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CAN'T EXPECT THE
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END AT MONTH'S LOW**SPORT 12**
SHREYAS IYER 16TH INDIAN TO
SLAM 100 ON TEST DEBUT

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Modi attacks dynastic politics

PM calls it threat to
democracy, slams
Opp for boycotting
Constitution Day
event at Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday once again unleashed a scathing attack on dynastic politics and said the "biggest threat" to the functioning of a healthy democracy is when a party is run by the same family generation after generation and the entire system of the party is controlled by it.

Without naming anyone, Modi at a Constitution Day event in the Central Hall of Parliament hit out at family-based parties, describing them as "party for the family, party by the family" and added, "I don't think I need to say anything more".

The event was skipped by 15 Opposition parties, on the call by the Congress, which have been alleging that the Government is "undermining Parliamentary democracy".

Besides the constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, the YSR Congress, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Telugu Desam Party attended the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a function to commemorate the 'Samvidhan Divas' at Parliament in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

event. Addressing the gathering, Modi said, "This event was not that of any Government, or of any political party, or of any Prime Minister. The Speaker is the pride of the House. It is a dignified post. It is a matter of Babasaheb Ambedkar's dignity, the dignity of the Constitution."

In an apparent reference to the Congress and some other Opposition parties, Modi said that in the form of family-based parties from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is heading towards a kind of a crisis, which is a matter of concern for the people devoted to the Constitution and those who believe in democracy. He said that more than one person from a family joining a party on the basis of merit and people's blessings does not make a party dynastic, "but a party run by one family generation after

generation and the family controlling the entire system of the party is the biggest threat to a healthy democracy".

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Opp: Constitution being undermined by BJP Govt

Boycott against Govt's 'authoritarian' functioning: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and several Opposition parties on Friday boycotted the Constitution Day event in the Central Hall of Parliament to convey that the Constitution is being undermined during the current BJP regime.

Besides the Congress, several other parties, including the Left, TMC, NCP, DMK, Shiv Sena, IUML, RSP and the RJD, skipped the event.

On the issue of not participating in the event of Constitution Day, Congress Rajya Sabha member Anand Sharma said the protest was against the "authoritarian" functioning of the BJP Government as laws are enacted by bypassing Parliamentary scrutiny and Parliamentary democracy is insulted.

"Our protest today is based on fundamental principles. We have protested to remind the country that the Constitution is not being respected, the Constitution is being undermined, Parliamentary democracy is being undermined and insulted with the enactment of laws bypassing scrutiny which is creating enormous problems because each law enacted by Parliament impacts the masses," Sharma said at AICC Press conference.

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Nations in jitters as S Africa Covid variant rears head

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After scientists in South Africa detected a new Covid-19 variant B.1.1.529 with as many as 50 mutations overall, Covid-19-battered countries were left in jitter with many of them announcing fresh travel curbs, quarantine and vaccination rules for passengers travelling from and via these South African countries. India has called for rigorous screening of passengers from South Africa, Botswana, and Hong Kong.

According to scientists, the new Covid-19 variant is mainly affecting people in the under 25 age group, among whom the vaccination rate against the virus is only 26 per cent. Current vaccines are not an ideal match so might not work quite as well, experts said but added that "that doesn't mean they'll offer zero protection".

Over 100 cases have been detected in South Africa, where the new strain is slowly becoming the dominant one. Israel has identified a case of a Covid-19 variant with a large number of mutations "in a person who returned from Malawi". A case has surfaced in Belgium too.

Two cases have been detected in Hong Kong. In a sign of the growing alarm, the European Union separately

proposed prohibiting travel from Southern Africa.

The United Kingdom was the first country to declare travel curbs from several southern African countries and stated that passengers will have to undergo a mandatory quarantine. UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said six countries would be added to the red list, with flights being temporarily banned.

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Sensex crashes as new variant triggers rout

Mumbai: The Sensex nosedived 1,688 points while the Nifty slumped below the 17,100-level on Friday as a new and potentially vaccine-resistant coronavirus variant sent shockwaves through global markets. The variant, detected in South Africa, Botswana and Hong Kong so far, has an unusual combination of mutations, as per initial reports. Countries like Britain and Japan have already imposed travel restrictions, raising the spectre of a fresh wave of lockdowns.

Detailed report on P9

India raises terrorism, drug trafficking in Af

Supports inclusive Govt, concerned about Af people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the developments in Afghanistan, India on Friday said it supported an inclusive and representative Government there and urged countries in the region to coordinate respective approaches to terrorism, radicalisation and drug trafficking.

Making this point here at the 18th meeting of the Russia, India, China (RIC) trilateral dialogue at the External Ministers' level, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said as a contiguous neighbour and long-standing partner of Afghanistan, India is concerned about the suffering of the Afghan people.

Participating in the meeting in the virtual format along



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar digitally chairs the 18th Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting

PTI

with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and Russian Minister Sergey Lavrov, he also said India supports other provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2593.

India has offered a supply of 50,000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan to address the drought situation and said the RIC countries need to work together to ensure that human-

itarian assistance reaches the Afghan people without hindrance and without politicisation, Jaishankar said.

In his opening remarks, he said the agenda of the RIC meeting include the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, Reforms of the Multilateral System and International Hot-spot Issues.

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Farmers assemble at Delhi borders to mark 1 yr of protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the completion of one year on November 26 of the farmers' agitation against the three farm laws, the farmer groups on Friday assembled in a large number at Delhi borders — Singhu, Tikri, Ghazipur and Shahjahanpur — to show support for the protesters on the first anniversary of the beginning of the farm agitation.

Farmers flaunting colourful turbans, sunshades, long beards and twirling moustaches danced on tractors, distributed sweets and hugged each other to mark the occasion that seemed like a festival and vowed to continue their agitation to fulfil other six demands, including legal guarantee of minimum support price, compensation to those who died during protests, memorial for them and the sacking and arrest of Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

On the day of completion



BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait and others raise slogans to mark the one year anniversary of farmers agitation, at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Friday

Ranjim Dhilli | Pioneer

of one year of farm agitation, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday tweeted farmers have always been victorious in India and will always continue to win in the future as well. Priyanka lauded the movement and said that it would be known for the "unshakable 'satyagraha' of the farmers, the martyrdom of 700 farmers and the arrogance of the ruthless BJP Government and its atrocities towards the farmers," in a tweet in Hindi.

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India to resume int'l flights to not 'at-risk' Covid nations

Op from Dec 15, move relief to students, travellers

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Good news for travellers, students, corporate and tourism sectors as the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Friday announced to resume scheduled international flights to and from India from December 15 with 99 countries.

The resumption will not cover countries such as China, South Africa, Singapore, Israel, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, countries in Europe, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, Mauritius, New Zealand and Zimbabwe, where Covid-19 is still not under control.

The decision was taken after consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Scheduled international flights have been



on hold in India since March 23 last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In an order, the Ministry stated, "The matter of resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger services to and from India has been examined in consultation with the Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs and Health and Family Welfare and it has been decided that scheduled commercial international passenger services to and from India may be resumed from December 15, 2021."

The announcement comes

two days after Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said international flight operations are expected to return to normalcy soon, "by the end of this year".

The Ministry wrote a letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asking it to take "further necessary action" for the resumption of scheduled international flights.

As per the order, the Ministry has divided countries into three parts based on Health Ministry's Covid analysis and accordingly allowed resumption of flights.

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CAPSULE

EXPEDITE TRIAL OF 26/11 CASE: INDIA TO PAKISTAN

New Delhi: India cannot forget the wounds of the Mumbai terror attacks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday on the 13th anniversary of the carnage even as a senior diplomat of the Pakistani High Commission was summoned and told that Islamabad must ensure expeditious trial in the case. In a short video released by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 26/11 attacks, Modi also said that today's India is combating terrorism with a "new policy and new ways" as he paid tributes to the victims.

PAK EX-ARMY MAN SHOT, INFILTRATION BID FOILED

Jammu: An ex-serviceman of the Pakistan Army and well known terrorist guide working in close coordination with Pakistan-based terrorist outfits Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad since early 1990's, was gunned down by the alert Indian Army troops which foiled an infiltration bid along the LoC in Poonch.

P5

Bihar poorest State, Jharkhand at No. 2

UP stands at 3rd
with 37.79% poor;
51.91% in Bihar,
42.16% in J'khand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar is the poorest State in the country followed by Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Meghalaya. According to the Niti Aayog's first Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report, 51.91 per cent population of Bihar is poor, followed 42.16 per cent in Jharkhand, 37.79 per cent in Uttar Pradesh while Madhya Pradesh (36.65 per cent) has been placed fourth in the index, Meghalaya (32.67 per cent) is at the fifth spot.

As per the MPI report,



Kerala (0.71 per cent), Goa (3.76 per cent), Sikkim (3.82 per cent), Tamil Nadu (4.89 per cent) and Punjab (5.59 per cent) have registered the lowest poverty across India and are at the bottom of the index.

The report said India's MPI has three equally weighted dimensions, health, education and standard of living, which are represented by 12 indicators namely nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, antenatal

care, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets and bank accounts.

Among Union Territories (UTs), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (27.36 per cent), Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh (12.58), Daman & Diu (6.82 per cent) and Chandigarh (5.97 per cent), have emerged as the poorest UTs in India.

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Jammu legislative complex faces fund dearth as delay escalates cost

Foundation stone of complex was laid in July 2011

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Successive Chief Ministers and even Governors who were at the helm of affairs in Jammu & Kashmir in the last decade spent lavishly on hard-selling the theme of "good governance". However, one such ambitious project still under construction for over one decade clearly exposes the "work culture" in the region.

It is not just any other infrastructure project but the new legislative complex in Jammu. There is no fund for its completion.

Ironically, no attempts have



New legislative complex in Jammu

Pioneer photo

been made to expedite the construction work and check the "unproductive" cost escalation.

The foundation stone of the complex was laid by the former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Jammu on July 1, 2011.

Initially, the project was estimated to be built at a cost of ₹113 crore. Now the project execution agency — Jammu Kashmir Project Construction Corporation Ltd (JKPCC) — is awaiting the nod of the UT administration to complete the project at a revised cost of over ₹190 crore.

According to the project engineers, the work on the project was going on smoothly till 2015 but the same hit the roadblock during the BJP-PDP alliance Government in office.

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Assam, Mizoram resolve to maintain peace

Set up panels to settle disputes

New Delhi: Assam and Mizoram on Friday resolved to maintain peace and tranquillity along their inter-state border and decided to set up committees to settle the boundary disputes which claimed the lives of five Assam Police personnel and a civilian in July.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah here.

This was the second consecutive meeting in two days between the chief ministers. They had also met on Thursday night over dinner. In a series of tweets, Sarma said chief minister-level talks will take place from time to time.

"Heartening to share that I along with HCM Mizoram Sri @ZoramthangaCM met Hon HM Sri @AmitShah this evening in New Delhi. We reaffirmed our resolve to maintain peace and tranquillity at our borders.

"It has been decided that both the states will constitute committees for resolving the border disputes through discussions. Towards this end, Chief Ministers' level talks will also take place from time to time. We're grateful to Union HM for his kind guidance and support (sic)," Sarma tweeted.

Assam and Mizoram share a 164-km-long border. Zoramthanga had said on Thursday that both the state governments "will try" to increase the fencing all along the border.

The two chief ministers' meetings in the national capital were held apparently fol-

lowing an intervention of the Union Home Ministry, which has been trying to resolve the border disputes, officials said.

The Union government wants a peaceful resolution to the border dispute between Assam and Mizoram and the Union home minister is believed to be in regular touch with the two chief ministers, an official said.

Following the July 26 violence, both Assam and Mizoram Police registered separate cases naming each other's political leaders and police and civil officials. However, some of these cases were withdrawn following a truce.

The chief secretaries and DGPs of the two states on July 28 attended a meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla where the decision to deploy a neutral central force (CRPF) at the clash site was taken.

16 people still missing in AP floods: CM



Amaravati: As many as 16 people who were washed away in the recent floods in Kadapa district on Andhra Pradesh were still missing while the state government said on Friday that another 44 were killed in the deluge.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy made a suo moto statement in the state Assembly on the floods and the subsequent relief measures undertaken by the state government.

He said an ex gratia of Rs five lakh each was paid not only to the kin of the deceased, but also to those of the missing persons. He said for each of the 1,169 houses fully damaged in the floods, Rs 95,100 was paid as compensation. Besides, a new house at a cost of Rs 1.80 lakh would be constructed for each of those families. For partially damaged houses, Rs 5,200 each was paid as compensation. Heavy rains that began on November 16 in SPS Nellore, Kadapa, Chittoor and Anantapuramu districts wrecked havoc on an unprecedented scale, the Chief Minister pointed out.

ED seizes cash, foreign currency after raids in Punjab against ex-GMADA official, linked persons

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has carried out multi-city searches in a money laundering case against then chief engineer Surinder Pal Singh posted at various offices of Punjab Mandi Board and Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) and his associates.

Besides Singh, the searches were conducted on Thursday at the residential premises of Gurdeep Singh Jujharand, business premises of companies controlled by him like Jhujhar Construction & Travels Pvt. Ltd and Fastway Transmission Pvt Ltd, the agency said.

During the searches, a large number of incriminating documents, digital devices, Indian currency worth Rs 10.30 lakhs and foreign currency equivalent to USD 4,000 were seized.

A total of five lockers; and

fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) worth Rs 6.70 crore have also been frozen by the ED.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR registered and chargesheet filed by Vigilance Bureau, Punjab against Surinder Pal Singh and others.

In the FIR, it was alleged that Surinder Pal Singh misused his official position and allotted multi-crore projects to his favoured firms/companies, thereby ensuring illegal monetary gains for himself, his family members and to the companies/firms/entities to which the illegal favors were extended by him.

The ED investigation further revealed that the modus operandi adopted by Surinder Pal Singh was to set up companies in the name of his family members and his close associates.

PNS

India raises terrorism...

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Incidentally, he is the chairman of the grouping since September last year and handed over to the Chinese Minister after the day-long meet. Jaishankar reaffirmed India's continued commitment to foster closer dialogue and cooperation among the three largest nations in the Eurasian region under the RIC mechanism. "I believe that our cooperation in areas like trade, investment, healthcare, education, science and technology, and politics could significantly contribute to global growth, peace and stability. This would be in line with our common ethos of recognising the "world as a family". Our approach to global development should be human-centric and not leave anyone behind," he said.

The Covid pandemic has shown the inter-dependence of an inter-connected world. The need of the hour is, therefore, "one earth one health". That means a timely, transparent, effective and non-discriminatory international response to global health challenges including pandemics, with equitable and affordable access to medicines and critical health supplies, Jaishankar said.

Since joining the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member in January this year, India has been actively contributing to finding mutually acceptable solutions to international and regional issues. "We believe that a multi-polar and re-balanced world based on sovereign equality of nations and respect for international law and contemporary realities requires reformed multilateralism," he said.

Jammu legislative complex...

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According to these official sources, it is around the same time the project executing agency had sought clearance from the Government as the revised cost was projected to be over ₹150 crore. So far around ₹80 crore has been spent by the JKPCC.

Non-availability of the funds not only delayed the completion of the project but added to the cost escalation. After the fall of the BJP-PDP alliance Government, the project remained a non-starter.

In August 2019, even after the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was reorganised following the Abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A the project executing agency failed to receive the funds to complete the pending works. The work was delayed further during Covid-19 pandemic. Executive Director and JKPCC Chief Engineer Pradeep Arun Sharma told The Pioneer, "Recently Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta had visited the project site and issued necessary directions to submit the revised proposals and restart the work on the project on ground zero at the earliest."

According to official sources, the multi-story structure is almost complete. Some civil/finishing works are left beside a connecting bridge to the complex.

"Once the funds are made available to us we should be able to complete the pending works in less than 6 months time", a senior JKPCC engineer added.

Referring to certain design modifications Chief Engineer Pardeep Sharma said, "We are working hard on it. We will soon recall design consultants of the project to submit a revised proposal incorporating all the necessary modifications for a formal approval."

He said we are not supposed to furnish the Upper House as the same has been abolished. Sharma, however, admitted the project was delayed over the non-availability of funds in the initial stages. Project Engineers also attributed the escalated cost of the project to certain modifications suggested at a later stage which included the installation of the most advanced electro-mechanical and sound system The complex has been equipped with a modern firefighting/alarm system, lifts, digital lighting control system, FACADE lighting, LAN, CCTV, PAVA, AV system, and solar lights besides rainwater harvesting and treatment systems.

Bihar poorest...

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Puducherry having 1.72 per cent of its population as poor, Lakshadweep (1.82 per cent), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (4.30 per cent) and Delhi (4.79 per cent) have fared better.

Bihar also has the highest number of malnourished people followed by Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Bihar also ranks worst when it comes to percentage of population deprived of maternal health, percentage of population deprived of years of schooling, school attendance and percentage of population deprived of cooking fuel and electricity.

According to the report, India's national MPI measure uses the globally accepted and robust methodology developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Importantly, as a measure of multidimensional poverty, it captures multiple and simultaneous deprivation faced by households, it added.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework, adopted by 193 countries in 2015, has redefined development policies, government priorities, and metrics for measuring development progress across the world. The SDG framework, with 17 global goals and 169 targets, is significantly wider in scope and scale relative to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), its predecessor.

The national MPI measure has been constructed by utilising 12 key components which cover areas such as health and nutrition, education and standard of living.

Protect judicial institutions...

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"The Constitution of today, built upon the foundations laid by the framers, is a richer and more complex document than what it was when it was adopted in 1949. This is a result of the dialogue that took place both inside and outside the Courtroom, resulting in novel and unique interpretations," he said. The CJI said "perhaps, the most important feature of the Indian Constitution is the fact that it provides a framework for debate. It is through such debate and discussion that the nation ultimately progresses, evolves, and achieves higher levels of welfare for the people. The most direct and visible players in this process are, of course, the lawyers and judges of this country."

He recalled the contributions of legendary lawyers, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr BR Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Lala Lajpat Rai, Sardar Patel, and Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer in the freedom struggle and making of the Constitution and asked lawyers to "take an active role in lending your hand to those in need. Take up cases pro bono whenever possible. Be worthy of the confidence reposed in you by the public."

"As people with intimate knowledge of the Constitution and the laws, it is also your responsibility to educate the rest of the citizenry about the role that they play in society. The history, present, and the future of this nation lie on your shoulders," the CJI told lawyers.

The legal profession is called a noble profession for a reason and it demands "expertise, experience, and commitment", like any other profession, he said, adding that it also requires "integrity, knowledge of social issues, social responsibility, and civic virtue. You must be leaders and mentors in society."

