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ATTRACTED
TO ROMANCE:
SANYA
10 VIVACITY

Vax feat is New India's show: PM

Modi says 100-cr milestone is a befitting reply to those doubting India's capabilities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded the 100-crore vaccination "milestone" achieved by India and said it is "the answer to every question and doubts raised about India's ability over it".

Addressing the nation on the occasion, Modi said, "100-crore vaccinations are not just a figure, but a reflection of the strength of the country, it is the creation of a new chapter of history. This is a picture of a new India that sets difficult goals and knows how to achieve them."

The Prime Minister's praise for the country reaching a long way in its fight against the pandemic has come against the Congress-led Opposition's criticism of the Modi Government's handling of coronavirus and the large number of deaths taking place due to the shortage of life-saving Oxygen across the country.

He said the speed with which India crossed the 100-crore mark is also being appreciated across the world. However, he pointed out, in this analysis the point of beginning for India is often missed. He said developed countries

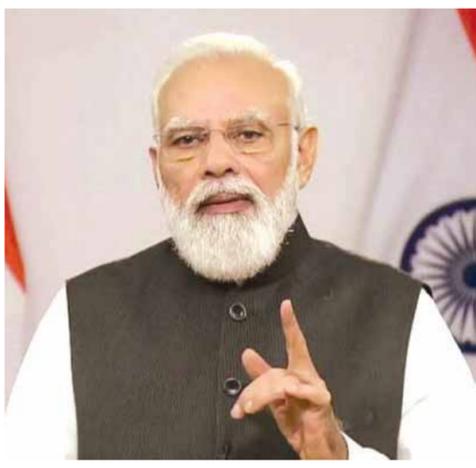
had decades of expertise in researching and developing vaccines. India mostly depended on vaccines made by these countries.

He said for "this reason when the biggest pandemic of the century struck, various questions were raised about India's ability to fight the global pandemic. Questions like from where India will get the money to buy so many vaccines from other countries, when India will get the vaccine, whether the people of India will get the vaccine or not, and whether India will be able to vaccinate enough people to stop the pandemic from spreading were all answered by achieving this feat of administering 100 crore vaccinations."

He stressed that India has not only administered 100 crore vaccine doses to its citizens "but has also done that free of cost." He said the acceptance that India enjoys in the world as a pharma hub will be further strengthened.

The Prime Minister said at the beginning of the corona pandemic, people were anxious that it would be very difficult to fight this pandemic in a democracy like India.

He said that the country



has only one mantra that if the disease did not discriminate, then there cannot be any discrimination in the vaccination. Modi said that was the reason why "it was ensured that the VIP culture of entitlement does not dominate the vaccination campaign."

The Prime Minister said questions were raised that most of the people in India would not go to the vaccination centre to get vaccinated.

"Vaccine hesitancy remains a major challenge even today in many major developed countries of the world. But the people of India have answered it by taking 100 crore vaccine doses," Modi said.

everyone's efforts are synergised, the results are amazing. The Government made public participation the first line of defence in the country's fight against the pandemic.

The Prime Minister said India's "entire vaccination program is born in the womb of science, has grown on scientific grounds and has reached all four directions through scientific methods."

The PM said resources were increased with extraordinary speed and the Cowin platform not only gave convenience to the common people but also made the work of our medical staff easier.

As against the Opposition parties' criticism of the Government for its "mishan-

dling" of the economy during the onslaught of the Covid-19, the Prime Minister said experts and many agencies from home and abroad are very positive about India's economy.

"Today not only are record investments coming in Indian companies but new employment opportunities are also being created for the youth. With record investment in start-ups, unicorns are being made. New energy is also visible in the housing sector", he said.

Modi said many reforms and initiatives taken in the last few months will play a big role in making India's economy grow faster.

In the backdrop of about 10-month-old farmers' agitation and demand for scrapping three farm laws intending to open up the agriculture sector to private traders, Modi said during the pandemic, the agriculture sector kept our economy strong.

"Today Government procurement of food grains is happening at a record level. The money is going directly into the bank accounts of the farmers," he said.

Modi stuck a note of caution against Covid-19 despite 100 crore vaccination saying "we need to be constantly careful no matter how good the cover is, no matter how modern the armour is, even if armour gives a complete guarantee of protection, weapons are not given up while the battle is on."

Scrap consumer Act if you don't want tribunals, SC tells Centre

Court angry over appointment delay

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The delay in filling vacancies in tribunals again invited the Supreme Court's wrath against the Centre.

Expressing displeasure over delay in appointments in the districts and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions, the apex court on Friday said if the Government did not want the tribunals then it should abolish the Consumer Protection Act.

The bench comprising Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh said it is unfortunate that the top court is being called upon to examine and see that vacancies in tribunals are filled up.

"If the Government does not want the tribunals then abolish the act... We are stretching our jurisdiction to see the vacancies are filled in. Normally we should not spend time on this and the posts should be filled. Unfortunately, the judiciary is called upon to see that these posts are manned. This is not a very happy situation," the bench said.

The SC was hearing a suo motu case on the inaction of the Governments in appointing president and members/staff of Districts and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and inadequate



infrastructure across India.

The apex court in its order directed that the process of filling up vacancies in the State Consumer Commissions as per its earlier directions must not be impeded by the judgement of the Bombay High Court which had quashed certain Consumer Protection Rules.

As the hearing commenced, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appointed as amicus curiae in the case, apprised the court of the judgement passed by the Bombay High Court at Nagpur Bench quashing certain Consumer Protection Rules.

He said the Centre introduced the Tribunal Reforms Act in violation of the apex court judgement in the Madras Bar Association case. Additional Solicitor General Aman Lekhi, appearing for the Centre, said the Government is in the process of filing an appeal against the Bombay High Court order which quashed certain provisions of Consumer Protection Rules.

He told the bench that the Tribunal Reforms Act introduced by the Centre was not in

contravention rather it was in consonance with the Madras Bar Association judgement of the apex court.

The apex court, however, remarked, "It seems that the bench says something and you do something else and some kind of embargo is being created and in this process, the citizens of the country are suffering. These are places for remedy like consumer forums. These are small issues that people deal with and these are not high stake matters."

The very purpose of setting up these tribunals to provide consumer remedy is not being met, the bench remarked.

The apex court also directed the States to submit data in a prescribed form within one week failing which the concerned secretary has to remain present before it.

After the conclusion of the hearing in the case, Justice Sundresh said there is a need to look into the problem from a different perspective and permanent consumer courts should replace consumer commissions which are manned by retired judicial officers on an ad-hoc basis.

CAPSULE

MAN FALLS TO DEATH FROM 19TH FLOOR



Mumbai: A 30-year-old security guard fell to death from the balcony of a flat located on the 19th floor of a 61-storey residential building in central Mumbai after a major fire broke out there on Friday, a fire brigade official said.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY FLIGHT-TESTS ABHYAS



Balalore: India on Friday successfully flight-tested the endogenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT), ABHYAS, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha, a DRDO source said.

Koregaon panel summons 'missing' Mumbai ex-top cop

Former Pune CP Rashmi Shukla to also appear as a witness

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At a time when he has gone "missing" and not responded to warrants issued to him in two important cases, the Koregaon Bhima commission of inquiry on Friday issued summons against Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh to appear before it as a witness in the ongoing investigations into the manner in which the previous BJP-led Government handled the 2018 Bhima Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case.

The Commission headed by JN Patel, retired chief justice of Kolkata High Court, and comprising Sumit Mullick, former Maharashtra Chief

Secretary, also summoned Pune's former Police Commissioner Rashmi Shukla to appear as a witness in the ongoing proceedings before it.

The summons issued by the commission to both Param Bir and Shukla read thus: "Considering that Param Bir was ADG (law and order) State of Maharashtra at the relevant time when the incident of violence took place at Bhima Koregaon on January 1, 2018 and sometime prior and after that date in some parts of the State.

As such he must have received valuable inputs concerning terms of reference before the commission."

"Under the tenure of Shukla who was the police commissioner for Pune city, some incidents of violence had taken place in and around Pune city. The CP office must have received valuable inputs/information concerning the terms of reference before the commission.

Harish replaces Harish! Raj Min named Punjab Congress' incharge

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After witnessing a colossal transformation in the Congress party's Punjab unit, Uttarakhand's former Chief Minister Harish Rawat was relieved of the charge of the State party affairs' general secretary in-charge on Friday.

Rajasthan's Revenue Minister Harish Chaudhary will be the new Congress in-charge of poll-bound Punjab replacing veteran Congress leader.

The development came after Rawat had requested the party high command to relieve him of the responsibility of Punjab as his home State, Uttarakhand, will also go to polls along with Punjab early next year.

Chaudhary's name was being speculated as Rawat's replacement for some time as Rajasthan MLA was appointed observer to oversee the change of guard in Punjab



Newly appointed AICC in-charge of Punjab and Chandigarh Harish Chaudhary, during a public meeting at Nimbola Biswa village in Nagaur district on Friday.

Congress.

"Congress president has appointed Harish Chaudhary as AICC in-charge of Punjab and Chandigarh with immediate effect. Harish Rawat is being relieved from his current responsibility as AICC general secretary in-charge of Punjab and Chandigarh.



Members of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo perform on board the HMS Defender, a type 45 air-defence destroyer ship, during the Royal Navy and Indian Navy meet in Mumbai on Friday.

Winter Session of Parliament from 4th week of Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Winter Session of Parliament is likely to start in the fourth week of November.

The month-long Session, which is likely to have around

20 sittings, would conclude ahead of Christmas.

Though an official decision has not been taken yet, the sources said the session could commence from November 29 and would end around December 23.

Army deploys hi-tech Pinaka, Smerch along China border

ANI ■ GUWAHATI

The Indian Army has deployed Pinaka and Smerch Multiple Rocket Launcher Systems (MRLS) at forward position near the China border to counter any threat arising across on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Pinaka weapon system is an autonomous rocket artillery system that can engage area targets up to 38km at mean sea level. At these altitudes, the ranges are enhanced significantly which further augments the deep strike capability of the weapon system.

A battery of six launchers of Pinaka can fire a salvo of 72 rockets in 44 seconds thereby neutralising an area of 1000m by 800m.

Talking about the weapon systems, deployed battery commander at the location Lieutenant Colonel Sarath told ANI, "The Pinaka weapon system is indigenous multi rocket launcher system designed by DRDO and it is a state-of-the-art, completely autonomous weapon system, which can engage targets up to 38 kilometres at mean sea level and at higher altitudes, the ranges get significantly enhanced, which subsequently enhance our deep strike capability."

Kheri violence: Minister's son remanded in police custody

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, arrested for his alleged role in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, was on Friday remanded in police custody for two days.

It was for the second time that he was remanded in police custody Chief Judicial Magistrate Chinta Ram.

Besides, Mishra, CJM Ram also sent three other accused in the case — Ankit Das, Shekhar Bharti and Latif — to police custody, acceding to the prosecution's request for their police remand.

Govinda Sahu recreates crime scene: More evidences of Mamita murder surface



PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

A team of the Balangir police on Friday took the prime accused Govinda Sahu, who was arrested in connection with the woman teacher Mamita Meher murder case, to the Mahaling stadium in Kalahandi district to recreate the crime scene.

The police team in the wee hours took Sahu to the stadium, where he demonstrated how he killed the teacher of the Sunshine Public School at Mahaling. Mamita belonged to Balangir district.



Sahu reportedly gave the demonstration for about 10 to 15 minutes at the crime site, from where the body of Mamita was exhumed on October 19.

"I brought the body to the spot between 8 pm and 9 pm. I chopped it into pieces and set them on fire. I waited for around 15 minutes as the body was burning. I also set fire to her bag, mobile, phone and other belongings," said Sahu.

Though police on Thursday had frantically searched for the mobile phone of the victim at the spot with metal detectors, they failed to



trace it. Meanwhile, a bag containing three pairs of women's garments, a mobile phone and charger and a few medicines kept under a bed was recovered from the house of Sahu's close associate Radheshyam Chandi alias Radhe, who was arrested in connection with the sensational murder case on Thursday.

Source said Radhe's wife Asha found the bag in her house and handed it over to the Kegaon police.

Save people with artificial limbs from airport security ordeal: Sudhaa to PM

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Narrating the ordeal she goes through at the airports during security checks, actor and well-known Bharatanatyam dancer Sudhaa Chandran has made an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide a special card to people with artificial limbs.

The 56-year-old actor posted a video on her Instagram page on Thursday evening and said she is "totally hurt" to go through the "grill" at the airports every time she is flying.

"Totally hurt....Each time going through this grill is very very hurting....Hope my message reaches the state and the central govt authorities....And expecting a prompt action..." she wrote.



self. "This is a very personal note that I want to tell our dear Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. This is an appeal to the

Central Government and the State Government. I am Sudhaa Chandran, an actress and dancer by profession, who has danced with an artificial limb and created history and made my country very proud of me," the actor said.

Chandran said she has requested the airport authorities on a number of occasions to conduct an "ETD (Explosive Trace Detector) for her artificial limb" but they always ask her to remove it.

CISF apologises to Sudhaa after she is asked to remove prosthetic limb

New Delhi: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Friday apologised to noted dancer and actor Sudhaa Chandran after she said she felt

disheartened and humiliated when she was recently asked to remove her artificial limb during the security check at an airport.

Pradeep Majhi quits Cong, to join BJD

Benefitted much by party, he betrayed it: Bahinipati

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As speculated earlier, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) working president and former Nabarangpur MP Pradeep Majhi on Friday resigned from primary membership of the party and sent his resignation letter to party interim president Sonia Gandhi.

As per reports, Majhi, who has considerable influence among the tribal population of



Nabarangpur and Malkangiri districts, is likely to join the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) when BJD

supremo Naveen Patnaik will visit Nabarangpur during this month. Citing the reason of his resignation in his letter to Sonia Gandhi, Majhi said he had a great desire to serve people while being in the Congress, but the party lacks enthusiasm to do the same.

The party has almost lost its credibility which may take a long time to revive, he stated. "With extreme pain, I have decided to resign from the primary membership of Indian National Congress. I had joined the party with utmost enthusiasm to serve the needy. Accordingly, the party also gave me ample opportunities along with a top position. The organisation of the party was extremely well-managed by your dynamic leadership which has gradually declined due to recalcitrant persons occupying the pivot posts at different levels," he wrote.

"I shall however perform

my duties as per your ideology and serve the people with utmost satisfaction," he added. The Nabarangpur District Congress Committee president said Majhi quit the party just a before he was going to be suspended from it due to anti-party activities. Jeypore Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati claimed that Majhi's resignation from the party would have no adverse impact on the party in undivided Koraput district. Majhi had been made an MP, Nabarangpur Zilla Parishad President and State Youth Congress president, but he forgot the party's blessings for him and betrayed it.

₹2-cr brown sugar seized in Baleswar; 2 arrested

PNS ■ BALESWAR

In yet another major crackdown, Cuttack excise officials and the Baleswar district police conducted a joint raid at Bidyadharpur village under Basta block in Baleswar district on Thursday and seized two kg of brown sugar.

The market value of the seized contraband was estimated to be around Rs 2 crore.

Two persons were arrested for peddling the contraband. Other incriminating materials were also recovered from their

possession. The arrested duo was identified as Nurjahan Bibi and Sk Assaddul Kadri.

Excise Deputy Superintendent Debasish Patel said the drug peddlers attacked the team and damaged their vehicles during the raid. However, the team managed to nab the two while another was snatched away from custody by the peddlers' supporters.

A case has been registered against the accused under Sections 21 (C) and 29 of the NDPS Act, 1985. "Further investigation into the incident

is underway. The accused will be forwarded to court," said a police official.

Jaleswar SDPO Anika Kumbhar, Basta SDPO Basta Jalandhar Jali, Basta police station IIC Subrat Behera and Jaleswar IIC Pragnan Mohanty conducted the raid along with the excise officials.

It is worth mentioning that over 10 kilogram of the narcotic substance has been seized from the district and as many as 72 persons have been arrested in this connection in the last three months.

Temple stone laid, trees planted at 7th Battalion

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The foundation stone of a Laxminarayan Temple was laid by Saha Charitable Trust chairman Santh Jeevan Baba at the 7th Battalion premises here on October 20 on the auspicious occasion of Kumar Purnima.

Swami Pranaswarupananda Ji Maharaj of Puba Ashram, who was present, explained the need of such a temple. Prominent among others who were present include Manish Khandelwal of Maruwadi Yuva Mancha, Kishan Khandelwal, industrialist Kishor Agarwal, Bikram Betal and Prakash Betal from Terapanth Jain Samaj, 7th Battalion chief DCP (Armed) Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, ACP, SK Dharua, ACP Hemanta Kumar Das, ACP Utkal Kumar Aich, Subedars DK Mahapatra and



RK Raul, Pooja Committee secretary Binod Bala and treasurer Susanta Pradhan.

A plantation programme was undertaken by Santh Jeevan Baba in collaboration with the 7th Battalion. In this connection, it is pertinent to mention

here that, Santh Jeevan Baba has been instrumental in planting over 8,000 fruit trees in the 7th Battalion campus in his attempt to make the environment of Odisha green. Jeevan Baba has already planted over two lakh trees across Odisha so far.

Panchayat vote counting to be held at block offices

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With a few months left for elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the State, preparations have begun in full swing for smooth conduct of the polls.

State Election Commission (SEC) Aditya Prasad Padhee on Friday said that a review meeting was held with all district Collectors through videoconference on Thursday.

Briefing mediapersons, Padhee said the Collectors have been asked to submit a report by October 26 after completing of delimitation of wards and reservation of seats in their districts.

This time, central counting would be conducted at block offices instead of booth-level counting. Strong Rooms would be set up at the booth level. And if required, the number ballot boxes would be

increased.

Electoral rolls would be prepared at the ward and panchayat levels on the basis of the 2021 voters' list. Guidelines for the same would be issued soon, the SEC informed.

"The Collectors have been directed to identify and keep vote counting centres ready at the block headquarters by November 5. Earlier, they were asked to appoint polling officers and complete the process by October 25," he said.

Temporary polling stations would be set up in the areas having no proper facilities, he said.

The SEC has also directed the district Collectors for repairing and painting ballot boxes to be used in the elections. An amount of Rs 1.16 crore has been sanctioned to the districts for the purpose and the Collectors have been asked to complete it by November 15.

ABHYAS aircraft flight-tested off Chandipur: Vehicle meant for evaluation of missile systems

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

The ABHYAS, a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT) was successfully flight-tested on Friday by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur here.

The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of various missile systems. The performance of the target aircraft was monitored through telemetry and various tracking sensors including radars and Electro Optical Tracking

System (EOTS).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the successful flight trial of the ABHYAS. The current flight test is carried out as a part of developmental flight trials. Expression of interest for production of the vehicle has already been floated to the Indian industries. The indigenous target aircraft, once developed, will meet the requirements of the Indian Armed Forces.

The ABHYAS is designed and developed by the DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru. The

air vehicle is launched using twin under-slung boosters which provide the initial acceleration to the vehicle. It is powered by a gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at subsonic speed. The target aircraft is equipped with MEMS-based Inertial Navigation System for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer for guidance.

The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight. The check-out of air vehicle is done using laptop-based Ground Control Station, said a DRDO release.

Free India's 1st flag locked up in trunk in Manipur, its rightful place is Netaji Museum, Cuttack



ANIL DHIR

The first flag of Independent India was hoisted by Colonel Shaukat Malik of the Indian National Army at Moirang near Imphal on April 14, 1944. The flag has been in the possession of YA Sishak at Ukhrul in Manipur, kept in a steel trunk and taken out only on the INA memorial days.

The story of the Moirang flag and how it came to Sishak's possession is an interesting saga of the INA. Netaji's soldiers of the INA's Special Groups had entered Manipur along with Japanese forces in mid-March 1944. The Japanese offensive towards Imphal began on March 8 1944 with 33rd, 15th and 31st Divisions in an encircling movement toward the Manipur basin.

On March 29, Japanese troops occupied the road north of Imphal valley from Kohima and the rest of India. Two days later, they captured Nappen Hill, gaining a foothold on the Shenam Saddle. The INA's Bahadur Group, headed by Shaukat Ali, acted as scouts and pathfinders to the advancing Japanese units in the opening stages of the Imphal offensive. Some 7,000 men from the INA's 1st Division had participated in the Battle of Imphal.

A small unit of the INA had sneaked through and planted the flag at Moirang. In "A biography of Subhas Bose - The Last Hero" (1982), Mihir Bose described: "The Japanese on their eagerness to claim victory with the fall of Imphal released one photograph on April 29, 1944, which showed a group of INA soldiers entering a Manipur village carrying a photograph of Netaji and being enthusiastically greeted by villagers."

I visited the INA Museum at Moirang. It was a rather pathetic representation of the INA. There was no photograph of the flag hoisting or how long the flag had been flying. However, I could trace out

one witness from the day who told me about YA Sishak. I was informed that he was in possession of the first flag, the very flag that had been raised at Moirang. My search took me to Ukhrul, 80 km from Imphal.

I reached Ukhrul and was directed to Shishak's house up on the hill. The little wooden structure had remnants of the great war strewn all over the lawn. There was a big barreled field gun just near the gate.

He came out of his small house on seeing me; the old soldier gave me a Jai Hind salute. He took me inside; his small house was filled with war memorabilia. There were samurai swords, helmets and many photographs lining the walls.

I impatiently asked him about the flag. He went inside his house, asking me to follow him. He asked me to bring down the top trunk from a piled up stack. He opened the trunk, and there, carefully wrapped in newspapers, was the first free flag of India. My search was over; I had found Netaji's flag in a remote village in one corner of India.

On my insistence, Shishak set up the flag in his front room and told me the story of the flag. When the INA group sneaked into Moirang, they found no opposition. Col Malik informed Netaji about their success over the radio and was instructed to hoist the INA flag.

