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UNIFORM CIVIL CODE IS
A PROGRESSIVE STEP

WORLD 8
XI SAYS CHINA WILL NOT
SEEK 'HEGEMONY'

MONEY 9
FISCAL DEFICIT MAY BE
BETTER AT 6.6%: FITCH

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Dissent notes over Data Bill

Several Opp MPs oppose it, report adopted 2 years after joint committee was formed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, has adopted its report on the Bill with several Opposition MPs, including those from the Congress, the TMC and the BJD, submitting their dissent notes. The report was adopted after almost two years of setting up of the joint panel, when the Bill was referred to it for further scrutiny and making recommendations.

It is learned that four MPs from the Congress and two from the Trinamool Congress and one from the Biju Janata Dal opposed certain provisions of the panel's recommendations.

Congress leader and chief whip of the party in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh gave his dissent note to the committee on the Bill after the panel

adopted its report at its meeting here. The former Union Minister also lauded the democratic manner in which the panel functioned under PP Chaudhary's chairmanship for past four months.

Besides Ramesh, Congress MPs Manish Tewari, Gaurav Gogoi and Vivek Tankha submitted their dissent notes, along with TMC's Derek O'Brien and Mohua Moitra and BJD's Amar Patnaik.

The report was delayed by the panel as its former chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi was elevated as a Minister and Chaudhary was appointed as its new chairperson.

The Bill was referred to the JCP for scrutiny before it was taken up by Parliament for consideration and passage.

Ramesh shared the information that the report has been adopted by the panel. "Finally, it is done... There are dissent notes



but that is in the best spirit of parliamentary democracy. Sadly, such examples are few and far between under the Modi regime," he said.

Ramesh said he was compelled to submit a detailed dissent note on the Bill as his suggestions were not accepted and he was unable to convince the members. "But that should not detract from the democratic manner in which the committee has functioned. Now, for the debate in Parliament," he tweeted.

Tewari and Gogoi also said

they had submitted their dissent notes to the Secretariat of the committee after the final meeting of the Joint Committee on Data Protection.

"We started in December 2019 and finished in November 2021," Tewari said.

"I have been constrained to submit a very detailed note of dissent since I do not agree with the fundamental design of proposed legislation. It will not stand the test of law," he said.

Tewari said his fundamental objection was that there is

an inherent design flaw in the bill's very construction. A Bill that seeks to provide blanket exemptions, either in perpetuity or even for a limited period, to the 'State' and its instrumentalities is ultra vires of the Fundamental Right to Privacy as laid down by a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court, he said.

Tewari said he did not think the Bill in its present form, especially most of its exception and exemption clauses, including carve outs for governments that exempt these behemoths from the ambit of this legislation would stand the test of "vires" in a court of law.

"I, therefore, am constrained to holistically reject the Bill in its present form in entirety for this design flaw," he said.

On his reservations about the Bill that were part of his dissent note, Gogoi said there was a lack of attention being paid to harms arising from surveillance and an effort to establish a modern surveillance framework.

Continued on Page 2

Market in bear grip on farm reforms U-turn

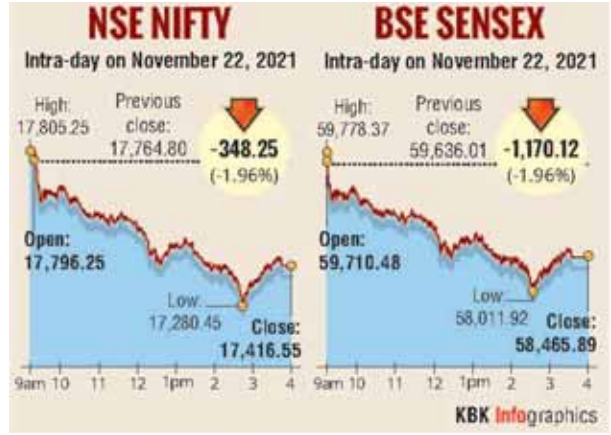
PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmark Sensex crashed over 1,170 points to log its worst single-day drop in over seven months on Monday amid concerns over government's reform measures after farm laws repeal announcement and weak listing of country's largest fintech firm Paytm.

Extending its losses for the fourth straight session, the BSE gauge plunged 1,170.12 points or 1.96 per cent to settle the day at 58,465.89 — its lowest closing level in over two months. In terms of absolute single-session drop, this was the biggest fall since April 12 this year.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty fell 348.25 points or 1.96 per cent to 17,416.55 — marking its lowest level seen after September 20.

Among top losers on the Sensex were, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Titan and SBI — diving as much as 5.74 per cent.



Reliance Industries sank over 4 per cent, after the company shelved a proposed deal to sell a 20 per cent stake in its oil refinery and petrochemical business to Saudi Aramco for an asking of \$15 billion.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints and PowerGrid managed to clock gains.

One97 Communications, Paytm's parent firm, tumbled over 13 per cent to close at

1,360.30 a share on the BSE.

Sectorally, BSE realty, energy, consumer durables, auto, oil and gas, and finance indices fell up to 4.45 per cent, while telecom and metal indices ended with gains.

The repealing of the agriculture laws had an impact on the PSU stocks while the O2C deal not going through left a 4.5 per cent cut on Reliance, he noted.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

ABHINANDAN GETS VIR CHAKRA FOR BRAVERY

New Delhi: Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman, who downed an enemy jet during an aerial combat with Pakistan in 2019 and was held captive for three days in that country, was on Monday honoured with the Vir Chakra award by President Ram Nath Kovind.

BLAST NEAR PATHANKOT ARMY CANTONMENT

Pathankot: A grenade blast occurred near the gate of the Army cantonment here following which an alert has been sounded in the border district, police said on Monday. No casualty was reported in the blast that took place on Sunday night, they said.

DENGUE CASES IN DELHI MOUNT TO 7,100 THIS YR

New Delhi: Dengue cases in Delhi this season have jumped to over 7,100, with nearly 5,600 of those being recorded in November alone, according to a civic report released on Monday. On November 15, the city had recorded a cumulative total of 5,277 dengue cases.

E-comm sites selling defective pressure cookers get notice

Products available at Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal, Paytm flout BIS norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued notices to five e-commerce entities, as well as various sellers, for offering pressure cookers that are non-compliant with BIS norms. The notices were issued on November 18 to Flipkart, Amazon, Snapdeal, Shopclues, PaytmMall, and the sellers.

"CCPA has taken suo-moto cognizance against e-



commerce entities found to be selling pressure cookers in violation to the Domestic Pressure Cooker (Quality Control) Order, 2020 issued by the Central Government under Section 16 (1) of the BIS Act, 2016 on 21st January 2020," the statement said on Monday. "The notices were issued to both e-commerce entities as well as sellers of pressure cookers on those platforms. The notices were issued on November 18," officials said.

Continued on Page 2

Andhra repeals 3 capitals law, CM vows to re-enact

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

The YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Government on Monday passed a Bill in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, repealing the controversial AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020, which was intended to establish three capitals for the State.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, however, told the Assembly that the Government would come up with a "complete, comprehensive and better" Bill to take forward his "decentralised development" plan after explaining "our genuine intention and the need for decentralisation" to all concerned and incorporating necessary changes.

The 2020 Act was being repealed to protect the larger



interests of people, he claimed.

The Chief Minister did not utter the word Amaravati even once in his statement and only referred to it as "this region".

"In the last one-and-a-half to two years since we came up with the idea of decentralised development (read establishing three capitals), it has been distorted, twisted in many ways, misgivings were created, legal tangle was created. In the last two years, a false propaganda

was carried out by raising an argument that it (three capitals) will cause injustice to some section," Jagan alleged.

He claimed that the previous Chandrababu Naidu government's decision to establish the State capital "in this region" was controversial.

"It violated the Sri Krishna committee reported in all ways. Still, Chandrababu decided to build the capital here on 50,000 acres," Jagan said.

Taking a defensive stance, Jagan said he had no antagonism towards "this region". "I have a house here and I love this region," he said.

The Chief Minister said at least ₹1 lakh crore was required to create even basic infrastructure like roads and electricity at the rate of ₹2 crore per acre.

Continued on Page 2

HC refuses to restrain Malik from sharing Wankhede info

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a setback to Zonal Director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sameer Wankhede, the Bombay High Court on Monday refused to restrain Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik from making statements or publishing any material on public domain against Wankhede and his family members, and said the Minister had not acted with malice by raising some pertinent issues against the NCB official.

Declining to grant an interim relief in a ₹1.25 crore defamation suit filed by Sameer



Wankhede's father Dnyandeve Wankhede, Justice Madhav Jamdar of the High Court noted, "Although plaintiff (Sr Wankhede) has right to privacy, the defendant has right to freedom of speech and expression, there has to be balancing of fundamental rights". Alluding to issues being

raised by the Minister against the NCB official at Press conferences and on social media, the judge said Malik had raised pertinent issues against Wankhede and it could not be said he acted with malice.

The judge, however, observed that Malik should verify the documents against Wankhede before putting them on public domain.

In a suit filed in the HC, Sr Wankhede had sought a temporary injunction restraining Malik from making any statements in the future about his son Sameer Wankhede.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi lifts construction ban as air improves to 'poor'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has lifted the ban on construction and demolition activities as the overall air quality index (AQI) 315 dropped to the "poor" from the "very poor" category.

Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said the ban was lifted to ensure there is no further inconvenience to labourers.

The Environment Minister said strict vigilance through 585 monitoring teams will continue across the city and "any private or Government construction site will be immediately shut if it is found violat-

ing any of the 14-point anti-pollution guidelines issued last month.

"We will issue notices later, but construction work will be immediately halted and a penalty will be imposed on the spot, if any construction site, public or private, is found not adhering to the 14-point guidelines. The ban has been removed as air quality is already improving and the labour force is starting to face inconvenience," he said while briefing the media.

While the decision on work-from-home, the opening of schools, and entry of CNG trucks in Delhi will be taken on November 24 after a joint



A farmer burns paddy stubble at a farm on the outskirts of Amritsar on Monday. The pollution and haze around the adjoining States of Punjab and Haryana, especially New Delhi, has been linked with stubble burning

meeting with concerned department officials, the City Government has extended

work from home till November 26.

"One thousand

'Paryavaran Sewa' private CNG buses have been hired," Rai said while urging masses to use them conveying this will help to reduce vehicular pollution.

"The standing permission in metros and buses has been given with limits of 17 in buses, and 30 per coach for metros. The initiative to impound old petrol/diesel vehicles and PUC certificate checking will continue to tackle vehicle pollution. 4000 people have been fined ₹10,000 each this month so far for violating pollution norms," Rai said.

Impounding of old petrol/diesel vehicles and PUC certificate checking will continue.

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MOSQUE SET ON FIRE DURING DELHI RIOTS

Court frames arson charges against two

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court has framed charges of arson and rioting against a father-son duo for allegedly damaging and setting a mosque on fire, vandalism, and stone-pelting during the February 2020 riots.

Mithhan Singh and his son Jony Kumar are accused of allegedly being part of a violent mob that raised slogans “Jai Shree Ram” and damaged the mosque in Delhi’s Khajuri Khas area on February 25, 2020, as per the complainant.

Additional Sessions Judge Virender Bhat framed charges under requisite sections against the two accused and explained it to them in vernacular in the presence of their lawyers, to which they pleaded not guilty and claimed trial in the case.

The judge, in an order dated November 20, also rejected the argument put forth by the counsel of the accused that they are entitled to be dis-



charged in the case as there was a delay in reporting of incident and recording of statements of the witnesses.

He said that accused cannot claim discharge merely on this score. The court said that the delay in recording witnesses’ statements was not intentional and was occasioned on account of the situation which prevailed in the area during and after the incident of rioting.

“There was an atmosphere of terror and trauma which prevailed in the area for

several days even after the riots.

In these circumstances, the delay of about one week in reporting the incident to the police would appear justified and cannot be considered fatal to the prosecution case at this stage,” the court further said.

As per complainant Mithhan Singh and his son Jony Kumar were allegedly part of the violent mob that raised slogans of “Jai Shree Ram” on February 25, 2020, near his house and set it ablaze.

Strong winds clean city’s dirty air

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Strong surface winds travelled through Delhi and neighbouring areas on Monday, improving the air quality. The city recorded its 24-hour average air quality index at 311, down from 349 on Sunday. It was 374 on Saturday. Neighbouring Faridabad (330), Ghaziabad (254), Greater Noida (202), Gurugram (310) and Noida (270) also recorded a slight improvement in the air quality.

RK Jenamani, a senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said westerly winds gusting up to 25 kmph improved visibility to 3,200 metres. So far, Monday has been the only day in November when the Palam Observatory reported “visibility of more than 3000 metres and such strong winds”, he said.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences air quality monitor SAFAR said the AQI was recorded in the lower end of the “very poor” category on Monday, a “significant” improvement from the day before due to the



low fire count and strong transport-level winds blowing from northwest direction dispersing pollutants.

These winds are likely to continue on Tuesday, leading to further improvement in the air quality to the ‘poor’ category (if no increase in fire count), it said.

Local surface wind speed is also relatively high on Monday and will remain so on Tuesday, it said, adding local and transport-level winds are likely to slow down from Wednesday and result in slight deterioration in the air quality. SAFAR said 909 farm fires accounted for six per cent of Delhi’s PM2.5 pollution on Monday.

AAP kick-starts ‘Mission Punjab’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/ PUNJAB

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday that Rs 1,000 per month would be transferred into the accounts of all women in Punjab if the AAP wins the 2022 Assembly polls.

“Today I want to make an announcement. The Aam Aadmi Party will form the Government in Punjab. We will transfer Rs 1,000 every month into the accounts of every woman who is more than 18 years old in the State,” he said.

Announcing his third guarantee to the people of Punjab, Kejriwal, who was in Moga, said that this will be the biggest scheme ever for the empowerment of women in the whole world and will have a monumental impact on their uplift. “Women have to carry the AAP’s baton forward this election and take a stand to convince their family to vote for AAP and a brighter future,” he said.

He gave the example of the national Capital where women travel free in Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC’s) buses saying, the AAP made travel



free for women while a Chief Minister spent money to buy an airplane for himself.

Attacking the current Chief Minister of Punjab, Charanjit Singh Channi, Kejriwal cautioned the people about a “copy of Kejriwal” roaming around the State, spreading lies about his work.

He said, “Don’t be fooled by his lies. The transport and sand mafia sit next to CM Channi in events so how can you expect him to work for the good of the people. Give us one chance and you’ll forget these parties who have done nothing but make a mockery out of the people.”

From free water and electricity up to 300 units to opening of Delhi model Mohalla clinics in 16,000 villages and wards across Punjab, the AAP has promised to empower women by providing better health services.

According to AAP office bearers, Kejriwal will visit more various places in the State in the next one month to rally support for the upcoming polls.

The party, AAP was founded in 2012 and emerged as the main Opposition in Punjab in the last election but party leaders had admitted that they were expecting the party to fare better.

PICTALK



A delegation of TMC MPs protests outside the Ministry of Home Affairs over alleged police brutality in Tripura, in New Delhi on Monday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer Photo

Man arrested for stabbing 37-year-old woman to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly stabbing a 37-year-old woman to death with a pair of scissors in the national Capital.

The accused has been identified as Chand Alam, a resident of Delhi’s Okhla Phase-1 and he was arrested on Sunday, a day after he murdered victim Jharna following a disagreement.

According to a senior police official, they found the woman’s body on Sunday morning, and call detail records showed she was with a friend, Alam, the night before.

“Alam was subsequently arrested from Indira Kalyan Vihar, Okhla. During interrogation, the accused revealed that he started working in an

export company at Pul Prahladpur in 2015 where he came in contact with his co-worker Jharna. They became friends and started spending time with each other. He also used to pay her ₹6,000 per month as the woman had allegedly demanded the money from him,” said the senior police official.

In February, the accused came to know that Jharna was also friends with another person, Suraj. They fought over this and he stopped paying her, the police said.

But he was upset over this and came up with a plan to kill her. On Saturday, Alam met the victim at the Badarpur bus stop and took her to an abandoned quarter near the railway track in Tehkhand, Okhla, the police said.

Dengue cases in Delhi mount to over 7000

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 1,851 fresh cases, the number of people affected from dengue has reached 7,100, according to a report released by municipal corporations on Monday.

As per the report, about 5,600 cases were recorded in November alone. Also, 167 cases of malaria and 89 cases of chikungunya have also been reported till 20 November this year in Delhi.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water, while those of malaria thrive even in dirty water. Cases of vector-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may stretch till mid-December.

Malaria, dengue and chikungunya are accompanied with high fever and therefore, doctors feel that people might suspect that Covid-19.

On November 15, the city had recorded a cumulative total of 5,277 dengue cases, making it the highest number of cases of the vector-borne disease recorded in the national capital in a year since 2015.

In the previous years, the total dengue cases reported were 4431 (2016), 4726 (2017), 2798 (2018), 2036 (2019) and 1072 (2020).

As per the report. In 2015, the city had witnessed a massive outbreak of dengue, when the number of dengue cases reported has crossed 10,600 in October itself.

Two youths die after car falls into open drain in Gurugram

Gurugram: Two youths, were killed after their 1-20 car fell into an open drain on Pataudi Road on Monday early hours.

According to police, the two were driving towards Gurugram from the Pataudi when the incident occurred.

The deceased were identified as Kaishav and Dharamveer residents of the Mahendergarh district.

“The exact reason behind the incident is yet to be known whether the driver lost control of the car or some unknown vehicle hit them behind. It will be cleared after a detailed probe,” said a police officer.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the car was directly fell into the open drain. Police said they are yet to confirm who was at the wheel at the time of the accident.

Metro to rescue of injured brown headed gull at Kalindi Kunj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Wildlife SOS rescued an injured Brown-headed Gull after it was found on the metro tracks at Kalindi Kunj Metro Station. Metro functioning was ceased temporarily to rescue the bird and it is currently undergoing treatment at the NGO’s Transit Facility.

The Wildlife SOS Rapid Response Unit was called in for an urgent rescue of a Brown-headed Gull with an injured wing lying on the metro tracks at Kalindi Kunj Metro Station on Sunday.

The Station Controller spotted the Gull struggling on the metro track and out of concern for its well being, he immediately contacted Wildlife SOS at their 24-hour helpline (+91-9871963535).

Car runs over 42-yr-old woman, her minor son

NEW DELHI: In a tragic incident, a 42-year-old woman and her minor son killed after a speeding car hit them while they were crossing road in southeast Delhi’s Sarita Vihar area on Monday. According to a senior police official, at 12:47 pm, an information was received regarding the accident at Sarita Vihar opposite Asia Pacific Mall. Police rushed to the spot at U-turn on road number 13 opposite Asia Pacific Mall where an i10 Grand car was found in accidental condition. Two injured persons - identified as Rahela and her eight-year-old son Elamul Husain, residents of Jasola village, rushed them to Apollo Hospital where they were declared brought dead,” said the senior police official.

Delhi BJP attacks AAP on misappropriation of funds

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said on Monday that for the last seven years the Aam Aadmi Party leaders have been levelling corruption allegations against Municipal Corporations, however the ruling Government is not ready for political questioning. Kapoor alleged that BJP leaders had exposed the AAP on misappropriation of funds in Delhi Jal Board accounts resulting FIR against the them by AAP leaders.

There is widespread public resentment against the AAP Government’s new liquor policy and opening of shops in residential areas, he said. BJP leaders too are voicing the public resentment.

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Rlys withdraws saffron attire after seers' threat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The dress code of the service staff onboard the Ramayan Express, run by the Indian Railways with much fanfare, has undergone a complete change after saints from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh took exception to their saffron attire and rudraksh mala, terming it an insult to Hindu religion and threatening to stop the train in Delhi.