He said that everybody should take a pledge to propagate the ideas that form the basis of the Constitution: freedom, equality, and justice in all of its facets for all people. Besides felicitating five lawyers for completing 50 years in the profession, the CJI also congratulated advocates who were given certificates for writing and publishing books in the function where SCBA President Vikas Singh and others were also present.

India to resume int'l...

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The countries that the Health Ministry has identified as not "at-risk" of Covid-19 will get "full capacity entitlements according to the bilateral air service agreements", the Ministry noted.

The order said if a country has been identified to be "at-risk" of Covid-19 and has an air bubble agreement with India, then "75 per cent of pre-Covid scheduled international flight operations of Indian or foreign carrier whichever is higher or a minimum of seven frequencies per week subject to availability of entitlements under bilateral agreements will be permitted".

In its circular, the Health Ministry has put countries in Europe, including the United Kingdom, and South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel under the "at-risk" category. However, special flights under the Air Bubble arrangement will continue.

For a country that has been identified to be "at-risk" of Covid-19 and does not have an air-bubble agreement with India, then only "50 per cent of bilateral capacity entitlements or 50 per cent of pre-Covid operations of Indian or foreign carrier, whichever is higher", will be permitted.

Restrictions were eased gradually - as the caseload dropped and vaccination coverage increased, with 'air bubble' arrangements with other countries. India currently has 28 such deals.

Under such a deal, international passenger flights can be operated by member countries' respective carriers into each other's territories, subject to certain conditions.

"The seats under air bubble arrangement which have already been sold by airlines, which are more than the capacity entitlements under bilateral air service agreements available with the airlines, will be allowed to be operated till December 14, 2021."

Modi attacks...

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The Prime Minister said the spirit of the Constitution and every section of it is hurt when political parties lose their democratic character. "How can the parties which have lost their democratic character protect democracy," he asked. Elaborating on the spirit behind celebrating Constitution Day, Modi said it was during the 125th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, "We all felt that what could be a greater auspicious occasion than the gift that Babasaheb Ambedkar had given to this country, we should always remember his contribution in the form of a memory book (Smriti Granth)".

He said it would have been better if along with establishing the tradition of Republic Day on January 26, Constitution Day was also established on November 26 at that time itself. Modi said opposition to marking the day was not just being shown now but when the Government had decided to mark Constitution Day, even then it had met with criticism from some quarters. But now the country is not ready to hear such a view when it is a matter concerning Babasaheb Ambedkar, he added. The Prime Minister also warned against the tendency of forgetting and glorifying convicted corrupt people. He said that while giving an opportunity to reform, "We should refrain from glorifying such people in public life".

The Prime Minister said today is the day to pay homage to the far-sighted great personalities such as Babasaheb Ambedkar, Rajendra Prasad, Mahatma Gandhi and to all those who made sacrifices during the freedom struggle. "Today is the day to salute this House. Under the leadership of such stalwarts, after much churning and discussion, the nectar of our Constitution emerged," he said

Modi also emphasised that today is the day to bow to this House of democracy also. The Prime Minister also paid homage to the martyrs of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. In his remarks, the Prime Minister said Constitution Day should also be celebrated because our path should constantly be evaluated whether it is right or not. Modi said Mahatma Gandhi had tried to prepare the people for their duties, even while fighting for rights in the freedom movement. The event was also addressed by President Ram Math Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

President Kovind also released the digital version of Constituent Assembly Debates, a digital version of a calligraphed copy of the Constitution, and an updated version of the Constitution that includes all amendments to date.

Farmers assemble at Delhi borders to ...

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"But in India, the farmers were, are and will always be victorious. The victory of the farmers' struggle is proof of this," she added, in an apparent reference to the Centre's recent decision to repeal the farm laws, following continued protests.

Meanwhile, the farmer groups claimed that lakhs of farmers took part in the assemblies, rallies, marches, chakka jams, held in Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha among other States.

Thousands of them have flocked to the site over the last few days, buoyed by the Government's announcement to repeal the farms laws, to mark the completion of one year of a dogged protest that saw a long dusty patch of the Delhi-Karnal road between Delhi and Sonapat turn into a makeshift town with bamboo huts and all the basic amenities one could think of. Children and elderly, men and women, carried flags of their farmer unions and raised slogans of victory "Inquilab Zindabad" and "Mazdoor Kisan Ekta Zindabad" amid passionate non-stop beating of drums. In a statement, the farmers said that in Karnataka, farmers and workers organized chakka jams, and blockaded state highways in Bangalore, Srirangapatna, Chickballapur, Belgaum, Vijayapura, Bhagewadi. A vehicle rally was also held in Chickballapur. Protest programmes were also held in Mysuru, Kolar, Davangere in Karnataka. In West Bengal, SKM West Bengal held a massive public rally at Y Channel, Dharamtalla, Kolkata which was followed by a huge procession from Dharmatalla to Sealdah station. In Patna, a joint procession of farmers and workers was organized from Buddha Smriti Park to the collectorate, which submitted a memorandum of demands to the District Collector. Protest prgrammes were also held in Sitamadhri, Rohtas, Bhojpur, Khagaria, Begusarai, Samastipur, Buxar, Darbhanga, Gaya, Arwal, Nalanda, Shekhpura, and other districts of Bihar. A massive tractor rally was held in Raipur. In Bijapur district of Bastar in Chhattisgarh, tribal peasants observed the anniversary of the farm movement with Dharnas at Silger and Gangalore. At both the places tribals are protesting against Adani and other corporates, and the deaths of four tribals in police firing on May 16, 2021.

Farm protests were held in Gunturu, Vijayangaram, and other places in Andhra Pradesh. Protest events were also held in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Telangana, Odisha among other States.

Nations in jitters as S Africa Covid variant rears head

From Page 1

However, no cases have been confirmed in the UK as of now.

Same is the case with Italy which also banned entry of those who have been in South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia or Swaziland in the past fortnight due to fears over a new coronavirus variant. Health Minister Roberto Speranza said scientists were studying the new B.1.1.529 variant, "and in the meantime, we will follow the path of maximum caution".

Similarly, Germany joined Britain in banning most travel from South Africa as governments scramble to prevent the spread of a new Covid-19 variant with a large number of mutations Singapore said it will restrict arrivals from seven African countries. "All non-Singaporeans and people without permanent residency in the city-state who have recent travel history to the seven countries will be barred from entering or transiting through Singapore," the Health Ministry added. The fresh curbs will be effective from Sunday, it said.

Scotland too took a cue from the UK Government's decision, saying anyone arriving from the six countries will have to self-isolate and take two PCR tests, while hotel quarantine will be in place from 04:00 GMT on Saturday. France suspended all flights coming from southern Africa for 48 hours. French Health Minister Olivier Veran told news agency Reuters that the new variant had not yet been "diagnosed" in Europe and added that all passengers who recently arrived from the region will be tested and closely monitored.

The World Health Organization has called for caution in the initial stages of dealing with this variant; more research needs to be conducted to understand how B.1.1.529 behaves, the global health body said.

Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's Covid-19 Technical Lead, underlined the importance of ensuring complete vaccination.

ONE YEAR OF STIR AGAINST FARM LAWS
‘Govt must compensate kin of martyred farmers’



BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait and others raise slogans during farmers mahapanchayat to mark the one year anniversary of farmers agitation, at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday asked the Central Government to compensate families of farmers who lost their lives during the agitation against the three farm laws and provide a guarantee for the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He also demanded that the Government withdraw cases against farmers and immediately sack Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

In a single day session, Kejriwal referred to the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and questioned the BJP ruled Central Government over the delay in sacking Mishra whose son has been arrested for his alleged role in the violence that left nine people dead. “The Lakhimpur incident is very painful... Why cannot the Centre remove him? I do not know what their compulsion is, but the entire country wants that he (Mishra) should be removed.”

Congratulating the farmers, Kejriwal said that the farmers’ Satyagraha has shown that truth and strong will power will always win against injustice.

The Delhi Assembly also

passed the resolution tabled by the Development Minister Gopal Rai on the victory of the farmers’ struggle, “farmers were forced to a point where they had to protest against the elected Government of their own country for a whole year. Never thought that farmers in independent India would be subjected to filthy abuses like anti-national, Khalistani, agents of China-Pakistan. If all the farmers of our country are anti-nationals, then what are the people who are hurling abuses at them? This is the victory of democracy and it has increased people’s faith in democracy,” he added, “the Assembly fully supports the pending demands of farmers including MSP, withdrawing all false cases against farmers.”

Addressing the special session, Kejriwal said, “Exactly one year ago, the Kisan Andolan started after the Centre passed the three ‘Kaale Kanoon’, or black farm laws. They did not bother to ask or consult the farmers even once about this decision that ended up wreaking havoc all over the country because of their arrogance. Because of the fact that they have a majority in the Lok Sabha and lead the Rajya

Sabha, they have been blinded by this sense of arrogance that they can get away with their tyranny. When the farmers came to Delhi they thought that the farmers would come, shout on the streets for a few days, get tired and go back. Last year on November 26th, this movement started on the borders of Delhi. It has been one whole year now and this movement has turned out to be successful.”

Kejriwal mentioned that women from Punjab participated in the protest saying, “I want to especially recognise the contribution of the farmers of Punjab in this movement. Specifically, how they lead everyone towards a common cause. I salute the courage of the women of Punjab who walked in unison braving the harsh weather and overcoming all hurdles. When we used to see them we could only think of how we’d need heaters and blankets to protect us from the winters of Delhi but all that the farmers needed was sheer will and courage. The farmers fought through tough summers, rains and even COVID and dengue. It is because of such determination that their demands were met.”

DDMA to discuss new Covid variant

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has called a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to discuss steps that need to be taken in view of the threat of a new Covid-19 variant from African countries. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday. “In view of the threat from the new Covid-19 variant from African countries, we have requested experts to make a presentation to the DDMA on Monday and suggest what steps we should take. We will take all steps necessary to protect you and your family,” he tweeted.



The Centre on Thursday had asked all States and Union Territories to conduct rigorous screening and testing of all international travellers coming from or transiting through South Africa, Hong Kong and Botswana, where a new Covid-19 variant of serious public health implications has been reported.

The new variant of Covid-19, feared to have a high amount of spike mutations unseen before, has been detected in South Africa, with authorities there confirming 22 positive cases associated with it on Thursday

BJP MLA suspended for disrupting Assembly session



Leader of Opposition in Delhi Legislative Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and BJP MLAs sit on a dharna near the Gandhi statue at Delhi Assembly in New Delhi on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly on Friday suspended BJP MLA Jitender Mahajan from its one-day special session and also marshalled out BJP legislators Anil Bajpai and Mohan Singh Bisht for allegedly disrupting the proceedings of the House. Other BJP MLAs

walked out of the House to boycott the proceedings in support of their suspended and marshalled out colleagues.

As soon as the proceedings of the special session began, the BJP MLAs demanded to be heard on various issues such as the new liquor policy, rising air pollution in the city, and high

value-added tax on fuel among others.

Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel denied any discussion on these issues saying the one-day session had been called for a special purpose and only items listed in the agenda will be discussed. “No other discussion will be allowed,” he said.

Delhi’s air pollution level now very poor: SAFAR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi’s air quality worsened on Friday due to unfavourable meteorological conditions, the air quality index (AQI) settled at 386 micrograms per cubic on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI), which falls in the very poor category.

According to SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research), a unit of Ministry of



Earth Sciences (MoES), the overall AQI indicated the higher end of ‘very poor’ category and likely to touch ‘severe’ by Friday night. “Local surface

winds are likely to increase slightly for the next two days increasing dispersion of pollutants leading to slight improvement but AQI remains at ‘high end of very poor’ category.” “The share of stubble burning (Count 274) related pollutants is eight percent in Delhi’s PM2.5. Mixing layer height and wind are the dominant factors controlling air quality. From the 29th significant improvement in AQI is expected due to high wind speed.”

Now, Delhi Govt adds Kartarpur Sahib to free pilgrimage scheme list

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced that his Government will include Kartarpur Sahib (Pakistan) in the CM’s free pilgrimage scheme for the senior citizens of Delhi. The first batch of devotees will leave on January 5th in a deluxe bus from Delhi to Kartarpur. Earlier, CM Kejriwal announced that the first train for Ayodhya, under

the free pilgrimage scheme, would depart from Delhi on December 3, and the registrations for the same have started. The CM added that the free pilgrimage to the Vailankanni Church in Tamil Nadu has also been included in the list of places of pilgrimage under the free Teerth Yatra scheme for the benefit of senior citizens of the Christian community of Delhi.

Namaz offered in G’gram despite disruption by outfits

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

More than 50 Muslims performed Friday Namaz at a corner of an open ground located at Sector-37 which is also adjoining to the Sector-37 police station despite disruptions by Hindu organisations.

Meanwhile, at the same location, Hindu organisations also offered Hawan and Aarti in their attempt to stop Friday Namaz in an open area.

Many members of Hindu organisations had gathered at the site on Friday morning at around 11 am and performed Hawan and Aarti.

They also shouted slogans such as “Jai Shree Ram”, “Hanuman Chalisa” and sang religious Bhajans.

However, the heavy police force was also stationed at the spot to avoid any untoward incidents. Police officials in plain clothes were also present at the spot to assess the situation.



Hazi Shahad Khan, Chairman Muslim Ekta Manch, who performed Namaz along with Muslim people at the site said, “Sector-37 site was one of the designated sites for Namaz and since 18-20 years Muslims are performing Friday Namaz here and there was no disruption since then but last one month few people of Hindu organisation are trying to continuously disrupt Friday prayers which will not be tolerated. We will soon approach

before the local authority against this act.”

Meanwhile, Hindu organisations said they will not allow anyone to grab land in the name of religious activities.

“We had informed the district administration that we will perform Hawan and Aarti at the Sector-37 ground. This was not a designated site for Namaz it is an illegal activity that is being done by Muslims. Local used to play cricket here and the Muslims are disrupting

their game,” said a member of a Hindu organisation.

The Hindu organisations also claimed that they had performed hawan to pay homage to the soldiers who were martyred during the 26/11 attacks on Mumbai.

Meanwhile, several Muslims performed Friday prayers at the ground without mats. Few also offered Namaz while standing.

“We have written permission of 20 sites for Friday prayers in Gurugram and Sector-37 was one of them. This site was decided on a committee in front of the District Commissioner Gurugram, in which Hindu organization people were also present. Few anti-social elements are behind today’s incident. The administration needs to take strict action against such people. If such people disrupt Namaz everywhere then where we will offer Friday Namaz” Muhammad Aslam, a committee member said.

HC to hear on Dec 10 plea on PM CARES Fund

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Friday advanced to December 10 the hearing on pleas to declare the PM CARES Fund a ‘State’ under the Constitution and a ‘public authority’ under the RTI Act to ensure transparency in its functioning.

A bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh allowed the applications for early hearing by the petitioner Samyak Gangwal and said, “Looking into the facts of the case, we allow the applications and prepone the date of hearing to December 10.”

The matter was last listed on November 18 when it was adjourned till December 20 after the bench did not assemble. The petitioner has filed two petitions seeking a direction to declare the PM CARES Fund a ‘State’ under the Constitution to ensure transparency in its functioning and also to declare it a ‘public authority’ under the RTI Act. The pleas are being heard together. The petitioner has

said that the PM CARES Fund is a ‘State’ as it was formed by the Prime Minister on March 27, 2020, to extend assistance to the citizens of India in the wake of the public health emergency -- the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic.

His counsel had told the court that if it is found that the PM CARES Fund is not ‘State’ under the Constitution, usage of the domain name ‘govt’, the Prime Minister’s photograph, state emblem, etc has to be stopped. However, an affidavit filed by an Under-Secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) who is discharging his functions in the PM Cares Trust on an honorary basis, had said the PM CARES Fund is not a government fund as donations to it do not go to the Consolidated Fund of India and no third party information can be parted with irrespective of its status under the Constitution and the RTI Act.

It had said the trust functions with transparency and its funds are audited by an chartered accountant.

Sisodia for comparing Delhi and Punjab education models

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A head of the Assembly polls in Punjab, AAP leader and Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday called upon his Punjab counterpart Pargat Singh for presenting a list of 250 Government schools which have been improved in the five years of the Congress Government for a public comparison of their education models. “Punjab’s Education Minister Pargat Singh has accepted my challenge for a debate on improvement in 250 schools in Delhi and Punjab. I am waiting for a list of 250 schools in Punjab which have improved in the past five years,” Sisodia tweeted in Hindi.

“I will also submit a similar list of Delhi schools. We both will then visit these schools together and invite the media so that people can form

an opinion about schools in Delhi and Punjab and the education models of two states.

“(Delhi) CM Arvind Kejriwal is also visiting Mohali tomorrow. He will meet the teachers in Punjab who have been agitating for their demands. Who can talk better about improved situation in schools other than teachers?” he added.

Sisodia had on Thursday invited his Punjab counterpart for a public debate on the education models under the two governments.

He had also proposed a joint visit to 10 Government schools each in Punjab and Delhi. Responding to his invite, Singh tweeted earlier in the day, “I welcome the Hon. Edu. Minister of Delhi Sh. @msisodia’s suggestion to compare Punjab govt schools with Delhi Schools. However We will take 250 schools each of Punjab and Delhi instead of 10 schools”.

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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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Wounds of 26/11 attacks cannot be forgotten: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in paying homage to the victims of the Mumbai terror attacks 13 years ago and said the wounds cannot be forgotten. The Pakistani envoy to New Delhi too was summoned here to demand the expeditious trial of those responsible for the dastardly incident in which 166 people including 26 foreign nationals were killed.

The attacks by a 10-member squad of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists began on November 26, 2008. Pakistan arrested seven LeT operatives, including operations commander Zakiur Rahman Lakhvi, but there has been little headway in their trial.

Remembering the victims, the Prime Minister said in a video, "India can't forget the wounds of the Mumbai attacks. Now, today's India is combating terrorism with a new policy and new ways."

"I pay my homage to all those who died in the Mumbai attacks. Many brave police personnel were martyred in this attack. I also pay homage to them," Modi said.

The video said victims of the terror attacks "from India and across the world await justice". It included images of the assault on Mumbai's iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel and tributes to security personnel killed in the attacks.

Footage of world leaders such as former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon condemning the attacks and paying tribute to victims during visits to Mumbai were included.



Among the leaders featured in the video were former US president Barack Obama, the duke and duchess of Cambridge, Belgium's King Philippe, and UK foreign secretary Liz Truss.

Meanwhile, India summoned a senior diplomat of the Pakistan High Commission here and issued a note verbale "reiterating India's call for an expeditious trial in the Mumbai terror attacks case".