They then discovered that there was no flag with them. Malik hurriedly asked his men to make one. The first flag is a rather crude representation of the INA's tricolor with the Springing Tiger, which looks more like a schoolboy's drawing of a fat cat.

Even the direction of the tiger was wrong; the INA Flag had the tiger springing from the right to the left, in the flag it was shown in the opposite direction. Shishak told me that he was with the Japanese group, who were using him as a carrier boy. He had not been present when the flag was raised,

but had arrived later in the day. He remembers the flag being photographed both by the Japanese and the INA soldiers, but no photo exists. He recalls that the Indians were very enthused and cheered and danced around the flag. At sundown the flag was lowered and given to a local school teacher, who promised to raise it every day.

However, the flag was stolen by a village chieftain, who used it at times as a head-dress on ceremonial occasions. Shishak showed me a photograph of the old chief. It was only years later, that Shishak would cajole the Chief to give over the flag to him. That Shishak owned the flag was only first reported by a local newspaper in 1985. Since then, many have approached him for the flag, but he zealously guards it and only shows it to the few people who can make their way to his small village up in the hills.

Shishak plans to set up a museum in Shashank. Along with the flag, he has hundreds of knick knacks which include uniforms, shells, helmets, uniforms, samurai swords, maps and papers, field guns and photographs.

However, Shishak is still not recognised as a freedom fighter. He showed me his passport, which proved that he had made two trips to Japan where he was honoured for his war efforts, but the Government of India still does not recognise him as a freedom fighter.

"I was just a fourteen years old boy when I fought for Netaji, but the Commissioner at Ukhrul is not sending my file to Delhi with his recommendation," he rued bitterly.

Shishak showed me the trenches which had yielded up many relics of the war recently. I plunged into one, scraping the ground with the hope of finding a used bullet shell. He showed me rocks which had samurai swords and Japanese letters carved on them.

I have repeatedly written to the Government of India and the Odisha Government asking them to get the flag from Shishak and display it either at the INA Museum at Seelamgarh Fort in Delhi or at the Netaji Birthplace at Cuttack. I have visited him twice in the last few years, I am sure he can be coaxed to part with his flag. Until then, this little piece of history lies locked up in a steel trunk in the small village in Manipur.

(The writer is a heritage historian)

BBSR-Jaipur flight: Marwaris thank CM Naveen Patnaik



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Marwari Samaj with all its collaborative associations has expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for launching direct flights between Bhubaneswar and Jaipur of Rajasthan. The senior representatives of the Samaj submitted their letter of gratitude to the CM through Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra here.

Presenting the letter, senior members of the Samaj mentioned, "Rajasthan and Odisha have long history of diverse cultural heritage.

The socio-religious connection between both the States is very ancient. In recent days both the States have surged as leading tourism hubs in India. The launching of direct flights will indeed be very helpful for thousands of travellers between these two States."

The Chief Secretary said the travellers between the two States had to face many difficulties as they had to travel either via Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai or Hyderabad which was time taking and more expensive. Realizing the need, the Chief Minister took the historic step, he told.

Mamita case: Min, netas frequented Sunshine School 'dark room'

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

In more trouble for Minister of State (MoS) for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra, a student of the Sunshine Model School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district on Friday levelled a serious allegation against Mishra in connection with the school-teacher Mamita Meher murder case. On condition of anonymity, the student claimed that the Minister and a few leaders of the ruling party used to visit the 'dark room' of the educational institution. On several occasions, they even spent nights there. He further alleged that girl students were taken to the secret room whenever the influential persons visit the school. Sometimes, a few girls were taken to Bhubaneswar.

"Though students knew about all illegitimate activities, no one was given a chance to raise his voice against the same. The students were threatened of termination and deduction of marks in examinations, if they revealed anything," the student added. Earlier, another student of the institution had alleged that the Minister used to visit the girls' hostel of the educational institution, where Govinda Sahu, president of the school management committee and prime accused in the murder case, ran a sex racket. "Govinda Sahu used to stay at the girls' hostel most of the time. We have spotted his two-wheeler parked in front of the hostel," the student had alleged.

231 infections in BBSR, 1 death reported

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Capital city Bhubaneswar on Friday recorded 231 new Covid-19 positive cases, increasing its total tally to 1,16,920. The active cases were 3,633. Out of the new cases, 164 were local contacts and 67 quarantine cases. Notably, the city had registered 233 infections on Thursday.

One more patient succumbed to the disease in the city, pushing the total death toll to 1,046. However, 172 persons recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 1,12,220.

State adds 467 Covid cases, 3 deaths

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State reported 467 new Covid-19 positive cases in 23 districts and the State pool on Friday, with which the total tally rose to 10,37,523.

Among the freshly-infected were 86 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years. Among the new cases, 272 cases were reported from quarantine and 195 local contacts. Notably, the State had recorded 524 cases on Thursday. Khordha district recorded the day's highest 243 cases followed by Cuttack with 36, Baleswar 16, Sambalpur 14, Jagatsinghpur and Rayagada 13 each and Mayurbhanj 10.

The districts which recorded below-10 cases were Kendrapada nine, Jajpur and Sundargarh eight each, Bhadrak and Nayagarh six each, Boudh and Puri five each, Angul and Dhenkanal four each, Ganjam, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar two each and Bargarh, Balangir, Nabarangpur and Subarnapur one positive each.

Besides, 57 cases were reported from the State pool. The active cases numbered 4,747. Three more patients succumbed to the disease in the State, taking the total death toll to 8,301. Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Khordha districts reported one death each.

So far, 10,24,42 persons have recovered from the disease.

Police acting properly in Mamita case: Says State Women Commission chief

PNS ■ BALANGIR

The schoolteacher Mamita Meher incident is very tragic with a precious life being lost. Police are investigating the case properly and the Balangir SP has assured to complete the job in time.

This was stated by Chairman of the Odisha State Commission for Women Minati Behera to the media here on Friday.

"A women commission's team would visit the family members of Mamita and also visit the crime spot (at Mahaling in Kalahandi district) and the school tomorrow. The commission will discuss with the Kalahandi district Collector to ensure a proper atmosphere in the school in the interest of the students," Behera said.

The commission is in touch with the Balangir SP from the day of the incident, she said, adding, "We have written to the Balangir SP so that the guilty are punished. We will report to the Government on our finding."

250 kg ganja seized; 2 held by NCB

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A team of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) seized a huge amount of ganja from a truck near Rasulgurh Square here on Friday and arrested two persons in this connection.

The NCB officials found the 250 kg of the contraband in 10 bags, concealed in a specially-made cavity in an oil tanker. The arrested duo was identified as Sunil Ray and Agindeo Bin, both of Bihar.

The seized contraband was sourced from Koraput district and was being trafficked to Bihar. Sunil and Agindeo were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 and further investigations are underway, said NCB in a release.

KiiT-IS boy gets Kalam Appreciation Award

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Vaibhav Kumar, a Grade-XI Science student of the KiiT International School here, has got the Appreciation Award under Dr APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Award 2021, conducted by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, for his idea, "Labour Linker System".



waiting for their chance to work. The app system would help the contractors select the labourers and send to the destinations.

Students with original and creative technological ideas and innovations that solve the day-to-day life problems faced by many people be it any problem are awarded.

KIIT & KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta congratulated Vaibhav for his success.

BJP, JMM oppose CM M'hanj visit

PNS ■ BARIPADA

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's short visit to Baripada on Friday was marked by anti-State Government sloganeering and black flag demonstration by BJP and JMM workers. While the CM was on his way back to Bhubaneswar, all of a sudden, he was opposed by the activists of the two parties. Scuffles between the demonstrators and ruling BJD workers ensued, leaving a few injured. BJP workers later gheraoed the local police station as a mark of protest against the BJD activists' attack.

Hundreds of B'swar PwDs denied Govt sops

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

Hundreds of persons with disabilities (PwDs) in the district are deprived of the benefits under different schemes of the State as well as Central Governments since as many as 10,000 applications for person with disabilities are pending for verification in the District Headquarters Hospital.

Thanks to Covid restrictions, a huge number of applications have piled up in the DHH pending for verification.

Although the Covid restrictions have eased yet several applicants alleged that the process was moving at a snail's pace.

Therefore, they were deprived of several benefits including pension, travel concession and education facilities, etc. The verification by the specialists certify the nature of disability and percent of disability which entitles them to avail the facilities under different schemes. The PwDs which

are covered under the MBPY (Madhu Babu Pension Yojana) while receive Rs 500- Rs 700 per month as pension , those covered under IGNDP (Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension) receive Rs 700 from the Centre.

In the district while about 25,000 PwDs receive pensions including nearly 21,000 under MBPY and availing other benefits, the rest are waiting for certificates from the DHH.

It may be noted as per 2011 census there were about 71,000 PwDs in the district.

The District Social Security Officer (DSSO) office maintained that the applications which are sent online from the blocks were yet to be verified by the DHH.

An official of the concerned department in the DHH however said that the output of verification slumped due to Covid restrictions and other loads on the specialists. The process has begun and they would be cleared in due course.

CM distributes health cards in M'bhanj; projects worth ₹2,000 crore launched



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday inaugurated distribution of smart health cards under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana in Mayurbhanj district. As many as 21,40,000 people in the district would get benefit from the scheme.

The programme has already been launched in six of 30 districts in the State.

Addressing the gathering, Patnaik said that September 2021 marked a new era in the history of healthcare in Odisha. From September 1, the Biju

Swasthya Kalyan Yojana in Odisha has started providing health services through smart health cards.

Patnaik said that 15,000 hectares of land spread over 94 villages in Mayurbhanj got irrigated through the Subarnarekha irrigation project.

Additionally, a Rs 3,200-crore mega piped water project is being implemented to provide piped water to all families in the district.

The CM also inaugurated or laid foundation-stones of at least 500 projects worth Rs 2,300 crore in the district.

Sorcery doubt: Couple killed in S'garh, accused held

Police recovered the bodies of the couple on Thursday

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

The Sundargarh police arrested a person, on Friday allegedly for killing an elderly couple of his own village, suspecting them of practicing witchcraft since his young daughter was reportedly not maintaining good health and he suspected that the couple had been responsible for the same. Police recovered the bodies of the couple on Thursday.

The deceased were Lohia Podar (65), a native of Kadobahal village of Bhadratoli under the Raibaga police station, had been residing at his village along with his wife Ludi (60). Police came to know the daughter of one Puran Podar of the same village was not maintaining good health and Puran used to quarrel with Lohia and Ludi most of the time. Puran entered into the house of Lohia and Ludi on Wednesday night and slit their throat. Police on Friday arrested Puran.

Odisha e-vehicle firm bags Green Energy Award

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The Shema e-vehicle & Solar (SES) Pvt Ltd, an Odisha-based electric scooter manufacturing company, has bagged the India Green Energy Award.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari presented the award to the firm in outstanding green energy initiatives in electric vehicle & battery segment. The award was conferred at the third edition of India Green Energy Award 2020 by the Indian Federation of Green Energy. The SES, owned by young entrepreneur Yogesh Lath from Sambalpur district, has been manufacturing ultra-modern electric two-wheelers at Dhankanda since five years. The company has also set up a mass production assembly line



at Manesar (Gurugram). The SES had launched its first FLY model in 2016 approved by ARAI under the low-speed category which hit the road in 2017. Since then, four new products, Eagle, Tuff, Zoom, Bold, have been rolled out with each having four to five variants.

Navy holds Nau Yatra over river Prachi to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To mark the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a team of four Navy personnel and four veterans along with one Yogacharya successfully completed a voyage over the ancient river Prachi recently.

The voyage was jointly coordinated by the Indian Navy and Veterans Club of Odisha with logistics and administrative support from the Naval Officer-in-Charge (Odisha).

The Nau Yatra was flagged off by NM, VSM (Retd) Chairman Cmde Dinabandhu Jena, NM, VSM and Navy Foundation, Odisha Chapter, from Sana Mundali on October 18. During the Nau Yatra, the boat covered various ghats along the historical river Prachi. The two-day voyage was



aimed to revisit the historical trade routes of river Prachi leading up to the Bay of Bengal. The event also aimed at spreading awareness among the local people about the role and importance of the Indian Navy especially in the 1971 war. The riverine trip culminated at Baleswar temple at Puri district where the river meets the Bay of Bengal on October 19.

'Advika' initiative proved to be game changer

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Exactly a year ago on the International Day of Girl Child, the State Government's Women and Child Development Department had started a unique initiative called 'Advika-Every Girl is Unique' campaign to reach out to millions of young girls and boys at the village level through the Anganwadi Workers.

The programme aimed at imparting life skill education to the young mass thereby enabling them to play a proactive role at the community level, besides capacitating them to deal with various issues and challenges of life confidently.

On one year completion of Advika programme, a State level webinar was organised and similar awareness programmes are being organised on the theme of girl child, with a focus on intensifying Advika initiative.

The theme of 2021 International Day of Girl Child is "Digital Generation, Our Generation", means equal access to internet and digital devices for girls and targeted investments to facilitate opportunities for girls to safety and meaningful access like use, lead and design technology.

Even though the digital inclusion and literacy opens new avenues to learning, earning and leading for girls, the



Covid pandemic has deepened the gender divide around connectivity and online safety, with girls facing economic and social barriers to internet and device access.

During the one year at least one million adolescent boys and girls have been reached through the campaign, nearly one lakh Sakhi Sahelis have been identified and more than 200 project level WhatsApp groups of Sakhi-Sahelis have been formed. Sakhi-Sahelis are now instrumental in raising their voices, barring their own marriages, mobilising the communities, supporting frontline workers in home visits, counselling, taking pledges for 'no to child marriage', addressing gender issues,

preventing child marriage and linking to social protection schemes and skill opportunities, etc.

Resourceful Advika packages with AWW pocket books, Kishori Kalender, Kishori Barta were disseminated in all 30 districts with messages of the Chief Minister to supplement Advika sessions with life skill education.

Moreover, Advika has now become a platform to track vulnerable adolescents and their families.

As of now, during the last one year, 1,620 child marriages have been successfully foiled and nearly 7,000 villages of the State are now declared child marriage free for which Advika contributed signif-

icantly.

However, it is further being initiated to create and institutionalise State level adolescents' forum.

In coming days, linkages with skill and livelihood based vocational and skilling opportunities for the adolescent girls through Panchayati Raj, Skill Development and Technical Education Department to be strengthened and broadened through ORMAS, DDU GKY, Skilled Odisha, etc. Besides these, a technology based ADVIKA mobile app will be embedded into the system.

Sakhi-Saheli Payal and Rashmita Naik from Nabrangpur and Dhenkanal shared their experience of getting associated with Advika

Programme and how the forum has helped them getting to know about many issues including child marriage, domestic violence, Covid-19, help lines for distressed women and children, menstrual hygiene, etc.

Anganwadi worker Bijulibati Suna said that they ensured the participation of maximum young boys and girls in every Saturday at Anganwadi centres and discussed the themes mentioned in the Advika Calendar.

She said that the platform was helping the adolescent girls to share their issues and concerns.

WCD Principal Secretary Anu Garg announced the launch of Advika application that will create a platform for the adolescent girls and boys to share their issues and concern and get required help.

WCD Minister Tukuni Sahu said the programme would help create a healthy mindset and thereby help achieve a better and healthy society for all.

WCD Advisor Sulata Deo said that it would be ensured that no girl child is left back and every girl gets equal access to education, nutrition, safety and growth.

UNICEF Chief of Field Office Monica Nelson said that investing in adolescent girls is always a game changer.

16 yrs on, accessing info under RTI Act not yet hassle-free



SASHIPRAVA BINDHANI

A global movement is working towards ending corruption by promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in public offices. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 aims to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels by wiping out corruption. Much before these initiatives India has drafted and implemented the Right To Information (RTI) Act 2005, also popularly known as the Sunshine Law.

The law which came into force on October 12, 2005 across the country was set to reach its objectives under section 4 of its Act, specifically under section 4(1) b. It is obligatory that within 120 days on its implementation all the public authorities shall suo moto disclose the details under section 4(1) b in 17 points. However, as of today, the people of the country are yet to access information without difficulties as mandated under section 4 of the Act. The subsections (vi) of section 4 (1) b is the core of the whole Act. The fact is that for the last 16 years the country is

witnessing much hue and cry over dissemination of information, role of obligation of public authorities, functioning of different Information Commissions and Commissioners. This sub-subsection (vi) is a statement of the categories of documents held by or under its control. This line is the base of the Act upon which the edifice of transparency and accountability stand upon.

A designated officer can only verify the information requested, in the applications of an information seeker, only when the list of the categories of documents available. After proper verification he can provide the documents or deny under section 8 of the Act or take steps under section 11. If the documents available need to be obtained by a certified receipt, then the applicant shall be intimated accordingly. When the information available and some cost is incurred then it can be charged. A soft copy can be provided if references are not there with section 10. The response of non availability of information by the PIO (Public Information Officer) can only be verified with subsection (vi) of section 4 (1) b. Further, the retention period of documents available must be mentioned. Further, it is the responsibility of public authority to ensure that the information sought by an information seeker is listed under this subsection, when complaint/ second appeal is abetted and disposed of in a situation of death of the seeker during hearing. Further, the use of section 6 (3) needs to be interpreted with sub-subsection

(vi) of section 4 (1) b by the list of the categories of documents. Those documents under the control can be obtained by section 2 (f). It shall prevent the delay in transferring the application under section 6 (3).

Section 2 (f) says that : "information" means any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, log-books, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force. Further, subsection (vi) needs to be read with subsection (iv) and (v) which most importantly elaborates the accountability and transparency measures of any public authority most specifically the bodies which are responsible for providing justice to people.

It is also very significant to note here that most of the offices and public authorities, even the quasi judicial bodies and Information Commissions, are functioning without the list of such documents. One of the important indicators of corruption-free functioning of public authority is the availability of written norms, guidelines, rules and regulations based on which it is functioning. How can the authenticity and legalities of a public authority be determined without availability of such documents as mentioned under subsection (v) and (vi) of section 4 (1) b of the Act. There are thousands and

thousands of offices in the country where the job description of a particular employee is not available, hence not included in the subsection (vi) so also not in the list of (v). Employees are retiring without benefits during the services and their family members are fighting even after death to receive the legitimate dues. There are lakhs of contractual/short term skilled employees retiring from their jobs without a job description and wages as per law of the country. It would be pertinent to mention that the conditions of service of different commissioners are also not available even after completion of tenure.

We can't deny that there are many such departments and public authorities across the country which are making efforts to ensure availability of information under section 4 of the Act. It is indubitable and perspicacious that the accountability measures, which are ascertained by the written norms(not arbitrary) set by the law of the country under the constitution, are not available. And after completion of 16 years of enactment of the Sunshine Law, the citizenry is yet to access information and obtain it without using form A under section 6 (1) of RTI Act 2005. Hence, the Government in the States and Centre should take appropriate steps immediately to prevent such a situation against transparency, that is for a corruption free system in the country.

(The writer is a former State Information Commissioner, email: bindhani.sashi@gmail.com)

Man held for wife's death in Baleswar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Nilagiri police on Friday arrested the husband of a 23-year-old newly-wed woman, who died in the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) here because of poisoning.

The accused Prathush Mohanty (28), a resident of Santragadia village under the Nilgiri police station, was held following a complaint of the victim's father Trailokya Patra, a resident of Bangra village under the Sadar police on limits.

Patra has alleged that his daughter was poisoned by her husband and in-laws due to non-fulfilment of their dowry demands and extramarital relationship of her husband.

The FIR stated that the marriage between his daughter Gayatri and Pratyush had been solemnised on February 21 this year.

Despite fulfilment of all the demands made by her in-laws, she was tortured physically and mentally by them repeatedly.

On October 7, Gayatri was administered poisonous pesticides. As her health deteriorated, she was first admitted to the Nilagiri Sub-Divisional Hospital and then shifted to the SCB, Cuttack, and later to the AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

Again after a few days, she was shifted to the Baleswar DHH.

Illegal coal transportation in Paradip, 7 of pvt firm arrested

PNS ■ PARADIP

Seven persons of an equipment supply company were arrested by police here on Wednesday for illegal transportation of costly coking coal from the Paradip Port's prohibited area. In this connection, the port authorities were conducting an in-house enquiry. In the meantime, on receipt of a complaint, a case was registered at the Paradip Model Police station flowing which police started investigation. According to Paradip Model PS IIC Rajanikant Mishra, during investigation, it was found that the accused persons of IN Machinery were involved in illegal transportation of coking coal by forging documents of a stevedoring company, Trishakti Shipping. All accused persons were forwarded to court.

Police Commissioner Day held at JSPUR Jagatsinghpur: The 62nd Police Commemoration Day was observed here on Thursday. District Superintendent of Police Akhileshwar Singh attended the event as chief guest and remembered the supreme sacrifices made by police personnel in the State in different circumstances on duty. He paid homage to the 377 police personnel and CISF men of the country who have sacrificed lives this year. A cash award of Rs 5,000 was provided to the kin of Havildar Malay Kumar Das, who succumbed to Covid this year.

Stone for Sona river flyover laid

PNS ■ CHAMPUPA

Foundation-stone for construction of a bridge over Sona river was laid at a programme held at Bhuyan-Roida village under Joda block of Keonjhar district on Thursday. Champua MLA Meenakshi Mahanta who was the chief guest on the occasion told that the distance Joda and Bhuyan-Roida is only 4 km but tribal people cover about 23 km distance via Bhadrasahi daily as there is no bridge over the Sona river which is flowing between the village and Joda. Notably, the villagers had been making demanding for construction of a bridge since long before different Governments in power. Last time, Mohanta herself had also tried to persuade the district administration to sanction funds from the DMF for the bridge but it was in vain. However, at long last, Tata Steel agreed to build a bridge. Tata Steel GM (M & Q) Atul Bhattanagar told that Tata Steel not only works for the nation building but also builds a bond with people of its periphery by undertaking many developmental projects. As a part of its CSR initiatives, the bridge work will be taken up, he told and declared that the bridge will be completed by March 3, 2022.

