

## OPINION 6

LAKHIMPUR KHERI—  
WAS IT AVOIDABLE?

## WORLD 8

NEW CHAPTER OPENED IN AF,  
WORLD RELATIONS: TALIBAN FM

## SPORT 12

DC SET 136  
TARGET FOR KKR

DEHRADUN, THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2

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I'M VERY  
HEADSTRONG:  
MALAIKA  
10 VIVACITY

## India headed for jab milestone

73% population  
given at least 1  
dose, 30% both;  
100 cr Covid jab  
record likely soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is likely to achieve the ambitious target of administering 100 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine within the next few days even as it has allowed export of stocks to other countries, sources in the Union Health Ministry said.

"As on date, 73 per cent of the total population have been given at least a single dose of the vaccine, close to 30 per cent have received both doses, and we are following up with States to increase the vaccine administration. There are 8 crore doses kept ready for use by the States," said the Ministry sources.

On Tuesday, the emergency use of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine for the 2 to 18 age-group was also approved.

As per the Union Government data, India has administered over 95.89 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

"There is no shortage of vaccines, it has, however, been noticed worldwide that there tends to be a saturation once 70 per cent of the population are covered. So, efforts are on to cover the remaining population and counter any vaccine hesi-

tancy. As for the availability of vaccines, the production for October alone is about 28 crore doses. Of these 22 crore doses are of Covishield, 6 crore of Covaxin and 60 lakh of the DNA vaccine," the sources said.

In the meantime, India reported 15,823 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, 10.5 per cent higher than Tuesday when the country saw the lowest daily rise in Covid cases since early March with 14,313 infections. India also reported 226 deaths due to coronavirus.

India's total Covid infection tally has reached 3,40,01,743 while the death count has increased to 4,51,189. A total of 13,25,399 tests were conducted, taking the number of cumulative tests conducted so far to 58,63,63,442.

Meanwhile, news agency

IANAS quoted eminent scientist and biochemist Prof G Padmanaban as saying that India may require the third dose of Covid vaccine by the middle of next year as breakthrough cases even after full vaccination have been prevalent, even though mostly mild.

Prof Padmanaban, who is chancellor of Central University of Tamil Nadu and a Padma Bhushan recipient, said that his opinion of a third dose is based on "scientific understanding".

"In an infection by the Delta variant, which is widespread, there is a six-eight fold drop in the potential of antisera from vaccines to neutralise the variant compared to the wild type (used for vaccination-spike or whole virus).

"Nobody still has a clear



answer to how long the protective antibodies will last, it has been variably estimated to be between six months and one

year. If the virus has not weakened by itself, by that time, there is the possibility for a re-infection," he said.

## Doctors fear Covid surge in Bengal over protocol violation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Kolkata seems to be failing where Mumbai succeeded in the rigorous implementation of the corona protocol during Ganesh festival. With lakhs of frenzied pandal hoppers hitting the Kolkata streets amid pandemic times, the doctors of the eastern metro fear a revival of the disease in Bengal soon after the Durga Puja.

The administration's lenient execution of the corona protocol framed by the Calcutta High Court tends to



push up the fear. Dr RK Patra, a senior physician, warned, "If the positivity percentage goes beyond 5 per cent, then the

administration will certainly have to think about re-imposing lockdown in some way or the other".

This even as a senior doctor of the Calcutta Medical College, the oldest such hospital in Asia, said how before Maha Panchami day the infectivity rate in Bengal was in the vicinity of 1.75 per cent which had crossed 2.53 by the end of Maha Saptami day. While the infectibility rate remain more or less static, it is showing upward swing in Kolkata and adjacent North 24 Parganas which forms the part of greater Kolkata, thanks to the increasing crowd of pandal hoppers who have been cramming the sidewalks.

Lakhimpur Kheri violence  
'condemnable' but lopsided  
attention dangerous: FM

PTI ■ BOSTON



that one incident which is absolutely condemnable, every one of us say that. Equally there are instances happening elsewhere, is my concern.

"India has issues of such nature happening in very many different parts of the country equally. I would like you, and many others, including Dr Amartya Sen, who all know India, to raise it at every time when it happens, not just raise it when it suits us because it's a State where BJP is in power, one of my cabinet colleague's son is in probably trouble, and also assume that it's actually them who did it and not anybody else.

Sitharaman, who is on an official visit to the US, was responding to a question during a conversation at Harvard Kennedy School on Tuesday about the killing of four farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri and the arrest of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra.

She was asked why there is no word on this from the Prime Minister, senior Ministers and why there is a "defensive reaction" when somebody asks questions about such things.

"No, absolutely not... It's

nice of you to have picked up

Ashish Mishra denied  
bail, 2 more arrested

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Two more persons were on Wednesday arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur violence, while a court here denied bail to Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

Ankit Das and Latif, alias Kale, who appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT), were taken in custody after questioning and produced in court which sent them in judicial remand for 14 days, official sources said.

With this, the total number of people arrested in connection with the mowing down of four farmers here on October 3 has gone to six.

While the police sought their custody for interrogation, their lawyer opposed it saying no recovery is to be done from them. The court reserved its order on the application for police remand of the two, they said.

Senior prosecution officer SP Yadav told PTI that Ashish Mishra and his alleged accomplice Ashish Pandey moved bail applications on Wednesday but they were rejected by Chief Judicial Magistrate Chinta



Ram.

Ashish Mishra, who was arrested on October 9 by the special investigation team after 12 hours of questioning, had been sent to three days in police custody from Tuesday.

The court also remanded Shekhar Bharti, arrested on Tuesday, in police custody for three days.

Police have now arrested six people — Ashish Mishra, Luvkush, Ashish Pandey, Bharti, Ankit and Kale — in connection with the case.

The investigators had summoned Das and Kale for questioning in connection with the October 3 violence that had left eight people, including four lynched by the protesting farmers.

NIA arrests 9 in J&K  
for terror conspiracyOf those, 5 held  
during searches  
in Srinagar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday said it has arrested nine persons, including five during the searches conducted in Srinagar, in the Jammu & Kashmir terrorism conspiracy case.

The five arrested accused persons are Md Haneef Chiralu (Srinagar) Hafeez (Budgam), Owais Dar (Pulwama), Mateen Bhat (Shopian), and Arif Farooq Bhat (Srinagar).

The arrests came close on the heels of searches at 16 locations in Kashmir on Tuesday. The NIA had registered the case on Sunday. During the searches, the agency seized several electronic devices, incriminating jihadi documents, and records of suspicious financial transactions.

The case relates to the conspiracy for conducting vio-



lent terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and other major cities by the cadre of proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), and their affiliates Al Badr, The Resistance Front (TRF), People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF) and Mujahideen Ghazwat-ul Hind (MGH) among others.

The agency had on Tuesday conducted searches at 16 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama, and Shopian districts and arrested four accused persons. The arrested accused are Waseem Ahmed Sofi of Chattabal, Srinagar,

Tariq Ahmed Dar of Shergarhi, Srinagar, Bilal Ahmed Mir alias Bilal Fufu of Parimpura, Srinagar, and Tariq Ahmed Bafanda of Rajauri Kadal in Srinagar.

The agency was pursuing a case on the intelligence input regarding hatching of conspiracy both physically and in cyberspace for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and other major cities of India, including New Delhi, by the cadres of proscribed terrorist organisations LeT, JeM, HM, Al Badr and similar other outfits and their affiliates such as the TRF and PAFF among others, the NIA said in a statement.

JeM commander  
gunned down in  
encounter with  
forces in Pulwama

PNS ■ JAMMU

One of the top commanders of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit was eliminated by the joint team of the security forces in Tilwani Mohalla Waggad area of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday.

The slain terrorist has been identified as Shamus-ud-Din Sofi, alias ShamSofi. According to police records he was first arrested in 2004 and detained under PSA. He rejoined the ranks of JeM in 2019 and since then was active in the area.

He provided shelter and logistics support to the foreign terrorists of JeM in the area.

According to a police spokesman, "The joint operation was launched in the area after confirming his whereabouts by the Awantipora police".

During the search operation, the terrorist was given repeated opportunities to surrender. Instead of responding, he opened indiscriminate fire on the security forces. In the ensuing encounter he was neutralised by the security forces.

## CAPSULE

MANMOHAN SINGH  
ADMITTED TO AIIMS

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was admitted to the AIIMS here Wednesday evening after he complained of weakness following a fever, sources said.

MARKETS	
SENSEX	60,737.05 (+452.74)
NIFTY	18,161.75 (+169.80)
GOLD	47,240.00 (+42.00)
SILVER	61,923.00 (+337.00)

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PM unveils ₹100L cr master  
plan to give Gati to economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a ₹100 lakh crore national master plan — PM Gati Shakti — for multi-modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

The plan targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time, Modi said, adding it would lend more power and speed to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform.

The infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and States will be designed and executed with a common vision.

Modi said taxpayers' money in the past was "insulted" through a lethargic approach to development work,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches PM Gati Shakti, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Wednesday

PIB

with departments working in silos and there was no coordination on projects. Development, he said, is not possible without quality infrastructure and the Government has now resolved to

develop it in a holistic manner. Gati Shakti joins different departments for the coordinated development of projects from road to railways, aviation to agriculture, the PM said.

Humanitarian aid doesn't mean  
Taliban Govt's recognition: G20

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the G-20 meeting in a virtual summit pledged to provide aid to the people of Afghanistan in a bid to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the war-torn country, *Tolo News* reported. The summit was hosted by Italy on Tuesday. Some members of the summit cited that provision of aids didn't indicate recognition of the "Taliban" Government.

Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, said that her country is not ready to recognise the "Taliban". According to her, the Taliban have not met the international measures and expectations of the world, the report said.

The US said it would provide donation through aid organisations to the people of Afghanistan. Addressing the summit, US



President Joe Biden also expressed concerns over the presence of armed groups such as ISIS-K or so-called Daesh group in Afghanistan.

The European Union pledged to provide one million Euro in support of humanitarian donation to the country.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that the international

community emphasised on preservation of the human rights, particularly the rights of girls and women.

The summit was not attended by the Presidents of China and Russia. This comes as earlier, the UN and humanitarian organisations had warned of triggering a severe humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.



# Kejriwal promises 24-hr power supply to Punjab traders

## Says will eradicate corrupt ‘inspector raj’, red-tapism, unnecessary laws

PNS ■ JALANDHAR

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday made 10 promises to the traders and businessmen for the development and upliftment of industry, trade, and commerce while appealing to them to be part of AAP Government to be formed in 2022.

Seeking the support of traders, businessmen and industrialists in 'Kejriwal's talk with traders and businessmen' in Jalandhar, AAP supremo said: "You have tried the Congress-Captain and the Badals, now give us a chance. We don't need funds from businessmen, we just need support." Kejriwal interacted with traders and businessmen for the purpose of soliciting suggestions to the problems and difficulties faced by them.

After listening to the problems and solutions of the traders and businessmen,

Kejriwal first announced 24-hour uninterrupted power supply for the industry. "At present, there are long power-cuts in Punjab. Without electricity, neither industry nor trade could run smoothly. On formation of AAP government, 24-hour power supply would be provided as done by the AAP in Delhi," he said.

Kejriwal also announced to end red-tapism and 'inspector raj'. "Corruption runs in the system because the intentions of the governments were bad. If there is an honest CM and Cabinet at the top, I can challenge that the entire structure below will be alright. We did this in Delhi," he said.

AAP leader said that old laws will be rectified, unnecessary laws will be scrapped, and a system will be built wherein existing industries need not waste time over government and will be able to invest their time in business.

On the problem of VAT refund, Kejriwal promised to

ensure VAT refund between 3 to 6 months and an instalment system will be made for big

getary provision.

Kejriwal also announced to end enhancement process on

and 'weekly' will also be eradicated along with 'goonda tax' which continues unabated.

### KEJRIWALS' 10 PROMISES

➤ 24-hour power supply

➤ Eradicating red-tapism and 'inspector raj'

➤ Old laws to be rectified, unnecessary laws will be scrapped

➤ VAT refund to be ensured between 3-6 months; Instalment system to be introduced for big refunds

➤ Strengthening of infrastructure, including roads, water and sewerage

➤ Ending enhancement process

➤ No CLU, or other such approvals at areas declared as industrial zones

➤ Eradicating goonda tax

➤ Joint body of businessmen-traders with Minister as its head to take decisions

➤ More emphasis on small traders and MSMEs, to generate unemployment

refunds.

Announcing strengthening of infrastructure, Kejriwal said that 80 percent of industries were located outside the focal point and there were many problems including roads, water and sewerage; which the AAP government will solve by bringing a bud-

the formation of AAP government in Punjab, besides bringing to an end the CLU (Change of land use) and other types of hassles at the areas which have been declared as industrial zones with an automatic intimidation only.

AAP chief said that extortion in the form of 'monthly'

"Goonda tax was collected from every truck as the system had been occupied by the ministers. It is my guarantee to end this system and it will be our responsibility to let the traders work smoothly," he added.

Inviting the traders and businessmen to become partners in the future AAP govern-

ment, he said a joint body of businessmen-traders will be formed, which will be headed by a Minister with representatives from each business sector so that it could get geographically and sector-wise representation; and will meet every month. "Decisions will be taken during the same meeting and the government will implement them immediately," he said.

Kejriwal said that more emphasis will be given to small traders and MSMEs so that unemployment will be generated. Taking a promise from the industrialists, businessmen, and traders, Kejriwal assured that he will ensure employment to the unemployed and the AAP government will resolve all their problems.

He claimed that such development will be done so that no one will remain unemployed in Punjab. Kejriwal urged the industrialists, businessmen and traders to make the AAP win all nine seats of Jalandhar.

# Sowjanya exhorts youths to register as voters



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief electoral officer Sowjanya Singh interacted with students of Tulas Institute and Shivalik College as part of the youth voter festival on Wednesday.

Oration competition, quiz and street plays were organised on the occasion. Voter registration desk and signature cam-

paign were also staged as part of the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Sowjanya informed the youths in detail about the voter registration and election process. She also responded to queries related to election raised by the students. She appealed to all youths of the state who are aged 18 years on or before January 1, 2022 to register as voters.

# Punjab CM shoulders mortal remains of Poonch martyr

## Accompanies family to lit pyre, Shares grief with bereaved family of Sepoy Gajjan Singh at his native village Pachranda

PNS ■ PACHRANDA (RUPNAGAR)

In what is being seen as a patriotic and humanitarian gesture, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP Singh on Wednesday lend their shoulders to the bier of the Poonch martyr Sepoy Gajjan Singh. They also laid the wreath and participated in the ardas (last prayers) while paying glowing tributes to the martyr, who was cremated at his native village Pachranda, Nurpur Bedi in Rupnagar district, with full military honours.

Channi also accompanied the martyr's nephew and his father to lit the pyre of the brave heart who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in a gunfight with the terrorists in Poonch sector (Jammu and Kashmir) on October 11 (Monday).

Sharing his heartfelt sympathies with the members of the bereaved family, the Chief Minister said that Gajjan Singh's unprecedented sacrifice would inspire his fellow soldiers to per-



form their duties with utmost dedication and commitment to preserve the country's sovereignty and integrity.

Married eight months ago, 26-year-old Sepoy Gajjan Singh was the youngest of four brothers and had joined the army nine years ago.

He got married in February and his picture in wedding attire, holding a farmer union flag, was widely circulated on social media.

The martyr is survived by his wife Harpreet Kaur and parents — Charan Singh and Malkeet Kaur.



# Formalities related to the construction of AIIMS in Rewari completed: Haryana CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said that for the expansion of health services in the state, all the formalities related to the construction of the proposed All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) project at village Majra in Rewari district have been completed.

A meeting was held here under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister in the presence of the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Rao Inderjit Singh and senior officers regarding the project. A delegation of farmers who have provided land for the project also attended the meeting.

While sanctioning a separate budget for the project, Khattar directed the offi-

cers of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department to start the process of disbursing payments to the farmers who have provided land for the said project at the earliest.