The saints wrote to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in this regard following which the Ministry swung into action to effect the change given the sentiments attached. Some passengers too have protested the dress code.

The Indian Railways quickly worked upon to change the dress code of the waiters with a totally new set of attire. Now the waiters with sadhu looks will wear shirts and trousers, with a turban as headgear. The only saffron connection will be the face masks and hand-gloves of the colour and as per the requirements of the covid protocols.

"It is to inform that the dress of service staff is completely changed in the look of professional attire of service staff. Inconvenience caused is regretted," said a spokesman of Ministry of Railways.

The decision comes after a section of seers led by Ujjain Akhada Parishad's former general secretary Avdeshpuri

RAMAYAN EXPRESS



announced that the seers will stop the train at Delhi's Safdarjung railway station on the next journey on December

12 if the saffron dress code of the waiters is not changed.

"We have written a letter to the Union Railway Minister

lodging our protest against waiters serving refreshments and food in the Ramayan Express in saffron. Donning saffron attire with a sadhu-like headgear and wearing malas (necklaces) of rudraksha is an insult to the Hindu religion and its seers. We will sit on the railway tracks. This is necessary for protecting the Hindu religion. We have taken a strong view of this issue in Ujjain," Avdeshpuri informed the media early in the day. Ujjain city, where Shree Mahakaleshwar Temple of Lord Shiva is located, hosts Simhastha Kumbh Mela every 12 years.

When informed about the change of dress code, the Parishad's members expressed

satisfaction and said they were glad as the Railways responded immediately keeping in mind the sentiments of Hindus and Hindu faith followers.

The country's first Ramayan circuit train chugged off on a 17-day journey from the Safdarjung railway station on November 7. This train visits 15 places associated with the life of Lord Ram. Covering a distance of more than 7,500 km, the train will take the pilgrims to places such as Ayodhya, Prayag, Nandigram, Janakpur, Chitrakoot, Sitamarhi, Nasik, Hampi and Rameshwaram. The Ramayan Express is equipped with first-class restaurants, library and shower cubicles.

SKM writes letter to PM listing 6 demands, seeks resumption of talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The farmer unions have written an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking immediate resumption of talks with the Government over their six demands.

The demand includes a law guaranteeing minimum support price (MSP) for all farmers, withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill, compensation to those farmers who died during protests, sacking and arrest of union minister Ajay Mishra, withdrawal of cases against farmers and building a memorial for the protesters who lost their lives during the agitation.

In a related development, Shetkari Sanghatan president and a member of the Supreme Court-appointed committee on farm laws Anil Ghanwat on Monday said he will decide on whether to release the panel's report after analysing the legal consequences and claimed that the two other members have given him the freedom to take a call.

In the letter, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the umbrella organization of the farmer unions, demanded that the government should immediately resume talks with farmers.

While thanking PM Modi for his decision, the SKM, in the letter, said, "After 11 rounds of talks, you chose the path of unilateral declaration rather than a bilateral solution. MSP-based on the comprehensive cost of production should be made a legal entitlement of all farmers for all agricultural produce so that every farmer of the country can be guaranteed the MSP announced by the government for their entire crop. Withdraw the draft 'Electricity Amendments Bill, 2020/2021', the letter read.

It also sought removal of penal provisions against farmers in the 'Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021'. The SKM's demands included

the sacking and arrest of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra, whose son is accused in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

"Thousands of farmers have been implicated in hundreds of cases during this movement (June 2020 till date) in Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh and several other states. These cases should be withdrawn immediately." During this movement, about 700 farmers have died. There should be compensation and rehabilitation support for their families. Land should be allotted at the Singhu Border to build a memorial for the deceased farmers," read the letter.

Meanwhile, Ghanwat who met with two other members of the committee said that they discussed in detail whether to make the report public or not. "The other two members gave me the freedom to take a call on this issue. I will decide after analysing the legal consequences, if any," Ghanwat said. The other two members of the committee are Ashok Gulati (agri economist and former chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) and Pramod Kumar Joshi (agri economist and Director for South Asia at International Food Policy Research Institute).

Ghanwat also stated that he was not against minimum support price (MSP), but open-ended procurement was a problem. He said if a law on MSP is made as demanded by protesting farm unions, all farmers would demand MSP on their crops and nobody would be in a position to earn anything out of it. His statement came in the wake of farm leaders stating the year-old agitation would continue until issues such as legal guarantee for MSP were not resolved.

He argued that if the government agrees to the demand, other farmers might come up with similar demands.

No scientific evidence to support booster dose against Covid, says ICMR chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as many developed and developing nations have started giving the booster doses to their citizens, India feels that there is no scientific evidence so far to support the need for a booster vaccine dose against Covid-19.

ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said on Monday that there was no scientific data to support that second dose is needed and underlined that its focus is on the completion of second dose for the country's adult population

According to sources, the booster dose issue is likely to be discussed in the next meeting of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation in India (NTAGI).

"Administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to all adult population and ensuring that not only India but the entire world gets vaccinated is the priority of the government for now." Moreover, there is no scientific evidence so far to support the need for a booster vaccine dose against COVID-19," Bhargava said.

On the probability of administering a booster dose,

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya recently said that adequate stocks are available and the aim is to complete the vaccination of the target population with two doses.

After that, a decision on booster dose would be taken based on expert recommendation, he had said.

"The Government cannot take a direct decision in such a matter. When the Indian Council of Medical Research and expert team will say that a booster dose should be given, we will consider it then," he had said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always depended on expert opinion, be it vaccine research, manufacturing or approval.

According to officials, around 82 per cent of the eligible population in India have received the first dose of the vaccine while around 43 per cent have been fully inoculated. Countries like the US, Canada are planning booster shots for those people who are severely or moderately immunocompromised. A similar recommendation was made by the European Union's (EU) drug regulator last month.

But while some countries in the EU, such as Austria,

Germany and Italy among others are offering booster doses to all adults, some including Sweden and Spain have targeted booster doses at certain population groups such as the

elderly and those that are immunocompromised.

Other countries administering booster doses include Israel, the UK, South Korea, Turkey and Brazil.

Fully vaccinated visa holders can visit Australia from Dec 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From December 1, fully vaccinated eligible visa holders, including students and skilled workers, can go to Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption. The decision is expected to help thousands of Indian students return to that country and tourists. Australia has recently approved made in India vaccines-Covishield and Covaxin. Canada, too, has announced that it will allow entry to those jabbed with Covaxin.

Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O' Farrell tweeted on Monday,

"Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced on Monday, from 1 December, skilled migrants, international students, working holiday-

makers, provisional family visa holders and humanitarian visa holders, who are fully vaccinated can enter Australia without exemption. Travellers to Australia must comply with the quarantine requirements in the state or territory of their arrival, & any other state or territory to which they plan to travel."

In a statement, the Australian Government said that the visitor will have to be fully vaccinated with a "completed dosage" of a vaccine approved or recognised by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration and hold a valid visa for one of the eligible visa subclasses. The travellers will also have to provide proof of their vaccination status and present a negative PCR test taken within three days of departure for Australia.



Tirunelveli Congress MPs on Monday stage a dharna outside the MHA alleging police brutality and arrest of its youth leader in Tripura PTI

EC holds meet with CEOs of States, UTs on poll issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday held a conference with the Chief Electoral Officers of all States/UTs to discuss and review various thematic issues related to electoral roll, polling stations, ongoing special summary revision, information technology applications, timely resolution of grievances, EVMs/VVPAIs, training and capacity building of polling staff, media and communication and extensive voter outreach program amongst others. Addressing CEOs of all

states and union territories, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra stressed on the significance of effectiveness and visibility of CEOs, as CEOs represent the Commission in the States. He added that the CEOs should have regular interaction with political parties to redress their grievances, if any. Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar while interacting with the CEOs said that the legal and regulatory framework of the elections is quite robust, however the implementation of various instructions of the Commission at the field is very critical.

Navy officer held in information leak case gets bail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Serving Naval Commander Ajit Kumar Pandey who was arrested on September 3 in the case relating to alleged leak of confidential information on retrofitting of Russian Kilo class submarines, got default bail from a designated court here due to an "incomplete" chargesheet filed by the CBI.

The court granted bail to Pandey as the CBI had filed an "incomplete chargesheet" against him and others in connection with the probe under the Official Secrets Act (OSA), officials said.

The charge sheet filed before the court on November 2 is incomplete as there is no mention regarding the investigation being carried out under the Official Secrets Act (OSA), though the same was being carried out in this case itself, Special Judge Anuradha Shukla Bhardwaj said in an order.

"The charge sheet thus is incomplete for the purposes of section 167 (2) of CrPC (default bail)," she said.

The court has already released other accused, including retired naval officers Commodore Randeep Singh and Commander Satwinder Jeet Singh, on the same grounds.

Abhinandan gets Vir Chakra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday conferred the Vir Chakra on Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman who became a household name after his exploits during an aerial combat with Pakistan in 2019. Vir Chakra is the third highest bravery award during war time.

The President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, also conferred two Kirti Chakras, including one posthumous and 10 Shaurya Chakras, including two posthumous, to the personnel of Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces during Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Varthaman, flying a Mig-21, had shot down an F-16 jet of Pakistan Air Force when it tried to bomb a military installation in Rajouri in February 2019. Later, Abhinandan's plane was hit a Pakistani missile and he bailed out to be captured by Pakistan. He returned to India three days later to a hero's welcome.

In recognition of his valour and bravery, the President awarded him the Vir Chakra for displaying an "exceptional sense of duty" during the dogfight, the award citation said.

The award ceremony, held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and



several other dignitaries. Several other military officers were also honoured at the event. Earlier this month, the IAF approved the rank of Group Captain for Varthaman.

Varthaman downed the Pakistani jet on February 27, 2019, before his MiG 21 Bison jet was hit. Pakistan launched retaliation against India for the Balakot airstrikes a day before.

The citation read out at the ceremony said a large force of the Pakistan Air Force fighter aircraft, consisting of advanced fourth-generation F-16 and JF-17, was detected heading toward the Line of Control (LOC) at around 9:55 am that day.

It said Varthaman, displaying exceptional air combat acumen and knowledge of the enemy's tactics, scanned the low altitude airspace with his Airborne Intercept (AI) radar and picked up an enemy aircraft that was flying low to ambush the Indian fighter-interceptor aircraft

It said he alerted the other formation pilots about the "surprise threat", and then consol-

idated the riposte against the hostile Pakistani aircraft that were attempting to drop weapons on the Indian Army positions.

"This audacious and aggressive manoeuvre forced the enemy aircraft into tactical chaos. All the enemy aircraft thereafter turned back including the rear echelon aircraft that were yet to launch their air to ground weapons," the citation said.

Varthaman then pursued a retreating enemy fighter bomber aircraft, and in the ensuing aerial combat, shot down an F-16 aircraft with his onboard missile, it said.

"However, in the melee, one of the enemy aircraft fired multiple advanced BVR (beyond visual range) missiles, one of which hit his aircraft forcing him to eject in enemy territory," it said.

Despite being captured by the enemy, he continued to display exceptional resolve in dealing with the adversary in a brave and dignified manner till he was repatriated on March 1, 2019. The IAF had carried out precision strikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot as a punitive measure after 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed in a suicide attack in Kashmir on February 14. The government had announced its decision to confer the Vir Chakra on Varthaman in 2019.

Bengal gears up to host Global Business Summit in April 2022

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With a decline in Covid-19 cases, the West Bengal Government is gearing up to organise the Global Business Summit (GBGS) in April 2022, after a gap of two years due to the pandemic.

Asserting that the State was more focused on development rather than mere 'growth' which is just compilation of data, Rajiv Sinha, Chairperson of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, said that the Government has been providing various facilities for entrepreneurs, including green energy solution space, establishing an eco-system for electric vehicle manufacturing, developing inland water-

ways transportation and related infrastructure, developing warehousing and logistics facilities, technology-driven digital information systems and data centres.

Sinha said that the global summit from April 20 to April 21 aims to showcase the State's readiness for business investment.

"The state is ready to invest in Industrial Infrastructure - more than 200 Industrial Parks or Estates spread over an area of around 10,000 acres. The state government also introduced a scheme of private industrial parks called SAIP (Scheme for Approved Industrial Park). Further, a total of USD 9,490 million exports had been made from the state in 2019-20 - 12

per cent of the country's leather and 10 per cent of iron and steel exports," he said.

The upcoming deep-sea port at Tajpur with enhanced connectivity is aimed at North-Eastern India and South East Asia. Hence, an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Tajpur Port has been floated, said Sinha.

Also, excavation work is going to start soon at the recently allocated Deochapachami-Dewanganj-Harinsigha coal block located in the State which is considered to be the largest coal block in India while a string of business friendly policies such as Ethanol Production Promotion Policy 2021, Data Centre Policy, 2021 have been notified soon.

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PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Get ready to face cold wave like conditions as Srinagar, Pahalgam and Gulmarg on Monday witnessed the minimum temperature settling below the freezing point while parts of Punjab, Haryana and northern Rajasthan are expected to experience it over the next two days. The minimum temperature is expected to fall further in northern India due to dry north westerly wind. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said

Srinagar recorded the coldest night of the season so far at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius as cold conditions continued in Kashmir.

According to the IMD, weak La Nina conditions, which are also associated with colder winters in northwest India, are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region. "The latest model forecast is indicating they are likely to strengthen and peak to moderate conditions during the winter season," it said. Several forecasters have

predicted that north India may witness the chilliest/extremely cold winter due to the La Nina that has been emerging in the Pacific Ocean. The La Nina weather pattern causes frigid winters in the northern hemisphere. It is likely to hound parts of India with extremely cold winters. The new forecast warns of an impending La Nina effect that will lead to a major dip in temperature across north India in January, February 2022. A cold wave is declared when there's a significant drop

in minimum or night time temperature. The IMD's criterion for a cold wave in the plains is that the minimum temperature should be 10 degrees or lower and the departure from normal minimum temperature 4.5 degrees or less for two consecutive days.

India has been witnessing extreme weather conditions over the past few weeks. This can be attributed to various causes, including warming of the seas, unabated development and delayed withdrawal of the monsoon.

High alert after attack near IAF base in Punjab

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A multi-tier security grid along the International Border with Pakistan in the neighbouring Pathankot and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab, along the Jammu frontier were kept in a state of high alert after a low intensity grenade attack took place in the close vicinity of the fortified Air Force Station, Pathankot late Sunday night.

Before the grenade attack was reported the movement of two suspected persons were spotted near Bamiyal village, close to the International border.

A four wheeler fitted with different registration plates (rear and front portion) was also recovered by the police in the border area. Drones were also pressed into service by the security forces to keep a vigil in the border area during the day.

The terror attack inside Pathankot cantonment took place after a gap of more than five years. Earlier, on January 2, 2016, four Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists had laid siege to the air base. A 48-hour fierce gun battle had fol-



lowed in which all terrorists were killed.

According to preliminary reports, the grenade attack by two motorcycle borne suspects near a Triveni gate inside Pathankot cantonment coincided with a marriage procession passing through the area.

Taking advantage of the darkness the grenade throwers fled away from the scene without facing any resistance. Teams were set up to scan the CCTV footage of cameras fitted along the boundary wall of the army installation. According to the local police authorities in Pathankot, "No major loss of life and property was reported in the area". The boundary wall adjacent to the main gate bore the maximum brunt of the grenade explosion.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Pathankot Surendra Lamba along with his colleagues rushed to the spot. Moving swiftly, all the entry and exit points of the border district were sealed and thorough checking of vehicles and suspected persons moving in the area was launched by the joint team of security forces.

Early Monday morning a team of Counter terror experts from Ferozepur were also rushed to the spot to carry out a forensic examination of the blast site and collect samples.

Meanwhile, the security was beefed up across all the vital installations in Pathankot. The ammunition dump at Mamun Cantt was also secured. Security checkpoints were also raised near the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir where all the vehicles were subjected to screening by the Jammu and Kashmir police. The border guarding force in the region was also directed to enhance area domination while maintaining a tight vigil to prevent infiltration by heavily armed terrorists from across the border.

Death toll in road mishaps reduced by 19.56% in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Traffic Directorate claimed to have taken several steps which yielded positive results, slashing the death toll in road mishaps by 19.56 per cent in 2020, as compared to the casualties reported in Uttar Pradesh in 2019.

"On the instructions of the Chief Minister, special efforts were made for systematic traffic management across the state. As a result, there has been a reduction of 19.56 percent in road accidents in 2020 as compared to 2019, 22.54 percent in the number of injured and 15.48 percent in the number of dead in road accidents", asserted Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Kumar Awasthi on Monday.

Speaking to mediapersons, Awasthi said that the Government made efforts to make the traffic unit of UP Police agile and provide necessary resources. "The number of traffic personnel has been increased from 5080 to 10,080 (nearly doubled). Accident prone sites were identified as black spots and

accordingly, action has been taken to rectify them in coordination with the Transport department. During the present regime, Traffic police have so far received Body Worn Camera 1738, Breath Analyzer with Printer 1976, Car Dashboard Camera / Tow Vehicle Camera 186, Smart Phone / Tablet 4102, Speed Radar Gun 171, Thermal Printer 3790, Spring Post 10346, Loud halter 287, Bollard cone 5907, Iron barrier 6511, Digital video camera 91, Folding barrier 5932, Wheel clamp 921, Delineator 8023, Reflective raincoat 3497, Safety gloves 3307, Safety helmet 3371 etc. Useful materials have been provided. Besides, the Integrated Road Accident Database System of Government of India has been implemented across the state."

Additional DG, Traffic, Jyoti Narayan informed that Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) was prevalent in ten districts of the state namely Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, Aligarh, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur and Jhansi respectively.

Didi to take up BSF, other issues with PM Modi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Moments before catching her flight to Delhi where she would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said among other things she would raise the issue of recent expansion of jurisdiction of the Border Security Forces from 15 km to 50 km.

The Chief Minister who went to Delhi on a three-day visit said "the BJP Government is using the BSF to ensure that BJP is safe ... I have nothing against the security forces but the way they are using it to take away the State's powers is deplorable and undemocratic ... this is not done ... no one can usurp the power of states like this ... no one can forcibly take away the power of the States."

The Chief Minister is likely to hold talks with the Prime Minister too. "I have an appointment with the Prime Minister ... during my talks I will raise a lot of issues including those on funds due to the State ... but the BSF issue will definitely figure in the talks."

The Chief Minister is visiting the national Capital days ahead of the winter session of



parliament which begins on November 29. During her visit, she is also likely to meet several Opposition leaders including Congress president Sonia Gandhi the TMC sources said. Banerjee's visit is aimed at boosting opposition unity ahead of the 2024 general elections.

Attacking Home Minister Amit Shah for refusing to meet the TMC MPs who were there to raise the issue on atrocities mounted on the opposition parties in Tripura, Banerjee said, "Our MPs wanted to meet the Home Minister... but he did not give them time ... however I told my MPs not to protest in front of his house because I will raise the issue with the Prime Minister during my talks with him."

Banerjee was referring to the Sunday's attacks on TMC

men in Agartala when Bengal Trinamool youth wing general secretary Sayani Ghosh was being interrogated by the police inside a police station. Ghosh who was subsequently arrested on attempted murder charges was on Monday granted bail by an Agartala court.

Referring to the alleged attacks on the TMC men in Agartala the Bengal Chief Minister said "while the BJP talks about democracy they are attacking our men in Tripura ... during Bengal elections many BJP leaders came to Bengal but were not attacked like this ... then they spoke about Article 355, 356, Home Ministry intervention and also sent National Human Rights Commission ... but when such things are happening in Tripura where is NHRC or the other central agencies."

