OPINION 6

THE DILEMMA OF

DISPLACEMENT

WORLD 8

RUSSIA HOSTS AFGHAN TALKS,

CALLS FOR INCLUSIVE GOVT

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DON'T REACT, JUST RESPOND: PRATIK GANDHI 10 VIVACITY

DEHRADUN, THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2 the pioneer

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Won't spare corrupt: Modi SC raps UP for slow

'No matter how powerful, persons betraying nation won't be let off'

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that no matter how powerful a person may be, stern action should be taken against those who work against the interest of the nation or its people by indulging in corruption. Virtually addressing a joint

conference of the CVC and the CBI at Kevadia in Gujarat, the PM asked the agencies to ensure that there are no safe havens anywhere in the world for those who betray the country

Modi's assertions come against the backdrop of the Centre's engagement in legal proceedings to bring back alleged economic offenders like Vijjay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, who have taken refuge in foreign countries after allegedly duping the nation of thousands of crores of rupees.

"You have to remember that your partnership is with this 'mitti' (soil), with Maa Bharti (Mother India). There should not be any safe havens anywhere in the world for those who betray the country or its people," Modi said in his address.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the Mahaparinirvana Temple, on the occasion of the Abhidhamma Day, at Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday

may be, stern action should be taken against those who work contrary to the national interest or against the people of the country. Everyone should continue to work in the national interest," he said

Modi said due to the hard work of his Government in the last six-seven years, a faith has been established among people that corruption can be stemmed.

"In the last six-seven years, we have been able to establish a faith among people that it is possible to stop corruption in the country. People of the

"However powerful one country have faith today that they will get benefits of Government schemes without any give and take or without any middlemen, he said.

"Corruption, big or small, takes away the rights of common people. It is a hindrance in the progress of the country and affects our collective energy," he added.

Taking a swipe at earlier dispensations, Modi said, "The way the earlier Government functioned, it lacked the political and administrative will to fight corruption. Today, there is a political will and administrative reforms are also being carried out to achieve the goal." Post-Independence, the mindset of the Governments was to keep everything under control. Governments kept maximum control with themselves and due to it, the system witnessed

Maximum control, be it at home, in family or in the country, causes maximum damage he said.

many wrong practices, he said.

Modi added, "We started as a mission to simplify the life of people by reducing controls, we believe in minimum Government and maximum Governance.

350 new routes, UDAN has taken big leap, says PM

PNS KUSHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the Centre has approved around 900 new air routes under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme of which 350 have already become operational while more than 50 new airports, or those which were not in service earlier, have become operational.

'The Government is also working on preparing more than 200 airports, heliports, and water ports for seaplanes in the next four years," the Prime Minister said while addressing a big pubic meeting Minister here after inaugurating and laying the foundation of 12 projects worth over ₹345 crores, including a ₹280 crore 500bedded new medical college in

Kushinagar.

Modi pointed out that the goal behind all these steps is to provide better connectivity to people living in the remotest corners, while air, rail, road, and waterways add to people's comfort.

The Prime Minister said more middle-class people were able to avail flight services today than in the past due to the steps taken by the Government.

Lakhimpur probe **Court asks Govt to** shed image, orders witness protection

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reprimanded the Uttar Pradesh Government for "dragging its feet" in the probe into Lakhimpur vio-lence and ordered the protection of witness. The apex court cautioned the State police that probe should not be an "unending story" and UP Government is required to "dispel" that impression and should ensure recording of statements of witnesses before

magistrates.
"We think you are dragging your feet, please dispel that impression," said the top court, and red-flagged the issue of non-recording of statements of nearly 40 prosecution witnesses, of the total 44, before judicial magistrates under section 164 of the CrPC.

"Please ask them to immediately take steps to record section 164 statements. That is the most important thing.. Protection to the victims as well as the witnesses," said the bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices Surva Kant and Hima Kohli.

Statements under section 164 of the CrPC (Code of

Criminal Procedure) are Salve, who appeared along with recorded before a judicial magadvocate Garima Prasad for the istrate and they have evidentiary value. The State Govt State Government, said the status report has been filed in informed the court that statea sealed cover on Wednesday ments of four out of the 44 witbecause of the impression that it was for the perusal of the court only. "No that was not nesses have been recorded by the judicial magistrate. Ten people, including Union Minister of State for required and we have just received it now...We never said

> hearing on October 26. The Bench said, "Mr Salve, you said that you (police) have examined 44 witnesses and out of them, four witnesses statements have been recorded under section 164 (before a judicial magistrate) of CrPC. Why have you not recorded the

anything about sealed covers,"

the bench said while declining

the request to hear the matter

on Friday. It listed the next

with the CJI observing, "We waited till 1 am last night for any filing. But we received nothing

statements of other witnesses

BJP open to alliance with 'nationalist' Amarinder

Captain is a patriot: BJP

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

AChief Minister Amarinder Singh announced that he would launch his own political party and hoped for a "seat arrangement" with the BJP in poll-bound Punjab, the saffron party said it is open to alliances with those who put national interests first.

With Amarinder set to float his own political outfit with the BJP which has lost political ground in the State following Akali Dal's exit from the National Democratic Alliance in protest against three Central farm laws, Punjab may witness a triangular election battle with the ruling Congress and the AAP being the other two strong contenders for the seat of power in the State.

Given the fact that farmers from Punjab form the core of



the agitation against the three farm laws which they feel may hit the traditional "mandi system" of sell and purchase of agricultural produce and may even end minimum support price, sooner or later, the BIP may think in terms of seeking some sort of reconciliation with the farmers to pave the way for an alliance with Amarinder.

BJP party general secretary Punjab in-charge Dushyant Gautam on Wednesday said "Amarinder is a patriot" and the BJP is open to an alliance with him. "Amarinder was once a soldier

and his stand on the issues of national security should be praised," the BJP leader said.

On Amarinder's condition of resolving farmers' issues, BJP general secretary said Singh did not talk about endtalked about farmers' issues. We are committed to it and are working for the welfare of farmers. If the time comes, both will sit together and discuss farmers' issues," Gautam was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

As far as the agitation is concerned, it is politically motivated, he alleged.

"Our main agenda is nationalism and keeping the nation first. All those parties who want to form alliances with us on this agenda are wel-

come," he said. Amarinder has openly announced that he would see that congress Punjab chief Navjyot Singh Sindhu is defeated in the polls as he is a "threat to the national

Out, migrants' murder avenged Soldier martryed. 2 hurt; 17 ultras

killed in 2 weeks **MOHIT KANDHARI** JAMMU

The joint team of security forces on Wednesday avenged the death of migrant labourers by eliminating four Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists in the South Kashmir districts of Shopian and Kulgam. Three Army jawans also sustained bullet injuries during the operation in the Dragad area of Shopian.

One among them, Sepoy Karamveer Singh, succumbed to his injuries in hospital. He hailed from the Rampur area of

Madhya Pradesh. After the recent killing of migrant labourers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the security forces have launched an operation All Out to flush out the terrorists.

So far, 17 terrorists have



4 LeT terrorists killed in Op All

Security forces during an encounter with terrorists at Nar Khas forest area of

been eliminated in 11 encounters in the last two weeks. Eleven civilians, including five laborers, also lost their lives during targeted killings. Kashmir range IGP Vijay

Kumar said two LeT terrorists

killed in Devsar area of Kulgam were behind the killing of two labourers from Bihar

In the first operation, security forces eliminated two terrorists, including Adil Ahmad Wani, a LeT terrorist, believed

to have targeted a carpenter Sageer Ahmad hailing from Saharanpur area of Uttar

Home Ajay Mishra's son

Ashish Mishra, have been

arrested in connection with the

violence that has triggered a

political slugfest ahead of the crucial Assembly elections in

issue of filing of the status

report on the day of hearing

The bench also raised the

the State

In the second encounter, a joint team of security forces neutralised LeT district comin the Devsar area of Kulgam. Reshi was behind the killing of two poor labourers from Bihar.

According to a police spokesman, a joint cordon and search operation was launched in the Dragad area of Shopian after receiving inputs about the presence of LeT terrorists in the area on Wednesday. After confirming their whereabouts in the areas the terrorists were given the opportunity to surrender.

Instead of paying heed to these appeals, the terrorists chose to open indiscriminate firing on the security forces, he said.

The police spokesman said in the encounter, two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter

Senior advocate Harish under 164?' 47,530.00 (+250.00) 65,143.00 (+693.00) WEATHER

POWERED BY GATE GENERAL MEDIA (P) LTD

https://pioneeredge.in CAPSULE

WEAPONS, 1 KG DRUGS RECOVERED AT BORDER Chandigarh: The Punjab Police and the BSF have recovered a huge cache of weapons near the India-Pakistan border in the Khemkaran area of Tarn Taran district. In a joint operation, the Counter Intelligence wing of the Punjab Police and the BSF recovered 22 pistols, 44 magazines and 100 rounds of

COVID-INDUCED NIGHT CURFEW LIFTED IN UP Lucknow: In view of improved Covid-19 situation in UP, the State Government lifted night curfew between 11 pm to 6 am.

Delhi Govt to pay ₹50,000/hectare to kisan for crop damage: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi will ensure that farmers in the city who suffered losses due to crop damage this year get compensation at the rate of ₹50,000 per hectare.

Addressing media online, Kejriwal said Delhi farmers need not get distressed over crop damage as their son stands with them. "I have directed District Magistrates and SDMs to complete the surveying of damaged crops in two weeks. Compensation should reach the farmers' accounts within one to one and a half months after that," he added.

A delegation of farmers had recently met the chief minister seeking help of the Government in view of crop damage due to rain.

Char dham yatra resumes as rain fury subsides after killing over 50

As rain subsided in Uttarakhand after taking lives of over 50 people and damaging properties worth hundreds of crores, the "char dham" yatra resumed on Wednesday. The "char dham" pilgrimage was suspended for three days, from October 17 to 19, amid warning of heavy rainfall in the hill State during this period.

Åt least 14 people, including eight trekkers from West Bengal and Delhi, have gone missing at separate places in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district amid snowfall. After its late withdrawal

from northwest India, the southwest monsoon remains active over some parts of the country. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the southwest monsoon will withdraw completely from





northeast monsoon. There will the entire country around

October 26, paving the way for be rainfall activity over Kerala, the commencement of the Tamil Nadu, Puducherry,

coastal and south Karnataka during October 20-24. Reports on P3 ment where the Government it would take any coercive action against him," State senior counsel Darius Khambata told a divi-

Kotwal

Can't promise no coercive action as Param Bir not traceable: Maha

PTI MUMBAI

The whereabouts of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh were not known, the Maharashtra Government on Wednesday told the Bombay High Court.

As Singh is not traceable, it did not wish to continue its assurance that no coercive action (such as arrest) would be taken against him in an Atrocities Act case, the Government said.

"He isn't traceable. In these circumstances, we do not want to continue our earlier state-"Bail application nos 2571/ 21, 2576/ 21 and 2583/21 stand sion bench of Justices Nitin rejected. Accordingly, the bail applications are disposed of. The authenticated copy of roz-Iamdar and Sarang

Denied bail, Aryan moves Bombay HC

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

A Special Court set up under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on Wednesday rejected the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan Khan and two others in the mid-sea drug bust case, prompting Aryan's lawyers of to challenge the sessions court's order in the Bombay High Court.

Apart from Aryan's bail application, the two other bail pleas that Additional Sessions Judge VV Patil rejected — in his much-awaited order — were that of his co-accused Arbaaz Merchantt and Munmun Dhamecha.

nama be supplied to advocates and SPP," the Judge noted in his order that he passed at 2.45 pm. Less than two hours after the Special Court rejected his

plea, Aryan's lawyers moved the nigh court challenging the lower court's order denying him bail in the mid-sea drug



Registration for BH series vehicles soon

NEW NUMBER PLATE SERIES WOULD HELP IN SEAMLESS TRANSFER OF VEHICLES ACROSS COUNTRY

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With the launch of the new software by next week, the eligible applicants in Uttarakhand will be able to apply for a new form of number plates called Bharat (BH) series for the seamless transfer of vehicles across the country.

On August 28, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a notification stating that the owners of the vehicles bearing the BH registration number plate will not have to re-register their vehicles after shifting to a new State. A BH series number plate

will comprise four components in the format YY BH #### XX where YY indicates the digits of the year when the vehicle was first registered, BH indicates series code, #### represents four random numbers and XX indicates two English alphabets. As per the rules, the vehicle owners who have to shift to new states frequently due to the nature of their jobs are required to register their vehicle in the new states too.

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgan CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792

IDFC First Bank Limited

Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031

and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Section

13 (2) Notice Date

Name of

borrowers and co-borrowers

said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

IDFC First Bank Limited

Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031

Name of

borrowers and co-borrowers

1. BHAGWATI PRASAD GAIROLA 2. PUSHPANJAL BRIJMOHAN BANSAL

1. MEHTAB ALI 2. SHAMA

13 (2) Notice Date

01-10-2021

01-10-2021

Date: 21.10.2021

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AGAINST PROPERT

AGAINST 36157176 PROPERTY

Place: UTTARANCHAL

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgama CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792



For this, the owners need to et permissions like No Objection Certificate (NOC) among others from the previous state to register it in the new state. Since the whole cumbersome process takes a considerable amount of time of the owner in the old as well as in the new State every time he/she relocates, MoRTH introduced registration of a new form of number plates called BH series.

Informing about this, the deputy transport commissioner Sanat Kumar Singh said that the whole BH series registration process is completely digital to prevent any hassle to the applicants in their respective locations.

He said for now, the registration is on a voluntary basis and only the central and State

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) The loans of

the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective

notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated

with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table

with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the

date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently

known as IDFC First Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring th

ed with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) The loans of

Outstanding

amount as

per Section 13 (2) Notice

55,17,240.00/

3099326.65/

Outstanding

Government employees, defence personnel and the employees of those private sector companies which have offices in more than three states are eligible to apply for the BH series number plates.

He asserted that only up to five per cent of the owners of the registered vehicles in the State apply for vehicle transfer every year but added that the new format will certainly help

He said the department is currently running tests on the new software for the registration of Bharat (BH) series vehicles and will be launched by next week. "With the launch of the software by next week, the eligible people in Uttarakhand can also apply for BH series number plates," Singh said.

Property Address

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE LAND BELONGING TO KAHSRA NO. 106 GHA, MEASURING 50 SQ.YDS. SITUATED AT MAUZA DHALWALA, WARD NO. 11, TEHSIL-NARENDRANAGAR. DISTRIC-TEHRI GARWAL, AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: ROAD AND STAND POSTWEST: LAND OF SELLER NORTH: POADS SUITH: POAD.

IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

IDFC FIRST

Authorized Officer

IDFC FIRST Bank

Property Address

ITEM-1: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF COMPRISING OF LAND BEARING KHATA NO. 1956 (FASLI YEAR 1415 TO 1420), KHASRA NO. 492 KA, AREA MEASURING 332.24 SQ. MTRS. SITUATED AT MAUZA BANJARAWALA MAAFI, PARGANA PACHWADOON, DISTT DEHRADUN, AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: PUSHTAWEST:18 FT. WIDE ROAD NORTH: 18 FT ROADSOUTH: LAND OF SMT. SUSHMA RAWAT ITEM-2: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF COMPRISING OF LAND BEARING KHATA NO. 1956 (FASLI YEAR 1415 TO 1420), KHASRA NO. 492 KA, AREA MEASURING 337.33 SQ. MTRS. SITUATED AT MAUZA BANJARAWALA MAAFI, PARGANA PACHWADOON, DISTT. DEHRADUN, AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: 18 FEET. WIDE ROAD WEST: LAND OF SMT. MANORAMA DEVI NORTH: 15 FEET. WIDE ROAD SMT. SAARIKA SINGHAL

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY
COMPRISING OF LAND BEARING KHATA NO.
570, (FASLI 1420 TO 1425), KHASRA NO. 6 KHA,
AREA MEASURING 83.65 SQ. MTRS. SITUATED
AT MAUZA-BRAHAMANWALA, PARGANAPACHHWA DOON, DISTRICT-DEHRADUN, AND
BOUNDED AS: EAST: 13 FT. 9 INCH. WIDE
PASSAGE, SIDE MEASURING 30 FT WEST
LAND OF OTHER, SIDE MEASURING 30 FT.
NORTH:LAND OF SHAMIN AHMED, SIDE
MEASURING 30 FT. SOUTH: 28 FT WIDE
PASSAGE, SIDE MEASURING 30 FT.

Five killed in road accident in Pithoragarh

 $F^{\rm ive\ persons\ including\ a}_{\rm retired\ brigadier\ were\ killed}$ in a road accident in Pithoragarh district on Wednesday. The passengers of the ill-fated vehicle were returning to their native village

from Karnprayag.

According to the information received from the police, retired Brigadier (Retd) Vinod Kumar Chand who lived in Pithoragarh had gone to his native village Buga to attend a religious ceremony.

On the advice of priests Chand went to Karnprayag for a bathing ritual before the worship. On Wednesday he along with seven others was returning from Karnprayag when the vehicle fell into a gorge on Thal-Muwani road.

According to the police five people died on the spot while two others were seriously injured. The injured have been admitted to the district



BJP president Nadda takes stock of U'khand disaster

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

National president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) JP Nadda called State president Madan Kaushik on phone on Wednesday to take stock of the ongoing relief works in Uttarakhand after the heavy rain created a disaster like situation in the State.

The party has also postponed its events and programmes for the next four days in the state due to the natural disaster in the State. The media in-charge of the party in the State, Manvir Singh



Chauhan, informed that Kaushik also talked to the district magistrates of the Kumaun division to provide help in the relief work.

He also spoke to the senior officials of the party in the districts and directed them to work in coordination with the respective district administrations to provide ration kits, clothes and other necessary

Kaushik also formed teams of party workers and directed them to provide necessary help and facilities ration kits, clothes and other necessary items to people of the affected areas in the Kumaun division, added Chauhan. He also informed that the BJP state president has postponed all the events of the party till October 24 considering the recent disaster in the

FDA serves notice to famous restaurant for food safety violations

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

 $T^{ ext{he food safety and drug}}$ administration (FDA) in Dehradun has served a notice to Doon Darbar restaurant located near Mussoorie Diversion road for violation of food safety laws.

The senior food safety officer of the administration, Yogendra Pandey informed that he along with his team arrived for a surprise inspection in Doon Darbar where they found that the food was being cooked in unhygienic

surroundings.

He said two crates of rotten tomatoes were also found in the restaurant's kitchen besides the waste of vegetables and some meat supplies.

"We have destroyed all the spoiled food supplies and collected samples of cheese and some other food supplies which will be sent for lab testing in Rudrapur," stated the officer. He said that the workers of the restaurant have claimed that the rotten tomatoes and other spoiled supplies were kept to throw them later.

Since the supplies were kept in the kitchen despite their decaying state, Pandey said that it was a violation of food safety law. He said that the FDA has served a notice to the restaurant and has asked for clarification on the matter. Legal action will be taken against the restaurant management if the administration receives an unsatisfactory response or no response within one week, added Pandey.

Healthy bread of **UPES** Alumnus finding customer favour

Dehradun: FitBread, a start up aimed at providing a healthy alternative to the bread lovers, is catching the imagination of people. Set up this year by UPES School of business, Dehradun alumnus Aryan Singh and his friends Akshit Saxena and Aditya Kashyap, the food start-up was supported by UPES council for innovation and entrepreneurship

Aryan Singh, co-founder of FitBread says, "We realised that breads being produced for commercial purpose were using preservatives, artificial colours, emulsifiers, improvers, acidity regulators and flour treatment agents in high quantities. Some of the most popular brands have only 38 per cent wheat flour in their Atta bread and only 32% in brown bread, the remaining is Maida or white flour. In multigrain loaves of bread, the grains are just used on the outer layer of

Aditya Kashyap, one of the founders of FitBread, is a diet chef and started experimenting with various combinations, to find out where he could make improvements.

