she was produced before the SSP. The woman alleges that the Gabhana police is not taking any action in the case of molestation and assault. Here the SP Traffic heard the problem and instructed the Gabhana police to investigate.

A woman resident of a village in Hathras area was married 12 years ago with a youth resident of the village of Gabhana police station area. The husband used to run a puncture shop outside the village. According to the woman, a month ago some people from the neighborhood entered the house, thrashed and molested her. When the woman complained about this to the Gabhana police station in-charge, no action was taken.

# Rane ups ante, brings up Disha, Pooja suicides

**● Says he won't rest till culprit Mins are arrested**  
**● Will resume Jan Ashirwad Yatra from Aug 27**

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

After he got relief from the Mahad court and the Bombay High Court over his controversial remarks against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Union Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Narayan Rane on Wednesday upped the ante against the ruling Shiv Sena by reviving the controversial "suicides" by late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's ex-manager Disha Salian and Tik-Tok star Pooja Chavan.

Addressing a news conference hours after the Bombay High Court ruled that "no coercive action" would be taken against him till September 17, Rane — who had earlier been granted bail by a Mahad court on Tuesday night in the "tight slap slur" case — said that the two court's rulings in his favour showed that "there is rule of law in the country".

Rane said that he would resume his "Jan Ashirwad Yatra" from August 25 from Sindhudurg district. "After two days rest, I will resume Jan Ashirwad Yatra from Sindhudurg on August 27. I do not think there will be impediments to my yatra in future".

Rane thanked the BJP national president J P Nadda, former chief minister Devendra Fadnis, state BJP president Chandrakant Patil and other party leaders for supporting him after he was arrested by the Ratnagiri police on Tuesday in the "tight slap slur" case registered against him.

Making it clear that he was not the one to take things lying down, Rane said that he would revive the issues relating to the mystery surrounding the deaths of Disha Salian and Pooja Chavan.

Disha (28), it may be recalled, had reportedly committed suicide by jumping from the 14th floor of Galaxy Regent building at Malad in north Mumbai on the intervening night of June 8, 2020. Her death had taken place five days before Sushant (34) committed suicide at his rented duplex flat in Bandra in north-west Mumbai on June 14. Rane and his sons had attempted to drag the name of the CM's son and Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray in the entire matter.

It may be recalled that Pooja Chavan (22) had allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the Heaven Park building in Pune's Wanwadi locality on the intervening night of February 7

# Mappila Rebellion; a controversy politicians could have avoided

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

But the Khilafat agitation took the shape of massive communal pogrom in the Ernadu and Valluvanadu regions of Malabar and saw the slaughter of Hindus who refused to convert to another religion. Eminent Congress leaders like K P Kesava Menon and K Madhavan Nair who questioned the course of the agitation earned the wrath of the rioters and both of them had to make a quick retreat. Both Menon and Nair had in their memoirs described the agitation as a communal pogrom.

C Gopalan Nair, deputy collector, Malabar Province had authored a book Mappila Riots 1921 in which he has chronicled the details.

The ruling CPI(M) claims that the Mappila Riot of 1921 was part of the freedom struggle. But they are evasive when asked why people who refused to convert were butchered. Nair, writes with documentary evidences that the riot was a blatant communal riot.

"The Mappila Riot was accepted as part of the freedom movement only on December 5, 1981 by the then Government led by Indira Gandhi as part of a political accord between the Congress and the Muslim League," said Prof C I Issac, eminent historian, who studied the riots in detail and submit-

ted a report to the Government asking for the removal of the names of nearly 350 persons who have been listed as Freedom Fighters. "The name of Variamkunnathu Ahmed Haji, had not figured in the list of freedom fighters submitted by the Kerala Government and this was added later," Prof Issac told *The Pioneer*.

Annie Besant who toured the region in the aftermath of the riots wrote: "It would be well if Mr Gandhi could be taken into Malabar to see with his own eyes the ghastly horrors which have been created by the preaching of himself and his 'loved brothers' Muhammed and Shaukat Ali."

The atmosphere in Kerala got vitiated with the Minister for Tourism Mohammed Riyaz announcing the construction of a memorial for Variamkunnathu Ahmed in Malappuram. "Both the LDF and the UDF Governments have refused to instal a statue of Thunchathu Ezhuthachan, the father of the Malayalam language, in his hometown of Tirur citing religious sentiments. Then why is this special honour for a mass murderer?" asks Ali Akbar, move maker.

The Government of Kerala, could have stayed away from this controversy, say many academicians.

# Elderly man arrested for molesting minor girl in Assam

**PTI ■ SILCHAR (ASSAM)**

A 63-year-old man was arrested for allegedly molesting a minor girl in Cachar district of Assam, police said on Wednesday.

The accused had been engaged as the 9-year-old girl's music teacher, they said.

The incident that took place at Rongpur area of Silchar town came to light when her mother lodged an FIR.

"Family members of the girl approached the man, after the minor complained of pain in the pelvic area and did not wish to attend the music classes. The accused admitted to committing the crime," a police officer said.

Her mother also alleged that the man had offered money for not reporting the incident, he said.

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** About 40-45 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'6", **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Round, was wearing White & Blue Shirt and Half Khaki Pant, was found near Shop No. 2286, Opposite Divider HC Sen Marg, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 30A, dated 09.08.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

His dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for 72 Hrs. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**  
**DP/1436/N/2021** **Ph.: 011-23977100, 23953442**

# SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a person **Named:** Harish Chand, S/o Murari Lal, R/o: B 1297, Shastri Nagar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 14.08.2021 from the area of P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi in this regard a case vide FIR No. 487/2021 U/s 365 IPC dated 14.08.2021 has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped person is as under: **Age:** 49 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Yellow colour half sleeve shirt, grey colour pant and blue colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

**Website:** <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**E-mail Id -** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639** **P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi**  
**DP/1425/N/2021** **Ph.: 011-23693611, 8750870133**

Name and Address of the Borrower/s	Loan Amount	Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding	Description of the property / Secured Asset
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEELD0001625672 BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS:- 1. RAKESH NAGPAL 2. RISHAB NAGPAL 3. NEERU NAGPAL All are residing at 35/15, Ground Floor, East Patel Nagar, Delhi- 110 065.	Rs. 2,54,46,959/-	25/06/2021 & Rs. 1,83,34,757,94/- as on 25/06/2021 with further interest thereon	Entire Ground Floor with terrace/roof rights along with car parking bearing No. 2, 3, 4, Admeasuring 54.75 Sq.mts. Property bearing No.35/15 Admeasuring 200 sq.yds. situated at East Patel Nagar New Delhi. Bounded as North-Road, South-East, East-35/15, West-35/14.
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEEDL0001979944 Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. Deep Kant Bhargava 2. Manoj Bhargava 3. Jyoti Bhargava 4. Shakuntla Bhargava All are residing at H.N. 2682, SEC-7A Faridabad, Ballabgarh 121006. 5. BHARGAVA BISTER AND TENT HOUSE H.N. 2682, SEC-17, Faridabad, Ballabgarh 121006.	Rs. 34,00,000/-	12/06/2021 & Rs. 48,72,956.32/- as on 09-06-2021 with further interest thereon	All that piece and parcel of the Property No. 2682/EWS, Housing Board Colony, Sector-07, Faridabad, Haryana.
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEEDL0001665153 BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS:- 1. RITESH SHUKLA 2. ASHA SHUKLA 3. UPENDRA SHUKLA All are residing at H/NO A 053 MORTIA PART 4 GHAZIABAD 201002.	Rs. 29,00,000/-	12/06/2021 & Rs. 40,86,893.34 as on 09-06-2021 with further interest thereon	All that piece and parcel of the property being Flat bearing No. A-053 on 5th Floor without roof rights, having super area measuring 1500.08 sq.ft. in Tower-A, in the Group Housing complex at Meadows Vista in Kharsa No.240, Village Morta, Pergana Jalalabad, Tehsil District-Ghaziabad UP.
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEEDF0002038471 BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS:- 1. Vinod Kumar, 2. Pream Lata, 3. Pankaj V, 4. V K Construction, 5. Bhupinder V All are residing at C 135 Vikas Nagar Ph 3 Uttam Nagar D K Mohan Garden Newdelhi 110059.	Rs. 30,00,000 & 2,00,000/- Totally Rs. 32,00,000/-	10/06/2021 & Rs. 32,52,734.93 & Rs. 2,10,852.97/- Totally Rs. 34,63,587.90/- as on 09-06-2021 with further interest thereon.	Property bearing Plot No C-135, Block C, Village Hastals, Kharsa Nagar, 37/20, Vikash Nagar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi 110059. (area measuring 75 Sq.Yds)
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEED00002195117 BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS:- 1. MOHAMAD YASIN, 2. SABANAM S, Both are residing at H.No-A-11 SAINIK ENCLAVE A TO D1 Vikas Nagar Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. 3. S.M.CREATION Shop No-95-B GALLI NO-6 Press Enclave Vikas Nagar Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059.	Rs. 28,00,000/- & 2,00,000/- totalling to Rs. 30,00,000/-	10/06/2021 & Rs. 28,63,645.66/- & Rs. 1,90,750.27/- totalling to Rs. 30,54,395.93/- as on 09-06-2021 with further interest thereon.	Portion of Property No.11, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No.28/15/1, Village Hastals, Sainik Enclave, New Delhi 110059.
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEDE00000395471 BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS:- 1. JASVEER SINGH 2. HARVINDER KAUR 3. JASMEET SINGH All are residing at 45/E, EASTV AZAD NAGAR, NEWDELHI 110051.	Rs. 12,00,000/- & Rs. 6,00,000/- Totally Rs. 18,00,000/-	10/06/2021 & Rs. 36,05,406.96 & Rs. 16,02,727.33/- Totally Rs. 52,08,134.29/- as on 09-06-2021 with further interest thereon.	All that piece and parcel of the Entire First Floor portion (with roof rights) of Property bearing No.45/E-E (measuring 59 sq. yds.), East Azad Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi.
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEAHE0001688397 BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS:- 1. SURENDRAPAL GUPTA 2. VAKUL GUPTA Both are residing at 20A Radha Kishan Enclave Rohla, Agra-UP 282002.	Rs. 32,40,000/-	28/06/2021 & Rs. 38,12,437.24/- as on 28/06/2021 with further interest thereon.	Property 1:- Flat no. 20 First Floor in Three storied building, measuring area 103.11 Sq. meters, Plot No. 20 bearing Kharsa No. 754 situated at Radha Kishan Enclave, Mauja Rohla, Gwalior Road, Agra. Property 2:- All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Kharsa No.92 Nagar Nagan No.37/PA/KA/302 measuring area 41.06 Sq. mtrs situated at Mauja-Het Singh Quarter, Madhu Nagar, Mauja-Chavi, Tehsil & Dist-Agra.
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEAHE0001719562 BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS:- 1. RAJESH KUMAR, 2. SUNITA DEVI Both are residing at Z2A, Jagunpur Bela Dayalbagh, Agra-UP 282006.	Rs. 44,00,000/-	08/06/2021 & Rs. 84,03,765.40/- as on 05/06/2021 with further interest thereon.	All that piece and parcel of the property being a Residential House with Municipal Corporation No.37D/A-BK-303 bearing at Kharsa No. 303 situated at Anupam Bagh, Mauza Jagunpur Musthli, Hari Parwat Ward, Tehsil & Dist. Agra measuring 125.41 sq. mtrs bounded on the East by Other Land West by Road 10' wide North by Land of Ram Prasad South by Road 9 Mtrs Wide.

Date : 26-08-2021  
Place : DELHI & UTTAR PRADESH  
Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited  
Authorised Officer :



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## No child's play

The Govt and vaccine manufacturers are in limbo over inoculating pre-teens and infants

The most difficult task in tackling the Coronavirus pandemic is vaccinating pre-teen children and infants. They are the most vulnerable section of the population after the aged and infirm. The Government's responsibility is doubled because not only should it prioritise their vaccination, it should also ensure that they return to school as quickly as possible. Children are at home since educational institutions closed down early last year. For most of the time, they are confined to the four walls because of the fear of infection. Online education has benefited very few children overall. It is estimated that only 24 per cent of the children in the country have access to online learning. Over the last one year, many of the idle children may have lost touch with language and mathematics skills because they simply lost touch with schooling. Their parents losing jobs is impacting children negatively as well. In some cases, job loss is causing children to be shifted to Government schools from private ones. In the poorer segments of the society, children face malnutrition for want of a healthy diet. Instances of child labour have increased. The Unicef warns that vulnerable young girls are at an increased risk of child marriages because of job losses, parental deaths and economic deprivation. Schools have cautiously opened in a few States but attendance is far from normal. There is the additional fear among parents of children getting infected if they venture out.



The Covaxin trials on children are going on. The Drugs Controller General has given emergency approval to Zycov-D of Zydus Cadila, the first vaccine that can be administered to children above 12 as well as adults. However, there are reports from Mumbai that parents are not coming forward to enlist their children as volunteers, delaying the trials. Sputnik, just as Pfizer, is also in the child-trial phase. The American vaccine is conducting trials on children in the six months to 11 years age group. There was talk of vaccinations for children beginning in September but there is no clarity on how. The Moderna vaccine has been approved in the US for children in the age group of 12-17. There have been talks about bringing this vaccine to India after conducting trials on children here. Covovax for children is expected to be launched in India early next year. Children in the 12-18 age group may be the priority group for vaccination simply because vaccines for children under 12 will not be available immediately. Health officials calculate that India may need around 20 crore doses for the paediatric population. With the threat of a third phase looming, the Government will have to quickly come up with a phase-wise programme of child vaccination and consider the option of vaccinating in schools. However, the question remains: Should children under 12, who will not get vaccines for some months, be allowed to resume offline schooling until then? Will not the reopening of primary and middle schools increase the chances of infection?

### PICTALK



Boatmen with their snake boats participate in Aranmula boat race, in Pathanamthitta district

PTI

## Dubious claim

How free would women be under *Sharia*? Are the Taliban speaking in a forked tongue?

Amid emerging but unconfirmed reports that the Taliban have established *Sharia* law in Afghanistan, there is a great deal of confusion in the minds of people, especially the womenfolk. Grown accustomed to living harmoniously in a democratic set-up in the last two decades, and rather quite liberally in the 1950s, '60s and early '70s, an unknown but palpable fear gnaws at their hearts. In the 1950s and 1960s, Afghan women's rights were on a par with their counterparts in western countries. The 1960s saw women in politics; Anahita Ratebzad was among the first women to enter Parliament in 1965. Afghan women won the right to vote in 1919, just a year after women in the UK. By the 1970s, over 60 per cent of women made up the student population in the Kabul University. There were no restrictions on women's education, mobility, movement or clothing. Subsequently, tourism picked up as the country was known for its gardens, mountains, architecture and, best of all, friendly locals. However, the era of progress came to an abrupt halt



in the 1970s following bloody coups and invasions reversing all steps towards modernisation. Afghans often refer to 1963-1973 as their country's "Golden Age".

