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I'm full-time, hands-on Cong prez, avers Sonia

Rahul hints at
taking party helm;
Cong prez election
in Aug-Sept 2022

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The crucial meeting of the Congress Working Committee on Saturday saw Sonia Gandhi asserting herself as a "full-time and hands-on Congress president" and Rahul Gandhi hinting at his return at the helm of the party. The CWC decided to hold the election of Congress president between August 21 and September 20, 2022.

Sonia hit back at critics within the party — the G-23 — who have been pushing for over a year now for an organisational overhaul and a more "visible leadership".

The G-23 is a group of 23 senior leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Shashi Tharoor, P Chidambaram among others. Since last August, members of the G-23 have been vocal on several party issues, including that of leadership crisis.

"I have always appreciated frankness" and "there is no



Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi with party leader Rahul Gandhi and others during the Congress Working Committee meeting to discuss the current political situation, upcoming Assembly polls, and organisational elections, at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

need to speak to me through the media," Sonia said at the first offline CWC meeting post-Covid pandemic. Sources said the organisational elections were discussed amid indications that Rahul could return as the party chief same time around next year.

"I am, if you will allow me to say so, a full-time and hands-on Congress president," Sonia observed.

In the past two years, a large number of young colleagues have taken leadership roles in taking party policies and programmes to the people,

she asserted.

Addressing the meeting of the party's highest decision-making body, Sonia also underscored that the entire organisation wants a revival of the party, but this requires unity and keeping the party's interests paramount.

2 more martyred; LeT top ultra killed in J&K

**Total 9 Army
jawans dead in
op to flush out
terrorists**

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

With the recovery of two more bodies from the encounter site in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch late on Saturday evening, the death toll of the Indian Army has mounted to nine, including two JCOs and seven other ranks. So far this is the highest toll in any recent counter terrorist operation in Jammu & Kashmir in recent years.

Meanwhile, in a joint operation with the Central forces, the Jammu & Kashmir Police on Saturday avenged the killing of their two colleagues by successfully eliminating one of the top Lashkar-e-Tayyeba commanders, along with his associate, in the Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The LeT commander, identified as Umar Mushtaq Khandey, had figured in the most wanted list of 10 terrorists prepared by the J&K Police.

In the first incident involving the Army, during the search



Security personnel stand guard near the site of an encounter with terrorists at the Nar Khas forest area in Poonch on Saturday

PTI

operations and a brief firefight with the terrorists, the Army jawans had received critical injuries late on Thursday evening. Two dead bodies were recovered on Friday, while searches continued as one JCO and another jawan was found missing since October 14.

On October 11, five soldiers, including a Junior Commissioner Officer (JCO), were killed in action during an encounter with the terrorists in a thickly forested area of Dera Ki Gali in Surankote tehsil of frontier Poonch district. Among the martyred soldiers three hailed from Punjab and

one each from Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.

Defence PRO Lt-Col Devender Anand in a statement said, "Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh of Indian Army were killed in action during search operations being conducted by the Indian Army along with the Jammu & Kashmir Police in densely forested area of Nar Khas forest in Mendhar, Poonch."

Lt-Col Anand said, "Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh were part of search operations launched by the security forces to flush out terrorists hiding in the forested area."

Nihang Sikh surrenders for lynching at Singhu border

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A Nihang Sikh, Parminder Singh, on Saturday surrendered at a gurdwara before police in Amarkot village in Jandiala Guru area of Amritsar in connection with the Singhu border lynching incident.

A police team had gone to arrest him. He had announced to surrender after paying obeisance at Akal Takht. Parminder Singh allegedly murdered Lakhbir Singh, a drug addict, who it is alleged had committed sacrilege.

Meanwhile, a court in Sonapat on Saturday remanded Sarabjit Singh, arrested in connection with the lynching of Lakhbir Singh at the farmers' protest site at Singhu border, in police custody for seven days, with the accused pointing to the involvement of a few more people in the gruesome killing. The body of Lakhbir Singh, a labourer from Punjab's Tarn Taran district, was found on Friday tied to a barricade at the Delhi-Haryana border where the anti-farm law protesters have been camping.

A senior police official of Sonapat police said while seeking Sarabjit's custody, police submitted before the court that they have to make certain recoveries from the accused arrested in the case. The official said Sarabjit has named four more people during interrogations while pointing to their involvement in the incident.

Hindu's body found; B'desh Durga Puja attacks toll rises to 5

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Durga Puja celebrations have concluded in Bangladesh even as another Hindu devotee was found dead on Saturday amid days of communal unrest and violence unleashed by unidentified Muslim bigots who vandalised temples over alleged blasphemy, leading to the deployment of paramilitary forces in more than half of administrative districts. With the latest killing, the death toll during the Durga Puja celebrations across the country has reached five.

Authorities overnight imposed a nationwide security vigil while officials said that initial investigations have thrown up crucial evidence against the perpetrators of violence against the minority Hindu community's Durga Puja. The paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has expanded the vigil from 22 to 34 out of 64 administrative districts.

The elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion said it expects to arrest some of the key perpetrators of the sporadic violence which took place in the past three days. Voicing optimism over the investigation, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told reporters that "We expect developments of the investigations in the next one or two days."

The police, meanwhile, said that they have recovered the body of a Hindu devotee from a pond near a temple in south-eastern Begumganj sub-district



Muslims participate in a protest over an alleged insult to Islam, outside the country's main Baitul Mukarram Mosque in Dhaka on Saturday

AP

of Noakhali.

According to a Hindu community leader, the deceased was a victim of bigot attacks on devotees on Friday.

Four people were killed and scores of others injured during clashes between Muslim bigots and the police at Hajiganj sub-district in central Chandpur on Wednesday and Thursday, prompting the government to call out paramilitary forces to maintain law and order across the country.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promised to bring to justice the culprits behind the violence, saying anyone involved in the attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues in Comilla will not be spared.

Six people dead, dozen reported missing as rain lashes Kerala

PTI ■ KOTTAYAM/IDUKKI

At least six people died and a dozen others were missing on Saturday as heavy rain pounded south and central Kerala causing flash floods and landslides in many parts, prompting the State Government to seek the assistance of the defence forces for rescue operations.

Several people have been injured and displaced in rain-related incidents in Kerala where dams in many districts are nearing its full capacity and small towns and villages in the hilly areas are totally cut off from the outside world.

Many hilly areas of Kottayam, Idukki and Pathanamthitta are experiencing situation almost similar to that during the time of devastating floods of 2018 and 2019 but authorities said everything was under control and there was no need for a panic.

However, the rescue teams of the State police and fire force could not reach the affected areas due to floods and adverse weather conditions prevailing there.

"The situation is serious", Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. He, however, said the latest weather forecast indicates that the situation is not going to get worse.

Bhopal receives heavy rainfall

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

State capital received heavy rainfall on the conclusion of Durga festival on Saturday; hot and humid conditions prevailed in the day and rainfall provided relief from the harsh weather conditions.

The uneasiness in the weather conditions was relieved after downpour came heavily late in the evening. In the past 24 hours few regions of Jabalpur witnessed rainfall

while other divisions remained dry.

Met department told that the withdrawal of monsoon has started and these activities are due to system which are abrupt and for short periods.

Few regions witnessed temperature as high as 36 degree Celsius which was recorded in Nowgong. The Met department made forecast of thunder lightning and rainfall and which are witnessed on Saturday.

Chambal division recorded significant dip in night temperatures. The lowest night temperature was recorded at 17 degree Celsius in Nowgong.

Trend of decreasing night temperature has been witnessed across the state for the two days. In the state capital temperatures have dipped over 7 degree Celsius in the past 2-3 days due to change in the wind direction.

The rainfall would further bring mercury down and dry-

ness in the weather condition would increase in the next 2-3 days.

Warning of thundery activities and lightning has been issued for Jabalpur, Shahdol, Bhopal, Hoshangabad divisions and Burhanpur, Khandwa, Khargone and Badwani districts.

A low pressure area over Southeast Asia and cyclonic circulation and WD are active systems which are inducing changes in the weather.



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HOME THEATRE

Heart in right place

RASHMI ROCKET ZEE5
***ing: Supriya Pathak, Manoj Joshi, Taapsee Pannu, Priyanshu Painyuli, Abhishek Banerjee, Varun Badola**
Rated: 5.5/10

There are some films which have a great storyline and the makers choose a fantastic subject. The star cast is strong as well, yet there is something missing that refuse to resonate and make it a movie that is par excellence. Rashmi fits this category.

Directed by Akarsh Khurana and produced by Ronnie Screwala, Neha Anand and Pranjal Khandhdiya, the film has heart in the right place. However, what is missing is the soul that puts life into a subject that is sensitive and talks about gender testing for women athletes globally – a subject that has been in debate for years.

Taapsee Pannu, who has done movies like Pink, Badla and Thappad, despite remaining the driving force behind Rashmi Rocket looks totally helpless in the second half of the movie. This is a bit strange since she has shown to be a woman who is strong minded and definitely not someone who will bow down to anybody let alone a bunch of women athletes out to get her. Of course, there is a scene where she hits out but that does nothing to give the impression that she is in any ways the girl that

she was at the start of the movie. And this is where Rashmi Rocket falters. It is strange to see such a U-turn in a character – from a woman who dominates to a woman who is helpless – doesn't fit with her persona and how she was brought up. Then there are other things that don't fit. Take the Bhuj earthquake that finds its way in the film. The 2001 earthquake on January 26 killed more than 20,000 people and injured over 1.5 lakh people is shown in a blasé manner. While it has no bearing on the film or the subject, a two second shot of cracked earth takes away the devastation it left.

But not all is lost. There are some parts of the movie that are truly inspiring – Taapsee Pannu's need to fight against the injustice meted out to her. The strong family backing that she has – from her mother played by Supriya Pathak and husband played by Priyanshu Painyuli. Both have done a great job here. Mohan Joshi does his bit too even if his screen presence is for 10 minutes.

It is Abhishek Banerjee who needs a special mention here. He plays a funny part serious lawyer with great aplomb. His blundering, at the start, are endearing like where he addresses the judge as ma'am instead of Your Honor. If you are a Taapsee Pannu fan, you will like this.

— Shalini Saksena



About family ties



THE REUNION Zoom Studio
***ing: Lillete Dubey, KK Raina, Veer Rajwant Singh, Kashmiri Irani, Prabal Panjabi, Devika Vatsa**
Rated: 4/10

The Reunion is about a family that has not met for years but come together at the death of a family member and to carry out her last wishes. The subject and the underlying message that family comes first is great. It is rare to watch a film or a web series on such a subject these days. Definitely a welcome change.

Another plus of this web series is that none of the nine episodes are more than 24 minutes. This makes it easy to watch them at one go. Also, the locale chosen is very nice. Again, a rarity to see so much greenery and pristine beaches. The acting

by the star cast is in the right place. Also, the story ends after nine episodes. So, if the makers want to extend this, it has to be a completely different track but may be with the same cast.

The father-sons relationship has been shown realistically. It is something that one sees often; usually fathers and sons don't share a very good relationship and this has been brought out naturally. Given that people are looking for realistic cinema, this is right up their alley.

However, there are a few no-nos too. The acting by all is stilted; they appear to be just going with the motion of acting rather put in an effort. There is no chemistry between Veer Rajwant Singh and Kashmiri Irani who play husband and wife here.

Those who are looking for realism, will like this one.
— Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Sunday

VIVID SHUFFLE SEASON 5 - LEAGUE QUALIFIERS



BREEZER Vivid Shuffle - India's Biggest Hip-Hop League - is back for its 5th year to find the best breakers, poppers, rappers, graffiti artists and showcase crews from across the country and bring home the Voice of the Streets! Shortlisted artists will advance to the 2-day League Qualifiers - 23 and 30 October 2021 - where YOU get to watch them battle and perform

LIVE to earn their spots in the Finale. The event may have interactive elements and will involve participation from the audience. You may not be able to join the live experience if you are late.
What: Theatre and Arts
Where: Online
When: October 23 and 30, 2021
Time: 6 pm

NATYA SOCIAL - MANWA LAAGE



Natya Social is a dance institute based in Mumbai. Our lead choreographers Vinayak Ghoshal and Asifali Bagwan have been conducting workshops in Mumbai and other cities since 2018. You may not be able to attend the live session if you are late. You may face interruptions during the course of the live stream due

to internet connectivity issues. Show details and the artist lineup are subject to change as per the artist's discretion. No refunds on purchased tickets are possible, even in case of any rescheduling.
What: Workshop
Where: Online
When: October 23, 2021
Time: 5 pm to 6 pm

TELLY TALE

‘SHABANA IS OUR FIRST TOGETHER’

The first teaser poster for Indian television's popular couple, Prince Narula and Yuvika Chaudhary starrer *Shabana* is here! Ullu Originals has managed a casting coup by getting this much-admired couple together on screen for the first time in their upcoming web-series, titled *Shabana*. Along with veteran actor Anil George and the dashing Rahul Dev, the cast have prepped themselves to get into the skin of the character. Ullu has unveiled a fascinating teaser poster for the drama. The teaser poster showcases a stark contrast to what audiences have



seen the star couple as. It reveals Prince and Yuvika as two simple, homely, completely deglamorized and yet look like two young people who are happy just sitting beside each other. The smile on

their faces is captivating as also the characters writ large over their faces that relate to the common man. Several shades darker, Prince has a rustic ruggedness on his face and Yuvika complements him beautifully with her innocence and charm.

Ullu Digital Pvt Ltd, CEO, Vibhu Agrawal, says, "This series titled *Shabana* is one that our team at Ullu has been painstakingly developing for awhile and we are delighted to share its first look. Right from its story to its casting to its first teaser poster, it's going to create curiosity and make the industry and audiences alike take notice.

RESCUED OR NOT

Rakshanda Khan says "I am very kicked about Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na as it is starkly different from any show that I've been a part of till date. In fact, we've seen shows having a fairy tale ending, but our show starts with a fairy tale love story and what follows afterwards makes up the rest of the narrative. It has interesting twists and turns, and I am actually excited about playing such a royal character for the very first time."

She adds, "I hope everyone will enjoy seeing me in this imperial avatar. My character of Jaya Maa is very polished with a royal demeanor and someone who upholds the traditions of the royal family while having a business-oriented mind. She has a lot of layers to her too, so it will be challenging yet fun, and I hope everyone keeps showering their love." Jaya Laxmi or Jaya Maa, as she is fondly called, is the caretaker of the Royal Family of Ambikapur.

RAKSHANDA KHAN IN ROYAL AVATAR

Rakshanda Khan says "I am very kicked about Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na as it is starkly different from any show that I've been a part of till date. In fact, we've seen shows having a fairy tale ending, but our show starts with a fairy tale love story and what follows afterwards makes up the rest of the narrative. It has interesting twists and turns, and I am actually excited about playing such a royal character for the very first time."



