

OPINION 6
HINDUISM, HINDUTVA
AND HINDUDOM

WORLD 8
AF DOESN'T WANT CONFLICT WITH
ANY COUNTRY: TALIBAN MINISTER

SPORT 12
MARSH POWERS AUS TO
MAIDEN T20 WC TITLE

NEW DELHI, MONDAY NOVEMBER 15 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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CAPSULE

GAYA: NAXALITES KILL 4 MEMBERS OF A FAMILY

Gaya (Bihar): Four persons of a family, including two women, were killed by Maoists who blew up their house in a remote village of this district and hung them from a cattle shed in the courtyard, a top police officer said. The Maoists left behind a pamphlet in which they accused Bhokta and his family of being police informers whose tip-off had led to an encounter in March this year when four Naxals were killed in a gunbattle with a joint team of local police and COBRA battalion and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered.

FOUR INDIANS KILLED IN ACCIDENT IN NEPAL

Kathmandu: Four Indians have died after the vehicle they were travelling in crashed into a pond in southern Nepal's Rautahat district near the border with India, police said on Sunday.

CONGRESS TO GO SOLO IN UP POLLS: PRIYANKA

Bulandshahr: The Congress will contest all 403 seats in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh polls on its own and emerge victorious in the electoral battle, party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said.

PM TO INAUGURATE RANI KAMALAPATI RLY STATION

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a convention of tribal communities in the Madhya Pradesh capital on Monday to mark the "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas" and inaugurate the revamped Rani Kamalapati railway station, earlier known as Habibganj, besides launching various initiatives.

Centre extends CBI, ED chiefs' tenure to 5 yrs

Ordinances brought in to increase their current 2-year term

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday brought two Ordinances to enhance the tenure of directors of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) from the current two years from the date of taking charge to a maximum of five years.

The CBI and ED chiefs enjoy a minimum fixed tenure of two years from the date of their appointment in the wake of the directives of the Supreme Court in the famous Vineet Narain case.

The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance comes barely three days ahead of the retirement of incumbent ED Director SK Mishra, a 1984-batch IRS officer. The Government had granted him an extension of one year in 2020 after the completion of his two years fixed term.

In response to a petition, the issue of extension of Mishra's tenure was heard by the Supreme Court this year



which did not quash the extension but told the Government not to give any further extension to him beyond November 17, 2021.

The timing of the promulgation of the Ordinance suggests Mishra's tenure may be extended further, officials said.

The Ordinance promulgated by President Ram Nath Kovind that comes into effect "at once" states: "Provided that the period for which the director of enforcement holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the committee under clause (a) and for the reasons to be

recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time."

"Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total, including the period mentioned in the initial appointment," the Ordinance outlines.

The ED director is appointed by the Union Government on the recommendation of a committee chaired by the central vigilance commissioner and members comprising vigilance commissioners, home secretary, secretary DOPT and revenue secretary.

The Government has also brought in Delhi Special Police

Establishment (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 which also provides for a similar extension of service to the CBI director and is also effective with immediate effect.

The Ordinance inserts the provision in DSPE Act that "Provided that the period for which the director holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the committee under sub-section (1) of section 4A and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time: Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total, including the period mentioned in the initial appointment."

The CBI director is selected on the basis of the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Chief of Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition.

The fixed term of two years was aimed at ensuring the chiefs of CBI and ED work freely from any Government interference without worrying about any adverse action for the probes carried out by them against influential accused persons.

Cong raps Govt for skipping Nehru's birth anniv function

Naidu, Birla too fail to attend event at Parl

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress is fuming over the absence of presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as well as Cabinet Ministers at the official function to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in Parliament's Central Hall on Sunday.

Former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh called it "atrocious" that no Government Minister had been present.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu who usually are present on such occasions skipped the function. The Centre was, however, represented by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma.

Lok Sabha Speaker's office said the Speaker Birla was at a "Bal Session" organised in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly to mark the occasion of Children's Day. Birla attended the November 14 function in 2019 and 2020.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President Venkaiah



Congress president Sonia Gandhi with party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, JP Agarwal and others after paying tribute to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his birth anniversary at Parliament in New Delhi on Sunday

Naidu took to Twitter to pay tributes to the country's longest-serving Prime Minister.

"Extraordinary scene today in Parliament at the traditional function to mark the birth anniversary of those whose portraits adorn the Central Hall. Speaker Lok Sabha absent. Chairman Rajya Sabha absent. Not a single Minister present.

Can it get more atrocious than this?!" Ramesh tweeted.

"Nothing surprises me anymore. This dispensation is destroying India's great institutions, including #Parliament one day at a time," added Trinamool Congress' leader in Parliament Derek O' Brien, in a response to Ramesh's tweet.

Continued on Page 2

Russia begins S-400 system delivery to India

₹45,000 cr deal inked in 2018, China, Turkey bought system

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which was passed in 2017 by the US to take action against countries involved in trade with Moscow.

However, Russia and India and have gone ahead with the contract and the entire lot of five systems are likely to be inducted in next three to four years. More than 100 IAF personnel have undergone training in Russia to handle this highly sophisticated anti-missile system which can detect an incoming missile or aircraft from 400 kms away. Another batch of 50-odd IAF personnel is likely to leave shortly for Russia for advanced training.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi shuts till Nov 20 to fight toxic air

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to escalate fight against pollution, schools, colleges, skill development centres, and other educational institutions will remain closed till November 20 with exceptions for ongoing exams, said the Delhi Government on Sunday.

Besides, construction and demolition projects have been put on hold till November 17 to curb dust pollution that they are major sources of pollution in the city. The Delhi Government's offices and

Government autonomous agencies will also remain closed till November 17. The major objective behind these emergency measures is to cut down on vehicular pollutants.

Delhi Pollution Control Committee on Sunday issued orders regarding shutting of institutions and pollution activities amid high concentration of pollutants in city's air.

An advisory has been issued to private offices to follow suit and help this initiative have an effective impact on the pollution levels.

Continued on Page 2



A view at the bank of the Yamuna River during a foggy morning in New Delhi on Sunday

Sonu Sood's sister enters politics, to contest from Moga

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Amid speculation about the actor-cum-philanthropist Sonu Sood's entry into politics, his younger sister Malvika Sood Sachar is set to enter the political battlefield. Sood, not giving a clear reply over the possibilities of his political venture, made it clear that his sister will contest 2022 Punjab polls from Moga, maintaining that the party she would represent would be announced "at right time".

Addressing the media at his home in Moga, Sood said his sister has done a lot of amazing works in the past, adding that her commitment to social work was "unparalleled". "We today officially want to say that Malvika will certainly come to serve Punjab. We have not yet taken a call about the party," said Sood, adding that it would be announced at the right time.

Continued on Page 2

Cadila vax for 12+ cleared for adults only

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government may have placed a purchase order with the Ahmedabad-based Zydus Cadila's for one crore doses of the ZyCoV-D vaccine, but kids aged 12 years and above will have to wait longer to get the shot. The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) is working out a comprehensive programme for paediatric immunisation, including developing a priority list of comorbidities.

Sources said that Zydus Cadila's Covid-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D, which has been cleared by India's drug regulator for those aged 12 years and above, will only be administered to adults as of now under the Government's anti-coronavirus vaccination programme.

Detailed report on P4

Top Maoist leader Teltumbade among 26 Naxals killed

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Communist Party of India (Maoist)'s Central Committee Member (CCM) Milind Teltumbade, who carried a bounty of ₹50 lakh on his head, and two Divisional Committee Members (DVMs) were among 26 Maoists — including six women — gunned in a massive encounter with the special anti-naxal commandos of the Gadchiroli police in eastern Maharashtra on Saturday.

Fifty-seven-year-old Teltumbade was the leader of Tipagad and Korchi naxal dalams and also of Vistar Platoon.

Detailed report on P5



Milind Teltumbade

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TRIPURA VIOLENCE PROTESTS 144 imposed on Nagpur



Nagpur: Police in Nagpur city on Sunday imposed section 144 of the CrPC in view of the stone-pelting that took place in some parts of Maharashtra recently post protests on Friday against the violence in Tripura in late October.

The order, issued by Joint Commissioner of Police Aswati Dorje, prohibits people from disseminating messages and posts on social media platforms that could create communal rifts among groups, as well as holding meetings etc, an official said.

"It will be in force from the

midnight of November 14 till further orders. As per the order, spreading messages etc through social media platforms, which could create a communal rift in the society, is prohibited. Holding a meeting or assembly of five or more people, putting up hoardings and posters that could create communal tension are prohibited," he informed.

Violators will be prosecuted under section 188 of IPC and the cyber police have been asked to initiate action against rumour mongers, the official added. **PTI**

Cong launches Jan Jagran Abhiyan to protest inflation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday launched nationwide "Jan Jagran Abhiyan" to highlight the issue of inflation and high fuel prices in the country. It will carry out its 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan' from November 14 to 29 across the country by holding foot marches and street corner meetings on inflation.

The Congress also released a toll-free number 1800212000011 for people to connect with the party's "Jan Jagran Abhiyan". People can fill a digital form to become a part of the campaign against the price rise. A campaign song was also released by the party.

Congress' social media head Rohan Gupta said the 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan' will prove to be the 'last nail in the coffin of BJP rule'. "People can give a missed call on the toll-free number to connect with the movement against inflation by the Narendra Modi government. After giving a missed call, people will get an SMS and have to fill a digital form attached to it," he said.

Gupta added that the goal is to increase public awareness about inflation.

Rlys all set to revert back to pre-Covid levels of services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways is gearing up to normalise passenger services and revert back in a phased manner to pre-Covid levels of service. As part of this efforts, the Railways Passenger Reservation System (PRS) will be shut down for 6 hours at night for the next seven days.

The reservation system will be shut from 11:30 pm to 5:30 am from the intervening night of November 14-15 to the night of November 20-21, the Ministry of Railways said in a statement. This is being done to enable upgradation of system data, updating new train numbers, among others.

"Since huge amount of past (old train numbers) and current passenger booking data are to be updated in all Mail/Express trains, this is being planned in a series of carefully calibrated steps and implemented during night hours in order to minimise impact on ticketing services," the statement said.

During the six-hour period, no PRS services like ticket reservation, current booking, cancellation, enquiry services, among others, will be available. "During the period, railway

personnel will ensure the advance charting for the trains to start during the affected timings. Except for the PRS services, all other enquiry services including 139 services will continue uninterrupted," it added.

Earlier on Friday, the Railway Board in a circular informed about the decision to resume regular trains with pre-COVID fares.

"Ministry of Railways have decided that all the regular timetabled trains which are presently operating as MSPC (mail/express special) & HSP (holiday special) train services, included in the working time table, 2021, shall be operated with regular numbers and with fare and categorisations applicable," the Railway Board said in a letter to the principal chief commercial managers.

The board added that the second class of such trains (mail or express) shall continue to run as reserved except for any relaxation permitted in special cases.

Around 1,700 mail or express trains were being operated by the Railways before the outbreak of COVID-19. These services were halted during the pandemic-induced lockdown.

Children highlight challenges of learning in 'new normal'

Guwahati: From facing difficulties in accessing online education due to limited internet coverage to being more exposed to dangers of online trolling, school-goers from different parts of Assam on Sunday deliberated on the challenges thrown upon them by the 'new normal'.

They also did not fail to highlight the positives that can be derived from the current situation of online classes, particularly emphasising the ample time at hand for reading course materials as well as other books.

The concerns confronting young learners in wake of the restrictions due to the ongoing pandemic were raised by students at a programme organised by UNICEF Assam and Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) to mark the launch of week-long World Children's Day celebrations in the state on Sunday.

Assam Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary and Chief Executive Officer of GMDA Kausar Jamil Hilaly, among others, were present at the programme.

The children, hailing from different parts of the state like Majuli, Dhemaji, Guwahati and Sivasagar, highlighted that limited or no internet access and

non-availability of smartphones or computers have posed a major challenge for the students, especially in rural areas or from economically weaker sections, to pursue their education during the current situation.

They further said the vulnerability of their contemporaries of falling victim to internet pornography or trolling due to overexposure to the internet in the name of studying through the online mode has also increased manifold.

Proper basic infrastructure, clean toilets and access to drinking water in schools were among other issues flagged by the students.

The young learners also pointed to some of the advantages of learning from home, with most stating that the extra time they now have at hand has helped them go through their books in more detail.

The spare time has also enabled them to read books of diverse interests, besides those of the curriculum.

Problems of ill health and fatigue faced by many students while attending regular physical classes have also declined, they added.

Experiences of learning loss and other issues due to the closure of schools of children of 10 districts that have been

compiled in the form of a coffee table book 'Safer Together: A compilation of stories by Young Reporters' was presented to Speaker Daimary on the occasion.

The Young Reporters Programme, under which the compilation was made, is being implemented in 10 districts by Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU) and Sadaou Asom Moina Parijat, with technical support from UNICEF Assam.

Under the initiative, about 300 children have been trained through workshops to use several communication tools including artwork, photography, comics, and report writing.

Children from the NINEISMINE campaign under the 'Wada Na Todo Abhiyan' (don't break the promise initiative) convened by the NGO PratYek, also presented a Charter of Demands on their expectations from schools in the new normal.

NINEISMINE network provides children with the opportunity to advocate for their rights with decision-makers, and it has reached and sensitised about 500 children from Assam, through a series of online workshops, and came up with a Charter of Demands on Learning in the new normal. **PTI**

No point raising Pegasus; Opp should not link Parl session with polls: Naqvi

New Delhi:With the Congress set to raise the Pegasus snooping allegations in Parliament again, Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday said what is the point of disrupting the House over issues that are "not based on facts", and also asserted that the Opposition should avoid linking the upcoming Winter session with assembly polls.

The Deputy Leader of the Rajya Sabha said the Government is ready to discuss and debate all issues on the basis of the decision of the chair in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

In an interview with PTI, Naqvi also took a dig at the Congress over disruptions in previous parliamentary sessions, saying that in the last seven years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established that "democracy delivers" and "dynasty disturbs".

Asked about the Opposition unity during the last session of Parliament, he said the BJP and Prime Minister Modi believe that there should be a "mazboot (strong)" not "majboor (helpless)" Opposition, but unfortunately in their scramble to lead the Opposition, the influence of such parties is getting diminished.

"They should unite on issues. Last time they united just to disrupt," he said. The Cabinet Committee on Parliament Affairs has recom-

mended that the Winter session of Parliament be held from November 29 to December 23, according to sources.

Asked about the Congress' assertion that it will raise the Pegasus snooping allegations in Parliament again, Naqvi said what they have decided is not important, whatever is decided with unanimity, the government will stand by that.

"Till when will they drag their stories and tales about spying. There is no point of raising it. These are issues that are not based on facts or logic. So, if you want to disrupt the House over illogical issues, it is up to you," the Minority Affairs Minister said.

Hitting out at the Congress, Naqvi said, "We were ready to discuss price rise last time, we also fixed the time. Pegasus has been discussed many times and they have been exposed every time."

The Supreme Court has given its verdict and also other agencies have made their stand clear but the problem with the Congress is that it is 'the James Bond of spying', the minister said.

When in Opposition, the Congress creates a "hullabaloo" over spying and when in power it spreads a "web of surveillance", Naqvi alleged.

The Congress' history is such that they have even spied on their own home minister and finance minister, he claimed.

"So, all this is fake and fabricated but despite that whatever the chair decides, will be discussed," he added.

Last month, after the Supreme Court order appointing a three-member panel of cyber experts to probe the Pegasus snooping allegations, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi had asserted at a press conference that the party will raise the issue again and will try to have a debate in Parliament.

Naqvi stressed that the government maintains a constant line of communication open with the Opposition for the smooth functioning of the House.

Asserting that in the previous sessions the Opposition has been found linking the Parliament session with assembly polls, he said if this continues justice will not be done to parliamentary responsibilities.

"What we have seen traditionally is that Opposition raises issues, there is an all-party meeting and there is a business advisory committee meeting on it to decide, but unfortunately even last time, Parliament session happened close to assembly polls and this time also it is closer to 4-5 assembly polls. If we see the session by linking it to polls we will not be able to do justice to our parliamentary duties," he said. **PTI**

Kerala CM says Centre trying to 'strangulate' co-operative sector through 'irrational' laws

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday said the co-operative sector is a great alternative in modern times, but the laws formulated by the Union Government show "concerted effort" to eliminate the sector itself.

Vijayan, while inaugurating the 68th All India Cooperative Week celebrations, said the Central Government was trying to manipulate the federal principles of the co-operative sector.

He said the Centre was trying to "strangulate the co-operative sector through irrational laws".

"The Co-operative sector is a great alternative in modern times...However, the Centre's law also shows signs of a concerted effort to eliminate the co-operative sector itself. It (union government) is trying to manipulate in a way that totally violates the federal principles of the co-operative sector," Vijayan said in his virtual address.

The CM said many provisions of the Income Tax Act still hang over the co-operative sector like the Damocles sword.

The Left government sees the co-operative sector as an alternative to globalisation.

"The co-operation week is being held at a time when the

sector is facing various challenges such as the demonetisation, the post-COVID recession and the planned move to destroy the co-operative sector," he said.

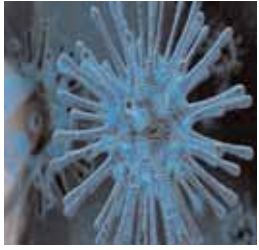
Vijayan noted that the co-operative sector was able to intervene in the banking solutions according to the needs of the people. The services were brought to the doorsteps, welfare pensions were delivered to households and the co-operative sector has undertaken many projects for the people during floods and epidemic season.

He also lashed out at a purported campaign during the Demonetisation period against co-operative societies that it was safe haven for black money. "Even with the RBI license, permission was denied to the district co-operative societies to change the currencies. The banking sector, which the common man relied on was isolated and humiliated. Still the co-operative sector survived and revived," Vijayan said.

Earlier this year the union government has created a Ministry of Cooperation, which the political parties in Kerala had termed as an 'intrusion' into the federalism of the country as the sector falls under the state subject, as per the Constitution. **PTI**

Genome sequencing: Ahmedabad Covid-19 samples detected with Delta, Kappa variants

Ahmedabad:Samples of Covid-19 patients from Ahmedabad in Gujarat sent for genome sequencing to a laboratory in Pune in Maharashtra in August and September were found to be infected with both 'Delta' and 'Kappa' variants, an official said here on Sunday.



Out of two samples sent to the Pune laboratory in August, one each was detected with Delta and Kappa variants of coronavirus, while one sample sent in September had the Delta variant, said Dr Kanu Patel of the microbiology department of the government-run BJ Medical College here.

"Results are awaited for samples of COVID-19 patients sent for genome sequencing in October to the National Institute of Virology in Pune. No sample has been sent in November so far," he added.

The Delta variant was first detected in India in October last year, and continues to be the main variant of concern, which had also played a major role in the second wave of the pandemic that peaked in April-May this year, while Kappa is a variant of interest and comparatively moderate.

Ahmedabad district has, so far, reported 2,38,410 COVID-19 cases, of which 63 are active, while Gujarat's caseload stands at 8,26,950, with 230 being active ones. **PTI**

Bal Congress launched to teach real history, as lies being spread, says Nath

Bhopal:The Madhya Pradesh Congress on Sunday set up a new outfit called 'Bal Congress' by enrolling 1,000 members in the 16-20 age group to coincide with the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, celebrated nationwide as Children's Day.

Speaking at the launch event, MP unit chief Kamal Nath said young people need to be alert as "the future is secured only when true history could be known, and efforts are being made to spread lies in the name of history these days".

"The organisation will ensure young persons become good citizens and work towards making India of Nehru's dreams. The aim is to secure the future by knowing correct history and culture as a big machinery is working on social media platforms like Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram etc to spread lies," he said.

There is no other country in the world with such a diverse culture, languages and efforts are being made to attack this spirit of unity in diversity, and members of Bal Congress will be protectors of the country's future, he added. **PTI**

Arrest drug menace on top priority, Shah tells States

Tirupati: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asked the States to give top priority to address the menace of drugs and check their spread.

"Chief Ministers should give priority to addressing the menace and spread of narcotics, as drug usage destroys the lives and potential of our youth," Shah said in his closing remarks at the 29th Southern Zonal Council meeting here on Sunday night. The Union Home Minister also wanted the states to have "zero tolerance" to child sexual abuse cases as crimes against children were 'unacceptable'. "Cases under the POCSO Act should be given top priority. There should be zero tolerance on such cases," Shah said. **PTI**

Delhi shuts till...

From page 1

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "The Cabinet and the officers held a joint meeting to address the rising levels of pollution in Delhi on Saturday. Officers of the DPCC held presentations which clearly depict that Delhi is suffering from two kinds of pollution - One, which is Delhi's own, i.e., sourced from within Delhi like vehicular emissions, construction site fumes, waste burning, etc. And two, the incoming pollution as a result of stubble burning from other States."

"The severity of the pollution was quite high yesterday, compared to which today seems a bit of a relief. However, it has been estimated that the pollution levels are only going to escalate in the coming days. The Environment Department has issued orders regarding this today under the Environment Protection Act of 1986. The only exception will be made for institutions already in the process of conducting exami-

nations. Post this, we will review the progress and make appropriate decisions. Third, all offices, corporations and autonomous agencies under the Government of National Capital Territory (GNCTD) of Delhi will remain shut till 17th November and all officers will be expected to work from home for the week," it said.

