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UN: ETHIOPIA'S WAR MARKED BY 'EXTREME BRUTALITY'

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Pak denies airspace to Srinagar-Sharjah flights

Pak allowed Modi's special VVIP flight to use its airspace

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A controversy erupted for allowing its airspace, Pakistan on Wednesday declined use of its airspace for flights from Jammu & Kashmir's Srinagar to United Arab Emirates' Sharjah. The move will affect the people of Jammu & Kashmir the most. According to officials, GoAir's Srinagar-Sharjah flight was going through Pakistan airspace till October 31.

Surprisingly, the denial of the permission comes at a time when the Pakistani Government is allowing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special VVIP flight to use its airspace. In Modi's recent visit to Italy for the G20 summit, the PM's flight flew over the Pakistani airspace and came back using the same route. In September, when Modi flew to Washington, his flight was allowed to use Pakistan's airspace.

Top sources said Pakistan



has refused its airspace use to Go First's Srinagar-Sharjah flight. "It has raised concerns over the use of their airspace. Matter reported to the concerned Ministries; MoCA (Ministry of Civil Aviation), MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) and MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) looking into it," sources said. Tour operators are apprehensive about future of only international air-route from Srinagar after Pakistan denied airspace for planes travelling to Sharjah.

This is first a violation of international norms — the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) First Freedom of the Air — as well as a burden on Kashmiris,

who are using the flight the most.

Flight tracking websites show this flight has been taking a longer route that avoids the Pakistani airspace. The flight over Pakistan used to take about 3 hours and 40 minutes.

The journey now takes nearly 40-50 minutes extra due to a longer route to stay clear of the neighbouring country's airspace as planes will have to fly via Udaipur, Ahmedabad and Oman due to the decision. The passengers will also have to spend more money as the journey is going to be more expensive.

Go First's W-1595/4095 flights are operating on Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday/Su

Continued on Page 2

day. This flight was to go from Srinagar to Sharjah on October 23, 24, 26, 28, 30 using Pakistani airspace and return from there.

On October 23, Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off the inaugural Srinagar-Sharjah flight from the Sheikh Ul-Alam international airport in Srinagar, reviving the direct airlink between the valley and the UAE after 11 years.

Calling the move "very unfortunate", National Conference leader and former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted, "Pakistan did the same this with the Air India Express flight from Srinagar to Dubai in 2009-2010. I had hoped that GoFirst airways being permitted to overfly Pak airspace was indicative of a thaw in relations but that wasn't to be."

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti slammed the Government and said flagging the flight off was only a "PR extravaganza without any groundwork". "Puzzling that GOI didn't even bother securing permission from Pakistan to use its airspace for international flights from Srinagar. Only PR extravaganza without any groundwork," she tweeted.

Continued on Page 2

Covaxin gets WHO nod

Approval brings recognition for Indian scientists



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In what could be seen as a major victory for India's journey in vaccination against Covid-19, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is now an internationally-approved vaccine against Covid-19. It can be administered to people above the age of 18 years. World Health Organization (WHO) has, however, not yet approved it for pregnant women.

The WHO's technical advisory panel gave nod for emergency use listing for 18 years and above. Covaxin is a vaccine completely "made in India", by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech and the Indian Council of Medical Research. The emergency listing got delayed last month as the technical advisory group sought some additional clarifications from Bharat Biotech for its final risk assessment. The technical advisory group met on Wednesday to take the final call and approved Covaxin for emergency use listing.

The technical advisory group is an independent advisory body that provides recommendations to WHO for approval of vaccines. The team met last October 26 and sought additional clarifications from

WHO and the world body has also announced it on its social media platform.

"WHO has granted emergency use listing (EUL) to #COVAXIN® (developed by Bharat Biotech), adding to a growing portfolio of vaccines validated by WHO for the prevention of #COVID19. The Technical Advisory Group, convened by WHO and made up of regulatory experts from around the world, has determined that the #Covaxin vaccine meets WHO standards for safety and efficacy in pregnancy; studies in pregnant women are planned, including a pregnancy substudy and a pregnancy registry," WHO tweeted.

Continued on Page 2

100 cr not enough, roll out doorstep Covid jab drive, Modi urges States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



PM Narendra Modi holds the review meeting with districts having low vaccination coverage

PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday stressed on the need for Covid-19 vaccination drive to be taken door-to-door now and stressed the importance of completing the inoculation by taking the second dose.

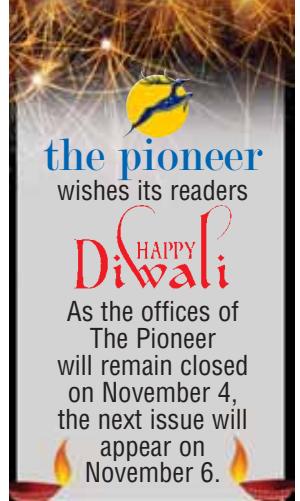
Cautioning against any laxity after surpassing the milestone of 1 billion vaccine doses, Modi said "a new crisis can come" and quoted a saying to assert that one should not underestimate "diseases and enemies as they should be fought till the very end". He

Modi made the remarks as he interacted with the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, Uddhav Thackeray and Bhupesh Baghel and district magistrates of over 40 districts spread across Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and other States with districts having low vaccination coverage. Talking about the issue of rumours about Covid vaccination, he said awareness is the only solution and asked the State officials to take help from religious leaders in this regard.

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Devotees witness laser show on the bank of Sarayu River during Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Wednesday



Massive cut in fuel prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Buckling under pressure, the Government on Wednesday cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by a record ₹5 and ₹10 per litre to help bring down rates from their highest-ever levels.

The excise duty reduction is effective from November 4 when petrol price will come down from ₹110.04 a litre in Delhi to ₹105.04. Diesel rate will be reduced from ₹98.42 per litre to ₹88.42.

"Government of India has taken a significant decision of reducing Central Excise Duty on petrol and diesel by ₹5 and ₹10 (per litre) respectively from tomorrow. Prices of petrol and diesel will thus come down accordingly," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

This is the highest-ever reduction in excise duty and rolls back a part of the ₹13 and ₹16 per litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel between March and May 2020.

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Dilli Bazaar to put shops in Capital on global map

To promote their products all over world



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday announced that the city Government was preparing a digital portal named "Dilli Bazaar" for businessmen, industrialists, professionals, small shopkeepers through which they would be able to promote their products all over the world.

Interestingly, Delhi's entire market will be available on this portal as this step will also help to boost the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), economic activity, employment, tax revenue of the national Capital and will also help new startup companies.

Dilli Bazaar will support

both Direct-To-Consumer and Business-To-Business ventures. As each and every shop of Delhi will also get online identity, global exposure on the portal, consumer can interact virtually and get the feel of the Khan Market, Lajpat Nagar, Sarojini and other market on the platform.

"The entire Delhi Cabinet is going to celebrate Dilli Ki Diwali tomorrow at 7 pm. When all the people of Delhi together pray for the well-being and prosperity of our family then the atmosphere will be filled with positivity and peace. I invite everyone to join us in this initiative," Kejriwal said.

"Dilli Bazaar" a one of a kind global initiative, will bring

countless opportunities ahead for even the smallest ventures. These startups will get a great push in their ventures with exposure to a marketplace like such. I am of the view that this is one of a kind initiative and there's no such avenue available across the world yet. All the services and products of Delhi would be listed on the 'Dilli Bazaar' portal and no matter where the person is sitting they will be able to buy it, Kejriwal said, adding, "Covid still not over, dengue on the rise; request people to practice utmost care and prevention."

As Delhi is consumers' top destination in terms providing all items, one can search their favorite product on Dilli Bazaar sitting in America or anywhere in the world while sitting at home.

"Dilli Bazaar" a one of a kind global initiative, will bring

the party's performance in the bypolls in the States like West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan where it did not perform to the expectations and is likely to affect major changes in these State units.

The bypoll defeats in West Bengal and Karnataka will also come for a detailed review in the National Executive meeting slated November 7 in the national Capital.

The party would also look into "factional fights" which may have resulted in the loss of the BJP candidates in some states, sources said in an oblique reference to Rajasthan.

The bypoll lost the two bypolls in Rajasthan, running third and fourth in the Dhariawad and Vallabhnagar seats.

The differences between former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and "dissidence" from within his own party.

The stunning comeback of the Congress in Himachal Pradesh, a home State of BJP president JP Nadda, has put question mark on the leadership of Chief Minister Jairam Thakur who has blamed "price rise" for the defeat instead of "owning-up" the bypoll reverses in these seats.

The sweep of the Congress that won three Assembly and the Lok Sabha Mandi seat in the bypolls in Himachal Pradesh has also given a new life to the Congress.

Meanwhile, Army Chief General MM Naravane arrived in Jammu on Wednesday to review the operation readiness of the troops.

Like previous years, the Prime Minister will light earthen lamps with the troops and then distribute sweets amongst them besides addressing them.

In the previous years, Modi shared the festivities with the troops in Uttarakhand and Jammu region. The Prime Minister, who lit diyas with Army soldiers at the Longewala border in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer last year, will visit Jammu and Kashmir this time and is likely to head to Nowshera, Rajori



went on to strengthen hands of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot "dissidence" from within his own party.

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LAKIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

2 more held for lynching

Lakimpur Kehri: The UP police SIT investigating the Lakimpur Kheri violence leading to the death of eight people, including four farmers, on Wednesday arrested two more men for their alleged roles in killing four others.

Identified as Bichala Farm resident Ranjit Singh and Naurangabad Farm resident Avtar Singh alias Nikku, the two were arrested for allegedly lynching two BJP workers, a driver and a local journalist after the death of four farmers, allegedly run over by an SUV in the BJP supporters' convoy on October 3.

The two were arrested under a second FIR registered in the Tikonia police station of the district over the lynching. Numbering 220/2021, the second FIR was registered under

sections 147, 323, 324, 336 and 302 of IPC, the district Crime Branch said in a press release.

A total of four persons have been arrested so far under the second FIR filed in Tikonia Kotwali police station by one Sumit Jaiswal.

Earlier, Vichitra Singh and Gurvinder Singh had been arrested and sent to jail in this case, the press release said. Senior Public Prosecutor SP Yadav said accused Ranjit Singh and Avtar Singh were produced before the competent court, which sent them to judicial custody.

Meanwhile, District and Sessions Judge Mukesh Mishra deferred till November 15 the hearing on the bail applications of Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish and two others in the case.

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The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1 Name of work	Improvement and Beautification of approaches of Delhi area for 6 km by providing Green Wire Mesh fencing and Plantation in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/III.
2 Approx cost of work	Rs. 2,99,84,873/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Nine Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three Only)
3 Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 3,00,00/- (Rupees Three Lakh Only)
4 Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5 Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	26.11.2021 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E - Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/18/2021-22/W-3 Dated -03.11.2021 2537/2021

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Phone No. 292210 Address: epwddata@mp.nic.in

क्रमांक/2018-टेंडर/2021-22 दिनांक 01.11.2021

निविदा सूचना

निमानुसार कार्य की निविदा NIT No 11/2021-22/Date, Date 01.11.2021 वेबसाइट

<https://ntptenders.gov.in> पर ऑनलाईन आर्मेंट की जाती है।

क्र. टेप्टर आई डी कार्य का नाम लागत गोपनीय (लाख में) अपार्न राशि निविदा राशि सम्बाधि

1 2021_PWDRB दीवाहां पटी पर गोपनीय (पैंचवा आप्रवण) लाभ 216.21 21620.00 15000.00 4 मह वर्षांनुसार सहित

166587_1 निर्माणकरण कार्य (पैंचवा आप्रवण) लाभ

1. निविदा ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक 12.11.2021 समय 17.30 तक

2. समस्त दस्तावेज़ ऑनलाईन ही मायौ किये जावेंगे। निविदा प्रतिस्पर्श में सफल ठेकेदार को ऑनलाईन दस्तावेज़ के साथ प्रस्तुत मूल साथ पत्र अनुबंध के समय देना अनिवार्य होगा।

3. निविदा मुख्य अधिकारी उत्तर परकेत्र लोक निर्माण विभाग व्यालियर में दिनांक 15.11.2021 को खोली जावेगी अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यालय यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग दित्या (म.प्र.)

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3. निविदा मुख्य अधिकारी उत्तर परकेत्र लोक निर्माण विभाग व्यालियर में दिनांक 15.11.2021 को खोली जावेगी अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

क्र. टेप्टर आई डी कार्य का नाम लागत गोपनीय (लाख में) अपार्न राशि निविदा राशि सम्बाधि

1 2021_PWDRB दीवाहां पटी पर गोपनीय (पैंचवा आप्रवण) लाभ 216.21 21620.00 15000.00 4 मह वर्षांनुसार सहित

166587_1 निर्माणकरण कार्य (पैंचवा आप्रवण) लाभ

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High-octane airborne exercise in eastern Ladakh ends

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

The high voltage and complex airborne insertion exercise at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh ended on Wednesday after validating joint drills for capture of designated targets. More than 3,000 troops took part in the exercise to familiarise themselves with the rugged terrain and harsh weather conditions.

The exercise, which commenced on Monday, saw the Agra based elite paratroopers unit Shatrujeet Brigade, also

achieved multi-domain convergence when the airborne troops utilized attack helicopters for precision engagement and destruction of enemy forces, sources said here.

"Pre-acclimatised troops, after insertion to a Drop Zone located in super high altitude, validated joint drills for capture of designated objectives. Multi Domain convergence was achieved during the exercise when Airborne troops utilised Attack Helicopters for precision engagement and destruction of enemy forces," they said.

The exercise also saw the participation of Special Forces

commandos

The drill came at a time when the stand-offs persist at some friction points along the LAC. The Shatrujeet Brigade (nearly 3,000 troops) conducted an Airborne insertion along the Northern Borders in Eastern Ladakh, sources said here on Monday.

"Pre-acclimatised troops, after insertion to a Drop Zone located in super high altitude, validated joint drills for capture of designated objectives. Multi Domain convergence was achieved during the exercise when Airborne troops utilised Attack Helicopters for precision engagement and destruction of enemy forces," they said.

The exercise also saw the participation of Special Forces

The exercise also involved conduct of oxygen combat free fall jumps and integrated battle drills by airborne forces comprising highly skilled paratroopers and special forces commandos, mechanised columns and attack helicopters, validating capabilities and seamless integration.

The exercise comes at a time when more than 50,000 troops each of India and China are deployed in front of the LAC in Ladakh since the face-offs started in May last year.

Not willing to take any chances, the two sides remained deployed throughout the harsh winters there last year and will do so this winter too, sources said.

Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited the front posts at the LAC in October to review the operational preparedness during the winter months. IAF chief V R Chaudhari also visited the zone some weeks back for the same purpose.

Highlighting the degree of difficulty, sources said the drop was particularly challenging due to the low temperatures up to minus 20 degrees and rarefied atmosphere in super high altitude terrain.