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RANVEER GIFTS RUNNING SHOES

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh has won hearts with his acting performances, dedication and prodigious fashion style. But on COLORS' *The Big Picture*, he will win everyone's heart with his generosity in the first episode. Here the viewers will see the first contestant Karishma Toor, a police constable from Haryana, talking about her family and wishing to give them a better life. Midway in the conversation, she will reveal to the actor how she loves running. Ranveer Singh takes note

and, immediately after the quiz, presents her with a pair of running shoes. He even helps her put on the shoes by going down on his knee.

COLORS' *The Big Picture* is India's first visual-based quiz show that brings wholesome entertainment to your television's premieres on October 16, every weekend at 8pm. With plenty of fun and excitement, the show promises both contestants and viewers to win big, every week and weekend too!

FIRST-EVER PSYCHOLOGICAL ROMANCE

Vikram Chatterjee and Smriti Kalra from the Bengali entertainment industry join critically acclaimed actor Vinay Pathak for their upcoming psychological romance. Memory X is a feature that explores the theory of time and mindscape. This exciting plot is crafted by writer-director Tathagata Mukherjee, produced by Avinaba Ghosh, and co-produced by Tania Mukherjee, Tathagata Mukherjee, and Debleena Production Creations.

This fascinating story is shot mostly in Sikkim. Vikram



and Smriti will be seen essaying Avinash and Shruti respectively.

‘Daily soaps are all about how you live on a day-to-day basis’

NARENDRA GUPTA who plays Newton Chattopadhyay in &TV's *Mauka-E-Vardaat* – Operation Vijay talks to SUPRIYA RAMESH about his character, why he agreed to the role and how much work goes into playing a crime genre

■What is Mauka-E-Vardaat – Operation Vijay about?

It is self defining. A band of Indian officers detect a crime and try to nab culprits and they do it successfully. I play the role of a scientist, who is the brains and helps the Indian officers. He draws conclusions from the past and present to guide and help the officers.

■Tell us about your role?

Its a very different role. I play a scientist who lives away from reach. Nobody knows my whereabouts and contact information. But the main character Newton Chattopadhyay knows everything and keeps track of everything. While doing so if something goes south, he appears suddenly and guides people. He is an expert who doesn't get himself involved but is always on standby. He is like a father figure, professor, friend, scientist. He is the amalgamation of everything, every emotion.

■What made you say yes to this role?

I agreed to this role because this character is with them and still not with them. When I'm shooting, I'm at my den and from there itself I'm explaining things to other characters and that too without seeing them. It's a different type of challenge. Most times in acting, there is another artist with whom you give and take dialogues. I react to these dialogues on the fly and it is pretty challenging. There are certain instances where I suddenly appear somewhere and then disappear from there after finishing my dialogue. Very knowledgeable, it is a character that I haven't portrayed so I have accepted it and I'm enjoying while finding it interesting. I'm sure.



■What does 'Aalokik Shaktiyan' mean here?

Aalokik shaktiya refers to the powers that are beyond our regular scientific reach and understand. "Lok" means people and "lokik" means where people are from. "Aalokik" means something that isn't from where people live. For example, superhuman capabilities. The spiritual powered that aren't discovered yet but loosely based on scientific terms. The main agonist and antagonist keep finding new powers like these. To produce these thoughts realistically, is very challenging

because it's beyond our imagination. The antagonist has these "aalokik shaktiya" but the protagonists use their cunning and the current superior technology to equalize the situation. They don't have the luxury of exemplary powers but they have their courage, Braun and attitude to change the tides.

■You have mostly been a part of the crime genre be it series or a movie. What are the challenges?

Daily soaps are all about how you live on a day to day

basis and react accordingly. Whereas in crime shows, you have to take care of a specific story, crime and genre. You have to showcase your emotions differently and have a realistic approach about the detection of the crime. It's different because of the increase in intuitiveness and overall information.

■We understand that you have also worked in Bollywood movies. How is the work environment different?

For an actor, working in films or working in television or any media is the same. But there are certain limitations and aspects with acting in every media. If you talk about acting in films, there is no limitation in the sense of time constraint. The same can't be said about acting in television because every episode has one. You have to edit it and telecast it in planned schedules. It's a good challenge as there is less time for relaxation. You're always shooting on time and procrastinating has no place here no matter what. The channel cannot go blank on that day.

■How was shooting in a pandemic different?

In the pandemic, there are not many people on set that used to be. There are many protocols in place that prohibit the interaction of multiple people together. The workload has increased but as many actors take initiative and do some things themselves. We have to help each other and share responsibilities. There is no crowding and audiences because of these important restrictions. We all are very happy that we are able to work while keeping each other safe by following these rules.

Online workshop on impact of Covid on children held

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Child Rights Observatory, Madhya Pradesh, organized an online workshop on the topic “Impact of Covid on Children and Role of Media”. The workshop was held on Saturday. The role of field journalists is important, due to their information about the education, health and safety of children from villages to towns could be received during the Corona period.

In the workshop, Raghuraj Singh made a presentation to the journalists of the districts and tehsil about the status of children’s education, health especially mental health and safety during the Corona period in the state. In the conversation, the field emerged that due to online education in the last 17 months of Corona, children’s eyes have been affected and now a large number of children are wearing glasses of minus number and they are going through mental stress due to loneliness .

Regarding mental health, Sunil Shukla of Sarjana Academy gave suggestions regarding mental problems of children and parents. He informed about the psychological counseling platform ‘Suljhan’ and said that during the Corona period, mental disorders of children have emerged, which is a matter of great concern. Changes in the behavior of children are seen as such and special attention should be given to children.

The field journalists also informed about the education and health information of their respective areas. On behalf of the CRO, Rashmi Saraswat told the field journalists her expectations regarding the education and health of the children and said that the information you collect and publish is very useful and they help in advocating the government on the issues of children.

Apart from 25 journalists from 12 districts, 20 teachers and parents also participated in the workshop.

7-day camp at Rabindranath Tagore University from Oct 18

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Tagore National Artist Camp is being organized in Rabindranath Tagore University Campus under Purva Rang of Vishwarang 2021.

This seven-day camp is being organized under the aegis of Tagore World Center for Art and Culture. In the first phase of this camp, from October 18 to 24, eminent women painters of the country will participate.

On this occasion there will also be interactive sessions focused on the tradition, experimentation and innovation of fine arts. In the series of dialogues, art experts Krishna Agarwal, Ashok Bhowmik, Vinay Upadhyay and Rakhi Kumar will share their views.

This is a unique initiative of its kind in the country at the university level. Women painters include Taslim Jamal, Banswara, Rajasthan, Sanju

Das, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Sonali Pithaway, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, Bharti Prajapati, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Bhavna Choudhary, Bhopal, Sonia Sabharwal, Goa and more. On Monday, in the Katha Auditorium of the University, well-known painter Prof. Jaikrishna Agarwal, former Principal College of Arts and Crafts Lucknow University, Uttar Pradesh will inaugurate the camp as the chief guest.

Santosh Choubey Chancellor Rabindranath Tagore University will be present as the President of the inaugural session. The guide of this project will also be the main creative association of noted painter and thinker Ashok Bhowmik.

In this seven-day camp, women painters will make their dreams come true on canvas through colors and kuchi. Art talk will be organized daily on various topics.

Govt forms new MSME development policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In order to make Madhya Pradesh self-reliant, the Department of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises of the Government of Madhya Pradesh has formulated a new MSME Development Policy to revive the industries. In this policy, apart from increasing investment in the state, every possible provision has been made to provide employment to the local youths.

Madhya Pradesh is much ahead in the country in agricultural products and for processing these products in the state itself, it has been announced to give concessions along with many facilities to these units.

Under the policy, many types of assistance, facilities will be provided to the new food processing unit, in which investment of more than Rs 10 crore and up to Rs 50 crore has been made in the machinery-plant.

According to the policy, a rebate of Re 1 per unit or 20

percent, whichever is less, will be provided to high pressure consumers on getting a new connection in the prevailing electricity tariff under electricity consumption assistance. This exemption will be admissible for food processing units for a period of 05 years from the date of production, commercial operation. In off-season, 10% of the contract demand or the actual recorded demand, whichever is higher, will be billed at the normal tariff, rebate will be payable to the food processing units of the respective category.

Similarly, the facility of exemption from mandi fee is also in the policy. All such eligible food processing units will be exempted up to maximum of 50 percent of the investment in plant and machinery or for a period of five years in mandi fee, whichever is less. This facility of exemption from duty will be available only to those units, which will purchase agricultural produce of this state.

There is also a provision to facilitate in the policy for special assistance on the development of food parks. In order to encourage the establishment of food processing projects in the state under the infrastructure development assistance and to improve the infrastructure, 15 percent of the project cost and maximum amount of Rs. 5 crore will be provided to the private sector on the establishment of mega food park as per the guidelines of the Government of India, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the establishment of mega food park.

This assistance will be payable on the establishment of minimum 10 units in the developed park. This assistance will be payable in the form of top-up. Under the assistance of stamp duty, the stamp duty paid by the promoters will be reimbursed in the land transferred by the promoters to the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the establishment of Mega Food Park.

DIG gives orders to find missing children

PNS ■ MHOW

DIG Indore Manish Kapuria has given strict orders to find the missing children as soon as possible for which S P west Indore Mahesh Chandra Jain and ASP Mhow Puneet Gehlot and SDOP Mhow Vinod Sharma are daily monitoring the records of missing children.

On Saturday afternoon Yogesh Verma resident of haat maidan Mhow reported at the police station about his 3 years old daughter who was missing since some time before. T I Mhow police station Kuldeep khatri immediately rushed all the policeman of the police station leading to different direction from the house of the missing girl.

Within one hour the missing girl child was found near Janpad panchayat square Mhow around half kilometer away from the missing girl house. The police team who tracked the missing girl child included sub inspector Devesh pal and sub inspector Mukesh Kanasia and the police staff of Mhow police stations.

Charkha Khadi Utsav begins

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under Amrit Mahotsav, Madhya Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board organised Charkha Khadi Utsav at Bhopal Haat that began from Saturday.

It is organised to provide a market for the materials pro-

duced by entrepreneurs/handicrafts man with the aim of providing sustainable employment and financially self-reliant to the artisans, weavers and other artisans working in rural areas. Notably, 110 units of Khadi, Village Industries, Matikala and Handicrafts from 12 states have been put up.

Attractive and beautiful Mulberry, Kosa, Silk Sarees, Suits, Khadi Sarees, Khadi Textiles, Woolen Shawl, Ladies and Gents readymade Garments of all types of Khadi Textiles, Home Furnishing, Decorative Materials, Artistic and Decorative Materials of Matikala, Jute.



Idols of Goddess Durga lifted by crane for immersion in the Upper Lake at Prempura Ghat to mark the end of Navratri festival in Bhopal on Saturday

INBRIEF

GOV MAGUBHAI PATEL VISITS VIDISHA

Governor Mangubhai Patel reached Vidisha on Saturday on a short stay. He visited the caves of Udaigiri and sought information about the ancient caves. Patel wrote on the visitor's register that 'Udaigiri caves give us evidence by describing history, which is amazing.'

Patel went around the Sankanika, Barah, Shivasai Vishnu, Amrit cave, Nirman cave and Tava cave in Udaigiri. Collector Umashankar Bhargava, Superintendent of Police Monika Shukla, District Panchayat CEO Dr. Yogesh Bharsat besides officers of other departments were present.

During his stay at Udaigiri, the residents of Sunpura village paid a courtesy visit to Governor Mangubhai Patel. During this, the Governor sought information related to education and employment from the youth. The Governor discussed with Smt. Moharbai Yadav regarding the population of the village, development works and arrangements for education of children.

COMPLAINT REDRESSAL 97.14% MINISTER

Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar has informed that in the first fifteen days of the current October month, a total of 1 lakh 77 thousand 852 complaints were received at the state level, out of which 1 lakh 73 thousand 252 complaints have been resolved. The resolution percentage is 97.14 percent.

Centralized call centres have been set up in all the three power distribution companies for speedy redressal of complaints of electricity consumers in the state. These call-centres located at company headquarters Bhopal, Jabalpur and Indore are working 24/7. In this, complaints can be sent to the concerned officer and employee by registering complaints through the common number 1912. After redressal of complaints, feedback of the consumer is also being taken from the call centre. Out of 36,900 complaints, 34,780 have been resolved by East Zone, 59,014 complaints out of 59,458 by Central Zone and 79,458 complaints out of 81,494 were resolved by West Zone. Most of these complaints are related to electricity supply, which have been resolved promptly. Apart from this, complaints related to faulty distribution transformers and metres or bills are also being resolved.

ACTION AGAINST OFFICERS WHO ENGAGE IN OFFLINE COMPOUNDING: HOUSING MINISTER

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has said that under building permission cases, compounding of construction without building permission and construction in excess of building permission has been implemented in all urban bodies through online ABPAS system. Along with this, instructions have also been given to all the urban bodies to make the process of compounding online. Singh has given instructions to the officers of all urban bodies to strictly follow these instructions.

Singh has said that by amending the Madhya Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, the limit of compounding under building permission has been increased by 30 percent. Along with this, a discount of 20 percent has also been given in the cases received for compounding till February 28, 2022.

Urban Development and Housing Minister Singh has said that it has come to notice that the process of compounding is being done offline in some urban bodies. He said that the process of both types of compounding is conducted in all the bodies through online ABPAS system. Therefore, disciplinary action will be taken against the officers who engage in offline compounding.

40 lakh Ladli Laxmis made so far in State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In Madhya Pradesh, about 40 lakh Ladli Laxmis have been made so far under the Ladli Laxmi Yojana, which was started from the year 2007 to make daughters self-dependent along with providing security to them. The state government has not only made all these Ladli Laxmis lakhpatis, but the responsibility of their education, health and higher education is also being fulfilled. The biggest benefit of the scheme is that now a girl child born in the state is considered a boon and not a curse.

It has been decided to expand Ladli Laxmi Yojna, born out of sensitive thinking of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan towards the daughters. Chouhan says that every daughter of the state should be educated, her health should be better and she should feel self-dependent. The participation of the daughters of the state will also be ensured in the fulfillment of the goal of self-reliant Madhya Pradesh. From the birth of the daughter till her complete education and marriage, the responsibility is being taken up through Ladli Laxmi Yojana. On one hand, this scheme has given protection as guardian to the daughters of the state, on the other

hand it has also changed the thinking of the society towards daughters. There was a time when the whole family used to get disappointed on the birth of a daughter. With the implementation of Ladli Laxmi Yojana, now families celebrate the birth of a daughter. Due to this change in the society towards daughters, the sex ratio of male and female has also improved in the state.