He also asked farmers to start the next process required for doing other works related to the project after assuring mutual consent among them.

The Chief Minister also directed the officers of Town and Country Planning and Development and Panchayats Department to complete all the necessary works and also to expedite the work on the issues related to farmers within a stipulated time period regarding the project.

Khattar while giving a patient hearing to views shared by farmers' delegation also discussed all the aspects related to the project extensively.

# Haryana Govt starts two more teachers' training institutions from current session 2021-22

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

In a bid to improve the quality of school education through innovation in teachers' training, Haryana Government has decided to start two more teachers' training institutions from the current session 2021-22 in the state.

An order in this regard has been issued by Director General Higher Education, Haryana.

The State Government has decided to start four-year integrated programmes of B.Sc B.Ed and BA B.Ed from session 2021-22 in the premises of DIET (District Institute of Education & Training Gurugram) and DIET Kurukshetra. These institutes will be known as the State Institute of Advanced

Studies in Teacher Education.

The courses will be run under the existing State Institute of Advanced Studies in Teacher Education (SIASTE) at Jhajjar under the aegis of Department of Higher Education, Haryana.

Notably, the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had announced plans to open two-three more institutes of advanced studies in teachers' education in the state and had also directed the Department concerned to work in this direction. The teachers' training is a key part of national education policy (NEP) 2020 which recognises that teachers will require training in high-quality content as well as pedagogy. Haryana Government has planned to successfully implement the NEP in the state by the year 2025. An order issued by Director General Higher Education on two new teachers' training institutes stated, "Fresh approval/upgradation of existing D.El.Ed courses in two DIETs at Gurugram and Kurukshetra

is awaited from National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). Vice Chancellors of Kurukshetra University and Gurugram University will grant provisional affiliation to these two institutes from the session 2021-22. Director, State Institute of Advanced Studies in Teacher Education, Jhajjar will take necessary action for starting admission in the courses as per the admission policy of SIASTE."



**MINISTRY OF TEXTILES**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (HANDICRAFTS)**  
**HANDICRAFT AWARDS-2019**

The Office of The Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) confers Handicraft Awards, the highest in the Handicrafts sector, to outstanding master crafts persons in recognition of their contribution towards the growth & development of handicraft sector. The award, conferred once in a life time, encourages the crafts persons to preserve our craft traditions and excellence in crafts man ship.

Online applications are invited from eligible artisans for Handicraft Awards-2019 asper the following award categories:

Sl.No	Name of the Award	Number of Awards
1.	Shilp Guru Award	Total: 10 Nos.
2.	National Award	Total: 33 Nos.

20 National Awards for 19 Craft Categories  
05 National Awards reserved for Women artisans  
05 National Awards reserved for Endangered Crafts  
03 National Awards for Design Innovation.


The online portal will open on 16/10/2021 and close 30/11/2021 (<http://www.handicrafts.nic.in/>)

Eligibility: Any artisan not less than 50 years of age will be eligible for Shilp Guru Award and any artisan not less than 30 years of age will be eligible for National Award (including artisans/designers for National Award for Design Innovation).

The detailed guidelines for the Handicraft Awards-2019 is available on the official website of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) <http://www.handicrafts.nic.in/>. Regional Offices and Handicraft Service Centers may also be approached for any assistance on entry submission.



**OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (HANDICRAFTS)**  
**WEST BLOCK 7, R.K. PURAM, NEW DELHI 110066**  
Email: [dchejs@nic.in](mailto:dchejs@nic.in)



**75**  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

davp 41103/110066/2122

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**Tender Notice No.:- Elect/TRD/MB/2021-22/TN-03 Date:- 12/10/2021**

**Department:-** Electrical (TRD)

**Tender No.** T-01-TRD-MB-21-22-II

**Name of Work:-** Replacement of Static control panel (including Relays) with Numerical Relay Panel (including Relays) at Traction Sub Station over Moradabad Division.

**Tender Closing Date & Time:-** 08.11.2021 15:00 Hrs.

**Advertised Value (Rs):-** Rs. 27890192.04 (Incl. GST)

**Earnest Money (Rs):-** NIL in lieu of Bid Security Declaration

**Tender Doc. Cost (Rs):-** NIL

**Validity of offer (Days):-** 45 days

**Period of completion:-** 6 Months

**Website particulars & Address of office.** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, Moradabad.

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**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred to him under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 12TH July, 2021 calling upon the borrower Mr/Mrs. SAMEER KHAN (Applicant), Mr/Mrs. SHAZIA KHAN (Co Applicant) to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice being Rs 1595584 /- (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Ninety Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on this 12th October, 2021. The borrower and guarantor 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 the Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited (Dehradun Branch) for an amount of Rs 1595584 /- (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Ninety Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four Only) and interest thereon, costs etc.

**Description of Immovable property**

All that part and parcel of the Immovable property situated at, Khasra No 146 MI, Mauza Bharuwalla Grant, Pargana Kendriyadon, Near Cake House Turner Road, Distt Dehradun Dehradun Uttaranchal 248001 Boundaries as follows: North - Property of Arora, South - 15ft wide passage, East - Land of Shri Sajay Gupta, West - Land of Mrs.Arora

Date : 14.10.2021  
Place : Dehradun

Authorised officer  
Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd

**Canara Bank** (A State of India Undertaking)

**POSSESSION NOTICE** (For Immovable Property)

Canara Bank, Regional Office-I, IT Park, Plot No. 38, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Surety/Owner/s as given below to repay the amount mentioned below within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice. The borrower/ Surety/Owner/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Surety/Owner/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken 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 & 9 of the said Rules. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower/Surety/ Owner/s 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 Canara Bank, Respective Branch for the amount detailed below and interest together with expenses thereon.**

S. No.	Name of the Branch/Borrower/Guarantor	Description Of Immovable Property	Date of Demand & Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding
1.	<b>Branch: Rajpur Road, Dehradun</b> <b>Borrower:</b> M/s Bedi's Creation, <b>Partner &amp; Guarantor :</b> Smt Pooja Bedi & Mr Amit Kumar	<b>Property No.1:</b> Mortgage Smt Pooja Bedi W/o Amit Kumar, Shop Unit No F01c (cross Road Mall), Second Floor, on 1 Old Survey Road, (new No 2 & 3 Khan Baidhu Marg), Dehradun. Total Area 1150.00 Sq ft Or 106.83 Sq.mtrs (super Area) Plinth Area 858.00 Sq.ft Or 79.71 Sqmtr., <b>Property No. 2:</b> Mortgage Smt Pooja Bedi & Amit Kumar, Flat No T-03 Khasra No 58 Kha Third Floor "C" Block Shivalik Apartments, Canal Road, Village Kishanpur, Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun	Date of Demand Notice 03.07.2021 <b>Date of Possession notice 08.10.2021</b>	Rs. 2,37,94,653.40 as on 30.06.2021 +Interest w.e.f. 30.06.2021 +Expenses -Recoveries after 30.06.2021
2.	<b>Branch: Scholar's Home, Dehradun</b> <b>Borrower:</b> Smt. Pooja Bedi W/o Amit Kumar and Shri Amit Kumar S/o Shri Dayal Kumar Bedi	Mortgage Smt Pooja Bedi & Amit Kumar, EMT of Flat Bearing No T-3, on the 3rd Floor under Elite Category in 'C' Block Having Super area of 1452 Sq Ft Or 134.89 Sq Mtrs At 'Shivalik Apartments' Forming Part of Land Bearing Khasra No 58 Kha Situated at Canal Road, Village Kishanpur, Pargana Central Doon, Distt Dehradun. <b>Boundaries:</b> East- Common Gallery, West- Open Area, North- Flat No T-4, South- Open Area	Date of Demand Notice 20.07.2021 <b>Date of Possession notice 08.10.2021</b>	Rs. 45,21,867.03 as on 20/07/2021 +Interest w.e.f. 23/06/2021 +Expenses -Recoveries after 20/07/2021
3.	<b>Branch: Rajpur, Dehradun</b> <b>Borrower:</b> Shri Mahendra Singh S/o Shri Bachan Singh Gussain And Smt Soni Devi Gussain W/o Shri Tashi Lindub	Mortgage Smt Mahendra Singh S/o Shri Bachan Singh Gussain, EMT of all that piece of land bearing Khasra No 764/3 Having Area 199.45 Sq Mtrs located Vill. Nathuwalla, Pargana Panwaddon, Dist Dehradun., <b>Boundaries:</b> East- Property of others, S.M. 38 Ft, West- 10 Ft Wide Road, S.M. 38 Ft., North- Land Of Others S.M. 63 Ft, South- Land Of Others, S.M. 50 Ft	Date of Demand Notice 16.04.2021 <b>Date of Possession notice 12.10.2021</b>	Rs. 11,17,260.27 as on 16/04/2021 + Interest w.e.f. 01/04/2021
4.	<b>Branch: Dalanwalla, Dehradun</b> <b>Borrower:</b> Smt Dechin Wangmo D/o Shri Tashi Lindub , Shri Tashi Chomphel S/o Shri Tashi Lindub	Mortgage Smt Dechin Wangmo D/o Shri Tashi Lindub, EMT of all that 2 BHK apartment bearing No. 02 on Ground Floor in Tower F, having super area of 1046 sq feet or 97.17 sq mtrs in the project 'The Capital', constructed on land comprised in residential plot Nos. R3 and R4, situated in IIE (Integrated Industrial Estate), Shastradhara Road (It Park Shani Mandir) Distt. Dehradun, Together with right to use one open car parking; <b>Boundaries:</b> East- Apartment No F-01, West- Open Area, North- Tower E, South- Apartment No F-04	Date of Demand Notice 20.07.2021 <b>Date of Possession notice 12.10.2021</b>	Rs. 30,53,409.98 as on 20/07/2021 +Interest w.e.f. 01/07/2021 +Expenses -Recoveries after 20/07/2021

**Date - 13.10.2021** **Place: Dehradun** **Authorized Officer, Canara Bank**



# DMs to provide compensation from SDRF

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Government has directed all the district magistrates to provide a compensation of Rs 50,000 to the family of those who have died from Covid-19. The compensation would be given from the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF).

The Health Minister Dhan Singh Rawat said on Wednesday that the deceased should be a native of the state. He said that the DMs have been asked to complete all the formalities and distribute the compensation. Rawat said that the compensation would be provided to the legal heir of the persons who had died from Covid-19. The family members of the deceased should apply in the office of Tehsildar or the DM concerned for the compensation and the death certificate should be given by officials of the health department. The minister said that the compensation amount would be transferred within 30 days of receipt of application.

## Covid vaccination drive slackens in U’khand

**Only 2, 43,150 lakh doses of vaccines were administered in last 10 days**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The laxity shown by the health department in the last few days has put a spanner in the plans of the state government to vaccinate the entire adult population before December 31. In the last ten days (October 3 to 12 October) only 2, 43,150 Lakh doses of vaccines were administered which has increased the per day target of vaccination. The department would now have to administer 66,266 vaccines in a day to achieve the target of 100 per cent vaccination till December 31.

Releasing the 10th edition of the vaccine meter, the founder of Social Development for Communities (SDC) foundation, Anoop Nautiyal said



that the pace of vaccination has slowed down in the last 10 days. He informed that maximum doses of vaccine were administered during August 4 to August 13 when 9,44,518 doses were given.

Nautiyal said that slackening of pace of vaccination in recent days means that the department would now have to

administer 66,266 doses a day for the remaining 80 days of the year to complete the target. He said that a total of 1,08,00,085 doses ( 74,20,994 people- first dose; 33,79,091 people – both doses) have been administered till October 13 this year.

As per the data of state health department a total of 80,50,684 people are needed to

be vaccinated in the state which means that the department has a target of 1,61,01,368 vaccine shots.

Giving a comparative account Nautiyal said that on July 14, the department had a per day target of 65,192 doses which reduced to 59,470 on September 23 and now it has increased to 66,266 per day.

## District administration starts registration of shopkeepers

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of ensuring food safety in the Dehradun district, the district administration has started the campaign of registering shopkeepers in remote areas of the district. The food safety officer PC Joshi informed that there are about 10,000 shopkeepers across the districts which are registered with the administration. However, he added that the number of registered shops that operate in the small colonies and remote areas is almost negligible considering which, department decided to start the campaign. "Many shopkeepers do not even know that it is mandatory to register

the shops and get a license to operate them. We are coordinating with the respective business associations too to make more shopkeepers aware of the campaign.

This drive will also help in minimising the sale of adulterated food items in the district too," stated Joshi. He also informed that the department has formed teams that have been given weekly targets to conduct inspections and collect food samples to control the food adulteration during the festival season. He said that the department is taking all the steps to ensure food safety in the district and more such measures will be taken in future too.

## Anganwadi workers rally against state Govt

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Anganwadi workers held a protest rally against the state government in Dehradun against its failure to raise the issue of their allowance in the recent cabinet meeting. The protesting workers said that the government has deceived them once again by not raising their allowance to Rs 18,000 and they will not resume their work across the state till the chief minister talks to them.

"The Anganwadi workers of all districts have started boycotting work after being consistently deceived by the government in the past two years. Many of us were even arrested on Tuesday in our attempt to meet the CM but we are not going to back down this time.

The Anganwadi workers have started arriving in Dehradun from various parts of the state to raise their voice against the government," stated Rekha Negi, the president of the Anganwadi Workers Association. She said that she wants to meet the CM to ask why he failed to keep his own words. She stated, "He assured us to keep our demands in the cabinet but he did not do it. We have demanded the government to raise our allowances to Rs 18,000 besides paying us our pending payments. We will keep protesting until the government takes cognisance of the matter."

She added that the workers will intensify their protest statewide and boycott the state assembly elections 2021 if no decision is taken on the matter soon.

## Congress demands apology from Minister Arvind Pandey

**The Minister had termed Congress as a platform of corruption**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Reacting strongly to the statement of the education minister Arvind Pandey in which he had termed Congress as a platform of corruption, the state Congress party has demanded an apology from the minister. The Congress spokesperson Pratima Singh said that the BJP and its leaders have been in a state of shock ever since the cabinet minister Yashpal Arya left the BJP and joined the Congress party. She said that the shocked leaders of BJP are now giving such statements.

The Congress spokesperson said that the statement of education minister Pandey is against the ethos of the democracy and added that the BJP leaders consider only those who leave the party as

corrupt. She questioned- why the BJP leaders didn't raise questions when the defected leaders were in BJP? Asking the minister to do introspection, Singh said that the BJP talked about Zero tolerance on corruption in 2017 and promised that the office of Lokayukt would be constituted within 100 days of assuming power but the party has now forgotten all its promises. She said that the people of the state were forced to bear the agony of rampant corruption. Corruption prevails from top to the bottom in the government. Singh said that Pandey should seek apology for his utterances.

Reacting to the defection of Yashpal Arya and his son Sanjeev and the statement of former chief minister Harish Rawat in which he had termed the turncoats who conspired against his government in March 2016 as sinners the education minister Arvind Pandey said on Wednesday that the Congress is a platform of corrupt and anti nationals.

## CM stresses on swift rehabilitation of disaster affected families



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the surveys of the villages sensitive for disaster should be regularly done and a list of the villages and families needed to be rehabilitated should be prepared without delay. He was addressing a programme organised on the occasion of International Day for Disaster Risk reduction at his residence on Wednesday. He directed the officials to ensure that proper arrangement of electricity, water and other basic facilities are provided to the rehabilitated families. He said that a list of the rehabilitated villages which are needed to be linked with roads should be prepared and handed over to the state administration. The CM directed that the arrange-

ment of funds for fulfilling basic requirements in the rehabilitated villages should be made from convergence of MNREGA and different funds under the control of district magistrate (DM). Dhami also talked with rehabilitated people belonging to eight villages and listened to their grievances. He said that the state government is committed to provide every possible help to the families affected by disaster. He added that a sum of Rs 50,000 is being given under the disaster head to those who died from Covid-19. It is pertinent to mention here that a total of eight villages and 1,447 families have so far been rehabilitated under the rehabilitation policy for disaster affected, 2011 and a sum of Rs 61.02 crore has been spent for this. Interestingly only two villages

and 11 families were rehabilitated before 2017 while 1,436 families of 81 villages have been rehabilitated to safer places after the year 2017. In Chamoli district 279 families of 15 villages have been rehabilitated similarly 205 families of five villages in Uttarkashi district, 429 families of 10 villages of Tehri district, 136 families of 10 villages in Rudraprayag district, 321 families of 31 villages in Pithoragarh, 68 families of nine villages in Bageshwar, one family of one village in Nainital district and eight families of two villages in Almora have been rehabilitated so far.

