

OPINION 6
CAN'T EXPECT THE
TALIBAN TO CHANGE**MONEY 9**
RUPEE PLUNGES 37 PAISE TO
END AT MONTH'S LOW**SPORT 12**
SHREYAS IYER 16TH INDIAN TO
SLAM 100 ON TEST DEBUT

DEHRADUN, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Established 1864

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol.15 Issue 324
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10 VIVACITY

Modi attacks dynastic politics

PM calls it threat to democracy, slams Opp for boycotting Constitution Day event at Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday once again unleashed a scathing attack on dynastic politics and said the "biggest threat" to the functioning of a healthy democracy is when a party is run by the same family generation after generation and the entire system of the party is controlled by it.

Without naming anyone, Modi at a Constitution Day event in the Central Hall of Parliament hit out at family-based parties, describing them as "party for the family, party by the family" and added, "I don't think I need to say anything more".

The event was skipped by 15 Opposition parties, on the call by the Congress, which have been alleging that the Government is "undermining Parliamentary democracy".

Besides the constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, the YSR Congress, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Telugu Desam Party attended the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a function to commemorate the 'Samvidhan Divas' at Parliament in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

event. Addressing the gathering, Modi said, "This event was not that of any Government, or of any political party, or of any Prime Minister. The Speaker is the pride of the House. It is a dignified post. It is a matter of Babasaheb Ambedkar's dignity, the dignity of the Constitution."

In an apparent reference to the Congress and some other Opposition parties, Modi said that in the form of family-based parties from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is heading towards a kind of a crisis, which is a matter of concern for the people devoted to the Constitution and those who believe in democracy.

He said that more than one person from a family joining a party on the basis of merit and people's blessings does not make a party dynastic, "but a party run by one family gen-

eration after generation and the family controlling the entire system of the party is the biggest threat to a healthy democracy".

Opp: Constitution being undermined by BJP Govt

Boycott against Govt's 'authoritarian' functioning: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and several Opposition parties on Friday boycotted the Constitution Day event in the Central Hall of Parliament to convey that Constitution is being undermined during the current BJP regime. Besides

the Congress, several other parties, including the Left, TMC, NCP, DMK, Shiv Sena, IUML, RSP, and the RJD, skipped the event.

On the issue of not participating in the event of Constitution Day, Congress Rajya Sabha member Anand Sharma said the protest was against the "authoritarian" functioning of the BJP Government as laws are enacted bypassing Parliamentary scrutiny and Parliamentary democracy is

insulted. "Our protest today is based on fundamental principles. We have protested to remind the country that the Constitution is not being respected, the Constitution is being undermined, Parliamentary democracy is being undermined and insulted with enactment of laws bypassing scrutiny which is creating enormous problems because each law enacted by Parliament impacts masses", Sharma said at AICC Press conference.

Protect judicial institutions from attack: CJ

Stand up for what is right, oppose wrong, Ramana tells lawyers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana on Friday asked lawyers to assist judges and protect the judicial institution from "motivated and targeted attacks" besides lending a helping hand to those in need



for becoming worthy of the confidence reposed in them by the citizens.

"I want to tell all of you, that you must assist judges and

the institution. We are all ultimately part of one large family. Protect the institution from motivated and targeted attacks. Do not shy away from standing up for what is right, and against what is wrong," said the CJI, who was speaking at the Constitution Day celebration organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in the apex court's lawns here.

The SCBA's two-day event started on Friday to celebrate Constitution Day, also known

as National Law Day. On the same day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted the Constitution which came into effect on January 26, 1950.

Justice Ramana stressed the importance of "debate and discussion" and said that the Constitution is richer and a more complex document in comparison to when it was adopted because of the dialogue which took place inside and outside the courtroom.

India raises terrorism, drug trafficking in Af

Supports inclusive Govt, concerned about Af people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the developments in Afghanistan, India on Friday said it supported an inclusive and representative Government there and urged countries in the region to coordinate respective approaches to terrorism, radicalisation and drug trafficking.

Making this point here at the 18th meeting of the Russia, India, China (RICS) trilateral dialogue at the External Ministers' level, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said as a contiguous neighbour and long-standing partner of Afghanistan, India is concerned about the suffering of the Afghan people.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar digitally chairs the 18th Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting

PTI

Participating in the meeting in the virtual format along with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and Russian Minister Sergey Lavrov, he also said India supports other provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2593. India has offered a supply of 50,000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan to address the drought situation and said the RIC coun-

tries need to work together to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches the Afghan people without hindrance and without politicisation, Jaishankar said. In his opening remarks, he said the agenda of the RIC meeting include the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, Reforms of the Multilateral System and International Hot-spot Issues.

Farmers assemble at Delhi borders to mark 1 yr of protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the completion of one year on November 26 of the farmers' agitation against the three farm laws, the farmer groups on Friday assembled in a large number at Delhi borders — Singhu, Tikri, Ghazipur and Shahjahanpur — to show support for the protesters on the first anniversary of the beginning of the farm agitation.

Farmers flaunting colourful turbans, sunshades, long beards and twirling moustaches danced on tractors, distributed sweets and hugged each other to mark the occasion that seemed like a festival and vowed to continue their agitation to fulfil other six demands, including legal guarantee of minimum support price, compensation to those who died during protests, memorial for them and the sacking and arrest of Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

On the day of completion



BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait and others raise slogans to mark the one year anniversary of farmers agitation, at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Friday

Ranjana Dimri / Pioneer

of one year of farm agitation, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday tweeted farmers have always been victorious in India and will always continue to win in the future as well.

Priyanka lauded the movement and said that it would be known for the "unshakable 'satyagraha' of the farmers, the martyrdom of 700 farmers and the arrogance of the ruthless BJP Government and its atrocities towards the farmers," in a tweet in Hindi.

India to resume int'l flights to not 'at-risk' Covid nations

Op from Dec 15, move relief to students, travellers

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Good news for travellers, students, corporate and tourism sectors as the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Friday announced to resume scheduled international flights to and from India from December 15 with 99 countries.

The resumption will not cover countries such as China, South Africa, Singapore, Israel, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, countries in Europe, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, Mauritius, New Zealand and Zimbabwe, where Covid-19 is still not under control.

The decision was taken after consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Scheduled



international flights have been on hold in India since March 23 last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In an order, the Ministry stated, "The matter of resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger services to and from India has been examined in consultation with the Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs and Health and Family Welfare and it has been decided that scheduled commercial international passenger services to and from India may be resumed from December 15, 2021." The announcement

comes two days after Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said international flight operations are expected to return to normalcy soon, "by the end of this year".

The Ministry wrote a letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asking it to take "further necessary action" for the resumption of scheduled international flights.

As per the order, the Ministry has divided countries into three parts based on Health Ministry's Covid analysis and accordingly allowed resumption of flights.

CAPSULE

EXPEDITE TRIAL OF 26/11 CASE: INDIA TO PAKISTAN
New Delhi: India cannot forget the wounds of the Mumbai terror attacks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday on the 13th anniversary of the carnage even as a senior diplomat of the Pakistani High Commission was summoned and told that Islamabad must ensure expeditious trial in the case.

MARKETS	
SENSEX	57,107.15 (-1687.94)
NIFTY	17,026.45 (-509.80)
GOLD	47,837.00 (+416.00)
SILVER	62,212.00 (-938.00)

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Bihar poorest State, Jharkhand at No. 2

UP stands at 3rd with 37.79% poor; 51.91% in Bihar, 42.16% in J'khand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar is the poorest State in the country followed by Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Meghalaya. According to the Niti Aayog's first Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report, 51.91 per cent population of Bihar is poor, followed 42.16 per cent in Jharkhand, 37.79 per cent in Uttar Pradesh while Madhya Pradesh (36.65 per cent) has been placed fourth in the index, Meghalaya (32.67 per cent) is at the fifth spot.

As per the MPI report,



Kerala (0.71 per cent), Goa (3.76 per cent), Sikkim (3.82 per cent), Tamil Nadu (4.89 per cent) and Punjab (5.59 per cent) have registered the lowest poverty across India and are at the bottom of the index.

The report said India's MPI has three equally weighted dimensions, health, education and standard of living, which are represented by 12 indicators namely nutrition, child and

adolescent mortality, antenatal care, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets and bank accounts. Among Union Territories (UTs), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (27.36 per cent), Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh (12.58), Daman & Diu (6.82 per cent) and Chandigarh (5.97 per cent), have emerged as the poorest UTs in India.

Jammu legislative complex faces fund dearth as delay escalates cost

Foundation stone of complex was laid in July 2011

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Successive Chief Ministers and even Governors who were at the helm of affairs in Jammu & Kashmir in the last decade spent lavishly on hard-selling the theme of "good governance". However, one such ambitious project still under construction for over one decade clearly exposes the "work culture" in the region.

It is not just any other infrastructure project but the new legislative complex in Jammu. There is no fund for its completion.

Ironically, no attempts



New legislative complex in Jammu

Pioneer photo

have been made to expedite the construction work and check the "unproductive" cost escalation.

The foundation stone of the complex was laid by the former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Jammu on July 1, 2011.

Initially, the project was estimated to be built at a cost of ₹113 crore. Now the project execution agency — Jammu Kashmir Project Construction Corporation Ltd (JKPCC) — is awaiting the nod of the UT administration to complete the project at a revised cost of over ₹190 crore.

According to the project engineers, the work on the project was going on smoothly till 2015 but the same hit the roadblock during the BJP-PDP alliance Government in office.

UTU inks MoU with ARTPARK for defence incubator

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A defence focused incubator will be set up in the premises of Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University (UTU). The incubator will be set up with the help of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK), an organisation that is supported by the Science and Technology department of the Central Government.

The vice-chancellor (VC) of UTU PP Dhyani and the chief executive officer (CEO) of ARTPARK Subhash Banerjee signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the same on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Dhyani said that it is a historical day for the university as, after the establishment of the incubator, the



administration can promote AI and Robotics culture in the state. Banerjee also said that ARTPARK aims to establish not just a good product but a

technology that can help the Indian army in resolving the problems causing due to the challenges faced in the current global scenario. He said that the

organisation also aims to promote the practical knowledge of students to facilitate high-level academic researches in the state. Coordinator of defence manufacturing of the Uttarakhand government, VS Rawat said that the government here wants to make a research and development hub for technology and academic students along with assisting the army in providing solutions for the issues concerned.

Considering this, Rawat said that the government is working on making the incubator in the UTU premises for the production of lithium batteries. This project is worth about Rs 43 crore and Army Design Bureau has also proposed to provide the fund of Rs 1.50 crore each for about eight projects to the university, informed Rawat.

Top brass of forest service in Uttarakhand shuffled

☞ **Action on HoFF Bhartari, PCCF Mallik, Chief wildlife warden Suhag transferred**

☞ **Transfers linked to illegal construction in Corbett Nat'l Park**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In what is being viewed as a strict disciplinary action on the complaints of illegal construction on Corbett National Park and a stern message against corruption given by chief minister Puskhar Singh Dhami, the Uttarakhand administration has reshuffled the top brass of forest services in Uttarakhand. A total of 28 transfers have been made by the state government in the forest department. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and head of forest force (HoFF) Rajiv Bhartari has been removed from his post.

He would be replaced by Vinod Kumar. Bhartari has been transferred to the Biodiversity board. Similarly the Principal Chief Conservator Forests (wild life) Anoop Malik has been shunted out.

The chief wildlife warden J S Suhag has been divested of his charge. The administration also removed DFO Kalagarh range Kishan Chand with immediate effect. Apart from it many other officers of the department have been shifted. Action on Bhartari, Mallik, Suhag and Kishan Chandra is learnt to have been taken on the complaints of illegal construction in Corbett National Park.

Talking to the media persons at Vidhan Sabha on Friday, CM Dhami said that there were complaints against some officers of the forest department. Chief forest conservator Parag Madhukar Dhakate has been given additional charge of Chief wildlife warden of the state.

Strong health system is needed for achieving SDGs, says Dr Misra

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A lecture "Lesson to learn to apost COVID situation in Indian Scenario" by Dr Sanjeev Misra, Director, AIIMS Jodhpur was organised by Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) and National Academy of Sciences (NASI, UK- Chapter) at Vigyan Dham, UCOST on Friday.

In his lecture Dr Misra talked on gap areas of the Indian Health Care System, Urban and Rural Discrepancy in Health care infrastructure and the importance of the right to health for every individual.

He said that we need initiatives like Branded Clinics and operative models like Urbanization of Health Care Services. He said that it is an opportunity to boost our Domestic manufacturing in



Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology sector which will boost our economy as well as Health Care Facilities.

Dr Misra added that a strong health system is essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In his address Director General UCOST, Rajendra Dobhal gave a detailed overview of scientific activities and events organised by UCOST and NASI UK-Chapter. He said there is a need to introduce Home Health Care Solutions as elderly population in India is increasing.

Haryana CM meets Modi, discusses farmers' agitation, invites PM for Gita Jayanti Mahotsav



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Days after the Union Cabinet approved a bill to repeal the three controversial farm laws, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to welcome the decision and discuss the current situation regarding farmers' agitation.

The meeting was held in New Delhi on the day when the farmers marked one year of the protest against the three farm laws at Delhi-Haryana borders. This was the first meeting of Khattar with the Prime Minister after the announcement was made by the latter regarding repealing farm laws.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister inquired about the current situation related to farmers' agitation at the border and expressed hope that the farmers would return to their homes after the bill is passed to repeal the farm laws in the upcoming winter session of Parliament. The Prime Minister also expressed concerns about the rising pollution levels in Delhi-NCR and inquired about the status of stubble burning in Haryana. After the meeting which lasted for more than half an hour, the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar told mediapersons, "The matter of farmers' agitation was discussed with the Prime Minister. I have welcomed decision of repealing agriculture laws.

The announcement of withdrawing Agriculture related Acts have sent a good message and we are hopeful that farmers will definitely return to their homes after laws are repealed in winter session of Parliament." He said that the Haryana Government is continuously working in the interest of farmers. Haryana is the only state which is procuring 11 crops at MSP. Not only this, the State Government has also compensated damaged bajra at the rate of Rs 600 per quintal, which has benefited the millet growers, Khattar said. After P M 's

announcement to repeal the laws, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has decided to continue the agitation and also demanded a discussion over Minimum Support Price (MSP), withdrawal of cases registered against farmers and compensation for deceased farmers' kin.

With farmers camping at border points of Delhi-Singhu, Tikri (along Haryana) since a year, Haryana has been badly hit due to the protest. Apart from the daily commuters, the local traders have faced consequences of the road blockades due to the agitation since last year.

The Chief Minister also said that the Prime Minister inquired about the issue of pollution and stubble burning and has asked to prepare new schemes with the Departments concerned to deal with the issue. He said that Haryana has achieved a good ranking in Swachh Survekshan-2021. The PM has asked to focus on cleanliness in rural areas as well, Khattar said. Responding to a question on investigation into the HPSC job scam, the Chief Minister said that a fair investigation is going on and the culprits will not be spared.

PM INVITED FOR GITA JAYANTO AND INAUGURATION OF ORBIT CORRIDOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited for the International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav to be held in Kurukshetra from December 9-14. The Chief Minister said that the Prime Minister may connect on the occasion of Gita Jayanti through virtual medium.

ggHe said that the subject of Orbital Rail Corridor was also placed before the Prime Minister again. During his previous meeting with the PM in September also, the Chief Minister had invited PM Modi to lay the foundation stone of the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor to be constructed at a cost of Rs 5600 crore.

PM APPRIZED ABOUT WELFARE SCHEMES

The Chief Minister said that he apprised Prime Minister about welfare schemes being run by Haryana Government. He informed that Prime Minister was apprised about ambitious Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Uthtan Yojana launched by State Government.

Antyodaya Gram Uday Melas will be organized in Haryana from November 29 to December 16, in which very poor families verified under Parivar Pehchan Patra will be called and will be given detailed information about the scheme so a frame work for upliftment of 1 lakh families whose family income is less than Rs. 1.8 lakh can be made.

INDIAN RAILWAYS
"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"
Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway Lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25 KV, 50 Hz. AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all time and no un-authorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Section	RKM (Date)
"Energisation of 25KV Single phase AC newly electrified section of DN Main Line from Rosa from location RAC/1006 (Ch: 274.00) to Location 7/25 (Ch: 7/559.50) excluding Rosa & Bartara yard, including with associated Turn outs & x-overs & AT's modification in existing lines and up-gradation of existing SSP at RAC with feeder lines in RAC-SPC Doubling section of Moradabad Division, Northern Railway"	6.553 30.11.2021

INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION "WARNING TO ROAD USERS"
It is notified for information of the public that in connection with introduction of 25 KV AC electric traction over "Energisation of 25KV Single phase AC newly electrified section of DN Main Line from Rosa from location RAC/1006 (Ch: 274.00) to Location 7/25 (Ch: 7/559.50) excluding Rosa & Bartara yard, including with associated Turn outs & x-overs & AT's modification in existing lines and up-gradation of existing SSP at RAC with feeder lines in RAC-SPC Doubling section of Moradabad Division, Northern Railway" height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear maximum height 4.78m above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire.
Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.
The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows:
1. Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line.
2. Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.
3. Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const. Northern Railway, Moradabad
No. 17-Elect./C/TRD/MB/115 Date: 26.11.2021 2757/21
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उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि०
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, लक्सर, हरिद्वार
निविदा सूचना
अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निविदा प्रकाशित किये जाने हेतु अनुमती/प्रतिष्ठित आयकर जी०एस०टी० एवं ई०वी०एफ०, ई०एस०आई०सी० में वर्गीकृत, अनुभव प्रमाण पत्र व उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा निर्गत 'ए' श्रेणी लाईसेंस प्राप्त निविदादाताओं से मोहरबंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रारूप पर दिनांक 13.12.2021 को अपराह्न 13:00 बजे तक कक्ष की जा सकती है। जो दिनांक 14.12.2021 को सायं 11:00 बजे तक जमा की जायेगी व उसी दिन सायं 16:00 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र सम्बन्धित निविदा के समुच्च अंकित धनराशि का भुगतान करके इस कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राच की जा सकती है। विस्तृत नियम व शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्रों में उपलब्ध हैं। यदि निविदा खुलने की तिथि में कोई अवकाश होता है तो निविदायें अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी।

क्र० सं०	निविदा संख्या	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य धरोहर धनराशि जी०एस०टी० सहित	रु०
1	40/2021-22	विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, मट्टीपुर के अन्तर्गत ग्राम पदार्थ, धनपुरा में 11 केव०ी० लाईन संबंधी कार्य।	100.00 (जी०एस०टी० अतिरिक्त)	5000.00

अधोहस्ताक्षरी को निम्ना कोई कारण बताये या नोटिस दिये निविदाओं को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।
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प्रपत्रक: 2791/वि०वि०ख०/ल० दिनांक: 26/11/2021 अधिशासी अभियन्ता
"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें" टोल फ्री न० 1800-419-0405

THE PIONEER
CLASSIFIEDS
PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Aman Kumar s/o Jadish Kumar, 94 Shrivdev Suman Nagar, Ballupur road Dehradun, lost CBSE 10th class Marksheet, Roll no. 5304569. Please contact- 9897814091.

In my class 10th marksheet SI No. 5327895 my mother's name has been wrongly written as Kamla Devi whereas her correct name is **Babi Devi**. Yogendra Bisht S/o Narayan Singh R/o Chhoi, Ramnagar, Nainital.

In documents my name has been recorded as Sumit while my correct name is SUMIT CHAUHAN. In future I shall be known by this name only. Sumit Chauhan S/o Natha Singh, R/o Khasra No 395 Kha Mauja Johri Village, Dehradun

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Canara Bank
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Surety/ Owner/s as given below to repay the amount mentioned below within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice. The borrower/ Surety/Owner/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Surety/Owner/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.** The Borrower/Surety/ Owner/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property, and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank, Respective Branch** for the amount detailed below and interest together with expenses thereon.