Chouhan believes that empowerment of women is necessary for the empowerment of the society. A daughter born today could play her role in empowering the society, state and nation tomorrow. That's what we are trying to do. Ladli Laxmi Yojana, the experiment of making the daughter strong and making her self-dependent, has been successful in Madhya Pradesh. As much as this scheme has been appreciated in the state, the scheme has been appreciated and adopted in other states also. New provisions are constantly being added to make the scheme more effective. The state government will now give 25 thousand rupees to the girls who pass 12th on taking admission in graduation. Along with this, the government will bear the cost of every ladli who gets admission in engineering and medical.

We should develop positivity: Pandey

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Dussehra is one of the prominent festivals celebrated in our country. This festival is the symbol of victory of good over evil. Therefore, in this pious occasion we should also think about developing the positivity and ending the negativity in us.

These views were expressed by State Bank of India, Bhopal Circle's Chief General Manager Umesh Kumar Pandey during the Dussehra Mahotsav organized in SBI Officer's colony, Char Imli Bhopal.

A fancy-dress program of the wards of the staff members was organized, which was

praised by all and to motivate the children gifts were also distributed. The mannequin of the Ravana, Kumbhkaran and Meghnath were also put on fire as per the traditions followed by the fireworks.

On this occasion, General

Managers S. Giridhar and Sundeep Dutta, Circle Development Officer U. Dinesh Shanbhag, other Deputy General Managers and other officials were also present along with their family members.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addresses during an election campaign in support of BJP candidate Gyaneshwar Patil for Khandwa Lok Sabha seat bypoll, in Burhanpur, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday

City’s air quality starts deteriorating, AQI crosses 300

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Air quality in Delhi started deteriorating as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded 304 microgram/cubic on Thursday.

Mentioning the highest stubble fire count, SAFAR, a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) said, “14 percent of fire incident recorded in neighbouring States of Delhi – National Capital Region (NCR).”

“With 1572 effective fire counts as per SAFAR harmonised methodology which includes data of two ISRO satellites, the stubble burning contribution in Delhi’s air has suddenly increased to 14%.

Fire counts are gradually increasing and wind direction is favorable and coming from North-west direction at transport level (900 mb) for intrusion,” It added.

The pollution monitoring agency, SAFAR, in air quality forecast said that under the influence of approaching western disturbance, wind reversal to easterly will happen by Sunday (October 17).” “Rain is likely and Air quality Index (AQI) is forecast to improve but will remain in poor category however it is likely to be moderate for next three days.”

Sharing satellite images of stubble fire in neighbouring states on micro - blogging website, Delhi Chief Minister



Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: “stubble fire on Oct 13 and Oct 16.”

Meanwhile according to SAFAR, values of harmful

Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) also recorded higher than their prescribed standards of WHO and Indian

AIR POLLUTION FORECAST

SPMs (Values in micro-gram/cubic) Source : SAFAR/ CPCB/ DPCC	Today (Oct 16)	(Oct 17, Sun)	(Oct 18, Mon)	Status
PM 2.5	125	138	100	Moderate
PM 10	253	278	202	Poor

Meteorological Department (IMD).

SAFAR warned as concentration of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 was recorded 125 micrograms per cubic and PM 10 was 253 on the National

Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI).

As Stubble fire count has been considered major reason for polluting air in the National Capital, Delhi Government, earlier, had appealed to the

Chief Ministers and governments of neighbouring states and Centre to provide free Pusa -made decomposer. City government has also prepared a green war room to deal with air pollution problem. Besides,

government will start ‘Red Light on, Gadi (Vehicle) off’ campaign to reduce vehicular pollution; moreover, anti-dust campaign also in Delhi.

Remark : STUBBLE IMPACT is high.

Light rain for next 3 days, predicts IMD

New Delhi: The National Capital Region (NCR) woke up to a clear sky on Saturday with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting light rain or thundershowers towards the evening or night for the next three days.

The department also predicted that the rain for the next three days will bring down the temperature in the capital and pave way for winter chills.

The precipitation will also improve Delhi’s air quality.

The Department has also issued a yellow alert for Sunday and Monday with the possibility of light rain at some places on Saturday. It has pegged the maximum temperature for the day at 34 degrees Celsius and minimum at 20 degrees Celsius for the day. The relative humidity has been recorded at 82 percent.



According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), the Air Quality Index (AQI) is ‘poor’ in the national capital. It has forecasted a moderate advisory for the level of PM 10 pollutants at 238 and,

poor for PM 2.5 at 112.

According to the National Air Quality Index of Central Pollution Control Board data of 10 a.m., the AQI at Anand Vihar stands at 306, meaning ‘very poor’, that of ITO is at 226 - ‘poor’. 198 i.e. moderate at RK Puram.

IAN S

GRAP imposed to curb pollution in G’gram

Gurugram: To curb pollution in the city, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been implemented in Gurugram from Friday. After this, all the departments of the city have become active to curb pollution in Gurugram.

Officials said after the implementation of the GRAP, the construction material in the city will have to be covered, activities responsible for pollution will be stopped and if someone is found disobeying GRAP norms, will be fined.

However, despite this, the people are facing problems due to the piles of rubble lying all across the city.

In connection with the matter, during the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG), a house meeting, the MCG councillors had also sought answers from the corporation officials regarding the Construction and Waste (C&D) issue, on which the offi-

cials had said the debris from the city will be lifted in two days, but even after the commencement of the corporation councillors, the lifting of construction waste from the city is yet to be started.

Municipal Commissioner Mukesh Kumar Ahuja told the councillors that a meeting with the company responsible for C&D waste will be held to resolve the matter.

However, the commissioner had talked with the company and starting work on it soon. But till now no solution has been found for this problem.

Notably, a private agency has been hired by the MCG to lift the debris from the city, but even after spending crores, the C&D waste can be seen in several locations of the city. Officials said more than two thousand tonnes of debris is coming out of the city every day, but it is neither being dis-

posed of nor the piles of debris lying in public places are being transported to the identified places of the corporation.

“So far, the lifting of the piles of rubble lying all over the city has not started. The officers are working with their dictatorship, no attention is being paid to the demands of the councillors. If there is a provision to impose a fine as per the GRAP, then why is the corporation not being challenged on C&D waste,” Ashwani Sharma, Ward-19 Councillor said.

“Wherever there is debris lying in public places, those places will be marked and sprinkled with water tankers will be done. The company’s capacity to lift debris is 300 tonnes per day, but the city is getting more debris daily. In such a situation, water will be sprinkled there by following the rules of GRAP,” Hari Om Attri, Joint Commissioner, Headquarters, MCG said. **SR**



Miscreant held for violating externment order

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Eithkhedi police nabbed a 25-year-old miscreant from Eithkhedi area on Friday the accused was serving externment and was found violating externment as he was externed from the limits of state capital two months ago.

Police team rushed to the spot after receiving information about miscreant roaming in the area, the accused was later identified as Salman alias Billi. The accused has been booked for burglaries, possession of weapons illegally and have served jail term in the past.

The accused has been booked for over two dozen crimes by Eithkhedi and Sukhisewania.

Salman has been externed and was found violating the ordered issued by district collector. He is habitual offender and has been booked for over two dozen.

Police said that the accused was on his way to commit crime but was nabbed before he could commit crime.

During the period, he violated the externment and committed crimes would be investigated as he was in the state capital his aides would be detained who have helped him in staying in the state capital and have helped in crimes during the same period.

Police have registered case of violating the externment by the accused which he was scheduled to serve but failed.

Talaiya police books unidentified miscreant

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Talaiya police have booked unidentified miscreant who stole a gold chain worth Rs 70,000 from victim at Kali Mata Mandir premises in the ongoing Durga festival; police have started investigation.

According to the police, Anil Yadav had gone to temple for offering Puja and during the visit miscreant escaped with the gold chain from the spot.

The victim lodged a complaint with the Talaiya police and claimed that he had gone to temple on Wednesday and while he was busy at the temple to offer Puja and enter temple he was targeted by unidentified miscreant who stole the gold chain he was wearing and escaped.

Initially victim failed to find that the gold chain was

stolen and later when he checked it was missing and checked the premises and asked management regarding any kind of deposit of gold chain by any devotee but failed to find his gold chain and lodged complaint with the Talaiya police.

The victim in his complaint claimed that the gold chain was worth Rs 70,000. Police claimed that the incident took place when the premises remained heavily crowded due to ongoing Durga festival and victim visited the temple at the time of heavy rush.

The victim claimed that he failed to spot the miscreant when the gold chain was stolen. The police have registered a case under section 379 of the IPC and have started further investigation.



Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Prahlad Patel flags off Bhopal to Damoh Rajyarani Express special train at railway station in Bhopal on Saturday

Pioneer Photo

Manmohan diagnosed with dengue, gradually improving: AIIMS

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manamohan Singh has been diagnosed with dengue, but his health condition is gradually improving and is out of danger, an AIIMS official said on Saturday.

The official said that the former Prime Minister's "platelets are increasing and is out of danger now".

The veteran Congress leader was admitted to the AIIMS on Wednesday evening after he complained of fever and weakness.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also visited him and enquired about his health.

A team of doctors, under the guidance of Nitish Nayak, a well-known cardiologist, are attending on the former Prime Minister.

He had developed fever three days ago and was feeling weak after which he was rushed to AIIMS.

Singh had tested positive for Covid-19 in April this year during the second wave of the pandemic and had been admitted to the AIIMS.

IAN S

Devotees immerse Durga idols in Yamuna despite ban

New Delhi: Despite ban on idol immersion in Yamuna river and other natural water bodies in the national Capital, several people flouted the rules issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), a day before the 'visarjan' (immersion) ritual.

Yamuna Ghat at the ITO was found littered with idols and other religious materials on Saturday morning.

DPCC in its October 13 order had ruled that idol immersion during Durga Puja and other forthcoming festivals in any public place, including river Yamuna or any other water body, ponds and ghats, should not be allowed.

"Consequent pollution of such water bodies has been a matter of concern. In addition

to silting, toxic chemicals used in making idols tend to leach out and pose serious problems of water pollution. Studies carried out to assess deterioration in water quality due to idol immersion reveal the deterioration of water quality in respect to conductivity, biochemical oxygen demand and heavy metal concentration," the order read.

The DPCC had ruled that idol immersion rituals may be performed in a bucket and container within the home premises. Convener of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan, Manoj Mishra, told IANS, "The prohibition of idol immersion in any public place including Yamuna imposed by DPCC is a welcome step especially in view of idols made of Plaster of Paris (PoP) or paint-

ed with lead-based paints. But it is hardly a measure to rejuvenate the river which is already overloaded with sewage and toxic pollutants from industries."

The DPCC had directed the District Magistrates to enforce guidelines related to idol immersion, adding that each violator will be liable to pay Rs 50,000 to the DPCC body.

River Yamuna whose catchment covers parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in addition to that of Delhi, is most polluted in and around the national capital. Its top pollution sources are the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), untreated water from unauthorised colonies as well as sewer from authorised colonies.

However, a clean and pollution-free Yamuna has been the poll promise of Delhi government for more than 25 years now.

The first Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for which a loan agreement was signed in 1992, aimed at improved water quality conservation and hygienic environment in the river basin.

IAN S



CM: Haryana will come up with new policy to issue electricity connections in private developer colonies

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The State Government is soon going to formulate a policy for such colonies developed by private developers in Gurugram, where permanent and temporary electricity connections are not being provided due to a lack of infrastructure. This policy will give relief to the people living in private developer colonies.

This announcement was made by Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar while presiding over the monthly meeting of District Public Relations and Grievance Redressal Committee in Gurugram on Saturday.

A total of 17 problems or complaints were placed in the meeting, out of which the CM resolved most of them on the spot. Apart from these, during the meeting, the District Sports Officer was called after a problem related to sports in village Khandevala, but he was found absent in the meeting without any information, taking it seriously, the Chief Minister immediately ordered his suspension.

16 private developer colonies in Gurugram including Sushant Lok-1, 2 & 3, Palam



Vihar, South City-1 & 2, Malibu Town, Aardee City, Mayfield Garden, Uppal Southend, Suncity, Vipul World, Saraswati Kunj due to the lack of infrastructure, the matter of stopping the provision of permanent and temporary electricity connections to the consumers was taken up with the Chief Minister.

On this, the CM said that a new policy is being made for such consumers by grouping three types so that relief can be provided to the people living in those colonies. He told that the consumers who have deposited all the EDC money with the developer, that money will be removed from the developer to

the lack of infrastructure and connections will be issued to the consumers.

Similarly, the consumers whose EDC money is pending will be given the connections after completing the infrastructure by filling that amount.

While disposing of the complaint regarding the lack of infrastructure like electricity, water, roads etc. in DLF Phase-3, Khattar asked the representative of DLF to hand over the colony to the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) on December 31 by removing the lack of infrastructure.

After that, the MCG will survey the deficit infrastructure

in the next 15 days and if any deficiency is found, then it will be given to DLF by making an estimate.

According to the estimate, DLF will have to deposit the amount so that the corporation will remove that shortfall. On the same lines, action will be taken in 14 other colonies of Gurugram. The Chief Minister said that in the case of those colonies, the tripartite agreement should be made in which the MCG, the concerned developer and the District Town Planner (DTP) would be involved and the responsibility of getting the infrastructure completed as per the rules would rest with the DTP.

Navy to review its readiness on Mon



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Navy top echelon will next week review the readiness of its fleet in the backdrop of China flexing its maritime muscle in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific. The five-day Commanders' conference will commence here from Monday. Giving details here on Saturday, Navy officials said the conference, held twice a year, serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important maritime matters at the military-strategic level as well as interact with senior Government officials through an institutionalised forum. Due to the rapidly changing geostrategic situation of the region, the significance and importance of the Conference is manifold. It is an institutionalised platform to deliberate, direct, devise and decide issues of utmost importance, which will shape future course of the Indian Navy.

During the Conference, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address and interact with the Naval Commanders on matters pertaining to national security. Among many issues being discussed, the Chief of the Naval Staff, along with other Naval Commanders, will review major operational, materiel, logistics, human resource development, training and administrative activities undertaken by the Indian Navy in the last few months and deliberate upon future plans for important activities and initiatives. The Navy has focused on being Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive force and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, continues to assiduously execute its mandate. The Indian Navy has witnessed a significant growth in its operational tasking over the years in consonance with India's rising maritime interests. Indian Naval ships on

Mission Based Deployments across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) have remained poised for quick response to any developing situation. Indian warships deployed in the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf continue to provide security for trade flowing through these areas. In 2020-21, warships have undertaken multiple Covid related outreach missions to provide food and medical aid to IOR littoral nations and beyond as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). The Chief of Defence Staff, and the Chiefs of Indian Army and Indian Air Force will also interact with the Naval Commanders to address convergence of the three Services vis-à-vis the operational environment, and on avenues for augmenting Tri-Service synergy.