Emergency services like health, police, PWD, DPCC, district administration and others were exempted. Rai said, "However, any institutions providing emergency services will be exempted from this order. This includes health and all related departments and services, police, jail, home guard, fire service, district administration, DPCC, Environment Department, Pay and Accounts Office, Electricity Department, PWD, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Water Supply and Sanitation, Public transport - air, railway, metro, bus. Additionally, the services supporting public transportation like cargo, ticketing, air flight, disaster management services, NIC, Municipal service, etc. will also be exempted."

Russia begins...

From page 1

As regards the delivery schedule, Russia's Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC) Dmitry Shugaev told Sputnik news that the deliveries are going as planned.

"The supplies of the S-400 air defence system to India have started and are proceeding on schedule," he said.

Incidentally, the delivery has begun just weeks ahead of President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi in the first week of December.

India made the first tranche of payment of around USD 800 million to Russia for the missile systems in 2019. The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system.

Sources said Russia is delivering the first lot of missiles to India via sea and air and the first squadron schedule is likely to be over by the end of the year.

The missile defence system is equipped with four different missiles, which can engage enemy aircraft, ballistic missiles, and Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS) planes at 400km, 250km, the medium-range 120km and the short-range 40km.

Each S-400 system, known as a battery, consists of long-range radar, target acquisition radar, a command post vehicle, and two battalions of launchers (each battalion has eight). Each launcher has four tubes.

Cong raps Govt...

From page 1

On the birth anniversary of Nehru, floral tributes are paid to his portrait in the Central Hall of Parliament every year. Besides Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, other members of Parliament and MoS Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma were present.

Nehru's portrait was unveiled in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 5 May, 1966 by the then President of India Dr S Radhakrishnan Sonia offered floral tributes at Shanti Vana in New Delhi, while several party leaders paid glowing tributes on social media to the Congress stalwart.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi posted a quote of Nehru - "What we need is a generation of peace" - and said remembering India's first prime minister who greatly valued truth, unity and peace.

Though there was no official word on the absence of Naidu and Birla, a senior official said the Rajya Sabha Chairman usually did not attend such functions at the Central Hall.

A formal press release from the Lok Sabha Secretariat said, "Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, President, Indian National Congress, Sonia Gandhi and Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament paid floral tributes at the portrait of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the Central Hall of Parliament House on his birth anniversary."

The statement also added that the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, Utpal Kumar Singh, and the Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha, PC Mody also paid floral tributes.

Sonu Sood's sister enters politics, to...

From page 1

Sood also announced that for the time being, he was not joining politics, but will support his sister to serve society in a better way.

Notably, Sood's recent surprise meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, which lasted for over two hours, had started the rumour mill grinding over the possibility of his holding the Congress' "hand".

Also, sometime ago, Sood had met Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal, setting off speculation about him joining politics. It was believed that the Bollywood actor would join AAP, which was looking for a strong Punjabi face for the State Assembly polls, scheduled to be held early next year.

When asked about his recent meetings with the Punjab Chief Minister and his Delhi counterpart, Sood showered praise on both of them, and addressed them as "good people". He said that the leaders whom he met are wonderful people, but he especially praised Channi, calling him a very humble person.

At the same time, he added that he would soon be meeting Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal, as he has vast experience in politics. It is believed that by holding

meetings with leaders of all political parties, Sood is exploring the best option for his sister.

Sood recently came to the limelight when he released a video stating that the manifesto, where political parties make a lot of promises, should be made a sacred document, and parties must fulfil what they promise in a timely manner.

When asked about issues that are plaguing Punjab, the actor said that the biggest problem of the State is unemployment and linked it to drugs. "When people do not get jobs, they take drugs. We are already working on it," he said.

He also stressed that the IT industry should be promoted in the State in a big way for generating employment opportunities.

The actor also called for improving the healthcare system in Punjab. "There are several dispensaries in villages of Punjab where nobody is there (for patients). Sometimes in Government hospitals, doctors and medicines are not available. These things should be set right," he said.

On the ongoing farmers' protest, the actor said that it was necessary that the farmers get their rights, asserting that their issues should be resolved so that they can return to their fields.

CONTROLLING POLLUTION IN DELHI

Notification for emergency steps issued, says Rai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Sunday said that the department has issued a notification for effective implementation of the emergency measures announced by the Government to tackle air pollution.

He said that all schools, libraries and institutions will remain shut till November 20, except for those where exams are being conducted.

Construction and demolition activities will be banned till November 17.

"In the order issued on late Saturday night by the department, we have clarified that those schools or educational institutions where exams are already being conducted will remain open. All other educational institutions will be closed till November 20," Rai told reporters in a press conference.

The notification issued by the Environment Secretary of the Delhi Government said that all construction activities will be closed till November 17 with immediate effect.

The notification said that all offices of the Delhi Government, autonomous



bodies and corporation will remain closed till November 17 except those involved in emergency services such as health and family welfare, medical establishments, police, environment department, public works department, fire department, among others.

"The Government employees of all departments except for those involved in emergency services, will work from home till November 17. We have also issued advisory to private firms to allow work from home for their employees as well," Rai said.

He said the main motive behind all these emergency measures is to reduce vehicular and dust pollution in Delhi.

The Minister said that the Delhi Government will submit

a proposal on lockdown and its modalities to the court on Monday.

The notification issued by the Government also said that uninterrupted delivery of public services shall be ensured by all departments and agencies.

It directed all private offices and establishments to allow their staff work from home, so as to ensure least vehicular movement on roads till November 17. After an emergency meeting, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced various emergency measures, including closure of schools and colleges for a week, ban on construction activities and work from home for government employees, to deal with the pollution crisis faced by the city.

Take bus, ride cycle to stop pollution: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday urged residents of the national Capital to use bicycles or buses to commute at least one day in a month to reduce pollution.

"To reduce pollution, the foremost responsibility lies with the Government to make rules and regulations. Then the industrial sector and thirdly, we as individuals. Take out at least a day to travel via cycle or bus," Sisodia said.

"People can ride a cycle at least once a month to prevent pollution and save the environment for future generations," he also said during a cycle rally at West Vinod Nagar, Patparganj as part of the Delhi Government's Raahgiri programme.



"Participated in 'Raahgiri' - a campaign to promote safer & cleaner streets. I would like to thank Raahgiri Foundation for collaborating with Delhi Government's 'Yudh Pradushan Ke Viruddh' campaign. Such initiatives are necessary to raise public awareness about pollution," he tweeted.

He said that the programme would be held widely across the city. "We are taking Raahgiri to every corner of Delhi. Initially, it will be organized at six locations in six weeks. The message is to reduce pollution on your part."

His remark came a day after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led Government announced several measures to handle the worrisome air quality conditions.

Winds bring small relief to city from air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Air quality improved from severe to very poor on Sunday due to wind speed. According to SAFAR, stubble burning contribution in PM 2.5 reduced to 12 per cent only. From November 16 onwards, air quality starts deteriorating due to calm winds and MeT factors.

According to the forecast from the Air Quality Early Warning System, the AQI will continue to remain in the very poor category till at least Tuesday.

In its short range air quality forecast, SAFAR said that AQI today indicated very poor category and is likely to improve for the next two days as winds at transport level are slowing down, resulting in lesser intrusion of farm fires related pollutants into Delhi. However, calm local winds reduce dispersion of pollutants. Net effect likely to make air quality remain very poor category. The effective farm fire count is almost the same like Saturday, 3445 and its contribution to Delhi's PM2.5 is 12 per cent.

"Implementation of lockdown for the next two days with restrictions in anthropogenic activity emitting pollutants, air quality may improve

- According to the forecast from the Air Quality Early Warning System, the AQI will continue to remain in the very poor category till at least Tuesday
- Meanwhile, values of harmful pollutants — Particulate Matter (PM) 10 and 2.5 on National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI), were recorded at 267 and 143 micrograms per cubic
- As employees move to working from home, the number of vehicles on the road is expected to dip, thereby reducing congestion

a little but likely to remain in very poor category for the next two days if stubble burning share does not increase," SAFAR said. "AQI is likely to deteriorate from November 16 night onwards due to calm wind conditions predicted by SAFAR. On November 17 it is likely to be in the upper end of very poor category," it added further.

Meanwhile, values of harmful pollutants - Particulate Matter (PM) 10 and 2.5 on National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI), recorded at 267 and 143 micrograms per cubic.

On Saturday, as the air quality tagged in the severe category, the city Government had issued orders to shut schools for a week and asked all

Government employees to work from home in order to protect the children. As employees move to working from home, the number of vehicles on the road is expected to dip, thereby reducing congestion.

Importantly, the IMD said that city will see fog between Monday and Saturday, as temperatures will continue to dip. On Sunday, the minimum temperature recorded was 10.1 degree Celsius, three degrees below normal. The maximum is expected to be around 26 degree Celsius.

Haryana shuts schools in four districts till Nov 17

Gurugram: A day after the Delhi Government announced its decision to shut schools due to the air pollution the Haryana Government on Sunday ordered closure of all schools, private and Government, in Gurugram, Faridabad, Jhajjar and Sonapat till November 17.

According to the orders Government and private offices are advised to allow work from home. There is a complete ban on all construction activities, use of stone crushers and hot mix plants in construction activities. Deputy Commissioners have been directed to constitute joint inspections teams for enforcing the directions and ensuring extensive checking, monitoring and action against the violators.

The air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR) is very hazardous and falls into the 'severe category' leaving people gasping for fresh air on Sunday morning.

According to the MeT department the air quality index in the city is 400 plus, which puts it in the 'severe category.'

PIC TALK



Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal releasing a publication at the inauguration of the 40th India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday

Delhi Traffic Police cracks down on pollution with teams at 170 spots

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police has intensified its crackdown against pollution violators and those still plying old vehicles with deployment of teams at 170 locations across the city, officials said on Sunday.

The crackdown has been undertaken to execute the city Government's Winter Action Plan against rising air pollution.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday in a meeting had announced emergency measures to deal with the pollution crisis the city is currently facing.

The meeting was attended by senior traffic officials among other departments' officials.

In the meeting, the CM directed all concerned departments, including traffic, to strictly enforce guidelines issued to curb pollution.

"We are already working on the winter action plan in our bid to curb pollution. Since October especially, our priorities have been to prosecute

30-40% rise in cases of respiratory diseases in city

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Meena Thakur coughs non-stop as she sits down on the floor to have lunch near the entrance of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi. Doctors say there has been a "30 to 40 per cent increase" in the number of people coming to hospitals with respiratory problems.

"We have observed an increase in the severity of asthma attacks. Those with pre-existing respiratory issues are requiring hospitalisation. These are acute effects of the hazardous air pollution in the city," said Dr Vikas Maurya, head of Pulmonology Department, Fortis Hospital.

According to an analysis by the DPCC, Delhiites breathe the worst air between November 1-15 every year.

"I was okay at home, but developed a cold and cough after coming to Delhi. There's smoke all around. I will leave as soon as my father is discharged from hospital," she says.



vehicles causing pollution related violations," a senior

Delhi Traffic Police officer said.

"We are impounding old diesel and petrol vehicles and also checking vehicles for valid pollution under control (PUC) certificates," the officer added.

As part of its plan, the traffic police has deployed its teams at several locations where checks are being done to see if vehicles have a valid PUC certificate or not.

"At each of the 170 identified locations across our traffic circles, we have deployed our teams at three different spots. These teams check whether a vehicle has a valid PUC certificate or not.

Health dept recommends three Covid containment zones in Gurugram

Gurugram: To curb Covid-19 infection in Gurugram the district Health Department has decided to implement the Containment Plan.

For this, preparations are being made to include three areas in the Containment Zone. These include South Close of Nirvana Country, Chandra Apartment Sector-55 and Ridgewood Estate.

The Health Department has recommended to the Deputy Commissioner Gurugram to include them in the category of Containment Zone. At present, there is no containment zone in the district.

According to the officials, three people each from two families living in the South Close of Nirvana country have been found infected with the coronavirus.

Similarly, three members of a family each living in Chandra Apartment and Ridgewood Estate have also been found infected with the coronavirus.

According to officials, at present, the infection situation in the district is under control and for this, it is planned to include these three areas in the Containment Zone.

After the creation of the Containment Zone, all those arrangements will be made to prevent the spread of corona, as per the guidelines.

However, the Officials said that all the infected members of these families are currently

Delhi reports 36 fresh cases, 1 death

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Sunday recorded 36 fresh cases and one death due to Covid-19 while the positivity rate rose to 0.07 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department of the Delhi Government.

The death toll due to the coronavirus infection in Delhi rose to 25,094. The national capital has last reported two Covid-19 deaths on Friday. Four Covid-19 deaths reported in October and five in September.

healthy and contact tracing of the people who came in contact with them has also been done. On the recommendation of the Health Department, now the orders of the Containment Zone are yet to be issued by the District Deputy Commissioner.

Meanwhile, during the last 13 days of November, the health department has identified 109 covid patients.

Till 31 October, where only 52 active corona patients were left in the district, now the number of active patients in the district has been increased to 70.

17 hurts as LPG cylinder catches fire, explodes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Seventeen people sustained burn injuries after an LPG cylinder caught fire and exploded in a shanty in north-west Delhi on Sunday morning, officials said.

The incident took place in Lal Bagh area of Azadpur and the fire department said a call about the blaze was received around 10 am, they said.

However, no deaths have been reported so far, the officials said.

"We rushed three fire tenders to the spot as per the call received and found out that an LPG blast occurred in a 25 yards shanty due to which we were told that initially that five people sustained burn injuries," said Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Service.

According to police, five houses got damaged due to the blast, following which 17 people sustained burn injuries.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Usha Rangnani said, "A PCR call around 10.08 am was received in Adarsh Nagar police station related to fire in a house near Lalbagh masjid, Azadpur due to cylinder blast in which five persons were injured."

However, on reaching the spot, it was found that 17 people sustained burn injuries and were shifted to a hospital.

'Putting high tension overhead cables underground may cost 3 times more than insulating'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The discoms in the city estimate that putting the entire high tension overhead power network in the city underground will cost ₹2,400 crore or three times more than the cost of insulating it, discom sources said.

The majority of high tension wires in the city are already underground or insulated, they added.

Delhi is a very old city, much of it is unplanned. Despite this, a large part of the critical electricity network is insulated or underground. In fact, areas which are planned with a high density of population have a higher percentage of underground network, the sources said.

On the other hand, rural and semi-rural areas, with vast open spaces have a higher degree of overhead network.

Moreover, usually the old networks are overhead, and all the new upcoming networks are underground, LT voltage level in general is an exception, they said.

The Delhi Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal earlier this month approved a policy to convert bare electricity lines into insulated conductors for protection to life and property.

The Government said in a statement that about 2,264km of bare conductor network will be converted into an insulated

network by the three discoms — Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL), BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) and BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) in Delhi.

Kejriwal had also said that the government was working on shifting all overhead electrical wires underground.

Official figures show that out of a total of 2,264 km of electric wires, TPDDL will convert 1,270 km into an insulated network, BYPL 29 km and BRPL 965 km. The discom sources said in South and West Delhi, BRPL has 6,926 km of cables at the 11 kV level. Of this, 5,888 km or 85 per cent is underground and 73 km or one per cent is overhead (insulated).

Just 965 km or 14 per cent is over-head wire and uninsulated.

In East and Central Delhi, BYPL has 2,662 km of cables at the 11 kV level. Of this, 2,636 km or 99 per cent is underground and only 26 km or one per cent is overhead uninsulated, they said.

In TPDDL area of North and North West Delhi, around 65 per cent of the cables is underground at the 11 kV level. Around 1,270 km is overhead uninsulated, the sources said.

Around ₹2,400 crore is estimated to be required for conversion of the entire existing high tension (HT) overhead network to underground.

Ahead of MCD polls, Delhi Govt proposes RO Water ATMs in JJ clusters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

People living in JJ clusters in Delhi will not have to stand in queues for long for water tankers as the Government plans to install around 1,000 RO water vending machines there by the end of next year which will operate 24X7.

The water ATMs will be installed on the existing tube wells at Government facilities, such as those belonging to the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, a Government official said.

The proposal comes ahead of the Municipal Corporation elections due in April 2022.

"The work on the project will get underway by April 2022 and will be completed by December 2022," the official said.

These water dispensing systems will gradually replace tankers which cause a lot of inconvenience to people dwelling in such clusters, he said. "People in JJ clusters have to wait in long queues for hours for a tanker which becomes empty within 15 minutes of reaching the area.

Many times, the tanker never reaches them. "Now, RO-filtered water will be provided 24X7 through these dispensing systems," the official said.

A 100 kilolitre dispensing system will be installed for every 500 households or 2,000

people, which means 250 to 200 litres of drinking water per family per day.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is also considering providing a card to each household so that every family gets a fixed minimum quantity of water every day.

"There will be a proper mechanism to prevent overuse of water.

A fixed quantity will be dispensed per household per day. There will be no queues and long waits as these vending machines will operate 24X7," the official said.

With their installation, water availability per household also stands to increase.

According to the official, a DJB tanker carries 3,000 litres of water and even if five tankers are sent to an area per day, people get a maximum of 15,000 litres.

But here, one vending machine will dispense 100,000 litres of water, he said.

Considering salary of drivers, fuel, and other operational and maintenance costs, it costs the DJB Rs 150-200 to supply 1000 litres of water through tankers.

The cost per 1000 litres of water through vending machines will be much less, he added. Another official told PTI on condition of anonymity that tankers waste a lot of water in transit from one point to another.

One held for selling Trust property worth ₹15 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police has arrested a person in connection with selling a Trust property in the national Capital's Chandni Chowk area, an official said on Sunday.

A police officer said that Mukesh Tulsian, 59, has been arrested for selling the Tulsian Dharmshala Trust in Chandni Chowk area at ₹35 lakh. However, the market price of the property has been estimated to be approximately ₹15 crore. Delhi Police said 'Tulsian Dharmshala Trust' was founded by late Jamna Dass along with and five trustees including accused Manoj Tulsian's father Radhey Shyam.

Later, Radhey Shyam became the managing trustee of the Trust. After death, his wife Pushpa Devi was appointed to the position. And later, accused Manoj Tulsian became the managing trustee in the Trust. Contrary to the Trust's provision that no property of the Trust can be handed over to anyone.

The accused impersonated himself as the grandson of late Jamna Dass, founder of Trust, and sold the property at ₹35 lakh, the police said.

Police said that a case was registered in this regard on the complaint of one Sharwan Agarwal on May 25.

Liquor firms urge Bihar Govt to end prohibition



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Liquor companies have urged the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government in Bihar to end prohibition in the State. It has also suggested several steps to the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to ensure his avowed goals of helping women is achieved without adverse fallouts of prohibition.

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), the apex body of the Indian Alcoholic Beverage Industry, in its letter to the leaders of the NDA constituents—Janata Dal (United), Bharatiya Janata Party, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Viskasheel Insaan Party, have pointed out that Bihar is paying a heavy price of the prohibition policy in the form of proliferation of unlawful and spurious liquor, hooch tragedies, rise of crime syndicates and loss of legitimate Government revenues.

“Bihar’s growth and development has been affected as the State is losing out on revenue from the legitimate liquor trade which is pegged at around ₹

10,000 crore per annum,” it said. The CIABC letter comes in the wake of the recent hooch tragedies which claimed over 40 lives in four districts. Since the Nitish Kumar Government imposed a ban on liquor in the State in April 2016, around 150 people have lost their lives in various hooch tragedies. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has called a high-level meeting on November 16 over liquor ban in the State.

The CIABC has urged Kumar to end prohibition in a manner that the Government is able to get revenues for the State’s development without compromising on the desired goals of the prohibition policy. The CIABC has asked Mr Kumar to direct liquor factories to hire 50% of their workforce as women which will lead to economic self-reliance and empowerment.

The CIABC has also proposed a special cess on sale of liquor to fund alcohol de-addiction & rehabilitation centres. It has suggested penal compounding of existing liquor-related cases in order to cut down the massive backlog as well as to help the State earn additional revenues to the tune

of ₹1,000 crores. The CIABC has also suggested a State-run wholesaling Corporation for close monitoring and control on the liquor trade in the State.

According to CIABC Director General Vinod Giri: “Prohibition has led to creation of liquor mafia. It has also caused major damage to the State’s economy and potential investments, thus hitting job creation. Revenue from liquor sales used to be a major source of revenue for the State exchequer. Bihar is missing out on an annual revenue of around ₹10,000 crore, forcing the State towards debt crisis.”

Giri noted that a recent National Family Health Survey 2019-20 report had clearly stated that Bihar consumes more liquor than Maharashtra, which proves that prohibition has not worked. Report also suggests that 90% of illegal sale of liquor is among poor and backward people. Similarly, liquor-related cases have not only badly affected judicial administration but have also led to overflowing of jails as there are over 4.5 lakh liquor-related cases pending in the State.

“Bihar’s loss has turned out to be its neighbours’ gain as liquor sales in border districts of neighbouring States have gone up. Further, thousands of crores are being lost in addition by Bihar as hotel, entertainment, tourism and other allied businesses have been hit by prohibition. Prohibition is known to have not worked earlier in other States like Haryana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Gujarat, by the way, does not have a complete ban as non-domiciles are permitted alcohol through licensed shops,” he added.

India-Israel Def, strategic ties to get new momentum during Naravane’s visit



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen defence and strategic ties between the two countries, Army Chief General MM Naravane will hold talks with his Israeli counterparts on bilateral issues during his visit commencing Sunday.