To be fair to them, though, the Taliban have said women will enjoy all basic rights under *Sharia*, including "the right to education and work", but its actual meaning remains ambiguous. The Taliban officials remain vague on rules and restrictions, and how the 'Islamic law' will be implemented. They have their own interpretation of the *Sharia* based on "the Deobandi strand of Hanafi jurisprudence". In a nutshell, and not erring on the side of caution, life for women in Afghanistan could just be a shade better than during the first Taliban rule (1996-2001), but worse than the liberal rights they have enjoyed in the past 20 years, as also in the preceding decades. Meanwhile, asserting their might, the Taliban have said that Afghan citizens will not be allowed to leave the country any more, and warned Washington to withdraw all troops and contractors before the August 31 deadline. US President Joe Biden has already said at the G7 that he aims to stick to the deadline for withdrawing troops as long as the Taliban do not disrupt ongoing evacuation operations or airport access. Now it remains to be seen which way the wind ultimately blows.

# Of Independence and Partition

Keenly convinced that Hindus and Muslims could not coexist in one country, Jinnah even unleashed 'Direct Action' in Calcutta in 1946



PRAFULL GORADIA

With Independence Day just gone by, India has entered its 75th year as an independent nation after colonial rule. But as our Prime Minister also declared that August 14 — which is our neighbour Pakistan's independence day — will be remembered as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, it is apt to recall Partition. This human tragedy was set in motion by Mohammad Ali Jinnah formally on March 23, 1940, in the Muslim League's plenum on the eve of passing a resolution to divide India. Excerpts from Jinnah's speech the previous day make it evident that the Qaid-e-Azam was clear about what he was advocating.

"Muslims are not a minority; we are a nation," Jinnah claimed. He further said: "Hindus and Muslims are distinct and separate civilisations, deriving their inspiration from different sources of history. They have different epics. Very often, the hero of one is a foe of the other and, likewise, their victories and defeats overlap. To yoke together two such nations under a single State must lead to growing discontent and the final destruction of the fabric. The history of 1,200 years has failed to achieve unity; India was always divided into Hindu India and Muslim India. Therefore, they must have their homeland, their territory and their State." For Jinnah and his League, this was their inexorable logic.

Jinnah did not stop at mere rhetoric. To convince the British that the two communities could not coexist in one country, he unleashed the "Direct Action" in Calcutta on August 16, 1946. Riots erupted not only in Bengal but spread up to Bhagalpur in Bihar. For a man of the elite, who wore only Saville Row suits, did not wear pyjamas or *sherwanis* before embracing Muslim politics, couldn't do a *namaz* and enjoyed his pork, this was a complete U-turn. The Qaid's younger brother Ahmed Ali, also my maternal grandfather's friend (they met frequently), told my grandpa that the brothers were culturally Parsi, and ate and drank what they liked. The elder Jinnah had married a beautiful



Parsi girl, Ruttie Petit.

A telling incident narrated by Pran Chopra, later the editor of *The Statesman*, as a reporter witnessing a Muslim League rally at Jalandhar in the campaigning during the 1945-46 elections reveals how Jinnah was the man of the moment for the country's Muslims. He could address gatherings only in English; the only other language he knew was his native Gujarati; certainly not Urdu. In the middle of his speech, the call for *azaan* (Muslim prayer) was sounded. While the crowd trooped off to pray, Jinnah sat down on a chair to smoke a cigar, resuming his speech after the crowd had returned. No one minded. For them, he was the messiah who would deliver them what they ardently wanted — freedom from Hindu domination after the British quit. Cigar smoking and pork gorging were small details that didn't matter.

Jinnah, the highest paid barrister in the British Empire, was a brilliant courtroom advocate but remained only that. To him, the Muslim League and his Muslim followers were clients; his final fee was a place in the hall of fame in history as the founder of a new country for his com-



WHILE THE MUSLIM CROWD TROOPED OFF TO PRAY, JINNAH SAT DOWN ON A CHAIR TO SMOKE A CIGAR, RESUMING HIS SPEECH AFTER THE CROWD HAD RETURNED. NO ONE MINDED. FOR THEM, CIGAR SMOKING AND PORK GORGING WERE SMALL DETAILS THAT DIDN'T MATTER

munity. The Muslim desire for a separate homeland existed before Jinnah, but he was its effective articulator, winning it for them after unleashing violence on Hindus and convincing the British of the imperative for Partition. Jinnah talked to his Muslims only in English as he did with all his clients, except Gujaratis. Unlike Jawaharlal Nehru, Jinnah did not offer the Governor-Generalship to Lord Mountbatten for a year or so, but kept it for himself.

In the minds of the Muslim League leaders, on the eve of Partition, it was clear that all or most Muslims of India's provinces must relocate to Pakistan. Through 1946 and early 1947, Jinnah and his senior colleagues demanded an exchange of population at Partition. His press appeal was published on November 26, 1946, on the front page of the *Dawn* which was still being published from Delhi. On December 19 the same year, Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan stated in the *Dawn* that the population map of India must change. The League President of Punjab made a statement that such an exchange was good. The other leaders who publicly agreed were Sir Mohammed

Ismail of Madras and Syed Ilaahi Bux of Sind. They and others were of the view that if Hindus and Muslims could have coexisted, what was the need for Partition? Justice Gopal Das Khosla, ICS, and a member of the Punjab High Court, also held that an exchange of population was an integral part of Partition.

The view wasn't confined to Jinnah and the leaders of the Muslim League. India's first President Dr Rajendra Prasad propagated the same in his book, *India Divided*. He proposed that Muslims in India and Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan unable to migrate should be allowed to stay on with visas issued by New Delhi and Karachi. Qaid-e-Azam MA Jinnah had endorsed his proposal. But the Nehru regime, adamant on hoisting a rootlessness that would later come to be called "secularism", sold the falsehood that Partition was a "territorial" division and not a religious one, the consequences of which India continues to battle even today.

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### CHINA'S VESTED INTERESTS

Sir — The Taliban continue to strengthen their footprint in Afghanistan and expected to form an official government soon. Interestingly, decoding how China is managing its geopolitics and foreign policies with respect to the Taliban seems to be a well calibrated approach. Basically, China wants to keep the terror ideology away from its hinterland, therefore, it is negotiating with the Taliban for the sake of its own internal peace. Also, China's vested interest in Afghanistan for its strategic location and rare earth metals is no surprise. The withdrawal of troops by the US from Afghanistan could probably give China the opening it needed.

China has held talks with the nine-member Taliban delegation last month and now Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi paid a visit to the Chinese officials in Beijing. China and Pakistan were already a threat to India and if the Taliban happen to join forces with them, which is likely, it can be a big problem for India. Therefore, it is important for India to resume back channel talks with the Taliban and not let it be used against India for funds and recognition.

Kirti Wadhawan | *Kanpur*

#### AND NOW IT'S MONETISATION

Sir — After the failed demonetisation policy of 2016, the BJP Government has announced a four-year National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) worth an estimated ₹6 lakh crore. The policy aims to monetise the assets across sectors by transferring their rights to private players aimed to generate revenue. As many as 25 Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports, 40 railway stations, 15 railway stadiums and an unidentified number of railway colonies have been identified for getting private investments. Isn't this how the Modi Government is bent upon destroying its strategic assets like railways, airport, national highways, telecom, gas pipelines, warehouses and the power sector?

People are amused that even after seven years in power, the BJP Government still remains incompetent in matters of

## Carry bags worth carrying



Kudos to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) for coming out with eco-friendly biodegradable bags for packaging and carrying of the famous *laddu prasad* at the Tirumala temple. The DRDO said it took a great deal of research and study to develop this product which is intended to replace polythene carrying bags as the TTD plans to make

Tirumala a plastic-free zone. The bag is made of cornstarch and degrades naturally within 90 days. It is "ocean safe" and can be consumed by cattle.

The widely used plastic bags are made of petrochemicals and are toxic to the environment and take years to degrade. The DRDO-made biodegradable bags are sustainable, cost effective and can be used as an alternative to plastic bags. A small bag worth ₹2 can carry upto six *laddus* while a bigger one worth ₹5 can carry upto 10 *laddus*. Using eco-friendly products is essential to prevent further decomposition of the earth and, therefore, these should be used at other pilgrim centres as well and can be incorporated for regular usage gradually. Additionally, the Government's decision to ban single-use plastic items from July next year seems a good move in eliminating, or at least, minimising the use of plastic. The uncollected plastic waste is hazardous to the only known inhabited planet and yet, little has been done to find measures to save it.

M Pradyu | *Kannur*

economy and hence resorting to privatisation. One has to agree that at the end of the 'transaction life', the future government will retain the ownership of these apparently under-utilised assets, but the modalities of the mandatory handback need to be spelt out to help private players decide for how long they can commit themselves to the projects. Lack of clarity can defeat the purpose of the entire exercise.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | *Faridabad*

#### AN ABRUPT ARREST

Sir — It refers to the viral videos showing the arrest of Union Minister Narayan Rane in Maharashtra for his remarks against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The Union Minister can be seen in the middle of having his lunch as the Mumbai Police try to get hold of him. Comments like the one for which he was arrested, though undesirable, are quite common in Indian politics. At least

such an abrupt arrest was not required. It would have been better to reciprocate similar goodwill by countering through political comments rather than an unusual arrest which may even ultimately politically benefit the Union Minister.

During his Jan Ashirwad Yatra in Maharashtra, the Union Minister had allegedly said it was shameful that Uddhav Thackeray did not know the year of Independence and had to ask aides the count of years of Independence during his speech. He added that he would have given the Maharashtra Chief Minister a "tight slap" had he been there. Interestingly, the feud between the two has a long history and both the leaders are known for taking personal digs at each other on social media every now and then.

Madhu Agrawal | *Delhi*

### SOUND BITE

The data regarding COVID-19 is being kept under the carpet and till now about 13,000 COVID-19 deaths have been declared as natural deaths in Kerala.

Leader of Kerala Opposition — VD Satheesan

The US has planes and the Kabul airport's control is with them now. It should withdraw all its troops, people or contractors before the deadline.

Taliban spokesman — Zabihullah Mujahid

I have always loved him (Dharmendra) like my elder brother. He also has a terrific sense of humour, which many people are unaware of.

Actor — Shatrughan Sinha

I have played against him (Virat Kohli) a couple of times and obviously, he is quite intense and fierce on the field.

New Zealand bowler — Kyle Jamieson

After consultations, we have approved ₹360 per quintal. My Government is committed to farmers' welfare.

Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi Vadera

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN CLIMATE CHANGE AS AN ALLY OF TERRORISM

The Taliban exploit Afghan farmers' distress to their end



KOTA SRIRAJ

The quick rise to power of the Taliban, the most feared and globally loathed mercenary force, in Afghanistan had the unlikeliest ally - climate change. Climate change combined with political and social unrest is increasingly becoming a deciding factor in that nation's future. Rural Afghanistan has been at the receiving end of climate change as the past three decades have brought drought and floods alternately, causing massive crop failures. The Taliban cultivated the pain of the people with the promise of prosperity which promptly resulted in the swelling of ranks of the mercenary group. The worsening agricultural conditions in Afghanistan are not a sudden development. A joint study by World Food Program, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and Afghanistan's National Environment Protection Agency revealed that 80 per cent of the nation's disputes and unrest were linked to natural resources or calamities. Sixty per cent of Afghans are dependent on agriculture. As the nation's agriculture approached terminal failure, cli-



mate change conditions became worse. The 2019 Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index put Afghanistan in 6<sup>th</sup> position globally as a country most impacted by climate change. At the core of the problem is the farmer whose crops ravaged by sudden floods and drought struggles to survive by borrowing funds to a keep productive farm and healthy livestock. But when the farmer is unable to pay off the debt, the Taliban steps in and capitalizes on the agricultural stress, by sowing seeds of dissension against the Government and offering lucrative bailout packages to the farmers in exchange for their participation in the armed campaigns of the mercenary group. Faced with an offer of \$5 to \$10 per day, the farmers capitulate and join the Taliban for speedy financial gains. This has become worse after Taliban began inducing the farmers to grow poppy seeds which is a part of lucrative opium trade. This is an unfortunate example of how climate change can become an asset for terrorism and a curse for genuine hard-working farmers.

The instance of terror groups leveraging consequences of climate change for realizing their violent agenda is not limited to Afghanistan. Boko Haram gripped water-scarce Central Africa in 2017 and gained footholds along the Lake Chad Basin. Similarly, ISIS has taken advantage of agrarian communities suffering from extreme drought in Iraq and Syria. Had these regions somehow succeeded in keeping the impacts of climate change at bay, they would have never fell victim to the vagaries posed by the terror groups. However, this is easier said than done as multiple factors, both socio-economic and environmental, are at play in these impoverished regions where political instability and resultant violence are the order of the day. The reality of terror partnering with climate change must not be taken lightly by India as well which is facing the malicious teaming up of Pakistan and China whose disruptive actions will only be strengthened by the arrival of Taliban. The failing monsoons and extreme weather events are already wreaking havoc on the farming community and dependent sectors. The people are already debt-ridden and frustrated which extremist groups operating from across the border must not be allowed to exploit. To avoid providing extremists a "climate change foothold" India must focus on reducing the impacts of environmental deterioration on key economic sectors by providing immediate relief on the one hand, and enabling greater climate change adaptation strategies on the other. By itself climate change is enough to create untold miseries for humanity. The addition of a terror angle can spell disaster to say the least. The world in general, and India in particular, must make all possible efforts to stop this partnership dead in its tracks.

(The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

# BJP's 'Kalyan' through OBCs and Hindutva

Currently, Kalyan Singh's 'Mandal-Kamandal' image can come to the BJP's rescue once again when the backwards are politically in demand in UP



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The BJP leaders bid a tearful adieu to Kalyan Singh, the former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh who was projected as the Hindu mascot by the saffron party during the Ram Janmabhoomi campaign. From Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and from Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to National BJP president J P Nadda, all flew down to Lucknow or Aligarh pay their last respects to Kalyan Singh. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accompanied the mortal remains of Kalyan Singh to Aligarh and even went to Narora where the last rites were performed.

Kalyan Singh, the first BJP Chief Minister in UP, deserved the respect. But the way in which senior leaders made a beeline for darshan and news channels beamed the program for three days, BJP has succeeded in sending a subtle message balancing the complex Mandal and Kamandal issues. Caste and religion are bound to play an important role in the coming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Probably, this was the reason as why Samajwadi Party leaders stayed away from paying tributes to Kalyan Singh as there was a fear that this might antagonize Muslims and harm SP in assembly elections. It is no secret that Kalyan Singh had blow-hot-blow-cold relations with BJP. Twice he left the party and once he even joined hands with Mulayam Singh Yadav. In 2003, when Mulayam Singh Yadav became Chief Minister, Kalyan Singh's son Rajveer Singh became Health Minister in his Government and continued to hold the post till 2007. In this scenario, Akhilesh and Mulayam skipping Kalyan's funeral raised many eyebrows. Though Akhilesh has condoned the death through a tweet calling Kalyan Singh a great administrator.

BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh took a dig at Akhilesh Yadav when he tweeted: "... Whether love for Muslim votes prevented Akhilesh from paying homage to the biggest backward caste leader."

Kalyan Singh, a Lodh, played an instrumental role in balancing Mandal and Kamandal issues. This was in the 80s when BJP's aggressive Hindutva was challenged by the rising tide of backward caste politics. The onerous task before the BJP was how to propel Hindutva amid rising caste politics. The brilliant answer was Kalyan Singh - the backward caste leader from the Lodh community. His era became the starting point of BJP's caste calculations and broadening of the Hindutva base across the caste fault lines.

Singh's emergence gave BJP the leverage to call itself a 'sarv-hara' because, with one brilliant stroke, the saffron politics, till then largely seen to be aligned with the Hindu upper castes, was redefined. "For the Sangh and the BJP, which have not mustered much around the caste dynamics, the necessity to counter the rising tide of Mandal politics was making it imperative



IT IS BELIEVED THAT IN THE YOGI REGIME, BACKWARDS ARE FEELING ALIENATED. THIS LED TO THE MURMUR OF EVEN PROJECTING KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER IN THE PRESENT DISPENSATION, AS THE NEXT CHIEF MINISTER. IN THE RECENT EXPANSION CARRIED OUT IN THE MODI CABINET, FOUR OUT OF SEVEN MINISTERS FROM UP ARE FROM BACKWARD CASTES

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



to look towards their own leaders for an answer to the new challenge. Singh a prominent OBC face was best suited. He was the personified synthesis of Kamandal and Mandal," said Pranshu Mishra, a political commentator.

In the present-day scenario, Kalyan Singh's caste and Hindutva image can come to the rescue of BJP once again when the backwards are much in demand politically. It is believed that in the Yogi regime, backwards are feeling alienated. This led to the murmur of even projecting Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister in the present dispensation, as next Chief Minister. In the recent expansion carried out in the Modi cabinet, four out of seven ministers from UP are from backward castes.

In UP politics Yadavs are the dominant backward caste. As it forms the bulwark of Samajwadi Party's support base, the other political parties are locked in an intense race to woo non-dominant or non-Yadav, other backward castes (OBCs), who constitute about 40 percent of the population. The ruling BJP got a good share of OBC votes in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, 2017 UP Assembly election, and 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Castes like Sahu, Kashyaps, Sainis, Kushwahas, Mauryas, Shakyas, Pals, Dhangars, Gaderiyas, Kumhars, Nishads, and Mallas are much in demand. The BJP in 2017 had also expanded its reach among OBCs by allying with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj

Party (S BSP) and the Nishad Party in 2019. The SBSB, however, broke off ties after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections despite Rajbhar being made a Cabinet minister in the Yogi Government and his son and other supporters given chairmanships of state-run corporations. The break-up with Rajbhar has hit the BJP and therefore it is trying desperately to woo Nishad and other non-dominant OBCs.

The Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal (NISHAD) Party's President Sanjay Nishad has asked for 70 seats and ministerial posts in the coming assembly elections. In the meeting of the party's national president J P Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, state organization general secretary Sunil Bansal along with the state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Delhi last week made it clear that if BJP wants their support it will have to ensure a respectable share in power. The BJP has agreed to give a vacant seat of the nominated quota of the Legislative Council to Sanjay Nishad but is so far non-committal about seat-sharing for the assembly elections. At present Nishad Party does not have a member in either House of legislature. Sanjay Nishad's son Praveen Nishad is MP from Sant Kabir Nagar.

So, with the death of Kalyan Singh, BJP ensured that the right signal should go among the backwards. That is why on August 22 Prime Minister paid tributes while the next day the Union Home Minister flew down to Aligarh. On

both days, Kalyan Singh and BJP remained in the limelight. Secondly, Keshav Prasad Maurya, the PWD minister, proposed that the road leading to Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be called Kalyan Singh Road. He also announced roads in Aligarh, Bulandshahr, and other parts of the state would be named after Kalyan Singh, whose Lodh community has a sizeable presence in over two dozen assembly seats in central and western UP.

Singh rose to power riding the Ram Temple movement of which he was one of the main crusaders. But it is ironic that he wanted to attend the foundation laying ceremony of the Ram temple held on August 5, 2020, but could not do so due to his health problem.

The year 2020 was a landmark year for Kalyan Singh. After Babri Mosque was demolished on December 6, 1992, he resigned taking moral responsibility. Cases were filed against him by the CBI, which was probing the demolition case. A total of 49 cases were filed in 1992 and in the second case FIR number 198 his name along with, LK Advani, Murali Manohar Joshi, and Uma Bharati were named for promoting religious enmity and instigating riots. On September 13, 2020, after 28 years, the Special CBI Court in Lucknow acquitted all the 32 accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case including Kalyan Singh.

After the acquittal Kalyan Singh told the waiting media: "Now I can die in peace."

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE ARREST OF UNION MINISTER NARAYAN RANE BY THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT IS A VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES.  
— BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
JP NADDA



RANE'S LANGUAGE IS DEROGATORY AND THE BJP SHOULD KNOW THAT MAHARASHTRA NEVER ACCEPTS SUCH LANGUAGE AND POLITICS.  
— NCP MINISTER  
NAWAB MALIK

# The need for gender responsiveness in our laws

The bottom line is: If you are not gender responsive, you are definitely gender oppressive

Simplistically, by virtue of the decree of Restitution of Conjugal Rights (RCR), a civil court has the power to compel a recalcitrant partner to cohabit with their spouse, without their consent. But this provision of the Hindu Marriage Act is more than just morally displeasing. It is a contradiction in terms of the strides India has made in its pursuit of gender justice.

Looking at the wording of the provision, I realise that the one thread that links this colonial-era law with the present is that gender remains a post-facto thought for our legislators and the State. Until we mainstream gender into the design of things, we cannot sufficiently rectify the current gender inequity.



NISHTHA SATYAM

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

The pro-RCR argument is that it is a legal remedy available to both aggrieved spouses and is in fact gender-neutral. Today, as we stand at the cusp of a new decade, it is imperative we emphasise that anything within the spectrum of gender justice must necessarily be gender-responsive. Time and again our courts have decreed that RCR is an obsolete provision of our personal laws that are violative of citizens' fundamental rights.

The Justice K. S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India judgment delineates the right to engage in sexual intercourse as an intrinsic part of the right to privacy. As a result, we are equipped to deduce that privacy is inextricably intertwined with the



right to bodily integrity, self-determination and sexual autonomy. And yet a decree of RCR infringes on all the aforementioned rights. If our ideal of privacy is the benchmark of individual autonomy that recognises the ability of an individual to control vital aspects of her life, vesting such a power in the hands of the State is meaningless. It then follows that privacy is a privilege forbidden for women considering how

often they are coerced to cohabit with abusive and toxic husbands. This raises enough need to abolish it completely.

The selective use of 'discretion' by the State (in drafting) and the courts (in decreeing) an RCR, is in direct contrast to the voice and choice framework. The reason I say the State is adopting a "pick and choose" policy concerning the institution of marriage is with reference to section 375 of the Indian Penal Code that offers a blanket of impunity to husbands perpetuating marital rape. We must reacquire ourselves with an imperative for the State to not defend patriarchy. Our right to life dwells on the right to live with dignity and liberty to choose for

ourselves. But far more important than this jurisprudential thematic is the freedom to exercise this right in the face of forced co-habitation in a patrilocal setup. It is important we view marriage by placing it in the ecosystem of socio-cultural patriarchy that operates all around us, often nearly indistinguishable and invisible. What, if any, is the role of the State in a marriage between two consenting adults? The Indian constitution, as per Article 38, recognises the Government as a welfare State to the best of any jurisprudential extent. With the State constitutional-empowered to limit itself as a democratic country with a socialist vision, the legislative shift we are asking for requires a paradigm shift in

the current jurisprudential discourse.

Gender-responsive and gender-neutral are two parts of the spectrum of change. I have often made the argument for why patriarchy is not to be mistaken as an island notion floating into oblivion; it is in fact the oldest surviving institution in the world, and any rattling of this institution is bound to create friction. The bottom line is - if you are not gender-responsive, you are definitely gender-oppressive. But we must realise that there is no questioning patriarchy till the time we challenge the very institution of marriage, one that is based on a patrilocal system. Culture, cleverly cited in resistance to the empowerment of women and conveniently tai-

lored to rule a woman's life since eternity, lingers as that one brushed aside aspect in all dialogue concerning women. While we actively encourage discourse on gender mainstreaming, culture should be brought to the forefront of our conversation as a means to channel the advancement of gender equality. And with reference to this instance, we must understand that culture and personal laws are in abject contrast to a progressive discourse on gender-responsive laws. Let me conclude by quoting Indian economist Devaki Jain, "this is a conversation we must have with caution, as culture may clash with the universality in women's human rights, a battle that is hard-won."

# UK warns Taliban against sealing Af off from world

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain on Wednesday warned the Taliban against attempts to coercively seal off Afghanistan from the rest of the world and urged the militant group to keep its borders open.



They're not going to be able to do that by coercively blocking the border," he told Times Radio.

"You'll just see a larger flow of refugees going out and they'll have to be processed. They're not going to be able to avoid the refugee crisis by just a few roadblocks, they're not going to be able to hermetically seal the Afghan border, which is rugged and wide-ranging," he said.

During a series of interviews on Wednesday, Raab also sought to dismiss media reports of him "lounging on the beach" on holiday at the height

of the Afghan crisis earlier this month.

He stressed that he had been constantly in virtual contact with the COBRA [Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms] meeting and officials to ensure the airlift of British nationals and supporters from the country. He said that the UK has evacuated more than 9,000 people from Afghanistan since August 15, including 2,000 people in the last 24 hours.

"I think it's going right the way up to the end of the calendar month," Raab said, in reference to efforts to airlift a further 4,000 people ahead of the Taliban's August 31 exit deadline. This also includes a Royal Marine veteran Paul "Pen" Farthing, who has been seeking evacuation with all the animals from his rescue shelter in the region.

# Completion of Aug 31 deadline for Af evacuation mission depends on Taliban cooperation: Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden has said the US is on "a pace" to complete its evacuation mission in Afghanistan by August 31 and doesn't plan to have troops in the country past that date, but the completion of the deadline depends on cooperation from the Taliban.

The US has currently approximately 5,800 troops at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul.

"We are currently on a pace to finish (the evacuation mission) by August 31. The sooner we can finish, the better. Each day of operations brings added risk to our troops," Biden told reporters at the White House on Tuesday.

"But the completion by August 31 depends on the Taliban continuing to cooperate and allow access to the airport for those who were transporting out and no disruptions to our operations," he said.

The Taliban -- which seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a costly two-decade war -- has warned that the US must end its evacuation mission on August 31.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in a news conference in Kabul on Tuesday said the US must stick to its self-imposed deadline. "After that we won't let Afghans be taken out" on evacuation flights, he said.

Any decision by the US to stay longer could lead to a war between them and the US troops who are executing the airlift at Kabul airport, the Taliban has said.

Biden said he has asked Pentagon and the State Department for contingency plans to adjust the August 31 timetable of leaving Afghanistan, "should that become necessary".

"I'm determined to ensure that we complete our mission...I'm also mindful of the increasing risks that I've been briefed on and the need to factor those risks in. They're real and significant challenges that we also have to take into consideration. The longer we stay, starting with the acute and growing risk of an attack by a terrorist group known as ISIS-K, an ISIS affiliate in Afghanistan, which is the sworn enemy of the Taliban as well," he said.

"Every day we're on the ground is another day we know ISIS-K is seeking to target the airport and attack both US and allied forces and innocent civilians," Biden said.

The Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate, ISIS-K, is known for staging suicide attacks on civilians.

Biden said though the Taliban are cooperating "so that we can get our people out. But it's a tenuous situation".

# Influential lawmakers from G-7 want India to be invited to bloc's meetings on Afghanistan crisis

PTI ■ Washington

Influential lawmakers from the G-7 countries have urged that India should be invited to attend the bloc's meetings that seeks to develop a common and united front for global security and regional stability in the aftermath of the Taliban taking control over Afghanistan.

US Senator Bob Menendez, who is also the Chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and his counterparts from Italy, France, Germany, Japan, the UK and the European Parliament in a joint statement also said African Union should be invited to attend individual G-7 meetings when appropriate.

"The withdrawal of US

and allied forces from Afghanistan should not be misinterpreted by the global community as any weakening of resolve from G7 governments in taking all necessary measures to combat cross-border terrorism, to support regional cooperation or advance democratic values," Menendez and his counterparts from G-7 countries said in the joint statement.

"With the spillover of terrorism possible, we would like to see India invited to attend this G-7 meeting. As other terror groups are beginning to muster in the Horn of Africa and reawaken movements elsewhere, we believe the African Union should be invited to attend individual G-7 meetings when appropriate," the lawmakers said.

# Doing everything in power to ensure your safety, well-being: Guterres to UN personnel in Af

United Nations: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said he shares the concern, anxiety and pain of the United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, asserting that the world organisation is doing everything in its power to ensure their safety and well-being.

Guterres, in a video message to UN personnel in war-torn Afghanistan on Tuesday, said that they have our full support and solidarity.

"I want to personally thank you for everything you are doing to support the Afghan people in this time of crisis. I speak for the entire United Nations family when I say, we are all deeply grateful to you for your service, in particular the Afghan national colleagues. You represent the best of the United Nations,"

he said.

"I know most of you, especially the humanitarian actors, want to stay and deliver to respond to the dramatic needs of the Afghan people, he said, adding that the safety of all United Nations personnel in Afghanistan is our top priority."

"And we are doing everything in our power, namely through the permanent engagement with all relevant actors, and will continue to do so to ensure your safety and well-being, and to find external solutions where they are needed," Guterres said.

"The UN chief told the UN personnel that he shares their concern, anxiety and pain and is distressed by the reports that some of them have experienced harassment and intimidation of the United Nations,"

# Israeli leader meets with Biden as West Asia tensions grow

WASHINGTON: Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's meeting with President Joe Biden comes in the midst of heightened tensions with its regional arch-enemy, Iran, and as Israel grapples with a gradual resurgence of hostilities on its southern border with the Gaza Strip.

Bennett, in his first state visit overseas since taking office, was scheduled to meet Wednesday with senior administration officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and on Thursday with Biden.

In a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office before his departure, Bennett said the top priority in his conversation with Biden would be

Iran, "especially the leapfrogging in the past two to three years in the Iranian nuclear program." He said other issues would also be discussed, including the Israeli military's qualitative edge, the coronavirus pandemic and economic matters.

Bennett has spoken out against the possibility of a new nuclear accord between Iran and world powers, and says that any agreement must also put the brakes on Iran's regional aggression. Recent months have seen a string of attacks on Israeli-connected shipping, believed to have been carried out by Iran.