The note also called on the Pakistan government "to abide by its commitment to not allow territories under its control for terrorism against India", according to a statement from the external affairs ministry said.

"It is a matter of deep anguish that even after 13 years of this heinous terror attack, the families of 166 victims from 15 countries across the globe still await closure, with Pakistan showing little sincerity in bringing the perpetrators to justice," the statement said.

"The 26/11 terrorist attack was planned, executed and launched from Pakistani territory. The former Prime

Minister of Pakistan had gone on record and admitted that the terrorists were sent from Pakistan's soil," the statement said, in a reference to former premier Nawaz Sharif.

"We once again call on the government of Pakistan to give up double standards and to expeditiously bring the perpetrators of the horrific attack to justice. This is not just a matter of Pakistan's accountability to the families of the innocent victims who fell to terrorists, but also an international obligation," it said.

"The Government of India will continue to make every effort to seek justice for the families of the victims and the martyrs," it said adding the government and people of India remembered victims of the "dastardly attack" on the 13th anniversary of the event.

A memorial event was organised by the Maharashtra government at the Police Memorial in Mumbai. Indian missions in the 14 countries whose nationals were killed in the Mumbai attacks also organised memorial events for the victims and reminded the world of the continuing global threat of terrorism.

CBI gets nod to prosecute retd Allahabad HC judge in corruption case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has received sanction to prosecute retired Allahabad High Court Judge Justice S N Shukla in a corruption case linked to alleged favour granted to a private medical college through his judicial pronouncement.

The CBI had sought permission from the High Court to prosecute the retired judge, on April 16 this year, in line with compliance of Prevention of Corruption Act for prosecuting him, official sources said.

Having secured a sanction from the High Court, the CBI can now proceed with a chargesheet in the case against the retired judge as the probe in the matter has already been wrapped up, officials said.

The sanction to prosecute the retired judge, a prime accused in the case, was sought by the agency after the probe in the case suggested prima facie culpability of the named accused in the case, the sources said.

Besides Justice Shukla of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, the agency had also named retired Chhattisgarh High Court judge I M Qudus (was earlier arrested in this case), Bhagwan Prasad Yadav and Palash Yadav of the Prasad Education Trust, the Trust itself and private persons Bhavna Pandey and Sudhir Giri as accused in the FIR, they said.

The accused persons and the Trust were booked under Indian Penal Code Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of the Prevention of

Corruption Act.

Illegal gratification was allegedly paid to one of the accused named in the FIR by the Trust in order to get a favourable court order, officials said referring to the FIR.

After registering the FIR, the CBI had conducted searches at multiple locations in Lucknow, Meerut and the national capital in December 2019, including at the then serving judge Justice Shukla's premises in Lucknow, they said.

It is alleged that the Prasad Institute of Medical Sciences was debarred by the Centre from admitting students due to sub-standard facilities and non-fulfilment of the required criteria in May 2017, along with 46 other medical colleges that were also barred on similar grounds for students' intake, they further said.

The decision to debar the Institute from admitting students was challenged by the Trust before the Supreme Court through a writ petition, they added.

Subsequently, a conspiracy was hatched by the accused persons and the Trust and the petition was withdrawn with the apex court's permission.

Another writ petition was filed before the Lucknow bench of the High Court on August 24, 2017.

It was further alleged in the FIR that the petition was heard on August 25, 2017 by a division bench of the court comprising Justice Shukla and an order favourable to the Trust was passed the same day, they added.

SC to hear plea against Asthana's appointment as Delhi Police chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear the plea of Prashant Bhusan-led



NGO challenging the Delhi High Court order which upheld the Centre's decision to appoint senior IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna issued notice to the Centre and Asthana and sought their response on the plea of the NGO, the Centre for Public Interest Litigation. The NGO has filed a writ petition and an appeal against the appointment of Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner four days before his superannuation on July 31.

Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for the NGO, said that they have filed the appeal as directed by the top court on November 18. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre and Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Asthana said that they would file their replies in two weeks.

On October 12, the Delhi High Court upheld the Centre's decision to appoint Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner, saying there was "no irregularity, illegality or infirmity" in his selection. Dismissing a PIL challenging his selection, it had said the justification and reasons given by the Centre for appointing Asthana are plausible, calling for no interference in judicial review.

Now, women outperform men as voters: CEC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of the historical perspective of barriers and challenges faced by women in participation in elections in India, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said on Friday after seven decades and 17 General Elections since Independence, women's participation in India has exceeded that of men and stood at more than 67 percent in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing an international webinar on 'Enhancing Electoral Participation of Women, Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens', Chandra narrated how the Election Commission made special efforts to enhance the participation on women, people with disabilities, senior citizens and transgenders.

"Gender gap, a crucial parameter, which was -16.71% in 1962, has not only closed but reversed to +0.17% in 2019. In fact India has witnessed a 235.72% increase in female electors since the 1971 elections," he said. The poll panel,

Chandra said, has made consistent efforts and has gone that extra mile to empower and facilitate the participation of senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

In most countries and territories, voting rights were granted to women in a piecemeal manner, he observed. The United States took 144 years to give equal voting rights to women, he pointed out.

In India, women got the right to vote the year the country was born. This does not obviate the fact that many Indian women campaigned for equal right to vote. The Indian suffragette movement gathered momentum with the participation of more and more women in the freedom struggle, he said.

The real logistics issue came up in the preparation of electoral rolls when a large number of women, owing to customary practice, refused to disclose their own names and wanted to be registered as A's wife or B's mother, he recalled.

Naravane reviews op preparedness of armed forces in Jaisalmer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Army chief General M M Naravane on Friday reviewed the operational preparedness of the armed forces in Jaisalmer to fight modern-day war in a synergised manner.



He undertook the two-day visit ending Friday to Rajasthan to an exercise location in Jaisalmer to review exercise 'Dakshin Shakti' conducted by the Southern Command of Indian Army with an aim to ensure integrated application of forces in Multi-Domain Operations and upholding the nation's military aims over the entire spectrum of conflict.

During the past one week, units and formations of the Indian Army practiced tactical and operational manoeuvres by its Infantry, Mechanised Formations and Airborne troops in a fluid battlefield environment, operationalising future technologies.

This was effected by exploiting versatile and indigenous airborne platforms such as Advanced Light Helicopter (Weapon System Integrated), Swarm Drones

and enmeshing Artificial Intelligence to provide a cohesive operational and intelligence picture amalgamated within the Intelligence, Surveillance and Recce (ISR) Architecture.

A formidable display of the same including Special Heliborne Operations, Swarm Drone and ALH Manoeuvres and coordinated action by ground troops were also practiced.

The Army Chief commended the Southern Command for fielding and exploiting the capabilities of indigenous equipment inducted as part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' initiative. He also emphasised the need to constantly evolve tactics, techniques and procedure to fight "Future Wars" as well as capability enhancement in Manned and Unmanned systems.

Sonia to hold rally on Dec 12 against price rise, inflation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi will address a public rally on December 12 as part of her party's drive against price rise and inflation. The Congress president and the party have decided to draw the country's attention to price rise and inflation by holding a massive "Mehngai Hatao rally" in Delhi on December 12, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said.

The rally will be addressed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders from across the country. "It will give a decisive warning to the present Modi Government to stop its loot and reduce the backbreaking prices. We shall continue our struggle until the Modi Government backs down," he said in a statement.

Venugopal said "Modi and 'Mehngai' have become the bane of people's lives" and the unprecedented price rise and inflation have demolished the earnings, the household income and budget of every family in the country.

He said the people of India are suffering unbearable cruel-



ty and untold misery on account of the BJP government-driven price rise and inflation.

The budget of every household bleeds, even minimum nutrition suffers and people are finding it difficult to buy and consume day-to-day food articles as also other consumables, he alleged. "The Modi government remains oblivious to this insurmountable pain and suffering of people. Backed by a section of the electronic media, the only solution offered by Modi government is a divisive religious discourse or sporadic diversionary statements to reset the agenda from fundamental issues affecting the lives of the people," he said in the statement.

The Congress has been protesting on the issue of price rise and inflation and have called for a check on them. The Congress leader said the real

Putin, Modi to hold talks on December 6



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold summit level talks here on December 6. The two countries will also have the first two plus two dialogue on the same day between the defence and foreign ministers of their countries.

Making an official

announcement about Putin's visit, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here on Friday the Russian president will pay an official visit to New Delhi for the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit with the Prime Minister.

The Pioneer had reported about these two high profile events a few days back.

In an official statement, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi further

confirmed that the first meeting of 2+2 dialogue between Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and Russia will be held in Delhi on December 6.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent the Indian side. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu will represent their country.

Centre kicking off a three-day Int'l Tourism Mart in Kohima

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In keeping with its focus on promotion of the North-East, identifying new destinations and developing itineraries around them, the Centre is kicking off a three-day International Tourism Mart on Saturday in picturesque Kohima in Nagaland, which is blessed with breathtaking unexplored destinations.

Nagaland is holding the mart for the first time. It was earlier held in Guwahati (Assam), Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Shillong (Meghalaya), Gangtok (Sikkim), Agartala (Tripura), and Imphal (Manipur).

And the day after the Mart wraps up, the State Government will inaugurate the much-awaited Hornbill Festival, an annual tourism promotional event showcasing the rich Naga tradition and culture at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama,

about 12 km from the state capital.

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Minister of State for Tourism & Defence from the Centre, Ajay Bhatt and MLA and Advisor Tourism, Nagaland H Khehovi Yeputhomi will jointly inaugurate the International Tourism Mart.

"This edition of the Mart will put the spotlight on "Domestic Tourism". Besides deliberations on the promotion of tourism in the North East Region in general, the Mart will also give a platform for promoting cultural ties, providing enhanced connectivity to the States of North Eastern Region with other parts of the country," said an official from the Union Tourism Ministry which has organized the mega event.

The three-day Mart to be attended by a battery of stakeholders will see a string of cultural programmes, deliberations on the promotion of

tourism in the North East Region in general, promoting cultural ties, providing enhanced connectivity to the States of North Eastern Region with other parts of the country.

Among over 300 delegates including government officials, industry stakeholders and local participants, the event is also going to be graced by the High Commissioner, Brunei Darussalam, High Commissioner, Malaysia, Ambassador Extra Ordinary, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Ambassador, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, amongst others attending dignitaries and diplomats.

The city is a tourist's delight, having been blessed with rich cultural heritage showcased in hotspots like Kisama Heritage Village, Kisama War Museum and Morungs, Khonoma Village and Kohima World War II War Cemetery.

L-G Sinha's attention drawn towards recent incidents in Kashmir

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Chairman of the Planning and Finance Committee at Union Minority Affairs Ministry and a member of the Central Waqf Council, Rais Khan Pathan, has written to Jammu & Kashmir L-G Manoj Sinha drawing his immediate attention to the recent incidents in Kashmir where senior journalist Sajid Yousuf Shah, who is also president of All JK Youth Society, received threats after he informed the authorities about nefarious plans of terrorists.

"The terrorists are plotting to contaminate the food given to the security forces by injecting poison in it. I state with deep anguish that the recent occurrence has become a crucial concern as informed to me by the journalist by tagging our official handle on Twitter

last week," Pathan mentioned in his letter and shared news clippings and news channel clips broadcast in the local media.

"Also, it has been informed that Shah has been attacked several times in the past and is on the top hit list of many terror attacks. The situation is grim and completely dreadful. The viral audios on Twitter with different names, IDs are disturbing and are jeopardizing the public safety. Looking at the situation, it stands as a major threat not only to the journalist but also to millions of security officers, which can risk the security and stability of our nation. In this regard, I request you to personally intervene in the matter and order an immediate high-level investigation to review the situation minutely," Pathan stated in his letter dated November 23.

Staying away from Constitution day not good, says Speaker

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing "pain" over Opposition parties boycotting the Constitution Day event organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Friday, Speaker Om Birla said staying away from such non-partisan events held by Parliament is not good for the health of democracy.

Speaking to reporters after the programme, Birla said, "This culture of boycotting non-partisan events, which are of national interest, is not good for the health of democracy." He said he will sit with the representatives from the opposition parties and discuss how it can be ensured that all political parties attend such events.

"I am deeply hurt as the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha that several political parties boycotted the event organised by Parliament to

commemorate the Constitution Day," Birla said.

He found it strange that the parties boycotting the event did not even inform him about their decision. "If they had some issues, they should have discussed it with me. I would have tried to resolve their issues so that they could attend the event," the Lok Sabha speaker said.

The people of the country expect Parliament to function in an orderly manner and all political parties should try to ensure that the House runs smoothly, he added.

Arrangements were made for Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and his counterpart in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge -- both from the Congress -- to sit on the dais. It was also intimated to both leaders.

Speaking at the event, Birla

The people of the country expect Parliament to function in an orderly manner and all political parties should try to ensure that the House runs smoothly, Birla added

said the Constitution is like a modern version of the Bhagavad Gita that motivates every Indian to work for the nation. "The Constitution of India is like a modern version of the Gita for us that motivates us to work for the nation. If each one of us commits to working for the country, we can build 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'," he said.

RAMBAGH ENCOUNTER

Shops, offices still shut in downtown Srinagar on day 2

Mobile internet too remains suspended

Srinagar: Majority of the shops and business establishments in downtown Srinagar were shut on the second consecutive day on Friday while mobile internet remained suspended in many parts of the city following the killing of three militants, officials said.

The shutdown was observed mainly in interior areas such as Nowhatta, Gojwara, Khanyar, Safakadal, Nawakadal, Rajouri Kadal and MR Gunj, they said.

Traffic, however, was plying as usual, the officials said.

Police on Wednesday gunned down Mehran Shalla, a self-styled commander of The Resistance Front (TRF) and a resident of Jamalata area in Nawakadal, and Manzoor Ahmad Mir and Arafat Sheikh, both from Pulwama, in a brief encounter in Rambagh area of the city.

Police said Mir and Sheikh, too, were affiliated with TRF, an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Shalla was wanted by security forces in connection with several civilian killings, including those of two teachers belonging to minority communities inside a school in Eidgah area of the city last month, they said.

PTI

Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Poonch; Pak ex-Army man killed

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

An ex-serviceman of the Pakistan Army and well known terrorist guide, working in close coordination with Pakistan based terrorist outfits Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad since early 1990's, was gunned down by the alert Indian Army troops while foiling an infiltration bid along the line of control in Bhimbergali area of Poonch late Thursday night.

The terrorist guide has been identified as Mohd Arif alias Haji Arif, resident of village Matrian, Khuriratta, PoJK.

According to reports, Haji Arif's house was located close to the line of control and was used by the terrorist outfits as launching pads to push terrorists inside the Indian territory.

He was on the radar of the Indian army for a long time. Late Thursday night he ran out of his luck while leading a group of infiltrators inside the Indian territory.

According to the dossier pre-



pared by the security agencies, Haji Arif was well versed with the

topography of the region and was regularly ferrying small groups of terrorists inside the Indian territory.

According to the dossier, his name also surfaced during investigations after several operations, IED blasts and even BAT attacks by the Pakistan army regulars targeting Indian soldiers. He mostly operated in Tarkundi bowl along the line of control. In February 2018 when different agencies were investigating the role of different players behind the BAT attack his name too had surfaced and substantiated by multiple agencies.

His two sons, identified as Naseer Khan and Bilal Khan, are both working as labourers in Saudi Arabia and UAE respectively while one of his younger brothers is also working as a guide of LeT.

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ELECTIONS

TMC, LF announce list of candidates ahead of BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Youth, women and minorities constitute a sizeable part of the ruling Trinamool Congress and Left Front's candidates' list for the upcoming Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections which would take place on December 19 about two years behind schedule.

Incidentally both the TMC and the Left, left principal opposition BJP behind in announcing their respective lists with a moribund Left on Friday coming out quite surprisingly with its own list beating the ruling outfit by several hours.

In an apparent bid to recognize the rise of women electorate that played a decisive role in this year's Assembly elections both the TMC and the Left Front have fielded a sizeable number of women candidates.

While senior TMC leader Partho Chatterjee emerging from a core committee meeting presided by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that "we are fielding 80 male and 64 female candidates --- making it a 55%-45% percent affair --- the Marxists have nominated 56 female and 58 male candidates out of the 127 seats they are contesting.

TMC will contest from all the 144 seats the Left Front have left 17 seats for the

"Congress, ISF or any other party that can defeat the Trinamool and the BJP". The Left which announced the names of 114 candidates will publish the names of 13 nominees in a day or two, its leader Kallol Majumdar said.

While both the TMC and the LF have preferred the youth in deciding their candidates the average age of the Front candidates is about 48 years. For the Trinamool Congress it is a tad lower.

Out of the 144 nominations the ruling outfit has retained 87 councilors and dropped 39. "Those who have not been given tickets would be used in the organizational work," said Chatterjee. Six MLAs --- all sitting councilors --- figure in the TMC list. Among them are outgoing Mayor Firhad Hakim who is also a State minister, Deputy Mayor Atin Ghosh, Mayors-in-council Debashis Kumar and Debabrata Biswas.

Out of the total candidates the TMC has fielded 19 SCs and 23 minorities, Chatterjee said adding out of the minority candidates two are from the Christian community.

The West Bengal State Election Commission had on Thursday announced the date of elections amid rising demand from the Opposition parties to hold simultaneous elections to all the 118 municipal boards and corporations in the State.

Param Bir to appear before commission looking into charges against Deshmukh on Monday

Mumbai: IPS officer Param Bir Singh will appear before the one-member commission probing corruption allegations against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday, his lawyer said. The Justice K U Chandiwal commission was formed in March this year to probe the allegations levelled by Singh, a former Mumbai police chief, against Deshmukh, an NCP leader. On Thursday, the commission had warned that if Singh did not remain present, he would face the execution of the bailable warrant issued against him.

On Friday, Singh's lawyer told the commission that the senior IPS officer won't be able to appear during the day as he was visiting Thane in connection with a case against him. Singh was ready to appear on Saturday or any other day, he said. The commission said it doesn't sit on Saturday and asked Singh to appear on Monday (November 29).

The commission had fined Singh on many occasions earlier for failing to appear. A bailable warrant had also been issued against him. Singh, transferred from the post of Mumbai police commissioner in

March in the aftermath of the Antilia bomb scare episode, alleged that Deshmukh, then home minister, had asked police officers to collect Rs 100 crore a month from bars and restaurants in Mumbai. Declared absconding by a Mumbai court in an extortion case, Singh surfaced in public on Thursday after six months, and appeared before the Mumbai crime branch to record his statement. Meanwhile, a man, claiming to be a social worker, on Friday approached the Justice Chandiwal commission with an intervention application, seeking inquiry against Singh for his 'misdeeds' during his tenure as Thane police commissioner. Singh implicated many builders, businessmen and common citizens in false cases, the plea alleged.