S. No.	Name of the Branch/Borrower/Guarantor	Description Of Immoveable Property	Date of Demand & Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding
1.	Branch: Selaqui, Dehradun Borrower: M/S Deep Restaurant Proprietor Shri Deepak Singh Negi	All that property bearing Khata No 289 (Fasli Year 1416-1421) Khasra No 197ja having area 800 sq ft or 74.35 sq mtrs situated at Mauza Sherpur, Tehsil Vikasnagar, Zila Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Boundaries: East- 28 ft Wide Road, West- Land of Smt Kavita Rawat, North- Land of others, South- 16 ft Wide Road	Date of Demand Notice 03.08.2021 Date of Possession notice 25.11.2021	Rs. 15,17,632.47 as on 02.08.2021 +Interest w.e.f. 01.08.2021 +Expenses -Recoveries after 02.08.2021
2.	Branch: Selaqui, Dehradun Borrower: 1. Shri Harish S/o Rajendra Singh Bhandari, 2. Shri Manish S/o Rajendra Singh Bhandari	All that bhumidhari Khata No 1152 fasli year 1394-1399, Khasra No 122 min having area 800 sq ft or 74.35 sq mtrs situated at Mauza Central Hope Town, Pargana Pachwa Doon, Tehsil Vikas Nagar, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Boundaries: East – land of others, S M 40 ft., West – land of others, S M 40 ft., North – 20 ft wide road, S M 20 ft., South – Land of others, S M 20 ft.	Date of Demand Notice 03.08.2021 Date of Possession notice 25.11.2021	Rs. 1,81,028.58 as on 02.08.2021 +Interest w.e.f. 01.08.2021 +Expenses -Recoveries after 02.08.2021
3.	Branch: Saharanpur Road-II (DP Code 18976) Borrower: 1. Rashid S/o Sri Abdul Wahid, 2. Smt Khatija W/o Mohd Rashid, Guarantor: Shri Mohd Akhlaq S/o Mueenudeen	Residential House At Khata No. 991 Khasra No. 629, Situated at Mauza Kargi Grant, Pargana Kendriya Doon, Tehsil and Distt Dehradun, Situated 800 mt. From Haridwar Bypass Road Muslim Basti, Near Rehman School, Kargi Grant, Dehradun, Area 62.70 Sq Mtrs Out of Which Total Covered Area 76.64 Sq Mir, Boundaries: East- Prop Of Others SM 45 ft, West- Prop Of Sellers S.M 45 ft, North- Land of Others SM 15 ft, South - 18 ft wide road SM 15 ft.	Date of Demand Notice 03.08.2021 Date of Possession notice 24.11.2021	Rs. 18,17,212.17 as on 08.04.2021 +Interest w.e.f. 31.03.2021 +Expenses -Recoveries after 08.04.2021 8976973000012

Date - 26.11.2021 Place: Dehradun Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

Winter Session of Assembly could be held in Dehradun

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The winter session of Uttarakhand Assembly which was earlier scheduled to be held at Bharadisaín, Gairsain in Chamoli district could now be held in Dehradun.

Though the state government is yet to take a final decision on the place and date of the session the speaker Prem Chand Agarwal hinted on Friday that the session could be held on December 9 and 10 in Dehradun.

Talking to the media persons at the sidelines of a programme organised on occasion of Constitution Day at Prakash Pant auditorium in assembly building here, Agarwal said that he discussed the issue with parliamentary affairs minister Banshi Dhar Bhagat an Leader of Opposition (LoP)



Pritam Singh on Thursday and both of them were inclined to hold session in Dehradun. He said that the assembly secretariat was prepared to hold session in Gairsain and now if government decides necessary preparations would be made in Dehradun to conduct the session smoothly. The speaker added that since the country is celebrating 75th year of Independence this year as ‘

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, he is in favour of organising a special sitting during the winter session. It is worth mentioning here that Pushkar Singh Dhami government had earlier decided to hold the winter session in Gairsain on November 29 and 30 but later the decision was cancelled by the state. After this there was a possibility of holding session in Gairsain on December 8 and 9.

Indian Constitution is torch bearer of society: CM Dhami

CM, Assembly Speaker, others take pledge, offer tributes to Ambedkar on Constitution Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the constitution of India is unique and is full of many qualities.

He opined that the constitution not only makes the citizen conscious towards their rights but also makes them aware about their duties. The CM was addressing a programme organised on the occasion of Constitution day at Vidhan Sabha here on Friday.

He said that the constitution is a torch bearer of our society. Dhami said that India is making rapid progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the pride and respect of the country has got enhanced under his leadership.

The CM said that the decision taken by Modi has given a unique recognition to the country in the world. He said that after taking oath as CM of the state he has tried to dedicate every minute of his life to



the people of the state and has taken many decisions of public interest.

He said that the state government had taken a target to vaccinate the entire adult population of the state with the first dose till December but had achieved this in the month of October itself. Dhami claimed that the second dose of his life to

cine too would be administered before December 15. Speaking on the occasion, the speaker Prem Chand Agarwal said the Constitution Day reminds us about our rights and duties enshrined in the constitution. He said that on this date in the year 1949 the constitution was prepared after two years 11 months and 18 days. Agarwal

said that the interests of every section of the society are being taken care of by PM Modi. The speaker said that the world's biggest vaccination programme is underway in India and more than 118 crore people have received the vaccine shots.

He said that Baba Sahib B R Ambedkar played a key role in the making of the constitution of India. The speaker said that on April 14, 2017 he had taken a decision that every section and office of Vidhan Sabha would have a picture of Ambedkar. He added that Ambedkar was not a person but a thought.

The CM and the speaker offered their floral tribute to Ambedkar and released a book on the achievements of the speaker on the occasion. The cabinet minister Swami Yatishwaranand, Secretary Vidhan Sabha Mukesh Singhal and others were present on the occasion.

Read, understand and follow fundamental duties: Governor



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Governor of Uttarakhand Lieutenant General (Rtd) Gurmit Singh has said that every citizen must read, understand and follow the fundamental duties mentioned in Article 51 A of the Constitution. He said that youth should propagate fundamental duties through social media and mass media. The Governor was addressing a programme organised on the occasion of Constitution day at Siddhartha Law College here on Friday. The governor said that the youth studying law

should give top priority to the nation, society and public interest in their legal field in future. In case of any doubt, the Constitution of India is our biggest guide, he added.

“Every word, every comma, every full stop, every page of the holy book of the Constitution gives knowledge of the depth of our civilization, culture and history. The passion of Indianness lies in the Preamble of the Constitution. The introduction transforms us from the feeling of I, there is a different enthusiasm in it. Behind the making of the Indian

Constitution is the tireless hard work, dedication and dedication of the great people. The Constitution has united us and connected us with each other. It has freed us from all inequalities of religion, caste, language and region,” he quipped.

The Governor also released a replica of the Indian Constitution at Siddhartha Law College on the occasion of Constitution Day on Friday. The Legal Adviser to the Governor, Amit Sirohi, Director of Siddhartha Law College, Justice K D Shahi (Retd), teachers and students were present on the occasion.

UPES organises 19th convocation ceremony

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

UPES, a multidisciplinary university organised its 19th convocation at the Bidholi campus on Friday in which a total of 3873 students from five schools of the university were conferred degrees.

Those who received degrees included 52 PhD, 439 post-graduate (regular), 564 post-graduate (CCE) - which comprised MBA, M Tech, MA, MSc, LLM and Des - and 2781 graduate (regular) and 37 graduate (CCE) scholars.

Along with the degrees 11 ‘Gold Medals’ (8 Regular + 3 institutional Medal), 42 ‘Silver Medals’ (35 Regular, seven silver plates for CCE) and 41 ‘Letter of Appreciation’ were awarded to the students during the ceremony.

This year the university also launched its first ever “Excellence Awards of UPES” for all existing students who have exhibited exemplary performance with their dedication and hard work. Students were conferred excellence awards under categories, Spirit of UPES, Dean’s List, Excellence

in Academics, Excellence in Service and Excellence in Extra Curricular. The Vice Chancellor (VC) of University presented “Vice Chancellor’s Report 2020-21”, taking audience through the journey of UPES in the last one year.

Speaking on the occasion Rai said, “We are proud of accomplishments of the graduating batch and confident that with their knowledge, skills and values they will create better workplaces and communities; lead meaningful professional and personal lives.

Year 2021 has been a milestone year for UPES as it has been ranked amongst the top 100

institutions in India by NIRF. In our efforts towards becoming a truly multi-disciplinary university we will soon be launching the School of Liberal Studies. Liberal studies programs will provide students with the tools and skills to be critical and creative thinkers, researchers, and communicators in almost any field.”

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Registrar UPES, Veena Dutta who extended her gratitude to all students, dignitaries and stakeholders for their continuous support. The convocation ended with Chancellor of UPES S J Chopra declaring the ceremony closed.



Pet pooping in open! MCD to impose penalty

Teams of MCD to identify such violators who do not clean up after their dogs soil public places

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) has geared itself up to impose penalties on dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets defecate in public places. A pet dog owner can be charged from Rs 500 to Rs 5,000 from December, if he or she fails to clean up after their dogs.

Dog owners letting their pets defecate in public places without worrying about any consequences have become a common scenario in city. Such actions not only make city filthy but also are cause of several diseases.

However, the corporation has decided to discourage pet owners from pursuing this practice anymore. The MCD has decided to conduct a regular checking campaign across the city to identify violators.

The officials said that corporation is already conducting a campaign against dog owners without valid dog licenses during mornings and evenings and teams will do same to identify such violators who do not clean up after their dogs soil public places. The officials said that there are many dog lovers in city but most of them lack basic civic

sense to keep city clean. “Most of people involved in such practices are well-educated people who must be aware of civic sense but they still let their pets soil public places. We have received complaints that many dog owners come out with their dogs to take a stroll in early morning or late at night and let them defecate outside their houses.

The confrontation by complainants mostly leads to fights that many tend to avoid. We have decided to take action against such violators,” said chief municipal health officer Dr Kailash Joshi.

He said that team members will start a campaign next month. However, he added, the corporation's priority will remain to raise awareness among locals against issue first. They will also encourage them to carry bags to clean up after their dogs defecate in open areas.



DM and SSP check arrangements ahead of President Kovind’s arrival

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of the scheduled arrival of President Ram Nath Kovind to Haridwar on November 28 and 29, the District Magistrate (DM) Vinay Shankar Pandey and senior superintendent of police (SSP) Yogendra Singh Rawat visited Patanjali University to review the security arrangements on Friday. All the officials and the departments concerned are preparing for the arrival of the president for his two-day visit to Haridwar. The DM and the

SSP also held a meeting with the Patanjali administration to discuss the arrangements. The SSP (Intelligence and Security) Nivedita Kukreti also instructed the officials of the Public Works Department (PWD) to make proper arrangements at the helipad and clear the bushes.

The helicopters were also landed twice on the helipad located at Patanjali Yogpeeth to test the landing arrangements. The SSP also directed the officials concerned to ensure the proper arrangements for the

security of the basement of the building along with the compliance of Covid-19 protocol. The district supply officer (DSO) KK Aggarwal is the incharge of the food served to the President and other dignitaries. The administration has also allotted eight employees to DSO and issued passes to them to ensure the proper arrangements. On the other hand, the Municipal Corporation of Haridwar (MCH) has also formed 10 teams to maintain cleanliness during the arrival of the president.

पी. एन. बी. ग्रामीण स्वरोजगार प्रशिक्षण संस्थान

हरिद्वार में पंजाब नेशनल बैंक ग्रामीण स्वरोजगार प्रशिक्षण संस्थान (PNBRSETI) में कार्य करने हेतु नीचे उल्लेखित पदों के लिए योग्य उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं जो निम्नलिखित समेकित वेतन पर एक वर्ष की अवधि के लिए अनुबंध के आधार पर होंगे बायोडाटा और दस्तावेजों की स्व-सत्यापित प्रतिलिपि के साथ नीचे दिए गए पते पर आवेदन प्रेषित करें।

मुख्य प्रबन्धक, योजना एवं विकास विभाग, मंडल कार्यालय, पंजाब नेशनल बैंक

सेक्टर 4, मेल, हरिद्वार, पिन- 249403 (उत्तराखंड)

आवेदन पत्र प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि 11.12.2021 है। केवल रजिस्टर्ड/एसीडपोस्ट डाक से भेजे गये आवेदन ही स्वीकार किये जाएंगे सभी पदों के लिये वांछनीय आयु 22 वर्ष से 40 वर्ष है।

क्र.सं.	पदों का नाम	पदों की संख्या	योग्यता	वेतन प्रति माह (समेकित)
1.	कार्यालय सहायक	1	स्नातक होना अनिवार्य है। कंप्यूटर ज्ञान के साथ बीएसएसडब्ल्यू/बीए/बी.कॉम • बैसिक अकाउंटिंग के ज्ञान को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। • बोली जाने वाली और लिखित स्थानीय भाषा में धाराप्रवाह होना चाहिए। • हिंदी / अंग्रेजी में प्रवाह एक अतिरिक्त योग्यता होगी। • एमएस ऑफिस (वर्ड और एक्सेल), टैबली और इंटरनेट में कुशल होना चाहिये। • स्थानीय भाषा में टाइपिंग में कौशल आवश्यक है, अंग्रेजी में टाइपिंग कौशल एक अतिरिक्त योग्यता मानी जाएगी।	रुपये 12000/-

चयन प्रक्रिया में निम्नलिखित सम्मिलित रहेंगे:-

- सामान्य ज्ञान और कंप्यूटर क्षमता का आकलन करने के लिए **लिखित परीक्षा**।
- विकासत्मक दृष्टिकोण, प्रशिक्षणों के साथ मिलकर रहने की योग्यता, समर्पक क्षमता, नेतृत्व गुण, दृष्टिकोण, समस्या सुलझाने की योग्यता आदि की क्षमता का आकलन करने के लिए **व्यक्तिगत साक्षात्कार**।

लिफाफे के ऊपर बड़े शब्दों में "कार्यालय सहायक के पद हेतु आवेदन" अवश्य लिखा जाना चाहिए।

बैंक सम्पन्न चयन प्रक्रिया को किसी भी समय रद्द करने, किसी भी /समस्त आवेदन-पत्रों को, बिना कारण बताये अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है। इस सम्बन्ध में, भविष्य में कोई भी पत्राचार नहीं किया जाएगा।

मंडल प्रमुख

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered office: Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra 390 007.
Corporate office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai 400 051.

GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments.(Facility) availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold ornaments on **Dec 08, 2021** as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove auction/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online -<https://jewel-auction.procurerighte.com> between **12:30 pm to 3:30 pm**. For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.

Loan A/C No.	Customer Name
Branch Name: Almora	
091205001552	Shoaib Ahmad
Branch Name: Bhagwanpur	
364205000282	Pritvhi Singh
Branch Name: Dehradun	
016405008096	Sanjeev Sharma
016405008358	Karan Singh
016405008418	Hans Raj
Branch Name: Dehradun - Anurag Chowk	
243805000851	Virendra Kumar
Branch Name: Dehradun - Chakrata Road	
159305001428	Arun Singh
159305001634	Kusumlata *
Branch Name: Dehradun-Haridwar	
695405600962	Navys Singhal
695405600965	Navys Singhal
695405601028	Rajat Kumar Pall
695405601077	Pooja Pandey
Branch Name: Dehradun - Prantiknagar	
097905003711	Aftab Parveen
097905003675	Sangeeta *
097905003682	Mohd Savaj
097905003833	Manish *
097905003837	Prachi Saxena
097905003843	Prachi Saxena
097905003848	Masroof Ali
097905003855	Mohsin Ahmad
Branch Name: Dehradun - Vikasnagar	
179605001205	Sanjay Kumar
179605001258	Sonam Sonam

Loan A/C No.	Customer Name
Branch Name: Gadarpur	
408105000224	Shivnath Sharma
408105000409	Harish Chandra
408105000454	Raja Singh
408105000496	Jafar Ali
Branch Name: Haldwani-Kaldung Road	
192405000850	Chandra Devi
Branch Name: Haridwar	
023905008248	Nikhil Kumar Singh
023905005941	Issar Ahmed
023905008619	Jatin Kumar
023905008468	Ajmal Afjal
023905008468	Nesta Debra
023905008647	Mahendra Singh
023905008665	Mahak Singh
023905008630	Karnel Singh
Branch Name: Haridwar - Shivailk Nagar	
245905001132	Rahul Kumar
245905001256	Ajay Kumar
Branch Name: Kashipur	
0909050022890	Rajneesh Kumar
090905002467	Karnel Jeet Singh
090905002585	Ishrat Hasan
Branch Name: Kashipur - Koteratar Road	
180105001218	Naim Ahmad
180105002725	Hari Singh
180105002725	Khushi Jia
180105002937	Nitin Sharma
Branch Name: Khatima	
179405001562	Mo Anas
179405001571	Kavita Majhi
Branch Name: Kotdwara	
159705001452	Sandeep Singh Gussin
159705001377	Subham *
Branch Name: Mussoorie	
159505000596	Mohd Sameer

Loan A/C No.	Customer Name
Branch Name: Nainital	
098005002887	Lalit Mohan Arya
098005004163	Sanjay Kumar
098005003761	Shagufra Rani
098005003996	Banti Kumar
098005003613	Kamela Kamela
098005004087	Ajay Kumar
098005003702	Prerna Prerna
098005004152	Kuldeep Lohiya
098005004162	Hema Hema
098005004165	Shikha Bhatt
Branch Name: Pauri	
101805001210	Sompal Singh
Branch Name: Pithoragarh	
158905001085	Babita Devi
158905000957	Mukesh Bhatt
158905000958	Bharat Singh
158905001154	Girish Chandra Joshi
158905001155	Rudra Singh
Branch Name: Roorkee	
091305002963	Mustakeem Rana
Branch Name: Rudrapur	
053305003912	Adesh Kumar
053305003913	Surendra Pal
Branch Name: Rudrapur-Sitarganj	
350805000631	Mohd Rafi
Branch Name: Rudrapur-U.S. Nagar	
160005001632	Ramveer Singh
160005001387	Karamjeet Singh
Branch Name: Srinagar-Badrinath Road	
117605001287	Arvind Kumar
117605001292	Arvind Kumar
117605001294	Manoj Kumar Badoni

Date : 27.11.2021
Place : Dehradun, Garhwal, Haridwar, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Udhham Singh Nagar, Almora

S/d
Authorized Officer
For ICICI Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM NO. 2

Date :- 26.11.2021

In reference to this tender notice no. 2608/21 published on 12.11.2021 for leasing of SLR of trains over Moradabad Division following amendments are done in the tender document which is available on www.irgops.gov.in :-

- Change in prescribed condition in item no. (b) & added item no. (e) of Para 4 of page 4 and change in Para 5 of page 4.
- Change in prescribed condition in item no. 2 & 3 of page 5.
- Change in prescribed condition in item no. 1 & 6 of page 6.
- Added item no. (v) & (vi) of Para no. 14.4 on page 23.
- Change in prescribed conditions in Annexure 'A' of page no. 32.

Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

2762/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून

पत्रांक:- 3196 / पीओब्लूडीओ / नगर निगम देहरादून / 2021 दिनांक:- 25.11.2021

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम देहरादून वर्ष 2021-22 में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत विभिन्न वार्डों में निर्माण कार्यों की सीलबन्द निविदा निर्धारित प्रपत्रों पर दिनांक 09.12.2021 को 2.00 बजे आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो निविदा समिति के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा के कार्यों का विवरण एवं शर्तें नगर निगम की वेबसाईट www.nagamigamdehradun.com एवं कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून के सूचना पट्ट एवं अभियन्त्रण अनुभाग में देखा जा सकता है। निविदा खुलने की तिथि से 120 दिन की अवधि के लिए वैध रहेगी। निविदा फार्म व शर्तें नगर निगम, देहरादून के कार्यालय से दिनांक 06.12.2021 को कार्यालय दिवस में अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक निर्धारित शुल्क जमा कराकर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा आमन्त्रण की तिथि पर अवकाश होने पर अगली तिथि पर निविदा की जायेगी। रखाघन, एफ०डी०आर/ सी०डी०आर० एवं अन्य समकक्ष रूप में शुल्क जमा करने से पूर्व कार्यालय में जमा करानी अनिवार्य होगी। बिना रखाघन के निविदा प्रपत्र जारी नहीं किया जायेगा। किसी भी अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को स्वीकार /अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार नगर निगम में निहित है।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

Wounds of 26/11 attacks cannot be forgotten: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in paying homage to the victims of the Mumbai terror attacks 13 years ago and said the wounds cannot be forgotten. The Pakistani envoy to New Delhi too was summoned here to those responsible for the dastardly incident in which 166 people including 26 foreign nationals were killed.

The attacks by a 10-member squad of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists began on November 26, 2008. Pakistan arrested seven LeT operatives, including operations commander Zakiur Rahman Lakhvi, but there has been little headway in their trial.

Remembering the victims, the Prime Minister said in a video, "India can't forget the wounds of the Mumbai attacks. Now, today's India is combating terrorism with a new policy and new ways."

"I pay my homage to all those who died in the Mumbai attacks. Many brave police personnel were martyred in this attack. I also pay homage to them," Modi said.

The video said victims of the terror attacks "from India and across the world await justice". It included images of the assault on Mumbai's iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel and tributes to security personnel killed in the attacks.