Earlier this week, Bennett told his Cabinet that he would tell the American president "that now is the time to halt the Iranians, to stop this thing" and not re-enter "a nuclear deal that has already expired and is not relevant, even to those who thought it was once relevant." AP

# Taliban capture stoked desperation among many Af: UN human rights chief

PTI ■ BEIJING

China will introduce President Xi Jinping's political ideology in its national curriculum for schools and colleges, in the latest effort to consolidate the ruling Communist Party's grip on power for the future.

"Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era" will be incorporated into China's textbooks for students at all levels, the country's Ministry of Education announced on Tuesday.

The guideline, issued by the National Textbook Committee, said textbooks reflect the will of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the nation and directly impact the direction and quality of talent cultivation, state-run China Daily reported on Wednesday.

The ideology will be integrated into the curriculum covering basic, vocational and various subjects of higher education, Han Zhen, a member of the National Textbook Committee said.

As per the new curriculum, the primary schools will focus on cultivating the love for the country, the CPC and socialism.

In middle schools, the focus will be on a combination of perceptual experience and knowledge study, to help students form basic political judgments and opinions.

In colleges, there will be more emphasis on the establishment of theoretical thinking, state-run Global Times reported.

Billed as the most powerful leader after the CPC's founder Mao Zedong, Xi is widely expected to continue in power for an unprecedented third term beginning late next year.

# President Xi Jinping's political ideology to become part of curriculum in China

PTI ■ BEIJING

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# Pakistan SC summons Govt on harassment of journalists

Islamabad: The Pakistan Supreme Court has asked three senior officials to appear before it on Thursday to hear the Governments version on the rising incidents of harassment of journalists.

The three officials are: the Interior Secretary, the Federal Investigation Agency's Director General and the Islamabad police inspector general, Dawn news reported.

The court issued the directives in response to a four-page petition complaining that journalists in Pakistan were facing increasing acts of intimidation at the hands of security agencies.

The court regretted that the FIA appeared to have overstepped its mandate and undermined the nation's confidence in the judiciary.

A two-judge SC bench, consisting of Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, also issued notices to the secretaries of information and broadcasting; religious affairs and human rights ministries; as well as to the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE); All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS); the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA); Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ).

IANS

### Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender

No.SS/HRMIS/1383/2020/7329 Date: 25.08.2021  
Mission Director, Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhijan (Samagra Shiksha), Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19 invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from Reputed Registered Companies for Development of Human Resource Management Information System (Transfer & Posting of Teachers) and Implementation, Support and Maintenance.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidders who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque in favour of Mission Director, Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhijan, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **Jan Samuh Party**. The office of the party is located at H. No. 336/A G/F Khasra No. 18/14, Gali No. 12, Mata Wali Gali, Village Johripur, Delhi-110094. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951-Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:

**Chairman** : Manjeet Singh  
**General Secretary** : Dinesh Kumar  
**Treasurer** : Lakhan Singh

If any one has any objection to the registration of **Jan Samuh Party**. They may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvanchan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

### OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II, DELHI

4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001

R.C.No. 58/2015 E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE Dated: 18.08.2021.

ICICI BANK VS. M/S ISHA SALES & ORS.

"ORDER"

As per my order dated 18.08.2021 the under mentioned properties will be sold by Public e-auction sale on 06.10.2021 in the said Recovery Certificate-

The auction sale will be "online e-Auctioning" through website: [www.bankauctions.com](http://www.bankauctions.com)  
Date and Time of Auction: 06.10.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM.  
(With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 P.M., if required).

Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)
2121 D, 1st Floor, Tlak Bazar, Delhi-110006	Rs. 21,000,000/-	Rs. 2,10,000/-

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- The auction sale will be "online through" e-auction through website portal: [www.bankauctions.com](http://www.bankauctions.com).
- The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi-A/C R.C. No. 58/2015". The said Demand Draft/Pay Order qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of Identity (voter I-card/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 04.10.2021 before 4:00 P.M. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
- The envelope containing EMD, along with details of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc, should be super-scribed "RC No. 58/2015".
- The property is being sold on "as is where is basis" and "as is what is basis".
- The bidders are advised to go through the portal [www.bankauctions.com](http://www.bankauctions.com) for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings and/or contact Sh. Mohit Chadhaa, Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd. 2nd Floor, Videocom Tower, Jhandewalan Extn. Delhi. Mobile no. 9650957770 Email ID: mohit.chadhaa@icicibank.com
- Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana-122015. Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan. Mobile no. 9813887931 Email ID: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankauctions.com.
- The interested bidders may avail online training on e-auction, after deposit of EMD, from M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana 122015. Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email ID: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankauctions.com.
- Only those bidders holding valid user ID & Password and confirmed payment of EMD through demand draft/pay order shall be eligible to participate in on line e auction
- The prospective buyer may inspect the site on 27.09.2021 and 28.09.2021 from 10:30 AM to 04:00 PM.
- The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price by 04.10.2021 in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II Delhi. Shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 03:00 PM To 04:00 PM on 06.10.2021. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
- The bidders shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only)
- The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.
- The successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare and deposit Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/C R.C. No. 58/2015 by next bank working day i.e. by 04:00 PM with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.
- The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/C R.C. No. 58/2015, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @2% upto Rs.1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above). In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit after defraying the expenses of the sale, shall be, if the undersigned thinks fit be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the same for which it may subsequently be sold.
- CHFI/CH Bank is directed to serve the Sale proclamation on CDs through Dast speed post, courier and by affixation at the conspicuous part of the property and by beat of drum in its vicinity and a copy of the same be placed on the notice board of the Tribunal.
- Sale proclamation be also published in the Newspapers in English as well as in Vernacular language, having adequately wide circulation in the area
- CHFI/CH Bank is directed to confirm the publication of advertisement in the Newspapers and original proofs of the publication be filed before next date of hearing.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Mr. Vivek Tyagi is owner of Dwelling Unit Bearing No. 801, on 8th Floor, in Tower 'A', in the project 'Eros Sangamangal', built on Plot No. G4-01, Sector-02, Greater Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) vide Transfer deed dated 16.09.2019, registration No. 30554 read with registration deed dated 13.08.2021 registration No. 25904. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to someone who is taking Loan for purchase the said property from ICICI Bank Ltd. If anybody has any objection for the ownership of Mr. Vivek Tyagi in respect of the said property its sale /Mortgage, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
206, And Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mori Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph: 911-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Sh. Mangat Ram Katyal, S/o Late Shri Nagar Chand Katyal R/o 93-B, Krishna Nagar, Sardarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 has debarred all the relations with his grandson Sh. Rahul Katyal and his wife Smt. Sugandha Mathur and they have been disowned from all his moveable and immovable properties. Anyone dealing with them shall do so at their own risk, cost & consequences.

Madan Gopal Vacher (Advocate)  
Ch.No. 234, Civil Wing, Tiz Hazari, Delhi-110054

### BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Bid No. E-19/2021-22 E-Tenders Date: 20.08.2021

E-Tenders are invited for & behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence :- S. No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. S. No. 1. 05215114A (08.09.2021), Drill Bit Dia 6mm x 400mm, 40 Nos. S. No. 2. 05211012B (09.09.2021), Flame Cutting Nozzle, Part No. 76905202, 24 Nos. S. No. 3. 05215150 (16.09.2021), Thrust Bearing, 02 Nos. S. No. 4. 05215151 (16.09.2021), Spare Parts for 50 Ton, 01 Set. S. No. 5. 05215152 (16.09.2021), Tube for TATA Sumo/Quails, 01 Set. S. No. 6. 05215153 (16.09.2021), Aurora - 150 Manifold Regulator, 01 Set. S. No. 7. 05215155 (16.09.2021), Conveyor Belt, 01 Nos. S. No. 8. 05211070 (20.09.2021), Flame Cutting Nozzle, Part No. 76218016, 50 Nos. S. No. 9. 05211071 (20.09.2021), Flame Cutting Nozzle, Part No. 76217991, 07 Nos. S. No. 10. 05211075 (20.09.2021), Metal Arc Welding Electrode, Part No. 76017027, 25976 Nos. S. No. 11. 05191072 (31.08.2021), Metal Arc Welding Electrode, Part No. 76014110, 9127 Nos. S. No. 12. 05191077B (01.09.2021), Lifter for Radiator Assy, Part No. 15630043, 03 Nos. S. No. 13. 05211058 (01.09.2021), Mounted Point Grinding Wheel, Part No. 70237487, 1041 Nos. S. No. 14. 05211066 (02.09.2021), Mounted Point Grinding Wheel, Part No. 70010365, 365 Nos. S. No. 15. 05211078A (02.09.2021), Cradle for Four Power Pack, Part No. 15610573, 13 Nos. S. No. 16. 10211316 (20.09.2021), Repair Kit For Injector Assembly PL No. 16040247, 2942 Set. S. No. 17. 10211317 (20.09.2021), Ecotio Superstack Injector PL No. 16241186, 225 Nos. S. No. 18. 09211035 (20.09.2021), Fuse and Indicator Assembly to PL No. 18310606, 440 Nos. S. No. 19. Tender No.: 07215319 Due Date: 15.09.2021 PL No.: Short Description : Back Server Qty.: 01 Nos. S. No. 20. 08201323C Advertiser Tender (06.09.2021), BOLT 3/8-16 HEX AS PER DRG. NO. 40019582 ALT-a AS PER SPECN. AS PER DRG. QTY-2484 NOS. (Part No. 19212275). The details of above tenders are available on [www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in) and [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). CORRIGENDUM : S. No. 1, Tender No. : 06215002 Bid No. : E-12/2021-22 Rev. : 02 Existing Due Date : 17.08.2021 Revised Due Date : 07.09.2021. All other terms and condition shall remain unchanged.

SMM/G-II  
PRO/BLW/S-21  
[www.blwvaranasi](http://www.blwvaranasi) Website: [blw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that M/s. Siddharth Printers, T-30/14 Rajeev Nagar, New Delhi-110028 was registered in Registrar of Firm with Serial No. 65487 on 27.03.1987 vide Partnership deed dated 01-08-1982 with partners namely Anil Malhotra (40%), Vandana Malhotra (40%) and Sunam Malhotra (20%). Siddharth Printers was allotted DSCC Plot No. A-20, Sec-2, Bawana, Delhi-110038 on Application No. 5610 and shifted at the above address. A Partner Mrs Sunam Malhotra was expired on 25-06-2007 and remaining partner namely Vandana Malhotra as partner vide partnership deed dated 12-10-2007 with profit sharing ratio Anil Malhotra (1/3), Vandana Malhotra (1/3) and Kaval Krishan Malhotra (1/3). A Partner Vandana Malhotra retired on 01-03-2019 vide retirement deed dated 31-3-2019 now remaining partner had profit sharing ratio Anil Malhotra (50%) and Kaval Krishan Malhotra (50%). A partner Anil Malhotra expired on 05-12-2020 and remaining partner have decided to enter Sh. Shiv Malhotra S/o Late Sh. Anil Malhotra as partner vide Partnership Deed dated 02-02-2021 with profit sharing ratio 50% each. Sd/- Kaval Krishan Malhotra, Shiv Malhotra

### PUBLIC NOTICE

That My clients Ajay Kumar S/o Late Sh. Somnath Khanna and Vimmi Khanna W/o Ajay Kumar R/o 14512 East Rohatash Nagar, Shalimar, Delhi-32 with his daughter Twinkle Khanna, and my clients came to know from his daughter that his daughter had changed her religion and changed his name from Twinkle Khanna to Sumayya and is living in a live-in-relationship with a Muslim boy and it is not in their control. The above act has damaged the social prestige of my clients, so my clients has dispossessed Twinkle Khanna, and his heirs from all his movable and immovable property and in future she will not use my client's name, address or her previous name Twinkle Khanna. If it does for this, my clients will not be responsible and my clients will be free to take legal action against her.

Nand Kishor Goswami (Advocate)  
Contact - 9891198691

### Proclamation Requiring Attendance of Defendant (Orrier) Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) IN THE COURT OF SH. GURVINDER PAL SINGH DISTRICT JUDGE, (COMMERCIAL COURTS-02), PHC, NDD, NEW DELHI, ROOM No. 25

CASE NO. CSNO.178/2021  
TITLE:- SHARDON GROUP THROUGH PARTNER VERSUS SHREE SHAKTI ENTERPRISES & ORS. To, SHREE SHAKTI ENTERPRISES Having its Regd. Office AL, C-18. Shop No. B-5 Main Masoodpur Market, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070. Ph: 011-64404087, Mob: 9810468986 Mr. BIJAY MISHRA (PROPRIETOR), SHREE SHAKTI ENTERPRISES Having its Registered Office AL, C-18. Shop No. B-5, Main Masoodpur Market, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, WHEREAS above named PLAINTIFF has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court or by a pleader on 30.09.2021 at 10AM to answer the same. The written statement must be filed within thirty days from the date of receipt of the summons. You are also to file affidavit of admission/denial of documents filed by the plaintiff with written statement. It is made clear that any unjustified denial of documents and delay in the timelines may lead to an order of costs against the concerned party. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 21st day of August 2021 Sd/ JUDGE.

### SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
2121 D, 1st Floor, Tlak Bazar, Delhi-110006	Not known	Not known	Not known

Matter be listed on 15.09.2021 for filing affidavit of service of E-auction sale notice with proofs of service (including track results qua speed post and courier) and dasti, original proofs of publication in newspapers and wider publicity including website for the purpose of a auction.

(Dattarey Bajpayee) Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi

### CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

Regd. Office: 456, Aggarwal Metro Heights, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034  
CIN: L65993DL1990PLC040101  
Ph.: 011-47057757 Email id: cubfinser@yahoo.com

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the 31ST Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the shareholders of the Company shall be held on Tuesday, 28th September, 2021 at 2:00 PM through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Video Means (VC/ OAVM) facility in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circular Nos.14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020 and 02/2021 dated 8th April 2020, 13th April 2020, 5th May 2020 and January 13, 2021 respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated (12th May 2020) and SEBI/HO/CFD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

The Notice of the 31st AGM and the Annual Report for the year 2020-21 including the financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2021 ("Annual Report") will be sent only by email to all those Members, whose email addresses are registered with the Depository Participants or Company in accordance with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular. Shareholders who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to get their email addresses registered by following the procedure given below:

**For Members holding shares in physical form**  
please provide necessary details like Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to cubfinser@yahoo.com/betalarta@gmail.com

**For the Members holding shares in demat form**  
please provide Demat account details (CDSL-16 digit beneficiary ID or NSDL-16 digit DPID + CLID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Annual statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to cubfinser@yahoo.com/betalarta@gmail.com or You can contact to your depository participant and register your Email id as per the process advised by them.

Member can join and participate in the 31st AGM through VC/OAVM facility only. The instructions for joining the 31st AGM and the manner of participation in the remote electronic voting or casting vote through e-voting system during the 31st AGM are provided in the Notice of the 31st AGM.

Members participating through the VC/OAVM facility shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013. The Notice of the 31st AGM and the Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company i.e. <http://www.Cubical90.com> and website of the BSE Limited i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

The above information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the Members of the Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circular.

