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STAFF FOR AMAZING JOURNEY

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WAS GOING
TO SKIP URI:
VICKY KAUSHAL
10 VIVACITY

NSAs for stable, terrorist-free Af

Host India, 7
nations seek
open, inclusive
Govt in Kabul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Determined to ensure a stable Afghanistan, India and some other countries on Wednesday vowed to work for ensuring that Afghanistan did not become a safe haven for global terrorism. They also favoured the formation of an open and inclusive Government in Kabul.

Giving these assurances in a joint statement the 'Delhi Declaration,' countries including India, Iran, Russia and five Central Asian nations also expressed concern over the deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and underlined the need to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. The Central Asian countries that attended the dialogue are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The participating countries also called for a collective cooperation against the menace of radicalisation, extremism, separatism and drug trafficking in the region.

The National Security Advisors (NSAs) later called on Prime Minister Narendra



Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses for a group photograph with the National Security Advisors (NSAs) of seven foreign nations and India, in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

Modi. Indian NSA Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla also joined the security officials in their meeting with the Prime Minister. Modi was apprised about the discussions at the 'Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan' by the security officials, sources said.

The important 'Delhi Declaration,' came after a day-long brain storming session here on Wednesday between the NSAs of seven countries. Hosted by Doval, the 'Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan' reviewed the situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban took control of the country.

It was the Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan. Iran hosted the

event in 2018 and 2019. However, the latest conclave was delayed due to the ongoing corona pandemic.

The top-ranking participants in the declaration reaffirmed that

Afghan territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist activities.

Voicing concern over the present socio-economic situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban took control in August, the security officials said humanitarian assistance should be provided in an unimpeded, direct and assured manner to Afghanistan and the assistance must be distributed within the country in a non-discriminatory manner across all sections of Afghan society.

Inaugurating the high-pro-

file event, Doval said the recent developments in that country have important implications not only for the Afghan people but also for the region.

Doval said it is time for closer consultations, greater cooperation and coordination among the regional countries to deal with the challenges emanating from Afghanistan. "We all have been keenly watching the developments in that country.

These have important implications not only for the people of Afghanistan but also for its neighbours and the region," Doval said.

"This is the time for close consultation among us, greater cooperation and interaction and coordination among the regional countries," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Pak to host its own dialogue on Afghanistan

China to attend meeting after missing Delhi Dialogue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan, which declined to attend the Delhi Dialogue on the pretext that India had not invited the Taliban for the event, will host a meeting on the Afghanistan situation on Thursday in Islamabad as part of the "Extended Troika." It includes Pakistan, Russia, China and the US.

Refusing India's invitation for the NSA-level meeting, Pakistan's NSA Moeed Yusuf last week said a "spoiler cannot play peacemaker." He also reiterated his country's position that the Taliban should be part of the dialogue. Pakistan had not attended the earlier Dialogues hosted Iran in 2018 and 2019 on the same grounds.

Incidentally, China also

did not attend the Delhi conclave due to "scheduling difficulties". However, Beijing said it was open to continuing discussion with India through bilateral channels. Significantly, China said on Wednesday that it will attend the meeting on Afghanistan convened by its all-weather ally Pakistan. Asked whether China would attend the meeting in Islamabad, Chinese

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing in Beijing on Wednesday that "China supports Pakistan in hosting this extended meeting of the China-US-Russia consultation mechanism and supports all international efforts conducive to promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan and building consensus among all parties."

As regards the meeting in Pakistan, its special envoy on Afghanistan Mohammad Sadiq Khan will host the event. It will be the first time that the "Troika Plus" will also meet Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Continued on Page 2

MPLADS fund restored post 20-month halt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After 20 months, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to restore the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

Addressing the media, Information Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said that MPLADS funds would be restored for the remaining part of the Financial Year 2021-22 and up to the Financial Year 2025-26 co-terminus with the period of the 15th Finance Commission. The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is ₹5 crore, released in two installments of ₹2.5 crore each, subject to the fulfillment of conditions as per the MPLADS guidelines.

"The Finance Ministry will release MPLADS funds at the rate of ₹2 crore per Member of Parliament for the remaining period of FY 2021-22 in one installment and at the rate of ₹5 crore per annum per Member of Parliament during FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 in two installments of ₹2.5 crore each. Since the inception of the scheme, a total of 19,86,206 works/projects have been completed with the financial implication of ₹54,171 crore," said the

Munda birth anniv now to be Janjatiya Gaurav Divas



Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur during the Cabinet briefing in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

Government in a statement. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi also approved the declaration of November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas for the commemoration of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. November 15 is the birth anniversary of the tribal freedom fighter.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

US JOINS INDIA-LED SOLAR ALLIANCE

London: The United States on Wednesday became the 101st member country of the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA), as US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry signed the ISA framework agreement to catalyse global energy transition through a solar-led approach. P2

CHANNI FACES CRITICISM OVER PUNJAB AG ISSUE

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi faced flak from leaders of his own party on Wednesday for ousting the Advocate General, with former State Congress president Sunil Jakhar calling him a "really compromised CM." P2

PRINCE HARRY SAYS HE WARNED TWITTER CEO

London: Britain's Prince Harry said he warned the CEO of Twitter ahead of the January 6 Capitol riots that the social media site was being used to stage political unrest in the US capital. Harry made the comments on Tuesday while he was taking part in an online panel on misinformation in California. P8

PAYTM CREATES IPO HISTORY

New Delhi: Paytm's ₹18,300 crore IPO was oversubscribed 1.89 times on the last day of India's biggest share sale on Wednesday, making it one of the country's most valued companies.

Fake news of champion Nisha's death burns Net

Confusion result of murder of wrestler with same name in Hry

PTI ■ SONIPAT/GONDA

A case of mistaken identity created a flutter across the country as most major news sites reported the murder of national-level wrestler Nisha Dahiya and her brother on Wednesday evening. Reports suggested that the wrestler, who brought glory to the country by winning a bronze medal at a world championship last week, and her brother Suraj were shot dead at the Sushil Kumar Wrestling Academy in Sonipat. So widely did the news of the champion wrestler's murder spread that in the end she was forced to release a video saying that she was absolutely fine and quell the rumours.

It all began when a university-level wrestler named Nisha Dahiya and her brother were killed and their mother suffered injuries as some assailants opened fire on them



at a wrestling academy in Haryana's Sonipat district on Wednesday, following which angry villagers set the facility on fire.

The murdered woman's identity created confusion as several reports initially mistook her for her more famous namesake who won a bronze medal in the recent under-23 world championship in Belgrade.

Police suspected that the coach-cum-owner of the academy in Sonipat's Halalpur area is behind the firing incident, and added that the motive is being investigated and efforts are being made to nab him.

Sonipat Assistant

Superintendent of Police Mayank Gupta said Nisha Dahiya (20) and her brother Suraj (18) were killed in the incident, but rejected reports that the slain woman was the bronze-medallist wrestler. She was a university-level wrestler who had been practising in the Sushil Kumar Wrestling Academy, Gupta added.

But there was chaos online as several reports initially identified Dahiya as the world medallist, who had been congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi just this morning for her performance in Belgrade some days ago.

Continued on Page 2

Protesting farmer kills self at Singhu border

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

A 45-year-old farmer from Punjab, participating in the protest against the Centre's farm laws at the Singhu border, allegedly hanged himself to death from a tree near the border, police said on Wednesday.

Identified as Gurpreet Singh, the victim was a resident of Fatehgarh Sahib district, they said. The body has been sent to a local hospital in Sonipat for a post-mortem examination, a Kundli police station official said. Farmer leader Balwant Singh said they got to know about the incident at around 7 am. "We got to know about the incident at around 7 am. He was at the protest site here at the Singhu border for the last three to four months. The body has been handed over to the police for the autopsy," he said.

Hundreds of farmers have been camping at Delhi borders since November 2020, demanding the repeal of the three laws — Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers' (Empowerment and

Continued on Page 2

FOR GOD's SAKE!!!



Braving the polluted waters of the Yamuna, devotees perform rituals during the Chhath Puja in New Delhi on Wednesday Ranjan Dimri / I Pioneer

PM's security compromised by Fadnavis: Malik

'Hushed up ₹14.65 cr post demonetisation fake note case'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Tearing into the former Chief Minister and current leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis for his alleged underworld links, Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik on Wednesday accused him of allegedly "compromising" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security by helping a history-sheeter linked to Karachi-based underworld don Dawood Ibrahim get access to a VVIP event and "hushing up" a ₹14.65 crore post-demonetisation fake currency case.

A day after having threatened to drop "hydrogen bomb" on the former Chief Minister for his alleged underworld links, Malik also alleged that Fadnavis appointed the broth-



Continued on Page 2

5 cops in UP suspended after man dies in police custody

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Five policemen were suspended in Kansganj in Uttar Pradesh following the death of a 22-year-old man in police custody. The young man, who was accused of eloping with a girl, was allegedly subjected to third-degree torture in custody after which he allegedly committed suicide inside a police station on Tuesday.

The deceased identified as Altaf was brought to the police station on Tuesday for questioning. Altaf's family members claimed he was subject to torture by the cops forcing him to end his own life. Altaf's father Chand Miyan said, "I handed over my son to the police on Monday evening. Barely 24 hours later I was informed that he had hanged himself."

District Police Chief Rohan Pramod Bothre claimed the man sought permission to go to the toilet at the police station. As he did not return the cops went inside and found him hanging, said police,

Continued on Page 2

'25K tonnes of Covid waste polluting world oceans'

PNS ■ New Delhi

Plastic products, especially personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves, may have played significant roles in protecting humans from Covid-19, but these are leaving the land and marine life gasping for breath, with a report revealing that more than 25,000 tonnes of pandemic-associated waste is entering the global oceans.

This medical waste is in addition to the daily plastic waste created by the consumption of plastic packaging by takeaway services, e-commerce outlets and express delivery industries that increased extensively with social distancing requirements



necessitated in pandemic times. For instance, takeaway and home delivery services generated an additional 1.21 MT of plastic waste from April to

May 2020 during the lockdown in Singapore alone.

"This (medical waste) poses a long-lasting problem for the ocean environment and

is mainly accumulated on beaches and coastal sediments. We call for better medical waste management in pandemic epicenters, especially in developing countries.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, an estimated 8.4 MT of plastic waste has been generated from 193 countries," according to the report, published in the online journal PNAS.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has led to an increased demand for single-use plastics that intensifies pressure on an already out-of-control global plastic waste problem," said Yiming Peng and Peipei Wu from Nanjing University, the authors of 'Magnitude and impact of pandemic-associ-

ated plastic waste.'

"The released plastics can be transported over long distances in the ocean, encounter marine wildlife, and potentially lead to injury or even death," they added.

A study in March presented the first case of a fish entrapped in a medical glove, encountered during a canal clean up in Leiden, the Netherlands. In Brazil a PFF-2 protective mask was found in the stomach of a dead Magellanic penguin.

The scientists predicted that by the end of the century almost all pandemic-associated plastics will end up on either the seabed or on beaches.

Continued on Page 2

US joins India-led Int’l Solar Alliance as member country

London: The United States on Wednesday became the 101st member country of the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA), as US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry signed the ISA framework agreement to catalyse global energy transition through a solar-led approach. Kerry described the US membership as a major step towards the rapid deployment of solar power, as he formally signed the framework agreement at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

"It has long been coming, and we are happy to join the International Solar Alliance, which Prime Minister

Narendra Modi took the lead in making," said Kerry.

"We worked out the details and this is a process we are pleased to be a part of. This will be an important contribution to more rapid deployment of solar globally. It will be particularly important for developing countries," he said.

Union Minister for Environment Bhupender Yadav welcomed the US as the 101st member of the ISA, saying this move will strengthen the solar alliance and propel future action on providing a clean source of energy to the world.

"Happy that now USA is formally a part of International

Solar Alliance, a visionary initiative launched by PM Shri @narendramodi Ji in 2015 at Paris COP. The number of countries who are now part of @isolaralliance is now 101," the minister later tweeted.

The ISA framework, first circulated for countries to support in 2016, emphasises delivering global relevance and local benefit to all countries through collaborations.

The ISA's key interventions focus on readiness and enabling activities, risk mitigation and innovative financing instruments to facilitate the promotion and deployment of solar technologies in target markets.

Channi faces criticism over Punjab AG issue Jakhar calls him ‘compromised CM’

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi faced flak from leaders of his own party on Wednesday for ousting the advocate general, with former state Congress president Sunil Jakhar calling him a "really compromised CM".

Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari, who is an MP from Anandpur Sahib, took a swipe at his own party government over the issue, saying politicising the AG's office "undermines" the integrity of constitutional functionaries.

The remarks came after the Channi government on Tuesday accepted the resignation of advocate general APS Deol, yielding to the pressure mounted by Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu for replacing the state's AG.

Channi had said a new advocate general would be appointed.

SSR DEATH-RELATED DRUG CASE

Defreezing of Rhea’s bank a/c, return of laptop ordered

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major relief to Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, a Mumbai Special Court has ordered the de-freezing of her bank account, deposits and return of electronic gadgets like her laptop and mobile.

The development has come more than a year after the Bombay High Court granted Rhea a conditional bail in the sensational case.

Hearing her plea seeking de-freezing of bank with the HDFC Bank – frozen vide a NCB notice to the Bank on Sep. 16, 2020 and

return of gadgets like an Apple laptop and an iPhone.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had frozen her bank accounts and seized her electronic gadgets as part of the investigations into the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case.

Special NDPS Court Judge D. B. Mane ordered the de-freezing of her bank accounts, after noting that the Prosecution had not opposed the de-freezing of her bank accounts.

The judge also allowed the return of her electronic gadgets. The court directed Rhea to furnish an indemnity bond of Rs. 100,000.

In her plea, Rhea had urged the court that she needed access to her bank accounts to support herself, her family, pay the salaries of her staff and aides, pay taxes, etc.

Rhea, a live-in friend of the late actor, was arrested by the NCB on September 9 last year for her role in the circumstances leading to Sushant's death. Rhea was in incarceration for 28 days.

Sushant was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his closed room of his sixth floor duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai, on June 14, 2020.

United Nations Environment Programme to set up office in India

Glasgow: India and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have entered into an agreement to set up the body's country office, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said here on Wednesday.

Yadav is in Glasgow, representing India at the ongoing 26th climate conference COP26.

Taking to Twitter, the minister said, "Good start to the day in Glasgow with the signing of the Host Country Agreement between the Government of India and @UNEP in a spirit of friendly cooperation for establishing (the) Country Office of UNEP in India. Extended my compliments to Executive Director UNEP Ms @andersen_inger."

Earlier, Yadav met UNCCD Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw to exchange views on the topic of land restoration.

"Met @UNCCD executive secretary Mr @ibrahimthiaw. It was a delight exchanging our ideas and views towards land restoration. PTI

PM's security...

From Page 1

Malik's sensational charges against the former Chief Minister made at a news conference are direct fallout of his ongoing campaign against zonal director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sameer Wankhede. Malik's charges were in response to allegation by Fadnavis on Tuesday that Malik and his family had purchased a huge plot of land at "a throw-away price" from two henchmen of Dawood.

The NCP leader charged that Fadnavis was trying to "divert the issue" from his ongoing campaign against Wankhede, "a man who is framing innocent people in fake drug case" and allegedly extorting money from them.

Making a slew of allegations linking Fadnavis to the underworld, Malik alleged that the senior BJP leader "enjoyed" proximity to Riyaz Bhatti (57), a builder from Versova in north-west Mumbai, considered Dawood's henchman, and was seen "rubbing shoulders with" the former Chief Minister at the party events, and "present even at his (Fadnavis') dinner table".

"It is the same Bhatti who was arrested in a fake passport case in 2015 and again in 2020. Shockingly enough, he (Bhatti) was given entry to the VIP enclosure at a function attended by Modi. How could such a man who is so close to Dawood and other underworld people, gain access to the VIP event and even manage to get himself photographed with the Prime Minister. Now you would know who had made this happen," Malik said.

Elaborating on Bhatti, the Maharashtra Minister said Bhatti was arrested in October 2015 and February 2020 in fake passport cases. "His name has cropped in several land-grab cases. He has usurped several plots of lands with the help of Mahfosi Chhota Shakeel and has a Look Out Circular issued against him, but is currently absconding. This is the man who is close to Fadnavis," Malik said.

NSAs for stable, terrorist...

From Page 1

The declaration said the officials reiterated strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan while emphasising the respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.

It said they also expressed deep concern over the suffering of the

Afghan people due to the security situation there and condemned the terrorist attacks in Kunduz, Kandahar and Kabul. They specifically emphasised that Afghan territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts.

The declaration said the officials condemned in the strongest terms all terrorist activities and reaffirmed their firm commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms including its financing.

It also referred to the need for dismantling of terrorist infrastructure and countering radicalisation to ensure that Afghanistan does not become a safe haven for global terrorism.

Pitching for an open Government there, the NSAs stressed the necessity of forming a truly inclusive Government that represents the will of all the people of Afghanistan and has representation from all sections of their society, including major ethnopolitical forces in the country.

The declaration said the inclusion of all sections of the society in the administrative and political structure is imperative for the successful national reconciliation process in the country.

Mentioning the relevant UN resolutions on Afghanistan, the participants noted that the UN has a central role to play in that country and that its continued presence there must be preserved.

5 cops in UP suspended after man dies in police custody

From Page 1

adding that the man was wearing a jacket having a hood with a string attached to it. He made a noose with the string and hanged himself from the pipe, said police.

Later, the man was brought out of the washroom unconscious and taken to the hospital where he died within 5-10 minutes, police said.

Soon after the incident, the SP suspended five police personnel, including the inspector. He claimed that the primary probe revealed negligence on the part of five police personnel, following which action was taken against them.

Chand Miyan, however, demanded a case be registered against the erring policemen.

Sources said kin also raised questions over the police's theory that Altaf had hanged himself using the string of his hoodie citing that the pipe, from which, the police said Altaf hanged himself, is merely two feet from the ground.

The kin said there was only one pipe (the water outlet) in the washroom. Moreover, the CCTV camera footage from the police station has also not been put forth for investigation yet.

MPLADS fund restored post 20-month halt

From Page 1

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for committed price support of Rs 17,408.85 crore to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for the cotton seasons from 2014-15 to 2020-21. "In order to safeguard the interests of the cotton farmers, it is expedient to conduct price support operations in cotton years 2014-15 to 2020-21 as cotton prices touched the MSP prices. Its implementation enhances the inclusiveness of the cotton farmers in the economic activity of the country. Price support operations help stabilise the cotton prices and alleviate farmer's distress," said Thakur.

The CCEA also approved mechanism for procurement of ethanol by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies under Ethanol Blended Petrol programme revised - ethanol price for supply to Public Sector OMCs for Ethanol Supply Year 2021-22. The Cabinet approved reservation norms for Jute Packaging Materials for Jute Year 2021-22 under JPM Act, 1987. The compulsorily 100 per cent foodgrains and 20 per cent of sugar to be packed in jute bags. This will benefit to 3,70,000 workers employed in jute mills and ancillary units as well as support the livelihood of around 40 lakh farmer families, said Thakur.

Protesting...

From Page 1

Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. They are also demanding a new law to guarantee the minimum support price (MSP) for crops. The Centre, which has held 11 rounds of formal dialogue with farmers till now, has been insisting that the three laws are pro-farmer, while protesters have been claiming that the three enactments would leave them at the mercy of corporations.

Pak to...

From Page 1

"I will be travelling to Europe and Asia starting today to discuss the way forward on Afghanistan with allies and partners. The international community must act together to be effective," tweeted US Special Envoy Thomas West.

Besides Islamabad, he will also visit Delhi and Moscow. Russia's Special envoy Zamir Kabulov is likely to attend the meeting in Islamabad.

‘25K tonnes of Covid waste...

From Page 1

The Chinese study found that 46% of the mismanaged plastic waste came from Asia, due to the high level of mask-wearing by individuals there, followed by Europe, 24%, and North and South America, 22%. Peng and Wu said their research suggested 87.4% of the excess waste was from hospitals, rather than from individual use. PPE usage by individuals contributed only 7.6% of the total, while packaging and test kits accounted for 4.7% and 0.3% respectively. "Most of the plastic is from medical waste generated by hospitals that dwarfs the contribution from personal protection equipment and online-shopping package material," they wrote. "This poses a long-lasting problem for the ocean environment and is mainly accumulated on beaches and coastal sediments." The thousands of tonnes of masks, gloves, testing kits and face visors which leached into the oceans from the start of the pandemic up to August this year, were transported in 369 major rivers. Chief among these were Shatt al-Arab in south-eastern Iraq, which carried 5,200 tonnes of PPE waste to the ocean; the Indus River, which arises in western Tibet, carried 4,000 tonnes and the Yangtze river in China 3,700 tonnes. In Europe, the Danube carried the most plastic pandemic waste into the ocean: 1,700 tonnes. The top 10 rivers accounted for 79% of pandemic plastic discharge, the top 20 for 91%, and the top 100 for 99%. About 73% of the discharge was from Asian rivers followed by European watercourses (11%), with minor contributions from other continents, the report said. "These findings highlight the hotspot rivers and watersheds that require special attention in plastic waste management," the authors said. "We find a long-lasting impact of the pandemic-associated waste release in the global ocean. At the end of this century, the model suggests that almost all the pandemic-associated plastics end up in either the seabed (28.8%) or beaches (70.5%)."

Fake news of...