The visit comes weeks after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar travelled to Israel to explore ways to boost strategic ties. In August, then IAF Chief R K S Bhadauria had also travelled to Israel.

“General MM Naravane #COAS proceeded on a five-day visit to #Israel.

The visit aims to further strengthen strategic defence cooperation between both countries,” the Army said in a tweet.

Officials said Naravane will hold wide-ranging talks with the top military brass of Israel on boosting overall military cooperation between the two countries.

In reflection of growing bilateral defence ties, India and Israel on Tuesday last week had inked an agreement to jointly develop next-generation technologies and products such as drones, robotics, artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

India has been a major buyer of Israel's military hardware. Israel has been supplying various weapon systems, missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles to India over the last few years

India has been a major buyer of Israel’s military hardware. Israel has been supplying various weapon systems, missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles to India over the last few years.

In fact, Israel has emerged as one of the biggest defence partners of India since diplomatic ties were established between the two countries in early 1990s.

CBI fires head constable for molesting contractual cleaner



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has terminated from service a head constable posted in the headquarters for alleged molestation of a contractual cleaner under Article 311 of the Constitution without conducting an enquiry against the accused personnel.

Four days after the incident that occurred on September 24 at the fifth floor of the state-of-the-art-agency headquarters at Lodhi Road here, the CBI, the premier investigation agency of the country, registered the case on September 29. The CBI is also the National Central Bureau (NCB) that represents India to the Interpol for coordination and correspondence.

Questions are being raised on the propriety of the CBI taking the case itself instead of handing it over to the Delhi police. Interestingly, Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) has been imposed against the only accused in the case.

The order of termination against Head Constable Kewal Ram posted with the Banking Securities and Fraud Cell

(BS&FC) of the CBI was issued by the Superintendent of Police (Personnel) on October 5 after he was satisfied that the accused official had “conducted himself in a manner unbecoming of a public servant whereby he attempted to outrage the modesty of a female (name withheld to maintain secrecy) contractual employee of M/s Impression Services Pvt. Ltd.) contracted with M/s NBCC Services Ltd.) on 24.09.2021 when she was attending to the work of cleaning and sweeping at the 5th floor of CBI, HQ Building,” an official said quoting from the termination order.

Ram allegedly “misbehaved with her and inappropriately touched/groped her forcibly,” the official said.

An FIR (First Information Report)/RC (Regular Case in CBI parlance) No. 34(A)/2021 dated September 29, 2021 was filed by CBI’s Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) on September 29 under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 354 (outraging the modesty of a woman). Ram

was arrested on October 3.

The accused personnel has been terminated from service under Article 311 of the Constitution read with the Rule 11 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Subordinate Ranks) (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1961 after the agency concluded that “it is not reasonably practicable to hold an enquiry in the case for the reasons recorded in writing.”

On the basis of the information available and recorded in writing, the CBI concluded that activities of Head Constable Kewal Ram are such that his continuation in service cannot be maintained as his conduct is not in public interest, officials said.

The SP rank official is the competent authority to dismiss, remove from service or reduce the rank in the case of the accused Head Constable. Accordingly, Verma dismissed him from service with immediate effect and without any pecuniary benefits with regard to his dismissal, official further said.

Rainy season ends, but monsoon mayhem continues

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The monsoon is over but several parts of the country especially southern States and north west India have witnessed heavy to heavy rainfall since October which caused loss of life and properties worth hundreds of crores.

Experts say a combination of factors — delayed monsoon and development of low-pressure areas at multiple places — have resulted in these rainfall events in several states. Collectively, these triggered severe weather events over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha and West Bengal. Besides, these months are also considered as active cyclone season and rainfall in October to December in southern India due to the northeast monsoon which takes shape between October to December in the region.

Several parts of Tamil

Nadu and Kerala have witnessed heavy rainfall since Saturday night and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday declared a red alert in central Kerala districts of Ernakulam, Idukki and Thrissur for the day. This is the third instance when Kerala, Tamil Nadu and coastal Andhra Pradesh have received heavy rainfall since October after the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon.

The incessant showers have left many regions in the state, including its capital city Thiruvananthapuram, inundated. Kerala witnessed 51.3 mm rainfall as against the normal of 4.7 mm on Sunday. Pattanamittia has received 109 mm rainfall, Trishur 87 mm, Alappuzha received 73.8 mm rainfall, Ernakulam 96 mm, Kollam 83 mm and Kottayam 66 mm. Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu received 88 mm rainfall.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in a Facebook post asked everyone to be extra

vigilant in view of the risk of landslides and other hazards due to unseasonal rainfall. Incessant rains caused minor landslides and disruption of train services in some parts of Kerala on Saturday prompting authorities to sound extreme caution in hilly areas, river sides and tourist centres.

As the heavy rain regime triggered by an erstwhile depression shifted base from North Tami Nadu and interior to South Tamil Nadu and adjoining Kerala, the Meteorologists are monitoring the behaviour of a fresh low-pressure area that popped up over the South Andaman Sea and adjoining Thailand coast as predicted on Saturday. It is not very useful for depressions to form one after the other in the Bay during this time of the year, according to meteorologists.

According to the IMD, usually, whenever these systems form during mid-November, there are times when these do end up becoming storms since this period happens to be an active Cyclone season. The IMD has already declared a watch for a fresh low-pressure area over the South



Andaman Sea by Saturday and hinted at its intensification.

The IMD data showed that in north-west India, Uttar Pradesh has received more than 170 percent rainfall, Uttarakhand 420 percent, Haryana 123 percent, Delhi 350 percent, Punjab 221 percent, Jammu and Kashmir 170 percent and Rajasthan 73 percent between October 1 and November 13. Similarly, Kerala received 90 percent excess rainfall, Karnataka 52 percent, Tamil Nadu 53 percent and Puducherry 82 percent during the same period. In totality, India received 121.1 mm rainfall as against the normal of 92 mm since October 1 so far.

Dr Abhay Singh, a meteorologist said that “cyclonic activity” is expected to keep southern India wet. The tropical cyclone activity in the northern Indian Ocean (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea) has been remarkable since October. While powerful Cyclone Hudhud hit Andhra Pradesh on October 12, Cyclone Nilofar that rose from the Arabian Sea weakened before it could hit Gujarat. “Rain in October and

November is not unusual. October is considered a month for transition, during which the southwest monsoon withdraws and gives way to the northeast monsoon that largely affects southern peninsular India, mainly on the eastern side,” he said. The northeast monsoon (NEM) is a monsoon confined to parts of southern peninsular India like Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and south interior Karnataka.

Kerala recorded the highest rainfall in 120 years between October 1 and 28 due to recurring cyclonic circulations and unexpected changes in the weather pattern. Last week, Chennai received the heaviest since 2015, was part of a formation of a low pressure over the Bay of Bengal.

A 2020 modelling study done by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai, said that apart from the seasons, the ocean “also plays a big part in these extreme rainfall events,” concluding that a study of these “collective factors would lead to more precise conclusions”.

Modi to unveil ‘Birsa Munda Smriti Udyan’ today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Marking the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Birsa Munda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate ‘Birsa Munda Smriti Udyan and Freedom fighter Museum’ at Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Monday via video conferencing.

Government has declared that the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda will be celebrated as ‘Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.’

In his Independence Day Speech in 2016, the Prime Minister emphasised the role played by tribal freedom fighters in India’s freedom struggle and envisaged building museums, dedicated to the memory of the brave tribal freedom fighters, so that coming generations would be able to know about their sacrifices for the country, according to Prime Minister’s Office (PMO).

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has so far sanctioned construction of 10 tribal freedom fighter museums. These museums will cherish the memories of tribal freedom fighters from various States



and regions.

The Museum has been built in association with the State Government of Jharkhand at the Old Central Jail in Ranchi, where Birsa Munda had sacrificed his life.

It will serve as a tribute to his sacrifice for the nation and tribal communities. The museum will play an important role in preserving and promoting tribal culture and history. It will also demonstrate the way the tribals struggled for protecting their forests, land rights, their culture and would show their valour and sacrifices, vital for nation building, the statement said.

Along with Munda, the museum will also highlight other tribal freedom fighters

associated with different movements such as Shahid Budhu Bhagat, Sidhu-Kanhu, Nilambar-Pitambar, Diwakisun, Telanga Khadiya, Gaya Munda, Jatra Bhagat, Poto H, Bhagirath Manjhi, Ganga Narayan Singh.

Museum will contain a 25-foot statue of Munda and 9 feet statues of other freedom fighters of the region as well.

Smriti Udyan has been developed in neighbouring 25 acres and it will have a musical fountain, food court, children park, infinity pool, garden and other entertainment facilities.

The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, will also be present during the event.

Will look into reopening of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, Modi tells visiting BJP delegation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday assured a visiting BJP delegation that he would look into their demand for the reopening of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for the pilgrims.

As Punjab is to go to polls in a few months time, a number of political parties and leaders are seeking reopening of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. BJP delegation led by party’s general secretaries Dushyant Goutham, R P Singh and Punjab unit president Ashwini Sharma and other Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi leaders met the Prime Minister and submitted a memorandum asking for the reopening of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor, which has been shut since March last year due to Covid-related restrictions. Sharma said the Prime Minister assured them that he will look into their demand. The BJP leaders are also expected to meet Union Home



Minister Amit Shah on Monday.

A similar demand has been made by the SGPC president Bibi Jagir Kaur and former Union Minister and Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal who have also written to the Prime Minister demanding the opening of the Kartarpur Sahib. Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu has also pressed for the reopening of the religious corridor. November 19 marks the

birth anniversary of Guru Nanak and the second anniversary of the opening of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor, which was inaugurated by Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan on the eve of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev on November 9, 2019.

Pakistan-India bilateral agreement allows entry of 3,000 Indian Sikh pilgrims into Pakistan for Gurpurab celebrations.

Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Division-Bareilly

Address:- Vikas Bhawan, Bareilly

Letter NO: 1681 /RED/Tender/2021-22

dated: 01-11-2021

Tender Notice

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

02. Name of work as per table.

S. No	Name of District	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Rupees Lacs)	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
Twarit Arthik Vikas Yojna 2021-22 Vidhansabha - Bithrichainpur						
01	Bareilly	Road construction from pond to Dan Singh's house in village Sihula.	3.050	6100.00	677.00	2 Month
02	Bareilly	Road construction work from here to the temple of Valmiki in village Mushhara.	8.170	16400.00	766.00	2 Month
03	Bareilly	Road construction from Pyare's house to Chokhe Lal's house in village Padhua.	4.350	8700.00	677.00	2 Month
04	Bareilly	Construction of road from main road to Dr. Surendra Chandra's house in village Pathra.	9.590	19200.00	766.00	2 Month
05	Bareilly	Construction of road from Shyam Bihari's house to Bhograj's house in village Ramangala.	7.690	15400.00	766.00	2 Month
06	Bareilly	Construction of road from the house of Chandepal Vakil to the house of former head of Man Singh in village Bhaun.	5.020	10100.00	766.00	2 Month
07	Bareilly	Road construction work from main road in village Dhansura to Atul's house via Rajveer Mishra's house.	8.150	16300.00	766.00	2 Month
08	Bareilly	Road construction work from Banka Lal's house to Tarachandra Pradhan's house in village Gaharra.	9.180	18400.00	766.00	2 Month
09	Bareilly	Road construction work from little house to Sohan's house in village Dalpur.	4.020	8100.00	677.00	2 Month
10	Bareilly	Road construction work from Mahipal's house to Harhar's house in village Takhtpura Majra Naugawan Thakuran.	5.390	10800.00	766.00	2 Month
11	Bareilly	Road construction work from Jalim's house to Nathu's house in village Ramangala.	2.400	4800.00	589.00	2 Month
12	Bareilly	Road construction work from Prempal's house to Bipal's house in village Peepal Gaurtia.	7.290	14800.00	766.00	2 Month

Note :- All the tenders are being invited in anticipation of the budget.

3. Date of availability of Bid document in the offices : 06.12.2021 to 08-12-2021 (11.00. AM to 4.00 pm)

4. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids: 09-12-2021 , 12.00 Noon

5. Place of receipt of bid : Office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, DIVISION BAREILLY

6. Date of opening of bids: 09.12.2021 at 12.30 PM

For further details please contact the employer office i.e. office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Second floor, Vikas Bhawan, Bareilly.

Executive Engineer

Rural Engineering Department, Bareilly

On behalf of Governor of UP

UP- 169733 Date 12.11.2021 डिवायन येनराइट

www.upgov.nic.in पर उत्तरलख है।

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR		
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR		
Tel-0194-2474234 Fax - 2482032 - email :- kashflori@rediffmail.com		
Gist of e- Tender Notice No. 28 of 2021		
Dated:- 12/11/2021		
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tender is invited from interested parties/persons for Outsourcing of Entry ticketing system of Mughal Garden Nishat of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below:- The participants have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ:-		
S.No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	01 year from the date of award of contract	1,41,31,121/-
		Cost of Tender Document
		3000/- in the shape of e-challan
The bidding document (s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website www.dirflorikmr.in & www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-		
1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	12.11.2021 from 04:00 PM to 02.12.2021 up to 2:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	12.11.2021 from 04:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End Date	02.12.2021 up to 2:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	06.12.2021 at 2:00 PM
In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.		
No. DIPK-12588/21 Dated:- 13-11-2021		Sd/- Accounts Officer (Member secretary)

Vital to protect, promote independence, integrity of judiciary: CJI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Sunday said the mind of the Indian judiciary can be known to millions largely through the actions of trial courts and district judiciary and therefore, nothing is more important than to 'preserve, protect and promote' the independence and integrity of the judiciary at all levels.

He said the Indian judiciary has always remained in the forefront of shaping the welfare state and the decisions of the constitutional courts of the country have enabled social

democracy to thrive.

Speaking at the valedictory function of Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the Chief Justice said, "Despite our being a part of a welfare state, benefits are not trickling down to the intended beneficiaries at the desired levels. People's aspirations about leading a dignified life are often met with challenges. One of them, primarily, being poverty."

"The mind of the Indian judiciary can be known to millions largely through the actions of the Trial Court and



the District judiciary. For an overwhelming majority of litigants, what is real and existing is only the district judiciary. Without robust justice delivery system at the grassroot level, we cannot imagine a healthy judiciary. Therefore, nothing is more important than to preserve, protect and promote the

independence and integrity of the judiciary at all levels," he said.

CJI Ramana, who was addressing chief justices and judges from high courts for the first time in non-virtual mode, said, "Together, we have been handling the responsibilities entrusted to us by the constitution with utmost sincerity and commitment. The immense trust reposed by the public at large upon the judiciary, as a last resort of hope, stands testimony to this fact. The Supreme Court and the high courts are hugely conscious of the constitutional

scheme, which is honoured in letter and spirit by all of us".

He urged the judges that since decisions of the constitutional court have a huge social impact, they should be easily comprehensible and must be written in simple and clear language.

"Today, I can state that we all have sincerely worked to live up to the aspirations of the framers of our constitution. The Indian judiciary has always remained in the forefront in shaping this welfare state. The decisions of the constitutional courts of this country have enabled social democracy to

thrive," he said in the programme which was attended by Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani.

CJI Ramana said the ability of constitutional courts to function with absolute independence and necessary boldness in the face of adversity defines the character of the institution.

"Our ability to uphold the constitution sustains our impeccable character. There is no other way to live up to the faith of our people," he said, adding that the stark divide between haves and have nots is

still a reality and "no matter how many cherished declarations we successfully arrive at, in the face of poverty, inequity and deprivations, it will all seem pointless".

The Chief Justice of India said this is where initiatives like the intensive awareness campaign launched by NALSA on Gandhi Jayanti assume importance and these schemes and activities of NALSA act as a necessary bridge ensuring access between the benefactor and the beneficiary.

Emphasising on the role of high courts, the CJI said it assumes great importance as

they are entrusted with the duty to supervise and oversee the functioning of all the other courts in the state.

"The state judiciary, being closely associated with the people, has to be sensitive and aware about their problems and practical difficulties. In particular, it needs to be cognizant about both victims as well as accused, and must facilitate their emergency needs.

After all, the law needs to operate humanely. Remember, it is the trial court which is approached first by a woman in distress, a child in need of care, or an illegal detainee," he said.

Over 400% rise in cyber crimes against kids in 2020: NCRB

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

More than 400 per cent increase in cyber crime cases committed against children was reported in 2020 in comparison to 2019, with most of them relating to publishing or transmitting of materials depicting children in sexually explicit act, according to the latest NCRB data.



Top five States reporting cyber crimes against children are: Uttar Pradesh (170), Karnataka (144), Maharashtra (137), Kerala (107) and Odisha (71), the National Crimes Record Bureau data stated.

Among the 842 cases of online offences, 738 cases were about publishing or transmitting materials depicting children in sexually explicit act.

As the NCRB 2020 data reveals, there is a sharp rise (over 400 per cent) in cyber crimes (registered under the Information Technology Act) committed against children in comparison to the last year.

In 2019, 164 cases of cyber crimes against children were reported while in 2018, 117 cases of cyber crimes were committed against children

and 79 such cases were registered in 2017.

Even though the number of cyber crime cases committed against children in 2020 remain small, its rise from 2019 is alarming.

Puja Marwaha, CEO, CRY-Child Rights and You, said while spending more time on internet for accessing education and other communication purposes, children have also become more vulnerable to multiple risks, particularly in the contexts of online sexual abuse, grooming or sexual solicitation, sexting, exposure to pornography, production and circulation of child sexual abuse material, cyber-bullying, online harassment and cyber-victimisation, and many other privacy-related risks.

"While there is little evidence to ascertain the scale of the impact of the epidemic containment measures on online abuse and exploitation

of children, closure of schools and children's increased exposure to the online space may have had serious implications on the increased online risks experienced by them," she added.

During the Covid pandemic, measures taken to contain the spread of the pandemic have resulted in closure of schools and movement to virtual learning environments. Children also spent more time online for entertainment, social and educational purposes, whilst not necessarily being aware of any associated risks.

According to the UNICEF report (2020), 13 per cent of children and people aged 25 years or less in South Asia accessed the internet at home. The report also states that in lower-middle income countries only 14 per cent school-age children (3-17 years) have internet access at home.

However, there is no conclusive data available in the public domain to ascertain the numbers of children accessing the internet for education and other purposes across India, especially during the pandemic.

GADCHIROLI NAXAL ENCOUNTER

Top leader Teltumbade among 26 killed; cache of arms seized

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Communist Party of India (Maoist)'s Central Committee Member (CCM) Milind Teltumbade, who carried a bounty of ₹50 lakh on his head, and two Divisional Committee Members (DVMs) were among 26 Maoists – including six women – gunned in a massive encounter with the special anti-naxal commandos of the Gadchiroli police in eastern Maharashtra on Saturday.

Fifty-seven-year-old Teltumbade was the leader of Tipagad and Korchi naxal dalams and also Vistar Platoon, was the brother-in-law of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi president and former MP Prakash Ambedkar and the brother of human rights activist and scholar Anand B Teltumbde of Yavatmal, who was among the "urban Maoists" arrested in connection with the Elgaar Parishad-cum-Bhima-Koregaon case in early 2018. Anand is currently lodged at the Talaja Jail in Raigad district.

A day after as many as 26 Maoists were killed the second biggest encounter between the outlawed naxalites operating in

Gadchiroli district and security forces, Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal on Sunday identified two DVMs killed in the fierce gun battle as Commander Lokesh alias Mangu Podyam of Company No. 4 and Commander Shivaji Ravji Gota alias Mahesh. Lokesh and Mahesh carried bounties of ₹20 lakh and ₹15 lakh respectively on their heads.

Apart from CCM Milind Teltumbade, Madkam and Gota, other prominent Naxal operatives gunned down in the encounter with the elite commandos of the Special Operation Squad (C-20) and Special Action Group (SAG) set up to fight the Maoists, were: two naxal commanders Kishan alias Jaiman of Korchi Dalam and Sannu alias Kovachi of Kasansur Dalam – both of whom carried bounties of Rs 8 lakh each.

The other Naxal operatives eliminated in Saturday's gun battle included: Manso Sukhram Boga alias Vimla, Dalsu Raju Gota alias Bandu, Dalpat Lalsai Kachlami alias Pramod, Musakhi alias Kosa, Sadhu Sonu Boga alias Prakash, Lacchhu, Dilip Hirooram Tulayi alias Navluram (Rs.4

lakh each) and Chetan Pada ₹2 lakh).

Of the 26 Maoist killed in the encounter, there were six women. One of the female Maoists was identified as Vimala alias Imla alias Kamala alias Manso Sukhram Boga Guard of Milind Teltumbade, while five other women remain unidentified. Similarly, six other Male Maoists have not been identified yet.

Meanwhile, the police have recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition -- including five AK-47 rifles, one AKM-UBGL, nine SLRs, three .303 rifles, nine 2.2 single bore, one Insaas rifle, one pistol and explosives in huge quantities – from the forests where the fierce gun battle took place between 6 am and ended at 3.30 pm.

"The gun battle between police and the naxalites that began at 6 am continued for approximately nine and half hours and ended at around 15:30 hrs. Sensing mounting police pressure, the Maoists fled away from the place of incident taking cover under the thick forest," Gadchiroli's Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal said.