In the meeting the minister for Disaster Management Dhan Singh Rawat, secretary S Murugeshan and others were present. The DMs of all the districts were linked virtually in the meeting.

## Various aspects of disaster mngmnt discussed in workshop by USDMA

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Various aspects of disaster mitigation and management were discussed at a workshop organised by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction here on Wednesday.

Speaking in the workshop on the subject of a disaster resilient Uttarakhand, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) member

Rajendra Singh informed the gathering about decisions being taken for disaster management. He also stressed on the importance of community participation in framing of policies.

Noted activist Anil Prakash Joshi spoke of special steps which need to be taken in Uttarakhand considering the specific conditions here for disaster management policy framing. Information regarding disaster management should be spread among the public through educational institu-

tions, he added.

Earlier, Disaster Management additional secretary Anand Srivastav informed the gathering about the work being done in the field by the State government and the USDMA. The USDMA also staged an exhibition on publicity material and items related to State Disaster Relief Force search and rescue on the occasion. Experts from various scientific and other institutions also shared their experiences with the participants in the workshop.

# Two pedestrians die in truck collision

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Following the collision of two trucks during the wee hours of Wednesday, two pedestrians died and one got injured in the Selaqui area of Dehradun. The police said that the police personnel deployed in the Selaqui area informed that a truck going towards the city around 1:40 AM applied the brakes suddenly due to which another truck hit it from behind. Due to this, the first truck collided with a nearby tree that fell down on the road and the three young men walking nearby got hit by the trucks as per the police. The police said that the three injured pedestrians were three young men who were taken to the nearby hospital but two of them aged 19 and 20 years old



died. However, the drivers of the said trucks aged 22 and 24 years only sustained minor

injuries as informed by the police. The police said that they are looking into the matter.

# SSP & DM conduct surprise inspection in Doon



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In order to prevent traffic jams and overcrowding in public places during the festive season in Dehradun, the senior superintendent of police (SSP) Janmejaya Khanduri has directed the officials concerned to take action against encroachments on roads and marketplaces. He also instructed them to install barriers at the entry points of Paltan Bazaar to restrict the entry of four-wheeler vehicles to control traffic during the festival season. The police officials concerned have also been directed to conduct regular inspections in marketplaces twice a day.

On Wednesday, the SSP and district magistrate (DM) R

Rajesh Kumar inspected various locations in the city like Chandan Nagar, Chhe Number Puliya and Paltan Bazaar along with the tax superintendent of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) Vinay Pratap Singh to inspect arrangements in during the festive season.

The officials observed during the inspection that many vendors at the wholesale market of fruits and vegetables in Chhe Number Puliya had spread several items on the stretch of the nearby road which was causing traffic congestion in the area.

The officials ordered the removal of the items lying on the road and warned the shopkeepers of cancelling the

license if they repeat the offence again. The authorities also removed the encroachment on the roads of Paltan Bazaar and warned the shopkeepers and vendors of action against them in future. During the inspection, the officials found many people including shopkeepers not wearing masks. Many people had also parked their vehicles outside the shops which also caused traffic jams. Considering this, Khanduri directed the officials to run a regular campaign in marketplaces to ensure the implementation of Covid guidelines and take action against those violating the rules. He also asked them to take action against those as per the law who fail to park vehicles properly in marketplaces.



Artistes enact the scene of dialogue between lord Hanuman and Ravana as part of a Ram Leela in Nainital on Wednesday.....

.Pioneer photo

## CM reiterates commitment to welfare on visiting Bageshwar

PNS ■ BAGESHWAR

Arriving in Bageshwar for the first time after assuming charge as the chief minister, Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated and unveiled the foundation stones for 42 schemes costing Rs 9424.23 lakh in Bageshwar. These include 21 schemes costing Rs 5957.47 lakh which were inaugurated and 21 schemes costing Rs 3466.76 lakh for which the foundation stones were unveiled.

On this occasion the CM inaugurated six ICU beds constructed at a cost of 75.33 lakh on the second floor of the Bageshwar district hospital among other development works. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Dhami said that it is a matter of happiness for the people of Bageshwar district that their long-standing demand for train service is being fulfilled with the active involvement of the Central government for the Tanakpur to Bageshwar broad



gauge. The final location survey for this rail line has been approved with the required budget also being cleared for the purpose. He said, "Since assuming charge, our government has been consistently taking various decisions in the interests of the public. We are addressing various important aspects including facilitation of employment for the youths. Loans are being distributed under Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana in every district to enable self employment while the process is underway to fill 24,000 vacant posts in various departments. At the time of me completing 103 days in office, more than 320

decisions had been taken by the state government. The government is consistently working for the welfare of the general public and its doors are always open for the common citizens. Our priority is to ensure that development schemes reach even those residing in the remote rural areas of the state, making them self-reliant and connecting them to the mainstream of development," said the chief minister.

Cabinet Ministers Dhan Singh Rawat, Yatishwaranand, Almora MP Ajay Tamta and various public representatives along with officials were also present on the occasion.



# Centre to roll out world's first DNA Covid vax soon



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for 2-18-year-old children awaits DCGI nod, the Centre is all set to roll out the world's first DNA vaccine ZyCov-D against Covid this month. The Government aims to procure a total of 60 lakh vaccines in October for this.

They said that the Government will procure over 28 crore vaccines in October. It includes 22 crore Covishield vaccine shots, six crore Covaxin and 60 lakh DNA vaccines. The Government is still negotiating the prices of Zydus Cadila vaccine that is being planned to be inducted in the vaccination programme.

The ZyCov-D vaccine was approved by India's regulatory authority in August 2020. The three-dose DNA built vaccine has 66.6 per cent efficacy against Covid. Instead of a needle, it uses an applicator to inject the skin with lab-produced DNA.

The Zydus Cadila vaccine

was scheduled to be rolled out in the first week of October. On being asked about the delay in the vaccine roll out, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr V.K. Paul said last week that Zydus Cadila vaccine was not administered using conventional syringes or needles, but through an applicator, which will be used for the first time in the country.

Paul said, "We are working on the trainers. The training programmes are being conducted on the use of applicators. We are also sorting out the logistics issues of the vaccine and soon it will be a part of Covid-19 vaccination drive."

On Tuesday, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19 had granted emergency use approval to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for children in the 2-18 years age group.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech had completed Phase-2 and Phase-3 trials of Covaxin on children below 18 years of age in September and submitted the trial data to the Drugs

**Experts say that Covid-19 vaccination for children is more necessary than ever as schools have reopened in many states. There has also been a gradual rise in paediatric cases across the country, they said**

and Comptroller General of India (DCGI) at the start of this month. The company is now waiting for a final go ahead from the DCGI.

Experts say that Covid-19 vaccination for children is more necessary than ever as schools have reopened in many states. There has also been a gradual rise in paediatric cases across the country, they said.

# Govt cuts custom duty on edible oils to check prices during fests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to control soaring prices of edible oils and increase availability during the festive season, the Government on Wednesday scrapped basic customs duty and slashed access on crude varieties of palm, soyabean and sunflower oil till March 2022. The high prices of edible oil in the international market have a substantial impact on the domestic edible oil prices. The Government has already imposed stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds for a period upto 31st March, 2022.

According to a notification, the duty cuts will be effective from October 14 and will remain in force till March 31, 2022. The notification was issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The base import tax on crude palm oil has been slashed to 2.5% from 10%, while the tax on crude soyoil and crude sunflower oil has been reduced to 2.5% from 7.5%. The base import tax on refined grades of palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil cut to 32.5% from 37.5%.

After the cuts, crude palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil imports will be subject to a 24.75% tax in total, including a 2.5% base import duty and other taxes, while refined grades of palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil would carry a 35.75% tax in total.

The move comes at a time when edible oil prices are hovering at record levels. According to the latest data available with the ministry,



the all-India daily average retail price of mustard oil reached ₹184.15 per kg, with at least 22 centres, including Mumbai and Lucknow, reporting ₹200 and above. Mustard oil is the costliest of the six edible oils for which the ministry monitors retail and wholesale price data. Retail prices of the other edible oils are ₹182.61 per kg for groundnut oil, ₹136.59/kg (vanaspati), ₹155/kg (soya), ₹169.53/kg (sunflower) and ₹132.91/kg (palm).

The country imports palm oil mainly from top producers Indonesia and Malaysia, while other oils, such as soy and sunflower, come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.

"The Government has slashed import duties on edible oils because of high retail prices in the domestic market and the festive season," Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) Executive Director B V Mehta said.

As per the SEA, India's imports of edible oils rose 63 per cent to 16.98 lakh tonnes during September, a monthly record, due to all-time high shipments of palm oil. The

total import of vegetable oils, comprising both edible and non-edible oils, increased 66 per cent during September to 17,62,338 tonnes compared to 10,61,944 tonnes in September 2020. "Import of edible oils during September 2021 has set a new record shipment of 16.98 lakh tonnes in a single month. Earlier in October 2015, India had imported 16.51 lakh tonnes.

"Palm oil import in September 2021 at 12.62 lakh tonnes is the highest in any single month since India started importing palm oil in 1996," it said. Non-edible oils imports went up to 63,608 tonnes in September from 17,702 tonnes in the same month last year.

During November 2020 to September 2021 (11 months), the imports of vegetable oils increased two per cent to 1,24,70,784 tonnes compared to 1,22,57,837 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year. Out of the total vegetable oil imports, edible oil imports rose to 1,20,85,247 tonnes from 1,19,50,501 tonnes. Non-edible oils rose to 3,85,537 tonnes from 3,07,333 tonnes.

# Tomato prices soar to ₹72/kg in metros due to unseasonal rain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tomato prices in retail markets of metro cities have shot up to ₹72 per kilogram on tight supply due to unseasonal rains in key producing states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Among the metros, the maximum increase in the retail price of tomato was seen in Kolkata where the key kitchen vegetable was ruling as high as ₹72 per kg on October 12 when compared to ₹38 per kg during the month-ago period. Interestingly, India, the world's second largest tomato producer after China, produces around 19.75 million tonnes from an area of 7.89 lakh hectares with an average yield of 25.05 tonnes per hectare. Similarly, onion prices have also been hiked and now, it is around ₹50 per kg which used to be sold earlier at around ₹35-40 per kg.

In Delhi and Chennai, retail prices of tomato increased to ₹57 per kg from ₹30 per kg and ₹20 per kg, respectively, compared to the month-ago period, according to data compiled by the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

In Mumbai, tomato prices in retail markets rose to ₹53 per kg from ₹15 per kg in the said period, the data showed. The retail prices of tomato vary depending on quality and locality where the commodity was sold.

"Unseasonal rains in producing states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have damaged the crop due to which the supply to consuming markets like Delhi has



**Tomato crop will be ready for harvest in around 2-3 months after planting and harvesting is done as per the requirement of the market**

been affected. This has led to a rise in prices, both in wholesale and retail markets," Azadpur Tomato Association President Ashok Kaushik said on Wednesday. Azadpur Mandi in the national capital is the Asia's largest wholesale market for fruits and vegetables.

Even the crop in hilly regions like Shimla has been affected due to the unseasonal rains, he said, adding that 60 per cent of the tomato crop has been damaged in producing states that received the unseasonal rains.

As a result, tomato prices in a month have almost doubled to ₹40-60 per kg at Azadpur Mandi as daily arrival of the commodity has halved to 250-300 tonne.

At present, harvesting is underway in key growing states of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Tomato crop will be ready for harvest in around 2-3 months after planting and harvesting is done as per the requirement of the market.

# Cong leaders meet Prez, seek Min sacking over Lakhimpur violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of Congress leaders, including former party president Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, on Wednesday met President Ram Nath Kovind demanding the immediate dismissal of Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra over the Lakhimpur Khari vio-

lence, and an impartial judicial probe by two sitting judges of the Supreme Court. The delegation of senior Congress leaders also presented a memorandum of facts about the Lakhimpur Khari incident to the President. The party is all set to discuss the crisis and several other issues concerning the nation at its apex decision making body Congress

Working Committee on Saturday.

Later talking to the media, Rahul said that he conveyed to the President that the MoS Home should resign to ensure an impartial probe in the Lakhimpur violence as his son Ashish is an accused in the matter. Ashish Mishra, who has been named in the FIR and is accused of mowing down farmers in Lakhimpur Khari, was arrested on Saturday by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Four farmers were among eight people killed in the violence in Lakhimpur Khari on October 3.

Rahul demanded that to ensure justice, two sitting Supreme Court judges should probe the incident and those who have committed the murders should be punished. "There cannot



be an impartial inquiry and justice cannot be given till the time the MoS Home is sacked. This is the voice of not just the families of those killed but of all the farmers and this voice is being suppressed," he said.

The Congress delegation also included A K Antony, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mallikarjun Kharge.

Asked whether they have received any assurances from the president, Priyanka Gandhi claimed, "he (President) has assured us that he will talk to the government in this regard today itself."

The Congress memorandum said the situation is unlikely to change without any intervention given that BJP leaders, including UP CM Yogi Adityanath, continue to make conciliatory statements towards Ajay Mishra.

"Ajay Mishra's role is also yet to be investigated and the same is unlikely while he continues in office. Furthermore, which police official would dare to fairly investigate the son of Union

MoS Home Affairs with the father occupying a position of such high influence and who enjoys continued endorsements from both the Central and the State governments. In these difficult circumstances, we call upon you as the custodian of our Constitution and the moral compass to this Government to immediately dismiss Union MoS Home Affairs and to direct an independent judicial investigation by a Commission comprising of two sitting judges of the Supreme Court of India or the high court," the Congress memorandum said.

The party hoped that the President will treat this matter with the urgency it deserves and take appropriate action. "The incident has scarred the soul of India. This deliberate act of murder, in broad daylight followed by the audacious reactions of the State and Central governments, has completely eroded the people's faith in those tasked with bringing these perpetrators to justice," the party said.

# 90K staffers of ex-Ghani Govt starving in Af

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Over 90,000 employees of the erstwhile Abdul Ghani Government in Afghanistan are starving as they have not been paid their salaries for the last three months post-Taliban takeover of Kabul in August.

Even the assistance received by Taliban from foreign donors is being unfairly distributed to the outfit's cadres and the Government employees are left with no resource to survive, sources on the ground said.

The public distribution system under the control of Taliban has undertaken rationing amid shortage of essentials like food but the same is being unevenly and arbitrarily distributed to the group's cadres in a discriminatory manner, they said.

Besides the food crisis, that country is also staring at water shortage amid a sharp depreciation in value of currency leading to a spiral in food prices which is further leading to the woes of the public there.

While the situation is at the brink of collapse, the terror groups like the Al Qaeda and ISIS are eyeing at milking the donations from foreign donors through shell Non-Governmental Organisations.



Al Qaeda and ISIS have in the past registered shell NGOs and recruited their cadres to man these social welfare organisations and deputed them to other countries. The terror cadres spotted and recruited people in other countries in lieu of humanitarian relief.

Founder President of Afghanistan Republican Salvation Front (ARSF) and counter-terrorism analyst of Afghan origin Dr Ajmal Sohail said, "There is a need to do due diligence while apportioning relief materials to the NGOs and assistance should only be given to relief organisations only after background checks."

In the face of the food crisis in Afghanistan, relief materials distribution is expected to attract large footfalls at the offices of the NGOs, a situation which could be exploited by the wrangling terror groups to execute blasts. Such places also need to be monitored, Dr Sohail further said.