From Page 1

The Wrestling Federation of India shared a video in which the fast-rising wrestler can be seen stating that she is in Gonda in Uttar Pradesh for the National Championships and is fine. Sitting next to her in the video is 2016 Olympic bronze-medallist Sakshi Malik.

"The girl who died was a newcomer hailing from

Halalpur village in Sonapat. She is also Nisha Dahiya but not the one who went to the U-23 world championship," coach Randhir Malik, who travelled with the Indian women's team to Belgrade. "That Nisha is safe. It's fake news that she has died," he added. According to the police, the incident took place around 2 pm and five to six rounds of bullets were fired allegedly by coach Pawan and some other persons.

Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Bareilly Address:- Vikas Bhawan, Bareilly

e-Procurement Notice
Letter No: 1685 /RED/Tender/2021-22 dated: 01-11-2021

The Executive Engineer, U.P.R.E.D. Bareilly on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C, and D as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works

01. Name of work as per table.

S. No	Name of District	Name of work	Total estimated cost without GST (in Lac)	Bid security (EMD) (in Rupees)	Cost of Bid document including GST (in Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Twari Arthik Vikas Yojna 2021-22 Vidhansabha - Nagar Chetra						
1	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from Basant Bihar Shiv Parvati temple to Sardar Kulwant Singh's house.	20.000	40000.00	2354.00	3 Month
2	Bareilly	Construction of CC road and drain from Rampal Gangwar's house to Secretary Kumar's house in Balaji Dham Colony.	15.680	31400.00	854.00	3 Month
3	Bareilly	Construction of CC road and drain from Arun Yad's house to Anil Kumar Sharma's house in Balaji Dham Colony.	26.820	53700.00	2354.00	3 Month
4	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from Vikas Rohela's house to New Bareilly Book House in Karamchari Nagar near Surya Nagar.	10.880	21800.00	854.00	3 Month
5	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work on the main road in Siddharth Nagar from Munna's house to Putti Lal and from NC Yadav's house to Veerpal Chauhan's house and link street to Rajveer Singh's house.	10.370	20800.00	854.00	3 Month
6	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from Mukht Saxena's house in Valbhav Nagar to near Master Jagdish's house.	11.110	22300.00	854.00	3 Month
7	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from the house of little Gini to the house of Malkhan and Mahendra Gini in Emperor Ashok Nagar.	17.910	35900.00	854.00	3 Month
8	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from main gate to Hitenra Singh Rathore's house via park in Srijan Estate.	10.870	21800.00	854.00	3 Month
9	Bareilly	CC Road work from Holi Chowk to M. No. 21 Ajit's house in Ashish Royal Park.	10.930	21900.00	854.00	3 Month
10	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from Govind Agarwal's house to Harish Patel and Dharamrae's dairy in Suresh Sharma Nagar ward no-65.	14.300	28700.00	854.00	3 Month
11	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from near Dr. Mahesh Pal to Manvendra Singh's house in Ashutosh City.	10.420	20900.00	854.00	3 Month
12	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from Maser's house to Monu's house in Alok Nagar.	21.910	43900.00	2354.00	3 Month
13	Bareilly	CC road and drain construction work from Geeta Chakraborty's house to Yashoda Devi's house in Sant Nagar.	18.540	37100.00	854.00	3 Month

Note :- All the tenders are being invited in anticipation of the budget.
02. Date of availability of Bid documents on website:- 12-11-2021
03. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement 09-12-2021 up to 12.00 Noon
04. Date of opening of bids through e-procurement 10-12-2021 at 12.30 pm.
05. The Employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per ITB clause-9 on-line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly.
For further details please log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in> and down load the bid document

Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Department, Bareilly
On behalf of Governor of UP

UP- 169519 Date 9.11.2021
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।



sbicap securities
A Tradition of Trust
SBICAP Securities Ltd.
C/o State Bank Of India, 11, Parliament Street
SBI Main Branch, New Delhi- 110001

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
PREMISES REQUIRED FOR GURGAON REGIONAL OFFICE

1. SBICAP Securities Ltd invites offers in Two Bid system from owners/power of attorney holders for the commercial/office premises having carpet area of approximate 2000-2500 Sq. ft., (excluding Lavatory, lift lobby etc.,) on Lease Rental basis for its Regional Office at M.G.Road Metro station, Gurgaon.

2. The premises should be preferably in prime locality in the vicinity of M.G. Road Metro station, Gurgaon (within 500 meter radius) preferably on a main road with adequate dedicated parking space and predominantly in the cluster of commercial establishment preferably ready/likely to be ready for immediate possession.

3. Prescribed format of bids may be obtained from our office or may be downloaded from our website www.sbisecurities.in / Procurement news. Sealed bids may be submitted at the above address. Last date for submission of bids is 22.11.2021; 4.00 pm. Technical bids shall be opened on the same day at 5.00 pm.

4. The company reserves the right to reject all or any of the offers without assigning any reason.

-Regional Head

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दतिया जिला दतिया (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/निर्माण/तकनीकी/2021/347/ दिनांक :- 08.11.2021

॥ द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ॥

एतद् द्वारा लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से, अधोलिखित विवरण अनुसार नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास विभाग के दिनांक 02.08.2021 से प्रभावशाली ISSR से कम अथवा अधिक प्रतिशत दर पर ऑनलाईन पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

टेण्डर क्रं.	कार्य का नाम एवं विवरण	अनु. प्रा. राशि (लाख)	अमानत राशि (रुपये)	निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि (रुपये)	समयावधि
2021_UAD_167088_1	सीतासागर तालाब दतिया के प्रबंधन एवं संरक्षण हेतु विकास कार्य।	1116.50	558250	300000/-	18 माह

1. इच्छुक एवं पात्र निविदादाता विस्तृत निविदा एवं अन्य समस्त जानकारी <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> में विभाग का नाम :- नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास विभाग पर देखी जा सकती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा दिनांक 09.11.2021 समय 10:30 बजे से दिनांक 24.11.2021 समय 05:30 बजे तक ऑनलाईन भुगतान प्राप्त एवं जमा किये सकते है।

ऑनलाईन बिड दिनांक 09.11.2021 समय 10:30 बजे से दिनांक 24.11.2021 समय 05:30 बजे तक जमा की जा सकती है।

ऑनलाईन प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 26.11.2021 समय 11:00 बजे खोली जावेगी।

PWD Registration, PAN Number, GST Number, Payment Slip, Rs. 100 Affidavit आदि ऑनलाईन अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है। अन्यथा टेण्डर निरस्त माना जावेगा।

निविदाकार को निविदा प्रपत्र में उल्लेखित समस्त शर्तें स्वीकार होगी।

निविदा प्रपत्र के Pre Qualification Criteria अनुसार पर्यावरण, उद्यानिकी, एवं तालाब सौन्दर्यीकरण कार्य में अनुभवी ठेकेदार हो निविदा में भाग लें।

अतिरिक्त परफोमेंस सिक्योरिटी 10 प्रतिशत एवं निविदा दर के अंतर की राशि के बराबर जमा करनी होगी जो कि अंतिम देयक बिल अनुमोदन उपरान्त वापिस की जावेगी।

निविदाकार को वोट, बौद्ध हार्वेस्टर मशीन का संचालन एवं संधारण, कार्य पूर्ण होने से 3 वर्ष तक करना होगा जिस हेतु अतिरिक्त भुगतान देय नहीं रहेगा। केवल ईंधन एवं ड्रावर का वेतन कलेक्टर दर की राशि के बराबर निकाय द्वारा पृथक से देय रहेगा। प्रत्येक रनिंग बिल से 5 प्रतिशत राशि उपरोक्त कार्य संबंध में रोकी जावेगी जिसका भुगतान कार्य पूर्ण दिनांक से 3 वर्ष परचात निविदा प्रपत्र के सेक्शन 3 पार 2 में उल्लेखित विवरण अनुसार देय रहेगा।

निविदा को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार का अधिकार मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।

निविदा में किये जाने वाले संभावित संशोधन की सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं किये जावेगें, संशोधन ऑनलाईन वेबसाइट पर देखे जावें।

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद दतिया

M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED (CIN-L67120DL1992PLC049038), Tel No. 011-49800900, Fax: 011-49800933 E-mail: commodities@bharatbhushan.com , Website: www.bbinvestments.in Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021 (Rs. in Lakhs)						
Particulars	Quarter Ended			Six Month Ended		Year Ended
	30.09.2021	30.06.2021	30.09.2020	30.09.2021	30.09.2020	31.03.2021
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	21.08	11.62	6.83	32.70	22.06	37.45
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	11.09	4.79	-1.10	15.88	8.17	7.19
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	11.09	4.79	-1.10	15.88	8.17	7.19
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	9.64	3.74	-0.92	13.38	6.90	2.73
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	112.75	52.70	99.55	165.45	241.49	482.70
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)						
- Basic	0.29	0.11	-0.03	0.40	0.20	0.08
- Diluted	0.29	0.11	-0.03	0.40	0.20	0.08
Notes : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Six Months ended September 30th, 2021 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Six Months ended September 30th, 2021 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in). 2. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 10.11.2021. 3. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.						
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS						
Place : New Delhi Date : 10.11.2021						Vijay Bhushan Director DIN: 00002421

CHHATH PUJA CELEBRATIONS IN THE CITY

Bamboo nets installed, water sprinkled to remove froth from Yamuna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Delhi Government deployed 15 boats in River Yamuna to remove froth at Kalindi Kunj, civic agencies on Wednesday installed bamboo nets and sprinkled water to dissipate froth — a sign of the river's hazardous water quality.

Officials have admitted that the problem of frothing will continue until sewage treatment plants in Delhi are upgraded to meet the new standards.

A Delhi Jal Board official said directions have been issued to sprinkle water to dissipate the froth as "no other short-term measures would work".

"Water sprinkling will break the froth. The air bubbles trapped in the froth will escape and the froth will dissipate," he said.

An official of the Irrigation



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

and Flood Control Department said bamboo nets have been installed on the stretch at Kalindi Kunj to capture the froth.

These exercises will continue till effective action is ensured, the officials said.

The pollution in the Yamuna in Delhi is once again

in focus as Chhath festivities are underway.

Early on Wednesday, a number of devotees had gathered at the Yamuna Ghat in

Kalindi Kunj, downstream of the Okhla Barrage, but were dispersed by the police.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority had earlier banned Chhath Puja celebrations on the banks of the Yamuna in view of the pandemic.

The city government has set up 800 makeshift ghats across Delhi for devotees to perform the rituals.

Vikas Rai, chairman of Chhath Puja Samiti, Kalindi Kunj, said the government wanted to "cover up its failure and that the devotees are not bothered about the froth in the river".

"Boats, nets and water sprinkling won't help. The froth will come back the minute you remove it. This is an eyewash so that the media doesn't criticise the government over the pollution," he said.

Facing criticism over the formation of froth in the Yamuna, the Delhi government had on Tuesday deployed 15 boats to remove the same. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) conceived the plan and implemented it with the help of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department and Revenue Department, officials said.

They said the idea entailed the deployment of boats parallel to each other in order to remove the froth using ropes. An official, however, termed it a "temporary" measure. "The problem will persist till sewage treatment plants in Delhi are upgraded to meet the new standards. There is no immediate solution to it."

"The foam is just the manifestation of the water quality of the Yamuna and it is a long-term issue," he said.

According to experts, the primary reason behind the for-

mation of foam in the Yamuna is high phosphate content in detergents used in dyeing industries, dhobi ghats and households in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The poor quality of effluents discharged from Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) is another reason.

Waste water from authorised colonies and settlements containing high phosphate content reach the river through untapped drains. When water falls from a height at a barrage, the turbulence agitates the phosphoric compounds in the river which leads to the formation of froth.

Frothing in certain stretches of the river, such as near ITO and Okhla Barrage, has become an annual phenomenon in winters when the temperatures are low and flow in the

river is less.

On Monday, pictures and videos showing devotees offering prayers in the Yamuna on the occasion of Chhath Puja with froth on the river surface had triggered a political slugfest between the ruling AAP and the BJP in Delhi.

While the BJP leaders alleged that the AAP government did not allow Chhath celebrations on the Yamuna banks to hide the "pathetic" state of the river, AAP's Gopal Rai and Raghav Chadha blamed the governments in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana for the frothing in the river.

The 22-kilometre stretch of the Yamuna between Wazirabad and Okhla, which is less than two per cent of its total length of 1,370 kilometres from Yamunotri to Allahabad, accounts for around 80 per cent of the pollution load in the river.

Cops stop scores of devotees thronging Yamuna ghats

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the Delhi Disaster Management Authority's (DDMA) orders prohibiting celebrations along the river bank in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Delhi Police and administrative officials on Wednesday stopped scores of devotees thronging the ghats along the Yamuna river in Delhi for Chhath festivities.

A crowd gathered at the

Yamuna Ghat near Kalindi Kunj in the morning was dispersed by police and district officials, and people were re-directed towards designated spots to observe the rituals.

A police officer said adequate arrangements have been made at the spots designated for the rituals to manage the crowd.

Delhi Government has set up 800 makeshift ghats across Delhi for devotees to perform

Chhath rituals. The four-day-long festival of Chhath Puja is mainly celebrated by 'Purvanchalis' from Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand settled in Delhi.

During the festival, worshippers follow elaborate rituals by offering 'Arghya' to the sun and also observe fast.

Government officials said 100 teams have been deployed in South East Delhi to ensure there is no violation of DDMA

orders.

A senior Delhi Police officer said adequate staff from Kalindi Kunj and other police stations of the district have been deployed at the Yamuna Ghat.

"Our staff are also explaining to visiting devotees about the National Green Tribunal order, and urging them to comply with the guidelines and observe the rituals at their respective homes or within the colonies. Many of them are convinced

and are returning home," he said.

Senior district officials are also monitoring the situation, he said.

"We have also been interacting with organisers of Chhath Puja and asking them to send devotees to the designated spots where all facilities, including lighting, water, sanitation and medical care is being provided," he said.

Paramilitary personnel

have also been pressed to urge people to comply with the DDMA orders, besides keeping a watch on the law and order situation, the officials said.

The DDMA had on October 29 allowed Chhath celebrations at "designated sites", barring the banks of river Yamuna, and directed administration and police officials to ensure strict compliance of all its Covid-related orders.

AAP banned puja to cover up its failure to clean Yamuna: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid political blame game over Chhath Puja preparations, the Delhi BJP on Wednesday mounted a fresh attack on the Delhi Government accusing it of banning Chhath celebrations on the Yamuna riverbanks to cover up its failure to clean the river.

Addressing the media, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta claimed that Yamuna picked up 80 per cent of its pollutants from industrial discharge and sewage in its 22-km passage through the national Capital.

"Arvind Kejriwal ji, you banned Chhath at Yamuna banks to cover up the failure of your government to clean the river," Gupta said.

North East Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari also slammed the AAP government over heavy pollution in the Yamuna. "The Kejriwal government is stopping people from celebrating Chhath at the banks of the river instead of preventing flow of



drains such as Najafgarh nallah. The Supreme Court should take note of the situation and the Kejriwal government should be treated like a criminal for playing with the health of the people," Tiwari said.

It has directed administrative and police officials to ensure strict compliance with all its COVID-19-related orders. The festival of Chhath, popular among Purvanchali inhabitants of the national capital, will be celebrated with paying obeisance ('arghya') to the setting Sun on Wednesday evening. It will conclude with 'arghya' to the rising Sun on Thursday.

The BJP and the AAP are engaged in a war of words over the festival with each trying to outsmart the other and seek favour of the Purvanchali community.

BJP MP Parvesh invites people to join Chhath Puja at Yamuna ghat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Insisting on celebrating Chhath Puja at Yamuna Ghat near the ITO, Delhi BJP MP Parvesh Verma reached there on Wednesday and invited people to participate in the celebrations.

Verma said he will stay put there till Chhath Puja celebrations peacefully start by the evening.

The BJP MP hit out at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, alleging that he was not concerned about the rituals of Purvanchali people.

"The Kejriwal government is

not allowing us to celebrate Chhath Puja on the banks of the Yamuna. I am appealing to all the mothers and sisters to come here and celebrate Chhath and we will provide them security," Verma said.

"It is incomprehensible to me why people are being stopped from celebrating Chhath there even though they are following all Covid protocols," Verma told mediapersons.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in its order on September 30 had prohibited Chhath Puja celebrations at public places, includ-

ing Yamuna banks.

However, after protests against Chhath ban by the BJP, the DDMA in its order on October 29 allowed Chhath celebrations at "designated sites" barring the banks of the Yamuna.

It has directed administrative and police officials to ensure strict compliance of all its Covid-related orders.

Verma, who is a West Delhi parliamentarian, accompanied by BJP workers and members of the 'Purvanchali' community, had attended a 'puja' and began preparations for the festival that started on Monday.

HC dismisses plea challenging decision to prohibit devotees from performing puja on Yamuna banks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea challenging the DDMA's decision prohibiting devotees from performing Chhath Puja on the banks of the Yamuna here. There was no merit in the petition, the high court said, adding that the plea filed by two societies did not point out as to how the devotees insist that they are entitled to perform the puja only on the Yamuna banks.

"They have not given any explanation as to why they did not approach the respondents if they were desirous of having additional designated sites in the area even after the list of

designated sites was made public," Justice Rekha Palli said and orally observed that the petition was only for publicity.

The court, while dismissing the petition, said the petitioner's counsel does not dispute the fact that the puja has already commenced today and no order for creation of additional sites can be passed.

The court said it was in agreement with the government counsel that the orders issued by the authorities take care of religious sentiments of all devotees and even though COVID-19 has not fully disappeared, the respondents have ensured and taken steps that devotees are not put to inconvenience.

DU Assistant Prof arrested for wife's murder in Burari

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a Delhi University Assistant Professor and his nephew for criminal conspiracy in connection with his wife's murder at their West Sant Nagar residence in Delhi's Burari area.

The accused has been identified as Virender Kumar, who is an ad-hoc assistant professor while his nephew has been identified as Govinda. Kumar and victim Pinky (32) got married in

February.

According to a senior police official, on Monday evening, the police arrested Kumar's tenant and worker Rakesh, who confessed to strangling Pinky to death and then electrocuting her at the behest of her husband.

"Kumar told the police that he was miffed with his wife as they used to regularly fight over trivial issues. He then hatched a plan to eliminate her, and roped in Rakesh and Govinda for the same," said the senior police official.

DALIT GIRL'S RAPE, MURDER

No traces of semen, victim's blood, police tells court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The forensic reports have not confirmed presence of semen on the clothes of four accused or the burnt cloth pieces of the 9-year-old Dalit girl who was allegedly gang-raped and cremated at Delhi Cantonment area in August, Delhi Police have claimed in its charge sheet filed before a court here.

The charge sheet filed on October 27 before Additional Sessions Judge Ashutosh Kumar also claimed that the forensic reports have so far not confirmed the presence of

victim's blood on the clothes of any of the four accused or on the bedsheet on which the crime allegedly occurred.

Police had arrested Radhey Shyam, the 55-year-old priest of the crematorium in south-west district, and it's employees -- Kuldeep Singh, Salim Ahmad and Laxmi Narayan -- in the case.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report filed with the charge sheet further claimed that semen was also not detected from the bedsheet seized from the room of the accused at the crematorium.

Extract of the Financial Results for the Quarter and Half year ended 30 September, 2021

(₹ in Crore)

S.No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended
		30.09.2021 (Un-audited)	30.09.2020 (Un-audited)	30.09.2021 (Un-audited)	30.09.2020 (Un-audited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)	30.09.2021 (Un-audited)	30.09.2020 (Un-audited)	30.09.2021 (Un-audited)	30.09.2020 (Un-audited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	10,472.00	9,890.14	20,757.38	19,510.27	40,527.11	10,514.74	9,831.00	20,906.35	19,647.72	40,823.53
2	Net Profit before Exceptional Items and Tax (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (net of tax))	3,887.29	3,803.40	8,162.15	7,630.42	16,103.56	3,968.30	3,892.89	8,346.31	7,874.27	16,579.35
3	Net Profit before Tax (after exceptional items) (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (net of tax))	3,887.29	3,799.76	11,331.73	6,551.78	15,024.92	3,968.30	3,889.25	11,360.28	6,795.63	15,500.71
4	Net Profit after Tax for the period	3,338.27	3,117.41	9,423.68	5,096.32	11,935.78	3,376.38	3,094.10	9,374.66	5,142.52	12,036.46
5	Total Comprehensive Income comprising net Profit after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income	3,444.76	3,112.29	9,735.90	5,098.79	11,961.14	3,482.87	3,088.98	9,686.89	5,145.00	12,061.95
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of share : ₹10/- each)	6,975.45	5,231.59	6,975.45	5,231.59	5,231.59	6,975.45	5,231.59	6,975.45	5,231.59	5,231.59
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Balance sheet	70,246.65	62,193.33	70,246.65	62,193.33	64,347.25	70,599.35	62,495.20	70,599.35	62,495.20	64,704.48
8	Securities Premium Account	7,834.43	9,578.29	7,834.43	9,578.29	9,578.29	7,834.43	9,578.29	7,834.43	9,578.29	9,578.29
9	Net worth	77,222.10	67,424.92	77,222.10	67,424.92	69,578.84	77,574.80	67,726.79	77,574.80	67,726.79	69,936.07
10	Paid up Debt Capital	135,012.05	143,749.66	135,012.04	143,749.66	141,251.48	135,012.05	143,749.66	135,012.05	143,749.66	141,410.33
11	Debt Equity Ratio	64:36	68:32	64:36	68:32	67:33	64:36	68:32	64:36	68:32	67:33
12	Earnings per equity share including movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹)	4.79	4.47	13.51	7.31	17.11	4.84	4.43	13.44	7.37	17.26
13	Earnings per equity share excluding movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹)	5.27	4.48	13.25	6.75	16.54	5.33	4.45	13.19	6.82	16.74
14	Bonds Redemption Reserve	6,525.26	8,019.14	6,525.26	8,019.14	7,387.97	6,525.26	8,019.14	6,525.26	8,019.14	7,387.97
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.23	1.77	1.72	1.64	1.80	1.25	1.79	1.71	1.63	1.81
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	4.61	4.21	5.23	3.82	4.16	4.68	4.23	5.27	3.91	4.26

Notes :

1

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and Half Yearly Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and Half Yearly Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results is available on the Investor Relations section of our website <https://www.powergrid.in> and under Corporates Section of BSE Limited & National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com> and <https://www.nseindia.com> respectively.