THE PIONEER

I have changed my name from

Mirza Irfan to Mohd. Irfan and in future I should be known as Mohd. Irfan S/o Mohd Umar R/o Bhagat Singh colony last inder Road Dehradun

In my class 10th certificate (Roll No - 5307146) & 12th class certificate (Roll No- 5810070) mother's & Father's name were wrongly recorded whereas the correct names are Ratani Devi & Virendra Singh Rawat. It should be corrected for future purposes. Saurabh Rawat S/o Virendra Singh Rawat

In my Army Records my wife's D.O.B. is wrongly written as 06.061981 whereas her correct D.O.B. is 01.07.1981. In future it will be read as above. 4079887H Rank-Havaldar Laxman Singh, Unit 14 Garhwal Rifles, R/o- Nathuwawala Dhang near Maya Farm, P.O. Nathuwawala, Dehradun.

Disclaimer

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the

For advertisement booking or any query contact-9045057787

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (Recruitment Cell) JLN Stadium Complex, East Gate No.10

Lodhi Road New Delhi-110003 Date: 13.10.2021

Recruitment Notification

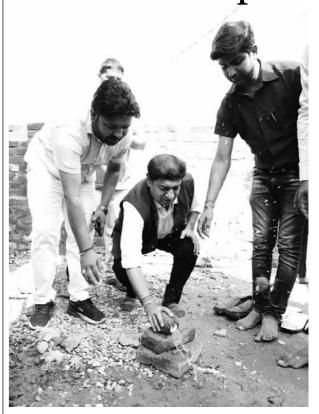
Sports Authority of India (SAI) an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYA&S) and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, invite applications from eligible candidates for the post as mentioned below on contract basis initially for a period of 3 years which can be extendable for another 2 years.

Name of the Post	No of Posts
Consultant as Head (Communication)	1
Consultant as Chief Partnership & Communication Officer	1

The details are available on the website of SAI i.e. www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/saijobs The last date to fill the online application is 02.11.2021

DIRECTOR (RECRUITMENT) davp 47103/11/0020/2122

MLA Batra lays foundation of Valmiki temple



PNS ■ ROORKEE

1 Batra laid the foundation stone of Maharishi Valmiki temple in Ganeshpur area of the town on the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti on Wednesday.

he Roorkee MLA Pradeep

Speaking on the occasion he said soon the majestic temple of the Saint would get completed. He said every effort would be made for the welfare

On the day Batra also attended the inaugural ceremony of Gurukulam in Roorkee. Mayor Gaurav Goyal, Former minister Thakur Sanjay Singh, Councillor Kuldeep Tomar, former district pan-

of the downtrodden.

chayat member Sukhvinder Valmiki, Sanjeev Tomar, Abhishek, Satish Kumar and hundreds of party workers were present on the occasion.

the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Office of Superintending Engineer Civil Circle, P.W.D., Devpura Haridwar

Letter No.: 2552/06C-Civil Cricle/21

http://pwd.uk.gov.in Fax/Phone No.: 01334-221407 E-mail: sepharpwduk@gmail.com **Short Term National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)**

On the behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar invites item rate bid through E-tendering under Two Bid system. All information will be

Sr. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion of work (Months)	Validity of Tender (Days)	Category of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Road furniture, road marking and other miscellaneous works (road safety) on Bahadarabad-Dhanauri - Imlikheda- Bhagwanpur - Gagalheri State Highway - 68 and Puhana-Iqbalpur - Jhabrera - Gurukul Narsan State Highway-28 under Central Road	5.21	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	04 Months	60 Days	Registered in category E or above for Road work in any of the Govt. department / Govt. undertaking of Uttarakhand state or registered in category A or above for Road work in any other State Govt. / Central Govt. department/ Govt. undertaking.

Note:-Submission of following documents in original is essential in office of undersigned on/before the last date and time of uploading tender by the bidders.

1. Cost of tender document Rs. 5000.00+G.S.T. as applicable only in the form of demand draft in the name of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD, Roorkee. Bank Draft for Rs. 5000.00 & GST Rs. 900.00 to be submitted separately.

2. Rs 100.00 Non Judicial stamp affixed with duly signed Rs. 1.00 Revenue stamp for the validity of the Tender including certificate for validity up to 60 days.

3. Earnest Money to be pledged in the name of Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD

4. Attach Copy of Registration.

infrastructure Fund.

Superintending Engineer Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar

said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise. **Authorized Officer** IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with Date: 21.10.2021 IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) Place: DEHRADUN

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated

with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the

date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently

known as IDFC First Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the

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UTTARAKHAND DISASTER

DEATH TOLL MOUNTS TO 50, MANY MISSING

Relief and rescue operation in full swing, Yatra to Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri begins, Badrinath Yatra remains halted

PNS N DEHRADUN

The death toll in the disaster that lashed different parts of Uttarakhand October 18 and 19 has mounted to 50.

On Wednesday, four bodies were recovered from debris in Nainital district. Many people are still reported missing and the teams of local police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) are still engaged in relief and rescue operations. The western disturbance which brought heavy rains, unprecedented in recorded history of the State wrecked havoc in Kumaon region of the state on Monday and Tuesday as landslides, deluge and flowing water took many lives and damaged property.

Nainital district which is

the worst affected from the disaster a total of 32 people have

died. Here maximum deaths occurred in Talla Ramanagar where nine people are reported dead. In Almora district six deaths occurred while five people died in Champawat district in the last three days due to rain triggered disaster.

Meanwhile, the weather condition improved on Wednesday and very less or no rainfall was reported from most parts of the state. The meteorology department has predicted that dry weather would prevail in the State.

With cessation of rains and clearing of roads the state administration has started the Yatra to Gangotri, Yamunotri and Kedarnath. The Badrinath Yatra however has remained suspended as the road between Pipalkoti and Joshimath in Chamoli district is blocked due to landslides at many places. The helicopter service to Kedarnath has remained suspended.



Trekkers missing in Uttarkashi

PNS DEHRADUN

Eight trekkers and three locals are reported to be missing in Uttarkashi district on Wednesday.

The sources informed that seven trekkers belonging to West Bengal and one to Delhi who had started their trek on October 11 from Harsil in Uttarkashi to Chitkul in Himachal Pradesh

The local trekking agency that had arranged the trekking for the trekkers informed the district disaster management department on Wednesday about the missing people after which the authorities started the rescue operation.

The search was started by the SDRF (State Disaster Relief Force) personnel with a chopper but no missing person was found till late Wednesday evening.

U'khand Govt announces ₹4L for kin of dead CM DHAMI VISITING DISASTER AFFECTED AREAS, RIDES TRACTOR TO VISIT VILLAGES IN UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

PNS DEHRADUN

Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced that the next of kin of the deceased in the rain triggered disaster in the State will be provided an ex gratia payment of

The CM who is on the move ever since the heavy rains caused heavy damage to life and property in the state visited the disaster affected areas of Kumaon on Wednesday. After a day of hectic meetings, aerial surveys and inspections Dhami stayed in Haldwani on Tuesday night.

On Wednesday morning he heard public grievances at 'Janta Darbar' in Haldwani and directed the officers to solve the problems of people on the spot. On a terse note he said that every possible requirebe catered to.

He then went ahead with his scheduled survey of disaster affected areas but his helicopter could not take off. An undeterred CM then hit the road and visited the disaster affected areas of Rudrapur, Kashipur and Haldwani. Dhami boarded a tractor and met affected people in Pratapur and Nausar areas of Khatima in

Udham Singh Nagar. He assured the farmers that the state government would provide every possible help to them. In Melaghat road railway crossing he met the



Here he directed the officers that compensation to the affected people should be provided without delay. He later conducted an aerial survey of Champwat district, Bhikiyasain and Ramgarh tehsil of Nainital.

Union Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, Disaster Management Minister Dhan Singh Rawat and senior officers accompanied the CM.

The hyper activity and energy of the CM is having a bearing on the government machinery too. Earlier in the day the CM took stock of the situation of Char Dham Yatra

Rudraprayag. He said that help the pilgrims.

AMIT SHAH to visit disaster affected areas

PNS DEHRADUN

The Home Minister Amit Shah would conduct an aerial sur-I vey of the disaster affected areas of Uttarakhand on Γhursday. The State administration has confirmed that the Home Minister is visiting the State.

Shah is expected to land in Dehradun airport on Wednesday evening/ night. In Dehradun the home minister is expected to hold a review meeting with the senior officials of the State Government. Shah is continuously in touch with the Uttarakhand Government ever since the heavy rain lashed the State.



A rescue team delivers rations and essential supplies to Chukum village across the flooded Kosi river, with the broken retaining wall of the Lemon Tree hotel seen on righ



Admn wakes up to complains of overpricing from K'nath Yatris

MINISTER SATPAL MAHARAJ HAD ORDERED DM RUDRAPRAYAG TO REGISTER CASES AGAINST THOSE SELLING FOOD AND WATER AT EXORBITANT PRICES TO STRANDED PILGRIMS IN KEDARNATH

PNS DEHRADUN

The Rudraprayag district ▲ administration has started intensive inspection in the district after the tourism minister Satpal Maharaj ordered the district magistrate (DM) Manuj Goyal to register cases against

the people selling food items various hotels and restaurants to pilgrims stranded in Kedarnath due to incessant

The DM ordered the subdivisional magistrates (SDMs) and the police department on Wednesday morning to check

and water at exorbitant prices to find out whether the food supplies are being sold at increased prices than their usual rates to the tourists and pilgrims stuck in the district.

"Police personnel and several officials of the administration have been directed to conduct regular intensive inspections to examine the situation.

The authorities cannot act on random statements as we have received no such complaints here so far in which a complainant actually menplace that overcharged anybody for the food. However, stringent action will be taken against those involved in such practice," asserted Goyal.

As per police officials, no case was filed on the matter till late Wednesday evening in the

Cong to implement Priyanka's formula in U'khand?

in UP elections to women; Female leaders of U'khand see hope in Priyanka's assertion & will press for ementation of formula in U'khand



The assurance by Congress gen-that the party would give 40 per cent of tickets to women in the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Assembly elections has enthused the leaders of fairer gender in Uttarakhand. It is learnt that these leaders and the Women Congress have decided to press for the implementation of UP formula in ticket distribution in Uttarakhand also where assembly elections would be held early next year along with UP and Punjab.

When contacted the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Ganesh Godiyal told The Pioneer that Priyanka Gandhi has given a very good idea about increasing representation of women. He added that taking inspiration from the good sentiment of Gandhi, the Uttarakhand Congress would strive to provide tickets to as many women leaders as possible in the upcoming assembly elections.

Supporting the idea propounded by Priyanka, president of Uttarakhand women Congress Sarita Arva said women Congress always presents case of women leaders for party tickets. She said Congress president Sonia Gandhi is striving for reserving 33 per cent of seats in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas for women. Arya added Uttarakhand Congress would try to ensure that more and more deserving women candidates are given party tickets in the assembly elections.

Though women constitute almost 50 per cent of total popula-

tion of Uttarakhand their representation in politics and the elected bodies is very less. In the current assembly the tenure of which started in 2017 there were only five women representatives (Índira Hridayesh, Mamta Rakesh - Both Congress and Meena Gangola, Rekha Arya and Ritu Khanduri -BJP) in the 70-member house.

After the deaths of Shakti Lal Shah and Prakash Pant their wives Munni Devi and Chandra Pant were elected in by elections from Tharali and Pithoragarh respectively. By asserting that the Congress would provide more tickets to women, Priyanka Gandhi has put pressure on BJP and other political parties for increasing the representation of women and giving more tickets to them in the elections.

bनरा बैंक 📣 Canara Bank (स्टल स्टब्स्ट का व्यवस्त्र) 🛮 सिडिकेट Syndicate

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nara Bank, Clock Tower Branch Dehradun for the amount detailed below and interest together with expenses thereon.					
Name of the Branch/Borrower/Guarantor	Description Of Immovable Property	Date of Demand & Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding		
Borrower: Shri Deepak Kumar Gupta S/o Shri Ganga Sagar Gupta, Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta S/o Shri Ganga Sagar Gupta.	khasra no 656 new no 1277 (Fasli year 1416-1421) new land khasra no 740 min area 195 sqft or 18.12 sqmtrs which is all covered situated at Mauza Dehrakhas Pargana Parwa Doon tehsil and distt Dehradun, bounded and butted as under:	Demand Notice 20.07.2021 Date of Possession	Rs. 24,66,526.09 as on 20.07.2021 + Future Interest w.e.f 04.07.2021 + Expenses- Recoveries w.e.f. 20.07.2021		
east- Land of Mohan Lal, S.M.13ft 5ft, South- land of Sellers, S.M.15 Property No. 2. All that residential tha area 72 somtrs, in which cov	notice 14.10.2021				

Pargana Central Doon Dehradun. Boundaries: East- Nalla, S.M. 15 FT, West- 25 ft wide road,

S.M. 7 FT 6 Inch, North- Property of Sellers, S.M. 64 Ft 7 Inch., South- Partly Re

of Sellers & Partly Land Of Col Khanduri, S.M. 30 Ft 3 Inch.

Events lined up to celebrate 100 cr jab feat



PNS ■ NEW DELHI With around 99.4 crore doses already administered on Wednesday, the Government hopes to complete 1 billion, or 100 crore, doses by Thursday. The Government has lined up a string of programmes for the 'great nister added. achievement which comes nine

months after the vaccination drive started in the country. Sources said party leaders have been asked to visit vaccination centres; party chief JP Nadda will be in Ghaziabad in one billion. Last month the centre - to UP, which votes early next year, for the occasion, while General Secretaries Arun Singh and Dushvant Gautam will be in

Lucknow, respectively. To mark the billionth shot the government had also planned to make announcements over loudspeakers on trains, planes, and ships, and hoist the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi. In the meantime,

Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore and

set a target of vaccinating the entire adult population of the country by the end of 2021. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare said that more than 99 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered in the country so far, the

Only one other country has administered over a billion vaccine doses - China (crossed 1 billion doses in June), which is also the only other country to have a population of more than

celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday - administered over 2.5 crore doses in a day; that was the fourth time over one crore doses were given in a day.

The administering of one billion vaccine doses - given the unknown and unpredictable nature of the coronavirus, the scale and intensity of the pandemic, and the challenges sur-

CO2 emissions to keep rising for want of bids on safe constructions: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ economic\ consequences}$ of the Covid-19 pandemic caused CO2 emissions from buildings and construction to fall significantly in 2020, but a lack of efforts to decarbonise in real sense means that emissions will keep rising and contribute to dangerous climate change, according to the 2021 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction.

The report, published by UN Environment Programme (UNEP)-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings Construction (GlobalABC), finds that in 2020, the sector accounted for 36 per cent of global final energy consumption and 37 per cent of energy related CO2 emissions, as compared to other end use sectors.

While the level of emissions within the sector are 10

rounding manufacturing, dis-

tribution, and delivery - repre-

sents a significant effort on the

part of the Government.

per cent lower than in 2015, reaching lows not seen since 2007, this was largely due to lockdowns, slowing of economies, difficulties households and businesses faced in maintaining and affording energy access and a fall in construction activity. Efforts to decarbonize the sector played only a small role. With large growth projected in the buildings sector,

emissions are set to rise if there is no effort to decarbonize buildings and improve their energy efficiency. În Asia and Africa, building stock is expected to double by 2050. Global material use is expected to more than double by 2060, with one-third of this rise attributable to construction materials.

"This year showed that climate change is an immediate, direct threat to every community on this planet, and it is

An estimated 20 per cent of

the country's 1.4 billion people

have received both shots. By

contrast with the busiest festive

only going to intensify," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. "The buildings and construction sector, as a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, must urgently be decarbonized through a triple strategy of reducing energy demand, decarbonising the power supply and addressing building materials' carbon footprint, if we are to have any chance of meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C."
The GlobalABC's Global

Buildings Climate Tracker found that there have been some incremental improvements in action to decarbonize and improve the energy efficiency of the sector.

In 2015, 90 countries included actions for addressing building emissions or improving energy efficiency in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under

season of the year upon us, an

estimated 51 per cent have

been given just one dose so far, which gives an estimated 30 to

the Paris Agreement. This number has now hit 136, although ambition varies.

Since 2015, an additional 18 countries have put in place building energy codes - a move that is crucial to shift emissions downwards - bringing the total to 80. Local cities and governments have also developed codes. Investment in energy efficiency rose to over 180 billion USD in 2020, up from 129 billion in 2015. Green building certification has increased by 13.9 per cent compared to 2019.

50 per cent protection against

a "sizeable number of eligible

The Government has said

Overall, however, the report finds that these efforts are insufficient, both in terms of speed and scale.

Other key findings of the report include: two-thirds of countries still lack mandatory buildings codes; most of the increase in energy efficiency spending came from a small number of European countries; too small a share of finance goes into deep energy retrofits, and there is a lack of ambitious decarbonization targets in NDCs.

Energy demand in the

beneficiaries" have not taken

their second dose. Meanwhile,

the Ministry said that the country has reported 14,623 fresh

buildings and construction sector is likely to rebound as economic recovery efforts take hold and as pent-up demands for new construction are realized. By 2030, to be on track to achieving a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, the International Energy Agency says that direct building CO2 emissions would need to decrease by 50 per cent while indirect building sector emissions will have to drop through a reduction of 60 per cent in power generation emissions.

Covid cases on Wednesday, 12

per cent higher than Tuesday

and registered 197 deaths in the

'Flower protein expression' could accurately predict hospitalisation or death: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $E^{\text{specially helpful in cases of}}_{\text{the early phase of Covid-19}}$ illness, the 'flower protein expression, a particular protein on the cell surface, could accurately predict hospitalisation or death as well as forecast who would have a less serious infection, scientists have said in a study published in EMBO Molecular Medicine.

The study shows that analysis of a particular protein on the cell surface is likely to predict who is in danger of a serious infection caused by the virus, explains Assistant Professor Rajan Gogna, lead author of the new study.

"Cells have a so-called fitness status, and by analysing it we could predict hospitalisation or death in Covid-19 patients, marker an earlier prediction tool, especially because it can be detected from the common nasal swap covid-19-tests," says Rajan Gogna from the Won Group at the Biotech Research & Innovation Centre.

If the cell fitness status is poor, it indicates that the cell

because the cell is aged, lacks reliability, has an ill-functioning metabolism or is disease prone etc. Earlier in 2021, the research team discovered that fitness status is expressed in proteins called flower proteins. These flower proteins are on the surface of the cell, and they are expressed in two forms, explains Rajan Gogna.

"In one form, they tell the surrounding cells that this cell is doing well. In the other form, they indicate to the surrounding tissue that this par-ticular cell is not doing well and thus has a bad fitness status. If the cell's fitness status is not great, the cell will get phased out and killed by the surrounding cells?

expression could accurately predict hospitalisation or death as well predict who would have a less serious infection.

"The method could predict who needed hospitalisation with an accuracy of 78.7 percent. With COVÍD-19 patients who would not have a serious

does not develop well, either infection, the prediction was accurate at 93.9 percent," said Associate Professor and Group Leader Kyoung Jae Won, who analyzed the data using machine learning.

In order to analyse the

data, the researchers performed a post-mortem examination of the infected lung tissue in deceased COVID-19 patients to determine the flower protein's biological role in acute lung injury, which is the main cause of death from the disease.

"The cell fitness, expressed by the flower protein, could help explain why some people respond poorly to COVID-19 and provide an opportunity for pre-identification of high-risk individuals. This discovery has the potential to help save their Especially helpful in cases of the early phase of COVIDto the early phase of COVIDto be extra protective of themnate enough to get their hands

> In some other nations, the opulation in general has great hesitancy against vaccination. But people are not hesitant about a test, and we hope this will improve outcomes," said

Negative RT-PCR test must for int'l travellers visiting India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All international travellers visiting India will need a negative RT-PCR test, according to the revised guidelines for international arrivals that will be implemented from October 25. An order issued by the Union Health Ministry said, "The global trajectory of Covid-19 pandemic continues to decline with certain regional variations. The need to monitor the continuously changing nature of the virus and the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants remain in focus.

"The existing guidelines (issued on 17th February 2021 with subsequent addendums) for international arrivals in India have been formulated taking a risk-based approach. In view of increasing vaccination coverage across the globe and the changing nature of the pandemic, the existing guidelines for international arrivals in India have been reviewed," said the guidelines.