China recently carried out

a military drill in the Tibetan plateau on its side of the LAC in Ladakh to test the readiness of its forces. In addition, it has activated many helipads close to the LAC in that area for quick deployment in case of any threat.

The two countries have held 13 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks since last year when the LAC flared up. India has all along reiterated that complete disengagement from all the friction points is the prerequisite for normalizing ties between the two countries.

The 13th round held in early October did not yield any positive results and the two countries will shortly have another round of diplomatic level talks to find ways for early withdrawal of troops. These talks will be held between the officials of the two foreign ministries under the aegis of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China border affairs (WMCC).

DRDO, IAF carry out successful flight tests of desi smart anti-airfield weapon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian scientists on Wednesday successfully flight tested the indigenously designed and developed smart anti-airfield weapon. The test was conducted jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the IAF.

Smart anti airfield weapon has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in coordination with other DRDO Laboratories and extensive support from IAF Quality and design certification agencies have contributed significantly in its development and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru has carried out weapon integration with the aircraft.

Electro optical configuration of the system is equipped with Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) Seeker technology enhancing the precision strike capability of the weapon. In both the tests, the intended target was hit with high accuracy.

The system is designed for a maximum range 100 kilometres. The newly adapted launcher ensured smooth release and ejection of the weapon. Advanced guidance and navigation algorithms, software performed as per the mission requirements. The telemetry and tracking systems captured all mission events throughout the flight. All the mission objectives were achieved.

Chandan ranges at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on Wednesday and earlier on October 28.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the synergistic efforts of DRDO, IAF and the teams associated with the mission. Congratulating the teams, Chairman of DRDO G Satheesh Reddy said the performance and reliability of the weapon has been proved.

IAF promotes Balakot strike hero Abhinandan to Group Captain rank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who became a household name in 2019 for his role in defending Indian airspace in Jammu region, was promoted to the next rank of Group Captain recently. He was also awarded the Shaurya Chakra, the third highest peacetime gallantry medal some time back.

During the chase, Abhinandan's jet was shot down by Pakistanis and he was captured after he ejected from his fighter jet. He returned to India after two days.

His unit 51 Squadron received a unit citation for its role in thwarting the Pakistan Air Force's aerial attack on February 27, 2019. India had carried out the strikes in response to a JeM attack on a CRPF convoy.

counter strike. It tried to attack some military bases in Rajouri region and Wing Commander Abhinandan in his MIG-21 engaged the Pakistani F-16 jet and chased them away after a dog fight.

A day after the IAF carried air strikes to destroy terrorist training camps in Balakot, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) in February 2019, the Pakistan Air Force on February 27 launched

air strikes to destroy terrorist training camps in Balakot, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) in February 2019, the Pakistan Air Force on February 27 launched

Sentences him to 7 years' rigorous imprisonment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In Additional Special Court, Chennai, on Wednesday convicted K Liakath Ali in a money laundering case and sentenced him to undergo seven years rigorous impris-

onment and a fine of Rs 1 crore, the ED said on Wednesday.

The court also ordered him to undergo imprisonment for one more year in case of default.

The court further ordered the confiscation of Rs

1,75,49,253 available with ED in the form of Fixed deposit, which was provisionally attached by ED and confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority.

The Enforcement Directorate initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR No. 63/2017 dated March 6, 2017 registered by the Central Crime Branch-I (CCB-I), Chennai.

"The convicted person is a part of the gang of people

operating with complete anonymity in the matter of sending the Proceeds of Crime under the guise of permissible merchandise imports, without making corresponding imports into the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA), by using the Forged Import Documents like Bills of Entry and projecting the same as genuine," the Enforcement Directorate said in a statement.

Ali was arrested on April 3, 2017 for making Foreign Outward Remittance of USD 2,786,300.00 equivalent Rs 18,66,54,241 through Indian Bank, Thousand Light Branch, Chennai for his role of opening current account in the name and style of Galaxy Impex by submitting forged identity documents in the assumed name of "Waseem Liakath Ali"; without disclosing the beneficial owner either within the country or

outside the country and end-use in the recipient nation, it said.

The Prosecution Complaint was filed on June 9, 2017 and the court framed the charges in December, 2019. The Digital Evidence collected during the investigation is adduced as admissible evidence. He was granted bail only in the month of January, 2020, about to meet the default bail, it added.

Bangladeshi held for radicalising Muslim Youths in West Bengal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted a search operation at Panchghara in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district and arrested a Bangladeshi national for his alleged involvement in radicalising vulnerable Muslim youths online and their recruitment by Jamat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) / Al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

On Tuesday, the NIA conducted a search and arrested Bangladeshi national Md. Abdul Mannan Bachti alias of Bangila Chadshi, Gournadi, Barisal, Bangladesh, present resident of Chhoto Masjid, Panchghara, South 24



Parganas, West Bengal, the NIA said.

The case relates to conspiracy of online radicalisation and recruitment of vulnerable Muslim youth by JMB/AQIS in India and Bangladesh. NIA had registered the case on August 6 this year. Till now five accused have been arrested in this case, it said.

"The search led to recovery of electronic devices, fake Indian Voter ID cards, Aadhaar Cards and other incriminating documents for illegal acquisition of Indian identity by Bangladeshi nationals," the agency said in a statement.

The arrested accused was involved in arranging fake Indian identity documents for the terrorists of JMB who had illegally entered into India. Further investigation in the case continues, officials said.

Rahul slams Modi Govt over price rise amid Diwali celebrations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday hit out at the Centre over price rise amid Diwali celebrations and said he wished that the Modi government had a sensitive heart for the people. He said be it the business people or farmers, all are now victims of Modi governments bad policies. "Repair economy, save lives," said the Congress leader.

Rahul also slammed the Centre over price rise amid Diwali celebrations and said he wished that the Modi government had a sensitive heart for the people. "It is Diwali. Prices are at their peak. It's not a matter of sarcasm. I wish the Modi government had a sensitive heart for the public," Rahul Gandhi said in a statement.

Rahul hit out at the Union government over reports that claimed more businesspersons died by suicide from farmers in 2020, saying both were victims of the dispensation's "bad policies". Taking to Twitter, he tagged a report which cited National Crime Records Bureau data to claim that at least 11,716 Indian businesspeople died by suicide in 2020, more than the farm suicide cases which numbered 10,677.

"Business people or farmers- all victims of GOI's

(Government of India's) bad policies. Repair economy. Save lives," Rahul tweeted.

Rahul and Congress have been criticising the Union government's handling of the economy and has been hitting out at it over the condition of MSMEs and other businesses. The opposition party has accused the government of extortion in the name of taxes on petrol and diesel. It has also charged the government with "profiteering" from fuel tax and "fleecing" the common people.

The Congress has announced to organise a massive agitation against the rise in petrol and diesel prices from November 14 till November 29. "We are going to have continuous agitation against rise in petrol and diesel prices, massive campaigns from November 14 till November

29," Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said in a statement.

The protest will witness events like 'Padayatra' being taken out by the Congress leaders in their respective areas. During these 15 days- one week entire Cong committees will also do 'Padayatra' throughout the country in their respective areas.

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram also attacked the central government over the increase in fuel prices and said that the taxes should be reduced as suggested by the Reserve Bank of India. "It's only the greed of the government which has given rise to petrol and diesel prices. That is why RBI says pump prices deserve lower taxation. RBI is repeatedly telling the government that pump prices must be reduced," Chidambaram said.

The Congress has announced to organise a massive agitation against the rise in petrol and diesel prices, massive campaigns from November 14 till November

Payment of sugarcane arrears to farmers to be examined

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs related Parliamentary Standing Committee has identified 20 subjects for examination, including payment of sugarcane arrears to sugarcane farmers, functioning of warehousing development and regulatory Authority, Quality Control Cells, food subsidy and its utilisation and edible oils.

Prices of edible oil have witnessed gradual rise in the last few months and the Government had to face flak from various quarters on account of this. Government has also taken multiple initiatives to stem the spike in prices.

Moreso, there will be many other issues from the department of Consumer Affairs including programmes for consumer protection, reg-

ulation of packaged commodities, problem of supply and distribution of adulterated milk and measures taken to check it, mechanism of price monitoring system and many others.

Similarly, the Parliamentary standing committee on Energy has selected subjects like energy security in India, energy conservation, efficiency and audit, electrification of Rural India - role of PFC Limited and REC Limited in ensuring sustainability and reliability and future prospects of thermal power plants in the light of renewable energy Target of 450 GW for examination.

Besides, the panel will also examine performance review of major Hydro projects, promotion of electric vehicles in India, review of Power Tariff policy and other issues.

The parliamentary panel will also take up issues from the ministry of New and Renewable Energy including roadmap for achievement of 450 GW renewable energy target, national solar mission, wind energy, bio-energy and waste to energy, enhancing domestic manufacturing capacity in renewable energy sector, integration of renewable energy into the national grid and many others.



Modi, who will be on a one-day visit to Uttarakhand has a line of activities for the day. He will begin the day by unveiling the statue of Sri Adi Guru Shankaracharya in Kedarnath. The samadhi of Shankaracharya was damaged in 2013.

PM Modi will also lay the

foundation stones for multiple projects in the hill state. Apart from that, his visit will also mark the completion of the reconstruction works in Kedarpuri and the beginning of the second phase.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami along with cabinet ministers Harak Singh Rawat, Subodh Uniyal, and others took stock of the preparation at the temple. Reportedly, he also tried pacifying the protesting priests at Kedarnath, who have been demanding the dissolution of the Char Dham Devasthanam Board and earlier stopped former Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat from entering Kedarnath.

In another trade day by the CAIT, around 20-25 tonnes of gold jewellery were sold across the country on August 6 this year. Till now five accused have been arrested in this case, it said.

The arrested accused was involved in arranging fake Indian identity documents for the terrorists of JMB who had illegally entered into India. Further investigation in the case continues, officials said.

CBI registers FIR against MES engineer, ex-staffers for illegalities in recruitment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The agency on Wednesday conducted searches at Pune (Maharashtra), Porbandar (Gujarat) and New Delhi

led to recovery of incriminating documents and other documents pertaining to investment made in movable/immovable properties.

Those accused in the case are Col. Arvind Parashar, then CWE, MES (Jhansi), Lt. Col. RR Negi, then DCWE, MES (Jhansi), Lt. Col. AK Singh, then DCWE, MES (Jhansi), Lt. Col. DS Rawat and then Garrison Engineer, MES (Gwalior) besides unknown public servants and unknown persons.

New Delhi: Preparations at the Kedarnath temple in Uttarakhand are underway as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting the holy site on November 5, Friday. Prior to that, PM Modi will be spending the Diwali day (November 4) with the armed forces in J&K's Rajouri. In 2020 as well, the Prime Minister celebrated Diwali with jawans, in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer.

PM Modi's visit to Kedarnath comes days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid a visit to Uttarakhand. The PM will offer prayers at the temple. He will unveil the samadhi of Sri Adi Shankaracharya and his statue.

As per the ground report of Republic TV, the temple is

heavily decked up ahead of the Prime Minister's visit and preparations are underway for welcoming him. Apart from that, thousands of devotees were seen visiting the holy site. Apart from this, security arrangements have also been tightened up ahead of the PM's visit.

Meanwhile, visuals show a colourful sight from Kedarnath which will shut its door from November 6 after which no one will be allowed to enter the temple. His visit holds major prominence as Uttarakhand will soon witness Assembly elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate infrastructure projects in Uttarakhand Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also lay the

foundation stones for multiple projects in the hill state. Apart from that, his visit will also mark the completion of the reconstruction works in Kedarpuri and the beginning of the second phase.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami along with cabinet ministers Harak Singh Rawat, Subodh Uniyal, and others took stock of the preparation at the temple. Reportedly, he also tried pacifying the protesting priests at Kedarnath, who have been demanding the dissolution of the Char Dham Devasthanam Board and earlier stopped former Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat from entering Kedarnath.

Dhanteras, Diwali to boost gold sale, jewellery business

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Riding on the bumper sale of gold jewellery on Dhanteras, Diwali will have a business of over Rs one lakh crore, traders have estimated.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) also estimated that by the end of this year, there will be an infusion of about three lakh crore by way of spending by consumers.

According to Praveen Khandelwal, Secretary General

of CAIT, all businesses during Diwali are expected to cross over Rs one lakh crore this year. By December end, it may cross over Rs three lakh crore after the recovery of economy and people started spending after two years of COVID fatigue. "Bazaars are crowded and packed. Petrol and diesel sales have crossed pre covid level," he added.

According to an estimate, the packaging business this

Dhanteras, Diwali to boost gold sale, jewellery business received robust growth. According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) the sale of gold on Dhanteras across the country this year was about 50

SEC likely to give nod to polls in Kolkata, Howrah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Armed with landslide wins in the Bengal Assembly by-elections that saw the principal Opposition BJP literally swept away in many areas a doubly confident Trinamool Congress Government has prodded the State Election Commission into announcing the elections for civic bodies — Kolkata and Howrah to begin with.

Elections to about 110 municipal boards have been pending for the past about a year or so.

Replies to a letter from the State Government the SEC has agreed to hold elections to Kolkata and Howrah municipal corporations on December 19, sources said adding notification to this effect would be out after Kali Puja-Dipawali.

The Commission is exploring the possibility of holding elections to Rajarhat-Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation during this period, sources said adding "everything would depend upon the availability of adequate security forces."

Subsequent to these

Kolkata and Howrah polls the SEC would hold elections to remaining 108 municipal boards — including Siliguri and Asansol Corporations — of the State sources said adding elections to these Boards could be held sometime after the Christmas holidays.

Holding municipal elections means carrying the democratic process to the lowest level ... it strengthens the democratic institution towards which the Mamata Banerjee Government has been working for the past several years," senior Trinamool Congress MP Saugat Roy said.

"The TMC has never looked as confident ... even in 2011 or 2016 ... as it looks today after winning the seven elections in the span of past one month or so ..." said BN Majumdar political analyst.

Bengal Minister and Kolkata Mayor (presently administrator) Firhad Hakim said his "party is fully prepared to fight the elections." When asked as to why the polls were not conducted before the Assembly elections, Hakim said "the TMC under Mamata

Banerjee had never sighed away from elections ... it was because of the pandemic situation that SEC postponed the polls ... now the elections are a possibility because the situation is under control."

Meanwhile, in a related development the TMC has decided to contest all the 51 seats in the coming Agartala Municipal Corporation elections.

According to sources the party which aspires to wrest Tripura from the BJP wants to test the waters before taking the final plunge... Hence its decision to take part in the civic polls in that State.

In a move to woo the women voters the TMC is likely to field 50 percent women candidates in Tripura civic elections, party sources said adding "it will mark the beginning of the end of the BJP in Tripura as the BJP leaders are also in touch with us."

The TMC leader and MP who has been shuttling between Agartala and Kolkata said "even the brother of a BJP MLA will figure in the TMC list of candidates in the Agartala municipal polls."

Adopt one house to celebrate Diwali, appeals Yogi

LUCKNOW :

Wishing the people of the State on the occasion of Diwali, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed to the public representatives, Government employees and even police to adopt one house each and contribute towards lighting diyas and distributing sweets to them.