HC ARYAN BAIL ORDER FALLOUT Mumbai cops to probe if NCB's cruise 'raid' was 'fake': Maha HM

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Having taken cognisance of the Bombay High Court's order rejecting the allegation of "conspiracy and common intent" against Aryan Khan and two others in the mid-sea sea bust case, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil on Monday indicated that the Mumbai police would probe if the "raid" on Goa-bound Cordelia Cruise ship was "fake" or otherwise.

Two days after the high court – in detailed order granting bail to Aryan Khan, Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha – observed that there prima facie "no positive evidence" against them, Walse-Patil said that in view of various serious observations made by the court, the Mumbai police would investigate if the the "raid" on Goa-bound Cordelia Cruise ship was "fake" or otherwise.

In his detailed order granting bail to Aryan and two other accused, a single-member HC bench of Justice Nitin W Sambre had noted in his detailed order released on Saturday: "... there is no material on record to infer

that applicants (Aryan and two others) have hatched conspiracy to commit the offence."

Raising the questionable manner in which the NCB investigated the case, the Judge had slammed the investigating agency for not subjecting the accused to medical examination "so as to determine whether at the relevant time, they had consumed drugs" and made mince meat of the investigators' claim that they had found incriminating whatsapp chat from Aryan's phone, by observing that "nothing objectionable could be noticed to suggest that he and two other accused had hatched a conspiracy.

The Judge noted that going by the material brought on record before it, "this Court has prima facie not noticed any positive evidence against the applicants". "This court is of the opinion that the claim put forth by the respondent that the applicants should be considered to have the common intention to commit an offence under the NDPS Act, having found in possession of commercial quantity. In the backdrop of case of hatching conspiracy is liable to be rejected".

Unity eludes first family of SP on MSY birthday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unity in the first family of the Samajwadi Party remained elusive as party president Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle Shivpal Yadav celebrated the 82nd birthday of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav separately in Lucknow and Etawah.

Mulayam Singh Yadav celebrated the day by cutting a 83-kg cake at the state office of the party with his son Akhilesh Yadav and other party leaders while Shivpal Yadav celebrated the event at Etawah.

Shivpal Yadav organised a 'Dangal' (wrestling competition) on the occasion at Saifai, the ancestral village of the Yadav clan in Etawah district. The SP leader also evaded a reply on whether Shivpal Yadav, the president of Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), would attend the celebrations. Shivpal is the brother of the octogenarian leader.

On November 3, Akhilesh Yadav had stated that he would be joining hands with his uncle on the birthday of the party founder. He had said that he would give all respect to Shivpal with whose party he would enter into an alliance for



the upcoming assembly elections.

Mulayam Singh Yadav, standing next to his son and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, expressed gratitude to the workers and said: "I want to thank all of you who have come here, but I will be happy if you celebrate the birthday of the poor in a similar way. I can see that youngsters are enthusiastic today. I want you all to carry forward the wave of change in the state." The SP patriarch also cut an 83-kg laddoo on the occasion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday greeted Mulayam on his birthday and said the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister has made an important contribution in the politics of the country.

Yadav, a former Union

minister, was born in Saifai village of Etawah district in 1939.

"I wish him a healthy and long life," the PM said in a tweet in Hindi. UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath also tweeted to greet Mulayam on his birthday.

The SP leaders celebrated Mulayam's birthday in all districts of UP on Monday. Mulayam started his early life as a teacher and was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1967. In 1977, he became a minister for the first time in the Uttar Pradesh government of the Janata Party led by Ramnaresh Yadav.

In the year 1989, Mulayam went on to become the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh for the first time. In 1992, he founded the Samajwadi Party.

Rulers need to introspect everyday, says CJI Ramana

PTI ■ PUTTAPARTHI, (ANDHRA PRADESH)

Rulers should introspect everyday whether the decisions taken by them are good and also check if they have any bad characteristics, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said on Monday.

Addressing the 40th convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in Puttaparthi town in Anantapuram district, Justice Ramana, quoting Mahabharata and Ramayana, said there are 14 bad qualities of rulers which they should avoid.

"All the rulers in the democratic set-up, before beginning their routine work, should introspect whether they have any bad characteristics. There is need to offer just administration and it should be according to people's needs. There are several wise men here and you are watching the developments that are taking place worldwide and countrywide," he said.

He said people are the ultimate lords in democracy and whatever decision has been taken by the dispensation should benefit them.

He further said it was his

desire that all the systems in the country should be independent and honest aiming to serve the people which Sathya Sai Baba also used to say the same thing. Unfortunately, the modern education system tends to focus only on the utilitarian function and such a system is not equipped to deal with the moral or spiritual function of education which builds the character of students and allows them to develop a social consciousness and a sense of responsibility, Justice Ramana said. "True education is one which imbibes moral values and virtues of humility, discipline, selflessness, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness and mutual respect," He said. On Sathya Sai Baba, Justice Ramana said, "I had the good fortune of having Baba's darshan. I have always carried with me his words of wisdom." He further said: "There is no greater proponent of service, no greater mentor to follow than Baba himself. Sathya Sai means love, Sathya Sai means service, Sathya Sai means sacrifice."

"...Be it education, medical care, providing clean drinking water, relief work, Baba has showed us the righteous path.

Parts of B'luru flooded after overnight rains

Bengaluru:Several parts of north Bengaluru have been inundated after another spell of heavy rainfall on Sunday night.

With several lakes overflowing, water has entered houses in the low-lying areas and basements of the apartments in the Yelahanka and Mahadevapura zone, official sources said.

Manyata Tech Park, one of the largest tech parks in north Bengaluru, has also faced the brunt of the rain.

One of the most affected is Yelahanka's Kendriya Vihar, which is flooded by the overflowing lake nearby. NDRF (national disaster response force), fire and emergency service personnel are working to help people living there and evacuating those who want to move out with the help of rafts.

"The entire ground-floor is submerged, ground-floor houses have lost electronic appliances and other items...We have to look for other accommodation until water recedes, even after water recedes, we will have to vacate the house as one cannot live in the ground-floor of these buildings," a woman resident of Kendriya Vihar said.

PTI

Priyanka promises to set up skill training schools for girls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After promising 40 per cent tickets to women candidates in the 2022 elections, Congress general secretary and in-charge of Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday came up with another announcement promising to set up skill training schools for girls, named after freedom fighter Jhalkari bai, in every district, if voted to power.

Priyanka made the announcement while paying tributes on the birth anniversary of Veerangana Jhalkari Bai, chief of Durga Vahini of freedom fighter Ranilakshmi Bai. Expressing commitment to increase skill development and competence among women, during a programme under the 'Ladki Hoon Lad Sakti Hoon' campaign, the Congress honcho promised to start Jhalkari Bai Skill Development Training Schools to make girls efficient across the state.

Priyanka tweeted on Monday, "Salute to Veerangana Jhalkari Bai ji. The Congress party has decided that if the government is formed, skill schools will be opened in every district for girls in the name of heroines like Jhalkari Bai ji. Girls will be given skill development training in skill schools."

Earlier, Priyanka promised to provide 40 percent tickets to women candidates in the upcoming Assembly elections and also a separate manifesto for women. The other promises made by the Congress for the impending UP polls are smartphone and scooter for girl students, three free LPG gas cylinders annually and free bus service for women.



Maya: BJP leaders vitiating atmosphere through provocative statements

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati charged that some Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders were vitiating the atmosphere by their provocative statements on the issue of repeal of Farm laws and demanded that they be reined in to instill confidence among farmers.

Taking to twitter on Monday morning, Mayawati posted, "Accepting the demand of the farmers who have been agitating for almost a year by PM Narendra Modi to withdraw the three agricultural laws, some other just demands of theirs also need timely solution so that they can return to their respective homes after being satisfied and be able to fully re-engage in their tasks."

The BSP chief further tweeted, "At the same time, in order to instill confidence among the farmers about the special announcement of the Central Government for withdrawal of Agricultural laws, it is necessary to rein in the rhetoric of some BJP leaders, who, despite the PM's announcement, create suspicion among the people with their provocative statements and are spoiling the environment."

Though Mayawati did not name any BJP leader, she was apparently referring to the remarks



by BJP MP from Unnao, Sakshi Maharaj that laws could be brought again, if needed. "Bills are made and repealed. They will come again, and will be made again. It hardly takes any time (bills to bante rehte hai, bigadte rehte hai...wapas aa jayenge, dobara ban jaayenge...koi der nahi lagtee hai)", Maharaj had said on Sunday.

In another tweet, Mayawati posted, "But, I would thank Modi ji that he displayed a big heart and chose the nation over the laws. Those with malafide intentions and those who had raised slogans of Pakistan zindabad and Khalistan zindabad, have got a befitting reply."

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that the Centre would repeal the three contentious Farm laws after the nearly year-long agitation by a section of farmers, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Over 10,800 village panchayats in Guj to go to polls on Dec 19

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A total of 10,879 gram panchayats across Gujarat would go to polls on December 19 to elect sarpanch and members, the State Election Commission (SEC) announced on Monday.

Of these, the five-year tenure of 10,117 gram panchayats is ending in December, while polls will be held in 65 panchayats due to splitting or dissolution of existing bodies, along with bypolls in 697 panchayats where seats fell vacant due to various reasons, said State Election Commissioner Sanjay Prasad.

"In all, nearly 2.06 crore voters will elect 10,284 sarpanchs and 89,702 panchayat members of these 10,879 gram panchayats. There are some 14,000 gram panchayats and 18,500 across the state. The last date of filing nominations is December 4 and that of withdrawal is December 7," he said, adding the model code of conduct connected to these polls was now in force.

"Polling will be held on December 19 between 7 am and 6 pm in over 27,000 polling booths. Counting of votes will be held on December 21. Due to the very high number of wards, polling will be conducted using ballot boxes instead of EVMs," said Prasad.

SC tells IIT-B to allot seat to Dalit boy in 48 hours

To adopt humanitarian approach

New Delhi:Asking IIT, Bombay to adopt a humanitarian approach, the Supreme Court on Monday directed the premier engineering institute to allocate within 48 hours a seat to a young Dalit boy, who missed out, as he could not deposit his fees due to the non-functioning of his credit card.

The apex court exercised its plenary powers to direct the IIT, Bombay for allocating a supernumerary seat to the young boy from Allahabad, saying it would be a travesty of justice if he is turned away from the portals of the Supreme Court.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna said, "This court has before it a young Dalit student, who is on the verge of losing a valued seat which has been allocated to him at IIT, Bombay. The travails of the appellant has taken him from Allahabad, where he is currently studying to Kharagpur and Bombay and eventually to the national capital. Having regard to the facts of the case, it would be a grave travesty of justice to the young Dalit student who has to finally move this court, is turned away from its portals..."

The bench noted that if the petitioner Prince Jaibir Singh, who has secured 864 All India ranks in the SC category in the IIT entrance exam, is not admitted in this academic year, he will be ineligible to appear for further entrance examinations as he has appeared in two consecutive attempts.

"Hence, we are of the view that this is a fit and proper case where the exercise of jurisdiction under Article 142 of the constitution is warranted at the interim stage, in the facts which have appeared before the court. We accordingly direct the first and second respondent (IIT, Bombay) to ensure that the seat which is allocated to the appellant shall be allotted to him at IIT, Bombay. This shall be done without disturbing any other students, who have already been admitted", the bench said.

The top court said that the creation of supernumerary seats in the facts of the present case shall be subject to the admission of Singh being regularised if any seats fall vacant as a result of exigencies, which may arise in the course of the admission process.

"Parties shall act on the certified copy of this order and implement these directions within a period of 48 hours that is by November 24," the bench said.

During the hearing, the bench was informed by advo-

cate Sonal Jain, appearing for Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JOSAA) and IIT, Bombay that there are no more seats available in any of the IITs across the country as the admission process is complete and the court can pass an order under Article 142 for allocating a seat to Singh.

The bench said, "Look at the background of the child. He has to borrow money from his sister after his credit card malfunctioned. Don't be wooden like this. We can pass an order under Article 142 but that may not be favourable for IITs. You can adopt a humanitarian approach and explore the possibilities. Explain this to the chairman".

The top court said that many seats get vacant after students take admission in different institutes to further their career in better options and IIT should look and allocate one such seat to this student.

"Something has to be done for this student. It is elementary common sense, which students would not like to get into IIT, Bombay and not pay Rs. 50,000 fees. It is obvious that he has some financial problems. He has to borrow money from his sister. These students study years after years for this exam. Look at their background," the bench said.

PTI

Ugly city

The degrading condition of urban poor is a challenge that the Govt must take heed of

Health governance for the urban poor in India is chaotic at best, rendering them helpless, a study by the Azim Premji University in collaboration with a group of NGOs reveals. In a country where a third of the people living in urban areas are poor, mostly jobless, unable to get even a full meal a day, they are saddled with a disproportionate disease burden as well. The report draws attention to India's best-kept of secrets: Welfare programmes rarely take into account the factors that make people poor. They are all about ameliorating their situation, but not for rooting out the causes. Otherwise, the situation of the urban poor, for example, would not have worsened, as it has done, during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020-21. The pandemic left the urban poor poorer, hungrier and without nutrition than those in the rural areas who had family or relatives, and importantly the public distribution system, to fall back on in the lockdown period, and were able to pass their days off without going hungry. Their fellows in the cities, in comparison, fared worse. They came to the cities to find jobs no doubt, but the lockdown messed with their lives, made them lose their jobs as workplaces closed down, there were no wages and so, they had no access to food. The soup kitchens and the largesse from NGOs and the Government did help them, but not to the extent of not losing out on nutrition and health.

The urban poor rarely have access to the public ration system and they ended up borrowing money for food. The rural poor had relatively better access to the social security schemes operating during the pandemic. Vulnerable groups among the urban poor, like families run by single women or people with disabilities and transgender people, fared badly, ironically at a time when India has had record food grain production.

The Azim Premji University report tells us how joblessness and hunger are now impacting their health. The lack of access to medical care for the urban poor is so bad that "the life expectancy among the poorest is lower by 9.1 years and 6.2 years among men and women, respectively, compared to the richest in urban areas". What is worse, the multiplicity of health care providers, and the lack of coordination between them, is playing havoc with the health of the poor. Thirty per cent of the urban poor have no access to public health facilities and have to seek private sources, adding to their financial stress. The Government must address the problem of lack of administrative efficiency dogging the health governance system even as it tries to implement social security measures to provide subsidised food and employment guarantee for the poor in the urban areas. The number of the urban poor is only going to increase in the coming days. It is for the Government to coordinate its efforts better.



A police dog sniffs the bag of a protesting TMC leader, New Delhi

Show stopper

Event managers make our moments their own but we haven't yet realised their challenges

So we thought we've got rid of the COVID-19 pandemic. But then there have been people who have, as always, brought cheer to our dreary lives. No doubt that it's just a make-believe world where all good happy things come to fruition. However, the past couple of years have not been hunky-dory for the people who run the show and bring joy and happiness to our family gatherings. They may come draped in shiny silver costumes and perhaps sing and dance to make your day special, making your moment of happiness their very own, but have any of us thought where did they come from and where did they go once the show got over? Their journey, especially in the last two years, has been haphazard and a roller-coaster.

Those who ran the show were incapable of running their livelihood. The forced stoppage in their eventful lives made them pick up other employment avenues; an event manager took to driving his bike for a travel platform and some others had to settle down for selling vegetables and other food items. Of course, they have been paying taxes, but where was the Government or its welfare schemes to protect its very own people?

Kishore Kumar was right when he refused to pay his due taxes, saying that when the Government (read Indira Gandhi) did not help him secure work, why should he pay the Government? This is not to instigate the citizenry against the powers that be, but then why should it be called a welfare State? They have hungry children at home, wives fighting for their remuneration and elderly mothers dabbing their eyes with hope, much less with cash. They still go around working, or working to find some work, which may or may not result in the evening bread. Their limbs may be tired, but their soul is not. In the setting sun, with their bellies half-fed, they strive to deliver happiness and joy to our family and gatherings. On a somewhat different note, as showman Raj Kapoor said in Mera Naam Joker, "Joker ke upar sab hanste hain, uske saath koi nahi hansta." We, maybe unknowingly or unfeelingly, do the same thing; we call them in last, feed them last and then let them out. So why should the Government levy entertainment tax? There's hardly any entertainment left in our mutual lives. It's time the policies and the babus did something to protect this industry, too.

Uniform Civil Code is a progressive step

Article 15 is violated by Muslims themselves. A man is entitled to marry up to four wives but the wives cannot marry more than one husband

The Allahabad High Court has rightly reminded the Government about Article 44 of the Indian Constitution which is a Directive Principle of Policy, which was meant to be parallel to a fundamental right to be implemented in due course. This Article relates to a Uniform Civil Code or a common civil law. It is certainly not to be an imposition of Hindu law on all the communities. Yet, it has not been even drafted for a national discussion. To a lay Indian, this appears like a discrimination for two reasons.

All other non-Hindu communities like Christians, Parsees, Jews et al are happy with the civil law prevailing. Only Muslims are unhappy unless their civil rights under their law called sharia are allowed to be applied to the civil conduct of Muslims. Essentially, it boils down to marriage and succession rules, especially the former. All other subjects are happily applied to all, including Muslims; even the criminal law. Why this discrimination without a discrimination.

Sharia prescribes that if a person is charged for theft, the punishment is to chop off his hand. Muslims do not want this to happen. Possibly because the punishment is too harsh. Does the Indian Penal Code, originally drafted by Lord Macaulay, become superior to sharia because the former is more convenient? Article 15 of the Constitution begins with the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

This Article, an exemplary one, is violated by Muslims themselves. A man is entitled to marry up to four wives but the wives cannot marry more than one husband. A husband can divorce his wife by swearing 'talaq, talaq, talaq' but a wife cannot do the same. For her, there is no talaq and her privilege is confined to khul which she can resort to when the two spouses agree that they have become inimical to each other and their union no longer serves the purpose of marriage. She can release herself



from the power of her husband by inducing him to separate by paying him a compensation acceptable to him (adapted briefly from the Dictionary of Islam by Thomas Patrick Hughes published in India, Rupa & Co. 1999).

The discrimination continues; where one man is sufficient as a witness, two women are needed. This implies that a woman is half a human being or a man is a double human. Over and above, allowing a man to marry up to four wives, he is allowed to have as many female concubines or domestic slaves as he wishes. A Shia is also allowed temporary marriages which are called mutah. These privileges enjoyed by men and the discrimination against women may seem unequal or unfair, the conditions of women before the advent of Islam were far worse. The women were extremely degraded in Arabia. They were chattels and an integral part of the estate of a man. Frequent unions between sons-in-law and mothers-in-law were called Nikahu-al-Maqt and Prophet Muhammad abolished such hideous practices which were prevailing in old Arabia. In other words; Sharia was a vast improvement on what prevailed before.

POTENTIALLY, HALF THE MUSLIMS ARE FOR CHANGE, JUSTICE AND PROGRESS. THE TARAZU OR WEIGHING MACHINE OF HUMAN JUSTICE GOES IN FAVOUR OF A COMMON CIVIL CODE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAMIL NADU STEALS THE GAME

Sir — A power packed innings of batsman Shahrukh Khan helped Tamil Nadu lift the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for the second year in a row. In the last over, 16 runs were required and it was made easy by Shahrukh Khan. Remember the name, the boy has become a man. With the stakes as high as they can possibly be at this level, Shahrukh Khan hit the ball clean as a whistle over deep square leg for six and Tamil Nadu won Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2021 in style.

Shah Rukh Khan pulled off something special. He pulled out a rabbit from his hat and that was extraordinary. Vijay Shankar collected the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. Tamil Nadu broke the record for the third time and showed its supremacy. Karnataka, who lost its first ever white-ball final, just didn't have the rub of the green going their way on the day. They will perhaps rue the four byes that Sharath gave away at a crucial moment, and the appalling number of extras, and most of all the final ball. But the composure shown by Tamil Nadu despite big wickets falling at crucial moments was commendable.