INBRIEFS

PATAWARI TAKES OVER AS JSPUR DM
Jagatsinghpur: 2015-batch IAS officer Parul Patawari on Wednesday assumed charge of new district Collector of Jagatsinghpur. She took charge from an ADM, who was in charge of Collector after the transfer of SK Mohapatra. She was received by ADMs Satchidananda Sahoo, Kanhu Charan Dhir and Chinmayee Biswal besides other officers and Collectorate staffs.

POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY HELD AT JSPUR
Jagatsinghpur: The 62nd Police Commemoration Day was observed here on Thursday. District Superintendent of Police Akhileshwar Singh attended the event as chief guest and remembered the supreme sacrifices made by police personnel in the State in different circumstances on duty. He paid homage to the 377 police personnel and CISF men of the country who have sacrificed lives this year. A cash award of Rs 5,000 was provided to the kin of Havildar Malay Kumar Das, who succumbed to Covid this year.

TRIBAL WARRIORS' STATUES INSTALLED
BRAHMAMUR: The statues of two famous tribal warriors and freedom fighters Kulla and Daba were installed at the premises of famous Byaghra Devi temple situated at Kulad in Ganjam district on Wednesday. Kulad Sarpanch Prakash Chandra Panigrahi unveiled the statues in the presence of Kandhamal Kui Samaj president Bhaskar Pradhan, Kandha Suraksha Manch president Sanjeeb Pradhan and the sculptor of the statues Santanu Pradhan. Kulad near Bhanjanagar in the district is well-known for Goddess Byaghra Devi and is also the birthplace of famous poet Kabisamrat Upendra Bhanja. The name of the village Kulad is derived from the names of two tribal warriors.

GAJAPATI'S TALA GORBA VILLAGERS JOIN BJP
Paralakhemundi: Over 300 Tala Gorba villagers of Partada panchayat of Kashiagar in Gajapati district joined the BJP in the presence of local MLA K Narayan Rao and Block Chairman Chairman Simadri recently. Among them, leaders like Sarpanches Jirmiyoo Gamango and Majes Raito said they are determined to strengthen the BJP in the area. MLA Rao expected more people to join hands with the BJP.

Gynaecologist Diptibala passes away

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Diptibala Patnaik, a renowned gynaecologist serving in Sambalpur and western parts of the State, passed away at Bhubaneswar on Thursday due to old age ailment. She was 83. Born in Cuttack in an established family, Dr Patnaik did here MBBS from SCB MCH, Cuttack and MS from Kolkata. She retired as the Joint Director Health from the Government of Odisha and later engaged herself in social activities.

Government job apart, she also served in the ESI hospital at Brajarajgarh. She was also the CDMO at Balangir and Sundargarh. After her retirement in the year 1997, she was immediately assigned the job of

Joint Director for Leprosy Eradication programme. She always worked for the poor people and the slum dwellers. She also adopted many orphanages in her personal level. She was also quite active in Red Cross and Rotray movement. Besides, she was the chairperson for the CWC (Child Welfare Committee). Her husband late Patitpaban Pradhan was the Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) during the seventies and eighties when Janata Dal was in power both in the State and Centre. She spent her entire life in western Odisha and served people here as a doctor and also on various activities. Her two daughters and a son-in-law performed the last rites at Swargadwar in Puri.

HIGH-LEVEL MEET FROM MONDAY

Army Top brass to discuss situation along LAC, LOC

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

Situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China and Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan will figure prominently during the Army Commanders' conference starting here next week. The top brass will review the operational readiness of the force to deal with any threat.

The four-day meet starting Wednesday will take place at a time when tension prevails at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh and the recently held 13th round of Corps Commander level talks did not yield any result.

Given the stalemate at the stand-off sites, both the countries are readying their troops for winter deployment in the forward areas in Eastern Ladakh. The Commanders will take stock of the preparations made to ensure troops posted there during the harsh winter months are able to perform their duty effectively.

To that effect, logistical back up will also be reviewed, sources said here on Friday.

At present, more than 50,000 troops each from both the sides are deployed in forward areas besides the friction points thereby leading to tension. The conference will review the current status of readiness of these troops, they added. Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited some forward posts in the first week of this month at the LAC in Ladakh and reviewed preparedness for winter months.

In fact, the status of the entire 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east will be reviewed by the commanders.

As regards Pakistan, the ceasefire by both the armies in February this year at the LOC to avoid collateral damage has, so far, managed to hold except



some incidents last month when the Pakistan army violated the pact. The firing was in an apparent attempt to push militants into Jammu and Kashmir from launch pads across the LOC in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).

The commanders conference of all the three Services take place twice a year.

in the backdrop of recent spurt in terrorist violence in Kashmir, sources said. Army Chief General M M Naravane visited Jammu region earlier this week to assess the situation on the ground.

The commanders conference of all the three Services take place twice a year.

PM misleading country, only 21% fully vaccinated: Cong

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

As the Government celebrated the 100-crore vaccination mark, the Congress on Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of misleading the country on the job drive as only 21 per cent of the country's population was fully vaccinated.

The Congress asked the Prime Minister to bring out a white paper on how his Government intends to vaccinate all adults by year-end, a promise made by him earlier.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh also alleged that the Prime Minister, in his address to the nation, did not talk about issues of inflation and terrorism confronting the country.

He said that instead of offering condolences to the families of 4.53 lakh people who lost their lives due to the coronavirus, the Prime Minister is celebrating.

"The Prime Minister should talk about the issues confronting the nation, but instead he is celebrating

'Mahotsava'. The PM touched issues in a wrong manner and shared wrong data while trying to mislead the country," he told reporters.

Vallabh also alleged that "the PM gave the data which is semi-baked, as half-truth is very dangerous."

He said there are only two countries having more than 50 crore population and the claim that India is the first country to achieve 100-crore plus vaccinations is "false" as China had achieved 216 crore doses of vaccinations in September.

He said China has double vaccinated 80 per cent of its population while India has only vaccinated 20 per cent of the population.

"We would like to ask the prime minister that it would have been nice if he had shared when we are going to start vaccinations for our school-going and college-going students. It would have been good if the PM answered when his promise of the entire population would be fulfilled by December 31, 2021. "Please share a white paper



on how we are going to receive 106 crore vaccines in the next 70 days to vaccinate our entire adult population," Vallabh said. He said that "we thought he would talk about inflation because from January 1 till date there is a hike in (price of) diesel by 29 per cent and petrol by 27 per cent."

"Is there anybody on this earth except the prime minister's few friends whose income level has increased in last nine months by 29 per cent," he asked.

"We were expecting you to speak on the issue when innocents were killed in Jammu and Kashmir, including 32 persons murdered in the last two weeks and nine soldiers gave supreme sacrifice saving our motherland. But the prime minister does not have time for any of such things.

Announcement for Haj, online process to start in Nov: Naqvi

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Thursday said the official announcement of Haj 2022 will be made in the first week of November and along with that the process of online application for Haj will also be started.

He said that selection process of Haj pilgrims will be done according to complete vaccination with both the doses and guidelines and criteria to be decided by Indian and Saudi Arabia Governments, keeping in view Corona protocols during the time of Haj 2022.

While chairing Haj Review Meeting here Naqvi said that Digital Health Card, "E-MASIH" health facility and "E-luggage pre-tagging", providing all information regarding accommodation/transportation in Makkah-Madinah, will be provided to all the Haj pilgrims.

He said that preparations for Haj 2022 have been started keeping in mind the health and corona protocol of Saudi Arabia Government and Government of India.

The entire Haj 2022 process in India will be 100 per cent digital. India sends the second largest number of Haj pilgrims after Indonesia.

Naqvi said that arrangements for special training for Haj 2022 regarding Corona protocols and Health and Hygiene are being made in India and Saudi Arabia for the Haj pilgrims. National-international protocol guidelines due to pandemic position will be implemented and followed strictly during Haj 2022.

Haj 2022 process is being chalked out after deliberations among Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Haj Committee of India, Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia and India's Consul General in Jeddah and other agencies keeping in view all aspects of the pandemic challenges.

CAPSULE

152 SAKSHAM CENTRES LAUNCHED IN A WEEK

New Delhi: As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a total of 152 Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres), one stop solutions/single window system for basic financial needs of Self-Help Group across 77 districts of 13 states have been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development during 4-8th October, said a statement here from the Ministry.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE TO OPEN SCHOOLS IN INDIA

New Delhi: After setting up its schools in China and Thailand, international schools' group, Wellington College, is making its foray in India to establish its first educational institute in Pune. In this regard, its subsidiary Wellington College International has joined hands with the Unison Group, a premium education provider in India. The Wellington College, founded under the British Royal Charter in 1853, is a leading UK day and boarding school while Unison Group has four education institutions in Dehradun and Delhi NCR, according to a statement here.

LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY HOLDS KNOWLEDGE SCIENCE EVENT

New Delhi: Four policies formulated by Department of Science and Technology (DST)—on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR), Liberalised Geospatial Guidelines and Scientific Research Infrastructure, Sharing Maintenance and Networks (SRIMAN) would go a long way in taking benefits of science, technology and innovation to the common man and realise the dreams of Atmanirbhar Bharat, said Dr Akhilesh Gupta, senior adviser, Department of Science & Technology, at a programme organised online by the University of Lucknow.

ARMY TIES UP WITH AMITY UNIVERSITY

New Delhi: The Indian Army on Friday tied up with Amity University to establish a long-term symbiotic relationship for Academic & Research Cooperation. It will be the first of a kind with any private university, towards starting a joint "Centre of Excellence" for Studies in Engineering, Innovation & Technology at AUUP premises.

Govt expects Indian carriers purchasing more wide-bodied aircraft

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is looking forward to Indian airlines purchasing and leasing many more wide-bodied aircraft once the Indian aviation sector recuperates from the Covid-induced crisis.

Only two Indian carriers — Air India and Vistara — currently have wide-bodied aircraft, which have bigger fuel tanks that allows them to operate long-haul flights such as on India-US routes.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia while speaking at a conference of Public Affairs Forum of India on Friday, said Air India's successful sale to the Tata group is a testament of the belief of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this Government that "the private sector has an integral to play in

making sure that service value proposition is there for all customers".

"I think in many ways, this (privatisation) changes the long standing perception of the Government in business," he added. The Centre had announced on October 8 that a Tata group subsidiary made the winning bid for Air India by quoting Rs 18,000 crore. Both Air India and Vistara are owned by the Tata group now.

The minister said: "Our national flagship carrier (Air India), over the last 10 years, due to the policies of the past governments, had really become a drag on the resources of the country." "That divestment process was completed. The hand over is in process. I wish the new owners all success," he mentioned.

Scindia said there is a need to have a level playing field and

break down of all the gatekeepers to allow proliferation of aviation sector players -- not only new players but also existing players that will augment capacity.

Stating that he does not want to put the cart before the horse, Scindia said once the normalisation happens, there should be expansion of capacities. "And the expansion of capacities that I would like to see is not only for domestic traffic but also for international traffic. So, I am looking forward to our domestic airlines purchasing many more and leasing many more wide-bodied aircraft so that they can also travel abroad," he said.

"And these long-haul flights, which will shorten the gap between the RASK and the CASK, the revenue structure and the cost structure of the airline, is something that I am



looking forward to," he stated. RASK stands for revenue per available seat-kilometre and it is calculated by dividing the total revenue earned from a flight with the total number of seats and the distance travelled. Similarly, CASK stands for cost per available seat-kilometre.

The minister said he is looking to the return of normalcy in the domestic aviation sector in the next couple of months. He said he wished his very best to the two airlines -- re-born Jet Airways and new airline Akasa -- that were coming on board.

SC seeks response from Twitter India ex-MD on UP's plea against Karnataka HC

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from former Twitter Managing Director Manish Maheshwari on an appeal of the Uttar Pradesh Government against the Karnataka High Court's decision to quash a notice seeking his personal appearance as part of the probe into a communally sensitive video uploaded by a user on the microblogging site.

The bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State Government, and issued notice to Maheshwari, who has been transferred to the USA by his employer Twitter Inc in August. "We issue notice. We need to hear the case," said the bench which also comprised justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli.

Earlier, the State Government, which has filed the plea through Senior Superintendent of Police of Ghaziabad, had on September 8 mentioned its appeal for an urgent hearing. The plea challenges the July 23 order of the Karnataka High Court quashing the notice issued to Maheshwari to appear before the police and cooperate in the

probe related to uploading of a communally sensitive video on Twitter. The Karnataka High Court has interfered with the summons issued to the then Twitter Managing Director by the Uttar Pradesh Police, the law officer had said.

Holding the notice as "mala fide", the high court had said the notice under Section 41(A) of the CrPC should be treated as Section under 160 of CrPC, allowing the Ghaziabad Police to question Maheshwari through virtual mode, at his office or his residential address in Bengaluru. Section 41 (A) of the CrPC gives power to police to issue a notice to an accused to appear before it when a complaint is filed and if the accused complies with the notice and cooperates, then he is not required to be arrested.

The Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) Police had issued a notice under Section 41-A of the CrPC on June 21 asking him to report at the Loni Border police station at 10:30 AM on June 24. Maheshwari then moved the Karnataka High Court as he was at that time staying in Bengaluru in Karnataka. On June 24, the High Court, in an interim order, restrained the Ghaziabad

Police from initiating any coercive action against him.

The Ghaziabad Police on June 15 booked Twitter Inc, Twitter Communications India Pvt Ltd (Twitter India), news website The Wire, journalists Mohammed Zubair and Rana Ayyub, besides Congress leaders Salman Nizami, Maskoor Usmani, Shama Mohamed and

writer Saba Naqvi.

They were booked over the circulation of a video in which an elderly man, Abdul Shamad Saifi, alleged that he was thrashed by some young men, who also asked him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' on June five. According to police, the video was shared to cause communal unrest.

SC directs Centre to issue order for grant of PC in seven days to 39 women officers in Army

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to some Women Short Service Commission Officers (WSSCO) in the Army, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to issue orders granting Permanent

Commission (PC) to 39 such officers in seven working days and furnish the details of 25 officers with rea-

sons, who were not considered.

The Centre informed the top court that after re-examining the case of each 72 women SSC officers, one officer has decided to quit, 39 officers can be considered for PC, seven have been found medically unfit and 25 officers cannot be granted PC as they have adverse ACR report of indiscipline and disobedience and poor operational report.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna said that in respect of the officers forming part of the group of 36 WSSCOs who have filed four contempt peti-

Defence Ministry signs ₹400-crore contract with US for procurement of arms

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to provide more lethal equipment to the Navy to destroy enemy submarines and warships, the Defence ministry has signed a contract with the US worth over ₹400 crores for torpedoes and expendable(chaff and flares).

These weapons will be fitted on the long range P-8 I long range maritime reconnaissance

aircraft now with the Navy. These aircraft are also US made and the Indian Navy has 11 aircraft manufactured by Boeing.

The defence ministry said here the torpedoes deal worth Rs 423 crores is through the Foreign Military Sale route wherein the US stands guarantee for all the contractual clauses and delivery schedule.

These weapons are the outfit of P-8I Aircraft which is used

for Long range Maritime Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASV).

The first batch of the P-8 I was inducted in 2013 and the latest one joined service earlier this week. In addition to unmatched maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the P-8I has been deployed to assist during disaster relief.

The Centre has earlier told the top court that all these 72 WSSCOs have been found unfit for grant of permanent commission in the Army.

ASG Jain said that besides the 39 WSSCOs of the 72 officers, one officer has decided to quit while seven officers have been found medically unfit and 25 officers have been denied PC on disciplinary grounds, disobedience, and weak operational report. The apex court listed the matter for further hearing after Diwali vacation.

On October 1, the top court had restrained the Army from discharging the 72

WSSCOs, who were not considered for PC, till further orders and had sought a reply within a week on why they were not considered for the service.

The women officers have alleged that the top court's March 25 ruling was not considered by the Army and all 72 of them were rejected from consideration for the PC at one go. The apex court had directed that within three months, all serving SSC women officers have to be considered for PCs irrespective of them having crossed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service.

The women officers have alleged that the top court's March 25 ruling was not considered by the Army and all 72 of them were rejected from consideration for the PC at one go. The apex court had directed that within three months, all serving SSC women officers have to be considered for PCs irrespective of them having crossed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service.

Covid seasonal infection linked to low temp and humidity: Study

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 is a seasonal infection linked to low temperatures and humidity, much like seasonal influenza, researchers from Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) have claimed.

The results, published in Nature Computational Science, also support the considerable contribution of airborne SARS-CoV-2 transmission and the need to shift to measures that promote "air hygiene". Researchers worked on a

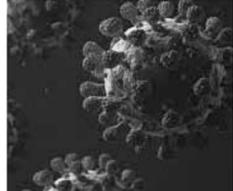
key question regarding SARS-CoV-2 was whether it was behaving, or will behave, as a seasonal virus like influenza, or whether it will be equally transmitted during any time of the year.

"The question of whether Covid-19 is a genuine seasonal disease becomes increasingly central, with implications for determining effective intervention measures," explained Xavier Rodó, director of the Climate and Health programme at ISGlobal and coordinator of the study.

To answer this question, Rodó and his team first analysed the association of temperature and humidity in the initial phase of SARS-CoV-2 spread in 162 countries across five continents, before changes in human behaviour and public health policies were put into place. The results show a negative relationship between the transmission rate (R0) and both temperature and humidity at the global scale: higher transmission rates were associated with lower temperatures and humidity.

The team then analysed how this association between climate and disease evolved over time, and whether it was consistent at different geographical scales. For this, they used a statistical method that was specifically developed to identify similar patterns of variation (i.e. a pattern-recognition tool) at different windows of time.

Again, they found a strong negative association for short time windows between disease (number of cases) and climate (temperature and humid-



ity), with consistent patterns during the first, second and third waves of the pandemic at different spatial scales: worldwide, countries, down to individual regions within highly affected countries (Lombardy,

Thüringen and Catalonia) and even to the city level (Barcelona).

The first epidemic waves waned as temperature and humidity rose, and the second wave rose as temperatures and humidity fell. However, this pattern was broken during summertime in all continents. "This could be explained by several factors, including mass gatherings of young people, tourism, and air conditioning, among others," explains Alejandro Fontal, researcher at ISGlobal and first author of the

study. Finally, using an epidemiological model, the research team showed that incorporating temperature into the transmission rate works better for predicting the rise and fall of the different waves, particularly the first and third ones in Europe. "Altogether, our findings support the view of COVID-19 as a true seasonal low-temperature infection, similar to influenza and to the more benign circulating coronaviruses," says Rodó.

This seasonality could con-

tribute importantly to the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, since low humidity conditions have been shown to reduce the size of aerosols, and thereby increase airborne transmission of seasonal viruses such as influenza. "This link warrants an emphasis on 'air hygiene' through improved indoor ventilation as aerosols are capable to persist suspended for longer times," says Rodó, and highlights the need to include meteorological parameters in the evaluation and planning of control measures.

PDP gives defamation notice to Malik

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday sent a legal notice to former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, seeking ₹10 crore in damages for making "vexatious, false motivated and incorrect" statement regarding her being a beneficiary of Roshni Act.



Sharing a copy of the legal notice on various social media platforms the twitter handle of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party stated, "Legal notice served to former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik, of fax machine fiasco fame, for levelling defamatory allegations against PDP President".

which are not only false and incorrect, you have defamed my client and have levelled scandalous and serious allegations against her with the sole objective of tarnishing her otherwise politically neat and clean image."

conduct, "yet my client has decided to sue you for claiming compensation / damages for loss of reputation and good name earned by her and for establishing that the allegations levelled you are incorrect and false and have been levelled at a juncture which hints at a political collusion behind, the speech made by you."

Counter-terror op: Fresh firing after 48 hrs in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Fresh exchange of firing was reported after a gap of almost 48 hours on the 12th day of the counter terrorist operation going on in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch on Friday.

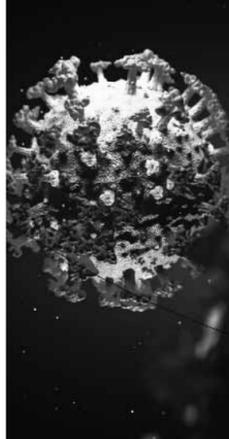
strategy to tackle the situation at hand. As the searches continued during the day the security forces recovered two small boxes, suspected to be the IEDs. The same were destroyed in situ to prevent any grievous injury.

subjected to frisking in main city centres including Lal Chowk area of Srinagar. Paramilitary forces along with jawans of the Jammu & Kashmir police were seen randomly checking vehicles and verifying papers of two wheeler owners.

Bengal on alert as cases spike

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government has moved into an alert mode following spike in corona cases post the festivities. The State has witnessed more than 1,000 new cases in the past 48 hours with Capital Kolkata alone witnessing 319 cases between Thursday and Friday, sources said adding the number of cases are likely to go up further.



the people were doubly negligent ... this had to happen ... one only hopes that the corona cases do not go up further," said heart surgeon Dr Kunal Sarkar.

against a steep rise in the corona cases if crowds are not controlled during Kali Puja-Diwali and Chhath Puja when people get out of their houses in large numbers. "We are looking in the face of a third wave if we do not take lessons from the past mistakes ... vaccination is not enough ... it can only limit fatality rates but it cannot provide cent percent guarantee against infection ... so it is necessary for both the Government and the people to exercise utmost caution," he said.