Footage of world leaders such as former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon condemning the attacks and paying tribute to victims during visits to Mumbai were included in the video. Among the leaders featured in the video were former US president Barack Obama, the duke and duchess of Cambridge, Belgium's King Philippe, and UK foreign secretary Liz Truss.



Meanwhile, India summoned a senior diplomat of the Pakistan High Commission here and issued a note verbale "reiterating India's call for an expeditious trial in the Mumbai terror attacks case".

The note also called on the Pakistan government "to abide by its commitment to not allow territories under its control for terrorism against India", according to a statement from the external affairs ministry said.

"It is a matter of deep anguish that even after 13 years of this heinous terror attack, the families of 166 victims from 15 countries across the globe still await closure, with Pakistan showing little sincerity in bringing the perpetrators to justice," the statement said.

"The 26/11 terrorist attack was planned, executed and launched from Pakistani territory. The former Prime

Minister of Pakistan had gone on record and admitted that the terrorists were sent from Pakistan's soil," the statement said, in a reference to former premier Nawaz Sharif.

"We once again call on the government of Pakistan to give up double standards and to expeditiously bring the perpetrators of the horrific attack to justice. This is not just a matter of Pakistan's accountability to the families of the innocent victims who fell to terrorists, but also an international obligation," it said.

"The Government of India will continue to make every effort to seek justice for the families of the victims and the martyrs," it said adding the government and people of India remembered victims of the "dastardly attack" on the 13th anniversary of the event.

A memorial event was organised by the Maharashtra government at the Police Memorial in Mumbai. Indian missions in the 14 countries whose nationals were killed in the Mumbai attacks also organised memorial events for the victims and reminded the world of the continuing global threat of terrorism.

CBI gets nod to prosecute retd Allahabad HC judge in corruption case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has received sanction to prosecute retired Allahabad High Court Judge Justice S N Shukla in a corruption case linked to alleged favour granted to a private medical college through his judicial pronouncement.

The CBI had sought permission from the High Court to prosecute the retired judge, on April 16 this year, in line with compliance of Prevention of Corruption Act for prosecuting him, official sources said.

Having secured a sanction from the High Court, the CBI can now proceed with a chargesheet in the case against the retired judge as the probe in the matter has already been wrapped up, officials said.

The sanction to prosecute the retired judge, a prime accused in the case, was sought by the agency after the probe in the case suggested prima facie culpability of the named accused in the case, the sources said.

Besides Justice Shukla of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, the agency had also named retired Chhattisgarh High Court judge I M Qudusi (was earlier arrested in this case), Bhagwan Prasad Yadav and Palash Yadav of the Prasad Education Trust, the Trust itself and private persons Bhavna Pandey and Sudhir Giri as accused in the FIR, they said.

The accused persons and the Trust were booked under Indian Penal Code Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of the Prevention of

Corruption Act.

Illegal gratification was allegedly paid to one of the accused named in the FIR by the Trust in order to get a favourable court order, officials said referring to the FIR.

After registering the FIR, the CBI had conducted searches at multiple locations in Lucknow, Meerut and the national capital in December 2019, including at the then serving judge Justice Shukla's premises in Lucknow, they said.

It is alleged that the Prasad Institute of Medical Sciences was debarred by the Centre from admitting students due to sub-standard facilities and non-fulfilment of the required criteria in May 2017, along with 46 other medical colleges that were also barred on similar grounds for students' intake, they further said.

The decision to debar the Institute from admitting students was challenged by the Trust before the Supreme Court through a writ petition, they added.

Subsequently, a conspiracy was hatched by the accused persons and the Trust and the petition was withdrawn with the apex court's permission.

Another writ petition was filed before the Lucknow bench of the High Court on August 24, 2017.

It was further alleged in the FIR that the petition was heard on August 25, 2017 by a division bench of the court comprising Justice Shukla and an order favourable to the Trust was passed the same day, they added.

SC to hear plea against Asthana's appointment as Delhi Police chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear the plea of Prashant Bhusan-led



NGO challenging the Delhi High Court order which upheld the Centre's decision to appoint senior IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna issued notice to the Centre and Asthana and sought their response on the plea of the NGO, the Centre for Public Interest Litigation. The NGO has filed a writ petition and an appeal against the appointment of Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner four days before his superannuation on July 31.

Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for the NGO, said that they have filed the appeal as directed by the top court on November 18. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre and Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Asthana said that they would file their replies in two weeks.

On October 12, the Delhi High Court upheld the Centre's decision to appoint Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner, saying there was "no irregularity, illegality or infirmity" in his selection. Dismissing a PIL challenging his selection, it had said the justification and reasons given by the Centre for appointing Asthana are plausible, calling for no interference in judicial review.

Now, women outperform men as voters: CEC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of the historical perspective of barriers and challenges faced by women in participation in elections in India, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said on Friday after seven decades and 17 General Elections since Independence, women's participation in India has exceeded that of men and stood at more than 67 percent in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing an international webinar on 'Enhancing Electoral Participation of Women, Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens', Chandra narrated how the Election Commission made special efforts to enhance the participation on women, people with disabilities, senior citizens and transgenders.

"Gender gap, a crucial parameter, which was -16.71% in 1962, has not only closed but reversed to +0.17% in 2019. In fact India has witnessed a 235.72% increase in female electors since the 1971 elections," he said. The poll panel,

Chandra said, has made consistent efforts and has gone that extra mile to empower and facilitate the participation of senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

In most countries and territories, voting rights were granted to women in a piecemeal manner, he observed. The United States took 144 years to give equal voting rights to women, he pointed out.

In India, women got the right to vote the year the country was born. This does not obviate the fact that many Indian women campaigned for equal right to vote. The Indian suffragette movement gathered momentum with the participation of more and more women in the freedom struggle, he said.

The real logistics issue came up in the preparation of electoral rolls when a large number of women, owing to customary practice, refused to disclose their own names and wanted to be registered as A's wife or B's mother, he recalled.

Naravane reviews op preparedness of armed forces in Jaisalmer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Army chief General M M Naravane on Friday reviewed the operational preparedness of the armed forces in Jaisalmer to fight modern-day war in a synergised manner.



He undertook the two-day visit ending Friday to Rajasthan to an exercise location in Jaisalmer to review exercise 'Dakshin Shakti' conducted by the Southern Command of Indian Army with an aim to ensure integrated application of forces in Multi-Domain Operations and upholding the nation's military aims over the entire spectrum of conflict.

During the past one week, units and formations of the Indian Army practiced tactical and operational manoeuvres by its Infantry, Mechanised Formations and Airborne troops in a fluid battlefield environment, operationalising future technologies.

This was effected by exploiting versatile and indigenous airborne platforms such as Advanced Light Helicopter (Weapon System Integrated), Swarm Drones

and enmeshing Artificial Intelligence to provide a cohesive operational and intelligence picture amalgamated within the Intelligence, Surveillance and Recce (ISR) Architecture.

A formidable display of the same including Special Heliborne Operations, Swarm Drone and ALH Manoeuvres and coordinated action by ground troops were also practiced.

The Army Chief commended the Southern Command for fielding and exploiting the capabilities of indigenous equipment inducted as part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' initiative. He also emphasised the need to constantly evolve tactics, techniques and procedure to fight "Future Wars" as well as capability enhancement in Manned and Unmanned systems.

Sonia to hold rally on Dec 12 against price rise, inflation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi will address a public rally on December 12 as part of her party's drive against price rise and inflation. The Congress president and the party have decided to draw the country's attention to price rise and inflation by holding a massive "Mehngai Hatao rally" in Delhi on December 12, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said.

The rally will be addressed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders from across the country. "It will give a decisive warning to the present Modi Government to stop its loot and reduce the backbreaking prices. We shall continue our struggle until the Modi Government backs down," he said in a statement.

Venugopal said "Modi and 'Mehngai' have become the bane of people's lives" and the unprecedented price rise and inflation have demolished the earnings, the household income and budget of every family in the country.

He said the people of India are suffering unbearable cruel-

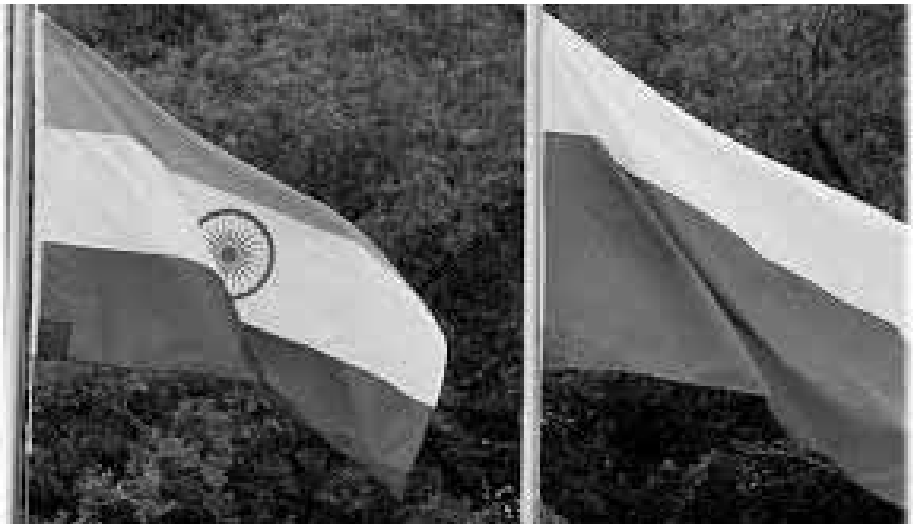


ty and untold misery on account of the BJP government-driven price rise and inflation.

The budget of every household bleeds, even minimum nutrition suffers and people are finding it difficult to buy and consume day-to-day food articles as also other consumables, he alleged. "The Modi government remains oblivious to this insurmountable pain and suffering of people. Backed by a section of the electronic media, the only solution offered by Modi government is a divisive religious discourse or sporadic diversionary statements to reset the agenda from fundamental issues affecting the lives of the people," he said in the statement.

The Congress has been protesting on the issue of price rise and inflation and have called for a check on them. The Congress leader said the real

Putin, Modi to hold talks on December 6



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold summit level talks here on December 6. The two countries will also have the first two plus two dialogue on the same day between the defence and foreign ministers of their countries.

Making an official

announcement about Putin's visit, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here on Friday the Russian president will pay an official visit to New Delhi for the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit with the Prime Minister.

The Pioneer had reported about these two high profile events a few days back.

In an official statement, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi further

confirmed that the first meeting of 2+2 dialogue between Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and Russia will be held in Delhi on December 6.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent the Indian side. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu will represent their country.

Centre kicking off a three-day Int'l Tourism Mart in Kohima

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In keeping with its focus on promotion of the North-East, identifying new destinations and developing itineraries around them, the Centre is kicking off a three-day International Tourism Mart on Saturday in picturesque Kohima in Nagaland, which is blessed with breathtaking unexplored destinations.

Nagaland is holding the mart for the first time. It was earlier held in Guwahati (Assam), Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Shillong (Meghalaya), Gangtok (Sikkim), Agartala (Tripura), and Imphal (Manipur).

And the day after the Mart wraps up, the State Government will inaugurate the much-awaited Hornbill Festival, an annual tourism promotional event showcasing the rich Naga tradition and culture at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama,

about 12 km from the state capital.

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Minister of State for Tourism & Defence from the Centre, Ajay Bhatt and MLA and Advisor Tourism, Nagaland H Khehovi Yeputhomi will jointly inaugurate the International Tourism Mart.

"This edition of the Mart will put the spotlight on "Domestic Tourism". Besides deliberations on the promotion of tourism in the North East Region in general, the Mart will also give a platform for promoting cultural ties, providing enhanced connectivity to the States of North Eastern Region with other parts of the country," said an official from the Union Tourism Ministry which has organized the mega event.

The three-day Mart to be attended by a battery of stakeholders will see a string of cultural programmes, deliberations on the promotion of

tourism in the North East Region in general, promoting cultural ties, providing enhanced connectivity to the States of North Eastern Region with other parts of the country.

Among over 300 delegates including government officials, industry stakeholders and local participants, the event is also going to be graced by the High Commissioner, Brunei Darussalam, High Commissioner, Malaysia, Ambassador Extra Ordinary, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Ambassador, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, amongst others attending dignitaries and diplomats.

The city is a tourist's delight, having been blessed with rich cultural heritage showcased in hotspots like Kisama Heritage Village, Kisama War Museum and Morungs, Khonoma Village and Kohima World War II War Cemetery.

L-G Sinha's attention drawn towards recent incidents in Kashmir

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Chairman of the Planning and Finance Committee at Union Minority Affairs Ministry and a member of the Central Waqf Council, Rais Khan Pathan, has written to Jammu & Kashmir L-G Manoj Sinha drawing his immediate attention to the recent incidents in Kashmir where senior journalist Sajid Yousuf Shah, who is also president of All JK Youth Society, received threats after he informed the authorities about nefarious plans of terrorists.

"The terrorists are plotting to contaminate the food given to the security forces by injecting poison in it. I state with deep anguish that the recent occurrence has become a crucial concern as informed to me by the journalist by tagging our official handle on Twitter

last week," Pathan mentioned in his letter and shared news clippings and news channel clips broadcast in the local media.

"Also, it has been informed that Shah has been attacked several times in the past and is on the top hit list of many terror attacks. The situation is grim and completely dreadful. The viral audios on Twitter with different names, IDs are disturbing and are jeopardizing the public safety. Looking at the situation, it stands as a major threat not only to the journalist but also to millions of security officers, which can risk the security and stability of our nation. In this regard, I request you to personally intervene in the matter and order an immediate high-level investigation to review the situation minutely," Pathan stated in his letter dated November 23.

Staying away from Constitution day not good, says Speaker

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing "pain" over Opposition parties boycotting the Constitution Day event organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Friday, Speaker Om Birla said staying away from such non-partisan events held by Parliament is not good for the health of democracy.

Speaking to reporters after the programme, Birla said, "This culture of boycotting non-partisan events, which are of national interest, is not good for the health of democracy." He said he will sit with the representatives from the opposition parties and discuss how it can be ensured that all political parties attend such events.

"I am deeply hurt as the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha that several political parties boycotted the event organised by Parliament to

commemorate the Constitution Day," Birla said.

He found it strange that the parties boycotting the event did not even inform him about their decision. "If they had some issues, they should have discussed it with me. I would have tried to resolve their issues so that they could attend the event," the Lok Sabha speaker said.

The people of the country expect Parliament to function in an orderly manner and all political parties should try to ensure that the House runs smoothly, he added.

Arrangements were made for Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and his counterpart in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge -- both from the Congress -- to sit on the dais. It was also intimated to both leaders.

Speaking at the event, Birla

The people of the country expect Parliament to function in an orderly manner and all political parties should try to ensure that the House runs smoothly, Birla added

said the Constitution is like a modern version of the Bhagavad Gita that motivates every Indian to work for the nation. "The Constitution of India is like a modern version of the Gita for us that motivates us to work for the nation. If each one of us commits to working for the country, we can build 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'," he said.

RAMBAGH ENCOUNTER

Shops, offices still shut in downtown Srinagar on day 2

Mobile internet too remains suspended

Srinagar: Majority of the shops and business establishments in downtown Srinagar were shut on the second consecutive day on Friday while mobile internet remained suspended in many parts of the city following the killing of three militants, officials said.

The shutdown was observed mainly in interior areas such as Nowhatta, Gojwara, Khanyar, S a f a k a d a l, Nawakadal, Rajouri Kadal and MR Gunj, they said.

Traffic, however, was plying as usual, the officials said.

Police on Wednesday gunned down Mehran Shalla, a self-styled commander of The Resistance Front (TRF) and a resident of Jamalata area in Nawakadal, and Manzoor Ahmad Mir and Arafat Sheikh, both from Pulwama, in a brief encounter in Rambagh area of the city.

Police said Mir and Sheikh, too, were affiliated with TRF, an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Shalla was wanted by security forces in connection with several civilian killings, including those of two teachers belonging to minority communities inside a school in Eidgah area of the city last month, they said.

PTI

Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Poonch; Pak ex-Army man killed

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

An ex-serviceman of the Pakistan Army and well known terrorist guide, working in close coordination with Pakistan based terrorist outfits Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad since early 1990's, was gunned down by the alert Indian Army troops while foiling an infiltration bid along the line of control in Bhimbergali area of Poonch late Thursday night.

The terrorist guide has been identified as Mohd Arif alias Haji Arif, resident of village Matrian, Khuriratta, PoJK.

According to reports, Haji Arif's house was located close to the line of control and was used by the terrorist outfits as launching pads to push terrorists inside the Indian territory.

He was on the radar of the Indian army for a long time. Late Thursday night he ran out of his luck while leading a group of infiltrators inside the Indian territory.

According to the dossier pre-



pared by the security agencies, Haji Arif was well versed with the

topography of the region and was regularly ferrying small groups of terrorists inside the Indian territory.

According to the dossier, his name also surfaced during investigations after several operations, IED blasts and even BAT attacks by the Pakistan army regulars targeting Indian soldiers. He mostly operated in Tarkundi bowl along the line of control. In February 2018 when different agencies were investigating the role of different players behind the BAT attack his name too had surfaced and substantiated by multiple agencies.

His two sons, identified as Naseer Khan and Bilal Khan, are both working as labourers in Saudi Arabia and UAE respectively while one of his younger brothers is also working as a guide of LeT.

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ELECTIONS

TMC, LF announce list of candidates ahead of BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Youth, women and minorities constitute a sizeable part of the ruling Trinamool Congress and Left Front's candidates' list for the upcoming Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections which would take place on December 19 about two years behind schedule.

Incidentally both the TMC and the Left, left principal opposition BJP behind in announcing their respective lists with a moribund Left on Friday coming out quite surprisingly with its own list beating the ruling outfit by several hours.

In an apparent bid to recognize the rise of women electorate that played a decisive role in this year's Assembly elections both the TMC and the Left Front have fielded a sizeable number of women candidates.

While senior TMC leader Partho Chatterjee emerging from a core committee meeting presided by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that "we are fielding 80 male and 64 female candidates --- making it a 55%-45% percent affair --- the Marxists have nominated 56 female and 58 male candidates out of the 127 seats they are contesting.

TMC will contest from all the 144 seats the Left Front have left 17 seats for the

"Congress, ISF or any other party that can defeat the Trinamool and the BJP". The Left which announced the names of 114 candidates will publish the names of 13 nominees in a day or two, its leader Kallol Majumdar said.

While both the TMC and the LF have preferred the youth in deciding their candidates the average age of the Front candidates is about 48 years. For the Trinamool Congress it is a tad lower.

Out of the 144 nominations the ruling outfit has retained 87 councilors and dropped 39. "Those who have not been given tickets would be used in the organizational work," said Chatterjee. Six MLAs --- all sitting councilors --- figure in the TMC list. Among them are outgoing Mayor Firhad Hakim who is also a State minister, Deputy Mayor Atin Ghosh, Mayors-in-council Debashis Kumar and Debabrata Biswas.

Out of the total candidates the TMC has fielded 19 SCs and 23 minorities, Chatterjee said adding out of the minority candidates two are from the Christian community.

The West Bengal State Election Commission had on Thursday announced the date of elections amid rising demand from the Opposition parties to hold simultaneous elections to all the 118 municipal boards and corporations in the State.

Param Bir to appear before commission looking into charges against Deshmukh on Monday

Mumbai: IPS officer Param Bir Singh will appear before the one-member commission probing corruption allegations against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday, his lawyer said. The Justice K U Chandiwal commission was formed in March this year to probe the allegations levelled by Singh, a former Mumbai police chief, against Deshmukh, an NCP leader. On Thursday, the commission had warned that if Singh did not remain present, he would face the execution of the bailable warrant issued against him.

On Friday, Singh's lawyer told the commission that the senior IPS officer won't be able to appear during the day as he was visiting Thane in connection with a case against him. Singh was ready to appear on Saturday or any other day, he said. The commission said it doesn't sit on Saturday and asked Singh to appear on Monday (November 29).

The commission had fined Singh on many occasions earlier for failing to appear. A bailable warrant had also been issued against him. Singh, transferred from the post of Mumbai police commissioner in

March in the aftermath of the Antilia bomb scare episode, alleged that Deshmukh, then home minister, had asked police officers to collect Rs 100 crore a month from bars and restaurants in Mumbai. Declared absconding by a Mumbai court in an extortion case, Singh surfaced in public on Thursday after six months, and appeared before the Mumbai crime branch to record his statement. Meanwhile, a man, claiming to be a social worker, on Friday approached the Justice Chandiwal commission with an intervention application, seeking inquiry against Singh for his 'misdeeds' during his tenure as Thane police commissioner. Singh implicated many builders, businessmen and common citizens in false cases, the plea alleged.