For Cubical Financial Services Limited  
Place: New Delhi Sd/-Ashwani Kumar Gupta  
Date: 23rd August 2021 (Managing Director)

# PM MODI TO AUTO INDUSTRY Change in old practices, approaches warranted

**PII ■ NEW DELHI**

“Recently launched National Automobile Scrapage Policy exemplifies this vision.”

He cited that ‘21st century’ India remains firmly committed to move forward with the goal of clean and modern mobility. “Holistic steps are being taken for the value chain associated with auto manufacturing so that the industry becomes more productive and sustainable.”

PM Modi further said that all stakeholders have an important role in Government’s steadfast efforts to transform India into a global manufacturing hub.

“Presence of manufacturing units of global automobile manufacturers in India is reflective of a thriving ecosystem.”

Rapid changes in technology, lifestyle and economy warrant the auto industry to change “old approaches and old practices”, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a letter addressed to SIAM President and Maruti Suzuki Managing Director & CEO Kenichi Ayukawa on the occasion of the 61st SIAM Annual Convention, PM Modi said that these rapid changes warrant old approaches and old practices to change.

“It is also crucial to protect our environment, resources and raw materials. For this reason, India is not only emphasising on exploring new possibilities, but also encouraging a circular economy.”

# Google introduces global kids safety programme in India, updates Google Safety Centre

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Google on Wednesday launched its global ‘Be Internet Awesome’ programme for children in India in partnership with Indian comic book publisher Amar Chitra Katha to interweave critical internet safety lessons across eight Indian languages.

The tech giant has also launched an enhanced Google Safety Centre in eight Indian languages as part of its efforts to step up safety of users on the internet.

Google has significantly increased its resources dedicated to India’s Trust Safety teams, including product policy analysts, security specialists, and user trust experts that support over 10 vernacular Indian languages, enabling its central teams to benefit from the local nuance and inputs.

This will help Google India continue its work around misinformation, fraud, threats to child safety, violent extremism, phishing attacks, and malware. It will also further strengthen Google’s global trust and safety operations of over 20,000 people, who are dedicated to identifying, fighting and preventing online harm.

“Our north star is to make the internet helpful for a billion Indians...Every single day, more people are placing their trust in the internet and adopting new services and all of us in the technology industry, have a responsibility to honour their trust,” Google India Country Manager and Vice-President Sanjay Gupta said at the ‘Google for India’ virtual event.

He added that Google treats user data with utmost responsibility and gives users complete control over their data.

# Markets end flat after scaling new peaks; finance, bank stocks slump

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The Sensex closed modestly lower while the Nifty inched up to a fresh closing high on Wednesday as bulls took a breather amid a subdued trend overseas.

Banking and finance stocks succumbed to profit-taking after the sharp upmove in the past few sessions, while IT and FMCG counters bucked the trend.

After touching its all-time high of 56,198.13 in early trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 14.77 points or 0.03 per cent lower at 55,944.21.

The broader NSE Nifty, however, ended 10.05 points or 0.06 per cent higher at its new closing record of 16,634.65. It touched an all-time high of 16,712.45 during the day.

TCS was the top gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 1.31 per cent, followed by Infosys, Reliance Industries, Nestle India, ITC and HUL.

On the other hand, Bajaj

# Rupee drops 5 paise to close at 74.24 on strong dollar

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The rupee on Wednesday declined by 5 paise to close at 74.24 against the US currency due to a stronger dollar in the overseas markets.

Dollar demand from oil marketing companies and importers also weighed on the rupee, analysts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened marginally down at 74.20 and later dropped to a low of 74.30 in the day trade.

On Tuesday, the rupee had settled at 74.19 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.04 per cent higher at 92.93.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.15 per cent to USD 70.94 per barrel.

# Can’t say there is no demand for credit; banks to do loan outreach from Oct: FM

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said it is too early to say if there is a lack of demand for credit and announced a district-wise outreach to be undertaken by banks to help credit growth from October.

A push to help credit growth from such outreach efforts will also help the momentum set by the stimulus packages, which have been extended by the government since the onset of the pandemic.

It can be noted that in late 2019, banks had conducted

# Govt approves raising family pension of bank staff

**PII ■ NEW DELHI**

The families of deceased bank employees will receive up to 30 per cent of the last drawn salary of the employee under the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

Contribution made by PSBs for employee pensions under the National Pension Scheme has been hiked to 14 per cent from the earlier 10 per cent. So far, the pension under the scheme was capped at ₹9,284.

# Govt mulls bringing amendments in Budget session for direct listing of securities abroad

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The government may introduce legislative amendments in the Budget session of Parliament to enable Indian companies to directly list certain prescribed classes of securities abroad, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Wednesday.

Direct listing of securities overseas by Indian entities is allowed but there are certain issues which need to be sorted out for this to become a success, he said, without elaborating on the hurdles.

“The direct listing is under consideration of the govern-

# FM asks banks to work with State Govts to push ‘one dist, one product’ agenda

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said she has requested banks to work with all state governments to push the ‘one district, one product’ agenda.

Banks have also been requested to have interaction with export promotion agencies, chambers of commerce and industry to understand and address the requirement of exporters on a timely manner, Sitharaman said while addressing media here on Wednesday.

The Finance Minister, who is on a two-day visit to the financial capital, said between



public sector banks, there should be some kind of a simple approach so that exporters are not made to run between one bank to another scouting for a better offer. During the day, she met heads of public sector banks (PSBs) to review their financial performance.

**Delton Cables Limited**

CIN: L31300DL1964PLC004255

Regd. Office: Delton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Darya Ganj New Delhi -110002

Website: www.deltoncables.com, E-mail: cs@deltoncables.com

**Notice**

(For the attention of Equity Shareholders of Delton Cables Limited)

Notice is hereby given that the Fifty Sixth (56<sup>th</sup>) Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Delton Cables Limited will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. through Video Conferencing (“VC”) Other Audio Visual Means (“OAVM”) to transact the business as set forth in the AGM Notice dated August 11, 2021 without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue, in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended from time to time, read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020 and 02/2021 dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 05, 2020 and January 13, 2021, respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (“MCA Circulars”) and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021 (“SEBI Circulars”) issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI Circular”).

**UJVN LIMITED**

H.O. “UJJWAL”, Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

Phone: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508

CIN No. U40110UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

**Tender Notice**

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

**Name of work:** 05/EE(Civil)/MB-II/Chinyalisaur/2021-22

**Name of work:** Housekeeping, Upkeeping and Operation of officer field hostel at Shaktipitruam colony, Chinyalisaur, Uttarkashi.

**Estimated Cost:** Rs. 24,57,636.00 (excluding GST)

**Date of availability of bid document on website:** 25.08.2021 from 5:00PM

**Last date for submission of tender:** 15.09.2021 upto 11:00AM

For fuller & further detail, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam’s website “www.ujvnl.com”

Executive Engineer (Civil)

RO No 606 dt. 25.08.2021

“AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY”

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one person name and address unknown. Age 35-40 yrs., Height 5’3”, Wheatish Complexion, Face long, Thin built wearing grey colour shirt, dark blue lower and hawai chappal in feet was found dead at Sardar Balabh Bhai Patel Hospital gate in side road patri on 15.08.2021.

In this regard a DD No. 25-A Dt. 15.08.2021 has been lodged at PS Patel Nagar, Delhi. The dead body has been kept at DDU Hospital Mortuary Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased male may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

**S.H.O.,**  
**PS Patel Nagar, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-25872637, 8750870434**

DP/954/CD/2021

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

**See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Md. Sakir, S/o Md. Tahir (2) Mumtaz W/o Sakir, R/o H.No. A-28, New Jafrabad, Delhi have Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 477/20, U/S 420/34 IPC, P.S. Welcome, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Md. Sakir, (2) Mumtaz cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Md. Sakir, (2) Mumtaz have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Md. Sakir, (2) Mumtaz of FIR No. 477/20, U/S 420/34 IPC, P.S. Welcome, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 27.09.2021.

**By Order**  
**Sh. Animesh Bhaskar Mani Tripathi,**  
**Metropolitan Magistrate,**  
**Karkardooma Courts,**  
**Shahdara, Delhi**

DP/967/NE/2021(Court Matter)

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.)

Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority’s official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>

Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount
1	15/DGM/SM (NTC)/2021-22	Annual P/L Thermoplastic Paint on Speed Breaker, Zebra & P/F Road Safety Items on Different Location in WC-4, 5 & 6 Noida.	8763311.60

Which can be uploaded by date 02.09.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 03.09.2021 at 11.00 AM.

**Dy. General Manager, Noida Traffic Cell**

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

**BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION**

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and

In the matter of **AGRANTE DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at DTJ-704, 7th Floor, DLF Towers-B, Jasola, New Delhi 110025, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 26th July 2021 to enable the company to change its Registered office from “State of Delhi to “State of Haryana”.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address

DTJ-704, 7th FLOOR, DLF TOWERS-B, JASOLA, NEW DELHI 110025 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and Behalf of The Applicant  
Arvinder Singh  
Director  
Date : 23.08.2021  
Place : 253 Janakpuri, PS Prem Nagar, Bareilly  
Uttar Pradesh-243122

**BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION**

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and

In the matter of **AGRANTE INFRA LIMITED** having its registered office at DTJ-704, 7th Floor, DLF Towers-B, Jasola, New Delhi 110025, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 26th July 2021 to enable the company to change its Registered office from “State of Delhi to “State of Haryana”.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address

DTJ-704, 7th FLOOR, DLF TOWERS-B, JASOLA, NEW DELHI 110025 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and Behalf of The Applicant  
Arvinder Singh  
Director  
Date : 23.08.2021  
Place : 253 Janakpuri, P S Prem Nagar, Bareilly,  
Uttar Pradesh-243122

**Delton Cables Limited**

Place: Delhi  
Date: 25.08.2021

Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

**DIRECTORATE OF AVIATION**

GOVT. OF CHHATTISGARH, MAHANADI BHAWAN,

Phone No+91(0)771-2510172 CAPITAL COMPLEX, MANTRALAYA,  
FAX No. +91(0)771-2510172 NAVA RAIPUR (CG): 492001, INDIA

Ref No. : 90 /587/DoA/ tender/2021 Nava Raipur, Date : 24.08.2021.

**CORRIGENDUM-2**

Directorate of Aviation (DoA), Govt. of Chhattisgarh (GoCG) has invited quotations from NSOP holder companies for services of one twin engine helicopter capable of carrying minimum 06 passengers or equivalent weight @ 75 kgs per passenger for use by State Police/GoCG. on long term charter basis by Tender No. 311/587/DoA/ tender/2021, Nava Raipur, Date : 08/07/2021. The last date for submission of quotation was 28.08.2021.

Amended terms and conditions has been uploaded in Govt. website <http://cgstate.gov.in>. and the last date of submission of quotation has been extended till 16.09.2021 Interested companies may submit their quotation to the "Director, Directorate of Aviation, AD-3/9 Mahanadi Bhawan, Capital Complex Mantralaya, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur (CG)" so as to reach by 1500 hrs on 16.09.2021 and shall be opened on the same day at 04:00 pm. All other terms & condition of tender shall remain same, unless notified by the Directorate of Aviation, Govt. of Chhattisgarh. For detailed terms and conditions visit Govt. of Chhattisgarh website <http://cgstate.gov.in>.

**Sd/-**  
**Director**  
**Directorate of Aviation,**  
**Govt. of Chhattisgarh**

R.O. No.: 63097/3  
R.O. Date.: 25/08/2021

**BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION**

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and

In the matter of **AGRANTE LEISURE PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at DTJ-704, 7th Floor, DLF Towers-B, Jasola, New Delhi 110025, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 26th July 2021 to enable the company to change its Registered office from “State of Delhi to “State of Haryana”.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address

DTJ-704, 7th FLOOR, DLF TOWERS-B, JASOLA, NEW DELHI 110025 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and Behalf of The Applicant  
Arvinder Singh  
Director  
Date : 23.08.2021  
Place : 253 Janakpuri, P S Prem Nagar, Bareilly,  
Uttar Pradesh-243122

**BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION**

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and

In the matter of **AGRANTE REALTY LIMITED** having its registered office at DTJ-704, 7th Floor, DLF Towers-B, Jasola, New Delhi 110025, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 26th July 2021 to enable the company to change its Registered office from “State of Delhi to “State of Haryana”.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address

DTJ-704, 7th FLOOR, DLF TOWERS-B, JASOLA, NEW DELHI 110025 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and Behalf of The Applicant  
Arvinder Singh  
Director  
Date : 23.08.2021  
Place : G-48 Avantika, suncity  
Vistar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh-243006



# AN EQUAL BALANCE

CHRISTY VARGHESE gets a fresh perspective on empowerment after attending Bharat Soka Gakkai's webinar, *Beautiful Stories Of Women Creating a New Age Towards 2030*

When women of great courage, optimism and wisdom join together, society will change profoundly. When women of a sensitive nature and compassion rise to the occasion, human society is bound to change on a fundamental level." The words — spoken by Daisaku Ikeda, president, Soka Gakkai International (SGI) at a webinar entitled *Beautiful Stories Of Women Creating a New Age Towards 2030* — highlighted the significance of the role of half the population of the planet in ushering in an era of peace. Organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of the SGI, the webinar drew attention to the value and wisdom that women can bring to our society as future leaders. And what better occasion to recall the insight lent by the panelists, since today is Women's Equality Day.

The illustrious panelists, representing a broad spectrum of society, were Vinita Bali, former CEO and MD of Britannia Industries, Miriam Vilela, the executive director of Earth Charter International, Safena Husain, the founder and executive director of Educate Girls and Tillotama Shome, a Filmfare award-winning actor.

While all eyes were on the panelists, the webinar sought to cele-

brate the struggles and victories of ordinary yet courageous women who rewrote their destiny and that of others.

Bali, an iconic business leader with extensive experience in leading companies both in India and overseas, lent her voice to some extremely pertinent thoughts, "Women comprise almost half of the global population. Why do we distinguish on the basis of gender for job opportunities? Why do we need to fight for women's rights? I think fighting is the wrong term here. In these times is respecting each others' rights too much to ask for? There can be no better time for a dialogue to foster empathy, compassion, and understanding so that we may live in a world that is fair and equitable for all."

She brought a global and pragmatic approach to the panel, with respect to strategy, marketing, innovation in operations having worked across several continents. She was among 27 global leaders appointed by the UN to help improve maternal and child health, by scaling up nutrition initiatives.

Picking up from where Bali had concluded, Vilela expressed, "The innate feminine intelligence offers everything the world desperately needs today. Sensitivity, empathy, sense of care and flexibility are



essential human elements that need to be cultivated to move away from the myopic view of indifference."

Originally from Brazil, Vilela has been working with the Earth Charter Initiative since early 1996. Prior to her work with the Earth Charter, she worked for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) for two years in preparation of the 1992 UN Earth Summit and a year at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). While there is always room for change, Vilela rued how 'women have to still ask for empowerment. Why are we not able to make it a reality? And that question surely left a mark on those who were listening.