Goyal said that the encounter with the Maoists took

place when the commandos were conducting search operations in the forest of Mardintola, which comes in the limits of Gyrapati forests in Korchi taluka of Gadchiroli district. The Maoists had gathered there to plan strategies to fight the security forces in the backdrop of an upcoming "naxal week" and also to undertake subversive activities in the area. "Ninety to 100 hidden armed naxalites opened indiscriminate fire in the direction of the commandos with the intention of killing them and thereafter snatching away their arms and ammunition," the Gadchiroli SP said.

Saturday's was the second biggest-ever encounter in terms of naxal casualties – after the twin-operations that took place on April 22, 2018 in which 40 Maoists – including 20 women – were killed in the twin anti-naxal operations.

While 33 Maoists were killed in the first encounter undertaken jointly by the C-60 commandos of the Gadchiroli police and personnel from battalion 9 of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Boria-Tadgaon jungle of Bramhagad tehil on the morning of April 22, 6 left extremists were

gunned down in the second operation carried out by the C-60 commandos in Ninar jungle of Jamalghatta sub-division in Gadchiroli district on the following evening.

Later on April 28, 2021, one highly decomposed body of a Maoist from the Indravati river bed, taking the toll in the much-discussed twin naxal encounters to 40.

The significance of the twin encounters could be seen from the fact that four of the five Maoist Divisional Committee (DVC) members of south Gadchiroli unit were eliminated in the twin encounters.

Saturday's encounter comes on the heels of fierce gun battle in the deep forests of Kotmi in Etapalli taluka of Gadchiroli district on May 21, 2021, in which 13 Maoists, including 7 women, were killed.

After that gun-battle that lasted for more than 90 minutes, the elite C-60 commandos of the Anti Naxal Squad (ANS) of the Gadchiroli police had recovered a huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosives, including one AK-47 rifle, SLR, Carbine, 303 and 12 bore rifles and an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) from the spot.

Withdraw Kangana's Padma Shri, DCW chief writes to Prez

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal wrote to President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday urging him to withdraw the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, bestowed on actor Kangana Ranaut for her remarks allegedly belittling the country's Independence.

Ranaut on Thursday had kicked off a row by saying India attained 'real freedom' in 2014, apparently referring to the Narendra Modi-led government assuming power, and describing the country's Independence in 1947 as "bheek" (alms).

Maliwal, in her letter, said the actor had "made certain outrageous statements disgracing the great freedom fight-



ers of the country'.

The DCW chief also demanded sedition charges against the 'Queen' actor.

"These statements reflect her hatred for our great freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh and countless others who laid down their lives for the nation! We all know that our nation got its Independence from British rule through ultimate sacrifices and martyrdom of our great freedom fighters," she wrote.

Highlighting that Ranaut's statements have hurt the sentiments of millions of Indians and are "seditious" in nature, she urged the president to "kindly take cognizance of the matter and withdraw the Padma Shri honour bestowed upon Ms Ranaut".

"I also request you to kindly ensure that an FIR is registered against her on charges of sedition. I hope that you will uphold the sentiments of crores of Indians and do the needful in the matter," Maliwal stressed.

The DCW chief said Ranaut, "through her insensitive and thoughtless lies", had demeaned and belittled "the sacrifices of millions of Indians who participated" in various movements such as the revolt of 1857, the Champaran Satyagrah, the Khilafat Movement, the Quit India Movement, the

Dandi March and the Non Cooperation Movement among several others.

"How can we forget the thousands who had assembled at the Jallianwala Bagh to protest against British rule and the massacre that followed? Are these chapters in our history a 'bheek'?" Maliwal sought to know.

She also pointed out that it was not a stray incident by the actor and that "Ranaut appears to not be of sound mind".

"She habitually spews venom against people of her own country and has repeatedly used vile language to attack those she does not agree with. Her behaviour is in no way befitting of the recipient of the highest award in the country and is also an insult to the stalwarts who received the award with and before her," Maliwal added.

Teen found dead in Pilibhit, family alleges gangrape

Pilibhit (UP): A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped and killed in this district of Uttar Pradesh, a police official said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday in a village under the Barkhera police station limits, police said.

The teen had left for her tuition classes on Saturday morning. When she did not return her home in the night, her family members started a search for her and contacted the police, SP Dinesh Kumar said.

Police found the body of the girl in a naked state in a sugarcane field close to her village, the SP said.

There were a number of injury marks on the body and a piece of cloth was found stuffed into her mouth, police said. Her books, bag, cycle and shoes were found lying a few metres away from the body, police said.

Four beer bottles, snacks and cigarette butts were also recovered from the spot, they said.

The family members of the minor have alleged that she was gang raped. Police said all angles, including that of gang rape, are being probed and it cannot be ruled out. Six people have been detained and are being interrogated, they said.

PTI

Heavy rain lashes Kerala, red alert issued in Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur by IMD

Pathanamthitta/Idukki (Ker): With heavy rains lashing various parts of the state since Saturday night, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday declared a red alert in central Kerala districts of Ernakulam, Idukki and Thrissur for the day.

The heavy rains led to water level in various dams in the state rising to the red alert mark, prompting the government to open one of the shutters of Cheruthoni dam of Idukki reservoir in the after-

noon.

Kerala Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine, in a Facebook post, said that in view of heavy rains in southern parts of the state, it has been decided to raise the shutters of the dam by 40 centimetres at 2.00 PM to control the rising water level there.

The water level of the Idukki reservoir at 10.00 AM was at 2398.80 feet, close to the red alert mark of 2399.03 feet.

The water level in various places along the Periyar was


seen to be rising during the heavy rains in the morning, according to the state government.

The heavy rains inundated roads in several parts of southern Kerala, which also saw landslides in some parts.

Adding to this, the Tamil Nadu government on Sunday morning announced that the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam reached 140 feet, indicating the likelihood of its shutters being also opened if the water continues to raise.

PTI

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi ... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi					
NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
Date: 15.11.2021					
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job:					
NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/21-22/RS/MD/27 (Corrigendum-1)	SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING, & COMMISSIONING OF 11KV SWITCHBOARD ALONG WITH ALLIED EQUIPMENTS, ACCESSORIES AND WORKS ON TURNKEY BASIS AT SHASTRI PARK GRID (EAST) IN BYPL, DELHI.	2.91 Crore	5.82 Lakh	06.12.2021, 15:00 Hrs	07.12.2021, 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/21-22/RS/KD/33	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF SINGLE PHASE METER WITH BOX	9.33 Crore	9.33 Lakh	06.12.2021, 15:00 Hrs	07.12.2021, 15:30 Hrs
Cost of each Tender Documents ₹1,180/-					
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submitment of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com --> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD --> Tenders --> Open Tenders.					
Head (Contracts & Materials)					
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525 TEL: 011-41247111 Fax:011-4124 7787 Website: www.bsesdelhi.com					



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(FROM 14th -27th NOVEMBER, 2021)

BY

SHRI NARAYAN TATU RANE,

HON’BLE UNION MINISTER FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA,

HON’BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

davp 25113/11/0044/2122

Courting controversy

Bail to rape accused raises questions about the fundamental aspects of jurisprudence

Is a court a reformatory or a body to ascertain that the laws are executed and obeyed properly and to ensure that no person is deprived of justice? The example furnished below relates to the Madhya Pradesh High Court, and it should encourage the Supreme Court to revisit certain fundamental aspects of jurisprudence so that no action of the court is perceived by the lay person to be out of the ordinary: “The petitioner will monitor the saplings because human existence is in peril because of deforestation and the court will not entertain any callousness by the petitioner. There should be a report on the growth of the saplings submitted to the court every three months. Any shortcoming in looking after the plants can deny him the benefits of bail. The petitioner has the freedom to plant the saplings at a place of his choice (translated from Hindi).” This is part of a bail order by Justice Anand Pathak of the Gwalior Bench of the High Court.



The case is not related to environmental degradation but rape of a woman. The accused, an 18-year-old, is charged under Sections 363, 376(2)(n) (repeated rape on the same woman), 342 and 323 of IPC and Section 5/6 of POCSO Act. The accused argued it was a false case but, in the same breath, sought bail to give him a chance at “course correction to purge his misdeeds (sic)”. He promised to plant saplings as part of his penance. The judge granted him bail, this October 28, allowed him to plant saplings, observing he indeed needed a chance: “This direction is made by this court as a test case to address the Anatomy of Violence and Evil (sic) by process of Creation (sic) and a step towards Alignment with Nature (sic). The natural instinct of compassion, service, love and mercy needs to be rekindled for human existence as they are innately ingrained attributes of human existence.” The same judge granted bail to another 23-year-old rape accused on November 8, noting that he be given a chance for course correction and reform himself. The accused, saying had “learnt the lesson the hard way”, also wanted to perform community service. Jurisprudence says the bail order does not touch upon the merits of the case. The judge averred as much while pronouncing the bail order. However, what does the portion of the order saying, “applicant is a young boy aged 18 years without any criminal record, therefore, a chance be given to the applicant for course correction”, imply? Bail is relief from incarceration, not the crime. It is not a punishment either. Two, what if “giving him a chance for course correction” is mistakenly perceived as pronouncing a judgment in the rape case? Three, the state of the alleged victim who, irrespective of the merits of the case, only sees her alleged rapist getting bail. Temporary freedom to do “course correction” and plant saplings in a rape case?



Ethiopian Israelis call for the Government to bring their stranded relatives to Israel, in Jerusalem

Sinking feeling

Floods have become an annual event in Chennai since 2015 but the authorities are blissfully asleep

August to mid-January used to be the festival season in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil month of Aadi (equivalent to Shraavana) marks the beginning of this season with Amman (Ma Durga) temples coming alive with music, dance and gaiety after the six-month scorching summer, besides a lucrative period for the market with discounts raining. The culmination of Aadi leads to Navratri, Vijayadashami and Diwali. Global artists fly down to Chennai to showcase newly composed *raagas*, *thanas* and *pallavis* and the festive season concludes with Pongal and Thyagaraja Aaradhanai, when people resume their mundane, routine rituals. But the pattern has changed since 2015, when November-January has become the ‘natural mishap season’ in Tamil Nadu in general and Chennai in particular. The Northeast Monsoon, which inundates the reservoirs during these months, has become a nightmare in Chennai and surrounding districts. Since 2015, incessant downpour torments the city for days on end and the entire infrastructure goes under. Main thoroughfares, subways and ring roads remain submerged under floodwaters and Chennai resembles a ghost town. However, it would be wrong to call it an unexpected development; it was a mishap that was waiting to happen as the Metro’s stormwater and sewage drains have been choked and clogged.

Understandably, floods and waterlogging have become annual events in Chennai’s calendar. Officials had warned the Tamil Nadu Government way back in 2009 that the State capital’s stormwater and sewage drains need immediate attention. A comprehensive study incorporating the Global Positioning System has already zeroed in on the locations where stormwater and sewage drains get mixed up. It is shocking to note that even after 12 years of the warning, no action has been taken by the authorities concerned to rectify this defect which would have cost hardly a few hundred crores but saved precious lives. Chief Minister MK Stalin is no stranger to these issues as he was the Minister for Local Development (2006 to 2011) and a former Mayor of the Chennai Municipal Corporation. He has hands-on experience and knowledge of the deficiencies haunting this coastal metropolis which has a flat terrain. At least by the next Northeast Monsoon, one fervently hopes, Chennai would have an efficient drainage facility. The Metro is blessed with a 700-km canal network and the Government needs to use it to full potential.

Hinduism, Hindutva and Hindudom

Compared to Abrahamic ideas on faith, which work on the principle of ‘deductive logic’, Hinduism is based on ‘inductive logic’ which has no assumed premise

Anyone who believes in karma in the framework of her/his dharma is a Hindu. The dharma of a soldier varies from that of a *pujari*; that of a doctor is different from a tailor’s. The dharma of a king or ruler is an onerous one compared to that of a shopkeeper. The former’s integrity is all-important for it would affect the whole country and its people, rather than justifying corruption by asking: “Which country in the world is free from corruption?” The questioning Prime Minister claimed to be a Hindu and invariably wore a string of *rudraksha*. For a dominantly Hindu country, to tolerate such ignorance at the peak of its society is disgraceful.

The lack of full Hindu awareness could be attributed to the Abrahamic influence over our civilisation. First, it was the Islamist invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni, then of Mohammed Ghori and so on. Much later was the arrival, followed by conquest, of the Christian East India Company. In between, Jews shipped in peacefully. Then was the growth of Marxists who have had a substantial influence on Indian thinking, especially the educated classes. Apart from politics, academics also influences thinking, often much more.

The mix of Abrahamic and Hindu ideas on faith is a sad mismatch. The former four—Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Marxism— are scripted on ‘deductive logic’ where an assumed premise is given. For example, my god is so-and-so and he is the only god. Or, there is no god; religion is the opium of the masses. Having prescribed such a premise, the deductive reasoning proceeds virtually flawlessly in all cases because it is deduced from an assumed premise.

Hinduism has no such assumed premise. Karma is very similar to the reasoning in physics where every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Every karma causes *bhagya*, or fate, sooner or later. An illiterate peasant would ascribe his poverty to his unfortunate



karma in the past. He is unlikely to blame the rich for having exploited him or his family. Which explains why Hindus are not a revolutionary people, but a tolerant culture and not easily excitable to violence. Despite the widespread poverty in 1947, communism did not get a countrywide response while the Chinese went red faster than a river of blood. Beijing has only two close allies, North Korea and Pakistan; it has annoyed the rest of the world. Can we ascribe this phenomenon to the paucity of faith or religion? Pakistan has pulled a curtain over its conscience due to national poverty. Or else Islamabad would not be the running terror of a civilisation that is torturing and butchering brother Uighurs in Xinjiang.

Hinduism is based on ‘inductive logic’ which has no assumed premise; in fact, it has no premise at all. It rises from the ground upwards; the reasoning moves up until a conclusion is arrived at. To illustrate briefly, suppose four Hindus happen to meet and discuss a rose. The northerner says roses are only red. The southerner asserts they are only white. The Hindu from



HINDUISM HAS NO ASSUMED PREMISE. KARMA IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE REASONING IN PHYSICS WHERE EVERY ACTION HAS AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTION. EVERY KARMA TRIGGERS BHAGYA, OR FATE, SOONER OR LATER

eastern India reports that he has seen only pink roses. On the other hand, the person from Maharashtra believes that the flower under discussion is yellow. There is likely to be a debate and the resolution might be that in each area the colour differs. Therefore, roses can have four colours depending on the soil; just because one has not seen it does not mean that a colour does not exist. A staunch Abrahamic would adjudicate that roses can be, say, only red; the rest are probably weeds or possibly breeds of other flowers, not roses. This is a sample of ‘inductive logic’ in contrast to the deductive approach.

As far as I know, the word ‘Hindutva’ was first used by Rajnarain Bose, the grandfather of Sri Aurobindo, in 1863. It only means Hinduness. I have recently written a book called *The Grammar of Hindudom*, rather like Christianity and Christianity. There are no differences except of emphasis and context. Hindutva is used in the political sphere whereas Hindudom is written when dealing with the socio-economic-cum-political comprehensiveness.



PRAFULL GORADIA

Remember, this is the only ideology which has grown from the soil and under the sky of Asia. All others are alien. Marxism was written on a desk in the British Museum library by a German in the mid-19th century. Capitalism was formalised by Adam Smith in the 18th century. Fascism or class collaboration was conceived in Italy after World War I. Prof Alfredo Rocco set forth the gist of the ideology leading to class collaboration in 1925 at Perugia. It was felt that capitalism had proved inadequate and unfair to the poor whereas communism was considered dysfunctional. Hence all the classes should combine to pull the society forward. The industrialists should be fair to their workers. If the latter felt dissatisfied, they should litigate but not go on strike. The young village men should get jobs as soldiers. To occupy them, when possible, the State should try to conquer territory abroad. An occasional war would generate demand. (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

TRUE HINDUISM ADVOCATES UNITY

Sir — Since race, language, caste, religion, nationality and sex are nothing but mere “accidents of destiny”, and only humanity is the supreme truth; never do I feel proud or ashamed of my demographic credentials. But I indeed feel ashamed of my religion if Hindutva gets systematically projected as the epitome of Hinduism. If Hinduism means “discovering” the Saraswati river and promoting one and only Gita-Ganga-Ram at State’s expense, and that too, by eradicating all sorts of cultural diversity in this heterogeneous country; if Hinduism means distortion of history and claiming Rana Pratap as “victorious” at Haldi Ghati; if Hinduism means non-recognition of religious identities of non-Hindus by claiming “All Indians are Hindus” — then I hate to call myself a Hindu.

However, the Hindus who are humanitarian, believe in the Hinduism of Raja Rammohan Roy and Vidyasagar, who had dedicated their lives for prohibition of the practice of Sati and emancipation of Hindu widows and girls respectively. True Hindus believe in the Hinduism of Mahatma Gandhi who never misused the name of Ram for communal gains and rendered a yeoman’s service for the upliftment of the tortured people lying “low” in “caste hierarchy”. True Hindus religiously follow the ideal of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda who had always professed and practically implemented equality of all religions.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

THE ARCHITECT OF MODERN INDIA

Sir — November 14, 2021, observed the 132nd birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India. The occasion is celebrated across the nation as Children’s Day (Bal Divas), as he was very popular among children and thus received the sobriquet of ‘Chacha’ (uncle). Nehru was one of the most well-known figures of pre and post-independent India. He was a national leader, statesman, eminent thinker, freedom fighter, prolific writer

Terror deserves a befitting reply



The cowardly attack on a military convoy in Manipur’s Churachandpur is extremely painful and condemnable. The nation has lost five brave soldiers, including a Commanding Officer, in this attack. An operation has been launched by the State forces and paramilitary troops to track down the militants. The paramilitary forces have launched a massive combing operation in the

area of the attack to nab the culprits. It is believed that the attackers came from the Myanmar border. In the attack on Assam Rifles, seven people, including the wife and son of the Commanding Officer of an Assam Rifles unit, were killed in an ambush in Manipur’s Churachandpur district.

It is said that at least four insurgent groups active in the area carried out the ambush. An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was detonated which triggered the blast. This is not the first attack on military forces in Manipur. Such cowardly attacks have been carried out time and again to cause unrest among civilians of the north-eastern State. Indian armed forces are one of the most elite forces in the world and our network of intelligence, too, is very strong. Therefore, we should take advantage of our strengths and eliminate these terror groups. Yes, we believe in peace and harmony, but the enemy is thinking otherwise.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

and one of greatest proponents of parliamentary democracy.

He was a leader who had a grand vision for India and laid the foundation of modern India and left his indelible mark in every area he chose to tread in life. He was a passionate advocate of education for India’s children and youth, he believed if India has to become a modern nation, education is essential for India’s future progress. Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, philosopher and the second President of India, had said that Nehru can be regarded as the founder of the modern Indian State.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

OCEANS ARE NOT DUMPING GROUNDS

Sir — A few days ago, media reports raised an important concern about the increasing COVID-19 waste in ocean and sea beds. It is important to note that people are dumping the COVID-associated plastic waste directly into water bodies. So far, we have hardly developed

any dedicated COVID-19 related waste management system in India. About 25,000 tonnes of COVID plastic has already been dumped in water, as per reports. This means that our oceans and other water bodies are getting polluted with Coronavirus debris and infectious leftovers.

We must think about the marine ecosystem. Many fishes have been found dead after getting trapped in hand gloves, and face masks have been found inside the stomachs of dead penguins. Plastic face shields and empty sanitiser bottles can be easily found floating on sea surfaces. The Government must develop state-of-the-art COVID waste management systems for dedicated disposal without damaging marine ecosystems. We can’t endanger aquatic organisms just to get rid of the trash that we only created.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The terrorist attack on the Army convoy in Manipur proves that the Modi Government is not capable of protecting the nation.

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi

It is time to go into emergency mode, or our chance of reaching net zero will itself be zero.

UN Secretary General
—Antonio Guterres

Katrina Kaif is in her best shape and looking stunning, so to work with her on *Tip* was just perfect.

Choreographer
—Farah Khan

I will continue to support Team India until I’m able to watch the sport.

Former India head coach
—Ravi Shastri

Kangana Ranaut’s Padma Shri should be withdrawn and there should be an FIR against her for sedition.

DCW chairperson
—Swati Malaiwal

FIRST COLUMN

PLASTIC WASTE WORSENS CHENNAI RAIN TROUBLES

Climate experts predict that extreme climate events will turn even worse in the future



KOTA SRIRAJ

Tamil Nadu's annual tryst with heavy rains is worsening with each passing year, but this year the low pressure over Bay of Bengal triggered the heaviest rainfall in Chennai since 2015. The deluge caused flooding of over 40 commercial and residential neighbourhoods and has claimed 14 lives besides damaging property worth crores. Vulnerable farmers have not been spared as nearly five lakh acres of standing paddy crops have been damaged.

The maximum reflection of the floods has been seen by urban Chennai. Flights were suspended due to the intense rainfall and other forms of transport halted. Climate experts predict that extreme climate events will turn even worse in future and there is an express need for coastal cities such as Chennai to prepare for storms, floods and sea ingress related problems.

Chennai also needs to manage its water bodies better so that unplanned development and real estate sharks do not consume the flood plains and lands adjoining water bodies that act as a critical buffer against sudden floods and rainfed deluges. Chennai especially has already lost



essential water bodies to shopping hubs that have come up on lake beds and even the city airport which partially occupies the Adayar river flood-plains. The city also needs to specifically declog the urban rivers of Cooum and Adayar this will help the rivers to absorb any sudden increase in water volume.