Krishnan Subramani | Chennai

EMPLOYEE-FRIENDLY APPROACH

Sir — Portugal has passed a new law that imposes fines on employers for contacting employees constantly after office hours. The Coronavirus-induced remote working has been hard on many people across the globe. Several employees around the world have complained of receiving constant messages, e-mails and phone calls from their companies despite having completed their work in the designated working hours. According to the Portuguese Parliament, the new labour law will ensure healthier work-life balance for employees.

The law, which is applicable to organisations with more than ten employees, also forbids employers from monitoring employees who are working from home. Perhaps, it is time other

Farm laws repeal really a win?



The Government may have announced the withdrawal of the three controversial agriculture laws, but there is no sign of an end to the farmers' agitation. The farmers' organisations say that until these laws are formally repealed in Parliament, the agitation will not end. But an even bigger demand now is to make the Minimum Support Price (MSP) legal. The way the Government decided to withdraw all the three agriculture laws, it did

countries, including India, follow Portugal's way to have a healthy employer-employee relationship at a time when 'work-from-home' culture has largely become the accepted norm over after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has badly impacted the mental health of employees and such laws, therefore, are much need initiatives.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

ACCEDING TO OTHER DEMANDS, TOO

Sir — In its open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) spearheading the farmers' protests has sought a dialogue with the Government on demands that predated and postdated the enactment of the three farm laws which he scrapped for obvious reasons. The repeal of the farm laws after the martyrdom of over 700 farmers only undid a great wrong done to the farmers. As we are all aware, a legal guarantee for the procurement of all agri-produce at

not promise to make a law on the issue of MSP with clarity, but to make the MSP effective, the Government has promised to form a committee, in which, apart from the representatives of the Centre and the States, representatives of farmers' organisations and experts will be included.

Clearly, the issue of MSP is much more complicated. Otherwise, why didn't the Government announce a law on MSP? One of the arguments about MSP so far is that today there is no food crisis in the country and if a law on MSP is made, buying and storing the produce will become a crisis for the Government. However, due to the lack of a storage system, there is a problem of grain wastage in huge quantities. It has also been said that if MSP becomes a law then only big farmers will take produce from small farmers and sell them to the Government and this will put small farmers in more trouble.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been a long pending demand of the farmers. It is needed to avoid distress sales and incurring losses.

The demands such as withdrawal of the electricity bill, an increase in the State Advised Price (SAP) for sugarcane, incorporation of pro-farmer provisions in the impending seed law, deletion of penal provisions in the air quality law vis-à-vis stubble burning, sacking Minister for Home Affairs for his alleged role in the Lakhimpur Kheri massacre for a fair probe, withdrawal of cases lodged against protesting farmers as 'weapons of harassment', allotment of a site for erecting a memorial for martyrs to the cause of defence of farmers' rights are just and find resonance with people across the country for the Government to draw a red line and refuse to accede to them.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



PRAFULL GORADIA

men? Therefore, potentially half the momins are for change, justice and progress. The tarazu or weighing machine of human justice goes in favour of a Common Civil Code.

The long delay on part of the Government is explained by electoral considerations. In answer to a member's question after passing of the Hindu Code Bill, Nehru told Parliament, "Well, I should like a civil code which applies to everybody, but wisdom hinders. If he (the member) or anybody else brings forward a Civil Code Bill, it will have my extreme sympathy. But I confess that I do not think that at the present moment, the time is ripe in India for me to try and push it through. I want to prepare the ground for it".

It was believed, and right so, that Muslims voted solidly at election time, up to 90 per cent. The rest of the electorate in the earlier polls generally cast only about 40 to 45 per cent. The Muslim vote was thus considered twice as effective. It is no wonder that political parties chased it by pampering it.

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

SOUND BITE

There is a fake Kejriwal roaming around. Whatever I promise in Punjab, he does the same after two days.



Delhi Chief Minister —Arvind Kejriwal

From December 1, 2021, fully-vaccinated, eligible visa-holders can come to Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption.

Australian Prime Minister —Scott Morrison

Ajay Devgn completes 30 years in the film industry. Soft-spoken, non-interfering, yet filled with passion.



Actor —Amitabh Bachchan

Ashwin has been phenomenal in the last five games. He has been economical and picked up wickets every time.

Cricket commentator —Aakash Chopra

Before coming to power in Manipur, we had promised to end bandh, hartal and blockade. We have ended all the three.



Union Home Minister —Amit Shah

FIRST COLUMN

COP26 TAKEAWAY IN THE DIVIDED WORLD

This is the first time that coal has been explicitly mentioned in any COP decision



VK BAHUGUNA

In the recently concluded COP26 meet on climate change, the developed world as usual was harping on stopping use of coal and subsidies on fossil fuel ignoring the ground realities of the developing world that faces challenges of meeting the energy needs of developmental works and reduction of poverty. However, thanks to India and other developing nation the final agreement toned down the words and pledged to only reduce the use of coal and fossil fuel. As per the Paris agreement the developed world was supposed to provide \$100 billion annually by the year 2020 to the developing countries to meet their targets of adaptation and mitigation. The new technologies and innovative attempts require finances and unless it is done it will be a pipe dream to achieve targets. The Glasgow declaration is weak on promises especially on loss and damages though the developed countries now agreed to provide the 100 billion dollars by 2023. In reality, if the net-zero emission targets are to be achieved by 2050 to 2070 at least \$500 billion annually would be needed. Further, because of the intransigence of the developed world the scope for opening of adequate space for carbon trade is still an issue. The developed world



had failed to recognize and accept their historical responsibility for emissions in the past and on the contrary in each COP they pressurise the developing world to opt for impractical conditions. Thus, the question of equity and differential responsibility always gets side lined in these negotiations. From the Indian side there were some positive declarations by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on how Indian proposes to achieve the net-zero emissions by 2070. He announced the 'Panchamrit' concept while delivering the National Statement. The PM said the first agenda was to raise the non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity of the country to 500 GW by 2030. On mitigation, COP26 asks the countries to prop up their climate action plan for 2030 by next year and also propose to hold ministers' meetings to raise the ambitions (as it says!) of climate action plan for 2030.

It asked the countries to reduce usage of coal as a source of fuel, and abolish "inefficient" subsidies on fossil fuels. It called for a phase-down of coal, and phase-out of fossil fuels. This is the first time that coal has been explicitly mentioned in any COP decision. It also led to a big fracas at the end, with a group of countries led by India and China forcing an amendment to replace the word "phase-out" in relation to coal with "phase-down". On adaptation, it asked the developed countries to at least double the money being provided for adaptation by 2025 from the 2019 levels. The Paris agreement had been good for mitigation goals but silent on adaptation goals. Unlike mitigation efforts that bring global benefits, the benefits from adaptation are local or regional. On the insistence of developing countries this declaration has proposed a two-year programme to define global goal on adaptation. For loss and damages, it has been agreed to establish a dialogue on the insistence of developing countries. The carbon market vanished after the end of Kyoto Protocol. The Glasgow Pact has offered some reprieve to the developing nations. It has allowed these carbon credits to be used in meeting countries' first Nationally Determined Contributions till 2025. The climate change targets can only be met if the developed world accepts the reality and stops dilly-dallying. The Prime Minister and environment minister of need to take innovative actions to achieve the targets of net-zero emission by 2070. At the country level we need to integrate and converge the development process with ecological sustainability.

(The writer is Chairman of Centre for Resource Management and Environment. The views expressed are personal.)

Directing the retail investor to G-security



UTTAM GUPTA

Under this centralised system, customers will have a single point of reference to file their complaints, submit documents, track status and provide feedback

On November 12, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two innovative customer-centric initiatives of Reserve Bank of India — Retail Direct Scheme (RB-RDS) and the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS).

The RDS is intended to give retail investors - mostly the middle class, employees, small businessmen and senior citizens - an option of 'directly' investing in their hard-earned savings/surpluses in Government securities, making capital markets 'easily accessible' and ensuring that the investment is 'more secure'. The RB-IOS is aimed at improving customer grievance redress mechanism.

What are the schemes? How do these propose to achieve the stated objective? What are the chances of success?

The RB-RDS is a 'one-stop' solution to facilitate investment by individual investors in Securities issued by the Centre such as treasury bills, dated securities, sovereign gold bonds and securities issued by State governments. Under the scheme, a retail investor can open and maintain the 'Retail Direct Gilt Account' (RDG Account) with RBI. It can be opened through an 'Online portal' provided for the purpose. He/she needs to have a Rupee savings bank account maintained in India, PAN (Permanent Account Number) issued by the income tax department, any officially valid document to meet KYC norms and Valid email id and registered mobile number.

The 'Online portal' will enable the retail investor access primary issuance of Government securities as also invest in the secondary market by accessing the RBI's trading platform named Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching Segment, or NDS-OM. NDS-OM is a screen based, anonymous electronic order matching system for trading in government securities in the secondary market. Investors will receive interest/maturity proceeds in their bank accounts linked to the RDG account. They will not have to pay any fee for availing facilities on the portal.

With these basics at the backdrop, let us evaluate.

All along, the Government securities or G-sec market was largely inaccessible to retail investors even as the market was dominated by institutional investors such as banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, etc. with lot sizes of Rs 5 crores and higher. Earlier, regulators tried to popularize G-secs among the former through innovations such as NSE (National Stock Exchange) GoBid app or retail debt market (RDM) segment of the exchange. But these did not have the desired result due to lack of liquidity.

Accordingly, initiatives such as introducing non-competitive bidding in primary auctions, permitting bourses to act as aggregators or facilitators for retail investors and allowing odd-lot segment in NDS-OM



WITH LARGE VOLUMES OF DATA STORED UNDER A CENTRALISED AND INTEGRATED SYSTEM, THE AUTHORITIES CAN ALSO TAKE TIMELY ACTION FOR PREVENTING FINANCIAL CRIME AND CATCHING CYBER FRAUD USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA ANALYTICS

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



secondary market have been taken in the past. These changes/modifications aimed at carving out a special window within the existing arrangements have not helped much.

This prompted the RBI to consider a dedicated online platform for retail investors access the G-sec market — both primary and secondary — along with the facility to open their gilt securities account with the RBI. Accordingly, the Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the 'Retail Direct' facility February 2021 monetary policy review.

What Modi has announced now is essentially the same scheme.

It gives millions of small investors located anywhere including in the remotest corner of the country an opportunity to 'directly' invest (the minimum eligible amount being Rs 10,000/- and maximum Rs 2 crore, it covers a wide range of income earners) and trade in G-securities; they need not have to go through the institutions, associated hassles and pay fee/commission.

Unlike other avenues wherein investment is not safe (while, equity capital is inherently risky, investment in Fixed deposit in a bank is also not free from risk), under the scheme, they get to invest in an avenue (read: G-securities) which is 'safe' and 'secure'. Backed by sovereign guarantee, the investor is assured of receiving - on maturity - the invested amount in 'full' with the promised interest.

However, it does not automatically follow that retail investors will be enthused and come in droves. This is because the yield on G-secs currently at around 6.2 percent is significantly lower than the return a small investor gets from investment in a host of small savings schemes (SSSs). For instance, a senior citizen gets an effective

return of 8.3 percent from investing in Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) or investment in Senior Citizens' Saving Scheme (SCSS) currently 7.4 percent. Even persons below 60 years of age have options such as public provident fund (PPF), national savings certificate (NSC) etc where the returns are higher (7.1 percent and 6.8 percent respectively) than those available on G-securities.

The sole reason behind higher return on SSSs is the subsidy extended by the Union Government on these instruments unlike G-securities where the interest rates are market determined. Considering that subsidy is given primarily to serve a larger welfare objective of protecting the vulnerable class (for instance, senior citizens who do not have regular source of income and are entirely dependent on return from their accumulated savings), it is unlikely that this will be withdrawn. Then, how will the RB-RDS gain traction?

Other than persons with limited savings who use the money for investing in SSSs or other instruments where exemption from income tax (subject to specified cap) is available, there exists a large pool of others - often referred to as high net-worth individual (HNIs) having huge surplus left even after fully exhausting the investment threshold under the former category. Even as HNIs are normally crazy for high returns and go after equity shares, a large number of them would look for

'safer' and 'secure' options even if the return is less.

Investment in G-securities on the RB-RDS which is hassle free and easily accessible fully meets the requirement of such investors. It is good from the perspective of the Government also as it needs long-term capital to finance infrastruc-

ture projects such as expressways, highways, railways, ports and so on. However, it should avoid the temptation of extending tax benefit to retail G-sec holders; rather there is a case of removing extant tax benefits on debt mutual fund schemes, RBI floating rate bonds, SSSs, etc. for a level playing field.

The second initiative is crafted around the theme of 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints regarding deficiency in services provided by banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and other entities regulated by RBI. With this, the extant three Ombudsman Schemes dealing with Banking, NBFCs and Digital Transactions respectively will cease to exist.

Under this centralized system, the customers will have a single point of reference to file their complaints, submit the documents, track status and provide feedback. Irrespective of the institution, the office/branch where the customer is maintaining his/her account, location, nature of the grievance and so on, all that he/she needs to do is to open his/her laptop and get things done - literally unshackling from the hassles under the existing arrangements.

With large volumes of data stored under a centralized and integrated system, the authorities can also take timely action for preventing financial crime and catching cyber fraud using artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics.

To conclude, both the initiatives of the RBI are major reforms, first offering a versatile platform to channelize people's savings for financing development needs and second, effectively address their grievances by improving services and protecting their money.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

OUR NATIONAL SECURITY IS UNPARDONABLY COMPROMISED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO STRATEGY AND MR 56 INCH IS SCARED. —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



THE LAC IS A SENSITIVE ISSUE. RAHUL GANDHI HAS NO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT BORDER SECURITY AND OTHER SENSITIVE MATTERS. —UNION MINISTER KIREN RIJIJU

The dairy sector plays a crucial role in rural economy

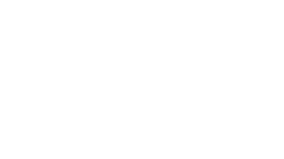
Dairy is one of the important sectors in rural economy that helps the economic condition of 80 million landless, small and marginal farm households

On November 26, 2014, National Milk Day was first celebrated to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the father of India's White Revolution. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with 22 state-level milk federations, agreed to commemorate this day every year. On November 26, 2021, India will commemorate Dr. Kurien's 100th birthday. On this day, efforts are made to raise public awareness about the relevance of milk and milk products in daily life, and the importance of the dairy sector in India's rural economy.

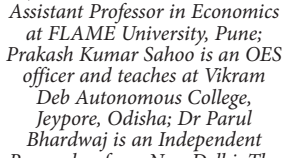
During the 1950s and 1960s, India was a milk deficit nation and was dependent mostly on imports. To over-



YASHOBANTA PARIDA



PRAKASH K SAHOO



PARUL BHARDWAJ

(Dr Yashobanta Parida is an Assistant Professor in Economics at FLAME University, Pune; Prakash Kumar Sahoo is an OES officer and teaches at Vikram Deb Autonomous College, Jeypore, Odisha; Dr Parul Bhardwaj is an Independent Researcher from New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

come this problem, the Government set up NDDB in 1965 and requested Dr. Kurien to replicate the 'Anand pattern' dairy cooperative model throughout the country. In 1970, NDDB launched a massive dairy development programme called 'Operation Flood (OF)' under Dr. Kurien's leadership to expand the dairy cooperatives network, build dairy infrastructure, and increase women's participation in dairy cooperatives. The OF programme transformed India from a milk deficit nation into a leading milk producer of the world. Owing to these efforts, in 1998, India became self-sufficient and surpassed the US in milk production, contributing 22 percent of global milk production in 2018.

Besides, the dairy sector is



one of the important sectors in the rural economy that enhances the economic condition of 80 million landless, small and marginal farm households in India. The sector also helps to reduce rural poverty, inequality, and ensuring nutrition to poor rural households. The livestock sector also contributes about 4.11 per cent to India's GDP and 25.6 per cent towards total agriculture GDP, whereas the dairy sector claims a major

share by contributing 67 per cent to total livestock output (National Accounts Statistics, 2019). Notably, milk output stands at more than 20.6 per cent of the combined output of paddy, wheat, and pulses.

This sector also provides self-employment opportunities, particularly for women and economically disadvantaged groups. Annually, 8.4 million small and marginal farmers depend on the dairy sector for livelihood, both directly and indirectly, out of which 71 per cent are women, thus demonstrating that the sector plays a vital role in women empowerment and inclusive growth. In developing countries, greater growth of the dairy sector can increase women's educational attainment and bridge the gap in

gender inequalities. The dairy sector is thus a vital driver for helping India reach the SDGs enunciated in 2015 by the United Nations to transform the world and to protect the planet we live in.

Further, keeping in mind the nutritional value of milk, in the year 2018, an advisory was issued to all states to include milk in the Mid-day Meal Scheme and other nutritional programmes of anganwadis and in the ongoing schemes of health as well as Women and Child Development department to tackle malnourishment in the country. The Department of Food and Public Distribution was also requested to include milk in the PDS system. This is likely to increase milk consumption, which in turn will

yield better returns for dairy farmers in the flush season.

India is self-sufficient in milk production, but only ten states in India produce 81 per cent of the total milk produced, and only nine states have achieved per capita availability of milk at par with the national level. The data shows that milk production in India is concentrated in a few states because of their robust dairy cooperative networks, and a higher remunerative price of milk received by the farmers in their respective states. In order to circumvent this, the Indian government needs to devise a suitable dairy development policy for enhancing milk production and procurement in the remaining potential districts and states. This implies that dairy promotion

among small and landless farmers is critical to increasing milk availability, particularly in milk-deficit regions.

It will also help expand the dairy sector and replicate the 'Anand pattern' throughout the country to enhance milk production and generate employment opportunities. Moreover, the recent government announcement for setting up a fund of Rs 15,000 crore for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development will help to promote private investments in the sector and the improvement of cattle feed infrastructure. Finally, this move will provide a boost to local manufacturing and consumption of locally produced goods and help further India's objective of achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat.

GLOBE TROTTER

SWEDISH PARLIAMENT TO VOTE ON NEW GOVT

Copenhagen: The speaker of Sweden's parliament said Monday lawmakers will vote later this week on whether Swedish Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson should become the country's first female prime minister even though she has not succeeded in securing the support of a left-leaning party. Andreas Norlen said Andersson earlier on Monday had informed him that after 11 days of talks there were still not agreement with the Left Party but "negotiations have been good."

'DEMOCRACY BACKSLIDING ACROSS THE WORLD'

Copenhagen: Democracy is deteriorating across the world, with countries notably taking undemocratic and unnecessary actions to contain the coronavirus pandemic, an intergovernmental body said in its new report on Monday.

SIX PERSONS KILLED IN ACCIDENT IN NEPAL

Kathmandu: At least six persons have been killed after a jeep lost control and fell down the hilly road in Nepal's Baitadi district, police said.

KIDNAPPERS RELEASE 2 OF 17 MISSIONARIES

Port-Au-Prince (Haiti): Two of 17 members of a missionary group who were kidnapped more than a month ago, are safe and "in good spirits" after being freed in Haiti, their US-based church organisation has announced. Christian Aid Ministries issued a statement Sunday saying it could not give the names of those released, why they were freed or other information.

5 dead, 40 injured after SUV speeds into Christmas parade

AP ■ WAUKESHA (US)

A joyous scene of marching bands and children dancing in Santa hats and waving pompoms turned deadly in an instant, as an SUV sped through barricades and into a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee, killing at least five people and injuring more than 40 others.

One video showed a woman screaming, "Oh my God!" repeatedly as a group of young dancers was struck Sunday. A father talked of going "from one crumpled body to the other" in search of his daughter. Members of a "Dancing Grannies" club were among those hit.