"We have 16.5 lakh Government employees and four lakh police personnel in the state. It is an appeal to all of them to adopt a family on this occasion and celebrate their Diwali with them," the chief minister said in a statement issued here on Wednesday.

He further said: "I appeal to all public representatives in the state who are more than eight lakh in number to adopt one house each and contribute towards lighting diyas and distributing sweets to them. I appeal to them to give Diwali gifts to the children in these families."

While talking about this year's Deepotsava in Ayodhya, the Chief Minister said Deepotsava in Ayodhya had become an important event of the nation. He said this year over nine lakh diyas were lit there.

"This nine lakh represents the houses where people started residing under PM Awas Yojana (Urban). We have provided houses to 43 lakh people so far in rural and urban schemes in UP," he said.



No properties of Ajit Pawar attached by IT Dept: Dy CM's lawyer

TN RAGHUNATH ■ MUMBAI

A day after the Income Tax (IT) department "attached" ₹1,000 crore worth property linked to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar and his family, his lawyer Adv Prashant Patil on Wednesday denied the news reports that any of the properties linked to Pawar had either been attached or had his client received notice to that effect.

In a statement issued to the media, Adv Patil condemned the media reports and said: "Neither has the IT department attached any of the properties belonging to my client Ajit Pawar nor has he received any notice to that effect. The reports to that effect that appeared in the media are baseless, inconsistent with facts and motivated by slander."

"The IT department has sought certain clarifications from my client Ajit Pawar. We will provide necessary information to the IT department. We will take necessary legal measures to deal with the clarification sought by the department concerned," Adv Patil said.

Adv Patil appealed to the media to verify facts before publishing the news reports and not to fall prey for the false propaganda.

In a tweet put out on Tuesday, former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya, who has been

targeting the leaders of MVA on their unaccounted assets, had tweeted: "Income Tax authorities attached the properties of Ajit Pawar: 1. Jarandeshwar sugar factory (₹600 crore), 2. South Delhi flat (₹20 crores) 3. Nirmal office of Parth pawar (₹25 crore 4. Goa Resort 'Nilaya' (₹250 crore))."

NCP chief spokesperson and state minority affairs minister Nawab Malik had slammed Somaiya by saying that it was wrong to link relatives' properties with that of Pawar. "All this is being done to target the MVA government and its leaders," he said.

Dubbing the IT action as "politically motivated", NCP chief Sharad Pawar's grand-nephew and MLA Rohit Pawar said that his uncle had already clarified last month in detail on the issue.

The IT action had come on the heels of its officials raiding a group of middlemen and certain individuals some of whom are linked to Ajitdada—as Ajit Pawar is known in the state political circles.

In the raids on 25 residential and 15 official premises that began on September 23 and continued till October 7, the IT officials had found unaccounted transactions worth Rs 184 crore. Also being searched during the raids were permanent suites booked in a five-star hotel in south Mumbai.

Assam CM assures doctors of immediate steps to fulfil their demands

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday directed authorities of the health and family welfare department to take immediate steps for implementing time-scale promotion of serving doctors and filling up vacancies of medical practitioners in hospitals and health centres of the state. At a meeting with a delegation of Assam Medical Service Association (AMSA) here, the chief minister gave an assurance that the government will take a series of initiatives for the immediate fulfilment of their demands such as timely promotion, pay-parity, medical allowance, and filling up vacancies.

AMSA had launched a three-day Out Patient Department (OPD) boycott programme from November 1 demanding the fulfilment of various issues, including promotion and security of physicians and other medical staff.

Sarma directed Health and Family Welfare department's Principal Secretary Anurag Goel to work on cadre review of doctors, promotions and disparity in pay so that a decision can be taken very soon.

PTI

Covaxin shelf life now extended up to 12 months

New Delhi: Vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech on Wednesday said the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved the extension of shelf life of its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin up to 12 months from the date of manufacture.

Currently, the shelf life of the vaccine is 6 months from the date of manufacture. "This approval is based on the availability of additional stability data, which was submitted to CDSCO," the company said in a statement here.

Bharat Biotech had earlier this year written to the country's drug regulator seeking an extension of the shelf-life of its vaccine to 24 months. The Hyderabad-based firm said that it submitted necessary real-time stability data of Covaxin to the drug regulator to substantiate its application.

Currently, Covaxin has an approved shelf-life of six months subject to its storage at two to eight degrees celsius.

Covaxin has demonstrated 77.8 per cent effectiveness against symptomatic Covid-19 and 65.2 per cent protection against the new Delta variant. Bharat Biotech said that it concluded the final analysis of Covaxin efficacy from Phase 3 trials.

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and AstraZeneca and Serum Institute's Covishield are the two widely used vaccines in India.



PTI

NIA arrests suspected JMB terrorist in Bengal

Kolkata: Sleuths of the National Investigation Agency have arrested a suspected terrorist of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, an official said on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of NIA personnel conducted a search operation in Subhasgram area and apprehended the Bangladeshi national on Tuesday.

The man entered India illegally around two years ago and he was picked up ahead of Kali Puja and Diwali festivals to be celebrated on Thursday.

"He has been involved in a fake identity card racket and has helped some locals get such bogus documents. He has visited several places in the country before he started residing in South 24 Parganas," the official told PTI.

Fake voter and Aadhaar cards and several documents related to the terror group

were seized from the possession of the man, identified as Abdul Mannan, who is being interrogated.

The suspected JMB member used forged documents to get a rented accommodation in Subhasgram area and was staying there for the past few months, the official said.

The suspected JMB ultra, identified as Abdul Mannan, was remanded to NIA custody till November 8 by a special court in Kolkata on Wednesday.

He had sneaked into India from Bangladesh two years ago, NIA counsel Shyamal Ghosh submitted before the special court judge, seeking his custody for interrogation.

The accused has links with the four JMB terror operatives arrested in July from Haridevpur area in the southern outskirts of Kolkata, Ghosh told the court.

PTI

Siddaramaiah terms Janasevaka scheme launched by CM Bommai a gimmick

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday termed the Janasevaka scheme of the State Government delivering 58 services including ration at the doorstep, a gimmick.

"Supplying ration is the primary duty of the Government. What they (Government) are doing is a drama, a gimmick," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

He was referring to the 'Janasevaka' scheme launched in Bengaluru by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai offering 58 services at the doorsteps of citizens. Bommai had said that the same would be implemented across Karnataka from January 26 onwards.

He also sought to know

what the BJP Government was giving to the public after stopping the previous Congress government's populist programmes.

"They (BJP) reduced the rice quantity from seven kilograms to five kilograms to each individual a month under Anna Bhagya scheme.

They closed Indira Canteens, stopped Shoe Bhagya, Shala Bhagya, Krish Bhagya and Vidyasiri scholarships. So what are they giving to the public?" Siddaramaiah asked.

Siddaramaiah again challenged Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to come to a common platform for debate with him on the achievements of the government.

He said, "I had

Efforts to check dengue spread scaled up across Jammu division

Jammu: With dengue cases in Jammu & Kashmir nearing the 1,000 mark, the authorities in Jammu region have scaled up efforts to check its spread, officials said on Wednesday.

A total of 993 cases of dengue have been reported in the Union Territory with Jammu (639 cases), Kathua (172) and Samba (87) districts in Jammu Division accounting for majority of the cases till Tuesday, the officials said.

"The office of the State Malariaologist in Jammu has scaled up preventive activities such as vector-control activities (bio-larvicide fish, spraying and fogging) and information education and communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC) activities," an official spokesman said.

"On-the-spot visit was conducted to the areas having a high number of reported cases. Radio talks to increase awareness among the masses regarding preventive measures have been aired periodically by senior officers of the department," the spokesman said.

In collaboration with the Jammu Municipal

Corporation (JMC), he said, thermal fogging has been conducted to kill adult mosquitoes in Jammu urban areas.

Similar activities were carried out in Samba, Kathua and Udhampur districts, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said 10 sentinel surveillance hospitals with diagnostic facilities are functional to treat dengue patients.

"Keeping in view the upsurge of cases, 155 beds have been dedicated for dengue patients at Government Medical College (GMC) in Jammu and all district hospitals and new GMCs in Doda, Kathua and Rajouri," the spokesman said.

UP: Man gets life term for raping minor



Firozabad (UP): A POCSO court here has sentenced a man to life imprisonment in connection with the rape of a minor girl.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on the accused, identified as Monu.

Advocate of the prosecution side, Kamal Singh, on Wednesday said that on June 8, 2019, a man had lodged a complaint with police that his five-year-old daughter was raped by the son of his landlord.

Around 3.00 pm, the girl's family came to know that she was missing. As the search was initiated to trace her, she was found in the room of the landlord's son Monu, who was caught red-handed raping her.

Subsequently, the accused was sent to jail, and a case was registered against him. Singh said that Judge POCSO Arvind Kumar Yadav on Tuesday held Monu guilty, and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

PTI

Bypoll results clear indication of change as people are fed up with BJP rule: J&K Cong

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir unit of the Congress on Wednesday claimed that the bypoll results in Himachal Pradesh and other states are a clear indication of change as people are fed up with the BJP-led Government at the Centre.

The BJP and its allies won 14 assembly seats on Tuesday, while the Congress bagged eight out of 29 seats in the latest round of bypolls, with results mostly favouring ruling parties in the states except in Himachal Pradesh, where the BJP lost all three assembly seats and the prestigious Mandi Lok Sabha constituency to the Congress, and Telangana.

Celebrating the victory of the party candidates, the JKPCC said BJP national president J P Nadda has badly lost his home state. "The people of Himachal Pradesh

besides other states have given a clear indication of change as people are fed up with the performance of the BJP government at the Centre," the JKPCC said in a statement here.

It said the writing is on the wall as the BJP national president and the "double engine government in Himachal Pradesh have been totally rejected".

"The winds of change are blowing in the country because of large scale unemployment, unprecedented price hike and the dictatorial policies of BJP. The BJP will face the same music in Jammu also as people of Jammu have seen the real face of BJP and its leaders," it said, asking the local cadre to be ready for the "big battle".

The JKPCC leaders congratulated the national leadership, including party president Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi, for the victory.

Yogi said it was unimaginable five years ago but not only Deepotsav was started by his government but the celebrations touched new heights year after year.

"Today, UP has become the focal point of faith as a spiritual city while the Central and state governments are working continuously for the development of Ayodhya," he said.

The chief minister was of the opinion that his government had lived up to the trust

of lakhs of people, not only fulfilling the sacred resolution of Ram Janmabhoomi but opening new vistas of development to build a new Ayodhya.

Working on the slogan of 'Jo Kaha, Woh Kiya' in the last four and half years, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has given many big projects to

Ayodhya. As of today, Ayodhya, which is shining on the map of the country, is also moving fast with technology.

The chief minister said that the new Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram airport, Raja Dashrath Medical College, modern bus station, flyover, renovation of old temples as well as construction of a grand and divine Ram temple was the story of the New Ayodhya.

"Along with the people of Ayodhya, crores of Ram devotees from all over the world virtually joined us and became a witness to this historic moment," he said.

People voted against price rise, apathy towards farmers in Rajasthan bypolls: Pilot

Jodhpur: Former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Wednesday said policies of the BJP led to its defeat in the bypolls to two Assembly seats in the state, with people voting on issues of price rise and apathy towards farmers.

The BJP lost the bypolls to Dhariawad and Vallabh Nagar, the results of which were announced on Tuesday.

"The height of anger against the BJP can be gauged from the fact that in both constituencies, BJP candidates were nowhere in the race, securing third and fourth place," Pilot said.

People have voted against the rising prices of commodities and fuel, and apathy towards farmers, the Congress leader told reporters. He said the BJP was not capable of ruling even when it was in power and the recent results in Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan gave a clear indication that the Congress is the only hope for people.

PTI



A conundrum

India will host an important meeting to discuss concrete steps to extend aid to Afghanistan

After Iran and Russia, it is India's turn to host a meeting on Afghanistan. The proposed meeting will see the NSAs of Russia, Iran, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan discuss humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. Pakistan and China too are invited but Islamabad has decided not to attend and Beijing is yet to respond. Two aspects of the meeting are significant. One, the technicalities of reaching aid to Kabul will be discussed. India plans to donate 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat, apart from medical supplies. It is a logistical nightmare to airlift such quantities. India approached Pakistan for permission to use the land route via Wagah-Attari. Pakistan is both sitting on the request and not willing to attend the meeting. If it refuses permission, its appeals for aid will sound hollow. If it does not attend, its commitment to finding a solution to the Afghan affair will be questioned. Two, India has in a short while come quite far among all regional stakeholders in taking an initiative on Afghanistan. The previous meetings, hosted by Iran of representatives of neighbours of Afghanistan and another by Russia of the Moscow Format group, did not yield anything concrete other than keeping the Afghanistan dialogue alive. The New Delhi meet may be the first to discuss concrete steps to extend aid, especially with winter approaching. The Indian initiative will be keenly watched by the stakeholders, including the United States and China, because of the context in which it will take place.

Unlike, say, Pakistan, India does not have a long association with the Taliban. It does not have a chequered history with them, like the US, Iran or Russia. India did not recognise the Taliban regime the first time they came to power. It was only a few weeks ago that India formally met the Taliban. Since then, there has been a second meeting, on the sidelines of the Moscow Format meeting in October. For its part, the Taliban has spared no detail in assuring India of its goodwill, whether it is about safe passage for Afghan minorities to India, the return of Indian diplomats or the promise that Afghan soil will not be used to attack India. Yet, India has decided against inviting the Taliban to the New Delhi meeting. It seems to be taking a step-by-step approach where the Taliban are concerned. India has shown an understanding of its position in the Kabul conundrum. For one, it is consistently against a military solution. Second, it is aware that talks about terrorism will go nowhere as the Taliban has shown no inclination to sever links with terror groups in their country. Three, India may see the wisdom in what Russian President Vladimir Putin says, that it is better to go slow on recognising the Taliban Government but it is necessary to keep the talks going. Humanitarian aid is both a humane gesture and a tool to keep the Taliban engaged. Till when? That is the question.

PIC TALK



An illuminated Golden Temple on the eve of Diwali

PTI

Celebrate responsibly

Diwali is a joyous occasion, but the noise and smoke become a curse for stray animals

The festival of lights is here. Markets are lit up and crowded, sweets are in high demand, ethnic attires are out of the closet and employees are receiving their 'Diwali bonus' and gifts. The days around this festival bring great joy, don't they? However, what they also bring is a traumatising experience for pets and strays alike. *Diyas* are essentially the essence of this festival; however, firecrackers have changed the way we celebrate it. We have somehow learned to enjoy noise and smoke. Firecrackers not only contribute to severe levels of air and noise pollution but also affect animals adversely. Dogs and cats have highly sensitive hearing abilities, the continuous loud bursts literally unnerve them.