India-based counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Mate said, "To add to the woes of the Afghan population staring at

**Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its terror cohorts like the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad could exploit the crisis situation to further expand the terror base**

food crisis, the Taliban's inability to control the ground level cadres is leading to the elimination of doctors and engineers who considered moderate as per the Sharia laws in vogue there. The killing of the doctors, medical engineers and technicians could lead to a healthcare crisis as well for a starving population susceptible to diseases."

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its terror cohorts like the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad could exploit the crisis situation to further expand the terror base with recruitment of the starving population, including the erstwhile government employees, Dr Mate added.

# SC: Some act or omission should be attributed to a person in road accident

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Some act or omission should be attributed to a person in a road accident

against whom contributory negligence is alleged, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramanian made the observation on an appeal filed by a woman and her minor children against the findings of the Karnataka High Court that her deceased husband, who was driving the car which dashed into a lorry, was also guilty of contributory negligence.

The high court had said the woman and her minor children are entitled only to 50 per cent of the amount of compensation as determined.

The apex court held however that the mere failure to avoid the collision by taking some extraordinary precaution does not in itself constitute negligence.

"To establish contributory negligence, some act or omission, which materially contributed to the accident or the damage, should be attributed to the person against whom it is alleged," the bench said while reversing the high court's finding.

# ₹3.25 cr khadi products sold on Gandhi Jayanti in Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

This Gandhi Jayanti saw a massive sale of Khadi products in Gujarat, the land of the Mahatma. On 2nd October this year, the overall sale of Khadi products stood at ₹3,25,5000 (₹ 3.25 crore) across all 311 Khadi India outlets in Gujarat.

The sale of Khadi in Gujarat this year has increased by ₹33.12 lakh (11.32%) as compared to the year 2020, when the gross sale of Khadi in the state on 2nd October stood at Rs 2,92,38,000 (₹2.92 crore).

In order to give a special boost to Khadi sales, KVIC set up exhibition- cum-sales outlets at Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot railway stations as part of the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" in which Khadi's sale worth ₹ 5.14 lakh was recorded.



Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel and several other ministers also visited Khadi India outlets to purchase Khadi products.

KVIC Chairman VK Saxena attributed the massive Khadi sales to the frequent appeals of the Prime Minister to buy and promote Khadi and also the acceptance of Khadi among the masses in Gujarat. "Gujarat is the land where Babu first spun Khadi.

Therefore, Khadi has always found great support from the people of Gujarat.

The eco-friendly and natural benefits of Khadi have made it the most acceptable brand in not only Gujarat but also the other parts of India. KVIC is constantly adding new products to cater to the larger consumer base while maintaining the highest quality standards despite challenges," Saxena said.

**GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT ASYM**  
**DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM**  
E-mail : [medsupdhh@gmail.com](mailto:medsupdhh@gmail.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed Short Term Tenders affixed with Rs.5/- revenue stamps are invited for and on behalf of the Governor of U.T of Jammu & Kashmir, from the original Manufacturers/Firms registered with Health & Medical Education Department of J&K for the supply of **Drugs/Medicines/Disposables** as per the details/ specifications given in the tender documents. These tender documents can be had on written request during all working days up to **20.10.2021 (3.00 p.m.)**, against the Non-refundable cash amount of **Rs. 500/- (Rupees five Hundred only)** for which necessary G.R be collected from the **office of the Medical Superintendent ASYM District Hospital Budgam as cost of tender**, which should be enclosed while submitting Tender Documents, otherwise, the tender shall be rejected outrightly. The tender documents can also be seen & downloaded from the official website [www.dhskashmir.org](http://www.dhskashmir.org). The tender on the prescribed format shall be submitted for each item/s in a single (big size) envelope containing three envelopes one for "**Eligibility Bid**" second for "**Technical Bid**" & third for "**Financial Bid, duly sealed and super-scribed as tender for the supply of Drugs/Medicines for the year-2021-22** addressed to Medical Superintendent District Hospital Budgam. Email address: [medsupdhh@gmail.com](mailto:medsupdhh@gmail.com) & should reach this office by or before **23.10.2021 (3.00 p.m.)**. The sealed tender(s) should be personally deposited in the tender box available in this office or can be sent by Registered Post. Short Term Tenders received after due date shall not be entertained. The tender(s) **will be opened as per the dates given below against each item** in presence of intending supplier/any other authorized representative who may be present. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or any part of the tender without assigning any reason/s thereof. The intending tenderer shall have to deposit an amount **Rs. 10,000/-** (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) for general bidders and **Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five Thousand only)** in case of SSI Unit holders for aforesaid group as token of **refundable** earnest money in the shape of CDR / FDR from any Nationalized / Scheduled Bank preferably Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. pledged to the **Medical Superintendent ASYM District Hospital Budgam Officer Srinagar**. The tender without earnest money deposit shall out rightly be rejected. In the event of any of mentioned dates above being declared as holidays/closed day, the Short Term Tenders will be sold / received/opened on the next working day at the scheduled time. The tenders for Drugs/Medicines/Disposables/Lab shall be submitted separately and will be opened on the following date.

S. No	Name of Item/s	Date	Time
1.	Drugs/medicines/Disposables	24/10/2021	3:00 pm

Sd/- Medical Superintendent  
ASYM District Hospital Budgam  
No. DIPP-10581/21 Dated: 13.10.2021

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**  
**CORRIGENDUM**

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	SUB:- LT XLPE ARMoured CABLE OF SIZE SCX25 SQ.MM SHORT TERM NIT NO. 15/UH/MX/XEN/P-III (QST-11/2063) DATED 29.09.2021	PART-I OPENING DATE EXTENDED UPTO 19.10.2021	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9023360202 cemm@uhbvn.org.in
2	UHBVN	EOI- 31Q/EMP/ PO&C/ PKJ/ 2021	CORRECTION IN PARAGRAPHS OF CLAUSE 1.1. OF SCOPE OF WORK MENTIONED AT PAGE NO. 8 IN BID DOCUMENT VOLUME- I. OPENING DATE 29/10/2021	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	01722570431 cepdcc@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 5186

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	33 KV TRANSFORMER CTS AS PER NIGAM SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-XXXX/R-II/DH/ UH/P&D/2020-21 WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS. RATIO 600-300/5-5-5-5A. RATIO 400-200/5-5-5-5A 33 KV PTS AS PER NIGAM SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-XXXX/R-II/DH/ UH/P&D/ 2015-16 WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS. 33 KV CT/PT COMBINED UNITS.	CLOSING DATE 27.10.2021	1.43 CRORE	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9888021007 cemm@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 5187



MID-SEA DRUG BUST CASE

# Aryan Khan played role in procurement: NCB

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday alleged that Aryan Khan, the accused in the mid-sea drug bust case, had a role to play in the illicit procurement and distribution of drugs and that he was in touch with some persons linked to an international drug network, even as a Special Court adjourned the hearing on bail pleas of Aryan and others for Thursday after partly hearing the arguments.

On a day when the arguments on the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan and other accused in the case remained inconclusive, the NCB upped the ante by making a sensational allegation: "There is material on record to show that Khan was in touch with some persons abroad who appear to be a part of an international drug network for illicit procurement of drugs. The investigation is still in progress".

During the inclusive arguments, Aryan's senior lawyer Amit Desai, Advocate Taraq Sayed, who appeared for Arbaaz Merchantt, lawyer Ali Kashif Khan Deshmukh, who represented Munmun Dhamecha and Advocate Raman, who appeared for

Mohak Jaswal put up their side of arguments, pressing for bail for their clients. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, appearing for NCB, opposed the bail pleas.

The Special court is hearing the bail pleas of Aryan and four others -- -Arbaaz Merchant, Mohak Jaswal, Nupur Satija, and Munmun Dhamecha. Special judge under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) VV Patil adjourned the hearing on the bail applications for 11 am on Thursday.

Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and four others --- Arbaaz, Mohak, Nupur and Dhamecha – were among the eight persons arrested by the NCB on October 3, a night 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 Rs 1.33 lakh in cash from Goa-bound cruise ship off the Mumbai coast here.

The total number of arrests in the sensational drug bust case has gone up to 20, with the arrest of a foreign national Okara Quazma and a local person Shivraj Harihan.

Earlier, in its affidavit filed before the court, the bail applications made before Special Judge, the NCB stated:



that the material collected during investigation had primarily revealed that "Khan has played a role in so far as illicit procurement and distribution of contraband is concerned".

Rebutting the contention of Aryan's lawyers that since the offences arraigned against Khan are Sections 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29, 35 of the NDPS Act and that since no Narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance has been recovered from him, the bar against grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act would not apply, the NCB told the court: "The role of one of the accused cannot be dissected from another. Even if there is no recovery of small substances, the accused are involved in conspiracy".

The NCB also told the court : "Aryan (Khan) and Arbaaz (Merchantt) have been associated in close collaboration with each other which is sufficient to attract offences under Section 29 NDPS act. It is so far apparent that Aachit and Harijan (two

other arrested accused) supplied charas to Khan and Merchantt".

"All ingredients of crime that are preparation, intention, attempt and commission are present for this applicant. The allegation of false implication is untrue and misleading as there is sufficient material in the form of WhatsApp chats, pictures, etc," the NCB affidavit stated.

"A bare perusal of the panchnama clearly reveals that Khan and Merchant were apprehended at the international cruise green gate Mumbai. So the investigation becomes imperative as to how the accused were to enter the cruise without a Classic MV Empress card," the NCB told the court.

Making a strong case for his client, Aryan's lawyer Amit Desai read out from the panchnama and said: (Arbaaz) Merchant admitted that he is consuming charas with (Aryan) Khan. On asking (Aryan) Khan, he also said he consumes charas. The substance was sealed. Then, a combined search was carried out. They found 6 gms of charas from Merchant. The first fact which is relevant is on their own panchnama, there is no recovery of possession. There is no debate on this, it is admitted and undisputed".

Desai went onto tell the court that

the NCB had seized a small quantity from Merchant. "The starting point of information is use, sale and consumption, but there is recovery from three persons so far but no recovery from me (Aryan)".

At one stage of arguments, Desai said: ".... there is an active drug chain, the prosecution says. We see illicit trafficking in this reply throughout. They dump it all on (Aryan) Khan. And I am sure they know that it is a serious offence. In the NDPS Act, illicit trafficking is a term of law. It is not a casual term.

"The NCB, which knows the NDPS Act inside out, should know what is illicit trafficking. This boy has been charged with illicit trafficking. In SC terms, it is inherently absurd," Desai argued.

"There is no recovery against him, and they are saying there is recovery from Dhamecha and Gomit etc. Nothing from this boy, he was not even on the cruise and they say illicit trafficking!.... They are talking about cultivation, sale, purchase, there is nothing against him! And this is a responsible agency... They are saying illicit trafficking and the only provision which deals with that is Section 27A," Desai told the court.

## Maha Cabinet supports reservation in promotions in Govt jobs

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday decided to support reservation in promotions in government jobs after taking into account a report that has established under representation of SCs, STs and other reserved categories in higher posts.

An official statement said the cabinet, at its meeting here, decided to support the policy of reservation in promotions for state employees from reserved categories and will put forth the government's stand accordingly before the Supreme Court, where the matter is pending.

An additional affidavit will be submitted by the state government in the Supreme Court which will underscore the state's stand on the reservation in promotions issue, said an official.

The Cabinet discussed a report prepared by chief secretary Sitaram Kunte on the current representation of SCs,

STs and backward communities in higher posts in public jobs.

The report has stated that there is not enough representation of these communities in senior positions in the State cadre and thus the Maharashtra government has decided to support the demand of reservation in promotions, the official said.

The report and its findings will be mentioned in the affidavit that is proposed to be submitted in the apex court, he said. In early May, the General Administration Department issued an interim order removing reservation in promotions for public servants belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes and Special Backward Classes categories.

However, following strong protests, the state government later issued a circular staying the interim order. **PTI**

## Karunakaran's daughter Padmaja alleges betrayal by Cong leader

**KOCHI:** Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of former Chief Minister late K Karunakaran has lambasted T N Prathapan MP for 'backstabbing' her during the 2021 Assembly election from Thrissur.

In a complaint to the Congress High Command, Padmaja, who lost narrowly to P Balachandran of the CPI by a thin margin of 946 votes, has alleged that a group led by Prathapan worked to ensure her defeat in the election as part

of rampant groupism in the party.

"Though I had lost the 2016 Assembly election from Thrissur, I stayed put in the constituency and worked for the Congress. It was because of the track record the party decided to field me from Thrissur. Many Left supporters had voted for me despite the efforts by a group led by Prathapan who represents Thrissur in the Lok Sabha," Padmaja had said in the complaint.

Interestingly, the Congress, which has strong presence in Thrissur district lost in 12 out of the 13 Assembly constituencies in the district. Padmaja has named six persons, all local leaders, who plotted against her. "I was denied permission to board the vehicle in which Priyanka Gandhi was holding a road show in my constituency," said Padmaja. All those named by her in the complaint were one-time acolytes of her late father Karunakaran. **PNS**

## President Kovind to celebrate Dussehra with jawans in Drass

**New Delhi:** Breaking away from the tradition, President Ram Nath Kovind will celebrate Dussehra this year with jawans in Ladakh's Drass area.

Traditionally, the president has been participating in Dussehra celebrations in the national capital.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communiqué issued on Wednesday, the president will visit Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir on October 14 and 15. On Thursday, the president will perform Sindhu Darshan puja at Sindhu Ghat, Leh, the communiqué said.

He will also interact with troops at Udhampur (J-K) in the evening.

On October 15, Kovind will pay tributes at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass and interact with officers and jawans. Dussehra will be celebrated on Friday. **PTI**

## SC raps UP Bar Council for no action against lawyers submitting fake insurance claims

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has rapped the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh for not taking action against advocates who allegedly submitted fake claims under Motor Accident Claims Tribunal and Workmen Compensation Act causing loss in crores of rupees to the insurance companies. It is very unfortunate that in such a serious matter, where the allegations are of filing of fake claim petitions involving advocates, the Bar Council of UP is not giving instructions to them for making submissions, the apex court said.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna said it shows the

callousness and insensitiveness on the part of the UP Bar Council and asked Chairman of Bar Council and senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra to look into the same. "As such it is the duty of the Bar Council of the State to take action against the advocates who are found to have been indulged in such unethical manner by filing the fake claims under the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal and Workmen Compensation Act.

"As observed herein above, it appears that Bar Council of State is not interested in taking action and, therefore, now the Bar Council of India has to step in and take appropriate action against the erring advocates, who are found to have indulged into filing of such fake claims," the bench said.

The top court also directed a Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted in compliance of the order dated October 7, 2015 passed by the Allahabad High Court, to submit report with regard to the probe in a sealed cover before it on or before November 15.

The apex court took note of a supplementary affidavit filed on behalf of UP Government stating that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted in compliance of the order dated October 7, 2015 passed by the Allahabad High Court.

## Double life term for Sooraj in Uthara case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Sooraj, who got his wife Uthara killed by inducing a homicidal snakebite was sentenced by a Kollam Court to double imprisonment and fine of ₹five lakh . He was also slapped with two more imprisonment terms, 10 years and seven years respectively in two other cases of causing hurt by means of poison and destroying evidence. The sentences will run consecutively which means that Sooraj would have to remain in prison for the rest of his life.

Additional Sessions Court Judge M Manoj pronounced on Wednesday that he agreed with the contention of the prosecution that it was a rarest of the rare case and the maximum punishment is being awarded to the accused. Public prosecutor G Mohanraj told the media after the sentencing that it was Sooraj's age that saved the accused from the gallows.

The judge concurred with the prosecution's argument that it was the first time in the State wherein a living animal was used to murder a person.

Sooraj had married Uthara, a physically challenged girl after taking hefty dowry and decid-

ed to bump her off so that he could walk way with the properties worth crores, gold and brand new car.

The Court had on Monday found the accused guilty of offences under Section 302, 307, 328 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This is the very first case in the entire country where a man has been found guilty of murder using a snake.