2

Previous periods figures have been regrouped/rearranged wherever considered necessary.

Place : Gurugram

Date : 09 November, 2021

For and on behalf of POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

Sd/-
(M. Taj Mukarrum)
Director (Finance)

Forbes 2020
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POWERGRID

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(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016.
Corporate Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001 (Haryana)
CIN : L40101DL1989GOI038121

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POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016.
Corporate Office: "Saudamin", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001 (Haryana)
CIN : L40101DL1989GOI038121

PM to make back-to-back visits to poll-bound UP

Launches multiple key projects



DEEPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

As the crucial Uttar Pradesh polls are barely three to four months away, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is taking charge of 'showcasing' the State's progress by multiple inaugural of projects and lining -up more visits to the State. While Modi is specifically focussing on 'Vikas', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is connecting with the issues related to the 'Hindutva' in the State. Starting this month, the Prime Minister will make sev-

eral visits to the State where poll alliances are already firming-up and the campaign has surged ahead in 403 Assembly constituencies. Modi will visit the Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh on November 16 to inaugurate the 340.82-km long Purvanchal Expressway, which will become the State's longest expressway. He will also address a public rally. The foundation stone for the Purvanchal Expressway was laid by the Prime Minister in July 2018. The Purvanchal Expressway is being called the

lifeline for Eastern UP that will reduce the travel time between eastern and western UP and also help in facilitating trade and commerce. The foundation stone of the Ganga Expressway will be laid by Modi next month. A visit of Prime Minister to Jhansi is expected on November 19 to attend the 193rd birth anniversary celebrations of Rani Lakshmi Bai here as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Modi will be in Greater Noida on November 25 to flag off the Jewar International

Cong to start Jan Jagran Abhiyan to expose Centre's failed economic policies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said it would launch nationwide mass agitation programme Jan Jagran Abhiyan from November 14 to 29, where it would reach out to people to explain how the Union Government's 'failed economic policies' have led to runaway inflation. The announcement was made at an AICC press conference addressed by party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, general secretary (communication) Randeep Surjewala and senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh, who heads the party's internal committee on organising and coordinating mass agitations. Party workers would lead a week-long 'padyatra' with night halts in villages. The programme would begin with 'prabhat pehri' (early morning march), followed by 'shramdaan' (cleanliness drive). 'Padyatris' would hold numerous small group meetings to communicate the nuances of inflation and its

adverse effects on the common man, Venugopal said. Sources said Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is likely to hold similar meetings in UP as part of her election campaign in the state and other senior party leaders have been asked to visit different parts of the country. Ahead of the launch of the campaign, the party is holding a workshop for a select group of functionaries at Wardha, Maharashtra from November 12-14. They will be trained by experts from sectors like economy, education, health and agriculture on how to reach out to masses and touch upon issues that have impacted them. The party workers will be armed with data on how fuel price increased under BJP regime, impact of monetisation, farm laws and unemployment. Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, during the recent Congress Working Committee meeting, had stressed the need to train party leaders and

workers on ideological issues. The party's training department, headed by Sachin Rao, will be organising three-day training programmes from November 12-15 as part of this effort, at Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra. Explaining the context of the agitation programme, the country is undergoing severe pain due to the policies of the Modi government, and especially in the last two years, the condition has deteriorated further with a sharp increase in inflation. The edible oil prices, he noted, have doubled in the last one year. Prices of seasonal vegetables had gone up by 40-50 per cent in the last one month alone. The cost of subsidised LPG cylinder has gone up by 50 per cent to ₹ 900-1,000 in the last one year. Similarly, petrol and diesel prices have gone up by ₹ 34.38 and 24.38 to ₹ 103.97 and ₹ 86.67 a litre respectively in the last 18 months. A meeting of the agitation committee headed by Digvijay Singh was held Monday to plan the activities.

Airport project in Noida and lay the foundation stone of the much-delayed project as also of the film city. Modi is again expected to be in UP in December to

unveil the Kashi Vishwanath corridor in Varanasi, his home constituency where a number of projects have already been announced by the Prime Minister during his previous

visits there. Prior to Modi's visits, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be at Azamgarh on November 13 to lay the foundation stone of the State university there.

Centre declares Nov 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the declaration of November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' dedicated to the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters and to enable coming generations to know about the sacrifices of tribal communities such as Santhals, Tamars, Kols, Bhils, Khasis and Mizos among others in India's freedom struggle. The revolutionary movements and struggles organised by the tribal communities were marked by their immense courage and supreme sacrifice. Tribal movements in different regions of the country against the British colonial rule got linked with the national freedom struggle and inspired Indians all over the country. However, the public at large is not much aware about these tribal heroes. "Pursuant to the speech of Prime Minister on Independence Day of 2016, Government of India has sanctioned 10 tribal freedom fighter museums across the country," the government communiqué stated. November 15 is also the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, who is revered as Bhagwan, by tribal communities across the country. Birsa Munda

fought bravely against the country against the exploitative system of the British colonial system and spearheaded movement against British oppression giving a call for 'Ulgulan' (Revolution). "The declaration acknowledges the glorious history and cultural heritage of tribal communities. The day will be celebrated every year and would recognize the efforts of the tribals for preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valour, hospitality and national pride. Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Ranchi where Birsa Munda breathed his last will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister," the release said. The Modi Government has planned week-long celebrations starting from November 15-22 to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of glorious history of tribal people, culture and achievements. As part of the celebration, several activities have been planned jointly with State Governments and the theme behind each activity is to show case the achievements of tribals in Indian Freedom struggle, various welfare measures taken by the Centre in education, health, livelihood, Infrastructure and skill development.

Tejas LCA to perform aerobatics in Dubai Air Show



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indigenously designed and manufactured Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) will for the first time perform aerobatics at the prestigious Dubai Air Show held biennially. This year's show will take place from November 14 to 18. Giving details of the IAF participation, officials said here on Wednesday the IAF contingent has inducted for participation in the biennial Air Show to be held at the Al Maktoum International Airport. The IAF has been invited by the government of UAE to

participate with the Sarang and Suryakiran Aerobatics Teams. These teams will be performing along with some of the best aerobatics and display teams in the world, including the Saudi Hawks, Russian Knights and the UAE's Al Fursan. In addition, the Tejas shall be part of the aerobatics and static displays during the show. The induction of five Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Dhruvs of the Sarang Team, 10 BAE Hawk 132s of the Suryakiran Team and the three LCA Tejas was completed by Tuesday. The induction was sup-

ported by the IAF's C-17 Globemaster IIIs and C-130J Super Hercules. On arrival, the contingent received a warm welcome by Major General Ishaq Saleh Mohammed al-Balushi of the UAE Armed Forces and other officers of the UAE Air Force. The teams are now preparing for the opening ceremony on 14th November 21. While the Sarang Team has previously participated in the Al Ain Grand Prix in UAE in 2005, the Dubai Air Show will be the first occasion for the Suryakirans and the Tejas to show off their swashbuckling aerial manoeuvres here.

India, US resolve to expand defence tech cooperation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of joint production of hi-tech weapons and systems, India and the US on Wednesday virtually held the 11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary (Defence Production) Raj Kumar from Ministry of Defence, Government of India and PTDO (Performing the Duties of) Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment from US Department of Defence Gregory Kausner. The DTTI Group meetings are normally held twice a year, alternating between India and the US. However, this DTTI meeting was held via Video Teleconferencing consecutively for a second time on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the DTTI Group is to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment. Four Joint Working Groups focused on land, naval,

air and aircraft carrier technologies have been established under DTTI to promote mutually agreed projects within their domains. The groups reported to the co-chairs on ongoing activities and collaborative opportunities, including a number of near-term projects targeted for completion on priority. As evidence of their commitment to demonstrating the success of DTTI, the co-chairs agreed on a revised Statement of Intent (SOI) that declares their intent "to strengthen our dialogue on defence technology cooperation by pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress" on several specific DTTI projects. The co-chairs were also pleased to note that since the last DTTI Group meeting in September 2020, the first Project Agreement for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle under the Joint Working Group Air Systems was signed which is a major accomplishment for DTTI. To further encourage US and Indian industries to develop niche technologies under the DTTI Group, the Defence Industry Collaboration Forum (DICF) Virtual Expo was conducted on Tuesday.

Air India flight with 144 passengers makes emergency landing after taking off from Silchar



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Kolkata-bound Air India flight with 144 passengers on board made an emergency landing minutes after taking off from the Kumbhirgram Airport in Silchar after one of its landing gears malfunctioned. The plane was forced to land immediately after take-off after a snag was noticed in one of its rear wheels. According to reports, smoke billowed from one of the rear landing gears. The flight returned to Silchar

Kumbhirgram airport soon after it took off. PK Gorai, the airport director, said the pilot detected the glitch along with a hydraulic leak. "...the pilot...landed the plane back at the Silchar airport. A full emergency was declared at the airport and the flight also suffered landing gear failure." The defence airport in Silchar is partially being used for domestic purposes. A greenfield airport is proposed to be built in the region. An aviation ministry team recently

visited Cachar to find land for the proposed airport. Earlier on October 22, a Delhi-bound Vistara flight was diverted to Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport in Madhya Pradesh's Indore after a passenger complained of breathlessness and fainted. In June this year, a Saudi-bound Air India Express flight from Thiruvananthapuram made an emergency landing after being airborne for less than an hour when the pilots detected a crack in the windshield.

Central Vista has generated 23,02,115 man days of employment so far



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With nearly 10,000 workers on job on Central Vista, the dream project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already generated 23,02,115 man days of employment so far. Of the total 9373 workers engaged in the construction of the central vista project, a team of 7578 workers are engaged onsite while 1795 people are engaged offsite in the project, the centralvista.gov.in website data states. The website showed 33039 metric tons of steel, 74,187 metric tons of cement and 10623 cubic meters flyash has been used in the project so far. The data showed that 4157 skilled manpower and 5216 semi skilled manpower are engaged in the construction works. In a related development,

the government has invited pre-qualification bids for the construction of the Executive Enclave which will house a new prime minister's office (PMO), Cabinet Secretariat, India House and National Security Council Secretariat, estimating the project cost at Rs 1,171 crore. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which comes under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, said the Executive Enclave will come up on the south side of the South Block in plot number 36/38 in the high security zone in Lutyens' Delhi. The bid document states that the new PMO will have three floors having a floor height of 4.75 metres, in addition to the basement and ground floor, and the new

Cabinet Secretariat and NSCS will have the same building structure. 'India House', which will have one floor in addition to basement and ground floor, is likely to be used as a conference facility like the Hyderabad House where high-level talks, especially with top visiting leaders of various countries, are currently held. "Relocating the departments will ensure efficient security protocols for VIPs and VVIPs without disturbing daily movement of the public in and around the Central Vista," the CPWD document states. The CPWD said the proposed work is required to be completed strictly within the prescribed time limit of 24 months with the highest standards of quality and workmanship.

Study: People inhale up to 7,000 microplastic particles daily



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Microplastic particles are now so much present everywhere in everyday household items like bedding, carpet and soft toys made from synthetic materials, as well as polyester and nylon, that we inhale up to 7,000 every day, a shocking research has revealed. The total was 100 times higher than expected – posing a potential health threat that could rank alongside asbestos or tobacco, said the pioneering

study which used highly sensitive equipment to count tiny particles less than 10 microns in size – just a tenth of the width of a human hair. The highest concentration was in the room of an eight-year-old girl because her bedding, carpet and soft toys were all made from synthetic materials. Professor Anoop Chauhan, a respiratory specialist with Portsmouth Hospitals Trust, said microplastics were dangerous

because they did not break down. 'Having these particles in your body can cause stress and changes in metabolism, it can affect immunity, the ability to fight infections, it can affect your reproductive capacity and potentially it could be carcinogenic – causing cancer,' he said. Dr Fay Couceiro, an environmental pollution expert who led the study, also took samples from the kitchen and another bedroom in the girl's home.

She said: 'I am astonished by the breathable levels of microplastics in each of our homes and more work on this absolutely must be done.' She said the quantities recorded were probably an underestimate because they covered only 14 hours and not a whole day. Previous studies have found microplastic particles lodged in all parts of the body, including the brain, gut, and the womb. Canadian research published in 2019 suggested we eat and breathe in between 74,000 and 121,000 a year, and those who drink bottled water take in an extra 90,000. Microplastics are increasingly being found in vital organs in humans such as the brain, womb and lungs. While the science is in its infancy, scientists suspect microplastics can potentially cause or aggravate respiratory conditions. The particles have also been found in the gut and blood. Some researchers suspect their presence is likely to worsen inflammation. Also, plastic particles can act as carriers of chemicals and pollutants. These can include endocrine disrupting chemicals, which are associated with disruption in fertility, delayed neurodevelopment in children, immune disorders, and hormone-related cancers.

ED seizes ₹ 6.32 cr under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth ₹6.32 crore of Somyendra Nath Banerjee, the then Deputy Director General, New Technology, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Kolkata and his associates in a money laundering case linked to disproportionate assets case. The attached assets are in the form of one office premises, two vacant plots of land, one three-storied commercial building along with plant and machinery of a running company, balance lying in 47 bank accounts, two vehicles, shares held in Demat accounts and two Demand Drafts, the ED said in a statement. The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR registered by CBI, ACB, Kolkata under Indian Penal Code Section relating to abetment and corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act. As per the charge-sheet filed by CBI, ACB, Kolkata, Somyendra Nath Banerjee had amassed huge assets beyond his known source of income.

‘Ideal time for booster dose is 6 months after 2nd dose’

New Delhi: The ideal time for a booster dose for Covid-19 vaccine is six months after the second dose, Bharat Biotech Chairman and Managing Director Krishna Ella said on Wednesday, and also emphasised the importance of having a nasal vaccine.

He also pointed out that his company was the first in the world to develop a Zika vaccine.

Taking the Covaxin vaccine by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed confidence in Indian Science, he said at the Times Now Summit 2021.

"The ideal time for a booster dose is six months after the second dose," Ella stated.

Bharat Biotech is also looking at nasal vaccine as a booster dose as its

scaling up capacity is very easy when compared with Covaxin, he added.

About the importance of nasal vaccine, he said the entire world is looking at nasal vaccines. That is the only way to stop transmission. Everyone is trying to figure out the immunology and fortunately, Bharat Biotech has figured it out.

"We are coming out with a nasal vaccine, we are thinking that Covaxin can be given as first dose, the second dose can be given a nasal, that is also strategically, scientifically very important because with the second dose, if it is a nasal one, you stop the transmission of the virus...," Ella said.

Nasal vaccine works well if someone has been infected or if

someone has been vaccinated with one dose, he added.

About the PM taking the Covaxin shot, he said, "What would a scientist like to have? A country head taking his vaccine. That is the best satisfaction a scientist can get... It shows confidence in the Indian science, confidence in the startup, and confidence in our innovation..."

Speaking about a vaccine for Zika, Ella said Bharat Biotech is ready with a vaccine for Zika virus. Phase I is complete. The government has to take up more trials because there are more cases now.

"We were the first company in the world to develop the Zika vaccine in 2014... We were the first one to file for a global patent for Zika vaccine", he added. **PTI**

Ex-J&K DY CM gets demolition notice

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Prof Nirmal Singh has been served notice by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) to demolish his 'illegally' constructed house in Ban village in the close vicinity of Army's Ammunition depot in Nagrota within five days.

The notice dated November 8,2021 was served to Prof Singh at a time when he was not present in Jammu. In its order of demolition, the JDA said the building was constructed without attaining the valid permission from the competent authority. "...you are hereby directed to remove the illegal construction on your own level within five days from the date of issuance of the order.

Confirming the receipt of the notice in a video message, circulated in the social media Prof Nirmal Singh claimed he was consulting his lawyers

in the matter as he was already seeking justice from the High Court in the matter which is sub-judice.

In his response Prof Singh also set the record straight by claiming ever since he had shifted to his new home in Ban village he had not received any notice. "This is for the first time a notice has been served to me by the Jammu Development Authority", he clarified. In the notice which was served to Prof Singh JDA authorities had claimed that in response to the show cause notice U/S 7 (1) of J&K Control of Building Operation Act 1988 served to you, no reply has been received by this office till date.

"If you fail to remove the illegal construction within the stipulated period of time, the same shall be demolished by the enforcement wing of JDA and cost of removal shall be recovered from you as arrears of land revenue," the JDA said in its order.

It was on March 19, 2018 Lt-Gen Lt-General Saranjeet Singh, GoC of 16

corps, had written to Prof Nirmal Singh, holding the charge of Power and Housing and Urban Development Department at that time, that ongoing construction on a plot, owned by his wife Mamta Singh, is illegal and "has implications on the security of a major ammunition storage facility as well as the safety of all personnel living in close vicinity of the ammunition depot". Lt-Gen Singh had also requested: "May I request you to reconsider construction of residential accommodation in close proximity of the ammunition depot being a potential safety hazard."

Before writing directly to Prof Nirmal Singh the army authorities had approached various state government departments including local police authorities to stop ongoing construction activity but failed to do so. Meanwhile, a large number of local residents in the area had also demanded immediate shifting of the ammunition depot to a safer location.

First Indian layman to be conferred sainthood

Thiruvananthapuram: Devasahayam Pillai, a Hindu converted to Christianity in the 18th century, will become the first Indian layman to be conferred sainthood.

Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Devasahayam Pillai, together with six other Blessed, during a Canonization Mass in St Peter's Basilica in Vatican on May 15, 2022, Church officials said here on Wednesday.

The announcement was made by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in the Vatican on Tuesday. With the completion of the process, Pillai, who took the name "Lazarus" after embracing Christianity in 1745, will become the first lay person from India to become a saint, the church said. **PTI**

Intra-party conflict: BJP leader expelled for attacking Adhikari

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The post Assembly poll wrangling in the Bengal unit of the BJP on Wednesday saw the expulsion of a senior party leader after he openly lambasted Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari for his "questionable conducts".

Surajit Saha the Howrah district president of the party was "summarily" expelled from the party by State vice president Pratap Banerjee for attacking Adhikari apparently to send a strong signal to other dissenting voices.

The lightning quick decision came from the State unit after Saha on Wednesday morning went on record questioning Adhikari's credentials saying "he (Adhikari) left the Trinamool Congress to join the BJP a few months before the elections ... It was he was openly seen in the television accepting money in the Narada payoff case ... no BJP leader or

worker was seen doing so ... so Suwendu Adhikari should not teach us how to be devout BJP men."

Adhikari had earlier criticized the Howrah district leaders (including Saha) for working in favour of the Trinamool Congress leading to the party's defeat in the Assembly elections.

Saha also lambasted the senior leader for putting Trinamool Congress turncoats on key positions before the coming Howrah Municipal Corporation elections. "Suwendu Adhikari is making a B team of the TMC within the BJP by putting Trinamool turncoats on key positions ... I as the president of the Howrah unit refuse to work with this B team of the TMC."

When asked to comment on the issue BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh said "leaders may have issues ... we are a democratic party and such issues should be dis-

cussed inside the party and in a proper forum ... speaking things out in public is not allowed by the BJP."

Saha is known for his proximity to two very senior leaders in the party and his expulsion is seen as a message to these leaders who have been consistently challenging the party line vis a vis electoral politics in Bengal.

Apart from Saha senior leader and former Tripura Governor Tathagato Roy too have been attacking the Bengal leaders including Dilip Ghosh and party's then observer for Bengal Kailash Vijaybargiya and Arvind Menon.

Roy has been attacking Ghosh for speaking the languages used by anti-social elements. Vijabargiya and Menon came under his line of attack for spoiling the party's prospects in Bengal "by blindly inducting leaders from TMC."

Abhishek to visit Tripura ahead of civic polls

Kolkata: In bid to strengthen the Trinamool Congress' organisational base and test the political waters in Tripura party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee is likely to visit Agartala on November 22, party sources said.

He is likely to address some rallies in the Tripura capital ahead of the November 25 municipal corporation elections there. The TMC is contesting from all the 51 seats in Agartala. Senior TMC leader who left the party before Bengal elections to return to it a week ago said that the Agartala municipal elections was "the first exam outside Bengal" and the party was confident of putting up a good show in the elections.

"We are under attack by the BJP goons who are not letting us to fight the elections because they know that the ground beneath Biplab Deb's (Chief Minister) is fast slipping out ... they know that they will lose the elections if the vote is free and fare ... so they are using the goons and the police against us ... but the TMC

is determined to fight back ... we have done so in Bengal led by Mamata Banerjee ... we will do so in Tripura too", Rajib Banerjee said.