The order stated that the revised protocols need to be adhered to by international travellers as well as by airlines at points of entry (airports, sea-ports and land borders) for risk

profiling of passengers.

As per the order, all travellers should submit a self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal before the scheduled travel, upload a neg-(this test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey) and each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to the authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution if found

NIA raids locations in J&K terror conspiracy case, 4 held

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations in four districts of Jammu and Kashmir and arrested four accused persons in the J&K terrorism conspiracy case. The agency conducted

searches at 11 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama, Kulgam and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir and arrested four accused persons---Suhail Ahmad Thokar (Kulgam), Kamran Ashraf Reshi (Hazratbal, Srinagar), Rayid Bashir (Srinagar) and Hanan Gulzar Dar (Srinagar), the NIA said in a statement.

The case relates to conspiracy for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other major terrorist organisations Laskkar-e-Tayabba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and similar other outfits and their affiliates including The Resistance Front (TRF) and People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF)

Multiple spots raided in Mudra drug haul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Wednesday conducted searches in Delhi in the case of seizure of 3,000 Kg drugs at Mundra Port, Gujarat. The agency conducted the searches at a godown in Nebsarai here, the agency said. The search was conducted at Nebsarai in connection with the seizure of

in the guise of semi processed talc stones by private firm Aashi Trading company. "During the search conducted today white powder material, suspected to be talc mixed with narcotics, has been seized with the help of FSL (Forensic Sciences Laboratory)," the NIA said in a statement.



The NIA had registered the case on October 10, 2021 and initiated the investigation. Till now, nine accused persons have been arrested in this case by the agency.

"Searches conducted today have led to recovery and seizure of electronic devices and incriminating jehadi doc-

Preliminary investigation has revealed that the four arrested accused persons are terror associates/OGWs (over ground workers) of various proscribed terrorist organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to the terrorists, it added.

BSF seizes bag full of foreign made pistols

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force **▲** (BSF) on Wednesday said it has recovered a bag containing 22 pistols of Chinese, Pakistani and Italian make besides hundreds of rounds of ammunition from the border in Puniab in a joint operation with the Punjab

The seizures of the weapons, ammunition and the contraband items were made in the operational area of Khemkaran in Ferozepur district of Punjab.

"On 19th Oct' 2021, based on intelligence of Punjab Police regarding presence of consignment ahead of Border

(in between B S Fence Gate No 159 to 160) in the AOR (area of responsibility) of BOP (Border Out Post) Uttar and T Bundh, a joint search operation carried out by the BSF troops

and a team of Punjab Police,

Amritsar," the BSF said in a

During the search operation, one shoulder bag (black in colour) was found lying inside the paddy fields (short of 10 metres from International Boundary), in the said alignment of BOP No 160/2 in the

Bundh, it said. From the recovered shoulder bag, the seized contraband included 22 pistols.

operational area of BOP T

Jacqueline appears before ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Having evaded four summons served to her by the agency, Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to record her statement under prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a money laundering case related to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar who has allegedly duped high profile personalities of Rs 200

Fernandez appeared before the agency here at around 3 PM. Along with the summons, the agency had also asked Fernandez to bring with her bank statements pertaining to her debit and credit cards transactions, they added.

Fernandez's financial transactions and her alleged associwith Sukesh ation Chandrashekhar are under the ED scanner. While investigating money trail Chandrashekar, the investigators learnt about the alleged link between Fernandez and the conman, sources said.

The ED sleuths are seeking to ascertain any possible financial transactions between Chandrashekhar Fernandez.

The investigators are learnt to have posed to her questions like when was the first time she met either Chandrasekar or his wife Leena Maria Paul. Did she speak to Chandrashekar over the phone and if yes, how many times and whether she knew if the person on the other side was

Chandrashekar. In August, the ED had one questioned Fernandez in connection with the case and then she had reportedly told the investigators that she was also a victim of Chandrashekar and denied any wrongdoing. Chandrashekhar, along with

his wife and actor Leena Paul, is in ED custody along with five others in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion case.

Earlier this month, actor and performer Nora Fatehi was also questioned by the agency over her reported links with Chandrashekhar and Paul.

Fatehi's spokesperson had later issued a statement saying that the actor did not have any personal links with conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

Cong demands immediate restoration of J&K statehood

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday demanded immediate restoration of statehood and a democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, while alleging that the Centre has "utterly failed" to tackle the situation there. The party also questioned the "silence" of Home Minister Amit Shah after the "selective killings" of 32 civilians and nine soldiers in the Union territory.

"Even after the selective murder of 32 civilians and nine soldiers, the home minister is still silent. This means that neither the Government of India, under whose direct jurisdiction is Jammu and Kashmir, is able to understand the situation, nor can it tackle the situation," Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said at the AICC Press con-

"We demand that full statehood be given to Jammu and Kashmir immediately and there should be a government by democratic process and as per the Constitution of the country, and not by bypassing the Constitution. The people who have left Jammu and Kashmir should be immediately provided with financial assistance and employment opportunities at the place of their return," Vallabh said in the wake of the exodus of migrant workers from Jammu

and Kashmir. Noting that Government of India made several promises about the development of the Union territory, he asked why employment rate there is the lowest in the country and why the tourist footfall and capital inflow has decreased since it came under the direct control of the

Selective murders are taking place because the Centre is unable to govern the State.

Govts plan to double production of energy from fossil fuels by 2030: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite increased climate ambition and net-zero commitments, Governments still plan to produce more than double the amount of energy from fossil fuels in 2030, than the amount that would limit global warming to the Paris Agreement level of 1.5°C, according to the 2021 Production Gap Report, released Wednesday by research institutes and the UN Environment Programme

Over the next two decades, governments are projecting an increase in global oil and gas production, and only a modest decrease in coal production, said the report, cautioning that taken together, these plans mean that fossil fuel production will increase overall, to at least 2040.

For Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, "there is still time to limit long-term warming to 1.5°C [above preindustrial levels], but this window of opportunity is rapidly closing."

Andersen said that at the UN Climate Conference, COP26, taking place in early November in Glasgow, "governments must step up, taking rapid and immediate steps to close the fossil fuel production gap and ensure a just and equitable transition.

"This is what climate ambition looks like", she said.

This year's report provides profiles for 15 major producer countries, showing that most

provides profiles for 15 major producer countries, showing that most will continue to support fossil fuel production

growth

This year's report

will continue to support fossil fuel production growth.

Reacting to the report, the UN Secretary General highlighted recent announcements by the world's largest economies to end financing of coal, calling them "a much-needed step" in phasing out fossil fuels.

For António Guterres, though, the report shows that "there is still a long way to go to a clean energy future."

"It is urgent that all remaining public financiers as well as private finance, including com-

mercial banks and asset managers, switch their funding from coal to renewables to promote full decarbonization of the power sector and access to renewable energy for all," he

As per the report, countries surveyed plan to produce around 110 per cent more fossil fuels in $203\bar{0}$ than would be consistent with the 1.5°C limit, and 45 per cent more than what would allow a 2°C heating impact.

The report, first launched in 2019, measures the gap between tinuing a trend of long-term

governments' production plans and the levels consistent with the Paris Agreement. Two years later, the size of the gap has remained largely unchanged. Current plans would lead to

about 240 per cent more coal, 57 per cent more oil, and 71 per cent more gas production in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting global warming to

Global gas output is projected to increase the most between 2020 and 2040, con-

with the Paris Agreement. Since the beginning of the

global expansion inconsistent

Covid-19 pandemic, countries have directed over \$300 billion in new funds towards fossil fuel activities - more than they have towards clean energy. For lead author of the

report, Ploy Achakulwisut, the research is clear: "Global coal, oil, and gas production must start declining immediately and steeply to be consistent with limiting long-term warming to

of fracture in AIADMK

The process of disintegration of the AIADMK began in right earnest on Wednesday as a prelude to the Golden Jubilee celebration of the party that falls in 2022. The AIADMK's chief coordinator O Panneerselvam was conspicuous by his absence in the official delegation that called on Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi on Wednesday. This comes amidst reports that the party is getting ready to revert back to the single power centre of general secretary against the present system of dual leadership. As on date the AIADMK is led by the Palaniswamy-Panneerselvam combination. But following the debacle of the party in two successive elections (2019 and 2021) there has been a strong demand by veteran leaders to go back to the system of general secretary heading the party.

No official reason has been given by the AIADMK for the absence of Panneerselvam though the delegation was led by Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palanisamy and included former ministers C V Shanmugham, K Jayakumar, K P Munusamy, Vaithyalingam, Thankamani and Velumani.

According to Palanisamy,



the leaders submitted a memorandum to the Governor listing the "widespread" irregularities in the recent Panchayat election held in the newly carved out nine districts. The opposition AIADMK was routed in the polls which was swept by the

Accusing the ruling party for irregularities in election is a ritual in Tamil Nadu and both the AIADMK and the DMK have figured as 'accused' depending on who is ruling the State. What is left unsaid this time by Palaniswamy is another issue which he raised with the Governor. The ruling DMK is selectively targeting leaders belonging to the Palaniswamy camp by subjecting their residences and offices to raids by the Directorate of Vigilance and Ant-Corruption (DVAC), a convenient tool in the hands of the ruling party.

While senior functionaries of the party like Rama Ramanathan are tight lipped about the absence of Panneerselvam in the delegation to Raj Bhavan, they said all was well within the party. Ramanathan said that the report about Panneerselvam not accompanying Palaniswamy was being blown out of proportion.

Sources

Palaniswamy told The Pioneer that Panneerselvam has not been informed of the scheduled meeting between the AIADMK team and the Governor. "The recent statement on golden jubilee celebrations issued by the party had the signature of only Palaniswamy though all statements till date were issued with the signatures of both the leaders. This is the indication that plans are afoot to convene the general body meeting to elect the general secretary.

close to

OPS-EPS rift visible; hints BJP, TMC spar over Didi's Fake communal silence on anti-Hindu riots

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

 $B_{\text{to have its political ramifi-}}^{\text{angladesh riots continued}}$ cations in this side of the border with the BJP firing more salvos at Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for giving no reactions to "the torture being perpetrated on the minority

Hindus of that country."

Bengal BJP president
Sukanta Majumdar on
Wednesday attacked the Chief Minister for her "mysterious silence on the Bangladesh riots where Hindus are being murdered, looted and tortured at will." He said "this is the same Chief Minister who had threatened to go to the United Nations if Citizenship Amendment Act was implemented in Bengal ... now why she has suddenly gone silent on the riots taking place in Bangladesh where houses and properties of Hindus are being looted and burnt down ... and they are being killed ... why is she not uttering a single word on this."

The Chief Minister's silence on the issue was a matter of concern he said adding the BJP would however do its duty by organizing protests until the Hindus of Bangladesh

Bengal opposition Leader



Suvendu Adhikari earlier linked the Chief Minister's silence to her alleged "vote bank politics" saying "the Chief Minister does not want to earn the displeasure of a particular section of the society who are incidentally her voters ... so she is keeping mysteriously silent about the whole issue... But the people of Bengal are observing this silence closely.

The Trinamool Congress however hit back saying unlike the BJP it was not trying to politicize the issue. "We have already protested against what happened in Bangladesh .. Mamata Banerjee is unwell and is not appearing in public for same reason ... our senior leader and Minister Partho Chatterjee has already spoken about this ... the BJP has preferred to ignore what the TMC leader said ... this is because they want to politicize the issue and encash it," senior TMC leader and Bengal Minister Subroto Mukherjee

Meanwhile, actor and director Aparna Sen too condemned the Bangla riots saying in a modern democratic system right to practice one's own religion is guaranteed everywhere ... hence it is the duty of the majority community to ensure that the minorities can follow and practice their religion without hindrance ... I am not talking only about Bangladesh though my immediate context is the riots taking place in that country ... I am talking about all the countries including India."

strife videos go viral, WB on alert

¬he West Bengal Home Department has put all the districts, particularly those bordering Bangladesh, on high alert after fake videos aiming to create communal tension following the attacks on Hindus during Durga Puja in Bangladesh, went viral.

One particular video from Bangladesh that has been making the rounds in Bengal is a clip having a tagline "how Jatan Saha, a Hindu Grand Alliance activist, was murdered in a temple at Noakhali".

Several BJP leaders, such as Debdas Mondal, general secretary of the party in Bongaon district, shared the video on Tuesday, seeking justice for the deceased. On the development, Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on Tuesday said a group with "vested interests" was circulating fake videos on social media to create communal tension. Referring to the video, Khan explained that the 30-second clip he was referring to was of the May 16 incident in Dhaka's Pallabi area over a property dispute. "But a group with vested interests is circulating it, calling it the footage of the killing of Jatan Kumar Saha in

Noakhali, who died in the recent clashes. This is being done with the intention of creating communal tension. We condemn such actions," Khan said at a programme Technological Modernisation of

RAB (Rapid Action Battalion)".

A senior official of the state home department said that offi-

cials had been asked to keep track of all social media posts, as there are apprehensions that some forces might try to use the "assault on Hindus" in Bangladesh to create trouble in Bengal. "All units are being instructed to keep a sharp vigil on videos that are being forwarded. Even small matters of communal overtures are to be reported promptly at the highest level," he added.

'Any post which is spreading hatred, falsehood or rumours is to be dealt with sternly, as some groups and individuals have launched a concerted effort in the social media to spread communal hatred and create law and order issues," the official said.

The intelligence department has already sent a missive to all the SPs and senior police officers in the state to stay alert, considering the communal unrest in

Dalit youth suspected of stealing ₹25L dies in Agra police custody

 $V^{
m almiki}$ Jayanati turned out to be a dampener for Agra police as a Dalit youth suspected of stealing ₹25 lakh died in police custody shortly after being taken to his home for recovering the booty in Jagdishpura police station area on Wednesday.

As the news of his death spread, hundreds of members of Valmiki community laid siege to the police station and staged a strong protest, accusing the cops of killing the victim by using third degree torture during interrogation.

The protest ended only after a

case was registered against the police team and Senior Superintendent of Police of Agra G Muniraj suspended five cops, including an inspector, a subinspector and three constables.

Kumar worked as a janitor and used to clean the premises of Jagdishpura police station. On October 17, a total of Rs 25 lakh and some confiscated pistols were found missing from the 'malkhana' of the police station. After the incident came to light, the SSP of Agra suspended six police officials, including the then station house officer (inspector).

However during the probe, the police zeroed in on Arun and during quizzing he reportedly confessed to stealing the money from the police station and stashing it at

On Wednesday, a police team took the suspect to his house and while the cash was being recovered, Arun's health deteriorated. The cops rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Soon after his death, members Valmiki community gheraoed the police station, accusing the police of using extreme methods to exact a confession leading to Arun's death. The community also declared to cancel Valmiki Jayanti celebrations on Wednesday to protest the custodial killing.

The agitators also demanded a compensation of Rs 1 crore for Arun's family. The victim's family

ADG, Agra Zone, Rajiv Krishna said, "Our officers are in contact with his family. They're cooperating. Action will be taken if there was any negligence. The family has filed a complaint; they suspect that he was beaten up by police following which he died. An FIR has been registered and the matter will be

Priyanka allowed to meet kin of deceased after brief detention

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

ongress general secretary and UP Cincharge of the party, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's motorcade heading to the house of a Dalit youth who died in police custody in Agra on Valmiki Jayanti was stopped by the Lucknow police personnel on Agra- Lucknow Expressway on Wednesday Priyanka had targeted the Yogi

Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh for the death of Dalit youth Arun Kumar in the custody of Jagdishpura police station personnel in

On Wednesday morning, the Congress general secretary accompanied by some party leaders left her Kaul House residence in Lucknow to meet and express condolences to the family members of deceased Arun Kumar at Agra. But as her motorcade reached the Agra- Lucknow Expressway, officers and personnel of Lucknow police accompanied by a magistrate stopped the vehicles from proceeding forward, citing alleged that the circumstances lead- | imposition of prohibitory orders under

Soon, scores of Congress leaders and workers resorted to sloganeering against the Yogi government and created a ruckus. After some heated exchange of words, Priyanka and some of her party men were taken to the reserve police lines and detained till evening.

Upon her release after a day-long high drama, Priyanka and her party leaders proceeded to Agra in the



In a video that went viral soon after, Priyanka is heard saying, "They say I can't go to Agra. They stop me wherever I go. Should I keep sitting in restaurants just because it is politically convenient for them? I want to meet them (victim's kin), what is the big deal? The moment I try to visit any place other than the party office, then they (administration) try to stop me. It also caused inconvenience to the public. What is the died...we are just two-three persons going to meet the family

Later, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted in Hindi: "Arun Valmiki died in police custody. His family is asking for justice. I want to go and meet his family. What is the UP government afraid of? Why am I being stopped? Today is Valmiki Jayanti. The PM made big statements about Mahatma Buddha, but is assaulting his (Buddha's)

In another tweet she said: "Beating someone to death in police custody -What kind of justice is this? Arun Valmiki's death in police custody is condemnable. On Valmiki Jayanti, the UP government has acted against the teachings of Maharishi Valmiki. The incident should be probed by a high-

level committee, action should be

taken against the involved police offi-

cials and the family should be given

compensation."

DK Thakur said that neither Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was arrested nor detained. "Ms Vadra was taken to reserve police lines after her convoy disturbed traffic movement on Agra-Lucknow Expressway. She was later

released in the evening."

In another video, UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu asked police officers whether Section 144 was imposed in Kushinagar where the prime minister addressed a huge crowd.

Heavy rain, landslides bring life to standstill in North Bengal



 $A^{\text{fter Uttarkhand it is the}}_{\text{turn of the eastern mountains of North Bengal with}$ cloud bursts and heavy rains bringing lives in most townsof the northern part of the State to a standstill.

The road link between Bengal and Sikkim was administration said adding a part of the Balasan Bridge the one that connects Bengal to Assam and Bihar had subsided resulting in total blocking of the traffic which was currently being divert through another route.

Similarly Highway 10 and 55 had been blocked due tolandslides and flash flood, sources said adding heavy rains in Bhutan had caused rivers like Jaldhaka to overflow. Two children were drawnin Kalimpong flowing flash flood.

"There has been heavy rains for the past three days with Siliguriwitnessing 245 mm of rain... Darjeeling getting more than 200 mm, Kalimpong 199 mm, Jalpaiguri getting 151 snapped due to landslides at and Malbazar witnessing 320 various places off Rangpo, mm rain," Paresh Adhikari a tourists who were currently in the hills have been asked not to

> There has been heavy landslides at Lava, Bijanbari, Gorubathan, Sukhia Pokhri, Manebhanjan and elsewhere leading to virtual closer of most of the roads connecting hill towns to Siliguri. Large parts of Jalpaiguri too had been flooded, sources said.

Mid-sea drug bust case: Special court rejects bail pleas of Aryan, two others

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

A Special Court set up under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on Wednesday rejected the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan Khan and two others in the mid-sea drug bust case, prompting Aryan's lawyers of to challenge the sessions court's order in the Bombay High Apart from Aryan's bail

application, the two other bail pleas that Additional Sessions Judge VV Patil rejected -- in his much-awaited order-- were that of his co-accused Arbaaz Merchantt and Munmun Dhamecha.

"Bail application nos 2571/ 21, 2576/ 21 and 2583/21 stand rejected. Accordingly, the bail applications are disposed of. The authenticated copy of roznama be supplied to Advocates and SPP," the Judge noted in his order that he passed at 2.45 pm. Less than two hours after

the Special Court rejected his plea, Aryan's lawyers moved the high court challenging the lower court's order denying him bail in the mid-sea drug

Aryan's lawyers will make a mention of his plea before Justice Nitin Sambre for urgent

listing.

The Special court, it may be recalled, had on October 14



bail plea, after the Prosecution opposed the plea alleging that he was a regular consumer of drugs for the past few years and that he was part of the conspiracy in the mid-sea drug bust case.

Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and seven others were initially detained on the night of October 2 and later arrested on October 3, after the NCB officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of Charas, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) and Rs 1.33 lakh in

cash from Goa-bound Cordelia

Mumbai coast.

