

**OPINION 6**  
IS CONVERSION RACKET  
THE TIP OF AN ICEBERG?

**WORLD 8**  
INDIA, US TO STRENGTHEN  
WAYS TO FIGHT TERRORISM

**SPORT 12**  
ENG AGREE TO TOUR AUS  
FOR ASHES: REPORT

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.31 Issue 278  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY OCTOBER 7, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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WE MUST HELP  
SUSTAIN NATURE:  
PANKAJ TRIPATHI  
10 VIVACITY

# Rahul, Priyanka visit Lakhimpur after high drama

Admin lets Cong  
cavalcade move  
after stopping it

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■  
LUCKNOW

After high drama at the Lucknow airport on Wednesday morning when a Congress delegation led by Rahul Gandhi was stopped from proceeding to Lakhimpur Kheri in their private vehicles, the State Government finally bowed down to political pressure and allowed them to visit the homes of the victims of the Sunday violence in which four farmers were mowed down and five others lost their lives in lynching.

Rahul and others later joined Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who was detained at Sitapur and together proceeded to Lakhimpur Kheri in a massive cavalcade.

Rahul and Priyanka arrived at Lakhimpur Kheri late in the evening in a procession of vehicles and called on the family of 19-year-old Lovepreet Singh who died on Sunday, allegedly run over by a car dri-



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra meet the family members of deceased farmer Lavpreet Singh in Lakhimpur Kheri on Wednesday PTI

ven by Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son. Talking to media, Priyanka said that they will fight for the family till the Minister was sacked and his son was arrested.

Besides Rahul and Priyanka, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel,

Punjab CM Charanjit Channi, senior Congress leaders KC Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala and Deepender Hooda were part of the team.

Earlier at the Lucknow airport, Rahul alleged that the Uttar Pradesh Police asked him and others to proceed to

Lakhimpur Kheri in police vehicles. Threatening to sit on indefinite dharna at the airport, Rahul tweeted a photograph of heavy police presence as he and other Congress leaders waited at the Lucknow airport.

"I'm not going to move from here. I'll sit here for any

number of days," Rahul said. After a brief stand-off, the three leaders were allowed to proceed towards Lakhimpur Kheri from the airport.

The decision to allow them to proceed to Lakhimpur Kheri was taken after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a meeting with the officials and assessed the situation on Wednesday morning. Soon after the decision, Priyanka was released from custody in Sitapur and was asked to end her "satyagraha".

The State Government obviously also realised that the restraining the movement of Congress leaders was keeping them in the media limelight and giving them political mileage.

Soon after her detention on early Monday morning, Priyanka started a "satyagraha" and even kept fast telling the authorities that she will end it only after she was given permission to meet the family members of the victims in Kheri. When she questioned her detention, the authorities on Tuesday registered a case against her and officially informed her that she was arrested.

Continued on Page 2



## MoS Mishra meets Shah, briefs him on Lakhimpur incident

No question of Min's  
resignation: Sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, whose son is facing the charge of mowing down four farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri, called on his boss Amit Shah on Wednesday. During the 30-minute interaction, Mishra is understood to have briefed Shah about the Lakhimpur Kheri incident.

Sources said there was no question of Mishra's resignation despite growing demand from the Opposition for his dismissal. Mishra has denied allegations of his son's involvement in the incident.

The police have registered

a murder case against Ashish Mishra, the son of Ajay Kumar Mishra, and several others over the death of the farmers.

Meanwhile, a media invite for an event scheduled for Thursday in which Mishra was the chief guest and was supposed to deliver a speech has been "cancelled".

A media officer for the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) said the programme was being put on "hold and the invitation may be treated as cancelled".

The event is related to the two-day 7th national conference of heads of prisons of all States and Union Territories. Nityanand Rai, who is also Minister of State for Home, is the chief guest for the valedictory session of this conference on Friday.

Ensure justice for  
farmers' families,  
Kejriwal urges PM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Condemning death of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure justice for the families of the victims.

The AAP supremo demanded that the accused be arrested and that Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay Kumar Mishra, whose son has been named as accused in the incident, be sacked. "The entire system is trying to protect the killers of farmers," Kejriwal said.

Meanwhile, AAP leaders Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha met the family of deceased farmer Lovepreet in Lakhimpur Kheri on Wednesday. They will meet another deceased farmer Raman Kashyap's family.

"Do you know where we see criminals mercilessly running their cars over innocent people only to have the entire system bow down before them and shield them from the law? We only see it happen in Bollywood movies and the people of this country do not deserve to see it become a reality," the AAP leader said, adding, "Mr Prime Minister, each and every person of this country is seeing it pan out into reality on TVs and social media today. A car came, murdered people and no action was taken."

## C'garh, Punjab to give ₹50L each to kin of 4 slain kisan, journalist

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh and Punjab Governments on Wednesday announced an ex-gratia of ₹50 lakh each to families of four farmers and a journalist killed in the violence that broke out in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday.

"Our Government will provide ₹50 lakh each to families of farmers and the journalist killed in the Lakhimpur violence," Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi told reporters in Lucknow, adding the Lakhimpur violence reminded him of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also said his Government will give ₹50 lakh to the families of the farmers and the journalist.