Chennai city has expanded in the south to encroach on a large wetland, Pallikaranai, where residential colonies, institutional areas and even a large garbage dump have been built. On the other hand, the mass rapid transport system has severely restricted the flow in Buckingham Canal, which was designed as a protective barrier against floods and sea ingress. In the past few decades, over 300 lakes, tanks and canals have disappeared and according to the civic administration, over 1.5 lakh illegal constructions choke the cityscape. But these time-honoured issues pale in comparison to the emerging threat of plastic waste that is now threatening to choke the water lifelines of Chennai city.

In the ongoing floods, plastic bags and covers are playing a devastating role. The civic bodies across Chennai have removed nearly 180 tonnes of banned plastic carry bags in the wake of nearly 400 complaints. The plastic waste was found to be responsible for water inundation in 476 streets as the waste blocked nearly 300 critical drain inlet points that are responsible for excess water to freely exit the streets.

In addition to this, discarded thermocol and rubber waste has also been seen wreaking havoc in the current floods in the city. These pollutants are also being seen as a severe threat to the Olive Ridley turtles whose nesting season is coming up soon.

The sudden spurt in plastic bag presence and the negative role played by the same has shocked the city civic officials and the residents alike. But conservationists and environmentalists are not taken aback as they have been voicing concern for the same for a long time. These conditions spell a disaster for the fragile marine ecosystem surrounding the city and unless urgent remedial measures are taken, the damage to nature could be irreversible.

Given the current role played by plastic in amplifying the Chennai floods, the government must strictly implement the ban on plastic and ensure that the use of single use plastics is permanently removed from our daily lives. If the manufacturing stops, so will the use. The Tamil Nadu government and civic authorities have a year to do this and make a difference before the next monsoon.

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

Recalibrating India's agricultural defence

Despite the availability of organic manure, India's 30 per cent raw material, intermediates and technical-grade pesticides are imported from China

In 2017, Pakistan and China decided to extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to the agricultural sector wherein agricultural land would be leased out to Chinese enterprises in Pakistan to set up "demonstration projects" in varied areas such as seed technology. The agri-plan of CPEC connects different agricultural zones of Pakistan from Gwadar to Gilgit (PoK) and envisaged selling of agricultural produce of China in Pakistan. The project aimed to include land acquisition for joint ownership or Chinese corporations for fertilizer and other agricultural technologies apart from other areas such as textiles, cement, etc.

In March 2021, its Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone (Faisalabad) was announced under which, 15 investors were allotted land and out of that Zhengbang Crop Protection Co. Ltd decided to invest \$5.1 million to manufacture and sell fertilizers. Strongly connected to this is the Pakistan's army control over the agricultural sector ranging from fertiliser companies (Fauzi Foundation) to military farms, is unmissable. With CPEC's strategic forays in the agricultural sector and Pakistan's anti-India approach, there can be no doubt about what can conspire as "demonstration projects" that focus explicitly on experimental farming in the garb of mechanisation, development of new fertilisers and HYV crops.

Answers to questions about 'what is being tested', which fertiliser is being developed for world consumption in the name of ushering an agricultural revolution are hard to find as one is unsure about the levels of Pakistan testing its soil and water for contamination. Land grabs and denying farming rights to the locals ensures zero transparency leads to jeopardising the regional food security through the possible development of dangerous bioweapons in the name of fertilisers and seeds. The news of farmer unrest does not reach out because farmers are labelled as 'terrorists' in case of protests. CPEC, as already discussed, will magnify the threat.

Last month, the world witnessed a Sri Lanka-China face off on the issue of contaminated organic fertiliser infested with Erwinia bacteria that destroy crops. Supplied by Qingdao Seawin Biotech Co. Ltd, the incident exposed futuristic agro terror plots. As per the agreement, the \$42 million fertiliser was supposed to be 'organic', but instead, it put Sri Lanka's food security at stake.

Both the developments taken together expose the vulnerabilities of the agriculture sector of those countries that import Chinese phosphates in bulk. India happens to be one of them. It is highly unfortunate that despite a huge market for organic food and the availability of organic manure, India's 30 per cent raw material, intermediates and technical grade pesticides are roped in from



THE PRIMARY STEP THAT NEEDS TO BE INITIATED IS TO BRING AN 'AGRO-TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS ACT' THAT COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR EARLY DETECTION, PREVENTION AND TAKING COUNTER-MEASURES TO COMBAT AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM

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

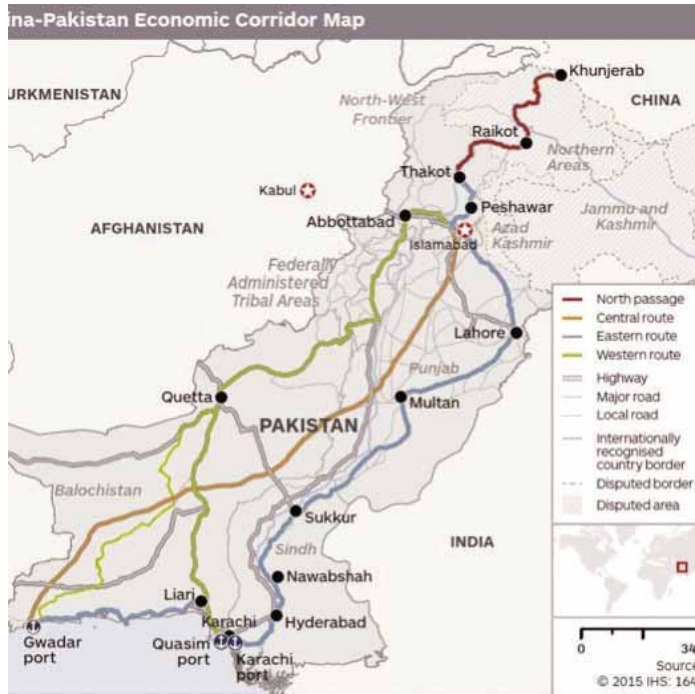
China. The adversary's vertical positions to supply DAP/Urea increases its capacity to penetrate into India, which translates into a potential agro-terror plot.

The importance of agricultural security can be determined from multiple examples. In the 1980s, the Chilean Grape scare and the news of LTTE posing a risk to the agricultural security of Sri Lanka were examples where agro terror has been strongly associated with high payoff instead of a direct military confrontation. In the contemporary scenario, news of jihadi material speaking of a 'Forest Jihad' in the US, Europe, and Russia point out strategies that deliberately affect the land's fertility. The country can be reminded that in 2017 India had banned the import of Fuji Apples because of the presence of micro-organisms which was a violation of phytosanitary norms capable of causing severe biosecurity risk to Indian agriculture.

Lester Brown, a scientist from the World Watch Institute, raised a fundamental question in 1995, 'Who will feed China?'. It was not merely an economic question but also a tactical one. In the last few decades, its food dependencies on meat, milk products and grains hold it back to initiate open and declared wars against India, Japan or Taiwan. Last year, Xi announced operation 'Clean Plate' in which food wastages was discouraged.

Given the Sino-Pak collaborative threat, there are strong possibilities of phosphates being deliberately laced with microscopic anti-agriculture pathogens to target the soil, crops, meat products or the land. In either case, the purpose would be to contain India militarily or cause a popular leader's loss of public support. Further, given the geographical continuity of Punjab, the 'demonstration projects might increase soil acidification and groundwater contamination, thereby putting India's future generations at risk by decreasing India's soil fertility. Thus, it becomes pertinent to include Agricultural Defence (AD) in the national security doctrine.

Today, rather than just confining to the balanced mix of fertilisers, AD should include safety of the supply chains, soil changes due to the introduction of pathogens, targeting of farm animal food and other potential weapons of environmental modifications. America has high profile biocontainment labs to study existing and emerging diseases that threaten the US



agricultural animal industry and public health. The same approach is required for India.

The primary step that needs to be initiated is bringing in an 'Agro-Terrorism Preparedness Act' that could be the beginning of a national strategy for early detection, prevention, and taking counter-measures to combat agricultural bioterrorism. Such biotechnology research labs or facilities need to be under the National Security Council (NSC). They should be coordinating directly with the present agricultural institutes in every state to disseminate the necessary information to the villages across the country. Such initiatives should aim for a multistate network with grassroots participation so that even slight changes in the soil and the existing diseases of plants and farm animals are detected and the threats eliminated. Also, there has to be a detailed policy outlining the consequence management, which should be included in the disaster management preparedness.

Critical biotechnology research labs that evaluate the bio-chemical risks at the port of entry and Inland Container Depots (ICD) should be working in tandem with the NSC apart from adopting the protocols related to the disposal of the contaminated phosphates and imported fruits to avoid rodent infestations and the spread of epidemics. Further, simultaneous food emergency response must be set up in case contamination escapes detection, and new laws must be framed for those who coordinate

with the enemy states concerning deliberate biological contamination. Reopening the military farms would perhaps be essential to secure military food supplies from any covert operations.

In order to test the dependencies, the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) recently announced to significantly restrict the production and export of phosphates from next year. India undoubtedly would be affected. Further, what passes off as 'available phosphates' from the side of China will have to be bio-chemically monitored. As a policy response, Russia has decided that its local farms would not be supplied with the imported phosphates, thereby hinting towards an inward approach that largely depends on organic manure. In India, the government is currently giving a subsidy of 140 percent on fertilisers. A sudden price rise of the phosphates will also affect financial stability and can be directly correlated with offsetting military planning. Indigenous production of bio-fertilisers holds the key.

Finally, as the tentacles of hybrid warfare spread, a holistic approach to a collaborative Sino-Pak threat is required. Today, the threat is not confined to the military frontiers and has spread further to the civilian domains, thereby blurring the limits of warfare. The responses, too, have to be innovative and in accordance with the evolving threats.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE ARE OFFERING THE JAM OF JAN DHAN BANK ACCOUNTS, AADHAAR AND MOBILE. THE SP IS OFFERING JINNAH, AZAM KHAN AND MUKHTAR. —UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH



FOR THE BJP, J STANDS FOR JHOOTH (LIE), A STANDS FOR AHANKAAR (ARROGANCE) AND M STANDS FOR MEHNGAAI (INFLATION). —SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV

Forensic accountants to curb financial frauds

Forensic accountants look beyond the numbers of financial statements and read between the lines to find out any manipulation in data

There has been a steady increase in the number of frauds witnessed by India Inc, and more often than not, they are financial in nature by creating deliberate alteration of financial statements to mislead stakeholders and provide them an incorrect picture of the company's performance, financial position, cash flow and liquidity status.

Several companies, once hailed for their standing in the business world, like ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, DHFL, Vodafone India, IL&FS, Punjab National Bank, have become examples of corporate frauds. Such frauds on the back of failed corporate governance mechanisms pose a threat to all stakeholders like retail investors, government, institutions, vendors and so on. In



HIMA BINDU KOTA

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

this context, the importance of forensic accounting is increasing by the day, to stabilise the four 'pillars' of modern corporate regulatory system — accountability, transparency, fairness and disclosure.

Forensic accounting, as a discipline, has come a long way from being used by government agencies like FBI, CBI and tax authorities. It is now a rapidly growing area of accounting concerned with the detection and prevention of financial fraud and white-collar criminal activities. Now the financial detectives and individual experts are required to unearth any fraudulent activities or misappropriation in corporate world. Forensic accountants are in great demand due to their auditing, accounting, legal and invest-



igative skills. Litigation is one of the major components of forensic accounting that uses the analytical skills of forensic accountants in two broad ways — one, to share their expert opinion based on results of the investigation and two, appearance for a possible courtroom testimony. Forensic accountant's investigative skills are required for collecting, analyzing and evaluating financial evidence, as well as the ability to interpret and communicate findings. Over the last few decades, there have been

numerous financial frauds and scandals, which were milestones with historical significance. Enron, WorldCom and Satyam Computers are just few examples. Forensic accountants look beyond the numbers of financial statements and read in-between lines to find out any manipulation in data.

To become a financial detective, several skills are required. Critical thinking abilities are important to conduct an in-depth analysis of financial statements to unearth fraudulent accounting information. Thoroughness about various laws, legislations, regulations and codes is essential. And since the analysis is required in business setting, knowledge about different business methods and an extensive knowledge and experience of auditing procedures and accounting practices.

Since forensic accountants have to scrutinize piles of data, they should have the ability to work with large volume of data and documentation. In addition to well-honed computer skills, forensic accountants should have a fair understanding of psychology.

Forensic accounting is the need of the hour in the developing nations as compared to developed countries as corruption, which has an impact of nation's economy, its citizens and standard of living, is widely prevalent in these nations.

Major scandals involving the role of auditors, not only in India but worldwide, have raised a question on their credibility. During the Enron scandal, Arthur Anderson,

one of the Big Five auditors worldwide lost its credibility. So much so that the number reduced to Big Four, after the disgraceful fall of Arthur Anderson and it became the first accounting firm to be convicted of criminal charges. Similarly, trust in PwC was shaken after the Satyam fiasco in India.

This scandal also led to the subsequent arrest of two of its auditors. These are not the only times when the big auditors have found themselves in trouble. In fact, at some point of time, each of the big five auditors have been ordered to settle huge lawsuits filed by shareholders to compensate for the loss caused by the financial statement frauds.

The government should take steps to check the fraud-

ulent financial activities in companies in India. It could follow a three-pronged strategy — developing internal control mechanism, ensuring proper compliance, and strengthening the corporate governance mechanism. Strong internal control mechanisms act as a deterrent to company staff to indulge in fraudulent activities.

And finally, a strong corporate governance mechanism which is established on the pillars of fairness, transparency, accountability, responsibility, commitment and morality is the need of the hour. Several measures of internal control and corporate governance should be made mandatory for corporates and proper compliance should be monitored by the government to stop financial frauds.

Nations compromise on coal to strike UN climate pact

AP ■ GLASGOW

Almost 200 nations accepted a compromise deal Saturday aimed at keeping a key global warming target alive, but it contained a last-minute change that watered down crucial language about coal.

Several countries, including small island states, said they were deeply disappointed by India to “phase down,” rather than “phase out” coal power, the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

“Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread,” United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. “We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe.”

Nation after nation had complained after two weeks of UN climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, about how the deal did not go far or fast enough. But they said it was better than nothing and provided incremental progress, if not success.

In the end, the summit broke ground by singling out coal, however weakly, by setting



Britain's Alok Sharma, second left, President of the COP26, and Patricia Espinosa, left, UNFCCC Executive-Secretary, applaud during the closing plenary session at the COP26 UN Climate Summit, in Glasgow, Scotland on Saturday

the rules for international trading of carbon credits, and by telling big polluters to come back next year with improved pledges for cutting emissions.

But domestic priorities, both political and economic again kept nations from committing to the fast, big cuts that scientists say are needed to keep warming below dangerous levels which would pro-

duce extreme weather and rising seas capable of erasing some island nations.

Ahead of the Glasgow talks, the United Nations had set three criteria for success, and none of them were achieved. The UN's criteria included pledges to cut carbon dioxide emissions in half by 2030, \$100 billion in financial aid from rich nations to poor,

and ensuring that half of that money went to helping the developing world adapt to the worst effects of climate change.

“We did not achieve these goals at this conference,” Guterres said. “But we have some building blocks for progress.”

Swiss environment minister Simonetta Sommaruga said the change will make it harder

to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times — the more stringent threshold set in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

US climate envoy John Kerry said Governments had no choice but to accept India's coal language change, “If we hadn't done that we wouldn't have had an agreement.”

But he insisted the deal was good news for the world.

“We are in fact closer than we have ever been before to avoiding climate chaos and securing cleaning air, safer water and healthier planet,” he said later at a news conference.

Many other nations and climate campaigners criticized India for making demands that weakened the final agreement.

“India's last-minute change to the language to phase down but not phase out coal is quite shocking,” said Australian climate scientist Bill Hare, who tracks world emission pledges for the science-based Climate Action Tracker. “India has long been a blocker on climate action, but I have never seen it done so publicly.”

UK PM Boris hails ‘big step forward’ with COP26 deal

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has hailed the deal struck at the end of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow as a “big step forward” and the first-ever international agreement to “phase down” the use of coal.

Praising the hard work of COP26 President Alok Sharma — the British Indian Cabinet minister in charge of navigating the negotiations — Johnson expressed the hope that the two-week-long summit which went into extra time over the weekend will mark the “beginning of the end of climate change.”

His statement followed an agreement between nearly 200 countries on a final communique late on Saturday, which recognises India's intervention for the world to “phase down”



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaking at a press conference.

rather than “phase out” fossil fuels. “There is still a huge amount more to do in the coming years. But today's agreement is a big step forward and, critically, we have the first ever international agreement to phase down coal and a roadmap to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees [Celsius],” said Johnson.

“I hope that we will look back on COP26 in Glasgow as

the beginning of the end of climate change, and I will continue to work tirelessly towards that goal,” he said.

According to the impact analysis of the agreement, the central summit goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C has been kept in reach — provided countries continue to take ambitious action over the next decade.

Over the last two weeks, tens of thousands of people from 197 countries came together in Scotland for the talks which culminated in the ‘Glasgow Climate Pact’. It commits countries to phase down unabated use of coal, supports a just transition for developing countries and action to tackle loss and damage, and agrees a common timeframe and methodology for national commitments on emissions reductions.

Four Indians killed as vehicles crashes into pond in Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Four Indians have died after the vehicle they were travelling in crashed into a pond in southern Nepal's Rautahat district near the border with India, according to a media report on Sunday.

The driver and the other occupants of the vehicle are suspected to have been “under influence,” *The Himalayan Times* reported quoting police sources. The deceased were all natives of Bihar, identified as Dinanath Sah (25), Arun Sah (30), Dilip Mahato (28) and Amit Mahato (27).

The driver lost control of the car on the Gaur-Chandrapur Road Section in

Yamunamai Rural Municipality, swerving into a pond, Superintendent of Police, Rautahat District, Binod Ghimire told *The Himalayan Times*.

Security personnel tried rescue attempts, shattering the windshield but the victims were dead by then, he said.

The victims were identified based on the Aadhaar Cards found on them. Rautahat Police has contacted the Indian Police.

The kin of the deceased arrived on Sunday morning and confirmed the identities, Ghimire said.

The vehicle has been lifted out of the pond using a crane, further investigation is underway, police said.

Al-Jazeera says bureau chief detained by Sudanese forces

AP ■ KHARTOUM

The Qatar-based satellite news network *Al-Jazeera* said on Sunday its bureau chief in Sudan was detained by security forces, a day after mass protests across the country against last month's military coup.

The network said on Twitter that Sudanese forces raided the home of El Musalmi El Kabbashi and detained him.

The development comes after security forces fired live ammunition and tear gas on Saturday to disperse protesters denouncing the military's tightening grip on the country.

The Sudan Doctors Committee said a 15-year-old protester died on Sunday of gunshot wounds to his stomach and thigh, raising the death toll to six people.



People protest in Khartoum, Sudan on Saturday

In a later statement, *Al-Jazeera* said El Kabbashi had been arrested at his home in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital. The broadcaster said it held the Sudanese military responsible for his safety.

“*Al-Jazeera* condemns in the strongest terms the repre-

hensible actions of the military and calls on the authorities to release El Kabbashi immediately and to allow its journalists to operate unhindered, free to practice their profession without fear or intimidation,” the channel said.

Sudanese officials could

not be immediately reached for comment.

Thousands of pro-democracy protesters took to the streets across Sudan on Saturday to rally against the military coup last month. The takeover has drawn international criticism and massive protests in the streets of the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

The killings Saturday took place in Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman. The dead included four people killed by gunshots and one who died from being hit by a tear gas canister. The 15-year-old who died of his wounds Sunday brought to six the number of fatalities, the doctors committee said. Several other protesters were wounded, including from gunshots, it said.

Gadhafi's son announces candidacy for Prez of Libya

AP ■ CAIRO

The son and one-time heir apparent of late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi announced on Sunday his candidacy for the country's presidential election next month, Libya's election agency said.

Seif al-Islam, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of crimes against humanity related to the 2011 uprising, submitted his candidacy papers in the southern town of Sabha, 650 kilometers (400 miles) south of the capital of Tripoli, the High National Elections Commission said in a statement.

Gadhafi's son was captured by fighters in the town of Zintan late in 2011, the year when a popular uprising, backed by the NATO, toppled his father after more than 40 years in power. Moammar Gadhafi was later killed amid the ensuing fighting that would turn into a civil war.



Seif al-Islam, left, the son and one-time heir apparent of late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi registers his candidacy for the country's presidential elections next month, in Sabha, Libya on Sunday

In a video shared by an election official, Seif al-Islam addressed the camera, saying that God will decide the right path for the country's future. He wore a traditional Libyan robe and turban and spectacles. It was the first time in years that Seif al-Islam appeared in public.

Seif al-Islam, who was seen

as the reformist face of Gadhafi's regime before the 2011 uprising, was released in June 2017 after more than five years of detention. In July he told *The New York Times* in an exclusive interview that he was considering a run for the country's top office. His candidacy is likely to stir controversy across the divided country.

Af doesn't want conflict with any country, including India, says Taliban Minister

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Afghanistan does not want conflict with any country, including India, the war-torn country's Taliban-led interim government's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has said. Muttaqi made the comments while talking to BBC Urdu, which was also his first ever interview with a female journalist, who asked him about Afghanistan relations with New Delhi under the Taliban government.

“We do not want Afghanistan to have a conflict with any other country or to have challenges that could affect our nation. Therefore, we will continue to work on this issue,” he said.