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 Shivrai Harihan.

Aryan and other accused have been booked for offences under Section 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29 and 35 under the NDPS

After his arrest, Aryan was remanded to NCB custody till October 4, which was extended till October 7. On October 8, the Mumbai Esplanade Court rejected the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah

Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan and two others on the grounds $\,$ of maintainability. Thereafter Arvan and four accused moved a Special NDPS court. After hearing the argu-

ments by Aryan's senior Advocate Amit Desai and other lawyers for the accused in the case and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, the special NDPS court had on October 14 reserved its order on a bail applications made by Aryan and two other accused in the mid-sea drug bust case for October 20.

Though the grounds on which the special NDPS Court has rejected the bail pleas of Aryan and other accused, both the defence lawyers and Prosecution had argued for and against Aryan and other accused being granted bail.

In a plea made on behalf of Aryan before the Special Court, had made a strong case for their client's bail on the grounds: that no recovery of drugs has been made from his person and 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 will not apply..

In another contentions, Aryan's lawyers had stated that recoveries of the other accused nor can the entire recovery be used against him in light of the precedents of the Supreme Court and High Court, that the NCB is relying solely upon the WhatsApp chats without verifying the accuracy of the chats which have no connection with the case".

Aryan's lawyers had also stated that the NCB had invoked the provisions under the NDPS Act "mechanically" without any evidence or corroborating evidence to support ingredients for the offences. "There is nothing to suggest that Khan is in any way connected with the manufacture, possession, purchase or transport of the substances and hence the ingredients for the offences under NDPS Act are not made out," Aryan's lawyers

had told the Special Court. On its part, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had told the court that Aryan 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. 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 net-

cannot be held against Khan work for illicit procurement of drugs. The investigation is still in progress," the NCB had told the court.

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".

In his arguments made before the special court, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh had told the court: "The present applicant (Aryan) is not a consumer for the first time. The record and the evidence before your honour shows that he is a regular consumer of contraband since the last few years. The contraband in possession of Arbaz Merchant who accompanied Khan, was for consumption of both of them". The record in the panch-

nama signed by the applicant establishes that he was in a conscious position of contraband because he admits it was with his friend and it was for consumption of both of them...The contention that nothing was found with Applicant may not be correct," the ASG said.

Alluding to the retraction made by Aryan on October 7 that he had consumed drugs, Aryan's lawyer Amit Desai had told the court: "The statement reverberates that there is a confession. But that will be tested in the course of the trial and in the larger scheme. But the retraction that has been filed and it is on record. Let us stick to the law and let us stick to the facts. Retractions are there".

Reading out from the anchnama, Desai had said: "If the phone is voluntarily taken then also there has to be something, but the panchnama says seized it was not handed over. There has to be a seizure memo for that. We have forgotten these things. Nobody stops their investigation, why should it stop my liberty! It stops at liberty, liberty and liberty!"
"If a gentleman is released

on bail, how will there be a hindrance to the investigation. Then they say because of section 37(2) of the NDPS Act, the burden reverses so now I must satisfy, so when we look into the matter, if released on bail it is not going to affect the investigation. In context of the twin conditions of section 32 they hang their entire case on two things - conspiracy and second are seizure from Abdul of commercial quantity," Desai had told the court.

Assam seeks ₹1k-cr from Centre for repair of damage caused by floods

Guwahati:The Government has demanded ₹ 1,088.19 crore from the Centre for repair and restoration of various infrastructure damaged by the monsoon floods, officials said on Wednesday.

Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said that a seven-member Central interministerial team led by the Joint Secretary in the Home Ministry, Manish Tiwari, visited Assam on Tuesday and Wednesday and held meetings with the state government offi-

Assam government officials have urged the Central team to consider releasing the funds under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for repair and restoration works.

An ASDMA official said that the central team discussed the damages to properties and loss of livelihood caused by the floods.

The Assam government officials also requested the central team to consider erosion of rivers as an item admissible under SDRF and NDRF in their report to the Central government, as the state suffers heavily due to erosion every

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Fetch up!

Though there are ample vaccines now, fully vaccinated people still being fewer is alarming

t was vaccine hesitancy then. It is vaccine complacency now. Some people seem disinterested in taking the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. Many are convincing themselves that the chances of a third wave of the pandemic look dim because of low infection rates. Adherence to safety protocol has already slackened; so has the urgency to take the second dose. It is also no longer the case that vaccine stocks are low. They are ample. In the second week of October, 11.12 crore doses were available with the States on a given day but only 38 lakh doses were administered. In Odisha, around 13 lakh people were overdue for the second dose in August-end. Such cases are being reported from all the States. The longer waiting period of 84 days between the two Covishield jabs could be one reason for the low job rate. It is also possible that overcrowding at vaccination



centres puts off some people. Or, like in rural areas, they may not want to travel long distances to get their jabs. Whatever the reasons, the fact is lakhs of people are not taking their jabs when they become due. In August, the Union Government said in response to an RTI query that over 3.86 crore Indians had failed to take the second dose within the stipulated time. The poor response for the second dose is making the Government jittery. For, the process of vaccination is incomplete till the second dose is administered.

Some hospital studies reveal that a single dose of Covishield offers protection against symptomatic infections with the Delta variant in a range of 18-61 per cent. The fully immunised had 97 per cent protection against death and the partly vaccinated, 69 per cent. Secondly, an incomplete vaccination gives the coronavirus the chance to infect or mutate in a manner to resist the vaccine. Either way, it militates against the massive vaccination exercise the country has undertaken. Remember how on account of complacency, the strains of tuberculosis bacteria began to resist antibiotics and the country registered the highest number of drug-resistance tuberculosis cases in the world. The Union health ministry is running campaigns about the importance of the second jab but says it cannot force people who deliberately miss the second jab to take it. In contrast, in a judgment in May, the Karnataka High Court made it the Government's obligation to ensure that the second dose is provided. Even though the case was about the scarcity of vaccines, in principle, The court said vaccination affects the right to life. The truth is, the Government can be faulted for the scarcity of doses, and the lack of adequate vaccination centres but it cannot be responsible for people's complacency. That is something the people have to handle for themselves. It is their responsibility to get vaccinated to be safe and, importantly, keep others safe.



Straying off

As the farmers' protest approaches its first anniversary, the very spirit of it is in question

re the farmers and their leaders protesting against the Union Government's three farm laws losing touch with reality? Have they lost their way, probably misguided by the political inputs they might be receiving by the Opposition parties in what was initially their fight for justice? Are they doing what they had set out to do? Or, have their shepherds unwittingly crossed on to another path and



are leading the flock influenced by interested political entities? These are the questions that need asking as the farmers' protest approaches its first anniversary. Already, the protests have run out of fizz; so much so that a deserted Rakesh Tikait had to shed tears to emotionally blackmail the disgruntled farmers to make them return to the protest site. Since then, he has travelled far and wide, from West Bengal to Punjab and Haryana, to amass support – and possibly funds -- for the farmers' cause. But the truth of all this on ground really is that the public perception against the agitation has turned from

sympathetic caring to irritatingly banal.

The locals have been inconvenienced for too long and they have started reacting adversely to the cause though, to be fair to them, nobody across the country is genuinely against the welfare of farmers and hence they have so long been supported in the pursuit of their goal; right or wrong is for the courts to judge. The farmers and their leaders themselves have done no less to hurt their own cause. Though the Lakhimpur Kheri incident may have divided people depending along the lines of which social media group members they are, the farmers haven't had a good advertisement for themselves beginning from the Red Fort on January 26, to the gherao of the Mini Secretariat, followed by the violence in Karnal, and now the brutal murder at the Singhu border. It's high time for the farmers to coax their leaders into thinking about the right strategy and execute it efficiently. Otherwise, the support and sympathy they have received thus far is likely to wane and they would have hardly anything to show for their struggle. In a democracy, that shouldn't happen. But, in a similar vein, in a democracy nobody has the right to take away the rights of anybody else. My right to swing my hand ends where your nose begins; they should remember this.

The dilemma of displacement



The whole country is going through a weird moment. Not that violence is new to India, but it was never so blatant and cover-up so brazen

hen the State acts with aggression against its people on spurious grounds, One can only expect danse Macabre. Only this time it was performed by Bijoy Shankar Bania, who stomped over the corpse of Moiniul Huq who had succumbed to the police gunshots. When hate has paralysed the minds and poisoned the thinking, anything is possible.

It is diabolical and sends chills down the spine. The stomper was a Government photographer. He accompanied the police team that went to evacuate the Government land in Dholpur village in Assam on September 23, 2021. He has been arrested and would be out as soon as jumping over a dead body is no big crime legally. Amorality is not punishable under the law. It is a hate crime at its best or worse. A professional psychologist would be better placed to understand the mind of a person who stomps over a dead body, religion of dead body notwithstanding. He had hatred for a community that made him do a dastardly act. It gives a peep into the mindset of the people now on the daily diet of communal hatred that has poisoned the minds of the peo-

The Government of Assam was ostensibly dealing with a spin off of love jihad, land jihad with all its so-called good intentions. It acted with brute force but legally. Thanks to a nineteenth-century archaic law called 'Assam Land and Revenue Regulation,

Dhalpur was "grazing round" on Government land. The "chars" had erected their shanties and were around for quite some time. Around 800 people have been evicted in the drive, whereas the real numbers could be around 20,000, if not more. The people evicted were served with notices a few hours before the eviction. The violence was a logical corollary in Assam's Darrang district. However, the Government did not realise that it would come to such a pass. he police opened fire so much for the Government's will to solve the land issue with its 'good intentions".



The Government wanted land for a farming project for locals called the "Garukhuti Project". The forceful eviction drive that led to resistance and firing. It killed Moinul Haque and the twelve-year-old child, Sheikh Farid, died on the altars of the Garukhuti project. The public good led to public misery. Though legally dressed it was naked oppression defying the basic premise of law.

the indigenous Assamese.

In Assam, land is a far more emotional issue than elsewhere. Assam has been home to a multi-ethnic group which are often jostling for the

The marginalised communities are the worst sufferers in eviction drives. Be it eviction drives for beautification like 'Turkman Gate' in Kathputli colony rather recently or acquiring land for a pro-



IN ASSAM,

LAND IS A FAR MORE EMOTIONAL **ISSUE THAN** ELSEWHERE. ASSAM HAS BEEN HOME TO A MULTI-ETHNIC **GROUP WHICH ARE** OFTEN JOSTLING FOR LAND

ject like in Bengal's Singur or Evicting forest land encroachers in Kerala or Niyamgiri in Odisha. The marginalised communities are touted as squatters standing in the way of development. It is conveniently forgotten that they too are citizens of India, who deserve to have the dignity of

a small place to call their own

Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 gives the right to the commissioner to forcibly remove acquisitions but after due notice. This was not done. The Government could also have the option of going to court, though time taking, would have given a fair chance to the person. It was not used. The Government wanted to act and wanted to be seen as acting harshly.

Even if the persons were illegal squatters Government land, the eviction must be done following the procedure established by law. This would need a fact-finding exercise to gauge whether a person is illegally encroaching upon the said land, or has a bona fide claim upon that

The Government followed a "summary eviction" procedure, under Rule 18 of the Settlement Rules made under the archaic 'Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886'.

However, a person cannot be directed to vacate the land if they have a bona fide claim over the land. Rule 18 also mandates a publication of notice to provide the illegal encroacher with 15 days to vacate the land. This was again

The stomping of the corpse was a 'George Floyd' moment for India but it passed rather calmly. That speaks volumes about sensitivities that we have as a nation. The whole country is going through a weird moment in history. Take, for instance, the incident at the Lakhimpur Kheri. Allegedly, the son of a Union Minister mauled the protesting farmers. Not that violence is new to India but it was never so blatant and

cover-up so brazen. The Opposition leaders were rounded up while the national media called people going there "political tourism"! Incredible as it may sound, the Opposition and voices of dissent are shrinking. The overenthusiastic bird heads are getting out of control. The frankenstein planted in their heads is now manifesting in danse macabre.

(The writer is a columnist and documentary filmmaker. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LITERATE VS EDUCATED

Sir - No kudos is enough for the humanitarians of West Bengal's Dharmadanga village for continuing with the 43-year old tradition of celebrating Lakshmi Puja jointly by transcending all norms of religious barriers amidst this utmost communally vitiated environment all around. Tarak Das — secretary of the Lakshmi Puja committee humbly states that though he is not "very educated" (being a school dropout), he can't forget the lines of Kazi Nazrul Islam Mora ek brinte duti kusum Hindu Musalman (we are two buds of one stalk - Hindus and Muslims) — and so we never differentiated among Hindus and

Far from being "not very educated", Tarak Das and his Hindu-Muslim companions of farming community are infinite times more "educated" than innumerable so-called "educated" who are outright communal to the core despite being armed with academic degrees and holding medium to high Chairs in respective professions. Mere earning of a university degree hardly serves the moral fabric of the society. Hence if the concerned authorities really want to see a society where the future citizens of the society turn truly educated while pursuing degrees for career prospects; then inculcation of moral values, principles and humanity remain the urgent need of the hour in school curriculum.

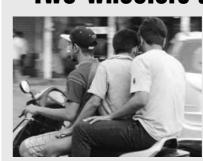
Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

PINK IS BEAUTIFUL, FOR ALL

Sir — Pink has not always been considered a colour for girls. There was no sudden, unanimous cultural shift but both men and women wear pink attire and that suits them well. It gets noticed, no matter who wears it. The amount of attraction that pink receives is much more than that of red. Pink is more English in nature and is combined with the right options and right apparels, it can give an elegant tone — a pink tie, for example.

Pink is a light tint of red and was named after a flower of the same name. It was first used as a color name in the

Two-wheelers are two-seaters!



he Assam BJP chief has said that tripling on two wheelers will be allowed when the price of petrol goes up to Rs200 per litre in the State. It is foolish to link the number of persons to ride on a two wheeler with petrol price. The capacity of two wheelers has been limited to two. Extra seats beyond that are likely to increase the chances of accidents due to inability of the

rider to balance in certain conditions. Is it

late 17th century. According to surveys in Europe and the United States, pink is the color most often associated with charm, politeness, sensitivity, tenderness, sweetness, childhood, femininity and the romantic. As long as you are aware of how different work environments have a different way of dressing and in the daily routine pink occupies the top spot and women love to wear their favorite colour and pink is the best suited for them. A pleasing colour like pink pays well for your appearance and brings about a sea change in your dress sense as well. Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

THE EARTH IS SUFFERING Sir — International prices of petroleum, coal, natural gas and LPG are too high and unbearable for the poor and the middle class. Better if India imports clean renewable energy (solar, wind, green hydrogen) batteries rather than the conventional fuel. Also India should make big plans to produce clean renewable energy on both small scale and large

possible to allow four members on twoeelers when the fuel price rises to ₹300?

The price of goods and services will never be the same with changing conditions in the coming days. At the same time, the income level of any community is also not the same. The business community has its own strategy to increase the price of their goods and services. The Government employees meet the increased cost of goods and services due to increased income as 'dearness allowance' and pay revision. Even a beggar's income level changes for the better. Level of corruption keeps pace with the increased cost of goods and services. There is no reason to cry hoarse over the spiraling cost of fuel when the income level is also rising corresponding to the increased cost of goods and services. Rise in income level is the only panacea to meet

the increased cost of living. KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

scale — solar roads, solar and wind energy plants in Thar desert, Ladakh and J&K). This can generate employment, help reduce air pollution and provide low cost fuel.

Also climate change related weather catastrophes such as floods, cyclones in various parts of India can be reduced to an extent. Other measures should include increasing the use of e-paper, e-books, e-bills, mechanical pencils and chopsticks, and cashless transactions. This can save millions of trees and limit deforestation. It is pertinent that we keep the oceans clean and plastic free so that they can absorb more carbon dioxide and mitigate various kinds of pollution. That is why many countries are growing sea plants, seagrass and sea phytoplankton too. It is high time that we imbibe such measures from individual to national level so that the ecosystem yields less damage. Nivriti Sreelekha | Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

Unfortunately, the Opposition and a section of yellow media is unable to digest the love and affection we receive from people.



Andhra Pradesh CM - YS Jagan Mohan Reddy



(on nuclear talks) will be maintained, and now it is being pursued.

> Iranian President – Ebrahim Raisi

Rajkummar Rao is one of those actors vou get to learn so much from and enjoy working with.

- Paresh Rawal



that sixth option to free your bowlers, in case someone has a bad day.

India vice-captain - Rohit Sharma

Only 30 per cent Indians are fully vaccinated. How does the BJP plan to fulfil its promise to vaccinate all by

December 2021?



Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Sheraill www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN REVAMPING THE EDUCATION SECTOR

The new education policy aims at providing premium yet affordable education to all



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

yebrows were raised when a member of the Kasturirangan-led committee, set up recently to revise the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and lay down the broad guidelines for school syllabus and textbooks, said that the existing curriculum in schools dwells "too much on defeats", and that "in the light of new facts, history should be rewritten". The member, an ideologue, also remarked that textbooks should talk about the "fighting spirit" of rulers such as Maharana Pratap in battles against foreign invaders. When Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, HRD Minister in the Vajpayee government, caused some revision in the school text books, it was considered by the leftwing as saffronisation of the syllabus. The revision of the extant NCF has been necessitated by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It is not new or novel. It was last revised in 2005, and earlier in 1975, 1988 and 2000. The NEP, the first education policy of the 21st century, aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of India. The NEP envisages revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance and to create a new system aligned with the aspirational goals of the 21st century and the SDG4, while building upon India's great traditions and value systems. The NEP unambiguously says that 'the pursuit of knowl-



edge (Jnan), wisdom (Pragyaa), and truth (Satya) was always considered in Indian thought and philosophy as the highest human goal. A member of the National Steering Committee entrusted the task of drafting the NCF, and a right-wing ideologue, has hinted at re-writing history and the text books 'in the light of new facts' of history. The precise mandate of the steering committee is to develop the NCF within the mandated remit. The NEP speaks, among other things, of incorporating local content and flavour as the students must know about their past, immediate surroundings and topography, India's civilisational heritage, constitutional values, so as to develop the spirit of critical thinking and enquiry. The Policy advocates multilingualism, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong opportunities for all by 2030 by incorporating rapid changes in the knowledge landscape in the globalised world. The aim is to promote India as a global study destination by providing premium education at affordable costs so as to help 'restore its role as a Viswa Guru'. Evidently, the founding fathers of our republic laid the foundation of a civic nation, and not an ethnic nation by crafting a republican democratic Constitution, solemnly affirming to secure to all its citizens: justice, liberty, equality and fraternity-assuring the dignity of the individual. When one speaks of India's civilisational heritage and the need for inculcating the spirit of enquiry and scientific temper, the following Vedic hymn flashes across the mind — 'Whether God's will created it (the universe), or...Only He who is its overseer in highest heaven knows, Only He knows, or perhaps He does not know.' In a steering committee of 12 eminences in diverse fields of knowledge, there may be initial difference of opinion but when they talk together, deliberate, build consensus, they will surmount parochial considerations and develop the national curricular framework in perfect accord with the hallowed provisions of the NEP 2020, staying clear of the potential carping criticism of the extreme left or the radical right, by not harking too much on the past. Of course, we must analyse the past — without being its prisoner — in the context of the present for the purpose of building a resurgent India by laying the foundation of a sound, secure and holistic school education system to meet the aspirational needs of the 21st century.

(The writer is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha, and member of the Delhi Bar Council. The views expressed are personal.)

Making sense of the power crisis debate



For import-dependent India, it is costlier to import longer haul Australian coal than shorter haul Indonesian coal which is getting diverted to China

barrage of news about rising electricity consumption, rising international price of coal and shortage of coal with power plants have raised fears of an impending power crisis. There are 135 coal-fired power plants with total installed capacity of about 202 GW meeting about 70 per cent of electricity supply. On October 7, more than half of these plants had coal stocks of less than three days. 16 small plants with total capacity of 17GW had no coal stock. Low coal stocks with thermal power plants does not mean shortage of coal in the coun-

Here is the big picture; facts that speak for themselves. There is absolutely no shortage of power if people are willing to pay its price, both in terms of cash and health.