The commission took the application on record.

Incidentally, Singh appeared before Thane police on Friday in connection with an extortion case filed against him and some other police officials on the complaint of a local builder. The IPS officer is facing at least five extortion cases in Maharashtra.

Drones to deliver vaccines, medicines in Jammu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indigenously manufactured drones by Indian scientists will be launched from Saturday for delivering medicines in the inaccessible and tough terrain of Jammu and surrounding areas with a focus on vaccine delivery initially.

"This is going to be a pilot project for the area. The drone is developed and manufactured entirely by our scientists," Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh told reporters here. The use of drones has gained popularity in the last two years, beginning with the World Economic Forum's "Medicine from the Sky" project in India. Several States are piloting similar solutions for better access to medical care among rural communities.

Singh said he himself will be launching the project at Jammu.

The drone is developed by the scientists at Bengaluru's National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), a constituent of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), an autonomous Society that is headed by the Prime Minister.

For now, the delivery would be limited to Covid vaccines and once successful, it would be expanded to be used for regular delivery of medicines in the remote, hilly areas. Used for surveillance

and in humanitarian aid delivery, drones are being increasingly developed to transport medical samples and supplies.

Jammu and surrounding areas are sensitive in terms of their strategic importance. Some months ago, there was an attack on an Army installation using drones.

An official from the Science and Technology Ministry said, "The drones would be deployed by authorised agencies such as hospitals, not anybody can use it, nor would any random person be permitted to use it."

NAL has called the drone an 'Octacopter'. It can fly at an operational altitude of 500 m AGL and at maximum flying speed of 36 kmph. It can be used for a variety of BVLOS applications for last mile delivery like medicines, vaccines, food, postal packets, Human organs (such as heart for heart transplantation) etc.

In an article published in Elsevier Connect in 2016, researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center had noted that the cost savings would come from drones being able to deliver vaccines more quickly and cheaply than land-based methods, which are limited by road conditions and the need for costly fuel and maintenance.

Parl IT panel summons Facebook India officials

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has asked Facebook India officials to appear on November 29 to hear on the safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security in the digital space.

The committee is also expected to take view point of Facebook India on a report shared by whistle blower Sophie Zhang, a former employee of the company. The committee has earlier called Facebook India in June this year to take view

According to the agenda of the meeting, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT will "hear the views of the representatives of Facebook India on

the subject 'Safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security in the digital space'. The committee will also hear representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on the same.

The Congress leader has earlier stated that the committee would look into reports that Facebook did nothing to censor hate posts by some Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections and ask the social media giant to respond to the accusations.

The committee has earlier called Facebook India in June this year to take view on new the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on February 25, 2021. The Rules have come into effect from May 26, 2021.

MGL hikes CNG, PNG prices for 3rd time in 6 weeks

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development that would affect 24 lakh consumers in the metropolis, the Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) increased the prices of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) with effect from midnight of Friday.

This is the third hike in CNG and PNG prices carried out by the MGL since October 14. The hike will hit the domestic budgets of 16 lakh people living in the metropolis and neighbouring areas, eight lakh consumers using gas-powered vehicles will have to spend more because of the hike.

The MGL has increased the basic prices of CNG by

₹3.06/kg and domestic PNG by ₹2.26 per Standard Cubic Meter (SCM) for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

As a consequence, the revised all-inclusive prices of CNG used by vehicles will go up from ₹57.54 per kg to ₹61.50 per kg, while the domestic PNG will be ₹36.50 per SCM, in a single slab henceforth.

Earlier, the MGL had hiked rates twice in the first week of October ahead of the festive season. It went in for one more hike on October 14.

On its part, the MGL has attributed the price increase to the shortfall in domestic gas allocation for which it is buying higher priced PNG

(imported RLNG) to cater to the growing numbers of CNG and domestic customers.

"In addition, owing to the substantial increase in natural gas prices in the international market, the MGL's input gas cost has also gone up. To partially offset the increase in the input costs of gas, we have gone in for the latest price hikes," an MGL spokesperson said.

However, the MGL said that despite the revised rates, its CNG would help the consumers save around 62 percent and 35 per cent respectively in comparison with petrol and diesel, while the PNG users were able to save 27 percent compared with the prices of domestic LPG.

Raj: 6 detained for pelting stones at Dalit man's wedding procession

Jaipur: Six people were detained after they pelted stones at a Dalit man's marriage procession after he rode a mare against their wish, police said on Friday.

Nearly a dozen people were injured in the incident that took place in Jaipur's Kotputli town late on Thursday, police said.

"Some people from a certain community had objected to Dalits riding a mare during marriage ceremonies," Prapura Station House Officer Shiv Shankar said. "Anticipating trouble, the Dalit groom's family members had given a police complaint prior to the marriage. Accordingly, a police team was deployed to ensure smooth conduct of the ceremony. However, some people managed to pelt stones at the procession," the offices said.

The accused have been booked under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and the Indian Penal Code, Shankar said.

He said another person from the victim's family is slated to get married a few days later, and adequate protection will be provided to them.

Three infant deaths in four days at Attappady; Kerala Govt orders enquiry

Palakkad: The death of a three-day old infant at a tribal hamlet at nearby Attappady on Friday, the third such in the last four days, prompted the Kerala government to order a multi-departmental enquiry into the incident.

The deaths occurred at Agali and Puthur regions in the area.

Health Minister Veena George directed the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) to investigate the incident.

Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, K Radhakrishnan, will visit the backward hamlet in the district on Saturday to take stock of the situation.

T V Anupama, the Director of the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, has been entrusted to enquire into the matter and submit a report soon.

The Minister will also take part in a meeting in the morning at Agali in the district.

The infant died at Mannarcaud hospital in the district on Friday, Palakkad DMO Ramadevi told PTI, adding that this was the third such incident in the last four days.

"The post-mortem will be conducted at the District Hospital in Palakkad," the DMO said, adding that this was the seventh infant death in the tribal hamlet this year. Medical officers said some were Intrauterine Deaths (IUD) and other children died due to sickle cell anemia.

PTI

Man held for raping 'minor' in UP town

Ballia (UP): A 27-year-old man has been arrested here for allegedly raping a minor on pretext of marriage, police said on Friday.

The arrest came on Thursday on complaint of a 22-year-old woman, who alleged that the accused raped her for two years beginning in 2014 promising her that he will marry her, they said.

She alleged she was 15 when the accused first raped her and he continued to do so for the next two years.

She approached the police after he allegedly broke his promise and



married another woman, Gadwar police station in-charge Durgeshwar Mishra said.

The woman also alleged that the accused not only abused and assaulted her but also threatened to kill her.

A case has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, and the woman has been sent to the district hospital for medical examination, Mishra said.

PTI



Members of Police Charitable Trust hold placards at the Gateway of India to mark the 13th anniversary of the 26/11 terror attacks, in Mumbai on Friday

PTI

who were killed while fighting the terrorists at key locations in south Mumbai.

The 26/11 attack had claimed 166 lives and left more than 300 others injured. The sites targeted during the mayhem were the world heritage building Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Hotel Taj Mahal Palace & Tower, Hotel Trident, Nariman House, Leopold Café and Cama Hospital, Wadi Bunder.

While Abdul Rehman, Abu Ali and Abu Soheb marched to the Leopold Café in Colaba and then laid siege at Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Abdul Rehman Chota and Fahad Ullah headed to the Trident-Oberoi Hotel.

Nasir Abu Umar and Babar Imran alias Abu Aakashia targeted Nariman House housing the Jewish Chabad House, and trio - Isamal Khan, Abu Ismail and Ajmal Amir



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Cash cow

India is far from joining the top milk-exporting nations because of its large domestic demand

This Friday was the birth centenary of India's Milk Man, Verghese Kurien. He was the brain behind 'Operation Flood' and made dairy farming India's biggest self-sustaining industry and the largest employer in the rural sector. With an annual production touching 200 million tonnes, India accounts for over a fifth of the world's milk production. The per capita availability of milk is around 400 grams a day against the world's average of 300 grams. The sector's respected brand is Amul, which stands for Anand Milk Union Limited, managed by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation that played a pivotal role in the 'White Revolution'. The Milk Man left behind him a proud legacy, but he would, as a man used to look far and ahead, notice several uncanny challenges and controversies facing the dairy sector. India is still far away from joining the ranks of milk exporting nations because much of the production caters to its large domestic demand. India may be self-sufficient in milk production, but only 10 States produce over three-fourths of the total milk. Only nine States compete with the national average when it comes to the per capita availability of milk. Most States still lack a healthy dairy cooperative network. Most farmers in these States do not get remunerative prices. Steps are needed to enhance their return on investment. Take the quality of cows, for example. The yield from indigenous cows is much lower than that of exotic crossbred cows. Crossbreeding is the answer and the country took baby steps only



in 2019 through the Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme. However, crossbreeding has to first tackle the sensitive issue of India's renewed interest in the socio-cultural and nationalist affinity towards cows and dairy products which has created a political movement for promoting indigenous breeds.

In India, like in the United States, farm animals like cows have a central place in the Indian way of life, politics and culture. The United States has a vast legal framework concerning milk whereas the Indian constitution has a clear provision on cattle welfare. For separate reasons, cows are enmeshed in both countries in exclusionary politics, reflecting existing differences between religious communities and ideologies. The right of farmers to sell ageing cows for slaughter is caught in a Hindu versus Muslim debate, ignoring the role slaughter plays in preserving the species by replacements with younger stock and protecting farmers' livelihoods. A Government move to introduce milk instead of eggs in the mid-day meal scheme in schools has generated debates over milk versus egg and vegetarianism. Currently, milk and dairy products are stuck in a double controversy, with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) asking Amul not only to switch to vegan milk but also stop cruelty to animals in the dairy industry. And around the corner is another issue with the potential to raise a 'white' storm: including milk in the public distribution system because the poor also have a right to drink milk.

PICTALK



Women make bamboo baskets to sell on the eve of Hosto Silpo Mela, in Kolkata

PTI

Intolerance

More than 70 years since Independence, we as a nation haven't grown up enough to grow together

Where are we going? What have we become? Is this what we've learnt from Hinduism; a religion that teaches tolerance and harmony towards all? What has happened in Gurugram recently yet again proves that we, as a nation, have missed the whole humane point. Certain right-wing Hindu groups on Friday interrupted Muslims while the latter were offering *namaz* (prayers) at a designated open site in Gurugram's Sector 37, leading to tensions yet again. This is not the first time that communal hatred has erupted in Gurugram; several sectors of the region have been witnessing disruptions for the last few months and barely any measures were taken. The Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Gurugram, however, had opened its doors for the Muslims to offer their Friday prayers but *namaz* could not be offered in any of the gurdwaras. The right-wing groups creating a hostile environment for the people of a particular community or religion will only drag the country back to square one, from where it all began. Chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' at those offering *namaz* only shows vulnerability, and continuing the *namaz* despite the chants shows sanctity.



Just a couple of days back, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath — while making a veiled attack on the Samajwadi Party — had said that the nation

has to decide "if the sweetness of sugarcane will grow or the followers of Pakistan's founder MA Jinnah will cause mischief" in the State. Training his guns at the Opposition, he made a passionate case to prove that UP was moving ahead on the path of development. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had earlier in the month equated Jinnah with Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru, saying that all of them had helped India achieve Independence. The incumbent Chief Minister was apparently peeved over the recent developments involving Akhilesh that involved his meetings with Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh and Apna Dal's Krishna Patel as part of his apparent attempts to cobble up alliances with relatively smaller parties to challenge the BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections which are due in the first quarter of 2022. Besides, there are indications that the Samajwadi Party would like to reach out for further alliances. That's all fair game in electoral politics but the moot point here is that votes or the voters should not be mobilised by stirring the communal pot.

Can't expect the Taliban to change

The restrictions are vague and vulnerable to varying interpretations, which would give the Taliban ample opportunity to crack down on anyone



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

It increasingly seems that the Taliban's second innings in power is headed to being a clone of its first (1996-2001). Women had been shorn of all basic human rights — to work, education and even healthcare, during the Taliban's previous tenure. They could also not appear in public unescorted by a "close" male relative — husband, father, son or brother — and wrapped from head to foot in a burqa. Men were deprived of all sources of entertainment and amusement and imprisoned in a life full of taboos. A savage criminal justice system was in place with public executions and punishments like amputation for theft.

Indications that it will be the same this time as well are emerging gradually as restrictions are imposed. The latest, according to the AFP and BBC, are the new "religious guidelines" issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. These direct Afghanistan's television channels to, among other things, stop showing plays and soap operas featuring women actors. Women journalists and presenters have been ordered to wear Islamic *hijab* on the screen. Films showing Prophet Mohammad or other revered figures are not to be shown, nor should films considered against the principles of Sharia — or Islamic law — and Afghan values. Comedy and entertainment shows that insult religion or may be considered offensive to Afghans are also forbidden from being shown.

The restrictions are vaguely worded and vulnerable to varying interpretations, which would give the Taliban enforcers ample opportunity to crack down on anyone they consider to be an offender. This has already been happening with musicians. While, unlike during Taliban's first innings, music has not been banned, musicians are being harassed. Their establishments are being raided and instruments broken. They live in fear. Many of them are trying to leave the country. There is a growing feeling that music is set to disappear from the lives of Afghans. It would be a tragedy if this hap-



pens. Afghanistan has a vibrant tradition in music, influenced by Indian and Iranian classical music. Besides, it has had a thriving pop music scenario marked by the syncing of electronic instrumental and dance beats with more traditional rhythms.

The justice system also appears to be set to return to what it was under the Taliban's first innings. On September 25, 2021, corpses of four men, alleged kidnappers killed in a shootout with policemen, were hung in public areas at several places in the city of Herat to convey, in the words of the province's deputy governor, Mawlawi Shir Ahmad Mujahir, the "message" that kidnappers would not be tolerated. That this was not an aberration is clear from the fact that it happened just after Mullah Noroddin Turabi, one of the founders of the Taliban and the head of the dreaded Department for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, which had savagely enforced the draconian rules and laws prevailing during the Taliban's earlier rule, had told the AP's Kathy Gannon during an interview that the punishments administered then will return, though these may not be carried out in pub-

“NOTHING MAKES THE TALIBAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN MORE OMINOUSLY CLEAR THAN THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND THE REINCARNATION OF THE MINISTRY FOR PROMOTION OF VIRTUE AND PREVENTION OF VICE

lic. "Cutting off hands is very necessary for security", he had said, adding that it had a deterrent effect.

The media is under severe pressure. The 11-point guidelines announced by Qari Muhammad Yusuf Ahmed, the interim director of the Government Media and Information Centre, on September 19, 2021, include directives against publishing matters in conflict with Islam or insulting to national personalities and instruct journalists to produce news reports in coordination with the Government media office. The announcement, a requiem for media freedom, comes in the wake of sustained attacks on journalists and other forms of pressures on them, which have sent many into hiding and effectively closed down 153 media outlets since the Taliban came to power.

The plight of women, it increasingly seems, may be the same as during the first Taliban regime. Not one of them was included either in the first set of 33 ministers in the caretaker Government announced on September 7, 2021; nor in the second one of 44, announced on September 21, 2021. The Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid

held out the possibility of women being included later but suggested no time frame. The Taliban's record during its present incarnation in power does not hold out much hope. The order not to telecast IPL matches because of the presence of women in the audience, the Kabul Mayor's ordering of women — with the exception of those whose jobs could not be done by men — to stay at home, the reopening of secondary schools with boys and not girls, the order by the Taliban-appointed vice-chancellor of the Kabul University barring women from the campus as long as "a real Islamic environment is not provided for", are instances which reflect an attitude towards women which does not augur well for the future of their rights under the present dispensation.

Nothing, however, makes the Taliban Government's attitude towards women more ominously clear than the shutting down of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the reincarnation of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, in the building it had occupied.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FARMERS ARE TAKING IT TOO FAR

Sir — Last week, the Prime Minister in his address to the nation had politely and apologetically said that the Government could not make the farmers understand the benefits of the contentious three farm laws which were passed last year and as a result, these laws were being repealed. In over seventy years of Parliamentary history, no Prime Minister has ever apologised in such a humble way as PM Modi did. Many Opposition leaders have been claiming it as their victory as their concerted and persistent efforts have borne fruits.

My personal opinion is that the Government should not have withdrawn these laws as the farmers would further up the ante with their neo demands, and it has come true. The farmers, without applauding PM Modi for his bold and magnanimous stand, have added five more demands to their lone remaining demand of MSP guarantee. Almost all the Opposition parties are backtracking from their main demand of rescinding the three farm laws, to which they had said, "if these bills are not withdrawn, no going back to home." Not only this, the recalling of these bills has opened a Pandora's box for the withdrawal of other bills such as the Article 370 and the CAA. The Government should deal with troublemakers by not accepting any more demands.

Sagar Singh | Muzaffarnagar

INDIA'S FIRST VIRTUAL SCIENCE LAB

Sir — Recently, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's first virtual science lab for children under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Jigyasa program. The target audience of the lab will be students from class 6-12. The primary vision of the lab is to provide quality research exposure to school students to drive their scientific curiosity. It will enable curiosity-driven research-based concepts, encourage higher-order thinking skills and promote entrepreneurship.

In this inspirational science lab, students will have fun and carry out exper-

Indian Navy gets a new beast



After the valuable commissioning of INS Visakhapatnam earlier on Sunday, here, on Thursday, adding the teeth to India's naval prowess, INS Vela, the country's fourth Scorpene-class submarine, was delivered to the Indian Navy after more than two years of sea trials. The delivery of the attack submarine, which was launched in May 2019, is seen as a major shot in the arm for the Indian Navy in terms of strength and capability. The INS Vela will be seen as another 'Atmanirbhar' success story in the field of submarine manufacturing. The INS Vela, built

in India by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai in collaboration with the Naval group, France, is equipped with cataclysmic weapons and advanced technologies which are capable enough to monitor and counter enemy movement in the waters.

This is the second major induction in the Indian Navy within a week. The delivery of four submarines — Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj and now, Vela, will reaffirm India's presence amongst an elite group of countries with the capability to design and build submarines with advanced stealth and combat capabilities. It is a proud moment for the country which proved that India is no longer dependent on other countries when it comes to protecting its waters. However, at the same time, we must remember that while the Pakistani Navy is far behind ours, the Chinese Navy is much more sophisticated and has more than 60 submarines while India doesn't even have half of it. It's time to equip the Indian Navy with more such beasts.

Shivesh Patidar | Ujjain

iments. It will help connect students with scientists across the country. It is also in tune with the National Education Policy (NEP), where students are allowed to choose any subject of their choice. It is an open source platform and students will be able to access content in regional languages. Science and research webinars will be performed to connect with more students across the country. This will enable students to learn theoretical concepts with practical experiments and presentations.

Vishal Patidar | Ujjain

CHILDREN ARE NOT PARENTS' 'ASSETS'

Sir — The Coronavirus pandemic has given rise to a vicious cycle of loss of jobs and decreased income. Professionally independent men and women were on the backfoot when the pandemic was at its zenith. Their woes have spilled over. Reduction in income and increased expenses pushed families to a corner. An exponential increase in child labour hap-

pened during the pandemic. Even as schools are opening doors, children are being "protected" by their parents in a different way — through disguised child labour.

The youngsters "employed" in their own family enterprises are being pressured to stay put by their parents. Forced labour is being disguised as "training and assisting" by parents. Almost two years and counting, following the pandemic, "well trained" children are being seen as assets by parents for their occupation. This is not to say that it was the pandemic that solely bred pressure labour. COVID-19 may have augmented parents' proclivity for forcing their children into family businesses. It may not appear as exploitation in the literal sense but the damage it does to the overall personality of the child is indescribable.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Mamata Banerjee means what she says and says what she means. In Indian politics, that is a rare quality.



BJP leader — Subramanian Swamy



As we give thanks for what we have, we also keep in our hearts those who have been lost and those who have lost so much.

US President — Joe Biden

I have learnt to be clear about what I am comfortable with, what works for me and what doesn't.



Actor — Lara Dutta



I am honoured to accept this role (Test captain) ahead of what will be a massive Ashes summer.

Australian fast bowler — Pat Cummins


The way Kangana Ranaut is abusing everybody...she is hurting the sentiment of various communities.



