

OPINION 6
THE INTENT BEHIND
THE CELEBRATIONS

WORLD 8
CRUCIAL CLIMATE SUMMIT
OPENS IN GLASGOW

SPORT 12
INDIA LOSE TO NEW
ZEALAND BY 8 WICKETS

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COMPETITION
IS GOOD:
HASHMI
10 VIVACITY

J&K strife draws more boots on the ground

50 companies from CRPF, BSF moved to protect citizens

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI



A boatman on a shikara (boat) catches fish at Dal Lake in Srinagar on Sunday PTI

The security scenario in the areas in this side of the Line of Control (LoC).

The Afghan SIMs could come in handy to the Pakistan ISI-military complex to deny its

inherent role in the terrorist action in J&K, sources said.

Pakistan has been unnerved by the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile State of J&K into two Union

Territories of J&K and Ladakh in August 2019, they said.

The 50 companies (over 5,000 personnel) have been detailed for deployment for security duties and to augment the law order roles of the police, according to the recent order from the J&K Police headquarters.

Out of the 50 companies, as many as 30 companies (CRPF- 11 companies and BSF- 19 companies) have been allocated for Srinagar district alone followed by five companies for Anantnag and three companies each for Ganderbal, Pulwama and Shopian.

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Jammu-Poonch NH thrown open to traffic after 17 days

Jammu: The regular traffic on the Jammu-Poonch National Highway was thrown open after 17 days on Sunday even as the joint teams of security forces continue to track down the footprints of the terrorists hiding in the thickly forested belt of Bhata Duriyan in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch.

The traffic between Bhimber Gali in Mendhar and Jeran Wali Gali in Surankote was suspended on October 14, the day four Indian Army men were killed in action during a massive search operation in the area.

According to official sources, the decision to open up the traffic was taken after

assessing the ground situation, especially the ongoing counter-terrorist operations in the area.

Since October 11, nine Indian soldiers including two Junior Commissioner Officers attained martyrdom during intense firefight between them and the terrorists hiding in the area. PNS

Indian Navy gets desi guided-missile destroyer 'Visakhapatnam'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



in the last decade.

Designed by Directorate of Naval Design, Indian Navy's in-house design organisation and built by the MDL, the four ships are christened after major cities from all four corners of the country including Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat.

The keel of Visakhapatnam was laid in October 2013 and the ship was launched in April 2015. The design has largely maintained the hull form, propulsion machinery, many platform equipment and major weapons and sensors as the Kolkata class to benefit from series production.

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MoRTH erases 60% black spots from killer highways

Over 28,000 fatalities took place in road accidents in the last three years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



India's killer highways will be not more safe now. In a significant step towards prevention of road casualties, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has rectified 60 per cent of the 'black spots' on National Highways (NH) across the country where more than 28,000 fatalities took place in road accidents in the last three years.

Altogether, 2,415 (60.43 per cent) of the 3,996 black spots have been rectified, the Ministry said. According to the data, among States, the maximum fatalities were recorded in Tamil Nadu (TN) at 4,408 and Uttar Pradesh (UP) at 4,218.

NHAI officials said rectifi-

cations started 2019 onwards on the 'black spots', which are a stretch of NHs of about 500 metres where either five road accidents took place in three calendar years or 10 fatalities (in all three years combined).

The road accidents considered for qualifying a stretch as a black spot include both causing fatalities and grievous injuries, according to MoRTH.

According to the data available with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), a total of 57,329 accidents took place in the 3,996 'black spots' on NHs in which 28,765 people were killed.

As per MoRTH officials, Delhi had 31 black spots which resulted in 772 crashes and 270 fatalities during the period.

A maximum of 496 black spots are in TN, followed by West Bengal 450, Karnataka 408, Andhra Pradesh 357, Telangana 336 and UP 327.

"A total of ₹4,512 crore has been spent in rectifying these black spots which led to 57,329 road crashes in 2016, 2017 and 2018," the NHAI said.

"A total of 3,996 black spots have been identified on NHs maintained by the NHAI on available accident data of year 2015 to 2018. During 2019-20, 729 black spots were rectified, while during 2020-21 as many as 1,103 black spots were rectified. During 2021-22 up to September 2021, 583 black spots have been rectified. The target up to March 2022 is 790 black spots and the target for 2022-23 is 791 black spots," the NHAI mentioned.

The NHAI's regional office, Chennai, spent the maximum ₹997.40 crore among States and rectified 166 such black spots, while Bengaluru stood second on the list with ₹732.69 crore expenditure.

Don't let your guard down during festivals, people told

Govt hopes that cases do not surge due to the laxity of people in following Covid norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As North India goes into celebration mode with the onset of a string of festivals like Diwali, Dhanteras, Bhaidooj, Chath Puja from this week, the Government is keeping its finger crossed and hoping that Covid cases do not surge due to the laxity of people in following Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. It has warned the people not to lower guard and adopt all Covid appropriate behaviour.

The officials said 48 districts need to be taken up for vaccination on a priority basis particularly ahead of the festival period as there are fears that cases might spike during the festival times as had happened in the cases of Kerala and Kolkata.

The Covid cases in these



A view of crowded Sarojini Nagar Market ahead of the Diwali festival in New Delhi on Sunday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

two States had risen at alarming rate after Onam and Durga Puja respectively.

In the meantime, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to hold on November 3 a review meeting with the District Magistrates of the districts which have reported low vaccination coverage.

The Government has initiated 'har ghar dastak' drive in these 48 districts in twelve States to ramp up vaccine numbers. Almost half of them are in

the Northeast region while the highest number of such districts is in Jharkhand where Covid vaccination percentage is very low i.e. less than 50 per cent.

These forty-eight districts in 13 States with Covid vaccine first dose coverage ranging from 16.1-49.9 per cent will be targeted in the first leg of a door-to-door vaccination campaign. In Jharkhand, 10 of the 24 districts figure in the low-coverage list.

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31 kids died by suicide daily in 2020: NCRB data

Covid upped psychological trauma, say experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



18 per cent rise from 9,613 such deaths in 2019 and 21 per cent rise from 9,413 in 2018.

'Family Problems' (4,006), 'Love Affairs' (1,337) and 'Illness' (1,327) were the main causes of suicide among children (below 18 years of age). Ideological causes or hero wor-

shipping, unemployment, parents' bankruptcy and drug abuse were other reasons behind suicide by some children.

Prabhat Kumar, Deputy Director — Child Protection, Save the Children, said the pandemic and the resultant school closures and social isolation coupled with anxiety among elders have further aggravated the issue of mental health and brought it to the forefront.

"While we as a society are cognisant of tangibles such as education and physical health for building national human capital, emotional well-being or psycho-social support often takes a back seat. The successively increasing number of suicides among children reflects a systemic failure.

Continued on Page 2

Grandma told me not to cry: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Congress on Sunday remembered former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for her lifelong dedication and service to the nation on her 37th death anniversary, Rahul Gandhi also posted a three-minute video on social media recollecting the day his grandmother died in 1984.

An emotional Rahul Gandhi narrated how he lost one of his mothers as Indira Gandhi was his second mom, 'supermom', and used to protect him when his father Rajiv Gandhi got angry. The video shows a young Rahul crying at Indira Gandhi's last rites.

"That morning before she died she told me don't cry if something happens to me. I didn't understand what she meant. And 2-3 hours later, she was dead. She sort of sensed



that she would be killed. And everybody in the house also knew it," Rahul says in the video posted on his YouTube channel.

That day was the second

most difficult day of my life, said Rahul, and also explained why he was hiding his face in the video. Because his grandmother had told him not to cry.

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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pays tribute to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 37th death anniversary at Shakti Sthal on Sunday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Haryana Govt in 14 NCR dists bans firecrackers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government on Sunday imposed a ban with immediate effect on the sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in 14 of its districts in the national capital region (NCR) while restrictions were imposed in other parts of the state.

"There will be a total ban against sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in all the 14 NCR districts namely Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Faridabad, Gurugram, Jhajar, Jind, Karnal, Mahendergarh, Nuh, Palwal, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak and Sonapat," as per the order issued by the State Disaster Management Authority on regulation of sale and use of firecrackers in the state.

"The directive will also apply to all cities and towns in the state where the average of ambient air quality during November (as per available data of last year) is in 'poor' and above categories," the order said.

There are 22 districts in Haryana.

According to the order, only green crackers shall be sold in cities and towns where the air quality is in the "mod-



erate" or below category. The Haryana State Pollution Control Board will separately issue a list of these cities and towns and make it available on its website.

The bursting of crackers during Diwali and other festivals such as Gurupurab will be allowed only from 8 pm to 10 pm. For Chhath festival, the same will be allowed from 6 am to 8 am.

Fireworks will be permitted from 11.55 pm on December 24 to 12.30 am on December 25 and from 11.55 pm on December 31 to 12.30 am on January 1, for Christmas

and New Year respectively, it further stated.

Bursting of firecrackers in communities will be promoted in areas where there is no ban, the order said, adding that designated areas will be pre-identified by the authorities concerned.

Only green crackers shall be allowed even for marriages and other occasions, the order noted.

The sale of crackers shall only be through licensed traders and e-commerce portals, including Flipkart and Amazon, will not be permitted to sell crackers, it said.

AG declines consent for contempt proceedings against Owaisi for remarks on Savarkar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Attorney General K K Venugopal has declined to give his consent for initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi for his remarks that an inquiry commission had observed V D Savarkar was complicit in Mahatma Gandhi's murder.

A think tank had written to the AG seeking his consent to initiate contempt proceedings against Owaisi for his remarks.

Venugopal said it is true that the judgment of the top court also notes the fact that Savarkar has been found not guilty of Gandhi's murder in the criminal trial.

However, if one reads the judgement as a whole, it is clear that the court was disinclined to go into the findings of the Justice Kapoor Commission of Inquiry, the AG said.

"I may also point out that Justice Kapoor has retired as a judge of the Supreme Court in the year 1962, and hence was a retired judge when he was appointed as Commission of Inquiry in 1966.

The statement made by Owaisi is reliable, therefore, to

the finding of Justice Kapoor Commission and not the Supreme Court.

"It would therefore be difficult to hold that he has committed contempt of the Supreme Court by suggesting and/or implying that a sitting judge of the Supreme Court had held that Savarkar was complicit in the murder of Mahatma Gandhi, which is completely contrary to factual reality.

I am therefore constrained to decline consent for initiation of contempt proceedings against Owaisi," the AG in his reply dated October 26 said. In a letter to Owaisi, the Abhinav Bharat Congress and its founder Pankaj Phadnis had referred to a Supreme Court judgement dated March 28, 2018 which stated, "The submission of the petitioner that Shri Savarkar has been held guilty for the murder of Gandhi is misplaced."

"After this categorical assertion by the highest court of the country, where is the scope to suggest that Savarkar 'murdered' Gandhi ji, as you are reported to have said?" the think tank had said in its October 15 letter to Owaisi.

Judge, two others booked for gang-raping teen boy

PTI ■ JAIPUR

A judge was suspended after being booked along with two others for allegedly gang-raping a 14-year-old boy in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, police said on Sunday.

Also, an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officer was suspended for threatening the boy.

According to a Rajasthan High Court order, Special Judge Jitendra Singh Goliya was suspended with immediate effect pending preliminary inquiry and contemplated departmental inquiry.

The boy's mother in her complaint alleged that the judge, who handles cases related to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), and two other persons, had been sexually assaulting her son by intoxicating him with some narcotic substance for the past one month. Judge Goliya and the two other accused threatened him of dire consequences if he spoke about his ordeal, she alleged in her complaint.

The other accused were identified as Anshul Soni, the judge's stenographer, and Rahul Katara, another staff of the judge.

TMC will form Govt in Tripura after 2023 elections: Abhishek

PTI ■ AGARTALA

All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Sunday claimed his party would form the Government in Tripura in the 2023 State Assembly elections.

Banerjee promised to end what he claimed was "BJP's misrule" and said his party followed West Bengal's model of 'good governance' to deliver fruits of development to the Northeastern state. Addressing a gathering before the Rabindra Shatabrshiki Bhaban (Tagore Centenary Hall) here, Banerjee alleged that law and order has collapsed in the state and development has come to a standstill ever since the BJP came to power in Tripura. He also termed all poll pledges made by the ruling BJP as 'jumla' (fake promise) as he claimed these had not been fulfilled despite the party being in power for more than three and half years. "They say BJP is a double engine government (but) If we compare the reports cards of West Bengal with that of the BJP led government in Tripura and in the centre, we see hardly any developments there (in Tripura and nationally)", Banerjee

Akhilesh Yadav praises Sardar Patel, mentions Jinnah in same breath

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday spoke of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru and Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the same breath as leaders who fought for India's independence. Yadav lavished praise on Patel on his 146th birth anniversary but raised eyebrows at one point when he appeared to equate the four leaders, including Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan.

Addressing a public meeting in Hardoi, the SP leader said, "Sardar Patel understood the ground and he made decisions accordingly. Hence, he is also known as the Iron Man." "Sardar Patel, Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and (Muhammad Ali) Jinnah studied in the same institute and became barristers. They helped (India) get freedom and never backed away from any struggle." Yadav also referred to the ban imposed on the RSS by Patel, the then home minister, following the assassination of Gandhi in 1948, saying only he could do it. He said Patel fought for farmers and hence, is known as 'Sardar'.

Congress leaders' brawling in public unfortunate, says Chhattisgarh CM Baghel

PTI ■ RAIPUR

In the wake of scuffles in public involving Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday said such incidents were unfortunate and asked the party to take cognizance of them.

On Saturday, Sushil Sunny Agrawal, former secretary of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee (CPC). Was suspended from the party's primary membership after a scuffle broke out between him and a colleague over vehicle parking at Rajiv Bhavan, the party's state office here.

State unit chief Mohan Markam as well as media persons were present during the brawl.

Talking to reporters at Swami Vivekanand Airport Raipur before leaving for Uttar Pradesh, Baghel said, "The incident was unfortunate. It should not have happened. The organisation should take cognizance."

Saturday's incident was the latest in a series of clashes

between ruling party leaders in public.

Last week, a clash took place between Congress leaders during a party convention in Jashpur district over a purported power sharing agreement between Baghel and state health minister TS Singh Deo.

In another incident last month, a Congress unit in Bilaspur had demanded expulsion of a party MLA after he protested against the registration of a police case against a supporter of Singh Deo.

Briefing reporters about his UP tour, the CM said there was resentment towards the Yogi Adityanath government among people there.

"I will attend a farmers' rally (to be addressed by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra) in Gorakhpur. Paddy is being sold at (low rate of) Rs 800 to Rs 1200 per quintal and there is no proper arrangement for procurement. Farmers there are upset and are looking at agriculture welfare schemes of Chhattisgarh with great hope," Baghel said.

31 kids died by suicide daily in...

From Page 1

It is a collective responsibility of parents, families, neighbourhoods, and government at large to provide a conducive ecosystem where children can look forward to realising their potential and fulfilling their dreams for a bright future. Committing suicide, on the contrary, is an antithesis," Kumar said.

"Stigma attached to mental health and an abysmally low number of per capita mental health professionals demand urgent attention.

COVID-19, and the resultant school closures and social isolation coupled with anxiety among elders has further aggravated the issue and brought it to the forefront. Save the Children calls for a collective action to nurture an encouraging and supportive ecosystem for children and youth," he added.

Commenting on the topic, Priti Mahara, Director, Policy Research and Advocacy at CRY-Child Rights and You, said from the very beginning of the pandemic, it was one of the major concerns that it might

impact children's mental health and psycho-social well-being, and the recent NCRB data actually underscores the fear that the pandemic may have accentuated the psychological trauma faced by the children to a great extent.

"Children have gone through tremendous emotional stress and trauma due to home confinement and lack of interaction with friends, teachers or any other person in the position of trust due to prolonged closure of schools and limited social interactions," she said.

Many of them have been through hostile environment at home, many others have seen demise of their loved ones and have faced the impact of fear of contagion and deepening financial crisis at the family level, she said.

Many children have also experienced huge uncertainty related to completion of curriculum, exams and results.

"A huge number of children, especially the ones living under the shadow of multi-dimensional poverty, struggled with attending online classes and were majorly impacted by the digital divide, while many others suffered from over-exposure to internet and the social media and were subjected to online bullying and allied cyber-crimes," she said.

BJP's Rajib Banerjee returns to TMC at Tripura rally

PTI ■ AGARTALA

BJP leader from West Bengal Rajib Banerjee returned to the TMC on Sunday at a rally of party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in Agartala in Tripura.

Banerjee, a former minister in the Mamata Banerjee government, said he "repents" for joining the BJP ahead of the assembly elections despite being asked by the West Bengal chief minister not to leave TMC.

He was named BJP's national executive committee member weeks ago and unsuccessfully fought the assembly polls from Domjur in Howrah district.

"I realised that I cannot accept the politics of hatred and divisive ideology propagated by BJP. I cannot accept the anti-people policies of the BJP," he said. "I had often aired my opinions to the BJP leadership and criticised the personal attack and slander on Mamata Banerjee but no one listened," he added.

After Dabur, MP Min targets Sabyasachi over 'objectionable' mangalsutra ad

GIVES 24-HOUR ULTIMATUM

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Sunday issued a 24-hour ultimatum to fashion and jewellery designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee to withdraw the advertisement with "objectionable and obscene" portrayal of mangalsutra or else face statutory action.

Last week, Dabur India Private Limited had withdrawn its Fem cream bleach advertisement, which showed same-sex couple celebrating Karva Chauth and watching each other through a sieve, after Minister Mishra termed the ad as objectionable and warned that legal steps would be taken against it.

The mangalsutra advertisement by Sabyasachi's brand portrayed a woman wearing a low-neckline dress and posing solo and in inti-

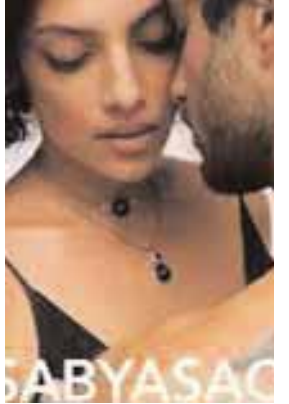
mate position with a man. After the designer shared these pictures, it created a controversy as a section of social media users termed it against Hindu culture and obscene.