Earlier Abhishek Banerjee who is also the nephew of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that "we will repeatedly come back to Tripura till we have overthrown the BJP Government here ... and the BJP workers who are today attacking our men will tomorrow come to join the TMC ... I promise to take them in and make them serve the people of Tripura by holding their feet."

The Left Front leadership however said that much like Bengal the BJP and the TMC were engaged in a "shadow fight" whereby the "BJP is making grounds for the TMC so as to break the Left vote base ... but the people of Tripura are intelligent enough to read into their schemes..."

According to sources the BJP men were forcing the opposition Left, Congress and TMC candidates to withdraw their candidature an allegation rejected by t he BJP.

3rd NBW issued against Mumbai's ex-CP Param Bir in extortion case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Two days after two serving police inspectors linked to him were arrested, a Mumbai Magistrate's court on Wednesday issued a Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) against Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh in an extortion case.

Wednesday's was the third NBW warrant issued against Singh, against whom five First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered in different police stations.

Singh has been absconding for the past seven months. A look-out circular (LoC) is already in force against him. Hearing a complaint lodged against him and others by builder Shyamsunder Agrawal at the Marine Drive police station for alleged extortion, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate R. M. Nerlikar issued an NBW against Singh.

Last month, the courts in Thane and Mumbai had issued two similar NBWs in extortion cases. The case in which the court issued a

NBW to Singh, relates to a case in which two serving police inspectors -- Nandkumar Gopale and Asha Korke -- were arrested by the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Monday night. The two arrested police officers were on Tuesday sent by a city court to the State CID's custody for a week.

Apart from Singh, there are seven-- including Gopale, Korke and three other police officers -- accused in the case.

The Marine Drive Police had registered the extortion case against Singh and 7 others, including five police officials, on July 22 following a complaint by Agrawal.

Currently, the CID is investigating a case under Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against Agrawal, registered by Juhu Police Station, alleging links with the absconding underworld ganglord Chhota Shakeel.

On his part, Agrawal has alleged that based on this "false" case had been filed against him. He has alleged that Mumbai's former police

commissioner Singh and other police officers had extorted money from him at the behest of his former business partner Sanjay Punamiya.

Singh has been missing for nearly seven months now. It may be recalled that the Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on October 21 that it has not been able to trace Param Bir and assured the court that it would not take coercive action against the latter. While his whereabouts are not known, he approached the high court through his lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani to mention his plea seeking the quashing of an FIR registered against him.

The Maharashtra government-appointed Justice (retired) Kailash Uttamchand Chandiwai Commission of enquiry --which is hearing into the allegations of corruption made by him against Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh -- has issued several summons against him, fined him and even issued a bailable arrest warrant against him.

12 killed in Barmer bus-truck collision

Jaipur: A truck collided head-on with a bus in Rajasthan's Barmer district on Wednesday, leaving 12 people dead and 32 others injured, a Government official said.

The accident occurred near Bhandiyawas village on the Barmer-Jodhpur National Highway and both vehicles caught fire following the collision.

"Twelve persons have died and 32 others were injured. Some of the injured were referred to Jodhpur for treatment and some were discharged," Barmer district collector Lok Bandhu said.

There was chaos at the accident site and hospital where the victims were taken.

LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

Weapon seized from Union Min's son was fired, confirms FSL report

Lakhimpur (UP): A forensic report has confirmed that weapons recovered from Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra and others after the Lakhimpur violence had been fired.

Protesting farmers had alleged that Ashish Mishra had opened fire. Though the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report confirmed that the weapons had been discharged, it does not specify whether they were fired on the day of the violence or some other day.

In a related development, Pawan Kashyap, brother of Raman Kashyap, a journalist who was among the victims of the Lakhimpur violence, has moved court for the registration of another FIR against 14

people, including the minister and his son, in connection with the scribe's death.

Eight people died in the October 3 violence. Four of them were farmers who were allegedly knocked down by a vehicle carrying BJP workers. Infuriated farmers then allegedly lynched some people in the vehicles.

The other dead included two BJP workers and their driver. Four weapons, including a rifle belonging to Ashish Mishra alias Monu Mishra, had been seized following the Lakhimpur violence. A pistol owned by Ankit Das, nephew of former Union minister Akhilesh Das, and a repeater gun, which was with Das' bodyguard Lateef Kale, were also among them. **PTI**

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT)

4th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006

Visit us at: <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

PUBLIC NOTICE - BATTERY WASTE MANAGEMENT

Battery (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 came into force w.e.f 16th May, 2001. These rules mandate various responsibilities on manufacturers, importers, assemblers, re-conditioners, dealers, recyclers, consumers, bulk consumers and auctioneers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under.

Manufacturers/Importers

- Shall ensure that the new batteries be sold only to the registered dealers and the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold excluding those sold to original equipment manufacturer and bulk consumer(s).
- Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales and buy-back to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in **Form- I** latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.
- Set up collection centres either individually or jointly at various places for collection of used batteries from consumers or dealers and shall ensure that the collected batteries are sent only to the registered recyclers.
- Shall ensure that necessary arrangements are made with dealers for safe transportation from collection centres to the premises of registered recyclers and shall ensure that no damage to the environment occurs during the transportation.
- Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regards to **(a) hazard of lead (b) responsibility of consumers to return their used batteries only to the dealer or deliver at designated collection centre and (c) address of the dealer and designated collection centres.**
- Buy recycled lead only from registered recyclers.
- Bring to the notice of the DPCC or the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for any violation by the dealers.
- Importers shall apply for registration as per **Form II and Form III** on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) online portal for a period of five years (link: <http://cpccbrms.nic.in/>).

Assemblers/Re-conditioners

- Shall ensure that the used batteries collected back are of similar type and specifications as that of the new batteries sold and shall ensure that used batteries collected are sent only to registered recyclers.

Dealers

- Apply for registration by submitting online application in **Form- IV** available on DPCC website by creating user ID and password for the period of five years.
- Shall ensure that the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold.
- Shall ensure safe transportation of collected batteries to the designated collection centres or to registered recyclers.
- Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales

means with regards to **(a) hazard of lead, and (b) obligation of consumers to return used batteries only to the registered dealers or deliver at the designated collection centres.**

Consumers/Bulk Consumers

- Shall ensure that used batteries are not disposed off in any manner other than by depositing with the dealer/ manufacturer/ registered recycler/ importer/ re-conditioner or at the designated collection centres.
- Bulk consumers shall file half-yearly return latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) in **Form- I** to DPCC.
- Bulk consumers to their user units may auction used batteries to registered recyclers only.



and buy-back of old batteries to the DPCC and manufacturer in **Form-V** latest by 31st May (for Oct-Mar) and 30th November (for Apr-Sept) of every year.

Recyclers

- Shall apply for registration to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change or an agency designated by it (if not applied already), by submitting information in **Form VI.**
- Shall submit half-yearly returns as per **Form-VII** to the DPCC latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.
- Shall make available all records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield to be submitted to the DPCC.
- Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other

Auctioneers

- Shall ensure that used batteries are auctioned to the registered recyclers only.
- Shall maintain records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield and submit to DPCC.
- Shall file half-yearly returns of their auctions latest by 30th June and 31st December to DPCC in **Form-IX.**

Note:- As per Batteries (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2010, every dealer of Lead Acid Battery shall obtain registration from DPCC, within 30 days of this Notice and in case of failure legal action including prosecution shall be initiated.

Member Secretary

Ego war

Sidhu's aggressive ascendancy to Punjab Cong's top post leads to another resignation

Punjab Advocate General APS Deol stands sacrificed at the altar of Navjot Singh Sidhu's antics. His resignation has been forwarded to the Governor. Deol's days were numbered after he exchanged sharp words with Sidhu. The State will now have another officer in the post whom Sidhu possibly does not dislike. Punjab will similarly have a new Director-General of Police because Sidhu does not like the incumbent. Presumably, Sidhu may take up his work as president of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee once the two demands are met. To date, he has been attacking his own Government, intent on having his way and unmindful of the effect it may have on the electoral prospects of Congress. Sidhu was brought in to tackle previous Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and a sordid drama followed that made the Captain leave the Congress to form a separate political party. However, Sidhu did not become Chief Minister as he may have hoped, the post going to a rank outsider, Charanjit Singh Channi. After taking on Captain openly, Sidhu had no option but to support Channi's elevation. However, he was soon miffed when the new Chief Minister started taking important decisions and Sidhu felt he was not being consulted. Sidhu was initially seen as the "super CM" but Channi took several decisions including changes in the Cabinet and appointment of officers ignoring Sidhu's recommendations. Deol's resignation and the clearance of a name acceptable to Sidhu as the next DGP may calm him down for the time being and until the next time.

The question is whether Sidhu's tantrums have ended or the State Congress is simply waiting for the next dose? Difficult to say given his whimsicality. The point is, and Sidhu knows it well, he is burning his bridges fast with everybody who stood by him, including the party high command. Some sections in the State Congress make uncharitable comments that he has already been written off and that it is a matter of time until after the Assembly elections when his fate will be decided once and for all. The high command certainly does not appear to be on his side. It gave him a long rope while making him the PCC chief and he burnt it fast. The leadership's motive in propping him up was to ease out Captain. That job is over. It has since adopted the path of least resistance, finding it better to keep him closer than afar. It ignored Sidhu's antics till they became unbearable and put him on notice when he quit his post. He agreed to backtrack and Deol was the sacrificial lamb. For now, he has no option but to make himself heard intermittently if only to insist that he was a more deserving candidate for CM than Channi. That is the only way he can keep himself visible till the time comes for choosing the next Chief Minister.



France's Theo Curin swims across the Titicaca Lake, Bolivia

AP

Way to go!

India has to give a massive push to renewable energy to remain a low-carbon emitting country

There is good news for India on the environment front. It has retained its 10th position in the latest Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), a global index prepared by Germanwatch and New Climate Institute. The report is prepared under the aegis of COP. The index has the US on the 55th spot and China at 37th while Denmark topped the chart. However, no one quite qualified to rank as number one, two or three due to the stringent standards adopted by Germanwatch. Denmark technically is at the fourth spot and India at 10th but, actually, India happens to be the seventh least carbon-emitting nation. The countries are judged on four parameters — Greenhouse gas emission, use of renewable energy, innovative techniques for lowering emission and the policy decisions to lower carbon footprint. Indeed, it is an achievement that we have found a place in the top 10 despite the pandemic. It also validates our correct approach in the quest for development, which usually leads to more carbon emission. India performed on all parameters, except the "push for renewable energy" category. The country still has relatively low per capita emissions. However, we would have to be extra cautious to retain this ranking.

The United Nations Secretariat has adopted a new 10-year Climate Action Plan. It wants to achieve a 45 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by generating electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030. China, with high carbon emissions and very poor energy efficiency, remains among the highest carbon footprint countries. It is, however, doing pretty well on the renewable energy front while it is a grey area for India. Meanwhile, the US performance has improved after the Joe Biden administration made some headway in reducing carbon footprint. In last year's CCPI, the US was at the bottom but this year it climbed six ranks, though it still remains very low. Though India at the moment is happily placed among the top 10, it would need to do a lot more to retain this spot in future. It has to give a massive push to renewable energy, which is currently lacking. Besides, the pressures of development and rising population may push its carbon emission, making it fall in the rankings. India's good ranking comes due to its policy framework but it needs to be implemented in right earnest. For that, we would need a long-term plan and a concerted effort.

Machines put labourers at risk

Employees expect increment every year. But a machine attracts depreciation which is a tax-free saving to the employer for eventually acquiring a new one

Every time wages and salaries of unskilled and semi-skilled workers are increased by the Government, my first reaction is one of gladness. The Government has raised their dearness allowance. For long, I have believed that teachers, especially at the school level, are the makers of the quality of our future society. As a consequence, the better the quality of society, the higher would be our civilisation. The same logic does not apply to the wages of common workers in India at its present stage of economic development. The reason is if we raise wages statutorily, the employers, especially of small and medium businesses and industries would be scared away. They can't all afford to pay more, most of the time.

Regardless, we must realise that industry or manufacturing is an employer of machines, not of men or women. True, it generates employment down the line in the shape of transport, of canteens, of dealers of shops and generally pushes the economy forward. But an efficient employer is in constant search of reducing the number of heads per machine. The intent is to control the unit cost of his product. The raw materials, packing, and electricity are supplied by others who control their respective cost of production. But the man to machine ratio, perhaps the employer is able to keep some control. The reality is that any one who is skilled and can get a job at ₹20,000 would not work for ₹19,000. The Government need not worry about his wages and welfare. The scheme of minimum wages that the Government tries to ensure, if not enforce, is for those who are not easily employable; they do not have either the motivation or the skills to get a job on reasonable terms. By laying down a minimum, the Government obstructs his prospects of getting a job.

The next thing that happens is a communal consensus among entrepreneurs — that it is safest to avoid labour intensive activities. For one, such enterprises are expensive, and worse, one can



not easily separate workers when the industry runs into a slump. On top of the statutory wages are the trade unions. What the unions can be, one would know if one has worked in Kolkata or in Kerala. In the latter State, even the class IV workers know what the law says. They do not need the union leaders to argue for them.

If we prefer full employment, a change of policy is required. A lot of labour policy has come from the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, possibly the last legislation left behind by the British Government before it left after Independence. An extreme left winger called Aneurin Bevan was in charge of Health and Labour. He gave Britain its national health service which is supposed to provide total health care to every citizen free of charge. Indians got the Industrial Disputes Act on which the entire labour ethos has grown. He did not realise that India was not Europe and we desperately needed employment as all underdeveloped countries do. He visited Mumbai before he demitted office in 1952, and I have heard him speak for an hour



INDUSTRY IS AN EMPLOYER OF MACHINES, NOT OF MEN OR WOMEN. TRUE, IT GENERATES EMPLOYMENT, BUT AN EFFICIENT EMPLOYER CONSTANTLY LOOKS AT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF HEADS PER MACHINE

at the Grant Medical College.

This legislation added by the communist trade union attitude led to an anti-employment formula for India. A job is better than none is our need. A person's skill and qualification will ensure him/her an adequate employment in any case. For the rest, there should be a free market. Between a person and a potential employer there should be freedom of negotiation of salary. So that the employee is not treated unfairly, there should preferably be a minimum monthly contract and a monthly notice of termination. With his salary packet, he/she should get a nationalised bank draft payable exactly five years, hence for 25 per cent of his wage. This would represent his savings like provident fund, gratuity etc. So that the employee is assured of his dues for his work life. The employer can terminate his services with one month's pay in lieu of notice. The salary would be free and depending on how much the employee is prepared to accept.

No other complication should come in the way of an appointment. With the size of

our population and the number of young men and women seeking employment every day, this kind of a free market for labour is required. Remember, that agriculture would be freeing more and more workers who are likely to come to industry and service for jobs. At the rate we are progressing, anything like full employment would remain a pipe dream. If the licence to set up an enterprise is free, why control the wage level? That not only discourages employment but also creates an atmosphere of minimum employment.

An employee would expect an increment every year. Whereas a machine attracts depreciation which is a tax-free saving to the employer for eventually acquiring a replacement machine. This practice alone shows a preference for a machine over man from an employer's point of view. More need to be said to advocate wages that favour free appointment without any impediment.

(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

BREAKING NEWS, AND DIVIDING NEWS

Sir — 'Fake news' appears to be a substantial problem in India for which one cannot entirely fix the Government. However, in November last year, the Supreme Court questioned the Centre to explain its mechanism against fake news, since it is the responsibility of any Government to have proper control over this dangerous phenomenon by framing rigid laws and taking stringent actions against the propagandists. In the last few years, unfortunately social media has turned out to be a massive player in shaping public discourse in a democratic space.

Though there has been pressure from policymakers on service/platform providers, nothing concrete has been built up towards the accountability of the user or platform proprietors. Lack of policy implementation or laws which could either curb fake news or hold the perpetrator accountable for their action have only made the situation complex and challenging. Responsible users have time and again raised the issue to review and amend the existing laws to meet the challenges of spreading fake news, but efforts by both policymakers and civil societies have not been enough to address this lacuna within the overpowering digital space.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

THE STATES MUST TALK IT OUT

Sir — The meeting held between Chief Ministers of two neighbouring States — Odisha and Andhra Pradesh — to find amicable solutions for long drawn issues is a right step towards reaching mutual benefits. These two States share not only borders but also unfulfilled dreams of development, apart from the rich history. The decade old controversy over utilising river water of Vamsadhara could have easily been solved and the available 115 thousand million cubic (TMC) of water could have effectively been utilised with equal share had the proposed Neradi Barrage been constructed.

It's good that both the parties agreed to form an institutional mechanism with both Chief Secretaries at helm to find

Are Chennai floods man-made?



The recent flooding of a metropolitan city as developed as Chennai brings into sharp focus the gravity of the crisis, considering that it is not a new phenomenon. For a coastal city that boasts of a highly developed market where natural wetlands abound and the real estate market is booming, it is shocking that dumping of waste and plastics on drains are choking the sewerage leading to water logging. A window to the past helps us learn from the exquisite and

foolproof drainage and sewerage systems. Waterways established in northern Chennai during the British rule are worth replicating for the authorities concerned.

At a time when the country is already facing hardships on account of the pandemic and severe air pollution, its administrators must be sympathetic to the problems faced by common people and devise concrete and practical steps and adopt a zero tolerance policy towards encroachments of natural wetlands. Dumping of wastes on drains needs to be dealt with a heavy hand. This sorry state of affairs can be attributed to wrong land use patterns, unsustainable urbanisation, failure to curb heavy encroachments around water bodies and wetlands. Experts predict that the annual average temperature will rise to 3.1 degree Celsius by 2100. The message is loud and clear for Chennai and other flood prone States: act now or perish.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

solutions in a time bound manner. The controversy over thirty one border villages along the Andhra-Odisha border, the issue of utilisation of eight TMC of Janjavathi river and other issues do need a little bit of cooperation between these two. Clearly, a mutually agreed decision will yield huge dividends for the States in terms of growth and development. It would be a win-win situation for States and its people if they continue the dialogue meaningfully.

DVG Sankararao | Vizianagaram

THE DASSAULT DEAL WAS 'RA-FAIL'

Sir — We can now say with certainty that the Rafale deal was shady and it was not free from the taint of kickbacks. The latest revelation by the French investigative portal Mediapart that 7.5 million euros were paid as bribe, euphemistically called 'consultancy fees', to middleman Sushen Gupta through his Interstellar Technologies in Mauritius in guise of 'dubious IT contracts' by the French firm

Dassault Aviation for 'facilitating' the sale of Rafale jet fighters between 2007 and 2012 lends a new twist to the scandal and makes it an involved deal needing more unravelling. The fact that the payoffs were paid during the UPA tenure inclines us to wonder if it were not an 'all-party scam'. We find it hard to reconcile to the justification that no defence deal is clinched without kickbacks and the depletion of the nation's coffers in this way.

It could not have been the case that middleman kept all the bribe proceeds to themselves and did not distribute it to 'other entities', read political leaders in power-cum-decision-makers. The Congress should disclose what clout Sushen Gupta, who was allegedly close to Amit Shah and Arun Jaitley, had with the UPA Government for Dassault Aviation to hire or continue him as a middleman.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Every single attack on ASHA workers by the UP Government is an insult to the work done by them.



Congress general secretary —Priyanka Gandhi

Today marks a precious day in my life. Asser Malik and I tied the knot to be partners for life.

Nobel laureate —Malala Yousafzai

I'm excited to return to Netflix and be a part of a completely different genre which will have audiences in splits.



Actor —Surveen Chawla

So far the Pakistan team has really done well and impressed us with its consistent performances.

PCB chairman —Ramiz Raja

Within the next few weeks, we will be able to complete the process of Metro trial and get it launched for Kanpurites.



UP Chief Minister —Yogi Adityanath

FIRST COLUMN

WINTER WILL ARRIVE SOON FOR AFGHANISTAN

Cynics would suggest that the US never forgives countries that successfully defy it



GWYNNE DYER

The first snow of the winter will reach Kabul any day now, and the death rate will start to climb: mostly children, at first, but it will not really be the cold that kills them. The cold will only finish the work that malnutrition began months or years ago — but the other cause of their deaths will be a different kind of freeze.

It's the end of a protracted war that is causing acute hunger in Afghanistan.

There was a drought in Afghanistan in the last couple of years of the American occupation, so many poor Afghans were already vulnerable before the events of last summer. But the proximate cause of the impending famine was the chaos of the US evacuation in August.

As the panic played out on American screens and the sense of humiliation mounted, the Biden administration made one thing clear. "Any Central Bank assets the Afghan government have in the United States will not be made available to the Taliban," said an administration official on 15 August - and with that famine became inevitable.

It's understandable that the US government and US-dominated institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund stopped

pouring aid into Afghanistan after the Taliban took power. That posed a big problem for the new regime, because foreign aid covered three-quarters of public spending in the country, but it was hardly a surprise.

It's a whole different thing to freeze all Afghanistan's own money that is deposited with American and other Western banks. (\$9.5 billion for the US alone.) It's mostly unspent aid money that the previous regime hadn't spent or stolen yet, but it's still Afghan money and it now belongs to the new government of Afghanistan: the Taliban.

That's the freeze that really matters. Afghanistan's domestic economy has virtually collapsed, but there's enough money in those frozen accounts to pay for imported food that would see 40 million Afghans through the coming winter without many deaths from starvation. So why won't the US government release it?