Air chief to visit forward areas along LoC to assess operational preparedness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Air Force (IAF) chief VR Chaudhari is visiting forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LoC) in Ladakh to review operational readiness of the armed forces. This is his first visit after assuming the top job earlier this month. The visit comes at a time when India and China are in a stand-off situation at some locations in Eastern Ladakh since May last year. The Air Force has also deployed the Rafale fighter aircraft along with the MiG-29 fighters to guard the LoC. In fact, the IAF has deployed all its front line fighter jets including the SU-30s and Jaguars at the airbases near the 4,000 KM LoC stretching from Ladakh in the north to Arunachal Pradesh in the east since June last year. At present, more than 50,000 troops each from India and China are deployed along the LoC in Eastern Ladakh since May last year. The two sides did not retreat in the winter months and are likely to stay put at all the flash points during the coming winter months. Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited the LoC for two days on October one to take stock of the operational preparedness of his troops. He reportedly also reviewed the preparations for deploying troops in the winter months.



The IAF has also upgraded its facilities in the northern sector where troops have been stationed with the surface-to-air missiles to counter even slow moving helicopters. The Air Force has also deployed the Rafale fighter aircraft along with the MiG-29 fighters to guard the LoC. In fact, the IAF has deployed all its front line fighter jets including the SU-30s and Jaguars at the airbases near the 4,000 KM LoC stretching from Ladakh in the north to Arunachal Pradesh in the east since June last year. At present, more than 50,000 troops each from India and China are deployed along the LoC in Eastern Ladakh since May last year. The two sides did not retreat in the winter months and are likely to stay put at all the flash points during the coming winter months. Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited the LoC for two days on October one to take stock of the operational preparedness of his troops. He reportedly also reviewed the preparations for deploying troops in the winter months.

Jaishankar to visit Israel to strengthen bilateral ties



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to further strengthen ties between the two countries, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit Israel and hold talks with his counterpart there on the entire gamut of relationship. The three-day visit begins on October 19. The two countries have robust strategic and defence ties and Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid will focus to strengthen the strategic partnership. This will be Jaishankar's first visit to the country as External Affairs Minister. The Ministry of External Affairs said here in a statement on Saturday Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Israel at the invitation of Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Lapid. He will hold a bilateral meeting with Lapid and will also call on President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, and Knesset Speaker Mickey Levy during his visit. India and Israel elevated bilateral relations to a strategic partnership during the historic visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel in July 2017. Since then, the relationship between the two countries has focused on expanding knowl-



Israel has emerged as a major defence partner of India since diplomatic ties were established in the early 1990s

edge-based partnership, which includes collaboration in innovation and research, including boosting the 'Make in India' initiative, the ministry said. During his visit, Jaishankar will interact with the Indian-origin Jewish community in Israel, Indologists, Indian students who are currently pursuing their education in Israeli universities, and business people, including from the hi-tech industries, the statement said. The visit will also be an occasion to pay tribute to the valiant Indian soldiers who laid their lives in the region, especially during the First World

War, it said. The visit is seen towards cementing diplomatic and political ties between the two countries in the post-Benjamin Netanyahu era. Israel has emerged as a major defence partner of India since diplomatic ties were established in the early 1990s. Over the years, Israel has supplied technology for the Indian missile programme, sophisticated rifles, Phalcon airborne early warning radar system (AWACS), drones, sensors and other related equipment. The two countries also share close relationship in fighting terrorism through intelligence sharing and counter-terrorism operations. Jaishankar will first visit Dubai on Sunday and will then leave for Israel. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the external affairs minister is likely to hold talks with the leadership there on issues like the situation in Afghanistan. Incidentally, the UAE established diplomatic relations with Israel under the Abraham Accord signed on August 13, 2020.

NSG commandos deployed at Srinagar, Jammu airbases for anti-drone cover

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Units of the National Security Guard (NSG) have been deployed at the Srinagar and Jammu airbases to provide anti-drone cover, paramilitary chief MA Ganapathy said on Saturday. The move comes after Jammu air station was hit by drone attacks earlier this year. The NSG on Saturday celebrated its 37th raising at its campus in Manesar. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) conspired to execute the first-ever drone attack on June 27 at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jammu where two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which came from across the border, dropped bombs, injuring two airmen and damaging a portion of a building. The two IAF facilities in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir are located close to the Pakistan border/Line of Control (LoC) respectively and are cat-



egorised as 'sensitive' locations. On the NSG Raising Day on Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeted the elite counter-terrorism force, terming it is a "world-class trained force to tackle all facets of terrorism" and the country is proud of its troops. The elite striking force, the NSG was established in 1984 after the Union Cabinet decided to create a 'Federal Contingency Force' that was 'well trained to tackle various manifestations of terrorism.

Every year, the Raising Day of the NSG is celebrated on October 16. This year marks the 37th anniversary of the establishment of the NSG, popularly known as Black Cats. "Greetings to our brave NSG personnel on their 37th Raising Day. NSG is a world-class trained force to tackle all facets of terrorism. This formidable force has left no stone unturned to live up to its motto 'Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha'. India is proud of NSG black cats," the Home Minister tweet-

On the NSG Raising Day on Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeted the elite counter-terrorism force

ed. NSG is mandated to be deployed in exceptional circumstances only. The task-oriented force comprises two complementary elements in the form of the Special Action Group (SAG). The 37th Raising Day was addressed by junior Home Minister Nityanand Rai who presented medals to the NSG personnel who were awarded the President's Medal for Meritorious Service. NSG DG Ganapathy also addressed the event and dwelt on the evolution of the force and continuous modernisation of the force to deal with the dynamic nature of threats.

Four CRPF jawans injured in accidental fuse box explosion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four CRPF jawans were injured when an ammunition fuse box exploded when it was being loaded on a train at the Raipur station on Saturday. The 211 Company of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was in the train when ammunition was being loaded on Saturday morning, the paramilitary said in a statement. "Boxes of arms and ammunition were being loaded on the train by Head Constable Vikas Lakshman and other jawans. The ammunition fuse box exploded in Lakshman's hand near the toilet of the train's compartment," it said. Due to the fuse box explosion, Lakshman got injured and he was immediately admitted to the Sreenarayana hospital in Raipur. Three other jawans also suffered some injuries and they were given first aid treatment at the station, the statement said. The CRPF said that "a



case has been filed with the GRP railway station and it has directed to investigate the matter". The special train was scheduled to carry the CRPF personnel to Jammu from Raipur, Raipur police said in Chattisgarh capital. "A minor explosion was recorded in a special train of the CRPF at the Raipur railway station around 6.30 am today. The train was heading to Jammu from Jharsuguda (Odisha)," Raipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Prashant Agrawal said.

The spl train was scheduled to carry the CRPF personnel to Jammu from Raipur, Raipur police said in Chattisgarh capital. "The explosion occurred during the shifting of a container carrying detonators and HD cartridges. While shifting the container in train, it accidentally slipped in coach number-9, which led to the blast," the SP added.

Left parties urge Centre to withdraw extended jurisdiction of BSF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Left parties CPI(M) and CPI on Saturday urged the Central Government to withdraw the extended jurisdiction to Border Security Force (BSF) in States having international borders of Punjab, West Bengal and Assam. CPI general Secretary D Raja said the Central Government must reconsider this decision and it is an encroachment on State's powers on policing. "The decision of the Central government to extend the jurisdiction of the Border Security force (BSF) upto 50 kilometers inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam from the earlier 15 kilometers jurisdiction is an encroachment on the rights of the states and the federal principle. The Central government has taken this decision to extend the jurisdiction of the Central police force without consulting the states. Policing and law and order is a state subject and this decision violates federalism, a basic feature of our Constitution," said CPI(M) polit bureau in a statement. "The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India condemns the decision of the central government to extend the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) up to 50 kilometres from the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam from the existing 15 kilometres. The unilateral decision of the central government is a blatant violation of the federal principle of governance. The Party wants the government to reconsider the decision and consult the concerned state governments before taking such a decision," said CPI in a statement.

BJP slams Congress for 'not offering any comment' on Singhu border killing of dalit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lashing out at the Congress for "not offering any comment" on the ghastly killing of a dalit at the Singhu-border, the BJP on Saturday asked the opposition whether it was supporting the "Talibani thinking" and the anti-social elements which are "misusing" farmers protests to further their own vested interests.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP's National Spokesman Gaurav Bhatia also took to task Bhartiya Kisan Union president Rakesh Tikait who is leading the farm stir, for saying that "organisers have no accountability towards the incident". "Have professional protesters no responsibility towards their own citizens?", he asked. Bhatia accused the oppo-

sition, particularly the Congress, of keeping a silence for their "petty and cheap vote-bank politics". "For petty and cheap vote-bank politics, the opposition, particularly the Congress, is maintaining a deafening silence...no courage to call a spade a spade as it does not suit their policies of convenience", he said. On the killing of a dalit on



the Singhu-border, Bhatia wondered whether the Congress is subscribing to the Talibani traditions. BJP leader said the anti-social elements have joined the protest and are firing guns from the shoulders of the agi-

tating farmers. The BJP spokesperson referred to the statement from the Congress Working Committee and said Congress President' Sonia's "silence is dangerous" as the opposition party, he said is otherwise very

quick and regular on raising convenient issues on the farmers. BJP said that "anarchists behind these protests need to be exposed as they are doing a great disservice to the nation". "The professional protesters who are masking themselves as farmers are doing great disservice to the nation. Those who take the life of an innocent man, rape women and insult the tricolour and justify the killings of citizens as reaction to the action cannot be termed as farmers," Bhatia said. The BJP leader also took pot-shots at Sonia's announce-

ment that she is a full-time and hands-on President, saying the Congress has once again moved on with its "all lies and create confusion politics" by brushing aside party's long internal strife and the subsequent issues raised by G-23 group within it. "It is not CWC but PBWC-Parivar Bachao working committee", he quipped. BJP's IT Cell in-charge Amit Malviya also blamed Tikait for the Singhu-border incident. He took to Twitter to say that the gory murder would not have occurred if Rakesh Tikait had "not justified the mob lynching in Lakhimpur".

Covid anthem released to mark 100-cr vax doses milestone

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday released a Covid anthem, penned by singer Kailash Kher, in the run up to India crossing the landmark of 100-crore Covid-19 vaccine doses next week. While the anthem is aimed at dispelling the myths and shedding vaccine hesitancy, the Centre cautioned that it was too early to declare victory over the virus that has swept the world as well as India. Till Saturday evening, as many as "97.23 crore have been administered the first dose of Covid vaccine in the country",

said Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at an event here held to release the anthem. So far, more than 101 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses have been provided to states and union territories so far while over 11.12 crore balance and unutilised vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs. The vaccines administered suggest about 70 per cent of the population getting at least one dose and about 30 per cent of the population has got two doses, said the Minister. "We administered 2.5 crore doses one single day on September 17 and next week we



will reach the 100 crore mark," he said. "This has happened because of the effort put in by all". The minister said while it takes 5-10 years to test and develop vaccines, India has researched and developed an in-house vaccine, and to add to the complex manufacturing, the humongous logistics involving setting up cold chains, airport transfers, delivery to states, local storage and last-mile connectivity were set up in no time. Kher, who has composed and sung the anthem, said it is essential to dispel myths and rumours surrounding vaccines and promote its usage so as to

ensure all get the vaccine. "We will be better equipped to deal with (a new challenge) both in terms of infrastructure and medical science" but "we should not declare victory yet," Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said adding that vaccination has now become a people's movement despite the negative narrative and falsehood spread by some in the country. India has recorded 15,981 Covid-19 cases in a day, taking the infection tally to 3,40,53,573 while 166 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 4,51,980, according to the Union Health Ministry's data on Saturday. The number of active Covid

cases has declined to 2,01,632, the lowest in 218 days. The national recovery rate was at 98.07 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

ISIS claims Shia mosque bombing in Afghanistan

AP ■ KABUL

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shia mosque in southern Afghanistan that killed 47 people and wounded scores more. Relatives laid the bodies of the victims to rest on Saturday and called on the Taliban to protect them.

ISIS said in a statement posted late on Friday on social media that two of the group's members shot and killed security guards manning the entrance of the Fatimiya mosque in Kandahar province.

One detonated his explosives at the entrance of the mosque and the other inside.

ISIS's news agency *Amaq* in a statement gave the names of the attackers as Anas al-Khurasani and Abu Ali al-Baluchi, both Afghan nationals.

The families of the victims Saturday dug their graves and carried the bodies to their final resting place. In total, 63 graves were dug, but the Taliban's chief for the provincial department of culture and information maintained the official death toll was 47.

"There are so many who have lost body parts, and among those in hospital in serious condition, I don't know how many more numbers will



Relatives carry the body of a victim of Friday's suicide attack during a mass funeral in Kandahar on Saturday

be added to the death toll," said community elder Hajji Farhad.

Shiite leader Sayed Mohammed Agha called on the Taliban Government to take serious measures to protect the Shia minority, "because our enemies will harm our society by any means they can."

The attack came a week after a bombing claimed by the local Islamic State affiliate killed 46 people at a Shia mosque in northern Afghanistan, raising fears that ISIS — an enemy of both the Taliban and the West — is expanding its foothold in Afghanistan.

Friday's attack was the deadliest to strike Afghanistan since the dramatic US exit

from the country, which allowed the Taliban to seize control of the Afghan capital. It was also the first major attack by the group in the country's south.

ISIS carries out frequent attacks in its eastern stronghold, but recently has shown signs of expansion, with attacks in the north and Kabul.

The attacks have brought into question the Taliban's ability to counter the growing ISIS threat. The Taliban have pledged to restore peace and security after decades of war and have also given the US assurances that they will not allow the country to be used as a base for launching extremist attacks on other countries.

America vows to pay relatives of Afghans killed in drone strike

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Defense Department said on Friday that it is committed to offering condolence payments to relatives of the 10 people who were killed in an errant US drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement that the Defense Department was also working with the State Department to help surviving family members relocate to the United States.

Kirby said the matter arose in a meeting Thursday between Dr. Colin Kahl, under secretary of defense for policy, and Dr. Steven Kwon, founder and president of the nonprofit group Nutrition & Education International.

"Dr. Kahl reiterated Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's commitment to the families, including offering ex gratia condolence payments," Kirby said. He did not say how much money would be offered.

On August 29, a US Hellfire missile struck a car driven by Zemerai Ahmadi, who had just pulled into the driveway of the Ahmadi family compound. In all, 10 members of the family, including seven children, were killed in the strike.

Weeks later, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S.

Central Command, called the strike a "tragic mistake" and said innocent civilians were indeed killed in the attack.

During the meeting Thursday, Kwon told Kahl that Ahmadi had worked with NEI for many years, "providing care and lifesaving assistance for people facing high mortality rates in Afghanistan," according to Kirby.