Talking to reporters at Datia in the state, Mishra said, "I have warned earlier about such advertisements. I am personally warning designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, giving him a 24-hour ultimatum.

If this objectionable and obscene advertisement is not withdrawn, then a case will be registered against him and legal action will be taken. The police force will be sent for the action."

Mishra said that he saw Sabyasachi Mukherjee's mangalsutra advertisement. "It is very objectionable. Mangalsutra is a jewellery of paramount importance. We believe that the yellow part of the mangalsutra signifies Goddess Parvati and the black part Lord Shiva, which protects the woman and her husband.

Marital life becomes



happy by the grace of Goddess Parvati," he said.

Mangalsutra is a necklace worn by married Hindu women.

Replying to a question about the requirement of law to check such incidents, the minister said, "The law is already in place. But why do such painful incidents take place only with Hindu symbols? If Mukherjee has courage, he should do it with some other religion, then we will understand that he is a real brave man."

Indian Navy gets desi guided-missile destroyer ...

From Page 1

The 163 metres long warship has a full load displacement of 7,400 tonne and maximum speed of 30 knots. The overall indigenous content of the project is approximately 75 per cent.

Apart from myriad indigenous equipment in the "float" and "move" categories, the destroyer is also installed with major indigenous weapons which include Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (BEL, Bangalore, BrahMos Surface-to-Surface Missiles (BrahMos Aerospace, New Delhi, Indigenous Torpedo Tube Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai, Anti-Submarine Indigenous Rocket Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai and 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (BHEL, Haridwar).

The delivery of Visakhapatnam is an affirmation of the impetus being given by the Government and the Indian Navy towards "AatmaNirbhar Bharat" as part of 75 years of Indian Independence. The induction of the destroyer, despite the Covid challenges, is a tribute to the collaborative efforts of large number of stake holders and would enhance the maritime prowess of the country in the Indian Ocean Region.

Grandma told me not to cry: Rahul

From Page 1

"She once said to me, to all of us, at the dining table, that the biggest curse would be to die of a disease. From her perspective, this was probably the best way to die... for her country... defending the idea she loved," Rahul said. At that time, I did not understand the idea behind it, but now I understand, he said.

"In my house my father was strict... and I essentially had two mothers, including a "super" mother who was my grandmother, who would defend me when my father got angry," Rahul said.

"My grandmother continued to serve the country fearlessly till the last moment -- her life is a source of inspiration for us.

A great example of women power, humble tribute to Indira Gandhi on her martyrdom day," Rahul Gandhi tweeted after paying tributes.

"She represented strength. She epitomised sacrifice. She personified service. A billion salutes to the Iron Lady of India, our very first woman Prime Minister, a true Bharat Ratna, Smt. Indira Gandhi, on her death anniversary," the

Congress said in its tweet.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi joined her party men in paying floral tributes to the late leader at Shakti Sthal and hailed Indira Gandhi, also known as the "Iron Lady of India", as a "great example of women power".

Several other party leaders and Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States too paid rich tributes. Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot stated that the "nation established new dimensions of development" during her tenure as the Prime Minister.

"The creator of a capable and strong India The country's first and only woman Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi was rich in management ability, during her tenure, India established new dimensions of development and India's image got a new identity on the world stage. Tributes to her on his death anniversary today," Gehlot tweeted. Indira Gandhi served as the first and only woman Prime Minister of India from January 1966 to March 1977 and again from January 1980 until her assassination in October 1984.

Don't let your guard down during...

From Page 1

In Delhi, Northwest Delhi has reported lowest vaccine coverage. Assam, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar also have one district where vaccine doses have not improved. Maharashtra has one district while in Arunachal Pradesh, six districts need to ramp up the jab percentage.

"Immediately after his return from G20 Summit and COP26, the Prime Minister will hold a review meeting with districts having 'low vaccination coverage', via video conferencing. The meeting will include districts with less than 50 per cent coverage of the first dose and low coverage of the second dose of Covid vaccine," said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

Chief Ministers of these States will also be present on the occasion, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

In his last monthly radio talk and other addresses, the Prime Minister has called for taking all precautions and sought people to continue to get vaccinated and mask themselves to defeat Covid-19. He has said people should not let their guard down during festivals.

In the meeting with States, Health Minister Mandaviya last week had noted that there are over 10.34 crore people in the country who have not taken the second dose after the prescribed interval.

Trevi's charms lure...

From Page 1

After visiting the famous fountain, Modi attended a bilateral meeting with the Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez and also a session on Sustainable Development and an event on 'Supply Chain Resilience'.

Modi invited more investments from Spain in India's infrastructure projects as he met Sanchez on the sidelines of the G20 summit here and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific.

The two leaders welcomed the growing bilateral trade and investment linkages including the recent signing of the contract to procure 56 C295 aircraft from Airbus Spain, 40 of which will be 'Made in

India' in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release.

The two leaders dis-

cussed India-European Union relations as well as cooperation on climate action and priorities at upcoming COP26 summit in Glasgow.

They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest including Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific, it said.

On the sidelines of the G20 summit, Prime Minister Modi interacted with several world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, British

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and South Korean President Moon Jae-in among others.

From Rome, Modi travelled to Glasgow on Sunday to attend the World Leader's summit of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP-26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

J&K strife draws more boots on ...

From Page 1

Two companies each have been allotted for Kulgam, Awantipora and Baramulla.

A total of 11 companies of the BSF will replace a similar strength of the CRPF deployed for Road Opening Patrol (ROP) duty from Panthachowk to Narbal crossing in Srinagar.

Eight companies of the BSF shall replace a similar number of contingent of the CRPF deployed for static/vital installation duties in Srinagar district. The BSF will now secure Banquet Hall, Srinagar, AIR, Kashmir, BSNL Exchange Lal Chowk, Old Secretariat Srinagar, SC/Divisional Commissioner Office, Radio Station Narbal, Hari Parbat Fort and Tengpora Bridge.

Likewise, two companies of the BSF will protect Gujar Hostel and Forest Protection Shirmal in Shopian. Another three companies of the BSF will replace the CRPF units in Pulwama to secure the District Jail and BSNL Exchange/SBI/Post Office and District Police Lines in the district.

All the 25 CRPF companies pooled out from the static guard/vital installation/ROP duties will be utilised for

counter-insurgency and other such roles by the respective districts.

Senior Superintendent of Police of Srinagar will be provided 11 companies from the new induction and his counterparts in Ganderbal and Shopian will get two companies each from the CRPF. SSP Pulwama will be allotted three CRPF companies.

While the 25 companies of the CRPF have already reached the respective locations, the BSF personnel are learnt to be on the way for the designated deployments, officials said.

Over 60 battalions of the Central paramilitary forces are deployed in J&K for counter-insurgency and other security roles in the Union Territory and the additional allocation would increase the tally to 65 Battalions. A battalion typically comprises 1,000 personnel.

Insiders in the Central paramilitary forces said the micro-management or the detailed deployment of the paramilitary forces should be left to the Central forces with the Union Territory being notified under the Disturbed Areas Act and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in operation, officials added.

DU releases its 4th cut-off list

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University on Saturday released its fourth cut-off list, with 'unreserved' category seats already filled in some much sought-after colleges like the Hindu College and the Shri Ram College of Commerce in the previous lists.

Since the first cut-off list was declared on October 1, a total of 63,504 students have secured admission by paying their fees.

While many courses were closed, BA (Honours) Economics and BCom (Honours) are still available at some popular colleges in the university with the required marks being on the higher side.

At the Hansraj College, BA (Honours) History and BCom (Honours) courses are still open for admission, while most of the other courses are closed for the unreserved category.

The Hindu College had closed admissions to BA (Honours) Philosophy after the first cut-off list, but it was opened under a special list with a cut-off of 97.75 per cent. Meanwhile, the minimum marks required for admission has come down by 0.25 per



cent. Admissions to all other courses at the college have been closed.

At the Kirori Mal College, BA (Honours) Economics, BA (Honours) History and BA (Honours) English and BCom (Honours) courses are still open for admission.

The Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) has closed the admission process for BCom (Honours) and Economics (Honours) for 'general' category aspirants.

At Miranda House, admission to courses such as English and Political Science are closed, while Economics (98.75 per cent), History (99 per cent) and Philosophy (96.75 per cent) are still up for grabs.

At Gargi College, there are seats available in four courses like B.Com (Honours) (97.25 per cent), Political Science (97.5 per cent), Economics (Honours) (97.75 per cent) and English (Honours) (96.75 per cent) in the 'unreserved' category.

70% of sewage treatment plants did not meet norms in last one year: Govt data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

On an average, 24 out of the 35 sewage treatment plants (STP) in the national Capital did not meet the prescribed standards for wastewater over the last one year, according to Government data.

Delhi generates around 720 million gallons wastewater a day. The 35 STPs located at 20 locations across Delhi can treat up to 597 MGD of sewage and have been utilising around 90 per cent of their capacity. According to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, biological oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS) and total nitrogen in the treated wastewater should be 10 milligrams per litre or less.

Chemical oxygen demand (COD) should be less than 50 mg per litre, and ammoniacal nitrogen and phosphate should be below five mg per litre and two mg per litre, respectively.

Biochemical oxygen demand is the amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms to metabolise organic matter in water. High BOD levels mean there is a high level of microorganisms in the water, and a high content of organic material that is broken down by the organisms.

COD describes the amount of oxygen required to chemically break down pollutants.



The STPs that met the norms the most number of times included Okhla Phase - six, Dr Sen Nursing Home Nalla, Delhi Gate Nalla Phase - one, Delhi Gate Nalla Phase - two, Chilla, Common Wealth Games Village, Nilothi Phase - two and Papankalan Phase - two.

In October last year, teams of the Delhi Pollution Control Authority (DPCA) collected samples from 33 STPs. Of these, 23 were found not complying with the standards.

Twenty-three in November and 22 in December did not meet the prescribed standards. According to government data, 25 STPs in January this year, 26 in February and 24 in March failed to meet the criteria for wastewater.

Samples could not be collected for testing in April and May due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown. The DPCA inspection found that 22 STPs in June, 24 in July,

26 in August and 26 in September did not meet the standards.

An official said many STPs do not have the technology to clean the wastewater to the updated DPCC standards.

"The earlier governments did little to clean the Yamuna. The Arvind Kejriwal dispensation has undertaken projects to upgrade these STPs and this will take around three to four years," he said.

Earlier this year, authorities had informed the National Green Tribunal that the upgradation of STPs in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi to "substantially" reduce foaming in the Yamuna will take three to five years depending upon the availability of land and funds etc.

The presence of phosphates and surfactants in untreated sewage from Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is a major reason behind frothing in the river.

Officials said the delay in tree cutting permission, COVID-19 lockdown, financial hardships and migration of labour slowed down the construction and upgradation of four major sewage treatment plants (STPs) - Kondli, Rithala, Okhla and Coronation Pillar - in Delhi.

These plants will be able to treat 279 MGD wastewater.

GURUGRAM NAMAZ ROW To oppose namaz in open, Hindu groups to perform puja at Friday prayer site

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Under the aegis of the Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti (SHSS), a programme of Govardhan Puja will be organised in Sector 12 on November 5, to oppose the Friday prayers in an open area in Gurugram.

The Hindu outfit members will also distribute 'Annakoot Prasad' on the occasion.

The information was announced by the committee in a press conference held in Gurugram on Sunday.

Sector-12 was the same location where the police have arrested 30 members of Hindu organisations on October 29 for attempting to disrupt the Friday prayers.

Addressing the journalists, State President of SHSS, Mahavir Bhardwaj said that the Namaz being held in public places in Gurugram should be stopped immediately.

"The district administration should stop giving protection to the Muslim community," Bhardwaj said in a statement.

He has also urged the Chief



Minister of the state that the administration is misleading you by showing the list of designated Friday prayers sites without any official's signature as the allotted list.

Bhardwaj has made a strong demand from the Haryana government to issue a notification banning any religious activity in public places of the state without delay.

Addressing the meet, the member of the organisation Anil Kumar Vimal clarified that many high courts have banned offering prayers in public places.

"A public place meant for the common citizen which cannot be allotted for the use of any community," he said.

3K firemen to be on Diwali duty in Capital

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

On Diwali, around 3,000 fire fighters will be on duty for two days and Delhi Fire Service teams will be deployed in over 30 specific locations across the capital to tackle any incident, officials said on Sunday.

The DFS control room responds to maximum calls on Diwali, and fire-fighters need to be on their toes to deal with any emergencies, they said.

This year, a complete ban on the sale and bursting of fire-crackers has been put in place in the national capital till January 1, 2022.

However, despite a complete ban on the usage of all kinds of firecrackers last year, the fire department responded to 205 fire-related calls till Diwali midnight, recalled officials.

The fire department said a meeting was chaired by its director Atul Garg on October 12 to discuss the preparations for Diwali which falls on November 4. The DFS said according to plan, this year on Diwali, the fire units will be deployed at over 20 locations across the city for two days -- on November 3 and November 4, from 5 pm to midnight.

12 DU colleges funded by Govt facing fund crunch owing to slashing of budget: Officials

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 12 Delhi University colleges funded by the city Government are facing a fund crunch as their allocated budgets have been slashed, alleged officials of some of these institutions.

Due to this, these institutions are also facing difficulties in paying salaries of teachers, they claimed.

DU registrar Vikas Gupta

said they will take up the issue of non-release of funds with the AAP government. The issue was also raised at the Executive Council meeting of the university held on October 29.

A senior faculty member of Maharaja Agrasen College, claimed, "Teachers have not been paid their salaries for five months. The government has slashed the allocated budget by half. Not only

salaries, the teachers are not getting their pension and other allowances."

Explaining the situation, Subodh Kumar, president of staff association of the Maharaja Agrasen College and coordinator of all the 12 colleges, said teachers want the teaching learning process to continue but the government is not letting it happen.



First Delhi Police Badminton 'esprit de corps' Championship - 2021 held at KD Jadhav Indoor Halls, IGI Stadium Complex, New Delhi. Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana was the chief guest

Officials directed to rectify bills generated on basis of accumulated readings

NEW DELHI: Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Vice Chairman Raghav Chadha has directed officers to rectify bills generated on the basis of accumulated readings, an official said on Sunday.

A senior DJB official said that some consumers received incorrect bills due to accumulated readings because of the lockdown earlier this year and the problem was compounded due to the issuance of bills on a provisional basis during the period. All zonal revenue officers and their junior colleagues have been directed to rectify all such bills where the reading has been found accumulated, he added.

Man shot at by brother-in-law over inter-faith marriage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man was shot at in northwest Delhi's Model Town area allegedly by his brother-in-law and his friend over an inter-faith marriage.

The victim has been identified as Deva and he runs a gym in Adarsh Nagar. Police said that Deva is currently undergoing treatment here at a hospital.

Deva was attacked by his brother-in-law Shah Nawaz alias Shahbaz (21), a resident of Jahangirpuri, and his friend Harshit alias Hritik (20), a resident of Badaun district of Uttar Pradesh.

Government of Haryana

Heartiest Greetings to all on the occasion of Haryana Day

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जन सेवा के सात वर्ष

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana
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Sardar Patel lives in heart of every Indian: PM Modi



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defining the concept of 'Ek Bharat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said it is where women and all other sections have "equal opportunities" and pitched for 'collective energy' to achieve the tasks which may seem to be "impossible".

Addressing the country-men on the occasion of 'Rashtriya Ekta Divas' (National Unity Day), the Prime Minister paid rich tribute to Sardar Patel who, he said "dedicated his life" for the ideal of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat'.

He said that Sardar Patel is not just a historical figure but lives in the heart of every countryman and people who are taking his message of unity forward.

'Rashtriya Ekta Parades' in every nook and corner of the country and events at the statue of Unity are reflecting the same spirit, he said.

Quoting Patel, the Prime Minister explained the concept of 'Ek Bharat —Shreshth Bharat' that gives equal opportunities to all segments of people in the country. Modi remarked that for Sardar Patel, 'Ek Bharat' meant "equal opportunities for all." The Prime Minister elaborated this concept saying 'Ek

Bharat' is a Bharat that "gives equal opportunities to women, Dalits, deprived, tribal and forest dwellers. Where housing, electricity and water is within the reach of everyone without discrimination. The Country is doing the same with 'Sabka Prayas', he said."Today, strengthening the feeling of 'Ek Bharat—Shreshth Bharat', a 'Mahayagya' of social, economic and constitutional integration is going on" and the country's resolve and capability in Water, sky, land and space are unprecedented and the nation has started moving on the path of new mission of 'Aatmnirbharta', said the Prime Minister.

He emphasised that 'Sabka Prayas' is even more relevant in the Amrit Kaal of Independence. "This 'Azadi ka Amrit Kaal' (75th year of independence) is of unprecedented growth, achieving difficult goals and building the India of Sardar Saheb's dreams", he said.

The Prime Minister reiterated the power of 'Sabka Prayas' in the fight against Corona where new covid hospitals, essential medicines, 100 crore doses of vaccines were made possible due to collective efforts of every citizen.

Referring to recently launched PM 'GatiShakti' National Master Plan to harness

the collective power of Government departments, the Prime Minister said that if along with Government, people's 'Gatishakti' is also leveraged, "nothing is impossible."

Therefore, he said that our every action should be marked by consideration for wider national goals. He gave examples of students who can consider the sector specific innovations when they choose their stream of study or while, shopping, people should keep the goal of 'Aatmnirbharta', along with their personal preferences.

Similarly, industry and farmers, cooperative institutions can keep the goals of the country in mind while making their choices.

Modi said India is not just a geographical unity but is a nation replete with the generous standards of ideals, notions, civilisation and culture.