Dogs get really anxious and try to hide under tables, howl or bark excessively, unable to stand the din of crackers. It can cause them nervous breakdown or even visual impairment when exposed to a sudden burst of light. If that's not enough, there have been cases where crackers are tied to animals and then lit. Birds have wings but are not spared either, the pollution and smoke of crackers can make them partially blind. They are forced to flee their shelters and many meet with accidents.

Our celebrations should not be at the cost of their health. We must find ways to protect and soothe our pets. It's advised to keep them indoors and away from crackers. Spending time with them, feeding them their favourite food can make them feel secure and comfortable. The Delhi Government had in September ordered a complete ban on the sale and bursting of crackers in view of the rising air pollution. Since then, the Delhi Police arrested 55 people and seized more than 6,000 kg of firecrackers in the Capital. This comes both as relief and a cause of worry because the black market sale of crackers could still be underway. Further, such bans should be imposed in not only Delhi but other States as well. Indeed, festivities are a reason for joy for humans; however, if it becomes a traumatic affair for animals then we must reconsider the way we celebrate. Even during Holi, cows and dogs are sprinkled with colours which might be toxic. Engaging with animals in such festivities might seem like a kind and loving gesture, but it could be the other way round for them.



A PLEDGE TO SAVE FORESTS

Sir — Nearly 90 countries have signed up for the Global Methane Pledge, an initiative by the US and the European Union to cut global methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030. This was announced at the COP26 summit in Glasgow. Another significant commitment announced at the climate meet was the 100 world leaders pledging to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation, also by 2030. Methane is a greenhouse gas which is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in causing global warming. Emanating from disused oil pumps, landfills and agriculture, it is said to be the cause of 30 per cent of global warming since pre-industrial times.

With 90 countries on board, the Global Methane Pledge now covers two-thirds of the world's economy. However, India and China, two of the top five emitters in the world, have not signed up for it. The pledge to halt deforestation has wider participation, and has a \$19-billion pledge from Governments and private companies backing it. Hence, the methane pledge and the deforestation pledge, though they are legally non-binding, are so far the biggest outcomes of COP26.

Gundu K Mani | Ghaziabad

'VOCAL FOR LOCAL' THIS DIWALI

Sir — Consumers are flocking to shopping areas in India's major cities and towns for Diwali shopping, India's festival of light. The season is also boosting the spirits of business owners, as it encourages consumers to shop local. The tendency to boycott Chinese-made goods could give a well-needed boost to India's businesses and their 400 million employees. The Government's initiatives 'local for vocal' and 'local for Diwali' are a bid to boost the economy and encourage people to buy indigenous products. According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), Chinese exporters have suffered an estimated loss of ₹50,000 crore this year due to Indians boycotting products from China in the

Oppn tries to storm the BJP's fort



Bypolls are largely fought on local issues, if price rise can be termed an issue in Himachal, can Abhay Singh Chautala by the BJP in Ellenabad in Haryana, the epicentre of the farmers' protest, from 12,000 votes to just over 6,000 votes. It comes as a relief for the Opposition as it said the BJP is not invincible and can be defeated. Anyway, it is a wake up call for the BJP.

Nikhil Akhilesh Krishnan | Mumbai

Tamil Nadu against the NEET, the brilliant performance exemplifies that the NEET is more of a headache to the leaders than the students. Further, considering that the voice against the NEET is heard only in Tamil Nadu, one cannot but adduce motives to such opposition.

The success proves that with a little bit of motivation, the students can perform much better. Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Government, instead of lobbying for the cancellation of the NEET with other States, and thus, discouraging the students who are willing to face the NEET with grit and determination, would do well by setting up coaching centres all over the State, especially in rural areas and thus provide an ambient atmosphere for students to excel. The students of Tamil Nadu have the necessary will to overpower the NEET.

VS Jayaraman | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Delhi Chief Minister

—Arvind Kejriwal



PRAFULL GORADIA

The underbelly of conversion practice

The *Hadith* records that the Prophet exhorted his followers to shun celibacy and marry in order to produce as much progeny as possible

There were two reports last weekend in national dailies relating to the much-debated issue of religious conversion. The first one is a statement by RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale. He said that people changing their faith must disclose their conversion. The second report is about a woman, Nisha, who married a man who had not disclosed that he was a Muslim and married Nisha claiming to be a Hindu. She discovered his real identity well after their marriage. For some years, the husband has reportedly been pressuring her to convert and she was resisting. When the husband couldn't succeed, he along with his friends killed her.

Such confrontations of inter-faith marriages are being frequently reported. The phenomenon needs to be examined. One may refer to the *Hadith* where it is recorded that Prophet Muhammad exhorted his followers to shun celibacy and marry in order to produce as much progeny as possible. Marriage is enjoined upon every Muslim and celibacy has been frequently condemned by the Prophet. It is related to the stipulations in the *Sunnah* or Islamic traditions that Muhammad said, "When the servant of God marries, he perfects half his religion." On one occasion, the Prophet asked a man if he was married and being answered in the negative, asked him whether he was sound and healthy. Upon the man replying that he was, Muhammad replied, "Then thou art one of the brothers of the Devil" (*Mishkat-ul-Masabih, Book XII*). One of the Prophet's companions, Usman Ibn Magun, wished to lead a life of celibacy but the Prophet forbade him.

Islam lays great stress on the numbers of its people. The same *Mishkat-ul-Masabih* quotes the prophet: "Marry women who will love their husband and be very prolific, for I wish you to be more numerous than any other people." Muslims are permitted to marry four free women and to have as many slaves for concubines, as they may have acquired



(*The Qur'an; Surah IV 3*). Mohammedan law fixes no particular age when discretion should be presumed (*Dictionary of Islam* by Thomas Patrick Hughes; published by Rupa & Co. Delhi).

Although the Quranic principle that there is "no compulsion in religion" (*Qur'an Surah-II, Verse 256*) is often quoted by those of the faith or those sympathetic to it to prove that the religion does not practice forced conversion, there can be no denying the historical fact that episodes of forced conversions have occurred in the history of Islam over the centuries. Pakistan, which was founded as a separate Muslim homeland and is a declared Islamic State, is particularly notorious for the abduction and forced conversion of Hindu, Sikh and Christian girls. This continues even today, in the supposedly modern 21st century.

The fountain of inspiration for the common Muslim, who indulges in such mischief as mentioned above, or "love jihad" for that matter, is his scriptures. This is the argument Mahatma Gandhi had used.

When asked to comment on the Moplah riots of Kerala in

1921, he had said, "The Moplahs were following their religion. To that extent, they were not committing a crime." In 1927, Abdul Rashid murdered Swami Shraddhanand in the latter's sickbed. Gandhi called the murderer "my brother". I suppose he was implying that both he and Abdul Rashid were religious individuals.

An Urdu teacher was associated with me for eight years. One afternoon, in a pensive mood, he said to me that he was a "failed man". My surprised reaction was that he was a good and honest man. Why should he say so? He clarified that he was not a *badshah* (emperor) nor could become a rich man so that he could give employment to people. He was also no military commander who upon winning any battle, could convert people to the faith of Allah. He had not been able to marry owing to business failures, which could have enabled him to bring forth followers for his faith.

All these examples prove the innocence of people who marry wrongly because of deception. Even those who do so openly by declaring their religion are not necessarily immoral, but slaves of their faith.

All these examples prove the innocence of people who marry wrongly because of deception. Even those who do so openly by declaring their religion are not necessarily immoral, but slaves of their faith.

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

SOUND BITE

I am old enough to be Navjot Sidhu's father but that did not stop him from using the filthiest language against me.



Former Punjab Chief Minister
—Capt Amarinder Singh

We will lose the global fight against poverty if we don't help vulnerable farmers adapt to climate change.



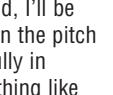
Microsoft co-founder
—Bill Gates

Perfect answer to all Diwali environment activists. Walk to your office and don't use cars for three days.



Actor
—Kangana Ranaut

God decides your destiny. On public demand, I'll be back on the pitch hopefully in February! Ain't nothing like this feeling.



India all-rounder
—Yuvraj Singh

We are preparing a web portal named Delhi Bazaar, through which products can be sold across the world.



Delhi Chief Minister
—Arvind Kejriwal



FIRST COLUMN

INDIA SHOULD TRY ITS MYANMAR OPTIONS

A recalibration exercise for a relationship with Naypyidaw is an imperative



RAMI N DESAI

JAIDEEP SAIKIA

Relentless but disunited civil unrest continues to erupt in Myanmar without signs of abatement. The latest call by Duwa Lashi La, the acting president of the National Unity Government (NUG) to accelerate the "People's Defensive War" by targeting "the military and its assets" could witness the resistance coming together to battle the Tatmadaw under a single command. However, such a premise would largely rest on the NUG's ability to both commandeer a united front under a senior military leader from within the Tatmadaw who would be amenable to a defect-persuasion from the Myanmar army. Such a military leader would have to be chosen with great care. Indeed, there may be many in the leadership of the Myanmar army at this point in time who are not happy about the manner in which the army is oppressing its own people. Such a leader or a leadership could be encouraged to engineer a coup d'état against the repressive actions of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. It would depend on the NUG's capability to penetrate the senior echelons of the Tatmadaw. The case for Myanmar's future in the international forum has become murkier as a result of divided voices. China and Russia have "supported" the military takeover as opposed to the US that has laid down sanctions under the Burma Act of 2021. India had abstained from voting against the condemnation of the military takeover in the UNGA. This is not only unhelpful but may also prove counter-productive to the



efforts of the ASEAN to find a solution to the current situation in Myanmar. The fact that the ASEAN's April summit was attended by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that even ASEAN "acknowledged" that henceforth they would have to work with the junta. However, the most important aspect being watched was the UN General Assembly session in September. The fact that Aung Thurein, the new Myanmarese envoy to the UN, "did not speak" on the last day as scheduled seems to be heralding an adverse sine qua non for the Tatmadaw. Such developments coming in the heels of the "People's Defensive War" call by the NUG would have adverse ramifications on Naypyidaw's objective of consolidating its position as the undisputed power centre in Myanmar as also in the international arena. In the October ASEAN, Min Aung Hlaing was excluded after a consensus could not be reached for a political representative to attend, leaving Tatmadaw "extremely disappointed".

Notwithstanding these developments, India should have a policy that promotes India's "Neighbourhood First" strategy and the "Act East Policy". A recalibration exercise for a relationship with Naypyidaw is the imperative of the hour. Such a policy should take into account the measures that China has taken to arm the Tatmadaw and work out aspects that may ink a security concordat that may witness New Delhi supplying Naypyidaw with systems such as UAVs and communication equipment which the Myanmar army is in dire need of, especially in their war against the inimical militias. A robust economic engagement with Myanmar to expedite agreements on operationalisation of the Sittwe Port and India's offer of \$6 billion for establishing an oil refinery and for joint vaccine production should be formed in right earnest. Myanmar — regardless of who governs its polity — is the decisive lynchpin for India's "Act East Policy" and much of North East India's economy and security is intertwined with the country. Even the ouster of the Indian Insurgent Groups from Myanmar has experienced an about-face with many valley-based groups coming into an agreement with the Myanmar army.

(Rami N Desai is an anthropologist and conflict analyst. Jaideep Sainia is a bestselling author and conflict analyst. He was a member of a Track II Dialogue with Myanmar in 2008 and 2014. The views expressed are personal.)

Role of communities in eco-restoration

By involving local communities, forest restoration activities can be taken up throughout the year while guaranteeing environment, employment and income benefits

The National Forest Policy, 1988, mandates that one third of the geographical area must be under forests whereas in reality it is about one-fourth. This yawning gap can only be addressed through active cooperation and involvement of local communities. The community partnership is required more so for planning and implementing afforestation-related interventions in view of ever-increasing pressure of burgeoning human and cattle populations on this common but renewable resource.

Accordingly, a Joint Forest Management (JFM) order detailing a framework of the community's roles and responsibilities was issued in 1990 seeking active involvement of locals in the management of forests throughout the country.

Out of 6.4 lakh villages in India, about 27 per cent (1.7 lakh) are situated on the forest fringes. About 23 million hectares (28 per cent) of forest area is managed by communities. Thus, the forest areas managed by the community were almost in proportion to the number of villages located in the vicinity of forests. Surprisingly, the forest area under community management has reduced drastically although new areas have been planted under the provisions of various schemes and programmes.

The community had been playing a vital role in the management of forests through Cooperative Forest Societies since 1937 in Himachal Pradesh, which was one of the pioneer initiatives in the field of community involvement for protection of common resources. These efforts gained renewed momentum with the enactment of National Forest Policy, 1988 and subsequent big push by the JFM order. The Forest Department of the State was sensitised to devise a feasible framework of community partnership in ecological management where a lot of similar interventions converged at the local level.

The State launched an ambitious scheme called Sanjhi Van Yojana in 1998 which was implemented in selected villages. Mixed response and varied results in terms of achievement of intended goals was observed. Subsequently, the Himachal Pradesh government developed Forest Sector Policy and Strategy, 2005 which was aimed to harmonise the relations between people and environment. This policy tried to address the aspirations of people by making forestry a socio-economically vibrant sector contributing towards livelihood enhancement of forest dependent local communities through the involvement of other line departments working on natural resource management.

In the case of a contractor-driven ecosystem, the contractors execute works mechanically by following prescribed schedule of rates and have no attachment to the works done in the forests. The local communities are not associated with these activities except for the seasonal engagements of local labourers for completing the contracts so assigned. In the alternative system of community managed execution of



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP IS REQUIRED, MORE SO FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING AFFORESTATION- RELATED INTERVENTIONS IN VIEW OF EVER-INCREASING PRESSURE OF BURGEONING HUMAN AND CATTLE POPULATIONS ON THIS COMMON BUT RENEWABLE RESOURCE

(Sushil Singla is an Indian Forest Service officer. Aditya Singla is a JNU scholar. The views expressed are personal.)



forest activities, efforts are made to ensure quality of work for generating economic assets and to meet implementation challenges and distribution of benefits to the society.

However, in the absence of clarity in the interpretation of implementation procedures and existing stringent work manual provisions, adequate emphasis on the community involvement in forest management for local livelihood benefits is missing.

The present case deliberates how a small group of women through their determination and dedication could successfully resolve local issues and implement interventions for actualising benefits.

The traditional challenges of ease and comfort for the established system of forest management with limited community involvement were considered, examined and addressed effectively to ensure active community participation.

Frequent visits to the local community, prolonged persuasion, continuous dialogue with opinion makers and community leaders and sensitisation of the frontline forest department staff cleared the initial inertia and hiccups in implementing forestry activities through women-led local workers' collective. Initially, a group of about 20 women came forward and got registered with the local registrar of cooperative societies.

By registering under the Societies Registration Act 1860, the group fulfilled a legal requirement to receive government benefits. A savings account was opened in the name of the group. The group unanimously selected a president and a treasurer to manage all related affairs.