Education is a game-changer, with respect to women empowerment, believes Husain whose NGO, Educate Girls (EG), is focused on mobilising communities for girls' education. Under her leadership, since EG's inception in 2007, the NGO has enrolled over 7,50,000

girls in school and improved the learning outcomes for more than 1.3 million children in India. Previously, Husain had worked extensively with rural and urban underserved communities in South America, Africa and Asia. She was conferred with the 2017 NITI Aayog's Women Transforming India Award, the 2016 NDTV-L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Award, and has received the British Asian Trust's Special Recognition Award from HRH Prince Charles for outstanding contribution in education.

"Over the decades, BSG has striven to create an environment of peace through cultural, educational and community-lead initiatives and I am glad to play my part as an advocate for girls' education and gender equality. I wouldn't wish my childhood on my enemy; that is how bad women had it back then. However, where I am today is due to the education that I could access. Girls' education is the biggest investment that a nation can make today and with consistent

support from like-minded supporters like BSG, we hope to gain more traction on the achievement of the fourth Sustainable Development Goal, which would ensure inclusive and equitable quality education to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, by 2030," noted Husain.

Rounding up the panel, Shome batted for exploring one's interests and being yourself, as loudly as possible, "As someone who was always on the move, because my father was an army man, I had to adapt to eight different schools throughout my growing years. All that moving around taught me that I don't need to be in the spotlight, I can be on the margins and still share my story with all my might."

Shome is an actor who was nominated for Best Supporting Actress at the 63rd Filmfare Awards for her role in *A Death In The Gunj*. In 2021, she won the Filmfare Award for Best Actress (Critics), for portraying a commendable role in *Sir*, at the 66th Filmfare Awards.

## Coping with online learning

RAJESH BHATIA explores the challenges placed before parents and educators during the pandemic

From being a supplementary conduit of information and firmly monitored entertainment, digital devices have now become virtual classrooms for millions of children all over the world. How has this transition, during the pandemic, impacted early childcare and education is a question that cannot be answered immediately. Only time will reveal the ramifications of this change, as per experts, though some pros and cons are evident even now.

The pandemic has reminded us of the importance of freedom of movement, interaction with loved ones, colleagues and friends. It is during this difficult time that technology has come to our rescue. Especially for educators, technology is proving to be a boon.

In these unprecedented times, online learning programmes are helping preschoolers to develop new skills, cultivate a sense of being part of a community and also participate in some form of socialising with educators and peer groups. To compensate for the absence of brick-and-mortar play schools, fun interactive games and activities are used to reinforce concepts, apart from videos to broaden minds and perspectives.

These methods are not without challenges; the primary one is to somehow compensate for social interaction and collaborative learning. At home, children are easily distracted and can be resistant to staying put in one place during a regimented study time. Or they may act up if the parental pressure is getting to them. That is why it is important to make the learning process as stress-free and as enjoyable as possible.

It needs to be mentioned that technology was meant to augment children's understanding of the real world and not replace it. While technology helps to



plug learning gaps, at a time like this, it is important that parents structure screen time, engage kids in activities like reading, and actual games and expose them to nature wherever possible because excessive screen time can harm mental and physical health. Excessive exposure to the internet is not healthy either. We cannot ignore that a digital divide is an unfortunate reality. Automated learning modules depend on expensive devices which may not be affordable for all. Internet accessibility in rural and remote areas is another major issue. Education is a right and not a privilege. The potential of online education should be tapped to bridge the digital divide and benefit underserved children.

Irrespective of the medium, what is important is that a child's development should not be hindered. The magical ingredients of discipline, structure, balance, social interactions, physical activity, and joy should be intrinsic to education, be it the chalk and talk method or e-learning.

(The author is the founder and CEO of TreeHouse, a borderless model of preschool education that can be accessed from anywhere in the world.)

### DAY 1: MANISH MALHOTRA

Can you imagine the Couture Week without Malhotra? His collection celebrated brides in their original spirit and emotions that emanate from within. The BRIDAL Edit of *Nooraniyat* is the latest collection of Malhotra's bridal couture. A combination of fine craftsmanship and exquisite intricate elements, no surprise there, the collection is an enchanting medley of bridal glory sprawled across strikingly hued compositions where each ensemble narrates an emotional story of its own.



"My bridal edit is an amalgamation of moods and emotions of the brides and over the years of creating their dream outfits and interacting with them, I inadvertently got drawn into those intriguing memories and decided to capture it all — from their enthusiasm and joy to the heart-felt and compassionate, there's a myriad of emotions and sentiments that are so heart-warming yet unsettling moments before she turns the page onto her new chapter. There's some surreal magic adorning every bit of their feelings, transmitting you into a world only known to a bride. Whether you are of the new age, or not, the feelings remain the same, the happy tears nonetheless flow, and through it all, our collection that she adorns transcends her dreams into reality," says Malhotra.

Steering clear from trends, the collection takes pride in legacies of sacred reds, plush peaches, scintillating golds while the heart of it beats on its contemporary yet glamorous silhouettes conforming with modern pursuits.

The range was expansive with his signature trails, sheer veils and layering drapes, as they are most favoured, and perfect forms of extended silhouettes in bridal outfits, long enough to be sweeping behind, while the brides walk down the aisle in unparalleled elegance. The embroidery boasts of the age-old *zardosi*, *badla*, and, of course, signature sequins on modern silhouettes.

### DAY 2: SIDDHARTHA TYTLER

Delhi-based designer Siddhartha Tytler, trained at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, made his debut at the India Couture Week with the

The ramp has shifted to the screen as the Indian Couture Week (ICW) reveals the newest of the collections. TEAM VIVA takes note of some designers who made a splash on the first three days

launch of his exquisite *Ambrosia* Couture 2022 Collection.

This inspirational collection bore the hallmark of a heady engagement with the finesse and excellent craft of a designer who continues to make waves with each new offering.

*Ambrosia*, in Greek mythology, is the 'nectar of the Gods'. The Couture 2022 collection sought its inspiration from purity, colour and ethereal significance.

Its colour palette was dominated by ivory and shades of gold while the surface ornamentation revelled in sequin, crystal splashes, beadwork and threadwork, ruffles and pleating, laser cutting and quilting.

The fabrics, for the first time, leaned towards the organic. Cotton silk *chanderis*, silk taffeta, silk organza, silk tissue and georgettes ruled this collection.

### SUNEET VARMA

Suneet led us down a path that reminded us of the exciting journey of young lovers — secret love notes, stolen glances, and the importance of celebration in life. Depicting real-life scenarios and weaving his couture collection 2021, Suneet says, "I understand the importance of finery and couture at an Indian wedding, and I also understand the needs of the modern young bride and groom —



whether the wedding is a lavish one or an intimate elopement."

The collection comprises beautiful pastels in mint, ice-blue, blush, and yellow, with tone-on-tone embroidery in delicate glass beads, crystals, and threadwork for a daytime function in ultra-feminine, soft, flowy silhouettes. Suneet stays true to his passion for creating new embroidery techniques and mixes old traditional arts with a modern eye for shapes and silhouettes. Sheer sleeves, off-shoulder necklines, and deep, scalloped backs made for a sensual yet modest young bride. The groom wore easy, pastel-coloured *sherwanis* with thread embroidery and modern hemlines.

### GAURAV GUPTA

"Love makes us travel all universes, love makes the cosmos go around, love is



all," says Gupta.

While living in the middle of a pandemic the only emotion that drives us is love. Gaurav Gupta Couture 2021/22 comprised a film presentation titled *Universal Love*, that picked up from where the previous couture show concluded.

With this couture presentation, Gupta shared that, he has strived to bring perception to the dialogue surrounding sexualities, gender fluidity, boundaries and identities because there is always a reason to keep celebrating love in all its forms,

## FASHION SCAPES

# In the spotlight

and the lustre of unique handmade embellishments, *Afterglow* pushed the boundaries of the craft with a quest to win the heart of a bride who appreciates symbolic and cultural identities, and values authenticity

Speaking about their association with FDCI's India Couture Week 2021, Pankaj & Nidhi said, "We are very excited to launch our collection, *Afterglow*, here at the India Couture Week. We have worked very hard to create each piece & look forward to seeing everyone's response. The collection incorporated our signature tech-



niques in newer silhouettes and colours."

### DOLLY J

The designer revealed that the collection, *Ah-lam*, was inspired by people who have the strength to defy a set pattern and carve their own journey. "We now have a more inclusive world where both uniqueness and diversity are celebrated. Our work has been an effort to celebrate individuality in a world which is beautifully transient," she shared.

The collection is an ombre of French blues merging into amethyst mauves, bathing in drops of gold and silver crystals. While the burnt coral ombres turn the green ash into a playful marigold gold, organza peonies and crystal corsage lend it an old world charm.

Liquid silver fabric had been special-ly woven for this collection with simple silhouettes and crystal encrusted belts. The red bridal *lehenga* with a long veil seems to be the flavour of this season.



### AMIT AGGARWAL

In the words of the designer himself, his collection, *Metanoia*, is a story of his own resurgence. "An ode to the three elements that form the centre of our existence and help nurture us, give us the freedom to mould ourselves to be authentically us and carry us forward, earth, water and air inspired the genesis of *Metanoia*," says Aggarwal.

Featuring 35 unique styles and silhouettes in colours ranging from moss, sage, forest green, roseate, azalea, lisanthus, taffy, mulberry, fuchsia to eggplant and indigo, this elaborate collection lent emotion to garments using intricate materials like glass fibre, raffia palm and optic fibre to spin architectural structures into fluid ensembles.

Innovating with technique, *Metanoia*, showcased hand painting through marbling pattern over discarded PVC and handwoven polymer. The process of hand painting was applied in gradient over tulle and silks. The collection highlighted the use of the brands signature metallic polymers which has been used for intricate pleating, 3D hand embroidered thread work and metallic cording in detailed silhouettes which are structured yet fluid, personifying hope, acceptance and new paths.

## TRENDBLAZER

### 'CHEHRE'S STORY REELED ME IN'

AMITABH BACHCHAN will be seen on the big screen after a long gap in the mystery thriller *Chehre*. He says the story of the film is what led him to accept the project.

"The story of *Chehre* has been with Rummy Jaffry since quite a while and he used to always tell me that he wanted to narrate it to me. And when I heard it, I immediately decided to be a part of this project," recalls Bachchan.

The film, scheduled to release on August 27, is produced by Anand Pandit and directed by Jaffry.

### fairtalk

YAMI GAUTAM



"You know you had an incredible experience working on a film set when the goodbye feels daunting and a little emotional. It was fantastic to work with a team that was so passionate and excited to tell a story. I am really looking forward to the next part because *Lost* is one of those films that will instantly connect and communicate with the audience."

### dailytalk

EMRAAN HASHMI



"You can't take things for granted. We never really thought that we would be in a scenario like this where the pandemic has shaken up not just the country but the entire world. We should take each day at a time, be there for each other and support each other in whatever capacity we can because everyone is dealing with this in some way or the other."

### 'DELIGHTED TO WORK WITH LISA'

Hollywood actors HUGH JACKMAN and Rebecca Ferguson have talked about working with filmmaker Lisa Joy in the forthcoming film *Reminiscence*.

Jackman says, "When I met with Lisa, she had shown me some of the visuals and I understood what the movie was about in general, but I hadn't seen the script. And I was excited about the character and really excited about her as a writer-director."



# POWERGRID's ED gets CIGRE's Technical Council award

CIGRE, the International Council of Large Electric Systems, is a global non-profit organisation founded 100 years ago in France. It is a global community of power system professionals who voluntarily collaborate to share their knowledge and experience for the greater good of the electric energy industry. The present network of CIGRE comprises 60 national committees across more than 90 countries, with over 15,000 members and 1,250 member organisations who contribute technically to 16 study committees, with over 250 working groups. Technical Council award is one of CIGRE's prestigious awards granted to a few members as a reward for their active participation in the activities of the technical work of the study committees.



Anish Anand, executive director of POWERGRID, is a prominent transmission line expert who has more than 35 years of professional experience and has been associated with CIGRE activities for many years. He is presently the chairman of CIGRE's national committee B-2 on overhead lines and a member of CIGRE study committee B2 and its SAG, CAG & TAG (Strategic, Customer and Technical Advisory Groups). Previously, he had been the chairman of CIGRE's national committee C3 on system environmental performance and member

CIGRE study committee C-3. For his active participation and contributions over the years in CIGRE activities, Anand has been awarded the Technical Council award during the inaugural ceremony broadcast of CIGRE's Centennial Session held through virtual mode on August 20. Anand is the third professional from India who has been considered for this coveted award by CIGRE since they were introduced in 1993. Previously, the CIGRE's Technical Council awards were bestowed on the Indian power system expert Mata Prasad (NTPC) in 1998 and S Palki Bajjuji (ABB) in year 2005.

Anand has assumed various responsibilities and positions in POWERGRID over the years. He carried out the transmission line project engineering, of more than 100 transmission projects of voltage levels from 66 kV to 1,200kV in various types of terrains including high altitude snow-bound mountainous terrains and also looked after construction and O&M of 765 kV and 400 kV transmission lines and substations in the Western region. Besides project engineering & execution, he was involved in research and development, in-house software development, in-house tower & foundation

design developments, environmental impact/line interference studies, uprating/upgrading studies, transmission line ROW conservation measures, failure investigations, O&M improvements, vendor development, 'Make In India' initiatives and various international consultancy assignments. He had been associated with design optimisation and engineering of India's first 765 kV line, high capacity 500 kV HVDC line, 400 kV high SIL line, 765 kV double circuit lines, 800 kV UHVDC lines and 1,200 kV line as well as introduction of new technologies in the country viz OPGW,

HTLS conductors, composite insulators, modern survey techniques using satellite imageries, emergency restoration systems, narrow base/pole structure towers.

Anand is also involved in standardisation activities at the national and international levels. He is co-convenor of the working group of IEC Technical Committee 122 for the formulation of new IEC Specification on Design of UHV Transmission System and Chairman of Technical Committee ETD 37 of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), responsible for updating of various existing National Standards/Codes and formulation of new standards for transmission line design & construction, conductors, associated fittings and accessories.

Over the years, Anand has contributed to more than 40 technical papers as main/co-author for presentation in national and international conferences/seminars organised by different agencies (viz CIGRE-France, CIGRE-India, CBIP, GRIDTECH, CEA, CII, ELECRAMA, IEEMA, Afro-Asian Forum, Power-India, Map-India et al). For his excellent contributions, he was also conferred with CIGRE-India's Special Recognition Award-2019 during CIGRE's International Colloquium in India in November 2019.