Kerala reports 9,361 new Covid cases

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala logged 9,361 new Covid-19 cases and 99 deaths on Friday, pushing the infection count to 48,88,678 and the death toll to 27,765. According to a release, 9,401 people recuperated from the disease today, taking the total cured in the state to 47,88,629.

TMC cries political terrorism as Sushmita Dev attacked

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday launched a frontal attack on the BJP for carrying out "political terrorism" in Tripura. This, after the convoy of TMC's charge de affairs in the North-East Sushmita Dev was attacked by alleged BJP miscreants.

Physical manhandling a sitting female Rajya Sabha MP, Sushmita Dev is Beyond Shameful and Political Terrorism by BJP Tripura goons! The time is near. People of Tripura will answer," Banerjee tweeted. Banerjee, is likely to visit Tripura post Diwali.

belonging to supporters of the party. We request you to urgently enquire about the matter and bring the perpetrators to justice."

place in that State on November 25. "Our national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has declared that the TMC will be contesting all the upcoming elections in Tripura and likewise we are preparing to contest the civic body polls. Let the polls be declared then the party will formulate a final strategy," Dev said.



People from Liangmai tribe perform their cultural dance during the 'Go To Hills 2.0' programme, at Konsa Khul village in Kangpokpi district on Friday

Centre not bothered about people: Gehlot

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday hit out at the Union Government over the farmers' agitation and rising inflation, accusing it of adopting an arrogant attitude and saying it is not bothered about people. "Inflation is increasing because prices of petrol and diesel are increasing day by day and the Central Government is not bothered about it. They have no idea that people are under distress," he told reporters in Nagaur's Nimbola Biswa village.

BJP expels three Udaipur leaders for anti-party activities

JAIPUR

The Rajasthan BJP on Friday expelled its three Udaipur leaders for six years for alleged anti-party activities. The move has come days before the bypolls to the Vallabhnagar Assembly segment in Udaipur.

MID-SEA DRUG BUST CASE Ananya Pandey grilled by NCB for second day

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood actress Ananya Pandey was grilled by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) for the second consecutive day on Friday in connection with the ongoing investigations into the mid-sea drug bust case involving Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan Khan and others.

Twenty-three-year-old Ananya Pandey - who is the daughter of Bollywood actor Chunky Pandey and granddaughter of the renowned heart surgeon late Dr Sharad Pandey - was questioned for three hours on the second day, in connection with the ongoing investigations in the mid-sea drug bust case.

scheduled his bail application the mid-sea drug bust case for hearing for October 26. Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and seven others were initially detained on the night of October 2 and later arrested on October 3, after the NCB officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of Charas, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) and ₹1.35 lakh in cash from Goa-bound Cordelia Cruises' Empress ship, off the Mumbai coast.

Assam CM woos tea tribe of bypoll-bound Mariani with promises of roads, schools, jobs

MARIANI (ASSAM)

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday promised to improve road connectivity, build schools and provide clean tap water at homes for all tea garden workers in Jorhat's by-poll-bound Mariani assembly constituency. Addressing an election rally here at Hatigarh playground, Sarma also said that his Government is working on a plan to reserve one lakh jobs for youths from tea garden communities.

reserve one lakh jobs for tea tribe youths, under existing Other Backward Classes quota, within a year, in keeping with the promise made by the BJP ahead of the state elections held earlier this year," the CM underlined. He said that guest houses will be built near each government medical college and hospital in the state for accommodating the attendants of patients from the community.

A-G: Hindus alone entitled for recruitment in HR&CE institutions

CHENNAI

Hindus alone are entitled for appointment in teaching and non-teaching posts in educational institutions run and funded by the State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department, the Tamil Nadu Government informed the Madras High Court on Friday.

Advocate-General R Shunmugasundaram said this when Justice C Saravanan was hearing a writ petition from a Muslim youth challenging the relevant provision today. The petition from Suhail sought to quash an employment advertisement in a Tamil daily dated October 13, which invited applications only from Hindus for appointment for teaching and non-teaching posts in the newly started Shri Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College in Kolathur and consequently direct the authorities to permit him to compete for the post of Office Assistant.



Women shop for lanterns and other decorative items ahead of the Diwali festival, in Thane on Friday

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Jab half done

The 1 billion vaccines is a big milestone but our fight against the virus is just half way through

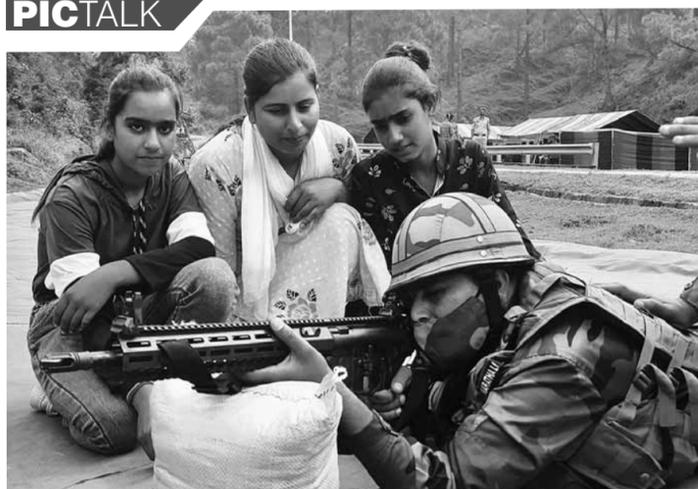
A billion vaccinations are done in India. That is a gigantic achievement. Only two countries in the world can claim the record. The other country is China. It reached the one-billion mark in June and the two-billion mark in September. As India celebrates the billionth dose, there is also the realisation that the job is half done. Just under a billion more doses will ensure that the country's adult population gets fully vaccinated. India's eligible adults need over 1.8 billion doses. Anything less than that is unacceptable. Seventy-five per cent of India's adult population — over 707 million people — has received one dose. Seventy more days remain till December 31. Twelve million doses a day are needed to fully cover the entire adult population in this period. There could also be about 70 million "vulnerable" adults above 45 yet to get even a single dose. Next, come the children. Over 35 per cent of the population is in the group of 0-14 years. Over 41 per cent of the population accounts for children under 18. India needs 26 crore to vaccinate children in the 12-17 age group. A similar number of doses are needed for children below 12.



Amid the celebrations, a note of caution is necessary. The first issue is the supply of vaccines. Most of the billion shots have come in the last two or three months. The vaccine roll-out that began in January did not pick up pace for the first half of the year because of the short supply of vaccines and teething problems with the supply chain. The Government

needs assurance from the vaccine suppliers that the pace of supply will not slacken now. The Government wants to complete the programme by this year-end. That means the speed of vaccination has to be phenomenal. It will be a bigger logistical challenge. The Government has also to counter the usual hitches like vaccine hesitancy and vaccine complacency. Reports still come in about health workers trying to convince people, mostly in the interior rural areas, to take the vaccine. Reports also talk about people, in both urban and rural areas, being careless about taking the jabs. Thousands of people are also missing their second dose because of overcrowded vaccination centres or the centres being far away from their homes. The Government is tackling this problem by reaching vaccines to far-off places via drones. A tougher task that faces the Government is when to vaccinate the children. Emergency use authorisation has been given for some vaccines but peer-reviewed human trial reports are yet to be studied and the vaccines released for use. The biggest worry would be about vaccinated parents in the rural areas visiting the vaccination centres again for their children's sake. Also, the Government has to decide if paediatricians should be allowed to vaccinate children as well. That can speed up the process.

PICTALK



An Army personnel during a workshop, in Rajouri district

PTI

Rivals meet

Cricket fans are in for a treat as India, Pakistan come face-to-face after 2019

Cricket between India and Pakistan is a different ballgame altogether, especially if it's a World Cup game. The stakes are high, the spirit is fierced and, of course, a sense of rivalry prevails during the game. Having said that, the ICC T20 World Cup 2021 is already off the mark and the two sides will go head-to-head come Sunday, at the Dubai International Stadium, the UAE. Though both the teams have already played one warm-up match each, the real heat will come out when they collide on October, 24. This comes as hope for the Pakistan Cricket Board which earlier took jolts when New Zealand in September pulled out of a limited overs game just minutes before it was set to start off. The New Zealand Cricket said they were abandoning their tour of Pakistan following a Government "security alert". A few days later, England, too, cancelled their men's and women's teams white-ball series in Pakistan, citing security concerns. The setbacks were disheartening for the Pakistani cricket fans too. Therefore, the T20 World Cup seems to be the only platform for



Pakistan to represent itself, after its whining about India at the UN General Assembly 2021.

Pakistan has never tasted success against India in the T20 or ODI World Cup and it would certainly look forward to changing that. The two teams have not faced each other since the 2019 ODI World Cup. The Pakistan captain Babar Azam is often compared with his Indian counterpart Virat Kohli and how they stand against each other would be worth the watch. However, ahead of the match, there was strong uproar against the India-Pak match in view of the terrorist attack on Indian Army personnel in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir on October 11. Several politicians including Union Minister Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, AAP leader Atishi Marlena and former Olympian Pargat Singh strongly called for the cancellation of the match against Pakistan. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi targeting the Government said, "Our nine soldiers died in J&K, and on October 24 India-Pakistan T20 match will happen". But apparently, the match cannot be called off under the International Cricket Council's (ICC) commitments. If the idea is to send a "strong message" to Pakistan or Pakistan-based terrorist groups, pulling out of a match will not help. Rather, the leaders should build pressure on the Government to wipe out the terrorist hideouts. That would send a strong message. That would be the solidarity the martyrs deserve.

Kashmir dilemma is deeply rooted

To overcome the gulf in Kashmir, everyone should understand one another so that the Government does not keep going round the mulberry bush



PRAFULL GORADIA

A Kashmiri acquaintance recently described the situation in Kashmir as a continuation of the Indo-Pak conflict by proxy. The soft locals fear that their Valley will soon be filled with outsiders, whereas tougher Kashmiris look at the abolition of Article 370 as an opportunity to prolong the fight.

At least from the time of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of Aligarh fame, the belief that the British dispossessed Siraj-ud-Daulah of Bengal, Tipu Sultan of Mysore and Wajid Ali Shah of Awadh, has lingered. The feeling also is that when the British Crown left India, it should have the courtesy to "return it to us". Homeland and New Medina was the cause of Partition. This was also MA Jinnah's decoy for British ears in 1946-47.

Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad firmly opposed the partition of India because in a hundred years, India would have had a Muslim majority. In 1983, a Pakistani journalist visited Tehran to interview Iran's religious dictator Ayatollah Khomeini, in connection with the celebrations around Pakistan Day, namely March 23. The interviewer's final question was: What did Khomeini *sahib* think of Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah? The Ayatollah's answer was: He was a brilliant man but could have benefited from vision. He should have been patient and his community would have gotten the whole of India, not merely its crumbs. But then, Jinnah was not a *momin* but a recently minted coin.

It is true that until 1935, Jinnah was widely called "the ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity", a term coined by Sarojini Naidu. In his presidential address on the eve of proposing the Pakistan Resolution in 1940, Jinnah said, "We know that the history of the last 1,200 years has failed to achieve unity and has witnessed India always divided into Hindu India and Muslim India. Muslim India cannot accept any constitution which must result in a Hindu majority Government; in combination with democracy, it would be a Hindu Raj which Muslims, cannot tolerate."

The Qaid's other contention



was that "Muslims are not a minority. Muslims are a nation according to any definition; they must have their homeland, their territory and their State."

Dr BR Ambedkar wrote in his 1941 reply to Jinnah's resolution: No one has expressed shock at the thought of separating Karnataka from Andhra, what then is there to be shocked in the demand for the separation of Pakistan? If it is disruptive in its effect, it is no more so than the separation of Hindu provinces such as Karnataka from Maharashtra, or Andhra from Madras. Pakistan is merely another manifestation of a cultural unit demanding freedom. There is nothing new about the resolution which merely resuscitates the scheme which was put forth by Mohammad Iqbal in 1930. Mr Rahmat Ali gave it the name Pakistan. After Iqbal, there is nothing new in linking the northwestern provinces.

"Uncannily, there is nothing new in outing together many districts of Bengal and Assam into one province. Viceroy Curzon had done it in 1905. The British or the Anglo-Indian was not a nation; Indians' referred only to the people of India."

"French Orientalist Joseph

Renan has written that a nation is a living soul, a spiritual principle. The Doctor continues: "The Hindus draw their inspiration from the *Ramayana* etc; whereas the Muslims derive their inspiration from the Quran and Hadith". Thus, the things that divide and the things that unite, in Ambedkar's opinion, there is no argument against the claim for partition if they insist upon it.

The Doctor quotes Lord Acton's phrase that Pakistan is a soul wandering in search of a body. Ambedkar went deep into the subject and showed that the Indian army then was dominated in numbers by Muslim Punjabis, but their pay and perks were indirectly paid for by the Hindu provinces. He concluded by writing that in any case it is better to have the enemy outside the borders rather than inside.

To go back to the Kashmir problem, could it be that the Government in Delhi and the Governor in Srinagar are unable to relate to the Kashmiris who are of a different faith? They begin with God, move on to the Prophet and then to the scripture. On the other hand, we do not have a single authoritative book or Prophet, but are believers in karma. Their way

of thinking, in the lingo of logic, is called deductive, which begins with a premise and ends with a logical conclusion, top down. Our faith is inductive and begins with ground realities to move upwards till it reaches a conclusion. A few scholars realise the huge gulf between the two categories of faiths, Abrahamic and Eastern.

The Abrahamic method of approaching the issue would be to shoot and kill, whereas the Eastern way would be to worry about the relationship between the two sides after the bullets and battles. This explains that we are an ancient civilisation and at the same time, have taken nearly 75 years to get down to grappling with the problem.

India and Pakistan were born as independent countries at the same time. Yet look at the difference in the distance covered by the two countries. To overcome the gulf in the Kashmir Valley, everyone should understand one another so that the Government of India does not keep going round and round the mulberry bush.

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



COULD IT BE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN DELHI AND THE GOVERNOR IN SRINAGAR ARE UNABLE TO RELATE TO THE KASHMIRIS WHO ARE OF A DIFFERENT FAITH?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BLOCKING ROADS IS NOT THE WAY

Sir — The Constitution gives us the right to protest, but unorganised protests make life of commoners difficult. Roadblocks cause traffic problems and as a result, the public suffers. This also leads to excess fuel consumption and ultimately more pollution. Road is public property. Therefore, it should be used in the same way. The method of agitating the public by blocking the roads is wrong. To get the attention of the Government, roads are blocked. But, the protestors don't care that the public is suffering unnecessarily.

Just like the protesters have questions, the common people also have a question, why are people being harassed by blocking the road through this movement? Delhi is a busy city and the police have to always be on their toes. In such a situation, there is an agitation by blocking the road. This puts a lot of pressure on the police. The public will not have difficulty when protests are staged in a more organised and peaceful way. It is the duty of the protesters to take care of this. Now, the Supreme Court has told the farmers what is right. The apex court said that the farmers have the right to protest but they cannot block the roads and the farmers must abide by the decision.

Jayesh Rane | Mumbai

TOO EARLY TO CELEBRATE

Sir — It is definitely a milestone that India has administered 100 crore doses so far, but not a moment to celebrate as only 30 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated. Approximately 88 crore additional doses are needed to fully vaccinate the adult population. Even so, India must stand-up and salute all scientists, doctors, frontline workers as well as vaccine manufacturers, in making India proud with vaccine development and administering the same to a billion people. Hats off to all.

But, how a publicity lover, power hungry Government, will not take the credit for it as the Assembly polls are coming closer? As a second country after China, India crossed the billion vaccines mark, but the way India used its resources

Remembering Shammi



The trilogy of legendary actors Shammi-Joy-Biswajit not only carved a niche for itself in the Indian cinema, but also ruled the roost in the very presence of the firmly established Dilip-Raj-Dev triumvirate in the 1960s-70s. October 21 was the birth anniversary of a tall, handsome and energetic Shammi Kapoor who rose from the ashes of 18 flops shouting a skyhigh 'yahoo' in 1960's blockbuster *Jungle*, that went to become his trademark and the heartbeat of thousands of his fans. Thereafter, Shammi Kapoor never looked behind and had to his credit numer-

ous hits and superhits like — Jaanwar, Bad Tameez, Bluff Master, Prince, Rajkumar, Professor and *Brahmachari*, Pagla Kahin Ka, Latt Sahib and dozens more. Even the songs picturised on Shammi Kapoor were largely sung by Rafi Sahib in Shammi Kapoor's signature style.

Shammi Kapoor was awarded thrice by the Filmfare — twice as Best Actor for *Brahmachari* and *Vidhata* (supporting), besides the Lifetime Achievement Award. Born as Shamsheer Bahadur Singh, Shammi Kapoor was born on October 21 in 1931 and left for his heavenly abode in August, 2011. Ironically, this iconic star, besides another departed taller and handsome Joy Mukerji and by God's grace living legend Biswajit, is still awaiting, though posthumously, an official acknowledgement of his unmatched acting flair! His younger brother Shashi Kapoor was conferred with the Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards in 2011 and 2015 respectively.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

to drain for upgrading or boosting the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not worth it. Israel, which has a record of administering double dose to the entire population, has never drained its resources to boost the image of their political leader. The truth is that we could have been here in July; only if the Government had been proactive. By not vaccinating sooner, it has hurt India's economy too.

Bidyt K Chatterjee | Faridabad

KASHMIR SITUATION CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Sir — Is the situation in Kashmir snowballing into a major national problem? Otherwise, how would one explain the former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik's contention that everything was normal during his tenure and things have changed drastically overnight. Is the abrogation of Article 370 slowly repulsing with renewed vigour from the natives or is it a ploy from neighbouring country, not to speak of new developments in

Afghanistan, or is it a spontaneous revolt from among Kashmiris to assert their rights or combination of all the three that is pushing the Indian Government to a corner?

It is during such a time of crisis that an acute need arises for cooperation of all political parties to douse the embers of communal disharmony and friction between locals and non-locals as India is a free country where people can live as they wish without any feeling of alienation. Only a multi pronged approach of following a democratic process of listening to all and acting thereupon, duly protecting human rights of the people may lead to a semblance of return to peace. More all party meetings where *'doodh ka doodh aur paani ka paani'* should be discussed threadbare with a give and take approach to reach a viable solution.

D Nagarjuna | Hyderabad

SOUNDBITE

Nitish Kumar is afraid of facing the people of the State. That is why he travels in helicopters to campaign in the election.



RJD leader — Tejashwi Yadav



The countries that were fighting there (in Afghanistan) for 20 years bear primary responsibility for what is happening there.

Russian President — Vladimir Putin

Being an athlete and playing sports has played a tremendous role in shaping my personality.



Actor — Deepika Padukone



I'm obviously backing Team India to win the match but personally, I believe no team should be taken lightly.

India cricketer — Ajinkya Rahane

When you buy petrol and diesel, remember that the Modi Government has earned Rs 23 lakh crore through tax.



Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN THE BREXIT IS NOT A 'FANTASTIC DEAL'

A new crisis is bubbling up as the Northern Ireland part of the Brexit deal is falling apart



GWYNNE DYER

International treaties are serious business. A lot of time and effort goes into negotiating them, and they become part of international law. It's very rare for a politician to say, only a couple of years after negotiating a treaty, that his country always felt it was "a little bit provisional and open to review." That was Lord David Frost, who is still described as Britain's chief Brexit negotiator two years after Brexit happened. (That's because he is still trying to renegotiate it.) At the time he called the Brexit treaty an "excellent deal" and Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed it as a "fantastic deal", but that was before the 2019 election. A new crisis is bubbling up now because the Northern Ireland part of the deal is falling apart. It could trigger a British trade war with the European Union and a return to real war in Northern Ireland, but the deal is falling apart mainly because the Conservative-led British government was lying when it agreed to it in 2019. Boris Johnson was new in office in 2019 and desperately needed to 'get Brexit done'. Only then could he call an election and hope to win a majority in Parliament. So, he made an agreement with the EU on post-Brexit trade relations, especially regarding Northern Ireland, that fell far short of what his government actually wanted. Dominic Cummings, who was Johnson's right-hand man until he lost an internal power struggle a year ago, explained



last week why he and a few allies got Johnson to sign a document they had no intention of honouring. "We wriggled [through the negotiations with the EU] with the best option we could," Cummings said, "and intended to get Johnson to ditch the bits we didn't like after whacking (Labour Party leader Jeremy) Corbyn" in an early election. And so, it came to pass.

The Conservatives buried Corbyn in a landslide in the December 2019 election, and the United Kingdom finally left the EU in January 2020 — or rather, most of it did. The 'bits we didn't like' mostly had to do with Northern Ireland, which for customs purposes remained in the European Union. Why? When the agreement was signed both the UK and the Irish Republic were members of the EU, so the border between them could be opened: no check-points, no movement controls, no customs duties. That allowed Nationalists to come and go as they wished and think of themselves as Irish citizens, while Loyalists could go on believing they lived in the United Kingdom. Now, there would continue to be complete freedom of movement for people and goods throughout Ireland, while goods coming into Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK would go through EU customs checks at the Northern Irish ports. Which brings us to the present. There have been serious delays in the way the customs controls work in the Northern Irish ports, and the EU has just offered to exempt about half the affected food and medicines from all checks. That was an olive branch, but Johnson just raised a new demand: that the European Court of Justice no longer have jurisdiction over possible violations of the treaty. And Lord Frost has threatened to 'suspend' the treaty entirely if the EU does not give in. EU authorities suspect that Johnson is seeking an excuse to blow up the treaty so that he can scapegoat the Europeans for the ensuing trade war and renewed war in Northern Ireland. Matters are getting worse in the UK on a number of fronts, and he needs a distraction. Would he really do that? He probably doesn't know yet himself.