NCP leader — Nawab Malik


FIRST COLUMN

KILLER DRONES:
DEATH FROM ABOVE



GWYNNE DYER

Commercially available quadcopter drones carrying small amounts of explosives are “the most concerning tactical development since the rise of the improvised explosive device in Iraq,” US Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie Jr., senior US commander for the Middle East, said last February. But now drones are political weapons as well, and it will get worse. Two weeks ago, three quadcopters flew into the heavily fortified ‘Green Zone’ in Baghdad to attack the home of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi. Two of the drones were shot down, but the third dropped explosives that blew in Kadhimi’s front door, injured at least five guards, and wounded the prime minister’s wrist. If he had died, he would have been the first senior politician killed by a drone, but that honour will have to go to someone else. Long-range, million-dollar drones have been killing people remotely for a more than a decade, but those are big aircraft making big explosions and they usually avoid densely populated urban areas. They won the war for Azerbaijan against Armenia last year, which was their first decisive use in a ‘conventional’ war. But now we are seeing something quite different. General Mackenzie explained: “I’m talking about



ones you can go out and buy at Costco right now for \$1,000.” If you have some people who are good at making improvised explosive devices, then buy yourself a clutch of drones big enough to carry two or three kilos each and you can go into business right away.

The golden age of political assassinations, dormant for a century, is probably on its way back in. You can shoot down quadcopters, of course, but they are small, fast-moving targets. They can be launched in large numbers, and they can avoid detection until the last moment by staying low amid the urban clutter. If they are actively guided you can jam the signal, but if they are following a pre-programmed flight path using GPS there’s no signal to jam. They’re also untraceable. Even if you find the bits after the thing exploded, there will be no markings on the pieces that let you trace it back to the person who bought it. What caused the recent unpleasantness in Iraq was that Khadhimi’s party won the right to form the new Government in the October election, while the pro-Iranian militias lost two-thirds of their seats in parliament. It was a surprisingly fair election, but the militias automatically claimed foul. (They even borrowed Trump’s slogan: “Stop the Steal”.) On 5 November stone-throwing militia supporters marched on the Green Zone to protest. The police opened fire, dozens of people were injured, and at least one demonstrator, maybe two, died. The drone attack on Kadhimi’s house, ‘safe’ inside the Green Zone, came just two days later. It’s inevitable that this technique will spread rapidly far beyond Iraq, and that politicians and other prominent public figures will be vulnerable to it in every country, even the well-run ones. They will need more security than before, perhaps much more, and even that will not guarantee their safety. And there may be one more step in this dance. It’s not normally a good idea for a killer drone to be in direct radio contact with the person who launches it, but if that person has access to face-recognition software it might be possible to make remote attacks outdoors on individual people with relatively little ‘collateral damage’. Is nothing safe? Of course not. It never was, really. Kings needed food-tasters to avoid being poisoned; presidents and prime ministers just need different kinds of protection.

(Gwynne Dyer’s new book is ‘The Shortest History of War’. The views expressed are personal.)

Development of Metro:

An eastern perspective



PRADYOT KUMAR CHATTERJEE

There has been no proper techno-economic and socio-economic study for planned expansion of Metro rail in the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah

India conceived a plan to provide about 97 km of mass rapid transit network (metro rail) on two north-south and one east-west routes in Kolkata sometime in the late sixties. This was the first major planned urban mass rapid transit system under Ministry of Railways.

In the next decade, a bold step to start construction work on the predominantly underground North-South (N-S) line began with Cut and Cover technology at considerable inconvenience to surface traffic in a city. The era of metro rail began in India in 1984 with the commissioning of a three-kilometre stretch.

The next planned MRT system came almost 25 years later in New Delhi. The first line went into operation in 2002. With this the era of participation of central and state governments in setting up of the Metro rail system began and subsequently MRT services were planned for Bengaluru and Chennai. Since then, the Metro has expanded to several cities.

Today in India, around 760 km. of Metro Rail system is in operation and nearly 580 km. is under construction. Of the five most populous states, UP, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have a much larger share of Metro system in multiple cities. Only Kolkata features in the Metro map West Bengal. Populous states like Bihar lag behind with the Metro project only recently taking off in Patna. States like Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat having lesser populations have larger route kms. per capita. The development of Metro rail system has been mostly concentrated in Western and Southern states besides Delhi-NCR. Eastern states like Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha have lagged behind.

Transportation has long been viewed as a means of energizing and sustaining economic growth, generating employment, and fostering holistic development. Unlike other sectors, the demand-supply gap cannot be bridged by increasing imports, but only through capacity-building. It is this unique feature which makes transportation the backbone of a nation's development and improved quality of life. However, with the ever-increasing population and growing urbanization, the stress on transportation is increasing, which is adversely affecting the environment, seamless travel of people, and asset life deterioration. A balance needs to be maintained for inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth to ensure a better livelihood and right to life, a constitutional right.

Rail-based mass transit system is by far more efficient and climate friendly. It reduces transport congestion on road and associated pollution. Any congested city with large transport volume is ideal for the provision of Metro.

Though Kolkata was the first city to have metro rail, no further metro project was sanctioned for any eastern states till recently when metro rail was sanctioned for Patna and Guwahati.

Kolkata with high population density



TRANSPORTATION HAS LONG BEEN VIEWED AS A MEANS OF ENERGISING AND SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH, GENERATING EMPLOYMENT AND FOSTERING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT. UNLIKE OTHER SECTORS, THE DEMAND-SUPPLY GAP CANNOT BE BRIDGED BY INCREASING IMPORTS, BUT ONLY THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING

(The writer is a retired railway professional and an independent consultant on Metro railway. The views expressed are personal.)



and only six-eight per cent of road space deserves Metro rail as a means of Mass Rapid transit. Congested roads not conducive to building the Metro along roads poses a great challenge to planners.

Kolkata Metro was set up before any guidelines or policy on MRTS was issued by the Ministry of Urban Development and is the only system that is under direct control of the Ministry of Railways.

There has been no proper techno-economic and socio-economic study for planned expansion of Metro rail in Kolkata to overcome travel issues of citizens in the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah. In 75 years since independence only two road bridges have been added across the river Ganges which are miles apart unlike cities like London, Paris, Moscow, et cetera, that have extensive underground rail and road networks criss-crossing the rivers that pass through the cities.

It is unfortunate that no planning of rail-based transport system for urban conglomerates like Asansol — Durgapur, Siliguri-Jalpaiguri, which have proximity to fairly busy airports like Bagdogra and Andal has been conceived.

Metro rail projects in Kolkata have always suffered for one reason or the other and 36 years after the first Metro started in Kolkata, only 32.25 km of one N-S line and seven km of East-West line is commissioned. Around 28 km of routes can be added in next two-three years with the likely commissioning of Phoolbagan-Howrah Maidan (9.34 km), Noapara-NSCBI airport (6.87 km), Joka-Majerhat (7 km) and New Garia-Ruby (5 km) sections.

This will leave around 36 km more to be completed on the Joka-Esplanade and New Garia-NSCBI airport lines which may take four or five years. Another about 25 km. route where the Metro was sanctioned a decade ago for expansion on the northern fringes of the city is yet to take off with no funds sanctioned.

Kolkata and Howrah need metro systems with increased frequency and faster travel to reduce dependency on road transport to provide seamless travel to citizens. The suburbs of Kolkata need to be brought into the Metro map to reduce dependence on suburban rail and road.

Apart from routes under construction or planned, Kolkata needs more east-west and north-south routes with interchange facility and a ring route on its outer periphery. Some of the routes that could benefit a large population with metro connectivity can be: Extension of E-W metro to Uluberia; New East-West route from Shalimar to Jadavpur covering west and south Kolkata.

Extension of N-S route to sonarpur; New North south route from Bally to Garia-IIM/Joka in south; Extension of Joka-Esplanade route to Diamond harbour.

The feasibility of the various options needs to be explored critically.

Two important projects sanctioned a decade back, Baranagar-Barrackpur and NSCBI Airport-Barasat, which can serve a large population, are presently on hold due to civic issues. These need to be revived using modern technology.

We need to rope in top-class technical expertise wherever available to find ways and means to overcome the constraints.

Project delays lead to cost and time overrun and citizens are denied the benefits. These projects will considerably ease pressure on land routes and as such, a final decision by stakeholders cannot be delayed.

Besides, the Metro rail system in places like Siliguri-Jalpaiguri area including Bagdogra Airport, Durgapur-Asansol area including Andal Airport, Kalyani-Krishnanagar-Shantipur-awadip area need to be planned now to address the congestion due to sectoral urbanization and developing industrial conglomerates.

It takes at least 8-10 years for a project from planning stage till it sees the light of the day if all goes well at every stage. The state must identify routes and areas to be served and quality DPRs need to be prepared identifying possible routes through established agencies like RITES, DMRC with clear Right Of Way. Duly approved DPRs can be basis for generating demand at the centre with prioritizing projects.

The stake holders need to remove bottlenecks for expeditious completion of sanctioned works. It is the common man who will reap the benefits of such state of art infrastructure.

Metro rail contributes tremendously on environment front, generates carbon credits, reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It has huge potential to generate solar power and contribute towards India's dream of fulfilling its target for alternate energy.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



PUNJAB TOPPED THE COUNTRY IN SCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE NPGI SURVEY. PUNJAB WAS ABOVE DELHI ON ALL FIVE PARAMETERS. —PUNJAB EDUCATION MINISTER PARGAT SINGH



I'M READY FOR AN OPEN DEBATE. PARGAT SINGH SHOULD COMPARE THE 10 BEST GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF PUNJAB WITH DELHI'S. —DELHI EDUCATION MINISTER MANISH SISODIA

It's time to think seriously about defecation

We have to make efforts to ensure environmental cleanliness so that when we look around, we see and feel cleanliness in both visible and invisible things

There is a saying, “out of sight out of mind”, that means we forget about things we don't see. It's the same thing with sanitation and hygiene. As long as the filth or faeces is visible to our eyes, we are concerned about it, but as soon as it's flushed, we stop thinking about what happened to it faeces, whether it was properly disposed of or covered up ostentatiously. It happens because either we are careless or we lack correct information.

Now take the example of septic tanks built in cities, how many of us know about the ‘sanitation value chain’? How many of us know how to make the correct septic tank, what is the right design and measurement? How many of us are aware that to keep the

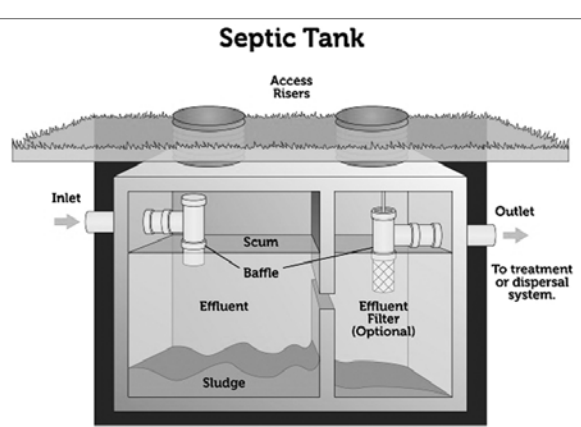


SHISHIR CHANDRA

(The writer is Programme Coordinator, WaterAid India. The views expressed are personal.)

septic tank working smoothly and effectively, the septic tank should be cleaned every 3 to 5 years? How many of us know that due to the lack of regular cleaning of the septic tank, the sewage treatment process in the septic tank stops and untreated septage causes health problems? How many of us know that untreated septage from the septic tank goes into small and big rivers through drains and contaminates rivers?

All we know is that we flushed the toilets and the excreta was out of sight, now whether it has gone to the septic tank, went to the drain or river, what difference does it make to us? In many cities sewer treatment plants or faecal sludge treatment plants are in the process of being



built, and in cities where they exist, they are insufficient. So, the question arises whether we are even aware of this issue, the environmental problems it causes, and if we want to understand and play a part in this.

Generally, in urban areas or even in villages nowadays, the septic tank is nothing but a container without any proper process or method for sewage treatment and it is safe in the long run. Local builders and contractors are also not

concerned with how the structure should be. The owners understand it as a big-room like structure under the ground built as a septic tank for which they do not have to worry for 30-50 years.

Cleanliness cannot be achieved by making rules and regulations. We can definitely control it temporarily but ‘behaviour change’ is the solution. It should become a mass movement.

When talking about sanitation, there is a need to go beyond just the construction of toilets. Faecal Sludge Management has been called the missing and ignored component of the sanitation as safe management of faecal sludge requires more than just access to a toilet and use of a mere septic tank. Improving city-

wide urban sanitation is complex as it must consider both on- and off-site systems, encompass the entire service chain, serve different customers and be acceptable to a broad range of stakeholders.

As much as it is the responsibility of the government and the government machinery, it is our responsibility also to understand the problem. The population is yet to be fully persuaded to change the age-old practice of defecating in the open, construct proper septic tanks, get into the habit of scheduled desludging and not neglect basic sanitation practices. We also have to be aware of the correct structure and design of the septic tank, in how many days it is necessary to empty the septic tank, who is the con-

cerned authority to contact to get the septic tank emptied. We also have to monitor that solid waste from the septic tank is disposed of properly and not put in the drain or open ground. Single houses which do not have any drainage channels should have a soak-pit system unless the local panchayat or municipality makes some other concrete arrangement. Every effort has to be made to avoid waterlogging, whether through pit or by planting trees that absorb water or by applying other environmentally friendly methods.

We have to make efforts to ensure environmental cleanliness so that when we look around we see and feel cleanliness in both visible and invisible things.

World takes action as new variant emerges in southern Africa

Brussels: A slew of nations moved to stop air travel from southern Africa on Friday, and stocks plunged in Asia and Europe in reaction to news of a new, potentially more transmissible Covid-19 variant.

"The last thing we need is to bring in a new variant that will cause even more problems," said German Health Minister Jens Spahn, amid a massive spike in cases in the 27-nation European Union, which is recommending a ban on flights from southern African nations.

Within a few days of the discovery of the new variant, it has already impacted on a jittery world that is sensitive to bad COVID-19 news, with deaths around the globe standing at well over 5 million.

Medical experts, including the World Health Organization, warned against any overreaction before all elements were clear but nations who acted said their concerns were justified.

"Early indications show this variant may be more transmissible than the delta variant and current vaccines may be less effective against it," British Health Secretary Sajid Javid told lawmakers. "We must

move quickly and at the earliest possible moment," he said.

Belgium became the first European Union country to announce a case of the variant.

"We have one case of this variant that is confirmed. It's someone who came from abroad," said Health Minister Frank Vandenbroucke. "It's a suspicious variant. We don't know if it's a very dangerous variant."

Israel, one of the world's most vaccinated countries, announced Friday that it has also detected the country's first case of the new variant, in a traveler who returned from Malawi. The traveler and two other suspected cases have been placed in isolation. It said all three are vaccinated but that it is currently looking into their exact vaccination status.

The new variant immediately infected stock markets around the world. Major indexes fell in Europe and Asia and Dow Jones futures dipped 800 points ahead of the market opening in the U.S.

Investors are likely to shoot first and ask questions later until more is known," said Jeffrey Halley of foreign exchange broker Oanda.

WHO hosts special meeting on worrying new Covid variant

Geneva: Advisers to the World Health Organisation are holding a special session in Geneva to flesh out information about a worrying new variant of the coronavirus that has emerged in South Africa, though a top expert says its impact on Covid-19 vaccines may not be known for weeks.

The technical advisory group on the evolution of COVID-19 was meeting virtually to discuss the so-called B.1.1.529 variant that has caused stock markets to swoon and led the European Union to recommend a pause in flights to southern Africa.

The group could decide if it's a "variant of concern" — the most worrying type, like the well-known delta variant — or

a "variant of interest", and whether to use a Greek letter to classify it.

"We don't know very much about this, yet. What we do know is that this variant has a large number of mutations, and the concern is that when you have so many mutations it can have an impact on how the virus behaves," Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead on COVID-19 Maria Van Kerkhove said in a social-media chat on Thursday (local time). Fewer than 100 full genome sequences of the variant are so far available, she said.

"It will take a few weeks for us to understand what impact this variant has on any potential vaccines, for example," Ms Van Kerkhove said. **AP**

EU wants to stop flights from southern Africa over variant

Brussels— The European Union said Friday it is planning to stop air travel from southern Africa to counter the spread of a new COVID-19 variant as the 27-nation bloc is battling a massive spike in cases.

"The last thing we need is to bring in a new variant that will cause even more problems," said German Health Minister Jens Spahn.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement that she "proposes, in close coordination with the member states, to activate the emergency brake to stop air travel from the southern African region."

A new coronavirus variant has been detected in South Africa that scientists say is a concern because of its high

Israel warns of 'emergency' after detecting new strain

Jerusalem: Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Friday that Israel is "on the threshold of an emergency situation" after authorities detected the country's first case of a new coronavirus variant and barred travel to and from most African countries.

The Health Ministry said it detected the new strain in a traveler who had returned from Malawi and was investigating two other suspected cases. The three individuals, who had all been vaccinated, were placed in isolation.

A new coronavirus variant has been detected in South Africa that scientists say is a concern because of its high number of mutations and rapid spread among young people in Gauteng, the country's most populous province.

At a Cabinet meeting convened Friday to discuss the new variant, Bennett said it is more contagious and spreads more rapidly than the delta variant. He said authorities were still gathering information on

whether it evades vaccines or is deadlier.

"We are currently at the threshold of an emergency situation," he said. "I ask everyone to be prepared and to fully join in the work around the clock."

government later said that all countries in sub-Saharan Africa would be considered "red countries" from which foreign nationals are barred from traveling to Israel. Israelis are prohibited from visiting those countries and those returning from them must undergo a period of isolation.

The Israeli military will work to locate all individuals who have been to red countries within the past week and instruct them to go into isolation while testing is carried out, it said. Israel launched one of the world's first and most successful vaccination campaigns late last year, and nearly half the population has received a booster shot. Israel recently expanded the campaign to include children as young as 5. **AP**

French fishermen block ports in spat with UK

Calais (France): French fishing crews are threatening to block French ports and traffic under the English Channel on Friday to disrupt the flow of goods to the U.K., in a dispute over post-Brexit fishing licenses.

It's the latest tension point between the neighboring countries, who are also trading blame for not doing enough to prevent the deaths of at least 27 migrants whose boat sank Wednesday off Calais, in the choppy waters of the world's busiest shipping route.

French fishermen are angry at the British government for not granting more licenses to fish in U.K. waters — and angry at their own government for not doing more to defend them.

The fishing industry is economically tiny but symbolically important for both Britain and France.

Friday's threatened blockades are "a warning shot," Olivier Lepretre, president of the regional fishing committee, told reporters.

Fishing crews are expected to use their boats to block ports in Calais, Saint-Malo and Ouistreham, and to use cars to block the highway leading to the tunnel beneath the Channel.

The fishers are protesting to "respond to the derisive and humiliating attitude of the English," Gerard Romiti, president of the national fishing committee, told reporters.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the U.K. was "disappointed by threats of protest activity."

Before Brexit, French fishermen could fish deep inside British waters. **AP**

US lawmakers meet with Taiwan Prez in surprise visit

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Five U.S. lawmakers met with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen Friday morning in a surprise one-day visit intended to reaffirm the United States' "rock solid" support for the self-governing island.

The bi-partisan group of lawmakers from the U.S. House of Representatives arrived in Taiwan on Thursday night and were planning to meet with senior leaders including Tsai, said the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto embassy. No further details were provided about their itinerary.

The visit comes as tensions between Taiwan and China have risen to their highest level in decades. Taiwan has been self-ruled since the two sides split during a civil war in 1949, but China considers the island part of its own territory.

"When news of our trip broke yesterday, my office received a blunt message from the Chinese Embassy, telling me to call off the trip," Representative Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., who is part of the delegation, wrote on Twitter.

Representatives Mark Takano, D-Calif., Colin Allred, D-Texas., Sara Jacobs, D-Calif., and Nancy Mace, R-S.C., are also part of the visiting delegation. **AP**

UN envoy: Sudan's new deal saved country from civil war

CAIRO: The deal struck in Sudan to reinstate the prime minister following a military coup is imperfect but has saved the country from sliding into civil strife, the U.N. envoy to Sudan said on Friday.

Special Envoy Volker Perthes was speaking of the agreement between Sudan's military leaders and Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok, who was deposed and put under house arrest following the coup last month that stirred an international outcry.

The military takeover threatened to thwart the process of democratic transition that the country had embarked on since the ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

The deal, signed on Sunday, was seen as the biggest concession made by the country's top military leader, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, since the

coup. However, the country's pro-democracy groups have dismissed it as illegitimate and accused Hamdok of allowing himself to serve as a fig leaf for continued military rule. "The agreement of course is not perfect," Perthes told The Associated Press.

"But it is better than not having an agreement and continuing on a path where the military in the end will be the sole ruler." Both signatories felt compelled to make "bitter concessions" in order to spare the country the risk of more violence, chaos and international isolation, he added.

"It would not have been possible to exclude a scenario which would have brought Sudan to something close to what we have seen in Yemen, Libya or Syria," Perthes said.