"This land mass where 130 crore Indians live is an integral part of our soul, dreams and aspirations," he said.

Referring to strengthening of India's democratic traditions by the emotion of "One India", the Prime Minister called for collective effort from every citizen in the direction of achieving the goals of the country.

The Prime Minister emphasised that Sardar Patel wanted a strong, inclusive, sensitive and alert India. An India that has humility as well as development. "Inspired by Sardar Patel, India is becoming fully capable of meeting external and internal challenges", he added.

Referring to steps taken to strengthen the country in the last 7 years, the Prime Minister informed that the country got rid of unnecessary old laws and strengthened the ideals of unity.

Minister reviews progress of IAC Vikrant's sea trials



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the first indigenously designed and manufactured aircraft carrier(IAC) Vikrant is undergoing the second phase of sea trials, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarabanda Sonowal reviewed its progress during onboard visit at sea on Sunday. The ship had sailed out for the trials on October 24.

The maiden sea sortie of the ship was successfully undertaken in August. During the maiden sea trials, the ship's performance, including hull, main propulsion and auxiliary equipment was satisfactory.

The IAC designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND) is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Ports and Shipping.

The Indigenous design and construction of Aircraft Carrier by Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard is a shining example in the nation's quest for AatmaNirbhar Bharat and 'Make in India' Initiative with more than 76% indigenous content.

This has led to growth in indigenous design and construction capabilities, besides

development of large number of ancillary industries, with employment opportunities for over 2,000 CSL personnel and about 12,000 employees in ancillary industries.

Indigenous content towards procurement of equipment, besides work by the CSL and their subcontractors is being directly invested back into the Indian economy. Around 550 Indian firms including about 100 MSMEs are registered with the CSL, who are providing various services for construction of IAC.

The ship is now progressing with second phase of Sea Trials, during which detailed trials and testing of propulsion machinery, electrical and electronics suites, deck machinery, lifesaving appliances and ship systems is being progressed.

Progress of the sea trials was reviewed by Sonowal and after witnessing the trials, he impressed upon the CSL to ensure timely delivery of the ship in April 2022 to realise commissioning of the ship by August 2022 to commemorate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

With the delivery of the IAC, India will join a select group of nations with the capability to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier. The other countries include the US, France, UK and Russia.

60% fall in crop insurance claims from previous year



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Agriculture's data shows there has been more than 60 per cent decline in the crop insurance claims of farmers at ₹9,570 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the 2020-21 crop year from the previous year as there were no major crop losses. And much of the insurance claims reported for 2020-21 and 2019-20 crop years have been cleared by the government. PMFBY claims stood at ₹27,398 crore in the 2019-20 crop year (July-June). According to provisional data of 19 States (excluding Karnataka), there is over 10% fall in enrollment of farmers under crop insurance during Kharif 2021 from last season's 1.68 crore.

PMFBY was launched in 2016-17 with many improvements over the erstwhile crop insurance schemes. The operational guidelines of the scheme were revised with effect from Rabi 2018 and kharif 2020, respectively, to

ensure the benefits reached farmers adequate and timely. According to the data, about 445 lakh hectares of farm land was insured by 612 lakh farmers under the PMFBY with a total sum insured amount of ₹1,93,767 crore during 2020-21. However, total claims reported were of ₹9,570 crore for 2020-21. Out of which, claims reported from the Kharif season were ₹6,779 crore, while from Rabi season ₹2,792 crore.

"The claims at ₹9,570 crore for 2020-21 were significantly lower as there were no major losses unlike previous year," officials said. Maximum crop insurance claims were reported from Rajasthan at ₹3,602 crore, followed by Maharashtra at ₹1,232 crore and Haryana at ₹1,112.8 crore during 2020-21.

During the 2019-20 crop year, about 501 lakh hectare was insured by 613 lakh farmers under the PMFBY with a total sum of ₹2,19,226 crore. The claims reported from Kharif season remained higher at ₹21,496 crore, while from

Rabi season at ₹5,902 crore of the 2019-20 crop year.

Maximum crop insurance claims were reported from Maharashtra at ₹6,757 crore, followed by Madhya Pradesh at ₹5,992 crore and Rajasthan at ₹4,921 crore during 2020-21. Officials said the crop insurance claims of farmers for 2019-20 has almost been cleared. The outstanding claims of ₹1,200 crore will be cleared soon.

About ₹6,845 crore crop insurance claims of farmers for 2020-21 has also been cleared, officials added.

Already, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar exited the scheme, citing the cost of the premium subsidy to be borne by them. While Punjab never implemented the crop insurance scheme, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have their schemes under which farmers do not pay any premium, but they receive a fixed amount of compensation in case of crop failure.

Bypolls to one each RS seat in Maha, WB, Kerala on Nov 29: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Sunday announced bypolls to one Rajya Sabha seat each in Maharashtra, West Bengal and Kerala to be held on November 29. The EC also announced biennial elections to three and six seats in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Legislative Council respectively on November 29.

The bypolls were necessitated following the resignation of Kerala Congress (M) leader Jose K Mani and Arpita Ghosh of the Trinamool Congress from the upper house earlier this year. The notification would be issued on November 9 and the poll will be held on November 29.

In a statement, the EC said that the counting of votes, as per established practice, will be held one hour after the voting concludes at 4 pm on November 29. Mani had resigned in January this year. His term as a Rajya Sabha member was to otherwise end in July, 2024. Ghosh had resigned in September this year and her term was to end in April, 2026.

During the second wave of COVID-19, the EC had decided against holding the Kerala RS bypoll till the situation improved.

The EC also announced biennial elections to six legislative council seats in



Telangana and three in Andhra Pradesh which fell vacant earlier this year.

While six Telangana legislative council seats fell vacant in June, the three legislative council seats in Andhra Pradesh fell vacant in May following retirement of sitting members. In May, the Commission had decided that due to outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19 in the country, it would not be appropriate to hold biennial election to the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana legislative councils till the pandemic situation significantly improves.

Now, after reassessment, the EC decided to hold the biennial elections on November 29. The counting will take place one hour after the completion of polling. The EC also announced holding of bypoll to a legislative council seat in Maharashtra which fell vacant due to the death of the sitting member Sharad Namdeo Ranpise in September this year.

The legislative council bypoll will also be held on November 29, the EC said.

Two more in NIA net in J&K terror plot



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency on Sunday said it has arrested two more accused persons in Jammu and Kashmir terrorism conspiracy case.

On Saturday, the agency arrested Ishfaq Ahmed Wani of Srinagar and Umar Bhat of Sopore.

The case relates to conspiracy for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other major cities by cadres of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and their affiliates such as the Resistance Front (TRF) and People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF).

The NIA had registered the case on October 10 and initiated the investigation. Till now, 25 accused persons have been arrested in this case by NIA, the agency said.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that arrested accused persons are terror associates/OGWs (overground workers) of various proscribed terrorist organisations.

Zyklus Cadila agrees to reduce jab price per dose to ₹265



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Zyklus Cadila, the Ahmedabad-based firm manufacturer of ZyCoV-D which is one of India's two indigenous jabs against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), has reportedly agreed to reduce the price of each dose of the vaccine to ₹265.

The manufacturer had earlier proposed ₹1,900 for the regimen, which comprises three doses and is yet to be included in the nationwide inoculation drive, which started from January 16 this year.

"The company has brought down the price to ₹265 for each dose. Additionally, ₹93 will be charged as the cost of a disposable jet applicator. This was achieved after repeated negotiations with the Central Government. A final decision in this matter is likely to be taken this week," according to a news agency.

The need for a painless jet applicator stems from the fact that ZyCoV-D is a needle-free vaccine. The three doses have to be given on days 0, 28 and 56

respectively; each round of vaccination will see the jab being administered in both arms.

ZyCoV-D, which received clearance from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on August 20, is the only vaccine to have been approved for an age group below 18, as it was given emergency use authorisation (EUA) by the top drugs regulator for beneficiaries aged 12 and above. At present, every citizen who is 18-years-old or above is eligible for the vaccination drive.

Besides ZyCoV-D, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Limited's Covaxin is the only other jab to have been recommended by the Subject Experts Committee (SEC) to the DCGI. Covaxin, which is the country's first indigenous anti-Covid shot, is among the two most widely used vaccines in the inoculation drive, Covishield being the other.

Thus far, the DCGI has given emergency use approval to six jabs. Among these, two are home-made, while the remaining are foreign-developed.

Centre announces over 390 Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday announced over 390 Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal, including 260 to ITBP personnel for operations in eastern Ladakh. The ITBP, thus, bagged the most medals among the State and Central police forces.

"In recognition of their indomitable courage and devotion to duty, 260 personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) have been awarded with the Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal on National Unity Day, 2021 for various special operations carried out by the Force in Eastern Ladakh," the ITBP said in a statement.

It further said, "The ITBP men safeguarded the borders in Ladakh in extreme conditions through its operation 'Snow Leopard' on the icy heights. The Force carried out a high level of strategic planning and efficient execution of ground operations with complete synergy and collaboration between all sister organisations."

The awardees include then IG, North West Frontier ITBP, Deepam Seth, who was a member of the Indian delegation for the 10 rounds of Senior Highest Military Commander (SHMC) level talks. The extensive negotiations resulted in a breakthrough in February, 2021, and the process of disengagement of troops from forward locations has been initiated, it said.

"The special operations of ITBP spread over a year and involved a high degree of exe-

Raised in 1962 during India-China war, the ITBP guards 3,488 km Himalayan borders of the nation. The force is known for its mountaineering skills and high altitude deployments in difficult borders and its Border Out Posts are located up to 18,800 feet

cution of strategic planning and efficient ground operation. Besides this, it also included timely and adequate supplies of logistics to the forward location for troops. On Independence Day, 2021, 20 ITBP personnel were awarded with the Police Medal for Gallantry for indomitable courage shown by them in Eastern Ladakh," it said.

Raised in 1962 during India-China war, the ITBP guards 3,488 km Himalayan borders of the nation. The Force is known for its mountaineering skills and high altitude deployments in difficult borders and its Border Out Posts are located up to 18,800 feet.

This is the highest number of Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medals to ITBP or any other organisation on one occasion. In 2019, the Force was awarded with 16

Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medals for its operation 'Daredevils' carried out by its mountaineers to search and rescue a mountaineer's team from Nanda Devi East in Uttarakhand.

Notified by the Centre in 2018, the Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal is considered for special operations in areas such as counter terrorism, border actions, arms control, prevention of narcotics smuggling and rescue operations and as validated by the committee of the Ministry.

The Union Home Minister approves the medals on the recommendation of the committee. The medal is given to the personnel of CAPFs, CPOs, State Police and other security agencies to recognise only those operations which have a high degree of planning, high significance for the security of the country/state/UT and have significant impact on the security of a large section of society.

The medal was also awarded to the police force of Delhi, Maharashtra, Punjab, Kerala and Karnataka along with those from the NIA as also the CISF and the NDRF.

As many as 16 personnel of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) have been awarded the medal this year, according to the Home Ministry, including Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sonia Narang for "concerted action" against Islamic State of Khorasan Province's (ISKP) pan-India network during her tenure in the NIA.

Meerut second-most polluted city in world

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Meerut had a dubious distinction on Sunday afternoon. It was the second most polluted city among the 50 most polluted cities in the world, only behind China's Dengtalu that topped the list. But as real time data keeps changing from time to time depending on the air pollution, Aguascalientes of Mexico became the most polluted city in the world with AQI 388 by the evening replacing Dengtalu, followed by Chinese cities

Huanglongsi (368), Shancheng (352), Hebi 349, Shangqiu 349, Heze 347, Pingdu 326, Nangandao 324 and Jian 313.

According to Real Time Air Quality Index data shown on Sunday afternoon, China's Dengtalu AQI was recorded at 397, the highest in the world followed by Meerut with AQI 396. Bareilly was on the third spot with AQI 366 followed by Hapur (360), Moradabad (358) Panipat (357) and Sonipat (354). The national capital was ranked 55th in AQI across the world.

Interestingly, Haryana's Panipat was ranked 10, Sonipat (11), Karnal (17), Rohtak (31), Hisar (42) in the list while Punjab's Patiala ranked (46) and Jalandhar (49). Both Punjab and Haryana have been accused of stubble burning for air pollution in Delhi and its neighbouring areas. At one point of time on Saturday, Bhatinda, Jalandhar and Faridkot were the most polluted cities in the world according to the AQI real time data.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board



(CPCB) data, Sonipat was most polluted city with AQI 380 on October 31 at 4PM, followed by

Ballabgarh 362, Ghaziabad 342, Jind 334, Meerut 333, Hapur 324, Panipat 318,

Baghpat 314, Kurushetra 310, Hisar 306, Greater Noida 292, Bhiwadi 289, and Delhi 289.

AQI 0-50 is considered good; 51-100 moderate; 101-200 poor, 201-300 unhealthy, 301-400 severe and 401-500 hazardous. AQI above 301-400 is considered severe and can cause chronic morbidities or even organ impairment while prolonged exposure 401-500 can lead to premature death.

A Consortium for Research on Agro-ecosystem Monitoring and Modeling

from Space of the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) data showed the total 14717 stubble burning events were detected in the six states between 15-Sept-2021 and 30-Oct-2021, which are distributed as 10374, 2561, 890, 0, 109 and 783 in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Delhi, Rajasthan and MP, respectively. Satellites have detected 1762 residue burning events in the six study States on 30-Oct-2021.

The state wise events detected on 30-Oct-2021 were 1373 in Punjab, 148 in Haryana, 53

in UP, 0 in Delhi, 20 in Rajasthan and 168 in MP.

The data showed the total stubble burning events recorded in the six States are 60.0 per cent less than in 2020 till date. Punjab recorded 65.1 per cent reduction, Haryana recorded 14.5 per cent increase, UP recorded 21.4 per cent reduction, Delhi recorded 100 per cent reduction, Rajasthan recorded 82.4 per cent reduction and MP recorded 74.8 per cent reduction, in the current season than in 2020.

VHP: Bring law to free temples from Govt hold

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has appealed to the Centre to enact a law to free Hindu temples and religious institutions from Government control and also demanded an anti-conversion law.

The outfit has called on all State Governments to hand over Hindu temples to the Hindu society and requested the Central Government to bring in a law in this connection, VHP’s International Working President Alok Kumar told reporters here on Sunday.

He expressed concern over what he claimed as “mass conversions” going on in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. “These conversions are induced by allure-ment, deception and fear. The VHP shall resist such conversions with all its might and will intensify its campaign to bring



the converted brothers and sisters back to the Hindu fold,” he said. Like Uttar Pradesh and other states, the Telangana gov-ernment should also pass an anti-conversion law, Kumar said adding “We have also asked the central government to enact a law against religious conversions”.

“We have asked the cen-tral government (to make law against religious conversions) and started this effort and we

will intensify our efforts. A rep-resentation has been submitted to the government and we are hopeful that it will consider it.”

VHP will take up mass awakening programme on both the issues, he added.

The VHP leader further wanted the Telangana govern-ment to come up with laws to protect cows and its progeny as ‘there are increasing incidents of cow slaughter in the state of Telangana.’

India becoming fully capable of dealing with all external, internal challenges: PM Modi

PTI ■ KEVADIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India is becoming fully capable of dealing with all kinds of exter-nal and internal challenges, while deriving inspiration from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

In a video message on the occasion of ‘Rashtriya Ekta Diwas’, the birth anniversary of the country’s first deputy prime minister and home minister Sardar Patel, Modi said collec-tive efforts, like those seen during the Covid-19 pandem-ic crisis, will take the country to new heights.

Noting that the nation is paying tribute to Sardar Patel who gave his life for ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat’, Modi said Patel lives not only in history but also in the hearts of all Indians.

“Sardar Patel always want-ed India to be strong, inclusive, sensitive and alert, humble and developed. He always put the interest of the country first. Today, deriving inspiration



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures while addressing the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas junction at the Statue of Unity via video conferencing on Sunday PTI

from him, India dealing with all kinds of challenges, external and internal,” Modi said.

He said the country is today taking inspiration from the spirit of ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat’ to achieve self-reliance and safeguard its interests.

“In the last seven years, the country has got rid of the decades-old unwanted laws, and has taken the ideals that cherish national unity to new heights.

Be it Jammu and Kashmir, North East or any village in the

Himalayas, today all are pro-gressing on the path of progress,” he said.

The prime minister said the modern infrastructure development in the country is working to remove the geo-graphical and cultural distan-ces.

The country is today wit-nessing a “great maha yagna of social, economic and constitu-tional integration”, and its capa-bility and determination on every front - water, land, air, space - is unprecedented, he said.

Centre may make fresh bid to reach consensus with States for all-India judicial service

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government is likely to make a fresh attempt at reaching a consen-sus with States to set up an all-India judicial service, official sources said on Sunday.

The establishment of All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) is likely to be made part of the agenda of a proposed meeting between Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and State law min-isters in November, the sources in the Government said.

As of now, judicial infra-structure is the only announced agenda of the meeting.

The Central Government feels that a properly framed All India Judicial Service is impor-tant to strengthen the overall justice delivery system of the country.

All India Judicial Service (AIJS) will give an opportu-nity for induction of suitably qualified fresh legal talent through a proper all-India

At present, HCs and State Service Commissions hold exams to recruit judicial officers

merit selection system.

It will also address the issue of social inclusion by enabling suitable representation to marginalised and deprived sections of society, successive law ministers have said.

A bill could be required to establish an all-India judicial service to recruit officers for subordinate courts through an entrance test. The provision of an all-India judicial service on the lines of the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service was mooted soon after Independence. The provision of AIJS was included in Article 312 of the Constitution

through the 42nd amendment in 1976. But it would still require a bill to decide on its broad contours.

At present, various high courts and State service commissions hold exams to recruit judicial officers. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) could hold a stan-dardised entrance test to recruit judges for lower courts.

Since cases in lower courts are argued in local languages, there have been apprehensions about how a person from north India can hold hearings in a southern state.

But the Government is of the view that even IAS and IPS officers have served in differ-ent states overcoming the lan-guage barrier.