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

Germany expects new Chancellor by Xmas

Despite being hailed as winner of this election, Scholz faces a difficult situation as he has to negotiate with two more parties to form a Government



VOLKER LENNART PLÄN

Germany's federal elections have delivered the suspense promised by the polls: a close race between the two grand old parties (the Union, i.e., CDU & CSU combined and the Social Democrats, SPD) and a fractured mandate in which none of the political parties represented in the German Parliament (Bundestag) can form the government on their own. Although the winner of the elections, SPD, is currently an ally in Angela Merkel's "Grand Coalition", it has been traditionally as well as ideologically an arch political rival of the conservative "Union" — the party alliance of CDU (now commonly known as "Merkel's Party") and CSU which together stand as the second winner.

The SPD beat the Union by a slim margin of less than one per cent (25.7 per cent vs 24.1 per cent). Yet the difference feels monumental to Germany's national political landscape: for the first time in almost 20 years, the SPD ended the race ahead of the Union.

The main reason for the result may be found in the loss of the "Merkel factor". Her immense popularity among the vast spectra of voters from moderate to left led to the Union's successive electoral victories. But with her departure as Federal Chancellor, this unifying factor vanished. And with it a certain cohesion within the party. Merkel herself did little to build a second line of leadership and empower a successor to lead the Union and win the upcoming elections. Her only endorsement went unsuccessful when Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer succeeded her as head of party (CDU) in 2018 but did not stand up to the party's expectations. She had to make way in early 2021 for the current chancellor candidate Armin Laschet.

The unclear mandate throws up three possible scenarios for government formation: A renewal of the incumbent Grand Coalition finds no friends within the parties nor the public and has since been ruled out. This leaves Union or SPD only the option of taking on board two of the smaller parties to form a governing majority in the German Bundestag. Any coalition with the right-wing populist party AfD had been ruled out beforehand by all four.

Both Union and SPD derive the equal claim to form the next government. It is not the 0.8 percent lead that gives the SPD the advantage in taking the reins. In the past days, the Union found itself increasingly engaged in negative debates about consequences from the historically bad election results while the SPD managed to reinforce its public perception of a winner. Their light improvement — still their third-worst result in the history of Germany's post-war elections — lets the party and their chancellor-to-be Olaf Scholz shine.

Despite being hailed as winner of this election, Scholz faces a difficult situation as he has to negotiate with two more parties to form a majority government in the Bundestag.



GERMANY IS A LEADER IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND SEES ITS FUTURE AT THE HEART OF IT. ACCORDINGLY, OTHER EU MEMBER STATES ARE EAGERLY AWAITING THE IMMINENT OUTCOME OF THE COALITION TALKS. LARGER DECISIONS SUCH AS THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE POSTPONED UNTIL THEN

(The writer is Resident Representative, Hams Seidel Foundation India. The views expressed are personal.)



The two parties that find themselves in a position as unusual as convenient are the Green Party and the FDP (Germany's Liberal Party). The Greens emerged with their best ever result of a Federal Election, largely fuelled by their political stance on climate change. Conversely, the Liberals (FDP) openly favour the Union for a government as they see more ideological overlap with their economy-focused politics. It is this divergent ideological positioning, which led to FDP and Greens meeting first for initial talks to iron out differences and explore common grounds. There can be no Government without the support of these two smaller parties. All in all, Germany is readying up for a new era of three-party coalition.

Now the country witnesses that the CDU — stately centre of power for 50 years in the past — finds itself discussing internal consequences of their election result. Despite gaining almost the same number of seats as that of the SPD, the party faces calls from within that the disappointing result would not suffice as mandate to form a government and too, criticism of the common chancellor candidate, Armin Laschet. The party is sledging its own (elected) candidate while he is engaged in coalition talks with the Greens and Liberals. With the impaired bargaining position, the Union would find it challenging to deliver sufficient arguments to convince Greens and FDP to join a so-called Union-led "Jamaica Coalition" (dubbed for its colour combination of the black,

green and yellow parties). Instead, the country is preparing for a so-called "traffic light" coalition of Red (SPD), Yellow (FDP) and Green.

On last Sunday, both SPD and Green Party received the blessing from their respective party committees to go ahead with negotiations to form the next German Federal Government. The FDP is expected to follow suit. Seen as the "odd man out" earlier in the three-way-coalition, their charismatic leader Christian Lindner was quick to preempt doubts about the party's agreement to go ahead with the talks. This is seen as the main obstacle removed. The unanimity among the three new partners is not perceived without scepticism: in 2017, the FDP withdrew from three-way-talks (on a "Jamaica coalition" with CDU/CSU and Greens) at an advanced stage. This time, however, the Union of CDU and CSU does not seem to pose an attractive alternative anymore.

The ensued discussion initially centred around personnel: Public polls (before the election) displayed a considerably higher popularity of the CSU party head and Chief Minister of the Free State of Bavaria — Markus Söder — as compared to Laschet. Söder's candidacy was rejected by the CSU's much larger sister party CDU (of which Laschet is a member). While many in the party expect Söder to run for Chancellor in 2025, the main focus is now on reconciliation, renewal and display of unity. At a party summit of the Union's youth organisation, a new path was already declared before the new government

is formed: Merkel's party will accept the unusual role in opposition rather than risk the "experiment" of heading a potentially unstable three-party-government under a weakened leader. It would not befit the self-concept of a party whose roots of success lie in stability. It has now four years to shed off the weight of the Merkel persona. Sacrificing its top candidate Laschet, who is incumbent Chief Minister of Germany's most populous state North Rhine-Westphalia, is a price the Union seems to be willing to pay.

The rift within CDU and CSU is an unwelcome damper for the Liberals' hope to form a conservative-liberal government again after the Merkel II cabinet (2009-2013). It leaves the FDP with little hope to play a larger role in the upcoming government. Having scored 11.5 percent in the elections, the traditional role of providing the Deputy Federal Chancellor and Foreign Minister will fall to the Green Party — regardless of which party will lead the government.

Germany is a leader in the European Union (EU) and sees its future at the heart of it. Accordingly, other EU member states are eagerly awaiting the imminent outcome of the coalition talks. Larger decisions such as Free Trade Agreement negotiations may be postponed until then. Additionally, it might take months (as it did in 2017) for the parties to come to an agreement. With a general understanding among all three parties underway, Germany could have a new government and Federal Chancellor by Christmas.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE TRAVEL IN FOUR-WHEELERS AND USE PETROL. AT PRESENT, 95 PER CENT PEOPLE DON'T NEED PETROL.

— BJP LEADER UPENDRA TIWARI



THE MINISTER SAID THAT PEOPLE DO NOT NEED PETROL. THE TRUTH IS THAT 95 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE DO NOT NEED THE BJP.

— SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV

Private players crucial in defence manufacturing

The corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board has to be seen in the overall context of improving India's military industry capability

India has to make its armed forces self-reliant — 'Aatmanirbhar'. The Army accounts for more than half of the total defence budget of India, with most of the expenditure going into the maintenance of cantonments, salaries and pensions, instead of critical arms and ammunition.

On February 1, 2020, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earmarked ₹4,71,378 crore for the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Of the total allocation, ₹3,23,053 crore was provided for the Defence Services Estimates (DSE) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The balance allocation is distributed between defence pensions and MoD (Civil). Representing a growth of 9.4 per cent,



PK VASUDEVA

(The writer is former Senior Professor, International Trade and Member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

MoD's overall allocation translates into an increase of ₹40,367 crore. This raises the question, how would this increase affect India's defence and modernisation in particular?

This budget is just 1.7 per cent of the GDP, which is just not sufficient for the modernisation of defence forces keeping in view the threat perception from China and Pakistan.

India emerged as the second-largest importer of arms transferred between 2016-20, with a share of 9.5 per cent of global arms imports. To make India self-reliant, the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has been split into seven government-owned corporate entities to help improve self-reliance in defence preparedness. Business in the



seven new entities started from October 1, 2021. These new companies are: Troop Comforts Limited (TCL); Yantra India Limited (YIL); Gliders India Limited (GIL); India Optel Limited (IOL); Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India); and Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI).

The companies now have an order book of ₹65,000 crore. These orders were already in the pipeline and

were just shifted to the new entities. These companies have complete functional autonomy and the interests of the employees are fully protected.

According to Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh, "It is to transform the Ordnance Factories to improve expertise in product range; profitable and productive assets; ensure self-reliance; enhance cost effectiveness and improve quality and increase competitiveness."

The Centre, in May 2020, had announced increasing the FDI limit from 49 per cent to 74 per cent under the automatic route in the defence sector. The government has been emphasising boosting indigenous defence manufacturing. The Ministry has set a goal of a turnover of ₹1.75 lakh crore

in defence manufacturing by 2025 that included an export target of ₹35,000 crore worth of military hardware.

Despite these initiatives, India's military industry capability shows a sorry picture and the private sector is still not being treated as a partner in India's quest for higher self-reliance. A GE 404 engine from the US powers the much-hyped indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), while the radar is sourced from Israel. The Kaveri engine development by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) has been an unmitigated disaster. German MTU engines power the Main Battle Tank (MBT), the showpiece indigenous tank. Despite the hike in FDI, the inflow has only been \$300

million from April to September 2020; largely due to the number of caveats for allowing 76 per cent FDI.

The Kalam Committee assessed our Self Reliance Index (SRI) in 1993 as 30 per cent, with a road map to increase it to 70 per cent in a decade's time. The committee had identified a number of critical subsystems like the focal plane array, passive seekers, stealth, AESA radar, RLG and carbon fibres where India's design and development quality needs to be ramped up. Weapons, propulsion and sensors remain the main bugbears of India's design capability in the DRDO and India's SRI has not inched forward.

Technology transfer has been India's major policy mosaic to build major systems

and platforms since 1963 (in the aftermath of the MiG-21 aircraft). HAL has been producing Sukhoi Su-30 on the basis of technology transfer documents from Russia. Similar is the story of the T90 produced in the Avadi tank factory.

The major problem afflicting the OFB is not the lack of autonomy or accountability but the wherewithal to improve capability. Its corporatisation has to be seen in the overall context of improving India's military industry capability, self-reliance quotient, design capability in critical systems and quality, time and cost-effectiveness and involvement of private players in defence manufacturing as partners in tandem with OEMs and design houses.

Key suspect behind B'desh violence held

PTI ■ DHAKA

A 35-year-old Bangladeshi man, the key suspect who was arrested overnight in connection with a slew of violence against Hindus and mob attacks on temples in the country during Durga Puja festivities, would be interrogated by security agencies, police said on Friday.

Iqbal Hossain was arrested from Cox's Bazar sea beach area on Thursday night after a massive hunt and is suspected to be the one who placed a copy of the Quran at a Durga Puja venue in Cumilla, some 100 km southeast of Dhaka.

Attacks on Hindu temples have been reported in Bangladesh since last Wednesday after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations.

On late Sunday night, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh.

"We have arrested (eastern) Cumilla's Iqbal Hossain, who is the key suspect of the one week's of widespread communal unrest from the Cox's Bazar beach," a police headquarters spokesman said.

He added that police and

Iqbal Hossain was arrested from Cox's Bazar sea beach area after a massive hunt and is suspected to be the one who placed a copy of the Quran at a Durga Puja venue

other security and intelligence agencies would now interrogate Hossain, whom the police earlier described as a "vagabond".

TV footage showed Hossain was brought under heavy security escorts from Cox's Bazar to Cumilla by road while officials said after initial interrogation he would be produced before a court seeking him to be placed under police remand for next several days.

"We expect the court to order him to be remanded in our custody when several other security and intelligence agencies would interrogate him as well," another police officer in Cumilla said.

The violence erupted on October 13 after a copy of Islam's holy book of Quran was

found at the feet of a Hindu goddess in Cumilla ahead of the Hindu community's Durga Puja. Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Unity Council said over 70 temples, makeshift puja pavilions and many Hindu households were burnt or damaged across Bangladesh in subsequent violence which drew sharp international concern.

Social media was widely used to spread the unrest, forcing authorities to briefly suspend Facebook and internet connectivity to contain the violence.

Police said they had launched a massive manhunt for Hossain based on the clue from the security camera footage at the Cumilla's puja pavilion.

Their initial investigations indicated he was a vagabond while family members claimed he was a mentally imbalanced person. However, police said even if the claim was true some vested quarters could have used him to instigate the violence.

"This could not be mere a task of a vagabond; somebody is definitely there behind the incident to instigate the attacks," Hindu rights activist Rana Dasgupta said.

Woman from India among 2 foreigners killed in shootout in Mexico's Tulum resort

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

Two foreigners, including one from India, were killed and three wounded in a shooting at a restaurant in the Mexican Caribbean resort town of Tulum, authorities said on Thursday.

Authorities said one of the dead women was from Germany and the other from India. The three wounded included two Germans and a tourist from the Netherlands.

The shooting broke out Wednesday night at a street-side eatery that has some outdoor tables, right off Tulum's main strip.

The fight was between two groups that operate street-level drug sales in the area, the Quintana Roo state prosecutor's office said in a statement. The tourists were apparently dining at the restaurant and may have been caught in the crossfire.

One woman died at a hospital. One of the aggressors, who was also wounded, was subsequently arrested. There was no immediate word on the condition of the wounded tourists.

Tulum has experienced growing pains moving from laid back beach retreat to major international destination. It had long been spared the violence seen sporadically in larger Cancun and Playa del Carmen further up the coast.

But in June, two men were shot to death on the beach in Tulum and a third was wounded. The administration of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has pinned its hopes on Tulum, where it has announced plans to build an international airport and a stop for the Maya train, which will run in a loop around the Yucatan peninsula.

But Quintana Roo state, where beach resorts like Tulum, Playa del Carmen and Cancun are located, has been plagued by both violence and corruption.

From exile, female former Afghan leader keeps fighting

AP ■ NEW YORK

Two months after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, one of the country's once-prominent female leaders — a former parliament member, candidate for president and a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize — is visiting the United Nations, not as a representative of her government but as a woman in exile.

In an interview with *The Associated Press*, Fawzia Koofi called for humanitarian aid sent to Afghanistan to be contingent on the participation of women in its distribution, as well as free and safe travel for Afghans into and out of the country.

Aid "should not be politicized. ... Women should be involved in every stage of it and they should be listened to. Women should not be only the recipients," said Koofi, part of a delegation of Afghan women visiting the UN to urge member states not to compromise on inclusion and equal rights.

Since fleeing Kabul in August, Koofi has been living in



Fawzia Koofi, one of the Afghanistan's once-prominent female leaders — a former Parliament member, candidate for President and a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize

hotel rooms in Europe. She described the pain of separation from her country, of two decades of hopes dashed and of searching for permanent residence for herself and her two daughters.

"This is not an Afghanistan I fought for," she told the AP. "The Afghanistan that I was hoping for was (that) women should not suffer as much as I suffered during my childhood, during the time that I was a teenager, when (the) Taliban took over."

"I wanted other girls to

enjoy at least the freedom of choosing which school they should go. But now, their choice is limited to which room in their houses they should spend during the day. This is heartbreaking."

Koofi, a former deputy speaker of parliament, was one of only four women in talks to reach a power-sharing deal with the Taliban, which ultimately failed. She described watching the Taliban's commitment to negotiations change after they signed a peace agreement with the United States in February 2020.

"After they signed the agreement, they were more extreme and they were more into buying time, preferring a military strategy," she said.

Taliban fighters pursued that strategy in the summer, seizing province after province until they reached Kabul in August. When then-President Ashraf Ghani fled, the Taliban entered the capital, sparking panic among many who had opposed their rule and feared for their lives and futures.

China vows no concessions on Taiwan after Biden comments

AP ■ BEIJING

China on Friday said there is "no room" for compromise or concessions over the issue of Taiwan, following a comment by US President Joe Biden that the US is committed to defending the island if it is attacked.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin reasserted China's longstanding claim that the island is its territory at a daily briefing after Biden made his comment a day before at a forum hosted by CNN.

China has recently upped its threat to bring Taiwan under its control by force if necessary

by flying warplanes near the island and rehearsing beach landings.

"When it comes to issues related to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and other core interests, there is no room for China to compromise or make concessions, and no one should underestimate the strong determination, firm will and strong ability of the Chinese people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wang said.

"Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The Taiwan issue is purely an internal affair of China that

allows no foreign intervention," Wang said.

Biden's comments on Thursday were viewed as stretching the "strategic ambiguity" Washington has maintained over how it would respond to an assault on the self-governing island republic.

The US should "be cautious with its words and actions on the Taiwan issue, and not send any wrong signals to the separatist forces of Taiwan independence, so as not to seriously damage China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Wang said.

Russia's Covid deaths soar to another record

AP ■ MOSCOW

Coronavirus infections and deaths in Russia climbed on Friday to another pandemic record, putting a growing strain on the country's health care system.

The government coronavirus task force reported 37,141 new infections and 1,064 deaths in the past 24 hours. That brought Russia's death toll to 228,453, Europe's highest by far.

Russian President Vladimir

Putin has responded to the worsening situation by ordering Russians to stay off work from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, when the country is already observing an extended holiday.

Russian authorities expect the order to help limit the spread of the virus by keeping them out of offices and off public transportation, where mask mandates have been widely ignored. The government also urged local authorities to tighten their own restrictions during the period.

Myanmar junta re-arrests over 100 released in amnesty: Report

Bangkok: Myanmar's junta has re-arrested more than 100 anti-coup protesters freed in a recent amnesty, according to a local monitoring group that tracks detentions and killings.

The Southeast Asian nation has been in chaos since the February coup, with more than 1,100 killed in a crackdown on dissent and over 8,000 arrested, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP).

On Monday, the military announced it would free more than 5,000 people over the three-day Buddhist Thadingyut festival, sending anxious families rushing to jails in the hope of being reunited with their loved ones.

IRMAN TO ATTEND GREEN SUMMIT IN SAUDI ARABIA

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit Saudi Arabia from October 23 to 25 to attend the launch ceremony of the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) summit in Riyadh and hold talks with the Saudi leadership. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman invited the premier for the visit.

EU SUMMIT GIVES MERKEL BIG SENDOFF

Brussels: Angela Merkel is still German Chancellor and might be still when EU leaders meet again, yet they gave her a farewell party at Friday's EU summit. Attending her 107th summit, she was feted by friend and foe alike in an informal ceremony behind closed doors early Friday, where they called her anything from a "compromise machine" to the EU's Eiffel Tower.

US concerned over China's hypersonic missiles: Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US is concerned about the Chinese hypersonic missiles, President Joe Biden has said, days after a media report claimed that China recently tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that caught America's intelligence by surprise.

Asked at the White House on Thursday if the US is concerned about the latest hypersonic missile tests by China, Biden told reporters, "Yes".

Pressure mounts on China to respect Uyghur rights

AFP ■ BEIJING

Forty-three countries have called on China to "ensure full respect for the rule of law" for the Muslim Uyghur community in Xinjiang, in a statement read at the United Nations on Thursday that sparked outrage from Beijing.

The declaration, signed by the United States as well as several European and Asian member states and others, accused China of a litany of human rights violations against the Uyghurs, including torture, forced sterilisation and forced disappearances.

"We call on China to allow immediate, meaningful and unfettered access to Xinjiang for independent observers, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and her office," the countries said in a joint statement, read at the United Nations by France.

"We are particularly concerned about the situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region," the statement continued, citing "credible" reports that "indicate the existence of a large network of 'political reeducation' camps where over a million people have been arbitrarily detained."

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Bidders have to register on website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> and upload KYC documents and after verification of KYC documents (which takes time of 2-3 working days) by the service provider, EMD to be deposited in Global EMD wallet through NEFT/RTGS/transfer (after generation of challan from <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>). The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>.