When asked whether there was a reaction from China or Pakistan on Afghanistan having close ties with India, instead of a direct answer, Muttaqi referred to recent meetings in Moscow.

“When we participated in



the Moscow conference, the representatives of India, Pakistan and several other countries were also present. We had a positive conversation and will hopefully not oppose any country,” he said.

His interview comes days after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval chaired an eight-nation dialogue on Afghanistan in New Delhi which was attended by officials from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

At the dialogue on Thursday, the participating countries vowed to work towards ensuring that Afghanistan does not become

a safe haven for global terrorism and called for the formation of an “open and truly inclusive” government in Kabul.

A declaration released at the end of the dialogue said Afghan territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts and that officials lent strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan.

The Taliban, ousted from power by the US shortly after the 9/11 attacks, seized control of Afghanistan in mid-August, ousting the previous elected government which was backed by the West.

Responding to a question

on female education, Muttaqi rejected that the Afghan women were being excluded from different fields.

“Women have 100 per cent inclusion in the health sector. They are also teaching in the education sector. They are working in each and every one of those sectors where they are required,” he said.

He added that the Taliban government did not fire any female official who was working under the previous government.

He, however, accepted that educational institutions in some areas were still closed but said that it was due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The Afghan Taliban leader accepted that his country was mediating between Pakistan and the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) but no agreement was reached so far. He, however, said that the process had a good beginning and a month-long ceasefire had been announced.

As virus surges in Eastern Europe, leaders slow to act

AP ■ BELGRADE, SERBIA

At the main hospital in Romania's capital, the morgue ran out of space for the dead in recent days, and doctors in Bulgaria have suspended routine surgeries so they can tend to a surge in Covid-19 patients. In the Serbian capital, the graveyard now operates an extra day during the week in order to bury all the bodies arriving.

For two months now, a stubborn wave of virus infections has ripped mercilessly through several countries in Central and Eastern Europe, where vaccination rates are much lower than elsewhere

on the continent. While medical workers pleaded for tough restrictions or even lockdowns, leaders let the virus rage unimpeded for weeks.

“I don't believe in measures. I don't believe in the same measures that existed before the vaccines,” Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said last month as the Balkan nation sustained some of its worst daily death tolls of the pandemic. “Why do we have vaccines then?”

A World Health Organization official declared earlier this month that Europe is again at the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

Polish PM mulls asking NATO to hold talks amid border crisis

AP ■ WARSAW, POLAND

Lithuania and Latvia are considering asking NATO to hold emergency talks as they struggle to manage a tense migration standoff on their borders with Belarus, the Polish Prime Minister said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said he and his counterparts for the two Baltic states are discussing whether to ask for such talks under Article 4 of the NATO treaty, which allows any ally to request consultations if it feels its territorial integrity, political independence or security is threatened.

Still, it's a step that has only

been taken a few times in the history of the Western alliance.

The authoritarian Belarusian regime in Minsk has for months been orchestrating a flow of migrants across its border into the three European Union nations, which form the eastern flank of both the EU and NATO. They have been reinforcing their borders, seeking to block the newly opened migration route.

A deputy interior minister from Poland said Sunday that more migrants are arriving near the Polish border crossing of Kuznica from the Belarusian side. The ministry released a video showing Polish police warning people at the border:

“Attention, Attention, if you don't follow the orders, force may be used against you.”

The situation has been going on for months, but suddenly grew more tense as a large group of migrants appeared across the border from Kuznica nearly a week ago.

In an interview with the state news agency PAP, Morawiecki vowed that Poland's border with Belarus “will be an effective and final barrier” to actions by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

“There is no doubt that things have gone too far,” Morawiecki said.

Japan's former princess leaves for US with commoner husband

AP ■ TOKYO

A Japanese princess who gave up her royal status to marry her commoner college sweetheart left for New York on Sunday, as the couple pursued happiness as newlyweds and left behind a nation that has criticized their romance.

The departure of Mako Komuro, the former Princess Mako, and Kei Komuro, both 30, was carried live by major Japanese broadcasters, showing them boarding a plane amid a flurry of camera flashes at Haneda Airport in Tokyo.

Kei Komuro, a graduate of Fordham University law school, has a job at a New York law

firm. He has yet to pass his bar exam, another piece of news that local media have used to attack him, although it is common to pass after multiple attempts.

“I love Mako,” he told reporters last month after registering their marriage in Tokyo. They did so without a wedding banquet or any of the other usual celebratory rituals. “I want to live the only life I have with the person I love,” he said.

Although Japan appears modern in many ways, values about family relations and the status of women often are seen as somewhat antiquated, rooted in feudal practices.

AUSTRIA ORDERS CURBS FOR UNVACCINATED

Berlin: The Austrian Government ordered a nationwide lockdown for unvaccinated people starting midnight Sunday to slow the fast spread of the coronavirus in the country. The move prohibits unvaccinated individuals older than age 12 from leaving their homes except for basic activities such as working, grocery shopping, going for a walk — or getting vaccinated.

2 MODERATE QUAKES JOLT SOUTHERN IRAN

Tehran: At least one person died after two moderate earthquakes struck the southern Iranian province of Hormozgan, state TV reported Sunday. State TV quoted Azizollah Konari, the Bandar Abbas governor, as saying a 22-year-old man died when an electric pole fell on his head as a result of the earthquake.

IPO craze continues

2 PUBLIC ISSUES TO OPEN NEXT WEEK FOR SUBSCRIPTION

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The current month will continue to be a busy one for the primary market, as two companies-Tarsons Products and Go Fashion (India) Ltd - are set to float their IPOs next week to collectively raise ₹ 2,038 crore.

The three-day IPO of life sciences firm Tarsons Products will open on November 15 and conclude on November 17, while that of Go Fashion, which owns women's wear brand Go Colors, will open for public subscription during November 17-22.

This comes after eight firms have successfully concluded their initial public offerings (IPOs) in November so far.

These eight firms are - One 97 Communication, owner of Paytm; FSN E-Commerce Ventures, which runs online marketplace Nykaa, Policybazaar's parent entity PB Fintech, Fino Payments Bank, Latent View Analytics, Sapphire Foods India, SJS Enterprises and Sigachi Industries.

So far in 2021, as many as 49 companies have floated



their IPOs to raise ₹1.01 lakh crore, according to an analysis of data with exchanges.

Apart from these, PowerGrid InvIT, the infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) sponsored by the Power Grid Corporation of India, mopped-up ₹7,735 crore through its IPO and Brookfield India Real Estate Trust raised ₹3,800 crore via its initial share sale.

The fundraising so far this year is way higher than ₹26,611crore collected by 15 companies through initial share-sales in the entire 2020.

Such impressive fundraising through IPOs was last seen in 2017 when firms mobilised ₹67,147 crore through 36 initial share sales. Individually, Tarsons Products and Go

Fashion are looking to raise ₹1,024 crore and ₹1,014 crore, respectively, through their public listing of shares.

Tarsons Products' initial share sale comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth ₹150 crore an offer for sale of 1.32 crore equity shares by promoters and an investor.

As a part of the OFS, promoters -Sanjive Sehgal will offload up to 3.9 lakh equity shares, and Rohan Sehgal will sell up to 3.1 lakh equity shares - and investor Clear Vision Investment Holdings Pte Ltd will divest up to 1.25 crore equity shares.The IPO price band has been set at ₹635-662 a share, and at the upper end of the price band, the public issue is expected to fetch ₹1,024 crore.

Paytm share allocation likely on Nov 16 at ₹2,150 apiece

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Digital payments and financial services firm Paytm is likely to allocate shares at the upper price band of ₹2,150 apiece on November 16 after market regulator SEBI's approval which is expected to come on Monday, sources aware of the development said.

Earlier the allocation was expected to take place on Monday and the Paytm Money app also displayed the same.

“Paytm share allocation is likely to take place on Tuesday after approval of SEBI. The approval from SEBI is expected to come on Monday,” one of the sources said. Based on the bid received for Paytm's ₹18,300 crore initial public offer (IPO), the company will list an enterprise valuation of ₹1,49,428 crore or slightly over USD 20 billion at an exchange rate of 74.35.The country's biggest IPO was subscribed 1.89 times with institutional buyers including FII's flooding the share sale with offers seeking 2.79 times the number of shares reserved for them.

Sitharaman to meet CMs, State FMs

DISCUSS REFORM-FOCUSED BUSINESS CLIMATE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will on Monday meet all chief ministers and state finance ministers to discuss ways to create a reform-focused business climate and further facilitate investments to help boost growth.

In a tweet, the finance ministry said the virtual meeting on November 15 would be attended by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and Bhagwat Karad, besides secretaries of Government of India line ministries, chief secretaries and finance secretaries of states.

“Discussion to be centred on creating an enabling ecosystem for increased pro-active facilitation for investments besides topics of energizing growth, reforms, augmenting investments and creating a reform-focused business climate,” the ministry tweeted.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of strong economic recovery post the two Covid waves, and push by the central government to increase capital

expenditure. The Centre believes that there is scope to capitalise on the positive sentiment of the private sector, with increasing demand, amid lower non-performing assets and banks willing to lend more.

Union Finance Secretary TV Somanathan had last week said that the focus of this interaction will be on state-level issues, opportunities and challenges, which will enable us to go to a higher trajectory of investment and growth.

“There is capital expenditure from the government side, and there is a positive sentiment from the private sector side, though perhaps not fully translated into actual investment in big scale. Capital market activity indicates that a lot of investment is probably on the cards,” Somanathan had said.

After a slowdown in economic growth due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the first quarter of the current fiscal has seen a pickup in economic activity. Indian economy contracted 7.3 per cent in the last financial year after a 4 per cent growth in 2019-20.

GST officers unearth ₹34 crore ITC fraud

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST officers have unearthed ₹34 crore input tax credit fraud, involving seven firms, the Finance Ministry said on Sunday.

The seven firms were created to generate bogus GST invoices, with an intent to pass on fraudulent ITC without actual movement of goods and without paying goods and Services Tax (GST) to the Government.

“Based upon specific intelligence, the officers of the Anti Evasion branch of Central Goods and Service Tax (CGST) Commissionerate, Delhi (East) have unearthed a case of avilment /utilisation and passing on of inadmissible input tax credit (ITC) through bogus GST invoices without actual movement of goods of ₹34 crore (approx),” the ministry said in a statement.

These entities have generated fake GST invoices of value ₹220 crore (approx) and passed inadmissible ITC amounting to ₹34 crore (approx).

“Rishabh Jain was the mastermind behind running this racket of creating bogus firms and generating/selling bogus

These entities have generated fake GST invoices of value ₹220 crore (approx) and passed inadmissible ITC amounting to ₹ 34 crore (approx)

GST invoices,” the statement added.

The modus operandi involved creating multiple firms with the intent to avail/utilise and passing on of inadmissible credit.

The firms involved in this network are M/s Blue Ocean, M/s Highjack Marketing, M/s Kannha Enterprises, M/s S S Traders, M/s Evernest Enterprises, M/s Gyan Overseas and M/s Viharsh Exporters Pvt Ltd.

Jain was arrested on November 13 and remanded to judicial custody by the duty Metropolitan Magistrate till November 26, 2021.

Taxpayers can now access new I-T annual information statement on e-filing portal

New Delhi:The Income Tax department on Sunday said taxpayers can now access the new Annual Information Statement (AIS), which includes additional categories of information like interest, dividends, securities and MF transactions, and remittances from abroad, on the e-filing portal.The I-T department had last month expanded the list of high-value financial transactions, which would be available to taxpayers in their Form 26AS by including details of mutual fund (MF) purchases, foreign remittances, as well as

information in ITRs of other taxpayers.

Form 26AS is an annual consolidated tax statement that can be accessed from the income-tax website by taxpayers using their Permanent Account Number (PAN).

“AIS provides ease of access! It can be accessed now on the e-filing portal & downloaded easily in downloadable formats of PDF, CSV & JSON (machine-readable format). Click on link ‘AIS’ under ‘Services’ tab on <http://incometax.Gov.In>,” the I-T department tweeted. **PTI**

FPIs remain net sellers in Nov at ₹949 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net sellers in the Indian markets to the tune of ₹949 crore in the first half of November.

As per the depositories data, they pulled out ₹4,694 crore from equities between November 1-12.At the same time, they pumped ₹ 3,745 crore in the debt segment.This translated into total net withdrawal of ₹949 crore.

In October, FPIs remained net sellers at ₹ 12,437 crore.

FPIs have been worried about higher valuations of Indian equities, which continue to trade near all-time high levels, said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India.

FPIs sitting on profit, would have chosen to book the same which is reflected in the flow trend over the last few weeks, he said.

Global trends to guide markets in holiday-shortened week ahead: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Stock markets will focus on global trends for further direction in this holiday-shortened week as the earnings season is largely over, analysts said. Trade experts expect the key benchmark indices to move sideways as investors are trying to decode the impact of rising inflation on foreign portfolio investments.

Inflation data released by the US and China last week have fanned fears of earlier than expected rate hike and boosted US bond yields.

The US inflation hit a 30-year high level of 6.2 per cent YoY in October. China's CPI rose 1.5 per cent YoY, while the producer price index rose by 13.5 per cent YoY owing to imported inflation and domestic supply shortages.

Inflation concerns and the possibility an early rate hike can keep local stocks on edge as such indicators tempt foreign investors to pump out funds from emerging markets like India.

Indian stock markets declined for three days in a row last before a sharp recovery on Friday last due to inflation worries.

Despite three days of losses, the 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 619.07 points or 1.03 per cent last week.

“We were seeing stock-specific movement amid the Q2 earning session and now the market's focus will shift to global cues,” said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

“Given that most of the quarterly results and festive mood is behind us, indices are expected to move sideways. As markets across the world are trying to decode the implications of rising inflation, any intensive selling by FIIs may take Indian indices lower, unless the domestic players provide support,” Yesha Shah, Head of Equity Research, Samco Securities said.

WPI inflation data is scheduled to be announced on Monday.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड रायपुर (छ.ग.)			
ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना			
निविदा प्रपत्र “A” में एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहस्र श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से JJM के रेगुलरिफिर्न/सिंगल विलेज नलजल प्रदाय योजनांतर्गत निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।			
एन.आई.टी. क्रमांक/दिनांक/सिस्टम/टेंडर क्र.	कार्य का नाम	लगत (लाख में)	
270/02.11.21.86500	विकासखंड घरसीवा के ग्राम सांकरा एव पण्डसदटा	222.10	
271/02.11.21.86501	विकासखंड घरसीवा के ग्राम सिलसारी एवं मोहागवा	201.28	
272/02.11.21.86502	विकासखंड तिल्ला के ग्राम बिडिया एवं परसदा (क)	156.33	
273/02.11.21.86503	विकासखंड अमनपुर के ग्राम खट्टी एवं उल्ला	150.71	
274/02.11.21.86501	विकासखंड अमनपुर के ग्राम पवेड़ा एवं मंदलो	189.48	
275/02.11.21.86505	विकासखंड अमनपुर के ग्राम पोखंड एवं गोसियाखंडी	235.01	
276/02.11.21.86506	विकासखंड अमनपुर के ग्राम सकरी एवं भाटापारा बेलर	148.31	
277/02/11.21.86507	विकासखंड अमनपुर के ग्राम पलौद, पंथी एवं गौरसाट	284.10	
नोट:- उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर सशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https://cproc.cgstate.gov.in अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in में दिनांक 02.11.2021 से देखी जा सकती है एवं निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 23.11.2021 होगी।			
		हस्ता /—	कार्यपालन अभियंता,
R.O No.-: 65074/11			लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड,
R.O Date:- 12/11/2021			रायपुर (छ.ग.)

FORM NO. INC-26	
[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies(Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another	
Before the Central Government Through Regional Director, Northern Region, Delhi.	
In the matter of sub-section (4)of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014	
AND	
In the matter of M/s Safran Electrical & Power India Private Limited having its registered office at 201A & 202, 2nd Floor, Worldmark 2, Assets Area 8, Aerocity, NH-8, IGI Airport, New Delhi, South West Delhi 110037,India	
...Applicant	
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extraordinary general meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd Day of March, 2021 at 01.30 A.M. at the Registered Office of the Company Situated at 201A & 2021, 2nd Floor, Worldmark 2, Assets Area 8, Aerocity, NH-8, IGI Airport, New Delhi South West Delhi - 110037, India to enable the company to change its Registered office from the "NCT of Delhi" to the "State of Telangana".	
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing Investor Complaint Form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Northern Region at B-2 Wing 2nd Floor Pariyavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003, India, within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:	
201A & 2021, 2nd Floor, Worldmark 2, Assets Area 8, Aerocity, NH-8, IGI Airport, New Delhi South West Delhi-110037, India.	
For and on behalf of the Applicant M/s Safran Electrical & Power India Private Limited Sd/- VIKRAM BHARDWAJ Director DIN: 02885343	
Date: 15th November, 2021 Place: Delhi	

Wisemore Advisory Private Limited					
CIN : U74999HR2017PTC085774					
Regd Office : AR1017B, The Aralias, DLF Golf Links, Gurgaon, Haryana-122009					
Statement of Unaudited financial results for the period ended 30 September 2021					
(Amounts in INR thousand, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated)					
Particulars	Quarter ended 30 September 2021	Quarter ended 30 September 2020	6 months ended 30 September 2021	6 months ended 30 September 2020	Year ended 31 March 2021
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	Audited
Total Income from Operations	1,37,663	300	1,37,688	305	405
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(38,235)	(1,95,871)	(2,05,393)	(3,92,088)	(6,82,855)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)#	(38,235)	(1,95,871)	(2,05,393)	(3,92,088)	(6,82,855)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)#	(38,235)	(1,95,871)	(2,05,393)	(3,92,088)	(6,82,855)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	26,77,511	12,41,252	25,10,353	10,45,035	6,84,234
Paid up Equity Share Capital	8,69,169	8,69,169	8,69,169	8,69,169	8,69,169
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	30,45,545	8,95,994	30,45,545	8,95,994	5,35,192
Equity component of compulsory convertible debentures	-	-	-	-	-
Share premium	-	-	-	-	-
Net worth**	39,14,714	17,65,163	39,14,714	17,65,163	14,04,361
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt*	20,63,768	46,72,182	20,63,768	46,72,182	49,84,943
Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares * Debt Equity Ratio *	0.53	2.65	0.53	2.65	3.55
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
1. Basic :	(0.44)	(2.25)	(2.31)	(4.81)	(7.86)
2. Diluted :	(0.44)	(2.25)	(2.31)	(4.81)	(7.86)
Capital Redemption Reserve *	-	-	-	-	-
Debtenture Redemption Reserve *	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	0.78	-	0.39	-	(0.01)
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.78	-	0.39	-	(0.01)
Current ratio	1.57	0.14	1.57	0.14	0.22
Long Term Debt to Working Capital	10.80	(73.90)	10.80	(73.90)	(120.89)
Bad debts to Account receivable Ratio	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Current Liability Ratio	0.10	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.01
Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio	0.29	0.63	0.29	0.63	0.68
Debtors Turnover Ratio	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inventory Turnover Ratio	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Operating margin (%)	(8640%)	40%	(12424%)	76%	(1066%)
Net profit margin (%)	(152939%)	(65290%)	(410787%)	(130696%)	(170714%)
Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securites and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.					
- Credit Rating : CARE BB - (CE)					
- Change in credit rating : No					
- Asset Coverage Ratio : 0% (31 March, 2021 : 0%)					
- Debt Equity ratio : mentioned above					
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above					
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above					
- Current ratio : mentioned above					
- Long Term Debt to Working Capital : mentioned above					
- Bad debts to Account receivable Ratio : mentioned above					
- Current Liability Ratio : mentioned above					
- Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio : mentioned above					
- Debtors Turnover Ratio : mentioned above					
- Operating margin (%) = (Profit for the year+ Tax expenses + Finance costs - Other income) / (Revenue from operations) : mentioned above					
- Net profit margin (%) = Profit for the year / Revenue from operations : mentioned above					
- Previous due date for the payment of interest/ repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities and whether the same has been paid or not : Paid on 24th Aug 2021.					
- Previous due date for the payment of interest : 24th August, 2021					
- Previous due date for the payment of principal : 24th August, 2021					
- Next due date for the payment of interest/ repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities.					
- Next due date for the payment of interest : 20 Nov, 2022					
- Next due date for the payment of principal : 20 Nov, 2022					
- Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value) : Not Applicable					
- Net Worth ** (30 Sep, 2021) : INR 39,19,351 (31 March, 2021 : INR 14,04,361)					
- Net profit after tax : mentioned above					
- Earning per share : mentioned above					
- Debtenture Redemption Reserve (30 Sep, 2021) : INR Nil (31 March, 2021 : Nil)					
- There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7))					
Notes :					
1 Ratios have been computed as follows :					
- Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares					
- Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + loan from related party - unamortize fees)					
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, tax and depreciation / (Total Interest Expense).					
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = ((PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustment, if any) + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment+Guarantee fee).					
- Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders)					
*As per Debenture Trust Deed dated 20 September, 2017.					
** Generation based incentive have been included in computation of Project Revenues realised					
** Ratios as mentioned above are not given w.r.t. debts other than Debentures issued on 26 September 2017.					
** Networth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves and Surplus includes Capital reserve, General reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance.					
2 For the other line items referred in Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and can be accessed on the URL (https://www.nseindia.com).					
3 The statement has been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles laid down in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard 34 'Interim Financial Reporting' (Ind AS 34') as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act') read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and relevant rules issued thereunder and other recognized accounting practices and policies.					
4 The company is in the business of Providing management consultancy services. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 'Operating Segments'.					
5 The above results have been approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on November 13, 2021. The figures of the quarter ended September 30, 2021 are the balancing figures between figures in respect of the respective half year ended September 30, 2021 and unaudited and unreviewed management internal reporting figures for the quarter ended June 30, 2021. However, management has exercised necessary due diligence to ensure that the financial results for the periods provide a true and fair view of the Company's affairs.					
6 The financial information for the corresponding quarter ended September 30, 2020 and half year ended September 30, 2020 to be included in the Statement of Financial Results and the Statement of Cash Flows, respectively, have not been furnished by the Company in the accompanying Statement pursuant to the relaxation provided in the SEBI Circular SEBI/HO/DDHS/CIR/2021/0000000637 dated October 5, 2021.					
7 Tax expense includes Current Tax and Deferred Tax charge.					
8 CARE Ratings have assigned long term issuer rating and rating for the outstanding non-convertible debentures of the Company to "CARE BB- (CE)" with stable outlook.					
9 Previous period figures have been re-grouped / re-classified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification in order to comply with the requirements of the amended Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 effective 1 st April 2021.					
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors					
(Sd./) Vaishali Nigam Sinha,					
Managing Director. DIN : 02299472					
Place : Gurugram					
Date : 13 th November, 2021					

PURVI ROHIT PUGALIA helps curate the perfect formal attire for women, with a classy office-look

Suit up

India, with all its diverse cultural and work-appropriate attires, from classy ethnic outfits to the chic western formals, presents countless options for formal wear for women. Tasteful yet trendy dressing at the workplace adds to the oomph and rewards you with confidence.