The Government believes that if such a service comes up, it would help create a pool of talented people who could later become a part of the higher judiciary -- the 25 high courts and the Supreme Court.



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai interacts with family members of Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar during his last rites, at Kanteerava Studio in Bengaluru on Sunday PTI

LOW COVID VACCINATION COVERAGE

PM to hold review meeting with DMs of over 40 districts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a review meeting on November 3 with district magistrates of over 40 districts having low Covid-19 vaccination coverage, the PMO said on Sunday.

The meeting, which will be held via video conferencing, will include districts with less than 50 per cent coverage of the first dose and low coverage of the second dose of the vaccine, it said.

The 40 districts are spread across Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Meghalaya among other states, and chief ministers of these states will also attend the meeting.

Modi will be holding the



meeting immediately on his return from abroad after attending the G20 and COP26 meetings, the PMO noted.

Highlighting the need to accelerate the pace and cover-age of vaccination,

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had recently stated that there are more than 10.34 crore people in the country who have not taken the second dose of the vaccine after the expiry of the prescribed interval.

SP MLA Rakesh Pratap Singh resigns from UP Assembly

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Rakesh Pratap Singh, Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA from Gauriganj constituency in Amethi, on Sunday tendered his resignation from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, alleging non-fulfilment of promises by the state’s BJP government.

Speaking to PTI, Singh said, “Today I met Speaker of UP Legislative Assembly Hriday Narayan Dixit and tendered my resignation.”

Accusing the BJP govern-ment of peddling lies, Singh said he had raised some demands and the government had assured him of fulfilling them. However, the demands were not fulfilled.

When contacted, Speaker Dixit told PTI, “MLA Rakesh Pratap Singh met me today and

submitted his resignation letter. The matter will be examined as per rules and a decision will be taken.”

He sat on an ‘anshan’ (protest fast) at the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the state cap-ital.

“The government is speak-ing lies. Hence, there is no point in sitting in the House. Officials are weakening the democratic system and do not follow the directions of the elected government,” he alleged.

Mentioning the repair of two damaged roads in his constituency, Singh said, “On February 25, the government assured the House that the damaged roads will be repaired within three months, but the work has not started till now.”

Yogi offers waters of Ganga, Kabul rivers at Ayodhya temple site

PTI ■ AYODHYA/LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday offered waters from the Ganga and Afghanistan’s Kabul river at the site where a temple of lord Ram is being constructed in Ayodhya.

“A girl from Afghanistan capital Kabul had sent water of the Kabul river to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for offering it at the spot where the massive temple of lord Ram is being built,” the chief minister said.

Adityanath said it had been decided that waters of pious rivers from across the world will be offered at the temple construction site, and this girl from Kabul has displayed an exemplary gesture of devo-tion.

Honouring the sentiments of the girl, who sent the water despite the situation in Afghanistan following the takeover of Kabul by the



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during an event in Lucknow on Sunday PTI

Taliban, “I have come to Ayodhya to offer the water of the Kabul river and the Ganga at the ‘nirman sthal’ (con-struction site) of the Ram tem-ple,” he said.

Amid Diwali festivities, Covid protocol compliance hit new lows in India, says survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the country gets ready to celebrate Diwali, only 2 per cent of Indians think that masking compliance around them is effective, while only 3 per cent feel that people in their localities and districts are fol-lowing social distancing norms, according to a survey.

The survey conducted by LocalCircles, a digital com-munity-based platform, received more than 39,000 responses from over 20,000 citizens in 366 districts of India on how people are complying with masking and social dis-tancing protocols during the festive season and travel.

Forty-seven per cent of respondents were from tier 1 districts, 30 per cent from tier 2 districts and 23 per cent from tier 3, 4 and rural districts. While 65 per cent of respon-dents were men, 35 per cent were women.

On the masking front, the survey found that only 2 per cent of respondents said that “more than 90 per cent” peo-ple in their area, district or city are compliant and only 16 per cent respondents said that masking compliance is effective at airports, stations and bus stands, etc. During travel.

According to a survey con-ducted by LocalCircles in September, 13 per cent of citi-zens felt that masking compli-ance in their area, district or city was high, while 30 per cent of respondents felt that mask-ing compliance during travel was effective.

In the latest survey, just 3 per cent of respondents said that social distancing compli-

ance is effective in their area, district or city

and 9 per cent of respon-dents said that social distanc-ing compliance during travel is non-existent now.

According to the September survey, 6 per cent of respondents had said that social distancing compliance in their area, district or city was high. The survey had not measured effective social distancing compl-iance during travel.

A LocalCircles survey from June, which was shared by the Union health ministry in its July 6 briefing, had found that 29 per cent of people felt that masking compliance around them was effective, while 11 per cent felt that social distancing compliance around them was effective.

“The drop in masking compliance ratings from 29 per cent to 2 per cent and in social distancing compliance ratings from 11 per cent to 3 per cent indicates that the vast majori-ty of Indians believe that mask-ing and social distancing compl-iance are practically non-existent in most of the country,” said Sachin Taparia, founder of LocalCircles.

Similarly, on the travel front, social distancing compl-iance is extremely poor with many citizens raising com-plaints on LocalCircles about the poor enforcement of social distancing norms at security check, boarding and in buses at airports like Delhi and Mumbai, he said. According to the LocalCircles’ report, with Diwali markets, fairs and pri-vate parties being held in cities, stepping out and socialising are back with fervour.



12 lakh ‘diyas’ collected from all 75 districts of UP would be lit in Ayodhya

in Lucknow, Adityanath hailed the gesture of the girl.

Following the interaction, he flew to Ayodhya in a heli-copter to offer the water of the Kabul river along with that of the Ganga at the Ram Janambhoomi temple site.

The gesture becomes all the more important because with the ascendancy of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, free-dom of women has been cur-tailed and “in such a situation the gesture of the girl of send-ing the water for offering at the Ram temple deserves praise”, the chief minister said.

The Ayodhya temple has an international appeal and people from different faiths have expressed their senti-ments in different countries in its favour, he said.

Adityanath has already said that 12 lakh “diyas” (earthen lamps) collected from all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh would be lit in Ayodhya as part of Diwali.

‘IRON LADY OF INDIA’

Cong pays tributes to Indira Gandhi on death anniv

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday paid tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary, with party leader Rahul Gandhi hailing her as a great example of women power.

Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at her memorial “Shakti Sthal” here. Indira Gandhi, the then prime minister, was assassi-nated on this day in 1984 by two of her own security guards.

“My grandmother served the country fearlessly till the last moment - her life is a source of inspiration for us,” former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attends a prayer meeting to pay tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 37th death anniversary at Shakti Sthal, in New Delhi on Sunday PTI

“A great example of women power, humble tributes to Mrs. Indira Gandhi on her martyr-dom day,” he said.

Posting her picture as a kid with Indira Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, “Your life

is a message of courage, fear-lessness and patriotism. Your life is a message to keep fight-ing for justice by walking on the

path of ideals.”

Congress’ chief spokesper-son Randeep Surjewala said history will always be a witness to the enormous contribution of India’s first woman prime minister and a “symbol of women’s empowerment”, Indira Gandhi.

The Congress, in a tweet from its official Twitter handle, also lauded the former prime minister’s contribution to the country.

“She represented strength. She epitomised sacrifice. She personified service. A billion salutes to the Iron Lady of India, our very first woman Prime Minister, a true Bharat Ratna, Smt. Indira Gandhi, on her death anniversary,” the Congress said in its tweet.

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday targeted Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in his home turf of Gorakhpur and made a flurry of poll promises, including farm loan waiver and purchas-ing wheat and paddy at ₹2500 per quintal.

“Things have happened against the ‘vaani’ (views) of Guru Gorakhnath. Bulldozers were used, threats were made to put people in jail,” she alleged at a rally, taking a swipe at Adityanath who is also the head of the prominent Mutt here named after saint Gorakhnath.

The Congresss general secretary also reached out to

farmers and members of the fishing community.

“If the Congress is voted to power, then fisheries will be given the status of agriculture, and it will get all the facilities like agriculture. The rights of people of the Nishad commu-nity will be restored in sand mining and fisheries. Apart from this, a university named after Guru Machendranath will also be set up,” she said.

“The entire loans of the farmers will be waived. Wheat and paddy will be purchased at ₹ 2,500 per quintal, while sug-ar-cane will be purchased at ₹ 400 per quintal. The problem of stray cattle will be resolved on the lines of Chhattisgarh, and a complete solution will be evolved,” she said.

The Congress general sec-etary added that government jobs will be given to 20 lakh youths, while contractual workers will be regularised.

The Anganwadi workers will get an honorarium of ₹10,000, and women will get three free cylinders in a year, she promised. “Apart from this, if voted to power, our gov-ernment will bear the cost of treatment of any illness up to ₹ 10 lakh,” she said.She also said that ₹25,000 will be given to families who have lost their livelihood due to Covid-19.Hitting out at Chief Minister Adityanath, who has been a five-time MP from Gorakhpur, the Congress general secretary said that the health scenario in the district is dismal.

Pre-exam indignity

Humiliating measures to prevent cheating in exams must be deliberated upon by the Govt

Cutting clothes in the name of controlling cheating in examinations. How low can the system and society go to move forward in life? The bizarre incident happened a few days ago at an entrance exam centre for the Rajasthan Administrative Services 2021. A male security guard was seen cutting the sleeves of a top worn by a female candidate. The anger and humiliation of the candidate were evident in the clip that went viral. The National Commission for Women took suo motu cognisance of the matter. The Government considers the examination to be highly competitive and, therefore, claims the possibilities of cheating are high. It even orders a shutdown of the internet during the examination. It is common for security guards at the entrance of the centres to scissor long sleeves of women's tops. In this case, it was a male guard who used the scissors, and that is why the strong objection. The objection should have been to the cutting of clothes in general. A man doing the honours is an added insult. It is the Government's responsibility to conduct examinations in a free and fair manner. Governments have been conducting examinations of various education boards for decades now and they have vast experience of coming up with foolproof methods for conducting professional examinations. That some States do it successfully tells on the level of inefficiency of others; Rajasthan in this case. To be fair to the Governments, strict steps are necessitated because of the misconduct of both the invigilators and the students or examinees. In most parts



of the country, the system is a farce because of a nexus between the two, wherein for exchange of money, examinees are provided facilities to write answers even without studying. As methods of cheating improved with the availability of technology, so did the counteractions by the authorities. In Uttar Pradesh, for example, one Government introduced strict measures against cheating and as a result, lakhs of students, unsure of passing, preferred to opt-out of the board examinations.

However, never was the right to dignity of life of examinees put at risk in the name of anti-cheating measures. It is happening now and the Governments must be held responsible for giving human decency a wide berth. Rajasthan's is not the precedent. In 2017, the CBSE, which was conducting the NEET examination, came out with a dress code for examinees that ruled out long-sleeved tops, dark-coloured trousers, closed or high-heeled shoes, big brooches, metal buttons and earrings and even metal on bras with hooks. There were cases of women forced to remove their bras before being allowed to enter the examination centre. As a woman politician said at that time, it is debatable how many female candidates would have been able to write the exam properly after being subjected to such humiliation.

PICTALK



Police officers on jet skis patrol the waters near the venue for the COP26 Summit, in Glasgow

The intent behind the celebrations

Let nobody compare this situation with Indians waving flags in England when the Indian team wins in that country. It is simply not comparable



PRAFULL GORADIA

It is disappointing that people living in India, enjoying their lives here, support Pakistan and celebrate its cricket team's victory over India. That shows such people are loyal to Pakistan and not to India. Pakistan is a country that broke away from India with the slogan, "Hans ke liya tha Pakistan, lad ke lenge Hindustan".

Lakhs of Hindus were killed on their way from West Punjab to the east in 1947. Trains full of the corpses of slaughtered Indians would reach India to be received by their fellow countrymen. In this regard, an excerpt from Mohammad Ali Jinnah's speech of March 22, 1940, at the Muslim League session at Lahore, a day before the League passed the Pakistan Resolution bears iteration:

"It is extremely difficult to appreciate why our Hindu friends fail to understand the real nature of Islam and Hinduism. They are not religions in the strict sense of the word, but are, in fact, different and distinct social orders. It is a dream that the Hindus and Muslims can ever evolve a common nationality. This notion of one Indian nation has gone far beyond its limits and is the cause of most of our troubles and will lead India to destruction if we fail to revise this misconception in time.

The Hindus and Muslims have different religious philosophies, social customs and literatures. They neither intermarry nor interline, and indeed, belong to two different civilisations, which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions. Their views of life and of life are different. It is also quite clear that Hindus and Muslims derive their inspiration from different sources of history. They have different epics, different heroes in different episodes. Very often, the hero of one is a foe of the other and likewise, their victories and defeats overlap. To yoke two such nations under a single State, one a numerical minority and the other a majority, must lead to growing discontent and the final destruction of any such fabric that may be so built up for the

Government of such a State.

The termination of the British regime will be a worse disaster for the Muslims that has ever taken place during the last 1,000 years. Muslim India cannot accept any constitution which must necessarily result in a Hindu majority Government. If Hindus and Muslims are brought together under a democratic system, forced upon the minorities, it can only mean Hindu Raj. Muslims are a nation according to any definition of a nation, and they must have their homelands, their territory and their State. We must be prepared to face all difficulties and make all the sacrifices that may be required of us to achieve the goal we have set in front of us."

Hardly had the flag of the newly independent India and Pakistan been unfurled when Jinnah sent Pakistani army irregulars called mujahideen into Kashmir. These terrorists managed to reach Srinagar airport before the Indian army reached the Valley, defeated and pushed them back.

The two countries have been enemies from their conception, not just birth. This is the country whose cricket team some of our citizens have cheered for. Not merely a



EVEN AT PRESENT, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. TERRORISTS KEEP SNEAKING INTO INDIA EVERY DAY. NEVERTHELESS, IF ANYONE LOVES PAKISTAN SO DEARLY, HE SHOULD SHIFT TO THAT COUNTRY

cricket win, but what is being advertised as a win for the religion of the country whose capital is Islamabad. It was no mere cricket celebration, but also a religious one, with the sole intent of insulting India.

The two countries have fought four wars in 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1999, to stamp the seal on their enmity. Each time, it was Pakistan that initiated the aggression while India defended itself. Even at present, there is a great deal of tension between the two countries. Terrorists keep sneaking into India literally every day. Nevertheless, if anyone loves Pakistan so dearly, he should shift to that country. They cannot enjoy Indian hospitality. Indians would feel relieved while Pakistan-lovers can enjoy life better in the country of their affections. Go, go, go is our request to them.

Now, let nobody compare this situation with Indians waving flags in England when the Indian cricket team wins in that country. It is simply not comparable. First, there is no enmity between India and Britain; there never has been. Yes, the East India Company chartered in London conquered India gradually. They took over Indian principalities

but were never cruel. The Great Mutiny of 1857 then happened, leading to the Queen of England becoming the Queen of her Indian Empire. How the British modernised India is well known. They gave India as much they took from it.

After we first requested and then agitated for them to leave, the British did leave peacefully and gracefully in 1947. They passed the Indian Independence Act and sailed to their home in an organised manner. There were no mass killings on the occasion of their parting. On the contrary, their Governor-General continued as ours. Earl Mountbatten remained the Governor-General of independent India for more than a year. There was beauty in such grace.

Not so with Pakistan. The fact that a mere T20 cricket match can bring out the worst jihadi impulses in that country only corroborates what their Qaid-e-Azam had bluntly stated in his Lahore Assembly speech more than 80 years ago.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOA BECOMES ELECTION BATTLEGROUND

Sir — With the impending Assembly elections, Goa has apparently become the cynosure of all eyes. The enthusiastic presence of quite a few high-profile figures from various political parties in the coastal State, while justifying the contention, gives an impression that the upcoming elections are a matter of prestige for almost all national parties. While political pundits are of the opinion that the BJP and the Congress are the major players, one cannot, however, overlook the 'fanciful' chances of other parties in the fray as they strive for electoral stardom.

But a general observation that almost all parties are overly dependent on the political prowess of a couple of their leaders to see them through in the polls doesn't actually present a convincing picture of politics in the State. This has probably caused the inglorious trend in the State where 'established' leaders have shamelessly changed sides frequently and embraced all political options available to advance their cause. Do party ideologies really matter for such turncoats? No sooner are they out of the party, they are seen making eloquent proclamations about feeling stifled in the undemocratic conditions prevalent which forced them to quit.

Pachu Menon | Margao

SPINELESS TROLLS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Sir — Breaking more than a decade-long jinx, if Pakistan succeeded in winning the most-hyped inaugural match of the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup against India at the Dubai International Stadium on October 24, how come can we make one of our own guys the 'fall guy' for the loss at any pretext and on religious grounds in particular. It was just by some quirk of fate that Mohammed Shami, despite having to his credit an excellent record of bowling that has earned India many wins in the past, could not live up to the expectations of thousands of fans and gave away as many as 43 runs off 3.5 overs that the star pacer has been subject to abuse for on social media in the aftermath.

This, however, augurs well that some teammates including particularly the

PM Modi invites the Pope home



Photos and videos of PM Modi with Pope Francis, Head of Catholic Church at Vatican are truly delightful and heart-warming. The pictures of the two leaders embracing each other come as a whiff of fresh air, especially during the turbulent times of the pandemic and various other crises around the globe. It beautifully showcases our policy of universal brotherhood. The historic meet truly showcases that India is

always ahead in matters connected to global harmony, peace, progress and development. It also sends a meaningful message that we are a tolerant nation. Modi's meeting with the Pope emphasises our pluralistic philosophy and our age-old belief of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

Pope Francis has also accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to visit India and has warmly responded to the invitation to visit India as a 'great gift', clearly showing how much the globe looks forward to cooperating with India in matters regarding world harmony and progress. Even though the interaction was scheduled for just 20 minutes, it lasted for about an hour, truly showing it's fruitfulness. The leaders spoke on important global issues like the pandemic and its remedy, global poverty and issues related to climate change, showing that the Vatican sees India as a nation that can faithfully unite and lead other nations in making the world a better place to live.