Both Baghel and Channi were part of the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress delegation which visited Lakhimpur Kheri on Wednesday.

## Gandhi family using tragedy as opportunity, inciting people: BJP

Family out on bail  
on various charges  
of corruption, says  
Sambit Patra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and her sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, alleging that the Gandhi family is using the Lakhimpur Kheri tragedy as an opportunity to extract political mileage from the incident by inciting people.

The BJP also said "the family" has been rushing to the tragedy site to divert attention

from the feud within the party. Addressing a Press conference here, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra responded to Rahul's charges that the Modi Government is "stealing" from everyone's pocket by hitting back saying a "family" who is out "on bail" on various charges of corruption has the cheek to say so.

He said son-in-law Robert Vadra who is facing land-grabbing charges is "lecturing" on justice to the farmers. Lashing back at Rahul, Patra said "irresponsibility" has become his second name.

"He raised questions on post mortem. Is he a medical expert?" asked BJP national spokesperson.

Detailed report on P4

## SC to hear Kheri matter today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has decided to hear on Thursday the Lakhimpur Kheri case of Uttar Pradesh in which eight people, including four farmers, were killed as violence erupted during a farmers' protest. As per the cause list uploaded on the apex court website, a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli would hear the matter.

Earlier on Wednesday, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal had urged the Supreme Court to suo motu act on the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

## CAPSULE

### VETERAN ACTOR ARVIND TRIVEDI PASSES AWAY

Mumbai: Veteran actor Arvind Trivedi, best known for playing Raavan in the popular 1986 show "Ramayan", died on late Tuesday evening following a heart attack. He was in his early 80s.

### IMD: SW MONSOON WITHDRAWAL BEGINS

New Delhi: The withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon commenced on Wednesday and it receded from some parts of West Rajasthan and adjoining Gujarat, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. This is the second-most delayed withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon since 1960. Monsoon withdrawal from northwest India in 2019 started on October 9.

### FRANCE MOVES BAN ON SEX CHANGE THERAPY

Paris: French lawmakers have unanimously backed proposed legislation that would ban so-called conversion therapy and authorise jail time and fines for practitioners who use the scientifically discredited practice to attempt to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ people.

## NCP terms SRK son's drug bust 'stage-managed'

NCB rejects charge  
as 'baseless, borne  
out of malice and  
probable prejudice'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A political controversy broke out in Maharashtra over the sensational mid-sea drug bust case on Tuesday, as the ruling NCP alleged that the "not a single gram of drug was seized from the arrested persons" and two private persons, including a BJP worker, had been hauling up suspects, including Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan and Arbaaz Merchant.

However, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) swiftly contested the NCP's allegation by saying two persons — Manish Bhanushali and Kiran



Gosavi — identified by the political party were among nine "independent witnesses" and dubbed the charge as "baseless" to have been made "with malice and probable prejudice that may have been harboured in retaliation against earlier legal actions carried out by the NCB".

At a news conference addressed earlier in the afternoon, Maharashtra Minister and NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik dubbed the drug bust as "stage-managed" and "fake".

Continued on Page 2

## NEET-Speciality exams pattern restored for this year

In the interest of  
students, changes  
will take place  
next year only,  
Govt informs SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that in the interest of students, it has decided to implement changes in the pattern of the NEET-Super Speciality examination from academic year 2022-23 only.

A bench of justices DY Chandrachud, Vikram Nath and BV Nagarathna recorded the submission of Additional

Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and disposed of pleas of students who challenged the Centre's earlier decision to implement changes in the examination pattern of NEET-Super Speciality from this year. The bench, however, said it is leaving the question open on the validity of the changes made in the pattern of the examination.

"In the interest of the students, who have prepared in line with the old scheme, the Government, in consultation with the two expert bodies (National Medical Commission (NMC) and National Board of Examination (NBE)), has decided that this revised scheme of NEET-SS will be implemented from 2022," Bhati said.

She said this will mean that



the current NEET-SS-2021 will be held in accordance with the norms that were there in the NEET-SS-2020.

The bench recording the submissions said, "The Union of India states that a decision

has been taken by it in consultation with the NMC and the NBE to the effect that having regard to the interest of the body of students, who would have commenced preparations for the ensuing NEET-SS-2021

examination before the change in the pattern was notified, the modified pattern shall be given effect to only from the academic year 2022-23."

On Tuesday, the apex court had given one last chance to the Centre to put its "house in order" and take a call on reversing the changes made to the NEET-Super Speciality examination 2021. An anguished top court had said that the medical profession and education have become a business, and now, the regulation of medical education has also gone that way which is the nation's tragedy.

The SC was not satisfied with the justification given by the Centre, NBE and NMC for making the last-minute changes after the notification for the exam was issued in July.