Cynics would suggest that it's because the United States never forgives governments and countries that successfully defy it, and point to Cuba as Exhibit Number One: a sixty-year trade embargo. But cynicism is wicked. We should accept Western countries' explanation for holding onto Afghanistan's money at face value.

A US State administration official said that "releasing the reserves is no guarantee that the Taliban will actually use it effectively to solve problems." And UK prime minister Boris Johnson explained that "we can't...write a completely blank cheque to the Taliban authorities, we need to ensure that that country does not slip back into being a haven for terrorism and a narco-state."

Who do these people think they are? It's Afghanistan's money, and some Afghans are already starving. What right do they have to hold onto the money until Afghanistan proves that it won't be 'a haven for terrorism'. How could the Taliban prove it won't become one, and how long would that take? Until the first million starve? The second million?

Besides, there are probably people in the State Department, and there certainly are in the American intelligence services, who suspect that the Taliban have never been involved in any attacks on the US homeland.

"The money belongs to the Afghan nation. Just give us our own money," said Finance Ministry spokesperson Ahmad Wali Haqmal last week. "Freezing this money is unethical and is against all international laws and values." But the money will stay frozen, and soon winter will come to Afghanistan.

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

COP26: Promises galore and a game of lobbies

India never reneges on such commitments but there are various lobbies that are on reckless construction in sensitive zones leading to serious crisis

The COP26 climate meet is full of promises as the desertification threat to India and the world increases. The meet is less on concrete terms to bring down temperature but high on verbosity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has struck the right chord. He has taken time till 2070 so that India's development is not smothered by the reticence of the developed world. He says that the commitment to climate has a cost and the rich nations are not meeting out their pledge of providing \$100 billion a year to developing nations by 2020 as agreed at the climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009. The target has not yet been met.

The commitment is significant to climate financing negotiations and the steps by rich countries, which till now have not met their pledge of providing \$100 billion a year.

Nations like Saudi Arabia, Japan and Australia on the other hand are asking the UN to play down the need to move away from fossil fuels. The Inter-Governmental panel on Climate Change says that 32,000 submissions have been made by governments, companies and other interested parties to dilute the issues of fossil fuel.

They are arguing that that the world does not need to reduce the use of fossil fuels as quickly as the current draft of the report recommends. A West Asian country's oil ministry has sought removal of phrases like the need for urgent and accelerated mitigation actions at all scales. The issue of temperature reduction by 2 degrees may remain on paper as they press for slower action and temperature limit be reduced to 1.5 degrees.

Australia does not accept the conclusion that closing coal-fired thermal power plants is necessary, even though the CoP26 objective is to end the use of coal that adds to the problem of greenhouse effect. OPEC also asks the IPCC to delete lobby activism, protecting rent extracting business models. Saudi Arabia wants deletion of the UN conclusion that the focus of decarbonisation efforts in the energy sector needs to move rapidly shifting to zero-carbon sources and actively phasing out fossil fuels.

Many developing countries are not comfortable with the zero emission. Argentina, Norway and OPEC also challenge the contention. Norway argues the UN scientists should allow the possibility of capture and storage (CCS) as a potential tool for reducing emissions from fossil fuels. Even India had to resort to larger coal prospecting as its power system was reportedly coming to a critical stage and it had to keep the thermal power plants running.

The draft report accepts carbon could play a role in the future but says there are uncertainties about its feasibility. The CCS emerges as a vague term for continuing with the fossil fuel.

In 2015, the Paris Agreement stressed



THE GLOBE IS WARMING UP FASTER. THE CLIMATE CHANGE IS TO AFFECT RAINFALL PATTERNS AND WARMER ATMOSPHERE CAN LEAD TO MORE RAINFALL IN SOME AREAS AND DROUGHT IN MANY OTHERS. IT IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE GLOBAL POVERTY AS WATER IN EXCESS OR SHORTAGE WOULD PLAY HAVOC WITH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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



the need for limiting temperature between 2 degrees to 1.5 degree Celsius before 2100. India's and China's commitment has increased hopes that zero emission is possible by 2070 but that again does not remain a certainty.

The globe is warming up faster. The climate change is to affect rainfall patterns and warmer atmosphere can lead to more rainfall in some areas and drought in many others. It is expected to increase global poverty as water in excess or shortage would play havoc with human development.

The global area of dry lands is expected to expand as the climate warms. Various projections on emission scenarios indicate arid lands will increase by 11 to 23 percent compared a 30-year period of 1961 to 1990. This means that dry lands could be 50 to 56 percent of the earth's land surface, a 38 percent rise, by 2021. The arid regions will expand over southwest of North America, north and south Africa and Australia, the Mediterranean and South America.

Now at Glasgow CoP 26, Australia and 123 other countries signed an agreement to end deforestation by 2030. There have been many such declarations before. Such policies have to be adopted by different countries at the domestic level. If these are not implemented due to domestic political pressure such declarations would have little impact.

India never reneges on such commitments but there are various lobbies that are on reckless constructions in the Himalayas

and other sensitive zones leading to serious crisis. About 97.85 million hectares (29.7 percent) of India's total geographical area (TGA) of 328.72 mha underwent land degradation during 2018-19. In 2003-05, 94.53 mha (28.76 percent of the TGA) underwent land degradation. The number increased to 96.40 mha (29.32 percent of the TGA) in 2011-13.

About 83.69 mha underwent desertification in 2018-19. This was greater than the 81.48 mha in 2003-2005 and 82.64 mha in 2011-13. India witnessed an increase in the level of desertification in 28 of 31 states and Union territories between 2011-13 and 2018-19.

Forest covers are dwindling all over Asia and various Indian states too are amending their laws for increased "developmental activities" across. Tree felling and water erosion also is causing heavy erosion as construction activities are increasing. The Centre's commitment and the states' priorities often clash and the later play havoc at the ground level.

A McGill paper has found that more airport constructions would create environmental problems, increase warming and other ecological issues. Since these have become symbols of fast development, across India, and in many other countries, more airports are being constructed. Each adds to degeneration. Recently in UP and the hilly states a number of airports are being constructed for "better connectivity".

The IPCC says that various

climate model simulations suggest that rainfall, when it does occur, will be more intense for almost the entire world, potentially increasing the risks of soil erosion. Projections indicate that most of the world will see a 16 to 24 percent increase in heavy precipitation intensity by 2100.

So, desertification means that there is overall land degradation in water-scarce parts of the world. Since large business lobbies are engaged in such activities, it has become difficult for any government across the globe to stop them though it causes deterioration of the economic productivity of the land and its ability to farm the land for commercial or subsistence purposes. The degradation includes the decline in quality of soil, vegetation, water resources or wildlife. Each of it affects the quality of life and livelihood.

Director of research at the Grantham Institute at Imperial College, London, Joeri Rogelji, says that various pledges at different climate meets are still not sufficient to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and CoP 26 still has an important task. The temperature control the pledges need to strengthen but, he says, the pledges do not match the ambitions.

The International Energy Agency is unhappy with what the governments are trying to show they are doing. The governments need to have clear and credible policies. Ambitions count for little if they are not implemented successfully.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I WILL DROP A HYDROGEN BOMB TOMORROW IN CONNECTION WITH DEVENDRA FADNAVIS. I WILL EXPOSE HIS UNDERWORLD LINKS. —NCP LEADER NAWAB MALIK



MALIK HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD DROP A HYDROGEN BOMB BUT IT SEEMS THAT IT WAS JUST A WASTED FIRECRACKER. —BJP LEADER ASHISH SHELAR



Ganja smuggling in Andhra: Facts bely claims

Chandrababu Naidu and his party leaders are trying to paint a picture as if the ganja issue has just cropped up during the YSRCP rule

Notwithstanding the criticism by main Opposition the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena, the fact remains that the history of ganja or hemp in the North Coastal tribal belt in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Odisha goes back to centuries.

Police records and the cases booked by the Narcotics Control Bureau, clearly establishes ganja smuggling from tribal areas on the borders of AP and Odisha even during the TDP rule led by N Chandrababu Naidu in the undivided state of Andhra Pradesh and also in the residual State after bifurcation of AP into two States.

During TDP rule, as ganja smuggling was going on unchecked and also being



AMAR DEVULAPALLI

(The writer is Advisor, national media and interstate affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

smuggled to Sri Lanka from Visakhapatnam, the Union Home Ministry had to alert the state to take stringent action. A meeting of DGPs of four states held in Bhogapuram of Vizagapatam district on October 10, 2016, took note of the age-old ganja transportation. The media published stories and analyses on how ganja was being smuggled from the Andhra-Odisha border during 2014 and in early 2019 during the TDP rule.

During the British Rule in India, the then administration had appointed the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission. The purpose of the Commission was to ascertain, amongst others, the extent to which the hemp plant is cultivated in the provinces.



Officers responsible for the top Administration in Vizagapatam districts containing the present three North coastal districts of AP and five border districts of Orissa (under Madras Presidency) were among over eleven hundred witnesses who appeared before the Commission and gave evidence as well as suggestions to overcome the problem. The Commission later published its conclusions.

Despite all these facts and records available right from

British Rule, Chandrababu and his party leaders are trying to paint a picture as if the ganja issue has just cropped up now during YSRCP rule. The TDP leaders are conveniently forgetting the fact that their party Minister Ch.Ayyanna Patrudu openly raised his voice against another minister and found fault with the latter for conducting review meetings on the steps being taken to eradicate ganja smuggling ignoring the realities that the kingpins behind the smuggling were not being booked.

At least people of the state cannot forget the decision taken by the then police heads to take stringent action against the weed cultivators in the Visakhapatnam agency pockets on AOB and even decided to destroy the weed fields with

the help of the satellite images. In 2014 and 2015 the Visakhapatnam police arrested 1,150 persons and seized over 50 tonnes of ganja and a number of vehicles, however, no kingpin was then arrested.

While this is the scenario during 2014 and early 2019 in Andhra Pradesh, within a few days after YS Jagan Mohan Reddy assuming charge as new Chief Minister, the state government took a firm stand to suppress the ganja gangs. The AP police have registered 2,040 cases under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act against ganja smugglers and paddlers so far this year. A total of 270 tonnes of ganja has been seized by arresting 5,415 persons involved in the smuggling

from January 1 till October end this year.

At a time when the State government has intensified its operations and are trying to end the menace, TDP is trying to show figures provided by the police department to twist and say that ganja smuggling is thriving under YSR rule. Misinformation with regard to seizure of drugs in Mundra port is also being spread by the opposition TDP. Despite Central government agencies associated with the investigation of the case as also the DGP categorically clarifying that AP has no links to the seizure of drugs, the TDP continues to carry out the propaganda.

"The increasing number of NDPS cases is an indication that police are acting tough on

ganja smugglers. We are observing zero tolerance towards smuggling of ganja, drugs and any other sedatives which cause harm to health and spoil career of youngsters," said Director General of Police D Gautam Sawang.

Police have filed more cases in 2020 and 2021 compared to previous years. On a number of occasions, the DGP has made it clear that ganja cultivation has been prevalent in the neighbouring States of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and the contraband is being transported from the border areas.

The police department is working on a specific strategy to weed out ganja smuggling from the State with the cooperation of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

GLOBE TROTTER

BIDEN TO HOST TRUDEAU, OBRADOR AT WHITE HOUSE

Washington: President Joe Biden will host talks next week in Washington with the leaders of Canada and Mexico, the White House said on Wednesday. The November 18 meeting will be the first with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador since Biden took office in January and the first get-together since 2016 of what had been near-annual summits between the North American neighbours.

IN RUSSIA, 83% OF COVID HOSPITAL BEDS ARE FULL

Moscow: Nearly 83 per cent of hospital beds designated for Covid-19 patients are filled, Russian authorities said on Wednesday, as daily tallies of new infections and deaths remain at all-time highs. Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova told a government meeting Wednesday that 82.8 per cent of 301,500 hospital beds reserved for coronavirus patients were filled as of Tuesday morning.

UN: ETHIOPIA DETAINS 70 DRIVERS WHO DELIVER AID

Nairobi: The United Nations says Ethiopian authorities have arrested and detained some 70 truck drivers contracted to the UN aid groups in the past week since the Government declared a state of emergency amid the country's escalating war.

KISHIDA RE-ELECTED JAPAN'S PM IN VOTE

Tokyo: Fumio Kishida was reelected as Japan's Prime Minister on Wednesday after his governing party scored a major victory in key parliamentary elections. Elected just over a month ago by parliament, Kishida called a quick election in which his Liberal Democratic Party secured 261 seats in the 465-member lower house, the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber legislature, enough to maintain a free hand in pushing through legislation.

Pak SC grills Imran in 2014 massacre case

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Imran Khan on Wednesday faced a barrage of questions at a hearing of the 2014 terror attack on an Army-run school during which the Supreme Court bench asked the Pakistan prime minister why he was negotiating with the culprits of the massacre of nearly 150 people, mostly students.

The apex court gave a month-long deadline to the government to determine the responsibility for security failure in the horrific attack in which 147 people, 132 of them children, were killed when Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants stormed the Army Public School (APS) in Peshawar.

The three-judge bench - headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Gulzar Ahmed, and comprising Justice Qazi Mohammad Amin Ahmed and Justice Ijazul Ahsan - had summoned Khan.



Imran Khan.

The court asked Khan about the action taken after a special commission in its probe reported that security failure was responsible for the attack.

"The satisfaction of the parents [who lost their children in the APS attack] is necessary," said Justice Ahsan addressing the premier. The court also took the government to task for holding talks with the TTP instead of taking any action against those responsible for security failure.

"If the government was going to sign on a document of defeat with those who killed these children...Are we going to surrender once again?" Justice Amin asked the premier.

The government is in talks with the TTP over a "reconciliation process", with Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry having announced on Monday that a "complete ceasefire" had been reached with the banned outfit.

"You are in power. The government is also yours. What did you do?"

You brought those guilty to the negotiating table," Chief Justice Ahmed told Khan.

Khan in his response said that at the time of the attack his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party was ruling in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and it could only provide material compensation which it did by giving monetary support to the victims' families.

Federal judge refuses Trump request to block Jan 6 records

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A federal judge rejected former President Donald Trump's request to block the release of documents to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

In denying a preliminary injunction, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan said Tuesday that Congress had a strong public interest in obtaining records that could shed light on a violent insurrection mounted by the former president's supporters. She added that President Joe Biden had the authority to waive executive privilege over the documents despite Trump's assertions otherwise.

Barring a court order, the National Archives plans to turn over Trump's records to the committee by Friday. But Trump's lawyers swiftly promised an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The case will likely eventually head to the U.S. Supreme



Court.

"At bottom, this is a dispute between a former and incumbent President," Chutkan wrote. "And the Supreme Court has already made clear that in such circumstances, the incumbent's view is accorded greater weight."

Trump "does not acknowledge the deference owed" to Biden's judgment as the current president, Chutkan said. She

noted examples of past presidents declining to assert executive privilege and rejected what she said was Trump's claim that executive privilege "exists in perpetuity."

"Presidents are not kings, and Plaintiff is not President," she said.

According to an earlier court filing from the archives, the records include call logs, drafts of remarks and speeches and handwritten notes from Trump's then-chief of staff, Mark Meadows. There are also copies of talking points from then-press secretary Kayleigh McEnany and "a draft Executive Order on the topic of election integrity," the National Archives has said.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., who chairs the House committee, said in a statement after the ruling that the records are crucial for understanding the attack and "in my view, there couldn't be a more compelling public interest than getting answers about an attack on our democracy."

Prince Harry says he warned Twitter CEO of US Capitol riot

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's Prince Harry has sharply attacked the failure of social media companies to challenge hate online, revealing that he warned the chief executive of Twitter ahead of the Jan. 6 Capitol riots that the site was being used to stage political unrest.

Harry made the comments Tuesday in an online panel on misinformation in California. He said he made his concerns known via email to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey the day before the riot in Washington.

"Jack and I were emailing each other prior to January 6 where I warned him that his platform was allowing a coup to be staged," Harry said at the RE:WIRED tech forum. "That email was sent the day before and then it happened and I haven't heard from him since."

Twitter declined to comment on Harry's remarks.



Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai and her partner Asger on their wedding day in UK's Birmingham

Dalai Lama says China's leaders 'don't understand' diversity

AP ■ TOKYO

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama says China's leaders "don't understand the variety of different cultures" and that the ruling Communist Party's penchant for tight social control can be harmful.

The 86-year-old Buddhist monk on Wednesday also said he wished to remain home in India, where he has lived since 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, rather than get involved in the "complicated politics" between China, run by the officially atheist Communist Party, and strongly Buddhist Taiwan.

Speaking at an online press conference hosted by the Tokyo Foreign Correspondents Club, the Dalai Lama said there were no particular plans to meet

with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and declined to comment on Xi's plans to remain in office for a third five-year term.

"Chinese communist leaders, they do not understand the variety of different cultures," he said. "In reality, too much control will harm people."

China exercises rigid control over all religions and in recent years has stepped up a campaign of cultural assimilation targeting Tibetans, Turkic Muslim Uyghurs and other minority groups.

The Dalai Lama said he did not want to become involved in "local and political difficulties," but was dedicated to making contributions to "brothers and sisters" in both Taiwan and mainland China. "This situation is quite complicated," he said.

Merkel asks Putin to intervene with Belarus over migrants

Poland: German Chancellor Angela Merkel asked Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday to intervene with Belarus over the migrant situation on that country's border with Poland, where groups of migrants made bold attempts this week to cross into European Union territory.

The chancellor's office said Merkel spoke with Putin by phone and underlined that the exploitation "of migrants against the European Union by the Belarusian regime is inhuman and completely unacceptable." Merkel asked the Russian president "to exert his influence on the regime in Minsk," her office said.

Russia is a close ally of the government in Belarus. Germany is a favored destination for migrants who manage to enter the EU.

Elton John receives prestigious UK award

AP ■ LONDON

Elton John has no doubt been a member of many exclusive clubs over the decades, but probably nothing quite as exclusive as the one he formally joined on Wednesday.

In an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle, Prince Charles anointed the rock star and charity patron as a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour.

It is one of the highest awards that can be bestowed by Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, to citizens in Britain and across the Commonwealth. The 95-year-old monarch is also a member of the order.

Introduced in 1917 by her grandfather King George V, the award recognizes people who

have made "a major contribution to the arts, science, medicine, or government lasting over a long period of time."

Current members include British environmentalist David Attenborough, Canadian author Margaret Atwood and one of Britain's greatest-ever athletes Sebastian Coe.

The group, which in the past has included British wartime prime minister Winston Churchill and scientist Stephen Hawking, can only number a maximum of 65, excluding the sovereign, at any one time.

John, who was knighted by the queen in 1998, a year after the death of his friend Diana, the Princess of Wales, joined the Companions of Honour in the queen's honors list in late 2019 for his services to music and charity.

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viniamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik Nagar, New Delhi-110017.
Website: www.derc.gov.in, Telefax: 26673608

PUBLIC NOTICE
To provide Comments/suggestions/objections on Draft Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Compensation to Victims of Electrical Accidents) Regulations, 2021
The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission, In exercise of the powers conferred by section 57 read with sub section (za) of section 181 of Electricity Act, 2003 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, hereby proposes to make the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Compensation to Victims of Electrical Accidents) Regulations, 2021.

The Draft Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Compensation to Victims of Electrical Accidents) Regulations, 2021 is available on the website of the Commission i.e. www.derc.gov.in.

Stakeholders are requested to forward their suggestions/comments/objections on the Draft Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Compensation to Victims of Electrical Accidents) Regulations, 2021 to the Commission, latest by 23.11.2021. The comments/suggestions/objections may be forwarded to Secretary, DERC either by post or through email to secyderc@nic.in.

Sd/- Secretary
DIP/Shabdarth/0405/21-22 Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission

WEAR FACE MASK WASH HANDS REGULARLY MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Abha Jain (Borrower), Raj Kumar Jain (Co-Borrower), Aditya Jain (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002080406	Unit No. DPT 340, Parking No. 2254 in DLF Prime Towers, Okhla, New Delhi and/or Flat No-DPT 340, 3rd Floor, Prime Tower, Plot No-79 and 80, Block-F, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, Delhi area 750 SqFt	Rs. 93.39, 292.78 as on November 02, 2021.	Rs. 82,00,000/- Rs. 8,20,000/-	December 04, 2021 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	December 14, 2021 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **December 13, 2021 before 05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005**, and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **December 13, 2021 before 05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005** on or **December 13, 2021 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of **"ICICI Bank Limited"** payable at Delhi For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 9372730494** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933** Please note that Marketing agencies **1.M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augoe Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s
Date: November 11, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Name of work Supply & fixing of jumper cable support link assembly (Stainless Steel) for LHB AC coaches.
Tender No. 30-Elect-3TR-2-Chg-2020-21
Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.) Rs. 12,94,020/-
Cost of tender form Rs. 0.00/-
Address of the office Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi
Earnest Money Rs. 0.00/-
Period of completion of work 04 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender 03.12.2021 up to 15:00 hrs.
And opening of tender 03.12.2021 at 15:01 hrs.
Website & notice board www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI 2593/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
Bids/proposals are invited from Interested buyers for sale of below mentioned property; which is under the possession of AU Small Finance Bank under the SARFAESI ACT 2002.
Description of Property
Property Situated at Commercial P. No. A-108, A-109, A-148 & A-149 situated at Khalsa No. 155/1 & 156, Village Nandialpura, Resort inside Indicity, Ajmer Road, Teh. Phagi, Jaipur, Rajasthan
Resort property with 30 rooms, swimming pool, conference room, Kitchen & Open garden cum play area.
Admeasuring - 6995-24 Sq. Yard
Interested Parties may please contact-
Bhanu Pratap Singh
Phone-9358002663
Email-auctions@aaubank.in

PIONEER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED
CIN: L15319PB1993PLC012975
Registered office: ChottiNehar, Malakpur, Pathankot-145025 (Punjab). Tel: +91-186-2345352/53/55
Website: www.pioneeragro.co.in /Email: complianceofficer@pioneeragro.co.in
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE COMPANY FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2021
(Figures in Lacs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				
		Quarter Ended		Six Months Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.2021 (Unaudited)	30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	30.09.2021 (Unaudited)	30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	
1.	Total Income from Operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.95	0.28	(1.04)	(0.40)	38.01
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.95	0.28	(1.04)	(0.40)	38.01
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.95	0.28	(1.04)	(0.40)	38.17
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period	0.95	0.28	(1.04)	(0.40)	38.17
6.	Equity Share Capital	435.85	435.85	435.85	435.85	435.85
7.	Other Equity	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
8.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) 1. Basic: (not annualised) 2. Diluted: (not annualised)	0.02 0.02	0.01 0.01	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.88 0.88

NOTES:-
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Half Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.pioneeragro.co.in.