To ensure active participation of women in group works, a concept

of flexi-hours (8 working hours/day) was devised and implemented at the ground so that the women workers can give justice to household chores and perform productively at worksites at the same time. The frontline staff responsible for maintenance of records and execution of activities at field levels were sensitized to delegate the duty of marking attendance to the group itself and the head of the group was asked to maintain a register of member-wise hours spent on execution of activities in the adopted forest area.

During July and August, seedlings were taken from the forest department nurseries and planted into the dug-up pits. The plant species preferred were those that would meet the community's requirements for fodder, firewood, timber and herbs. The transportation of plants from nurseries to the plantation area generated supplementary employment to local men.

Once scheduled activities were completed, the work measurement was done by the Forest Beat Officer and the Block Forest Officer and accordingly, recorded. This was again cross verified by the Range Forest Officer so as to avoid any anomalies. The payment was then released by the Divisional Forest Officer. The group's president and secretary, who were authorised signatories, were able to draw money from the bank for appropriate disbursement amongst the members. Savings bank accounts were opened for each of the members to bring in more transparency within the group and inculcate saving habits.

The forest department, with the active participation of the community, could take up forest restoration activities throughout the year guaranteeing environment, employment and income benefits.

Involving the community, in general, and women-led local groups, in particular, was a win-win situation for both the stakeholders - State Forest Department and local community itself. Improved financial status of the community reduced pressure on the natural resources as felling of trees and other unauthorised activities got drastically reduced.

This preparatory process not only set a platform for rightful intervention later, but ensured collection of firewood by the group members to meet their daily firewood needs.

During March to May, group members were advised to dig plant

POINT COUNTER POINT

SARDAR PATEL, MAHATMA GANDHI, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND JINNAH FOUGHT FOR INDIA'S FREEDOM AND NEVER BACKED AWAY FROM ANY STRUGGLE.

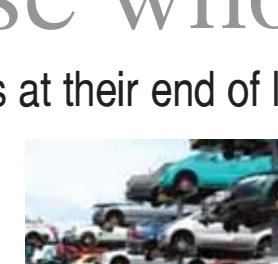
—SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV



AKHILESH YADAV IS COMPARING JINNAH WITH SARDAR PATEL. THIS IS EXTREMELY SHAMEFUL.

HE SHOULD APOLOGISE FOR THIS.

—UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH



tised throughout its life span on the road.

With the vehicle scrapping policy India has a plethora of opportunities to build on. Regulating the once informal auto ancillary and scrappage sector would now lead to safe disposal of vehicles at their end of life, reduced metal landfills, regulated prices, and standardized practices.

The policy fosters the development of new industries, such as vehicle testing facilities, vehicle fitness centres,

scrap segregation and shredding centres, creating an opportunity to advance an equitable green workforce.

Vehicle scrap not only reduces the cost of a vehicle by providing copper, aluminium, steel, plastic and rubber to the automotive industry but also gives access to raw materials for electronics, steel and waste-to-energy sector. With systematic implementation of the government's plans, the nation will recover rare metals and witness reduced pressure for importing scrapped steel.

Currently, India imports six million tonnes of scrap steel due to a gap in domestic demand and supply. The practice of using recycled scrap metal would have a much lesser carbon footprint. With neighbouring coun-

tries currently lacking a scrapping ecosystem, India has the potential to become the scrap-recycling hub of South-East Asia. With access to a massive coastline and well-established scrapping ecosystems in Gujarat, India can leverage the economies of scale by importing vehicles from other countries for scrapping.

Meanwhile, India can prepare to strengthen the ecosystem. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways estimates that approximately 51 lakh light motor vehicles are more than 20 years old and 34 lakhs are over 15 years old. Around 17 lakh medium and heavy commercial vehicles are older than 15 years without valid fitness certificates. For a systematic execution and implementation of the scrap-

page policy, the first step to sensitise India's industry about the scope and profitability of the scrapping industry. The scrapping industry would be a new business avenue for many and this can be seen as an opportunity to generate gender-neutral green jobs in auto ancillaries, automotive, and recycling sectors.

As India targets to increase electric vehicle sales, Authorized Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (AVSF) would require to be future-ready to handle the new energy vehicles like EVs or Li-Ion batteries. Recycling batteries under the scrapping policy will help bring down the cost of the electric vehicle and help India develop Lithium-Ion batteries locally. Both industries will reap benefits and future design

and material of the vehicles

and their parts can be recycled at their ELV stage with minimum wastage. Also, creating

higher incentive models for scrapping and replacement rather than only scrapping will encourage EVs or BS6 compliant vehicles.

The top-down approach of the policy announcement and district level targets set for testing and scrapping centres has unlocked many opportunities for the nation. However, a fruitful implementation is only possible if states are encouraged to be early adopters by facilitating the development of industrial infrastructure and build readiness towards the ecosystem by building capacity, encouraging investment and creating synergy within businesses.

Scrap is gold to those who have a market for it

A scrap policy would lead to safe disposal of vehicles at their end of life, reduced metal landfills, regulated prices and standardised practices

The Indian Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernisation Programme is estimated to boost 30 per cent sales for the automotive industry, attract Rs10,000 crore investment and 35,000 jobs just by setting up of car fitness centres. It will simultaneously reduce 58 per cent CO2 emissions by replacing virgin steel with scrap steel to manufacture vehicles.

Large-scale vehicle scrapping schemes were launched post the economic slowdown to support the automobile industry. The Indian Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernisation Programme, launched in August 2021, is two-fold: (i) to strengthen the automobile industry as it transitions to drive sustainable manufac-



MEGHA NATH

VIVEK ADHIA

(Nath is a Researcher and Adhia is Country Director (India), at Institute for Sustainable Communities. The views expressed are personal.)

GLOBE TROTTING

IRAN SEIZED VIETNAMESE OIL TANKER: US OFFICIALS

Dubai: Iran seized a Vietnamese-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman last month and still holds the vessel off Bandar Abbas, two US officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday. One of the officials said paramilitary Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops took control of the MV Southys on October 24 at gunpoint. US forces had monitored the seizure, but ultimately didn't take action as the vessel went into Iranian waters. A motive for the seizure remains unclear.

PENTAGON: CHINESE NUKE FORCE GROWING FASTER

Washington: China is expanding its nuclear force much faster than US officials predicted just a year ago, highlighting a broad and accelerating buildup of military muscle designed to enable Beijing to match or surpass US global power by mid-century, according to a Pentagon report released on Wednesday.

RUSSIA HAS 90K TROOPS NEAR BORDER: UKRAINE

Kyiv: Ukraine complained Wednesday that Russia has kept tens of thousands of troops not far from the countries' border after war games, as part of its attempts to exert pressure on its ex-Soviet neighbour. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry's statement marked an about-turn from its denial of any Russian military buildup — as reported in US media — just two days earlier. The ministry said Wednesday that about 90,000 Russian troops are stationed not far from the border and in rebel-controlled areas in Ukraine's east.

PUTIN: NAVY TO GET ZIRCON MISSILES IN 2022

Russia: Tests of Russia's Zircon hypersonic cruise missile are nearing completion and deliveries to the navy will begin in 2022, President Vladimir Putin has said.

Roadside bomb targets Taliban

Kills 2 in Afghanistan ISIS hub

AP ■ KABUL

A roadside bomb struck a Taliban patrol in a stronghold of Islamic State terrorists in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing two people and wounding three, witnesses said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the attack bore the hallmarks of previous ISIS strikes against the Taliban. The two groups are bitter rivals, and ISIS has stepped up attacks since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August.

Wednesday's bomb went off in the city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province.

A Taliban district commander in the city confirmed the blast and said four Taliban fighters were wounded. The commander, who identified himself as Mubariz — and like many Afghans goes by one name — did not provide details about those killed in the attack, saying the investigation continues.



Men wait in a line to receive cash at a money distribution organised by the World Food Program (WFP) in Kabul on Wednesday

AP

assailants were also killed in the attack.

Taliban officials said guards prevented the attackers from entering the hospital.

ISIS claimed that one of those killed in the hospital attack was a senior Taliban commander who had played a leading role in the group's August 15 takeover of Kabul. Taliban officials said they could not immediately confirm the commander had been killed.

China may not be ready to offer any new initiatives on climate, but Xi's non-appearance also reflects the ruling

Pandemic, politics drive Xi's absence from global talks

AP ■ BEIJING

This week's global climate talks in Scotland and the recent G-20 summit in Rome aren't the only international meetings that China's leader has not attended in person. Xi Jinping hasn't left China in nearly 22 months, since January 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic first exploded.

His absence drew criticism from U.S. President Joe Biden and questions about China's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

China, the world's biggest emitter, has pledged to begin reducing its output by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2060. The US and others have urged China to advance those goals, but it has balked so far.

"We made our promises

and we honor our promises with actions," China climate envoy Xie Zhenhua said in Glasgow, blaming America's

now-reversed withdrawal from the Paris climate accord under former President Donald Trump for a "wasted five years"

in tackling climate change.

China may not be ready to offer any new initiatives on climate, but Xi's non-appearance also reflects the ruling



Communist Party's zero tolerance approach to controlling the coronavirus. After being the first country overwhelmed with the disease in early 2019, it has stamped out its reappearances with strict lockdowns, quarantines and travel restrictions.

The government has gone to great lengths to protect Xi and other leaders from Covid-19. He has met other world leaders and attended global meetings, but only by video link from China. Xi doesn't normally give news conferences, but other leaders such as Premier Li Keqiang have met with the media only by video, and even then, journalists have had to test negative for Covid-19 to participate remotely.

Xi last left China in January 2020 for a trip to neighboring Myanmar. That was shortly before the outbreak, first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan, started to spread worldwide. China has come under pressure from the US and others to reveal more information about the origin of the pandemic and has been accused of mismanaging the initial outbreak and then seeking to cover up its mistakes.

The pandemic has given Xi a convenient excuse not to travel at a time when China faces heavy criticism of its policies toward Muslims in its Xinjiang region and its crackdown on individual rights in Hong Kong. Chinese leaders

are extremely image conscious and Xi's public appearances are carefully choreographed to avoid potentially embarrassing confrontations.

His current stay-at-home approach contrasts with a formerly heavy travel schedule that took him across continents as he tried to boost China's international profile. First lady Peng Liyuan, an accomplished musician, was often on hand to add a bit of glamor and a human touch.

He met with the then-Japanese emperor in Tokyo, rode a gilded carriage with Britain's Queen Elizabeth and paid a visit to North Korea's capital that included a ride through city streets lined by tens of thousands of cheering citizens.

Such travels have underscored a more assertive foreign policy under Xi, as the world's second-largest economy seeks to extend its influence beyond East Asia with his signature "Belt and Road" overseas infrastructure investment program.

Xi isn't alone in skipping the meetings in Rome and Glasgow. Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose country has aligned with China in opposing US influence in world affairs, also remained at home.

About 37K people displaced in Myanmar's northwest, many have fled into India: UN

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

About 37,000 people, including women and children, are now displaced in Myanmar's restive northwest and many have fled their homes in antic-

ipation of the current fighting, including into India, a spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

The UN team in Myanmar "remains deeply concerned over the recent escalation in fighting in the northwest between the Myanmar Military and the local Popular Defence Forces in Chin State, as well as Magway and Sagaing regions," Associate Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Florencia Soto Nino said at the daily press briefing on Monday.

She said this has led to more people being displaced and the property being destroyed, nine months after the military seized control over the Government of Myanmar on February 1. There have also been worrying reports in recent days of the shelling and

burning of more than 160 houses of civilians in the town of Thantlang in western Chin.

"Our humanitarian colleagues say that some 37,000 people, including women and children, are now displaced in the country's northwest. Many have fled their homes in anticipation of the current fighting, including into India," Nino said, adding that this is in addition to more than 7,000 people who remain displaced from the previous fighting since December 2019.

The UN team repeats its calls for parties to the conflict to meet their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and humanitarian, and reiterates that aid workers and their properties should never be a target, she said. The Myanmar military

staged a coup on February 1 this year, nullifying the results of the November 2020 elections and imposed a state of emergency after detaining hundreds of activists, civil servants and politicians, including Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other leaders of her National League for Democracy (NLD).

The military staged the coup amid its rising friction with the ruling NLD government over the results of the November 8 general election.

The NLD had registered a thumping victory in the polls. However, the military had alleged discrepancies in the electoral process.

The democratic transition in Myanmar had taken place in 2011 after decades of military rule.

EU lawmakers meet Taiwan premier in first official visit

Diwali Day Act introduced in US House of Representatives

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

To declare festival of lights as federal holiday

religious and historical significance of Diwali.

Maloney said that Diwali this year symbolises the nation's continuing journey out of the darkness of Covid-19.

"I am very proud to celebrate with you the victory of light over darkness, the triumph of good over evil and the pursuit of knowledge over ignorance as we do every day.

It is truly appropriate that Diwali this year symbolises our nation's continuing journey out of the darkness of Covid-19 and the terrible effects that Democrat depended on the people of our nation," she said.

Bangladesh's villages bear the brutal cost of climate change

AP ■ SHYAMNAGAR

With each tide, Abdus Satter watches the sea erode a little more of his life.

His village of Bonnotola in southwestern Bangladesh, with its muddy roads and tin-roofed houses, was once home to over 2,000 people. Most were farmers like the 58-year-old Satter.

Then the rising seas poisoned the soil with salt water. Two cyclones in the last two years destroyed the mud embankments that shielded the village from tidal waves.

Now, only 480 people remain, with the rest rendered homeless by the sea.

The effects of global warming — particularly increased cyclones, and coastal and tidal flooding that bring salt water further inland — are devastating the livelihoods of millions, said Mohammad Shamsuddoha, chief executive of the non-profit Center for Participatory Research Development.

"It's a grave concern for a country like Bangladesh," he said, adding that projections show some 30 million people may be displaced from the country's coastal regions.

With world leaders gathered in Glasgow, Scotland, for a U.N. climate conference this week, countries like Bangladesh are pressing for more financial support to cope with global warming.

A decade-old deal for rich countries to give poor nations \$100 billion each year to switch to clean energy and adapt to climate change has not been fulfilled. Even the money that is being provided — about \$80 billion in 2019 — is spread too thin to make much of a difference on the ground.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No. Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) Name of Branch

1. Vinay Ganatra/ Jyoti Ganatra/ LBDEL0002280732	A-1706, 17th Floor, Antriksh Golflinks, Gh- 15 A, Sector 1, Greater Noida/ November 01, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 40,77,725/-	Delhi/ NCR
2. Akansha Shukla/ Raj Kumar Shukla/ LBDEL0002945686	Flat No. 1302, Block- A 13th Floor Tower- A, Plot No. GH- 15 A Sector- 01, Antriksh Golf Links, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ November 01, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 40,81,985/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : November 03, 2021

Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer

ICICI Bank Limited

UN report says Ethiopia's war marked by 'extreme brutality'

AP ■ GENEVA

The UN human rights chief said Wednesday that Ethiopia's yearlong war has been marked by "extreme brutality" as a joint investigation into alleged atrocities faulted all sides for committing abuses, and "the big numbers of violations" are linked to Ethiopian forces and those from neighbouring Eritrea.