He spoke to the AP via videoconference from Khartoum. **AP**

Putin to host leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan for talks

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin is hosting the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan for talks on Friday, during which the three are expected to discuss ways to resolve the tensions over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In the southern city of Sochi, Putin held a bilateral meeting with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Friday. After that, the Russian president is to sit down with Aliyev and Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan together, and then have a separate bilateral meeting with Pashinyan.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a decades-old dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region that lies within Azerbaijan but was under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994.

The Azerbaijani military routed the Armenian forces in 44 days of fierce fighting in the fall of 2020, which ended with a Russia-brokered peace deal that saw Azerbaijan gain control of a significant part of Nagorno-Karabakh and reclaim all the regions controlled by Armenian forces outside the separatist region. **AP**

Japan seeks extra defense budget amid China, N Korea concern

TOKYO: Japan's Cabinet on Friday approved a 770 billion yen (\$6.8 billion) request for an extra defense budget through March to expedite the purchase of missiles, anti-submarine rockets and other weapons amid rising concern over the escalation of military activities by China, Russia and North Korea.

The request, still pending parliamentary approval, brings Japan's military spending for the current year to a new high of more than 6.1 trillion yen (\$53.2 billion), up 15% from 5.31 trillion yen in 2020.

The Defense Ministry says its "defense power reinforcement and acceleration package" is designed to speed up deployment of some of the key equipment from the 2022 budget request. **AP**

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 25-30 Yrs., **Height:** 173 CM, **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Oval, **Hair:** Long Black, **Wearing:** Brown Colour Sweater and Orange Pant, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead on dated 14.11.2021 near DDU Hospital, on footpath in front of C-38/A, Hari Nagar, New Delhi.

In this regard **DD No. 31A, Dated 14.11.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, Hari Nagar, New Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. Hari Nagar, New Delhi
DP/643/WD/2021

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ahmad Sher S/o Late Sh. Kallu, Mrs. Noor Bano W/o Sh. Ahmad Sher, Ms. Nargis D/o Sh. Ahmad Sher & Ms. Sama D/o Sh. Ahmad Sher** all are R/o N-96, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 593/2021 Dated: 09.07.2021 U/s 498-A/304-B/34 IPC P.S. Khayla, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ahmad Sher, Mrs. Noor Bano, Ms. Nargis & Ms. Sama** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ahmad Sher, Mrs. Noor Bano, Ms. Nargis & Ms. Sama** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ahmad Sher, Mrs. Noor Bano, Ms. Nargis & Ms. Sama** of **FIR No. 593/2021 Dated: 09.07.2021 U/s 498-A/304-B/34 IPC P.S. Khayla, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.01.2022

By Order
Abhinav Pandey,
Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (West)
Room No. 268, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/639/WD/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

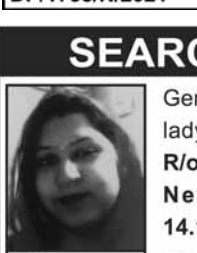


General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** About 30-35 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'7", **Built:** Medium, was wearing Blue Jeans and Bare feet, was found dead at Divider on SPM Marg, in front of Metro Gate No. 2, near **Kodiya Pul, Chandni Chowk, Delhi**. In this regard a **DD No. 89A dated 22.11.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**.

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/1738/N/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Shivani, W/o: Amardeep, R/o: 195, Vasant Village, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi** has been missing on **14.11.2021** from his residence. In this regard **DD No. 40A dated 15.11.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station Vasant Vihar, New Delhi**. The description of found lady is as under:

Name: Shivani, **Age:** 32 Years, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Weatish, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Black Suit and salwar and juti in feet.

If anyone has any information about this found old lady please inform **P.S. Vasant Vihar, New Delhi**.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station, Vasant Vihar, Delhi
DP/929/SW/2021

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

OA No. 16/19 **DATE:- 10.09.2021**

STATE BANK OF INDIA **VERSUS** **APPLICANT**

DHARMENDRA KUMAR & ORS. **RESPONDENT**

To,

DEFENDANT

2. M/S IDEABUILDER PVT. LTD.
C-294, 1st FLOOR NEAR PARK VIVEK VIHAR DELHI-110095

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs 21,62,639/- (RUPEE TWENTY ONE LAKH SIXTY TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY NINE ONLY)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **08.12.2021 At 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the duty before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Officer portal i.e. drt.gov.in

(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigant can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No. 23744878.**

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the 10th day of Sept., 2021.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR DRT-II, DELHI

उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
कार्यालय: अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून नगर, रोड नं. 11, खोजे नगर, देहरादून-248001 फोन नं. : 0135-2751879 ईमेल: es@urknltd.com

पत्रांक-6089 /रोड नं./ 750 **दिनांक:- 26.11.2021**

ई-निविदा सूचना

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून के कार्यालय पत्रांक 6066 /निविदा / 742, दिनांक 26.11.2021 द्वारा जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत जनपद देहरादून के विकासखण्ड सहसपुर की नौगाँव माण्डुवाला एवं कण्डोली पेयजल योजनाओं के निर्माण एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्यों हेतु राज्य सरकार की वेबसाईट www.uktender.gov.in के माध्यम से दिनांक 27.11.2021 को 5.00 बजे से दिनांक 16.12.2021 को 5.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा (e-tender) (Two Bid System) आमंत्रित की जा रही है। निविदा की नियम व शर्तें उपरोक्त वेबसाइट से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

Name of work with its location	1. Multi-utility vehicle and Truck for misc. work of Track maintenance/ renewal for a period of 02 years in the section of ADEN/JHI. (NIT 23-W-IV-21-22) 2. Balance work for construction of approaches at level crossing no 117, 118, 122 & 123 on DLI BTI section in the s/o SSE/W-1 (Main Line)/JHI Under ADEN/JHI (NIT 25-W-IV-21-22) 3. Repair of cess and yard drain at Nangli on DLI-BTI section in the section of ADEN/ROK. (NIT 26-W-IV-21-22)
Approx Cost of work	(1) Rs.99,91,061.05 (2) Rs.1,51,00,511.29 (3) Rs.1,87,70,280.96
Earnest Money	Nil
Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date for work 15:00 hrs. on 07.12.2021 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 21.12.2021
Website particulars, published e-tender notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site. www.ireps.gov.in
No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 23,25&26-W-IV/21-22/W-IV Date : 25.11.2021	2752/2021
Serving Customers With A Smile	

PUBLIC NOTICE
That I am a citizen of India and have obtained the age of majority. That I declare to know to all that I, **UMAIR ALAM S/O MOHD SHAFIQUE ALAM R/o 32/493, Block No-32, Trikolpur, Delhi 110091** was adopted by a Hindu name Rakesh Kumar/Gopal Singh S/o Sh. Babu Singh Chouban vide Adoption as well dated 14.06.2004 and accordingly name changed as Umesh Kumar S/o Rakesh Kumar. Later, said adoption deed was declared not in accordance with law and void ab-initio vide judgment/Decree dated 22.03.2019 in Suit No.9153/16 and further declared by Civil Court, (East) Delhi that I be known by my previous name 'Umar Alam' instead of 'Umesh Kumar' by using of my natural and biological father's name 'Umar' and my mother's name 'Anansi R/o Village-Kadwa, P.O. Haldiya Vihar, Distt. Araria (BIHAR) on record.

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Tender notice for e-tendering is invited by **Principal Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata** for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work due to open on 22.12.2021 at 15:00 hrs. : Replacement of Relay Interlocking with Electronic Interlocking System at Dum Dum and Kavi Subhash stations of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value:** Rs. 4,01,14,420/- **Completion Period :** 12 months. For full details visit www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. **Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Works/31-2021, dt. 25.11.2021**

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the general public that the original document i.e. allotment letter, possession certificate and letter of clearance & possession in respect to flat number L-243 Jalayu Vihar Sector 25 Noida has been lost somewhere, whose complaint has been filed on 24/11/2021 in the P.S. Crime Branch Delhi. Therefore, if the above documents are found by any person or if have any right or claim in this regard, then he/she should be lodged its claim within 10 days from the date of publication, either to group housing department of Noida Authority or AFNH& New Delhi. Failing which the claim, right on the said documents will be considered completely free and abandoned.

GP capt. Yogesh sharma
L-243, Jalayu Vihar Sector 25 Noida

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer P.H.E Division
Budgam, H.Q: Budgam.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS:
Short Terme-NIT No: 76/PHE/Bud/Civil of 2021-22.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu Kashmir U.T., **e-tenders** are invited (in Single Cover System) on "**Item rate basis**", from Registered/Approved and valid Civil class of contractors/agencies registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works:

S. No. . 1 Name of work :- Laying of water pipe line from sump to Bashir Medicate at Kawoosa Jagir, (DDC Grants)
Estt Cost (Rs in Lacs) :- 2.00, Cost of tender doc. (In Rs) :- 200/- , Amount of earnest money (in Rs) :- 4,000/- , Time for completion (in Days) :- 10 Days, Class of contractor :- D, Major head of account :- DDC Grants, Tender Call :- 1"

S. No. . 2 Name of work :- Laying of water pipe line from sump to Buchipora Kawoosa Khalisa-B. (DDC Grants)
Estt Cost (Rs in Lacs) :- 2.00, Cost of tender doc. (In Rs) :- 200/- , Amount of earnest money (in Rs) :- 4,000/- , Time for completion (in Days) :- 10 Days, Class of contractor :- D, Major head of account :- DDC Grants, Tender Call :- 1"

S. No. . 3 Name of work :- Realignment of pipe network 150 mm dia D.I coming under the house of Mohammad Maqbool Dar at Chutbugh water supply wadwan wahabpora. (M&R)
Estt Cost (Rs in Lacs) :- 0.46, Cost of tender doc. (In Rs) :- 100/- , Amount of earnest money (in Rs) :- 920/- , Time for completion (in Days) :- 8 Days, Class of contractor :- D, Major head of account :- M&R, Tender Call :- 1"

Position of AAA:- Available; Position of funds:- Available; Position of TS:- Under Process;
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://jktendersgov.in>

From (10:00 AM) (upto 4:00 PM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in

As per schedule of dates given below

01. Date of publishing of Tender Notice :- 25-11-2021
02. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- From 25.11.2021 10:00 a.m To 26.11.2021 upto 04:00 p.m
03. Bid Submission Start Date :- 02.12.2021 from 10:00 a.m
04. Bid submission End Date :- 02.12.2021 upto 04:00 p.m
05. Date and time of opening of Bids (Online) :- 03.12.2021 from 11:00 a.m

1. Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money, COR/FDR and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favor of the **Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam** (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 90 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the **Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (H.Q. Budgam)** on **03.12.2021 at 11:00 a.m.** If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

All other terms and conditions shall be the same as are laid down in P.W.D Form No: 25 / 33 - Double with due modifications (if any) made by the U.T Government from time to time.

Sd/- (Er. Najeeb A Tramboo)
Executive Engineer, PHE Division Budgam.

No. DIPK-13637/21 Dated: 26-11-2021

UN decries attack on court in Libya ahead of national vote

CAIRO: The U.N. mission in Libya condemned on Friday an attack by armed men on an appeals court as it was set to re-examine an earlier decision that disqualified the son of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi from running for president.

On Thursday, armed men surrounded the court in the southern town of Sabha and prevented judges from convening to look into Seif al-Islam Gadhafi's appeal.

Earlier, the country's electoral body had deemed Seif al-Islam ineligible to take part in the presidential race set for next month, citing his previous convictions.

"Attacks against judicial or election facilities or judicial or elections personnel are not only criminal acts, punishable under Libyan law, but also undermine Libyans' right to participate in the political process," tweeted the U.N. mission, known as UNSMIL.

Libya is to hold the first round of presidential elections on Dec. 24, after years of U.N.-led attempts to usher in a more democratic future and end the country's civil war. However, the upcoming vote faces many challenges, including unresolved issues over laws governing the elections and occasional infighting among armed groups. Other obstacles include the deep rift that remains between the country's east and west and the presence of thousands of foreign fighters and troops.

The oil-rich North African country is currently governed by an interim government that was elected by Libyan delegates after U.N.-led talks in Geneva in February.

Interim Interior Minister Khaled Mazen vowed to hunt down and prosecute the assailants in Thursday's attack. **AP**

Sensex crashes 1,688 pts as new variant triggers global rout

INVESTORS POORER BY ₹7.35 LAKH CR

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex nosedived 1,688 points while the Nifty slumped below the 17,100-level on Friday as a new and potentially vaccine-resistant coronavirus variant sent shockwaves through global markets.

The variant, detected in South Africa, Botswana and Hong Kong so far, has an unusual combination of mutations, as per initial reports.

Countries like Britain and Japan have already imposed travel restrictions, raising the spectre of a fresh wave of lockdowns.

The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,687.94 points or 2.87 per cent to close at 57,107.15 following an across-the-board selloff. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 509.80 points or 2.91 per cent to 17,026.45. Currency markets too were not spared, with the rupee sinking 37 paise versus the US dollar, in tandem with

Rupee plunges 37 paise to end at month's low on Covid worries

Mumbai: The rupee on Friday plunged by 37 paise or 0.50 per cent against the US dollar to close at a nearly monthly low as investors turned cautious in view of massive sell-offs in domestic equities and worries over a new variant of Covid-19. The rupee erased all of its gains in the month while suffering its worst weekly loss of 59 paise since October 8 due to month-end dollar demand and on anticipation that the US Fed will accelerate asset tapering and hike interest rates around mid-2022, analysts said. **PTI**

other emerging market currencies.

Pvt bank promoters can hold up to 26% after 15 yrs, will have to bring in more money

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Friday accepted most of the recommendations of its working group on corporate ownership of private sector banks, by allowing unrestrained promoter shareholding in the first five years of operations and hiking the same to 26 per cent after 15 years from the extant 15 per cent and also the new capital requirements.

The move will benefit leading banks like Kotak Mahindra


Bank and IndusInd Bank, among others, which have been seeking more time from the regulator to divest their stakes for many years now.

Accepting 21 of the 33 recommendations of the internal working group, the central bank said the remaining suggestions are under its consideration. The RBI constituted the working group on June 12, 2020, and the panel submitted the report on November 20,


2020, inviting comments of stakeholders and members of the public by January 15, 2021.

The RBI accepted the recommendation that no changes be made to the extant instructions related to the initial lock-in requirements of holding a minimum 40 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank for the first five years but said no cap on the promoters holding during the same period. **PTI**

BSES		BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi			
TENDER NOTICE			Date: 27.11.2021		
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.					
NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/CR/AG/0965	LAYING OF 66KV 04 NOS. 3CX300SQ.MM. XLPE CABLE FROM B-BLOCK VASANT KUNJ GRID S/STN. TO C-DOT GRID SUBSTATION AND BAY EXTENSION (ES21NF4007)	3.59 Cr.	7,18,000/-	17.12.2021 15:30 HRS	17.12.2021 15:45 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/CR/AG/0966	RENOVATION OF EXISTING CONTROL & RELAY PANELS, SWITCHGEAR PANELS FOR 66/33/11KV AT VARIOUS GRID SUBSTATIONS OF BRPL.	1.80 Cr.	Rs 3,60,000/-	17.12.2021 15:45 HRS	17.12.2021 16:00 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/CR/SS/0967	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AT PROPOSED 66/11 KV GRID, GOYALA KHURD	95.5 Lakhs	1,91,000/-	10.12.2021 15:45 HRS	10.12.2021 16:00 HRS
Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/- (Including GST) For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@reliancecda.com For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submition of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com					
				Head (Contracts & Materials)	
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527 Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 E-mail : brpl.eauction@reliancecda.com Website : www.bsesdelhi.com					



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S.No.	Application No.	TYPE	Unit No.	Applicant Name	Co-Applicant Name
1	11017	Type-3	TD-510	Pushp Lata Gulhani	Hans Raj Gulhani
2	10223	Type-1	TA3-303	Vipin Joshi	N/A
3	10390	Type-3	TD-1405	Kanika Tandon	N/A
4	10553	Type-1	TA1-902	Monika Garg	N/A
5	3805	Type-1	TA-901	Pooja Tyagi Wadhwa	N/A
6	3507	Type-1	TA4-804	Kamla	N/A

It is to inform to all above allottees that it is last & final opportunity to restore the allotment after making the all dues till date within seven working days, otherwise it shall be considered as cancelled and the same shall be allotted to the aspiring applicants under the applicable provisions of policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof.

Office address: Agrante Realty Ltd Unit No. 122 Suncity Trade Tower, Sector-21, Gurgaon-122016
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World takes action as new variant emerges in southern Africa

AP ■ BRUSSELS

A slew of nations moved to stop air travel from southern Africa on Friday, and stocks plunged in Asia and Europe in reaction to news of a new, potentially more transmissible Covid-19 variant. "The last thing we need is to bring in a new variant that will cause even more problems," said German Health Minister Jens Spahn, amid a massive spike in cases in the 27-nation European Union, which is recommending a ban on flights from southern African nations. Within a few days of the discovery of the new vari-

ant, it has already impacted on a jittery world that is sensitive to bad Covid-19 news, with deaths around the globe standing at well over 5 million. Medical experts, including the World Health Organization, warned against any overreaction before all elements were clear but nations who acted on his concerns were justified. "Early indications show this variant may be more transmissible than the delta variant and current vaccines may be less effective against it," British Health Secretary Sajid Javid told lawmakers. "We must move quickly and at the earliest possible moment," he said.

Nation marks birth anniversary of 'Milk Man' Verghese Kurien

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying; National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and other institutions - GCMMF Ltd, Kaira Milk Union (Amul Dairy), NCDPI Ltd, IRMA, Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt Ltd.

IDMC Ltd, Indian Immunologicals Ltd, NDDB Dairy Services and Anandalaya jointly celebrated (NDDB) "National Milk Day" to com-

memorate the birth centenary of Dr Verghese Kurien on November 26, 2021 at NDDB's TK Patel Auditorium.

During the ceremony, Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Animal Husbandry & Dairying conferred the Gopal Ratna Award to the winners of the Best Dairy Farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds, Best Artificial Insemination Technician and Best Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS)/Milk Producer Company/Dairy Farmer Producer Organisation in the country.

BRIEFS

ASSAM RIFLES MEMORIAL LECTURE 2021

The second edition of Assam Rifles Memorial Lecture was conducted by Assam Rifles in collaboration with United Services Institute of India (USI) at New Delhi on 26 Nov 2021. Assam Rifles and USI had signed an MoU in Feb 2020 to establish a Chair of Excellence for studies primarily to encompass issues of North East and the regions importance from Geo-Strategic point of view. The inaugural edition was conducted through a Webinar in 2020 and the first physical form is being conducted this year.



Arun Joshi, General Secretary & Mr. Pradeep Kulshrestha, Convener of States only registered apex body of PR & Media Marketing professionals Public Relations Society greeted Dr. Mahesh Joshi taking charge of Cabinet Minister for Department of Public Health Engineering & Ground Water at his office

EDTECH GIANT'S NEW LOGO

NEW DELHI: Extramarks, an EdTech giant, announced the launch of its new logo, visual identity, and category positioning on Friday. The new avatar of the logo in form of an airplane symbolizes the renewed brand ambition of helping students' dreams take flight through a more personalised, creative, and holistic learning experience. Ritvik Kulkshrestha, CEO, Extramarks stated, "The reboot of our logo and the learning app is a clear reflection of the value we deliver to learners of all age groups—creative, multi-faceted, future-facing, and modern."

Online bids (Technical & Financial) are invited from reputed eligible .transporters for Outstations transportation (Interstate) of consignment of books and printing paper. The online bids complete in all respect should be uploaded on or before 21.12.2021 by 05.00 pm on CPP Portal.