M Pradyu | Kannur

skipper Virat Kohli have come forward to backing Mohammed Shami, mincing no words in taking to task the trolls for targeting Shami. On the other hand, a couple of former Pakistani cricketers have not shown sobriety either but exploited the furore to vent out their grudges, as is evident from Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar's frivolous reactions, even as the former had to apologise under the media duress for his remarks.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

THE DREAM OF A UNITED INDIA

Sir — India is a vibrant and diverse nation with people from different castes, religions and virtues who follow vivid styles of customs and rituals, thus making it a harmonised country where all these people live together. National unity is of utmost significance for attaining the aim of "One India, Excellent India". The National Unity Day is celebrated every year on October 31, in memory of the "Ironman

of India" Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who engaged his mind and soul, blood and sweat and worked enormously hard with an aim in his eyes to give India the name of one of the most united, integrated and independent nation. He united 565 princely States in order to give India its present identity.

We are the Biggest Democracy of the world. We the people of India with vivid religions, customs, rituals, and class, should be united for the advancement of our nation and make every single effort in order to attain the dream of "One India, Excellent India". Therefore, we should pledge to dedicate ourselves to preserving the unity and integrity of the nation and also strive to spread a message among fellow countrymen for a better India.

Sarthak Sharma | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

When in Rome

Modi's meet with the Pope might be poll-driven, but it can change how the world sees India

The Prime Minister is in Rome on a three-day visit to attend the G20 summit. Nevertheless, as always, it is an opportunity to make the right noises and further the national interest and some serious image building. This visit can already be termed as successful in the positive response the Prime Minister has garnered so far. In his address to the first session of the G20 first summit on "Global Economy Global Health", he said that the world must fight it together and that India is ready to produce 5 billion vaccine doses by the end of next year. In his address, Narendra Modi invited G20 countries to make India their partner in their economic recovery. The Prime Minister also met several world leaders at one of what may be termed the main charms of G20 summits, as leaders can meet one-on-one on the sidelines and strike a personal rapport with one another. The meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron and Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong deserve a special mention. He also interacted with Italian counterpart Mario Draghi and held talks with US President Joe Biden. However, what would grab the headlines is Prime Minister Modi's invitation to Pope Francis to visit India that has been well received even by the RSS that is conservative, to say the least, in its approach.

The right-wing Hindu organisation has welcomed the Prime Minister's friendly gesture saying it is in line with the Indian tradition of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". The Pope himself thanked the Prime Minister for the invite and said it is the biggest gift he could have received from him. This should somewhat help PM Modi to shun his Hindu hardliner approach that the world is wary of, especially as the Christian-majority Goa polls arrive. The Pope is likely to visit India after 20 long years. However, the Prime Minister's invitation to the Pope seems largely driven by the electoral politics back home as Goa and Kerala that go to polls soon have a sizeable Christian population. It is still a welcome move, notwithstanding the ballot. Not that everything is going to change after this visit but an effort has been made in the right direction. India's image has suffered in recent years for reasons that are beyond the scope of this piece. After the not-so-successful visit to the US recently, the Prime Minister must be a relieved man as he has been well received this time. A little change in perception and approach can change the way the world sees India.

SOUND BITE

We will stop this 'Duare Gundaraj' and implement 'Duare Sarkar' like Bengal here in Tripura as well.

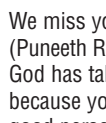


TMC general secretary —Abhishek Banerjee



We must confront issues of climate change on a cooperative global level for everyone's benefit.

Tibetan spiritual leader —Dalai Lama



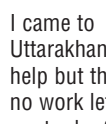
We miss you Appu (Puneeth Rajkumar). God has taken you because you were a good person. May the almighty give strength to your family.

Actor —Chiranjeevi



Standing next to Virat Kohli at the toss will be a special occasion to anyone, not just myself.

Scotland captain —Kyle Coetzer



I came to Uttarakhand to help but there was no work left for me to do. So I toured the disaster-hit areas and left.

Union Home Minister —Amit Shah

FIRST COLUMN

PUTTING AN END TO POLIO FOR GOOD



DEEPAK KAPUR

Polio, like COVID-19, is a highly contagious disease and given that we have not completely eradicated it, we wonder this World Polio Day if we and our children are safe from this seemingly dormant threat. COVID-19 has taught everyone that a virulent virus can travel swiftly across geographies, which is why India must guard its hard-earned immunity against polio as stringently as possible.

India once accounted for over 60 percent of all polio cases in the world. Starting in October 1994, a concentrated effort by the government, Rotary, and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) achieved remarkable success in the Pulse Polio Immunization program. In March 2014, the WHO declared India 'polio-free'.

Today there is a fear that mass migrations may export the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) to other nations, which according to WHO, is the only strain currently active (wild poliovirus type 2 and type 3 have been wiped out). Specifically, the type 1 wild virus continues to circulate in the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Although there has been one reported case of WPV1 in each country this year to date, the government of India remains cautious, and authorities are quick to vaccinate India-bound refugees against polio. It is still extremely important that we remain vigilant and protect border areas to prevent WPV1 from slipping into the country through proactive immunization practices and surveillance and screening techniques - tactics India has been using to try to control the spread of Covid-19.

We must also guard against potential outbreaks from another polio strain that could develop if not enough children are vaccinated. Specifically, the weakened poliovirus contained in the oral polio vaccine (OPV) can start to circulate and, over time, can change to a form that causes paralysis in under-immunized populations. This variant is called circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) and type 2 is the most common strain. Thus, circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), primarily occurring in Africa and Asia, remains a key concern.

Although the risk of cVDPV2 outbreaks in India remains low thanks to strong protocols in the country that assure newborns are well-immunized, Pakistan and Afghanistan have had cases. So, the polio program must remain prepared and continue to strengthen routine immunization campaigns as it also deploys new tools-like the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) that carries less risk of changing to a harmful form.

Lastly, while the infrastructure built to end polio in India has been used to help contain the coronavirus, it must be noted that routine immunizations overall have been significantly impacted. March 2020 saw child immunization for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) dip by around 70 percent over the previous year.

In hindsight, the effort to end polio has taught us many lessons on how to manage a public health crisis and has informed our COVID-19 response efforts. Thanks to our hard-fought battles against polio, we have learned the value of ensuring equitable access to vaccines and launching strong campaigns against vaccine hesitancy.

Yet, India has more work to do if we are to ensure polio remains a largely neutralized threat within the country. It is important for policy-makers and organizations to carry out routine immunization programs and conduct 'catch up' initiatives to cover those who may have missed out on immunizations. In a globalized era, even sporadic polio outbreaks in neighbouring countries need to be monitored and proactively managed. As long as polio circulates anywhere, all children are at risk. We must remain committed to making polio a disease of the past for everyone, everywhere.

(The writer is chairperson, Rotary International's India National Polio Plus Committee (RI-INPPC). The views expressed are personal.)

Emerging threats from Gwadar's militarisation



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

The Gwadar project provides China with 'deep berthing rights' and gives it a safe and shorter route for its oil and mineral imports from the Middle East and Africa

“

DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS DOMESTIC REGULATIONS ON ITS CIVIL-MILITARY FUSION TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY AND USE CIVILIAN FLEETS AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES UNMASKED THE HEGEMONIC INTENTIONS OF CHINA

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)

By establishing the countries' rights to invest and own Projects.

In case of punitive strikes against Pakistan, well-equipped China at the Gwadar port and other countries at the Free Zone area would limit our military options. Further, China's hard power footprints are visible with its access to the Skardu airbase in PoK and its paramilitary presence near Shaymak, Tajikistan, on its Afghan-Tajik border. These bases that provide military reinforcements and support to the PLA can significantly threaten the Indian army during open hostilities with Pakistan or China. The news of joint Sino-Pak joint patrolling on the border of PoK- Xinjiang is also not in Indian interests.

From a naval perspective, China's 'submarine challenge' of birthing at Gwadar port and Djibouti base to overcome Beijing's maritime weakness of the Sunda Strait or Lombok Strait could be used for military deception during wartime. Even in peacetime, there are strong possibilities that both China and Pakistan might collaboratively block the supply chains from the western side.

Secondly, Gwadar's locational importance concerning Baluchistan is of paramount importance. The M8 or the Ratodero-Khuzdar road connecting Gwadar to Western China is marked by heavy paramilitary personnel. Human rights violations against the Baloch ethnic population by both nations is a strong possibility. Similarly, the upcoming China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC), in which Gwadar will occupy a vital place concerning the dumping of bio-medical waste in the Arabian Sea, will raise unforeseen health issues for the Indian

population. The potential weaponization of pathogens by the dual-use facilities of CPEC and the inability of the democratic countries to take action will deteriorate the security in South Asia. From a real politik perspective, last year, Baloch Raji Ajoi Sangar (BRAS) and Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) announced their union to fight against the CPEC Project and committed themselves to fight for the independence of Sindh and Baloch areas.

In order to suppress the rising voices, Pakistan and China have recently decided to increase the militarization of Gwadar and its neighbouring areas by expanding the CPEC Project. Last month, the Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) agreement was reached, with provisions for four new berths for Karachi Port Trust (KPT), a state-of-the-art fishing port and an urban infrastructure zone. The project envisions attracting \$3.5 billion of Chinese investments, which undoubtedly will also have Chinese security in Karachi port.

The KCCDZ aims to increase the stronghold of Pakistan in Sindh by suppressing the simmering voices and poses maritime security threats to the Indian interests, especially the India bound cargo transportations via the straits of Hormuz and other critical sea passages. The Sino-Pak naval presence in the high seas also infringes upon the freedom of seas as outlined in the UNCLOS, to which India strictly adheres. China's illegal and unregulated fishing in the Arabian Sea will increase in the days to come.

If India, along with the other vital players, can successfully high-

light the treatment of Baluch nationalists at an international level, it can be a potential 'game changer'. Baluchistan's long overdue independence can provide a breathing space for the Baluch people by breaking their "shackles of slavery" and giving India a vital buffer state with military advantages.

Finally, the increasing Talibanization of the Pakistani society, a rift between the Pakistan Army Chief and Prime Minister Imran Khan, and the armed rebellions against the CPEC Project are all conditions that pose severe threats to the regional security order of South Asia. The situation becomes further complicated with Iran and Russia gradually moving towards giving diplomatic recognition to the Taliban in Afghanistan, with naval exercises occupying a center stage. Further, the militarization of the CPEC along with the maritime presence of PLAN in the other sectors of the Indo-Pacific Ocean increases the possibilities of military friction between China and the US. Any 'accidental' encounter might spiral into crisis or a military conflict, thereby endangering Indian security.

These developments and their implications display the zero-sum mentality of the Indo-Pacific great game, in which there is no other option but to outwit the adversary. The security architecture is rapidly shifting. Today, the country needs to adopt a holistic approach towards security that should be encompassing conventional and other emerging technologies apart from aiming to have a military presence in Pakistan's western front and beyond to 'military squeeze' Islamabad at an appropriate time.

by establishing the countries' rights to invest and own Projects.

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DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS DOMESTIC REGULATIONS ON ITS CIVIL-MILITARY FUSION TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY AND USE CIVILIAN FLEETS AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES UNMASKED THE HEGEMONIC INTENTIONS OF CHINA

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)

Overnutrition is not health-giving

High-energy, high-fat and high-sugar diets escalate non-communicable diseases, leading to life-time misery and intergenerational consequences



HARSHPAL SINGH SACHDEV

Persistent shaming by media of India's under-nutrition profile has distracted the policy-makers from the invisible menace of over-nutrition, which has now assumed epidemic proportions.

While the presence of hunger and undernutrition in the marginalized and poor segments of populations is undeniable, the rapid escalation of obesity and overnutrition-associated Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and stroke are a reality too.

In 2016, these NCDs were responsible for 55 per cent of the total disability adjusted life years and the major risk-factors (high blood pressure, high blood sugar, high cholesterol, and overweight) contributed to a quarter of the NCD burden.

Alarming, the recent Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey documented "metabolic obesity" in at least half of the children aged 5-19 years, including those who were thin or short, conventionally labelled 'undernourished'.

This simultaneous burden of malnutrition needs immediate redressal in a judicious and evidence-based manner, ensuring that interventions for undernutrition do not escalate overnutrition.

There is a deep-rooted socio-cultural belief that higher caloric intakes through hyperpalatable, high energy-density, high fat and high sugar diets will ameliorate undernutrition, particularly in children and adolescents.



However, recent evidence unequivocally demonstrates that such diets fuel escalation of non-communicable diseases, which could result in a life-time of misery and intergenerational consequences.

Characterization of foods as high fat, sugar or salt (HFSS) is based on the World Health Organization's population nutrient intake goals to prevent obesity and related NCDs. Foods are labelled as HFSS, if the energy contributions or the content of these nutrients exceeds the total energy available from those foodstuffs, as follows: 30 per cent for fat or 10 per cent for saturated fat, 10 per cent for free sugars, and 1 mg sodium per 1 kcal for salt.

Without prominent and easy to understand labelling, it is an arduous task to identify a HFSS, particularly for semi-literate and illiterate consumers. Global and Indian evidence demonstrates the deleterious effects of sustained consumption of HFSS diets. There is a significant association of higher consumption of such foods with all-cause mortality and several diseases. These include overall cardiovascular diseases, coronary heart diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, overweight and obesity, depression, irritable bowel syndrome, overall cancer, postmenopausal breast cancer, gestational obesity, adolescent asthma and wheezing, and frailty. Excess salt intake is more specifically related to hypertension.

A fascinating experiment conducted at the National Institute of Health, USA, compared effects of unprocessed and ultra-processed meals matched for presented calories, energy density, macronutrients, sugar, sodium, and fiber. Subjects were instructed to consume as much or as little as desired. Within a short span of two weeks, energy intake was greater with hyperpalatable ultra-processed diet with increased consumption of carbohydrate and fat, but not protein. This led to an average weight gain of 0.9 kg.

Similar evidence of unfavourable metabolic perturbations, hypertension, mental health issues and sleep disturbances has accumulated for children and adolescents. Disturbingly, HFSS foods are now being increasingly introduced in infancy in the garb of "health foods" and "healthy complementary diets".

Infancy is an impressionable age, when future tastes are developed and fats, sugars and oils are somewhat addictive. Thus, it is crucial for the right dietary practices to be inculcated from the very beginning.

There is no escaping the conclusion that the consumption of HFSS foods has to be drastically reduced to improve the health and human capital of the nation. Importantly, this has to start prior to conception and with greater emphasis on impressionable infants, children and adolescents. Fortunately, India is still in an expanding phase of marketing of such products and is some distance away from the peak and we have the collective experience of developed countries to guide us.

Obviously, the multinational food-industry will resist these attempts on all fronts. Health education alone is unlikely to be successful, particularly because such foods are tasty, addictive, cheap and convenient, but extort a heavy price on health. Strict laws regulating the sale and advertisement of such foods are immediately required. The time to act for maximal benefit, is therefore, now; else we may repent for generation(s), with only ourselves to blame.

GLOBE TROTTER

BLINKEN RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT TAIWAN WITH CHINA
Rome: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi as part of the Group of 20 summit on Sunday — an outreach designed to ensure that the intensely competitive relationship between the world's two largest economies doesn't veer into open conflicts. Senior State Department officials described the conversations as candid, constructive and productive, saying that Blinken was clear about US concerns during the roughly hour-long meeting.

MODI'S PLANE FLIES OVER PAK AIRSPACE
Islamabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special VIP flight, en route to Italy for the G20 Summit, flew over the Pakistani airspace on Friday and the aircraft will use it again on its return journey after getting formal permission from Islamabad, according to a media report here on Sunday. Prime Minister Modi's plane Boeing 777, 300ER, K7066 entered the Pakistani airspace from Bahawalpur, passed through Turbat and Panjgur and via Iran and Turkey reached Italy, *The Express Tribune* reported.

NEPAL RESCUES 940 OF ITS NATIONALS FROM AF KATHMANDU: The Nepal Government has evacuated 940 of its citizens from Afghanistan after the Taliban took over the war-torn country in August, an official statement said on Sunday. In a statement issued by Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 32 Nepalese nationals have arrived from Afghanistan in Kathmandu on Sunday. "Nepal rescued additional 32 Nepalese nationals from the crisis hit Afghanistan."

MAN WITH KNIFE HURTS 17 PEOPLE ON TOKYO TRAIN
Tokyo: A man brandishing a knife on a Tokyo commuter train on Sunday stabbed several passengers before starting a fire, which sent people scrambling to escape and jumping from windows, police and witnesses said. The Tokyo Fire Department said 17 passengers were injured, including three seriously.

COP26: LAST, BEST HOPE

Crucial climate summit opens in Glasgow

AP ■ GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

The UN climate summit in Glasgow opened Sunday with appeals for action and prayers, kicking off two weeks of intense diplomatic negotiations by almost 200 countries on how to tackle the common challenge of intensifying global warming.

Following the opening gavel Sunday, leaders from around the world will gather in Scotland's biggest city Monday to lay out their countries' efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and deal with the effects of climate change. At the Vatican Sunday, Pope Francis appealed to the world's people to pray that world leaders' realize the suffering of the Earth and the poor as the climate warms.

Negotiators will push nations to ratchet up their efforts to keep global temperatures from rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) this century compared with pre-industrial times.

The newly opened summit



Climate activists have descended on Glasgow for the COP26 summit

remains "our last, best hope to keep 1.5 in reach," said Alok Sharma, the British government minister chairing the Glasgow talks, known as COP26.

Scientists say the chances of meeting that goal, agreed to in the landmark deal closed at the 2015 Paris climate accord, are slowly slipping away. The world has already warmed by

more than 1.1C and current projections based on planned emissions cuts over the next decade are for it to hit 2.7C by the year 2100.

The amount of energy unleashed by such planetary warming would melt much of the planet's ice, raise global sea levels and greatly increase the likelihood and intensity of extreme weather, experts warn.