The investigation was hampered by authorities' intimidation and restrictions and didn't visit some of the war's worst-affected locations. It said all combatants have committed abuses which may amount to crimes against humanity and

war crimes.

The report, a rare collaboration by the U.N. human rights office with the government-created Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, was released a day before the war's one-year mark and as Africa's second most populous country enters a new state of emergency with rival Tigray forces threatening the capital.

The U.N. told The Associated Press the collaboration was necessary for its team to gain access to a troubled region that Ethiopian authorities have largely prevented journalists, rights groups and other observers from entering.

King and queen of Netherlands tour the United Arab Emirates

Dubai: The king and queen of the Netherlands toured Dubai's Expo 2020 and a strawberry farm deep inside the Emirati desert Wednesday, part of a two-day trip to the United Arab Emirates.

King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima received a rousing round of applause as their day ended at the massive Al Wasl Dome at Expo 2020, the world's fair going on in Dubai until the end of March. AP

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/38/2021, Date 02/11/2021

Sr. No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
936	Set of 35 mm NABO brake pads	4000 Nos	11.11.2021
937	LED Light	4533 Nos	15.11.2021
938	Modified Flap Door	500 Nos	17.11.2021
939	I/O Plant	1 No	17.11.2021
940	Element Filter	2700 Nos	22.11.2021
941	Secondary Spring Outer for LHB NAC Coaches	80 Nos	24.11.2021
942	Supply of High Tensile AAR H type.	100 Nos	25.11.2021
943	Standardized Brake Disc	400 Nos	25.11.2021
944	Narrow Jaw Adapter	4500 Nos	26.11.2021
945	Anaesthesia Machine with Monitor	2 Nos	27.11.2021
946	Knuckle for Upgraded High Tensile CBC	2711 Nos	30.11.2021
948	Shunting Contactor (EP unit) Complete	125 Nos	08.12.2021
949	Set of Hydraulic Dampers	16 Set	08.12.2021
950	Single Phase to 3 Phase x 130 KVA Convertor	10 Nos	08.12.2021
951	Lower Rubber Washer for Axle Box Guide	7935 Nos	10.12.2021</

Cairn gives in writing to indemnify Govt

Withdraw cases to get ₹ 7,900 cr tax refund

New Delhi: UK-based Cairn Energy PLC on Wednesday said it has agreed to drop litigations to seize Indian properties in countries ranging from France to the UK as it has accepted the Indian Government's offer to settle tax dispute relating to the levy of taxes retrospectively.

Meeting the requirements of new legislation that scraps levy of retrospective taxation, the company has given required undertakings indemnifying the Indian Government against future claims as well as agreeing to drop any legal proceedings anywhere in the world.

The Government now has to accept this and issue Cairn a so-called Form-II, that will commit it to refund the tax collected to enforce the retro-

spective tax demand. Following the issue of Form-II, Cairn will withdraw legal proceedings and will get a refund of Rs 7,900 crore.

Cairn said its undertaking shall be treated as having never been furnished if the Principal Commissioner for Income Tax either rejects the undertaking given by it in Form No.I under rule 11UE(1) or the intimation of withdrawal given under rule 11UF(3), or declines to grant the refund.

Only after the refund is issued will the new legislation will be seen as working in the eyes of foreign investors.

In a statement, Cairn said it has "entered into undertakings with the Government of India in order to participate in the scheme introduced by recent Indian legislation, the

Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021, allowing the refund of taxes previously collected from Cairn in India."

"Subject to certain conditions, the Taxation Amendment Act nullifies the tax assessment originally levied against Cairn in January 2016 and orders the refund of Rs 7,900 crore which was collected from Cairn in respect of that assessment," it said.

Seeking to repair India's damaged reputation as an investment destination, the government in August enacted new legislation to drop Rs 1.1 lakh crore in outstanding

Goyal warns officials to stay alert against cartelisation, collusion in GeM

New Delhi: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday cautioned officials to stay alert against cartelisation and collusion in Government e-Marketplace and called for simplifying the system while making it more affordable to attract traders.

Reviewing the functioning of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, the minister pitched for bringing more transparency in the system.

He said operations should be audited regularly to ensure that all technical and financial aspects of GeM stay strong all the time.

Goyal, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, also called for reducing and capping the transaction charges so that more traders are attracted to the GeM portal for increasing the volume of business.

"Stay alert against cartelisation and collusion in GeM," warned the minister.

Goyal asked the officials to make GeM more user and commerce friendly so that ease of doing business can be further promoted.

"He also directed officials to significantly reduce and cap the transaction charges so that more traders are attracted to the GeM portal," an official statement said.

The minister asked the GeM team to use Artificial Intelligence and further simplify the system.

He said as the volume of

operations grow, AI would be

needed to bring most appropriate buyers and sellers together for transactions.

"Use of AI would also act as a watchdog against business malpractices like collusion and cartelisation which often sneak in online business platforms," Goyal said.

He cautioned GeM officials

to keep a watch on such things.

Goyal said that the transparency of the system should be strengthened and no one should ever get a chance to raise doubts on the integrity of GeM platform," the statement added.

The minister was informed that the pilot project to integrate GeM with the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) will be launched by next month while the process of integrating GeM with India Post and Ministry of Panchayati Raj is in progress.

Goyal asked GeM authorities to wrap up the pending audit by the Directorate of Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification.

GeM is a 100 per cent government owned company set up under the aegis of Department of Commerce for procurement of goods and services by Central and State government organisations. PTI

Centre releases ₹17k cr to States as GST compensation

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday released ₹17,000 crore as GST compensation to states to meet the shortfall in their revenue.

With this, the total amount of compensation released to the states/UTs during 2021-22 so far is ₹60,000 crore, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

As per the decision of GST Council, back to back loan of ₹1.59 lakh crore has already been released in lieu of shortfall in the release of GST compensation during the current financial year.

The Centre has estimated the shortfall in GST compensation payable to the states in the current fiscal at ₹2.59 lakh crore, of which about ₹1.59 lakh crore would have to be borrowed this year.

The Centre expects to collect over ₹1 lakh crore through cess on luxury, demerit and sin goods, which will be given to

the states to compensate them for the shortfall in revenue arising out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation.

Tax collection is expected to exceed the target set in the Budget as collections have improved with the revival of the economy, according to experts.

GST collection surged to ₹1.30 lakh crore in October, the second highest since its implementation in July 2017. The highest GST collection of ₹1.41 lakh crore was recorded in April 2021.

This is the fourth time in a row when the GST collection was upwards of ₹1 lakh crore. The mop-up from GST was ₹1.17 lakh crore in September 2021. Tax collections last month on goods sold and services rendered was 24 per cent higher than in October 2020, and up 36 per cent over 2019-20. PTI

Sensex slips for second day ahead of Fed decision; signs off Samvat 2077 with 37% gains

Mumbai: Domestic equity indices nursed losses for the second straight session on Wednesday as investors stayed on the sidelines ahead of a crucial Fed policy meeting outcome where it is expected to announce tapering of its pandemic-era stimulus measures.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 257.14 points or 0.43 per cent lower at 59,771.92. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 59.75 points or 0.33 per cent to 17,829.20.

Sun Pharma was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, falling 3.06 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Kotak Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, M&M and HDFC Bank.

RBI commits to integrate climate-related risks into fin stability monitoring activities

Mumbai: RBI on Wednesday said it is committed to integrating climate-related risks into financial stability monitoring as well as exploring use of climate scenario exercises to identify vulnerabilities in the central bank-supervised entities.

On Monday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published its Statement of Commitment to Support Greening India's Financial System – NGFS, coinciding with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

The apex bank joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a Member on April 23, and aims

to learn from as well as contribute to global efforts on green finance.

NGFS has reiterated its willingness to contribute to the global response required to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and, to that end, NGFS will expand and strengthen the collective efforts towards greening the financial system.

Against this backdrop, RBI, on Wednesday, also emphasised that it was committed to building awareness about climate-related risks among regulated financial institutions and spreading knowledge about issues relating to climate change and methods to deal with them accordingly. PTI

CBDT issues refunds of ₹1.12 L cr to 91.30 lakh taxpayers

New Delhi: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued refunds of over ₹1,12,400 crore to more than 91.30 lakh taxpayers from April 1 to November 1, the Income Tax Department said on Wednesday.

"CBDT issues refunds of over ₹1,12,489 crore to more than 91.30 lakh taxpayers from 1st April, 2021 to 1st November, 2021. Income tax refunds of ₹33,548 crore have been issued in 89,53,923 cases & corporate tax refunds of ₹78,942 crore have been issued in 1,75,692 cases," the Income Tax department tweeted.

The department said the amount includes 58.22 lakh refunds of Assessment Year (AY) 2021-22 amounting to ₹11,086.89 crore.

Soaring commodity prices severely impacting MSMEs price margins: PHDCCI

New Delhi: Industry chamber PHDCCI on Wednesday said skyrocketing commodity prices are severely impacting the price cost margins of the businesses, especially the MSMEs. So, at this juncture, the RBI's role becomes crucial to balance inflation in the country and to maintain the currency stability while attaining high growth," PHDCCI suggested.

The assertion is a part of the chamber's five suggestions outlining the focus areas for RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das during his second term.

Appreciating the re-appointment of Das as RBI Governor, PHDCCI said, "Under his dynamic leadership, the RBI has undertaken various conventional measures since the onset of pandemic to mitigate its impact and enhance liquidity in the economy," PHDCCI stated.

The chamber said going ahead, Das should focus on the five key suggestions during his second term.

These include attaining and sustaining a high economic growth trajectory to become a USD 5 trillion economy.

"Skyrocketing commodity prices are severely impacting the price cost margins of the businesses, especially the MSMEs. So, at this juncture, the RBI's role becomes crucial to balance inflation in the country and to maintain the currency stability while attaining high growth," PHDCCI suggested.

It also recommended the RBI Governor to focus on maintaining adequate liquidity in the system while balancing the inflationary pressure.

"Demand should remain intact despite the inflationary pressure as economy needs a great support of demand to move up further and to regain the lost momentum," PHDCCI said.

As another focus area, it suggested regulations and guidelines on green and sustainable banking to allocate resources towards activities and projects that lead to the environment, social and governance objective in line with international standards.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Shivam/Shubam
General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Shivam/Shubam, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** is found on 24.10.2021 from the area of P.S. IP Estate, Delhi and admitted at Udyhan Care Home for Boys, Mayur Vihar, Phase-2, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 73A, dated 24.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. IP Estate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the details of this boy, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of found boy is as under:

Name: Shivam/Shubam, Age: About 8-9 Years, Height: 4', Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium.

If anyone have any information or the about this boy may please be inform to the following:-

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station IP Estate, Delhi

DP/1060/CD/2021

Uttarakhand Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd.

Mangal Parao, Haldwani - 263139 (Nainital)

पत्रक : १४९६-९८ / दोस्ती दिवस / कार्यालयीय पत्रक / २०२१-२२ तिथि : ०२ नवम्बर, २०२१

E-Tender Notice No. 11(1-3)/UCDF/2021-22, Date-03.11.2021

Short term E-tenders are invited by the undersigned, from experienced, reputed and financially sound Authorized Manufacturers/ Dealers for the following items so as to reach this office on or before 10.11.2021 up to 5.00 PM. The tenders will be opened on 11.11.2021 at 11.00 AM.

S.N. Name of work Details
1. Supply of corrugated box for milk powder Tender fee, EMD and other related details can be seen on E-tender portal

Tender documents may be downloaded/uploaded from E-tender portal Managing Director

AXIS BANK Retail Assets Centre, Axis Bank Ltd- Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wistow, Noida (U.P.)-201301 Corporate Office: Block-B, Bomby Dyeing Mills Compound, PandurBudhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400 025. Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samarthawar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

DEMAND NOTICE Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowors/guarantors/mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc upto the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Name of The Borrower / Address/ Co-Borrower And Guarantor Name

1. NPA Date 2. Date of Demand Notice 3. Outstanding Amt (Rs.) As On Date of Notice 4. Loan Amount (Rs.)

1. M/S Dream Panels Pvt. Ltd. Having Registered Office At- 2nd Floor, B-148, Dda Shed, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-2, South Delhi-110021 2-Sandeep Goyal S/O Sh.Hans Raj, Goyal And Mrs. Ruchi Goyal/O Mr. Sandeep Goyal Both Are Resident Of- E-127, 3rd Floor, Majid Mohl, Greater Kailash-3, Greater Kailash South Delhi-110048.

Alt: A-148, DDA Shed, Okhla Industrial AreaPhase-2, South Delhi-110021.

Entire Third Floor of the property bearing No. 127, in the Block E Situated at Majid Mohl Greater Kailash-III, New Delhi, comprising of Three Bedrooms with attached Bathrooms, Drawing/Dining Room, Kitchen, Front and Rear Balconies with One Car Parking Space with separate gate in the Stilt on the left side of the building while facing the building and Space for One Utility with common W.C. & Bath in the Stilt AND ALSO The Entire Terrace rights over and above the Entire Third Floor of the property (with right to construct and own any area/floors on the said Terrace and subsequent Terraces thereupon and there above upto the limits of the sky as and when permitted by MCD), along with proportionate, undivided, indivisible and impenetrable ownership rights in the freehold land underneath measuring 180 square meters, bearing No. 127, in Block E, situated at Majid Mohl, Greater Kailash Part-III, New Delhi with all the rights, title and interest, easements, privileges and appurtenances thereto with super structure, electricity and water connections, fixtures and fittings etc. with all rights common entrances, passages, staircase, lift and other common facilities and amenities provided therein based as under:

East - As per Sub Lease deed

West - As per Sub Lease deed

South - As per Sub Lease deed

North - As per Sub Lease deed

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No. NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES WEBSITE OF BOARD CORP./AUTH NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

1 UHBVN LT PVCUN-ARMoured CABLE OF SIZE 4x1x50 MM AS PER NIGMA'S TECH. SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-193/R-1/DH/UH/P&D/2021-22 AND AS PER RELEVANT IS ALONGWITH ITS AMENDMENTS. 02.11.2021 23.11.2021 EMD 2 LACS uhtvn.org.in 9023360202 cemm@uhbvhn.org.in RO NO. 5487

A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY TO SCRIPT YOUR SUCCESS STORY THROUGH FREIGHT FORWARDER SCHEME

DELHI DIVISION, NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR FREIGHT FORWARDER TO TRANSPORT CARGO THROUGH RAILWAYS.

Delhi Division, Northern Railway invites EOI from Reputed /Recognized Transporters/ Handling Agents/ Companies/ Businessmen/ Industries to work as freight forwarder for transportation of goods from Delhi Division, Northern Railway to other destinations.

Originating Stations

SMELLS LIKE HAPPINESS

RUPAL SHABNAM TYAGI talks about 10 fragrances which can give you that serotonin kick this festive season

After a fully engaging day packed with appointments, and now we are bound to be overwhelmed with family gathering during the wedding and festive season, imagine entering your home to an enticing smell that instantly boosts your energy. You can amp up your holistic wellness by enumerating elements of elegance and charm to your sweet abode with intoxicating fragrances. The idea is to feel at home with enchanting and alluring aromas that can fill up any living space with joy and happiness.