The U.S. military initially defended the strike, saying it had targeted an Islamic State group's "facilitator" and disrupted the militants' ability to carry out attacks during the chaotic final stage of the withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan.

Discrepancies between the military's portrayal of the strike and findings on the ground quickly emerged. *The Associated Press* and other news organizations reported that the driver of the targeted vehicle was a longtime employee at a US humanitarian organisation. There were no signs of a large secondary blast, despite the Pentagon's assertion that the vehicle contained explosives.

The drone strike followed a devastating suicide bombing by an Islamic State offshoot that killed 169 Afghans and 13 US military personnel at one of the gates to the Kabul airport in late August.

UN official: Taliban to announce secondary school for girls

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

A senior UN official said on Friday the Taliban told him they will announce "very soon" that all Afghan girls will be allowed to attend secondary schools.

UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Omar Abdi, who visited Kabul last week, told reporters at UN headquarters that five of Afghanistan's 34 provinces — Balkh, Jawzjan and Samangan in the northwest, Kunduz in the northeast and Urozgan in the southwest — are already allowing girls to attend secondary school.

He said the Taliban's education minister told him they are working on "a framework" to allow all girls to continue their schooling beyond the sixth grade, which should be published "between a month and two."

"As I speak to you today, millions of girls of secondary school age are missing out on education for the 27th consecutive day," Abdi said. "We are urging them not to wait. Any day that we wait — it's a day lost for those girls that are out of school."

During the Taliban's previous rule of Afghanistan from

1996-2001, they denied girls and women the right to education and barred them from working and public life. Since their August 15 takeover of Afghanistan as US and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal from the country after 20 years, the Taliban have come under increasing international pressure to ensure women's rights to education and work.

Abdi said that in every meeting he pressed the Taliban "to let girls resume their learning," calling it "critical for the girls themselves and for the country as a whole."

When the Taliban were ousted from power in 2001 by a US-led coalition for harboring Osama bin Laden who masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the United States, only one million Afghan children were in school at all levels, he said.

Over the past 20 years, that figure rose to almost 10 million children at all levels, including 4 million girls, Abdi said, and in the last decade the number of schools tripled from 6,000 to 18,000.

"Education gains of the past two decades must be strengthened and not rolled back," he said.

GLOBE TROTTING

NEPAL RECORDS MASSIVE DIP IN NEW COVID CASES
Kathmandu: Nepal reported 136 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, a record low in comparison to the last few months, taking the national tally to 804,652 cases, the health ministry said on Wednesday. There are 12,598 active Covid cases across the country. During the last 24 hours, 845 people recovered from the disease.

MoU WITH BHUTAN TO SPEED UP TALKS: CHINA
Beijing: China has said that its MoU with Bhutan firming up a three-step roadmap for expediting the boundary negotiations will make a "meaningful contribution" to speed up the border talks and establishment of diplomatic ties with Thimphu. The two countries on October 14 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Expediting the China-Bhutan Boundary Negotiation in Beijing and Thimphu via video link.

ERDOGAN BIDS FAREWELL TO MERKEL AFTER 16 YRS



Istanbul: Angela Merkel's final visit to Turkey as German chancellor on Saturday saw two of Europe's longest serving leaders pay tribute to one another as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosted her for farewell talks overlooking the Bosphorus. Erdogan had been in office for more than two years when Merkel came to power in 2005. Since then, they have built a relationship based on pragmatism that has weathered several crises.

OVER 90 SNAKES FOUND UNDER CALIFORNIA HOME
San Francisco (US): Al Wolf is used to clearing one or two snakes from under houses but recently was called by a woman who said she had seen rattlesnakes scurry under her Northern California house and was surprised to find more than 90 rattlesnakes getting ready to hibernate.

4 TOURISTS FOUND DEAD AT ALBANIA BEACH RESORT
Tirana (Albania): Police say four Russian tourists were found dead at a beach resort in western Albania. Albanian police issued a statement Saturday saying the four were found asphyxiated in a hotel sauna in the village of Qerret.

11 KIDS DROWNED IN INDONESIAN RIVER
Jakarta: Eleven students drowned and 10 others were rescued during a school outing for a river cleanup in Indonesia's West Java Province.

Scotland Yard probes Islamist terror link to British MP's fatal stabbing

PTI ■ LONDON

Scotland Yard on Saturday said the killing of Conservative MP David Amess is being treated as a terrorist attack and it was probing a potential Islamist terrorism link to the fatal stabbing, an incident that has shocked the country and prompted calls for a review of security measures for lawmakers engaged in constituency work.

Amess, 69 and a member of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ruling Conservative Party, died after being stabbed several times on Friday as he was meeting his constituents in at Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

A 25-year-old British man, believed to be of Somali heritage, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder and remains in custody at a police station in Essex, south-east England. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Opposition Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer laid flowers at the scene of the stabbing, together on Saturday morning.



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer, second from left, carry flowers as they arrive at the scene where a member of Parliament was stabbed Friday, in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, England on Saturday

"Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon formally declared the incident as terrorism. The early investigation has revealed a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism," the

Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

"A 25-year-old British man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder. He is currently in custody at a police station in Essex. As part of the investigation, officers are currently carrying out searches at

two addresses in the London area and these are ongoing," it said.

"It is believed that he acted alone, and we are not seeking anyone else in connection with the incident at this time. However, enquiries into the circumstances continue," it added.

ASEAN downgrades Myanmar presence at summit

Myanmar junta chief excluded

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Southeast Asian Foreign Ministers have agreed to downgrade Myanmar's participation in an upcoming summit in their sharpest rebuke yet of its leaders following a February 1 military takeover.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations will invite a non-political representative instead of Myanmar's military leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the grouping's chair Brunei said on Saturday.

The decision was made at an emergency meeting late Friday after Myanmar refused to cooperate with the bloc's crisis envoy, Erywan Yusof, who is Brunei's Second Foreign Minister.

In a swift response, Myanmar's foreign ministry said it was "extremely disappointed and strongly objected" to the group's decision, which was made without a consensus.

"Linking the matter of Myanmar's representation at

well as halt the violence that has left more than 1,100 civilians dead. ASEAN's envoy abruptly canceled a trip to Myanmar this week after he was told he would not be able to meet with Suu Kyi, and others as he wanted. Myanmar contended Erywan could not meet with people facing legal proceedings such as Suu Kyi and deposed President Win Myint, Brunei said in a statement.



the ASEAN summit with the visit of the special envoy would be counterproductive as it is merely putting pressure on Myanmar," the statement said.

It also claimed that the military junta's current government was in line with Myanmar's constitution.

The 10-member bloc has been under intense international pressure to do more to force member state Myanmar to free scores of political figures, including ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, as

'God have mercy': Tigray residents describe life under siege

AP ■ NAIROBI

As food and the means to a city dwindle in a city under siege, the young mother felt she could do no more. She killed herself, unable to feed her children.

In a Catholic church across town, flour and oil to make communion wafers will soon run out. And the flagship hospital in Mekele, the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region, wrestles with whether to give patients the expired medications that remain. Its soap and bleach are gone.

A year of war and months of government-enforced deprivation have left the city of a half-million people with rapidly shrinking stocks of food, fuel, medicine and cash. In rural areas, life is even grimmer as thousands of people survive on wild cactus fruit or sell the meager aid they receive. Man-made famine, the world's worst hunger crisis in a decade, has begun.

Despite the severing of almost all communication with the outside world, *The Associated Press* drew on a dozen interviews with people inside Mekele, along with internal aid documents, for the most detailed picture yet of life under the Ethiopian government's blockade of the Tigray region's 6 million people.

Russia's daily virus deaths top 1,000 for first time

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's daily death toll from Covid-19 has exceeded 1,000 for the first time as the country faces a sustained wave of rising infections.

The national coronavirus task force on Saturday reported 1,002 deaths in the previous day, up from 999 on Friday, along with 33,208 new confirmed Covid-19 cases, more than 1,000 higher than the day before.

Russian authorities have tried to speed up the pace of

vaccinations with lotteries, bonuses and other incentives, but widespread vaccine skepticism and conflicting signals from officials stymied the efforts. The Government said this week that about 43 million Russians, or about 29% of the country's nearly 146 million people, are fully vaccinated.

Despite the mounting toll, the Kremlin has ruled out a new nationwide lockdown like the one early on in the pandemic that badly hurt the economy, eroding President Vladimir Putin's popularity.



An Indonesian soldier walks past houses damaged by an earthquake-triggered landslide in Bangli, on the island of Bali, Indonesia on Saturday. A few people were killed and another several were injured when a moderately strong earthquake and an aftershock hit the island early on Saturday

NASA's asteroid hunter Lucy soars into sky with diamonds

AP ■ CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA.

NASA spacecraft named Lucy rocketed into the sky with diamonds Saturday morning on a 12-year quest to explore eight asteroids.

Seven of the mysterious space rocks are among swarms of asteroids sharing Jupiter's orbit, thought to be the pristine leftovers of planetary formation.

An Atlas V rocket blasted off before dawn, sending Lucy on a roundabout journey spanning nearly 4 billion miles (6.3 billion kilometers). Researchers grew emotional describing the successful launch — lead sci-



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying the LUCY spacecraft lifts off from Launch Complex 41 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station on Saturday

entist Hal Levison said it was like witnessing the birth of a child. "Go Lucy!" he urged.

Lucy is named after the 3.2

million-year-old skeletal remains of a human ancestor found in Ethiopia nearly a half-century ago.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Manjeet Kaur W/o Late S. Surjeet Singh R/o G-18A, Backside, Vijay Nagar, Delhi and her family has severed their relations from her Son S. Kulwant Singh and his wife Smt. Manpreet Kaur, from today and disowned / disinherited them from her all movable and immovable properties, as relations, attitude and behavior of Smt. Manpreet Kaur with my client is not good and torturous and if any person deals with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible for the same.

Sarika Jain (Advocate)
Ch. No. 307, Lawyers Chamber,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Busara Parveen W/o Umarshad Khan R/o Flat No 78B Block U-3, Dhawalgiri Apartment, Sec-11, Noida, Distt G.B. Nagar, (U.P). In Future I will be Known as Busara Parveen. For all purpose. -Busara Parveen

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manorama Devi/ Rakesh Kumar/ (27300000358 & QZDWA00005021560)	Dda Janta Flat No- 198, 3rd Floor Pocket- 7, Phase-1 Nasir Pur, Dwarka Delhi/ October 12, 2021	June 03, 2021 Rs. 12,65,589/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : October 16, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Cars with lower running costs likely to gain higher traction among buyers: Report

New Delhi: With fuel prices going up by 35 per cent over the past 15 months thereby impacting overall vehicle running costs, cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs are expected to gain higher traction among buyers in India, specially in the sub-Rs 10 lakh category, according to a report.

Considering the fact that 70 per cent of the passenger vehicles market in India is still accounted for by vehicles costing less than Rs 10 lakh, the development augurs well for market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL), said the report by HSBC Global Research.



"Over the past 15 months, fuel prices have gone up 35 per cent, impacting overall vehicle running costs...Our channel interactions suggest that customers are increasingly becoming

ing considerate of the recent rise in fuel prices," it said.

Citing the example of Maruti Suzuki's Swift petrol, the report said for a compact passenger vehicle fuel now accounts for around 40 per cent of the vehicle's life-time cost compared with 30 per cent in mid-2020.

"In the current environment, we believe cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs should gain relatively higher traction among buyers, especially in the less than Rs 10 lakh category, which is still 70 per cent of the market in India," it said.

Stating that MSIL continues to score well in that regard,

HSBC Global Research said, "In our analysis, both in absolute terms and relative to competition, MSIL remains the market leader in fuel efficiency and total cost of ownership (COO)."

MSIL's competitive positioning should remain compelling given the fact that it has around 65 per cent market share in the less-than-Rs 10 lakh price category, it added.

The report also pointed out that MSIL's fuel efficiency has improved by 15-30 per cent in the past 10 years, citing the examples of fuel efficiency of Swift/Swift Dzire, which was 18 km per litre (kmpl) nearly 10 years back to 23.3 kmpl. **PTI**

Tatas plan to pilot synergy between airlines, post SPA

New Delhi: Conglomerate Tata Group plans to pilot synergy between all its airlines to compete in various market segments.

Post the SPA transaction, Tatas will have two full-service carriers — Vistara and Air India — along with two low-cost airlines — Air India Express and AirAsia India -- and a ground and cargo handling company, AISATS.

Accordingly, plans are afoot to run all these brands as independent entities under one vertical for sometime after the SPA. Nonetheless, the group intends to drive in major synergies between the airlines in terms of fleet management, route deployment, flight timings and airport slot planning.

In terms of USPs, Vistara is expected to retain the premium services tag, while Air India will predominantly focus on key international and metro routes. The domestic feeder traffic is expected to be driven by AirAsia India which may get few aircraft from Air India's fleet. Furthermore, mergers will depend on profitability, performance and market situation apart from each airline's unique culture and suitability of brand. **IANS**

UP's Purvanchal emerging as hub of vegetable export

Lucknow: The Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh is emerging as the export hub for vegetables.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, huge consignments of fresh green vegetables were flown from Purvanchal to the Gulf countries, for the second time in less than two years, benefitting farmers substantially in terms of income.

According to a state government spokesperson, an Air India Express' aircraft carrying two metric tonnes of vegetables from Prayagraj, Bhadohi and Varanasi took off from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport to reach Dubai and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Regional in-charge of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), C.B. Singh, said: "The vegetables being exported include okra, sweet gourd, pointed gourd, ivy gourd and elephant foot yam (jimikand)."

"Last year, three metric tonnes of langda mangoes were flown to London from Varanasi in April and over one metric

tonnes in June. We also exported nearly three metric tonnes of green chili to Dubai in May and black salt rice to the UK, Qatar and the UAE."

Furthermore, exporters also purchased 80 metric tonnes of black salt rice from farmers of Chandauli district, popularly known as the 'rice bowl' of Uttar Pradesh, with the help of APEDA in June 2020.

Around Rs 68 lakhs raised from the export of the rice was directly transferred to the bank accounts of 152 farmers.

Besides, 532 metric tonnes of regional rice, including 12 metric tonnes of the famous black salt rice of Chandauli was exported to Qatar in December 2020.

Oman's Global Logistics Group also visited Varanasi in order to boost exports.

Farmers are now exporting food items directly without the involvement of middlemen which is bringing them more financial benefits while ensuring transparency in the system. They are exporting their farm produce through the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO). **IANS**

HDFC Bank's Q2FY22 YoY net profit up 17.6%

Mumbai: Lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a year-on-year rise of 17.6 per cent in its net profit for Q2FY22.

The bank's net profit increased to Rs 8,834.3 crore during the period under review over the quarter ended September 30, 2020.