The tender document along with other details may be downloaded from the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP): <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> & NCERT website: www.ncert.nic.in

davp 21104/11/0012/21 22 Head,
Publication Division

 Piramal Capital & Housing Finance	Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amphib Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH18RAJ0032639, Website: www.piramalfinance.com Branch Address : Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) – 400 602.		
	DEMAND NOTICE		
	Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated here below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.		
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	
(L.C.No. 00001035 of Gurgaon Branch) Sushil Malhotra (Borrower) Ritu Malhotra (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 15771438 /- (₹ One Crore Fifty Seven lakh Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Six) NPA (10-07-2021)	Plot No C 10/9, Third Floor With Roof Right Deeksha Nagar, Vijay Chowk Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110051	
(L.C.No. 00003886 of Jalandhar Branch) Santosh Juneja (Borrower) Manjit Juneja (Co Borrower 1)	01-07-2021 / ₹ 11905894 /- (₹ One Crore Nineteen lakh Eight Hundred Ninety Nine Hundred Ninety Four) NPA (12-05-2021)	309, New Defence Colony, Phase 1, Near Tanjali Plaza, Jalandhar Jalandhar Punjab - 144001	
(L.C.No. 00002397 of Noida Branch) Meenakshi Chopra (Borrower) Dwarka Chopra (Co Borrower 1) Akshat Chopra (Co Borrower 2)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 8560747 /- (₹ Eighty Five lakh Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Seven) NPA (10-07-2021)	Old Mig Flat No. 115 Third Floor Prasad Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110032	
(L.C.No. 00001737 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Nareesh Kumar Aggarwal (Borrower) Sharda (Co Borrower 1) Vikas Gupta (Co Borrower 2)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 6652688 /- (₹ Sixty Six lakh Fifty Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Eight) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No-206-B, Block-F, Killa No-59/12/1 Village Khureji Khas,mangal Barad Laxmi Nagar,nr Nipal Chowk Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085	
(L.C.No. 00002608 of Gurgaon Branch) Advantech Engineering Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Niranjan Kumar Yadav (Co Borrower 1) Shakuntla Yadav (Co Borrower 2) Sachdev Yadav (Guarantor 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 6010150 /- (₹ Sixty lakh Ten Thousand One Hundred Fifty) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No-715, Sec-15, Part 2 Gurgaon Haryana Gurgaon Haryana - 122001	
(L.C.No. 00001727 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Ajay (Borrower) Mayank Machan (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 4629019 /- (₹ Forty Six lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Nineteen) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No. B-36, Second Floor (R H S) Moti Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110015	
(L.C.No. 00002098 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Nirupma Sharma (Borrower) Nirupma Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 4571895 /- (₹ Forty Five lakh Seventy One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Khata No.102.kh.No. Old 115 Main & 50k Hotel Devi Palace Badrinath Marg Muz Tapovan Patti Damdhavshi Narendra Nagar Haridwar Tehri Garhwal Utttaranchal - 249192	
(L.C.No. 00000870 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Anil Kumar Malik (Borrower) Kunal Malik (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 4435617 /- (₹ Forty Four lakh Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventeen) NPA (09-09-2021)	Property No-C-6/18 , In Known As C-6/18 Third Floor With Roof Rights, Block- C6 Rana Pratap Bagh New Delhi New Delhi - 110007	
(L.C.No. 00000418 of Gurgaon Branch) Vikram Singh (Borrower) Rajbir Singh Deswal (Co Borrower 1) Poonam Devi (Co Borrower 2) Vikramaditya Education Society (Guarantor 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 4034441 /- (₹ Forty Three lakh Four Thousand Four Hundred Forty One) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No. 12 First Floor Block C Pocket 9 Sector 07 Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085	
(L.C.No. 00005135 of New Delhi Branch) Prakash Srivastava (Borrower) Priyanka Srivastava (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 3772390 /- (₹ Thirty Seven lakh Seventy Two Thousand Three Hundred Ninety) NPA (10-07-2021)	Apartment No-1205, 12th Floor Tower I, Assoch C Windsor Court Plot No. G-H-04, Sector-78 Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301	
(L.C.No. 00000369 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Anil Kumar Malik (Borrower) Kunal Malik (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 3680742 /- (₹ Forty Six lakh Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two) NPA (09-09-2021)	C-6/18-19 (known As Property No- C-6/18) Third Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110007	
(L.C.No. 00000417 of Gurgaon Branch) Vikram Singh (Borrower) Rajbir Singh Deswal (Co Borrower 1) Poonam Devi (Co Borrower 2) Vikramaditya Education Society (Guarantor 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 3672609 /- (₹ Forty Six lakh Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No 57 (B) Block C Pocket c-9 Sector 07 Rohini New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085	
(L.C.No. 00000925 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Charanjit Singh Kohli (Borrower) Arvind Kaur Kohli (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 3269328 /- (₹ Thirty Two lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (09-09-2021)	Property No- 59 , Block -a Second Floor Without Roof State Bank Colony, New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110009	
(L.C.No. 00000349 of Noida Branch) Pankaj Sharma (Borrower) Kusum (Co Borrower 1) Devender Bhardwaj (Co Borrower 2) Bihari Lal (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 3087834 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Four) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No-64, Kharsa No-487, Village Peeragarhi, West Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085	
(L.C.No. 00000380 of Azadpur N S P Branch) Govinda Bagri (Borrower) Ravi Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Chet. Ram (Co Borrower 2) Murti Devi (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 3067996 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Six) NPA (09-01-2021)	D-2/173,third Floor, Block-d-2 Kh No-11/21, village Asalapur Kharad Jeevan Park uttam Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059	
(L.C.No. 00041961 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Mukeesh Jain (Borrower) Darshna Devi (Co Borrower 1) Jai Bhagwan Jain (Co Borrower 2)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 3038350 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Fifty) NPA (09-09-2021)	Property No. C-7, Kharsa No. 11 Ground Floor, Block - C Gali No.5, Majlis Park Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110033	
(L.C.No. 00001524 of Rohini Branch) Manoj Singh (Borrower) Monika Devi (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2994992 /- (₹ Twenty Nine lakh Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Two) NPA (09-09-2021)	House No 50, Block-A Sector-Mu-1, Greater Noida Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301	
(L.C.No. 00000828 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Meena Verma (Borrower) Sanjay Verma (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2563229 /- (₹ Twenty Five lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Nine) NPA (09-09-2021)	Prop.no-1576-a-2nd Floor Front Side,old Plot No-151-b.kh.no-3563/2065/1068/511, Mahavir Block,blohannagar, Shahdara, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110051	
(L.C.No. 00042724 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Manish Kumar Benival (Borrower) Girish Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2545225 /- (₹ Twenty Five lakh Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Five) NPA (09-09-2021)	Rz-2/225/3rd Floor With Roof Rights And Car Parking Lid Plot No-22and 23,dabri Ext Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045	
(L.C.No. 00002063 of Rohini Branch) Sheeba P Joy (Borrower) Shibuj Joy (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 2315935 /- (₹ Twenty Three lakh Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Prop No-1, Khs No- 55/72, Ground Floor Without Roof, Rtns Masjid Wall Gali Vill. Sulta- nupur Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110030	



ABHISHEK BACHCHAN
'If someone says, 'I don't believe in awards', it is because they didn't get one. We are artistes, if we are praised, that is greater than any award. We work for appreciation. This is our business, we have to run our houses, there is a financial side to it, absolutely. But if you praise an actor, he will be happy. We work for praise.'



SIKANDAR KHER
'Donning the director's hat while also starring in the film is no easy feat but you have to see the ease and calm with which Dev Patel handles it. He is focussed and knows what he wants. We have spent a lot of time together which only helps create a good understanding between a director and his actor.'



AAYUSH SHARMA
'I read comments like 'Salman Khan should have launched a dog instead of Aayush Sharma' and I look like a girl and should not act. After that, I stayed away from social media. I have a public account on Instagram that I don't handle, I'm not on Twitter. I hardly read comments on social media now.'



ANDREW GARFIELD
'I definitely think Andrew Garfield's Spider-Man would be pretty suspect of the MCU Iron Man. I think he would be turned off by the excess, the billionaire trillionaire status of Iron Man. Maybe, my Peter Parker could wake Tony Stark from his own egoic drives a little bit. We'll never know.'



JARED LETO
'I think audiences will be very surprised. *House of Gucci* is in theatres. It is fun to have a film that's exclusively in theatres, and I'm excited about that because I love going to the movies. I actually worked at a movie theatre when I was a kid. And I got fired for selling weed out the back door. I was just an entrepreneur.'

Drummond William Thomas Money-Coutts, also lovingly known as DMC, is one English magician and card shark specialist you ordinarily will not find but, at the same time, a person whose friendliness and tricks (magic tricks, duh) you'd fall for instantly.

The heir apparent to the Latymer Barony, DMC decided to take the road least travelled and make a name for himself. Somebody was right, when you love what you do, you've already won at life.

I recently had the opportunity to converse with one of the most eminent magicians in the world, where he opened up about how magic was a choice that made itself. Read on for excerpts from the interview:

You have many successfully running shows, *The Card Shark, Beyond Magic with DMC, Death By Magic* and so on. Tell us about your journey.

My journey started as a child. I was one of the strange children who was always obsessed with unusual things, magic and mysteries. When I was eight, my father took me to a magic show. Now, my father comes from a very old banking family, called Money-Coutts. It originally used to be a part of the family, it's a private bank in UK. Underneath the bank was the oldest magic shop in UK. He took me there and that's when I learnt that magic was something that could be learnt and that could give other people that incredible feeling that magic has always given me. I, very quickly, decided that that's what I will give my life to, and I never looked back.

You've risked your own life during the stunts. What is it like?

It's a crazy thing, you know. Because part of it is making a show like *Death By Magic*. There's never enough time. There were six episodes back-to-back and six cities that we had to cover across four different continents. So, we almost never have enough rehearsal time or prep-time. Of course, when you're dealing with very dangerous stunts, things go wrong. And, unfortunately, things did go wrong. I had to see a medical team thrice in the course of eight stunts, so almost half the show went badly south. It was ironical that we were creating a show that was a eulogy to very incredible magicians who had given their lives in pursuit of magic.

On those lines, how real is *Death By Magic*? What type of illusions do you create around it?

I've always thought of myself as the forger of the impossible. So, I create what look like forgeries of impossible moments and, of course, in order to do that, we, as magicians, use very many different techniques

BEYOND MAGIC

DRUMMOND MONEY-COUTTS, the heir to Baron Latimer, discusses his shift to magic which is equivalent to love for him and reveals his extraordinary adoration for India. By KHUSHBU KIRTI



— some are more psychological, some are the tricks of hand. Many different elements are at play and, of course, we use all manners of different techniques. But for me, the secret is a very small part of the entire experience. Many people seem to be fascinated by the secret of how it is working. For me, it is not so much about that but more is about the journey and the experience that is created out of it.

We know a magician never reveals his tricks, but one always wonders... What are your thoughts about shows like *Magic's Greatest Secrets Revealed*?

To me, it feels like one of the things that when a person learns makes him disappointed. It is rare that a person learns the mystery behind a trick and they are blown away. Usually, it's something very clever but more often than not, something

extremely simple. I believe it is like a snake. If a magician stops running away from it, it'll stop chasing him. If a child is holding on to a toy fiercely, then other children want it even more but as soon as the toy is left on the ground, people lose interest.

I can vouch for it, the secrets behind magic are absolutely not the most fascinating part of what we do. It's just, magicians make a big fuss about guarding the secret. So, of course, in doing so, they encourage people to come and chase after them. So, if they gave less importance to it, our audiences would do the same.

You travel around the world and enthrall people with magic tricks. What does magic mean to you? Is it an escape or a world where the surreal seems real?

It's one of those beautiful questions, what magic is, and I've thought about it a

lot over the years. As a child, it was very much an escape. It was a happy place that I would dissolve into. I would read about my heroes and great stories from the past.

Now, for me, magic is equivalent with love on some level. What magic means to you or me, to a monk or let's say a young girl, will all mean very different things. Everyone will have their unique interpretations of magic based on their experiences. For everyone, their experiences dictate their judgment. Someone might have seen a brilliant magician when they were a kid, while others might have experienced a terrible magic show at a party. That will inform, of course, their understanding and definition of magic.

What is it that keeps calling you back to India?

Magic can be so much richer, deeper.



We can find magic in almost anything in life. That is one reason why I keep returning to India.

There's an energy here. There's a sense of magic that I get from India — and its culture, history, people — which is very hard to capture, define or explain in words. But I put it on a very similar level of magic.

In India, you have this beautiful tapestry of magic in many forms, this can be a mere belief in the magic, but also you have a very long history of people performing magic.

I've travelled to parts of the world where magic is something darker and seen as something much more sinister and can be associated with witchcraft and black magic and voodoo. People are scared of it, generally. Because there's no history of performing magic.

So, for me, India is very unique. There's a wide interpretation of magic here, a real appetite of magic that I can feel.

You've performed a lot of public stunts like public treasure quests. What is your objective behind these?

You know, that was just an idea. I think when I started my professional career, I was beginning to make money and I have always loved the thrill of treasure hunts. I put it at an equal level with the exhilaration of magic.

I had an idea one day. I bought little

envelopes and stuck into them what must be lakhs of rupees. I hid them then and walked around, watching people find them. They'd be overjoyed and confused, both. It was very special, wasn't particularly magical but it made me very happy to watch.

You come from a royal background. And are an heir to Baron Latimer. When and how did you decide to drift away from the lineage and become a self-made magician?

I don't know if that was a particular moment. That realisation was something always there. As soon as I found magic, I knew it would be my life. I attempted more conventional/professional careers for a while, worked at banks, but none of these things touched. The strength of magic was something else. I couldn't bring myself to sit if I knew I could bring magic into other people's lives. In many ways, it was a choice that made itself.

I was 18 and my father and I were climbing a mountain in Africa. I don't remember this but he tells me that he asked me what my plan A was. I answered, 'magic'. He then asked what plan B was and I responded, 'to make plan A work.'

Magic was everything for me.

You've a tattoo on your left ear that says 'Hausla Pyaar Wishwas', if I'm not wrong. Could you elaborate what that means to you?

Yes (smiles). When I came to India, it was my second time, and I had committed to be coming a magician. I was in Rajasthan and was inside a book shop. I was reading books that spoke of mantras and guiding principles in life. I decided I wanted three foundational mantras for myself, things I would hold on to, and wrote these three phrases.

When I landed in London, I wrote to my friend in Udaipur and asked what these principles in Hindi would be captured as. He said they'd be 'hausla, pyaar, wishwas'.

It is my little piece of India. No matter what happens in my life, I return to these mantras and my guiding principles.

What do you prefer more: Live performances or recorded shows?

I far prefer live performances because it's uniquely my own work. And I love the challenges of television, it's different, many dozens of people making dozens of creative choices, but not all of which you're gonna agree with.

With Netflix, we had 100s of people in the crew. So not everything would go my way. It is big and cumbersome. I love it for many reasons but it is slower.

There's immediacy with live magic, it is right there. I can do it every day.

Unleashing talents

It will help aspirants' inner songwriters to step into the sunlight, comments SAMEER ANJAAN on his lyrics-writing class on Unlu. By TEAM VIVA



Unlu, a learning platform in creative education, has onboarded India's popular lyricist Sameer Anjaan to teach lyrics-writing on their platform. This lyrics-writing class will help aspiring content creators learn the art of lyrics writing from an industry veteran and will open avenues to commercialise their content to build a sustainable career in songwriting.

Anjaan moved to Mumbai in 1980 to pursue his career. In a short span of time, he became one of the most sought-after lyricists in the Bollywood industry. He is an award-winning songwriter and a Guinness World Record holder for writing the most songs. With his immense knowledge and experience, Anjaan will help the aspirants learn the process of lyrics writing in his Unlu class.

Commenting on his exclusive class, Anjaan said, "It has always been my dream to teach people to become songwriters so when Unlu came to me, asking to take this opportunity, it was really a no-brainer. When you write lyrics there are

many nuances one needs to take care of, but if you know how to approach all the challenges that are going to come your way, you can really excel."

He continued, "So, here's the opportunity that will help aspirants' inner songwriters to step into the sunlight and show them the way forward to express their ideas and emotions."

In this class, Anjaan will share what it took for him to become a successful songwriter and how one can use his methodology/process to become a songwriter in their own right. Beginning from his journey as an artist to helping them in discovering themselves, he will take the learners through the complete process of making it as a lyricist. The course will help the students become familiar with the structure of lyrics, language and its process. Apart from this, they will be taught about the types of lyrics writing, genres and how to make a mark in the industry. On the completion of the course, students will receive a certificate of completion.



Don't hide glaring issues

Director and script writer, GOPI PUTHRAN calls for immediate action on violence against women. By TEAM VIVA

Ace Bollywood director GoPi Puthran has been vocal about rights of women which came through in Yash Raj Films' *Mardaani* and *Mardaani 2*, for which he wrote the script too. Gopi wants society to be open about admitting that violence against women is an epidemic and hopes that people engage with each other immediately on how to tackle this menace.

Gopi says, "Violence against women keeps breeding because of a toxic, stagnant culture that refuses to acknowledge the equal existence and independent agency of women in the fabric of society. And this culture has little to do with the socio-economic strata and has to do with the patriarchal values which have seeped into our day to day behaviour, cutting across economic and social con-

ditions."

He adds, "But cultures don't change overnight and they definitely don't change by shoving glaring issues under the carpet. The more we talk about the extent and impact that violence has on women's lives and the permanent trauma that it causes, the more we can hope to bring about some behavioural change."

He further states, "As someone

who's been raised and influenced by strong, independent women I feel deeply that one of the ways that crime against women can be curbed is by talking about such crimes openly and without attaching 'shame' and 'guilt' to the women who go through it. They are not 'victims' that need rescuing, they are 'humans' who seek justice for the wrongs they've faced."

Salman Khan's revelations

The actor had an interesting incident to relate about singer ADITYA NARAYAN. By TEAM VIVA

Last month, Zee TV returned with its longest-running singing reality show, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* 2021. With a legacy of over 25 years, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* has been successful in discovering some gems of music fraternity. The show's contestants have managed to impress the audience. However, viewers are in for a treat this week-end...

The upcoming episode of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* will see Salman Khan as the special guest. During the shoot, he will not only be seen sharing some memories from his career, but also share screen time with the three judges, host and contestants from the show. In fact, during the shoot, Salman shared a never heard before



anecdote about *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* host Aditya Narayan.

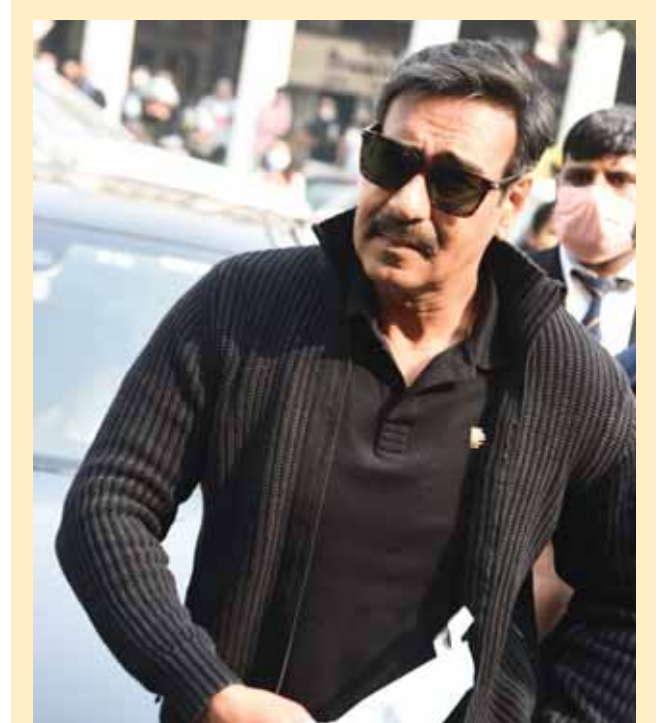
Salman revealed, "I had worked with Aditya when he was just three or four

years old. We shot for *Jab Pyaar Kisise Hota Hai*. I used to wipe his nose when he was a kid." Narayan also added, "I always had a runny nose, and he came to

my rescue. But look how I've grown up, but Salman Bhai is still the same young, dashing man."

While Salman Khan's revelations will leave you surprised, Sanjana and Neelanjana's soulful rendition of songs like *Kahe Toh Se Sajna* and *Tere Naam Humne Kiya* Hai cannot be missed!

(Tune into *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* this Saturday and Sunday at 9 pm, only on Zee TV.)



Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn during the teaser launch of forthcoming film, *RRR*, at PVR Plaza in New Delhi on Thursday. Photo by Pankaj Kumar

TRAVELBUG



IMPOSSIBLE... IS NOTHING

If Dubai believes in making everything magnificent, Atlantis, The Palm, epitomises the phenomenon, says Saimi Sattar as she experiences life queen size

The expanse of sand spread endlessly, interspersed with scrub, a few high rises, and cars that were moving at a speed that is possible only when viewed from the air. But as the plane circled and swooped to land, like the desert falcon, the high-rises that Dubai is known for suddenly came into view. The spectacular buildings are just one of the many things that add up to create an unmatched aura of the foremost of the seven Emirates, which exercises an unimaginable pull over blue- and white-collar workers, holidaymakers and shoppers alike. Dubai is nothing short of a man-made mirage, where every flight of fancy, howsoever much bizarre, finds a ready-to-take-off runway.