International Energy Agency has high-lighted that energy demand has shot up worldwide as economic activity picks up post-pandemic. During April-September 2019, India's electricity consumption was 68100 crore units (kwh). It fell down 62500 crore in April-Sept 2020, mainly during the lockdown months of April-May 2020. However, electricity consumption during April-Sept 2021 jumped to 71500 crore units, more than the pre-covid level even though there was a distressing second wave in April-May 2021 and the tour/travel/hospitality industry is not yet back to pre-covid level. Air/rail travel is not fully restored.

Increase in electricity demand is a positive sign indicating economic recovery. Increased coverage of households with access to electricity connection have brought new electricity consumers in the market. Growing digital economy also contributes to rising demand. A welcome surge in electricity demand has raised supply concerns, especially, as all indications are further increase in electricity demand in coming months.

Since 2013, total primary energy consumption in India has been the third highest in the world after China and the US. Total power generation capacity in India has increased from 243 GW in March 2014 to 320 GW in March 2017 to 388 GW in August 2021. Out of this, 202 GW is coal/lignite fired thermal power, 46 GW is from large hydroelectric projects, 45 GW from Solar and 40 GW from Wind power. Renewable energy capacity is about 37 per cent of total and India will reach 40 per cent renewable energy capacity well before 2030 as per target accepted under 2015 Paris Climate Change agreement.

Although coal-based power plants contribute only to 52 per cent of installed electricity generation capacity, these plants meet almost 75 per cent of total electricity demand. So even though we have made impressing gains in expanding solar power, we are still largely dependent on coal for electricity. Our domestic production of coal is about 730 MMT and we annually import over 300 MMT. Electricity sector accounts for about 2/3rd of total coal consumption.



SINCE 2013, TOTAL PRIMARY **ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN** INDIA HAS BEEN THE THIRD HIGHEST IN THE **WORLD AFTER** CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. **TOTAL POWER GENERATION** CAPACITY IN INDIA HAS **INCREASED FROM** 243 GW IN

MARCH 2014 TO

(The writer is former

Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

and Industry, Government of India. The views expressed

are personal.)

388 GW IN

AUGUST 2021

India is the second largest coal consumer after China. International prices of coal have risen recently for two reasons. Sharper increase in gas prices mean that countries are increasing dependence on cheaper coal-based thermal plants.

China is facing increased electricity demand in post-pandemic economic recovery and in a trade war with Australia, China stopped coal imports from Australia, one of the major exporters of coal.

Coal makes up nearly 60 per cent of China's energy consumption. Increased coal/power demand from China has set coal prices soaring high and many coastal power plants depending on (previously cheaper) coal imports are now switching to domestic coal in India.

For import dependent Indian power producers, it is costlier to import longer haul Australian coal than shorter haul Indonesian coal that is increasingly getting diverted to China. The net result of all this is higher demand for coal, higher price for coal and resultant financial stress on power generating companies.

There have been temporary supply disruptions (monsoon-related) in coal mining and transportation. The coal supply position is basic issues to be addressed to ensure long term health of the power sector which is victim to populism. Coal supply is a temporary problem. There is enough coal and production/transport will increase once monsoon woes are over. But the real issue of financial distress on power generating companies remains. Power generating companies owe about ₹20,000 crore to Coal India Limited alone.

Thermal plants are expected to have stock of 20 days requirement

but many power producers don't have money to stock coal because they have themselves not been paid by discoms for power supplied. Discoms are cash starved because tariffs don't cover all costs, many consumers don't pay their bills or delay payment. Power theft and leakage through unmetered supply continues to be rather high. This is all reflected in discoms inability to pay to power producers.

Power producers give 45 days' credit to Electricity Distribution companies (discoms). If the dues are not cleared in 45 days, outstanding dues are called 'overdues' liable to

charge of penal interest.
On 17 October, 2021, discoms owed an overdue amount of ₹98,067 crore to power generation/transmission companies. Nearly ₹23,310 crore is payable to public sector thermal power generating companies (NTPC, etc.) Around ₹51,899 crore is payable to public sector thermal power generating companies (maximum amount payable to a single company is ₹25,611 crore, to Adani Power). Around ₹17,980 crore is payable to renewable power producers and ₹4,877 crore is payable to PowerGrid.

If coal companies have to recover ₹20,000 crore from power utilisteadily improving but there are ties, will it make sense for them to produce more coal and supply on credit? If power producers are not getting paid for power supplied, will they not reduce production? Does it make sense for them to improve plant load factor and produce more electricity to supply on credit? That is the real problem.

The discom reform scheme UDAY ended in 2019-20 with most of the states failing to meet their stipulated targets. On July 1, the Centre has launched a new scheme of 'Reforms-based and Results-linked,

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme to provide conditional financial assistance to discoms for strengthening of supply infrastructure. The scheme with total outlay of ₹3,03,758 crore will involve Central government budget support of ₹97,631 crore by 2024-25. All existing power sector reform schemes namely DDUGJY, IPDS, PM-KUSUM scheme would be subsumed into this new umbrella program.

Among the many contemplated reforms is a measure to create separate feeder for agricultural electricity supply, expansion of network of solar run irrigation systems. Other pending electricity reforms are removal of cross subsidies and open access, introducing competition by allowing consumers choice

of electricity supplier.
States are presently administering two types of cross subsidy arrangements. One is between highend and low-end household consumers and the other is between household consumers on one hand and industrial/commercial consumers on the other.

There are just too many consumer categories and tariff lines slabs and fixed charges, making electricity pricing quite complex and non-transparent. On top of tariffs fixed by independent regulators States levy electricity duty (as it is not subsumed in GST) which ranges from 0-70 per cent for certain categories of consumers.

Cross-subsidy burden on industry is problematic because it adversely affects cost competitiveness — manufacturing and exports and resultant job creation. It is frustrating that these reforms are getting delayed and deferred. Any myopic politics will sap the nation of energy in the long run.

RAHUL GANDHI IS A DRUG ADDICT AND A DRUG PEDDLER. I DO NOT SAY THIS, IT HAS APPEARED IN NEWS REPORTS. —KARNATAKA BJP PRESIDENT NALIN KUMAR KATEEL





KATEEL MIGHT HAVE CONSUMED SOME DRUGS SEIZED FROM THE ADANI PORT, WHICH IS WHY HE IS MAKING SUCH REMARKS. —AICC GENERAL SECRETARY RANDEEP SURJEWALA

Women officers in the armed forces

There is no doubt that officers and other ranks have to undergo a sea change in their thinking process and attitude to accept gender equality

The recent Supreme Court judgement directing the Government to open the portals of the National Defence Academy for women has finally paved way for acrossthe-board gender equality in the armed Forces. Eligible women will now be permitted to appear for the NDA Entrance Examination for the first time and the sky will be the limit for their career aspirations. This will now enable women to join all available combat or non-combat

branches of the three services. Notwithstanding the above judgement, women have always had their presence in the armed forces, though in a limited role like that of doctors in all the three wings of the armed forces. It



has, however, been almost three decades when women entered many other branches where only men dominated

The women officers in Indian armed forces have come a long way and have adapted well with the changing times. However, it is incumbent on the services to be accommodative in assimilating women in all domains be it combat, administration, engineering or medical. Therefore, the onus is still upon the male-dominated armed forces to recognize the power of women officers and facilitate them to achieve

their full potential. I still fondly remember, whilst I was in command of INS Vikrant in 1992, when the first batch of women officers morning and leave in the



reported onboard for initial sea training for Short Service Commission in the Indian Navy. The lady officers were very enthusiastic and took keen interest in the training. Normally when officers join for sea training, they all live on the ship throughout their training. In this case as there were no separate arrangements onboard for their stay, the ship was in harbour and they would come in the evening. Throughout their crawl, then stand and only training they exhibited their skill levels, adaptability, physical fitness and mental alertness to match with standards laid down for men.

These young lady officers were quick on the uptake and always enthusiastic to learn the service ways. They were happy with the training but had one observation why they could not stay onboard. It was explained to them that as of now the arrangements onboard ships are for men, especially living spaces and washrooms. Whilst they all understood the existing constraints, they were keen to know when ships will have women's quarters as well. I recollect my reaction to that was 'when a child is

thereafter runs. I can only say that the time has come for all

of them to run. On the lighter side, many of those young lady officers found their soul mates amongst the naval officers during their initial service career and thereafter, lived happily ever after. Being from the same service the understanding between the partners also proved to be of higher quality, essential for marital harmony. In short it is a win in situation, as both the partners know each other's service conditions and do not take long to settle.

I can only say that the day has come when the idea of women joining armed forces had taken shape and has now born, he/she first learns to evolved to women getting

permanent commission and entering areas dominated by men like fighter pilots, combat units and serving onboard ships and sailing on operational missions.

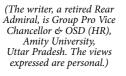
There's is no doubt that officers and other ranks have also to undergo a sea change in their thinking process and attitude so as to accept gender equality and when required, take orders from women officers in command. Having said that, women must also remember that they are getting into new fields and must tread with caution and never hesitate to take guidance from men who have been holding the fort for

a much longer period. By the way in the US Navy, for the first time, a

been appointed to command a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. I have no doubt it is only a matter of time when we will have lady officers in command of combat units and move shoulder to shoulder with their male counter-

Indian history is replete with examples of women in command of combat troops, like "Rani of Jhansi" and many others who have led troops in battle and given a befitting reply to the enemy. It was only somewhere along the time when we lost the plot and armed forces became the forte of men alone.

At the end, I can only say, 'Welcome to Indian armed forces, brave Ladies, you are woman officer has recently indeed the pride of India'.



Russia hosts Af talks, calls for inclusive Govt

on Afghanistan on Wednesday involving senior representatives of the Taliban and other factions, a round of diplomacy that underlines Moscow's

Opening the talks, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized that "forming a really inclusive government fully reflecting the interests of not only all ethnic groups but all political forces of the country" is necessary to achieve a stable peace in Afghanistan.

Russia had worked for years to establish contacts with the Taliban, even though it has designated the group a terrorist organization in 2003 and never took it of the list. Any contact with such groups is punishable under Russian law, but the Foreign Ministry has responded to questions about the apparent contradiction by saying that its exchanges with the Taliban are essential for helping stabilize Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union fought a 10-year war in Afghanistan that ended with its troops withdrawing in 1989. In recent years, Moscow has made a strong comeback as an influential power broker in international talks on Afghanistan, hosting the Taliban representatives and members of other tilateral meetings.

Unlike many other countries, Russia hasn't evacuated its embassy in Kabul and its ambassador has maintained regular contacts with the Taliban after they took over the Afghan capital in August.

Lavrov in his opening speech at the conference commended the Taliban for their efforts to stabilize the situation in the country and ensure the operation of state structures.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that there must be no rush in officially recognizing the Taliban as the new rulers of Afghanistan, but emphasized the need to engage in talks with

At the same time, he emphasized the security challenges posed by the Íslamic State group and other militants based in northern Afghanistan, and noted that drug trafficking from Afghanistan will continue to present a challenge.

Russia has vowed to provide military assistance to its ex-Soviet allies in Central Asia to help counter the threats, and held a series of joint drills in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan that neighbor Afghanistan.

Another sweeping military exercise in Tajikistan

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 PROCLAMATION OF SALE

Notice Under Rule 38 of The Second Schedule to The Income Tax Act, 1961 Read With Section 25(a) The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

RC No. 312/2014

Dated:.09.09.2021 In the matter of: ICICI BANK V/S BHARAT SOMASTAMB

Bharat Somastamb S/o Sh. Krishan Gopal Somastamb R/o House No. 523, Sector-21C Faridabad, Haryana- 121001. **Also at:** Bharat Enterprises G1/203A, Indera Enclave, Sector-21-D, Faridabad- 121002.

No.308/2013 drawn up by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi, the CD is to pay to the applicant Rs.12,16,823/- (Rs. Twelve Lacs Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred And Twenty Three Only) has become due from you as per the ibid Recovery Certificate drawn in OA No. 308/2013 by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal- II, Delhi. The applicant is entitled to recover a sum of Rs. Rs.12,01,823/- (Rs. Twelve Lacs One Thousand Eight Hundred And Twenty Three Only) alongwith pendentelite and future interest @15.01% per annum w.e.f. 18.10.2013 till realization with cost of Rs.15,000/- and costs from the Certificate Debtor (CD), failing which the amount shall be recovered by sale of the hypothecated vehicles. In case of any shortfall, the same shall be recovered from the personal movable and immovable assets of the CD.

2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of the hypothecated vehicel mentioned in scheduled property for satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate.

3. Notice is hereby given that in the absence of any order of postponement, the said hypothecated vehicle (mentioned under the schedule of property below) shall be sold through e auction through

https://auctions.cardekho.com/ auctions@cardekho.com, by e-4. The CH bank shall ensure that prospective bidders are allowed inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle (mentioned under the

schedule of property below) before day of auction for which interested individuals may contact the concerned officer of CH Ms. Kalayani Preeti (MOB: 9599281817). 5. The sale shall be of the movable property of the above named

Certificate Defaulters (CD), subject to the liabilities and claims attaching to the said hypothecated vehicle, if any.

The sale shall be stopped if, before lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate alongwith the interest and costs has been paid to the undersigned.

7. At the sale the public generally are invited to bid either personally or by duly authorized agent. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold

8. The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS" BASIS. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Scheduled to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further conditions.

9. The particulars specified in the Schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.

10. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) be fixed as follos:-				
S. No.	Details of property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	
1.	Mercedes Benz/ E280CDI,	1,60,000/-	16,000/-	

No. HR- 51Y-0945.

11. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be determined by the Officer conducting the sale. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be

12. Intending bidders shall be required to pay Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of pay order/demand draft payable at New Delhi and in favour of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi before the start of biding and identity proofs, address proofs etc. The said deposit shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidders; and in the case of unsuccessful bidders the same shall be refunded without interest, on the date of sale.

13. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale proceeds by way of pay order/demand draft favoring the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, within 24 hours (next working day) by way of bank draft, after adjusting the EMD stated above, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

14. The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds alongwith poundage fee @ 2% upto Rupees 1,000/- @ 1% of the sale price exceeding Rupees 1,000/ within 15 days from the date of auction. The Poundage fees shall be deposited through a demand draft payable

in favor of the Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi. 15. In case of default, the amount earlier deposited by the bidder, if the undersigned considers fit, after defraying the expenses of the sale shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold, and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part thereof or of

any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold 16. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids it unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

S. No.	Description of property to be sold with names co-owners where the property belongs to the defaulter and any other persons is co-owners	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrances to which the property is liable	Claims, if any which have bee put forward to the property an other known particulars bearing on its nature and valu
1.	Mercedes Benz/ E280CDI, bearing Registration No. HR- 51Y-0945.	No Information	No Information	No Information

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at New Delhi on this

(Dattatrey Bajpayee) Recovery Officer-I DRT-II, Delh

Protesters in Bangladesh demand law to protect minorities

They condemn violence against Hindus

DHAKA: Demanding that the Bangladesh government should enact a new law to ensure religious freedom for everyone, protesters and academicians across the country condemned the mob attacks on the Hindu community and vandalisation of temples and idols during Durga Puja festivities.

Attacks on Hindus and

than 700 military vehicles and

combat jets has started this

Pak Army chief

urges world to

crisis in Afghan

avert humanitarian

Islamabad: Pakistan Army

on Wednesday urged the inter-

national community to get

together to stop a brewing

humanitarian crisis in

Afghanistan, which is now

appeal during his meeting with

Civil Representative NATO,

who called on him at the army

headquarters in Rawalpindi,

the army said in a statement.

ters related to mutual interest,

peace and stability in the region

and the Afghanistan situation

convergence on Afghanistan to avoid a humanitarian crisis,"

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in

the Afghan situation including

successful evacuation opera-

tions and efforts for regional

stability. He also assured to

enhance cooperation with

Pakistan on Afghanistan and

regular engagement by the

NATO countries for all bilateral

issues. Pakistan has been trying

to convince the world to engage

with the Taliban in Afghanistan

as it fears a humanitarian cri-

sis in the neighbouring coun-

try due to looming shortages of

food and other essential com-

modities. The Taliban seized

power in Afghanistan on

August 15, two weeks before

the US was set to complete its

troop withdrawal after a cost-

ly two-decade war.

"There is a need for global

were discussed, it said.

Gen Baiwa said.

During their meeting, mat-

stefano Pontecorvo, Senior

Gen Bajwa made the

ruled by the Taliban.

their temples have intensified in Bangladesh since last Wednesday after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations.

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

Condemning the attacks on the Hindu community, protests were held across the country for the sixth day on Tuesday, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Speakers at various programmes demanded that the perpetrators of the violence be brought to justice, as well as other measures to protect minorities in Bangladesh, it

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) demanded exemplary punish-

attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues across the country. They also urged the gov-

ernment to enact a new law to ensure religious freedom for everyone. Over a hundred teachers from various departments of the university participated in

the programme and made a human chain, voicing the demands, at the Dhaka University campus. Condemning the violence, DU Vice-Chancellor M Akhtaruzzaman said: ""The

Durga Puja celebration of this country was a model of secularism for the entire world. This festival is supposed to be open

to people of all religions. The rise of communal evil in various parts of the country is disgraceful and cannot be tolerated. We urge the government to identify the perpetrators immediately and bring them to book." According to M Wahiduzzaman, former VC of Noakhali Science and Technology University, the gov-

ernment should immediately

enact a law that effectively dis-

courages communal violence. "Compensation must be ensured for all the victims of the recent attacks," he added.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Jagannath University Mijanur Rahman said perpetrators of communal violence

often get away without pun-

ishment, and this needs to be

Leaders and activists of the Progressive Student Alliance and the Khulna University Teachers' Association also condemned the violence against the Hindu community.

Students and teachers of Dhaka University also staged a street drama titled 'Dekhte Ki Pao, Purche Bangla? (Can you see that Bangla is burning?)' to protest the attacks.

Rights activists under the banner 'Poets, litterateur, artists and journalists against communal terrorism' organised a rally in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh on PTI Tuesday.

Vladimir Putin orders week-long paid holiday as Covid cases soar in Russia

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered a nationwide weeklong paid holiday to curb Covid infections in Europe's worst affected country and urged Russians to show "responsibil-

ity" and get vaccinated. Putin approved a govern-ment plan to declare a non-working week across the country from October 30 as Russia registered a record 1.028 coronavirus deaths in a single day.

"The main aim is to protect the lives and health of our citizens," the 69-year-old Kremlin chief said during a televised He said the severity of the

outbreak in Russia was linked to the country's vaccination rates that are "unfortunately' Infection rates have soared

in recent weeks amid a stalled vaccination campaign, with only 35 percent of the country fully inoculated despite several widely available vaccines including Sputnik V. Putin said he was sur-

prised by how many Russians were refusing the vaccine, even

among his "close friends."

"It's strange. People with a good education, scientific degrees... I just don't understand what is happening."

Putin has made numerous

pleas for Russians to get Covid jabs, and on Wednesday once again called on people to get immunised.

"Please, show responsibility," he said.

On Wednesday, the country recorded over 34,000 new virus cases and a total of 226,353 fatalities -- the highest death toll on the European continent. Russian authorities have been accused of vastly downplaying the scale of the pandemic, and Putin told regional authorities not to underreport the number of virus cases, calling it "dangerous."

Putin has introduced paid holidays during coronavirus peaks before, most recently in May. The new non-working week will coincide with national school holidays. Deputy Prime Minister

Tatiana Gólikova said the new restrictions were tough but

Iran urges UN action against **Israeli threats** to n-programme

Tehran: Iranian Ambassador to the UN Majid Takht Ravanchi has called for an action by the UN Security Council (UNSC) to tackle rising Israeli threats to

Tehran's nuclear programme.
In a letter to the UNSC on Tuesday, Takht Ravanchi said over the past months, the intensity of Israel's "provocative and adventuristic threats" to Iran's nuclear programme have consistently grown and reached an alarming level, Xinhua reported on Wednesday citing Tasnim news agency.