For Pioneer Agro Extracts Limited
Sd/- Jagat Mohan Aggarwal
DIN: 00750120
Managing Director
Date: 10/11/2021 Place: Pathankot

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender No. CWM-BW-15-2021
Dy. Chief Engineer/Bridge/Line/ North Eastern Railway/Gorakhpur acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works:-
S.No.-1, E-Tender No.-CWM-BW-15-2021, Description of works: Rebuilding of OWG major Bridge No. 104 (5x45.7m) span at km 48/7-49/1 between SARKARA (SKX)-HEMPUR ISMAIL (HPIL) stations of Kashipur-Lalkuan section in Izzatnagar division of North Eastern Railway. Approx. Tender Value (₹): ₹ 4,58,54,239.71, Earnest Money (₹): ₹ 0.00, Cost of tender document: Nil, Completion period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 06 (Six) months.
• Date of E-Tender opening 11:00 Hrs. on 02-12-2021. • Receipt of E-Tender upto 10:59 Hrs. on 02-12-2021.
• Detailed E-tender notice, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. CE/Bridge/Line/ Gorakhpur
CPRO-W-252
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients **Bhupendra Singh Chhabra S/o Jaswant Singh & his wife Daljit Kaur W/o Bhupendra Singh Chhabra R/o 222, A-3,4th floor, Paschim Vihar, ND-63** have debarred & disowned their son **Sukhwinder Singh Chhabra & his wife Nidhi Khanna** from their movable & immovable properties due to their misbehavior to my clients. My Clients have also severed all their relation with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk.
Ramesh Chander Anand (Adv.) Ch-68, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client **Brj Bala Bahri W/o Late Surinder Bahri D/o Late Rajender Prasad Ahluwalia R/o AD 10-B, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88** wants to inform that her husband Late Surinder Bahri expired on 8/11/2021 and he had no Will, so my client Brj Bala Bahri is the only legal Heir Of her husband. If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact at the above address with valid supporting document within 15 days of this notice.
Ramesh Chander Anand (Adv.) Ch-68, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court.

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

1	Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money	(NIT-21-22-30) 1. Elimination of Level Crossing (LC) No.-77 at Km. 132/7-9, LC No.-82 at Km. 144/11-13, LC No.-84 at Km. 147/29-31, LC No.-86 at Km. 151/1-3, LC No.-87 at Km. 152/15-17 on DUK by Construction by Pushing Method under ADEN/KUN.
		(NIT-21-22-31) 2. Elimination of Level Crossing (LC) No.-11 at Km. 16/7-9, LC No.-18 at Km. 27/27-29, LC No.-22 at Km. 36/17-19, LC No.-33 at Km. 52/11-13, LC No.-38 at Km. 62/21-23, on DUK Section by Construction of LHS by Pushing Method under ADEN/PNP
2	Approx. Cost	1. Rs. 19,19,76,862.80/- 2. Rs. 19,17,81,220.60/-
3	Completion period	1 & 2 - 16 Months
4	Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11.00 hrs. on 03.12.2021 opening of e-tender at 11.00 hrs. on 03.12.2021.
5	Website particulars, location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
6	Similar nature of work	1. & 2. "Construction of bridges / Limited high subway with box pushing / pipe pushing method"

NOTE: All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIV is compulsory. No.: 128-W/280/Tender Notice/20-21/W-I (NIT-30-31) Dated: 08.11.2021 2584/2021
Serving Customers with a Smile

Sebi amends regulatory rules governing AIF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has amended the regulatory regime governing alternative investment funds (AIFs), to facilitate co-investment through the portfolio management route.

Co-investment means investment made by a manager or sponsor or investor of Category-I and -II AIFs in investee companies where such category of AIFs makes investment.

In a notification on Tuesday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said, "Co-investment by investors of alternative investment fund shall be through a co-investment portfolio manager."

The regulator said the terms of co-investment in an investee company by a manager or sponsor or co-investor, will not be more favourable than the terms of investment of the AIF.

It further said the terms of exit from the co-investment in an investee company, including the timing of exit will be identical to the terms applicable to that of exit of the AIF.

These framework will be applicable only for co-investment made on or after December 9.

The manager will not provide advisory services to any investor other than the clients of co-investment portfolio manager for investment in securities of investee companies where the AIF managed by it



makes investment.

The regulator has allowed Category-III AIFs to calculate concentration norms based on net asset value of the fund.

Sebi said Category-III AIFs will invest not more than 10 per cent of the net asset value in listed equity of an investee company. They will invest not more than 10 per cent of the investable funds in securities other than listed equity of an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs.

This is provided that large value funds for accredited investors of Category-III AIFs may invest up to 20 per cent of the net asset value in listed equity of an investee company. They may invest up to 20 per cent of the investable funds in securities other than listed equity of an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIF.

To give effect to this, the regulator has amended AIF norms. This came after Sebi's board approved a proposal in this regard in late-September.

Excise duty cut on petrol, diesel is positive for inflation: RBI Gov



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The recent decision of the Central Government to cut the excise duty on diesel and petrol is significantly positive for inflation, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Wednesday.

He said food inflation is now under control, but core inflation continues to remain elevated.

"That (excise duty cut on petrol and diesel) is significantly positive for inflation," Das said.

Inflation in India is mainly caused due to the supply-side factors, which have been addressed by the government, he added.

"The supply-side factors have been addressed by the government, particularly with reference to pulses and edible oils, and now very recently with reference to petrol and diesel. All these have augured well for the inflation scenario. "So, food inflation, by and large, looks to be now under control," Das said. "So far, as India is concerned, core inflation has remained elevated, and that is a policy challenge, and we are keeping a very close watch of the evolution of the core inflation," he noted. Even the fuel inflation has also remained elevated, and the RBI is closely monitoring it, he added.

FM to meet heads of banks, FIs next week

Nudge them to expand credit to boost economy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to meet heads of banks and financial institutions next week to remove friction in credit flow to productive sectors of the economy battered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The two-day conference, beginning November 17, would see participation from all public sector banks and financial institutions (FIs).

Besides, CEOs of top six

private sector lenders and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance, Shriram Transport Finance and Tata Capital, would also be present.

In a letter addressed to chairman and CEO of banks and financial institutions, the finance ministry said the two-day conference will focus on flow of credit into different sectors of the economy in a seamless manner.

Observing that bank credit is integral to economic activity, the letter said "traditional", banks have been the main source of credit for various sectors of the economy and their lending operations have evolved in response to needs of the economy."

In order to better understand the ecosystem and related issues, it said, a stakeholders' conference is being organised on November 17-18 to be attended by Finance Minister and other top government officials.

India on way to becoming fastest growing economy in world: FinMin report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Armed with necessary Amacro and micro growth drivers, India is on its way to becoming the fastest growing major economy in the world, a Finance Ministry report said.

Rapid vaccination and teeming festivities will push India's ongoing recovery resulting in narrowing of demand-supply mismatches and greater employment opportunities, as per the monthly Economic Review prepared by the ministry.

"Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission encapsulating major

structural reforms continues to play a critical role in shaping India's economic recovery, both through the signalling of business opportunities and expansion of spending channels.

"Armed with necessary macro and micro growth drivers, the stage is set for India's investment cycle to kickstart and catalyse its recovery towards becoming the fastest growing economy in the world," the review said.

The Economic Survey 2020-21, released in January this year, had projected GDP growth of 11 per cent during the current financial year ending March 2022.

Competition between Indian, Chinese steel players to intensify in export markets: Icr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The competition between Indian and Chinese steel players could intensify at global level, amid subdued steel demand in China, according to Icr.

In China -- the largest steel consuming country -- steelmakers could brace for an extended period of weak demand as the economy goes through the process of rebalancing of an overheated property market, which was a key growth engine driving the country's steel demand for the last two decades, the ratings agency said in its latest report.

According to Icr, in 2020-21, China emerged as the single-largest importer of steel from India. However, with the Chinese steel demand growth waning in the current fiscal, the share of steel exports to China by Indian mills has plummeted to just 8 per cent in the first half of the ongoing fiscal from 30 per cent in the preceding financial year.

Sensex, Nifty drop on losses in metal, banking stocks

Mumbai:Key stock market indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Wednesday due to losses in banking, metal and select FMCG stocks amid mixed global cues. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 80.63 points or

0.13 per cent lower at 60,352.82 as 17 of its constituents closed in red. The index opened on a weak note and touched the day's low of 59,967.45 before recovering some of the losses in afternoon session. PTI

Naveen Patnaik inaugurates mega dairy processing plant in Cuttack

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/ NEW DELHI

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday inaugurated a State-of-the-art mega dairy processing plant in Cuttack district. The ₹ 273-crore Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (Omfed) plant at Arlio near Cuttack city will increase farmers' incomes and benefit around 6 lakh agriculturists, Patnaik said in his address. Technical consultancy for the plant has been provided by NDDB.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
(Regd. Office PSPEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): 1440199P01050233813 | Web site: www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number 9568118754)

Tender Enquiry No: 277/HPs/ED-II/ASHP-113 Dated: 03.11.2021
Dy. CE/Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for Replacement of 4 nos of old De-Watering Pump sets with Non-Clog Submersible pumps along with accessories for ASHP Power House-II Nakkian.
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 11.11.2021 onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov. in
C-402/21
RO NO. 76155/12/527/2021/9754

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate Office: Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B. Marg Worli, Mumbai 400 018 India, Tel: +91 22 66523500
Fax: +91 22 24972741 **Branch Office:** 3rd Floor 139-141 Mangal Pandey Nagar Opposite CCS University Meerut Uttar Pradesh 250002, **Branch Office:** D-34, 3rd Floor Opp. GAUR Central Mall RDC Raj Nagar, ABOVE MAHARANI RESTAURANT, GHAZIABAD Uttar Pradesh 201001,

SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION-CUM-SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
In exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (4) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (herein after referred to as "SARFAESI Act") and Rule 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "Rules")for the purpose of recovering the secured debts, the authorized officer of the secured creditor M/s Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHF") has decided to sell the secured asset (immovable property), the possession of which had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor under S. 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act, described herein below as "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IT IS BASIS" and the public and all concerned including the concerned borrowers/mortgagors, their representatives, as the case may be are hereby informed that the secured asset listed below will be sold by e-Auction through the Web Portal: **https://DisposalHub.com** for which the particulars are furnished hereunder:-

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Property Inspection Date & Time	Date & Time of e-Auction
Branch: GHAZIABAD Borrower: SHADAB Co-Borrower: SHAHIN Address-2472 BULANDSHAHR ROAD AMEREMUJAVIYA MASJID RAFEK NAGAR PEERBAUDDIN 3, HAPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-245101 LAN: LAN: 770989/ XSEMGZB00656800	03-12-2020 Rs.9,45,878.00 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight Only)	25-06-2021	PLOT NO-21, PART OF KHASRA NO -12 77 MOHALLA NEW ABADI GARHI - PILKHUWA, PARGANA DASNA, TEHSIL DHAULANA, DIST HAPUR, UTTAR PRADESH -245101, Boundary:- NORTH - PLOT LOKESH SAINI , SOUTH - HOUSE OF LOKESH SAINI, EAST- 15 FT ROAD, WEST - PLOT OF SITARAM SAINI	Rs.4,00,176/- Rs.40,018/- Rs.10,000/-	26 - November - 2021 Time 10 Am To 6 Pm	29 - November - 2021 Time 10 Am To Pm
Branch: MEERUT Borrower: KAMAL SINGH Co-Borrower: SUMAN Address-KHASRA NO. 351 NEW MILTAN NAGAR MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH -250002 LAN: LAN: 711836/ XSEMMER00591829	12-01-2021 Rs.7,20,330.00 (Rupees Seven Lakhs Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Only)	10-04-2021	KHASRA NO 351 MI NEW MILTAN NAGAR MAJRA MALYANA, MEERUT,UTTAR PRADESH -250002 Boundary:- NORTH- PLOT OF ARUN, SOUTH- PLOT OF DARIGA JJ, EAST- PLOT OF SANTOSH, WEST- RASTA 16-WIDE	Rs.9,07,200/- Rs.90,720/- Rs.10,000/-	26 - November - 2021 Time 10 Am To 6 Pm	29 - November - 2021 Time 10 Am To Pm

1.Last date of submission of sealed offers as well as online in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD is **27 - November - 2021 Time 10 Am To 6 Pm** at the branch office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up properly or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD. 2.The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available on **www.mahindrahomedefinance.com** and on the e-Auction Portal: **https://DisposalHub.com** as well as above branch office. 3.All the intending bidders are required to register their name in the Web Portal mentioned above in free of cost of their own to submit their bid as per the prescribed format along with EMD by way of Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favour of 'Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited' and KYC in a sealed envelope at the branch office mentioned herein above as well as upload online to participate in the e-Auction on the date and time aforesaid. For any enquiry the prospective bidders may contact Authorized Officer on Mobile For Lucknow Branch:- ABHISHEK KUMAR, Mb. No. 9559539998 and Partner **M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited, through csw@disposalhub.com Tel. No.: +91 124 4 233 933, Mobile No.: +91 93100 29933.** 4.Further interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expenses, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization. 5.The notice is hereby given to the Borrower and Guarantor, to remain present personally at the time of sale and they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale. 6.The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given **15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002** to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction failing which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped. 7.The immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer. However, the undersigned reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary. 8.Company is not responsible for any liabilities upon the property which is not in the knowledge of the company. For further details, contact the Branch Manager, at the above mentioned Branch office address.

Place :- Ghaziabad, Meerut Date:- 11.11.2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
Sr. No. 1: TENDER No.: SECR HQ TM HYD 2122 35, Date: 02.11.2021
Work: Supply & fixing of Hydraulic pipes, Pneumatic pipes, fittings and Seal Kits during Rel/IOH of Track Machines at Zonal Base Daypur Nagpur, Sate/lite Depot/ Bilaspur and Satellite Depot/Raipur. **Tender Value: ₹ 40,56,005/-** **Tender Closing Date & Time: 11.00 hours of 24.11.2021.**
For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may login to the websites: **www.ireps.gov.in** No Manual Tenders will be entertained against E-Tender.
Dy. Chief Engineer/TM/IL/HQ/ CPRI/10/233 S.E.C.R./Bilaspur.
f South East Central Railway, Sd/-Secrall

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Surinder Singh @ Gul S/o Lt. Sh. Tara Singh R/o C-69 Kalka ji top Floor being maternal uncle do hereby disinherit/disown/give Fargat/ disintitled to Sh. Jagmeet Singh Lamba @ Suraj Lamba & Gurnvirnder Singh @ Ankit Lamba from all of their movable and immovable properties/Assets. Said Sh. Jagmeet Singh Lamba @ Suraj Lamba & Gurnvirnder Singh @ Ankit Lamba shall have no right/claims whatsoever in the movable or immovable properties of my said client Surinder Singh Lamba. My client shall not be responsible for any acts of omission or commission of said Sh. Jagmeet Singh Lamba @ Suraj Lamba & Gurnvirnder Singh @ Ankit Lamba in any manner whatsoever and they shall be personally liable for all his acts.
Sajal Dhami, Advocate, Chamber No. 264 A, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)
SUB: E-TENDER NO. 2021/S204 FOR PROCUREMENT OF 10532 MT OF MILD STEEL STRUCTURAL ITEMS THROUGH e-RA METHOD
1. On behalf of the President of India, the Executive Director, Railway Stores(S), Railway Board, New Delhi invites e-tender for procurement of 10532 MT of Mild Steel Structural items on Running Contract basis
2. The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website **http://ireps.gov.in** for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3. **No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.**
4. **Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 20.12.2021**
(S. K. Tiwari)
Director, Railway Stores (W), Railway Board
No. RS(S)/2021/7472 Dated: 09.11.2021 2590/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.
1. **Name of work** Repair and maintenance of Bridges in the jurisdiction of ADEN/NDLS.
2. **Approximate cost of work** Rs.49,79,159.90/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty Nine and Ninety Paise Only)
3. **Earnest Money to be deposited** Rs. 0/-
4. **Cost of tender document** Rs. 0.00/-
5. **Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.** 03.12.2021 @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. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/20/2021-22-W-3 Date : 09.11.2021 2585/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown**, was admitted in Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi and during treatment doctors declared him dead on **02.11.2021** in the area of P.S. Sabzi Mandi, Delhi. The body has been preserved in Hindu Rao Hospital's Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 58A dated 02.11.2021** at P.S. Sabzi Mandi, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age: 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Hair: White beard, Built: Normal, Wearing: Brown colour printed shirt cocokola colour pant and bare feet.** If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.
SHO
P.S. Sabzi Mandi, Delhi
DP/1675/N/2021 Ph.: 011-23823161, 8750870126

Rupee slumps 32 paise to close at 74.37 against US dollar

Mumbai:The rupee tumbled by 32 paise to end at 74.37 against the US currency on Wednesday, weighed down by a muted trend in domestic equities and strong greenback in the overseas market.

Besides, persistent foreign fund outflows also put pressure on the domestic unit, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.11 and witnessed a high of 74.06 and a low of 74.42 against the US dollar in the day trade. The local unit finally settled at 74.37 a dollar, down 32 paise

over its previous close of 74.05. According to Emkay Global Financial Services, "Inflationary concerns are increasing globally, and as we proceed with the week, the IPO related inflows may dry out, keeping USD/INR spot afloat".