Although two similar cases have been reported in the past, both the cases resulted in the acquittal of the accused as their guilt could not be established. However, in the instant case, the Police had successfully cracked the case using a dummy reptile and recreating the entire crime scene.

Manimeghala, mother of Uthara, told reporters that she was unhappy with the verdict as the accused deserved nothing less than capital punishment. "Let us wait for the full copy of the verdict. We will definitely press for death penalty because we have to make the lives of our daughters safe and secured," she said.

Kerala has been witnessing an unprecedented increase in the number of dowry related deaths over the last few years.

## Kerala: Covid cases keep on increasing

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

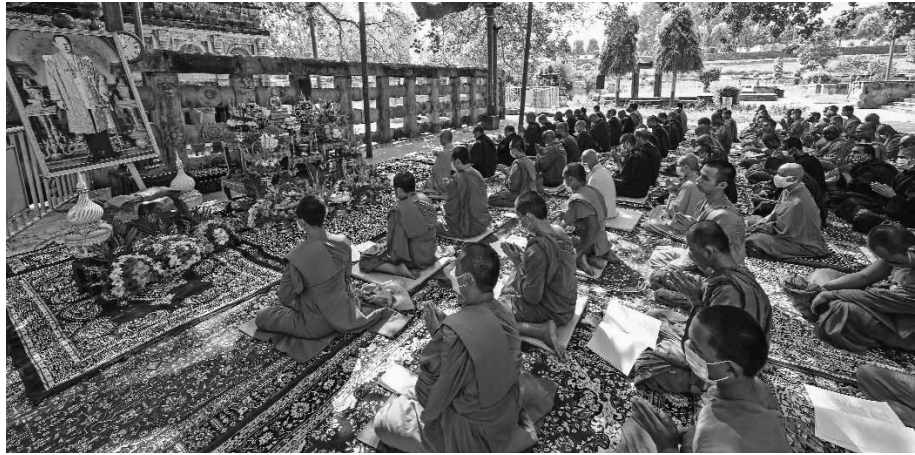
Kerala Government's claims that the Covid-19 cases in Kerala are coming down suffered a setback on Wednesday as 11, 079 new cases were diagnosed out of 89,995 samples tested during the last 24 hours.

The day also saw 123 patients succumbing to the pandemic which took the death toll to 26, 571 till date.

Government doctors in Ernakulam said the hike in the number of patients is a matter of concern as the State is in a celebration mood with Navrathri and Vijaya Dashami festivities adding to the fervour. Temples are reporting reasonably good crowds and this has upset the rhythm of peoples movement.

Traffic snarls have returned to all thoroughfares across the State as shopping has picked up everywhere.

Test Positivity Rate also shot up to 12.31 per cent. Needless to say, parents and teachers are worried about the increase in the number of persons tested positive with Covid-19.



Buddhist monks from Thailand offer prayers on the memorial day of Thailand's late king Bhumibol Adulyadej at Mahabodhi temple, in Bodh Gaya on Wednesday **PTI**

## Seven UP districts among 10 best performing aspirational ones

**Lucknow:** In what comes as a shot in the arm to the Yogi Adityanath government, as many as seven districts of Uttar Pradesh made their way into the top 10 best-performing aspirational districts in the 'Delta Ranking' released by government think tank NITI Aayog for August, 2021.

A government spokesman said in Lucknow on Wednesday that as many as 112 districts across the country had been included in NITI Aayog's 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme assessed on incremental progress made across 49 key performance indicators (KPIs) under five broad socio-economic themes -- Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Infrastructure.

Siddharthnagar, Bahraich, Sonbhadra,

Shravasti, Fatehpur, Chitrakoot and Chandauli districts of Uttar Pradesh have been placed among the top-10 districts. The ranking was released by NITI Aayog through its real-time monitoring dashboard <http://championsofchange.gov.in>.

The Delta ranking signifies the efforts undertaken by the state government and respective district magistrates to develop and improve under-developed districts.

Working on the set standards of NITI Aayog, Fatehpur achieved second place in development in the entire country, followed by Siddharthnagar third place, Sonbhadra fourth, Chitrakoot fifth, Bahraich seventh, Shravasti eighth and Chandauli ninth.

Among the eight aspirational districts of UP, Chitrakoot and Bahraich have excelled on the standards of NITI Aayog. **PNS**

## Yogi: UP an emerging economy, has best investment opportunities

**Gorakhpur (UP):** Uttar Pradesh is changing and it is an emerging economy in the country, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday.

"In about 44 schemes in the country, UP is number one," he said, and added that the state has the best investment opportunities.

"We all have to work jointly to establish it among the leading economies in the country," Adityanath said after inaugurating the Mahant Avaidyanath Mahavidyalaya in Jungle Kaudia block here.

"Uttar Pradesh is changing and it is an emerging economy in the country," the chief minister added.

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma and Minister of State Neelima Katiyar, along with MPs and MLAs of the area, were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister unveiled a 12-foot bronze statue of Mahant Avaidyanath and also inaugurated the monogram of the college.

The environment of security in the state "is the best in the country", Adityanath said.

"Over the last four years, 30,000 female police personnel are guaranteeing the safety of

women and girls in the state," he said.

The Chief Minister claimed that the state has successfully prevented the spread of the coronavirus.

"Earlier during festivals, the coronavirus spread was at its peak but we successfully prevented its spread," he said.

Attacking the opposition Chief Minister said, "During the previous Governments, roads were not wide, power supply was erratic, poor were not getting rations and the guarantee of security to women was not there."

"When work is done with good intention, the result is also good. Earlier, farmers' produce was not purchased but now, farmers are getting the price of their produce at several purchase centres, and the government is sending the payment directly into their accounts," he added.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gorakhpur is becoming a hub of education and health services, Adityanath said.

"Within a month, the AIIMS will be inaugurated by PM Modi, and in Gorakhpur, Ayush University is being established," he added. **PTI**

## DMK MP held in connection with unnatural death of employee

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu despite scoring an impressive win in the local body election held last week is facing an embarrassing situation because of police cases against two Lok Sabha members of the party.

TRVS Ramesh, representing Cuddalore constituency in the Lok Sabha who is also a leading industrialist, surrendered before the Judicial Magistrate Court in Panruti on Monday in connection with a suspected murder case. Ramesh was on the run from the Police but surrendered as per the dictate of the DMK supremo, Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin, the chief minister.

The MP was sent to judicial custody for two days and he is likely to be questioned by the CB-CID of Tamil Nadu Police.



Ramesh has been listed as the prime accused in the unnatural death of K Govindarasu (60), a supervisor working in the cashew nut factory owned by the former.

The Police have already arrested five persons in connection with the case. Ramesh alleged that certain political parties were indulging in politics of vendetta and that was why he decided to give in to the Court. "As a sincere functionary

of the DMK and having great regard for my leader, I am surrendering before the court. I will legally prove with evidence that the complaint against me is baseless," Ramesh said in the statement.

But A Ashvatham, a Chennai based lawyer, who is one of the spokespersons of the BJP, who has been pursuing the case told *The Pioneer* that the death of Govindarasu was a clear case of murder. **PTI**

## 11 more die of Covid in WB

**Kolkata:** The Covid-19 toll on Wednesday rose to 18,935 after 11 more people succumbed to the disease, while 771 fresh cases pushed the tally to 15,78,482, a bulletin released by the state health department said.

North 24 Parganas accounted for four deaths, followed by three in Kolkata.

Of the 771 new cases, 203 were recorded in Kolkata and 128 in North 24 Parganas.

At least 775 more patients recuperated from the infection, thus taking the total number of people who have recovered from the disease to 15,51,890.

West Bengal currently has 7,657 active cases. The positivity rate stands at 2.74 per cent. **PTI**



People get themselves registered in order to get a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at a free vaccination camp at Kajupada, in Mumbai on Wednesday **PTI**





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Bailed out

After its decision to ban Chhath puja, the Delhi Govt writes to the Centre seeking guidelines

Politics, as expected, mars the festival season, more so in Delhi. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party are locked in a fistfight over people's participation in the Chhath Puja, scheduled for November 10. Both have deliberately dragged the "uttaranchalis" -- people of Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh -- into the imbroglia. In 2020, when the country was under the deathly spell of the COVID-19 pandemic, politics took a back seat as the Union and State Governments banned the public celebration of all festivals. Neither the AAP nor the BJP or any of the fringe religious outfits thought of politicising the festivals. This time around, the pandemic situation has improved, and politics has reared its head once again. It began with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee on September 29 ordering a complete ban on the sale and bursting of firecrackers till January 1, 2022.

Rajasthan and Haryana followed suit though Uttar Pradesh is still silent on the issue this year. As the fireworks issue is directly linked to pollution, parties saw little scope for deriving political mileage. The Supreme Court, too, said it could not endanger people's right to life by allowing the use of crackers containing chemicals.

The Delhi Government followed up the cracker ban with an order that the Chhath Puja will not be allowed in public places, public grounds, riverbanks, and temples. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) cited the pandemic and advised



the people to celebrate it at home. Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal chaired the DDMA meeting in which, apart from Delhi ministers, AIIMS Delhi, senior officers of NITI Aayog, ICMR, and the NDMA were present. Strangely, the same DDMA lifted restrictions on large gatherings for Ramleela and Durga Puja, though with safety protocols in place. Crowds were allowed at these events if they adhered to social distancing and other COVID appropriate norms. The BJP, which was agreeable to the Delhi Government permitting crowds at Ramleela; however, protested the ban on Chhath Puja. It raised the bogey of "uttaranchali" people of Delhi and lodged several protests. As politics heated up in the national Capital, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, wrote to the Centre asking it to issue Chhath guidelines. Perhaps aware of the political implications of angering the sizeable population of "uttaranchalis" in Delhi, Sisodia recalled that Chhath is a historic festival and sought Central guidelines in order to facilitate these people to celebrate it. Did he forget, conveniently, that his Government had banned the celebrations and that the meeting was attended by the Lt Governor and Central COVID task force members? Or was he obliquely shifting the responsibility to the Centre? In any case, the safety guidelines during festivals have long proved ineffective because they are illogical. There is no way of a crowd maintaining social distancing, for instance.

### PICTALK



Devotees at the Sri Govindaraja Swamy temple, in Tirupati

PTI

## Blood and gore

Kashmiris wake up to ferocity again after two years of silence in the Kashmir Valley

Autumn, the golden season of Kashmir that paints the Valley in the shades of chinar's fallen leaves, is turning 'red' this season. The rustling of fallen chinar leaves has been overshadowed by the 'bloodletting' in different parts of Srinagar. Palpable tension is in the air. The targeted killings of members belonging to minority communities a few days ago, has once again triggered a fresh wave of insecurity among the larger population of Kashmiri migrants and non-locals staying in different parts of the Valley to earn their livelihood. A large number of them have immediately shifted their families to safer locations in Jammu and are waiting for the situation to return to normalcy before rejoining their duties. After the abrogation of Article 370, the overall security scenario in Kashmir Valley seemed to be improving. The Union Territory administration was focusing on hard selling 'Kashmir' as the favorite tourist destination. However, the recent targeted killings in the Valley have raised questions over the safety and security of locals as well as tourists.



It has also triggered outrage from the Opposition leaders who blamed the Centre administration for not being able to curb such attacks.

The year started with the killing of a famous Punjabi jeweller in the heart of Srinagar. It was followed up with the killing of the son of a Dhaba owner in a high security zone. The trend continued and in response, top commanders of different terrorist outfits were neutralised. Adopting a shift in their strategy, the Pakistan-based terrorist groups are employing 'hybrid terrorists' to disrupt the stability and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the forthcoming Assembly polls. Majority of these hybrid terrorists are not on the radar of the security forces, making their job more difficult to track down their footprints. With the recent killings of Makhan Lal Bindroo, a street vendor from Bihar's Bhagalpur, school teacher Deepak Chand and principal Supinder Kaur in the Valley, the terrorist handlers have attempted to create a communal divide aimed at triggering a fresh round of exodus. We have to fight these beasts. Whether this violence is a statement by the much dreaded Taliban remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency has detained over 500 people after civilian deaths in the area. The culprits will eventually be held; however, in the meantime, the Kashmiriyat must speak up for the victims.

# Lakhimpur Kheri— Was it avoidable?

A protest must have a specific purpose and an endpoint resolution of conflict. It cannot be an open-ended exercise free of any stipulations



VIVEK GUMASTE

The Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which 8 people lost their lives during the farmer's protest was a colossal tragedy that was avoidable. Paradoxically, it was also a calamity waiting to happen. A political cauldron of noxious ingredients had been brewing for some time. Dogged stubbornness and thoughtless provocative utterances had heightened the tension; the bottled-up frustration of a jaded and over-stretched protest was waiting to explode. A frontal collision was inevitable.

The spark came on October 3 when a cavalcade of Union Home Minister of State Ajay Mishra allegedly ploughed through a group of protesting farmers killing four of them. Angered by the killing it is alleged that the protestors went on a rampage. dragged the BJP members out of cars and mercilessly beat 4 of them to death.

Details of this gruesome incident are murky. As per an FIR lodged by Jagjit Singh, a farm protestor, "We were holding a peaceful protest at Maharaja Agrasen Inter College ground...when the Union MoS for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish came in an SUV along with two other four-wheel vehicles, with arms and weapons, at a high speed. Ashish Mishra, while sitting on the left side of the Mahindra Thar car, fired shots and crushed people while moving forward."

This version is contested by Ajay Mishra who claims, "Stones came flying at the vehicle when it was on the way to receive the chief guest, the driver lost balance...and some could have died in that accident. My driver and three BJP workers who were in the vehicle were chased and attacked with rocks, sticks and swords...they were lynched."

He had earlier denied that his son was at the scene of the incident. Which of these two conflicting versions is true is difficult to ascertain at this stage. However, a series of sequential videos that surfaced online suggest that pelting of stones was the initial trigger for this mayhem.

Nevertheless, a proper enquiry is warranted so that the guilty may be tried and punished

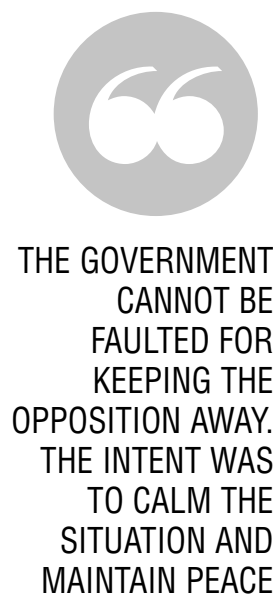


as per the law. Accordingly, CM Yogi Adityanath has announced a judicial inquiry headed by a retired judge to look into the incident.

In parallel with a call for an enquiry, however, a dangerous and mischievous narrative is being played out in certain sections of the media that is disturbing and concerning; a partisan description that tends to favor one side over the other and places a premium on one set of lives in comparison to the other - all with an intent to put the Government in the dock for an offence, the culpability of which is yet to be determined.

A well known newspaper avers: The BJP Government has a playbook...vis a vis popular protest...Let the issue fester, and try to tire out the protesters, while actively seeking to delegitimise them, by labelling them "anti-national" and calling them other names. Then, if matters escalate, bring out the barricades and the force. Treat it like a law-and-order issue in a police state, and don't let leaders of the Opposition come to the site of the protest or the violence, to do what is surely their job as politicians and people's representatives.

First to invoke presumptuous theories to pre-deter-



THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE FAULTED FOR KEEPING THE OPPOSITION AWAY. THE INTENT WAS TO CALM THE SITUATION AND MAINTAIN PEACE

mine guilt in a sensitive case like this devious. Second, by using the phrase, 'bring out the barricades and the force' to describe the BJP's modus operandi, the editorial has sealed the BJP's guilt without a trial. Such statements uttered without evidence are reckless and misleading.

Additionally, the Government cannot be faulted for keeping opposition leaders away. The intent was to calm the situation and maintain peace. In fact, it was done at the behest of farm leader Rakesh Tikait who feared that the politicians were there to exploit the situation as indicated by some news reports.