Choosing the right kind of attire for the office is a dilemma that you can barely escape. And spending hours staring at your closet is a ritual common to many. However, contrary to popular belief, you do not require a separate wardrobe to be able to dress your best at work. All you need to do is be able to throw in an ensemble that ropes in sartorial elegance effortlessly.

These six steps will help you make a lasting impression in the boardroom.

CHOOSE YOUR FORMAL ATTIRE

Indian fashion is renowned for its numerous choice options in formal wear. You can choose from either Indian formals such as sarees or salwar suits and kurtis with leggings or opt for western formals that comprise of dresses, shirts and trousers or blouses and skirts. Each of these has a unique appeal and you can alternate between them as you see fit.

GET THE FIT

Choosing formal attire goes only that far. The bigger deal is to get the right fit. Altered clothes are a styling wizard you did not know you needed. People are habituated to picking up clothes off the rack and wearing them to work without paying atten-



tion to minor fitting details. Everyone's shape is unique and your clothes must look like they were made for you. Get the tops or kurtis altered to suit your body-type and the bottoms tailored to give you a clean and trim look.

PICK YOUR COLOURS

Choosing the right colours to suit your workspace will take your professional personality a notch higher. Go for shades that are restful on the eyes like pastels and powdered tints, blacks and beiges and blues and browns. A few solid and bold colours can make a great fashion statement, too, if you can carry them off effortlessly.

MATCH YOUR SHOES

No formal outfit is complete without the right pair of shoes to go with it. However, a common conundrum is to choose what goes with the outfit the best. Stilettos or pointed heels are a corporate favourite and look classy when paired with slim trousers and a blouse. Whereas if you are sporting an Indian formal attire, then platform heels or strappy sandals

with the outfit is a job well done.

AMP IT UP WITH ACCESSORIES

The right kind of accessories can add an extra edge to your workwear. It is the ideal personality-enhancer. However, an unsaid rule with jewellery is that a little goes a long way. Go for classic studs and solitaires, while the neck-pieces also should be preferably dainty. Strap a modish watch and a bracelet and you are set to rule the corporate glam look.

COMPLIMENT WITH A BAG

A huge part of power-dressing has to do with the bag you carry. They speak for themselves when it comes to making a style statement. A bag that compliments office-wear for women must be sophisticated and roomy enough for files or a notepad. A tote bag is ideal as it sets a serious tone, followed by a satchel or a structured boxy bag. Brief-case bags, too, can help if you wish to exude classiness.

(The author is the co-founder-of Not So Pink, a western workwear brand.)

WEBBED



THE WHEEL OF TIME

Adapted from the novels by Robert Jordan, the story revolves around five villagers who cross paths with Moiraine, a member of a magical organisation. She claims that one of them is the reincarnation of a dragon and is prophesied to save the world, taking them on the journey of a life-time. It starts streaming from November 19 on Amazon Prime Video.



CYANIDE – THE STORY OF A SERIAL KILLER

The antagonist is a serial killer who kills women by giving them cyanide pills, claiming they are contraceptive pills post marrying them. His preys are those who couldn't find a perfect match or were under pressure of dowry. It starts streaming from November 19 on ULLU.



HAWKEYE

Based in New York City in the immediate aftermath of *Avengers: Endgame*, the mini-series shows Clint Barton, the master archer, working together with the young archer, Kate Bishop, to confront enemies from his past. It starts streaming from November 24 on Disney+.

Still fair and lovely?

The Betterhalf.ai survey estimates revealed a few crucial factors that influence the partner-search process on a match-making site, with a majority of youth considering 'looks' as the most impressionistic. By PAWAN GUPTA

We all have seen the matrimony listings in newspapers describing the type of brides or grooms one requires. It usually mentions the need for an educated, homely yet modern bride from a specific caste/religion with the most widely used attribute — 'fair-skinned and beautiful'. Even though we live in a digitally-driven world where young urban Indians search for their partner online, the criteria to make a decision remains the same.

Considering the match-making requirements of young Indians, Betterhalf.ai recently conducted an online survey to see the most important factors that people consider while searching for their partner and how important they feel to overcome these factors. The survey estimates revealed a few crucial factors that influence the partner-search process behind the mobile screens.

According to the findings, 43 per cent of single Indians out of 286 respondents consider 'looks' as the first thing on a matrimonial profile. Though the factor is based on a materialistic approach, single Indians consider 'looks' before showing interest in a matrimony bio. On the other hand, 22 per cent of respondents consider age, 19 per cent the profession, while 16 per cent look at the salary first on a matrimony profile.

While we talk about creating a social identity for everyone, we should also understand that online representation of a person on match-making sites is also crucial and the pictures you put up are the first impression of you. So, looks here do not necessarily mean that you are good-looking or bad-looking, but the placement of pictures, quality of pictures, variation of pictures that makes a profile interesting and trustworthy can also be the make-or-break point for profiles in an online world.

Moral of the story? Investing time in creating your online identity can actually work in your favour. Most of the single young millennials are in the process of finding a life partner for themselves. While the partner-search is an anxious process, the traditional way of weeding out the profiles is based on the criteria leveraged by factors like a similar or higher family income bracket, caste, age, religion, *kundli* and language, to name a few.

During the partner-search process, nowadays, people also consider profession and salary before



showing their interest in the profile, over other traditional criterias of considering caste, religion, community and culture.

The survey also stressed whether marriages in India will ever be able to overcome the traditional factors of match-making or not. The findings reveal that 58 per cent believe these factors are not their primary filters while 42 per cent find them pretty important. The findings clearly state that the problems of casteism, ageism, and religion hugely influence the process of finding a life partner in our country. However, the mindset of urban Indians is slowly and steadily shifting towards a more realistic approach based on compatibility rather than outdated matchmaking criterias.

Considering the influx of options that the online world is showcasing, busy single Indians look for better and efficient matrimony sites and apps tailored to meet their specific modern preferences. The life partner-search process has been gradually changing and becoming more logical than a dreamy fairy tale.

(The author is the CEO of Betterhalf.ai, India's first matrimonial application without parents' involvement.)

Social media is another factor that is outweighed by its adverse effects over the good it does. Social media can make you feel anxious, depressed and may even portray you as a failure. The reason behind this negative impact is that the social media sites constantly are being updated with photos and statuses of your friends, colleagues, or even family members enjoying, partying, travelling, landing the perfect jobs, or getting married. Somehow it makes you feel like everyone is living the dream and you are stuck at home with your parents, or living a debt-laden life due to your education or with the house loan hanging over you. We need to realise that we have not needed social media for thousands of years so we should not think that life is over if we don't have it.

Social media may promote negative experiences such as:

❑Feeling little

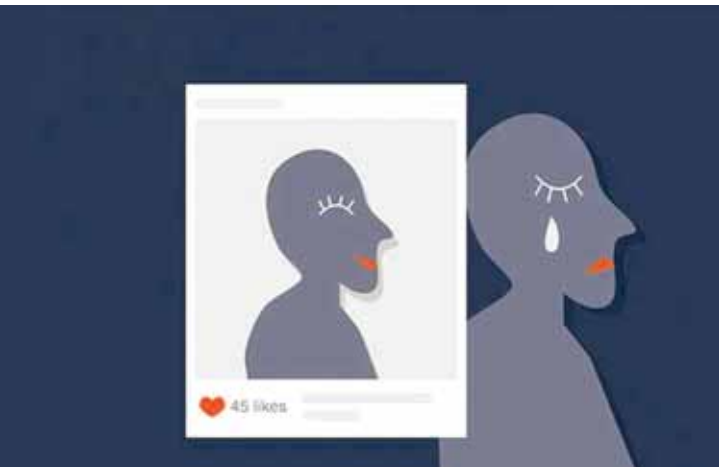
Usually, images on social media are manipulated, but it still successfully raises a concern and insecurity in the viewer's life. However, we need to be aware that it is the highs that the people are focussing on in their social media posts, and tend to leave out the lows. The smiles and achievements create a sense of envy and dissatisfaction within as you are scrolling through a friend's profile centered around a beach vacation or a promotion on the professional front, and so on.

❑Feeling left out

Social media platforms have the ability to aggravate feelings of being left out as the others are out having fun or living a life you wanted. The idea of missing out on certain things can impact your self-esteem, trigger anxiety, and fuel even greater social media usage/abuse. It even induces you to pick, scroll and check for updates every couple of minutes or obsessively react to every alert — even if that means taking risks while you're driving, missing out on sleep at night, or prioritising social media interaction over real-world relationships.

Web v/s mental health

Limiting your exposure to social media will reduce your anxiety and depression, says ANUJA KAPUR



❑Isolation

A study shows that intense usage of social media platforms aggravates the feeling of loneliness rather than subsidising it. The study further highlighted that reducing social media usage can make you feel less lonely and isolated and improve your well-being.

❑Mental health problems

Human beings need face-to-face contact to be mentally healthy. Nothing reduces stress and boosts your mood faster or more effectively than eye-to-eye contact with someone who cares about you. The more you prioritise social media interaction over in-person relationships, the more you're at risk for developing or exacerbating mood disorders such as anxiety and depression.

❑Being a victim of cyber attacks

Most teenagers have been subjected to cyberbullying on social media, especially facing offensive comments. Social media platforms are a hotspot for

spreading hurtful rumours, lies, and abuses that can leave lasting emotional scars.



❑Feelings of self-centeredness

Sharing constant selfies and your inmost feelings on social platforms tends to carve an unfit and inconsiderate being, distancing you from the real life scenarios.

To alter your life positively and make it worthy, try a social media detox. With no notifications to check, no photos to look at, and no tweets to retweet, you will notice your productivity and happiness going up in life. Thus, here are a couple of reasons for avoiding the social media:

- ♦♦Going off social media improves your sleep by preventing information overload.
- ♦♦In order to avoid being manipulated
- ♦♦Your data with the media sites is for sale, irrespective of the privacy you are insured.
- ♦♦Social media is one of the biggest factors in the elevation of your compulsive behaviours
- ♦♦It spells discontent and loneliness in life
- ♦♦Time is of the essence but social media is just a killer of it

Speaking of your well-being, getting off of social media is good for your overall health. Research shows that limiting your exposure to social media reduces anxiety and depression. It directly reflects with an improvement in your work performance by not getting distracted constantly by social media. While social media is a great tool to keep in touch with people all over the world, nothing beats engaging with people face-to-face. If you can't delete your social media accounts, try limiting your usage.

(The author is a psychologist and a mental health expert.)

TRENDBLAZER



MUKERJI RECALLS HER 'YOUNG CRUSH'

Bollywood actress **RANI MUKERJI**, who will appear as a special guest on *The Kapil Sharma Show*, opens up about the people in the industry she has had a crush on.

She recalls, "I was nervous doing romantic scenes with Aamir and Shah Rukh for *Ghulam* and *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. I was 16 or 17 years old and had previously watched Aamir and Shah Rukh on the silver screen."

"My heart started beating faster after I first saw Aamir in *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*. And after watching Shahrukh in *DDLJ*, I felt like, you know, what we call a 'young crush'," the *Mardaani* star adds.

fairtalk

RAFTAAR



'The song *Ghana Kasooti* fits in beautifully with the show's narrative. This is the first time I have integrated my non-film music in a television series and I am mighty excited. Just like the song, which is all about living life to its fullest, being grateful for being alive and regaling in the feeling of being awesome, my on-air appearance leverages those feelings during the scene in *Bade Ache Lage Hain 2*.'

dailytalk

URFI JAVED



'I think Karan Kundrra is playing a game with Nishant, whereas Nishant is still a loyal friend to him. We just stayed together for a week but still bonded well. After coming out of the house, he messaged me and that speaks volume about his character. If I go inside the house, I'll ask him to be careful and play for himself.'

SUPERMAN THINKS HE LOOKED FAT

Actor **HENRY CAVILL** looks back at the time he was test-shooting for *Man Of Steel*. He confesses that wearing the Superman costume for the first time felt like an achievement.

Cavill shares, "If I'm going to be honest, what was going through my mind was, 'Lord, I'm too fat to be wearing this suit right now'. And also — 'I can't believe I'm actually doing this'."

"There was a sense of excitement, achievement and nervousness," he adds.



BREAKING THE NORMS

Film maker and director S ASHWIN tells MITHILA NAIK-SATAM that his latest feature film, *Vrutti*, aims to hold up a mirror to society

This year, Marathi film *Vrutti* (meaning, human nature) made its debut at the International Film Festival of South Asia, Toronto, Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, and at the DC South Asian Film Festival. The film is a tale of caste discrimination explored through a friendship of two adolescent boys, Akshay (Krushna Thakur) and Viju (Piyush Thakare Madan). It emphasises upon how class and caste discrimination are passed on to the younger generation through adults who find it difficult to see friendship develop between young minds belonging to different castes.

"If something bothers you, make a film about it," shares the Mumbai-based filmmaker and director S Ashwin about his feature film that pushed the audience come face to face with the umbilical cord that the country still finds difficult to cut. "The film is an attempt to take their blinkers off," shared twenty-seven-year-old Ashwin.

"The idea is to hold a mirror up to society. The intention is not to change society but to get the audience to ask the right questions," expresses Ashwin who has made 30 short films in the last decade. Through his films, this young director has touched upon different issues.

With no formal training, Ashwin believes that one does not need to go to a film school since no one can teach you how to tell a story — "It is all you." In a



fluke incident, he made a short film on suicide prevention as part of his college festival in 2011, after which he received appreciation for his work and was told that he had a flair for dark comedy - a genre he did not know existed! This is when he knew that he wanted to tell stories that aim to break societal norms.

Vrutti, initially written as a short film, has emerged from the mythological tale of friendship between Krishna and Sudama. "It is always touted as the bond that knew no



boundaries of caste, creed, or social status. I wanted to recapture that virtue of friendship and blend it in the bewitching innocence that children possess," explains Ashwin.

Speaking of *Vrutti*, he mentions, "The film deals with the often-unaddressed issue of caste. The film has many instances as to how difficult it can be to achieve minor and essential commodities - if you belong to a certain community."

"It wasn't easy to get children to act on cue, but the workshops organised with the child actors came in handy.

After spending hours with these children reading our script, I started understanding them better. In fact, not all the actors cast in the film are actors! I had spotted Krushna (who plays Akshay) at a restaurant, and I knew that instant he was the Akshay to the Viju," reveals Ashwin.

The film creatively juxtaposes the characters in a quaint village with rustic charm and picturesque locations. It not only asks difficult questions but answers them boldly. As promised, it does the important deed of making one question these norms. Several carefully crafted scenes (that might go unnoticed) have toyed with the element of color to display the covert identities of caste. As

per the director, the film is a peek into 24 hours that changed some lives forever.

The film brilliantly meanders through the hard labor some communities have to embrace as their reality. "Friends are family we choose. But what if your family does not let you choose your friends?" asks Ashwin at the end of the conversation. It is about time that social films like *Vrutti* take the center stage and push masses out of their comfort zone to look inward and question their own belief about the caste system. Hope people get to see this film soon in cinemas or on OTT platforms.

—Charkha Features



Facing your fears

RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI emphasises on the importance of inner strength and its nourishment

Most of us have heard about inner strength or inherent power, but not many of us know about its real meaning. So, what is inner strength? How does it help us in practical life? And what exactly nourishes inner strength?

These are a few questions that we need to think over to get the right answer. There is no doubt about it that everyone needs inner strength, regardless of their business, profession, vocation, occupation. Why? Because it provides will power which helps one to sail through critical situations.

It is a very well-known fact that when people do something good, they naturally want the world to know about it and appreciate them for it. However, if they do something bad, they prefer that no one should know and hence they try to hide it. As a matter of fact, a person who has developed a personal ethical policy of not defaming or insulting anyone generates considerable inner strength from this inner discipline and consequently receives deep love and respect from others. In the process of consolidating such an ethical policy, one becomes sensitive to the feelings of others, as well as generating the inner power to tolerate unpleasant truths about self, and realise what personal changes are required. Making those changes permanent and indelible is a proof of inner integrity and strength. Practising such self-restraint generates the power to tolerate various social and personal challenges, defamation and the phenomenon of having ones motivations questioned. It mitigates any remaining hunger for praise, recognition and regard.

One must always keep in mind that we are all on a journey of lifelong learning. Hence, learning to let go of ego, dishonesty or superficial interaction with others is not a small thing. There are many fears to be faced and in this whole journey, the heart is often broken, disillusioned and in pain. We try best to cover these wounds with many attractive bandages, but eventually we need to remove them and begin the process of healing the wounds and become whole again. It sounds simple while reading, but practically it is not so easy to develop an attitude of renunciation and decide to live simply, economically and with ease and freedom. Why? Simply because we all are deeply attached to our limitations and the chains that bind us. Moreover, individual karmic accounts have led to accumulation of unlimited negativity in ones sanskaras, compelling souls to forget their true, loving nature of peace and love and behave rudely. Today we see that the vices of greed have penetrated all levels in society, be it political, civil or even medicine. With massive scandals happening on a daily basis, there has been a "trust deficit" in society at a mass scale, putting entire humanity in turmoil. Under such a scenario, how can one even think of experiencing inner power and inner peace?

The only hope for humankind under such a crisis lies in the almighty's wisdom and connectivity, by which we feel blessed, energetic & secured, for it is this divine wisdom which empowers us to have a clear vision of ourselves and our roles in this worlds drama. With trust and courage, if we take a step of determination, we would surely receive the strength to shed the false accoutrements and make ourselves clean and free from dependencies. Remember that it is a small price to pay for the great gain of personal freedom, fulfilment and independence.



What's on the inside, shows outside

ANUJA KAPUR elaborates on the mind-body connection and shares ways to prevent your emotions from affecting your health

We, humans, experience thoughts and emotions that can affect our health in various ways. Emotions are an essential part of our health. Emotionally strong people are usually in the power of their feelings, thoughts, and expressions. They're better able to cope with the challenges that life throws towards them. It is significant to understand that only emotions which are free of judgment and attachment are the ones that dont affect the body negatively.

However, restrained negative emotions can deviate our mental energy and affect our mind and body negatively, sometimes leading to health problems. It is

crucial to acknowledge our thoughts and emotions to comprehend the effects they can impose on our bodies, behavior, and relationships. The human body reciprocates in the way it thinks, feels, and acts; this is what we call the mind-body connection. If a person is distressed, nervous, or troubled their body will signal that something is wrong. The symptoms could be a problem like high blood pressure, stomach ulcer, change in diet, insomnia, et al. Many people are afraid to express strong emotions because they fear losing control. This exercise can help you to own your emotions and learn how to express them in a safe and healthy way.

□Begin with identifying what you are feeling in the moment.

□Practise expressing yourself freely. Always own your emotions. Never try and live in denial; whatever the situation is always face it without any fear.

□If at any point you are not



definite about yourself in the company then try expressing your emotions when you are alone. Once you are calm and

sure about yourself then open up about your feelings.

□Eventually put your practice to the test by using it in chal-

lenging situations. Remember not to play the blame-game and always remain open-minded during the conversation.

□Calm your mind and body. Relaxation methods, such as meditation, are useful ways to bring your emotions into balance. Meditation is a form of guided thought. It can take many forms. For example, you may do it by exercising, stretching, or breathing deeply. Ask your family doctor for advice about relaxation methods.

□Take care of yourself. To have good emotional health, its important to look after your health. In order to do so, it is essential to consume nourishing meals, getting enough sleep, and working out to relieve the tensed muscles and emotions. Another factor to keep in mind is to limit the usage of drugs and alcohol. Using drugs or alcohol will just add to your problems.