The key catalyst for the forex market is the US inflation data. A lower-than-expected CPI figure will reflect a 'transitory' factors, however, a higher-than-expected data or a figure in line with market consensus will induce the Fed to accelerate the pace of asset purchases, it said. PTI

PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED
CIN : L50102UP1982PLC015532
Regd. Office: Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)
Corp. Office: M-14, Connaught Circus (Middle Circle), New Delhi- 110 001
Tel.No. 91-11-47627400. Fax No. 91-11-47627497; Email: delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com
Website: www.pasupatiacrylon.com

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (REVIEWED)
FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2021 (Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended Un-Audited 30.09.2021 Reviewed	Quarter Ended Un-Audited 30.06.2021 Reviewed	Half Year Ended Un-Audited 30.09.2020 Reviewed	Half Year Ended Un-Audited 30.09.2021 Reviewed	Year Ended Audited 31.03.2021 Audited
1	Total Income from operations	178.09	123.77	106.17	301.86	168.36
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	18.45	22.47	(1.70)	40.92	(6.76)
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	18.45	22.47	(1.70)	40.92	(6.76)
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	13.78	16.64	(1.79)	30.42	(4.93)
5	Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	13.89	16.75	(1.82)	30.64	(4.99)
6	Paid up Equity Share (Face Value Rs.10/-)	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14
7	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve) (Rs.10 each)					144.32
8	Earnings Per Share (Basic):	1.55	1.87	(0.20)	3.41	(0.55)
	Diluted:	1.55	1.87	(0.20)	3.41	(0.55)

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Company's Website (www.pasupatiacrylon.com) and website of stock exchanges i.e. www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

Date: 10th November, 2021
Place: New Delhi
for Pasupati Acrylon Ltd. Sd/- Vineet Jain Managing Director

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavnagar Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400034 Tel No. : +91 22 49116300

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned auctions are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owed by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on **15-11-2021** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date Of Branch	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
1	9865009	Wassem Akhtar	03/12/2019	6971.78	Delhi- Bhajanpura
2	9446929	Irshad Singh	30/10/2019	9492	Delhi- Bhajanpura
3	13084796	Irshad Ali	07/11/2020	22089	Delhi- Bhajanpura
4	13697105	Bharat Bhoshan	30/12/2020	39186.32	Delhi- Bhajanpura
5	13730007	Mohd Mubarak	30/12/2020	65379	Delhi- Bhajanpura
6	4969310	Bhav Singh	31/07/2018	25333.92	Delhi- Bhajanpura
7	5032035	Mehboob Ali	13/08/2018	17570.03	Delhi- Bhajanpura
8	6170823	Jitendra J	24/12/2018	19288	Delhi- Bhajanpura
9	8708742	Ganesh Singh	31/08/2019	22196.62	Delhi- Bhajanpura
10	12258142	Jyoti Kumari	25/08/2020	12018	Delhi Ncr - Burari
11	13842669	Kumher Singh	11/01/2021	12224	Delhi Shahdara
12	10062460	Mohd Aslam	20/12/2019	54893.94	Delhi Shahdara
13	8940266	Mohd Aslam	24/09/2019	28333.01	Delhi Shahdara
14	11065638	Krishan Kumar	29/02/2020	472096.93	Delhi Uttam Nagar
15	13506261	Irfan Khan	09/12/2020	12500	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
16	5372440	Ashish Kumar	26/09/2018	12368	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
17	12208962	Ajay Kumar Sagar	20/08/2020	28815	Delhi-Anand Parbat
18	9657358	Hardyal H	20/11/2019	36094.08	Delhi-Anand Parbat
19	9759675	Hardyal H	23/11/2019	58339.55	Delhi-Anand Parbat
20	12071012	Alok Kumar Mishra	07/08/2020	36240	Delhi-Badarpur
21	4756047	Digamber Gupta	01/07/2018	27126	Delhi-Badarpur
22	12471571	Ravindra Tomar	14/09/2020	4460	Delhi-Chandni Chowk
23	10718324	Mohammad Yameen	29/01/2020	14528.71	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
24	10500104	Pramod Kumar	18/01/2020	7072.77	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
25	10500314	Pramod Kumar	18/01/2020	5734.26	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
26	11898471	Kiran Pal	17/07/2020	59041	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
27	12536333	Prince Srivastav	19/09/2020	65177	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
28	8872912	Iqar Khan	06/09/2019	23632	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
29	6832452	Aslam Istiyak	07/03/2019	21788.62	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
30	6832255	Farha Naz	18/12/2018	19057.93	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
31	13433179	Poonam Sharma	04/12/2020	40648	Delhi-Hari Nagar
32	12478621	Manish Jain	16/09/2020	28224	Delhi-Jagatpuri
33	12818190	Pyare Lal	16/10/2020	2991	Delhi-Jagatpuri
34	12635838	Manoj Laxminarayan	29/09/2020	20536	Delhi-Jagatpuri
35	14149982	Laila Bansal	04/02/2021	5178	Delhi-Jagatpuri
36	5456500	Manoj Kumar	09/10/2018	18322.88	Delhi-Jagatpuri
37	12042901	Alok Nath	04/08/2020	27184	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
38	13559848	Varun Kumar Jain	16/12/2020	39360	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
39	9843570	Mohd Faizan	30/11/2019	40465.01	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
40	9				



Bollywood
'Namak Halaal' celebrates 34 years, with the exceptional Smita Patil.
She was truly a gift.'
—Amitabh Bachchan



DISPASSIONATELY PASSIONATE

As he reprises his role in *Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story*, actor KAY KAY MENON tells SAIMI SATTAR that he does not hang himself to the destiny of any project

For cinema-goers, the name Kay Kay Menon is synonymous with some riveting content. While his first theatre break was opposite Naseeruddin Shah in Feroz Abbas Khan's *Mahatma vs Gandhi*, it was in the Zee TV series *Pradhan Mantri* (2001), directed by Ketan Mehta, that he charmed the camera. A consummate actor, each of his outings has him portraying a character that has several layers. Whether it is the St Stephens-educated Siddharth Tyabji of *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* (2003) who gets caught in the whirlwind of the Emergency or the sleazy producer, Vishnu Nagare in *Sarkar* (2005) or the scheming Khurram Meer in *Haider* (2014), each character is meticulously fleshed out. The actor talks about his craft, films and *Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story*.

● **Himmat Singh is an enigma. Was that an important reason why you said yes to the role?**

There were several reasons. One is the directors, Neeraj Pandey and Shivam Nair. There were other different ones too — the writing, the way the character shaped up, the entire spectrum of the character. So, I find Himmat Singh an extremely interesting character for any actor to play. That too is a rationale why I took it up.

● **Usually, the seasons of a series run chronologically. But *Special Ops 1.5: The***

***Himmat Story* is a prequel to the first one... Was this always planned? Or was it because the previous one was a success?**

This is something that Neeraj would be able to answer better. But from what I gather, it was not because of the success of the first season. A creative mind works in weird ways. And Neeraj has an extremely creative one. It could have just dawned on him one fine day that let's do a back story of Himmat Singh. That could have been the origin.

● **Was there any special preparation that went into the character?**

The usual. I perform people and not roles. I prepare within the parameters of the script and that is the vision of the director and the person who has written it. I keep myself confined in that vision and then prod further in terms of reading up the script and finding out the meaning in the text. I read the text a thousand times to find that eureka moment. There can be hidden factors at the sub-textual level.

These are the processes of an actor. I have several discussions with the writer and the director. That has been my process throughout and that is the way fiction needs to be tackled.

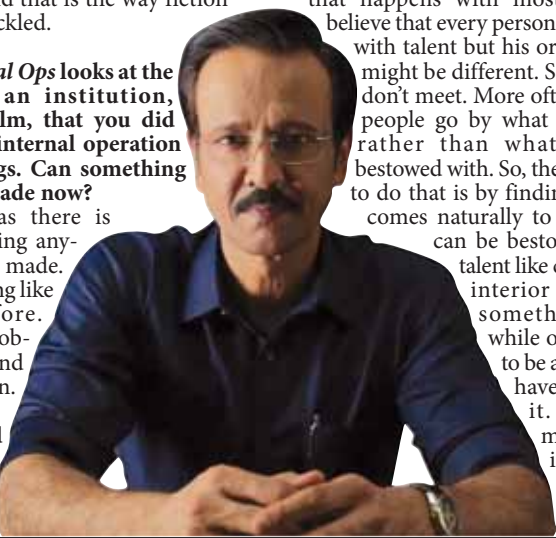
● **While *Special Ops* looks at the working of an institution, *Shaurya*, a film, that you did depicted the internal operation and its failings. Can something like that be made now?**

As long as there is good storytelling anything can be made. There is nothing like now or before. There is no problem at all. And both are fiction.

● **You started with marketing. How did you get inter-**

ested in acting?

I was treading a different path not completely aligned with my talent. I guess that happens with most people. I believe that every person is bestowed with talent but his or her desires might be different. So, the twain don't meet. More often than not people go by what they desire rather than what they are bestowed with. So, the easiest way to do that is by finding out what comes naturally to them. One can be bestowed with a talent like carpentry or interior design or something else... while one is trying to be an actor. You have to identify it. The moment I identified mine, I got back into



acting. I say, 'got back' as I had been on the stage since the age of nine. But it was always a side job. I am a Physics graduate who did an MBA and marketing but all those were desires to have a decent career, money and all that stuff. At some point, I realised that my calling was different and it was to be an actor.

● **Mahatma Vs Gandhi, one of your first big theatre outings, was with Naseeruddin Shah. Was that intimidating?**

I do not get close to getting intimidated by anyone in the field that I am good in. For me, the whole process was very interesting. At the rehearsal, you watch people who are stalwarts and you learn a lot about the art and the craft. It is said, 'Acting can never be taught but acting can be learnt'. It was a journey and it was fruitful as I could gather a lot of things and hone my skills as an actor.

● **Your initial releases — *Paanch*, *Black Friday*, *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* — got delayed. Was that disheartening and how did you keep yourself motivated?**

It taught me lessons... while I was expecting that one release should change the world of cinema. Of course, there was frustration and anger initially. But I learnt something from all these delays which I follow even today. It is to be dispassionately passionate about my work. This means that till the last day that I am working on the project I am extremely passionate but, once it is over, I do not hang myself to its destiny. That film, after its birth, has its destiny. It helps to keep me balanced so that success won't go to my head and failure won't make me distraught.

● **Whether it is *Sarkar*, *Gulaal*, *Haider*, or any of the other grey characters you've played, you seem to sink your teeth into the role. Do you think these offer more scope?**

I don't apply that criteria. There was also a Partho of *Honeymoon Travels Pvt. Ltd.* There are so many others that are on the other side of grey. I really don't think it is essential to choose like that. Choose, rather, based on what interests you. There is no overriding principle that you should do something. If you are typically reading something and it interests you, then go ahead and do it. Subjectively speaking, of course. There is no objective way to analyse it.

● **Are there many permutations and combinations — the director, role, story and more — that influence you in signing up for a role?**

Of course, there are many factors. Acting is the world's most difficult organised art. The reason is that in any organised form of profession, the constants are more than the variables. Percentage-wise, it might be 80 for constants and 20 for variables. In cinema, it is just the opposite. A small cloud cover or even the slightest drizzle can completely mess up your shoot. It is one of the most difficult organised

endeavours so the entire team has to be credited for whatever you, as an actor, are applauded for. It is because all the variables were taken care of that you could perform so well. People don't know much about it but the entire team comes together to make it happen. In any other organisation, constants are more so even a computer can do the job.

● **Would you say storytelling has become more nuanced because of the coming of OTT platforms? Or is the audience propelling this demand for content-rich series where the star is not so important?**

It also has to do with the medium. A few things are very different in OTT. A film is about two-and-a-half hours, a TV series is never-ending and this is somewhere in between. It is about eight to 10 episodes, which is about the optimum length to flesh out both the story and the character. The other factor, that is different from other mediums, is that the audience has the button. It is more like individual viewing. Hence, content becomes very important as individuals watch things with much more gravity than in a mass, unlike cinema that has its own charm as mass psychology works. When you are watching a film in a theatre and the hero turns in slow motion, everyone starts whistling. You don't do that when you are alone. It is a mass syndrome. These are things that I doubt that an individual watching a film on his iPad will do. He won't start dancing to a *Sheila ki Jawani*. Films, TV and OTT are different viewing mediums, none less than the other. The craft needs to adapt to each. So, you make each episode in a manner that you leave it on a cliffhanger to ensure that people watch the next one. Storytelling, the way you do it, is different.

● **What are the advantages each of the mediums — films, OTT, theatre — brings to the actor's craft?**

What you gain depends upon you and not the medium. If you have an open and fertile mind, you can gain a lot. As far as theatre is concerned, it is a completely different medium. The operations and craft are completely different. The actor does not differentiate. When I am talking about different mediums, I am referring to how the makers have to think to craft the content in terms of web, cinema or TV series. The craft, for actors, remains the same and we aren't doing less or more acting depending upon the medium. Actors have to apply themselves to their craft. Their sincerity and dedication remain the same.

● **Future projects**

Same standard answer... lawyers are very powerful and the contracts don't allow you permission to speak. But interesting stuff coming up.

(The show starts streaming from November 12 on Disney+ Hotstar.)

Only love to get by

The *Bunty Aur Babli 2* star, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI, comments on the enormous struggle that outsiders have to go through to make a mark in the Hindi film industry. By TEAM VIVA

Siddhant Chaturvedi made a mark with his acting skills in Zoya Akhtar's *Gully Boy* in which he played the role of the rapper MC Sher. The unanimous acclaim landed him a lead role in Yash Raj Films' *Bunty Aur Babli 2* in which he plays the new Bunty. Siddhant opens up about nepotism and the herculean struggle that outsiders like him have to go through to make a mark in Bollywood.

Siddhant candidly says, "It is a known fact that outsiders take way longer to make their presence felt in the industry. I have seen many who have gone through a lot before they were even spotted to do something substantial, despite having serious talent. I, too, have had my fair share of struggles for many years, which I truly cherish, before I got my break."

The actor, wholeheartedly, thanks his mentors for empowering him to live his dream to be an actor. He expresses, "I will be forever grateful to Zoya Akhtar, Farhan Akhtar, and Ritesh Sidhwani for the opportunities they have given me at the start of my career. I would be no one today without their



hands over my head. I know I'm one of the fortunate strugglers who have got the attention that we truly deserve. I know of many who didn't. It's sad but it's the truth."

Siddhant weighs in on the insider v/s outsider debate that's raging in the industry. He continues, "Yes, insiders do get spotted early, they have it easy to get their first break and also get many more opportunities than what the outsiders get. It's a reality of this industry and every other industry of the world. It's almost like a law of the land. Nepotism exists and outsiders have to work that much harder to make their presence felt but there's beau-

ty in that hard work, too."

Siddhant credits the hardships that he has faced for shaping him into the human being that he is today. "It (being an outsider) shapes you and your thoughts and steals your mind to achieve what you truly want in life. The only way outsiders in Bollywood can survive is by getting the love of people through our craft and I'm concentrating on doing just that. I hope I manage to entertain the audiences so that they keep coming back to watch me on the big screen and give me wind beneath my wings to soar," he adds.

Yash Raj Films' *Bunty Aur Babli 2*, which releases 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. Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukerji play the OG Bunty-Babli, while Siddhant and the gorgeous debutant Sharvari, play the new Bunty-Babli. It has been directed by Varun V Sharma, who has worked as an assistant director in YRF's biggest blockbusters, *Sultan* and *Tiger Zinda Hai*.

As industries are in the process of Arebooting to the new normal after being hit by the pandemic, hospitality — which was one of the worst-hit industries — is also getting back to operations. After the unprecedented and unimaginable scenario arising out of the pandemic, the Indian hospitality sector — which was flourishing with a double-digit growth rate before — is now betting big on the new breed of festive travellers. Those yearning to take a break from the monotony of life during the pandemic, are now finding leisure travel and festive staycations as the best way to rejuvenate and celebrate. There has been a steady increase in the bookings and people are passionately inquiring about the best and safest staycations. The pent-up demand for travel due to the festive season has fuelled new passion and energy to bring back the lost charisma of India's promising hospitality and tourism sector. These festive travellers are more confident and willing to hit their favourite destinations with utmost safety measures.

As we all know the culturally rich Indian travel and tourism industry was abuzz with international and domestic travellers. India, in recent times, was one of the most preferred travel destinations due to the vibrant variety it has to offer and, in turn, the hospitality industry prospered. But the pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions have completely hampered travel. With 70 per cent of the country's adult population receiving at least one dose of the vaccine, the recent decision by the Government of India to begin issuing tourist visas again to international tourists arriving by chartered flights is a booster amidst the holiday season. Reopening doors for international tourists will certainly revive the hospitality sector and give a new lease of life to small and boutique hotels.

India back in holiday mood

Festive travellers are the new hope of the crisis-hit Indian hospitality and tourism sector, says ROOP PARTAP CHOUDHARY



While domestic travel has already started picking up, this move will create new avenues for inbound travel to recover. The struggle with Corona is not over and is discouraging Indian travellers from venturing outside their own country due to the restricted flights, strict Covid protocols, uncertainty, and lockdowns. This has been a huge hit for the hospitality sector as a considerable revenue stream has been reduced tremendously. One can easily assess that it will take some time for travellers to regain their confidence and things to normalise.

With the arrival of the festive season, domestic travel is resuming. Both explored and unexplored tourist destinations are receiving large numbers of visitors. The market has really been showing positive trends for both air ticketing and hotel business. Bored with a monotonous lifestyle and exhaustive with work-from-home, kids' online classes or hectic household tasks, people are now des-

perately looking forward to stepping out. The travellers' quest to unwind is certainly a big reason for the sector to cheer.

Indian travellers are getting back to exploring but with care. Most are still avoiding crowded public places, preferring indoor experiences, staycation destinations, and remote locations — destinations away from big cities. Health, hygiene, cleanliness, sanitisation and safety are key top priorities; there has been a substantial increase in guests searching for these measures at their preferred destinations. Guests have become extremely cautious of choosing accommodations and want transparency on their preparedness in this regard.

The Indian travel and hospitality sector is very resilient and has always bounced back. This is a huge opportunity for Indian hospitality players to rebuild, reinvent and reboot. It is high time for the industry to set new benchmarks for hospitality, safety, and guest satisfaction. By

showcasing truly Indian experiences and destinations, it is time for the industry to gear up with authentic experiences, impeccable services coupled with culinary delights to make the celebration memorable. Global travellers have always looked towards India for cultural experiences and authentic Indianness. So, there is no reason why travellers in the new setup would not appreciate the same.

Although the festive travel trend is not for the long run but with India back in a holiday mood, it is unpacking a whole new chapter for the country's hospitality industry. Dominant trends such as revenge travel, leisure, staycations, work-from-home away from home (long duration stays), remote working, vacation rentals, road trips, weekend getaways and now the latest trend of festive travel are all breathing the much-needed new life into the hospitality industry.

(The author is the executive director of Noor Mahal and the Jewel Group.)

TRENDBLAZER



KAUSHAL COULD HAVE SKIPPED URI

Actor **VICKY KAUSHAL** opens up about the film that changed his life, *Uri – The Surgical Strike*, as he initially thought of rejecting the script. He revealed recently, "*Uri* was something I was gonna skip. In the middle of shooting *Raazi*, I read the film. Maybe I was tired, I went to work the next day not feeling connected to it."

"My dad found the script and read it. He told me it will be the biggest mistake if I didn't do it. I asked for more time. Read the script again. And got really excited to do it," the *Sardar Udham* star added.

fairtalk

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA



'The fact that *Bala* became a roaring blockbuster solidified my belief system that I should walk the path less travelled and give audiences cinema that should always be novel yet highly engaging and entertaining. The love that I have got for the film has only humbled me and made me strive to be a better entertainer, who seeks to give an important message to audiences.'

dailytalk

FATIMA SANA SHAIKH



'I think the films are made for the audience. All of us, all the performing artists, perform so that people love your work. There are so many people in the industry, including the workers, light men, spot dada, it is also their film. It is their reason for happiness, too, when a film they have worked on makes it to the big screen and is a hit. The film belongs to all of them as much as it does to me.'

WEST ENDS FEUD WITH DRAKE

Rapper **KANYE WEST**, after feuding for years, has asked Drake publicly to bury the hatchet.

"I ask Drake, on December 7, to join me on stage as a special guest and share the two biggest albums of the year. This event won't only bring awareness to our cause but prove to people everywhere how much more we could accomplish when lay our pride to the side and come together." the *Gold Digger* rapper said.



EYES ON THE PRIZE

The opening ceremony of the 10th All India Police Archery Championship was held at ITBP's Greater Noida Campus

The 10th edition of the All India Police Archery Championship is being organised by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). A ceremonial opening ceremony was held November 9 at the 39th Battalion ITBP Campus in Greater Noida. VSK Kaumudi, special secretary of Internal Security at the MHA, Government of India was the chief guest on the occasion.

Praising the ITBP for high quality professional arrangements made for the championship, Kaumudi said that the All India Police Championships have been a great platform for the archery talents of the police forces of the nation.

Sanjay Arora, DG ITBP welcomed the chief guest and the participating teams and said that the ITBP has made all required arrangements for the championship. He said that the ITBP has been doing exceedingly well in the field of different sports specially in archery over the years.



Proposing the vote of thanks, I S Duhan, IG Training at ITBP said that the ITBP has been organising the All India Police Archery Championship for the 2nd time since 2014 and it is a privilege of the Force to organise All India Police

Championships over the years with flying colours.

24 teams of the Central Armed Police Forces, state police organisations are participating in the Championship. More than 350 men and women archers will be

competing in various categories of archery — recurve, compound and Indian including ranking with medal/ individual/team and mixed events etc in the five-day long championship. (From 9 to 13 November, 2021).

The All India Police Games

— co-ordinated by All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB) are organised every year for different sports annually. The history of the games is 70 years old and the first edition of all India Police games was held in 1951. Archery was included in

the list of AIPSCB controlled annual police games from 2013. The ITBP had hosted the 2nd All India Police Archery Championship in 2014.

The closing ceremony of the Championship will be held on November 13.



POWERGRID announces financial results for Q2FY22

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under the Ministry of Power, Govt, has announced unaudited financial results for Q2FY22, ending September 30, 2021.

The company has reported PAT (profit after tax) of ₹3,376.38 crores and a total income of ₹10,514.74 crores on a consolidated basis, registering a YoY growth of nine per cent and seven per cent respectively. On a standalone basis, the company has posted PAT and total income of ₹3,338.27 crores and ₹10,472.00 crore respectively registering a YoY growth of seven per cent and six per cent respec-

tively during Q2FY22.

For six-month period (H1FY22), the PAT and total income on consolidated basis are ₹9,374.66 crores and ₹20,906.35 crores respectively, which are about 82 per cent and six per cent higher, with respect to the corresponding period of FY21; while on standalone basis, the PAT and total income are ₹9,423.68 crores and ₹20,757.38 crores respectively, registering a growth of 85 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

The company incurred a capital expenditure of ₹1,939 crores and capitalised assets worth ₹7,633 crores (excluding FERV) on consolidated basis during Q2FY22.

POWERGRID's gross fixed assets on consolidated basis stood at ₹2,54,997 crores as on September 30, 2021.

During the quarter, 2,100 ckm transmission lines and 14,000 MVA transformation capacity has been added. The Inter-Regional (IR) power transfer capacity has been enhanced by 5700 MW, with the commissioning of 765 kV D/c Vindhyachal -Varanasi line (4200MW) and Bipole-II (Pole 3) 1500 MW, ±800 kV HVDC Raigarh-Pugalur link. The IR capacity of the national grid stands at 1,10,750 MW at the end of Q2FY22.

All the elements under TBCB subsidiaries, POWERGRID Varanasi Transmission System Limited and POWERGRID Fatehgarh Transmission Limited have been fully commissioned.

At the end of Q2FY22, the total transmission assets of POWERGRID and its subsidiaries stood at 1,70,724 ckm of transmission lines, 262 substations and 4,54,350 MVA of transformation capacity.

POWERGRID maintained average transmission system availability of 99.82 per cent during H1FY22 compared to 99.83 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year.



PFC & PFCCL OBSERVE VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2021

Power Finance Corporation (PFC), its subsidiary PFCCL and its regional offices observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 from October 26 to November 1, on the theme 'Independent India @75: Self reliance with integrity'.