COP26 Prez Alok Sharma

opens summit

PTI ■ GLASGOW

The COP26 summit is "our last best hope" to agree on implementing the Paris Agreement, which limits the rise in global temperatures and keeps the goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius alive, summit President Alok Sharma said as he formally opened the climate conference in Glsgow on Sunday.

The Indian-origin Cabinet minister, who is leading the UK presidency of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), has described his role as "shepherd-in-chief" of the two-week-long summit.

"I believe we can move negotiations forward and launch a decade of ever-increasing ambition and action... But we need to hit the ground running," Sharma said, in his opening speech on Sunday, which marks the operational launch of the summit.

G-20 leaders turn to climate change on last day of summit

AP ■ ROME



From left, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Italian Premier Mario Draghi, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson stand at the Trevi Fountain during an event for the G20 summit in Rome on Sunday

of anonymity to preview President Joe Biden's plans.

Western countries have moved away from financing coal projects in developing countries, and major Asian economies are now doing the

same: Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the UN General Assembly last month that Beijing would stop funding such projects, and Japan and South Korea made similar commitments earlier in the year.

G20 make commitments on climate neutrality, coal financing

AP ■ ROME

Leaders of the world's biggest Leconomies made a compromise commitment Sunday to reach carbon neutrality "by or around mid-century" as they wrapped up a two-day summit that was laying the groundwork for the UN climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

According to the final communique, the Group of 20 leaders also agreed to end public financing for coal-fired power generation abroad, but set no target for phasing out coal domestically — a clear nod to coal-dependent countries including China and India.

The Group of 20 countries represent more than three-quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and G-20 host Italy and Glasgow-host Britain had been looking for

more ambitious targets coming out of Rome. Without them, momentum for Glasgow could be lost.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi told the leaders going into the final working session Sunday that they needed both to set long-term goals and make short-term changes to reach them.

"We must accelerate the phasing-out of coal and invest more in renewable energy," he said. "We also need to make sure that we use available resources wisely, which means that we should become able to adapt our technologies and also our lifestyles to this new world."

His message was echoed by Britain's Prince Charles, who urged leaders to listen to young people who are inheriting the warming Earth and warned that "it is quite literally the last-chance saloon."

Biden tells Erdogan US, Turkey must avoid crises

AP ■ ROME

President Joe Biden told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday that their countries must better manage disagreements after the partnership between NATO allies was tested by Turkey's threat to no longer recognize the US envoy and its purchase of a Russian missile defense system.

"We're planning to have a good conversation," Biden said as the leaders appeared in front of journalists before nearly an hour of closed-door talks. The president did not answer questions about whether Turkey had grown too close to Russia or human rights.

In the meeting, Biden reaffirmed Turkey's importance as a NATO ally as well as its

defense partnership with the US, but raised with Erdogan concerns about possession of the Russian S-400 missile system, the White House said in a statement afterward.

The Turkish president has said he's open to buying a second Russian missile system, despite the controversy generated by the 2017 deal to acquire the Russian-made system.

Antarctica gets a Glasgow Glacier ahead of summit

AP ■ ROME


Britain is naming a thinning Antarctic ice mass the Glasgow Glacier, to symbolize the vast implications for the world of a climate conference that starts Sunday in the Scottish city.

More than 120 world leaders will join British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Glasgow for the COP26 summit. Britain is calling the gathering one of the world's last chances to keep alive the goal, agreed in Paris in 2015, of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-indus-

trial levels.

Scientists from the University of Leeds in England have studied a chain of glaciers in the Getz basin of Antarctica, and found their journey from land to ocean sped up by an average of 25% between 1994 and 2018 due to climate change, shedding 315 gigatonnes (347 billion U.S. tons) of ice and contributing to rising global sea levels.

The glaciers, which lie in the British Antarctic Territory, will be named after cities that have hosted climate conferences, reports or treaties, including Rio, Kyoto, Paris and Glasgow.



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Letter No. : 7003/58C-03/2021

Short Term E-Tender Notice

Dated : 29/10/2021

The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh invites tender on item rate basis through E-Tendering (**Two Bid System**) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from date **09/11/2021** & onwards on website **http://www.uktenders.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (₹ in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in ₹)	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Improvement and Damarikaran work in Didihat Sirakot Motor Road in Didihat Vidhan Sabha of Pithoragarh district Under State Plan.	4.19	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 Days	09 Month	Category "B" and above for Road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India Undertaking
2	Improvement and Damarikaran work in Budhniyakhan Jamtar Motor Road in Didihat Vidhan Sabha of Pithoragarh district Under State Plan.	3.18	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 Days	09 Month	--do--
3	Damarikaran and Improvement work in Alkathal Nainadevi Motor Road in Didihat Vidhan Sabha of Pithoragarh district Under State Plan.	4.33	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 Days	09 Month	--do--



कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय भण्डार,
उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, हल्द्वानी
तिरुकोनिया, नैनीताल रोड, हल्द्वानी दूरभाष कार्यालय/फैक्स : 05946-220776 ई-मेल : eehal-ujs-uk@nic.in

पत्रांक : 275 / ई-निविदा / 01 / 2021-22

ई-निविदा सूचना

दिनांक : 30.10.2021

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय भण्डार, हल्द्वानी द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कार्मिशियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	घरोहर धनराशि रु.	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि व समय	ई-निविदा द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड खोले जाने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	ISI Marked Plain Ended M.S. ERW Line Pipe 350mm x 4.80mm thick conforming to IS:1978/1982 Grade YST-210 (Replaced by BIS as IS/ISO 3183/2007 GRADE-L-210, PSL-1) की आपूर्ति।	108000-00	02.11.2021 from 11:00 a.m.	16.11.2021 upto 05:00 p.m.	17.11.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	09.11.2021 at 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:— Only manufacturers/Authorised Dealer's of ISI Marked Plain Ended M.S. ERW Line Pipe having BIS license for IS:1978/1982 Grade YST-210 (Replaced by BIS as IS/ISO 3183/2007 GRADE-L-210, PSL-1) who are Manufacturer & Authorised Dealer's before the last date of submission of this tender i.e. 16.11.2021 are allowed to take part in this tender.							

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयां, शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट **www.uktenders.gov.in** एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट **http://ujs.uk.gov.in** पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

“जल संचय—जीवन संचय”

(एसओ के0 श्रीवास्तव)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता

UK-France fishing spat deepens

Despite Macron, Johnson meeting

AP ■ ROME

French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson met privately on Sunday to try to resolve an escalating dispute over fishing in the English Channel — but afterward the two countries appeared farther apart than ever and gave starkly differing versions of the meeting's outcome.

The post-Brexit spat over the granting of licenses to fish

in Britain's coastal waters threatens to escalate within days into a damaging French blockade of British boats.

After the 30-minute meeting between Macron and Johnson on the fringes of a Group of 20 summit in Rome, a French top official said both leaders agreed there was a need to talk to each other "in a situation of important tensions." He said measures need to be taken "as soon as possible" to get to a de-escalation.

Britain, however, denied the leaders had agreed to take steps to de-escalate the spat,

saying it was entirely up to France to calm the waters.

The UK Government said in a statement that during the meeting, Johnson "reiterated his deep concern" over France's rhetoric and "expressed his hope that the French government would de-escalate."

Johnson's spokesman, Max Blain, said "our position has not changed."

"It will be for the French to decide whether they want to step away from the threats they have made in recent days," Blain said.

"Both in our rhetoric and our actions we have not in any

way sought to escalate this. ... The de-escalation would have to come from the French side."

A second French official said the "difference of views shows a different mindset" and that Paris cares about commitments that have been made and about the French-British relationship.

Fishing is a tiny industry economically, but one that looms large symbolically for maritime nations like Britain and France. Britain's exit from the economic rules of the 27-nation bloc at the start of this year means the UK now controls who fishes in its waters.

UN chief urges Sudan Army to reverse coup

AP ■ CAIRO

The UN secretary general urged Sudan's generals on Sunday to reverse their takeover of the country, a day after tens of thousands of people took to the streets in the largest pro-democracy protest since last week's coup. Antonio Guterres said the generals should "take heed" of Saturday's protests.

"Time to go back to the legitimate constitutional arrangements," he said in a tweet.

He was referring to a power-sharing deal that established joint military-civilian rule following the ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir and his Islamist government in April 2019. The UN envoy for Sudan, Volker Perthes, said meanwhile that he met Sunday with Abdalla Hamdok, the deposed prime minister who remained under house arrest in the capital Khartoum.

"We discussed options for mediation and the way forward for Sudan. I will continue these efforts with other Sudanese stakeholders," he said. Guterres expressed concern about violence against protesters on Saturday, calling for perpetrators to be held accountable. At least three people were shot dead when security forces opened fire on protesters in Omdurman, a city adjacent to the capital of Khartoum. A doctors' union also said more than 110 people were injured by live rounds, tear gas and beatings in Omdurman and elsewhere in the country. With Saturday's deaths, the overall number of people killed since Monday's coup rose to 12, according to the Sudan Doctors' Committee and activists.

Calls mounting for removing Lebanon Min over Gulf row

AP ■ BEIRUT

Pressure is mounting on Lebanese leaders to remove a Cabinet minister whose comments on the war in Yemen sparked a diplomatic row with Saudi Arabia. The head of the country's Maronite Catholic Church called for "decisive action" in his Sunday sermon, suggesting he wanted the minister to resign.

Cardinal Bechara Rai said the crisis with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations threatens to undermine the interests of thousands of Lebanese living there, as well as businesses in Lebanon that depend on the region.

"We look forward to the President and the Prime Minister and all those concerned to take a decisive action to remove the explosive fuse threatening the Lebanese-Gulf relations," Rai said. "We call for this decisive position in defense of Lebanon and the Lebanese living in the country and abroad."

His call echoed comments by the Lebanese-Saudi Business Council, an association that represents businessmen from both countries. On Sunday it warned of the crisis' impact on trade and the economic interests of thousands of Lebanese living in the Gulf.

The council called on the government to remove Information Minister George Kordahi over his comments about the war in Yemen that stoked Riyadh's ire. Politicians from leading Lebanese parties echoed the call.

Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain followed Saudi Arabia in taking punitive measures against Lebanon following the discovery of Kordahi's comments, recalling their ambassadors and asking Lebanon's to leave their countries. Saudi Arabia, one of Lebanon's biggest export markets, banned all Lebanese imports — a major blow for a country struggling with a crippling economic crisis.

ROME SUMMIT

Biden seeks fixes for supply chain kinks

AP ■ ROME

President Joe Biden is convening world leaders at the Group of 20 summit on Sunday to talk about ways to relieve the supply chain bottlenecks hampering the global economy as it recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite devoting a combined \$15 trillion to combat the fallout from Covid-19, many of the world's largest economies are slogging through mass shortages as ships are waiting to dock, the prices of shipping containers climb, not enough trucks exist to haul goods from ports, and virus outbreaks halt factory production.

Supply chain issues have emerged as a point of economic and political pain for Biden, as the delays have contributed to inflation and potentially put a damper on holiday shopping. Republican lawmakers have cited the threat of inflation and supply chain challenges in critiquing Biden's economic leadership.

In Sunday's meeting, the president plans to discuss how each country can identify and



resolve bottlenecks, said a senior administration official who requested anonymity to discuss the plans. The goal is to help relieve pressures and boost growth.

There is also the broader goal of greater coordination among countries so that supply chains are more resilient. This means increased transparency on shipping issues, so that possible problems can be identified and addressed. After the pandemic shut down factories, Biden plans to discuss how countries can identify strategies to ensure the production of essential goods such as computer chips are not taken offline for an extended period of time.

The president planned to make announcements on U.S. plans to stockpile critical minerals and metals, as well as detail which U.S. resources

will be available to end blockages at key ports around the world, the senior administration official said.

Biden also met Sunday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and planned to appear with Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, to discuss an agreement between the U.S. and EU to settle a rift over Trump-era tariffs on steel and aluminum.

The president will also hold a formal news conference, though his domestic agenda might generate as much attention as his foreign policy efforts. House Democrats hope to vote Tuesday on Biden's \$1.75 trillion spending plan for families, health care and the environment as well as on his \$1 trillion infrastructure plan that has already cleared the Senate.

India, UK to launch solar Green Grids Initiative at COP26

Glasgow: India and the UK are set to enhance their International Solar Alliance (ISA) partnership with the launch of a new Green Grids Initiative connecting different parts of the world at the United Nations (UN) COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

The new Global Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) is an evolution of ISA's OSOWOG multilateral drive to foster interconnected solar energy infrastructure at a global scale.

The new Green Grids Initiative, to be launched at COP26 on Tuesday, will mark a merging of flagship interconnection initiatives from India and the UK as part of their bilateral cooperation.

"This initiative will bring together an international coalition of national governments, financial organisations, and power system operators to accelerate the construction of new infrastructure needed to deliver a massive scale-up of secure, reliable and affordable power, such as modern, flexible grids, charging points, and electricity interconnectors," the UK's Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) said, in reference to the joint project.



ISA recently announced a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies to mobilise USD 1 trillion in global investments for solar energy across ISA's member countries.

The two organisations plan to work with the World Resources Institute (WRI) to develop a Solar Investment Action Agenda and a Solar Investment Roadmap, which will also be launched at COP26.

India-led ISA, an inter-governmental treaty-based international organisation with a global mandate to catalyse global solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology for solar, is designed to establish solar energy as a shared solution that simultaneously addresses climate, energy, and economic priorities across geographies.

ISA, headed by Director General Dr Ajay Mathur and with 98 countries supporting its framework, is aimed at facilitating energy transition at a global level, energy security at

national levels, while also ensuring energy access at the local level.

The alliance said it is working with development banks to bring the benefits of solar across the world. Apart from bringing down prices for solar water pumps, it is enabling technological transfer, storage solutions, financial assistance, along with skilling and enabling countries to adopt solar.

It added: "The ISA is an observer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has been an active participant at Conference of Parties (COPs).

"To continue with ISA's efforts at global outreach, the ISA Secretariat will participate in the forthcoming 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), to be held under the UK presidency, at Glasgow (Scotland) between November 1 and November 12, 2021." **PTI**

FinMin issues uniform norms for accountability to protect bonafide decisions of bankers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To protect the people taking bonafide business decisions, the Finance Ministry has issued a uniform staff accountability framework for NPA accounts up to ₹ 50 crore.

These guidelines shall be implemented with effect from April 1, 2022, for accounts turning non-performing assets (NPAs) beginning next financial year.

The Department of Financial Services (DFS), under the finance ministry, vide its order dated October 29 advised broad guidelines to be adopted by all public sector banks (PSBs) on Staff Accountability Framework for NPA Accounts up to Rs 50 crore" (Other than Fraud Cases)", the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) said in a statement.

Banks have been advised to revise their staff accountability policies based on these broad guidelines and frame the procedures with approval of the respective boards, it said.

The IBA, being a key stakeholder of the framework, was involved in the process right from the beginning.

These guidelines will help

quell apprehension that bankers could be hauled up for their bonafide commercial decision go wrong. It will also help banker to take credit decisions faster and help support economy.

Stressing that the new guidelines will surely boost the morale of the PSBs employees immensely, it said banks will have to complete staff accountability exercise within six months from the date of classification of the account as NPA.

Further, it said that depending on the business size of the banks, threshold limits have been advised for scrutiny of the accountability by the chief vigilance officer (CVO).

Past track record of the officials in appraisal or sanction/ monitoring will also be given due weightage, it added.

"At present, different banks are following different procedures for conducting staff accountability exercise. Also, staff accountability exercise is being carried out in respect of all accounts which turn into NPA.

"This approach not only adversely affects staff morale but also puts a huge strain on the bank's resources," it said.

Petrol, diesel prices hiked for 4th straight day; petrol crosses ₹120 mark in MP

New Delhi: Petrol and diesel prices on Sunday were hiked for the fourth straight day by 35 paise per litre each, pushing pump rates to new record high across the country with States with high incidence of local taxes such as Madhya Pradesh having the costliest fuel.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹ 109.34 a litre and ₹115.15 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Diesel now costs ₹98.07 a litre in Delhi and ₹106.23 in Mumbai.

This is the fourth consecutive day of the price hike. There was no change in rates between October 25 and 27, prior to which prices were hiked by 35 paise per litre each on four straight days.

While petrol has already hit the ₹100-a-litre mark or more in all major cities of the country, diesel has touched that level in over one-and-a-half dozen states. Diesel rates crossed that level in places

ranging from Jalandhar in Punjab to Gangtok in Sikkim.

Prices differ from state to state, depending on the incidence of local taxes and cost of transportation.

The twin factors led to petrol price crossing Rs 120 a litre mark in places such as Panna, Satna, Rewa, Shahdol, Chhindwara and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh.

The same level has also been crossed in two border towns of Rajasthan - Ganganagar and Hanumangarh.

Ganganagar has the costliest fuel in the country with petrol costing Rs 121.52 a litre and diesel coming for Rs 112.44 per litre.

Petrol price has been hiked on 25 occasions since September 28, when a three-week-long hiatus in rate revision ended. In all, prices have gone up by Rs 8.15 a litre.

Diesel rates have been increased by Rs 9.45 per litre in 28 hikes since September 24.

Excise collection 79% more than pre-Covid levels

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's collection from levy of excise duty on petroleum products has risen 33 per cent in the first six months of the current fiscal when compared with last year and is 79 per cent more than pre-Covid levels, official data showed.

Data available from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Union Ministry of Finance showed excise duty collections during April-September 2021 surging to over Rs 1.71 lakh crore, from Rs 1.28 lakh crore mop-up in the same period of the previous fiscal.

Thanks to a steep hike in excise duty rates, the collection is 79 per cent more than Rs 95,930 crore mop-up in April-September 2019.

In the full 2020-21 fiscal, excise collections were Rs 3.89 lakh crore and in 2019-20, it

was Rs 2.39 lakh crore, CGA data showed.