For detailed terms and conditions please go to the bank's website www.centralbankofindia.co.in

Date: 22/10/2021
Place: Rohtak

AUTHORISED OFFICER CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

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.	Aditi Bhardwaj/ Pushpendra Kumar Bhatti/ LBDEL00002378352	Flat No-503, 5th Floor, Tower-B, 5GH-16A, Morpheus Pratiksha Sec-01, Greater Noida/ October 18, 2021	June 23, 2021 Rs. 32,45,774/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Dinesh Kumar/ Manju Devi/ LBGUR00004213020	Flat No 1302, 13th Floor Block-E 7 Sector-1 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021	March 25, 2021 Rs. 59,27,488/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Dula Ram Meena/ Suman Meena/ LBNOD00004233165	Flat No 104 1st Floor, Tower o2 Plot No Gh-06, Eco Village III, Sector 16 B Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021	March 25, 2021 Rs. 51,98,753/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Kalyan Kuamr Gupta/ Poonam Gupta/ LBDEL00002290948	Flat No 1603, 16th Floor, Plot No Gh 11, Sector-1, Greater Noida, Tower B, Gayatri Aura, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021	March 25, 2021 Rs. 23,34,999/-	Delhi/ Ncr
5.	Kanhaiya Mittal/ Laxman Prasad Mittal/ Gopal Mittal/ LBGHZ00003608580	Flat No 1602, Floor 16th Eco Village 3, Block-F-G and Tower-2 Plot No Gh 06 Sector 16 Bgreater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021	March 25, 2021 Rs. 44,72,425/-	Delhi/ Ncr
6.	Sharan Gopal/ Anirban Mukherjee/ LBDEL00002367308	Flat No-302, 3rd Floor, Tower- B2, Victory Ace Plot No GH 02, Pocket No-2, Sector-143, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021	May 29, 2021 Rs. 82,05,302/-	Delhi/ Ncr
7.	Swati Rathil/ Vishnu Rathil/ LBDEL00003299957	Flat No-6065, 6th Floor, Tower-H Gaur City-2, 14th Avenue, Plot No GC GH-03, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021	June 23, 2021 Rs. 28,81,868/-	Delhi/ Ncr
8.	Pooja Tiwari/ Shivam Tiwari/ LBGHZ00005051413	Flat No 1093, 3rd Floor New Lig Flats Kondli Gharoli Mayur Vihar Phase 3 Delhi/ October 18, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 23,05,679/-	Delhi/ Ncr
9.	M.H. Textiles Pvt. Ltd./ Jai Prakash Keswani/ Harish Keswani/ Om Prakash Keswani/ Shri Chand Keswani/ LBFDB00000986096	Plot No- 29, Corner, Pocket-1, Jasola Behind Apollo Hospital Residential Scheme, Delhi/ October 20, 2021	May 31, 2021/ Rs. 1,07,99,005/-	Delhi/ Ncr
10.	Mohd Ashfaq Qureshi/ Mohd Ashfaq Qureshi/ Tushering Doma/ LBDEL00001491691	Flat No. 2273, Top Floor, Pocket- 2 & 3, Sec-B Vasant Kunj, Delhi, Delhi/ October 20, 2021	June 23, 2021 Rs. 32,96,912/-	Delhi/ Ncr
11.	Ramesh Chand Sharma/ Sharma Sanitary & Hardwire Store/ LBDEL00001409245/ LBDEL00004213183/ LBDEL00002054381	Flat No 240, Hauz Khas New Delhi, Delhi/ October 20, 2021	June 25, 2021 Rs. 14,37,458/-	Delhi/ Ncr
12.	Rahul Chaudhry/ Shalini Chaudhary/ LBGUR00002387119	Flat No- 503, 5th Floor Tower-4 Sunworld Arista, Plot Num GH 01/C Sector-168, Noida, Noida Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 1,04,67,530/-	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 22, 2021
Place: Delhi/ Ncr

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that this male namely **Vipul, S/o: Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal, R/o H.No. 9023, 3rd Floor, Shidhipura, near SBI ATM, Delhi, Age: 31 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Normal, wearing Blue colour Half T-Shirt, Jeans and Black Shoes in feet has been missing from his house since 01.10.2021 at 10:00 AM. In this regard a DD No. 42A, dated 01.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform to the following.

Website : <http://cbi.ni.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/1051/CD/2021

SHO P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi Ph: 011-23613252, 23537374

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ravi Verma S/o Mahender Singh R/o H.No. 356/2, Gali No. 02, Firoz Gandhi Colony No. 02, Gurugram Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 67/20 u/s 33/38/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Moti Nagar, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ravi Verma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ravi Verma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ravi Verma** accused of FIR No. 67/20 u/s 33/38/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Moti Nagar, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.12.2021**.

By Order : Sh. Abhinav Pandey Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (West), Room No. 268, Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi

DP/593/WD/21

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Reena, W/o Khayali Ram, R/o Unknown, Age: 30 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Light Red Suit with Black & White Print** was admitted in LHMC Hospital, New Delhi and gave birth to a child. During postnatal treatment, she was missing from the hospital since 03.04.2020. In this regard a vide DD No. 02A, dated 04.04.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.ni.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/344/ND/2021

SHO P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23364100, 8750870522, 7988876315

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead near Pillar No 344 Metro Patri Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar dated **18.10.2021 at 10:30 PM**. In this regard vide DD No. 27A, dated **18.10.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name: Unkonwn, S/o: Unkonwn, R/o: Unkonwn, Age: About 60-70 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt and Green Colour Lower**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25101150, 8750871125

DP/595/WD/2021

16 KILLED IN RUSSIAN FACTORY BLAST

Moscow: An explosion and fire at a gunpowder factory in Russia on Friday killed 16 people, officials said. The Emergency Situations Ministry said the explosion hit the Elastik factory in the Ryazan region.

6 ROHINGYA DIE IN CLASHES IN B'DESH

Dhaka: Two groups of Rohingya refugees clashed Friday in a camp in southern Bangladesh, leaving at least six refugees dead and 10 others injured, police said. The violence broke out in Cox's Bazar district when one side opened fire, killing four people at the scene, said Shihab Kaiser Khan, commander of the Armed Police Battalion, which oversees the camp's security.

VIOLENCE ERUPTS AT RALLY IN PAKISTAN

Lahore: Violent clashes erupted between Pakistan's security forces and radical Islamists here on Friday, leaving four people dead, including two policemen, and 15 others injured.

BALDWIN SHOOT FILMER DEAD WITH PROP GUN

Santa Fe (US): Actor Alec Baldwin fired a prop gun on a movie set and killed the cinematographer, authorities said. The director of the Western being filmed was also wounded, and authorities are investigating. Halyna Hutchins, cinematographer on the movie "Rust," and director Joel Souza were shot on the rustic film set in the desert on the southern outskirts of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County Sheriff's officials said.

Onion prices not too high: Secy

NO CASE FOR BANNING EXPORTS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday claimed that retail onion prices are not extraordinarily high to necessitate banning export of the key kitchen staple and buffer stock are being released to cool down the prices further while prices of food oils are still low despite the high international prices. On the other hand, experts say the higher prices of food oils will continue in the festive season and will start softening from December with arrival of new crops and a possible decline in global rates.

Addressing the press conference, Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey on Friday the average onion price was ruling at ₹41.5 per kg on October 21, much lower than ₹55.6 per kg in the year-ago period. State Governments are of the opinion that there is no possibility of sharp increase in onion prices in the coming days as domestic kharif onion production is estimated to be higher at 43.88 lakh tonne in

the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) as against 37.38 lakh tonne in the year-ago period, he said.

As per the Government data, retail prices were ruling at ₹ 48/kg in Delhi, ₹43/kg in Mumbai, ₹37/kg in Chennai and ₹57/kg in Kolkata on Friday, The Food Secretary said: "Onion prices are not extraordinarily high. The average prices are lower than last year."

Market intervention has already been initiated to check prices of onion, but the rates have not reached anywhere close to the level that necessitates further immediate action as per the Essential Commodities Act, he said.

Asked about plans to ban onion exports, the Secretary said, "There is no such scenario. Exports are lower than last year. It is better to monitor than speculate." Already more than 81,000 tonne of onion from the buffer stock has been released in the market where prices are rising at a fast pace, to improve availability and control prices, he said.

Covid vax programme success can boost economic growth: India Inc

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Inc on Friday said the country's "hugely successful" Covid-19 vaccination programme under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership can boost economic growth and help realise the vision of a New India.

Hailing crossing of the 100-crore vaccine doses milestone, Modi on Friday said India's vaccination programme was science-born, science-driven and science-based.

In an address to the nation, the Prime Minister also urged people to keep following Covid protocol during the festival season and not drop their guard.

T V Narendran, president of industry chamber CII, said, "Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, India has been hugely successful in delivering on the Covid vaccination program, the largest in the world driven by indigenously manufactured vaccines, which can boost economic growth."

"With around 75 per cent of adults inoculated, we can now be confident about realizing the vision of a new India

PM also urged people to keep following Covid protocol during the festival season and not drop their guard

where growth with inclusion would be the way forward," he added.

Pradeep Multani, president, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said it is encouraging to note the vaccination drive has not only increased the confidence of people, trade and industry, but has also created positive economic projections by various national and international organisations.

Porus Doctor, partner and consumer industry leader, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, said, "Whilst the upcoming festive season will bring some cheer to the consumer sector with discretionary spends on the rise, consumers must exercise abundant caution to ensure there is no spike in COVID19 cases." stic) will increase during the festive season and this augurs well for the travel sector," he added.

India can become world's edtech capital: Kant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Friday said India can become the edtech capital of the world, with the private sector playing a key role and the public sector acting as a facilitator.

Speaking at a virtual conference of Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Kant also said India needs to significantly improve its learning outcomes, and technology can help the country leapfrog in a big way.

"I am confident that India can become the edtech capital of the world with the private sector playing a key role and the public sector acting as a facilitator," he said.

Kant said affordable internet connectivity and technology-based infrastructure are the only ways to enhance the education sector in the country.

"Relying only on physical infrastructure will not be sufficient," he noted. According to the Niti Aayog CEO, the Indian edtech ecosystem has great growth potential.

DoT amends RoW rules defining framework for laying aerial OFC to facilitate 5G

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Department of Telecommunication (DoT), has by way of gazette notification, amended Indian Telegraph RoW Rules November, 2016 to prescribe various terms and conditions for laying overhead Optical Fiber Cable (OFC).

Optical Fiber is a fundamental and structural part of both mobile and fixed broadband networks. Faster rollout of fibre is important for backhauling a large amount of data at high throughput, improving reliability, and reducing latency.

To achieve the objective of universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen, fibreisation of telecommunication networks is essential.

These DoT RoW Rules earlier covered only underground OFC and mobile towers and with this amendment in place now, desired clarity for laying overhead OFC is also available which will go a long way in creating necessary infrastructure to cater to forthcoming 5G rollouts in the country.

The amendment further prescribes a one-time compensation of Rs 1,000 per Km for laying aerial OFC which will bring further uniformity in charging of fee/ levy by local authorities for grant of permissions for this critical infrastructure.

Welcoming the amendment by the DoT, T. R. Dua, Director General, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) said, "We are thankful to the Minister of Communications for initiating the desired reforms for the Telecom Infrastructure sector also. We are sure this is just the beginning and this amendment will pave the way for other major reforms in line, encouraging investments and faster deployment of critical broadband infrastructure in the country enabling rollout of 5G and various new technologies.

"We at DIPA are also working with other sectors such as the Ministry of Power at Centre and State level for laying aerial OFC over existing electric poles.

Yes Bank's Q2FY22 YoY net profit up over 74%

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

Yes Bank on Friday reported a rise of 74.3 per cent in its net profit for Q2FY22 on a year-on-year basis. The lender's net profit during the period under review rose to ₹225 crore from ₹129 crore for Q2FY21.

However, the bank's net interest income declined on a YoY basis to ₹1,512 crore from ₹1,973 crore earned during Q2FY21. In contrast, the non-interest income rose by 30.2 per cent during the period under review to ₹778 crore from ₹597 crore.

Similarly, the bank's provisions declined on a YoY basis. It fell to ₹ 377 crore from ₹1,078 crore. "GNPA ratio at 15 per cent vs 15.6 per cent last quarter, Overdue Book (31-90 days) lower by Rs 6,000 crore Q-o-Q," the lender said in a statement.

"Resolution momentum continues with ₹987 crore of Cash Recoveries & ₹969 crore of upgrades in Q2FY22."

Forex reserves up by USD 1.492 bn to USD 641 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 1.492 billion to reach USD 641.008 billion in the week ended October 15, RBI data showed on Friday.

In the previous week ended October 8, the reserves had increased by USD 2.039 billion to USD 639.516 billion. The reserves had touched a lifetime high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021.

In the reporting week ended October 15, the rise in the forex kitty was mainly on account of an increase in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves

FCAs rose by USD 950 million to USD 577.951 billion, as per weekly data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves climbed by USD 557 million to USD 38,579 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined by USD 21 million to USD 19,247 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF rose by USD 6 million to USD 5.231 billion.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Sangeta W/o Mr. Hanendra Kumar is intending to sell Residential Plot No. 3, area measuring 50 Sq. Yards i.e. 41.80 Sq. Meters, out of Khana No. 346, situated in the Village Achha Pargana & Tehsil Dault, Distt. Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P. to Mrs. Rinkal Rani W/o Mr. Choto to be financed by KFS Housing Finance Ltd. Branch Noida The Original Sale Deed Dated 21.06.2013 vide Doc. No. 12829, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and FIR has been registered on 20.10.2021 with Police Station Badliwala G.B. Nagar U.P.
If any person has any claim on the aforesaid property, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property documents, within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ct. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob. -91-9871818822

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Archana Budhijara W/o Late Sh. Lucky Budhijara R/o Gali No. 2, Amriti Pur, Garhi, Shivdarga, South Delhi, Delhi 110065 has severed all their relations with her son Sh. Arpit Budhijara due to his bad habits. My above-named clients have disowned and debarred her son from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Sh. Arpit Budhijara will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Sh. Arpit Budhijara.
Advocate Anand
(011346/2019) Ph: +91 9582025769
E-mail: anand738@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mr. Rajiv Narula & Mr. Ranesh Narula are joint owners of Entire Second Floor with roof terrace rights ("Said floor") of Property Bearing No. 161, in Block J-5, area measuring 158.7 sq. yds, situated in the revenue estate of Village Tatar Pur, Colony known as Rajpout Garden, Near Delhi, by virtue of Requisition deed dated 11.05.2015, registration No. 6616, executed by Mr. Manav Narula and Mr. Mohit Narula, has lost/misplaced Original relinquishment deed dated 11.05.2015. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
330, The Park, 23, Shivaji Marg, West Nagar, N. Delhi-110017
Ph: 911-41112527-28, kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that I, Ishwar Chand, S/O Shri Jayanti Prasad Gupta, R/O 6/49, Gali No. 2, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 has lodged an N.C.R with Crime Branch, Delhi Police vide LR No. 841127/2021 dated 20/10/2021 regarding some lost documents of Property bearing no. 6/49, area measuring 50 sq. yds., situated at Village Chandrawali alias Shahdara, Block No. 6, Gali No. 2, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, the details of which have already been mentioned in the N.C.R. Whosoever finds the said documents within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice shall communicate with Sh. Ishwar Chand, R/o 6/49, Gali No. 2, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.
Contact no. -9899158509

RAM GOPAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Safdarjung, Safdarjung, Near Safdarjung Hospital, Safdarjung, Gurgaon, Haryana
Affiliated to Pt. B.D.Sharma University of Health & Sciences, Rohtak & Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) and State Govt. Haryana
ADMISSION NOTICE FOR SESSION 2021-22
Institute level second counselling without any reservation for vacant seats (by merging all reserved categories)
BACHELOR OF PHARMACY (4 YEARS)
Admission Procedure: Candidate shall have passed 10+2 examination with English as one of the subjects and Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics (P.C.M) and Biology (P.C.B) as optional subjects individually. Admission on Merit based only.
LEET (LATERAL ENTRY: 3 Years)
Admission Procedure: Candidate shall have passed D.Pharmacy with minimum 50% marks. Admission on Merit based only.
Last date of submission of application form - 24/10/2021 till 1:00 pm
Display & merit list and deposition of fees - 25/10/2021 till 1:00 pm
Website: www.ramgopalcollege.com Mob: 8920418745

UJVN LIMITED
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H. O. "UJJWAL" MAHARANI BAGH, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN - 248006, CIN No. U40190UP2005002588
Tel: 0135-2765508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, website: www.ujvn.com
No. 776
Time Extension Notice Date : 22.10.2021
The last date for submission and opening of tender specification No. 03/EE/(E&M-I)/LP/2021-22 (Repairing of street light system at Juddo) invited by Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Lakhwar Project, Dakpathar is hereby extended as under:
Last Date for downloading of tender document: 27/10/2021
Last Date for submission of tender: 28/10/2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Due date for opening of tender: 01/11/2021 at 11:00 Hrs.
All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.
Executive Engineer (E&M-I)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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Markets recoil for fourth day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmarks nursed losses for the fourth consecutive session on Friday, weighed by IT, FMCG and metal stocks, as risk appetite remained subdued amid muted corporate earnings and foreign fund outflows.

Participants were also in

wait-and-watch mode ahead of Q2 results by market heavyweight Reliance Industries, traders said. Reversing early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 101.88 points or 0.17 per cent to close at 60,821.62. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty shed 63.20 points or 0.35 per cent to finish at 18,114.90. ITC was the top laggard in

the Sensex pack, tumbling 3.39 per cent, followed by Maruti, Infosys, NTPC, HCL Tech, Tata Steel and M&M.

On the other hand, HDFC, Bajaj Auto, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were among the winners, rising up to 2.11 per cent.

On a weekly basis, the

Sensex lost 484.33 points or 0.79 per cent, while the Nifty fell 223.65 points or 1.21 per cent.

"Despite a strong opening owing to favourable global cues, domestic indices continued its losing streak succumbing to profit booking and barring banks and realty stocks, all major sectors bled.

PUBLIC NOTICE				
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohini Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005				
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Shantanu Ghosh, Niyogi Jayita, Flat No-A- 503, Exotica, East Square Apt, Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad. A/c No:-LBGHZ0001824526	Flat No- KM-56-1101, Kosmos Jaypee Green, Noida	03/07/2021, Rs. 4,64,703.8/-	31/01/2021
2.	Amarendra Kumar, Chandra Mukhi, 471, Paschimabad J.N.U, Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00001104826	H. No. 752, Sarswathi Puram, JNU, Delhi	06/07/2021, Rs. 4,39,216.61/-	31/01/2021
3.	Pal Ghanshyam Ramanand, Kamala Devi, 570 Sec 10 Ballabhgarh, Faridabad, A/c No:- LBDEL00002096486	Flat No- E/5 1st Floor, Yogi Darshanamli Silvassalsaid Pin Code 396230 Valsad	03/07/2021, Rs. 4,36,104/-	31/01/2021
4.	Biresh Kumar Singh, Chandrakala Singh, H No 196-A, G-2 Block, Gali No 1, Delhi, Jai Vihar Najafgarh A/c:-LBDEL00004157006	Flat No 859, Ground Floor, Nyay Khand II, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 4,30,804/-	31/12/2020
5.	Deepak Kumar, Murti Devi, B-2A Indra Market, Guram Ras Nagar, Luxmi Nagar, Delhi. A/c No:- LBNOD00001107135	Unit No 18, Parsavnath Binnab Plazaguru Roadas Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi	03/07/2021, Rs. 4,28,448.05/-	31/01/2021
6.	Deepak Kumar Bind, AL- Rigga Road, P O Box-182845, Opp 4 Seasons, Restaurant, Deira, UAE Ph-006592388571, Dubai, A/c:-LBGUR00002095571	1404 14th Floor, Tower N, The Palm Drive Sector-66 Haryana Gurgaon 122001, With Parkin Space U-N-13 & L-N-13	25-06-2021, Rs. 4,26,931/-	31/01/2021
7.	Manjeet Singh, Inderjeet Kaur, B-5 Krishna Awas R-5/120, Raj Nagar Sector-5, Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBDEL00001173589	B-14, Jal Nigam Colony, Raj Nagar Sec-1, Near Telephone Exchange, Ghaziabad	03/07/2021, Rs. 4,20,268.12/-	31/01/2021
8.	Suresh Kumar, Sunita, Manoj Kumar Arya, Flat No. GF- 4, First Floor, Nitikhand- 1/46, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBDEL0000990720	Flat No. GF- 4 First Floor, Nitikhand- 1/46, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 4,07,407.79/-	11/01/2021
9.	Pushpendra Kumar, Somlata, 1268 Sanjay Kaloni, Arthala, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:-LBDEL00002979300	Flat No B54-01, Ground Floor, Aasra Type-2, Upavp, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 3,98,552/-	31/01/2021
10.	Pushpendra Kumar, Somlata, 1268 Sanjay Kaloni, Arthala, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:-LBDEL00001977058	Flat No B54-01, Ground Floor, Aasra Type-2, Upavp, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 3,90,959.69/-	31/01/2021
11.	Deepak Khandelwal, Deepti, H. No E 8 Partly Ward No 14, Dayal Bagh Vill- Lafarpur, Faridabad, Faridabad, A/c:-LBGUR00005336276	House No E-77, Dayal Bagh Colony, Suraj Kund, Faridabad	03/07/2021, Rs. 3,73,211/-	09/01/2021
12.	Deep Chand Singh, Chhaya Singh, Nai Basti Sarfabad An Sec-72, Sec 74 Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida. A/c No:- LBNOD00001995423	Flat No A4 303 3rd Floor, Tower A4 Gardenia Aims Glory Plot No GH-01, Sec-46, Noida, Noida	03/07/2021, Rs. 3,59,027/-	31/12/2020
13.	Sumeet Suri, Pali Suri, E-49, Kapil Vihar, Sector-21C, Faridabad, Faridabad, A/c:-LBFDB00001198548	122, Block-1, Sunrise Tower Cghshg-7, Sec-45, Faridabad, Haryana, Faridabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 3,54,582.09/-	31/01/2021
14.	Narendra Kumar, Sunita Rani, H. No. 1015, Sector 14, Faridabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00001980116	Plot No 137, Block D, Sector - 11, Faridabad, Faridabad	03/07/2021, Rs. 3,54,103.5/-	31/01/2021
15.	Mumtaj, Mumtaj, C- 318 Ground Floor Sec-5dakshin Puri, Dr Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi, A/c:-LBDEL00003930226	Flat No-1612, 16th Floor, Galaxy Royale-Block, Gokul Plot No- GC-03J GH-03, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	05/07/2021, Rs. 3,41,952/-	31/01/2021
16.	Poonam Vijaykumar Mishra, Vijaykumar Deonath Mishra, 12 D, Mesh, New Navy Nagar, Colaba, Mumbai, Mumbai, A/c No:-LBDEL00004913462	Flat No 402, 4th Floor, Cosmo City Silvassa Kharval Road, Dadra Nagar, Havelis No 53758, Silvassa	14/07/2021, Rs. 3,35,081/-	31/01/2021
17.	Tarun Kumar Singh, Kiran Singh, Dinesh Singh, Flat No.707/708, Aman Castle, Sector 4, Plot No. 22, Vaishali, Sahidabad, A/c No:-LBDEL0000740095	Flat No. 707, Sector IV, Plot No. 22., Vaishali, Aman Castle, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 3,02,181.04/-	08/02/2021
18.	Prem Kumar Bhardwaj, Neetu Kumari, H. No-629, 1st Floor Sakti Khand 3, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBNOD00001864253	House No-629, 1st Floor, Shakti Khand-3, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad	03/07/2021, Rs. 2,95,768/-	31/01/2021
19.	Sarita Attri, Rajendra Singh, R-8, Main Market, Shakar Pur, Delhi, Delhi. A/c No:-LBDEL00001072005	Flat No- 404, 4th Flr, Block-A, Krishan Apra Gardens, Plot No 7, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad	03/07/2021, Rs. 2,92,973.96/-	31/01/2021
20.	Sumeet Suri, Pali Suri, E-49, Kapil Vihar, Sector-21C, Faridabad, Faridabad, A/c No:- LBFDB00001426566	122, Block-1, Sunrise Tower CGHSGH-7, Sec-45, Faridabad, Haryana, Faridabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 2,86,369.69/-	31/01/2021
21.	Veni Mohan, Varun Mohan, B-5/110, Ground Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001839844	Flat No- F-112-1202, Uniworld City East Gurgaon, Gurgaon	14/07/2021, Rs. 2,79,680/-	11/01/2021
22.	Sanjeev K Kshiti, Neena Kshiti, 17 D 535, Konark Enclave, Vasudhara, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBNOD00001796424	Plot No. 94, Grd Flr, Habitat Flr Jaipuria Enclave, Kavshambi, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 2,64,505/-	31/01/2021
23.	Sanjeev Kumar, Sunanta Gambhir, House No-1312 Block- B Gaur Global Village, Crossng Republik Near NH-24 Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBNOD00002035091	BS001D1202, 12th Floor, Tower-1, Buddha Circuit Studios, Sector-25, Jaypee Greens Sports City, Yeida Greater Noida Noida	03/07/2021, Rs. 2,58,358/-	31/12/2020
24.	Ranvir Singh, Santosh Yadav, D-184, Delta-1, Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar, Noida, A/c No:- LBNOD00001505239	Flat No D-184, Sector- Delta-1, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh	14/07/2021, Rs. 2,36,081/-	31/01/2021
25.	Tanu Agarwal, Omax Construction Ltd, Palash Ranjan Agarwal, E-165, Kalkaji, 1st Floor, New Delhi, Delhi. A/c No:-LBDEL00001202747	FF- 3, 1st Floor, Sector- 6 Vaishali Ghaziabad	03/07/2021, Rs. 2,32,878.76/-	31/01/2021
26.	Ashwani Kumar, Gunjan Kumar, C-43, Surya Nagar, Near Ram Mandir, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00001078776	G-1, Plot C43 Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 2,22,929.72/-	31/01/2021
27.	Sanjeev Khosla, Kanayal Khosla, Flat No: S-2, Plot No: C-179, Ramprasta, Opp Vivek Vihar, Saibabad, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBDEL0000389406	Flat No T-2, Plot No 179, SF (RR Side) Block C, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 2,22,510.92/-	21/01/2021
28.	Yashpal, Sonia, House No-155/8, Model Town, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon. A/c No:- LBDEL00001140423	Plot No. - 11, Khasra No- 1522/1 Ashok Puri Gurgaon, Gurgaon	03/07/2021, Rs. 2,18,480.98/-	31/01/2021
29.	Yashpal, Soniya, House No- 155/8, Model Town, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon, A/c No:- LBDEL00001140419	Plot No. 11, Khasra No. 1522/1, Ashok Puri Gurgaon	03/07/2021, Rs. 2,09,056/-	31/01/2021
30.	Gulab Singh, Savita Devi, Flat No- 433, Ashoka Enclave Part- 3, Sector- 35, Near Sarai, Faridabad, A/c No:- LBDEL00000945884	Plot No 433, Ashok Enclave-3, Village Sanai Kharaja, Faridabad, Faridabad	03/07/2021, Rs. 1,93,203.5/-	28/02/2021
31.	Sailesh Kumar, Seema Srivastava, Flat No B-2B, 011, GC Grand Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c:-LBDEL0000523535	Flat No S-2, Plot No.-296, Sec-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021, Rs. 1,89,594/-	30/09/2020
32.	Ashish Dhingia, Ankur Singh Dhingia, Flat No. 302, Second Floor, Jahangir Puri, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001101022	Flat No. 302, Second Floor, Jahangir Puri, Delhi	14/07/2021, Rs. 1,86,353.26/-	31/01/2021
33.	Yati, Kavita, A-127 Sector-55, Noida, A/c:- LBDEL00004848267	Plot No- GC/7 GH-01, Flat No-1051, Tower-G, 10th Floor, Gaur City 1, Sector 04, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida	14/07/2021, Rs. 1,83,822/-	31/01/2021
34.	Gopinath Nayak, Aratee Nayak, H. No: 135, Block- D, Sector- Beta-1, G. B.			