A motivating environment to recharge the day, this is when our sense of smell comes to the rescue. Soothing and transformative, perfumes add joy and a sense of comfort by invoking emotions. Remember when someone quoted "nothing is memorable than a smell", we still rely on this supremacy to keep us in high spirits.

Perfumes have had cultural significance in Indian history. Ancient texts depict how perfumed oils were extracted from plants for various purposes. It is said that in the distant past, homes were infused with herbs and fragrances to ward off bacteria. As a part of the generational practices, the use of scents is still going strong while performing certain rituals.

During religious ceremonies or festivities, incense or camphor is burnt to clear negative energy. Perfumes have been forging links among humans with memories. It was considered an exotic gifting item in the earlier times among the royals. From the exquisite agarwood, to the luxurious musk rose, sandalwood, Indian aromatics are still highly traded items across the globe that exuberate affluence, wealth and prestige.

We have curated an ideal blend of sophistication and luxury below, for a tranquil atmosphere where you can sit and recharge your spirits while sipping your favorite cuppa.

■ Sandalwood: This is one of the highly valued fragrant woods widely used in perfumery and other cosmetics for its healing properties. It has a captivating aroma and precious-woody scent imparting a long-lasting effect and its use can be traced back to thousands of years during the ancient civilisations. In aro-



matherapy, its oil is used to calm tired minds and enhance sleep quality. Many studies suggest that its fragrance may help in alleviating anxiety issues.

How to use it: Burn sandalwood incense in your living space and instantly oomph up the atmosphere.

Note: A blend of sandalwood and frankincense essential oil makes a great pair in creating a fragrant avenue for meditation. It is highly recommended that you use this in a reed diffuser.

■ Patchouli: Native to tropical climates, the sweet, musky and spicy patchouli has been a fashion favorite for many. It has an addictive strong base espoused with calming effects. Its oil is said to relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety apart from treating various skin conditions.

How to use it: Rub a few drops of Patchouli oil on a cloth and place it on your pillow before going to bed. Enjoy a relaxing sleep and wake up happy the next day.

■ Cedarwood: The pleasant and camphoraceous odor of Cedarwood is widely known for its grounding, protec-



tive energy. Its purifying fragrance helps in addressing feelings of safety and comfort that aids in emotional balance.

How to use it: You can sprinkle a few drops of cedarwood essential oil on a tissue paper and smell it all day or use a mist bottle and spray it on dried flowers.

■ Eucalyptus: Known as an all rounder and a miracle worker, eucalyptus oil is not just celebrated for its med-

ical properties but also works as an air purifier. Its woody and citrusy notes can be addictive and used for relaxation. It is a natural disinfectant loaded with antibacterial, antiviral properties and can be used as a mosquito repellent too.

How to use it: Use it in your plug-in air fresher to make your living space smell luxurious all day.

■ Orange: The fruity and delicious orange is one of the most popularly used fragrances across the globe. The citrusy aroma has a feel good factor, aiding in stress relief and boosting mood. You can create a cheerful and relaxing aura with the mild fragrance whenever you feel anxious.

How to use it: Pour a few drops of orange oil and fill the reservoir of your ceramic diffuser with adequate water. Place a tea light candle underneath and Voila!

■ Lemon: The juicy yellow fruit is a household staple used both in culinary or non-culinary purposes. It has a distinctive creamy-citrusy aroma with soothing attributes that can make you feel energized all day. The fragrance of lemon is healing and can aid in anxiety and symptoms of depression.

How to use it: Pillar candles have been a festive favorite to accentuate themed parties. However, you can use lemon scented candles at any time of the day to enliven your space.

■ Mandarin: The delicate and sweet mandarin has notes of both tangy and fruity aroma, widely known for creating a happy aura. It has the sweetest aroma and is blissful that can aid in circulation, calm tired minds and also boost drained energy. Mandarin oil is widely used to purify the air.

How to use it: Pour a few drops of mandarin oil in an electric diffuser and the aromatic gas will slowly disperse in the air creating a soothing environment.

■ Jasmine: The sweet floral jasmine has a combination of rich woody note with an exotic fragrance. Known as an aphrodisiac scent, the charismatic jasmine is widely used to cure sorrowful minds, facilitating rest and uplifting energy.

How to use it: Use few drops on a cloth and place it on your pillow before sleep for a relaxing night.

■ Geranium: The floral and fruity geranium has a hint of both spicy and soft note. In perfumery, geranium has a very close association with the queen of flowers, rose, due to their similar chemistry. The scent is known to create nostalgia in bringing back fond memories.

How to use it: The geranium oil can be used in several ways ranging from the aesthetics or theme of your home. For an inviting feel, place your diffuser in the entrance of the home and turn it on as required.

■ Lavender: One of the most popular ingredients used in aromatherapy is lavender oil. Multiple studies have revealed how lavender has helped promote wellness. It is associated with relieving stress and anxiety.

How to use it: Add fragrance to your sweet abode with the spectacular smelling lavender. It can be used anywhere between, diffusers, candles or even in dried flowers as you like it.

(The author is an aromatherapy practitioner, perfumer, organic skincare formulator and the founder of Wikka India.)

Back with a bang

Bunty Aur Babli 2's cast is glad that the pandemic is now under control, ahead of the film's release. By TEAM VIVA



Yash Raj Films' Bunty Aur Babli 2, which is set to release worldwide on November 19, is an out-and-out comedy that will pit two sets of con artists called Bunty and Babli, from different generations, against each other!

Stalwarts Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukerji play the OG Bunty-Babli while Siddhant Chaturvedi and Sharvari Wagh, play the new Bunty-Babli. The family entertainer is releasing this festive season and the cast members are thrilled that the industry is set to celebrate Diwali after two long years as big films start hitting the cinemas now.

"As an industry, we are thrilled to be celebrating Diwali after two years. Our industry was the worst hit because of the pandemic and it is bouncing back now. We are confident that the audience will support us and come back to the cinemas to watch good films, now that theatres have opened across India. Films have been a part of festivities forever, as families come out to watch movies to celebrate the occasion. We are confident that it will be no different starting this Diwali," shares Saif.

Rani notes, "Diwali has always been about togetherness, and this year, it holds more meaning as we are celebrating this festival after a long while due to the pandemic. Movies are meant for a community viewing experience and now we can finally do that again. Bunty Aur Babli 2 is a family entertainer and we wish to deliver on that promise."

"Cinema and celebrations have always gone hand in hand. All of us have so many happy memories attached to watching films in cinema halls. It's been two years since we have done that together. It's been two years since we have celebrated as a community. We are seeing a glimmer of hope now and I'm certain that people will love to watch great entertainers on the big screen. Let's return to the theatres and enjoy movies the way they are meant to be," adds Chaturvedi.

Sharvari expresses, "The place that entertained everyone at every season, transported everyone to a whole new world, is back this Diwali. It is time that we celebrate movies on the big screen. We wish everyone a Happy Diwali and we promise that audiences will be thoroughly entertained by our film."

Bunty Aur Babli 2, set to release worldwide on November 19, has been directed by Varun V Sharma, who has worked as an assistant director in YRF's Sultan and Tiger Zinda Hai.

Play it smart

KAPIL JADHAV shares the perfect balance between staying fit and indulging oneself this festive season



isn't possible, go for a run, or a jog. Take out some time for exercise and try not ditching your workout session as it will help keep your fitness in check.

Eat in moderation

During social gatherings, it is normal to lose control of your diet. Almost every person falls into the trap of scrumptious meals, further compromising their fitness.

The key here is to keep a check on the portions. Eat mindfully. This doesn't mean starving or depriving yourself of food but involves monitoring meal size and time and avoid overeating. One of the smartest tricks to enjoy food during a holiday season is to pick and eat in small quantities. Compensate whenever possible, if you have had two pieces of jalebi in lunch, skip sweets for dinner and maybe bite into a fruit.

Curb cravings with fruits

Whenever you feel the urge to have a snack or a dessert in

between your meals, crunch your cravings with fruits.

They are extremely healthy and keeps you away from adding unhealthy food items to your plate. Also, they not only satisfy your sweet tooth, but their juiciness adds to the water content in your body, which helps you keep yourself hydrated.

Sleep well

It can get hectic and exhausting, with late night games, parties and all the associated fun. Make sure you get a good night's sleep of seven-eight hours to give your body the energy to function and celebrate.

Now that you are equipped with some tips and tricks to stay on track of those fitness goals, we trust you to make the most of this fitness season.

(The author is a nutrition and fitness coach at FITTR, a community-first online health and fitness platform.)

TREND BLAZER

fairtalk

DEEPSHIKHA DESHMUKH



'Bursting crackers can be a personal choice but if our choice is hurting our children, animals, the environment, then we need to understand that our traditions did not ask for such a display of pollution. We can express our joy in more positive ways. There is so much beauty in tradition, in celebrating festivals in the purest possible way without excess because that is how our ancestors did it.'

dailytalk

BHUMI PEDNEKAR



'In the last two years, we've encountered some distressing climate-related headlines. From floods to raging forest fires and distressed marine systems. But these headlines only tell one side of the story. What we overlook is that we can still limit human-induced climate change. Let's change the headlines and join the movement to support collective climate action in India.'

BATTING FOR THE YOUTH: MANUSHI

Former Miss World, MANUSHI CHHILLAR, who is set to debut alongside Akshay Kumar in Prithviraj, has been roped in by UNICEF for a youth campaign that looks to envision the India of tomorrow.

About the YuWaah initiative, Manushi, who is a self-made young achiever herself, says, "Youth are like the spark that can light lamps. With more than 300 million young people in India, the potential for our nation's progress is unlimited if we train them and provide all the necessary resources."



IDRIS ELBA'S CHANGE IN TASTE

British actor IDRIS ELBA shares that he has changed his drinking habits as he's got older because beer is 'not so kind on the belly' anymore.

He reveals, "Back in the day I was very into beer but as I've got older it's not so kind on the belly. Having visited awesome places in Japan and from speaking to people who know more than me, I've got very into whisky, particularly Japanese whisky."



PUBLIC READING VENTURES

Lt Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, inaugurates Knowledge Communication Centre of NBT-India in Raj Nivas, Puducherry

Raj Nivas Puducherry opens, for public reading, a library called NBT-India's Knowledge Communication Centre.

National Book Trust, India's Gyan Samvaad Kendra (Knowledge Communication Centre) — the first of its kind public library in the city was inaugurated at Raj Nivas, Puducherry by the Lt Governor.

Inaugurating the library on the occasion of 68th Liberation day, Dr Tamilisai appreciated the initiative by NBT and expressed, "The library will prove immensely beneficial in providing information and assistance that is necessary for learning and progress of not just the children and youth but also the adult population of the UT."



Elevation in roles

Rajiv Ranjan Jha takes charge as the director of Projects at Power Finance Corporation



oversee the ongoing projects funded by the company.

He was earlier responsible for the entire loan portfolio of private sector projects under consortium lending with PFC as the lead financial institution. He had also handled the renewable energy loan portfolio and has worked extensively in

the area of project appraisal (especially for independent private power projects). He was also associated with development and award of UMPs for which PFC is the nodal agency. Jha has been instrumental in resolving some of the large scale stressed assets with a loan value of around ₹10,000 crores.

The NTPC Tamil Nadu Energy Company Limited (NTECL), a JV Company of NTPC Limited and TANGEDCO (50:50) paid interim dividend of ₹ 84,67,55,507 for the year 2021-22 towards NTPC's 50 per cent share.

Ramesh Babu V, chairman of NTECL and director (Operations), NTPC had presented the cheque to Gurdeep Singh, chairman and managing director, of NTPC.

The interim dividend is also being paid to the other joint venture partners viz. TANGEDCO on its shareholding of 50 per cent in NTECL.

The NTPC Tamil Nadu Energy Company Limited pays interim dividend for FY 2021-22 to NTPC



Self reliance with integrity

ESIC headquarters and field offices observed the Vigilance Awareness week where public awareness and interaction, along with transparency in the service delivery system was stressed upon

Starting with the integrity pledge on October 26, the Vigilance Awareness week concluded on November 1, with the presentation on various activities undertaken during the week. The theme for the Vigilance Awareness week, this year, was 'Independent India@75: Self Reliance with Integrity'.

During the concluding ceremony, Mukhmeet S Bhatia, the director general of ESIC and CPFC, EPFO emphasised upon the transparency and implementation of robust IT system in service delivery mechanism. He further stressed upon the need of adoption of the best practices as custodian of funds. Jitendra Khare, CVO, ESIC and EPFO, in the presentation, elaborated on the major achievements and accomplishments during preceding year.

The Vigilance Awareness week was observed in all the field offices and hospitals of ESI corporation throughout India. During the week, public awareness and interaction along with transparency in the service delivery was stressed upon. Various debates, seminars, essay writing, poster-making, slogan-writing competitions, and so on, were organised in all ESIC institutions, which has created tremendous awareness amongst the stakeholders and the public. The winners of the competitions in ESIC and EPFO were also given certificates and awards during the concluding ceremony.

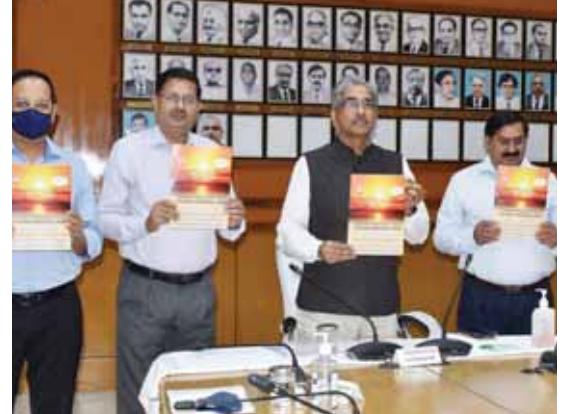
Independent India at 75

A seminar was organised at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works to observe Vigilance Awareness week

Vigilance Awareness week was observed in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) from October 27 to November 1, with the theme of 'Independent India@75: Self Reliance with Integrity'.

The vigilance webinar was inaugurated by Satish Kumar Kashyup, general manager, on November 1, by lighting the lamp. An educational video was also presented in the seminar. An opening song was presented by CLW Cultural association during the seminar.

Ramashish Yadav, Chief Vigilance officer and SDGM stressed upon the need to encourage the staff and officers to combat corruption from the society.



A colourful souvenir 'KIRAN 2021' was also released on this occasion followed by the welcome address by M K Chatterjee, DyCVO.

After the long break following the pandemic, Union Tourism, Culture and DoNER minister, G Kishan Reddy, has brought focus back on the need for renewed drive for tourism promotion.

Reddy organised regional conferences, in the recent months, to bring to improve need-based development of infrastructure.