Besides, the bank's net interest income (income earned less interest expended) rose 12.1 per cent from Rs 15,776.4 crore to Rs 17,684.4 crore for the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The lender's net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 14.7 per cent, from Rs 21,868.8 crore to Rs 25,085.2 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2020.

"Advances grew at 15.5 per cent reaching new heights driven through relationship management, digital offering and breadth of products. Core net interest margin was at 4.1 per cent. New liability relationships added during the quarter were at an all time high," HDFC Bank said in a statement. **IANS**

India's forex reserves rise by over \$2 bn

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.039 billion during the week ended October 8.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forex reserves rose to \$639.516 billion from \$637.477 billion reported for the week ended October 1.

India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, SDRs, and the country's reserve position with the IMF.

On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by \$1.550 billion to \$577.001 billion. Similarly, the value of the country's gold reserves rose by \$464 million to \$38.022 billion.

However, SDR value fell by \$28 million to \$19.268 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also fell by \$3 million to \$5.225 billion. **IANS**

Keen to offer solutions to UAE: K'taka Minister

Bengaluru: Karnataka being a hub of startups in India is keen to offer ground-breaking solutions to private companies and Government organisations of UAE in various sectors ranging from logistics to

IMF hails India's 'swift and substantial' response to Covid crisis

Washington: Describing the Indian government's response to the Covid-19 situation as "swift and substantial", the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said the country continued with labour reforms and privatisation despite the pandemic.

The IMF in its report based on "consultations" among members, however, sounded a note of caution saying that the economic outlook remains "clouded" due to pandemic-related uncertainties, contributing to both downside and upside risks.

In its "Article IV" consultations report, it further said that a persistent negative impact of COVID-19 on investment and other growth drivers could prolong the economic recovery.

On the Indian government's handling of the pandemic, the multilateral agency

said it was "swift and substantial...Has included fiscal support, including scaled-up support to vulnerable groups, monetary policy easing, liquidity provision, and accommodative financial sector and regulatory policies".

"Despite the pandemic, the authorities have continued to introduce structural reforms, including labour reforms and a privatisation plan," the report said. The IMF has projected India's economic growth at 9.5 per cent in FY2021-22 and 8.5 per cent in 2022-23. Headline inflation is projected at 5.6 per cent in 2021-22, amid elevated price pressures.

"The economic outlook remains clouded due to pandemic-related uncertainties contributing to both downside and upside risks. A persistent negative impact of COVID-19 on investment, human capital, and other growth drivers could

prolong the recovery and impact medium-term growth," the IMF said.

It further said that while India benefits from favourable demographics, disruption to access to education and training due to the pandemic could weigh on improvements in human capital.

At the same time, the recovery could also be faster than expected, it said adding that faster vaccination and better therapeutics could help contain the spread and limit the impact of the pandemic.

In addition, successful implementation of the announced wide-ranging structural reforms could increase India's growth potential, the IMF noted.

Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. **PTI**

Cement demand recovery continues post second wave: Report

New Delhi: Cement prices are expected to rise during H2FY22, as cost inflation firms up unabatedly, said a report by HDFC Securities.

Cement demand has picked up from June 2021 onwards, as the Covid impact started to recede.

According to the report, cement demand is recovering well and has supported limited price correction during the monsoon period.

"We expect cement prices to rise during H2FY22, as cost inflation is firming up unabated and has impacted the whole industry. Good demand and increased consolidation should support the industry's cost pass through ability," the report said. **IANS**

As per the report, rising fuel and diesel prices will further inflate the operating costs of the producers.

"While pet coke prices have surged another 20 per cent QoQ (double YoY), imported thermal coal prices have also spiked up by 33 per cent QoQ. Rising crude prices have pushed up diesel prices by 7 per cent QoQ. Thus, we have built in Rs 80-100 per MT input cost inflation and RS 20-40 per MT freight cost increase QoQ for our coverage universe," it said.

The brokerage house expects aggregate revenue from its coverage universe to rise 14 per cent YoY on higher volumes in 2QFY22E. **IANS**

SCO meet: India calls for special working group on start-ups

New Delhi: India has proposed creation of a new Special Working Group on Start-ups and Innovation at the SCO.

The proposal was made by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel, in her intervention, at the 20th meeting of the SCO Ministers.

Stressing on the need for effective cooperation between the member states for a balanced and equitable growth in trade and commerce, Patel proposed the creation of a new Special Working Group on Start-ups and Innovation and for setting up a new Expert Working Group on Cooperation in Traditional Medicine.

"She also stated that cooperation in the field of start-ups and innovation can be a focal point in reviving our economies from the consequences of the pandemic," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement.

She highlighted that there is "a significant gap in digital technologies between developed and developing countries which needs to be narrowed down by building digital capacities".

On the environment issues, the minister welcomed the need for environment protection and mitigation of adverse effects of climate change.

She also stressed that the climate agenda should not introduce measures which becomes unnecessary barriers to trade.

In her concluding remarks, Patel emphasised that SCO members must prepare, act and stand in solidarity with each other and pursue an agenda that is equitable and inclusive and development oriented. **IANS**

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manjeet Singh Arora/ Kawaljeet Kaur Arora/ Simranjeet Singh/ LBDEL00004698911/ LBDEL00004715225	Plot No.- 2634, Entire Second Floor Portion Only Without Roof/ Terrace Rights, Hodson Lines, Kingway Camp, Delhi/ October 12, 2021	June 16, 2021 Rs. 79,72,567/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Shiv Narayan/ Raj Kumar/ Dona Doni Fashion Pvt Ltd/ LBDEL00002442625/ LBDEL00002442383	Plot No-211, 3rd Floor, With Roof Rights, Tagore Park, Delhi/ October 12, 2021	June 23, 2021 Rs. 3,04,08,337/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Mukesh Tiwari/ Punit Tiwari/ LBDEL00001900929	11C, 2nd Floor Block- WP, Category- LIG, Pitam Pura Delhi Delhi/ October 12, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 11,37,670/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Richa Jha/ Prabhu Chandra Mishra/ LBGUR000022928099	Flat No-69, Block No-B, Floor-2 Plot/ Apartment No-35, Kallol Apartment, IP Extn Patparganj, Delhi/ October 12, 2021	May 29, 2021 Rs. 75,83,211/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : October 16, 2021 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Delhi/ NCR **ICICI Bank Limited**

Office of the Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Sansadhan Vikas Evam Nirman Nigam, Haldwani
R.T.O. Road, Near Vasundhara Banquet Hall, Haldwani (Nainital) Uttarakhand Email: pmnwmrannagar@gmail.com

Letter No.: 1352 / आर-4 / 130 **Date : 16.10.2021**

Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice

		Work	Completion Period
1	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Devipura Ramnagar Nainital	61.52 Lakh	12 Month
2	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Karanpur Ramnagar Nainital	61.52 Lakh	12 Month
3	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Kotabagh Ramnagar Nainital	61.33 Lakh	12 Month
4	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Lamachaur Haldwani Nainital	60.93 Lakh	12 Month
5	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Patkot Ramnagar Nainital	61.53 Lakh	12 Month
6	Construction of Proposed Storage Hall for Rajkiya Ayurvedic Hospital at Halduchaur Haldwani Nainital	43.67 Lakh	12 Month
Key Dates :-			
1	Date of Online Publication on E- Portal		18.10.2021, 17:00 hrs
2	Document Download from E- Portal : Start Date		18.10.2021, 17:00 hrs
3	Pre Bid Meeting		23.10.2021, 11:00 hrs
4	Online Bid Submission : Start Date		28.10.2021, 10:00 hrs
5	Online Bid Submission : End Date		08.11.2021, 17:00 hrs
6	Offline submission of original copy of document : End Date		09.11.2021, 17:00 hrs
7	Date of Technical Bid Opening		11.11.2021, 12:00 hrs
8	Date of Financial Bid Opening		To be intimated later
Details of subsequent addendum/ corrigendum /cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website :- Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in			
Project Manager			

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mrs. Mithlesh Devi is owners of Property bearing No. C-5/4A One Shop on Ground Floor (without roof rights) area measuring 110 sq. yds. (on road side) and another one Shop on Ground Floor (without roof rights) area measuring 41.66 sq. yds. (separate entry from Gali No. 1) and First Floor (without roof rights) area measuring 200 sq. yds. out of Kharsa No. 39/11 situated at Village Ghonda, Gujran Khadar, Block-C, Bhajan Pura, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi vide Relinquishment Deed dated 20/2/2019 Document No. 471, executed by Mr. Karan Chaudhary and Mrs. Shalu Bansal and Now, Mrs. Mithlesh Devi is mortgaging the above said property/floor with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-TLL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mr. Naresh Kumar Gupta, Mr. Ashwini Arora, Mr. Naresh Sharma and Mr. Sandeep Mittal are owners of First Floor (Back side Portion) of Property bearing No. RZ-94 built on Plot No. 94 area measuring 100 sq. yds. out of Kharsa No. 333 situated at Village Nasrour, Delhi State Delhi, West Sagarpur, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 17.11.2020 Document no. 7651, executed by Mrs. Trishna Sharma through her GPA Mr. Naresh Kumar Gupta, Mr. Ashwini Arora, Mr. Naresh Sharma and Mr. Sandeep Mittal and Now, Mr. Naresh Kumar Gupta through GPA Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Mr. Anshwari Arora, Mr. Naresh Sharma and Mr. Sandeep Mittal are intending to sell the above said property/floor to Mr. Sanjeev Kumar and Mrs. Punam who are mortgaging the above said property/floor with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-TLL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** Approx 25-30 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Normal, was wearing Blue Shirt and Blue Pant, was found dead due to accident at Lahori Gate Chowk,

Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No. 572/21 U/s 279/304A IPC, dated 14.10.2021 has been registered at P.S. Lahori Gate, 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. Lahori Gate, Delhi

DP/1603/N/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 40 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White Linedard Shirt, and Grey Colour Lower, who was found at Nityanand Marg Bus stop near Metro Gate No.3, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case **FIR No/DD No. 24-A U/s 174 CrPC dated 08.10.2021 has been registered at P. S. Kashmeri Gate, Delhi.**



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

Sd/- SHO

P. S: Kashmere Gate, Delhi

DP/1600/N/2021

Turkish lira hits record low after central bank policymakers sacked

Ankara: The Turkish lira has hit a new record low against the US dollar after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dismissed three central bank members.

The lira dropped nearly 1.2 per cent to 9.18 against \$1 on Thursday after the currency had already weakened as much as 19 per cent this year, reports Xinhua news agency.

Erdogan removed two deputy governors, Semih Tumen and Ugur Namik Kucuk, along with the member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Abdullah Yavas, according to a decision published in the official gazette on early Thursday.

He appointed two new members, Taha Cakmak as a deputy governor, and Yusuf Tuna as an Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member.

Erdogan has fired three central bank governors in the last two and a half years over policy disagreements.

Last month, the central bank cut its policy rate to 18 per cent from 19 per cent.

Local media reported that deputy governor Kucuk had opposed the decision to cut the main interest rate. **IANS**

Court order to affect working capital of companies filing GST appeals

New Delhi: In what may affect the working capital of taxpayers looking at filing appeals against GST claims, it had now been held that anyone seeking remedy against indirect tax decision would have to make pre-deposit amount in cash and not by debiting electronic credit ledger.

Recently, the Division Bench of the Orissa High Court held that pre-deposit at the time of filing an appeal under section 107(6) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act) cannot be made by debiting the Electronic Credit Ledger (ECLR). The payment of pre-deposit should be made by debiting the Electronic Cash Ledger (ECL) in accordance with section 49(3) of the CGST Act read with Rule 85(4) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 (CGST Rules).

What this order in effect does is that it puts the burden on taxpayers to pay the pre-deposit (ie 10 per cent of disputed tax) amount in cash by transferring money from electronic cash ledger (ECL) for any tax dispute raised by them. This would mean more cash outflows leaving little for working capital needs.

In case that went to the Orissa High Court, the revenue raised demands of GST along with interest on the petitioners, who were engaged in execution of works contract. The petitioner filed an appeal and made payment towards pre-deposit (i.e. 10 per cent of disputed tax) for filing an appeal, by utilising the balance in the ECLR. The revenue dismissed the appeal and considered it to be defective, emphasising that the liability of pre-deposit can be discharged only by debiting ECL.

The petitioner's contention was that any payment towards output tax can be made through ECLR. Since pre-deposit can be construed as a percentage of output tax, it can be paid by debiting ECLR.

Revenue department contended that the CGST Act specifically provides that ECLR can be utilised towards payment of output tax. However, pre-deposit required to be made cannot be equated with output tax payable. Input tax credit can be utilised only to discharge 'self-assessed output tax as per the return'.

The High Court's accepted this contention and observed that the pre-deposit cannot be equated with 'output tax' and that the restriction under proviso to section 41(2) of the CGST Act, limits the usage of the credit ledger for making pre-deposit. **IANS**

DRAVID ALL SET TO TAKE OVER AS INDIA COACH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's batting stalwart and former captain Rahul Dravid is all set to take over as the national cricket team's head coach following the T20 World Cup in the UAE, having agreed to the BCCI's offer after initial reluctance.

The 48-year-old Dravid, one of the greatest ever to have played for India, has been in charge of the national 'A' and U-19 set-up for the past six years and a lot of players such as Rishabh Pant,

Avesh Khan, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari, and Shubman Gill have come through the system prepared by him.

He currently heads the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and was in Dubai

during the just-concluded IPL to meet his former teammate and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and Board secretary Jay Shah for an elaborate discussion.

"Yes, Rahul has agreed to coach the Indian team till 2023 World Cup. Initially, he was reluctant but it is understood that president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah had a meeting with Rahul on the sidelines of the IPL final where they were able to convince him," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"It won't be an interim role," he added.

In Dubai when he was asked about the development ahead of the T20 World Cup, India captain Virat Kohli said he has "no idea exactly what's happening".

"No idea exactly what's happening on that front. No detailed discussion with anyone yet," Kohli said on Saturday when asked about Dravid's appointment.

Dravid's trusted lieutenant Paras Mhambrey is expected to be the bowling coach while Vikram Rathour is likely to continue as batting coach.

However, it is understood that the BCCI will nonetheless give an advertisement for the position to ensure that due process is followed.

The Board has to form a Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which would be mandated to complete the process as prescribed by the Lodha reforms.

The Board mandarins are mulling on



how to make the best use of Dravid's vast knowledge of talent resource in Indian cricket and his role may be a more holistic one rather than just being confined to the chief coach of the national team.

While India A or U-19 teams would have their respective coaches, the BCCI could well make Dravid, the head of all coaches, to whom all the cricketing departments, along with the NCA staff, report.

When Ganguly took charge of BCCI, he had spoken to the media about the synergy he wanted between the national team, age-group team as well as NCA which is the centre of excellence.