SHORTCIRCUITS



SANYA MALHOTRA

The romantic bit of *Meenakshi Sundareswar*'s script was what made me go for it. As someone who is in the audience, I crave to binge-watch romance. At present, I am organically attracted to light-hearted romantic comedies, so that can be the main reason I was attracted to this character and script. For me, it was love at first sight with Meenakshi.'



AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

'It's only once in a while that an actor comes across a story that makes them jump out of their comfort zone. While I have always backed novel stories, *Anek* pushed me to perform with a renewed zest. It's the kind of script that drives a person to give it their all. I feel extremely fortunate, and proud, that I got to headline a project like this.'



PARINEETI CHOPRA

'The kind of accolades and appreciation I received for my films this year was the biggest birthday present for me. So I feel that on the work front, I am in a great place...We have been shooting for the past two weeks in Nepal. A working birthday in the middle of the mountains is exactly what a 2021 birthday should be for me.'



ZACH GALIFIANAKIS

'My kids don't really know what I do. They think I'm an assistant librarian somewhere. I want to protect their innocence as much as possible. They're just children after all. People used to come up to me and be like, 'Oh, my kids love *The Hangover*, and I'm like, 'You're a terrible parent'. They need to mature a little bit before they see such films.'

GWYNETH PALTROW

'Ever since I was Covid-positive, I wasn't been feeling good. I had really high inflammation levels and the doctor said that, at least for three months, I should abstain from alcohol, sugar and anything that's processed. I kind of begrudgingly did it, and then I just started feeling good. I'm not going to do it forever, but I have been trying to value my health and wellness a little more lately.'



LAND OF HEROES

Khushbu Kirti visits the tea capital of North India, Palampur, and remembers the sacrifices of the Kargil martyrs

You might know Palampur as the tea capital of North India, owing to its lush green tea gardens that it is enveloped in. However, another attribute that sets the town apart from many other places is that it has produced the bravest of war heroes.

The recently released OTT hit *SherShaah* has ensured that most people know everything about late Captain Vikram Batra, his life, his bravery and about his birthplace, Palampur. Having said that, not many know that the Kargil hero who lost his life in 1999, Captain Saurabh Kalia, was also born in the same town of Kangra valley. Kalia was an Indian Army officer who was captured by Pakistan Army, along with three other soldiers, tortured and murdered. The news had taken the country by shock and outrage. He was one of the first martyrs of the Kargil war, and the brutal killing of these soldiers had sundered the calm before the storm.

Along with them, the famous immortal names of Brigadier Sher Jang Thapa, one of the recipients of the Mahavir Chakra, Major Sudhir Walia, posthumous awardee of Ashoka Chakra, and Major Som Nath Sharma, posthumous Param Vir Chakra awardee, also come to my mind. While Major Somnath and Brigadier Thapa were world war martyrs, Major Walia died while leading an assault on a militant hideout in Kupwara district. The three gallants mentioned above were also born in the Kangra district.

Recently, I received an opportunity to explore Palampur and so, I made it a point to visit memorials set up as tribute to these heroes.



SAURABH VAN VIHAR

The ecological park is one of the major tourist attractions of the place. Besides the rich history that it carries, honouring Shaheed Captain Kalia, the nature park is a scenic and tranquil sight located on the banks of the Neugel Khad. It is situated in the village of Kwat and spreads over an area of about 13 kilometres. While offering the mesmerising view of the Dhauladhar ranges in the background, the attractions present include bird-watching, boating, sight-seeing, and so on.

The Saurabh Van Vihar is also home to a variety of flora and fauna, and loquacious birds which only elevate the beauty of the park.

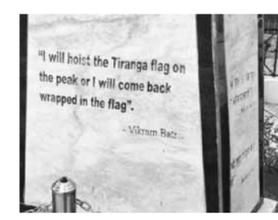


The bridge augmented in tro-colour heightens the patriotic fervour in every visitor.

However, unfortunately, a recent flood had destroyed the park and so when I had visited the location, I traced, from the ruins, what it actually used to be. Boating was discontinued, but pleasure-activities like bird-watching, around the beautiful lake, and soaking in the nature could still be carried out. I had goosebumps throughout as the homage to the fallen hero was inexpressible.

While hopping the park would soon be repaired, I also feel more ecological parks like these, as dedications to the fallen brave, should be built.

SHAHEED CAPTAIN VIKRAM BATRA GOVERNMENT COLLEGE



While staying in Palampur, I decided to pay homage to the memorial of Captain Vikram Batra Government college, Palampur (Kangra), came into existence in 1995 as Govt College, Palampur. It was renamed in the memory of the war hero in 1999.

It also contains the bust of the late soldier, which says 'Ye dil mange more', something that Captain Batra would say often to his comrades and had, in turn, immortalised the slogan.

As we already know, Batra, 13 JAK Rifles, and his Delta company was given the job of securing point 5,140. He was nicknamed SherShah



(for his unwavering courage) and that was what he was called on the Pakistani radios, too.

His company is credited with killing around eight enemy soldiers and recovering a heavy machine gun.

The capturing of point 5,140 set in motion a chain of successful events during the Kargil war.

Captain Batra had also, posthumously, received the Param Vir Chakra.

Getting back to normal

Indie artiste RITVIZ kickstarts Johnnie Walker's #ReVibeTheNight campaign which aims to refuel India's after-hour culture. By TANMAYA DAS

Johnnie Walker, a leading scotch-whisky brand, announces the launch of #ReVibeTheNight, a one-of-a-kind campaign to fill India's most beloved venues with music, movement, people, and magic. The brand has roped in some trailblazing artistes such as the renowned hip-hop rapper, Divine, prominent electronic music producer, Ritviz, and internet sensation, Lisa Mishra, to refuel the after-hour culture in India through their live performances in India's most loved hotspots.

Prior to the world going into lockdown, the after-hour culture in India thrived at celebrated community hubs that eventually became a safe-haven for individuals, a place where they found their sense of self-expression and belonging that fueled progress. This community was driven through the culture of live music and enthralling performances that created their very own vibe, a vibe that built extraordinary, forever-lasting relationships.

The campaign was initiated with a live performance by Ritviz at Dragonfly in New Delhi's Aerocity yesterday. From New Delhi the platform will go live across India including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Goa and Guwahati till December 2021. Read on for our interaction with Ritviz:



Do you recall your first steps in the music industry?

In 2014, I released my first EP *Vizdumb* and then I released the five-track *YUV* in 2016. *Udd Gaye* was my first major hit, and changed my life.

Any advice for aspiring artistes?

Don't think of money, even though it sounds absurd. You have to give music the topmost priority. If you chase anything else then you'll be caught up in other things. Everything is built around music for me. When I sit and make music, I don't do it to please anyone, but because I like it. The minute you lose that, you lose the plot, you lose music. It's hard, so either find the support system or find that confidence to carry on.

Who is your inspiration?

My mother is the most inspiring person in my life. For every new song, her nod is a validation and a push.

Your set of influences in your life make you. That is why probably I have now started listening and learning other styles and a lot more that would probably inspire more crazy culminations in the future. The idea is to keep a constant set of learning.

What are your expectations for the campaign?

I am extremely excited for the campaign! The team at Johnnie Walker, with their #ReVibeTheNight campaign, is taking a bold step towards re-energising the after-hour culture in India through live performances across iconic community spaces, with all Covid-19 safety measures in place. I think with such initiatives, we are responsibly moving back to live gigs, which has really been the best avenue to form a connection with our audiences, once again. Lisa Mishra and I have also created a new soundtrack for the campaign and I really think that the audience will love it.

The renowned Indian studio's, Yash Raj Films', chairman and managing director, Aditya Chopra, has directed and produced some of the biggest blockbusters. His debut directorial, the historic romantic film, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, which released in 1995, is still running in theatres. Popularly called *DDLJ*, it is one of the highest grossing movies in the history of Indian cinema and the biggest IP of the country's rich and diverse movie industry.

After 26 years, Aditya Chopra is set to direct *DDLJ* again and it will mark his debut as a director on Broadway. He strongly feels Broadway and Indian films are two long lost lovers separated in time because of their intrinsic similarities. Both celebrate heart-warming stories and human emotions through music and dance. Aditya has been working on this passion project for the past three years and has roped in a stellar, extremely diverse team, comprising some of the best talents of Broadway and India for the same.

Come...Fall In Love: The DDLJ Musical is being produced by Yash Raj Films, and is based on an original story by Aditya. The musical will feature book and lyrics by Laurence Oliver award-winner, Nell Benjamin (for films like *Legally Blonde* and *Mean Girls*), and top Indian songwriters, Vishal Daddani and Shekhar Ravjiani, will serve as composers. Tony and Emmy winner Rob Ashford (for films like *Frozen*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Boys from Syracuse*) will choreograph with associate choreographer, Shruti Merchant. The design team will also incorporate set design by Emmy and Tony award winner, Derek McLane (for *Moulin Rouge!*, *Hairspray Live!* and *33 Variations*) and music supervision will be done by Tony, Grammy, and Emmy award-winner, Bill Sherman (known for music in *In The Heights*, *Sesame Street*, and *Hamilton*). Adam Zotovich is the executive producer for the project.

The musical is set to be on

Come...Fall In Love

Western musical theatre and Indian films are two long lost lovers separated in time, says film-maker ADITYA CHOPRA. He is set to make his Broadway debut with an adaptation of *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*. By TEAM VIVA



stage in the Broadway season of 2022-2023, with a world premiere at the Old Globe theatre in San Diego in September 2022. A global casting search begins shortly, headed by Duncan Stewart of Stewart/Whitley casting and Yash Raj Films casting head, Shanoo Sharma.

About his musical, Aditya passionately expressed, "In the summer of 1985, I was 14 and on a holiday in London. My parents took my brother and me for our first musical theatre experience. The lights dimmed, the curtains lifted and what unfolded in the next three hours left me speechless and stunned. Now, till then, I was a kid who was an avid movie watcher and what I loved the most was big-



theatre and Indian films are two long lost lovers that have gotten separated in time."

He continued, "In autumn of 2021, I am embarking on my most ambitious project till date. I'm reuniting two long lost lovers, Broadway musical and Indian films. 26 years back I started my career with a film called *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (*DDLJ*), what it is more famously known as). The film created history and changed my life and many others forever. But what many don't know is that I never intended to make *DDLJ* in Hindi. As a 23 year old young man greatly influenced by Hollywood and American pop culture, I thought I would make a couple of Indian films and then I would be off to Hollywood and make *DDLJ* for a worldwide English-speaking audience with Tom Cruise as my leading man. That obviously didn't happen. *DDLJ* released in 1995 and became the longest running film of Indian cinema. It gave me my identity and kickstarted an amazing journey for which I'll always be grateful."

Now, Aditya is going back

to his original vision of the story of *DDLJ*, a love tale of an American boy and an Indian girl, a love story of two cultures...two worlds. But this time the medium is not cinema, but theatre.

"26 years later I will be directing *DDLJ* all over again, but this time as an English language Broadway musical for a worldwide audience. I'm terribly nervous and incredibly excited. I'm a hardcore cinema guy, and have never done theatre in my life. And here I am, trying to pull off the craziest ambition of my life. But, what is giving me confidence is the fantastic team that I have. Each one of them is a master of their field and their brilliance and expertise is going to make this a fantastic show. The past three years as we have developed this passion project, I have learnt so much from them and discovered the unbelievable talent that the Broadway community has. I feel like I am 23 again, the same age I was when I directed *DDLJ* for the first time. I'm once again a student, each one of my team members is more experienced than I am. In the world of theatre, I'm the rookie and I'm loving every moment of it. I'm all set to learn, explore, create and enjoy with these wonderful theatre artists and the discover the magical world of Broadway musicals," the director concluded.

About the Broadway theatrical, Benjamin expressed, "*DDLJ* was my introduction to Indian filmmaking before I even knew who the amazing Aditya Chopra was, and the movie had such joy and heart that I fell in love with it. I was so happy to be approached to do the musical and I hope my work helps everyone fall in love with Simran and Raj and their journey across multiple cultures again. The world can always use a little more cultural understanding, and I can't wait to sit in a theater with an audience, sharing the joy and surprise of *Come Fall In Love: The DDLJ Musical!*"



BACK AT IT

DJ trio SWEDISH HOUSE MAFIA reunites and links up with THE WEEKND for new music, ahead of a global tour scheduled for next year

DJ supergroup Swedish House Mafia, known for bringing house music to the masses with their arena shows, are ready to turn the crowd up with a new collaboration with The Weeknd and a global tour on the horizon.

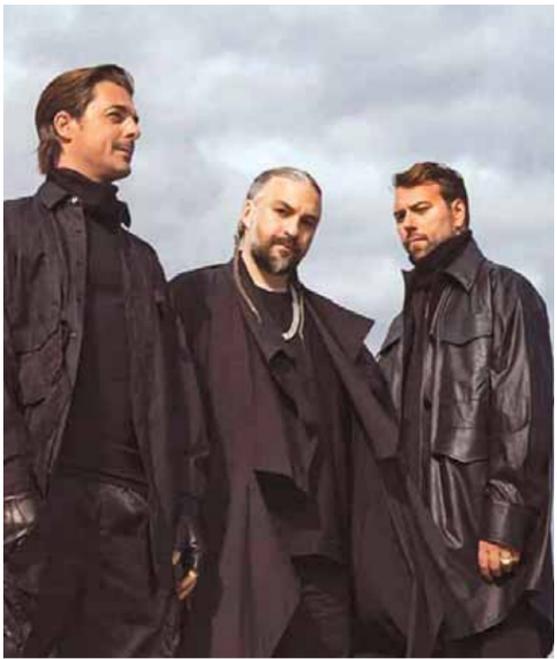
The trio dropped a new song and music video on yesterday, melding their thumping, body-rocking beats with The Weeknd's dark cinematic vocals on *Moth To A Flame*. It comes as they are announcing a 44-date arena world tour in 2022 with stops in Miami, Las Vegas, Houston, Toronto, London, Paris and Madrid.

It's a long awaited return for the DJs — Steve Angello, Axwell and Sebastian Ingrosso — who announced their breakup in 2012 after reaching heights that few other DJs had and leading a wave

of interest in EDM music with their grandiose live shows.

"I think time was the best thing that could happen to us," Angello expressed during an interview from Stockholm.

With hits like *Don't You Worry Child* and *Save The World*, they were the first DJ act to sell out Madison Square Garden and got top billing at Coachella, where they will return in 2022. The anticipation has been building since the three announced their reunion at a surprise set at Ultra Music Festival in Miami in 2018, but behind the scenes it was a years-long process of getting a new label, new management and new music. Known for being perfectionists and their slow pace of recording, the pandemic gave them the time they needed as they worked in their



studio in Sweden. "We made more songs in the past two years than we did in the 20 years before that, which is incredible," said Angello. They also now share the same management

team with The Weeknd, who has hinted at the collab on his social media.

After meeting in Los Angeles, they found a track they all loved and the Toronto-born superstar let inspiration lead him, said Axwell. "He just, boom, went for it and it sounded amazing," said Axwell. "We were like, 'Well, did you have this written down or how was it like? Did you prepare notes?' (He said.) 'I just looked at some text messages on my phone.'"

They released two other singles this year, including *Lifetime* featuring Ty Dolla Sign along with 070 Shake and *It Gets Better*, both of which reached the Top 15 of Billboard's Hot Dance/Electronic Songs chart. The new songs are leading up to their full-length album *Paradise Again*, slated for release next year.

The opportunity to push boundaries again was the motivating factor to come back together and put aside differences that led to their split, shared Angello, who remained coy on the exact reasons.

"Enough time went by for me to feel like I was missing something, right? So like when you're running 100 miles an hour, you don't have time to reflect. But if you let some time pass, all of a sudden, those things that, those things that tore us apart were kind of destroyed," said Angello.

During the breakup, they all kept working and performing. Angello released his own solo records while Axwell and Ingrosso put out an album in 2017 together. But when the Corona virus pandemic took hold in 2020, not having an audience was one of the hardest parts for these DJs who had spent decades performing live in clubs, arenas and festivals all over the globe, setting the unrelenting musical pace for tens of thousands of dancing fans.

"I understand why a lot of heritage bands continue touring for the rest of their lives," said Ingrosso. "Because once you're in there and you've done that once in your life with the energy and the positivity, it's like a piece of our hearts that's missing."

Ingrosso said every once in a while, they'd turn their studio into a nightclub, just to get a chance to feel the music the way it's meant to be experienced. "Sometimes we threw a little party here and there around the studio just to listen to music when you're not totally 100 per cent sober, if you know what I mean," Ingrosso revealed.

Their 2022 tour starts on July 29 in Miami and runs through November 13 in Tampere, Finland. —AP

Checkmate

It is wonderful that the new generation is rediscovering classic stories from the subcontinent, says veteran actor, IRFAN KHOOSAT. By TEAM VIVA



The actor and comedian, Irfan Khoosat, is the father of popular Pakistani director, Sarmad Khoosat. The veteran actor will be reading Munshi Premchand's iconic tale, *Shatranj Ki Baazi*, in Zee Theatre's show, *Yaar Julahay*.

In 1924, Munshi Premchand wrote a riveting tale in Urdu and Hindi about two inveterate chess players. In 1977, the legendary filmmaker, Satyajit Ray, created *Shatranj Ke Khiladi*, based on the same tale.