Beginning with the integrity pledge, various awareness activities were car-

ried out during the week. A new initiative, Vigilance Corner was created on the website of PFC and PFCCL for outreach to the general public as well as other stakeholders. Employees were sensitised to the organisation's rules and regulations and were made aware of improvements in business practices.



VIT-AP School of Law promotes legal awareness

On Legal Services Day, the AP High Court Legal Services Committee launches Mission Legal Service Programme on November 9, 2021. As part of this programme, VIT-AP School of Law (VSL) is selected by the AP High Court to join the mission legal services and render their services to create legal awareness in the villages identified and adopted by the VIT-AP university.

The programme was started at one of three adopted villages of VIT-AP University — Inavolu — following the inauguration by Justice Ramana Kumari, the secretary of AP High Court Legal Services Committee and who was joined by Dr Chakka Benarji, the dean of VIT-AP School of Law, Prof M Mahathi Faculty Coordinator of the VIT-AP School of Law Legal Aid Centre and students. The programme also wit-

nessed the presence of B Sessaiah, the senior civil judge of Mangalagiri and the chairperson of Mandal Legal Services Authority. While inaugurating the programme, the Mission Legal Service secretary informed the participants about the importance of creating legal awareness to provide access to justice to the needy.

Further, she highlighted the role of students, lawyers, judges, social workers, district and mandal authorities to make villages as dispute and litigation free model villages. She directed and encouraged the students to involve actively to create legal awareness among the common citizens of the country.

The programme witnessed participation by the local people, mandal officials and other village revenue officials and students of VIT-AP School of Law.

Vrindavan's 'Hunar Haat'

Union Minister MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI believes that the platform is perfect to promote, preserve and provide retail opportunities for traditional and ancestral art

Braj Raj Utsav' and 'Hunar Haat', the 'Kumbh of Kausal Kuber', was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on November 10 at Vrindavan.

Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Deputy Leader, Rajya Sabha, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, MP Hema Malini; UP's Minister for Power, Shrikant Sharma; Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister, Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary; UP Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad vice-chairman, Shailja Kant Misra and other dignitaries were also present at the inauguration of the 31st 'Hunar Haat' at Vrindavan, Mathura.

Naqvi said that 'Hunar Haat' is the perfect platform to promote, preserve and provide market and opportunities to centuries old traditional and ancestral art and craft of India, strengthening the 'Swadeshi' and 'Vocal for Local' campaign. 'Hunar Haat', being organised at organised at Kumbh Mela Ground, Vrindavan, Mathura (UP) from November 10-19 will also ensure economic empowerment of indigenous artisans and craftsmen.

Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad is organising the 10-day Braj Raj Mahotsav from November 10 in Vrindavan to promote the glorious Braj culture. Religious, traditional, folk dance as well as cultural programmes related to Braj culture will be organised during the event.

Naqvi shared that about 400 artisans, craftsmen and culinary experts are par-

ticipating in 'Hunar Haat', during the 'Braj Raj Utsav', from more than 30 states and UTs.

Renowned artists such as Annu Kapoor; Kailash Kher; Suresh Vadekar; Punit Issar (to perform the *Mahabharat* show); Sadanand Biswas; Anoop Jalota; renowned *bhajan* singer Usman Mir; singer Rani Indrani and others will perform various cultural and musical programmes every evening at 'Hunar Haat'.

Naqvi added that more than six lakh artisans, craftsmen and people associated with them have been provided employment and employment opportunities through 'Hunar Haat' over the last six years. 'Hunar Haat' is also available for viewing at virtual and online platform <http://hunarhaat.org> and GeM portal. People of the country and abroad can buy 'Hunar Haat' products digital and online also.

The next 'Hunar Haats' will be organised in Lucknow (November 12-21); Pragati Maidan, New Delhi (November 14-27); Hyderabad (November 26 to December 5); Surat (December 10-19); New Delhi (December 22, 2021 to January 2, 2022).

'Hunar Haat' will also be organised in Mysuru, Guwahati, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Patna, Puducherry, Mumbai, Jammu, Chennai, Chandigarh, Agra, Prayagraj, Goa, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Kota, Sikkim, Srinagar, Leh, Shillong, Ranchi, Agartala and other places in the next few months.

DMF Sankalp to help the youth of Keonjhar

Under the initiative, block-level libraries, learning and career counselling centres are set to come up in 13 district-blocks



DMF Sankalp is an initiative which will tapping into the potential of Keonjhar's youth by setting up block level library/learning and career counselling centres in each of the 13 blocks of the district.

The focus of the initiative is towards developing early learning capabilities in children, academic excellence in students and exam competitiveness in aspiring youth of the district. With an area of one acre, the library will have capacity of approximately 15,000 books in Oriya and various languages on arts and scientific subjects with reading spaces for books, newspapers

and publications for 200 persons distributed on each floor and in the garden green reading space, open to all users, bypassing cumbersome membership processes.

Digital library systems connecting the servers of National Digital Library, Odisha Archives, Odisha Secretariat Library and E-Libraries of reputed Indian institutions will be accessible to users along with a free Wi-Fi zone in the learning centre. Publication materials for preparation of competitive exams with exclusive preparation space will be provided and seminar space with capacity of 50 persons will

host lectures and career counselling sessions by experts. Early learning of children will be provided through a 'Children learn and play' space in the library. Science and sensory garden including perfume, tactile, resonance and nature play garden will invoke different sensory development process and display of simplified scientific processes.

Natural light and ventilation maximised through naturally lit reading spaces and open to sky internal exhibition space with rainwater-harvesting systems and site development will follow environment-friendly technologies

As part of its commitment towards raising awareness for sustainable and environment friendly lifestyle, GAIL (India) Limited has partnered for a unique and exciting photography competition, 'The Earth We Share', which focusses on the environment and biodiversity.

As a responsible corporate, GAIL has been pursuing sustainable practices to generate long-term value by understanding & balancing the ecological, economic, and social environment. GAIL strives to play an important role in transitioning from polluting fuels to the cleaner natural gas, renewables, green hydrogen and other clean energies to strive for a greener and cleaner tomorrow.

GAIL has also been driving the social initiative, *Hawa Badlo*, to sensitise people to the harmful effects of pollution by mobilising collective societal efforts to improve the deteriorating air quality, by encouraging sustain-

Attention shutterbugs!

GAIL will be hosting a photography competition on environmental awareness



able and environment-friendly lifestyle habits. To further its commitment towards better environmental GAIL has come up with 'The Earth We Share'.

#TheEarthWeShare photog-

raphy competition aims at creating awareness about Environment, Biodiversity and Sharing Space - it is about co-existence. The competition is open for participation for teens (between ages 13



and 19) and adults (20+) category. The entries can be shared on the link:

<https://aartismaestro.com/competition/Theearthweshare-Photography-Adults>

Our beautiful planet Earth is

home to more than just humans. Close to nine million species of flora and fauna call this planet their home. The wellbeing of each one of us depends on the wellbeing of the Earth, our home. The photography competition shines a light on this diversity and the need to cherish and preserve the same. All pictures submitted for the competition need to tell this story.

A story of shared destiny. A story of diversity. A story of interdependence. The theme can be interpreted in many ways. It could be wildlife, flora or fauna. Or everyday stuff, happening around us — the choices we make adds up to 'The Earth We Share'.

The idea of the competition is allow talented photographers to canvas an inclusive planet. Diversity is not just about boardrooms and corporates — we first need to practise it everyday. Live and let live, share the love we get from mother Earth.

Learning never stops

The Rehabilitation Council of India has devised training modules to effectively engage with persons with disabilities

Today, Dr Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment has released the training modules of the Central Sector Scheme i.e. in-service training and sensitisation of key functionaries of the Central and State Government and local bodies at India International Centre, New Delhi. Anjali Bhawra, (IAS) the secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), Tarika Roy, the joint secretary, Dr Uma Tuli, ex-CCPD and Dr Subodh Kumar, member-secretary of RCI (Rehabilitation Council of India) were also present on the occasion.

Approximately 100 heads of the training institutes, faculty members from Delhi and NCR were present in the conference hall.

The training module has been

developed by RCI for different levels of target groups such as health and allied professionals, education functionaries, grassroots level functionaries, senior and mid-level functionaries including introductory modules in English and Hindi in a simple language with pictorial and graphic designs.

During his address, Dr Kumar informed the delegates that the training modules developed by RCI for the six target groups will be instrumental to sensitise the government functionaries at different levels and other stakeholders to deal with persons with disabilities effectively. He also informed that through this scheme, 12000 government functionaries have been sensitised to date.

The DEPWD will be implementing this scheme all over the country in the forthcoming month.

NZ REACHES T20 WC FINAL

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

New Zealand entered the final of the ICC T20 World Cup with a five-wicket win over England in a thrilling first semifinal here on Wednesday.

Chasing 167 to win, Daryl Mitchell anchored the innings with a sensational unbeaten 72 off 47 balls, while Devon Conway scored a 38-ball 46. James Neesham smashed 27 off 11 runs to play a crucial role in the chase.

Chris Woakes (2/36) and Liam Livingstone (2/22) were the most successful bowlers for England.

Earlier, invited to bat, England posted 166 for four riding on Moeen Ali's 51 not out and some useful contributions from Dawid Malan (42), Jos Buttler (29) and Liam Livingstone (17).

For New Zealand, Tim Southee (1/24), Adam Milne (1/31), Ish Sodhi (1/32) and James Neesham (1/18) were the wicket-takers.

All-rounder Moeen Ali top-scored with an unbeaten 37-ball 51 to propel England to 166 for four against New Zealand in the first semifinal of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Sent into bat, Moeen and Dawid Malan (42 off 30 balls) were England's main contributors with the willow in the rematch of the epic 2019 ODI World Cup final.

Moeen smashed three fours and two sixes, while Malan struck four boundaries and a maximum.



A MINUTE'S SILENCE IN THE STADIUM IN MEMORY OF MOHAN SINGH

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Players of the England and New Zealand teams observed a minute's silence in memory of Mohan Singh, Abu Dhabi's chief curator who died earlier this week, ahead of the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

After three relatively quiet overs, opener Jos Buttler (29) smashed Trent Boult for two successive boundaries -- one straight down the ground and then the batter reached out to a wide delivery to play it through the covers.

Boult then pitched one

Those present inside the Sheikh Zayed Stadium paid their respects to the Indian curator just before the national anthems of the two semi-finalists.

Singh was found dead in his room on Sunday hours before the match between Afghanistan and New Zealand.

too short and the ball flew past Buttler as well as wicket-keeper Devon Conway for another boundary and an extra run in the form of a wide.

Promoted to the top of the order in the absence of injured Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow

According to UAE cricket sources, the 45-year-old, who hailed from Uttarakhand, was suffering from depression and was found hanging in his room, hours after inspecting the pitch for the clash that New Zealand won by eight wickets to enter the semi-finals.

(13) played his first attacking shot straight over the bowler's head for a boundary, as England reached 37 for no loss in five overs.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson effected a bowling change and the move immediately paid dividends as

the skipper himself pulled off a fine diving catch at mid-off off Adam Milne's first delivery to signal the end of Bairstow's stay in the middle.

That Milne over not just gave the Kiwis their first breakthrough, but it also stemmed the flow of runs, as England finished the power play at 40 for one.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi started his spell by giving away five runs before Buttler, not one to let the Kiwis take control of the proceedings, employed the reverse sweep to get a boundary against left-arm Mitchell Santner.

New Zealand soon had a lot to cheer about as Sodhi got the huge wicket of Buttler, who went for the reverse sweep again, but did not succeed on that occasion as the ball hit him on the pads. Dawid Malan ended the over on a good note, going inside-out to get himself a four.

James Neesham induced an edge off Malan's blade, but Conway could not get to the ball, and three balls later, the batter drove the medium pacer for a boundary.

England had a productive 11th over as they scored 11 runs, thanks to two fours by Malan off Glenn Phillips.

Southee got the big wicket of an ominous-looking Malan just as he was about to cut loose.

After Malan's dismissal, the onus was on Moeen to propel England and the all-rounder did his job that was asked of him with his lusty hits.

Favourites Pak face resurgent Australia

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan seem primed to win their second title but it will take a special effort to upstage a tenacious Australia, which is peaking at the right time, in the second semifinal of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Pakistan have turned it around following their first-round exit in 2016. The Babar Azam-led side has defied the odds to become the team to beat this edition. The 2009 champion is the only team that remains undefeated in the ongoing tournament.

The last time these two met in the semifinals of a T20 World Cup, Australia, inspired by Mike Hussey, had beaten Pakistan in a thriller.

But in the ongoing edition, the Men in Green have resisted crumbling under pressure and are comfortable in the UAE, having hosted several seasons of the Pakistan Super League and their home matches here since the 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lankan team shut down international cricket in their country. Following a historic win over India where they looked completely invincible, Pakistan have showed very few chinks in their armour against New Zealand and Afghanistan.

The formidable top-order, led by the tournament's leading run-scorer Azam (264), who has four half-centuries against his name, is expected to deliver once again but Australia's bowling attack will also be ready and waiting to capitalise



on any slip up.

In case the opening duo of Azam and Mohammad Rizwan fail, Pakistan have an array of match-winners in the middle order in the form of six-hitting machine Asif Ali and veterans Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Hafeez, who all are among the runs.

However, the team would be expecting more from Fakhar Zaman, the only one to have not made a significant contribution with the bat yet.

Their bowling attack has been as impressive as their batting unit if not more. Pacers

Shaheen Shah Afridi and Harris Rauf have troubled batters but Hasan Ali has had an ordinary tournament and, although skipper Azam has backed the speedster to come good, Australia is likely to target him.

Spinners Imad Wasim, Mohammad Hafeez and Shadab Khan will be skipper Azam's main weapons against Australia, a side that struggles against spin in general.

On the other hand, Australia, the 2010 runners-up, are begin to peak at the right time in their bid to win their only missing title.

Kohli thankful to support staff for amazing journey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday thanked the team's outgoing head coach Ravi Shastri and other members of the support staff, whose tenure ended at the T20 World Cup, lauding them for their contribution in preparing a formidable outfit.

While India failed to qualify for the semifinals of the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE, the Shastri-Kohli duo along with bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar were part of a set-up that won two Test series in Australia.

The side is leading 2-1 in the five Test series in England set to be completed next year. The departure of Shastri and Co. Marks the end of an era in Indian cricket.

"Thank you for all the memories and the amazing journey we've had as a team with you all. Your contribution has been immense and will always be remembered in Indian cricket history," Kohli, has given up T20 captaincy, wrote on his twitter page in praise of the coaching staff.

"Wish you the best moving forward in life. Until next time," he said.

From November 17, Rohit Sharma will be India's new



T20 captain with Rahul Dravid in charge as head coach. It is expected that Rohit

will take over the reins of ODI captaincy as well during the tour of South Africa.

Managed my workload well so far: Venkatesh Iyer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All-rounders in Indian cricket are a rare commodity and the newest entrant to the club, Venkatesh Iyer, knows only too well that he has to keep his focus on both aspects of the game in order to remain relevant.

The 26-year-old Madhya Pradesh man has been rewarded with a maiden call-up for the T20 International home series against New Zealand starting November 17 and knows that going forward, workload management would be an important focus area for him.

"My workload management has been good so far. I am an all-rounder so I have to be equally focussed on both aspects of the game. That's what I have been doing right from my age-group state level days.

It's so far not been a very big issue," the suave Kolkata Knight Riders man told PTI in an exclusive interaction.

For Iyer the endeavour is to display multiple skills across formats.

"I have always worked hard on my red ball game and it has been my conscious effort not to be one dimensional.



"If you have to play for India, you have to be consistent across formats and that's why I have put in a lot of work in both

Dream to represent India has been fulfilled: Avesh

PTI ■ INDORE

Madhya Pradesh pacer Avesh Khan, who earned a national call-up for the T20 series against New Zealand on Wednesday said that his dream to represent the country has been fulfilled.

Avesh, who had 24 wickets in the IPL, deservingly got a national call-up and got the news just after MP's Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 match against Kerala.

"Every cricketer has a dream that he plays for his country and he works hard to turn this dream into a reality. My dream has been fulfilled



now," Avesh, who has 100 first-class wickets, from 27 matches, told PTI Bhasha.

Avesh said that he had performed well in the last domestic season and also in the

Indian Premier League, which helped him to earn the national call-up.

The right-arm speedster credited former cricketers like Amay Khurasiya, Chandrakant Pandit, Devendra Bundela and Abbas Ali for spotting the talent in him and then guiding him throughout his career.

Khan's father Ashiq Khan recalled how he gave wings to Avesh' dreams.

"My son first got associated with Indore Colts Cricket Club. Then Amay Khurasiya spotted his talent and took him to his own academy. After that he did not look back," his father remembered.

Dream to represent India has been fulfilled: Avesh Khan

PTI ■ INDORE

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"Every cricketer has a dream that he plays for his country and he works hard to

turn this dream into a reality. My dream has been fulfilled now," Avesh, who has 100 first-class wickets, from 27 matches, told PTI Bhasha.

Avesh said that he had performed well in the last domestic season and also in the Indian Premier League, which helped T10 format has a bright future ahead, can be played at the Olympics: Du Plessis

Abu Dhabi, Nov 10 (PTI) Former South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis feels the T10 format has a bright future ahead and can also be played at the Olympics.

National Championship: All eyes on Geeta-Sarita wrestling

PTI ■ GONDA (UTTAR PRADESH)

A blockbuster clash between comeback girl Geeta Phogat and world championship bronze medallist Sarita Mor is keenly anticipated, while Narsingh Pancham Yadav and Gourav Balian will also be eager to prove themselves when the National Wrestling Championships begin here from Thursday.

Geeta, 32, is making a come back to the competitive wrestling after giving birth to her son, Arjun in 2018.

Set to compete in 59kg, the national event will help Geeta assess herself as she has a long term goal of competing in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Much water has flown under the bridge since she stopped competing on the mat and it will be interesting to see how the 2010 Commonwealth



Games gold medallist responds to the challenges ahead.

New rules are in place and the standard of Indian wrestling has also improved in the last few years. But she has got a good start as save the close semifinal, Geeta easily cleared the state trials where she beat four Haryana grapplers to emerge the winner.

Domestic badminton begin 20-month break

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic badminton season is set to begin next month after a 20-month hiatus with back-to-back senior ranking Level 3 tournaments, the national federation announced on Wednesday. The season will start in Chennai with the first tournament from December 16 to 22 followed by another Level 3 tournament in Hyderabad from December 24 to 30.

Both the events carry a prize money of Rs 10 lakh each, and are a part of the Badminton Association of India's (BAI) new domestic format, which was approved in 2019 but couldn't be implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic. The last date of entry for the Chennai event is November 24, while for Hyderabad it is December 1.

Murray wins, sets up match with Sinner in Stockholm

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Andy Murray beat qualifier Viktor Durasovic of Norway 6-1, 7-6 (7) to set up a second-round match with top-seeded Jannik Sinner at the Stockholm Open.

The three-time Grand Slam champion cruised through the first set but was nearly pushed to a decider by the 354th-ranked Durasovic.

The 34-year-old Briton, who blew seven match points in a loss to Dominik Koepfer in the Paris Masters last week, saved a set point before closing it out on his third match point.

"He hits the ball huge from the back of the court," Murray said of the 24-year-old Norwegian.

"He will keep moving up the rankings if he's playing

like that. I was happy to get through in the end because he was playing very well at the end of the match."

The 10th-ranked Sinner, chasing his fifth title this year, awaits on Wednesday. The 20-year-old Italian just missed qualifying for the ATP Finals.

"He's had a fantastic year," Murray said.

"He loves playing indoors on hardcourt, so it will be a big test for me."

Fifth-seeded Taylor Fritz defeated Egor Gerasimov 6-4, 6-4 and will next face doubles partner Tommy Paul. Fritz beat his fellow American two weeks ago on his run to the final in St. Petersburg.

Spaniard Pedro Martinez will face eighth-seeded Frances Tiafoe in the second round after beating Emil Ruusuvuori 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (4).

Brazil bids for direct spot; Argentina concerned over Messi

AP ■ SAO PAULO

For front-running Brazil, the main aim this week is beating Colombia and securing an automatic spot at next year's World Cup in Qatar with plenty of time to spare in South American qualifying.

For second-place Argentina, the bigger concern ahead of its trip to Uruguay is over the fitness of Lionel Messi.

Brazil has 31 points and Argentina has 25 from 11 matches — their encounter in September was bizarrely suspended after seven minutes of play because of concerns from authorities over breaches of COVID-19 protocols. FIFA will decide what to do with it. Ecuador (17), Colombia (16) and Uruguay (16) hold the next three places, but have all played 12 matches.



The top four teams in South America earn direct entry to next year's World Cup. The fifth-place team goes into an inter-continental playoff for a spot in Qatar.

A Brazil victory at the

NeoQuimica Arena in Sao Paulo on Thursday will put coach Tite's team 18 points ahead of fourth-place Colombia, which will have only five more matches in hand. The Colombians are the only team to hold the Selección to a draw in the current edition of qualifiers.

Some mathematical combinations allow second-placed Argentina to hope for its direct spot with a win against Brazil next week in San Juan, but the Copa America champions will have to beat Uruguay in Montevideo on Friday to have any chance of achieving that in front of their home fans.

There's three other matches in South American qualifying on Thursday, including Ecuador hosting last-place Venezuela and Peru against Bolivia.