The commission took the application on record.

Incidentally, Singh appeared before Thane police on Friday in connection with an extortion case filed against him and some other police officials on the complaint of a local builder. The IPS officer is facing at least five extortion cases in Maharashtra.

Drones to deliver vaccines, medicines in Jammu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indigenously manufactured drones by Indian scientists will be launched from Saturday for delivering medicines in the inaccessible and tough terrain of Jammu and surrounding areas with a focus on vaccine delivery initially.

"This is going to be a pilot project for the area. The drone is developed and manufactured entirely by our scientists," Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh told reporters here. The use of drones has gained popularity in the last two years, beginning with the World Economic Forum's "Medicine from the Sky" project in India. Several States are piloting similar solutions for better access to medical care among rural communities.

Singh said he himself will be launching the project at Jammu.

The drone is developed by the scientists at Bengaluru's National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), a constituent of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), an autonomous Society that is headed by the Prime Minister.

For now, the delivery would be limited to Covid vaccines and once successful, it would be expanded to be used for regular delivery of medicines in the remote, hilly areas. Used for surveillance

and in humanitarian aid delivery, drones are being increasingly developed to transport medical samples and supplies.

Jammu and surrounding areas are sensitive in terms of their strategic importance. Some months ago, there was an attack on an Army installation using drones.

An official from the Science and Technology Ministry said, "The drones would be deployed by authorised agencies such as hospitals, not anybody can use it, nor would any random person be permitted to use it."

NAL has called the drone an 'Octacopter'. It can fly at an operational altitude of 500 m AGL and at maximum flying speed of 36 kmph. It can be used for a variety of BVLOS applications for last mile delivery like medicines, vaccines, food, postal packets, Human organs (such as heart for heart transplantation) etc.

In an article published in Elsevier Connect in 2016, researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center had noted that the cost savings would come from drones being able to deliver vaccines more quickly and cheaply than land-based methods, which are limited by road conditions and the need for costly fuel and maintenance.

Parl IT panel summons Facebook India officials

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has asked Facebook India officials to appear on November 29 to hear on the safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security in the digital space.

The committee is also expected to take view point of Facebook India on a report shared by whistle blower Sophie Zhang, a former employee of the company. The committee has earlier called Facebook India in June this year to take view

According to the agenda of the meeting, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT will "hear the views of the representatives of Facebook India on

the subject 'Safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security in the digital space'. The committee will also hear representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on the same.

The Congress leader has earlier stated that the committee would look into reports that Facebook did nothing to censor hate posts by some Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections and ask the social media giant to respond to the accusations.

The committee has earlier called Facebook India in June this year to take view on new the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on February 25, 2021. The Rules have come into effect from May 26, 2021.

MGL hikes CNG, PNG prices for 3rd time in 6 weeks

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development that would affect 24 lakh consumers in the metropolis, the Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) increased the prices of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) with effect from midnight of Friday.

This is the third hike in CNG and PNG prices carried out by the MGL since October 14. The hike will hit the domestic budgets of 16 lakh people living in the metropolis and neighbouring areas, eight lakh consumers using gas-powered vehicles will have to spend more because of the hike.

The MGL has increased the basic prices of CNG by

₹3.06/kg and domestic PNG by ₹2.26 per Standard Cubic Meter (SCM) for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

As a consequence, the revised all-inclusive prices of CNG used by vehicles will go up from ₹57.54 per kg to ₹61.50 per kg, while the domestic PNG will be ₹36.50 per SCM, in a single slab henceforth.

Earlier, the MGL had hiked rates twice in the first week of October ahead of the festive season. It went in for one more hike on October 14.

On its part, the MGL has attributed the price increase to the shortfall in domestic gas allocation for which it is buying higher priced PNG

(imported RLNG) to cater to the growing numbers of CNG and domestic customers.

"In addition, owing to the substantial increase in natural gas prices in the international market, the MGL's input gas cost has also gone up. To partially offset the increase in the input costs of gas, we have gone in for the latest price hikes," an MGL spokesperson said.

However, the MGL said that despite the revised rates, its CNG would help the consumers save around 62 percent and 35 per cent respectively in comparison with petrol and diesel, while the PNG users were able to save 27 percent compared with the prices of domestic LPG.

Homage paid to martyrs of 26/11 attack on 13th anniversary

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Friday joined senior police officials, family members of the victims and brave hearts in paying homage to the martyrs of the 26/11 attack on Mumbai on its 13th anniversary at the Martyrs' Memorial erected inside the Mumbai Police Commissionerate premises near Crawford Market in south Mumbai.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who is recuperating at the HN Reliance Hospital in Mumbai after a cervical spine surgery that he underwent on November 12, paid homage those who lost their lives during the terror strikes and expressed his gratitude to those who fought the terrorists.

Uddhav described the November 26-29, 2008 attack on Mumbai as "a cowardly act". He recalled the services of the police and security forces and the people of Mumbai for warding off the assault on the country's commercial capital and recovering from its effects.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil, Tourism Minister, Director-General of Police Sanjay Pandey, Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale and other dignitaries also paid their respects at the Martyrs' Memorial.

A large number of Police personnel turned up to pay homage to their colleagues



Members of Police Charitable Trust hold placards at the Gateway of India to mark the 13th anniversary of the 26/11 terror attacks, in Mumbai on Friday

PTI

who were killed while fighting the terrorists at key locations in south Mumbai.

The 26/11 attack had claimed 166 lives and left more than 300 others injured. The sites targeted during the mayhem were the world heritage building Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Hotel Taj Mahal Palace & Tower, Hotel Trident, Nariman House, Leopold Café and Cama Hospital, Wadi Bunder.

While Abdul Rehman, Abu Ali and Abu Soheb marched to the Leopold Café in Colaba and then laid siege at Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Abdul Rehman Chota and Fahad Ullah headed to the Trident-Oberoi Hotel.

Nasir Abu Umar and Babar Imran alias Abu Aakasha targeted Nariman House housing the Jewish Chabad House, and trio - Isamal Khan, Abu Ismail and Ajmal Amir

Kasab unleashed terror at CSMT, Cama Hospital and its precincts, before proceeding towards Chowpatty.

All the targets were within a radius of around 4-5 km area in south Mumbai, where the state secretariat, business and commercial hubs, deluxe hotels, residences of ministers, bureaucrats, diplomats, scientists and business bigwigs are located.

Assistant sub-Inspector Tukaram Omble was instrumental in catching Kasab alive at Gairgaum-Chowpatty in south Mumbai on the night of November 26, 2008. Omble, it may be recalled, had held onto Kasab even after he had been grievously injured by bullets pumped into him by the latter. Omble died before he could be rushed to the hospital.

While nine of the ten terrorists were killed by the security forces during the attack, the remaining one -- Mohammed Ajmal Kasab -- was caught alive by the police at Girgaum Chowpatty on the intervening night of November 26-27, 2008.

Kasab was sentenced to death by a trial court on May 6, 2010. Later on February 21 this year, the Bombay High Court confirmed Kasab's death sentence. After the high court's verdict, Kasab wrote to the Supreme Court on July 28, challenging his conviction and death sentence in the 26/11 case. The apex court is likely to hear his case in the coming months.

Raj: 6 detained for pelting stones at Dalit man's wedding procession

Jaipur: Six people were detained after they pelted stones at a Dalit man's marriage procession after he rode a mare against their wish, police said on Friday.

Nearly a dozen people were injured in the incident that took place in Jaipur's Kotputli town late on Thursday, police said.

"Some people from a certain community had objected to Dalits riding a mare during marriage ceremonies," Prapura Station House Officer Shiv Shankar said. "Anticipating trouble, the Dalit groom's family members had given a police complaint prior to the marriage. Accordingly, a police team was deployed to ensure smooth conduct of the ceremony. However, some people managed to pelt stones at the procession," the offices said.

The accused have been booked under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and the Indian Penal Code, Shankar said.

He said another person from the victim's family is slated to get married a few days later, and adequate protection will be provided to them.

PTI

Man held for raping 'minor' in UP town

Ballia (UP): A 27-year-old man has been arrested here for allegedly raping a minor on pretext of marriage, police said on Friday.

The arrest came on Thursday on complaint of a 22-year-old woman, who alleged that the accused raped her for two years beginning in 2014 promising her that he will marry her, they said.

She alleged she was 15 when the accused first raped her and he continued to do so for the next two years.

She approached the police after he allegedly broke his promise and

married another woman, Gadwar police station in-charge Durgeshwar Mishra said.

The woman also alleged that the accused not only abused and assaulted her but also threatened to kill her.

A case has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, and the woman has been sent to the district hospital for medical examination, Mishra said.

PTI

Cash cow

India is far from joining the top milk-exporting nations because of its large domestic demand

This Friday was the birth centenary of India's Milk Man, Verghese Kurien. He was the brain behind 'Operation Flood' and made dairy farming India's biggest self-sustaining industry and the largest employer in the rural sector. With an annual production touching 200 million tonnes, India accounts for over a fifth of the world's milk production. The per capita availability of milk is around 400 grams a day against the world's average of 300 grams. The sector's respected brand is Amul, which stands for Anand Milk Union Limited, managed by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation that played a pivotal role in the 'White Revolution'. The Milk Man left behind him a proud legacy, but he would, as a man used to look far and ahead, notice several uncanny challenges and controversies facing the dairy sector. India is still far away from joining the ranks of milk exporting nations because much of the production caters to its large domestic demand. India may be self-sufficient in milk production, but only 10 States produce over three-fourths of the total milk. Only nine States compete with the national average when it comes to the per capita availability of milk. Most States still lack a healthy dairy cooperative network. Most farmers in these States do not get remunerative prices. Steps are needed to enhance their return on investment. Take the quality of cows, for example. The yield from indigenous cows is much lower than that of exotic crossbred cows. Crossbreeding is the answer and the country took baby steps only



in 2019 through the Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme. However, crossbreeding has to first tackle the sensitive issue of India's renewed interest in the socio-cultural and nationalist affinity towards cows and dairy products which has created a political movement for promoting indigenous breeds.

In India, like in the United States, farm animals like cows have a central place in the Indian way of life, politics and culture. The United States has a vast legal framework concerning milk whereas the Indian constitution has a clear provision on cattle welfare. For separate reasons, cows are enmeshed in both countries in exclusionary politics, reflecting existing differences between religious communities and ideologies. The right of farmers to sell ageing cows for slaughter is caught in a Hindu versus Muslim debate, ignoring the role slaughter plays in preserving the species by replacements with younger stock and protecting farmers' livelihoods. A Government move to introduce milk instead of eggs in the mid-day meal scheme in schools has generated debates over milk versus egg and vegetarianism. Currently, milk and dairy products are stuck in a double controversy, with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) asking Amul not only to switch to vegan milk but also stop cruelty to animals in the dairy industry. And around the corner is another issue with the potential to raise a 'white' storm: including milk in the public distribution system because the poor also have a right to drink milk.



Women make bamboo baskets to sell on the eve of Hosto Silpo Mela, in Kolkata

PTI

Intolerance

More than 70 years since Independence, we as a nation haven't grown up enough to grow together

Where are we going? What have we become? Is this what we've learnt from Hinduism; a religion that teaches tolerance and harmony towards all? What has happened in Gurugram recently yet again proves that we, as a nation, have missed the whole humane point. Certain right-wing Hindu groups on Friday interrupted Muslims while the latter were offering *namaz* (prayers) at a designated open site in Gurugram's Sector 37, leading to tensions yet again. This is not the first time that communal hatred has erupted in Gurugram; several sectors of the region have been witnessing disruptions for the last few months and barely any measures were taken. The Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Gurugram, however, had opened its doors for the Muslims to offer their Friday prayers but *namaz* could not be offered in any of the gurdwaras. The right-wing groups creating a hostile environment for the people of a particular community or religion will only drag the country back to square one, from where it all began. Chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' at those offering *namaz* only shows vulnerability, and continuing the *namaz* despite the chants shows sanctity.



Just a couple of days back, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath — while making a veiled attack on the Samajwadi Party — had said that the nation has to decide "if the sweetness of sugarcane will grow or the followers of Pakistan's founder MA Jinnah will cause mischief" in the State. Training his guns at the Opposition, he made a passionate case to prove that UP was moving ahead on the path of development. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had earlier in the month equated Jinnah with Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru, saying that all of them had helped India achieve Independence. The incumbent Chief Minister was apparently peeved over the recent developments involving Akhilesh that involved his meetings with Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh and Apna Dal's Krishna Patel as part of his apparent attempts to cobble up alliances with relatively smaller parties to challenge the BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections which are due in the first quarter of 2022. Besides, there are indications that the Samajwadi Party would like to reach out for further alliances. That's all fair game in electoral politics but the moot point here is that votes or the voters should not be mobilised by stirring the communal pot.

Can't expect the Taliban to change

The restrictions are vague and vulnerable to varying interpretations, which would give the Taliban ample opportunity to crack down on anyone



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

It increasingly seems that the Taliban's second innings in power is headed to being a clone of its first (1996-2001). Women had been shorn of all basic human rights — to work, education and even healthcare, during the Taliban's previous tenure. They could also not appear in public unescorted by a "close" male relative — husband, father, son or brother — and wrapped from head to foot in a burqa. Men were deprived of all sources of entertainment and amusement and imprisoned in a life full of taboos. A savage criminal justice system was in place with public executions and punishments like amputation for theft.

Indications that it will be the same this time as well are emerging gradually as restrictions are imposed. The latest, according to the AFP and BBC, are the new "religious guidelines" issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. These direct Afghanistan's television channels to, among other things, stop showing plays and soap operas featuring women actors. Women journalists and presenters have been ordered to wear Islamic *hijab* on the screen. Films showing Prophet Mohammad or other revered figures are not to be shown, nor should films considered against the principles of Sharia — or Islamic law — and Afghan values. Comedy and entertainment shows that insult religion or may be considered offensive to Afghans are also forbidden from being shown.

The restrictions are vaguely worded and vulnerable to varying interpretations, which would give the Taliban enforcers ample opportunity to crack down on anyone they consider to be an offender. This has already been happening with musicians. While, unlike during Taliban's first innings, music has not been banned, musicians are being harassed. Their establishments are being raided and instruments broken. They live in fear. Many of them are trying to leave the country. There is a growing feeling that music is set to disappear from the lives of Afghans. It would be a tragedy if this hap-



pens. Afghanistan has a vibrant tradition in music, influenced by Indian and Iranian classical music. Besides, it has had a thriving pop music scenario marked by the syncing of electronic instrumental and dance beats with more traditional rhythms.

The justice system also appears to be set to return to what it was under the Taliban's first innings. On September 25, 2021, corpses of four men, alleged kidnappers killed in a shootout with policemen, were hung in public areas at several places in the city of Herat to convey, in the words of the province's deputy governor, Mawlawi Shir Ahmad Mujahir, the "message" that kidnappers would not be tolerated. That this was not an aberration is clear from the fact that it happened just after Mullah Noroddin Turabi, one of the founders of the Taliban and the head of the dreaded Department for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, which had savagely enforced the draconian rules and laws prevailing during the Taliban's earlier rule, had told the AP's Kathy Gannon during an interview that the punishments administered then will return, though these may not be carried out in pub-

“NOTHING MAKES THE TALIBAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN MORE OMINOUSLY CLEAR THAN THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND THE REINCARNATION OF THE MINISTRY FOR PROMOTION OF VIRTUE AND PREVENTION OF VICE

lic. "Cutting off hands is very necessary for security", he had said, adding that it had a deterrent effect.

The media is under severe pressure. The 11-point guidelines announced by Qari Muhammad Yusuf Ahmed, the interim director of the Government Media and Information Centre, on September 19, 2021, include directives against publishing matters in conflict with Islam or insulting to national personalities and instruct journalists to produce news reports in coordination with the Government media office. The announcement, a requiem for media freedom, comes in the wake of sustained attacks on journalists and other forms of pressures on them, which have sent many into hiding and effectively closed down 153 media outlets since the Taliban came to power.

The plight of women, it increasingly seems, may be the same as during the first Taliban regime. Not one of them was included either in the first set of 33 ministers in the caretaker Government announced on September 7, 2021; nor in the second one of 44, announced on September 21, 2021. The Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid

held out the possibility of women being included later but suggested no time frame. The Taliban's record during its present incarnation in power does not hold out much hope. The order not to telecast IPL matches because of the presence of women in the audience, the Kabul Mayor's ordering of women — with the exception of those whose jobs could not be done by men — to stay at home, the reopening of secondary schools with boys and not girls, the order by the Taliban-appointed vice-chancellor of the Kabul University barring women from the campus as long as "a real Islamic environment is not provided for", are instances which reflect an attitude towards women which does not augur well for the future of their rights under the present dispensation.

Nothing, however, makes the Taliban Government's attitude towards women more ominously clear than the shutting down of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the reincarnation of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, in the building it had occupied.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FARMERS ARE TAKING IT TOO FAR

Sir — Last week, the Prime Minister in his address to the nation had politely and apologetically said that the Government could not make the farmers understand the benefits of the contentious three farm laws which were passed last year and as a result, these laws were being repealed. In over seventy years of Parliamentary history, no Prime Minister has ever apologised in such a humble way as PM Modi did. Many Opposition leaders have been claiming it as their victory as their concerted and persistent efforts have borne fruits.

My personal opinion is that the Government should not have withdrawn these laws as the farmers would further up the ante with their neo demands, and it has come true. The farmers, without applauding PM Modi for his bold and magnanimous stand, have added five more demands to their lone remaining demand of MSP guarantee. Almost all the Opposition parties are backtracking from their main demand of rescinding the three farm laws, to which they had said, "if these bills are not withdrawn, no going back to home." Not only this, the recalling of these bills has opened a Pandora's box for the withdrawal of other bills such as the Article 370 and the CAA. The Government should deal with troublemakers by not accepting any more demands.

Sagar Singh | Muzaffarnagar

INDIA'S FIRST VIRTUAL SCIENCE LAB

Sir — Recently, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's first virtual science lab for children under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Jigyasa program. The target audience of the lab will be students from class 6-12. The primary vision of the lab is to provide quality research exposure to school students to drive their scientific curiosity. It will enable curiosity-driven research-based concepts, encourage higher-order thinking skills and promote entrepreneurship.