The Iranian envoy referred to the latest remarks by Israeli senior military officials of "operational plans against Iran's nuclear programme", saying that "such systematic explicit and public threats by the Israeli regime against a founding member of the United Nations constitute flagrant violations of international law".Takht Ravanchi warned against any possible military act of Israel against Iran and its nuclear programme, stressing that Iran reserves the right to selfdefence to decisively respond to

Syria capital shells elsewhere kill 10 attack, but several insurgent

Bus bombs kill 14 in

attached to a bus carrying Syrian troops exploded in Damascus during the morning rush hour Wednesday, a military official said. Fourteen people were killed in the attack, one of the deadliest in the capital in years.

While the Syrian government's decade-long conflict with insurgents continues in parts of the country including the rebel-held northwest, bombings in Damascus have become exceedingly rare since President Bashar Assad's troops pushed opposition fighters from the capital's suburbs in

The explosions, which also left several wounded, happened at a busy intersection, near a main bus transfer point where commuters and schoolchildren typically converge. After the blasts, Syrian state TV showed footage of smoke rising from a charred bus as soldiers hosed down the vehicle and onlookers flocked to a nearby bridge to watch. No one immediately

claimed responsibility for the

and jihadist groups that seek to overthrow Assad are active in

Separately, rescue workers reported 10 people were killed, including four children and a woman, in government shelling of a town in the last rebel enclave in the country's northwest. The UN Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator Mark Cutts described as "shocking" the reports of the shelling that hit a market and roads near schools as students were heading to classes. In addition to the four

children killed, their teacher also died, according to UNICEF, the UN children's

agency.
"Today's violence is yet another reminder that the war in Syria has not come to an end. Civilians, among them many children, keep bearing the brunt of a brutal decade-long conflict," the agency said. "Attacks on civilians including children are a violation of international humanitarian

48 died, 31 missing in **Nepal's flood and landslides**

ple have died and 31 others went missing in Nepal's flood and landslides triggered by incessant rains from Sunday,

Similarly, thousands of farmers across the country have lost their crops to rains this year. Destruction of the paddy crop is a major setback for Nepal's overall economy. Paddy alone contributes around 7 per cent to the national gross domestic product and is the major income source for more than half of the population.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has called an emergency Cabinet meeting on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the situation created by the rain, floods, and landslides. As many as 11 districts of the country reported deaths and missing people, according

Some bridges collapsed and highways were obstructed. Some cities and airports are inundated and in some dis-Nepal's Ministry of Home tricts, some human settlements floods. Local authorities have shifted some settlements to safe places in some districts to save people from the flood and landslides.

Several districts of the country have been hit hard by the unexpected autumn rain. According to Nepali Airlines officials, at least 100 domestic flights scheduled for an operation to and from the capital, Kathmandu were suspended on Wednesday owing to bad weather conditions. This is the highest number of flight suspensions recorded in a single day in recent times as air carriers could not operate services to various hilly as well as plain areas due to incessant rains and

embassy, shuttered earlier this

year during the U.S. military

withdrawal from Afghanistan.

role in diplomacy with its

warned that Afghanistan is on

the verge of humanitarian col-

lapse without access to aid or

foreign reserves, which remain

Pakistan's relationship with

neighboring China has also

been of interest to the Biden

administration, which regards

Beijing as its chief international

rival. Tunisia, where Blome

has worked as ambassador

since 2019, is an important

diplomatic outpost for the

United States in North Africa,

representing interests beyond

the country's borders, includ-

ing in neighboring Libya. *PTI*

frozen in the United States.

Taliban-ruled neighbor.

Pakistan is playing a major

International agencies have

The Home Ministry said that 31 people are still missing in landslides and floods in several parts of the country and search and rescue operation is extreme rainfall in the third week of October, has left experts wondering-and worried-how climate change is impacting the economy and livelihoods of the people.

Nepal's economic wellbeing is intimately linked with the rainy season. Water from the skies is the lifeblood of Nepal's Rs 4.26 trillion economy which is farm-dependent, as nearly two-thirds of the farmlands are rain-fed. A large part of the country gets nearly 80 percent of its annual rainfall during the four months-June to September. Given the above-normal rainfall this year, Nepal was expecting a bumper

Jailed Russian Opp leader Navalny wins top EU prize

opposition leader Alexei Navalny was awarded the European Union's top human Sassoli in a statement. clear slap at President Vladimir In awarding the

Sakharov Prize to Navalny, the European Parliament praised his "immense personal bravery". The 45-year-old activist was poisoned with a nerve agent last year and promptly arrested upon his return to Moscow from treatment in Germany and later imprisoned.

"He has campaigned consistently against the corruption of Vladimir Putin's regime, and through his social media accounts and political campaigns, Navalny has helped expose abuses and mobilize the IANS | support of millions of people

poisoned and thrown in jail," parliament President David

Navalny's immediate release.

The recognition of Navalny will further sour relations between the 27-nation bloc and Russia. These ties have been on the decline for years, especially following Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and its support for a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

The impact reverberated beyond the EU as well.

Days after Russia suspended its mission at NATO and ordered the closure of the alliance's office in Moscow in retaliation for NATO's expulsion of Russian diplomats, the organisation's chief said he embraced the news.

of selling gifts received from other countries' heads

Pak PM accused

Lahore: Pakistan's Opposition parties on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Imran Khan of selling gifts he received from other countries' heads, includ-USD 1 million.

Gifts are routinely exchanged between heads of states or officers holding constitutional positions during a state visit. According to the gift depository (Toshakhana) rules, these gifts remain the property of the state unless sold at an open auction. Rules allow officials to retain gifts with a market value of less than Rs 10,000 without paying anything, The Express Tribune newspaper

reported. "Imran Khan has sold the gifts he received from other countries," PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz tweeted

in Urdu.

Career diplomat Donald Blome named US envoy to Pakistan

Washington: U.S. President withdrawal of American Joe Biden plans to nominate Donald Blome, currently ambassador to Tunisia, as his top diplomat in Pakistan as Washington works to manage the situation in neighboring Afghanistan following the

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Braj Bhushan Rai S/o Sri Nath Rai R/o H. No.: 40, J & K Block, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 here by declare 1. That Brai Bhushan Rai & Brii

Bhushan Rai is same Person.

2. That in my Voter I.D & in some other documents (Govt/ Educational) my name is written as Brij Bhushan Rai in Place & Braj Bhushan Rai

3. That in my Daughter Parul Kumari Rai's Educational & Govt. documents some where my name is written as Brij Bhushan Rai in Place of Braj Bhushar 4. That in my Son Prince Kumar Rai's

Educational & Govt. documents some where my name written as Brij Bhushan Rai in Place of Braj Bhushan Rai 5. That in my wife Manju Rai's Educational & Govt. documents some where my name is written as Brij Bhushan Rai in Place of Braj Bhushan Rai

6. That this all due to pronunciation problem some where my name is written as Brij Bhushan Rai in Place of Braj Bhushan Rai

So, I clarify & declare that Brij Bhushan Rai & Braj Bhushan Rai is Sam

southwest Japan erupts, warning issued Joe Biden will announce

Tokyo: An eruption was plans to nominate Blome to the job in Pakistan, the White observed on Wednesday at Mt House said. Blome is a career Aso in Kyushu area, south-Foreign Service diplomat with western Japan, the Japan long experience in the region Meteorological Agency (JMA) who once worked in the Kabul said.

Volcano in

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters in Tokyo that no injuries have been reported so far and that local authorities are working to determine whether there are any climbers still on the mountain, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the JMA, the

eruption occurred at 11.43 a.m. local time at the No 1 Nakadake crater, with smoke billowing out of the peak in Kumamoto Prefecture. Volcanic ash has blown more than 1 km from the

areas within about 2 km, the JMA said. The agency raised the volcanic alert level of Mt Aso to 3 on a scale of 5.

Former German troops arrested over alleged terror plot

Berlin: Two former German soldiers have been arrested on suspicion of trying to form a terrorist mercenary force to fight in Yemen's civil war, officials said. The former soldiers - Arend-Adolf G and Achim A, face terrorism charges after police raids in southern Germany on Wednesday, the BBC reported.

They allegedly planned to recruit up to 150 men for a private army made up of former police officers and soldiers. According to prosecutors,

they wanted to offer their services to Saudi Arabia's government for illegal missions in Yemen. Yemen has been racked by a civil war between the Saudi Arabia-backed internationally crater and reached a height of recognised government and about 3,500 meters, and pyrothe armed Houthi movement clastic flows could occur in since 2014. Saudi Arabia entered the civil war in 2015 shortly after the capture of the capital, Sanaa, by the Houthis,

who are supported by Iran.

plans within UK after medical advice to rest London: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has cancelled a planned visit to Northern

Queen cancels travel

Îreland following medical advice to rest for a few days, Buckingham Palace said on Wednesday.

The 95-year-old monarch was to begin a two-day trip to Hillsborough in County Down and attend a church service marking the centenary of the formation of Northern Ireland in Armagh on Thursday, but will now remain at Windsor Castle instead.

"The Oueen has reluctantly accepted medical advice to rest for the next few days," a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said. "Her Majesty is in good spirits and is disappointed that she will no longer be able to visit Northern Ireland, where she had been due to undertake a series of engagements today and tomorrow. The Queen sends her warmest good wishes to the people of Northern Ireland and looks forward to visiting in the future,"

the spokesperson said.

The decision is not believed to be related to coronavirus and the monarch is now said to be resting at her Windsor Castle residence in Berkshire, south-east England. The Queen, the UK's

longest-serving monarch, has been attending a series of public events in recent days, including hosting a Global Investment Summit at Windsor Castle on Tuesday evening. It was revealed on Tuesday that the Queen had declined a socalled "Oldie of the Year" award, from a magazine of the same name, saying: "You are only as old as you feel".

She is still expected to attend the UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

The Queen was seen using a walking stick for the first time at a major public event earlier this week, when attending a Westminster Abbey service marking the centenary of UK armed forces charity Royal British Legion.

Decision on Air India will give new energy: Modi

AVIATION SECTOR

PTI ■ KUSHINAGAR

With Air India set to be acquired by Tata group, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the decision on the national carrier will give new energy to the country's aviation sector.

His comments come weeks after Tata group emerged as the winning bidder for Air India paving the way for disinvestment of the loss-making

In an address after inaugurating the Kushinagar International airport, Modi said the decision on Air India will give new energy to the aviation sector of India.

A fter a pandemic-induced lull, pay rises are making a comeback. With India projected

a salary increase of 9.3 per cent next year, the

country is set to be the highest payer in Asia

Pacific, according to a report.
This is an increase of 8 per cent compared

to 2021, revealed the latest report by advisory,

broking and solutions company Willis Towers

India is followed by Sri Lanka (5.5 per cent),



Tata group has emerged as the winning bidder for Air India, and on October 11, a letter of intent (LoI) was issued to

Earlier this month, the vernment accepted an offer by Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of Tata group, to pay ₹ 2,700 crore cash

After Tatas accept the LoI, the share purchase agreement (SPA) for the sale will be

Along with Air India, Tatas will acquire low-cost carrier Air India Express and Air India's 50 per cent stake in equal joint

Power crisis: Govt looks to revise coal stocking norms for thermal plants NEW DELHI stocks to be maintained by

In a bid to avert power crisis being triggered in the country due to fuel shortages in the months following monsoon rains, the government proposes revise the coal stocking norms for thermal power plants, based on regular shift stock limits, depending on the actual fuel requirement during a particular period.

Sources said that the Central Electricity Authority will come up with revised coal stocking guidelines that will have higher stocking requirement for non-pit head power plants while lower for those located near the coal-bearing regions of the country.

As per a draft that is being discussed, against the uniform

power plants, lower coal stock of 10 days may be mandated for pit-head power plants while 20 days stock may be needed for power plants farther from coalproducing areas. But in the peak summer months (April-June), non-pit head plants would still require to stock 22 days of coal while pit head plants around 12 days. The norms of stocking may change slightly in winter months. The thinking within the government is that the revised coal stocking norms will prevent a situation like the one that faced the country recently when post monsoons, several of the 135 coal-based power plants in the country were found to be sitting with critical coal stock levels sufficient to meet just three

IMF revises down Asia economy growth forecast to 6.5%

IANS ■ WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised down its 2021 economic growth forecast for Asia to 6.5 per cent, down by 1.1 percentage points from its April projection, according to a newly released regional economic

outlook. "The resurgence of the pandemic, amid initially low vaccination rates, slowed the recovery in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in emerging market and developing economies," Chang Yong Rhee, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency. Noting that the Asia-Pacific remains the fastest growing region in the world, Rhee said as vaccination rates accelerate, the region is expect-

2022, 0.4 percentage points faster than projected in April.

For advanced economies, the latest IMF forecast is broadly unchanged for 2021 with upgrades in South Korea and New Zealand and downgrades in Japan and Australia, according to the report.

Most of the downgrades in

the region come from emerg-ing market and low-income countries, led by India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.China is projected to grow by 8.0 per cent in 2021, down by 0.4 percentage point from the April projection, according to the report.India is projected to grow by 9.5 per cent after a sharp decline in 2020. While the pandemic

surge earlier this year had a large adverse impact on growth, the subsequent rebound in activity has gained strength, it said. The ASEAN-5 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand), are still facing "severe challenges" from a resurgent virus and weakness in contact-intensive sectors.

"The divergence between Asian advanced economies and developing economies is deepening, with output levels in the emerging market economies and low-income countries expected to remain below prepandemic trends in the coming years, reflecting differences in policy support and vaccination rollout," Rhee said.

and takeover ₹15,300 crore of requirement of 20-22 day coal to four days of supply. ed to grow by 4.9 per cent in India's 450GW renewable energy India to see salary hike India needs to goal by 2030 doable: John Kerry become a global at 9.3% in 2022: Report will be done. India has already power to defend

itself:Gadkari

New Delhi:Union Minister

Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday

said India needs to become a

global power, not to attack

anyone but to defend itself.

Addressing an event organised

by industry body FICCI, he

said India is not an expan-

sionist power and does not

intend to attack its smaller neighbours. "We need to make

India a global power...We need

to become powerful but not to

attack anyone," the road transport and highways minister said.Gadkari noted that India

is becoming self-reliant in the defence sector. "We are a rich nation with a poor population.

make India a rich nation with

a rich population," he empha-

We need to work to

increase for 2021 in the Asia Pacific region. Pointing towards a much-anticipated economic recovery, a majority (52.2 per cent) of companies in Índia have projected a positive business revenue outlook for the next 12 months, up from 37 per cent in Q4 2020. This translates in increased hiring across

China (6 per cent), Indonesia (6.9 per cent), and

Singapore (3.9 per cent) for the highest salary

ning to hire in the next 12 months. This is almost

businesses with 30 per cent of companies planthree times more than last year.

New Delhi:US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry on Wednesday said set an example for emerging economies by reaching 100GW of renewables," Kerry said while addressing a session of ISA India's goal of reaching 450 GW of renewable energy (RE) by 2030 is doable as it has already

Name and Address of the Borrower/s

general assembly. He further said,"What India has demonstrated with its low-cost solar auctions and build out of the transmission grids and massive solar parts program and other innovative policy tools can be replicated all over the world."

IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath to leave job and return to Harvard University

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

 $I_{
m Gopinath~will}^{
m MF's~Chief~Economist~Gita}$ in January next year and return to the prestigious Harvard University's Economics Department, according to the global financial institution. The 49 wear cial institution. The 49-yearold prominent Indian-American economist had joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the Chief Economist in January 2019.She was the John

Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University when she joined the Washington-based global IMF Managing lender. Director Kristalina Georgieva on Tuesday announced that the search for Gopinath's successor would begin shortly."Gita's contribution to the Fund and our membership has been truly remarkable quite simply, her impact on the IMF's work has been tremendous," Georgieva said.

Secured Asset

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF

Markets skid for 2nd day as profit-booking takes hold

The Sensex slumped 456 points while the Nifty closed below the 18,300-level on Wednesday as market participants pared exposure to overbought counters for the second straight session.

Midcap and smallcap stocks too saw heavy selling amid concerns over frothy valuations, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 456.09 points or 0.74 per cent lower at 61,259.96. Similarly, the NSE Nifty dropped 152.15 points or 0.83 per cent to 18,266.60.

Titan was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding

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Society Ltd., Plot No.5, Sector-13, Dwarka

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 Smt. Archana Bhatia, (2) Sh. Dheera Chhabra (3) Sh. Mahesh Kumar Jethar

(4) Sh. Ashwani Sharma (5) Mrs. Jaya

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general public, members of the society and

all concerned, if any within 15 days of publication of this Public Notice.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure

Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the

Company will be held on Thursday, 28th October, 2021, inter-alia, to consider and

approve the Un-audited Financial Results

For Cubical Financial Services Limited

Date: 20-10-2021

of the member as under

HUL, NTPC, L&T, PowerGrid, Bajaj Finserv and M&M.

Ín contrast, Bharti Airtel led the gainers' chart with a jump of 4.03 per cent.

SBI, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, ITC and HCL Tech were the other winners. "Indices corrected quite meaningfully led by the expensive side of the market where valuations had got stretched," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Almost all sectoral indices ended in the red, although PSU banks were seen bucking the trend with investors cherry-picking for value in that pocket, he noted.

is taking note of the cost pressuemanating from higher input costs in companies that do not possess the pricing power.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001

Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813 Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact Number 96461-18774) Tender Inquiry No. 04/2122/CD

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Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published

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Provision of Indian Railway KAVACH (Formerly known as Tra Collision Avoidance System) (IR Kavach) over NDLS-PWL, Ex TKJ CPYZ, LKO-Ex CNB Sections of Northern Railway including Provision

or Double Distant along with Interlocking of required Block section LCs in LKO-Ex CNB section and Provision of STM4/Telecom towers a stations wherever not available in NDLS-PWL & Ex TKJ-CPY ections along with loco TCAS fitment works in 106 nos of 160kmg Electric locos in connection with achieving speeds upto 160kmph ove New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah (including Luckno Kanpur) routes of Indian Railways. 172-Sig-TW-Tender-EPC-T13

render No.	172-Sig-1 W-Telldel-Li G-1 13				
Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 123.027 Crs				
Cost of tender form	Nil				
Address from where tender document can be downloaded	Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov 21.10.2021	ı.in from			
Earnest Money	Nil (Bid Security declaration required)				
Completion Period	700 days.				
Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 21.10.2021 up to 11:00 hrs of 23.02.2022. Date of tender Opening: 02.03.2022 after 16:00 hrs.				
Detailed Tender Notice	Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in				
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established by the Government of India in the year 1957 to develop reading habits and creation of book culture in the country intends to produce a Short documentary/ promotional film on the age- appropriate books available at Anganwadi Centres for children, which is the largest outreach programme

NBT India invites tender/bids from all interested Agencies for the production of a 30-40 minute documentary film, a 5-minute short film and 1-minute on promotional video including onsite interviews with teachers, learners, Anganwadi-sevikas, villagers and key stakeholders in Amethi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Muzaffarnagar.

For Tender Form and detailed terms and conditions, please refer to our website i.e. www.nbtindia.gov.in. Last date for submitting tender/bids is 10 November 2021 upto 10:00 AM. The decision of the Director, NBT, India will be final and

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crossed the 100 GW RE mark.

"It is really terrific to see India

leading the ISA (International

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partner and the United States

strongly supports India's goal of

reaching 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030. "We believe that it's absolutely doable and

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(Ashwani Kumar Gupta) DGIPR/C 2405/21-22 Managing Director

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EXPLORING THE CONFLICT WITHIN

Writer-director, HARDIK GAJJAR, and lead actor, PRATIK GANDHI, tell Christy Varghese that there is much more to Bhavai than the controversy surrounding its previous name, Raavan Leela

ratik Gandhi became a household name after the raging success of *Scam 1992*. However, how many of us can claim to know that he was quite a prominent name in the Gujarati theatre circuit, much before Scam 1992?

Hardik Gajjar, the writer-director of Gandhi's forthcoming film, Bhavai, is someone who knew him from his theatre days. They have collaborated on and off over the years, their camaraderie only grew with time. And believe it or not, Gandhi was shooting for the film when he got the opportunity to star in Scam.