Having seen incumbent Ravi Shastri achieve a lot of success, the BCCI was always keen on appointing an Indian coach but there were only a few of stature. Shastri's tenure ends with the T20 World Cup.

One former Indian captain and stalwart had refused to become the coach in the current team set-up as Virat Kohli still remains the Test and ODI captain.

It is learnt that bigger names were wary of coaching a team where Kohli had mostly called the shots till the Australia tour earlier this year.

The dynamics have changed ever since as the team out-manuevered a stronger Australia in the absence of Kohli, who was on paternity leave at that time.

Shastri was in charge of the side at a fee of Rs 8.5 crore

and it is understood that the BCCI is offering Dravid a significant hike, which will be more than his NCA remuneration as well as Shastri's current pay cheque.

Also Dravid, who had in earlier years said no because of his young family, is expected to contribute in a broader manner.

Dravid's elder son Samit has made a name for himself as a batter in the Karnataka's age-group circle.

The basic idea behind having the Dravid-Mhambrey combination in the Indian team set-up is to ensure that in another two years, when the transition in the current team happens, the changing of nucleus is smooth.

"Rohit will be 35 next year, Virat is days away from his 33rd birthday. Apart from

them Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, and Ajinkya Rahane are all fantastic players but at some point during next two years, they will be phased out.

"The players who are set to come in are mostly from the U-19 set-up.

So it's imperative that Dravid is appointed," the source said. Also the fact that BCCI always wanted someone of real stature.

There could have been none better than India's second highest run-getter in Test cricket (13,288 runs), who also has nearly 11,000 (10,889) runs in ODI cricket. It is expected that BCCI will complete the formalities of his appointment before the start of the New Zealand series in India from November 17.

CAPTAIN SPEAK

No idea: Kohli on Dravid's appointment as head coach

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian captain Virat Kohli on Saturday said he has "no idea exactly what's happening" when asked about the legendary Rahul Dravid being in line to be the team's head coach after the T20 World Cup. Batting great and former captain Dravid is all set to take over as the national cricket team's head coach following the T20 World Cup, having agreed to the BCCI's offer after initial reluctance to succeed incumbent Ravi Shastri.

"No idea exactly what's happening on that front. No detailed discussion with anyone yet," Kohli said when asked about Dravid's appointment. The India skipper was speaking during a captains' media session ahead of the T20 World Cup that begins in the UAE and Oman with the first round matches on Sunday.

The 48-year-old Dravid, one of the greatest ever to have played for India, has been in charge of the national 'A' and U-19 set-up for the past six years and a lot of players such as Rishabh Pant,

Avesh Khan, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari, and Shubman Gill have come through the system prepared by him.

His presence will increase our confidence: Kohli on team mentor Dhoni

Dubai: His mere presence aside, Indian team mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni's "eye for intricate details" and "practical advice" will help in enhancing the confidence of the squad in the T20 World Cup here, captain Virat Kohli said on Saturday.

Iconic former captain Dhoni was last month brought in as mentor of India's 15-member T20 World Cup squad by the BCCI, a move that took everyone by surprise.

During a pre-tournament media interaction organised by the ICC, Kohli, who is still chasing a world title as skipper of the Indian team, expressed his delight at Dhoni's appointment. "He has got massive experience. He is quite excited himself to be back in that environment. He has always been a mentor for all of us when we were starting our careers through till the time he was with the team," Kohli said during the media session.

PTI



Barring hype over ticket sales, India vs Pak is just another game for us: Kohli

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli on Saturday played down the "hype" surrounding the high-profile upcoming T20 World Cup game against Pakistan, saying it's "just another match for us" despite the ridiculously high demand for tickets.

India have never lost to their arch-rivals in either ODI or T20 World Cup games and Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has said that they are confident of beating their neighbours on October 24. Kohli however, when asked about the match, didn't take the bait to make tall claims. "I honestly never felt so," Kohli said when asked if it feels different whenever India meets its neighbouring country.

"I have just approached this game as another game of cricket and I know there is a lot of hype around this game, more so with ticket sales and demands of tickets," the Indian captain, who has had some great performances against Pakistan added.

On a lighter note, Kohli said that he has refused a lot of friends who have asked for tickets.

Indian team needs to show maturity to win T20 WC: Ganguly

PTI ■ DUBAI

BCCI President and former captain Sourav Ganguly on Saturday said the Indian cricket team under Virat Kohli has all the talent to be considered a legitimate contender for the T20 World Cup and it only needs to show a bit of maturity to claim the trophy.

India will open their T20 World Cup campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 24.

"So, you don't become champions easily and you just don't become champions just by stepping into a tournament, so they have to get through the process, they have to show maturity," Ganguly said when asked what India needs to do to win the title.

"...They all have the talent, they all have the skill to score runs and take wickets at this level. They just have to be mentally in good space to win the World Cup," the flamboyant former left-handed batter quipped.

Ganguly said the side should focus on winning every game instead of targetting the title straight up.

"...(the) title is only won when the finals are finished. So, you have a lot of cricket to be played before that and I think India should focus (on) every game, India should focus on winning every game and just



taking it from there and not think about the title at the start," he said.

"They (India) will always be contenders in whatever competition they play in and the challenge for them is to be at peace with themselves, focus on the process rather than the results because the most toughest thing and the most wrong thing to do is when you take guard and you think I am here to win the World Cup.

"...What is important is to play the next ball which is coming out of the hand and keep doing that till you get to the finals," he added.

The former skipper was speaking after Games24x7, a multi-game platform launched a new campaign -- titled 'Game Ke Deewane' -- for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, on its fantasy sports platform, 'My11Circle'.

LESS SIXES AND LESS FOURS IN 14TH EDITION OF IPL:

■ The 14th edition of Indian Premier League started slowly in terms of run-scoring, but by the end it picked up sufficiently so that the overall numbers are pretty similar to what was achieved in the last year.

■ The six count went down from 734 to 687 — a decrease of 47 while there were 34 less fours this time. As many as 1548 fours were hit in 14th edition while 1582 were smashed last year.

■ The 872 sixes by 93 batsmen in 120 innings of 60 matches in 2018 was the most sixes in a single edition of IPL. A total number of 78 batsmen hit 734 sixes in last edition.

■ As many as 97 batsmen hit 687 sixes in this edition with Punjab Kings' Lokesh Rahul topped the list with 30 sixes in 13 innings. Royal Challengers Bangalore's Glenn Maxwell is on second spot

with 21 sixes in 12 innings. Chennai Super Kings' Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad shared the second spot with 23 sixes each.

■ Chennai Super Kings batsmen hit the highest number of sixes in this IPL. Their 10 batsmen hit 115 sixes in 16 innings of as many matches.

■ In this edition, 111 batsman hit 1648 fours in 120 innings of 60 matches. 99 batsmen hit 1582 fours in 120 innings of 60 matches last year. The record of most fours in a single edition was set in 2013 when 125 batsmen hit 2051 fours in 76 matches.

■ Chennai Super Kings' Ruturaj Gaikwad topped the list with 64 fours in 16 innings of as many matches, Delhi Capitals' Shikhar Dhawan is second with 63 fours in 16 innings of as many matches.

SIXES BY EACH TEAM IN INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE-14:

Team	M	Sixes	Players	Most Sixes
Chennai Super Kings	16	115	10	Faf du Plessis/Ruturaj Gaikwad (23 sixes each)
Kolkata Knight Riders	17	98	12	Nitish Rana (17 sixes)
Punjab Kings	14	93	13	Lokesh Rahul (30 sixes)
Rajasthan Royals	14	90	16	Sanju Samson (17 sixes)
Royal Challengers	15	79	10	Glenn Maxwell (21 sixes)
Mumbai Indians	14	76	12	Kieron Pollard (16 sixes)
Sunrisers Hyderabad	14	70	15	Jonny Bairstow (15 sixes)
Delhi Capitals	16	66	9	Prithvi Shaw (18 sixes)
Total	60	687		Lokesh Rahul (30 sixes)

FOURS BY EACH TEAM IN INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE-14:

Team	M	Fours	Most Fours	
Delhi Capitals	16	233	16	Shikhar Dhawan (63 fours)
Chennai Super Kings	16	231	10	Ruturaj Gaikwad (64 fours)
Kolkata Knight Riders	17	220	12	Shubman Gill (50 fours)
Royal Challengers	15	190	12	Glenn Maxwell (48 fours)
Rajasthan Royals	14	187	15	Sanju Samson (45 fours)
Mumbai Indians	14	181	13	Suryikumar Yadav (40 fours)
Punjab Kings	14	155	14	Lokesh Rahul (48 fours)
Sunrisers Hyderabad	14	151	19	Kane Williamson (29 fours)
Total	60	1548	111	Ruturaj Gaikwad (64 fours)

FAISEL FEATURES

Stakes always high when India, Pak play together: Agarkar

IAN S ■ MUMBAI

Former India all-rounder Ajit Agarkar believes that stakes are always high when India and Pakistan play together in a World Cup. He also said that Pakistan may not pose much of a challenge, taking into consideration the form of the Indian team and statistics.

"The stakes are always high when India and Pakistan play together but going by Team India's current form and

taking the stats into consideration, I don't think Pakistan will pose that much of a challenge. Having said that, I don't think we should take our neighbours lightly because cricket is a funny game, and things can change at any moment, especially in the T20 format," Agarkar told on 'Class of 2007' show on Star Sports.

Talking about the 2007 World Cup, which India won after defeating Pakistan by five runs in the final, Agarkar said, "The entire tournament (2007

T20 World Cup) was a dream tour for us. We never thought a bunch of youngsters could achieve such a feat, that too against Pakistan. I think the India-Pakistan rivalry always brings a tidal wave of emotions and is one of the most anticipated clashes in the World Cup."

Meanwhile, former pacer Irfan Pathan recalled why the bowl-out match, which India won in the group stage against Pakistan in Durban, is his most memorable match from the tournament.



Year	Winner	Runner-up
2021	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders
2020	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals
2019	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
2018	Chennai Super Kings	Sunrisers Hyderabad
2017	Mumbai Indians	Rising Pune Supergiants
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Royal Challengers Bangalore
2015	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders	Kings XI Punjab
2013	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings	Royal Challengers Bangalore
2010	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
2009	Deccan Chargers	Royal Challengers Bangalore
2008	Rajasthan Royals	Chennai Super Kings

Source: IPLT20.com

KBK SportsGraphics

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021

MEN'S T20
WORLD CUP
2021

Round 1

Group A ■ Sri Lanka ■ Ireland ■ Netherlands ■ Namibia

Group B ■ Bangladesh ■ Scotland ■ Papua New Guinea (PNG) ■ Oman

Oct 17	Oman vs PNG	Bangladesh vs Scotland
Oct 18	Ireland vs Netherlands	Sri Lanka vs Namibia
Oct 19	Scotland vs PNG	Oman vs Bangladesh
Oct 20	Namibia vs Netherlands	Sri Lanka vs Ireland
Oct 21	Bangladesh vs PNG	Oman vs Scotland
Oct 22	Namibia vs Ireland	Sri Lanka vs Netherlands

Super 12

Group 1 ■ England ■ Australia ■ South Africa ■ West Indies
■ Winner of Group A (A1) ■ Runner-up of Group B (B2)

Group 2 ■ India ■ Pakistan ■ New Zealand ■ Afghanistan
■ Runner-up of Group A (A2) ■ Winner of Group B (B1)

Oct 23	Australia vs South Africa	England vs West Indies
Oct 24	A1 vs B2	India vs Pakistan
Oct 25	Afghanistan vs B1	
Oct 26	South Africa vs West Indies	Pakistan vs New Zealand
Oct 27	England vs B2	B1 vs A2
Oct 28	Australia vs A1	
Oct 29	West Indies vs B2	Afghanistan vs Pakistan
Oct 30	South Africa vs A1	England vs Australia
Oct 31	Afghanistan vs A2	India vs New Zealand
Nov 1	England vs A1	
Nov 2	South Africa vs B2	Pakistan vs A2
Nov 3	New Zealand vs B1	India vs Afghanistan
Nov 4	Australia vs B2	West Indies vs A1
Nov 5	New Zealand vs A2	India vs B1
Nov 6	Australia vs West Indies	England vs South Africa
Nov 7	New Zealand vs Afghanistan	Pakistan vs B1
Nov 8	India vs A2	

T20 RANKING

- England
- India
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- South Africa
- Australia
- Afghanistan
- Sri Lanka
- West Indies
- Bangladesh
- Ireland
- Scotland
- PNG
- Netherlands
- Oman
- Namibia

As on Aug 17, 2021

First Semifinal

Nov 10

Winner of Group 1 vs
Runner-up of Group 2

Second Semifinal

Nov 11

Winner of Group 2 vs
Runner-up of Group 1

Nov 14

Final

Venues

- Dubai International Stadium, Dubai ■ Sharjah Stadium, Sharjah
- Al Amerat Cricket Stadium, Muscat ■ Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi

Timings (IST): 7:30 pm on single match day; 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm on days having two matches

KBK SportsGraphics

Proud to leave legacy behind? Still, I haven't left behind, says Dhoni

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni in his inimitable style kept questions on his IPL retirement open-ended but did admit that a lot of things will depend on the kind of retention policy that BCCI puts in place for the big auction next year.

Dhoni, who is set to join the Indian team as 'Mentor' for the T20 World Cup, spoke about how he would like to create a roadmap for the next 10 years of IPL that Chennai Super Kings will be playing.

When asked if he was proud to have left a legacy behind in the 12 seasons for CSK, Dhoni assured his million fans with a wide grin, "Still I haven't left behind...."

But he said that he hasn't decided how he would fit into the retention scheme of things. "Again I've said it before, it depends on BCCI. With two new teams coming in.....We have to decide what is good for CSK," the skipper said after his team won the fourth IPL title by beating Kolkata Knight Riders in the final.

"It's not about me being there in top-three or four. It's about making a strong core to ensure the franchise doesn't suffer. The core group, we have to have a hard look to see who can contribute for the next 10 years," he added.

Dhoni was happy that a lot



of individual match-winners have got CSK to their fourth trophy.

"We had match winners coming game after game and doing really well. Every final is special, if you look at stats, we may say we're the most consistent team to lose the final too. I feel it's important to come back strong, especially in the knockouts," he said.

Dhoni also made it clear that he is not very much into team meetings as the average attention span during these meetings are 20 minutes.

"Frankly no chats, we don't talk a lot (meetings). It's more one-on-one, our practice sessions are meeting sessions. The moment you get into a team room, it brings about different pressure. Our practice sessions have been good."

The 'Thala' had a message

for the CSK fans.

"I would love to thank the fans, wherever we've played, even when we were in South Africa, we've always had a good number of CSK fans. That is what you crave for. Thanks to all of them, it feels like we're playing in Chennai. Hopefully we'll be back in Chennai for the fans."