Coming to the million-dollar question: Was this incident avoidable? Dissent and protest are an integral part of democracy. However, one must also realise that protest is only a means to an end and not an end in itself. A protest to be valid must have a specific purpose and an endpoint resolution of conflict. It cannot be an open-ended exercise free of any stipulations. A prolonged directionless protest becomes a fertile ground for frustration, violence and even killings as illustrated by this incident; anti-social elements are also

likely to take advantage of the situation.

Justice Khanwilkar of the Supreme Court on October 1, when responding to a farmer's outfit seeking permission to hold a protest in Jantar Mantar rightly posed this question to the farmers "You are saying you want to protest, protest what? The Act has been stayed by the Court. The Centre has said it will not be implemented." Referring to the deaths in Lakhimpur, the honorable judge had also stressed the lack of accountability: "When such events happen, no one takes responsibility?"

And this is not the first time that violence has overtaken the farmer's protest - January 26 is still fresh in our minds. The farmers' protest has outlived its utility. Prolongation inadvertently provided a fertile milieu for this ugly altercation. With a little good sense, it could have been avoided. It is time to call off the protest to prevent more Lakhimpurs. Concomitantly, all those guilty for each of the 8 deaths, whoever they may be, must be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

(The writer is an academic and political commentator. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IT'S ALL FAIR IN POLITICS

Sir — The old adage 'all is fair in love and war' perhaps should go now with an addition — 'all is fair in love, war and politics' — given that politics after the independence has undergone a sea-change vis-a-vis its broad objective of leading the country in the right direction, safeguarding its boundaries and serving all its people and their political leanings. Ironically, this comprehensive goal has narrowed down to a mere *raison d'être* of attainment of power — be it either by hook or crook — harboured by the political parties who shrink from doing what is right for various political reasons.

With the Assembly polls in six States drawing closer, the tempers are higher and the political activities getting more hectic in the most politically significant Uttar Pradesh, in particular, where the ruling regime is busy with the damage limitation exercise following the recent Lakhimpur Kheri violence. The incident could not have come for all the Opposition parties at a more opportune time as they have found a common plea to castigate in union the Government in a bid to brighten their respective electoral prospects in the upcoming elections. In politics, with scenes changing kaleidoscopically has become a new norm and any prediction may fall on stony ground.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

### SOFT DRINKS ARE HARD ON HEALTH

Sir — Amitabh Bachchan once disclosed at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmadabad about him not advertising for cola drinks after a student drew his attention towards the harmful ingredients in such drinks. Even the cola companies voluntarily stopped selling colas in schools worldwide in view of increasing obesity in school-going children. The Indian Government should not only ban advertisements but also ban the sale of colas. Earlier, too, soft-drink manufacturers were asked to remove an oil from their products which was found to be harmful for health. It is noteworthy that such drinks are prohibited in Parliament canteens.

## Vaccine on the way



If the Drugs Controller General of India accepts the recommendation of the Subject Experts Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) to grant the emergency use authorisation for Covaxin among children in the 2-18 age group, it will mark a new phase in the process of vaccinating the population against COVID-19. Vaccinating the paediatric population will take the ongoing nationwide immunisation drive one stage further. The green signal which the Drug Controller is currently considering, if (and when) given, will

make Covaxin the first COVID-19 vaccine anywhere in the world for administering to children as young as 2 years. Scientific rigour should determine if India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine proves to be safe and effective in children as in adults. The clinical trials data must be placed in public domain so as to instil confidence in the general public, especially parents, that children can be inoculated with Covaxin against COVID-19. It is understood that Covaxin now recommended for children and adolescents is the same as the one currently being used among adults. It must be confirmed that Covaxin is equally good for children despite their distinctness in terms of anatomy and physiology by virtue of them being children. Clinical trials data that the vaccine has produced similar results in children and teenagers in the process of growing up and grown-ups must be sound enough to ensure that no risk is taken.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

It is time that the Union Government, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and soft-drink manufacturers introduce healthier options which not only replace cola-drinks in India, but also dominate global-market by breaking the monopoly of harmful cola drinks in tune with ambitious 'Make in India' vision. Children should also be made aware of healthier drinks like *lassi*, *chhachh*, coconut water etc. It may be recalled that almost half a century back, a famous rose-drink manufactured by a private confectionary company registered at Gwalior was a popular drink for persons of all ages.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

### RESPECT IS GREATER THAN WORSHIP

Sir — A murderer takes a life, but a rapist destroys a life. "Sexual intercourse done by a man with a woman without her valid consent is rape" as defined under the Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. Sexual assault is the most heinous crime against women. The aftermath of rape

drags a woman towards a life of fear, depression, suicidal complex and social stigma. Rapes have increased manifold as per the statistics given by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). According to it, one rape is reported every 15 minutes. Even children are not spared which is such a shame on humanity.

There are various reasons behind the increase in such cases. Women are not safe outside and not even inside their own home. The sluggish judiciary is an important reason where many victims and survivors must wait for years for a glimpse of justice. Through education, gender sensitisation and legal awareness is possible, which are indispensable to control crime against women. In a country where we worship goddesses in different avatars, women, too, should be loved, cared, respected and protected.

Swagatika Sahoo | Raghunathpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

Nevertheless, I congratulate Fadnavis. Because of him I remembered that I was the CM for four times.



NCP president —Sharad Pawar



VT-4 Tank is another symbol of Pakistan-China strategic cooperation and defence collaboration. Its introduction will boost our capabilities.

Pakistan Chief of Army Staff —Qamar Javed Bajwa

I did a lot of research at my level for *Rashmi Rocket*, apart from what was going on at the scripting level.



Actor —Taapsee Pannu



My advice to Rishabh Pant is to play with freedom and have that air of arrogance and confidence.

Former Australia cricketer —Shane Watson

Only two or three per cent of farmers in Punjab are part of the agitation. Most people in Punjab are peace loving.



BJP national general secretary —Dushyant Gautam



FIRST COLUMN

CHANGING INNOVATION LANDSCAPE IN INDIA

India needs a futuristic approach to trigger innovation at the base of the pyramid



MOHIT GAMBHIR

Innovation in India has always been human centric. We innovate to resolve the problems of mankind, and to create a better life for the common people. Today, the scope of innovation and entrepreneurship spreads across all facets of life. Students, researchers and intellectuals are actively pursuing innovation and entrepreneurship as career options. India should move from coveted innovation to the open innovation model. Open Innovation model is a futuristic approach to instigate the innovation and entrepreneurship at the base of pyramid — at the level of society and educational institutions. The growth of new India can only be achieved by making open innovation pervasive and fuelled by the right kind of training, skill upgradation, reskilling, and apt infrastructural support at school and institutional level. As an interventional initiative, Ministry of Education has established an innovationcell at the All-India Council for Technical Education in 2018. Since then, the Ministry



of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) has taken multiple policy and program initiative to establish the world's biggest open innovation model at global stage. The Cell works on four pillars of excellence: Policy intervention; handholding of HEIs and schools, faculty and students; impact assessment and facilitating national and international platforms for Indian and global students. Initiatives like the Innovation Council in higher educational institutes has been purposed to streamline the ground level ecosystem and handholding of ideas from students.

The beginning of Smart India Hackathon, Toycathon, Singapore-India Hackathon, ASEAN India Hackathon between 11 countries, SAMADHAN Challenge, Ideathon for pandemic, Drug Discovery Hackathon, and Innovation Contest has set the foundation for world's biggest open innovation model and it is scaling at a rate where India could assimilate its new age innovative and aspirational human resource. As India is working relentlessly towards a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, it must look for alternative career opportunities in term of innovation and entrepreneurship. Inculcating the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in our youth is a challenging job and it cannot be simply achieved by flooding the market with investment opportunities, subsidies and grants. It requires a keenly calibrated system of innovation management, especially championing open innovation management at school and higher education level. For impact assessment, MIC has started Atal Ranking for Institution's on Innovation Achievements to measure the major indicators at the higher educational institute level. At industry and ecosystem level, NITI Aayog has started India Innovation Index on the line of Global Innovation Index by adapting non-traditional approaches for measuring innovation such as patents per million of population, publication in scientific journals, percentage of GDP spending on research. Empirical evidence suggests that innovation enables social welfare. Health innovations like penicillin use, transplants, and artificial limbs have saved and improved the quality of life of millions. Satellites, television and radio technologies are being used for the welfare of farmers and in disaster management. Modern farming equipment, fertilizers, Grameen Bank, microfinance and crop insurance schemes have raised agricultural productivity, improving food security and freeing up labour which can participate in other industries.

Nothing can progress without innovation and everything of today exists because of yesterday's innovation and invention. We need to innovate to accommodate evolving situations and needs and prepare a wonderful place to live in, not only for us but for our future generations as well.

(The writer is Director in the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The views expressed are personal.)

# Healthcare infrastructure needs a check-up

Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised and harmonised to truly transform the healthcare infrastructure

Reports of shortages of hospital beds, ventilators, medical equipment and doctors and nurses to cope with growing cases of COVID-19 infections have thrown into sharp focus the need to accelerate digital transformation of healthcare infrastructure worldwide.

Modern medicine has been enriched by genomics, telemedicine, virtual reality for surgery and many biopharmaceutical advances. But behind the many medical advancements, true digital transformation of health infrastructure — hospitals, blood and vaccine banks, centres for dialysis, ambulatory surgery, imaging and radiology — is slow.

Unlike for other sectors, digital transformation to



HARSH VARDHAN

enable Internet of Things (IoT), 5G connectivity, and artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) is much more complex for healthcare.

Healthcare infrastructure innovation has been and remains curtailed by three main issues: firstly, compliance with regulatory standards at national and international levels; secondly, multiple forms of medical data, from patient records to X-rays, CT scans and other analogue or digital data; and thirdly, reluctance to change which prevents a clear digital dashboard to allow administrators to respond, plan and predict in real time.

Many hospitals have sophisticated equipment have yet to fully capture and update medical records to enable clinical

# Extending sympathies to the new laureate

Abdulrazak Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa

The French poet, Rene Proudhomme, who was the first Nobel Literature laureate in 1901, wrote in his famous 'The Broken Vase': Thus often does the hand we love, barely touching the heart, wound it. Then the heart cracks by itself and the flower of its love dies.

He's speaking of a delicate and vulnerable aspect of us, and how easily it can dry up. Literature has always been about sensitivity and sensitization. It nourishes and rekindles the soul to fellow feeling. In the hurly-burly of our daily lives, and competitiveness and ambition, and the pursuit of profit, we are indifferent to the outcome for others, to their sentiments, or even their deprivation. There is an inherent conflict among us as we focus on our goals, and marginalise others whose interests don't hold concern for us.

But there are witnesses compiling every injustice, recording every protest, and kindling people's memories about glory and decline. A few of these observers serve not only to voice the experience of the victims, but give us insights on how humanity at large can live more sensitively. Their words stir us, find their way inside to lash at our conscience, and refocus our thinking on what it is to be essentially human.

Another Frenchman, especially famous for declining the Nobel prize for Literature, Jean Paul Sartre, declared: 'Hell is other people'. There is a constant challenge to try to understand and empathise with others, further aggravated by differences in language, custom, and traditional beliefs. It is here that writers often build bridges by establishing commonalities and explaining away differences.

As the celebrated 1950 Literature laureate, Bertrand Russell, said at the Stockholm Concert Hall, "...sympathy is a genuine motive, some people at some times are made somewhat uncomfortable by the sufferings of some other people. It is sympathy that has produced the many humanitarian advances of the last hundred years."

There are many literary prizes, so how is the Nobel Prize for Literature different, apart from perhaps, having the largest bounty? Because it is given out at the same time as awards in sciences — it accords the same prestige and acclaim to novelists, poets, and futurists as is enjoyed by biochemists, astrophysicists and developmental economists.

It also reflects the Nobel Foundation's outlook of recognizing a broader contribution to modern human heritage. Rudyard Kipling was the youngest to win it at 42, but generally the prize recognises much older writers with eight or more books behind them. In terms of sheer number of copies sold, and cultural impact, Harper Lee could have been considered for her 'To Kill A Mockingbird', but that's not how this prize is awarded - for one, that was her only novel, till she



THERE ARE MANY LITERARY PRIZES, SO HOW IS THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE DIFFERENT APART FROM, PERHAPS, HAVING THE LARGEST BOUNTY? BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN OUT AT THE SAME TIME AS AWARDS IN SCIENCES — IT ACCORDS THE SAME PRESTIGE AND ACCLAIM AS IS ENJOYED BY BIOCHEMISTS, ASTROPHYSICISTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL ECONOMISTS

(The writer is a Creative Director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)



published a sequel several decades later with nothing in between.

The committee has also not looked towards any trailblazing authors in the sci-fi category despite it being the fastest evolving genre as technology itself has been racing at the speed of Moore's Law. What the jury does seem to endeavour to do is to cast its net far and wide to ensure authors from many corners of the world are considered.

Possibly the most interesting reference to Zanzibar in the world of literature was in 1968, when Brunner wrote an imaginative sci-fi novel titled, "Stand on Zanzibar". The book's title refers to how large an island could hold the planet's population if everyone had to get just enough standing space. Brunner's speculation was that the Isle of Man (about 600 sq. km) wouldn't suffice in the future and that by 2010, it would take a Zanzibar (about 1600 sq.km) to hold everyone. The theme of his Hugo award-winning novel was overcrowding, which is a common urban fear when there is an influx from faraway lands.

Which brings us to this year's Literature laureate, Abdulrazzak Gurnah, born in Zanzibar in 1948. Being on an important trade shipping route in the Indian Ocean, besides Bantus, there are people of Omani, Yemeni, southern Iranian, and even Indian descent. At the same time, it has been known as a hub of the slave trade where Arabs sold natives from Malawi and Mozambique to visiting ships.

When the Zanzibar Revolution of 1964 overthrew the traditional oppressors, Gurnah fled as a teenager and started his life anew in the British Isles. So, he has experienced how complex and burdensome our identities can be.

In the early pages of his novel 'Desertion', he says about a character, Hassanali: "He could not disguise his anxiety and people who had known him all his life knew this about him, and made a joke out of it. They said it was something to do with his jinsi, his ancestry. Indian people are cowardly, they said, hopping about like nervous butterflies. His father was not timid. He had been a hothead in his youth, who sang and danced and raced the streets with anyone, and he was the Indian in his jinsi. It was God who made him like this, nothing to do with jinsi, and who was he to argue."

Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity - as a Tanzanian (Zanzibar opted to merge with Tanzania after the Revolution) -- and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa. He has taught in Nigeria, which also has ethnic as well as acute communal strife. And he's known since his mid-teens what it is to adapt to life in a European culture.

As the last few years have caused waves of migrants out of West Asia and North Africa, and very recently, Afghanistan - the travails of the uprooted and the kinds of baggage they bring into their new places of residence will

be in the spotlight.

Exiles who had to flee from their native lands are already distrustful of fate, and suffer to some extent from PTSD. Their attention is split between what's still going on in the places they have departed from, and the challenges in their new environment. They haven't the preparation that a graduate student has had before he or she lands up overseas on a good campus. Such exiles find themselves usually in less friendly locations than a university. Gurnah has been lucky in that regard.

The expatriate experience is very different depending on one's age at arrival, line of work — whether a specialist in demand or unskilled, level of affluence, and aptitude for networking. Openness towards the way of life in the adopted country does help in integrating better, and gaining acceptance. An exile could have a sense of betrayal of their native culture when they move closer to a sense of belonging in their land of arrival.

In the future, we might think differently about the elements of identity, given the limitations that our instinctive ones about language, ethnicity, creed, and district have. We'll then identify Literature laureates less by language of writing or nationality and instead emphasise their literary genre and individuality more. We'd then also be narrowing the 'gulf between cultures and continents' that the Nobel citation refers to in 2021.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

LIES WERE SPREAD ABOUT SAVARKAR. IT WAS MAHATMA GANDHI WHO ASKED HIM TO FILE MERCY PETITIONS. —UNION DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH



THE BJP IS PRESENTING DISTORTED HISTORY. IF THIS CONTINUES, THEY WILL MAKE SAVARKAR THE FATHER OF THE NATION. —AIMIM CHIEF ASADUDDIN OWAISSI

# Healthcare infrastructure needs a check-up

Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised and harmonised to truly transform the healthcare infrastructure

enable Internet of Things (IoT), 5G connectivity, and artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) is much more complex for healthcare.