Bhavai was all set to release in theatres on October 1. However, the release date was pushed forward to October 22, following the announcement by the Maharashtra government that cinema halls in the state will reopen on October 22.

You may have heard of Bhavai, although under a different name; it had been named Raavan Leela, however, after a certain section of audience flagged the concern that the film may hurt religious sentiments, the name of the film was duly changed.

When we quiz Gajjar on the prompt renaming of the film, he shares unabashedly, "I did not expect the audience to misinterpret the name of the film. When I coined the name, Raavan Leela, I was talking about the Raavan that is all around us. When I conceptualised the film, what I had in mind was the essence of the story — internal conflict. Am I right, or am I wrong? And I believe the best way to depict the same was through Ramayana. I feel that both Ram ji and Raavan are within us. It is all about perception, and intention. When we got to know that some people were not pleased about the name of the film, we changed it without any hesitation, since it has no bearing on the film itself. There is nothing in the film related to the Ramayana or Ramlila, for

What does Bhavai mean, though? "It all depends on your perception. (chuckles before continuing) For me, the word mean two thing. When something



goes wrong in life, it is termed 'bhavai' in our lingo. As in, 'Ye kya bhavai ho gaya?!' Bhavai is also a form of folk-theatre in Gujarat," expresses Gajjar ani-

He went on reveal that he has a long line up of projects with Gandhi in the pipeline, with the next one being the horror rom-com, Atithi Bhooto Bhava.

When we ask Gajjar whether he has a message for the audience, pat comes the reply, "I welcome everyone's opinion, but I would urge you to go watch the film with an open mind before passing your verdict on the same.

Keep reading for excerpts of our conversation with the protagonist of Bhavai and Scam 1992, Gandhi...

□We heard that after Scam 1992, you opted to star in a Gujarati webseries, Vitthal Teedi, because of your character. Other interviews have you stating that when it comes to choosing new projects, you go by your intuition. What was it about Bhavai that reeled you in?

The same formula. The first time the film was narrated, I felt that I could relate to the character's emotions. And without any second thoughts, I said yes, let's do it. This was before Scam and I was searching for something I could perform in. I wanted to get into the shoes of a character in a story that touched me. And the process you mentioned. I have been following it since a long time now.

What is the premise of *Bhavai?*

The most $\bar{\text{simple}}$ way I can explain the story without giving away the plot is that we are talking about moral dilemma here. If you see Ram and Raavan as a metaphor, the good and evil is present

We all are constantly involved in the fight between Ram and Raavan. It is up to us, we have to decide who wins -Ram or Raavan? But literally speaking, Bhavai is a

love-story. It has nothing to do with Ram or Raavan per se.

whether we choose to be Ram or Raavan in any given moment, can you say that it is as simple as that? In a world where external factors influence everything we do, can we really claim to be in complete control of our lives? Let me try and explain. If we take social media for instance, there are times when one has this strong urge to say some-thing, without even thinking of the repurcussions. But if we can control our urge in that moment, having that sense of mastery over yourself changes the game altogether. And I believe this is the situation throughout our life, everywhere.

However, I would agree with you that there are many variables, which we need to constantly factor in, since they are not in our control. But what we can control is how we react to it. Otherwise the world would be a chaotic place. Because, I am sure, everyone has this urge to lash out at people. Road-rage is one example that will get my point across. And such things are happening everywhere. □When you say that it is up to us, What is of vital importance is that crit-

ical moment, when you hit that point of saturation, do you lose control over yourself? Or are you able to take a step back, and take stock of the situation? That is why they say, don't react, just

□Going by the first example you stated, about controlling one's urge to be impulsive on social media, do you regret achieving stardom after Scam

(laughs)Not really, no. I am well aware of the fact that once you are well known, each and every word that you utter needs to be measured. It is bound to reach a large number of people. Even if I was not a prominent actor and was instead employed elsewhere, its a personal choice. How you speak, what you speak, it is on you. And it should be well thought.

However, I will agree that once you have made it in the entertainment industry, you have to be more careful of your actions and words than people engaging in other professions.

☐How have your dreams changed post *Scam 1992?*

My dreams have not really changed, but I am more hungry now. I want to enact more characters, and be part of good scripts. In fact, I would like to broaden my horizon and perform without having language as a barrier. You might think that I have my eyes set on the international platform, however, I would love to perform in regional cinema also; I am rar-

On a roll

Actor ADARSH GOURAV is all set to star alongside Meryl Streep, Sienna Miller and Kit Harington for Scott Z Burns' anthology, Extrapolations. By TEAM VIVA

darsh Gourav had a breakthrough role in The White A darsh Gourav had a breakthrough role in the white A Tiger playing the role of Balram Halwai which found him incredible fame, both locally and internationally. The talented young actor earned himself three major award nominations including a BAFTA, AACTA and Independent Spirit Awards a few months back for his first international project. Now, the actor has bagged his second major project, Scott Z Burns' anthology series for Apple TV+, titled *Extrapolations*. The show stars big wigs of the acting fraternity from the west alongside Gourav, including Meryl Streep, Sienna Miller, Kit Harington, Tahar Rahim, Matthew Rhys, Daveed Diggs, Gemma Chan and David Schwimmer.

The series explores the stories of how the changes to the planet will impact love, family, work both on a personal level and at a large human level. It will feature eight interconnected episodes which will display the need for survival in the current era, across the globe. The show has Scott as the writer, director and executive producer, with

> Ellenberg's Media Res. The show also has Ellenberg, Greg Jacobs, Dorothy Fortenberry and Lindsey Springer as executive producers. Adarsh recently flew off to the US, to New York where the show is

the show being helmed by Micheal

currently expected to go into production. Adarsh will wrap this project before heading back to India to start his next, Kho Gaye Hum Kahan with Ananya

Panday and Siddhant Chaturvedi. Adarsh expresses his joy, saying, "This is beyond anything I can express, to be honest. But to be working with such an incredible team at such an early juncture of my career is truly rewarding. I'm elated to be part of this project and grateful that I will be working alongside some of the very best in the business. I have grown up and looked up to each of my co-stars and to now be sharing screen space with them is incredible. This story is

such an important one for our current generation and is intercon-

nected with the realities of today".

India is the world's second-most populated country, with a majority of its people between the age group of 10 to 24. This means that the country is at a relative advantage as young adults constitute a greater percentage of job seekers. thereby having the potential to boost its econ-

Mowever, for the past decade, India's youth unemployment rate has been hovering around the 22 per cent mark. Almost 2 million graduates and half a million postgraduates are unemployed in India. Various reaber of educated yet unemployed youth in the country such as recession, demand-supply mismatch, but the skill gap is perhaps the greatest contributor to this pressing national problem.

Accessibility and quality of

Despite having thousands of educational institutions in the country, there are at least 35 million children aged between six and 14 years in India who have no access to formal education. India being an agrarian economy has more than 70 per cent of its people living in villages. Most children living in rural areas are expected to support their families for meeting their livelihoods. Girls, especially, are dissuaded from going to school and are compelled to master household chores. Furthermore, the condition of schools in some rural areas is challenged with serious concerns such as ill-equipped staff, insufficient funds

and lack of hygienic facilities, etc. There is a desperate need to bridge the divide between urban and rural schools and their ability to impart technical and industrial skilling. While a few technical and engineering institutions aim to provide practical training to their students to make them job-ready, they are not necessarily accessible to all.

Bridging the skill gap
The current job market requires

The need of the moment

Paridhi Khaitan talks about the importance of vocational training, citing India's vast reserve of untapped potential



students to acquire practical skills on top of their theoretical knowledge. However, almost 80 per cent of the new job seekers get little to no opportunities for skills-based education. The talent acquisition process, wherein practical knowledge-based skills and experience are valued above academic degrees, is becoming more selective than ever before. In rural areas, attaining higher education is highly challenging, hence the presence of vocational training programmes proves to be advantageous as it provides industry-relevant education and hands-on skilling where students can acquire various soft and hard skills. Proficiency in basic office software tools such as PowerPoint, Excel, and Word, competency in communication skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving are some of the fundamental requisites for job seekers.

Broaden your horizons Vocational training programmes are extremely crucial to partake as they offer a sneak peek into the realworld work scenario and help students make informed career decisions using a practical approach.

These programmes are designed

for most industry sectors. Such vocational training programs facilitate students to make better career

A viable alternative

Vocational training addresses the affordability and accessibility challenges faced by rural children. It also empowers women belonging to lowincome groups by improving their job prospects. Besides carpentry, welding, automotive repair, heating, and air conditioning, tailoring, and beauty care, vocational training programs also cater to various 21st century ready sectors such as healthcare, education, IT, financial services, retail, tourism, etc. Students passionate about such new-age sectors need not enrol themselves in highly expensive degree courses but can just attain the necessary skills through diploma courses at very affordable

Foreign exchange

There was a time when students had no other choice but to move out of India to acquire specialised job skills. The lack of relevant facilities and exposure triggered high migration rates. The advent of global online vocational training programmes has bridged this limitation in the country. Today, Indian students can pursue these courses at affordable rates from the comfort of their homes. This has improved

Initiatives by the government

Under the Skill India Mission launched in 2015, the Government of India has upskilled about 1.7 crore youth by January 2021, intending to train Indian youth to become selfreliant and financially stable. Various development courses like training workshops sponsored by ISRO and AIIMS (New Delhi), among others, were made available to youth under this program.

It is with schemes like these that India can bridge the skill gap and make educated youth industryready. But selecting the right vocational course for a student can be tricky. Making career choices influenced by family or peer pressure could sabotage the benefits these vocational courses are meant to offer. Choosing the right course, based on individual skills and interests, is the only way to succeed.

To ensure one doesn't falter in making the right choice, more and more students today are opting for digital career counselling. Such services bring together technologybased digital platforms and industry professionals with in-depth domain knowledge and know-how of various careers to help individuals make wellinformed choices.

(The author is the MD of ProTeen, an online career guidance platform.)

It all started with an Instagram post where he announced how he quit drinking a year back. Not that actor Sidhartha Mallya was an alcoholic, just that he experienced anxiety, the morning after.

"Getting thousands of responses on an honest post was overwhelming and made me think how many more lives could I touch, and maybe help if I shared more experiences," he shares in an interview.

Mallya's memoir, If I'm Honest, published by Westland Publications, which recently hit the stands takes the through depression. Something that came as a bit of a surprise to him, given that he seemingly had the world at his feet -- he was young, had just graduated from a prestigious drama school and had upcoming film pro-

However, despite all the awaiting opportunities, he was unhappy. That was when he realised that something was not right and sought professional help. Thus began the journey to understanding his current mental state as well as an exploration of the other mental issues he has suffered throughout his life and where they might have stemmed from.

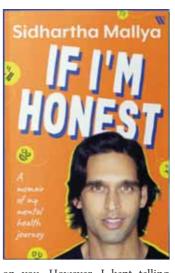
In this memoir, he opens up about struggling with depression, living with OCD, the effects of his parents' divorce, why he quit drinking and also what helped him overcome his challenges.

"There are a few messages that I want to get across. One is that everyone can suffer from issues of mental health. And also, I think, by being honest, as the title suggests, I want to convey that it is okay to talk about these things. To embrace your own truth. It makes no sense to be ashamed talking about it," he says.

Ask him if there was the muchhyped 'catharsis' post finishing the book, and he asserts, "Frankly, the whole process was quite difficult. You have to do a lot of self-work to be able to talk about these things. Writing it and reliving those things do take a toll

It is ok to not feel ok

Actor SIDDHARTHA MALLYA shares that he wants to help as many people as possible through his memoir, If I'm Honest, where he opens up about lesser-known details of his life



on you. However, I kept telling myself that if I can just help one other person, then it is all good.

Mallya, who studied business and joined the corporate world before giving it up to enrol in the prestigious Royal Central School of Speech and Drama says that he always wanted to do something performative in India.

"From a very young age, my imagination loved running in every direction, and always wanted to do my thing. I am very pleased that I made this transition. Because if I didn't, I don't know if this book would have existed today. I think the switch helped me grow as a person. It helped me get in touch with myself,"

Pleased that he made his debut with the rebel filmmaker Q in Brahman Naman (the first Indian original to release on Netflix), the actor says that what fascinated him

was the fact that the director is known to do his own thing without getting distracted by box office consideration. "He is not a conformist, and that is what makes him special. when the Indian cinematic landscape was very different. All these OTT platforms did not exist then."

Stressing that digital platforms have opened doors to multiple genres without the pressure of a box office success and also actors who might not be A-listers, he adds, "Everything is subscriber-based, and the success of a show is not based on box office revenue. Therefore, you don't need your star names in these projects anymore. I think what it has done is it has given a lot of actors the opportunities to be in really good projects that they would not have been really able to be in the traditional model.

Currently working on a few film projects, the lockdowns for this actor were not really drastic. "Believe it or not, despite what the people might think, I am not the most social person. I like being in bed by 9 pm and getting up by 6:30 in the morning. So, the lockdowns did not really change my life very much. I know a lot of people who love social interactions. I actually spent a lot of the time working on myself."

And how is it being Vijay Mallya's son? "Well, I do not want people to think 'Vijay Mallya's son wrote a book'. I hope that I get respected. And if you don't like me, if you don't like my book, that is fine. But do not dislike the book because you associate me with someone else that you don't like."

TREND:



from across the length and breadth of India. As per Sonu, "No matter how much you learn about India, you can't know enough. The country's diversity has tons of incredible stories that are yet to be revealed and this show will take viewers on a fascinating journey."

Geographic Channel will take viewers into the

lesser-known and well-researched narratives



'I'm hoping with the forthcoming show, Sasural Wonder Phool, we are able to change a few things. It would be comforting to know that we could inspire people to be more comfortable when they're talking about sex or sex-related issues. I honestly feel that my character in the show, Ashima, reflects our society wonderfully. She's not so comfortable talking about sex.



'As an artiste, one always looks to expand their horizons and I am glad that I am on the path to growth. I think the best part about being an actor is that you get to experi-ment with different kinds of roles. In 14 Phere, I got to play the diverse role of Zubina, the aspiring artiste who plays the fake mother to both Vikrant and Kriti during different weddings.

KEEP DOING YOUR THING: MEGAN FOX

Actor MEGAN FOX says it is hard to be a woman and has encouraged other women to wear whatever makes them 'feel good' and not to worry about someone else's

She acknowledges that it's easier said than done. However, style is a reflection of your mood. She reveals, "I change multiple times a day sometimes, don't you? That's my best advice for anyone wear what makes you feel good and do not worry about what other people say."



ABHIDHAMMA DAY CELEBRATIONS

PM Modi believes that Buddha is universal because he encouraged people to start from within as Buddhatva is a sense of ultimate responsibility



rime Minister, Narendra Prime tylinister, Adam Modi, participated in an event marking the celebrations of Abhidhamma day at the Mahaparinirvana temple in Kushinagar.

The Governor and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, union ministers, G Kishan Reddy, Kiren Rijiju, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, the cabinet minister of Sri Lankan government, Namal Rajapaksa, Buddhist delegation from Sri Lanka, diplomats from Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Bhutan, South Korea, Sri

Singapore, Nepal, and others, were present during the occa-

Addressing the event, PM Modi noted the auspicious occasion of Ashwin Poornima and the presence of holy relics of Lord Buddha. Welcoming the delegation of Sri Lanka, he traced back the connections between India and Sri Lanka to emperor Ashoka's son, Mahendra, and daughter, Sanghamitra, taking the message of Buddhism to Sri Lanka. He also remarked that it was believed that on this day, Arahat Mahinda, a Buddhist Lanka, Mongolia, Japan, monk, returned and told his

father that Sri Lanka had accepted Buddha's message with enthusiasm. The belief spread and Buddha's message was accepted by and for the whole world. Buddha's dham-

ma was for humanity. Lauding the role of the International Buddhist Confederation in spreading the message of Lord Buddha, the Prime Minister remembered Shri Shakti Sinha, who passed away recently, for his contribution as DG of the International Buddhist Confederation. He also remarked that Buddha came back to Earth from Tushita

heaven and on Ashwin Purnima, the monks also completed their three-month varshavas.

He also said that Buddha was universal and buddhatva was a sense of ultimate responsibility. He underlined that many questions arise along with environmental concerns and climate change. But, if we adopt the message of Buddha, then instead of 'who will do', 'what is to be done' path would start to show itself. PM Modi mentioned that Buddha was in the soul of humanity that connected different cultures and

"India never believed in restricting the knowledge, great messages or the thoughts of great souls. Whatever was ours was shared with the entire humanity and that is why, human values, like non-violence and compassion, are settled in the heart of India so naturally", he commented.

He stated that Buddha was the source of inspiration for the Constitution of India as Buddha's Dhamma Chakra is sitting on the tricolour of India and giving us momentum. Even today, if someone goes to the Parliament of India, then the mantra, 'dharma chakra pravartanaya', is observed.

Talking about the influence of Lord Buddha in Gujarat and, specifically, the Prime Minister's birthplace, Vadnagar, he said Buddha's influence could be observed in western and southern parts of the country in equal measures as the eastern parts.

"The history of Gujarat shows that Buddha is beyond boundaries and directions. Mahatma Gandhi, born in the land of Gujarat was the modern flag-bearer of Buddha's message of truth and non-violence", he

Quoting Lord Buddha, "appa deepo bhava," meaning, "be your own lamp", the Prime Minister said that a self-illuminated person would show the path to the world. He concluded, saying that the day would mark the motivation for India to become self-reliant, providing strength to participate in the progress of every country in the world. PM Modi also remarked that Lord Buddha's teachings were being taken forward by India in the mantra of ʻsabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka



Strengthening fuel security

NTPC ties up with Talabira mines of NLC in Odisha

In its effort to strengthen fuel security, NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) Limited, the country's largest power generator, commenced coal offtake from Talabira mines of NLC in Odisha. As per the agreement, NTPC shall offtake coal from Talabira mines to Lara and Darlipalli. Besides this, NTPC is also ramping up coal

production from its captive mines. The present installed capacity of and two solar PV).

NTPC Group is 66,900 MW (including 13,425 MW through subsidiaries), comprising 47 NTPC stations (23 coal-based stations, seven gas-based stations, one hydro station, one small hydro,14 solar photovoltaic system (PV), and one windbased station), and 26 joint venture stations (nine coal-based, four gas-based, eight hydro, one small hydro, two wind,

 $B^{\text{harat Heavy Electricals}}_{\text{Limited (BHEL) has}}$ **Top innovators** been adjudged as the win-ner of the Clarivate South BHEL wins the Clarivate South and and South East Asia Innovation award, 2021, South East Asia Innovation awards under the corporations in India. BHEL's efforts, as a leader in innovation, were



BHEL, from Rajat Sikka, the Property group, South Asia Clarivate Analytics.

director of Intellectual and South East Asia of

Addressing public concerns

Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad visits the LIC central office and expresses his desire of seeing it as a top company

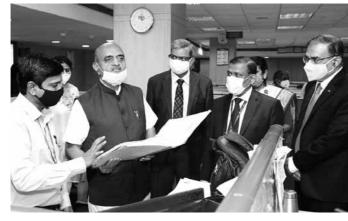
Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, the Minister of State, department of Financial Services, Government of India, visited the central office of LIC of India in Mumbai on October 18.

The chairperson, MR Kumar, and anaging directors, Siddhart Mohanty, Mini Ipe and BC Patnaik, welcomed the minister.

Karad addressed his focus on people and how they can be benefitted. While expressing satisfaction over the brand image of LIC, he stated the desire of seeing LIC occupying a numero uno position in global insurance brands.

Subsequently, he visited various departments of the central office and interacted with departmental officials, wherein he emphasised on the prompt disposal of work.

food for the future'.





New investment strategy

recognised and placed

among the top innovators in India. The award has been won by BHEL earlier

in the years 2018 and 2020 also.