In this inspirational science lab, students will have fun and carry out exper-

Indian Navy gets a new beast



After the valuable commissioning of INS Visakhapatnam earlier on Sunday, here, on Thursday, adding the teeth to India's naval prowess, INS Vela, the country's fourth Scorpene-class submarine, was delivered to the Indian Navy after more than two years of sea trials. The delivery of the attack submarine, which was launched in May 2019, is seen as a major shot in the arm for the Indian Navy in terms of strength and capability. The INS Vela will be seen as another 'Atmanirbhar' success story in the field of submarine manufacturing. The INS Vela, built

in India by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai in collaboration with the Naval group, France, is equipped with cataclysmic weapons and advanced technologies which are capable enough to monitor and counter enemy movement in the waters.

This is the second major induction in the Indian Navy within a week. The delivery of four submarines — Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj and now, Vela, will reaffirm India's presence amongst an elite group of countries with the capability to design and build submarines with advanced stealth and combat capabilities. It is a proud moment for the country which proved that India is no longer dependent on other countries when it comes to protecting its waters. However, at the same time, we must remember that while the Pakistani Navy is far behind ours, the Chinese Navy is much more sophisticated and has more than 60 submarines while India doesn't even have half of it. It's time to equip the Indian Navy with more such beasts.

Shivesh Patidar | Ujjain

iments. It will help connect students with scientists across the country. It is also in tune with the National Education Policy (NEP), where students are allowed to choose any subject of their choice. It is an open source platform and students will be able to access content in regional languages. Science and research webinars will be performed to connect with more students across the country. This will enable students to learn theoretical concepts with practical experiments and presentations.

Vishal Patidar | Ujjain

CHILDREN ARE NOT PARENTS' 'ASSETS'

Sir — The Coronavirus pandemic has given rise to a vicious cycle of loss of jobs and decreased income. Professionally independent men and women were on the backfoot when the pandemic was at its zenith. Their woes have spilled over. Reduction in income and increased expenses pushed families to a corner. An exponential increase in child labour hap-

pened during the pandemic. Even as schools are opening doors, children are being "protected" by their parents in a different way — through disguised child labour.

The youngsters "employed" in their own family enterprises are being pressured to stay put by their parents. Forced labour is being disguised as "training and assisting" by parents. Almost two years and counting, following the pandemic, "well trained" children are being seen as assets by parents for their occupation. This is not to say that it was the pandemic that solely bred pressure labour. COVID-19 may have augmented parents' proclivity for forcing their children into family businesses. It may not appear as exploitation in the literal sense but the damage it does to the overall personality of the child is indescribable.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Mamata Banerjee means what she says and says what she means. In Indian politics, that is a rare quality.



BJP leader — Subramanian Swamy

As we give thanks for what we have, we also keep in our hearts those who have been lost and those who have lost so much.



US President — Joe Biden

I have learnt to be clear about what I am comfortable with, what works for me and what doesn't.



Actor — Lara Dutta

I am honoured to accept this role (Test captain) ahead of what will be a massive Ashes summer.



Australian fast bowler — Pat Cummins


The way Kangana Ranaut is abusing everybody...she is hurting the sentiment of various communities.



NCP leader — Nawab Malik


FIRST COLUMN

KILLER DRONES:
DEATH FROM ABOVE



GWYNNE DYER

Commercially available quadcopter drones carrying small amounts of explosives are “the most concerning tactical development since the rise of the improvised explosive device in Iraq,” US Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie Jr., senior US commander for the Middle East, said last February. But now drones are political weapons as well, and it will get worse. Two weeks ago, three quadcopters flew into the heavily fortified ‘Green Zone’ in Baghdad to attack the home of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi. Two of the drones were shot down, but the third dropped explosives that blew in Kadhimi’s front door, injured at least five guards, and wounded the prime minister’s wrist. If he had died, he would have been the first senior politician killed by a drone, but that honour will have to go to someone else. Long-range, million-dollar drones have been killing people remotely for a more than a decade, but those are big aircraft making big explosions and they usually avoid densely populated urban areas. They won the war for Azerbaijan against Armenia last year, which was their first decisive use in a ‘conventional’ war. But now we are seeing something quite different. General Mackenzie explained: “I’m talking about



ones you can go out and buy at Costco right now for \$1,000.” If you have some people who are good at making improvised explosive devices, then buy yourself a clutch of drones big enough to carry two or three kilos each and you can go into business right away.

The golden age of political assassinations, dormant for a century, is probably on its way back in. You can shoot down quadcopters, of course, but they are small, fast-moving targets. They can be launched in large numbers, and they can avoid detection until the last moment by staying low amid the urban clutter. If they are actively guided you can jam the signal, but if they are following a pre-programmed flight path using GPS there’s no signal to jam. They’re also untraceable. Even if you find the bits after the thing exploded, there will be no markings on the pieces that let you trace it back to the person who bought it. What caused the recent unpleasantness in Iraq was that Khadhimi’s party won the right to form the new Government in the October election, while the pro-Iranian militias lost two-thirds of their seats in parliament. It was a surprisingly fair election, but the militias automatically claimed foul. (They even borrowed Trump’s slogan: “Stop the Steal”.) On 5 November stone-throwing militia supporters marched on the Green Zone to protest. The police opened fire, dozens of people were injured, and at least one demonstrator, maybe two, died. The drone attack on Kadhimi’s house, ‘safe’ inside the Green Zone, came just two days later. It’s inevitable that this technique will spread rapidly far beyond Iraq, and that politicians and other prominent public figures will be vulnerable to it in every country, even the well-run ones. They will need more security than before, perhaps much more, and even that will not guarantee their safety. And there may be one more step in this dance. It’s not normally a good idea for a killer drone to be in direct radio contact with the person who launches it, but if that person has access to face-recognition software it might be possible to make remote attacks outdoors on individual people with relatively little ‘collateral damage’. Is nothing safe? Of course not. It never was, really. Kings needed food-tasters to avoid being poisoned; presidents and prime ministers just need different kinds of protection.

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

Development of Metro:
An eastern perspective



PRADYOT KUMAR
CHATTERJEE

There has been no proper techno-economic and socio-economic study for planned expansion of Metro rail in the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah



India conceived a plan to provide about 97 km of mass rapid transit network (metro rail) on two north-south and one east-west routes in Kolkata sometime in the late sixties. This was the first major planned urban mass rapid transit system under Ministry of Railways.

In the next decade, a bold step to start construction work on the predominantly underground North-South (N-S) line began with Cut and Cover technology at considerable inconvenience to surface traffic in a city. The era of metro rail began in India in 1984 with the commissioning of a three-kilometre stretch.

The next planned MRT system came almost 25 years later in New Delhi. The first line went into operation in 2002. With this the era of participation of central and state governments in setting up of the Metro rail system began and subsequently MRT services were planned for Bengaluru and Chennai. Since then, the Metro has expanded to several cities.

Today in India, around 760 km. of Metro Rail system is in operation and nearly 580 km. is under construction. Of the five most populous states, UP, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have a much larger share of Metro system in multiple cities. Only Kolkata features in the Metro map West Bengal. Populous states like Bihar lag behind with the Metro project only recently taking off in Patna. States like Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat having lesser populations have larger route kms. per capita. The development of Metro rail system has been mostly concentrated in Western and Southern states besides Delhi-NCR. Eastern states like Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha have lagged behind.

Transportation has long been viewed as a means of energizing and sustaining economic growth, generating employment, and fostering holistic development. Unlike other sectors, the demand-supply gap cannot be bridged by increasing imports, but only through capacity-building. It is this unique feature which makes transportation the backbone of a nation’s development and improved quality of life. However, with the ever-increasing population and growing urbanization, the stress on transportation is increasing, which is adversely affecting the environment, seamless travel of people, and asset life deterioration. A balance needs to be maintained for inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth to ensure a better livelihood and right to life, a constitutional right.

Rail-based mass transit system is by far more efficient and climate friendly. It reduces transport congestion on road and associated pollution. Any congested city with large transport volume is ideal for the provision of Metro.

Though Kolkata was the first city to have metro rail, no further metro project was sanctioned for any eastern states till recently when metro rail was sanctioned for Patna and Guwahati.

Kolkata with high population density

and only six-eight per cent of road space deserves Metro rail as a means of Mass Rapid transit. Congested roads not conducive to building the Metro along roads poses a great challenge to planners.

Kolkata Metro was set up before any guidelines or policy on MRTS was issued by the Ministry of Urban Development and is the only system that is under direct control of the Ministry of Railways.

There has been no proper techno-economic and socio-economic study for planned expansion of Metro rail in Kolkata to overcome travel issues of citizens in the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah. In 75 years since independence only two road bridges have been added across the river Ganges which are miles apart unlike cities like London, Paris, Moscow, et cetera, that have extensive underground rail and road networks criss-crossing the rivers that pass through the cities.

It is unfortunate that no planning of rail-based transport system for urban conglomerates like Asansol — Durgapur, Siliguri-Jalpaiguri, which have proximity to fairly busy airports like Bagdogra and Andal has been conceived.

Metro rail projects in Kolkata have always suffered for one reason or the other and 36 years after the first Metro started in Kolkata, only 32.25 km of one N-S line and seven km of East-West line is commissioned. Around 28 km of routes can be added in next two-three years with the likely commissioning of Phoolbagan-Howrah Maidan (9.34 km), Noapara-NSCBI airport (6.87 km), Joka-Majerhat (7 km) and New Garia-Ruby (5 km) sections.

This will leave around 36 km more to be completed on the Joka-Esplanade and New Garia-NSCBI airport lines which may take four or five years. Another about 25 km. route where the Metro was sanctioned a decade ago for expansion on the northern fringes of the city is yet to take off with no funds sanctioned.

Kolkata and Howrah need metro systems with increased frequency and faster travel to reduce dependency on road transport to provide seamless travel to citizens. The suburbs of Kolkata need to be brought into the Metro map to reduce dependence on suburban rail and road.

Apart from routes under construction or planned, Kolkata needs more east-west and north-south routes with interchange facility and a ring route on its outer periphery. Some of the routes that could benefit a large population with metro connectivity can be: Extension of E-W metro to Uluberia; New East-West route from Shalimar to Jadavpur covering west and south Kolkata

Extension of N-S route to sonarpur; New North south route from Bally to Garia-IIM/Joka in south; Extension of Joka-Esplanade route to Diamond harbour.

The feasibility of the various options needs to be explored critically.

Two important projects sanctioned a decade back, Baranagar-Barrackpur and NSCBI Airport-Barasat, which can serve a large population, are presently on hold due to civic issues. These need to be revived using modern technology.

We need to rope in top-class technical expertise wherever available to find ways and means to overcome the constraints.

Project delays lead to cost and time overrun and citizens are denied the benefits. These projects will considerably ease pressure on land routes and as such, a final decision by stakeholders cannot be delayed.

Besides, the Metro rail system in places like Siliguri-Jalpaiguri area including Bagdogra Airport, Durgapur-Asansol area including Andal Airport, Kalyani-Krishnanagar-Shantipur-awadip area need to be planned now to address the congestion due to sectoral urbanization and developing industrial conglomerates.

It takes at least 8-10 years for a project from planning stage till it sees the light of the day if all goes well at every stage. The state must identify routes and areas to be served and quality DPRs need to be prepared identifying possible routes through established agencies like RITES, DMRC with clear Right Of Way. Duly approved DPRs can be basis for generating demand at the centre with prioritizing projects.

The stake holders need to remove bottlenecks for expeditious completion of sanctioned works. It is the common man who will reap the benefits of such state of art infrastructure.

Metro rail contributes tremendously on environment front, generates carbon credits, reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It has huge potential to generate solar power and contribute towards India’s dream of fulfilling its target for alternate energy.

TRANSPORTATION HAS LONG BEEN VIEWED AS A MEANS OF ENERGISING AND SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH, GENERATING EMPLOYMENT AND FOSTERING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT. UNLIKE OTHER SECTORS, THE DEMAND-SUPPLY GAP CANNOT BE BRIDGED BY INCREASING IMPORTS, BUT ONLY THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING

(The writer is a retired railway professional and an independent consultant on Metro railway. The views expressed are personal.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT



I’M READY FOR AN OPEN DEBATE. PARGAT SINGH SHOULD COMPARE THE 10 BEST GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF PUNJAB WITH DELHI’S.

—DELHI EDUCATION MINISTER
MANISH SISODIA



PUNJAB TOPPED THE COUNTRY IN SCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE NPGI SURVEY. PUNJAB WAS ABOVE DELHI ON ALL FIVE PARAMETERS.

—PUNJAB EDUCATION MINISTER
PARGAT SINGH

It’s time to think seriously about defecation

We have to make efforts to ensure environmental cleanliness so that when we look around, we see and feel cleanliness in both visible and invisible things



SHISHIR CHANDRA

There is a saying, “out of sight out of mind”, that means we forget about things we don’t see. It’s the same thing with sanitation and hygiene. As long as the filth or faeces is visible to our eyes, we are concerned about it, but as soon as it’s flushed, we stop thinking about what happened to it faeces, whether it was properly disposed of or covered up ostentatiously. It happens because either we are careless or we lack correct information.

Now take the example of septic tanks built in cities, how many of us know about the ‘sanitation value chain’? How many of us know how to make the correct septic tank, what is the right design and measurement? How many of us are aware that to keep the

septic tank working smoothly and effectively, the septic tank should be cleaned every 3 to 5 years? How many of us know that due to the lack of regular cleaning of the septic tank, the sewage treatment process in the septic tank stops and untreated septage causes health problems? How many of us know that untreated septage from the septic tank goes into small and big rivers through drains and contaminates rivers?

All we know is that we flushed the toilets and the excreta was out of sight, now whether it has gone to the septic tank, went to the drain or river, what difference does it make to us? In many cities sewer treatment plants or faecal sludge treatment plants are in the process of being

built, and in cities where they exist, they are insufficient. So, the question arises whether we are even aware of this issue, the environmental problems it causes, and if we want to understand and play a part in this.

Generally, in urban areas or even in villages nowadays, the septic tank is nothing but a container without any proper process or method for sewage treatment and it is safe in the long run. Local builders and contractors are also not

concerned with how the structure should be. The owners understand it as a big-room like structure under the ground built as a septic tank for which they do not have to worry for 30-50 years.

Cleanliness cannot be achieved by making rules and regulations. We can definitely control it temporarily but ‘behaviour change’ is the solution. It should become a mass movement.

When talking about sanitation, there is a need to go beyond just the construction of toilets. Faecal Sludge Management has been called the missing and ignored component of the sanitation as safe management of faecal sludge requires more than just access to a toilet and use of a mere septic tank. Improving city-

wide urban sanitation is complex as it must consider both on- and off-site systems, encompass the entire service chain, serve different customers and be acceptable to a broad range of stakeholders.

As much as it is the responsibility of the government and the government machinery, it is our responsibility also to understand the problem. The population is yet to be fully persuaded to change the age-old practice of defecating in the open, construct proper septic tanks, get into the habit of scheduled desludging and not neglect basic sanitation practices. We also have to be aware of the correct structure and design of the septic tank, in how many days it is necessary to empty the septic tank, who is the concerned authority to contact to get the septic tank emptied. We also have to monitor that solid waste from the septic tank is disposed of properly and not put in the drain or open ground. Single houses which do not have any drainage channels should have a soak-pit system unless the local panchayat or municipality makes some other concrete arrangement. Every effort has to be made to avoid waterlogging, whether through pit or by planting trees that absorb water or by applying other environmentally friendly methods.

We have to make efforts to ensure environmental cleanliness so that when we look around we see and feel cleanliness in both visible and invisible things.



World takes action as new variant emerges in southern Africa

Brussels: A slew of nations moved to stop air travel from southern Africa on Friday, and stocks plunged in Asia and Europe in reaction to news of a new, potentially more transmissible Covid-19 variant.

"The last thing we need is to bring in a new variant that will cause even more problems," said German Health Minister Jens Spahn, amid a massive spike in cases in the 27-nation European Union, which is recommending a ban on flights from southern African nations.

Within a few days of the discovery of the new variant, it has already impacted on a jittery world that is sensitive to bad COVID-19 news, with deaths around the globe standing at well over 5 million.

Medical experts, including the World Health Organization, warned against any overreaction before all elements were clear but nations who acted said their concerns were justified.

"Early indications show this variant may be more transmissible than the delta variant and current vaccines may be less effective against it," British Health Secretary Sajid Javid told lawmakers. "We must

move quickly and at the earliest possible moment," he said.

Belgium became the first European Union country to announce a case of the variant.

"We have one case of this variant that is confirmed. It's someone who came from abroad," said Health Minister Frank Vandenbroucke. "It's a suspicious variant. We don't know if it's a very dangerous variant."

Israel, one of the world's most vaccinated countries, announced Friday that it has also detected the country's first case of the new variant, in a traveler who returned from Malawi. The traveler and two other suspected cases have been placed in isolation. It said all three are vaccinated but that it is currently looking into their exact vaccination status.

The new variant immediately infected stock markets around the world. Major indexes fell in Europe and Asia and Dow Jones futures dipped 800 points ahead of the market opening in the U.S.

Investors are likely to shoot first and ask questions later until more is known," said Jeffrey Halley of foreign exchange broker Oanda.

WHO hosts special meeting on worrying new Covid variant

Geneva: Advisers to the World Health Organisation are holding a special session in Geneva to flesh out information about a worrying new variant of the coronavirus that has emerged in South Africa, though a top expert says its impact on Covid-19 vaccines may not be known for weeks.

The technical advisory group on the evolution of COVID-19 was meeting virtually to discuss the so-called B.1.1.529 variant that has caused stock markets to swoon and led the European Union to recommend a pause in flights to southern Africa.

The group could decide if it's a "variant of concern" — the most worrying type, like the well-known delta variant — or a "variant of interest", and whether to use a Greek letter to classify it.

"We don't know very much about this, yet. What we do know is that this variant has a large number of mutations, and the concern is that when you have so many mutations it can have an impact on how the virus behaves," Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead on COVID-19 Maria Van Kerkhove said in a social-media chat on Thursday (local time). Fewer than 100 full genome sequences of the variant are so far available, she said.

"It will take a few weeks for us to understand what impact this variant has on any potential vaccines, for example," Ms Van Kerkhove said. **AP**

Israel warns of 'emergency' after detecting new strain

Jerusalem: Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Friday that Israel is "on the threshold of an emergency situation" after authorities detected the country's first case of a new coronavirus variant and barred travel to and from most African countries.

The Health Ministry said it detected the new strain in a traveler who had returned from Malawi and was investigating two other suspected cases. The three individuals, who had all been vaccinated, were placed in isolation.