Healthcare infrastructure innovation has been and remains curtailed by three main issues: firstly, compliance with regulatory standards at national and international levels; secondly, multiple forms of medical data, from patient records to X-rays, CT scans and other analogue or digital data; and thirdly, reluctance to change which prevents a clear digital dashboard to allow administrators to respond, plan and predict in real time.

Many hospitals have sophisticated equipment have yet to fully capture and update medical records to enable clinical



decision support and real-time hospital workflow, let alone combine them seamlessly with long-term care and disease management.

How can planners and administrators improve information technology (IT) infrastructure to prepare for a true digital transformation for the healthcare sector? Several key steps can kick-start or accelerate the process. The first is to build or enable real-time data

capture at every touchpoint of healthcare hardware. This means installing sensors, and embedding IoT and high-speed communication throughout each facility down to the last piece of equipment.

The second is to break down information silos once and for all. Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised, harmonised and shared, from patient records, X-rays and CT scans to data on the functioning of each piece of equipment and machinery within the infrastructure.

This roadblock has eluded decades of effort by IT consultants and systems integrators. A protocol of "golden data" in a common format will enable visibility of the entire healthcare enterprise.

Third, the same visibility can facilitate interoperability of different healthcare systems — electronic patient health records can be analysed alongside COVID-19 infection trends and the demand for vaccines and the cold-chain infrastructure needed to store or deliver them.

Fourth, healthcare assets, be it CT scanners, operating rooms or ventilators, have to be tracked on usage and location levels. This can help predict breakdowns, plan for maintenance and help the next shift of medical staff to locate them.

Fifth, such tracking will support more vital C-suite decisions such as scenario planning which can calibrate potential equipment shortage, availability of spares, and service-level agreements with

suppliers with hospital manpower planning. By standardising protocols for maintenance — helped by cloud-enabled real-time data — productivity will improve.

Sixth, there are lessons to be drawn from a concept known as inventory technical management practised by MRO service providers. Those who are more digitally enabled have upscaled to the next level — flexible pooling of inventory to prevent duplication and to share hardware more intelligently.

Finally, the guardians of healthcare hardware can take tentative steps in AI/ML without sacrificing medical outcomes. These include sensors that can monitor health data of each patient more frequently than checks by nurses, and the

use of chatbots to allow nurses or junior doctors to ask questions when certain patient symptoms occur or to check when a piece of equipment needs to be sent for servicing.

Through AI/ML, healthcare hardware can be "trained" to self-correct. It can learn prescriptive maintenance through protocols that can predict failures and recommend actions to take. Over time, each major piece of equipment can instruct itself on when to prepare for maintenance, the possible risks, and the pre-emptive measures it should take.

Covid-19 has triggered a once-in-decades shift in the thinking behind healthcare administration. It is time for the hospital to get out of the sick bed and embrace digital transformation.

















Officers and councillors of the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh engaging in a competitive round of tug of war



Demonstration of the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)



Safaimitra Amrit Samman Samaroh on Gandhi Jayanti



An improvised water park for children at New Indira Colony during the celebrations

# AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV AT CHANDIGARH

To mark the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements, the Government of India announced the initiation of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India. It will also focus on India's vision, aspiration of India's youth and what India will be in the next 25 years.

This celebration is steadfast to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister Modi's vision of enabling new India, fuelled by the spirit of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

## Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Chandigarh

In accordance with the nation-wide celebrations for the Mahotsav, the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh conceived a week-long urban campaign from September 28 to October 3, 2021 under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations at Chandigarh focussed on citizen participation and engagement, for transformation into a Janandolan, a citizens' movement, where small changes, at the community level will translate into significant changes at city level and consequently enlarging gains on the national canvas.

The week-long event showcased the accomplishments and ongoing development activities under the auspices of various

urban missions including Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Swachh Bharat (Urban) Mission, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) by mobilising support from various stakeholders such as civil society organisations, youth, women, social activists, urban and environment crusaders, resident and market welfare associations and other government agencies. Public sector undertakings including banks and corporations came forward with their kind and budgetary support under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to rejoice the spirit and essence of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, thereby promoting JanBhagidari and mass citizen engagement.

During the week-long celebration, the programmes and activities which were conceived by the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh under the vibrant and vivacious mentorship of Anindita Mitra, commissioner of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh were:

## Inaugural of 22 cities & 75 Hours Placemaking Implementation

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign was inaugurated and opened to the public by Dharam Pal, adviser to the administrator of UT of Chandigarh on September 28, 2021 in the presence of Ravi Kant Sharma, the Mayor of Chandigarh, Nitin Kumar Yadav (IAS), home secre-

tary of Chandigarh Administration, Vijay Namdeo Zade (IAS), finance secretary of Chandigarh Administration and Anindita Mitra (IAS), the commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh at Community Park, New Indira Colony, Manimajra, Sector -13, Chandigarh.

The physical transformation involved construction of a public toilet, painting of the water body into an interactive play area for kids, connecting neighbouring school with the park through a tabletop crossing, repair and painting of planters among others. To ensure public participation, events like morning yoga session for locals, a game of kabaddi for men and women, a drawing competition among school-going children, plantation drive at Herbal Garden, tug of war for children, officers and councillors, a magic show and puppet show for children, various quizzes, antakshari and camel ride were organised.

The Implementation witnessed participation of more than 10,000 people from the vicinity. The key aim behind choosing New Indira Colony for the event was to promote urban vivacity to areas on the outskirts of the city which inhabited the marginalised and economically weaker section community.

## Kachra Alag Karo Amrit Diwas

Kale Ram, a *safai karamchari* was appointed as the brand ambassador of Swachhta Mission

in the city and various awareness and sensitisation activities through skits and *nukkad-natak* on waste segregation at source were organised on September 29, 2021. Colour coded waste collection compostable bags were distributed to citizens at Maloya, Ram Darbar and Maulijagrana.

## Saavryanjik Shauchalaya Safai Jan Bhagidari Amrit Utsav

Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh, in a special maintenance drive during this period, revamped 26 public toilets throughout the city which were handed over to Resident Welfare/Market Associations and other operating agencies by the respective area councillors in their wards in the presence of municipal officials on September 30, 2021. A new toilet block in Sector-17 was inaugurated by the Mayor of Chandigarh.

Keeping in mind the input from citizens, a QR code for getting feedback from the public on amenities were also affixed to the revamped toilets.

## Cycle2Work

The Cycle2Work campaign aims at getting people out of their cars and convincing them to shift their daily habits in favour of a more sustainable and healthier commute.

Leading by example, the officers and employees of Chandigarh Smart City Limited and Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh cycled to their workplaces on October 1, 2021. Badges were affixed to encourage the employees and a selfie frame

was installed in the office premises to create a buzz around the concept.

## Felicitating of waste entrepreneurs and Waste-To-Art exhibition

A Waste-To-Art exhibition was also organised on October 1, 2021 at Sector 17, Plaza by inviting local civil society organisations, self help groups (SHGs), school going students, corporates. In the exhibition, Rock Garden, Kala Sagar, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, NULM women SHGs have displayed various articles and models prepared by them using waste, which has demonstrated RRR — Reuse, Recycle and Reduce strategy of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

A special event was also conceived to felicitate city based waste entrepreneurs who have demonstrated state of the art models prepared out of waste by the Mayor of Chandigarh.

## Showcasing of Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)

To empower citizens with knowledge about the 'smart' initiatives being taken up in the city, the Chandigarh Smart City Ltd team demonstrated the ICCC platform with integrated traffic control system, e-challan system and live monitoring by surveillance cameras to the public.

A live demonstration on the functioning of ICCC was given to councillors, media representatives and students on October 1, 2021 and a video presentation on

ICCC and other initiatives of CSCL was given to citizens on October 2 and 3, 2021, at Municipal Corporation premises and Sector 17 Plaza respectively.

## Safaimitra Amrit Samman Samaroh

While commemorating the 152<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and his vision for sanitation, this event was held on October 2 and 3. During this event, 5150 *safaimitras* were felicitated. On October 2, the Mayor of Chandigarh felicitated the *safaimitras* and in the closing ceremony, felicitation was done by Banwari Lal Purohit, Punjab's Governor and Chandigarh's administrator.

## Freedom to cycle — cycle rally on October 3

A 7.5 km long bicycle rally was organised to wrap up the celebrations of the 75 glorious years of India's independence. The rally was flagged off by Banwari Lal Purohit at Sukhna Lake. The rally witnessed massive participation from the cycling enthusiasts of the city. The highlight of the event was the sheer diversity of the participants in terms of gender and age-groups. The rally ended at Shanti Kunj, Sector-16 where the 'junior bicycling champions' were felicitated by Anindita Mitra, commissioner of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh and CEO of Chandigarh Smart City Limited.

POWERGRID, a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India under its CSR initiative in Northern Region-I undertook a project for the supply and installation of PSA Type 2x50 Nm3/hr oxygen generation plant with bottling facility at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Sector-38, Gurugram, Haryana.

On October 7, 2021, Madhu Azad, the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, inaugurated the facility in the presence of A K Mishra, the executive director of NR1, Bodhiraj Sikri, the deputy chairman of Haryana's CSR trust, Dr Yash Garg, the district commissioner and Vishram Kumar Meena, ADC.



RITES felicitates Mithal, who has over 31 years of experience in the Railway sector. He has worked at various key positions in Indian Railways and Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR).

Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, R K Singh congratulating PFC on being accorded the 'Maharatna' status by Government of India in the presence of Alok Kumar, the secretary of Power, R S Dhillon, CMD of PFC and senior MOP and PFC officials



Dr Sudhir Mishra, distinguished scientist and director general of BrahMos at DRDO and the CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace was conferred the honorary degree of 'Doctor of Science' by Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University at the varsity's first convocation ceremony on 11th October 2021, held at Lucknow-Deva Road (Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh). He has 36 years of R&D experience in the area of missiles technology, production technology, technology management and defence diplomacy and has contributed immensely in India's quest to achieve excellence in missile technologies by developing several breakthrough-technologies. His technical expertise and contribution has resulted in the realisation of several DRDO Missile Programmes.

Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC presents '1,560.93 crore, the final dividend of '3,054.45 crores for FY 2020-21 for the Government of India, to R K Singh, Minister of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in the presence of Alok Kumar, the secretary of Power, Vivek Kumar Dewanang, additional secretary and Ashish Upadhyaya, additional secretary & FA from Ministry of Power, A K Gautam, the Finance Director, Dillip Kumar Patel, the director of Human Resources, Ramesh Babu V, the director of Operations and Chandan Kumar Mondol, the Commercial director were also present on behalf of NTPC Ltd.



## POWERGRID assists RAJASTHAN Solar Energy zone

POWERGRID Khetri Transmission System Ltd. (PKTSL), a fully owned subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, has commissioned the Transmission System associated with Rajasthan Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) Part-C on 4th October 2021. This is one of the largest

Inter State Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) projects established in the state of Rajasthan.

The Transmission Project involves a new 765 kV Sub-station at Khetri (Rajasthan) and connects the capital of the country at Jhatikara (Delhi) through a 765 kV Double Circuit Transmission line and also connects Sikar (Rajasthan) through a 400 kV

Double Circuit Transmission line.

The commissioning of PKTSL system will facilitate transfer of Renewable Power from Rajasthan to various parts of the country. It will benefit industries, households and businesses, boosting the economic development of Rajasthan and the country in totality. It will augment the transmission infrastructure to evacuate renewable energy thereby

reducing dependency on fossil fuels, in line with Government of India's vision of achieving 450 GW renewable energy target by 2030.

Charging of this important transmission project will enhance ease of living as well as provide GatiShakti to infrastructure development activities, through supply of quality & reliable green power across the country.

## Navratra festival at Katra



2021. The event was inaugurated by Vivekanand Rai (IRS), the Tourism director of Jammu Director Tourism, Jammu and was also witnessed by Amit Bhasin, ASP of Katra, Abhishek Sharma, SDM of Katra, Ambika Bali, assistant director of Tourism in Katra, Manik Singh Rathore, under-secretary of the Transport department, Ranjeet Kaur, the state's taxation officer and other officers of the Tourism department.

The festival will culminate on October 15, 2021 with Shobha Yatra and Mata Ki Kahaani Theatre Show.

## PM MODI Launches NEW EXHIBITION COMPLEX' AT PRAGATI MAIDAN,

Launching an ambitious national master plan for multi-model connectivity, 'PM GatiShakti', the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated New Exhibition Complex (Halls 2,3,4 & 5) of International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi today i.e. October 13, 2021.

While dedicating the New Exhibition complex to the nation, he hoped that the new world class exhibition infrastructure at Pragati Maidan would be immensely significant in showcasing India's brand excellence globally and providing fresh impetus to promote exports from MSMEs.

Earlier, Hon'ble PM was welcomed by Shri Piyyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry along with senior government officials and he was briefed about IECC project by Shri L.C. Goyal, CMD, ITPO. Hon'ble PM also visited an exhibition and reviewed the model of the New Exhibition Complex at Pragati Maidan, before launching the GatiShakti plan with the press of a remote button. The ambitious plan of PM GatiShakti envisages a centralised portal to unite the infrastructural initiatives planned and initiated by as many as 16 central ministries and departments. Speaking at the event, Shri Modi also said that PM GatiShakti targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time. The plan envisioned by the Hon'ble PM, is a campaign to lend more speed (Gati) and power (Shakti) to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform.

## SCHOOL WARRIORS 2.0 CONTEST BY GAIL

Under its clean air initiative Hawa Badlo, GAIL (India) Limited has launched the second edition of School Warriors contest for creating awareness against air pollution amongst students and the school community, including parents and teachers.

The School Warriors 2.0 contest aims at connecting with school students who are currently at health risks due to constant rise in pollutants in the air. Through the online Hawa Badlo School Warriors 2.0 contest, the students will be given a chance to showcase their creative videos on air pollution by uploading short videos, art forms, essays with ideas and their corrective suggestions against air pollution which can be submitted digitally on the School Warriors 2.0 microsite. (<http://schoolwarrior2.changetheair.org/>).

The participants can also plant saplings and upload pictures of them taking care of the plants. The entries can be uploaded till November 20, 2021 and the best entries will win prizes in various categories.



The first edition of School Warriors contest had more than five million reach on digital platforms. The contest got around 3,000 entries from across India.

The Hawa Badlo initiative is in line with the environmental responsibility of GAIL which is an integral part of its vision statement. It aims at improving the air quality with collective societal effort to bring substantial change in the quality of air for better environment and better lives.

## NORTHERN RAILWAYS GM HOLDS SAFETY/PERFORMANCE REVIEW MEETING

Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager Northern Railway held a review meeting with the departmental heads and DRMs of Northern Railway. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on passenger amenities at stations like extension of platforms, increase of level of platforms, washable aprons, provision of 2nd entry, foot over bridges, Escalators, lifts facilities for Divyangjans, improvement of station building including façade etc. He also reviews the progress of mobility enhancement, developmental infrastructure works, Freight loading and safety on tracks.

He also informed that 82 different stations over Northern railway have been selected for construction of toilets in circulating area through CSR funds.

He instructed to maintain good record of punctuality of trains and expedites the works related with mobility enhancement and conducting drives to check the progress. He reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and removal of scrap lying near the tracks. The GM also took stock of the tree cutting activity and removal of vegetation alongside the tracks.

Sh. Gangal emphasized upon minimizing the human failure in train operation, extensive monitoring of rail fractures and rail welds and said no error should be left. He asked the officers should enhance their inspection to assess the progress of works as well as train operations.

He also informed that, loading of food grains & other items have steadily increased with every passing month. Northern Railway is committed to provide safe, smooth and efficient services to its customers.