In tough situations, it is vital to keep up your spirit as it will enable you to experience

rough emotions like pain, sorrow, frustration, and grief without scattering. Spirited people do not refuse the misery or suffering they are experiencing; rather, they sustain a sense of positivity that assists them to get the better of the negative effects. Some people have the ability to look at stirring times with optimism and promise, knowing that their adversity will lead to personal growth and an expanded outlook on life.

A well managed emotional state allows one to be a contributing factor to society and work with complete efficiency. It can help you to be more cognisant and reap the benefits of your full potential. Research provides evidence that a spirited mental state promotes controlled blood pressure, reduced risk of heart disease, and a healthier weight.

(The author is a psychologist, qualified victimologist and the founder of Nirbhiya Ek Shakti, an NGO which specialises in victim assistance.)

The art of life

SAKSHI SHREE says there is a right time to hold on and let go



would stagnate and never be able to arrive at a decision that will take us forward in life. So you also need to practice the art of letting go, surrender your thoughts at the right time and making a decision with the knowledge that you have.

Our relationships, moments of joys, family, success, and our friends — we want them to be permanent in our lives, but we forget that the very nature of this life is temporary. All our thoughts and emotions are temporary and we must not associate ourselves with our thoughts. Associating ourselves with materialism is what makes us unhappy. Rather, we must try and practice the art of just watching our thoughts without judging them or being attached to them, irrespective of whether they are pleasant or not. This philosophy is known as stoicism and can work wonders for you if you are struggling with stress and anxiety.

You simply have to remove the pebbles and stones which are standing as a blockade just like a gardener has to weed out the field for getting the

plants to bloom. Similarly, you have to throw out all the repressed emotions and feelings that have been blocking the great reservoir of inner joy within you. You cannot live a joyful life if you cannot throw away all the baggage youve been carrying on in the form of repressed emotions and feelings, unfulfilled desires, hurt, guilt, and shame that youve collected over the years.

Journaling is a powerful tool for letting go of the past. Practice journaling every morning to throw away all the negative thoughts that have been silently eating you from within. Let all the negative thoughts come into your mind and start writing them on paper as they appear. Also, note down the feelings associated with that thought; like a strong desire to cry, run away, or maybe hit somebody. Note down everything without judging yourself or your thoughts. Practice this for a week and youll find that these thoughts have stopped bothering you slowly.

(The author is the founder of Science Divine, which aims to simplify spirituality.)

The sage is ready to use all situations and does not waste anything.
—Lao Tzu

CAN PARALYSIS BE CURED?

In a new study, published in the journal *Science*, researchers administered a single injection to tissues surrounding the spinal cords of paralysed mice. Just four weeks later, the animals regained the ability to walk.

By sending bioactive signals to trigger cells to repair and regenerate, the breakthrough therapy dramatically improved severely injured spinal cords in five key ways: (1) The severed extensions of neurons, called axons, regenerated; (2) scar tissue, which can create a physical barrier to regeneration and repair, significantly diminished; (3) myelin, the insulating layer of axons that is important in transmitting electrical signals efficiently, reformed around cells; (4) functional blood vessels formed to deliver nutrients to cells at the injury site; and (5) more motor neurons survived.

After the therapy performs its function, the materials biodegrade into nutrients for the cells within 12 weeks and then completely disappear from the body without noticeable side effects.



INSULIN STILL INACCESSIBLE FOR MANY

A century after it was discovered, insulin still remains out of reach for many people living with diabetes, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a study published on Saturday to commemorate the milestone anniversary, on the eve of World Diabetes Day, November 14.

Insulin was discovered as a treatment for diabetes almost 100 years ago and has been on WHO's list of essential medicines since it was published in 1977.

It is the bedrock of diabetes treatment as it turns a deadly disease into a manageable one for nine million people with Type-1 diabetes. For more than 60 million people living with Type-2 diabetes, insulin is essential in reducing the risk of kidney failure, blindness and limb amputation.

However, one out of every two people needing insulin for Type-2 diabetes does not get it, as per the study.



EFFECTS OF SCREEN TIME MISINTERPRETED?

The possibility that screen time during early childhood could cause poorer attention later in a child's life is a major concern for both parents and researchers. Earlier studies had suggested links between preschoolers screen time and difficulties with attention.

But there is no consensus among the research community that such a relationship exists, and conflicting results have emerged. Two studies based on data from the Growing Up in New Zealand (GUINZ) longitudinal cohort study may shed some new light on the issue, in the context of interactive media on offer for young children today.

These two findings suggest there is no causal link between screen time and symptoms of inattention and hyperactivity.



LONG COVID IS PSYCHOLOGICAL: STUDY

A large-scale French study suggesting symptoms of so-called Long Covid may be more due to psychological factors than to infection with the virus has sparked debate among patients and scientists.

The report that appeared earlier this week in the *Journal Of The American Medical Association* focused on nearly 27,000 participants across France who took antibody tests to screen for Covid infection.

After the subjects had received the antibody test results, researchers asked them whether they believed they had been infected with Covid and to report on symptoms like fatigue, breathlessness or impaired attention.

The vast majority of respondents -- over 25,000 people -- tested negative for Covid antibodies and believed they had never been sick.

Researchers found that people who believed they had had Covid, whether or not they had had a positive test, were more likely to report long-term symptoms.



INDIAS AC REQUIREMENT SET TO RISE STEEPLY

India's use of air-conditioning is likely to expand in the next two decades, covering 69 per cent of households, pushing the country's electricity requirement up by three times from the house cooling sector alone, according to a new study.

The world's second-most populous country, however, is not the only one to witness such a skyrocketing in AC-use, as similar trends would also be seen in Brazil, Mexico and Indonesia, says the study that came out in the middle of the UN climate summit in Glasgow where the world is negotiating how to minimise the emission of earth-warming gases released by power plants.

Currently, just about 13 per cent of Indian households have air-conditioning, which would increase to 69 per cent by 2040. Indonesia too would witness a steep rise from nine per cent to 61 per cent.



Marsh powers Aus to maiden T20 WC title

PTI ■ DUBAI

An injury-ravaged Mitchell Marsh finally found his night of reckoning and glory as he led Australia to their maiden T20 World Cup title with his stroke-filled 77 that fashioned his team's comfortable eight-wicket win over New Zealand, here on Sunday.

A target of 173 in a global final is never easy but Marsh with his power and reach made it look like a walk in the park in company of David Warner (53 off 38 balls), who also turned the wheels of fortune for himself and his team during a victory, achieved in 18.5 overs.

Marsh, a man of immense potential, who has never really done justice to his enormous talent, lit the Dubai's skyline with some ruthless stroke-play and it was one such night when Kane Williamson's touch of class was left in the shadow.

It's never the great feeling to watch Williamson as a 'tragic hero' but even in defeat, the

graceful Black Caps skipper would doff his hat for Marsh, who became Australia's 'Man for the Job', having been promoted to number three for this tournament.

There were twitched eyebrows for the better part but no more after the 'Super Sunday'.

It was a night when brute power defeated sheer artistry. Marsh hit six fours and four sixes, including a couple off monster ones off Ish Sodhi's (0/40 in 3 overs) bowling. One was a slog sweep and the second was a straight one down the ground.

Marsh, who took 50 balls for his knock, also ensured that Justin Langer got some breathing space ahead of the big Ashes after a tumultuous year at the helm. And for all the sceptics, who believe T20 cricket only needs short-format specialist, Australia won their first title with five Test specialists — three pacers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood — along with

Warner and Steve Smith in the side. After five ODI World Cup titles, Australia finally exorcised the ghosts and in the most professional manner under a cool but under-rated skipper Aaron Finch.

Warner, who was humiliated at this very venue by an Indian IPL franchise, who made him sit in the gallery with a flag in hand, played his part in their stand of 92 in just under 10 overs.

It was a tournament where Warner made a comeback after being down in dungeons for a very long time and showed the world that one should never mess with champions' egos.

Unlike New Zealand, who wasted the first 10, Marsh started the counter attack within the Powerplay as he took apart Adam Milne with a six, four and four to set the tone.

When Warner played the 'slap' shot off Sodhi, one knew that New Zealand will again have to come second best in this Trans-Tasman battle.



Put into bat, Williamson was brutal and artistic during his beautifully crafted knock of 85, which took New Zealand to a competitive 172 for four.

New Zealand literally struggled in the first 10 overs with Martin Gupthill's painful 28 off 35 balls slowing the pro-

ceedings. Williamson made the stage his own own with a grace of a 'ballet dancer' hitting 10 fours and three sixes in his 47-ball knock.

In the last 10 overs, New Zealand scored an astounding 115 runs to make a match of the 'Grand Finale'.

Williamson shifted gears with such ease that it was a treat to watch him play. The first 16 deliveries that he faced fetched him only 15 runs as Adam Zampa was back then in the midst of a good spell while Gupthill's scratchy form also affected the skipper.

But once, he decided that he needed to get a move-on, he hit all those copybook shots at his own free-will scoring 70 off the next 31 deliveries.

The Black Caps skipper showed why he is one of the modern-day greats during the back-10 as he strategically took the attack back to the opposition camp. He became the captain with the highest score in a T20 World Cup final surpassing Kumar Sangakkara.

He first turned the tide in the 11th over when he launched into Mitchell Starc (0/60 in 4 overs) taking 19 off his over including a dropped catch behind square by Josh Hazlewood.

The manner in which he creamed Starc through mid-off by charging down the track, was the most delightful one among the three that he smashed in that over.

When Starc came for his third over and team's 16th, his confidence was already shaken and Williamson made a mock-

ery of him with class of Test match batting mixed with a dash of T20 flair.

One for the ages was a 'pick-up flick' when Starc dragged one into his pads and it soared into the Dubai skyline before landing in the gallery. If Starc's second over was very bad, the worse came in his third which yielded the Kiwis 24 runs including four fours and a six.

It was a 'half-century' of ignominy that he would like to forget and also forgive Josh Hazlewood for what could possibly have been a 'match-turning' bungle.

Hazlewood (3/16 in 4 overs) though was pick of bowlers along with Adam Zampa (1/24 in 4 overs).

The first half of the night certainly belonged to Williamson, who again reiterated the age-old saying — a technically accomplished Test batter can play any format with authority as he did during an evening when it mattered the most.

Laxman to be next NCA head

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India batter VVS Laxman will be the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA), a senior BCCI official confirmed on Sunday.

Laxman will take over from his former batting colleague Rahul Dravid, who was recently appointed as chief coach of the Indian team following the end of Ravi Shastri's tenure, as reported by PTI on October 26.

"VVS Laxman will be the new head of NCA," the senior BCCI official told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

Laxman has already quit from his role as mentor of IPL



team Sunrisers Hyderabad and will also not be part of any commentary panel or write columns for newspapers to avoid conflict of interest clause violation.

It is understood that Laxman's appointment will come into effect before the BCCI's Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled to be held in Kolkata on December 4.

Laxman had initially declined the BCCI's offer as he was reluctant to shift base from Hyderabad as the NCA job will require him to stay in Bengaluru for a minimum of 200 days.

The two stalwarts of Indian cricket — Laxman and Dravid — will now work in tandem as the BCCI wants smooth co-ordination between the India chief coach and the NCA head.

Eyeing LA Olympics ICC COULD AWARD 2024 T20 WORLD CUP TO USA

Sydney: The USA is likely to host the T20 World Cup in 2024, which could serve as a launch pad in the ICC's bid for cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The ICC is expected to award a joint bid by USA Cricket and Cricket West Indies to host the 2024 T20 showpiece. According to a report in Sydney Morning Herald, a "decision on venues for ICC events in the next cycle was imminent, and that an outward, global focus would mean they were more widely distributed than in the recent past."

If all goes as per the plans,

it would be the first global tournament not hosted by either India, England or Australia since the 2014 T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.

The ICC has been for a long time looking to give emerging countries the hosting rights for the mega events.

The 2024 T20 World Cup is expected to have 20 teams and 55 matches as compared to the 2021 and 2022 editions which have seen 16 teams playing 45 matches. Between 2024 and 2031, the ICC is set to host several global tournaments, which will begin with the 2024 T20 World Cup.

PTI

Ali apologises for his costly drop catch

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan fast bowler Hasan Ali has apologised for his forgettable outing against Australia in the T20 World Cup semifinal, saying he is more disappointed than anyone else and pledged to come back stronger from this bad phase of career.

In the 19th over of the match, Ali dropped Matthew Wade off Shaheen Shah Afridi at deep midwicket and the error proved to be costly for Pakistan as the Australian stumper then hit three consecutive sixes to take his side into the final by registering a five-wicket win in Dubai on Thursday.

This ended Pakistan's fabulous campaign in the tournament. The Babar Azam-led side had entered the semifinal clash with five consecutive wins under its belt.



"I know you all are upset because my performance didn't meet your expectations but not more disappointed than me. Don't change your expectations from me. I want to serve Pakistan cricket at the highest level possible, so back to hard work."

"This patch will make me stronger. Thank you for all the messages, tweets, posts, calls and duas (prayers) — needed them," Ali tweeted.

Ali, a star of Pakistan's 2017 Champions Trophy campaign, became a national villain following his dropped catch, with the pacer being subjected to a lot of trolling and negativity on social media.

OTHER SPORTS

Novak Djokovic chasing another slice of history

...AND FEDERER'S RECORD AT ATP FINALS

IAN S ■ TURIN

Novak Djokovic, the top seed from Serbia, is chasing another slice of history while second seed, Russia's Daniil Medvedev, will be looking to defend the trophy he won in London last year when the season-finale Nitto ATP Finals commences here later on Sunday. Also Read - Pressure of Grand Slam Did Take a Toll on me, Concedes Novak Djokovic

Djokovic, who has already secured a record-breaking seventh year-end No. 1 finish in the ATP Rankings en route to his sixth Paris Masters title recently, has his sights set on levelling Swiss ace Roger Federer's record six ATP Finals titles. The Serbian has clinched the season finale five times — 2008 Shanghai, and 2012-2015 in London — and would be looking to go into the new season on the high of winning a record-equalling sixth ATP Finals title.

Medvedev, after an inauspicious debut at London's The O2 arena in 2019, went on a winning spree last year, defeating five straight top-10 opponents for the ATP Finals trophy. Victories over No. 1 Djokovic,



No. 2 Rafael Nadal of Spain and No. 3 Dominic Thiem of Austria made the Russian the first man to defeat the world's top-three players in the tournament's history.

The 25-year-old, who rose to a career-high No. 2 in the ATP Rankings with victory in Marseille in March, won the ATP Cup with Russia, and added further titles in Mallorca and Toronto before he lifted his maiden major trophy at the US Open, defeating Djokovic.

Among the other top contenders, Germany's Alexander Zverev boasts more match wins than any of his peers since Wimbledon (28-2), picking up the Tokyo Olympics gold, as

well as a Masters 1000 trophy in Cincinnati and an ATP 500 in Vienna to add to his trophies from earlier in the season in Madrid and Acapulco, according to aptour.com.

Three years ago in London, the German became the youngest ATP Finals champion since Djokovic a decade earlier, defeating Federer and the Serbian back-to-back for the trophy.

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas has endured somewhat of a lean spell and is focused on a return to form at an event he has won before. The world No. 4 captured the trophy on debut two years ago with victory over Thiem in the final.

Basilashvili, Norrie reach Indian Wells final without Top 25

AP ■ INDIAN WELLS, CALIF

Nikoloz Basilashvili beat American Taylor Fritz 7-6 (5), 6-3 on Saturday to set up a final against Cameron Norrie at the BNP Paribas Open, which will crown its first men's winner ranked outside the Top 25 since 2010.

Norrie of Britain beat Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria 6-2, 6-2 in an 86-minute semifinal. Basilashvili needed 1 hour, 41 minutes to get by Fritz, who grew up in the San Diego area and was the clear favorite of the fans.

Former world No. 1 Victoria Azarenka plays 21st-seeded Paula Badosa of Spain in the women's final Sunday.

The combined ATP and WTA tournament has been filled with upsets during its two-week run in the fall instead of its usual March date.

Top seeds Daniil Medvedev and Karolina Pliskova were among the fallen in an event missing Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, Naomi Osaka and Serena Williams.

It's the first time in the tournament's 45-year history that all four men's semifinalists were ranked outside of the Top 25. Norrie is 25th, Dimitrov 28th, Basilashvili 36th and Fritz 39th.

The last man outside the Top 25 to win Indian Wells was No. 26 Ivan Ljubicic in 2010.

Fritz was trying to reach the final and have a shot at becoming the tournament's first American winner since Andre Agassi in 2001. Instead, the 23-year-old fell to 0-5 in semifinals this year.

Fritz's ace gave him a 6-5 lead in the first. He had a break point on Basilashvili's



serve to close out the set, but the big-hitting Georgian fought it off and hit a backhand crosscourt winner on the second deuce to force the tiebreaker. Tied 5-all in the breaker, Fritz committed two straight errors to drop the set.

"His backhand he definitely hits harder than anybody on tour," Fritz said.

"The way that it comes through the court so hard and flat and deep, nothing you can really do. If I wanted to be more aggressive, I would have been opening myself up for a lot more mistakes just trying to hit big off of such a big ball."

Basilashvili earned the first break of the match in the sixth game and then held for a 5-2 lead. Fritz dropped one point on his serve in the next game to close to 5-3.

Basilashvili couldn't convert on his first three match points. His unforced errors gave Fritz two break points before Basilashvili's forehand winner into the open court closed out the win.

Ronaldo looks to secure Portugal's WCup spot

A look at what's happening in European soccer on Sunday:

GROUP A

Cristiano Ronaldo's chance to play at possibly his last World Cup could hinge on the result of Portugal's winner-take-all clash against Serbia. The two teams are tied on points atop Group A before they meet in Lisbon and can't be caught by others. Portugal has the better goal difference. Serbia rallied from two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw with Portugal in March. Ireland visits Luxembourg with both already eliminated. Only the group winners automatically qualify for the 2022 tournament in Qatar. The second-place finisher faces a playoff with the nine other runners-up and two group winners from the UEFA Nations League to decide the final three European spots.



GROUP B

Spain hosts Sweden with only one point separating the two teams in their final qualifying game and a direct World Cup berth up for grabs. Spain can settle for a draw in Seville, while Sweden needs a victory to avoid the playoffs. Sweden coach Jan Andersson has not said if Zlatan Ibrahimovic will feature after the 40-year-old star played 90-plus minutes in Thursday's shock 2-0 loss at Georgia that cost Sweden the group lead. Spain should have midfielder Sergio Busquets back in its starting lineup. A crowd of 50,000 is expected at La Cartuja Stadium. Greece hosts Kosovo with both already eliminated.

GROUP H

Host Croatia faces Group H leader Russia in the key game. Russia has 22 points, two more than Croatia with one game left. The other four teams in the group can't advance. Malta (5 points) hosts Slovakia (11), and Cyprus (5) travels to Slovenia (11).

GROUP J

Germany has already easily won the group and plays at Armenia. North Macedonia is second and chasing a place in the playoffs to move closer to its first World Cup appearance. It hosts Iceland. Liechtenstein hosts third-place Romania, which is one point behind North Macedonia. Armenia can also make the playoffs.

Bottas ahead of Verstappen, Hamilton to start 10th

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas won the sprint race Saturday to take pole position for the Brazilian Grand Prix as a dramatic day at Interlagos accelerated championship leader Max Verstappen's quest for his first Formula One title.

Verstappen finished the sprint race in second position and added two points in the standings. The Red Bull driver also saw his rival, seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton, hit by another punishment and set to start from 10th on Sunday despite an

impressive run from last to fifth.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz finished third, with Red Bull's Sergio Perez in fourth. McLaren's Lando Norris will inherit Hamilton's fifth position on the grid. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc starts from sixth place.

"Starting Sunday's race from front row gives us all to play for," Verstappen said. "Let's try again tomorrow."

Earlier, Hamilton was forced to start the sprint race



from last after being disqualified from Friday's qualifying session — where he was fastest — due to a technical infringement by Mercedes. Mercedes did not appeal the decision.

Despite Hamilton's fifth-place finish in the sprint race, a separate five-place penalty means the defending champion will start 10th after Mercedes decided to change his car's engine in Sao Paulo.

It wasn't all good news for Verstappen. The Dutch driver was fined

after being seen touching the rear wing of the Mercedes car. He leads Hamilton by 21 points in the standings, including the two from the sprint race, with four races left this season.

Hamilton beat the Dutchman by more than 0.4 seconds Friday in qualifying for the sprint race, but organizers said that his Mercedes was under investigation for DRS exceeding the maximum distance when opened. The technical infringement typically leads to exclusion from a session. The decision was only announced after Saturday's practice session, and before the sprint race.

Yadav pips mentor Verma to take 3rd place in ranking round

PTI ■ DHAKA

Upcoming compound archer Rishabh Yadav pipped his mentor Abhishek Verma for the third spot in the ranking round and hogged the limelight in the Asian Championships that got underway at Bangladesh Army Stadium in Banani on Sunday.

Overall, the Indian archers took the second place in the team and mixed events of recurve and compound sections, as heavyweights Korea dominated the qualifications on expected lines.

Making his Asian Championships debut, the 19-



year-old Yadav, who shot to prominence by bagging a bronze at the Youth World Championships earlier this year, scored 708 points to pip Verma by one point.

A product of SAI Centre of

Excellence in Sonepat, Yadav, who is being coached by Verma since 2012, was lying second at the halfway mark with 356 points, three behind the eventual topper Choi Yonghee of Korea.