After the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, excise duty is levied only on petrol, diesel, ATF and natural gas. Barring these products, all other goods and services are under the GST regime.

Out of the Rs 2.3 lakh crore excise collection in 2018-19, Rs 35,874 crore was devolved to states, according to the CGA. In the previous 2017-18 fiscal, Rs 71,759 crore was devolution to the states out of a collection of Rs 2.58 lakh crore.

The incremental collection of Rs 42,931 crore in the first six months of the fiscal year 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022) is four times the Rs 10,000 crore liability that the government has in the full year towards repayment of oil bonds that were issued by the previous Congress-led UPA government to subsidise fuel.

PwC survey: Most Indian firms to increase cybersecurity budget in 2022

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A majority of Indian organisations (80 per cent) are likely to increase their cybersecurity budget in 2022, according to a survey by global consultancy firm PwC.

As per the PwC's 2022 Digital Trust Insights Survey, the risk landscape is continuously evolving and organisations are investing more than ever in cybersecurity to manage their risks.

As the business environment turns more complex due to the interconnectedness of systems and information, the impact of a risk event is not limited but rather has a domino effect with high consequences, it said.

Organisations are therefore gearing up to implement robust cybersecurity practices and controls to manage these

risks.

"...82 per cent of the Indian respondents have predicted an increase in their cybersecurity budget in 2022. Moreover, 41 per cent of organisations in India predict double-digit growth in their cyber budgets in 2022, as against 26 per cent organisations globally," the survey said.

The 2022 Global Digital Trust Insights is a survey of 3,602 business, technology, and security executives (CEOs, corporate directors, CFOs, CISOs, CIOs, and C-Suite officers) based in various regions. The India edition of the global survey report focuses on the responses of the executives of 109 Indian businesses.

VIT-AP felicitates campus placement achievers

New Delhi:VIT-AP University felicitated campus placement achievers on Saturday at Taj Gateway Hotel, Vijayawada in the presence of chief guest J. Nivas, Collector & District Magistrate.

Fed decision, macro data, to play major role in market movement this week: Analysts

New Delhi:The Fed interest rate decision, domestic macro-economic data announcements and quarterly earnings will be the major sentiment drivers for the equity market in a holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said.

Investors will also take cues from the monthly auto sales numbers to be announced on Monday.

Equity markets will remain closed on Thursday for Diwali Laxmi Pujan and on Friday for Diwali Balipratipada.

"Due to the festival of Diwali, markets will have a truncated three-day trading session this week.

"Key events to watch out for this week will be India's PMI data for October and US Fed meeting which will provide some direction to the market," Siddhartha Khemka, head (retail research) at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Selling by foreign funds, weak global markets and mixed earnings weighed on market sentiments last week. **PTI**

Kind Attention : Rail Passengers

VIKALP- For the convenience of Rail Passengers

Indian Railways Offers a Passenger friendly scheme called 'VIKALP', an Alternative Train Accommodation System.

This scheme helps the waitlisted passengers to get the vacant berths of other trains running between same source and destination. Under VIKALP Scheme, Passengers can opt for the scheme while booking the tickets online and choose upto 7 alternate trains. If seats/berths are available in any of the alternate trains, passenger will be automatically allotted accommodation in any of the choosen trains. **Details of the scheme can be seen at <https://contents.ircrc.co.in/en/vikalpTerms.html>**

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of Information such as detailed Time-Table and Stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact **RailMadad Helpline No. 139** or may visit **Indian Railways website <http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in>** or NTES App.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE No: DUBAI/Cons/434/MR/2021-(276) dated 24/10/2021. Mr. HARPREET SINGH S/o GURPAL SINGH, Resident of 23/31, B Moon Avenue, Mejjitha Road, Amman, Jordan, Present Address: 1701A-C2, City Towers, Ajman-UAE and Miss. BHAIRAVI PRAKASH, D/o VISHRO PRAKASH, Resident of C-1/102 Mayfair Towers Charmwood Village, New Delhi-110044, INDIA, Present Address: Villa 33B, St.52B, Mirfah, Dubai, UAE.

Above mentioned Indian Nationals are presently Residing in the UAE, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriages Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage he/she should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rules within THIRTY days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
Jitender Singh Negi
Marriage Officer, Consulate General of India,
P.O. Box 737, Dubai, UAE.
Fax No. 0097143970453
Email: cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in, cons3.dubai@mea.gov.in
Homepage: wwwcgidubai.gov.in

Sale Notice

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Mohd. Umer, Ex. No. 35/2017	Vehicle No- DL8CAD2695, Make & Model-MARUTI SWIFT, Manu Year-2014
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Abhi Nayyar, Ex No. 214/21	Vehicle No- HR12U0166, Make & Model-MAHINDRA 2.6 SLX, Manu Year- 2012
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Ravinder, CS (Comm) 1560/20	Vehicle No- HR26CD9757, Make & Model-MAHINDRA XUV 500 W8, Manu Year-2014
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Mansi Gupta, CS (Comm) No. 960 of 2020	Vehicle No- DL10CJ1180, Make & Model-MAHINDRA TUV300 T8, Manu Year- 2017
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Siddharth Bhattacharya, CS (Comm) No. 1066/2020	Vehicle No- UP16BC4409, Make & Model- HYUNDAI CRETA SX, Manu Year- 2015
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Mukarram Ali, CS (Comm) No. 677/19	Vehicle No- DL12CM9535, Make & Model - MARUTI BALENO, Manu Year- 2017

Auction Date: 16-November-2021 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No: 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhraili, Gurugram- 122022.
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction and
Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.
The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi- 110085**, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Vipul Limited and others (the Developer) is in the process of undertaking the development of a Group Housing Colony for an area measuring 19.244 acres (Licence no. 168-172 of 2004 dated 16.12.2004 and Licence no. 545-546 of 2006 dated 13.03.2006) in Sector 53, Gurugram.

And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/ entered into flat buyer agreement for allotment of flat/ property in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees). And, whereas, the building plans earlier approved for the said colony are now proposed to be revised.

And whereas, the office of Director General, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of said building plans.

Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in said colony on the proposed revision of the building plan of said colony. A copy of the earlier building plan approved vide memo no. ZP-170/SD(BS)/2018/6968 Dated 26.02.2018 and the revised building plans approved in-principle vide Memo. No. ZP-170/AD(RA)/2021/27766 Dated 28.10.2021 is available for perusal on our website (www.vipulgroup.in) and at the office of undersigned at Vipul Techsquare, Golf Course Road, Sector-43, Gurugram as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram.

Any allottee having any objection on revised building plans, may file his objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector 14, Gurugram within 30 days of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the building plans.

For, Vipul Ltd.
Place : Gurugram Vipul Techsquare, Golf Course Road,
Dated: 01.11.2021 Sector-43, Gurugram

I started working while I was still a teenager. A small voice from inside, however, kept calling me to do something worthwhile. I couldn't tell whether the voice was trustworthy or if the stirring within me was real and within reach," shared Tejas Salaskar, a 19-year-old boy from Mumbai, Maharashtra who is currently engaged with Rashtra Sevadal – a non-profit organization that works with children and adolescents.

Sevadal was founded by Panduranga Sadashiv Sane, popularly known as Sane Guruji. A freedom fighter, he was an author, social reformer and anti-caste activist from Maharashtra. His organisation works with children and young adults to inculcate the values of democracy, socialism, secularism, scientific temper and universal brotherhood. It's aimed at creating citizens like Tejas who would help build a socialist society and dedicated youth workforce for constructive work.

"I had chosen commerce without much contemplation. Even though I was convinced to get into accountancy, I knew that it was not my calling," shared Tejas, whose mother is a homemaker and father works in a garment factory. He started working at a plant that specialised in manufacturing hearing aids. Describing his previous work, he said, "Many of our customers had hearing impairments at a very young age. Children as young as 15 and 16 were affected and required treatment. I had started liking the work, but due to Covid-19 our workshop had to halt its operation."

Soon, he began volunteering for Sevadal. Deeply involved and satisfied with what he does now, Tejas decided not to resume work at the workshop after it recently started operation.

One of the interventions aimed at the education and betterment of children from low-income, informal settlements. It had started with career guidance counselling but soon realised that most children found it difficult to crack board exams in Class 10, which hampered their further development. The organisation took a call and started coaching classes for the same.

"The students of standards nine and 10 would come here after school hours at 1:30 p.m. The trust provides them with a mid-day meal after which their coaching starts," informed Tejas. The students from middle school are also provided coaching during the morning



Food distribution by Sevadal at Goregaon, Mumbai

Nurturing lives

ALKA GADGIL elaborates on the work done by Rashtra Sevadal, an organisation in Maharashtra which seeks the betterment of children from low-income, informal settlements through education



Tejas Salaskar, the young change-maker



Tejas at work

hours and are provided lunch before proceeding to school. The trust has also customised mathematical tables to help students who are poor in math. "Most of these children were on the verge of dropping out of schools, which was averted due to our food and coaching programme. But sadly, a few have

already left school because they had to earn," shared Tejas.

The Aarey Colony School which was run by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) was adopted for the intervention. Aarey forest is part of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Mumbai. The school is closer

to the Padas (hamlet) deep in the woods. There were some students who could barely read and write. Here, Sevadal activists had to start from scratch, but they were patient and the end result was fruitful.

In March 2020, Covid-19 surfaced and the education of children and liveli-

hood took a beating. When the online classes started, many children from the Adivasi hamlet couldn't access it as they didn't have a basic cell phone, let alone a smartphone or internet facility.

The trust assisted 45 children to seek admission in college. Several students who didn't have the required documents for admission were offered assistance to get their Aadhar cards and caste certificates. Soon they realised the need to address the issue of food security as many parents had lost their jobs due to the pandemic and started a food distribution programme.

"Initially, we had given preference to the families of our students, but then there were others who had lost the means to sustain them. We collected the data of people who had lost their jobs," said Tejas while explaining the process of food distribution. "Students helped us collect the data of the neediest families," he added.

Despite the fact that schools gradually reopened following the second lockdown, students from Adivasi hamlet had low attendance. Focusing on the issue, Tejas and the team visited the hamlets and encouraged the children to attend their classes. Students started attending schools but would get restless after 11:30 a.m. and leave.

"We found that children would attend the school on an empty stomach and be hungry by 11:30 am," shared Tejas. To tackle the situation, trust sprang into action and made provisions for the food for these children and their families.

"In the BMC school at Aarey Colony, one of the students, Sushma (name changed), used to frequently remain absent. Later, we found out that her mother had Tuberculosis (TB). She had to look after her mother's health along with the house. This was before Covid-19, when she was about to drop out," informed Tejas, who takes pride in intervening at the right time and averting the circumstances. According to him, Sushma's mother was admitted to a hospital for treatment and she was able to attend school.

Tejas is tech-savvy and would like to use it for development. He wants to pursue further studies in the field of humanities while continuing to make a difference in every little way possible. Tejas life's an example of how organisations like Sevadal can transform lives for a better tomorrow!

—Charkha Features



To be or not to be

RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI postulates on the gap between principle and practise, to understand why most of us happen to be so confused

If we consider the situation of the world at present, I we would find that the people and their leaders are pretty confused. One cause of this confusion arises from the wide gap between principles or precepts professed and the practical acts performed. This was clearly seen during the presidential elections in the world's oldest democratic country. Time and again, the leaders of these powerful nations have expressed that the world's situation had changed since the days of the Cold War, and that it would, therefore, be wrong to continue with old politics, systems and methods. Many among them had also expressed themselves, on many occasions, in favour of taking steps to correct the wrongs done by their predecessors. As a result of these statements, it was expected that these leaders would practice giving more freedom and democracy to their people.

But, nothing of that kind happened due to difference of opinion with the opposition, thus causing innumerable problems for such leaders at home and overseas. So, at this moment, most of these powerful leaders of the world seem to be confused as to whether they should follow the path of peace and harmony or get their country into a war-like situation. Since they are confused, some of these leaders make a show of their military might by sending their armed forces to the borders of some adjoining countries, but would not take any strong military action, because such a step would be against the principles of democracy and the regulations laid down by UN or that it would tarnish their image. Thus, presently there is a lot of confusion because of the gap between principles and practice.

The same confusion prevails almost in every other developing country today, where the people in power think that they should adopt a strong-arm policy towards the extremists and should take all steps to curb the separatist tendencies. Then one fine day they suddenly decide that this will not work, and that instead, they should take a reconciliatory stance. This whole confusion continues because they feel that the government would have the policy of giving a healing and soothing touch to the extremists, but, when it comes to practice, they find it hard to implement this policy and thus get confused. Another cause of confusion generally arises from man's two opposite kinds of desires or motives.

One sometimes has noble thoughts in the mind and desires to elevate themselves, morally and spiritually. However, there are times when one has to deal with unprecedented circumstances that require worldly solutions, which involve some drastic measures. One, therefore, finds oneself in a fix as to what to do? The pull of either of these — the nobler and the baser motives — is strong, as are man's mutually contradictory desires to rise higher and to come out successful by taking the earthly course. These mutually contradictory desires and motives make him feel ambivalent and confused. One also finds that there are various kinds of pressures acting on the individual. One has also built up some prejudices in one's mind and, sometimes, indulges in acts of repressing one's own thoughts. All these make a man's vision blurred, his mind clouded, his intellect indecisive and his mental state confused.

This is the present state of affairs of man and the world. So, in short, we can say that currently people are in a state of confusion. There is no such theory given by any man that has at its core the potential that can serve all fields of knowledge and can thus eliminate confusion of man and enlighten him truly and totally. Not many of us know about the treasure of wisdom that is given by the infallible and all-perfect Supreme Almighty only once in a cycle of Time when the whole world is to be transformed into a holy, happy and healthy world. And, that time is now. So, it can be said with a clarion call that the time for world transformation is now, when all sorts of confusion can be removed.

What next?

Against the backdrop of a series of flash floods in several parts of India, BIKRANT TIWARY wonders if we would treat the planet better now that the climate crisis has come home?

Be it Kerala, Tamil Nadu or Uttarakhand, the resources of India's National Disaster Response Force are being stretched to the limit, in order to rescue stranded people and create safe spaces in regions devastated by floods. Houses have been toppled over, lives have been lost, roads are waterlogged, crops have been destroyed, services have been impaired amid overflowing lakes, rivers, landslides and partially submerged villages and towns.

I learnt that there has also been flooding near the Jim Corbett National Park and over 3,000 people had to be evacuated from a barge on the Sarda River.

The Indian Meteorological Department has also stated that some parts of the Kumaon region recorded 403.2 millimeters (15.8 inches) of rainfall, and this is the highest rainfall over a 24-hour period ever recorded here. In Kerala too, rain continues unabated and hundreds of families have been displaced.

This is what extreme weather events look like. In densely populated, developing countries like ours, the climate crisis will have harsher ramifications than we can imagine and

the crisis is already showing up in our newsfeed and in our streets.

Recently, an intergovernmental panel on climate change indicated that unless we learn from our mistakes collectively, we may experience a temperature rise of 1.5 degrees C in the near future.

But even before we reach that tipping point, we will pay with human lives, loss of biodiversity, degradation of flora and fauna and massive economic devastation every time there is a flash flood, a forest fire, a pandemic, a drought, a pandemic. Who can we blame for all this? Ourselves, most of all, because despite the obvious climate issues before us, we continue to plunder forests in the name of development, keep mining eco-sensitive regions, and continue to expand real estate activities in areas that cannot accommodate more environmental degradation.

Floods are so frequent now because we have encroached upon river banks. We have turned natural water sources into cesspools when ideally we should not be dumping garbage or effluents in rivers and oceans at all.

Somehow we don't seem to



see the link between our health and the health of the planet. For instance, the Northeast has seen a decrease of forest cover to the extent of 765 sq km and there is no widespread alarm.

As a bio-geographic zone, Sikkim boasts rich plant diversity, varied plant communities and a forest ecosystem that influence the socio-economic as well as ecological wellbeing of

rural communities. Rural populations in particular depend on wood, fodder, and other organic byproducts of a thriving forest life. And yet, thanks to acute anthropogenic pressure, increasing demands for wood, fuel and fodder, trees are now cut faster here than they can be planted.

Afforestation is critical for the protection of forest resources, livelihoods and the agriculture of the state and still we don't seem to see that there is a connection between the climate crisis and our actions.

The health of the coastal ecosystem is critical and yet we do not protect it and that is why during the floods, all the waste and garbage dumped by us is thrown back at us by the sea. Mangroves across the coastal belt are being rampantly destroyed to make way for 'developmental' projects without any second thoughts, even though mangroves protect human habitats from floods.

Why is it so hard to see that nature is simply reflecting the cruelty and devastation that we impose on it? Is it so hard to understand that if we don't fix the climate crisis in our lifetime, the future generations will have to deal with an uninhabitable planet?

Planting trees in degraded ecosystems, expanding wildlife habitats, creating carbon sinks in toxic urban spaces, raising levels of water tables should happen at a global lev. Change must happen at macro and micro level. The human disregard for ecology is already throwing up dangerous outcomes.

Let us please stop cutting trees in the name of ecotourism and for construction

activities because trees are essential for our collective wellbeing.

The human race can no longer veer between greed and helplessness. It is time for positive action because the planet will always cater to our needs but it cannot manage or accommodate our greed for more and more.

We can all start small and make a difference to the planet. Please do not throw garbage or industrial effluents in the rivers. Manage your waste responsibly. Don't disturb the natural flow of rivers or the sanctity of water bodies. Whether you are an individual or an industrialist, do not harm nature just because it is convenient to do so.

Global warming is not an abstract global issue. It concerns each one of us. As individuals, corporations and nations, if we get rid of our greed, we will find our way out of the hopelessness we are trapped in currently.

Government regulations, corporate accountability, individual and social responsibility all have a part to play in managing this crisis. We have to understand that real change starts within and when we start acting responsibly, we will ask for accountability from governance, corporates and policy makers as well.

Blame games are futile and only accountability at all levels can protect us and the planet eventually.