Now, director and actor, Sarmad Khoosat, is presenting *Shatranj Ki Baazi*, a dramatized reading of the same classic story. The reading is part of *Yaar Julahay*, featuring stories from the subcontinent.

It will be screened on Tata Sky Theatre throughout this week. Set in Lucknow in the last days of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, the story centers around the landowners, Mirza Sajjad Ali and Mir Roshan Ali, and their obsession with chess in the face of the rapidly deteriorating political, social, and cultural conditions of Awadh.

Irfan expressed, "I have been associated largely with funny characters but this was a serious part. I am also very happy that the new generation is rediscovering classic stories from the subcontinent via a format similar to Dastangoi. When stories are performed and not just read by an actor, they acquire tangible humanity. This is a very good initiative and must continue."

Speaking about his father's role, Sarmad said, "A lot of literature has been written about partition, but the mutiny of 1857 has not been extensively written about. That is why this story by Munshi Premchand has an iconic significance. His descriptive writing brings to life the milieu and the atmosphere in which the story is set and when he writes the conversations between two people, he transports us to another era. The moment I read *Shatranj Ki Baazi*, I felt only my father could do justice to it because the role needed a certain gravitas, manner, and diction. Abba pulled off the reading with great theatricality and used different voices for different characters."

WHAT MOVED YOU TODAY

National Geographic India encourages enthusiasts to share their most precious captures that have touched hearts through the campaign, Your Lens. By TEAM VIVA

National Geographic India, a brand with a rich legacy of distinctive and impactful storytelling, is currently conducting a unique ongoing property titled — 'Your Lens'. With a campaign thought of 'what moved you today', Your Lens is encouraging photographers and enthusiasts to share the most precious captures that have emotionally moved them and touched their hearts. With a successful start, they have received thousands of entries, spread across various themes such as breathtaking landscapes, majestic wildlife, thrilling adventures, vibrant festivals, people and portraits and many more from around the country.

Assessed by the established National Geographic explorer and photographer, Prasenjeet Yadav, the best images will be featured across the National Geographic television channel in India, social media platforms and the website, www.nationalgeographicyourlens.in.

Every month, best images will be selected and featured. Some of the shortlisted images, along with the photographer's thoughts, are given below:



"I've been a photographer since the age of 14, and have been learning every day. The photograph, at the Patrika Gate in Rajasthan, is probably my best. This one is from my solo trip to Jaipur." —Pratish Patel, Mumbai



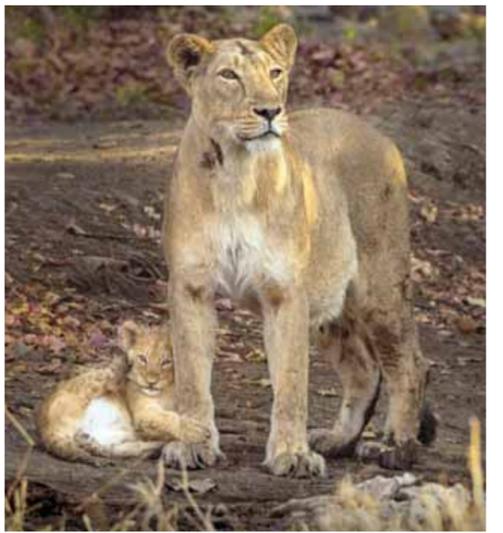
"It's hard to describe how beautiful the bank of the Brahmaputra is. Where dozens of fishermen patiently try their luck, one of them caught my eye, as light from the sun and reflection of the sky perfectly balanced in such a way that I felt like God himself sketched it on the water." —Ansari, Bangalore



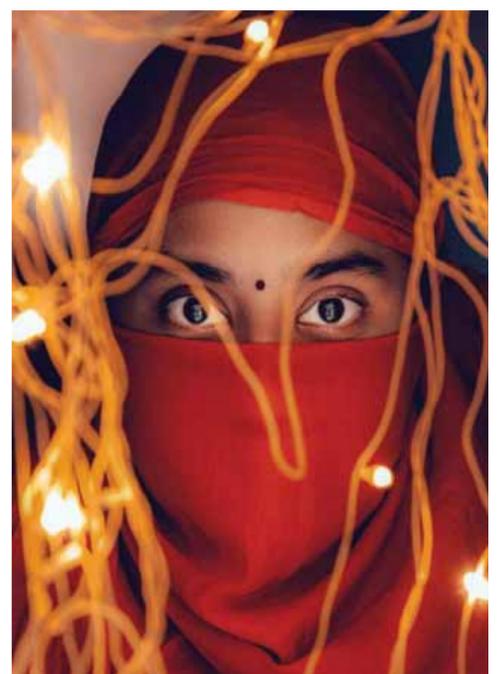
"The Wildest Brothers — we documented these two in their wildest mood at the Great Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, a place filled with surprises. Their mother was out in search of food and these two pups were home alone." —Parth Kansara, Bhuj



"Being a nature enthusiast, I have always wanted to capture an image concerning pollution that is increasing every day." —Satya Mariadhar Vegi, Tuni



"Clicked this image in Gir National park. The cub was very playful." —Goswami Chetan, Jamnagar



"Light in the eyes speaks louder than the words." —Susruth Sai, Nellore

Sindhu loses in quarters

PTI ■ ODENSE

Returning to action after a break, India's double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu on Friday bowed out of the Denmark open badminton tournament after losing in straight games to world no 8 Korean An Seyoung in the women's singles quarterfinals here.

Playing her first tournament since winning the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics in August, Sindhu couldn't match her fifth seeded young Korean rival, going down 11-21 12-21 in 36 minutes.

Sindhu had also lost to An Seyoung in straight games the last time they clashed here two years ago in their only career meeting.

The reigning world champion, who had taken a break to rejuvenate after a hectic Olympics campaign, just couldn't find a way across the attacking game of the Korean, who was always a step ahead during the contest.

An Seyoung made a



superb start and took just six minutes to grab a massive seven-point lead at the break with Sindhu unable to find a crack in the Korean's game. The Indian tried to control the net but committed few unforced errors with the Korean showing great athleticism to return everything thrown at her.

The Korean dominated the forecourt and played some exceptional shots, including a few diving forehand returns, to lead 16-8. In the end, Sindhu netted to give 10 game points to the Korean, who sealed the opening game when the Indian erred again. Sindhu tried to change her tactics by playing high lifts

but she was not disciplined enough and after trailing 7-8 at one stage, she slipped to 8-11 at the break. It was a one-way traffic after the interval as An Seyoung jumped to 20-10 in a jiffy. Sindhu saved two match points before committing another error. On Thursday night, India's

Sameer Verma notched up a stunning straight-game win over world no.3 Anders Antonsen to storm into the quarterfinals but it was curtains for Lakshya Sen at the Super 1000 tournament here.

World No 28 Sameer, who had qualified for the World Tour Finals in 2018 after winning three titles, produced a sensational performance to outwit local hero Antonsen 21-14 21-18 in a 50-minute men's singles battle.

The 27-year-old from Madhya Pradesh will lock horns with 33-year-old Tommy Sugiarto, a bronze winner at the 2014 World Championships.

However, it proved to be too daunting a task for Lakshya to match Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen as he thrashed the Indian 21-15 21-7 in a lopsided second-round contest. Coming into the match with a dismal 1-5 head-to-head count, Sameer showed great athleticism and tactical acumen to down Antonsen, a silver medallist at the 2019 World Championships.

Mentors can't do much, it's players who have to perform : Gavaskar

PTI ■ DUBAI

A mentor can only help as much because it is the players who will have to go out there and perform the "actual task", the legendary Sunil Gavaskar said on the appointment of Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the Indian team mentor for the T20 World Cup. India will play Pakistan on Sunday in the Super 12s and Gavaskar feels that in this format Virat Kohli's team can't be termed clear favourites.

"Mentor can't do much," Gavaskar told Aaj Tak. "Yes, he can help you prepare in change room as its a fast-paced game and if needed, help you tweak the tactic."

"May be speak to batters and bowlers during time-out, so the move to employ Dhoni is a good one but Dhoni will be in the change room and its the players who have to perform the actual task in the middle. How they handle pressure would determine what the result will be," Gavaskar said during the event. Gavaskar feels Kohli will feel lesser pressure now that he has



decided to quit captaincy in the T20 format.

"When you become a captain, you can't just think about yourself, he has to speak to a batter who is going through a bad patch or discuss strategies with a bowler.

"Amid all this, one tends to neglect his own form. When you don't have that pressure, you can focus on your own game. I think it will be good for Virat that after T20 World Cup, he doesn't have to think about responsibilities.

"So he can focus on his own

game and score as many runs as possible," he added.

Gavaskar, one of the most respected voices in world cricket, also pointed out that India's failure to win knock-out games in global tournaments has been primarily due to the faulty team selections.

"India's problem in big matches has been team combination. If they would have got final XI selection right in knock out games, they would have had less problems. At times, your thought process is different," he said.

"In knock-outs and finals, you should bat first, put runs on the board, whatever you put, 140 may be, the other team has to score and it's not always easy to score at seven runs per over in international cricket," he explained.

In T20 cricket, Gavaskar has found one flaw with the Indian batting and that's losing momentum between overs 7 and 12.

"India's batting weakness has been in the overs after Powerplay, between 7 and 12. After 7 overs, we start struggling.

Erasmus, Wiese take debutants Namibia to Super 12s of T20 WC

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Gerhard Erasmus led from the front with a well-crafted unbeaten fifty to guide debutants Namibia to a historic eight-wicket win over Ireland in the first round Group B match and qualification spot in Super 12s of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Erasmus (53 not out off 49 balls) guided Namibia's chase of 126 in the company of David Wiese, who made an unbeaten 28.

Namibia made a quiet start to their chase. Boundaries were hard to come by for Namibia batters as they dealt mostly in singles and twos. Their struggle can be gauged from the fact

that they found the fence only four times in the first 10 overs, scoring 49 for one.

Needing 77 off the last 10 overs, Erasmus and Zane Green (24) shared 48 runs for the second wicket to keep Namibia in the contest.

The duo played sensibly and brought down the equation to 55 off 42 balls and with nine wickets in hand, Namibia were clear favourites to win the contest.

But Green failed to clear Kevin O'Brien at mid-off to make the contest interesting.

After his two wickets with the ball, Wiese came to Namibia's rescue by hitting Craig Young for back-to-back sixes in the 15th over to bring



down the equation to 33 off the last five overs.

Needing 21 off 18 balls, Erasmus lofted off-spinner Simi Singh over the long-off boundary and then struck two

boundaries in the 19th over off Craig Young to finish off the chase in style with nine balls remaining.

Namibia have joined Sri Lanka in the Super 12s from

Group A. Earlier, asked to bowl, Namibian bowlers made a strong comeback after Ireland made a brisk start to restrict them to a modest 125 for eight.

Ireland started brightly with Paul Stirling (38) and Kevin O'Brien (25) sharing 62 runs off just 44 balls for the opening stand.

But Namibia pulled things back by removing both the openers in quick succession as Ireland slumped to 67 for two in 8.4 overs.

After the opening partnership, Ireland innings literally fell apart as, barring skipper Andy Bilbirmie (21), no other batter could reach dou-

ble-digit score.

The dismissal of Gareth Delany pegged back Ireland considerably as their batters found it difficult to keep up the scoring rate, reaching just 95 runs for the loss of three wickets at the end of the 15th over.

Bilbirmie tried his best to lift the innings but he also struggled to rotate the strike against some incisive bowling by Namibia in the second half of the innings, picking up six wickets by conceding just 54 runs in the last 10 overs.

Ireland's problems were compounded when left-arm pacer Jan Frylinck snared two wickets in the 16th over -- first Bilbirmie LBW and then Curtis Campher.

T20 World Cup window

DANDYA WILL BE AN IMPACT PLAYER FOR INDIA: RAHANE

Dubai: Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya will be an impact player for India in the ongoing T20 World Cup, India Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane said, urging the side to rally around the injury-ravaged cricketer whose role as a bowler is uncertain due to fitness issues. There has been a lot of debate regarding Pandya's inclusion in the squad as he did not bowl in the recently-concluded IPL. The team management has, time and again, stressed on the importance of his bowling to the side's overall balance.

I AM READY TO BACK WARNER'S ABILITY: FINCH

Abu Dhabi: Australia captain Aaron Finch is ready to back the "ability and judgement" of his out-of-form opening partner David Warner, hoping that he would come out all xames here, are 0, 2, 0, 1. "I am backing Davy's ability and judgement," Finch said on the eve of the South Africa game. "If you look at his World Cup history, it's bloody good and would be like more runs? Absolutely. He is one of the greatest players Australia has ever produced and I have no doubts that come game one, he will be absolutely fired and ready to go," the skipper added. Finch said that his recovery from a knee injury had been quicker than expected.

F1 title fight could take big swing

AP ■ AUSTIN

The US Grand Prix is not a must-win race for Lewis Hamilton, and the seven-time champion brushed off such a suggestion even as he trails Max Verstappen in the title fight and his rival should be favored at Mexico City in the next round.

Verstappen is a two-time winner in Mexico City, where Formula One races Nov. 7 and the Red Bull team has been dominant. But up first is Sunday's race at the Circuit of the Americas and Hamilton, who calls COTA his "happy hunting ground" because he's won five times in Texas, trails Verstappen by six points in the standings.

"It's important to win every race somehow, you know, maximizing our points, that's our goal over these next six races,"



Hamilton said Thursday.

"It's going to be incredibly difficult and there will be moments where we can perhaps edge (Red Bull) out. I don't like to assume that Mexico is not going to be strong but they are usually very strong in Mexico."

Formula One returns to North America its next two rounds for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Races in Austin and Mexico City were canceled last year, and Montreal is set to return next year for the first time since 2019.

The series comes back now with a thrilling title fight between upstart Verstappen and the superstar Hamilton. He clinched his 2015 and 2019 titles at COTA and Hamilton has won in five of F1's eight races at the track.

Verstappen, a seven-time winner this season, hasn't won at COTA but has been good. His sensational drive in the rain to fourth as a 17-year-old rookie with Toro Rosso in 2015 unveiled his potential as a championship contender.

He finished second in 2018 and third in 2019, but now he and Red Bull are in the championship lead.

Teammates could play a huge role Sunday. Valtteri Bottas drove his Mercedes to victory ahead of Verstappen in Turkey two weeks, and won in Austin in 2019 from pole position.

PTI ■ LONDON

The fifth and final Test between India and England, which was suspended due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the visitors' camp last month, was on Friday rescheduled to July next year.

The England and Wales Cricket Board announced that the game has been moved to Edgbaston from Manchester and will be part of India's white-ball tour. The match will be held from July 1.

"With India leading the series 2-1, the concluding fifth match will now take place from July 1, 2022, at Edgbaston, following an agreement between the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)," said the ECB in a statement.

"Ticket holders do not have to take any action as all tickets will remain valid for the equivalent rearranged matchday at their host venue.

"Host venues will communicate the new fixture details to ticket purchasers and the options available to them, including the timeframe for requesting a refund if they are not able to attend the new match day," the ECB added.

Last month, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, in an interview to PTI, had made

Fifth Test between India and England rescheduled to July 2022



it clear that the rescheduled match would be an extension of the series and not a standalone game.

"We want the series to be completed as this will be our first series win (in England) since 2007," Ganguly had said.

India were leading 2-1 when the match was called off after the visiting players refused to step on to the field following positive COVID-19 cases among its support staff, including head coach Ravi Shastri.

SINGLES

JAISMI EASE INTO SECOND ROUND OF WNB

Hisar: Asian Championship bronze-medallist Jaismine and defending champion Pwila Basumatary of Assam advanced to the second round of the 60kg category with convincing victories in the Women's National Boxing Championships here on Friday. Representing Haryana, Jaismine comfortably beat Chhattisgarh's Rajbala by the unanimous 5-0 verdict in her opening round, while Basumatary out-punched Karnataka's Theertha Lakshmi at the St Joseph's International School here.

SAMEER TO ENTER QUARTERFINALS

Odense: India's Sameer Verma notched up a stunning straight-game win over world no.3 Anders Antonsen to storm into the quarterfinals but it was curtains for Lakshya Sen at the Denmark Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here. World No 28 Sameer, who had qualified for the World Tour Finals in 2018 after winning three titles, produced a sensational performance to outwit local hero Antonsen 21-14 21-18 in a 50-minute men's singles battle on Thursday. The 27-year-old from Madhya Pradesh will lock horns with 33-year-old Tommy Sugiarto, a bronze winner at the 2014 World Championships

AMATEUR AVANI WON HERO WPGTN SEASON

Panchkula: Amateur Avani Prashanth won her second title of the season as she held off the seasoned Amandeep Drall by a shot to win the 11th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Friday. Avani and Amandeep played even par rounds, which helped the former stay ahead to emerge victor at the Panchkula Golf Club. Avani totalled 2-under 214, while Amandeep aggregated 1-under 215. Three players, Pranavi Urs (76), Jahnavi Bakshi (73) and Vani Kapoor (73) were tied for third place at 4-over 219. Seher Atwal (75) was sixth at 221 and Rhea Jha (73) was seventh. Saaniya Sharma, amateur Kriti Chowhan and Hitaaashee Bakshi occupied the eighth to 10th places.

AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal hosts Aston Villa after a tepid start to the season that's been summed up by drawing the last two matches to sit 12th in the Premier League after eight games.

It took Alexandre Lacazette's late equalizer to grab a point against Crystal Palace on Monday and the forward will now be pushing for a start against Villa. The 30-year-old Frenchman has played only 72 minutes in the league so far.

There is no new contract on offer with his current deal expiring at the end of the season. Bukayo Saka could miss Friday's game after being forced off at halftime on Monday after being kicked on the calf. Villa is in 13th place with 10 points.

Osasuna goes for its fourth straight victory in the Spanish League when it hosts Granada. A win would leave the team tied on 20 points with leader Real Sociedad ahead of the weekend matches.

Osasuna hasn't won four in a row in the league since 2010. It won four of its last five matches, with the only setback a home loss against Real Betis. Granada is just outside the relegation zone with six points from eight matches.

It beat Sevilla in its last game for its first win of the season after going winless in its first seven matches. Granada is winless in its last six away games in the league.

There are two matches involving sides at the wrong end of the table as Sampdoria hosts Spezia and Genoa visits Torino. Samp has lost three of its past four matches, drawing the other, and is in 17th place, above Genoa and Cagliari on goal difference alone.

Spezia is only a point ahead after last week's win over bottom-place

Arsenal hosts Villa

Salernitana snapped a run of three straight losses. Torino is just two points above the relegation zone but has faced Lazio, Juventus and Napoli recently.

Mainz hosts Augsburg with both teams looking to turn around wretched recent form. Mainz won three out of its first four league games this season, but none of the four since, and has dropped to 11th.

Augsburg is 16th, hasn't won any of its last three games and has the unwanted record of

joint-fewest goals scored with four from eight games.

Last-place Saint-Etienne is looking for its first win this season against Angers. The 10-time champions have just four points from 10 games and were routed 5-1 by Strasbourg in their previous game last week.

Saint-Etienne will be without suspended midfielder Zaydou Youssouf and has several doubtful players, including goalkeeper Etienne Green and right back Yann Maçon.



MM-219

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, GHUMSUR SOUTH DIVISION
Bheijput, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam, Odisha, Pin - 761126
Phone No-06821-241015, Fax No-06821-241014, E-mail : dfohsouth@gmail.com

Letter No/7643 Dated.20.10.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Bid Identification No. GH (S)-BNJ-FE & CC-01/2021-22

1	Name of work	-Construction of Buildings and Creation of water Body
2	No. of works	- 05 Nos.
3	No. of covers	- Single Cover
4	Estimated Cost	-Rs.14.29 to 5.45 Lakhs.
5	Period of Completion	-Three Calendar Months
6	Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in portal	-From 10.00 AM of Dated 26.10.2021 to 05 P.M Dated.10.11.2021
7	Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the portal.	-Up to 5.00 P.M of Dated.10.11.2021
8	Date of opening of Bid documents	-At 11.30 AM of 12.11.2021
9	Class of Contractor	- 'D' & 'C' Class Contractor
10	Name and address of officer Inviting Bid	-Divisional Forest Officer, Ghumsur South Forest Division, Bheijput, Bhanjanagar

Further, details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tenderodisha.gov.in in the Addendum/corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

OIPR-06051/11/0010/2122

Divisional Forest Officer, Ghumsur South Division.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CHHELIGADA HEADWORKS DIVISION, AT/PO: MAHENDRAGADA,
VIA: CHANDRAGIRI, DIST: GAJAPATI. PIN - 761017.
e-mail: sechhw@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice No. SE-CHWD-02/2021-22.

Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and condition of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>

1	Type of the work	- Building, road & drain.
2	No. of works.	- 07
3	Class of contractor	- 'D', 'C', 'B' Class.
4	Bid Identification No.	- e-CHWD-04/2021-22 to e-CHWD-10/2021-22
5	Estimated cost	- Rs. 7.93 lakhs to Rs.32.65 lakhs.
6	Period of completion	- 6 (Six) to 8 (eight) calendar months
7	Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	- 25.10.2021 to 05.11.2021 upto 5.00 PM
8	Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal.	- 05.11.2021 upto 5.00 PM
9	Date of opening of bid	- 06.11.2021 at 11.30 AM., in the e-procurement cell, Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RVN Basin, Berhampur, Dist: Ganjam.
10	Name of the office inviting bid	- Superintending Engineer, Chheligada Head Works Division, Mahendragada, Dist: Gajapati.

N.B:-
1) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can be seen in the said website.
2) Further details can be seen from Government website: <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer,
Chheligada Head Works Division,
Mahendragada (Gajapati).

OIPR-32109/11/0002/2122