A new coronavirus variant has been detected in South Africa that scientists say is a concern because of its high number of mutations and rapid spread among young people in Gauteng, the country's most populous province.

At a Cabinet meeting convened Friday to discuss the new variant, Bennett said it is more contagious and spreads more rapidly than the delta variant. He said authorities were still gathering information on whether it evades vaccines or is deadlier.

"We are currently at the threshold of an emergency situation," he said. "I ask everyone to be prepared and to fully join in the work around the clock."

government later said that all countries in sub-Saharan Africa would be considered "red countries" from which foreign nationals are barred from traveling to Israel. Israelis are prohibited from visiting those countries and those returning from them must undergo a period of isolation.

The Israeli military will work to locate all individuals who have been to red countries within the past week and instruct them to go into isolation while testing is carried out, it said. Israel launched one of the world's first and most successful vaccination campaigns late last year, and nearly half the population has received a booster shot. Israel recently expanded the campaign to include children as young as 5. **AP**

French fishermen block ports in spat with UK

Calais (France): French fishing crews are threatening to block French ports and traffic under the English Channel on Friday to disrupt the flow of goods to the U.K., in a dispute over post-Brexit fishing licenses.

It's the latest tension point between the neighboring countries, who are also trading blame for not doing enough to prevent the deaths of at least 27 migrants whose boat sank Wednesday off Calais, in the choppy waters of the world's busiest shipping route.

French fishermen are angry at the British government for not granting more licenses to fish in U.K. waters — and angry at their own government for not doing more to defend them.

The fishing industry is economically tiny but symbolically important for both Britain and France.

Friday's threatened blockades are "a warning shot," Olivier Lepretre, president of the regional fishing committee, told reporters.

Fishing crews are expected to use their boats to block ports in Calais, Saint-Malo and Ouistreham, and to use cars to block the highway leading to the tunnel beneath the Channel.

The fishers are protesting to "respond to the derisive and humiliating attitude of the English," Gerard Romiti, president of the national fishing committee, told reporters.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the U.K. was "disappointed by threats of protest activity."

Before Brexit, French fishermen could fish deep inside British waters. **AP**

EU wants to stop flights from southern Africa over variant

Brussels— The European Union said Friday it is planning to stop air travel from southern Africa to counter the spread of a new COVID-19 variant as the 27-nation bloc is battling a massive spike in cases.

"The last thing we need is to bring in a new variant that will cause even more problems," said German Health Minister Jens Spahn.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement that she "proposes, in close coordination with the member states, to activate the emergency brake to stop air travel from the southern African region."

A new coronavirus variant has been detected in South Africa that scientists say is a concern because of its high

number of mutations and rapid spread among young people in Gauteng, the country's most populous province.

Germany said von der Leyen's proposal could be enacted as soon as Friday night. Spahn said airlines coming back from South Africa will only be able to transport German citizens home, and travelers will need to go into

US lawmakers meet with Taiwan Prez in surprise visit

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Five U.S. lawmakers met with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen Friday morning in a surprise one-day visit intended to reaffirm the United States' "rock solid" support for the self-governing island.

The bi-partisan group of lawmakers from the U.S. House of Representatives arrived in Taiwan on Thursday night and were planning to meet with senior leaders including Tsai, said the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto embassy. No further details were provided about their itinerary.

The visit comes as tensions between Taiwan and China have risen to their highest level in decades. Taiwan has been self-ruled since the two sides split during a civil war in 1949, but China considers the island part of its own territory.

"When news of our trip broke yesterday, my office received a blunt message from the Chinese Embassy, telling me to call off the trip," Representative Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., who is part of the delegation, wrote on Twitter.

Representatives Mark Takano, D-Calif., Colin Allred, D-Texas., Sara Jacobs, D-Calif., and Nancy Mace, R-S.C., are also part of the visiting delegation. **AP**

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 25-30 Yrs., **Height:** 173 CM, **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Oval, **Hair:** Long Black, **Wearing:** Brown Colour Sweater and Orange Pant, **Place of Recovery:** Found dead on dated 14.11.2021 near DDU Hospital, on footpath in front of C-38/A, Hari Nagar, New Delhi.

In this regard **DD No. 31A, Dated 14.11.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, Hari Nagar, New Delhi**. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. Hari Nagar, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-28525719, 8750871128
DP/643/WD/2021

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ahmad Sher S/o Late Sh. Kallu, Mrs. Noor Bano W/o Sh. Ahmad Sher, Ms. Nargis D/o Sh. Ahmad Sher & Ms. Sama D/o Sh. Ahmad Sher** all are R/o N-96, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 593/2021 Dated: 09.07.2021 U/s 498-A/304-B/34 IPC P.S. Khayala, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ahmad Sher, Mrs. Noor Bano, Ms. Nargis & Ms. Sama** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ahmad Sher, Mrs. Noor Bano, Ms. Nargis & Ms. Sama** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ahmad Sher, Mrs. Noor Bano, Ms. Nargis & Ms. Sama** of **FIR No. 593/2021 Dated: 09.07.2021 U/s 498-A/304-B/34 IPC P.S. Khayala, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.01.2022

By Order
Abhinav Pandey,
Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (West)
Room No. 268, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/639/WD/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** About 30-35 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'7", **Built:** Medium, was wearing Blue Jeans and Bare feet, was found dead at Divider on SPM Marg, in front of Metro Gate No. 2, near **Kodiya Pul, Chandni Chowk, Delhi**. In this regard a **DD No. 89A dated 22.11.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121
DP/1738/N/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Shivani, W/o: Amardeep, R/o: 195, Vasant Village, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi** has been missing on **14.11.2021** from his residence. In this regard **DD No. 40A dated 15.11.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station Vasant Vihar, New Delhi**. The description of found lady is as under:

Name: Shivani, **Age:** 32 Years, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Weatish, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Black Suit and salwar and juti in feet.

If anyone has any information about this found old lady please inform **P.S. Vasant Vihar, New Delhi**.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station, Vasant Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-26152577, 7065036221
DP/929/SW/2021

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

OA No. 16/19 DATE:- 10.09.2021

STATE BANK OF INDIA VERSUS **APPLICANT**

DHARMENDRA KUMAR & ORS. RESPONDENT

To, **DEFENDANT**

2. M/S IDEABUILDER PVT. LTD.
C-294, 1st FLOOR NEAR PARK VIVEK VIHAR DELHI-110095

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs 21,62,639/- (RUPEE TWENTY ONE LAKH SIXTY TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY NINE ONLY)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **08.12.2021 At 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the duty before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Officer portal i.e. drt.gov.in

(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigant can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No. 23744878.**

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the 10th day of Sept., 2021.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR DRT-II, DELHI

उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
कार्यालय: अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून नगर, रोड/एड-246001 फोन नं. : 0135-2751879 ईमेल: es@urkdelhi10@yahoo.com

पत्रांक-6089 /निविदा / 750 दिनांक:- 26.11.2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून के कार्यालय पत्रांक 6066 /निविदा / 742, दिनांक 26.11.2021 द्वारा जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत जनपद देहरादून के विकासखण्ड सहसपुर की नौगाँव माण्डुवाला एवं कण्डोली पेयजल योजनाओं के निर्माण एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्यों हेतु राज्य सरकार की वेबसाईट www.uktender.gov.in के माध्यम से दिनांक 27.11.2021 को 5.00 बजे से दिनांक 16.12.2021 को 5.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा (e-tender) (Two Bid System) आमंत्रित की जा रही है। निविदा की नियम व शर्तें उपरोक्त वेबसाइट से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

Name of work with its location	Approx Cost of work
1. Multi-utility vehicle and Truck for misc. work of Track maintenance/ renewal for a period of 02 years in the section of ADEN/JHI. (NIT 23-W-IV-21-22)	(1) Rs.99,91,061.05 (2) Rs.1,51,00,511.29
2. Balance work for construction of approaches at level crossing no 117, 118, 122 & 123 on DLI BTI section in the s/o SSE/W-1 (Main Line)/JHI Under ADEN/JHI (NIT 25-W-IV-21-22)	(3) Rs.1,87,70,280.96
3. Repair of cess and yard drain at Nangli on DLI-BTI section in the section of ADEN/ROK. (NIT 26-W-IV-21-22)	Nil

Earnest Money

Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender

Bidding Start date for work 15:00 hrs. on 07.12.2021 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 21.12.2021

Website particulars, published e-tender notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded

Above tender available on IREPS site. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 23,25&26-W-IV/21-22/W-IV Dated : 25.11.2021

Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE
That I am a citizen of India and have obtained the age of majority. That I declare to know to all that I, **UMAIR ALAM S/O MOHD SHAFIQUE ALAM R/o 32/493, Block No-32, Trikolpur, Delhi 110091** was adopted by a Hindu namely Rakesh Kumar/Gopal Singh S/o Sh. Babu Singh Chooan vide Adoption as well dated 14.06.2004 and accordingly name changed as Umesh Kumar S/o Rakesh Kumar. Later, said adoption deed was declared not in accordance with law and void ab-initio vide Judgment/Decree dated 22.03.2019 in Suit No.9153/16 and further declared by Civil Court, (East Delhi) that I be known by my previous name 'Umar Alam' instead of 'Umesh Kumar' by using of my natural and biological father's name 'Mohd Shafique Alam' and mother's name Ansari R/o Village-Kadwa. P.O. Haldiya Vihar, Distt. Araria (BIHAR) on record.

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Tender notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work due to open on 22.12.2021 at 15.00 hrs. : Replacement of Relay Interlocking with Electronic Interlocking System at Dum Dum and Kavi Subhash stations of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Tender Value: Rs. 4,01,14,420/- . Completion Period : 12 months. For full details visit www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Works/31-2021, dt. 25.11.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the general public that the original document i.e. allotment letter, possession certificate and letter of clearance & possession in respect to flat number L-243 Jalayu Vihar Sector 25 Noida has been lost somewhere, whose complaint has been filed on 24/11/2021 in the P.S. Crime Branch Delhi. Therefore, if the above documents are found by any person or if have any right or claim in this regard, then he/she should be lodged its claim within 10 days from the date of publication, either to group housing department of Noida Authority or AFNH New Delhi. Failing which the claim, right on the said documents will be considered completely free and abandoned.

GP capt. Yogesh sharma
L-243, Jalayu Vihar Sector 25 Noida

Putin to host leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan for talks

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin is hosting the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan for talks on Friday, during which the three are expected to discuss ways to resolve the tensions over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In the southern city of Sochi, Putin held a bilateral meeting with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Friday.

After that, the Russian president is to sit down with Aliyev and Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan together, and then have a separate bilateral meeting with Pashinyan.

Japan seeks extra defense budget amid China, N Korea concern

TOKYO: Japan's Cabinet on Friday approved a 770 billion yen (\$6.8 billion) request for an extra defense budget through March to expedite the purchase of missiles, anti-submarine rockets and other weapons amid rising concern over the escalation of military activities by China, Russia and North Korea.

The request, still pending parliamentary approval, brings Japan's military spending for the current year to a new high of more than 6.1 trillion yen (\$53.2 billion), up 15% from 5.31 trillion yen in 2020.

The Defense Ministry says its "defense power reinforcement and acceleration package" is designed to speed up deployment of some of the key equipment from the 2022 budget request. **AP**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer P.H.E Division
Budgam, H.Q: Budgam.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS:
Short Terme-NIT No: 76/PHE/Bud/Civil of 2021-22.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu Kashmir U.T., **e_tenders** are invited (in Single Cover System) on "**Item rate basis**" from Registered/Approved and valid Civil class of contractors/agencies registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works:

S. No. . 1 Name of work :- Laying of water pipe line from sump to Bashir Medicate at Kawoosa Jagir. (DDC Grants)
Estt Cost (Rs in Lacs) :- 2.00, Cost of tender doc. (In Rs) :- 200/- , Amount of earnest money (in Rs) :- 4,000/- , Time for completion (in Days) :- 10 Days, Class of contractor :- D, Major head of account :- DDC Grants, Tender Call :- 1"

S. No. . 2 Name of work :- Laying of water pipe line from sump to Buchipora Kawoosa Khalisa-B. (DDC Grants)
Estt Cost (Rs in Lacs) :- 2.00, Cost of tender doc. (In Rs) :- 200/- , Amount of earnest money (in Rs) :- 4,000/- , Time for completion (in Days) :- 10 Days, Class of contractor :- D, Major head of account :- DDC Grants, Tender Call :- 1"

S. No. . 3 Name of work :- Realignment of pipe network 150 mm dia D.I coming under the house of Mohammad Maqbool Dar at Chutubugh water supply wadwan wahabpora. (M&R)
Estt Cost (Rs in Lacs) :- 0.46, Cost of tender doc. (In Rs) :- 100/- , Amount of earnest money (in Rs) :- 920/- , Time for completion (in Days) :- 8 Days, Class of contractor :- D, Major head of account :- M&R, Tender Call :- 1"

Position of AAA:- Available; Position of funds:- Available; Position of TS:- Under Process; The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://jktendersgov.in>

From _____ (10:00 AM) _____ (upto 4:00 PM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in

As per schedule of dates given below

01. Date of publishing of Tender Notice :- 25.11.2021
02. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- From 25.11.2021 10:00 a.m To 26.11.2021 upto 04:00 p.m
03. Bid Submission Start Date :- 02.12.2021 from 10:00 a.m
04. Bid submission End Date :- 02.12.2021 upto 04:00 p.m
05. Date and time of opening of Bids (Online) :- 03.12.2021 from 11:00 a.m

1. Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money, COR/FDR and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favor of the **Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam** (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 90 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the **Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam (H.Q. Budgam)** on **03.12.2021 at 11:00 a.m**. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

All other terms and conditions shall be the same as are laid down in P.W.D Form No: 25 / 33 - Double with due modifications (if any) made by the U.T Government from time to time.

Sd/- (Er. Najeeb A Tramboo)
No. DIPK-13637/21 Dated: 26-11-2021 Executive Engineer, PHE Division Budgam.

UN decries attack on court in Libya ahead of national vote

CAIRO: The U.N. mission in Libya condemned on Friday an attack by armed men on an appeals court as it was set to re-examine an earlier decision that disqualified the son of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi from running for president.

On Thursday, armed men surrounded the court in the southern town of Sabha and prevented judges from convening to look into Seif al-Islam Gadhafi's appeal.

Earlier, the country's electoral body had deemed Seif al-Islam ineligible to take part in the presidential race set for next month, citing his previous convictions.

"Attacks against judicial or election facilities or judicial or elections personnel are not only criminal acts, punishable under Libyan law, but also undermine Libyans' right to participate in the political process," tweeted the U.N. mission, known as UNSMIL.

Libya is to hold the first round of presidential elections on Dec. 24, after years of U.N.-led attempts to usher in a more democratic future and end the country's civil war. However, the upcoming vote faces many challenges, including unresolved issues over laws governing the elections and occasional infighting among armed groups. Other obstacles include the deep rift that remains between the country's east and west and the presence of thousands of foreign fighters and troops.

The oil-rich North African country is currently governed by an interim government that was elected by Libyan delegates after U.N.-led talks in Geneva in February.

Interim Interior Minister Khaled Mazen vowed to hunt down and prosecute the assailants in Thursday's attack. **AP**

Sensex crashes 1,688 pts as new variant triggers global rout

INVESTORS POORER BY ₹7.35 LAKH CR

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Senses nosedived 1,688 points while the Nifty slumped below the 17,100-level on Friday as a new and potentially vaccine-resistant coronavirus variant sent shockwaves through global markets.

The variant, detected in South Africa, Botswana and Hong Kong so far, has an unusual combination of mutations, as per initial reports.

Countries like Britain and Japan have already imposed travel restrictions, raising the spectre of a fresh wave of lockdowns.

The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,687.94 points or 2.87 per cent to close at 57,107.15 following an across-the-board selloff. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 509.80 points or 2.91 per cent to 17,026.45. Currency markets too were not spared, with the rupee sinking 37 paise versus the US dollar, in tandem with

Rupee plunges 37 paise to end at month's low on Covid worries

Mumbai: The rupee on Friday plunged by 37 paise or 0.50 per cent against the US dollar to close at a nearly month's low as investors turned cautious in view of massive sell-offs in domestic equities and worries over a new variant of Covid-19. The rupee erased all of its gains in the month while suffering its worst weekly loss of 59 paise since October 8 due to month-end dollar demand and on anticipation that the US Fed will accelerate asset tapering and hike interest rates around mid-2022, analysts said. **PTI**

other emerging market currencies.

Pvt bank promoters can hold up to 26% after 15 yrs, will have to bring in more money

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Friday accepted most of the recommendations of its working group on corporate ownership of private sector banks, by allowing unrestrained promoter shareholding in the first five years of operations and hiking the same to 26 per cent after 15 years from the extant 15 per cent and also the new capital requirements.

The move will benefit leading banks like Kotak Mahindra

Bank and IndusInd Bank, among others, which have been seeking more time from the regulator to divest their stakes for many years now.

Accepting 21 of the 33 recommendations of the internal working group, the central bank said the remaining suggestions are under its consideration. The RBI constituted the working group on June 12, 2020, and the panel submitted the report on November 20,

2020, inviting comments of stakeholders and members of the public by January 15, 2021.

The RBI accepted the recommendation that no changes be made to the extant instructions related to the initial lock-in requirements of holding a minimum 40 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank for the first five years but said no cap on the promoters holding during the same period.

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 27.11.2021

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/CR/AG/0965	LAYING OF 66KV 04 NOS. 3CX300S/KM. XLPE CABLE FROM B-BLOCK VASANT KUNJ GRID S/STN. TO C-DOT GRID SUBSTATION AND BAY EXTENSION (ES21NF4007)	3.59 Cr.	7,18,000/-	17.12.2021 15:30 HRS	17.12.2021 15:45 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/CR/AG/0966	RENOVATION OF EXISTING CONTROL & RELAY PANELS, SWITCHGEAR PANELS FOR 66/33/11KV AT VARIOUS GRID SUBSTATIONS	1.80 Cr.	Rs 3,60,000/-	17.12.2021 15:45 HRS	17.12.2021 16:00 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/ RB/CR/SS/0967	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AT PROPOSED 66/11 KV GRID, GOYALA KHURD	95.5 Lakhs	1,91,000/-	10.12.2021 15:45 HRS	10.12.2021 16:00 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/- (Including GST)

For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eaution@reliancecda.com

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submit

tion of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527

Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | E-mail : brpl.eaution@reliancecda.com | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com



“KAVYAM” - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Advertisement is invited to inform general public at large regarding cancellation of units of already allotted customers through the 1st draw of lots dated 24.06.2019, 2nd draw of lots dated 01.08.2020 and 3rd draw of lots dated 22.01.2021 due to non-payment despite several reminders, in the Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project Kavyam is being developed by Agrante Realty Ltd Sector-108, Gurugram, Haryana, as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in).