(The author is the CEO of Grow-Trees.com, a web-enabled, cost-effective service for individuals and companies across the globe to help the environment by planting trees.)

“

Just because you do not take an interest in politics, doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.

—Pericles

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COVID-19 ALTERS OUR IMMUNE SYSTEM

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich researchers say that Covid-19 reduces the functional competence of certain types of immune cells in the blood. The findings of the study, which highlight that this could affect responses to secondary infections, were published in *PLOS Pathogens*.

The SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus causes moderate to severe disease in three-10 per cent of those infected. In such cases, the immune system overreacts to the virus, triggering an aberrantly innate immune response that is characterised by systemic inflammation, intravascular blood clotting and damage to the cardiovascular system

The researchers reported that following the infection, the numbers of immune cells called dendritic cells in the circulation decline, while the functionality of the remaining fraction is impaired, making patients more susceptible to secondary infections during, and immediately after recovery from a bout of Covid-19.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND COFFEE

Coffee is grown on more than 27 million acres across 12.5 million largely smallholder farms in more than 50 countries. Many coffee-producing regions are increasingly experiencing changing climate conditions, whose impact on coffee's taste, aroma, and even dietary quality is as much a concern as yields and sustainability.

A new research review says that coffee quality is vulnerable to shifts in environmental factors associated with climate change.

"A subpar cup of coffee has economic as well as sensory implications. Factors that influence coffee production have great impacts on buyers' interest, the price of coffee, and ultimately the livelihoods of the farmers who grow it," says Sean Cash, an economist and Bergstrom Foundation professor of Global Nutrition at the Friedman School, the senior author on the study, which was published in *Frontiers In Plant Science*.



AIR POLLUTION MAY AFFECT FERTILITY

Researchers from the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) have shown how air pollution reduces sperm count by causing inflammation in the brain. The findings of the study were published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

Scientists already know that the brain has a direct line to the reproductive organs affecting fertility and sperm count under stressful conditions. For example, emotional stress can affect a woman's menstrual cycle. However, this study connects the dots on how breathing polluted air can lower fertility.

"Our findings showed that the damage due to air pollution, at least to the sperm count, can be remedied by removing a single inflammation marker in the brains of mice, suggesting that we may be able to develop therapies that could prevent or reverse the damage by air pollution on fertility," said lead author of the study, Zhegang Ying, assistant professor of Medicine at UMSOM.



OUR RIVERS ARE GETTING WARMER

Rivers flowing from the Tibetan Plateau and the surrounding high Asian mountains which support one-third of the world's population has warmed by about 2° C, twice the amount of warming worldwide. That warming is precipitating more glacier melt, permafrost thaw while annual rainfall is also increasing, researchers note.

The scientists analyzed observational data of runoff and sediment fluxes from 28 headwater basins over the past six decades. "These findings have far-reaching implications for the region's hydropower, food and environmental security," the researchers observe. The findings also highlight the under-appreciated importance of sediment fluxes and have implications for potential changes in the global carbon cycle, they add.

The research, published in the journal *Science*, is led by the National University of Singapore and includes researchers from the University of Colorado Boulder and the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research.



LACK OF SLEEP AFFECTS YOUR WALK

A new study, by researchers at MIT and the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, reports that walking and specifically how well we can control our stride, or gait, can be affected by lack of sleep.

In experiments with student volunteers, the team found out that overall, the fewer sleep students got, the less control they had when walking during a treadmill test. For students who pulled an all-nighter before the test, this gait-control plummeted even lower. The findings were published in the journal, *Scientific Reports*.

"Scientifically, it wasn't clear that almost automatic activities like walking could be influenced by lack of sleep," says Hermann Krebs, a principal research scientist in MIT's Department of Mechanical Engineering. "We also find that compensating for sleep is an important strategy. For instance, for those who are chronically sleep-deprived, like shift workers, they might have better control over their gait if they inculcate regular sleep compensation in their lives."



INDIA STARE AT EXIT AFTER BEING WALLOPED BY NZ

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's superstar cricketers were pummelled on a second-straight Sunday as a disciplined New Zealand firmly pushed them towards the exit door with an easy eight-wicket victory in the ICC T20 World Cup here.

The defeat that puts India in serious danger of losing out on a semi-final berth also raises questions about outgoing T20 skipper Virat Kohli's abject failure to win an ICC tournament in four attempts as captain.

While Kohli is set to step down from T20 captaincy, this defeat puts his ODI leadership future also in doubt.

If Pakistan match was a humiliating experience, the encounter against New Zealand was embarrassing to say the least as a meagre target of 111 was chased down by Daryl Mitchell (49 off 35 balls) and skipper Kane Williamson (33 not out off 31 balls) in only 14.3 overs.

This was after India managed 110 for 7 in 20 overs in which they didn't effectively score runs in nine of those overs (54 dot balls).

Worse, they were just able to hit a single boundary between overs 8 and 15 when two spinners were in operation.

The equation for India now gets muddled up and only Afghanistan's victory over New Zealand can raise



hopes of an outside chance to qualify for the semi-finals.

That too if they win all their remaining matches against Afghanistan, Namibia and Scotland.

But for all practical purposes, Kohli's team, with its archaic version of T20 cricket, does not deserve a place in the last four.

New Zealand exposed the outfit's inadequacies, mostly poor mind-set and atrocious shot selection, something that was exploited to the hilt by Pakistan just a week back.

Post World T20, a lot of senior players may not be seen playing the shortest format as the one thing that this team swears by -- playing fearless cricket -- was nowhere to be seen.

It seemed like catching practice for the New Zealand team as most of the batters were out in the deep trying to force the pace and failing miserably. There were 54 dot balls, which meant that India didn't score any runs in nine of their 20 overs.

There were no demons in the

track and India's shoddy show with the willow was a consequence of poor team selection, not relying on form players and the failure to have any flexibility in the side, which lacked proper multi-skilled cricketers.

And true to 'Murphy's Law' that "anything that can go wrong will go wrong at the worst possible time", the team simply fell apart.

For example, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli both lost form at the same time. The middle-order, which was a worry, remained so and Hardik Pandya as a batter completely flopped on big days.

He did bowl an over but one didn't need to be an expert to understand that he is far from being bowling fit.

But the biggest of them all was how a country, whose players are considered masters of spin bowling, looked clueless against the slow stuff.

Just like the Pakistan game, the spinners -- left-arm orthodox Mitchell Santner (4-0-15-0) and leg-spinner Ish Sodhi (4-0-17-2) -- caught India by the scruff of their necks, giving away only 32 runs in eight overs.

India tweaked their batting order but it hardly paid any dividends as there was no firepower in the power play and 40 for 3 in eight overs could have only spelt doom.

Ishan Kishan tried to whip one off Trent Boult (4-0-20-3) but was caught at deep square leg boundary by

Santner.

KL Rahul (18) hit a couple of boundaries but not for a moment during his 16-ball stay at the crease, did he look confident enough to take on the bowlers.

Tim Southee (4-0-26-1), at the stroke of power play, exposed Rahul's problems against short ball as the pull-shot was collected by Santner, who got his second of the night.

Rohit Sharma (14) was gone when Ish Sodhi pitched one slightly on the shorter length, he tried to pull it in front of square but was caught by a tumbling Martin Guptill, who judged it well enough to make it 40 for three.

Kohli, who of late, is playing the role of an anchor, never got going and during his laboured presence at the wicket, only increased the pressure on the team.

Sodhi tossed one conventional leg-break outside the off-stump and the Indian captain, trying to hit against the turn, could only find Boult at the long-on boundary.

Pandya (23 off 24 balls), in his current form, is not a threat for any team and Rishabh Pant, after being kept quiet by the two Black Caps spinners, got one fast and straight from Milne, which breached his defence.

Once Pant was gone, any chance of winning the game was also thrown out of the Dubai International Stadium, and deep into the Arabian Sea.

Scoreboard

AFGHANISTAN (BATTING)	NAMIBIA (BOWLING)
Mohammad Shahzad (45)	Nicol Loftie-Eaton 4 (21, 2wkt)
Hazratullah Zazai (33)	Ruben Trumpelmann 4 (34, 2wkt)
Mohammad Nabi (32)	JJ Smit 4 (22, 1wkt)
Total 160 (5 wickets, 20 overs)	

NAMIBIA (BATTING)	AFGHANISTAN (BOWLING)
David Wiese (26)	Hamid Hassan 4 (9, 3wkt)
Nicol Loftie-Eaton (14)	Naveen-Ul-Haq 4 (26, 3wkt)
Ruben Trumpelmann(12)	Gilbadin Naib 4 (19, 2wkt)
Total 98 (9 wickets, 20 overs)	

Scoreboard

INDIA (BATTING)	NEW ZEALAND (BOWLING)
R. Jadeja (26)	T. Boult 4 (20, 3wkt)
Hardik Pandya (23)	I. Sodhi 4 (17, 2wkt)
K.L.Rahul (18)	T. Southee 4 (26, 1wkt)
Total 110 (7 wickets, 20 overs)	

NEW ZEALAND (BATTING)	INDIA (BOWLING)
Daryl Mitchell (49)	Jasprit Bumrah 4 (19, 2wkt)
Kane Williamson (33)	Mohammed Shami 1 (11, 0wkt)
Martin Guptill (20)	Shardul Thakur 1.3 (17, 0wkt)

Total 111 (2 wickets, 14.3 overs)

points table

Team	Matches	NRR	Points
England	3	+3.948	6
South Africa	3	+0.210	4
Australia	3	-0.627	4
Sri Lanka	3	-0.350	2
West Indies	3	-1.598	2
Bangladesh	3	-1.069	0

Team	Matches	NRR	Points
Pakistan	3	+0.638	6
Afghanistan	3	+3.097	4
New Zealand	2	+0.765	0
Namibia	2	-1.287	2
India	2	-0.609	0
Scotland	2	-3.562	0

Suryakumar Yadav rested from NZ game

PTI ■ DUBAI

Middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav was on Sunday rested from India's important T20 World Cup game against New Zealand after he "complained of back-spasm", leading to a forced change in the playing eleven.

"Suryakumar Yadav complained of back spasms. He has been advised rest by the BCCI Medical Team and has stayed

back at the team hotel," BCCI media team said in a statement.

Suryakumar's fitness issue opened the doors for Ishan Kishan's World Cup debut and perhaps also help India rejig their batting order with KL Rahul playing in the middle-order and bolstering the end-game. India have already made a few strategic and combination errors and Suryakumar's injury only helped them in course correction, albeit accidentally.

Having called week-long break helpful, Kohli terms it 'ridiculous'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian captain Virat Kohli on Sunday criticised the scheduling of his team's first two matches in the ICC T20 World Cup here, saying that spreading the games over more than a week was "ridiculous". India, who are taking on New Zealand in a vital match this evening,

"It's ridiculous, we are playing twice in 10 days. Too long a break...", Kohli said at the toss ahead of their match against New Zealand here.

"I think it works really well for us from all point of views. Knowing that we have played a full-fledged season already, we played the IPL, which is very high octane by itself in testing conditions here in the UAE, and then we come into the World Cup" Kohli had said.

"So for us, these big breaks are def-



initely something that's going to help us as a team to be in the prime physical condition that we need to be to play this high intensity tournament," he had gone on to add.

On Sunday, his view changed but he acknowledged that the long break helped his players recover from niggles and other minor injuries.

Shakib Al Hasan out due to hamstring injury

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been ruled out of the ongoing T20 World Cup after failing to recover from a hamstring injury, multiple reports stated on Sunday.

The 34-year-old veteran has been enduring an underwhelming tournament, having failed with the bat and claimed just two wickets so far.

"He couldn't recover from the hamstring injury he suffered against West Indies," ESPNcricinfo reported.

Bangladesh-based website 'bdcric-time' quoted an unnamed team source as saying that Shakib will head to the USA to be with his family.

"Shakib's injury did not heal. He is unlikely to play in the next two matches. Shakib will leave team hotel tomorrow or day after tomorrow's match.



er wicket later on. Hamid Hassan (3/9 from 4 overs) tormented the Namibia middle-order as he got the wickets of captain Gerhard Erasmus (12), top-scorer David Wiese (26) and JJ Smit (0). Namibia were 29 for three in 5.2 overs with Gulbadin Naib (2/19) chipping in with the wicket of Jan Loftie-Eaton (11).

Star spinner Rashid Khan (1/14 from 4 overs), who was introduced in the eighth over, got Zane Green out for 1 in his first delivery of the day as Namibia found themselves tottering.

Green missed the ball completely and he was cleaned up.

The asking rate was rising as Namibia needed 106 from the back end

of their innings and having lost four wickets, their woes continued with captain Erasmus getting out in the 11th over as a yorker from Hassan crashed on to his leg stump.

Earlier, Afghan played a nice little cameo to score 31 off 23 balls in his farewell game, which helped Afghanistan post 160 for five.

Afghanistan made a strong start, reaching to 50 for no loss at the end of power play, with the opening pair of Zazai and Shahzad sharing a 53-run stand in 6.4 overs.

But Afghanistan fizzled out after that as wickets fell at regular intervals and there was no substantial partnership. They recovered a bit towards the end, scoring 51 from the last five overs, thanks to Afghan.

The 33-year-old right-handed batter, who was earlier known as Asghar Stanikzai, has played six Tests, 114 ODIs and 75 T20Is after making debut in 2009.

We were hurt too much by Pakistan loss: Asghar Afghan

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

A teary-eyed Asghar Afghan said his decision to retire in the middle of the ongoing T20 World Cup was triggered by the pain that he and his teammates endured after Afghanistan's heart-breaking loss to Pakistan in their previous match.

Afghanistan suffered a five-wicket loss in their Super 12 match against Pakistan in which Asif Ali smashed four sixes in the penultimate over, with the team requiring 24 off the last two overs, to end the contest .

Less than 24 hours after the match, former skipper Afghan, who holds the record of most T20I wins as captain, announced



his decision to retire after the match against Namibia.

"In the last match, we were hurt too much, and that's why I decided to retire," Asghar, who has led Afghanistan in 115 matches, said wiping his tears during a chat after the end of the first innings.

Barca draws in Barjuan debut

AP ■ BARCELONA

New coach, similar disappointment for Barcelona.

Barcelona was held to a 1-1 draw at home by lowly Alavés in the debut of caretaker coach Sergi Barjuan, while Real Madrid and Sevilla both won on Saturday to leave the Catalan club even further behind in the Spanish league.

Vinicius Júnior took over the scoring duties from Karim Benzema by netting twice in Madrid's 2-1 win at 10-man Elche. Madrid, Sevilla and Real Sociedad are at the top of the standings. Sociedad can reclaim the outright lead on Sunday at home against regional rival Athletic Bilbao.

Barcelona was left in ninth and eight points adrift after four wins in 10 games.

Barjuan, a former Barcelona player who until Thursday was its reserve team coach, did not waver from the lineup and 4-3-3 forma-



tion used by Ronald Koeman, who was fired this week after one too many defeats.

The outcome was again overwhelming possession for Barcelona with very little to show for it.

Memphis Depay gave Barcelona the lead with a wonderful strike from outside the area in the 49th minute, only for Luis Rioja to dribble through the center of the hosts' painfully passive defense and equalize three min-

utes later.

Rioja dribbled past three Barcelona players before a quick passing combination with Joselu Mato fooled Gerard Pique and left Rioja alone to round Marc-Andre ter Stegen and roll the ball home.

Depay's shot off the post was the hosts' only clear chance for a winner.

"I had little time to work but I tried to organize my players in attack and defense and I think that went well, but when there is a negative result it is difficult to digest," Barjuan said. "There is a long way to go in the league. The only way to get back in it is by winning."

Unless Barcelona quickly finds a full-time coach, Barjuan could still be charge on Tuesday when Barcelona travels to Ukraine to face Dynamo Kyiv in a match that it needs to win to boost its chances of avoiding elimination from the Champions League group stage.

CSK felicitates Neeraj Chopra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Three-time Indian Premier League champions Chennai Super Kings on Sunday honoured Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra by presenting him Rs one crore in recognition of his historic feat at the Tokyo Games.

A cheque of Rs one crore on behalf of Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited was presented to the Olympic champion javelin thrower here.

CSK also presented a special jersey with the number 8758 as a mark of respect to Chopra, who joined Abhinav Bindra as only the second Indian individual gold medalist in the Olympics, a press release said.

"The entire nation is proud of Neeraj for his stupendous achievement. By becoming the first Indian to win a medal in track and field, he has set a benchmark," CSK CEO said.



"He is an inspiration for the next generation. 87.58 is a number that will forever be etched in Indian sporting history and it's an honour for us to present this special jersey to Neeraj.

After receiving the award and special jersey, the 23-year old Chopra said that the past two months have been an opportunity for him to experience new things.

Spurs knock off Bucks

AP ■ MILWAUKEE

Dejounte Murray had 23 points and nine assists, and the San Antonio Spurs pulled away in the final minutes for a 102-93 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks that snapped a four-game losing streak.

Derrick White added 17 points and Bryn Forbes scored 16 against his former team to help the Spurs (2-4) take down the defending NBA champions on the road.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee (3-3) with 28 points and 13 rebounds but was in foul trouble in the second half. Khris Middleton had 19 points for the Bucks, who lost their second straight home game.

Keldon Johnson's 3-pointer from the corner gave the Spurs a 92-85 lead



with 2:22 left, and Murray scored the next five San Antonio points to extend the margin to 97-87 with 1:12 remaining.

The Bucks made just 10 of 39 attempts from 3-point range and shot 40.4% overall (36 of 89).

San Antonio held a slim lead for much of the first half, but a 3-pointer from Middleton and a fast-break

dunk by George Hill allowed Milwaukee to tie the score at 34 with seven minutes left in the second quarter.

Milwaukee led 47-45 at halftime despite hitting just 18 of 44 field goals (40.9%) and going only 4 of 20 from 3-point distance. San Antonio made 18 of 50 field goals (36%) and was 5 of 18 on 3s.