The city of Waukesha posted on its social media accounts late Sunday that it could confirm at least five died and more than 40 were injured, while noting that it was still collecting information. The city's statement also noted that many people took themselves to hospitals. The city did not release any additional information about those who died.

A "person of interest" was in custody, Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson said, but he gave no details about the person or any possible motive. The investigation was ongoing, with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

"What took place in Waukesha today is sickening, and I have every confidence that those responsible will be



In this image taken from video an SUV speeds past a young girl and others attending a Christmas parade and continues to drive through the parade, injuring multiple people on Sunday in Waukesha

brought to justice," Attorney General Josh Kaul, the state's top law enforcement officer, tweeted.

The horror was recorded by the city's livestream and

onlookers' cellphones.

One video shows the moment the SUV broke through the barricades and the sound of what appears to be several gunshots. Thompson

said a Waukesha police officer fired his gun to try to stop the vehicle. No bystanders were injured by the gunfire, and Thompson said he did not know if the driver was struck by the officer's bullets.

Another video shows a young child dancing in the street as the SUV speeds by, just a few feet from her, before it hurtles into parade participants a few hundred feet ahead. One video, of dancers with pompoms, ends with a group of people tending to a girl on the ground.

"There were pompoms and shoes and spilled hot chocolate everywhere. I had to go from one crumpled body to the other to find my daughter," Corey Montinho, a Waukesha school district board member, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "My wife and two daughters were almost hit. Please pray for everybody. Please pray."

The Milwaukee Dancing Grannies posted on its Facebook page that "members of the group and volunteers were impacted and we are waiting for word on their conditions". The group's profile describes them as a "group of grannies that meet once a week to practice routines for summer and winter parades".

A Catholic priest, multiple parishioners and Waukesha Catholic schoolchildren were among those injured, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee spokeswoman Sandra Peterson said.

Xi says China will not seek 'hegemony'

Chinese Prez woos ASEAN with bounties to blunt US push into SCS

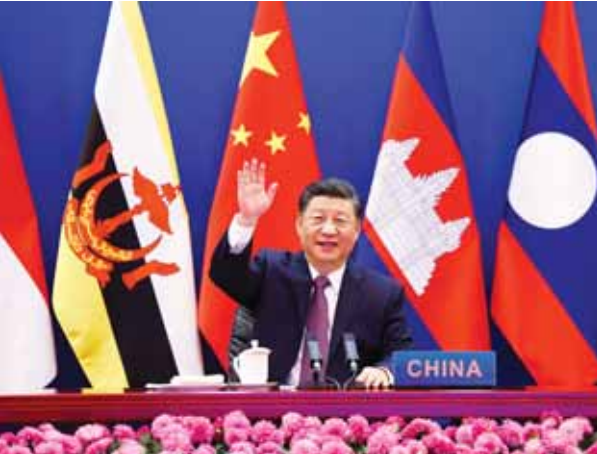
PTI ■ BEIJING

President Xi Jinping said on Monday that China will not seek "hegemony" or bully smaller countries as he announced USD 1.5 billion development assistance for the ASEAN besides the elevation of the ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership to strengthen security cooperation with the 10-nation bloc, amid the US push into the resource rich Indo-Pacific.

Xi made the remarks at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China Special Summit to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.

Addressing the summit via video link, President Xi reiterated that China "resolutely opposes hegemonism and power politics, wishes to maintain friendly relations with its neighbours and jointly nurture lasting peace in the region and absolutely will not seek hegemony or even less, bully the small."

"As distance tests a horse's strength, time reveals a person's



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping waves as he chairs the ASEAN-China Special Summit to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations via video link from Beijing, China on Monday

heart," Xi said. "China was, is and will always be ASEAN's good neighbour, good friend and good partner. I want to stress that China will unswervingly make ASEAN the priority of its neighbouring diplomacy."

China, which was the first to establish a special relationship with the ASEAN countries Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, reaped big benefits as the trade with the bloc touched over USD 732 billion last year with Beijing emerging as its largest trading partner.

India, which shares a special relationship with the ASEAN countries, too held its

India-ASEAN summit last month in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi said 2022 would be celebrated as the 'ASEAN-India Friendship Year' to mark 30 years of their partnership.

Addressing the summit, President Xi announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership, which is diplomatic jargon to elevate the relations to a higher level.

China has several categories to label its ties with different countries. The lowest is partnership, while the highest level is comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era which is specific to its ties with Russia, Beijing's emerging close ally.

SUV driver in parade crash may have been fleeing a crime

AP ■ WAUKESHA, WIS.

Investigators are looking into whether the SUV driver who plowed through a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee, killing at least five people and injuring more than 40, was flee-

ing a crime, a law enforcement official told *The Associated Press*.

The joyous scene of marching bands and children dancing in Santa hats and waving pompoms turned deadly in an instant on Sunday.

Jobs lost, middle class Afghans slide into poverty, hunger

AP ■ KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Not long ago, Ferishta Salih and her family had enough for a decent life. Her husband was working and earned a good salary. She could send several of her daughters to private schools. But now, after her husband lost his job following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, she was lined up with hundreds of other Afghans, registering with the U.N.'s World Food Program to receive food and cash that her family desperately needs just for survival.

"We have lost everything. We've lost our minds," Salih said after her registration was complete. With her was her eldest daughter, 17-year-old Fatima, whom she had to take out of school. She can't afford to pay the fees at a private school, and the Taliban so far are not allowing teenage girls to go to public schools.

"I don't want anything for myself, I just want my children to get an education," Salih said.

In a matter of months as Afghanistan's economy craters, many stable, middle-class families like Salih's have plummeted into desperation, uncertain of how they will pay for their next meal. That is one reason the United Nations is raising alarm over a hunger crisis, with 22% of the population of 38 million already near famine and another 36% facing acute food insecurity - mainly because people can't afford food.

The economy was already in trouble under the previous, U.S.-backed government, which often could not pay its employees. The situation was worsened by the coronavirus pandemic and by a punishing drought that drove up food prices. Already in 2020, nearly half of Afghanistan's population was living in poverty.

Then the world's shutdown of funding to Afghanistan after the Taliban's Aug. 15 seizure of power pulled the rug out from under the country's small middle class. International funding once paid for much of the gov-

ernment budget — and without it, the Taliban have largely been unable to pay salaries or provide public services. The international community has not recognized Taliban rule, demanding the militants form a more inclusive government and respect human rights.

International aid also fueled projects around the country that provided jobs, most of which are now on hold. The country's banks are cut off from the international banking system, further snarling the private sector. The country's economy is estimated to have contracted 40% in just three months.

Hospitals are seeing increasing numbers of emaciated, malnourished children, mostly from the country's poorest families who were already barely getting by.

Now families that have seen their once-stable livelihoods wrecked also find themselves with nothing and must scrape for ways to cover costs of food, rent and medical expenses.

Pak to allow India to send wheat to Kabul through its territory: Imran

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan announced on Monday that his government will allow India to send a humanitarian shipment of 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat to neighbouring Afghanistan through its territory after finalisation of the transit modalities.

Khan, who chaired the first Apex Committee meeting of the newly established Afghanistan Inter-ministerial Coordination Cell (AICC) in Islamabad, also took the opportunity to remind the international community of the collective responsibility to support Afghanistan to avoid a humanitarian crisis.

During the meeting, Khan announced Pakistan's decision to allow the 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat India has offered to provide Afghanistan as humanitarian assistance to go through Pakistan as soon as modalities are finalised with the Indian side, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

Russian admiral: 2000 Kursk disaster caused by NATO sub

AP ■ MOSCOW

A retired Russian admiral has alleged that the 2000 Kursk submarine disaster was caused by a collision with a NATO sub, an unproven claim that defies the official conclusion that the country's worst post-Soviet naval catastrophe was triggered by a faulty torpedo.

Retired Adm. Vyacheslav Popov, who was the commander of Russia's Northern Fleet when the Kursk exploded and sank during naval maneuvers

in the Barents Sea, charged in an interview released Monday that the NATO submarine inadvertently bumped into the Kursk while shadowing it at close distance.

Popov told the state RIA Novosti news agency that the Western submarine was also damaged in the powerful explosion and sent a distress signal from the area.

He didn't identify the submarine and acknowledged that he lacks proof to back up his claim.

Since Sudan coup, 41 killed, hospitals targeted, doctors say

AP ■ CAIRO

Security forces have targeted hospitals and blocked injured protesters from treatment since the military seized control of the country last month, Sudanese doctors said Monday, after raising the total number of anti-coup protesters killed to 41.

Security forces have stopped ambulances, entered emergency rooms to arrest patients, and fired tear gas inside at least two hospitals in Khartoum since the October 25 coup, according to a report from The Unified Office of Sudanese Doctors, a coalition of medical workers.

The Sudan Doctors Committee, another group that released the new death toll, said that the latest victim was a 16-year-old killed by a gunshot to the head as he was protesting a new power-sharing deal between the military and the country's deposed prime minister on Sunday.

The group tracks protest-related deaths.

There was no immediate response from the country's military or police, who have both been accused by the United Nations' top human rights body of using excess force against the pro-democracy demonstrations.

The United States and

Prosecutor in Ahmaud Arbery case: Arbery was under attack

AP ■ BRUNSWICK, GA.

None of the three white men charged in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery had cause to make a citizen's arrest when they saw him in their neighborhood, according to a prosecutor, who said on Monday in closing arguments that the defendants decided to pursue him "because he was a Black man running down their street."

Closing arguments before a disproportionately white jury began after 10 days of testi-

mony that concluded last week, not long after the man who shot Arbery testified he pulled the trigger in self-defense.

Arbery's killing became part of a larger, national reckoning on racial injustice after a graphic video of his death leaked online two months later. Though prosecutors didn't argue that racism motivated the killing, federal authorities have charged all three men with hate crimes, alleging that they chased and killed Arbery because he was Black.

The agreement envisions an independent, technocratic Cabinet to be led by Hamdok until elections can be held. Even then, it would still remain under military oversight.

In response, thousands of Sudanese took to the streets Sunday to denounce what many called a betrayal of the democratic cause by their former prime minister, who has been the civilian face of the transitional government since it took power after a 2019 popular uprising deposed longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

Security forces then fired tear gas and live ammunition in some locations, according to activists.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that, I, Ved Bhushan Arora S/o Shri Data Ram R/o-Flat No. J-80, Ground Floor, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076, am owner and in physical possession of flat No. J-80, Ground Floor, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076. The original Fifth and final Demand Letter, Possession Letter, NOC for water and Electric Connection, Payment receipts and bank cheques pertaining to flat no. J-80, Ground Floor, Block-J, Cat SFS-II, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076, have been lost. An F.I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged. Any person (s) found possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/Phone: 9717691936 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Priya
General Public is hereby informed that one female **Name: Priya, D/o: Sanjay Kumar, R/o: H.No. B-163/733, Block-G, Street No.2, Near Animal Hospital, Rajiv Nagar, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **20.10.2021** at 2:00 pm from her house from the area of P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 750/21 U/s 363 IPC dated 22.10.2021** has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: **Age: 17 years, Height: 5'1", Face: Long, Eyes: Black, Complexion: Fair, Built: Normal, Hair: Long/black, Wearing: Yellow colour suit-salwar and black colour slipper in her feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl kindly inform to the following.
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - c/c@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi**
DP/1400/ON/2021 **Ph.: 011- 011- 27811933, 7065036328**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that one female was found dead at Park Near Service Station BSES Bela Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. On 18.11.2021. In this regard vide **DD No. 52A, u/s 174 Cr.Pc. Dated 18.11.2021** has been lodged at **P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi** The description of the dead body is given as under:
Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: 80-85 years, Height: 4'11"Feet, Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Pink Blouse and Green Pett Coat.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead female please inform the undersigned.
S.H.O
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 8750870123, 011-23968730
DP/1726/N/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas M/s Vatika Limited is in the process of undertaking of development of a Residential Colony in Sector 88A and 88B, over an area measuring 112.60625 acres in Village Harsaru, Gurugram, Haryana in accordance with the provision of Licence No. 94 of 2013 dt. 31-10-2013 and Licence No.11 of 2015 dt. 01-10-2015 granted by the Director General, Town & Country Planning (Haryana), Chandigarh.
And whereas several individuals have made bookings/entered into purchase agreements for allotment of plots / property in the said colony (hereinafter referred to as allottees).
Whereas a revision of the said layout plan of the said colony to 97.59275 acres is proposed to be effected wherein some utilized areas are proposed to be de-licensed and migrated for better and organized planning of the colony.
And whereas the o/o Director General, Town & Country Planning (Haryana), Chandigarh, while granting in principle approval of the proposed revised layout vide LOI Memo No. LC-4527-JE(DS)/2021/29467 dated 18-11-2021, has required seeking of any objections from the allottees against the proposed revision in the layout plan as a pre-condition in allowing the proposed revision as per drawing no. XPC/LAY/R4/104 dt. SEP 2021.
Accordingly, this public notice, objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed revision of the layout plan.
Objections, if any, may be filed in the o/o Senior Town Planner, Sector 14, Gurugram, Haryana, or may be filed in our Corporate Office within 30 days of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision of the layout plan.
Place: Gurugram **For VATIKA LIMITED**
Dated: 23-11-2021 **Authorised Signatory**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 27 Years, Sex: Male, Complexion: Dark, Height: 5'5, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Wearing: Blue Hospital Gown, was found Unconscious in Furniture Market, Tilak Nagar Bus Stand, Delhi, on 05.11.2021. During Treatment at Safdurjung Hospital, on 14.11.2021 Doctor declared him dead.**
In this regard a DD No. 62, dated 05.11.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.
SHO
P.S. Kirti Nagar,, Delhi
DP/632/WD/2021 **Ph.: 011-25190462, 8750871126**

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform our valued constituents that for operational convenience our branch situated at Kosamattam Finance Ltd. Building No.-93, Ground Floor, Near Petrol Pump, Ashram, Delhi - 110014, Mob- 7306123353, 9654529043 is proposed to be merged with our branch functioning at Kosamattam Finance Ltd. Building No.-A2, First Floor, Pandav Nagar Enclave, Above Apni Rasoi Restaurant, Ganesh Nagar, Delhi-110092, Mob No - 7306123353, 9654529043, w.e.f 21/02/2022. Our esteemed customers may please contact the Ganesh Nagar Branch for further assistance / service. The inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.
W.E.F.: 21/02/2022 **Sincerely, Managing Director**
Kosamattam Finance Ltd.
M.K.C.Building, Market Junction, M.L.Road, Kottayam-686001, Ph: 0481-2586400

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM,
Durgapal Garden Near Sintihya Senior Secondary School, Piliokothi Road, Bar Mukhiani Haldwani Dist.- Nainital (Pin 263139)
E-Tender Notice
नमस्ते: 1688 / पीएल-एनएल / कंस्ट्रक्शंस / 126 [रिनो: 20.11.2021]
1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF PUNARVAASH GRAH FOR MENTAL PATIENTS AT FULSUNGA, RUDRAPUR (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR).
2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 432.84 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 09 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 22.11.2021 (17.00hrs)
5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- 13.12.2021 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening:- 15.12.2021 (11.00hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Laxmi Niwas, Durgapal Garden, Piliokothi, Haldwani.
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 26.10.2021 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Dist.- Udhm Singh Nagar, 263153.
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in
General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Punjab Lok Congress Party'. The office of the party is located at Mohinder Bagh, situated at Village Siawan, Near Gurdwara Sheesh Mahal Sahib, Post Office Mullianpur Garib Dass, Tehsil Kharar, District Mohali, Punjab, India - 140901. This Party has submitted an application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:
(1. President:- Sukhinder Singh, House No. 3, Sector 5, Chandigarh.
(2. General Secretary :- Gurmehar Singh Sekhoni/Jainil Majri, Village Majrian, Tehsil Kharar, District SAS Nagar, Punjab.
(3. Treasurer :- Sukhsimran Singh, H.No. 27, Phase 3B-1 SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab. If anyone has any objection to the registration of Punjab Lok Congress Party', they may send their objection, with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Fiscal deficit may be better at 6.6%: Fitch

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre could better its fiscal deficit at 6.6 per cent of GDP in this financial year on stronger-than-expected revenue buoyancy, even if the budgeted disinvestment target is not met, Fitch Ratings has said.

The international rating agency had last week kept the sovereign rating unchanged at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook, and said that the risks to India's medium-term growth outlook are narrowing with rapid economic recovery from the pandemic and easing financial sector pressures.

In an email interview with PTI, Fitch Ratings Director (Asia-Pacific Sovereigns) Jeremy Zook said the two key positive triggers that could lead to a revision of the outlook to stable are implementation of a credible medium-term fiscal strategy to lower debt burden

and higher medium-term investment and growth rates without the creation of macro-economic imbalances, such as from successful structural reform implementation and a healthier financial sector.

"We forecast that the central government will achieve a deficit of 6.6 per cent of GDP in the current fiscal year, largely as a result of stronger-than-expected revenue buoyancy. Our forecasts assume that the government does fall short of its budget target for divestment," Zook said.

In the 2021-22 (April-March) Budget presented on February 1, the government had pegged the fiscal deficit, or gap between the Centre's expenditure and revenue, at 6.8 per cent of GDP or Rs 15.06 lakh crore.

At the end of September, which is six months in the financial year, the fiscal deficit touched 35 per cent of budget

estimates.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj has said the government's tax collection kitty will surpass budget estimates this financial year on the back of good direct and indirect tax mop-up.

"After refunds also, we have touched almost ₹6 lakh crore till October in direct taxes... It is looking good. Hopefully, we should exceed it.

"Though we have given a lot of relief in indirect taxes in petrol, diesel and edible oil, also there are some sunsets that have come in customs duty where the total benefit would be about ₹75,000-80,000 crore. But, still, I think we should exceed the budgeted estimates on both direct and indirect taxes," Bajaj told PTI.

With regard to disinvestment, as against the budgeted target of ₹1.75 lakh crore, the mop-up so far stands at ₹9,330 crore.

Indian consumers spend to live in the moment despite inflation blues: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Despite global inflationary concerns, Indians are looking forward to having a balanced life with plans to spend on luxuries such as personal care, clothing, vehicle, leisure travel and air travels, according to the findings of a survey by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India.

Indians are not only focused on saving for the future (58 per cent of the respondents) but also want to spend for experiences and goods/ physical possessions (50 per cent each), the report said adding that robust vaccination drives and an uptick in positive consumer sentiments are the primary reasons for this shift.

According to the findings, 77 per cent of consumers are optimistic about their financial situation within the next three years, as workplaces open up and Covid-19 cases show a decline.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India on Monday unveiled Wave 24, the latest analysis of its Global State of the Consumer Tracker.

The consumer tracker is an online survey conducted on 1,000 respondents each in 23 countries.

"While 74 per cent of Indian respondents are concerned about inflation.

At the same time, 85 per cent of Indian respondents plan to spend on leisure travel in the next four weeks, 71 per cent of Indian respondents feel safe engaging with one-on-one services and 68 per cent of Indian respondents feel safe going to a restaurant," it said.

Inflationary concerns were observed across the globe in South Africa (86 per cent), Spain (85 per cent), Poland (84 per cent), Brazil (80 per cent), India (74 per cent), Canada (74 per cent), UK (72 per cent) and US (71 per cent).

India's two-wheeler sales likely to fall 1-4% YoY in FY22: ICRA

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

India's two-wheeler sales are expected to contract by 1-4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in FY22 due to weak festive season performance, ICRA said on Monday.