Key issues

The Southern Regional Conference brought focus on the potential of cruise tourism in the Southern region. In the North-Eastern region, focus was put on initiatives for development and enhancement of infrastructure and connectivity.

These regional conferences had presentations and interactions from Tourism, Shipping, Railways, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Archaeological Survey of India, NeGD, and Niti Aayog to appraise the participants about the various projects and initiatives being taken by the Central Government for development of the region.

G Kishan Reddy brings the focus back to the need for renewed drive for the industry's promotion. By HARSHA BHARGAVI PANDIRI

tives being taken by the Central Government for development of infrastructure.

The Ministry has also constituted a committee of officials from the ministry and the stakeholders active in NER.

Revenge tourism

In the past few months, there has been a surge in domestic tourism. Soon the borders will be opened for international tourists. In this connection, the Ministry has notified COVID-19 safety and hygiene protocols. The Ministry has come up with an innovative feature called System for Assessment, Awareness and Training in Hospitality Industry (SAATHI) to ensure safety of employees

and customers.

The Southern region has shown good response in registering their units on the portal to follow the necessary protocol; more than 10,000 accommodation units have registered under SAATHI. The Ministry of Tourism undertook development of infrastructure at tourist destinations across the country under its infrastructure development schemes viz Swadesh Darshan (SD) and PRASHAD (National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive).

SWADESH and PRASHAD schemes

Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, 76 projects are sanctioned across the country including different themes such as coastal circuit, Buddhist circuit, eco circuit and spiritual circuit.

15 projects in Southern states worth ₹ 1,088 crores were sanctioned. Under the scheme, tourism development is undertaken at tier II and tier III destinations under different themes. There are 16 sanctioned projects in North East region under Swadesh Darshan scheme for more than ₹ 1,300 crores. 37 projects are sanctioned in the country towards PRASHAD scheme. Approximately ₹ 200 crores are sanctioned to the North east region for implementation of Prasad scheme.

A total number of six projects have been sanctioned for an amount of ₹ 193.61 crores that includes development of Kamakhya temple and pilgrimage destinations in Guwahati for an amount of ₹ 29.99 crores.

Conclusion

Let's vaccinate and take a break from the routine, in order to explore the rich heritage of our country. There are many destinations waiting to be explored, in order to understand the civilisational ethos and show it to the next generation. It's time to pack up the bags and disappear in the historical timeline.

(The writer is the Chief Communications Officer at the Office of Tourism, Culture and DoNER Minister).

Virtual celebrations

Online sessions and workshops in the honour of Vigilance Awareness week were held by NR-I to teach CDA rules to employees

During celebration of Vigilance Awareness week, an online workshop on CDA Rules and a lecture on preventive vigilance was conducted. On October 27, in the august presence of A K Behra, CGM(AM), Manoj Kumar, Sr GM (Vigilance) of NR-I headquarters, POWERGRID, Faridabad, the celebrations took place.



All sites and employees of NR-I were connected through VC/link provided on NR-I website during online session. The first session on CDA rules was taken by Amal Kumar, assistant manager (Vigilance-CC), while the second session on preventive vigilance /best practises in NR-I and system improvement was taken by Manoj Kumar, Sr GM (Vigilance), NR-I.

The key objective of the online workshop on CDA Rules was to make all employees aware of the conduct, discipline and appeal rules of POWERGRID in a practical manner with lot of examples and visuals. Similarly, Sr GM(Vigilance), NR-I, during his online session, discussed about a lot of grey areas (particularly in civil works) where specific attention is required to be paid and emphasised on, something that all employees should keep on improving upon in the system by suggesting innovative ideas.

Saluting the fallen brave

ITBP paid homage to the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, at the NPM, New Delhi



The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) organised a commemorative day to pay homage to its brave-hearted soldiers who made supreme sacrifices in the line of duty at the NPM, New Delhi.

Sanjay Arora, DG of ITBP, and senior officers of the force, along with their family members, paid a tribute to martyrs in the evening. A band display programme was also organised on the occasion.

The day-long programme was organised in the forenoon and in the evening sessions. 11 families of martyrs were felicitated at the NPM. The families paid tributes to the martyrs at the memorial and at the wall of valour. Apart from the martyr's families, families of serving ITBP personnel also visited the memorial and the museum at the NPM. Films themed around valour and sacrifice of brave policemen of the nation were shown to the families and men of the forces.

A M Prasad, ADG of ITBP, felicitated the family members of the brave ITBP men who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Raised in 1962, the ITBP guards the 3,488 kilometers India-China borders. The force is also deployed in various internal security duties.



Elongated partnership

NTPC extends collaboration with Archery Association of India by three years

NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated energy company, has extended its partnership with Archery Association of India (AAI) for a period of three years. The collaboration is till November 2024, continuing up to the Olympics in 2024.

An addendum to the Memorandum of Association (MoA) has been signed between NTPC and AAI.

Archery Association of India (AAI) at NTPC Office in New Delhi.

The addendum was signed by MSD Bhattacharya, ED (HR), NTPC and Pramod Chandarkar, SG (AAI).

RS Tomar, treasurer (AAI) and officials from NTPC and AAI were also present during the signing ceremony.

Projects have been sanctioned for an amount of ₹ 193.61 crores that includes development of Kamakhya temple and pilgrimage destinations in Guwahati for an amount of ₹ 29.99 crores.

Let's vaccinate and take a break from the routine, in order to explore the rich heritage of our country. There are many destinations waiting to be explored, in order to understand the civilisational ethos and show it to the next generation. It's time to pack up the bags and disappear in the historical timeline.

(The writer is the Chief Communications Officer at the Office of Tourism, Culture and DoNER Minister).



ICC T20 WORLD CUP

12

WHEN PEOPLE TAKE PACE OFF THE BALL, YOU'VE GOT TO WAIT FOR THE BALL. WHEN THERE'S PACE ON IT, THEN YOU CAN SIT ON IT

— DAVID WARNER

INDIA DEMOLISH AFGHANISTAN BY 66 RUNS

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

A formidably India led by their stylish openers Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul finally put up a near-flawless performance to annihilate a hapless Afghanistan by 66 runs to stay afloat in the ICC T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

It could well be a case of joining the party two games too late but a solid batting show to first score 210 for 2 and then bowl the disciplined lines to restrict Afghanistan to 144 for 7 kept their billion plus fans interested.

With their net run-rate finally entering the positive bracket (+0.073), India would now hope that Afghanistan can recover from this drubbing and upset New Zealand, giving Virat Kohli's men an outside chance to qualify for the semi-finals behind Pakistan who are set to top the group.

On the day, India did everything that perhaps was expected of them against the big teams.

Rohit brought his carefree elegance to the table while Rahul was classy as ever in India's imposing total.

While they would still



have to bear the criticism of having flattered to deceive against Pakistan and New Zealand, Rohit (74 off 47 balls) and KL Rahul (69 off 48 balls) made a mockery of Afghanistan's inexperienced attack, putting up a record 140 runs for the opening stand.

This was also the highest total in this edition of T20 World Cup but one can only hope that it hasn't come two matches too late.

It couldn't be denied that save Rashid Khan, who was taken to task by Rohit in his third over, the other Afghans were pedestrian at best, leaving Hardik Pandya (35 no off 13 balls) and Rishabh Pant (27 no off 13 balls) to feast during the death overs.

The Pandya-Pant duo clobbered 63 runs in 3.3 overs to take the total which was always going to be beyond Afghanistan's reach.

When India bowled, Ravichandran Ashwin, playing his first international game in six months and white ball international after four years, was too good for the Afghans with figures of 2 for 12 in four overs that also had 12 dots.

Jasprit Bumrah (12/5 in 4 overs) was steady as usual while Ravindra Jadeja (1/19 in 3 overs) looked decent. Mohammed Shami (3/32 in 4 overs) got a bit of stick but

picked wickets at regular intervals.

With no disrespect to India's efforts, the gulf in bowling standards was evident in the disdainful manner that Rohit and Rahul treated the Afghan attack. Hardik and Pant then added insult to the injury.

The mid-130s speed of the pacers and lack of swing with not much pace off the track was an ideal recipe for disaster against the two Indian openers, who were smarting after back-to-back failures.

On a track where the ball was gripping, Afghanistan captain Mohammed Nabi started with his off-breaks and introduced left-arm spinner Sharafuddin Ashraf from the other end. For the two Indian openers, who needed a few big shots to get into the groove, there couldn't have been a more mouth-watering option as Rohit was the first one off the block with an inside-out lofted boundary over extra-cover off Nabi and a lap-shot off Sharafuddin.

When pacer Naveen ul Haq was introduced, Rohit opened his stance to slash the bowler past point and a straight six while Rahul also

got his share of boundaries.

The 50 of the innings came in five overs but it was veteran pacer Hamid Hasan, who bowled the last over of the Powerplay to put a brief brake on scoring during that phase after the fielding restrictions were lifted.

However, the good start meant that 85 came off the first 10 overs with both openers looking solid for acceleration towards the back-10.

One of the better boundaries from Rohit was the one which he guided a Gulbadin Naib delivery towards third-man fence, using the bounce to inch towards his half-century.

The 23rd T20 International fifty came when he square-cut an off-colour Naveen to the boundary and Rahul followed suit with a six over square leg off the same bowler and then lofting Gulbadin over extra cover to reach the milestone.

By the time Rashid (0/36 in 4 overs) came for his final spell, Rohit and Rahul were competing to out-score each other.

Rohit saved his best for Rashid when he lofted the spinner towards deep mid-wicket.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND (BATTING)

Martin Guptill (93)
Glenn Phillips (33)
Daryl Mitchell (13)

Total 84 (0 wickets, 18.2 overs)

SCOTLAND (BATTING)

Michael Leask (42)
Matthew Cross (27)
George Munsey (22)

Total 86 (4 wickets, 13.3 overs)

Scoreboard

INDIA (BATTING)

Rohit Sharma (74)
K.L.Rahul (74)
Hardik Pandya (35)

Total 210 (2 wickets, 20 overs)

AFGHANISTAN (BATTING)

Karim Janat (42)
Mohammad Nabi (35)
Rahmanullah Gurbaz (19)

Total 144 (7 wickets, 20 overs)

points table

Group A

Team	Matches	NRR	Points
England	4	+3.183	8
South Africa	4	+0.742	6
Australia	3	-0.627	4
Sri Lanka	4	-0.590	2
West Indies	3	-1.598	2
Bangladesh	4	-1.435	0

Group B

Team	Matches	NRR	Points
Pakistan	4	+1.065	8
Afghanistan	4	+1.481	4
New Zealand	3	+0.816	4
India	3	+0.073	2
Namibia	3	-1.600	2
Scotland	3	-2.645	0

Chakravarthy out with left-calf muscle injury: BCCI

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Injury-prone mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy's fitness issues cropped up as he was ruled out of India's T20 World Cup game against Afghanistan here on Wednesday.

"Varun Chakravarthy has a left calf issue. He was not available for selection for this game," a BCCI media statement said.

Chakravarthy failed to get

Pakistan's consistency has impressed me the most: Sana Mir

PTI ■ DUBAI

Former Pakistan women's team skipper Sana Mir is impressed with the consistent manner in which Babar Azam and his men have performed in the T20 World Cup, a trait not often associated with the squad.

Pakistan have become the team to beat in the ongoing tournament. Armed with a potent bowling attack and a solid batting unit, the 2009 champions are yet to lose a fixture, registering wins over

Over many years, Pakistan have proven to be an unpredictable side. Statistics and predictions have time and again failed to determine their results.

Hamilton-Verstappen rivalry is F1's best duel



Fittipaldi said at the U.S. Grand Prix. "Both are driving the limit. The excitement is back in Formula One."

The championship protagonists seek the same title at speeds separated by split seconds. Yet they couldn't be any more different.

Hamilton, F1's only Black driver, has said he endured racial abuse as young driver rising through the European ranks.

But with his wins and titles, his celebrity grew and Hamilton tapped into his vast social media platform (Hamilton has 24.5 million followers on Instagram; 6.6 million on Twitter).

OTHER SPORTS

Akash Kumar secures India's first medal in Belgrade

PTI ■ BELGRADE

Hardened by the difficult circumstances of his personal life, young boxer Akash Kumar (54kg) secured India's first medal at the ongoing AIBA Men's World Championships here on Tuesday by advancing to the semifinals with a superb win over former Olympic silver-medalist Yoel Finol Rivas of Venezuela.

The 21-year-old Akash prevailed 5-0 with a fabulous performance which was a perfect mix of powerful punching and great showmanship.

He was the only Indian left in fray after four others bowed out with quarterfinal losses.

Chelsea beats Malmo 1-0



AP ■ MALMO

Chelsea took a step closer to the knockout stage of the Champions League with a 1-0 victory over Malmo.

Hakim Ziyech's goal early in the second half was enough for the defending European champion to eliminate host Malmo from the tournament.

The best Malmo can hope for is qualification to the Europa League.

The Swedish champion has lost all four of its Group H games and has yet to score so far in the Champions League with two matches remaining. Ziyech broke the deadlock

for Chelsea in the 56th minute, tapping home at the back post after Kai Havertz centered the ball just out of reach of goalkeeper Johan Dahlin.

Chelsea missed the clinical finishing of the injured Romelu Lukaku, though, as both Havertz and substitute Christian Pulisic couldn't convert from close range. Pulisic, back from an ankle injury, made his first appearance since the Premier League season opener and was in alone on Dahlin on the last play of the match.

Havertz had two good chances created for him by Ruben Loftus-Cheek but both shots were straight at Dahlin.

Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel credited Havertz for a "huge effort." "He is a bit unlucky at the moment but he won a penalty for us at Newcastle," Tuchel said. "Today he had two chances to score, and yeah it would have been the perfect scenario."

Chhetri, football's first Khel Ratna awardee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The first footballer to be conferred with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Indian maestro Sunil Chhetri on Wednesday said the journey that he has been through in the last 16 years has been nothing short of a dream.

Since his India debut on June 12, 2005 against Pakistan in Quetta, Chhetri has rewritten the country's football history many times and he has now added another feather in his cap by being named for the country's highest sporting award.

"I am thrilled, I am really thankful and honoured. I have always said that it is a dream that I have gone through, and it would not have been possible without my family, teammates and coaches I have played under," Chhetri said.

"It has been amazing to play for the National team, for so many years, for the number of



matches, it has been an outstanding journey," said the 36-year-old year talismanic India captain in an AIFF release.

Arguably India's greatest footballer after the 'Golden Era' of the last century, Chhetri has played most number of international matches and scored most goals.

Chhetri was on Tuesday named among 12 sportspersons to be conferred with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award for 2021, on November 13.

He is one of the few Indian footballers who have won the Padma Shri and has also been conferred with the Arjuna Award. He is the first footballer to win the Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting award.

Chhetri was on Tuesday named among 12 sportspersons to be conferred with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award for 2021, on November 13.

The 21-year-old Akash prevailed 5-0 with a fabulous performance which was a perfect mix of powerful punching and great showmanship.

He was the only Indian left in fray after four others bowed out with quarterfinal losses.