S.No.	Application No.	TYPE	Unit No.	Applicant Name	Co-Applicant Name
1	11017	Type-3	TD-510	Pushp Lata Gulhani	Hans Raj Gulhani
2	10223	Type-1	TA3-303	Vipin Joshi	N/A
3	10390	Type-3	TD-1405	Kanika Tandon	N/A
4	10553	Type-1	TA1-902	Monika Garg	N/A
5	3805	Type-1	TB-901	Pooja Tyagi Wadhwa	N/A
6	3507	Type-1	TA4-804	Kamla	N/A

It is to inform to all above allottees that it is last & final opportunity to restore the allotment after making the all dues till date within seven working days, otherwise it shall be considered as cancelled and the same shall be allotted to the aspiring applicants under the applicable provisions of policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof.

Office address: Agrante Realty Ltd Unit No. 122 Suncity Trade Tower, Sector-21, Gurgaon-122016
CIN: U70101DL2013PLC248731

Contact at: - website: www.kavyamhomes.com; 0124-4769500-599, 8800499383, 8800499674

Gujarat Stair Road Development Corporation Ltd				
Tender Notice N. 15 of 2021 (Through E-Tendering Only)				
General Manager (Projects), Gujarat State Road Development Corporation Ltd (GSRDC), Ground Floor, Nirman Bhavan, Sector 10/A, invites online Tender. The work's Details is as under				
Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs. Crores)	Bid Security (In Rs. Lacs)	Tender Fee (Non-refundable Rs.)	Tenure (Months)
Collection of User Fee Through Fee Collecting Agency on the basis of competitive bidding on E- Tender basis at Vataman Fee Plaza located at Km. 29+370 for the Section Km. 0+000 (Near Bagodara Junction) to Km. 53+800 (Tarapur Junction of Project Road) of Bagodar Tarapur Section of SH-8 in the State of Gujarat.	58.00	58.00	25000+ GST @ 18 i.e. Rs. 29,500/-	12
The mode of submission in through Online E-Tender on www.esrdc.nprocure.com the schedule for E-tendering is as under the complete tender notice details are available on www.statetender.com and www.gsrdc.com				
Particulars	Date			
Bid Document downloading start Date/ Time	29/11/2021 from 12:00 Hrs.			
Pre-Bid Meeting	07/12/2021 at 12:00 Hrs			
Online Submission Last Date/ Time	29/12/2021 up to 17:00 Hrs.			
Opening of Prequalification bid (online)	29/12/2021 at 17:30 Hrs.			
Tender Fee & EMD Shall be submitted in physical form by RPAD to this office Date/Time	Demand Draft for Bid Security, solvency Certificate and Tender Fee shall be submitted in electronic format only, through online (by scanning) while uploading the bid. Accordingly, offer of those shall be opened whose Bid Security solvency and tender Fee is received electronically. However, for the purpose of realization of Bid Security, Tender Fee the bidder shall send the Demand Draft in original to General Manager (Projects) through RPAD/ Speed Post so as to reach to General Manager (Projects), GSRDC within 3- days (29/12/2021 to 05/01/2022, during 11:00 to 18:00 Hrs.) from the due date of opening. Penal action against bidder shall be initiated for not submitting Demand Draft in original. Exemption Certificate from paying Bid Security shall not be exempted. Bid Security, Tender Fee shall be uploaded and submitted in hard copy with Tender Fee as per Schedule. Any documents in supporting of bid shall be submitted in electronic format only through online (by scanning etc.)			

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING**

Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016

E-Tender Notice

Online bids (Technical & Financial) are invited from reputed eligible .transporters for Outstations transportation (Interstate) of consignment of books and printing paper. The online bids complete in all respect should be uploaded on or before 21.12.2021 by 05.00 pm on CPP Portal.

The tender document along with other details may be downloaded from the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP): <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> & NCERT website: www.ncert.nic.in

IDENTITY

davp 21104/11/0012/21 22

Publication Division

Piramal
Capital & Housing Finance

Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: 165910MH1984PLC032639. Website: www.piramalfinance.com

Branch Address : Dhiraj Road, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naudada, Thane (West) – 400 602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securities and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of **Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited** (the "Authorised Officer") and hereby certifies that the undersigned is duly authorised to execute this Demand Notice under the Securities and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also mentioned in the Demand Notice(s) attached herewith. The undersigned hereby certifies that the undersigned is duly authorised to publish the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s)), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
(LC No. 00001035 of Gurgaon Branch) Suhil Mahotra (Borrower) Ritu Mahotra (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 15771436 /- (₹ One Crore Fifty Seven lakh Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Six) NPA (10-07-2021)	Plot No C 109, Third Floor With Roof Right Krishna Nagar, Vijay Chowk Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110051
(LC No. 00003686 of Jalandhar Branch) Sukhmal Juneja (Borrower) Manjit Juneja (Co Borrower 1)	01-07-2021 / ₹ 11059994 /- (₹ One Crore Nineteen lakh Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Four) NPA (12-05-2021)	309, New Defence Colony, Phase 1,near Bhimji Phase 1 , Jalandhar Jalandhar Punjab - 144001
(LC No. 00002397 of Noida Branch) Meena- kshi Chopra (Borrower) Dwarka Chopra (Co Borrower 1) Akshat Chopra (Co Borrower 2)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 8560747 /- (₹ Eighty Five lakh Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Seven) NPA (10-07-2021)	Dda Mig Flat No. 115 Third Floor Prasad Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 00001737 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Naresh Kumar Aggarwal (Borrower) Sharda (Co Borrower 1) Vikas Gupta (Co Borrower 2)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 6652688 /- (₹ Sixty Six lakh Fifty Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Eight) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No-206-b, Block-f, Killa No-59/12/1 Village Khureji Khas,mangal Bazar Laxmi Nagar,nr- Pipal Chowk Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 00002608 of Gurgaon Branch) Advanctech Engineering Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Nirajan Kumar Yadav (Co Borrower 1) Shakulite Yadav (Co Borrower 2) Sachdev Yadav (Guarantor 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 6010150 /- (₹ Sixty lakh Ten Thousand One Hundred Fifty) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No-715, Sec-15, Part 2 Gurgaon Haryana Gurgaon Haryana - 122001
(LC No. 00001727 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Ajay (Borrower) Mayank Machan (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 4629019 /- (₹ Forty Six lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Nineteen) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No. B-36, Second Floor (R H S) Moti Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110015
(LC No. 00002098 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Sanjeev Sharma (Borrower) Nirupma Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 4571895 /- (₹ Forty Five lakh Seventy One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Khatya No.102 kh No. Old 115 Min & 50k Hotel Dev Palace Badrinath Marg Yama Tapovan Patti Dhamsandhya Narendra Nagar Hardwar Tehri Garhwal Uttaranchal - 249192
(LC No. 00000870 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Anil Kumar Malik (Borrower) Kunal Malik (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 4435617 /- (₹ Forty Four lakh Fifty Three Thousand Six Hundred Seventeen) NPA (09-09-2021)	Property No-C-618 & 19, Known As C-618 Third Floor With Roof Rights, Block- C6 Rana Pratap Bagh New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110007
(LC No. 00000418 of Gurgaon Branch) Vikram Singh (Borrower) Rajbir Singh Deswal (Co Borrower 1) Poonam Devi (Co Borrower 2) Vikramaditya Education Society (Guarantor 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 4044441 /- (₹ Forty Three lakh Four Thousand Four Hundred Forty One) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No. 12 First Floor Block C Pocket 9 Sector 07 Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 00005135 of New Delhi Branch) Prakash Srivastava (Borrower) Priyanka Srivastava (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 3772390 /- (₹ Thirty Seven lakh Seventy Two Thousand Three Hundred Ninety) NPA (10-07-2021)	Apartment No. I-1205, 12th Floor Tower I, Assotech Windsor Court Plot No. G-H-04, A-Sector-78 Noida Gautamdh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No. 00000369 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Anil Kumar Malik (Borrower) Kunal Malik (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 3680742 /- (₹ Thirty Six lakh Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two) NPA (09-09-2021)	C-618-19 (known As Property No- C-618) Third Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110007
(LC No. 00000417 of Gurgaon Branch) Vikram Singh (Borrower) Rajbir Singh Deswal (Co Borrower 1) Poonam Devi (Co Borrower 2) Vikramaditya Education Society (Guarantor 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 3672609 /- (₹ Thirty Six lakh Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred Nine) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No 57 (f) Block & Pocket -c-9 Sector 07 Rohini New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 00000025 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Charanjit Singh Kohli (Borrower) Arvind- kaur Kohli (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 3269328 /- (₹ Twenty Two lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (09-09-2021)	Property No- 59, Block -a Second Floor Without Roof State Bank Colony, New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110009
(LC No. 00003049 of Noida Branch) Pankaj Sharma (Borrower) Kusum (Co Borrower 1) Devender Bhardwaj (Co Borrower 2) Bihari Lal (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 3087834 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Four) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No-64, Kharsa No-487, Village Peeragarhi, West Delhi New Delhi New Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 00000380 of Azadpur N S P Branch) Govinda Bagri (Borrower) Ravi Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Chet Ram (Co Borrower 2) Murti Devi (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 3067996 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Six) NPA (09-01-2021)	D-2/173,third Floor, Block-d-2 Kh No-11/21, Village Asalapur Chander Jeevan Park uttam Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00041961 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Mukesh Jain (Borrower) Darshna Devi (Co Borrower 1) Jas Bhagwan Jain (Co Borrower 2)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 3038350 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Fifty) NPA (09-09-2021)	Property No. C-7, Kharsa No. 11 Ground Floor, Block - C Gali No. 5 Majlis Park Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110033
(LC No. 00001524 of Rohini Branch) Manoj Singh (Borrower) Monika Devi (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2994992 /- (₹ Twenty Nine lakh Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Two) NPA (09-09-2021)	House No 50, Block-A Sector- Mu-1, Greater Noida Greater Noida Gautamdh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No. 00000828 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Meena Verma (Borrower) Sanjay Verma (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2563229 /- (₹ Twenty Five lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Nine) NPA (09-09-2021)	Prop-no-1576-a-2nd Floor Front Side,old Plot No-151-b,h.kh-no-3563/3026/1068/511, Mahavir Block,blohannath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110051
(LC No. 00042724 of Delhi - Safdurg Branch) Manish Kumar Benival (Borrower) Girish Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2545225 /- (₹ Twenty Five lakh Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Five) NPA (09-09-2021)	RZ-422/25/3rd Floor With Roof Rights And Car Parking Uid Plot No-22and 23,dabri Ext Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045
(LC No. 00002063 of Rohini Branch) Sheeba P Joy (Borrower) Shibuj Joy (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 2315935 /- (₹ Twenty Three lakh Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Prop No-1, Khs No- 55/72, Ground Floor Without Roof Right, Front Rhs Masjid Gali Villi. Sutanpur Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110030
(LC No. 00041514 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Sory Arancheri Johnny (Borrower) Jose K Jili (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 2220466 /- (₹ Twenty Two lakh Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Six) NPA (10-07-2021)	Plot No-c-30-A, Upper Ground Floor Rear Side Porch Without Roof Right, Kharsa No. 947, Gulab Bagh, Village Nawada Uttam Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00002036 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Anil Kumar Malik (Borrower) Kunal Malik (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2176948 /- (₹ Twenty One lakh Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Eight) NPA (09-09-2021)	Prop No-C-618, 3rd Floor With Roof Rana Pratap Bagh Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110007
(LC No. 00000659 of Cannaught Place Branch) Uttam Kumar (Borrower) Pinki Devi (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2126639 /- (₹ Twenty One lakh Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No 459 B, 3rd Floor, Gali No 6, Without Right, Right, Kharsa No. 83, Govindpur, Kalkaji, Kalkaji New Delhi New Delhi - 110019
(LC No. 00044299 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Sayat Ali (Borrower) Tasmina Begam (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2108007 /- (₹ Twenty One lakh Eight Thousand Seven Seven) NPA (09-09-2021)	P.No.R-19,Second floor with roof right KH.No. 133 VII Bindapur Upper Vihar Uttam Nagar new Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00000869 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Uttam Kumar (Borrower) Rekha Verma (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2091293 /- (₹ Twenty lakh Ninety Three Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Three) NPA (09-09-2021)	Prop No 15, Entire 2nd Floor, Block Pkt 4g, Sec 16 Rohini New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 00000674 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Uttam Kumar (Borrower) Neha Parveen (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 2020917 /- (₹ Twenty lakh Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Seventeen) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No-A-618, First Floor, Old Plot No 34, Out of Kharsa No. 83/11/24 Gurgaon Kharsa No. 83, Naxmi Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi New Delhi - 110092
(LC No. 00001180 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Rami Kumar (Borrower) Pinki (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 1996985 /- (₹ Nineteen lakh Ninety Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Property No-RZ-3d,4, Third Floor With Roof Right, Kharsa No- 646, Street No 8 & 8a Diraj Vil Nasirup Palam Uttam Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110046
(LC No. 00002073 of New Delhi-west Branch) Amit Kumar (Borrower) Jayram (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 1951431 /- (₹ Nineteen lakh Fifty One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty One) NPA (10-07-2021)	Flat No. C-1, 2nd Floor Rhs Southern Portion, Kharsa No. 87/21 Min, Extended Lal Dora Abad, Village Burari, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110007
(LC No. 00000924 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Charanjit Singh Kohli (Borrower) Arvindkar Kaur Kohli (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1878736 /- (₹ Eighteen lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Six) NPA (09-09-2021)	Property No- 59, Block -a Second Fr Without Roof State Bank Colony New Delhi, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110009
(LC No. 00000828 of New Delhi-west Branch) Ashok Kumar (Borrower) Rani (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1818813 /- (₹ Eighteen lakh Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No 310 & 311 (ground Floor) Block C & Pocket E 19 Sector 03 Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110001
(LC No. 00043071 of Noida-sector 2 Branch) Nasruddeen (Borrower) Afsana (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 1785593 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Eighty Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Three) NPA (10-07-2021)	Property Bearing No- 1279-a-8, First Floor,near Sate, Kharsa No 93, Gali No.8 Govindpur, Kalkaji, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110019
(LC No. 00001523 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Pawan Kumar (Borrower) Chitra (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 1749555 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three) NPA (10-07-2021)	Property No. M-90, Part Of Kharsa No. 771 & 772, Upper Ground Floor, Block- M Shyam Park, Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00001885 of Rohini Branch) Prakash Saggi (Borrower) Neeru (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 1744778 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Forty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Eight) NPA (10-07-2021)	WZ-139-b/10, 3rd Floor With Roof, Gali No.12, Sector 14, Kharsa No. 58, Village Naxmi Nagar, New Mahavir Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110018
(LC No. 00000314 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Gajender Singh (Borrower) Neelam Devi (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 1631640 /- (₹ Sixteen lakh Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Municipal No. 1091, First Floor Old Mpl No. 1103) Plot No. 83 Gali No.70, Deva Ram Park Tri Nagar, New Delhi North West Delhi Delhi - 110035
(LC No. 00006578 of Lucknow Branch) Namita Singh (Borrower) Harihar Prasad Singh (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1596850 /- (₹ Fifteen lakh Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty) NPA (09-09-2021)	Part Of Plot No 22, Part Of Kh No 83 Gram- Rasulpur Khazir B K T Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00001380 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Narendra Kumar Chaursaiya (Borrower) Deepak Kumar Chaursaiya (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1434068 /- (₹ Fourteen lakh Thirty Four Thousand Sixty Eight) NPA (09-09-2021)	GZ-1-a, Second Floor Without Roof Plot No. 33, Gali No. 1, Kharsa No-16/24 Village Keshupur, New Sahib Pur, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110018
(LC No. Gur31557 Of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Rajendra Prasad Malik (borrower) Bijay Kumar Malik (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1414281 /- (₹ Fourteen lakh Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighty One) NPA (10-07-2021)	H/Flat No-A-2/703, UNI HOMES, SECTOR, 117, VILLAGE, NOIDA NOIDA Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No. 00001210 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Pranav Kumar (Borrower) Urmila Thakur (Co Borrower 1) Kanchan (Co Borrower 2)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1336298 /- (₹ Thirteen lakh Thirty Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Eight) NPA (09-09-2021)	Plot No. 51-A, First Floor Front Side, Kh no.543, Block-A, Keshoram Park Uttam Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00043961 of Delhi - Safdurg Branch) Vijay Kumar (Borrower)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 1264939 /- (₹ Twelve lakh Sixty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No. 04 Plot No. A-23 First Floor, Rear First Lhs Block -A, Sil Ved Vihar Loni Ghaziabad, Up New Delhi Delhi - 110053
(LC No. 00002537 of Noida Branch) Kundan Kumar (Borrower) Pammil Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 1082835 /- (₹ Twelve lakh Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Unit No-107, first floor, Jindal Homes-2 Khata No-00002, Kharsa No-84, Village-Garhi Chau- handi, Noida Gautamdh Nagar Delhi New Delhi - 201301
(LC No. 00002449 of Gurgaon Branch) Sarwan Kumar (Borrower) Jyoti Gulati (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1107240 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty) NPA (09-09-2021)	P.No-C-57,F Back Side,Kh No 79 Vill Bindap- pur, Block-Q,Gali No.08 Vikas Nagar, Mans Kunj Road New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00005091 of New Delhi Branch) Bobi (Borrower) Devyanti (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1104696 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Four Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Six) NPA (09-09-2021)	Flat No-367 Tt, third floor Block- G Sector- Mu-01 Noida Gautamdh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308
(LC No. 00001879 of Gurgaon Branch) Shivex Plast Engineering (Borrower) Lalmani Bhardwaj (Co Borrower 1) Krishan Kumar Bhardwaj (Co Borrower 2) Owins Sss India (Guarantor 1) Vijayanti Devi (Guarantor 2)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 1055313 /- (₹ Ten lakh Fifty Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirteen) NPA (09-09-2021)	M. MACHINE, NAME:- 1) Vertical Machining Centre 2) Cvm-106 With Mitsubishi M80 Cnc Controller AP_ MODEL NO:-CVM 1060 AP_INVOICE_NO:- 177-Rev-Bal
(LC No. 00001865 of Noida Branch) Mohd Shahil (Borrower)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 949106 /- (₹ Nine lakh Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred Six) NPA (12-05-2021)	Plot No- C- 249, Second Floor (rhs) Lig Flat Block - C Sil Ved Vihar Loni Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201102
(LC No. 00042081 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Mukesh Jain (Borrower) Darshna Devi (Co Borrower 1) Jas Bhagwan Jain (Co Borrower 2)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 897962 /- (₹ Eight lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two) NPA (09-09-2021)	Property No. C-7, Kharsa No. 11, Ground Floor, Block - C, Gali No. 5, Majlis Park New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110033
(LC No. 00005834 of Thirunelveli Branch) Vasanthi Natta Rajan (Borrower) Santhama- natarajan (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 879110 /- (₹ Eight lakh Seventy Nine Thousand One Hundred Ten) NPA (09-09-2021)	S.no.718/44,D.no.6/42-2,Middle street Kallathi- mandam,Kuthapanchan village Panchayath,Alai- angam,Janjailu Taluk Thirunelveli District Thirunel- veli Tamil Nadu - 627851
(LC No. 00000372 of Azadpur N S P Branch) Pankaj Saggi (Borrower) Neeru (Co Borrower 1)	21-10-2021 / ₹ 847174 /- (₹ Six lakh Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Four) NPA (10-07-2021)	WZ-139-b/10, Third Floor With Roof, Gali No.12, Kharsa No.58, Village Nanglijaib New Mahavir Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110018

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 27-11-2021

Place: Delhi

30/10

Date : 27-11-2021
Place: Delhi



I've always thought of myself as the forger of the impossible. So, I create what look like forgeries of impossible moments and, of course, in order to do that, we, as magicians, use very many different tech-

It will help aspirants' inner songwriters to step into the sunlight, comments SAMEER ANJAAN on his lyrics-writing class on Unlu. By TEAM VIVA



Commenting on his exclusive class, Anjaan said, "It has always been my dream to teach people to become songwriters so when Unlu came to me, asking to take this opportunity, it was really a no-brainer. When you write lyrics there are

In this class, Anjaan will share what it took for him to become a successful songwriter and how one can use his methodology/process to become a songwriter in their own right. Beginning from his journey as an artist to helping them in discovering themselves, he will take the learners through the complete process of making it as a lyricist. The course will help the students become familiar with the structure of lyrics, language and its process. Apart from this, they will be taught about the types of lyrics writing, genres and how to make a mark in the industry. On the completion of the course, students will receive a certificate of completion.