Accordingly, the rating agency cited that the relentless increase in prices of two-wheelers coupled with record-high petrol rates kept consumers away from dealerships. "The entry-segment (75-110cc), which dominates 2W (two-wheeler) sales in India, has remained subdued this year, reflecting extensive (and extended) impact of the second wave of the pandemic. The lacklustre festive season performance also highlighted continued wariness among the low-income population regarding big-ticket purchases," said Rohan Kanwar Gupta, Vice President and Sector Head,



Corporate Ratings, ICRA.

"On the financial front, given the high operating leverage of the industry, subdued demand and elevated raw material costs are expected to keep the operating margins constrained for the two-wheeler OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) in the current fiscal," Gupta said. Besides, the agency said rural offtake has lagged urban, possibly due to moderated agri-sentiments caused by uneven monsoons and delayed harvesting across regions.

Rupee slips 9 paise to end at 74.39 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 9 paise to end at 74.39 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as massive sell-offs in domestic equities and a strong greenback in the overseas market weighed on investor sentiments.

Besides, rising crude prices in the international market and persistent foreign capital outflows also put pressure on the rupee, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened weak at 74.36 and lost further ground as the trade progressed to quote 74.51 a dollar.



Bharti Airtel shares jump nearly 4 pc after tariff hike announcement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Bharti Airtel on Monday gained nearly 4 per cent after the company announced a 20-25 per cent tariff hike for various prepaid offerings.

The stock gained 3.90 per cent to close at ₹742.05 on BSE. During the day, it jumped 5.85 per cent to its 52-week high of ₹756. On NSE, it gained 3.88 per cent to close at ₹742.10.

In volume terms, 7.94 lakh shares were traded on BSE and over 3.68 crore on NSE.

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Monday announced a 20-25 per cent tariff hike for various prepaid offerings, including tariffed voice plans, unlimited voice bundles, and data top-ups.

The entry-level tariffed voice plan has been hiked by about 25 per cent, while for unlimited voice bundles the increase in most cases is about 20 per cent.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that my client namely Sh. Raghubir Singh S/o Sh. Balwant Singh, R/o C-96C, Tilak Vihar, Delhi-110018, my client wife namely Smt. Kalash Kaur was expired on 25.04.2021 at Delhi. That after my client's wife death, my client namely Sh. Raghubir Singh S/o Sh. Balwant Singh, R/o C-96C, Tilak Vihar, Delhi-110018, is the only one legal heirs of his wife and my client is having no children. Any person, who claim an interest in this regard, or any part thereof, however, are hereby requested to convey to the undersigned at his office at K-63, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054 within 7days from the date hereof, failing which, the claim or claims if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Deepak Garg (Advocate)

En. No. D/2871/2016

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that I, Kanchan Gauri W/o Sh. Sanjay Gauri R/o 107, First Floor, Pocket-A-4, Kalkaji Extn., New Delhi purchaser of SFS Flat No.107, First Floor, Pocket A-4, Kalkaji Extn. New Delhi along with Scooter Garage, have applied for Freehold and issue certify copies of said documents of the aforesaid property in DDA. The Fifth and Final Demand Letter, Possession Letter and NOC for obtaining water and electricity connection issued by DDA, have been lost or misplaced and are not traceable inspite of the best efforts. An FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in Crime Branch vide LR No. 947392/2021, dated 18.11.2021.

Any person (s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection, may write/ contact with above named person at the above address/phone No. 995849443, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Director of Dy. Director LAB Housing (SFS) DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi

In the Court of Sh. Shirish Aggarwal Administrative Civil Judge-cum- Additional Rent Controller (Central), Delhi Court Room No. 28, Ground Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Petition No. SC-74/2021 Mrs. Madhu Sharma & Anr. Versus The State

1. Mrs. Madhu Sharma W/o Mr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma D/o Late Rameshwar Dass Sharma R/o K-17B, Sector-09, Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009

2. Mrs. Monika Sharma W/o Mr. Neeraj Sharma D/o Late Rameshwar Dass Sharma R/o 97, Govind Dev, Khurja, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh-203131

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 To All Concerned

Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, in respect of the debt and securities of Rs. ... As per record to be standing in the name of Late Sh. Rameshwar Dass Sharma and Late Vimal Sharma deceased.

Whereas the 25-11-2021 at 10' o'clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 20-11-2021.

Sd/ SHIRISH AGGARWAL Administrative Civil Judge-cum- Additional Rent Controller (Central), Delhi

RBI issues draft scheme for takeover of PMC Bank by Unity Small Finance Bank

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Monday came up with a draft scheme for the acquisition of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank by Delhi-based Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB).

The draft scheme of amalgamation envisages the takeover of the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank, including deposits, by the USFB, thus giving a greater degree of protection for the depositors, the Reserve Bank of India said.

The USFB is being set up with a capital of about ₹1,100 crore as against the regulatory requirement of ₹200 crore for the setting up of such a bank, as per the guidelines for on-tap

The Reserve Bank said it would receive suggestions and objections on the draft scheme till 5.00 pm on December 10

licensing.

The Reserve Bank said it would receive suggestions and objections on the draft scheme till 5.00 pm on December 10. Thereafter, it will take a final view on the takeover.

It is to be noted that Unity Small Finance Bank Limited, a joint venture between Centrum Group and Bharatpe, has commenced operations as a small finance bank with effect from November 1, 2021.



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, ASSAM
SIXMILE, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22

Web site : www.assamtenders.gov.in, www.dmeassam.gov.in, email:dme@assam.gov.in, dmeassam@gmail.com.

No. DME/3TeslaMRI/CN/304/2021/20985

INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

E-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from the intending Manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the 3 Tesla MR System on Turn-Key Basis at Cardio-thoracic and Neurosciences (CN) Centre, GMC, Guwahati, under the Health & F.W. Department, Govt. of Assam.

The e-Tender is Two-Bid System, to be submitted with affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight point two five paise) only (for local bidders) or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara,Guwahati-781022.

Important dates of the e-Tender					
Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1.	e- Tender Publishing	23-11- 2021		-	-
2.	e- Tender Download	25-11- 2021	05.00 PM	20-12-2021	12.00 Noon
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	06-12-2021	11.00 AM	Office of the Director of Medical Education Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati.	
4.	Bid Submission	07-12-2021	12:00 Noon	20-12-2021	2.00 PM
5.	Bid Opening	20-12-2021	05.00 PM		

1. Brief Schedule					
Sl No.	Description (Name of the Items)	Bid Security (E.M.D.)	Delivery/ Installation schedule/ Completion period	Tender fees in Rs.	Eligibility
1.	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the 3 Tesla MR System on Turn-Key Basis at Cardio-thoracic and Neurosciences (CN) Centre, GMC, Guwahati	Rs. 10.00 Lakhs	120 days	Rs. 10,000/-	Manufact urer/Accr edited Dealers

The detailed information of bidding documents are available online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in only. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement may obtain the same by registering in the www.assamtenders.gov.in. The requirements to register with the e-procurement portal are available on the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in favour of the "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022, at SBI-Dispur (Guwahati) Branch.

Janasanyog/C/8089/21

Director of Medical Education, Assam



कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रुद्रपुर (उधम सिंह नगर)

Phone Fax : 05944.240921 E-mail - sepwdusn@gmail.com



पत्रांक— 3606 / 23 एम—04 / 2021 दिनांक 18 / 11 / 2021

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (e-tendering)

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लॉन्गेविं रुद्रपुर (उधम सिंह नगर) द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा टू-बिड बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाईट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 26.11.2021 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	घरोहर धनराशि (लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु० में)	निविदा की वैधता (दिवस)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	फर्म / ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना वर्ष 2021-22 के अन्तर्गत जनपद उधमसिंह नगर के विधानसभा क्षेत्र खटीमा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों का एस०डी०बी०सी० द्वारा सतह सुधार कार्य । 1. पहेनिया श्रीपुर विछवा मार्ग कि०मी० 1 से 11 तक 2. पूरनपुर माधौटाँडा मार्ग कि०मी० 6 से 8 तक 3. चौदपुर चौराहे से गाँव तक मार्ग कि०मी0 1 से 3 4. नदना से चौदपुर तक मार्ग कि०मी०, 1 व 2 5. नदना से गौहर तक मार्ग कि०मी० 1 से 3 6. बैरखत कापड़ी के घर नदना कैनाल नं० 2 से भुड़ाई में भगवान सिंह बिष्ट के घर तक मार्ग कि०मी० 1 से 2 7. पटिया से ऊँमरुकलौं मार्ग और कुटरा गौहर लिंक मार्ग कि०मी० 1 से 03	8.00	5000.00+ 18%GST	120 दिन	12 माह	केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के विभाग / उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्यों हेतु श्रेणी A / A+ में पंजीकृत
2	मा० मुख्यमंत्री जी घोषणा संख्या 635 / 2021 के अन्तर्गत विधानसभा क्षेत्र सितारगंज के विभिन्न ग्रामों में क्षतिग्रस्त मार्गों का मरम्मतोकरण (लम्बाई 20 कि०मी०) के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों का पुनः निर्माण कार्य। (भाग-02)	5.60	5000.00+ 18%GST	120 दिन	12 माह	—तदैव—
3	मा० मुख्यमंत्री जी घोषणा संख्या 634/ 2021 के अन्तर्गत विधानसभा क्षेत्र सितारगंज के अन्तर्गत शहर सितारगंज में 05 कि०मी० आन्तरिक मार्गों का निर्माण कार्य किया जायेगा।	6.88	5000.00+ 18%GST	120 दिन	12 माह	—तदैव—
4	मा० मुख्यमंत्री जी घोषणा संख्या 553 /2021 के अन्तर्गत जनपद उधमसिंह नगर के विधानसभा क्षेत्र खटीमा में खटीमा चौराहे से थारु विकास भवन तक सड़क चौड़ीकरण, प्रकाश व्यवस्था का कार्य ।	34.00	5000.00+ 18%GST	120 दिन	18 माह	—तदैव—
5	केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना वर्ष 2021-22 के अन्तर्गत जनपद उधमसिंह नगर के विधानसभा क्षेत्र नानकमता एवं सितारगंज के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों का एस०डी०बी०सी० द्वारा सतह सुधार का कार्य । 1. रामनगर कालाहुँगी हल्हानी काउणोदाम चौरालिया बिजटी रोड कि०मी० 116 से 117 तक। 2. नवुलिया से कश्मीरी फार्म मोटर मार्ग कि०मी० 1 व 2 3. बसगर से अरविन्द नगर मोटर मार्ग कि०मी० 1 व 2 4. एन०एच०—74 पर सिसैया में मकबरा की ओर मार्ग कि०मी० 1 व 2 5 सितारगंज पिथौरागढ़ एन०एच० पर स्थित मिटौरा से विठौरा तक मार्ग कि०मी० 1 व 2	4.00	5000.00+ 18%GST	120 दिन	12 माह	केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के विभाग / उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी बी एवं उच्चतर में पंजीकृत
6	मा० मुख्यमंत्री जी घोषणा संख्या 635 / 2021 के अन्तर्गत विधानसभा क्षेत्र सितारगंज के विभिन्न ग्रामों में क्षतिग्रस्त मार्गों का मरम्मतोकरण (लम्बाई 20 कि०मी०) के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों का पुनः निर्माण कार्य (भाग-01)	3.80	5000.00+ 18%GST	120 दिन	12 माह	—तदैव—

नोट:— उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदायें स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में आमन्त्रित की जा रही है।


अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

DOCYARD


DR SUVARNA

Consultant Neonatologist

ROSEWALK HOSPITAL



Master art of parenting



Even before your baby can talk, he or she will show signs of hunger or fullness. Understanding your child's signs of hunger is important so that you can put him or her to the breast while he or she is still calm. This technique is called responsive feeding.

Here, you must watch out for any hints that your baby might give and respond promptly to him or her. In this type of feeding, you feed the baby in the right way and let him or her stop when they are full.

Responsive feeding is very important for the overall development and nourishment of the child. All you must do here is provide and the rest, your child will decide. Always keep an eye out for some sign of hunger too. The little ones have their own way of letting you know by becoming more active or alert or when they try to keep their eyes open.

Some of the other signs are when they put their hands to the mouth, turn their head towards the breast, have clenched hands and hands more drawn towards the mouth & chest or when you notice them crying when there is a delay in feeding.

Every crying child is not hungry and every hungry child does not necessarily cry. Every time the baby puckers or smacks lips doesn't mean the baby is hungry. It has to be correlated with the interval between the last feeds and the baby's urine output. Such action in a baby immediately or within one and half hours of last feed, with good urine output, rules out hunger. That's when it has to be ignored.

Signs that baby is full
When the stomach is full, the baby gets distracted easily and turns its head from the breast. They even close their mouth, unlatch often, and slow down while suckling. The most common sign is that they relax their hands, open their fingers, and then try to spit. So, always keep an eye out for these signs.

Myth: Baby is hungry; the feed is insufficient.
Reality: Hunger is the last reason for the baby to cry
Most mothers are confused about why their baby is crying when they are not hungry because hunger is the last reason for the baby to cry. But there are several other reasons why your little one may start crying. Some babies want body touch, and they want to be picked by their mom and dad. Sometimes the uncomfortable clothes/overwrapping and wet/ dirty diapers can lead to crying. During colds are the most common reason. Shed eyelashes mostly irritate the eye, or maybe it is infantile colic.

What to do when the baby cries?
One of the most common questions of parenthood is what to do when a baby cries? You may receive different answers, remember, everything is completely okay with your baby. So when your baby cries, don't panic and take a deep breath. Sometimes they need attention and love. Your baby might also be crying because of lack of sleep, noise, Just relax and try to find the real answer.


A baby who is otherwise well between crying episodes, thriving well, and has no localized abnormality on physical examination doesn't need further evaluation. If your baby is crying without any reason, give your baby adequate skin-to-skin contact and practice kangaroo care with the mother or any family member. After that, learn to clothe the baby appropriately. Do not swaddle the baby too tight and try to watch for overheated surrounding temperature. Keep checking soiled nappies and practice skin-care hygiene. Use saline nasal drops to clear the blocked nose. If you think your baby has fallen from anywhere, check for any injury.

Colic is not a diagnosis. It is a clinical condition. Please consult a physician if necessary. Do not use any home remedies or herbal preparations for the same.

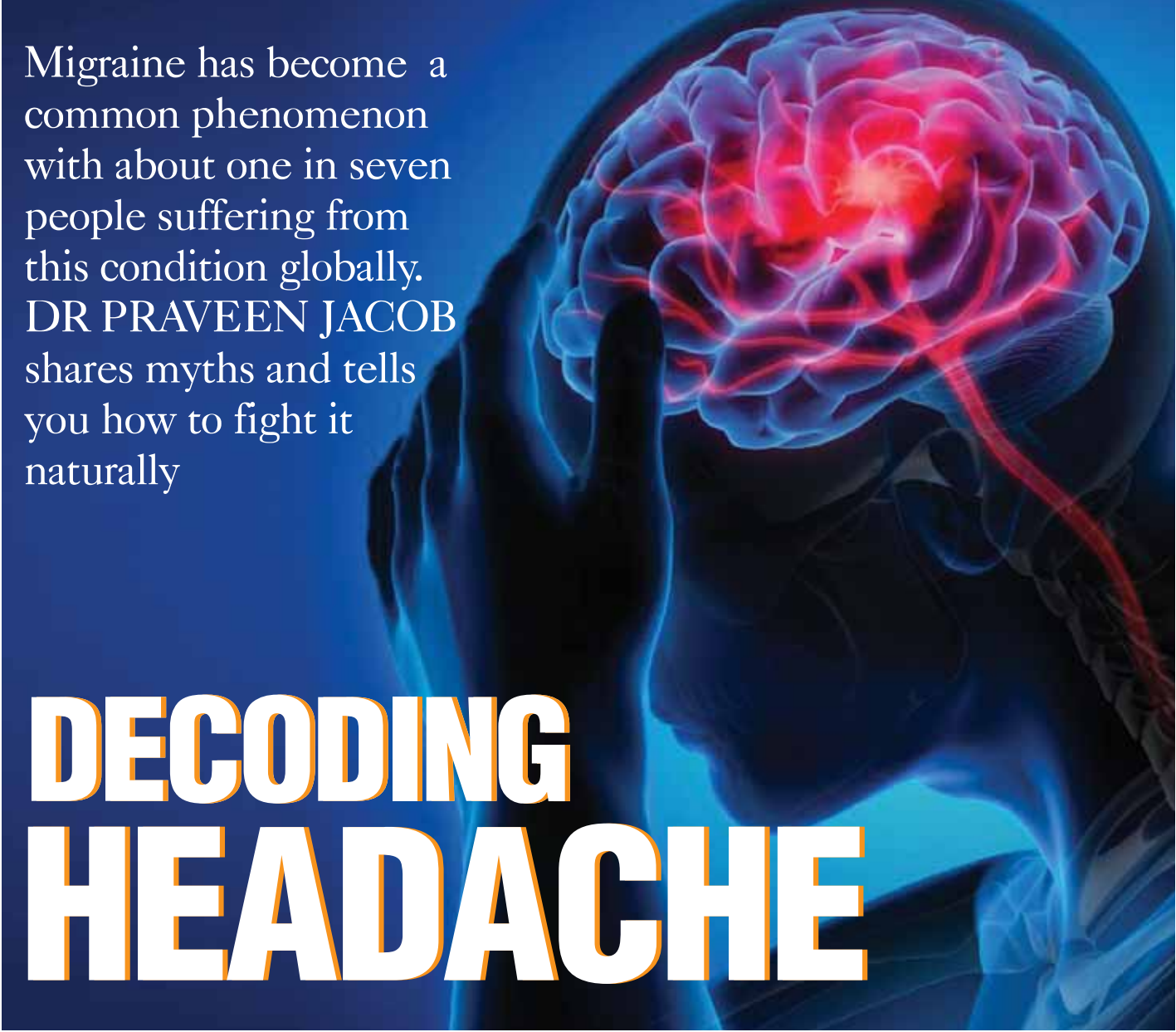
Practice Pearls
There is no medicine to stop any baby from crying. Bottle feeding is not the answer to every crying baby. Try to understand your baby, give warmth and touch, and when it is needed. Finally, take the doctor's advice when needed.

WARMFOOD

JAGGERY : In North India, sugarcane is used to make jaggery; in East, West, and South India, date, coconut, or other palm plants are used. It is an intrinsic part of our eating tradition, regardless of where you are from in India. What many people don't realise is that jaggery, also known as gur, has a plethora of health benefits. Jaggery is high in calcium, magnesium, iron, potassium, and phosphorus, with trace levels of zinc, copper, thiamin, riboflavin, and niacin thrown in for good measure. According to studies, jaggery contains B vitamins, certain plant proteins, and a lot of phytochemicals and antioxidants. Eating jaggery during the winter season can yield many benefits. One can include it in the diet.



Migraine has become a common phenomenon with about one in seven people suffering from this condition globally. DR PRAVEEN JACOB shares myths and tells you how to fight it naturally



Migraine, an excruciating headache coupled with nausea and sensitivity to light and sound, not only hampers your sleep cycle but also your quality of life. It has become quite a common phenomenon; with about one in seven people suffering from this condition globally. The condition makes you so helpless that you become ready to alleviate the excruciating pain. Medications can help manage pain, and antidepressants and beta blockers can help prevent recurrent episodes. However, all of these methods have potential side effects, including nausea, insomnia, high blood pressure, and heart attacks. Clinical studies have shown that home remedies provide more effective pain relief compared to conventional care.

Causes
If you have found out the root cause of your migraine then half of the battle is won. Dehydration, high blood pressure, tight muscles in the neck or shoulder, emotional stress, certain medications, supplements or reactions to other foods are some of the prominent causes of migration. Even *Helicobacter pylori*, better known as H-Pylori bacteria, has been found to be one of the most effective causes of migraine, ulcers, and other stomach problems. Therefore, switching to natural remedies is a drug-free way to diagnose migraine symptoms. These home remedies can help prevent migraines, or at least help reduce their severity and duration.