But then, all of these thoughts crossed my mind much after I had been through a gruelling 10 hours before hitting the tarmac in the 'Promised Land' of shopaholics. I say, 'gruelling' as international travel post-pandemic is a beast that is unrecognisable from its predecessor. Despite that, having been hemmed in within the boundaries that answer to the political description of India — for almost two years now — the break was welcome. What wasn't met with equal enthusiasm was the mandatory arrival at the airport six hours before the flight for a RT-PCR test. For people like me, who even earlier found the long check-in hours burdensome, this was excruciating, to say the least. So for a seven o'clock flight, I had to reach no later than 1 in the morning! The sight that greeted me was unlike any that I had seen at any airport before. Queues of people — who were awaiting results — sleeping on parapets, rows of cubicles where their details were noted and bills generated as well as tests conducted while the luggage lay in a bit of disarray while the owners ran helter-skelter.

With the tests done, the reports finally filtered in two hours later. And another queue to pick it up followed by yet one more to confirm whether the two reports and visas were in order. And finally, check-in! However, one thing hadn't changed at the T3 airport in Delhi. If you wanted to catch a wink, all the sleeperettes were sure to be occupied.

It was only when the flight landed that we were ushered into more cubicles where yet another test was conducted. But post that, it was business as usual... Except for the heat. It seemed to have been channelled straight from a blast furnace... that is if you had the bravado to step outside the air conditioning. I quickly took shelter in the waiting car at the airport. Making my way to Atlantis, The Palm — which was to be my abode for three days — I sped past chrome and glass buildings, cars in every imaginable colour that could put a woman's wardrobe to shame, malls on roads that were so smooth that would have you stepping on the accelerator with glee.

We were headed towards Palm Island, the largest man-made island which is referred to as the 'eighth won-



der of the world'. The Palm's shape was selected to ensure all buildings on the island would have a sea view and beach access. The finished island covers an area equivalent to 600 football pitches and is four times as big as London's Hyde Park. Today, the 17 fronds are home to around 1,500 beachfront mansions, with a further 6,000 apartments on the trunk.

Soon enough, the car was running parallel with the beach and a turn led it to the hotel. And since Dubai does not do anything which is less than grand, Atlantis is spread over 46 hectares or — to make a layperson understand its scale — is the size of 64 Wembley football pitches. Atlantis was the first resort to open its doors on The Palm. With 1,548 rooms, seven signature suites and 22 storeys, it has played host to citizens of 227 different countries. Its signature Royal Bridge Suite, measuring 924 sq m costs US\$27,000 per night, is an attraction — especially for Indians — as actor Shah Rukh Khan has stayed here. Another, the Underwater Suite — at 165 sq m, has a master bedroom with direct views of The Ambassador Lagoon aquarium, creating an illusion of being beneath the sea — is another popular option. The hotel is a microcosm of the Emirate which does not believe in living life which is not king size.

Checking in, I couldn't help but admire the handblown glass installation in a myriad of colours and kept stealing looks as the Russian lady at the front desk completed the formalities. The priceless Dale Chihuly sculpture was created using 3,000 hand-blown pieces that were individually placed to build the 10-metre-high entry centerpiece. Even in Dubai where everything competes for attention — by being even more mammoth than larger than life and opulent — this is a showstopper.

Ushered in my room, I immediately raced to the balcony as views from a hotel room have often been behind



my impulsive decisions to stay or leave a place since childhood. The vista that greeted me, despite the heat, had me tongue-tied (a rare occurrence) for some time. From the 13th floor, the view that spread out till the horizon had the deep blue sea with several yachts skimming on the surface (remember habibi, money CAN buy you happiness in Dubai), the Burj Khalifa shimmering in the heat, a stretch of greenery before it was interrupted by the new Atlantis, The Royal slated to open sometime next year, a monorail speeding past and also a teeny weeny glimpse of the famous Palm with its fronds that houses the whos who (including our very Shah Rukh Khan who is also the brand ambassador of Dubai). Peeking down, I saw another water body just below. I wondered what it was but couldn't ponder over it for too long as I had to leave for lunch.

It was the descent from the lobby to the ground level which brought us face to face with a glass wall with a myriad of sea animals — stingrays, sharks, eels and 65,000 others — swimming (it seemed without care) in what could be closest to viewing them in their natural habitat without getting wet. I watched on mesmerised as realisation dawned that this was the water body I saw from above. This aquarium recreates Atlantis, the fictional island mentioned in an allegory on the hubris of nations in Plato's works Timaeus and Critias. Since the hotel is named after it, it is not surprising that floor-to-ceiling unbreakable glass practically brings in the water world at every turn. I would have stared on, lost in thought, had not my stomach let out a low growl complaining about the hours of neglect and in anticipation of the feast that I knew was in store.

We were headed towards Gordon



Ramsay's (yes, THE Multi-Michelin starred British chef and star of the small screen known equally well for his food and his temper) Bread Street Kitchen & Bar. This is just one of the 29 restaurants including three outlets

by celebrity chefs, Nobu Matsuhisa, Giorgio Locatelli and Gordon Ramsay.

Done up in wood, with a profusion of lights in different shapes and sizes, the restaurant had an eclectic appeal that was tough to miss despite me being consumed by a state of sleep deprivation. While one might assume that it would be meats that dominate the menu, since Ramsay has often expressed his dislike for veg-

etarianism, the vegan trend has made inroads into his restaurant — certainly as unlikely a place as can be. And surprisingly, it was the Rigatoni with handpicked mushrooms — without even so much as a hint of animal protein — that was the star of the table despite an array of treats that were cooked and plated to perfection. But the side-effects of stuffing oneself with a dish of creamy carbohydrates soon became apparent. The four people at the table began to nod off... especially since the night before had been less than restful. However, since no meal is complete without a dessert, an assorted platter followed. The Medjool date & banana sticky toffee pudding had us nodding in approval (and digging in several spoonfuls immediately after loud proclamations of being stuffed to the gills).

An afternoon siesta was called for after such an immensely satiating meal. Waking up refreshed, I was raring to head out for the Fish Tales Tour at The Lost Chambers Aquarium. For a hotel in the centre of a desert, the abundance of water, even if it is saline, is certain-



ly a feat. And if you add the upkeep of a whopping 65,000 marine animals of 250 species, it certainly becomes even more mind-boggling. The Ambassador Lagoon at Atlantis is an 11 million litre marine habitat and one of the top 10 largest aquariums in the world. Its viewing pane is 10 meters long and 70 cm thick and if all its water was drained it would fill 4.5 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

While I, along with three others, explored the site on my own, it was the behind-the-scenes during the guided tour that had us holding on to every word. A fish hospital (my, my, did you know that existed?), a kitchen to prepare their food

(400 kg of the same quality as is served to the hotel's guests), a water filtration plant, a testing centre, several fish tanks where the young are kept and more were oohed and aahed over. We wandered around before ending with a dinner at Hakkasan. While we were still quite full from the lunch, the hostess' recommendation of Stir-fry vegetable and pine nut lettuce wrap was certainly a revelation and was quickly wrapped up (pun intended). However, we could not do justice to the main course as our stomachs collectively groaned under the onslaught of a constant barrage of delicacies. Practically collapsing into bed, we were soon off to la-la land,

Post a delicious spread of South-East Asian, local and international offerings at the breakfast buffet at the Saffron, we were up for some activities that were a little more adventurous than eating and walking about to take in the sights. We headed towards the White Beach, the seafront of the eponymously-named restaurant, which is exclusively used by the hotel guests. The sun beating down in all its intensity did not flag our spirits as we bravely ventured where we had never gone before — a session of paddleboarding. Donning the life jackets ensured that our courage was boosted manifold and we weren't daunted by the open sea that stretched out till the horizon. If we were being marked, the first person to take off from the start point would have scored a perfect 10. Paddling gently on both sides, she stood up with perfect poise without losing balance and after a carefully executed pirouette, she headed back to safe shores exultant to have done it in one



perfect sweep. I was up next and I have always been pretty confident — that balance is something I always take time to achieve while perseverance is my strong point. And yet again, my hunch was not off the mark. Within minutes (or was it seconds?) of standing up, a loud splash followed and I was floating on my back. While the instructor was telling me not to panic, I promptly responded

by standing up in the neck-deep (okay, okay for a 5'1" me) water and wading back to the shore to attempt it yet again. And yes, this time I was successful.

But I was not yet done with the water (blame it on me being a water sign) and dragged out a kayak along with a companion. The 20 minutes we paddled around were frequently interrupted by peels of laughter as we tried to manoeuvre the kayak without bumping into obstacles. Deeply tanned but exuberant, we made our way back...

Lunch was at White, the beachfront restaurant which specialises in Mediterranean cuisine. An all-white decor, fresh ingredients and a meal that was light were just what we needed. But it was the dessert, with its seemingly incongruous nomenclature of 'bread' that had everyone floored. Called the Monkey bread, with a hint of cinnamon and coffee, we eyed its large size when it arrived at the table and thought we would never finish it. We could not have erred more. And that was just another incorrect assumption about the dish. We sliced off a small bite and then another, and one more... till the plate was almost empty. And yes, even now, I can almost taste its delicious gorgeousness. Sigh.

However, there was more to come. On the last day of our stay, we were lined up for a dolphin and sea lion tour where we learnt the intricacies. The Dolphin Bay, spread over 4.5 hectares, is home to Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphins that eat between five and seven kg of fish per day. The Sea Lion Point is the only one of its kind in the region. Its residents are South African Fur Seals and are cared for by experienced Marine Mammal Specialists.

The trainer explained that diet regulation, regular health check-ups, exercise and more were some of the things that ensured that both the physical and emotional well-being of these marine animals were well looked after. With the dolphin parks having come in for increased criticism from animal rights activists, we watched the marine animals from afar.

From there we headed straight to Aquaventure, the water playground of more than 18 million litres of water. With 79 rides spread across three towers 26 marine and water-sport experiences, anyone who loves water parks this is a dream destination. While I debated whether I should take the Leap of

Faith — a sheer drop of 98-feet mega plummets in a near-vertical fashion at frightening speed of 60 km/h in three seconds, shooting you through a clear acrylic tube surrounded by sharks and cownose rays —

I took some of the relatively tamer rides. So I went on a safari of a different kind in Shark Attack, where the fibreglass gives a 360° view of the shark-filled lagoon. Then, there were the Rapids, a 1.6-kilometre river and the Aquaconda, a 210 metres long and 25 metres high six-person waterslide tube.

Certainly, impossible is not a word that exists in Dubai's dictionary.

SOUTHEE, OPENERS BRING NZ BACK IN GAME

PTI ■ KANPUR

Tim Southee bowled an incisive morning spell to take five wickets which was then brilliantly complemented by openers Will Young and Tom Latham as New Zealand dominated India to reach 129 for no loss on the second day of the opening Test here on Friday. The only highlight for India in an otherwise disappointing day was Shreyas Iyer's (105 off 171 balls) debut hundred.

Playing his 80th Test match, Southee (5/69) took his 13th five-wicket haul on an unresponsive track to send India packing for 345 after they started the day at 258 for 4.

Young then held centre-stage in his fourth Test appearance as he looked composed and unperturbed during his unbeaten knock of 75 off 180 balls.

Latham (50 batting off 165 balls), the seasoned campaigner, survived three on-field decisions (two leg before and one caught behind), negated by DRS, and decided to frustrate the two Indian spinners with a gritty defensive game. The Green Park track became better for batting on the second day and the turn that was on offer was minimal. The variable bounce wasn't also there for the better part of the 57 overs that they batted.

Since it was slow turn, the



Black Caps duo mostly plonked their front-foot and neutralised the turn. And when they played on the back-foot, there was enough time to manoeuvre on both sides of the wicket.

Both were able to adjust on the back-foot against Ravindra Jadeja (14-4-28-0) and Ravichandran Ashwin (17-5-38-0), both of whom didn't look threatening on the day.

Also what made it worse for India was that hardly any delivery kept dangerously low, which

could have brought the leg-before into the equation.

The most disappointing of all was Axar Patel (10-1-26-0), whose accuracy on the leg stump line was of little or no value and it was once again proved that without assistance from the track, he is not even half the bowler that he is with some help from surface.

Young, in particular, got as many as 12 boundaries while Latham helped himself to four hits to the fence.

While Indian spinners can come back on the third day if the pitch considerably deteriorates but New Zealand would like to take the game deep by getting somewhere close to India's first innings total and take it from there.

In the morning, Iyer became the 16th Indian cricketer to score a hundred on Test debut but the home side's lower-middle order caved in meekly save Ashwin (38 off 56 balls), whose counter-attacking effort took

them close to 350.

The credit for that went primarily to Southee (27.4-6-69-5), who was tirelessly bowling an extended spell of more than 10 overs from one end, causing extensive damage. The seasoned campaigner's 13th five-wicket haul came in his 80th Test.

Resuming on his overnight score of 75, Iyer followed the great Gundappa Vishwanath in reaching the milestone at this ground.

Ashwin did the bulk of scoring in the morning session as India added only 87 runs, losing six wickets in the process.

Southee was on target with the second new ball first up as he sent back Ravindra Jadeja (50) on his overnight score.

He used the width of the crease cleverly to trouble Jadeja and got the ball to move from length which was too much for the lower-order players to negotiate. Wriddhiman Saha and Axar Patel nicked at those deliveries that moved away at drivable lengths. Sensing that he is now batting with the tail as Saha (1 off 12 balls) is no longer a batter on whom one can repose his faith, Iyer hit a flurry of boundaries but the best shot was a cover drive off Kyle Jamieson (22.2-6-85-3) which took him to 96.

A glide towards wide of third man off Jamieson got him a double and the moment that every batter dreams of.

Paine takes mental health break from cricket



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australia Test cricket captain Tim Paine is set to miss the first Ashes Test and is taking an indefinite mental health break from the game.

The news comes a week after Paine tearfully quit as captain after revelations of a scandal involving the sending of inappropriate texts to a female co-worker in 2017.

Cricket Australia said on Friday that Paine advised them he would be "stepping away from cricket for a period of time."

"We recognise that this is an incredibly difficult time for Tim and his family and are committed to supporting them," Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said in a statement.

"We respect and under-

stand Tim's decision to have a break at this time to focus on his and his family's well-being."

Paine's teammates were hoping for the wicketkeeper to play on December 8 — his 37th birthday — when Australia's five-test series against England begins in Brisbane. As of Thursday, the veteran was scheduled to join the test squad this weekend.

Paine was called up and set to bat in Tasmania's one-day match against Western Australia on Friday, giving him a chance to play five consecutive days of cricket after a low-key return via the state's second XI.

But Cricket Tasmania (CT) said Friday that Paine would not take his spot in the side.

"Following discussions over the last 24 hours, Tim Paine has advised Cricket Tasmania that he will be taking a leave of absence from all forms of cricket for the foreseeable future," CT said in a statement.

"Cricket Tasmania will continue to support Tim and his family both professionally and personally over the summer."

Likely wicketkeeper replacements for Paine in the test side are Alex Carey or Josh Inglis.



He is not bowling so can we call him all-rounder? asks KAPIL ON HARDIK

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Legendary former India captain Kapil Dev on Friday asked whether Hardik Pandya can be called an all-rounder given that he has not been bowling as much as the role demands.

A vital cog in India's scheme of things in white-ball cricket, the flamboyant Pandya bowled in just two matches in the recent T20 World Cup where India went out in the group stage itself.

He is also under fire for not revealing the extent of his several fitness issues and was dropped from the home T20 series against New Zealand, which India won 3-0.

"He has to do both the jobs to be considered an all-rounder. He is not bowling so can we call him all-rounder? Let him bowl, he has come out from the injury," Kapil said at the Royal Calcutta Golf Course here. "He is an extremely important batter to the country, for bowling he has to play a lot more matches, perform and bowl and then we will say," added India's first World Cup-winning captain. Kapil



also predicted that Rahul Dravid the coach will be a bigger success than the immensely accomplished Dravid the cricketer.

Dravid began his new innings as the Indian team's head coach in the ongoing series against New Zealand, a post he has been given till the 2023 ODI World Cup in India.

"He's a good man, a good cricketer. He will do a better job as a coach than as a cricketer because in cricket nobody has done better than him. I'm just keeping my fingers crossed," Kapil said. Dravid earlier served as the head of National Cricket Academy and was also the coach of India's Under-19 and A teams, nurturing several young talents who went on to represent the country with distinction.

Shreyas Iyer 16th Indian to slam 100 on Test debut

PTI ■ KANPUR

Shreyas Iyer on Friday became the 16th Indian batter to make a hundred on his Test debut, joining an illustrious list which includes the legendary Lala Amarnath, Gundappa Viswanath, and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly among others. The elegant right-hander, who hails from Mumbai's Worli area, achieved the feat in the ongoing first Test against New Zealand on the second day of the

THE ILLUSTRIOUS LIST	
1 Lala Amarnath v England 1933	9 Pravin Amre v South Africa 1992
2 Deepak Shodhan v Pakistan 1952	10 Sourav Ganguly v England 1996
3 Arjan Kripal Singh v New Zealand 1955	11 Virender Sehwag v South Africa 2001
4 Abbas Ali Baig v England 1959	12 Suresh Raina v Sri Lanka 2010
5 Hanumant Singh v England 1964	13 Shikhar Dhawan v Australia 201
6 G Vishwanath v Australia 1969	14 Rohit Sharma v West Indies 2013
7 Surinder Amarnath v New Zealand 1976	15 Prithvi Shaw v West Indies 2018
8 Mohd Azharuddin England 1984	16 Shreyas Iyer v New Zealand 2021.

match at the Green Park Stadium

here. Iyer scored 105 off 171 balls,

striking 13 fours and a couple of

India face Poland in must-win match in Junior Hockey WC

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Their campaign might be back on track following a massive win over lowly Canada, but defending champions India are still not out of the woods and would need to beat Poland in their final Pool B match to qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup here on Saturday.

The Indians, one of the pre-tournament favourites, were given a rude shock in their opener when France stunned them 5-4.

The defeat dealt a massive blow to India's campaign and put paid to their hopes of topping their pool. With one win and a defeat, India are cur-

rently placed second in Pool B ahead of Poland on goal difference. France, who have a perfect record till now, are set to top the pool.

This means that in the quarterfinals, India face the prospect of running into European giants and top seed Belgium, who are likely to top Pool A. Given the scenario, complacency has no place in the Indian scheme of things if they wish to defend their title.

The Indians were slow to get off the blocks in the tournament and lacked intent and purpose against France, leading to their loss. But against Canada on Thursday, the hosts roared back and looked more organised.



Pakistan takes 4 early wickets vs Bangladesh in 1st test

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

Pakistan bowlers used some variety to take four wickets in the first session of the first test against Bangladesh on Friday, leaving the home side in trouble at lunch. Fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi and Hasan Ali, medium pacer Faheem Ashraf and offspinner Sajid Khan shared the four wickets to leave Bangladesh at 69-4 after Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque opted to bat first after winning the toss.

Liton Das was batting on 11 with Mushfiqur Rahim on 5 at the break.

Saif Hasan hit Ali for two boundaries in the second over to give a hint of a good start for Bangladesh.

But his opening partner Shadman Islam struggled against Afridi, who moved the ball well, but Saif grew with confidence, driving the left arm pacer through mid-off for four.

Afridi broke through in the next delivery when Saif fended a short delivery to short leg for 14.

Shadman also fell for 14, as Hasan had him leg-before after leaking runs in his opening spell.

Khan gave the side a big breakthrough when he reviewed successfully to dismiss captain Mominul Haque for 6. Najmul Shanto then followed him, giving a straight catch to point for 14 as Bangladesh crumbled under pressure.

West Ham, Rangers, Lazio win; Celtic exit



AP ■ LONDON

Celtic's chances of progress in the Europa League were ended by a late Bayer Leverkusen rally to lose 3-2 in Germany on Thursday as Real Betis, Lazio and Galatasaray secured their places in the knockout stages.

Leverkusen had already qualified but made sure of top spot in Group G and a place in the last 16 thanks to two goals in the final eight minutes at the Bay Arena.

Robert Andrich headed the hosts in front before Josip Juranovic equalised from the penalty spot.

Jota's sweet strike 11 minutes into the second half had Celtic on course for their first ever win on German soil. But Andrich smashed home his second of the game between Joe Hart's legs before Moussa Diaby beat the former England international from the edge of the box. Celtic are

assured of dropping into the Europa Conference League in the new year, but cannot now catch Betis, who beat Ferencvaros 2-0 to guarantee second in the group. Lazio and Galatasaray will face off in two weeks' time for top spot in Group E after securing qualification in style.

The Italians were 3-0 winners over Lokomotiv Moscow, who are set to lose head of sports and development Ralf Rangnick to Manchester United according to reports.

Ciro Immobile scored two second half penalties before Pedro Rodriguez rounded off the scoring. Galatasaray hold a three-point lead at the top of the group after ending Marseille's chances of progress in a 4-2 thriller in Istanbul. West Ham's fine return to European football continued with a 2-0 win over Rapid Vienna despite David Moyes naming a much-changed line-up.

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