You travel around the world and entrance people with magic tricks. What does magic mean to you? Is it an escape or a world where the surreal seems real?

Now, for me, magic is equivalent with love on some level. What magic means to you or me, to a monk or let's say a young girl, will all mean very different things. Everyone will have their unique interpretations of magic based on their experiences. For everyone, their experiences dictate their judgment. Someone might have seen a brilliant magician when they were a kid, while others might have experienced a terrible magic show at a party. That will inform, of course, their understanding and definition of magic.

What is it that keeps calling you back to India?
Magic can be so much richer, deeper.



Director and script writer, GOPI PUTHRAN calls for immediate action on violence against women. By TEAM VIVA

Gopi says, "Violence against women keeps breeding because of a toxic, stagnant culture that refuses to acknowledge the equal existence and independent agency of women in the fabric of society. And this culture has little to do with the socio-economic strata and has to do with the patriarchal values which have seeped into our day to day behaviour, cutting across economic and social con-

He adds, "But cultures don't change overnight and they definitely don't change by shoving glaring issues under the carpet. The more we talk about the extent and impact that violence has on women's lives and the permanent trauma that it causes, the more we can hope to bring about some behavioural change."

He further states, "As someone

who's been raised and influenced by strong, independent women I feel deeply that one of the ways that crime against women can be curbed is by talking about such crimes openly and without attaching 'shame' and 'guilt' to the women who go through it. They are not 'victims' that need rescuing, they are 'humans' who seek justice for the wrongs they've faced"

The actor had an interesting incident to relate about singer ADITYA NARAYAN. By TEAM VIVA

The upcoming episode of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa will see Salman Khan as the special guest. During the shoot, he will not only be seen sharing some memories from his career, but also share screen time with the three judges, host and contestants from the show. In fact, during the shoot, Salman shared a never heard before

anecdote about Sa Re Ga
Ma Pa host Aditya
Narayan.

years old. We shot for *Jab Pyaar Kisise Hota Hai*. I used to wipe his nose when he was a kid." Narayan also added, "I always had a runny nose, and he came to

(Tune into Sa Re Ga
Ma Pa this Saturday and
Sunday at 9 pm, only on
Zee TV.)



Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn during the teaser launch of forthcoming film, *RRR*, at PVR Plaza in New Delhi on Thursday. Photo by Pankaj Kumar

SOUTHEE, OPENERS BRING NZ BACK IN GAME

PTI ■ KANPUR

Tim Southee bowled an incisive morning spell to take five wickets which was then brilliantly complemented by openers Will Young and Tom Latham as New Zealand dominated India to reach 129 for no loss on the second day of the opening Test here on Friday. The only highlight for India in an otherwise disappointing day was Shreyas Iyer's (105 off 171 balls) debut hundred.

Playing his 80th Test match, Southee (5/69) took his 13th five-wicket haul on an unresponsive track to send India packing for 345 after they started the day at 258 for 4.

Young then held centre-stage in his fourth Test appearance as he looked composed and unperturbed during his unbeaten knock of 75 off 180 balls.

Latham (50 batting off 165 balls), the seasoned campaigner, survived three on-field decisions (two leg before and one caught behind), negated by DRS, and decided to frustrate the two Indian spinners with a gritty defensive game. The Green Park track became better for batting on the second day and the turn that was on offer was minimal. The variable bounce wasn't also there for the better part of the 57 overs that they batted.

Since it was slow turn, the



Black Caps duo mostly plonked their front-foot and neutralised the turn. And when they played on the back-foot, there was enough time to manoeuvre on both sides of the wicket.

Both were able to adjust on the back-foot against Ravindra Jadeja (14-4-28-0) and Ravichandran Ashwin (17-5-38-0), both of whom didn't look threatening on the day.

Also what made it worse for India was that hardly any delivery kept dangerously low, which



could have brought the leg-before into the equation.

The most disappointing of all was Axar Patel (10-1-26-0), whose accuracy on the leg stump line was of little or no value and it was once again proved that without assistance from the track, he is not even half the bowler that he is with some help from surface.

Young, in particular, got as many as 12 boundaries while Latham helped himself to four hits to the fence.

While Indian spinners can come back on the third day if the pitch considerably deteriorates but New Zealand would like to take the game deep by getting somewhere close to India's first innings total and take it from there.

In the morning, Iyer became the 16th Indian cricketer to score a hundred on Test debut but the home side's lower-middle order caved in meekly save Ashwin (38 off 56 balls), whose counter-attacking effort took

them close to 350.

The credit for that went primarily to Southee (27.4-6-69-5), who was tirelessly bowling an extended spell of more than 10 overs from one end, causing extensive damage. The seasoned campaigner's 13th five-wicket haul came in his 80th Test.

Resuming on his overnight score of 75, Iyer followed the great Gundappa Vishwanath in reaching the milestone at this ground.

Ashwin did the bulk of scoring in the morning session as India added only 87 runs, losing six wickets in the process.

Southee was on target with the second new ball first up as he sent back Ravindra Jadeja (50) on his overnight score.

He used the width of the crease cleverly to trouble Jadeja and got the ball to move from length which was too much for the lower-order players to negotiate. Wriddhiman Saha and Axar Patel nicked at those deliveries that moved away at drivable lengths. Sensing that he is now batting with the tail as Saha (1 off 12 balls) is no longer a batter on whom one can repose his faith, Iyer hit a flurry of boundaries but the best shot was a cover drive off Kyle Jamieson (22.2-6-85-3) which took him to 96.

A glide towards wide of third man off Jamieson got him a double and the moment that every batter dreams of.

Paine takes mental health break from cricket



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australia Test cricket captain Tim Paine is set to miss the first Ashes Test and is taking an indefinite mental health break from the game.

The news comes a week after Paine tearfully quit as captain after revelations of a scandal involving the sending of inappropriate texts to a female co-worker in 2017.

Cricket Australia said on Friday that Paine advised them he would be "stepping away from cricket for a period of time."

"We recognise that this is an incredibly difficult time for Tim and his family and are committed to supporting them," Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said in a statement.

"We respect and under-

stand Tim's decision to have a break at this time to focus on his and his family's well-being."

Paine's teammates were hoping for the wicketkeeper to play on December 8 — his 37th birthday — when Australia's five-test series against England begins in Brisbane. As of Thursday, the veteran was scheduled to join the test squad this weekend.

Paine was called up and set to bat in Tasmania's one-day match against Western Australia on Friday, giving him a chance to play five consecutive days of cricket after a low-key return via the state's second XI.

But Cricket Tasmania (CT) said Friday that Paine would not take his spot in the side.

"Following discussions over the last 24 hours, Tim Paine has advised Cricket Tasmania that he will be taking a leave of absence from all forms of cricket for the foreseeable future," CT said in a statement.

"Cricket Tasmania will continue to support Tim and his family both professionally and personally over the summer."

Likely wicketkeeper replacements for Paine in the test side are Alex Carey or Josh Inglis.

He is not bowling so can we call him all-rounder? asks KAPIL ON HARDIK

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Legendary former India captain Kapil Dev on Friday asked whether Hardik Pandya can be called an all-rounder given that he has not been bowling as much as the role demands.

A vital cog in India's scheme of things in white-ball cricket, the flamboyant Pandya bowled in just two matches in the recent T20 World Cup where India went out in the group stage itself.

He is also under fire for not revealing the extent of his several fitness issues and was dropped from the home T20 series against New Zealand, which India won 3-0.

"He has to do both the jobs to be considered an all-rounder. He is not bowling so can we call him all-rounder? Let him bowl, he has come out from the injury," Kapil said at the Royal Calcutta Golf Course here. "He is an extremely important batter to the country, for bowling he has to play a lot more matches, perform and bowl and then we will say," added India's first World Cup-winning captain. Kapil



also predicted that Rahul Dravid the coach will be a bigger success than the immensely accomplished Dravid the cricketer.

Dravid began his new innings as the Indian team's head coach in the ongoing series against New Zealand, a post he has been given till the 2023 ODI World Cup in India.

"He's a good man, a good cricketer. He will do a better job as a coach than as a cricketer because in cricket nobody has done better than him. I'm just keeping my fingers crossed," Kapil said. Dravid earlier served as the head of National Cricket Academy and was also the coach of India's Under-19 and A teams, nurturing several young talents who went on to represent the country with distinction.

Shreyas Iyer 16th Indian to slam 100 on Test debut

PTI ■ KANPUR

Shreyas Iyer on Friday became the 16th Indian batter to make a hundred on his Test debut, joining an illustrious list which includes the legendary Lala Amarnath, Gundappa Viswanath, and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly among others.

The elegant right-hander, who hails from Mumbai's Worli area, achieved the feat in the ongoing first Test against New Zealand on the second day of

the match at the Green Park Stadium here. Iyer scored 105 off 171 balls, striking 13 fours and a couple of sixes during his brilliant effort.

He was dismissed by Tim Southee. He became the second batter after Viswanath to score a hundred on his Test debut at Kanpur.

The 26-year-old is also the third Indian to score a hundred on debut against New Zealand.

Arjan Kripal Singh, who achieved the feat in 1955, and Surinder Amarnath, who

THE ILLUSTRIOUS LIST			
1	Lala Amarnath v England 1933	9	Pravin Amre v South Africa 1992
2	Deepak Shodhan v Pakistan 1952	10	Sourav Ganguly v England 1996
3	Arjan Kripal Singh v New Zealand 1955	11	Virender Sehwag v South Africa 2001
4	Abbas Ali Baig v England 1959	12	Suresh Raina v Sri Lanka 2010
5	Hanumant Singh v England 1964	13	Shikhar Dhawan v Australia 201
6	G Vishwanath v Australia 1969	14	Rohit Sharma v West Indies 2013
7	Surinder Amarnath v New Zealand 1976	15	Prithvi Shaw v West Indies 2018
8	Mohd Azharuddin England 1984	16	Shreyas Iyer v New Zealand 2021.

scored a hundred against the Black Caps on his debut in 1976, are the other two Indians

to have achieved the same.

Iyer is also the third Mumbai player after Rohit

Sharma and Prithvi Shaw to slam a hundred on Test debut.



Sindhu fights her way into Indonesia Open semifinal

PTI ■ BALI

India's two-time Olympic medal-winning shuttler P V Sindhu came back from a game down to beat South Korea's Sim Yujin and enter the semi-finals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament here on Friday.

The men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty later beat Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin 21-19 21-19 in straight games to also make the semi-finals of the tournament, making it a great day for the Indian contingent.

Third seed Sindhu, the reigning world champion, had to toil hard to get the better of Yujin 14-21 21-19 21-14 in the quarterfinal that lasted an hour and six minutes.

The Indian will play second seed Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand, who got the better of Japan's Asuka Takahashi

21-17 21-12 in another women's singles quarterfinal match, in her last four clash of the USD 850,000 event. It was not smooth sailing from Sindhu against Yujin.

The Indian started confidently racing to a 7-1 lead before the Japanese pocketed six straight points to draw the first game level.

But once Yujin took a slender 11-10 lead at the break, she didn't look back and won the game comfortably to grab the early momentum.

The Japanese continued in the same vein in the second game and matched Sindhu stroke for stroke till the first seven points before the Indian upped her game.

Sindhu displayed better control and authority over her strokes and engaged her rival in long rallies to surge ahead 14-8 before Yujin fought back.

Sindhu used her vast experience



and held her nerves to draw the contest level.

In the decider, Sindhu enjoyed the early exchanges to race to a comfortable 11-4 lead but the Japanese secured seven consecutive points to make it 11-11. Sensing trouble, Sindhu took her game to the next level just at the right time to outwit her rival and seal the match in her favour.

The combo of Satwik and Chirag took 43 minutes to win their men's doubles quarterfinal against the Malaysians.

The other Indian in fray, B Sai Praneeth, will play Olympic champion and former world No.1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in the men's singles quarterfinals later in the day.

Praneeth, world no.16, staved off a spirited fight from France's world no 70 Christo Popov, claiming a 21-17 14-21 21-19 win in a gruelling second round match on Thursday.

West Ham, Rangers, Lazio win; Celtic exit



AP ■ LONDON

Celtic's chances of progress in the Europa League were ended by a late Bayer Leverkusen rally to lose 3-2 in Germany on Thursday as Real Betis, Lazio and Galatasaray secured their places in the knockout stages.

Leverkusen had already qualified but made sure of top spot in Group G and a place in the last 16 thanks to two goals in the final eight minutes at the Bay Arena.

Robert Andrich headed the hosts in front before Josip Juranovic equalised from the penalty spot.

Jota's sweet strike 11 minutes into the second half had Celtic on course for their first ever win on German soil. But Andrich smashed home his second of the game between Joe Hart's legs before Moussa Diaby beat the former England international from the edge of the box. Celtic are

assured of dropping into the Europa Conference League in the new year, but cannot now catch Betis, who beat Ferencvaros 2-0 to guarantee second in the group. Lazio and Galatasaray will face off in two weeks' time for top spot in Group E after securing qualification in style.

The Italians were 3-0 winners over Lokomotiv Moscow, who are set to lose head of sports and development Ralf Rangnick to Manchester United according to reports.

Ciro Immobile scored two second half penalties before Pedro Rodriguez rounded off the scoring. Galatasaray hold a three-point lead at the top of the group after ending Marseille's chances of progress in a 4-2 thriller in Istanbul. West Ham's fine return to European football continued with a 2-0 win over Rapid Vienna despite David Moyes naming a much-changed line-up.

Indian team announced for Asian Champions Trophy

PNS ■ NEW

Delhi Hockey India on Friday named the 20-member Indian Men's Hockey Team for the upcoming Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy which is scheduled to be held between December 14- 22, 2021. Defending Champions India begin their campaign on the opening day against Korea (Dec 14).

In this edition, they will battle it out against Korea, Japan (Dec 19), Malaysia (Dec 18), Pakistan (Dec 17) and hosts Bangladesh (Dec 15) in the single-pool tournament for top honours.

The Semi Finals will be played on 21 December followed by the Final on 22 December.

The Indian team will see Manpreet Singh captain the side along with Harmanpreet Singh who will be his deputy.

The team includes goalkeepers Krishan B Pathak and Suraj Karkera. India's defence will see Harmanpreet Singh lead the charge along with Gurinder Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Dipsan Turkey, Varun Kumar and Mandeep Mor.

With this line-up India will have four options for dragflck.



Pakistan takes 4 early wickets vs Bangladesh in 1st test

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

Pakistan bowlers used some variety to take four wickets in the first session of the first test against Bangladesh on Friday, leaving the home side in trouble at lunch. Fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi and Hasan Ali, medium pacer Faheem Ashraf and offspinner Sajid Khan shared the four wickets to leave Bangladesh at 69-4 after Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque opted to bat first after winning the toss.

Liton Das was batting on 11 with Mushfiqur Rahim on 5 at the break.

Saif Hasan hit Ali for two boundaries in the second over to give a hint of a good start for Bangladesh. But his opening partner Shadman Islam struggled against Afridi, who moved the ball well, but Saif grew with confidence, driving the left arm pacer through mid-off for four.

Afridi broke through in the next delivery when Saif fended a short delivery to short leg for 14.

Shadman also fell for 14, as Hasan had him leg-before after leaking runs in his opening spell.

Khan gave the side a big breakthrough when he reviewed successfully to dismiss captain Mominul Haque for 6. Najmul Shanto then followed him, giving a straight catch to point for 14 as Bangladesh crumbled under pressure.

India face Poland in must-win match in Junior Hockey WC

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Their campaign might be back on track following a massive win over lowly Canada, but defending champions India are still not out of the woods and would need to beat Poland in their final Pool B match to qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup here on Saturday.

The Indians, one of the pre-tournament favourites, were given a rude shock in their opener when France stunned them 5-4.

The defeat dealt a massive blow to India's campaign and put paid to their hopes of topping their pool.

With one win and a defeat, India are currently placed second in Pool B ahead of Poland on goal difference. France, who have a perfect record till now, are set to top the pool. This means that in

the quarterfinals, India face the prospect of running into European giants and top seed Belgium, who are likely top Pool A.

Given the scenario, compacency has no place in the Indian scheme of things if they wish to defend their title.

The Indians were slow to get off the blocks in the tournament and lacked intent and purpose against France, leading to their loss.

But against Canada on Thursday, the hosts roared back and looked more organised. From here on, India will need to win every match to reclaim the title, a fact which chief coach Graham Reid is well aware of.

"...But we can't do anything about that now (loss against France). If we have to win back-to-back titles, we will have to beat every team henceforth," Reid had said.