Myths
They are like normal headaches
It is important to note that

headaches are only one symptom of migraine. Along with the headache, migraines also cause nausea, sensitivity to light, difficulty concentrating, vertigo, weakness, vomiting and loss of consciousness.

It can affect only adults
Migraines can affect anyone from children to older adults. It can affect a 5-year-old child. Besides the excruciating headache, they can also experience abdominal pain, irritability, episodic confusion, severe dizziness, difficulty in concentration and extreme tiredness.

During migraine, only one side of the head pains
There is no set pattern for migraine headache. It can be either one-sided or they can involve the whole head, or even the back of the head or neck, and sometimes the face too. All the patients don't end up throwing up when they are hit with migraine.

Women are more prone to migraines
Women are three times more likely to have migraines, but men suffer from migraines. While 18-20% of women suffer from migraine, 8-10% of men also suffer from migraine. But the same is not clear.

Natural Remedies
Keep yourself well hydrated
If you want to treat migraine without medication, one should drink loads of water or an electrolyte beverage. When you are not hydrated well, dehydration can often result in headache. If you are opting for electrolyte beverage then ensure that it doesn't have added sugar or colour in it. Excessive sugar can also aggravate the headache. Taking a vit-



Dr Praveen Jacob
Senior Consultant, TheLifekart.in

amin C drink is also a good option.

Perform yoga regularly
Studies have shown that yoga can be effective in controlling the head. Yoga is an ancient discipline that promotes a holistic approach to pain management through a combination of breathing techniques and posture. These asanas and pranayama have no side effects. Exercising twice daily under the guidance of a certified trainer will reduce the severity of migraine pain and help prepare for future attacks.

Try acupuncture
Through this alternative medicine technique, pressure points are identified on the body to provide relief from pain and other such symptoms. Studies have also credited acupuncture as one of the trusted alternative therapy for people suffering from chronic headaches. Even patients going through throbbing migraine pain, who have tried out sessions with

acupuncturists, will also advocate acupuncture being one of the safest non drug options for pain relief during migraine.

Mindful meditation: An effective tactic

Contemplative meditation involves focusing on the present moment with a non-judgmental mind. This in some way helps to reduce stress, which is one of the most common causes of migraine. Mindfulness techniques such as meditation and relaxation can sometimes soothe headaches and reduce stress.

Exercise
In order to reduce the frequency and intensity of migraine attacks, doing some physical activity regularly can help.

Self-massage can be helpful
Massaging at the temples, shoulders and back of the head can help with headaches. Working with a massage therapist can resolve chronic neck and shoulder tension that can cause headaches. It is always recommended to apply pressure to the LI-4 compressor, also called Hegu, located between the base of your thumb and index finger. It will help relieve pain and headaches.

Natural Migraine Relief Kit
Natural migraine relief kits are available online and provide 100 per cent natural remedies to fight and cure migraines and headaches. These herbal probiotic kits made with indigenous herbs including black cumin, cumin, moonleaf, ginger, and peppermint aim to resolve headaches and pain by allowing intestinal flora to flourish in your gut.

Importance of radiology and medical imaging

Since time immemorial, Radiology or Diagnostic Imaging has played an important and central role in disease management, says DR SANDEEP SHARMA

In December 2019, China reported cases of an acute respiratory disease of unknown etiology in Wuhan, and a few weeks later, the outbreaks spread to many other countries with the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring it as a pandemic (a disease, usually of an infectious nature prevalent across multiple continents or worldwide) on 11th March 2020.

The virus — SARS-COV-2 popularly known as COVID-19 or simply Coronavirus soon became the biggest healthcare crisis in most of our lives and the most significant geopolitical event of our generation in the modern history globally.

Since times immemorial, Radiology or Diagnostic Imaging has played an important and central role in disease management, with a wide choice of tools and techniques available for the detection, staging and defining treatment modalities for innumerable diseases.

deadly infection.

The value of an imaging test relates to the production of results that are clinically workable either for establishing Diagnosis or for guiding management, or triage.

Here, the critical role of chest imaging including baseline X-ray and the High Resolution Computed Tomography (HRCT) of the Thorax or Chest became apparent as an overlooked imaging modality, a more sensitive and specific investigation compared to the Gold Standard RT PCR test (as per many studies conducted worldwide).

HRCT Chest findings in COVID-19 such as Ground Glass Opacities (GGOs), Consolidation, Crazy Pavement Pattern, Septal Thickenings etc and the CT Severity Scoring (CTSS) reveals the extent of damage to the lungs by the COVID-19 virus, a virus primarily affecting the lungs, which proved to be a useful tool to provide the physicians more options for accurate and better management in terms of — determining severity, guiding treatment, managing complications and assessing treatment response especially in patients with a high clinical

suspicion of COVID-19.

However, unavailability of CT Scan machines in rural settings and dedicated machines for COVID patients, moving patients to the machine/set-up especially those on oxygen support, difficulty in disinfecting the machines and following strict infection control protocols popped up as drawbacks to this imaging technique.

Other Radiology and Imaging investigations such as Chest X-RAYS (Bedside) provided the added advantage of portability and the provision to compare baseline images to latest images in order to study the progression of the disease and guide appropriate management with minimal exposure to radiation.

Using Chest X-Ray as a method of triage is believed to be more superior than the rapid testing kits in busy healthcare set-ups. Chest Imaging including X-RAY and CT Scans also assist in detecting complications such as Pneumothorax, Pleural Effusion etc even before they manifest clinically. Also, patients unaware of underlying comorbidities such as chronic lung disease or

congestive heart failure could be detected with these conditions and managed better. Hence, Radiology or Medical Imaging plays an important auxiliary role in the diagnosis and management of COVID-19 patients, particularly in those most seriously affected.

Economically, this pandemic has detrimental effects and significant loss of revenues, as the Governments across the world have partially or completely shut down all non-essential services.

Due to these measures there has been significant reduction in all imaging scans as outpatient volume had been severely reduced to 10-20 per cent in comparison to pre-COVID times. Additionally, following these guidelines all non-emergent outpatient imaging scans including ultrasound, radiographs, CT, MRI and radiological interventional procedures were postponed, which resulted in sub-normal revenue for a minimum of 5-6 months affecting mainly the stand alone centres running with limited modalities.

The writer is Director and Sr Radiologist, MRI Imaging and Diagnostics Res Centre Ltd

STRENGTHEN YOUR BACK



DR SHUBHANG AGGARWAL tells us how to take care of spine

While working from home has many personal and professional benefits, it is also making you susceptible to spine related issues due to your poor posture during work. Since most of us are working long hours in this new set-up, the uncomfortable chair and no break within the work are all leading to back pain. Due to the space crunch in our homes, it's difficult to accommodate today's ergonomic office furniture. Therefore, one should be careful about their body posture while working from home. Ensure that none of the parts of the body is awkwardly bent or twisted. It's equally essential to move around periodically in order to promote circulation.

Posture
One needs to take care of his/her posture to relieve the stress from the elbows and neck. When we sit for a long time, our 'S' curve of the spine changes into 'C' curve, thereby putting more stress on your muscles, ligaments and tissues.

Adjust your seat
When you are working on a laptop, it's necessary to adjust your seat so that it can be comfortable for your eyes as well as your back. Your eyes should be lined up 3 inches below the top of your screen if using a desktop computer, or tilt your laptop screen back to 120 degrees. The screen should be at least an arm's length away. Make sure you're not sitting upright or hunching forward in your chair like a turtle. While sitting back in your chair, some of your body weight is being supported by the chair back and sit close enough to comfortably reach your keyboard and mouse.

Change your position frequently
Don't get immersed in your work. Take small breaks. Instead, try to get up every 45-50 minutes, even if it's just to walk around the room. Stand after every half an hour, stretch and move around for a minute or two to promote circulation and relax muscles. You can also walk to get a glass of water or make tea or coffee for yourself. But don't try to work for hours on end standing up. Standing for extended periods of time also increase the risks of varicose veins. Our body comprises 360 joints and they all need to move in order for the proper circulation of blood. Therefore, stretch breaks are important

Exercises for a stronger back
Exercise can help strengthen and support your back. A scheduled walk, every day for 30 minutes, can do a lot to strengthen your lower back and the muscles that support your spine.

One needs to make exercise a priority. There are many great and effective home workouts that you can do with basic household items. These are just a few simple steps you can take to help relieve back pain. Remember that the more you can work in a neutral posture, and the more you can move around, the less the chance of any spinal injury. But, if you are still struggling with pain that interferes with your daily life, consider talking to a specialist.

The writer is Orthopaedic & Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon, and Director, NHS Hospital, Jalandhar

INBRIEF

Ayurvedic route to healthy hair

Ayurveda knows no two individuals are the same. The very first thing Ayurveda does is to know you. The concept of customisation in beauty is new to the Indian beauty and lifestyle landscape, and Vedix endeavors to break the notion of one size fits all, as well as the vicious cycle of trial and error that leads to unsatisfactory results.

The recent base plus booster oil for hair care addresses key concerns like hair fall, hair regrowth, scalp infections, battling stress and much more. Base and Booster oils take customisation a notch above. With two-layer customisation enables one to deal with hair care issues with ease and comfort of one's home.

The Base oils are a blend of high-quality cold-pressed oils like coconut, sesame, castor, argan, jojoba, etc.
Vata dosha results in a dry scalp. Pitta dominants may have sensitive, oily scalps. Kapha dosha causes a sweaty, oily, and itchy scalp, base oils being a perfect blend, help alleviate the doshas, and nurture your unique scalp type. A healthy scalp translates into healthy, voluminous hair growth.

Boosters are potent herbal extracts. Traditional Taila Paka Vidhi is employed to maximise the yield of the extracts in oils. Each herb has a broad spectrum of active principles, which are often soluble in various mediums like oil, water, milk, and alcohol.

The writer is Jatin Gujrati, Business Head, Vedix

A LEGEND IN THE MAKING

Traditional master craftsman SUDARSHAN SAHOO tells CHRISTY VARGHESE about a young child growing up in Puri, Odisha, who went on to receive the Padma Vibhushan earlier this month

Jai Jagannath!” greets a strong voice on the other end of the phone call, quite unlike what we were expecting an 82-year old Sudarshan Sahoo to sound like.

We had a tough time getting hold of the celebrated sculptor, who works on stone, wood and other media, which was not a surprise considering that he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest award for civilians in India. However, once we got through to him, it was a delight speaking with the artist who is still going strong despite a career spanning seven decades and counting.

“No one admires flowers which grow in the jungle. They fall on the ground and wither, unseen by anyone. Thank you for being the voice of artists like me,” expresses Sahoo; and it has to be said, moments like these are what inspire us. A word or two of warmth and support always goes a long way.

He is a sculptor with seven decades of experience in stone and wood in classical style sculpture. He has been making constant efforts to promote Indian classical sculptures all over the world,’ declared Rashtrapati Bhavan ahead of awarding the artist with the Padma Vibhushan. Born to Dinabandhu and Srimati Sahoo, he has several awards and accolades to his name for his outstanding contribution towards India’s arts and crafts such as the prestigious Padmashree in 1988, Liberty Bell National conferred by the Mayor of Philadelphia, USA in 1986, National Award for Stone Carving in 1981, Shreeketra Shree in 1976). Additionally, he has been conferred with the honourary D.Litt degree by Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar in 2011, Shilpguru Award and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya Award in 2003 and was declared ‘Priya Odia’ (Most adorable Odia) by ETV channel in 2012. To add to his long list of laurels, he has also been nominated for the illustrious Dharmapada Award by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi in 2012 and was appointed as the Chairman of Odisha Handloom and Handicrafts Development and Promotion Council in 2018. Provided below are excerpts of the telephonic conversation:

●But how did it all begin?

“I was born in a house which was half a kilometer away from Jagannath temple in Puri. For my parents, every day would begin with a *darshan* in the temple. My mother, in my younger years, would take me to the temple frequently. I have to tell you that I was



a dotting only-son, apart from me, my mother was blest with four daughters. Like every other mother, she wanted me to grow up to be a fine young man. I can’t say whether I was able to fulfill her expectations but with every visit to the temple I came a little closer to God.

The sculptures and other art forms present in the temple was something my mother would talk to me about, and I would bear in my mind what she had said. On my way back, I would often spy upon a group of sculptors next to our house, they would fashion beautiful sculptures from stones. I would watch them chisel away with wonder and at times I would pick up their instruments and try my hand at working on soft stone.

It became a habit in my life to interact them. The sculptors’ children were my friends and seeing my work everyone around me would compliment my craft. They inspired me to carry on working dedicatedly. This is just one of my stories from my childhood, and should tell you where it all began.

●Do you remember how you became such a good sculptor, the difficulties and good things you encountered along the way?

Of course! Making sculptures is all my life has been about. I remember every detail about it. I grew up poor. My father passed away when I was nine years old. As a widow, it was difficult for my mother to step outside home. Back then, our lives were ruled by some orthodox beliefs, one



of them being that it is extremely inauspicious to see a widow’s face.

There was no means of earning any money and after passing fifth grade, I enrolled in the sixth grade but I could not pay the fees so I started working under Guru Moharana. He thought of me as his younger brother and would happily teach me everything he knew. Half of my time was spent as his apprentice and the other half was when I would try to hone my craft. I left the gurukul as 12 year old because I just had one goal — I wanted to earn as much as I could.

I would make anything and everything from small statues to carving small indoor mandirs. I remember I have made two 4-inch statues for as little as a rupee at one time, and mind you, this was the only



source of income for our family, back then.

Little by little, I don’t know when I became a good sculptor. But I was extremely glad when people would appreciate my work. I think I was blessed by Lord Buddha, even as an eight or nine year old, I would draw on the blackboard. My teachers would scold me.

As a 19 year old, I used to earn well. However, those who belonged to the lineage of sculptors felt threatened by me I wasn’t one of them, and they felt threatened by me since I did not hail from a family of artists and yet made better statues than them.

I was upset when I found out that they had approached my seller in the market, saying that they would not let him sell any statues that were made by me. Irrespective of how good my work was, if the person could not sell my statues, then what good was keeping them.

That is when Guru Moharana came to my aid back then. Telling me to make what I want, that he would sell them on my behalf. however, there is a twist to his kindness. One night, I spied on my statues that were marked for sale at his residence, to discover that my statues were cheaper than his. However, that led me to become an even better artist. I would spend hours spotting the intricacies of his work, which helped me improve.

That is when the people in my locality showed that they supported me by giving me money. The work I crafted with that money was so good that the Orissa Handicrafts body pur-

chased my work. Even here, the local sculptors voiced their resentment but there was not much they could do since this was a government body.

However, that episode ended on a good note since I won them over, slowly but surely, with every statue, big or small, that I fashioned with my hands. By the time I was 20, their children were learning from me. This is what transpired in my life between 13-19 years.

●You achieved worldwide recognition and appreciation after creating some beautiful carvings of the Jataka Tales at the Dhauli Peace Pagoda in 1971. However, till then you had never made big statues, what led you to work at the Dhauli Peace Pagoda in Bhubaneswar?

Well, that is another story in itself! The Orissa government’s assistance played a big role in making the statue. Throughout my life, the state government has played a major role in my growth.

I made the statue in Dhauli between 1970-72. In 1972, a group of Buddhist monks from Japan came and appealed to Prashant Patnaik, he got me in touch with them. But back then, I was not making big statues. Seeing my work, the monks felt that I could make some beautiful large statues too and appealed to my good nature. They pursued me with a lot of love and I had to give in.

To my delight, it was that one work that brought my work to the limelight.



The untold story

Photographers DINESH KHANNA, MUSTAFA QURAIISHI and LEENA KEJRIWAL have come together to exhibit their work for the *Qawwali Photo Project* in IIC. TEAM VIVA discovers that this is the first time that this form of traditional devotional singing has been documented, as it exists today

The Qawwali Photo Project is the first-ever photo documentation and exhibition on Qawwali. It is an initiative meticulously conceptualised, where the untold story of Qawwali unfolds through the eyes of photographers. The practitioners are photo-documented with their performance art, their lives and their association with the Sufi shrines where they perform. The images of practitioners with their families, in their everyday lives and in their interaction with audiences and the pulsating connection of energy between them.

The Qawwals become the voice of the many prayers of the hundreds of devotees that throng the shrine, seeking grace. The Qawwals of the subcontinent have largely remained faceless, of course, a name and music that people associate with, but not the face of the man. This is what led to the formation of this project, say the people behind it, to show the real faces who lend their voices to this music. These musicians come from families where artistic knowledge and practice has been passed down for generations as a precious heirloom. Art is how they connect with themselves, their communities, and their sense of spiritual purpose. The technology at times dehumanises the music form, removes the human and only the sound becomes a memory. This project gives the image to the sounds, the identity to the people who give us the incredible music. The Qawwals.

Dinesh Khanna’s stories traverse the important shrines of Delhi, Amritsar, Jaipur, Hyderabad and Ajmer and bring out the intricacies of traditions as an integral part of the music at the shrines. The Qawwals give him a peek into their own lives as he follows them at various places. The Qawwals believe they are in service of the Sufi saints and would take their message of love forward. Dinesh explores them in resplendent colours and the darker tones of a bygone era, as they celebrate their performance art of Qawwali.

Mustafa Quraishi’s photo story is shot in the two prominent shrines of Dewa Sharif and Safipur ironically linked to each other. Interestingly as an oral narrative, it is said that when Waris Ali Shah the saint from Dewa, was born, his father Qurban Ali Shah was 90 kilometres away in Safipur at the Shrine where he was informed with a famous prophecy that his son will become one of the biggest spiritual saints of the region. With equal aplomb, Mustafa explores the resistance at Delhi and the complete serenity and grandeur of the grace of Hazrat Salim Chisti.



Leena Kejriwal’s story captures the interesting deviation from the tradition, the presence of women Qawwali performers. In a largely androcentric performance art, it is important to document the women breaking barriers and participating in performing this music. The story continues where the Qawwals at the shrine of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia at Delhi are captured as they sing in their daily rituals not as a performance but as a prayer to their Pir. The association of each Qawwali to their shrine is intense and generational.

I Am A Qawwal at the Qawwali Photo Project

I Am A Qawwal, as the name suggests, is a unique self-documentation project, in which the Qawwali practitioners take their own selfie photos, or have friends take their photos and send to us for documentation in the belief that this provides a perspective in which we see them comfortable, in their element, not posing woodenly for a professional shoot.

“Often, the Qawwal’s families themselves do not have quality photographs of themselves or their forefathers who came before them. During the archiving of Qawwals when I would ask for images of legendary Qawwals from small towns there were no images, just some random passport pics or blurred images of their youth,” shares Manjri Chaturvedi, the renowned Kathak dancer, who pioneered *I Am A Qawwal*.

“You don’t document us. We will document us.”

It is a strong statement by Qawwals. The self-photographs we have received reveal something about the various characters of these men who are so integral to carrying on this generations-long androcentric performance tradition. Some are old, some are barely past boyhood. Seeing these pictures, we get a rare glimpse into their lives as viewed on their own terms.



A Ramachandran’s *Lotus Pond Meditations* are mythically bound and metaphorically timeless. But there are touches of the fantastical. In a number of paintings, time has dried up and also lent its erosive contexts into the shadows of the lotus leaves that don’t always match up to the flowers from which they have ostensibly been cast.

The light is either glowing in surreal splendour or it is bleached and in ochre aura — as you come to the role of *sandhya* (sunset) in the artist’s way of seeing. It seems as if Ramachandran has recast the lotus pond in the dim lit recesses of the Indian sandhya to give us a twilight sheen that is full of the magic of caprice of the



becomes my artistic ferment.”