He also at the start praised KKR for a fine show as they came back from two points in seven games to reach the final which is an achievement in itself.

"Before I start talking about CSK, need to talk about KKR. Difficult to come back and do what they have, if any team deserved to win the IPL, it's KKR. Huge credit to the coaches, team and support staff. The break really helped them."

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Get closer to God

To relive the glory of *bhanja* Ram, Chhattisgarh launches a new religious circuit covering the spots touched by Lord Ram during the exile

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Worship in celebratory mode

The purpose of the festivities is to be geared up from within to encash the opportunities arising in emerging productive cycle

You are only as great as the opportunities that are given to you
— Charlize Theron



EATING OUT RIGHT

Weight loss is a journey that must be traversed with patience, over time. This festive season, when you are most likely to eat out, keeping a few things in mind while selecting the dishes should do the trick, writes author **KAVITA DEVGAN** in her new book *The Don't-Diet Plan*, An edited excerpt:

Eating out is a part of life, be it for leisure or due to travel. However, the more frequently you eat out, the more calories you ingest, getting heavier in the bargain. You don't need me to tell you that, you know it already. Besides, every time you eat out, you ruin your happiness guessing, wishing you knew everything you were wolfing down-fat, calories, sodium, etc. and wondering if you had made a wrong choice and sabotaged your heart's health yet again. Faced with an extensive tempting menu, it's easy to get carried away and forget all about healthy eating, but making healthier choices need not be a nightmare. Let me show you how.

GET CUISINE WISE

Here is a brief 'eating out manual' to help you navigate these four very popular cuisines when you go out to enjoy them the next time.

Italian

Here the basics are trim and healthy but the offenders to look out for are surplus oil, cream and butter (which are poured freely into most dishes). Are you wondering what to pick then? Learn to differentiate between Northern and Southern Italian cuisines. Southern Italy traditionally follows a Mediterranean diet, which is rich in grains, fruits and vegetables, contains very little meat and uses olive oil in place of butter. Northern Italian cuisine, on the other hand, is heavy on the beef, butter and cream. Start with plain Italian bread rather than buttered garlic bread. Be careful of fresh Italian bread soaked with deliciously flavoured olive oil too. Salads can be a good starter and filler but make sure that you ask for the dressing and vinegar on the side. An all-vegetable antipasto, insalata-green salad, Panzanella, a tomato and mozzarella salad and fish in cartoccio are some good options. Do you want to eat pasta? Then skip cheese-filled ones in favour of those with red clam sauce or meat sauce. Classic pasta with marinara sauce is a lean choice. And if you want to have a heavier entrée like lasagne, then have only half of it. At the end of the meal, skip the dessert, resist the cannoli or cream-filled pastry and have a decaf cappuccino, made with low fat milk or have fresh fruit.

Mexican

In Mexican cuisine, the common offenders to look out for are enchiladas (tortillas fried in oil) and tacos (deep-fried tortillas), chimichangas, chilli rellenos, tostadas and flautas-all of them are deep fried. Cheese and sour cream toppings add extra fat and calories, so

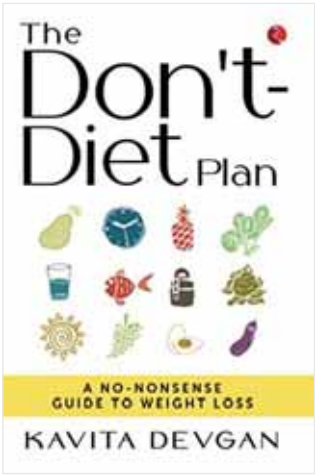
do the side-dishes like chips and nachos. Are you wondering what to pick then? Take your cue from the names of the menu items. Foods that are prepared 'asada' are grilled, which is a non-fat cooking process. 'Fajitas' are made up of grilled meat or chicken. Use salsa on your main course instead of sour cream and cheese, as 'salsa' made with tomato, onion, chillies and herbs is virtually fat-free and bursting with vitamins A and C. Be extremely careful of the portion size. Choose the dessert carefully-a fruit plate of mangoes, guavas and papaya tastes as good and is far less calorie-dense than sopapillas (deep-fried sweet pastries) or fried ice cream.

Greek

Greek food is super healthy and comprises of grains, fruits and vegetables, olive oil and very little meat. Sauces are based on wine, stocks, tomato and yoghurt, rather than milk or cream. Lentils, beans and vegetables are commonly used in soups, appetizers and main courses. So far so good, but still, you can't be careful enough. Are you wondering what to pick? The signature of a Greek salad, the 'Greek' olives and feta cheese, are very high in sodium, so go easy. You can even ask to have the feta rinsed before it is served to limit your sodium intake. Be wary of taramasalata, a delicious, though calorie-rich, cream-based dip. Instead, have pita bread spread with a yoghurt-based dip like tzatziki, made with yoghurt, garlic and cucumber. Breadsticks dipped in hummus (sesame paste and chickpeas) or baba ghanoush (eggplant and olive oil) are other good options. For soup, skip the better-known avgolemono soup, which has a lemon and egg base and go for torato, chilled eggplant, peppers and yoghurt soup as this has more fibre and less cholesterol. If you're watching your fat and cholesterol numbers, then pass up moussaka and pastitsio casseroles made from eggs and cheese, and opt for grilled or broiled meat, poultry or seafood. Some more good options are fish in 'plaki' sauce (broiled with tomato sauce and garlic), souvlaki (lamb marinated in lemon juice, olive oil and herbs, and then skewered and grilled) and dolmas (grape leaves stuffed with ground meat, rice and pine nuts). These are all steamed or baked dishes. And if you will simply perish without baklava for dessert, remember that the usual single portion size can serve two or three people more than adequately. Therefore, order accordingly.

Chinese

Chinese food has its share of offenders-hefty sodium content, high fat and big portion sizes, usually due to the Indianization of the



FACED WITH AN EXTENSIVE TEMPTING MENU, IT'S EASY TO GET CARRIED AWAY AND FORGET ALL ABOUT HEALTHY EATING, BUT MAKING HEALTHIER CHOICES NEED NOT BE A NIGHTMARE



Are you diabetic?

Look for high fibre, low-fat dishes. A few great choices are beans, peas and lentils, and dark green vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, spinach and kale. Choose whole grain foods like brown rice, whole wheat bread and pasta and opt for fruits. Everyone, including people with diabetes, should eat three servings of fruit a day.

Are you watching your heart?

Skip foods high in saturated fat-foods that are fried or have a crispy coating, cream-based soups and salad dressings, and creamy cheese sauces and gravies. Don't add extra salt anything.

Are you watching your waist?

All the above rules apply. Also watch your portions, skip the desserts and go slow on carbs (breads). Load up on fibre (salad and grains) and protein (lean cuts).

Do you have a long day ahead?

Add nuts to your salad and an olive oil-based dressing; have a decent-sized helping of whole wheat bread or brown rice and substantial amounts of grilled chicken or fish.

Chinese recipes-the so-called 'Indian Chinese food' (because traditional Chinese cooking is rather light and healthy). Are you wondering what to pick? Oyster, black bean and soy sauces are full of sodium and monosodium glutamate (MSG). Look out for these words on the menu card and don't hesitate to ask the chef about the ingredients before ordering anything. Deep fat frying is very common, especially in the appetizers, so go easy on fried wontons and egg or spring rolls. Instead, try steamed egg or spring rolls. Order steamed white rice or plain noodles instead of the fried versions (steamed Chinese brown rice is tasty and filling). Be wary of the word 'crispy' as this indicates that the dish is usually deep-fried, as is most of the meat in any dish labelled 'sweet and sour'. Instead, choose a roasted or grilled meat with the sweet and sour sauce on the side (always order sauce on the side and just drizzle some on top). Eat the way the Chinese really do to stay healthy for the long haul-eat a lot of vegetables. Besides, nowhere else do vegetables taste as delicious as they do in Chinese dishes. Always start with a soup, especially a vegetable base one and round off with a cup of Chinese tea to help wash all the food down.

Excerpted with permission from The Don't - Diet Plan: A no-nonsense guide to weight loss by Kavita Devgan, Rupa, Rs 295



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF RAM

To relive the glory of *bhanja* Ram, Chhattisgarh Tourism launches a new religious tourism circuit, titled Ram Van Gaman Paripath, covering the spots touched by Lord Ram, Mata Sita and brother Lakshman during their exile in the state. **NAVNEET MENDIRATTA** shares the story of the grand launch of the trail

There is a quaint little village near Raipur in Chhattisgarh that is said to be the parental home of Mata Kaushalya, Raja Dashrath's wife and mother of Lord Ram. In the village is the only temple in the world that is dedicated to her. The region was said to be a part of Dakshin Kaushal or Kaushal *raaj*, where Mata Kaushalya came from.

Taking pride in being his maternal home, people of the state see Ram as the nephew of the land (*bhanja* in Hindi). It is said that Ram spent 10 out of 14 years of his exile in the forests of Dakshin Kaushal.

The people of the region, in fact, have unique tradition binds the *mama* and *bhanja* together in a deeper and reverent way. In honour of Lord Ram, even today, the people put the nephew on a pedestal and, irrespective of the age, the uncle (*mama*) pays obeisance to the nephew (*bhanja*) instead of the other way around.

And now for the very first time, the Chhattisgarh government has taken it upon itself to mark the trail and promote it as a tourism circuit. Called Ram Van Gaman Paripath (RGVP), this circuit will cover nine spots along the forested route taken by Lord Ram, before he entered Maharashtra.

Covering a length of 3,000 kms, the Chhattisgarh section of the path starts from Korla district in the north to Sukma in the southern-most part of the state. The nine sites that make a part of the first phase include: Sitamarhi-Harchowka, Ramgarh, Shivrinarayan, Turturiya, Chandkhuri, Rajim, Sihawa, Jagdalpur and Ramaram.

It is believed Lord Ram entered Chhattisgarh from Sitamarhi-Harchowka area in Korla district. Located on the banks of Mawai River, the Seetamadhi-Harchowka's cave houses 17 chambers in it. A structure marked *Sita ki raso* is indicative of their stay here, believe the locals. People also believe that Ram worshipped the Shivaling during his stay in the cave.

Moving onward with his journey, Ram left Ghaghra and arrived at Kotadol, crossing the Ramgarh hills in Sarguja district. Ramgarh is known for Sita Bengra and Jogimara caves. The locals believe Lord Ram spent a few days of his exile along with Mata Sita and brother Lakshman in these caves. The caves also find a mention in Kalidasa's famous piece of literary art *Meghdootam*. Ramgarh is also renowned for one of the oldest '*natyashala*' (amphitheatre) where *Meghdootam* was composed.

The next location is where Lord Ram is said to have accepted the berries offered by Shabari. It is said that Shabari (a tribal woman) had tasted the berries one by one to ensure that she fed only the sweetest ones to Ram. Called Shivrinarayan, the location is a now small town located at the Triveni Sangam (the intersection of 3



rivers) — Shivnath, Jonk and Mahanadi in the Janjgir Champa district.

The village of Turturiya is where Rishi Valmiki had his *ashram*. The ashram is said to be where Sita gave birth to the twins, Luv and Kush. This place is of great religious and cultural significance as it here where Maharishi Valmiki is said to have written his epic work, *Ramayana*, that brought the legend of Ram to the world.

Chandkhuri sits in the middle of the trail. As you move south, you come to Rajim, where Lord Ram is said to have spent some time of his exile in the ashram of Rishi Lomash. Rajim is located at the confluence of the Mahanadi, Sondhur and Pairi rivers and is also known as the *Prayag* of Chhattisgarh. The Shivaling, believed to have been established by Mata Sita, is now housed inside the famous Kuleshwar Mahadev temple. It is said that even today during the floods, the Shivaling does not get submerged.

Sihawa, the revered place of *Sapt rishis* (seven sages) is the place of origin of the divine Mahanadi River. According to a folklore, Lord Ram spent a significant amount of his time at this place meeting and consulting the seven great sages — namely Shringi Rishi, Muchkund Rishi, Agastya Rishi, Angira Rishi, Kankar Rishi, Sharabhang Rishi and Gautama Rishi.

In Jagdalpur are situated the historic Kutumsar Caves, where Lord Ram



is said to have spent considerable time. Located in the famous Bastar district, Jagdalpur was the capital of the erstwhile princely state of Bastar. Even today, a 500-year-old festival, 'Bastar Dussehra', is held that runs for 75 days a year.

The ninth destination in the trail is Ramaram in the Sukma district. This is where Lord Ram is said to have worshipped Bhoomi Devi, a Hindu deity representing the earth. It is believed that you can see the footprints of Lord Ram even today.

The entire trail can be covered over

a period of 10 days, shared Anbalagan P, Secretary Tourism, Chhattisgarh. According to him, these are only nine of the 75 locations on the trail that the state plans to develop over time.

The state is also looking at hosting several festivals to push tourism in the state over the next few years, shared the State Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel. "We want the tourists to experience the state hospitality and view it as a religious, cultural and ethnic tourist destination," he said.

It was with this objective that the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board held a

grand launch of the trail on the first day of Navratras. A 51-feet high statue of Ram set against the ancient Mata Kaushalya temple was unveiled. The temple complex wears a grand look following the beautification drive undertaken by the government.

The grand event, curated by Yasmin Kidwai of Springbox Films along with Brandwidth Events, saw a musical opening dedicated to Lord Ram. Local as well as famous national artists, such as Shankar Mahadevan, Indian Ocean, Kabir Café, Sukriti Sen and V.Unbeatable, participated in the event that was heavily attended by the locals. Noted actor Ashish Vidyarthi played the emcee of the evening. A 3-D film showcasing Ram's story and connect with Chhattisgarh was also showcased. The tourism board also released a special song written by *Indian Ocean's* Himanshu Joshi that evokes the glory of Lord Ram and speaks of his relevance through the ages.

This, in fact, is the first of the many tourism campaigns that the state is planning to launch. Chhattisgarh is looking at hosting traditional as well as contemporary festivals and events to create an inclusive tourism strategy. For a state that has been able to settle internal unrest, there is a lot to showcase to the world. The state is also working on creating a Buddhist circuit and connecting it to the existing one. There is a lot that the travellers can expect from Chhattisgarh.

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Both the Taliban and the ISIS advocate rule by their radical interpretations of

However, ISIS' brutal ways have since led some Salafi cler-

"They have no roots here," influential Taliban figure Sheikh Abdul-Hameed Hamasi

service members. Smaller scale attacks are also on the rise. "The intensity and breadth of

It could be a while until the ISIS has the capability to hold territory again. Its immediate aim is to destabilise the Taliban and shatter the group's image as

SAIYED ZEGHAM MURTAZA

C PADMAPRIYADARSINI

R HEMALATHA