# ITPO's discount to startups on rentals

India International Security Expo (IISE) 2021 provides complete man-tech solutions

Highlighting 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign of the Government, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has extended its support to startups in terms of providing 50 per cent rental discount to startups in the 21st edition of India's International Security Expo (7-9 October, 2021) in Hall 5 (GF), IECC Complex at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. These startups should be notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Facilitating transfer of technology, joint ventures, and system integration, IISE 2021 is being organised, as per preventive measures to contain the spread of the pandemic with the support of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, while the co-organisers are CISF and BPR&D. Significantly, this is the only security expo in the South-Asian region which enjoys the support of all SPF, NDMA, CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, Delhi Police, SPG, DFS, etc. The Expo will cover almost all aspects of security and safety as these are vital components to protect and promote the core values of democracy, secularism, freedom and unity as enshrined in our constitution. The event also showcases the new initiatives of the industry to promote manufacturing of security equipment and gadgets under the 'Make In India' campaign. Featuring a wide range of the latest products, services and innovations of homeland security, cross-spectrum technology based security capabilities, the event highlights fresh avenues for development of cyber security and skilled task force.

The concurrent seminars, delegation visits from within the country and overseas and on-the-spot demonstrations on concerns around women safety, 'Selfie-Points' and dog shows will be among the added attractions.

IISE 2021 focuses on a new range of gadgets and systems in the field of surveillance, explosive detection and disposal, fire fighting, access control, radio communications, training equipment and home and automotive security sectors. Over 100 leading companies are displaying a wide range of products on homeland security, fire safety, traffic management, industrial safety, Disaster Management and Information Security. These include: access control systems, perimeter protection devices, CCTV surveillance equipments and system, explosive detection & disposal equipment, disaster management & NBCW protection equipment, equipment for bank and hospital security, equipment for Forensic Science laboratories, fire alarm and fire fighting equipment, equipment for counter terrorism, insurgency, anti-naxalism and security enforcement agencies, crowd control gadgets/anti-riot drill equipment, rescue and relief equipment, vehicle and personal GPS System, electronic gates/flap barriers, bomb suits/ bomb blanket, night vision devices, indoor/outdoor shooting ranges, drone technologies, cyber security, health security, software & solutions, baggage screening system, integrated critical infrastructure protection and jammer/cell phone monitoring system, etc.

As per previous practice, ITPO will extend invitations to all the stakeholders of the industry. These include the home ministers, secretaries and senior representatives from the state governments and law enforcement agencies to visit the fair. Apart from a large number of security professionals, the fair will be visited by the senior representatives from paramilitary forces, state police forces, security agencies, embassies, MNCs, banks, PSUs and Residents Welfare Association.

# SRM Hospital opens three centres of excellence on Founder's Day

SRM Medical College Hospital Sand Research Centre (SRM MCH&RC), Kattankulathur, today launched its new layout for the occasion of its Founder's Day. The event held at the hospital premises was presided over by SRM Group of Institutions' founder-chancellor Dr T R Paariyandhar, MP. Apart from launching the website, three centres of excellence were inaugurated by SRMIST's pro-chancellor (in Academics) Dr P Sathyanarayanan.

Dealing with patient vertigo and complex headaches. The third centre of excellence is the clinical trial research unit. SRM hospital was selected by ICMR for the conduct of Covaxin clinical trial. It is the only hospital in Tamil Nadu to have achieved this distinction. All three phases of the trial were conducted here and the new centre has been constructed and that was inaugurated on August 24, 2021.



Present for the occasion were members of the Buddhists Tzu Chi Foundation, Tzu Chi University, SRMIST's vice-chancellor Dr C Muthamizhchelvan, pro-VC (Medical & Health Sciences) Lt Col Dr A Ravi Kumar, registrar Dr S Ponnusamy, dean (Medical) Dr A Sundaram and medical superintendent Dr K Thangaraj.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr T R Paariyandhar said, "This institution should excel among all others in India. Our aim should be to provide maximum free service for patients. This

The three centres of excellence are: division of cleft lip palate and crania facial anomalies in the department of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery. This is partnered with 'SMILE TRAIN', a US-based charity organisation for the treatment of cleft lip palate defects in children free of cost; the department of ENT & T has started a new division of neurology and vestibular laboratory. This is jointly operated by ENT, neurology, audiology, vestibular therapy, and phys-

ical medicine rehabilitation. "This is an important milestone in the history of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre. SRM has always been known for imparting education and all that is related to it," expressed Dr Sathyanarayanan. He urged doctors to take up more research so that they can treat patients better. "Our motto should be 'Corporate level of healthcare for poor patients'. All patients will be treated with due respect and be guided with whatever doubts they have."

hospital has made a big change under the leadership of its Pro-chancellor (Academics) Dr P Sathyanarayanan. Under me it was only a medical college, now it has grown to become a state-of-the-art hospital. "This is an important milestone in the history of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre. SRM has always been known for imparting education and all that is related to it," expressed Dr Sathyanarayanan. He urged doctors to take up more research so that they can treat patients better. "Our motto should be 'Corporate level of healthcare for poor patients'. All patients will be treated with due respect and be guided with whatever doubts they have."

Praising the good relationship between Tzu Chi University and SRM he mentioned, "This is only the beginning of a good relationship between SRM and Taiwan University. We would like to re-

procure it in some other way." SRM MCH&RC is a tertiary care teaching hospital attached to SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST). The hospital has been existing since 2005. In 2011, post-graduate courses in all specialties in medicare were started. At present, the hospital has a bed strength of 1,590 in various specialties. It is located in the university campus and meets all the regulations of the National Accreditation Board for hospitals and healthcare providers. It comprises 351 doctors including specialties, and 574 nurses in the paramedical administrative staff. There are 45 departments in broad and super specialties. On average, 1,500-1,600 patients attend in the OP.

This hospital was at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19 pandemic and 3,111 patients were treated from April 2020 till date. About 13,165 OP patients were screened during this period. The hospital has specialties to conduct through telemedicine centres. Although this is the largest hospital located on the national highway NH 45 in the outskirts of Chennai, it is located well inside the institute's premises.

Dr Sathyanarayanan continued, "During the second wave of COVID-19, patients in the hospital were fully sketched and shortage of oxygen made matters worse. At that time, a large consignment of 162 oxygen concentrators was donated by Tzu Chi University and the charity foundation from Taiwan. The next lot of five ventilators are being delivered shortly (total cost ₹1.75 crore). This great deed of compassion and donation that we received is being recorded publicly by SRMIST Chancellor who offered his thanks to Tzu Chi University for their generosity. The global donations by Tzu Chi University was webcast to the audience during the programme."

The event ended with the celebration of the birthday of Dr Paariyandhar and the symbolic cake cutting ceremony.

# Update of DDA Housing Scheme's draw

DDA successfully conducted a draw of waitlisted applicants for the DDA Housing

Scheme 2021 yesterday. 689 flats were included in the draw and a total of 130 waitlisted applicants,

who had submitted the registration money, were also considered for the draw. Out of which, 79 applicants successfully got their preference, as filled in the application form.

# Workshops organised for tourism stakeholders to improve the hospitality sector in Jammu



The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with Food and Craft Institute, Nagrota, organised a workshop for tourism stakeholders to raise the standards of the hospitality industry in preparation for the forthcoming tourist season and reactivation of the tourism sector over the next few months.

The workshop was inaugurated by Jyoti Bhatti, principal of FCI, Nagrota. While speaking at the opening of the workshop he said that "the participants are local staff of hotels and the workshop will benefit the attendees as they will acquire new knowledge and skills".



Speaking on the occasion Natasha Kalsotra, Joint Director of Tourism, Jammu, expressed, "the workshop is important as it will shape and optimise the Hospitality chain in the tourism sector. The workshop will train the participants in a range of skills to enhance their flexibility, adaptability and readiness to serve across a multitude of functions enabling them to react positively."

Despite unprecedented challenges, the tourism sector has to focus on multiple fronts, be it digitisation, sanitation, health, customer service and more. These workshops not only provide adaptability but also hold the key to increase profitability and success for this industry as it strives to offer guests highly personalised travel experiences that fulfill their ever-changing needs and expectations.



Amar Jyoti Raina, Deputy Director of

Tourism, Jammu, while addressing media commented, "as the industry strives to emerge from the pandemic, stronger and more resilient than ever, these workshops are facilitators for real and genuine transformation which is the need of the hour." The workshop was attended by 30 participants from various hotels of Jammu. It was designed around the key themes 'Behavioral etiquettes, innovation and future'. It also had a special session on COVID-19 sensitisation. The resource persons included Rajinder Singh, faculty of FCI, Sh Gagan Deep, faculty of FCI, etc.

At the conclusion, certificates were distributed to the participants.

# Argentine ambassador meets Rajasthan CM

The ambassador of Argentina to India, Hugo Xavier Gobi, called on the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, at his residence on August 24, 2021.

Discussion on the possibilities of investment in sectors like agriculture, industry, mining

During the meeting, the Chief Minister discussed the possibilities of cooperation between Rajasthan and Argentina. He told the Gobi that the State Government has taken several policy decisions in the last two and a half years for the convenience of the investors. To increase investment in the state, many important policies and programmes like Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS-2019), MSME Act-2019, Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy-2019, Solar and Wind Policy, One Stop Shop system have been implemented. These policy reforms have created a very positive environment for entrepreneurship and investment in Rajasthan.



possibilities of investment in sectors like agriculture, industry, tourism and mining. He said Argentine companies are keen to invest in areas such as medical and health, information technology, lithium and silver explo-

ration in mining and battery manufacturing for electric vehicles. In the meeting, the officials were informed about the investment possibilities available in the state in the areas of tourism, agro-processing, agricultural marketing, contract farming, animal husbandry etc. Apart from this, information was provided regarding the increase in production of fruits like olives, dates, guava in the state.

Also present on the occasion were Mariano Behran, Agriculture Attache from the Embassy of Argentina, and Denis Pregaica Bojic, Head of the Department of Commerce.

# New agreement

PFC, in a pact with NHPC, to lend funds for the development of hydro projects



Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NHPC Ltd to lend funds for the development of hydro projects by NHPC. PFC will also provide financial assistance for the acquisition of stressed projects.

NHPC, a schedule-A miniratna category-I CPSE, is engaged in the development of hydropower in India and has also diversified into solar & wind power. NHPC also provides consultancy services to hydropower and renewable energy projects.

Subir Saha, executive director of projects like SR, ER &NER, CSP&C, signed the MoU on behalf of PFC while V K Maini, ED

(Strategy, BD & Consultancy) signed on behalf of NHPC Ltd on August 24, 2021. The MoU was signed in the presence of P K Singh, director (commercial) & additional charge (projects), PFC, R R Jha, (ED-in-charge projects), Manoj Sharma, ED (L&D), Praveen Verma, SGM (L&D) and Nitin Kumar, GM (Central Sector Unit), PFC. The signing of the MoU will further bolster the long-standing association between PFC and NHPC and will herald a transformational opportunity between the two organisations. The association will also serve to facilitate knowledge and technology transfer, contributing to sustainable development initiatives in the country.

India is a potential habitat for successful aquaculture with its rich natural resources. Based on the geographical availability of water resources and habitats here, aquaculture farming is broadly divided as inland or freshwater fishing, and marine or coastal aquaculture. In India, the inland sector is a major contributor to aquaculture. As one of the rapidly growing food sectors, aquaculture or fish farming majorly contributes to meet the daily nutritional and food demands and maintains a healthy livelihood. However, the current practices in fish farming involve the use of chemicals, hormones, antibiotics and artificial feed which leads to environmental degradation, pollution, and cause a negative impact on

# FISHY WAY TO HEALTH

DR AMOL HIVRALE discusses the benefits of organic aquaculture



human health. Thus, it is necessary to maintain safety, quality and quantity of aqua food to meet the increasing food demand.

Antibiotics such as tetracycline, furazolidone, aureomycin, along with pigments, are commonly added to the conventional artificial feed. Nonetheless, one of the major concerns of the addition of these artificial chemicals to the fish farms is the development of antibiotic resistance against bacterial pathogens within the fish species and the possibility of transmittance of this resistance to humans after consuming them. Therapeutic agents like formalin, malachite green, dipterex and copper sulphate are being used as a treatment for diseases. Various nutritional constituents are considered crucial for optimum reproduction,

health and growth of fish species and are grouped into micronutrients (mineral and vitamins) and macronutrients (protein, lipid and carbohydrate). Proteins are helpful in fish diets, required in adequate amounts for holistic growth of the fish. Lipids essentially serve as fatty acid sources and play vital roles as transporters of soluble fats. Vitamins are required in minimal amounts for the normal growth and maintenance of cells and organs. Minerals are often referred to as ultra-trace elements and are required for proper metabolism in fishes.

Organic aquaculture essentially deploys production management systems. These promote environmental and ecologically sound practices, maintenance of ecosystems, soil, biological activities and biocycles by preventing harmful practices.

Organic practices also augment soil fertility, better quality of yield and eco-friendly products. The use of organic products in aquaculture ensures that we produce healthy, disease-free fish. Organic products also help in benefiting the ecosystem, soil fertility and biological activities to improve the quality of yield and provide better quality food.

Undoubtedly, the future of aquaculture lies in the innovative, organic and sustainable fish farming, nutrient-rich and clean feed for the fishes, clean and oxygen-rich ponds, fair profits to the aquaculturists and healthy fish food to the consumers.

(The author has a PhD in Biotechnology, and is the senior manager of Biofit Aquaculture's R&D wing.)

# INDIA ALL OUT FOR 78

PTI ■ LEEDS

James Anderson's artistic morning spell in an inspired English bowling performance blew away India for an inexplicable 78 as the hosts took complete control by stumps with a dominant batting show on the first day of the third Test at Headingley on Wednesday.

If England pacers got their bearings right after the fifth day brain fade at the Lord's, India's famous batting unit's technique against swing bowling was laid bare by Anderson and his band which skittled them in little over 40 overs.

Then it was turn for local boy Haseeb Hameed (60 batting, 130 balls) and Rory Burns (52 batting, 125 balls) to get back to form ending the day at 120 for no loss with batting getting much easier as the day progressed. They now lead by 42 runs.

Skipper Virat Kohli won a rare toss and despite the overcast conditions decided to bat first which in the end turned out to be a not so great decision as Anderson's injured new ball partner Stuart Broad tweeted about how the Headingley track has behaved over the years.

Anderson (8-5-6-3) then did what he does best — messed with the



James Anderson celebrates after he dismissed Virat Kohli during India's first innings on Wednesday at Headingley in Leeds. ©englandcricket

3rd Test, Day 2  
Live from 3:30pm IST  
SONY SIX NETWORK

### INDIA'S LOWEST TOTALS IN TESTS (VS ENGLAND)

Score	Overs	Venue	Season
42	17.0	Lord's	1974
58	21.4	Manchester	1952 (first innings)
78	40.4	Leeds	2021
82	36.3	Manchester	1952 (2nd innings)
83	38.5	Chennai	1976-77

### MOST DISMISSALS FOR KOHLI AGAINST A BOWLER IN TESTS

Bowler	Dismissals	Matches
James Anderson (ENG)	7 times	23
Nathan Lyon (AUS)	7 times	18
Stuart Broad (ENG)	5 times	18
Moeen Ali (ENG)	5 times	15
Ben Stokes (ENG)	5 times	15
Pat Cummins (AUS)	5 times	6

Faisal Features

minds of the top-order batsmen in a sharp eight-over morning spell getting three wickets and then passing on the baton to the younger lot which didn't disappoint him.