Elements born of the soil

The magic of this show lies, in the conventions of the genre as much as in Ramachandran’s presentation of the lotus pond in all its fleeting splendour. In the opportunity that the show affords simply to look, to contemplate the physical aspect of the world in its most basic forms, Ramachandran brings us lotuses who are born of the soil and live with the elements — the dust, wind, rain, sand and sun. It is Ramachandran’s immortal embrace of the genre, his skilful participation in this worthy and essentially sensual tradition of classical Indian art that brings an oasis of creation that echoes the vitality and vibration of the mythical looking glass in the lotus pond. What emerges is the caprice of the divinities born of the womb of stillness. The lotus pond exemplifies not just the measure of one of nature’s water-fronts, it is also the harbinger of truth and harmony, it is pure reality — born of a metaphysical domain encrusted in the *Lotus Pond Lila* which has fed the artist’s vision for so many decades.

Obviously, the lotus pond is the metaphor for nature’s perfection in the *samsara* (universe).

Realist at heart

In an interview with me five years ago at Vadehras he said, “I am a realist at heart. The images in my works convey ideas of different planes and views. I am concerned with the pictorial idiom, what should be a new language. I am not a modernist and I don’t need to look at Jasper Johns or anyone in the West to find my idiom. Mine is the language of tradition. I use an extraordinary variety of colours to reflect an equivalent sensual and tactile experience. The lotus as it moves its petals towards the sun or away from the sun

Mythic meditations

Prolific, passionate and filled with rhythm, A RAMACHANDRAN NAIR’S *Lotus Pond* at Vadehras is the stuff of dreams and the reverie of reality, says UMA NAIR

sunset of one’s own life. The lotus pond for Ramachandran is representative of both creation and cosmic renewal. It also personifies longevity as the arid flowers sometimes wilting seem rooted in the mud. Whether in full bloom of the magical monsoon or in withering despair the lotus pond is an iconic subject for this maestro who studied at

Shantiniketan under the stalwart Ram Kinkar Baij and later became one of Jamia Milia Islamia’s greatest Professors.

Tone and tenor

At Vadehras the lotus pond studies are an Arcadian dream sequence. They are equivocal in tone and tenor. They could also symbolize detachment

after the suffusion of a floating passion. In this waterbody of contemplation Ramachandran’s works, these two worlds — the real and the imaginary, the mythic and the real — begin to mesh. One has the sense of looking at something real through the lens of imagination, ripe old age and the sensorial experience of eight decades of living.

IIC DOUBLE BILL DANCE RECITAL

This week’s double bill dance performance at IIC will be initiated by an Odissi recital at 6 pm by Shagun Bhutani from Gurugram, who will be accompanied by Prashant Kumar Behera (on the vocal), Prashant Maharana (Odissi *marda*), Lavanya Ambade (sitar) and Siddharta Dalbehera (flute).

This will be followed by a Bharatanatyam recital at 7 pm by Anannya Chatterjee from Delhi, a disciple of Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar. Chatterjee will be accompanied by Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar (*nattuvangam*), Vinod Kumar Kannur (vocal), Tanjavur Keshavan (miridangam) and Shyamala Bhaskaran (veena).

When: November 25
Where: CD Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre



PARADIGM OF ONENESS

The association with pencil and colours started at a very early age for Dr Jaspal Singh Kalra. His expression in art was not just limited to surfaces but at the early age of fifteen he started creating 3D artworks for theatre. Art appreciation and obsession with craft stayed with him during education and later when he became an academician. Grounded in people and their skills his works keep him connected to art, design and culture. Designer and self-trained artist, he prefers to work in mix media and embroidery. Abstraction, cubism, intricacy and expressing complexities in simplistic forms are his identity, and a part of the *Paradigm Of Oneness*.

When: November 25-28
Where: Visual Arts Gallery, Indian Habitat Centre



KEKEE MANZIL: HOUSE OF ART

A feature documentary that interweaves personal testimony with rare historical and 8 mm family archive to tell the story of how a modern art movement was born alongside the new nation of India. The film traces the journey of Kerkoo and Khoshed Gandhi, well-known gallerists who transformed the artistic heritage of the city of Bombay.

The film will be introduced by Behroze Gandhi, the producer, and will be followed by a discussion with Rashna Gandhi Imhasly, Behroze Gandhi, Shireen Gandhi and Adil Gandhi, moderated by Ashok Vajpeyi.

When: November 27, 6:30 pm
Where: CD Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre



INDIAN BLUE

Following the previous exhibitions that looked at artistic practices across the decades of 1950s, ‘60s and ‘70s, DAG now presents an exhibition that examines how artists have addressed their work through the prism of the colour blue that has been imbued with nuances particular to the country and its culture.

Featuring over 150 works, *Indian Blue* uncovers a range of artistic practices from the realistic to the abstract, from landscapes and portraits to history paintings and figurative narrations, across an equally astonishing range of mediums — oils, watercolours, acrylics, printmaking, sculpture — and periods.

Indian Blue, in an effort to examine the relationship civilisations share with the colour blue, not only helps the viewers understand the artistic responses to its hues and tones at a subliminal level — something it achieves through the chosen colour under investigation in this exhibition — but also goes beyond it to examine the role colours play in human lives.

And what better way to explore this rich sensory archive than through the world as visualised by artists.

When: Open till December 1
Where: DAG, The Claridges



CARRICK THRUST INTO LIMELIGHT AT MAN U

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Some talking points in the Champions League heading into the fifth round of group games:

CARRICK IN CHARGE

One of English soccer's best and possibly most underappreciated midfielders in recent years, Michael Carrick was known for his calmness, quiet authority and vision on the field. He'll need all of those attributes now he has been thrust into one of the world's biggest coaching jobs pretty much from out of nowhere.

Carrick, who only started his coaching career in 2018 and has never held a senior position, was named as United's caretaker manager following the firing of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Sunday.

In place until United finds another coach for the rest of the season, Carrick starts his new role with a crucial match away to Villarreal on Tuesday as the teams look to seal qualification to the knockout stage. They are both on seven points in Group F, two points clear of Atalanta with two games left. Carrick will need

to pick up a beleaguered United team that lost 4-1 at Watford in the Premier League on Saturday, the latest in a string of dreadful results that ultimately cost Solskjaer his job.

XAVI BOOST

Barcelona enters its crucial home match in Group E against Benfica on Tuesday boosted by the arrival of former great Xavi Hernández as its new coach. It will be his second match in charge after a league win in the Barcelona derby against Espanyol on Saturday, a result that ended a four-game winless streak in the league.

The Catalan club started its Champions League campaign with consecutive 3-0 losses to Bayern Munich and Benfica, but a win against the Portuguese side will allow it to clinch a spot in the knockout stage and avoid its first elimination in the group stage in nearly two decades.

HEAVYWEIGHT BATTLE

A win for Paris Saint-Germain in its heavyweight meeting at Manchester City on Wednesday would secure the French team a place



in the last 16. Its away form has been concerning, though.

In contrast to winning every game at its Parc des Princes home this season, PSG has drawn away to Club Brugge and Leipzig in the Champions League and lost at Rennes in the French league. With Lionel Messi fit, PSG will always have a great chance of victory and the Argentina star will be boosted by scoring his first goal in Ligue 1 in the win over Nantes on Saturday. Messi already has three goals in the Champions League — including one in the home win over City. City is on nine points, one more than PSG, in Group A. Third-place Brugge is a further four points back.

QUARANTINED STARS

Bayern Munich is already through to the next round with a perfect four wins from four games. So it's likely coach Julian Nagelsmann would have opted to give some key players a rest at Dynamo Kyiv on Tuesday for their penultimate game in Group E. Kyiv, bottom of the group with one point, needs a win and favor from Benfica against

Barcelona to stay in contention.

Bayern's buildup has been overshadowed by the coronavirus with five reportedly unvaccinated players — Joshua Kimmich, Serge Gnabry, Jamal Musiala, Eric-Maxim Choupo-Moting and Michael Cuisance — all in quarantine after coming into contact with someone who has COVID-19. Niklas Süle and Josip Stanišić are also in isolation after testing positive for the disease.

ATALANTA RISING

A six-match unbeaten run in Serie A. A five-goal outburst at the weekend. Atalanta is on the upswing entering a potentially decisive visit to last-place Young Boys in Group F on Tuesday.

"We're experiencing a good moment," Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini said after a 5-2 win over Spezia on Saturday that included two goals from Mario Pasalic.

"The team is improving. It has desire and is determined."

Atalanta is third in its group, two points behind Villarreal and Manchester United.

Ashwin is always an attacking option for a captain: Rohit

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Ravichandran Ashwin is "always an attacking option" in the middle overs of a T201 match when a team needs wickets, India captain Rohit Sharma said of the seasoned off-spinner.

Rohit, the newly-appointed T20 skipper, picked his team's bowling as the biggest positive in the 3-0 sweep of New Zealand.

Having made a splendid white-ball comeback after four years in the T20 World Cup earlier this month, the 35-year-old Ashwin made quite an impact in the three-match series against the Kiwis, giving crucial breakthroughs while restricting the runs in the middle overs.

"He's always an attacking option for a captain. When you have someone like him in your squad, it always gives you the opportunity to take wickets in the middle and we understand how important that phase is," Rohit said.

The captain was speaking at the post-match press conference after their 73-run win over New Zealand in the final T20 at Eden Gardens on Sunday night.

"It's been a great comeback ever since he played in Dubai and till now. He's a quality bowler, we all know that."



TN lifts Mushtaq Ali Trophy in style

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MShahrukh Khan smashed a dramatic last ball six to help Tamil Nadu defend the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 title with a thrilling four-wicket win over Karnataka in the summit clash here on Monday.

Needing 16 runs off the last over bowled by Prateek Jain, power-hitter Khan kept his cool under pressure to clobber the final delivery over deep-square leg to take Tamil Nadu to 153 for 6 and seal a famous win. The burly 26-year-old right-hander remained not out on 33 (15 balls, 1 four, 3 sixes) while R Sai Kishore was 6 not out (3 balls, 1 four).

Tamil Nadu thus avenged their heart-breaking one-run loss to Karnataka in the 2019 final.

Earlier, Karnataka rode on some aggressive batting by Abhinav Manohar (46, 37 balls, 4X4, 2X6), Praveen Dubey (33, 25 balls, 3X4, 1X6) and J Suchith (18, 7 balls, 1X4, 1X6) to post 151 for 7.

Thanks to their aggressive batting, Karnataka recovered on time after their batters were stifled by some good work by left-arm spinner Sai Kishore (3/12) and other Tamil Nadu bowlers.

Karnataka slipped to 32 for 3 in the sixth over with Sai Kishore getting the big wickets of the consistent Rohan Kadam (0) and captain Manish Pandey (13, 15 balls, 2X4) while Sanjay Yadav nailed Karun Nair (18). Tamil Nadu looked in control of pro-



ceedings and kept the opposition batters under check before some poor bowling by T Natarajan (1/44 from 4 overs), brought into the XI in place of P Saravana Kumar who took a fiver in the semi-finals, and Sandeep Warrier (1/34 in 4) gave away runs towards the end.

In their run chase, Tamil Nadu appeared to stutter after a bright start by opener C Hari Nishaanth (23, 12 balls, 1X4, 2X6) before he was run out. N Jagadeesan, the other opener, struggled to force the pace, making 41 from 46 balls as did skipper Vijay Shankar (18, 22 balls).

The two were dismissed by spinner K C Cariappa (2/23) to put TN in a spot of bother. Tamil Nadu slipped to 95 for 4 when Khan walked in. He revived the chase with a quick 21-run fifth wicket stand with R Sanjay Yadav (5). Yadav too fell while going for a big shot.

2-year T20 WC cycle important for growth of cricket: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC on Monday asserted that a two-year T20 Word Cup cycle is important for the growth of the game as it is the format that is contested by all the members.

The global governing body last week announced the schedule of ICC events from 2024-2031 with a tournament slated to be played every year.

"We've got different events in different formats. I think the decision to play T20 World Cups every two years is a conscious one to try and position T20 as the growth format of the game across all of our members," ICC CEO Geoff Allardice said, replying to PTI's query during a media round table.

"The tournament we've just finished in the UAE and Oman was the first one in five years which, given the amount of T20 International cricket being played and the fact that so many of our members are playing that format, is too long. Talking about the ICC Champions trophy which was last held in 2017 and will next be played in 2025, Allardice said the tournament is a "focal point" for ODI cricket midway the four-year World Cup cycle.

"In terms of the Champions Trophy it's a very popular, well supported event. I think it's short and sharp and you know, high entertainment in the ODI format and it also



provides a focal point for ODI cricket in the midway between the Cricket World Cup cycle of four years."

A Working Group was set up last week by the ICC to review the status of cricket in Afghanistan in the light of recent political developments in that country.

ICC chair Greg Barclay asserted that the body will continue to support Afghanistan as member of the ICC while encouraging them to continue to take an inclusive approach to cricket.

"At the moment Afghanistan are a full member of the ICC. Now, the position is that we want to continue to help them with the cricket programmes in the country, both men's and women's.

The ICC had put Former CEO

Chennaiyin FC face Hyderabad FC in opening test

PTI ■ BAMBOLIM (GOA)

Two-time winners Chennaiyin FC will begin the 2021-22 Indian Super League campaign against Hyderabad FC here on Tuesday with a new coach, new captain and renewed hopes of a turnaround after a poor run in the previous season.

The team has undergone a revamp. Apart from new coach Bozidar Bandovic, CFC have also signed five new foreign players along with some promising Indian talent

and will expect to start on a strong note after having secured only three wins in the 2020-21 season.

However, it is easier said than done with a confident Hyderabad side expected to be a well prepared and tough opponent.

In an early jolt for Chennaiyin, they will be without the services of the influential midfielder Rafael Crivallero as he had 'pain' and is being monitored by the team's medical staff.

"He has pain. The medical staff are monitoring him and we are try-



ing to find what the problem is. He trained a couple of days ago, but had to walk off. Germanpreet Singh is out as well for tomorrow's game," CFC head coach Bandovic said at a virtual media interaction ahead of the opener. He added the team was well prepared and that he was not looking too far ahead, preferring to take it game by game. "I would go game by game. First game first. We will like to go game by game and try to be in the top four," the coach said when asked about the team's strategy.

Harmanpreet named in WBBL Team of the Tournament

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Indian T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has been named in the Women's Big Bash League's official "Team of the Tournament" after her stellar all-round performance for Melbourne Renegades this season. Kaur has shone bright with both bat and ball for the Renegades, scoring 399 runs with three half-centuries. Her strike rate has been an impressive 135.25 while her average is 66.5. Her highest score was an unbeaten 81-run knock against the Sydney Thunder last week. She has also hit a competition-best 18 sixes till now.

"Harmanpreet Kaur has been a dominant force with bat and ball for the Renegades, spearheading their rise back up the ladder after joining her new club," cricket.Co.Au said.

Kaur has also proved her mettle with the ball following an injury to the team's star leg-spinner, Georgia Wareham. The 32-year-old has been brilliant in the power play and has snared 15 wickets. Indian T20 skipper also boasts of best figures of 3/22.

Austria's lockdown affects return of Davis Cup finals

AP ■ TURIN

No Davis Cup tennis fans will be allowed in Innsbruck as Austria goes back into lockdown. Capacity will be at 60% in Turin, where Italian children will be occupying vast portions of the stands amid slow ticket sales. Attendance in Madrid will be at a maximum of 75 per cent.

This isn't likely what organizers had in mind for the return of the Davis Cup Finals amid yet another format change after last year's edition was called off because of the coronavirus pandemic.

After the debut of the 18-team event was held entirely in Madrid over seven days in 2019, the main criticisms from players centered on late-night matches played before mostly empty arenas and not enough rest between matches. So organizers decided to spread this year's tournament, which starts on Thursday, over three different cities and 11 days.

But with coronavirus cases rising again in Europe, that has become more complicated for tennis' oldest team competition.



"Davis Cup was a competition where we could play in front of incredible crowds," French doubles specialist Pierre-Hughes Herbert said.

"In Madrid, we didn't play in front of a full stadium. It was almost (like) closed doors."

France is in a group with Britain and the Czech Republic in Innsbruck, where it will be behind closed doors.

"I'm sad for Austria, they have so many (coronavirus) cases. I'm sad for the competition that it cannot be a full party," added Herbert, who

teamed with French partner Nicolas Mahut to win the doubles title at the ATP Finals on Sunday.

Each city hosts two groups of three teams each and at least one quarterfinal, then the semi-finals and final will be held in Madrid.

With Rafael Nadal unable to play for defending champion Spain because of a left-foot injury that ended his season early, a Russia squad featuring two top-10 players in No. 2 Daniil Medvedev and No. 5 Andrey Rublev could be the

team to beat.

"I feel like we can be the big favorites there with the team we have," said Medvedev, the U.S. Open champion.

Russia, which will be called RTF (Russian Tennis Federation) for the event amid an ongoing doping suspension from international sports, is in a group with Spain and Ecuador in Madrid.

Spain still has a strong team with Next Gen ATP Finals champion Carlos Alcaraz and two top-20 players in Roberto Bautista Agut and Pablo Carreno Busta.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic leads Serbia's team in Innsbruck against host Austria and a Germany squad without ATP Finals champion Alexander Zverev.

Djokovic, who lost to Zvev in the semifinals of the ATP Finals and failed to win a medal for Serbia at the Tokyo Olympics, said he is "very motivated to play for my country."

"I like my chances against anybody in the Davis Cup, really, (but) obviously Davis Cup is a team competition," Djokovic said.

Pakistan seals T20 sweep over B'desh in Dhaka thriller

AP ■ DHAKA

Pakistan completed a clean sweep over Bangladesh in their Twenty20 series, winning the third and final game by five wickets after a thrilling last over on Monday.

Bangladesh totalled a mediocre 124-7 but a slow approach meant Pakistan needed eight runs off the final six balls.

Captain Mahmudullah came on to bowl his only over of the day and dismissed Sarfaraz Ahmed and Haider Ali in consecutive deliveries before Iftikhar Ahmed smashed a huge six off the fourth ball, denying him a hat-trick.

With two runs needed off two balls, Iftikhar went for glory but ended up being caught for six at backward point. New batsman Mohammad Nawaz then hit a four through extra cover to take Pakistan home.

Mahmudullah finished with 3-10 from his solitary over.

Sindhu, Srikanth eye consistency at Indonesia Open Super 1000



PTI ■ BALI

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu and former world number 1 Kidambi Srikanth would look for a consistent show when they compete at the USD 850,000 Indonesia Open starting here on Tuesday. Just days after their semifinal finishes at Indonesia Masters Super 750, the two top Indian shuttlers will begin their campaign at the World Tour Super 1000 event in their quest for title.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, last reached the finals at the Swiss Open. She came close to the summit clash thrice by reaching the semifinals on three occasions, including her last two tournaments.

Last week, Sindhu's campaign was cut short by Japan's Akane Yamaguchi with a straight game win and the Indian will look to quickly recover from the loss.

The third seeded Indian will begin her campaign against

Japan's Aya Ohori and she is likely to face Canada's sixth seed Michelle Li in the quarterfinals if she can cross the early rounds.

Srikanth, who had claimed four titles in 2017, has regained some form with two back-to-back semifinal finishes at Hylo Open and Indonesia Masters last week and he would be desperate to continue his good run and break his title drought.

Srikanth was outplayed by Anders Antonsen of Denmark last Saturday in the semifinals and he would look to put that disappointment behind when he faces HS Prannoy, who would be itching to settle the scores after being outwitted by his compatriot last week.

Prannoy, who was down with COVID-19 last year, showed glimpses of his earlier self when he notched up an upset win over Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Victor Axelsen of Denmark last week and he would hope to continue the momentum this week.