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## Fino Payments Bank signs actor Pankaj Tripathi as brand ambassador

Fino Payments Bank Limited (FPBL), a fintech for emerging India customers will now work with actor Pankaj Tripathi as its brand ambassador.

During the two-year engagement effective 1st September 2021, Pankaj Tripathi will be the face of Fino Payments Bank's marketing campaigns across various platforms. He will work with the brand in promoting its products and services representing through Fino's ever present and friendly neighbourhood local banker - Hamesha available!

"This is Fino's first ever opportunity to have a brand ambassador, a milestone in itself", said Darpan Anand, Sr. Divisional Head Fino Payments Bank. "We are extremely pleased to have Pankaj Tripathi, a celebrated artist, as our brand ambassador. Pankaj's personality resonates our brand values and we believe the association will go a long way in not only achieving the desired top of the mind brand recall but also in bringing about a paradigm shift in consumer behaviour towards the adoption of digital banking."

Sharing his thoughts on associating with Fino Payments Bank,

Pankaj Tripathi said, "When I heard about Fino's 'Fi-kar No-t' approach I was instantly connected to it as that is how I have lived my life. I owe my success perhaps to this way of thinking and that's why I immediately agreed to associate with the brand. I want to thank Fino Payments Bank and the agency for choosing me as the face of Fino brand that I could so relate to. I wish them the best of future."

"The most important step on who would personify the brand, is the match between the brand's attributes and those of the celebrity", said Anand Bhatia, CMO, Fino Payments Bank. "Pankaj Tripathi brings to the table a pan India connect and an appeal that is in sync with Fino Payments Bank's values of being grounded, real, sincere, honest, competent and hardworking. His clear focus on creating social awareness through his endorsements connects well with Fino's socially inclusive business, making him a perfect brand fit. He is a self-made man, just like our self-made bank."

Pankaj Tripathi will be the face

of Fino's first 'Fikar Not' campaign conceptualised to allay the fears, especially confidence issues associated with the banking process. Fino believes its customers should not have any 'Fikar' or worry when doing banking. In fact 'Fi-kar NO-t' is in its name!

Bridging India and Bharat - brand connect Pankaj Tripathi's success story of a small town guy making it big on his own blends well with the aspirations of Fino's target group.

FPBL's target segment, the emerging India customer someone who has low levels of financial literacy, technology use, lacks financial inclusion and typically does not have access to basic banking services.

Fino's merchants serve the banking and financial needs of this segment by offering assisted services through the phygital delivery model. They not only address the pain points of the customers but also help them migrate from offline activity to online activity.

On this front, Pankaj's rich repertoire of rustic, familiar and relatable characters across Hindi and regional films ring a bell!



# DC set 136-run target for KKR in 2nd IPL Qualifier



PTI ■ SHARJAH

Kolkata Knight Riders, led by mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthi, produced a clinical bowling display on a slow pitch to

restrict Delhi Capitals to 135 for 5 in their IPL Qualifier 2 here on Wednesday. Sent in to bat, DC batters struggled on a sluggish pitch with the KKR bowlers bowling a tight line and length.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan top-scored with a 39-ball 36 while Shreyas Iyer remained not out on 30 off 27 balls. Chakravarthi took two wickets for 26 runs while Lockie Ferguson and Shivam Mavi got one each.

After seven dot balls in the first two overs, DC took 12 runs from the third with Shaw hoisting Shakib Al Hasan for a big six.

Dhawan joined the party in the fourth over, smacking two consecutive sixes off Sunil Narine as DC amassed 14 runs from the veteran West Indian.

Chakravarthi broke the dangerous-looking partnership by having Shaw LBW with his first delivery of the day with the batter playing a wrong line to his googly.

Ferguson was impressive as he conceded just nine runs from his first two overs as DC reached 38 for 1 at the end of Power Play overs.

After a quiet period during which Mavi, Narine and Chakravarthi bowled a tight line and length, Dhawan got a boundary in the 10th over to reach 65 for 1 at the halfway mark.

With odd ball skidding low, it was getting difficult to get runs and DC were dealt a blow when Mavi, who was bowling beautifully, got rid of Marcus Stoinis who was playing only his second match in the UAE leg.

With pressure building on the DC batters, Dhawan fell in the 15th over while going for a big shot. He could only get an outside edge off a Chakravarthi delivery for Shakib Al Hasan to take a diving catch at backward point.

DC were 83 for 3 in the 15th over when captain Rishabh Pant (6) came in and he disappointed in a crucial match as he went for a big shot the next over only to balloon a Ferguson delivery for Rahul Tripathi to take a regulation catch.

There was no lack of drama as Shimron Hetmyer was caught by Shubman Gill off Chakravarthi in the 17th over but it turned out to be a no ball.

DC managed to score 36 runs in the last three overs to put up a decent total in the end.

## Shardul Thakur replaces Axar Patel in India's main squad for T20 World Cup



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fast bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur on Wednesday replaced Axar Patel in India's squad for the T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE and Oman from October 17.

The 29-year-old Thakur has impressed with his 18 wickets in the ongoing IPL for Chennai Super Kings. With this, India completed the announcement of its final squad for the marquee tournament. Teams are allowed time till October 15 to finalise changes.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee after a discussion with the team management has added Shardul Thakur to the main squad. All-rounder Axar Patel, who was part of the 15-member squad will now be on the list of stand-by players," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

With pace all-rounder Hardik Pandya not bowling during the IPL because of fitness issues, the selectors wanted a cover for him. The Mumbai Indians star's workload management is a major concern for the team management.

"The selectors felt that they were one pacer short and also with Hardik Pandya not bowling, they needed an all-rounder in the main squad," a source close to the selection committee told PTI.

"Axar remains in stand by and if Ravindra Jadeja gets injured, he will again be back in main team. Till Jaddu (Jadeja) plays, Axar won't be required."

As reported by PTI, the selectors also included Harshal Patel among the net bowlers for the Indian team.

"The following cricketers will join the team bubble in Dubai and assist Team India in

their preparations: Avesh Khan, Umran Malik, Harshal Patel, Lukman Meriwala, Venkatesh Iyer, Karn Sharma, Shahbaz Ahmed and K. Gowtham," the statement said.

Among the stand-by players, Railways leg-spinner Karn Sharma, who is part of the CSK right now, was a surprise inclusion.

Considered a close confidante of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has been roped in as mentor of the national side for the World Cup, Sharma is retained year after year by CSK without playing too many matches as it is believed that he has been the franchise's "Lucky Mascot"

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal could not find a place despite an impressive IPL with Royal Challengers Bangalore. He claimed 18 wickets in 15 matches. India will open their campaign on October 24 against Pakistan.

## BCCI extends date for buying ITT for new IPL teams



IANIS ■ MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has further extend the date for purchasing the 'Invitation to Tender' (ITT) document for the two new Indian Premier League (IPL) teams -- which will be added from the 2022 season -- to October 20, 2021.

A BCCI statement said that interested parties can purchase the ITT document on receipt of payment of the "non-refundable tender fee of Rs 10 lakh plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax". All other terms contained in the Invitation document shall be applicable, said the BCCI. The IPL Governing Council had on August 31

this year announced the release of tender to "own and operate" two new IPL teams, which will compete in the 2022 edition of the lucrative tournament.

Subsequently, the date was extended to October 10 and now the date has been further extended by 10 days.

"Interested parties are requested to email at [ittp12021@bcci.tv](mailto:ittp12021@bcci.tv) to get further details for purchasing the ITT. The email requesting the ITT should have the subject line 'ITT for the Right to Own and Operate One of Two Proposed New IPL Teams,'" said a BCCI statement.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT. However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid," the statement added.

## Fan-inspired Team India jersey for T20 World Cup unveiled



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming to be inspired by the fans, the Indian cricket team's jersey for the upcoming T20 World Cup was unveiled on Wednesday, days before the country opens its campaign with a much-awaited clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in Dubai.

The tournament will be held from October 17 to November 14 in the UAE and Oman. The new shirt, called the 'Billion Cheers Jersey', has been inspired by

fans and was unveiled by MPL Sports, the official kit sponsor of the Indian men's, women's, and Under-19 teams.

"This is the first time in the history of Indian cricket that fans have been memorialised on a jersey. It carries their chants and cheers from iconic past matches, transformed into unique soundwave patterns," stated a release from ML Sports

The jersey comes in shades of prussian blue and royal blue.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said, "The Indian cricket team enjoys support not just in India but around the world, and there's no better way to celebrate their excitement and energy than through this jersey. "This will undoubtedly provide the team with the much-needed enthusiastic support in their quest to emerge as the T20 champions of the world."

We are also pleased to see that MPL Sports continues to deliver merchandise that is widely affordable and accessible."

The board's secretary Jay Shah echoed the view.

## Amandeep leads 10th leg of Hero WPGT

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Amandeep Drall lived up to her top billing with a flawless 4-under 68 that put her on top of the leaderboard at the end of the first round in the 10th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Wednesday.

After day one at the Chandigarh Golf Club, Amandeep was one shot ahead of the highly rated amateur Avani Prashanth (69), who had four birdies against one bogey.

Kapurthala golfer Amandeep leads the combined Hero Order of Merit for 2020-21 despite missing out on the last few legs of the Tour because of busy schedule in Europe.

Both Amandeep and Avani had a bogey-free 3-under 33 each on the back nine. They also had a birdie each on the front nine, but Avani also dropped a shot on the ninth, while Amandeep stayed error-free.

Avani was the winner of the third leg and runner-up in the seventh leg in 2021. Amandeep is yet to taste a win in 2021, though she had two in 2020. She was runner-up to Avani in the third leg, so she has a score to settle with the youngster.

Seher Atwal and Jahanvi Bakshi also carded under par rounds of 1-under 71 each to be Tied-third. Seher and Jahanvi had contrasting rounds producing similar scores.

## Narine won't be added to West Indies World Cup squad: Pollard

PTI ■ SHARJAH

West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard says they will resist the temptation of adding Sunil Narine to their T20 World Cup squad despite the spinner's sublime form in the ongoing IPL, where he played a key role in Kolkata Knight Riders reaching the Qualifier-2. The 33-year-old Narine reminded the fans of his vintage past with his four-wicket haul and impact batting in the eliminator against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday. He has taken 11 wickets in eight IPL matches since the league's resumption in the UAE.



He went wicket-less against Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad and in an earlier

match against RCB but took three wickets in the team's two-wicket defeat to Chennai Super Kings. However, he has not played any international cricket since August 2019, forcing defending champions West Indies to ignore him while announcing their World Cup squad on grounds of fitness.

The ICC deadline to make changes in the squad ends on Friday. "If I add my two cents or my words on how his non-inclusion came about, then it could be spun - just like how he's bowling on these Sharjah wickets - in all different directions," Pollard told ESPNcricinfo.

## Golfers Aditi, Tvesa and Diksha to play in New York leg of Aramco Series

IANIS ■ NEW YORK

Indian golfers Aditi Ashok, Tvesa Malik and Diksha Dagar will compete at the third leg of the Aramco Series in New York beginning this week. Only Tvesa has played both earlier legs in London and in Spain, while Diksha was in the winning team in London and missed the event in Spain.

Aditi, fourth at the Olympics, will be playing the Aramco Series for the first time this season. Tvesa has had numerous solid finishes this season, but Aramco Series events have not given her a good finish. Diksha Dagar was part of the winning team in London and was

T-12 in the individual standings.

A stellar field includes Olympic champion Nelly Korda with her sister Jessica, Lexi Thompson, Lizette Salas, Angel Yin, Alison Lee and Lindsey Weaver. Others including Danielle Kang, Cheyenne Woods and Natalie Gulbis will be getting a taste of the Series for the first time.

The top Europeans are Catriona Matthew Emily Kristine Pedersen, Charley Hull, Anna Nordqvist, Sophia Popov. Bronte Law, Caroline Masson and Anne Van Dam. The two individual winners from London (Marianne Skarpnord) and from Sotogrande, Spain (American Alison Lee) are also in the field.

## Ronaldo scores hat trick, Denmark qualifies for World Cup

AP ■ PARIS

Another hat trick for Cristiano Ronaldo, another win — and qualification for the World Cup — for Denmark.

And yet more crowd trouble in a game between England and Hungary.

There was a sense of familiarity to the World Cup qualifiers in Europe on Tuesday, not least in Faro where Ronaldo extended his men's record tally of international goals to 115 by scoring the 58th hat trick of his career for club and country in Portugal's 5-0 win over Luxembourg.

Denmark became the second European nation to qualify for next year's tournament in Qatar, after Germany on Monday, by securing an eighth straight



win in group play by beating Austria 1-0.

The decisive win — sealed by Joakim Maehle's second-half goal — came at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen where star playmaker Christian Eriksen collapsed in June during a European Championship game. It is still unclear if Eriksen can resume his career to play at the World Cup in 13 months' time.

England is likely to be there, but was made to wait before booking its place after being held to a 1-1 draw by Hungary at Wembley Stadium.

Events on the field were overshadowed by clashes between police officers and Hungary supporters at the start of the match, sparked — according to police — by a visiting fan making "racially aggravated" comments toward a steward.

## SINGLES

### NEYMAR'S TEAM URGE HIM TO PLAY WCUP

Sao Paulo: Neymar's Brazil teammates are still hoping the 29-year-old striker will remain with the national team after next year's World Cup, despite saying the tournament in Qatar could be his last. Neymar said in an interview aired this week that he doesn't know whether he will be able "mentally to endure" more international soccer after the 2022 World Cup and that he's approaching the tournament as if it is his last. His teammates rallied around the Paris Saint-Germain player on Tuesday, saying they understand the pressure Neymar faces as Brazil's biggest star. "We want him to stay with us for many years," midfielder Fred said. "But it is hard to talk about someone else's head. Sometimes people face a huge pressure."

### FIFA ASSESS PUNISHMENT FOR CROWD UNREST

Zurich: FIFA is analyzing the crowd unrest and assessing punishments after condemning disorder involving Hungary and Albania fans in separate World Cup qualifiers. At Wembley Stadium in London, Hungary supporters fought with police in the stands just after kickoff on Tuesday as officers sought to arrest a spectator on suspicion of racially abusing a steward. Hungary drew 1-1 with England. Another Group I game in Tirana was suspended for around 20 minutes. Karol Swiderski had just scored for Poland in the 77th minute when he was apparently struck by a bottle thrown from the Albania fans. Poland's players walked off but returned to the field and held on to win 1-0. .

### HIMA DAS TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID -19

Ace Indian sprinter Hima Das, who is making a comeback from a hamstring injury, on Wednesday revealed that she has tested positive for COVID-19 but is stable in isolation. Das, 21, reported to the national camp at National Institute of Sport (NIS) in Patiala recently. "I would like to inform everyone that I have been tested positive for Covid-19. I am stable and at the moment in isolation. I look forward to utilising this time to recover and come back stronger than before," Das tweeted. "A gentle reminder for everyone to stay safe and wear mask." Das could not make the cut for the Tokyo Olympics after missing the 200m qualification mark of 22.80s as she clocked 23.21s in the Federation Cup in March this year.

### INDIA REACH THOMAS CUP QUARTERS

Aarhus (Denmark): The Indian men's badminton team hammered Tahiti 5-0 to enter the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup for the first time since 2010 but the women's team suffered a crushing 0-5 defeat against a strong Thailand in its last group match here. It was the first defeat for Indian women after beating Spain (3-2) and Scotland (4-1). The women's team has already reached the quarterfinals. The men's team, on Tuesday, recorded its second straight 5-0 win, having beaten the Netherlands with an identical margin.

### AIFF NAMES 28 INDIA PROBABLES

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday announced 28 probables, including Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem and Aniket Jadhav, for the national team's qualifying campaign for next year's AFC U-23 Asian Cup. India have been drawn alongside Oman, Kyrgyz Republic, and hosts UAE in Group E of the Qualifiers, with the matches set to be played between October 25 to 31 at the Fujairah Stadium in Fujairah, UAE. The AFC U-23 Asian Cup is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan. The Blue Colts are set to assemble in Bengaluru on October 17, before leaving for the UAE on October 20 for their matches.