Craig Overton (3/14 in 10.3 overs), Ollie Robinson (2/16 in 10 overs) and Sam Curran (2/27 in 10 overs) then tightened the noose with even Rohit Sharma (19 off 105 balls) finding it difficult to get a move on even after playing 100 balls.

Ajinkya Rahane scored 18 but had it not been for 16 extra runs, the embarrassment would have been more like the Adelaide Test match.

It was a shoddy performance as the pitch although termed 'tacky' by England skipper Joe Root didn't have any exaggerated off-the-pitch movement that could have troubled the batsmen.

It was just that Anderson turned his stock ball (outswinger) into a shock ball during that dream spell

which left Indians gasping for breath.

The credit goes to the English bowlers who extracted every bit of juice that was available during the 40.4 overs. India lost their last six wickets for 22 runs and this time, the Indian tail had no pleasant surprises in their kitty. This had more to do with sensible bowling from England pacers, who bowled fuller length to bowl out India for their second lowest first day score in last 34 years.

The batting performance certainly increased pressure on the bowlers and it didn't help that veteran Ishant Sharma looked completely out of sorts as Kohli gave him the new ball. He ran in gingerly and there was no sting in his bowling helping Hameed and Burns to settle down quickly. Once the sun started beating down and made batting easier, they played some lovely shots square off the wicket, helping themselves with half-centuries.

## shortpasses

**BENFICA, MALMO IN CL**  
**EINDHOVEN:** Two-time winners Benfica reached the Champions League group stage after holding on for a goalless draw in Tuesday's second-leg at Eindhoven, despite playing the final hour with 10-men. Elsewhere, Swiss champions Young Boys and Swedish side Malmo also progress.

**PALACE SUFFER CUP EXIT**  
**LONDON:** Patrick Vieira's winless start as Crystal Palace manager extended to three games as the Eagles suffered a 1-0 defeat at Watford in the League Cup on Tuesday.

**CHIEVO VERONA GO BUST**  
**VERONA:** Chievo Verona, who spent 17 seasons in Serie A, were wound up after failing to find an investor to resolve their financial problems, the local authorities announced on Tuesday.

**MOHAMMEDAN VS IAF IN OPENER**  
**KOLKATA:** Mohammedan SC will take on Indian Air Force in the opening match of 130th edition of Durand Cup, Asia's oldest football tournament, scheduled to be held here from September 5 to October 3.

**BHAVINABEN & SONALBEN LOSE**  
**TOKYO:** Indian paddlers Bhavinaben Patel and Sonalben Manubhai Patel began their campaigns with opening round defeats in their respective events at the Tokyo Paralympics, here on Wednesday.

**NKWE RESIGNS BEFORE SL TOUR**  
**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa left for Sri Lanka on Wednesday without assistant coach Enoch Nkwe, who resigned after apparent disagreements with under-pressure head coach Mark Boucher.

**THREE INDIANS IN FINALS**  
**NEW DELHI:** Three Indian boxers — Rohit Chamoli (48kg), Bharat Joon (+81kg) and Muskan (46kg) advanced to the finals of the Asian junior c'ships after notching up victories in their last-four stage clashes.

**INDIA HANDED TOUGH DRAW**  
**NEW DELHI:** India have been drawn with top seeds and defending champions China, Thailand and hosts Finland for the upcoming Sudirman Cup tourney, making it a tough Group A for the side to negotiate.

**CUNHA JOINS ATLETICO**  
**MADRID:** Atletico Madrid have signed Brazil striker Matheus Cunha on a five-year-deal from Hertha Berlin. The transfer fee is reportedly around 30 million euros.

**MURRAY OUT IN 2ND ROUND**  
**WINTER-SALEM:** Andy Murray was ousted from the ATP Winston-Salem event, falling to American Frances Tiafoe 6-7 (4/7), 3-6 in a second-round match. Agencies

## Kohli is passionate about winning: Jamieson

**Auckland:** Virat Kohli is intense and aggressive on the field but off it he is nice and welcoming, according to his Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson.

The lanky pacer said the Indian skipper is extremely passionate about winning.

"He is a lovely guy. I have played against him a couple of times and obviously, he is quite intense and quite fierce in the field. But off the park, he is so nice and welcoming,"



Jamieson said on Baz and Izzy Breakfast show podcast on SENZ radio. "He just loves to win as

well. He could be at it on the field and stuff, but he is just passionate about being there, about winning," he added.

The 26-year-old Jamieson was bought by RCB for a whopping 15 crore at the auction after making a huge impression in the international arena.

Jamieson said he is fortunate to be playing in a tournament like the IPL, adding that he missed out on the experience of travelling across India due to the lock-

down.

"It's good to see how different guys work. We have got some good overseas players in our group. Pretty fortunate to be involved in a tournament like that."

"India was under lockdown when I was there. So we were pretty much in bubbles. I kind of missed out on that experience which is a shame. Hopefully, once this thing gets down, I can get back there and get a taste of what it's really like." PTI

## India W Oz schedule could be altered

**PTI ■ SYDNEY**

The Indian women cricket team's schedule for the upcoming tour of Australia could be altered due to the border restriction and Covid-19 lockdowns in Sydney and Melbourne, according to a media report.

India and Australia are set to battle it out across all three formats from next month.

The schedule includes three One-Day Internationals, as many T20 Internationals and a historic Day-Night Test

match at the WACA Ground.

The series is slated to begin with the first ODI in Sydney on September 19, before moving to Melbourne and Perth.

"But the ongoing Covid-19 lockdowns in Sydney and Melbourne as well as state border closures make that unlikely," cricket.com.au reported.

"Cricket Australia is currently speaking with government authorities about how, where and when the seven games can be played.

"...An announcement

expected shortly regarding changes to the seven-match schedule," the report added.

The Indian team is slated to leave for Australia on Sunday.

All international arrivals have to undergo a two-week quarantine, according to the Covid-19 protocols in Australia.

Australian players from New South Wales and Victoria would also need to quarantine before the series if the matches are scheduled for another state.

## Afridi stars as Pak level series

**AFP ■ KINGSTON**

Shaheen Shah Afridi completed a ten-wicket match haul to bowl Pakistan to a series-levelling 109-run victory over the West Indies in the final session of the second and final Test at Sabina Park on Tuesday.

Frustrated by the loss of an entire day's play and another session to rain and a sodden outfield over the weekend, Shaheen kept Pakistan's hopes alive with a devastating first innings effort of six for 51 on day four — his best Test innings performance — and returned on the final day to strike critical blows.

Then, when it seemed the weather would ruin their desperate push for victory, he came back for a final spell with the second new ball to take the last two wickets and give his team a tremendous triumph with one hour to spare.

Starting the day at 49 for one and facing the unlikely target of 329, the West Indies were again let down by their top-order batting, sliding to 113 for six in mid-afternoon despite a battling 39 from captain Kraigg Brathwaite.



Former skipper Jason Holder eventually topscored with 47 but it was his demise to Nauman Ali, the left-arm spinner's third wicket, which eased a rising sense of panic in the Pakistan camp. Then Afridi, new ball in hand and with eight wickets down, trapped Kemar Roach leg-before.

Afridi then induced a mistimed drive from Joshua da Silva for Faheem Ashraf to take the catch at mid-on and dismiss the West Indies for 219 and seal yet another come-from-behind effort for Pakistan in the Caribbean.

As in 2005 and 2011, Pakistan, this time led by

**Covid positive Misbah will quarantine in WI**

**Kingston:** Pakistan head coach Misbah-ul-Haq has tested positive for Covid-19 and will stay here in quarantine for the next 10 days even as the rest of the squad flies out to Lahore after completing a Test and T20 series. Misbah was the only Pakistan squad member who failed two pre-departure PCR tests. PTI

Babar Azam, lost the first Test but rebounded to take the second and share the honours with the hosts.

## Shamsi joins RR

**New Delhi:** Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday roped in South Africa's left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi for the remainder of IPL scheduled to be held in the UAE from September 19.

Shamsi, the world No 1 ranked T20I bowler in ICC rankings, will be joining the Royals squad as their second replacement player.

The 31-year-old from Johannesburg has picked up 45 wickets in 39 T20Is since making his international debut for South Africa against England in 2017.

In the IPL, Shamsi has played 4 matches in which he picked up 3 wickets for Royals Challengers Bangalore in the 2016 season.

Meanwhile, Australian pacer Andrew Tye, who had left for home amid the Covid-19 pandemic during the first phase of the IPL, said he won't be available for the remainder of the season.



season. The uncapped left-arm quick has featured in 38 T20 matches and has taken 44 wickets with a bowling average of 20.06. As a batsman, Garton has a batting average of 20.77 in T20s, with a strike rate of 124.66. PTI

## Injured Serena withdraws from US Open

**AFP ■ NEW YORK**

Serena Williams has pulled out of next week's US Open because of a hamstring injury, the 23-time Grand Slam winner announced on her Instagram page on Wednesday.

"After careful consideration and following the advice of my doctors and medical team, I have decided to withdraw from the US Open to allow my body to heal completely from a torn hamstring," wrote the 39-year-old American.

Williams, who has not played since a tearful first round exit at Wimbledon when she hobbled off court during the first set against Aliaksandra Sasnovich, is a six-time winner in New York. She won her first Major at the 1999 US Open as a teenager, the first step on her path to a domination of the women's game.

Williams, whose ranking has now slipped to 22, last missed the US Open in 2017 because of the birth of her daughter.

She reached the final in



2018 and 2019, losing both.

"New York is one of the most exciting cities in the world and one of my favorite places to play - I'll miss seeing the fans but will be cheering everyone on from afar. Thank you for your continued support and love. I'll see you soon," she wrote on social media.

**Nagal, Ramkumar, Ankita bite dust in US Open qualifiers**

**New York:** Indian tennis players' struggle at the Grand Slam events continued as both Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan lost their respective first round singles matches to make an exit from the US Open qualifiers.

Nagal lost 5-7, 6-4, 3-6 to Argentina's Juan Pablo Ficovich in two hours and 22 minutes on Tuesday night.

Ramkumar frittered away a one-set advantage to lose 6-4, 6-7(1), 4-6 to Russia's Evgeny Donskoy in two hours and 35 minutes in his opening round.

It was Ramkumar's 21st attempt to qualify for the singles main draw of a Grand Slam since 2014.

Prajnesh Gunneswaran is the only Indian left in the men's singles qualifiers. The left-hander is up against Canadian Brayden Schnur.

Ankita Raina has also exited after losing her first round in women's singles qualifiers to American Jamie Loeb. PTI

## East Bengal to remain in ISL

**Kolkata:** West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday brokered peace between the warring East Bengal and their investors Shree Cement Limited and announced that the red-and-gold outfit would play in the upcoming Indian Super League, ending months of uncertainty.

"Khela hobe. I'm very happy today," Banerjee announced at the state secretariat Nabanna. "All is well that ends well. They had some uncertainties till now whether they would be able to play in ISL but now East Bengal's problem is solved. Shree Cement has accepted my request with East Bengal and have accepted all my proposals."

Banerjee once again played a key role, about a year after she had roped in the Rajasthan-based investors to acquire a 76 per cent stake that had paved the century-old club's last minute entry to ISL last season. PTI

## PSG won't stop Mbappe 'if he wants to go'

**AFP ■ PARIS**

Paris Saint-Germain have rejected a 160 million-euro (\$188m) offer from Real Madrid for Kylian Mbappe but the French club's sporting director Leonardo on Wednesday admitted that they will not be able to keep the World Cup winner "if he wants to leave".

"Our position has always been the same, to keep Kylian and extend his contract," Leonardo told media as he discussed the future of Mbappe, whose current contract expires at the end of this season.

It emerged on Tuesday that Real had made a bid for Mbappe, a player they have courted ever

since he was a young boy.

The offer has been knocked back by PSG, who say it is "not enough" for someone who arrived from Monaco in 2017 in a 180 million-euro deal.

Real, though, are laying the ground to bring in Mbappe now, even though he will be able to sign as a free agent next summer if he does not extend his contract in Paris. "If a player wants to leave, he will leave. The club, the project is bigger than any one person," said Leonardo, as he slammed the Spanish giants for being "disrespectful" in their approach of the 22-year-old.

The offer comes with just six days to go

## Kane will stay at Spurs

**London:** Harry Kane on Wednesday announced that he will remain at Tottenham this season, ending speculation over his future with Man City.

Kane had made clear his desire to leave his boyhood club in the quest to end his wait for the first trophy of his career.

However, the 28-year-old was warmly welcomed back by the Spurs supporters as he made his first appearance of the season as a substitute in a 1-0

win at Wolves last weekend.

"It was incredible to see the reception from the Spurs fans on Sunday and to read some of the messages of support I've had in the last few weeks," he posted on Twitter.

"I will be staying at Tottenham this summer and will be 100% focused on helping the team achieve success."

Kane is Tottenham's second top goalscorer in history with 221.

AFP

him," insisted Leonardo.

However, he admitted it "seems clear" that Mbappe wants to go and said the player had "always promised that he would not go for free".

Those comments suggest Mbappe is therefore likely to leave this month, at least as long as Real come back with an improved offer.

## Sathiyam wins ITTF Czech Open

**PTI ■ OLOMOUC**

Star Indian table tennis player Sathiyam Gnanasekaran on Wednesday notched up a dominating 4-0 win over Yevhen Pryshchepa of Ukraine in the summit clash to claim the men's singles title at the ITTF Czech International Open.

The top seeded Indian, ranked 39 in the world, beat Yevhen 11-0, 11-6, 11-6, 14-12 in the final.

Earlier, Sathiyam had advanced to the final after his Swedish opponent Truls Moregardh retired hurt midway through the semifinal.

The top seeded Indian had won the first two games without breaking a sweat 11-4, 11-8 and was leading the third 8-2 when Moregardh opted against continuing the competition, citing an injury in the semifinal clash.

## Olympic Silver medallist Ravi Dahiya to miss World C'ship

**New Delhi:** Olympic Silver medallist Ravi Dahiya says he has decided to give the upcoming wrestling World Championship a miss since he did not get time to prepare for the selection trials that WFI is organising next week to pick the Indian team for the prestigious tournament.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will conduct trials on Tuesday for the Worlds, set to be held in Oslo, Norway from October 2-10.

Dahiya and other Tokyo Games medal winners have been hopping from one state to another for the numerous felicitation functions being organised in their

honour.

"I don't want to be on the mat unprepared. What's the point in competing without enough practice. So I have to miss the World Championship because I don't want to go to the trials without enough practice," the soft-spoken Dahiya said.

Dahiya will be the second big star missing from the Indian line-up as Tokyo Olympics Bronze medallist Bajrang Punia has also been forced out due to a ligament tear in his right knee. "I will try to compete in one or two tournaments before the season ends after I begin serious training from next month," he said. PTI