The Clarivate awards

were announced, at the

Clarivate South and South

East Asia Innovation forum,

that were held virtually ear-

lier. The award was received

by Renuka Gera, the direc-

tor (IS&P, additional charge

E, R&D) on behalf of

LIC Mutual Fund announced the launch of LICMF BAF, an open-ended dynamic asset allocation fund which would invest across equity, debt and money market

The investment strategy for LIC MF Balanced Advantage Fund (LICMF BAF), essentially a driven by the Fundamental

Driven Mathematical model. Explaining the dynamics of the model-based unique investment approach for the new fund offer in LIC MF BAF, Dinesh Pangtey, the CEO of LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Ltd said, "Bond yields, in a way, represent the opportunity cost of investing in equities and perception of risk appetite. We at LIC MF would be using this inverse relationship between equity and debt in



LICMF BAF for switching from equity to debt and vice versa, based on the Fundamental Driven

Mathematical model." LICMF BAF model would precisely use this relationship to determine optimal asset allocation level for the scheme. The model would use interest rates, one-year forward price-earnings ratio and earnings yield, to arrive

at the optimum asset allocation

Pangtey added that the model automatically would arrive at asset allocation between equity and debt, as the underlying fundamentals change. However, the equity and debt portfolio should be managed actively by seasoned fund managers.

The model would be designed

in such a way that it automatically factors in, any change in any of the parameters, on a real-time basis and keep changing the price to earning band using linear pro-LICMF BAF would not only

help investors participate in the market rally but, more importantly, it would also aim to minimise the downward risk, and this would be a crucial part of any investment strategy. LICMF BAF would be benchmarked against a customised index, LIC MF hybrid composition would be 50 per cent nifty, 50 TRI and 50 per cent nifty 10 year benchmark G-Sec. The fund endeavours to keep gross equity allocation 65 per cent or abové to enable investors to avail equity taxation benefits.

The New Fund Offer (NFO), which has opened on October 20, would close on November 3, 2021. The fund managers for LIC MF BAF would be Yogesh Patil for the equity portion, and Rahul Singh for the debt portion.

International Chef's day 2021 was celebrated at SRM Institute of Science and **Healthy food for the future** Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, which had live food demonstrations. The theme for this year's event was 'Healthy

SRM honours chef Dr K Damodaran with Life Time Excellence award on International Chef's day





SRMIHM. Guest of honour, chef N Sheetharam Prasad, and general secretary of IFCA, and culinary director of GRT Hotels & Resorts, was honoured with the Service Excellence award. The Vocational Excellence award was presented to Chef Dr M Thirulogachander.

In his speech, Prasad said, "Students need to do a lot of research to develop good healthy eating habits." He urged all the upcoming chefs to practise cooking and eating local food.

SRMIHM also honoured 19 chefs, from all over the country, who had participated in the mega event. Chef Zubin Writer, executive sous chef at ITC grand Chola also held a live demonstration for

The fruit mixing ceremony was held during the event in which all the guests and chefs took part. The event concluded with cultural performance and prize distribution ceremony.

Also present at the event were SRMIST registrar Dr S Ponnusamy, the director of hotel management, Dr D Antony Ashok Kumar, and vice-principal of SRM IHM Lalitha, among others.

Welfare schemes for people

Chhattisgarh CM, Bhupesh Bhaghel, receives the highest popularity rating amongst all heads of Indian states, according to the Governance Index

A Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, is the best performing Chief Minister in the country. He has received the highest popularity rat-

per the CVoter Governance Index, the

ing among all chief ministers of states. The index report attributed his popularity to several welfare schemes introduced by the state government.

Recent schemes, such as Mahatari Dular Yojana, that will provide free education to children who their lost guardians/parents to Covid, is appreciated by all. The government will bear

expenses of their education. The report says that the Chief Minister is

entire

the

popular among masses because of his strong decision-making ability and his CEO style of working. Around 94 per cent people of Chhattisgarh are happy with the Baghel's performance.

Milestones in environmental management Union Mines secretary, Alok Tandon, IAS, inaugurates

The secretary of Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Alok Tandon, inaugurated the lean slurry project of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at Angul yesterday, marking a significant milestone in the Navratna company's journey of business excellence and

the lean slurry project of NALCO at Angul

adopting outstanding practices in environmental management.

Completion of the lean slurry project by the company will ensure 100 per cent utilisation of ash generated at the company's Captive Power Plant (CPP) and marks a big step forward in its commitment towards environ-





THE LAND MALCH

ment-friendly and sustainable operations.

Tandon, accompanied by Sridhar Patra, CMD of NALCO,

visited the smelter and captive power-plants of NALCO at Angul and appreciated the efforts of NALCO in achieving the targets and scaling new heights of success amidst a challenging business environment. The IAS also interacted with officials and employees and motivated them to maintain the tempo of production and pro-

DEHRADUN | THURSDAY | OCTOBER 21, 2021

Rohit finds his groove as India outplay Australia

ndia fine-tuned their T20 World Cup preparations with a convincing ninewicket win over Australia in their final warm-up game here on Wednesday but the sixth bowler's slot remained a worry as even Virat Kohli rolled his arm over going into the tournament proper.

Captaining the side with Kohli only taking the field to bowl, Rohit Sharma (60 retired off 41) showed sublime touch alongside opening partner K L Rahul (39 off 31) as India chased down Australia's 152 for five in 17.5 overs.

Suryakumar Yadav (38 not out off 27) came at number three in Kohli's absence and got valuable time in the middle which should boost his confidence going ahead. Hardik Pandya (14 not out

off 8) came at four to finish the game and he did it with a clean hit over the bowler's head.

Another plus for India was seasoned pacer Bhuvneshwar



Australia's Marcus Stoinis looks on as India's Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul run between the wickets during the Cricket Twenty20 World Cup warm-up match

Kumar finding rhythm after a poor outing against England. India had also beaten England in their earlier practice game.

The batting department looks more or less settled and the five specialist bowlers also inspire confidence but the same can't be said about the extra bowling option with Hardik not bringing his all-round skills to the table at the moment.

"Hardik is coming along pretty well, but it'll be a while before he will start to bowl. He hasn't started bowling, but he should be ready by the start of the tournament," said **EXECUTE** on the mat at 11 for the tournament," said **EXECUTE** three after Aaron Rohit at the toss for

the warm-up match against

The team management is hoping he will be ready to bowl during India's World Cup campaign which begins with the marquee clash against Pakistan on Sunday.

Skipper Kohli kept things tight with two overs of medium

pace but to expect him to do the job in high-pressure scenarios would be asking for too much from him.

India conceded 58 runs off the last five overs and that is something they would like to improve on.

After losing the toss, India put up a decent bowling effort. Rohit mentioned at the toss that Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami were

rested from the game but the skipper took the field to bowl a couple of overs in which he conceded 12 runs.

India had Australia

ICC T20 Finch opted to bat first. David Warner's barren run continued after a failed attempt at a reverse sweep had him trapped in front off

> With his very next ball, Ashwin got rid of birthday boy Mitchell Marsh who played for the turn which wasn't there only to edge it to the first slip.

Ravichandran Ashwin.

Hardik expected to bowl when Indian T20 WC campaign begins: Rohit

ndia vice-captain Rohit Sharma on Wednesday said that all-rounder Hardik Pandya is expected to be "ready" to bowl when the team starts its T20 World Cup campaign here on Sunday. Rohit, who is leading the side in the warm-up game against Australia as Virat Kohli has been rested, said the team needs a sixth bowler during the showpiece.

"Hardik is coming along pretty well, but it'll be a while before he will start to bowl. He hasn't started bowling, but he should be ready by the start of the tournament," said Rohit at the toss for the warmup match against Australia.

"We have quality in the main bowlers, but you need an option for a 6th bowler," he

Ravindra Jadeja had Finch trapped LBW with a slider off his very first ball, leaving Australia with a lot of work to

les with a 61-run partnership.

do. Steve Smith (57 off 48) and

in-form Glenn Maxwell (37

off 28) tried to break the shack-

here on Sunday. Pandya's fitness is a concern heading into the tournament as he did not bowl at all in the IPL. The team management has

added. India play Pakistan in their opening match

repeatedly stated that Pandya's bowling is crucial for the team's balance. Besides Kohli, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami were also rested from Wednesday's warm-up game.

"We want to make sure that we get the 6th bowling option, some options in the batting order as well, we'll try all those things

today," Rohit said. "We wanted to bat first as well, just wanted to try and get runs on the board." India had beaten England by seven wickets in their first warm-up game on Monday, riding on a 24-ball 51 from

rotating the strike.

cricket

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Pattinson

retires from

international

A ustralian fast bowler James Pattinson on Wednesday

retired from international

cricket after realising

that he won't be in the reckon-

ing for the Ashes series due to

While Maxwell used his reverse sweep to good effect,

Smith kept himself busy by

T20WorldCupwindow

12 YR OLD DEIGNED SCOTLAND T20 WC JERSEY

Dubai: Scotland beating teams such as Bangladesh in the ICC T20 World Cup was never unthinkable. But what is difficult to believe is that the team's striking dark blue and purple-coloured jersey has been designed by a 12-year-old girl. Rebecca Downie is the young designer and she has been cheering her team, which proved to be the most impressive in the first week of the tournament. The team chose the design from over 200 entries from school children across the country. The jersey is based on the colours of Scotland's national emblem — the thistle.

'IF WE DON'T GET RESULTS, WE SEARCH FOR SCAPEGOATS'

Karachi: Former captain Misbah-ul-Haq said that there will be no improvement in Pakistan cricket unless it changes its culture and stops hunting for scapegoats. Speaking for the first time after his sudden resignation as head coach last month, Misbah said "cosmetic surgery" will not change anything in Pakistan cricket as the problems are deep rooted in the system."The problem is that in our cricket we only look at results and we don't give time or have patience for planning ahead and improving the system," he said on 'A-Sports' channel.

Namibia beat Netherlands, keeps them in hunt for Super 12

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

In a sensational display of power-hitting, David Wiese conjured up a 66-run knock to fashion Namibia's six-wicket win over the Netherlands in a crucial first round

Group A game of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday. Wiese's maiden international half-century changed the pace of the

utes as runs flew thick and fast after he took charge at the crease and in the process added 93 runs with skipper Gerhard Erasmus (32) for the fourth wicket. Chasing 165 to stay alive in the competition,

debutants Namibia were stuttering at 52 for three after nine overs but Wiese single-handedsank the Dutch side.

His onslaught on the spinners, especially the monstrous straight sixes, was a treat to watch as the Dutch bowlers were guilty of putting the balls in the slot for Wiese to clobber.

And even if the pacers drew the length a bit back, the 36-yeargame in matter of minenough power to muscle the ball around for big He raised his fifty in just 29

balls, with a six off rival skipper Pietar Seelar. His 40-ball unbeaten knock was adorned with five



Erasmus too timed the ball beautifully and got boundaries with ease in his 22-ball knock

The victory has kept Namibia in hunt for the Super-12 stage and now need to beat Ireland in their final game in the first round.

They had lost to Sri Lanka in

their opening match.

The Netherlands now have lost both their games and their chances to make it to the next

stage are quite low. Earlier, opener Max O'Dowd (70) struck his second consecutive half-century and shared a 82run stand with Colin Ackermann (35) to help the Netherland post a competitive 164 for four.

O'Dowd, who had hit 51 fitness issues. against Ireland in the previous The 31-year-old, who has match, expressed himself freely, played 21 Tests and 15 ODIs, going after the bowlers. At times he played uppish shots, not though will continue to play exactly in control but still kept finding the gaps to keep the scoreboard going.

domestic cricket. Pattinson had recently suffered a knee injury during an intra-squad Victorian trial game. "Leading into pre-season I

really wanted to give the Ashes a crack but in the end I haven't had the preparation I would have liked heading into the coming season," Pattinson was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au in a state-

"If I was to be part of the Ashes I would need to do myself and my teammates justice. I didn't want to be in a position of battling with my body when you need to be 100 per cent fit and ready to go at any time. That would

instead of trying to play at the very highest level, knowing I have only got three or four years of cricket left, I would focus more on Victoria, helping the young guys develop, perhaps some cricket in England and spending more time with my family."

"It was then I felt that

Cup, says Rashid Khan

PTI DUBAI

The ICC T20 World Cup will belong to the spinners, Afghanistan's star leg-break bowler Rashid Khan has asserted, and said they can beat any team if they bat well in the showpiece. Since being picked up by as an 18-year-old in 2017, ace leg-spinner Rashid has emerged as T20 cricket's leading wickettaker in this period with 333 scalps and is wanted by franchises across the world.

Appearing in his second T20 World Cup, Rashid feels spinners are always "effective" on pitches at three venues in the UAE, where the Super 12s, the



semi-finals and final will be

"Conditions here are always good for spinners and it should be spinners' World Cup," Rashid was quoted as saying by ÉSPNcricinfo.

"Doesn't matter how wickets are prepared

spinners. Spinners will play a huge role in this World Cup.
"As we have seen in the IPL, spinners have brought back

their team in the game. I feel that will be same in the World Cup as well. The best spinners will bring their team back in the game and win it."

who are in Group 2 along with India, Pakistan and New Zealand, would need to do "lots of hard work" considering all 12s are "good players of spin" their opponents in the Super

Afghanistan have played 14 T20Is at the three venues in the UAE here, it is always helpful for the and have won all of them.

It should be spinners' World Lakshya sails into second round, Saina sinks at Denmark Open

Young Lakshya Sen thumped compatriot Sourabh Verma in straight games to enter the second round but it was curtains for Saina Nehwal at the Denmark Open Super 1000 tournament here on Wednesday.

Lakshya, who had finishe runners-up at Dutch Open last Sunday, dished out a superb performance to outclass national champion Sourabh 21-9 21-7 in

The 20-year-old from Almora, who had failed to make the cut for the Sudirman Cup and Thomas Cup Final after losing his only match in the trials, is likely to clash with second seed



and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark next.

London Games bronze medallist Saina, who had retired midway through her first match at Uber Cup Final due to a groin injury, couldn't match Japan's world no 20 Aya Ohori and lost 21-16 21-14 in the opening 21 to second seeded Korean pair The Indian doubles players

had a dismal outing as apart from Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, none of the others could put up a fight in their respective matches. While Ŝatwik and Ashwini's

21 21-14 11-21 loss to China's Feng Yan Zhe and Du Yue in mixed doubles, Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha S Ram lost 8-21 7-21 to Indonesian combination of Nita Violina Marwah and Putri Syaikah in women's doubles. Ćommonwealth Games bronze medallists Ashwini and N Sikki

Reddy also went down 17-21 13-

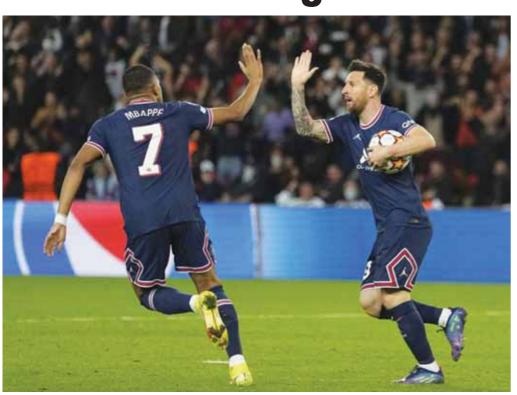
of Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan.

Lakshya had claimed five titles in 2019 before COVID-19 forced the suspension of the BWF calender. On Wednesday, the world

no 25 Indian was up against whom he had lost twice in the past but it made no difference as Lakshya dished out a dominating show to blow him away.

He led 7-2 early on and never looked in trouble as he reeled off seven straight points from 13-7 to grab seven game points. Sourabh saved two before Lakhsya pocketed the opening game.

Messi scores 2 goals to rescue PSG



AP ■ PARIS

ionel Messi scored twice in Lquick succession, including an exquisite Panenka-style penalty, to rescue Paris Saint-Germain as it rallied to beat Leipzig 3-2 in the Champions League after being dominated for long spells.

Messi equalised in the 67th minute on Tuesday, poking home from close range after goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi tipped his first shot onto the post. He then sent Gulacsi diving to the left before dinking the ball softly down the middle for his third goal since joining PSG from Barcelona.

They have all come in the Champions League, with Kylian Mbappe setting up the first two and winning the penalty for Messi's winner against Leipzig in the 74th

Mbappe pointed straight at Messi to tell him he could take the

spot kick. "It's normal, it's about respect,"

Mbappe said.
"He's the best player in the world. I've always said it's a priviege to play with him."

It was the 34th time that Messi scored at least two goals in a Champions League game, bringing the Argentina captain's total to 123

goals in the tournament. He remains second to longtime rival Cristiano Ronaldo on 137.

Mbappe then took a penalty in the fourth minute of stoppage time, awarded following a video review for a foul on right back Achraf Hakimi, but he blazed it well over.

PSG is atop Group A with seven points, one more than Manchester City. Leipzig is last with no points.

Mbappe opened the scoring with a ninth-minute goal.But after that, the visitors took control by pressing high up the field and forcing panicky PSG into numerous

"(Were we) lucky, no? You make your own luck," Mbappe said.

"But of course, it was difficult, Leipzig played well. We had some low spells which were perhaps a little bit too low.'

Striker Andre Silva equalised in the 28th and midfielder Nordi Mukiele volleyed in powerfully in the 57th, with left back Angelino setting up both with his deft left

foot.

"Leipzig have a good team, full of confidence," PSG winger Julian Draxler said.

"They caused us some problems, but we ruthlessly exploited the room we were allowed?

PSG was missing forwards Neymar and Mauro Icardi, which gave Draxler a rare start alongside Mbappe and Messi in attack. Neymar has a sore adductor while Icardi was excused for family



Olympic flame arrives in Beijing amid boycott calls

PT ■ BEIJING

The Olympic flame arrived in Beijing on Wednesday amid calls from overseas critics for a boycott of the Feb. 4-20 Winter Games. Beijing's Communist Party Secretary Cai Qi, the top

official in the Chinese capital, received the flame at a closely-guarded airport ceremony. Beijing successfully hosted the Summer Olympics in 2008, although the event failed to produce the more open political and social environment in China that many had

Activist groups disrupted the flame lighting ceremonv in southern Greece on Monday, accusing the International Olympic Committee of granting legitimacy to rights abuses in China.

IOC officials have said they are committed to seeing the competition go ahead and that rights issues are not part of their remit. Speaking in the ancient stadium of Olympia, IOC President Thomas Bach said the Games must be

'respected as politically neutral ground." Activists on Tuesday said human rights in China have deteriorated since 2008, claiming that the Summer Games "emboldened" China.

BENZEMA ABSENT FOR BLACKMAIL TRIAL Versailles: Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema wasn't present Wednesday for the opening of his three-day trial for involvement in an alleged attempt to blackmail former France teammate Mathieu Valbuena over a sex tape. The 33-yearold Benzema's legal team told the court in Versailles that professional obligations made it "impossible" for him to attend. Valbuena's lawyer said he deplored the absence. Benzema played for Madrid in Kyiv on Tuesday against Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League. Madrid plays again Sunday against Barcelona in the Spanish league. Four other people accused of attempted blackmail in the case were present in court.

AKEAL HOSEIN REPLACES FABIAN ALLEN Dubai: Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein was on Wednesday approved as replacement for an injured Fabian Allen in the West Indies squad for

the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup. The Event Technical Committee of the tournament has approved Hosein as a replacement for Allen, the ICC said in a statement. Hosein, who has played nine ODIs and six T20Is, was picked after Allen was ruled out due to an ankle injury. Hosein was a reserve as per the allowance for teams to travel with extra players in view of COVID-19 quarantine requirements.

OLYMPIANS HEADLINE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP **Hisar:** Olympians Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and Pooja Rani (81kg) headline a strong field for the

rooja Kani (81kg) headline a strong field for the National Women's Boxing Championship, which will double up as a selection trial for the world championships, starting here on Thursday. The tournament, which is being conducted in association with Haryana Boxing Sangh, will see participation of more than 320 boxers from 36 States/LITs/Boards from across the country. Apart States/UTs/Boards from across the country. Apart from Simranjit (60kg) and Pooja (81kg), who is the reigning Asian champion, 2019 World Championships bronze-medallist Jamuna Boro (54kg), defending champion Pwilao Basumatary (60kg) and Asian Championships bronze medal-list Jaismine (60kg) will be seen presenting strong