Continued on Page 2

## Pakistan picks new ISI chief

Islamabad: In a surprise military shake-up, the Pakistan Army on Wednesday announced that the powerful spy agency ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed has been appointed as Peshawar Corps Commander — a crucial position in view of the Taliban's takeover of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum was appointed as the new Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in place of Lt Gen Hameed, who was transferred as Peshawar Corps Commander, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) — the media wing of the Pakistan Army. P8

Taliban leadership unhappy with Pakistan's advocacy for its legitimacy

Kabul: However, Islamabad's advocacy for Afghanistan is not widely appreciated within the Taliban ranks in Kabul. Many Taliban commanders and leaders believe that the world should be talking directly to them instead of countries like Pakistan, who they say, have not been requested by the Taliban to present their position and case to the global community.

Taliban leadership has maintained that they do not want any country to be their voice, as they do not allow any external intervention in domestic affairs of Afghanistan. P8

## SC: Suspend Tihar officials who colluded with ex-Unitech bosses in jail, probe matter

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered immediate suspension of errant Tihar jail officials and directed a full-fledged probe into collusion of jail officials with Unitech's imprisoned ex-promoters Sanjay and Ajay Chandra. The apex court's order was based on Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana's report filed in a sealed cover.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah directed registration of criminal cases against Tihar jail



officials and other unknown persons under the relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Penal Code against those involved in the collusion on the basis of the report.

The apex court asked the Delhi Police Commissioner to probe on ED's disclosure that

the Chandra brothers were conducting business from prison. The top court further directed the Home Ministry to comply with Asthana's suggestions in the report on enhancing prison management and allowed a copy to be shared with the Ministry for necessary compliance of directions. Besides, the court also took on record reports filed in a sealed cover by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and the Delhi Police, and listed the matter for further hearing on October 21.

Continued on Page 2

## NIA takes over ₹21K cr Mundra Port drug haul case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday took over the case of seizure of 2,988.21 kg of narcotics at Mundra Port, Gujarat.

The case relates to seizure of 2,988.21 kg of narcotics

substance (heroin) disguised as consignment of "Semi-processed Talc stones" originating from Afghanistan. The consignment had arrived from Bandar Abbas Port, Iran.

The move comes as DRI probe so far has pointed to terror funding through narco

trade which could have a bearing on national security, sources said.

The nearly 3,000 kg of high grade narcotics seized from the Mundra port is estimated to be valued at over ₹21,000 crore in the international market, they added.



# Didi writes to PM on Bengal floods

**Kolkata:** Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has shot off yet another letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking permanent solution to the recurring floods in the south-western districts of Bengal due to the water released every year by dams maintained by centrally run Damodar Valley Corporation. Alleging "uncontrolled and unplanned" discharge of water by the DVC Banerjee on Tuesday wrote, "I had highlighted the structural fact, that give birth to grave man-made flood situation in southern Bengal, repeatedly, pitifully and tragically. Unless the Government of India addresses the basic underlying structural and managerial issues, both on a short term and on a long-term basis, the disasters will continue unmitigated in our lower riparian state."

In her 4-page letter in which she referred to the grim flood situation in Bankura, Hooghly, Burdwan, Asansol, Birbhum and two Midnapores as "man-made flood," Banerjee alleged that initially DVC disregard IMD's warnings of heavy rain-fall and "kept the water discharge from the dams at a low level and when there was heavy rainfall, it discharged about 10 lakh acre-feet of water between September 30 and October 2, which caused serious devastation in lower Damodar region before the festive season."

She wrote that "this annual problem requires immediate short-term and long-term measures so that the sufferings of the people are mitigated and the national loss in terms of loss of life and property is avoided." PNS

## NIA arrests key conspirator in Vizhinjam Arms case of Kerala

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Wednesday arrested a key conspirator in the Vizhinjam Arms case of Kerala. The arrested accused Satkunam alias Sabesan, 47, a Sri Lankan national and a former member of intelligence wing of LTTE presently residing at Valasaravakkam, Chennai, for his involvement in arms and drug trafficking from Pakistan to Sri Lanka, and utilizing the proceeds for furthering and supporting the revival of LTTE.

The Vizhinjam arms case was registered by NIA on May 1 this under relevant sections of the Arms Act, against five Sri Lankan nationals based on the complaint of NCB that five AK 47 rifles and thousand rounds of 9 mm ammunition were seized along with 300 kg of heroin off Minicoy coast upon interception of the fishing vessel Ravihansi by the Coast Guard on March 18, 2021.

## 12,616 Covid cases in Kerala, 134 deaths

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

After a brief lull, number of persons diagnosed with Covid-19 on a single day in Kerala shot up to 12,616 on Wednesday. This was stated by Minister of Health Veena George in her release to the media. Equally disturbing was the surging number of fatalities. The State logged 134 deaths on Wednesday taking the death toll till date to 25,811.

The department of health tested 98,782 during the last 24 hours, said the release by George. She said that out of the 1,22,407 Covid-19 cases, only 11 per cent of the patients have been admitted to hospitals.

The minister said that by November all schools and colleges in the State would become fully functional. "We cannot be in a permanent lockdown mode all the time. The situation is conducive to reopen schools and colleges so that students could come to the campus," said George.

"We will boycott all review meetings, VIP duty, LS GD meetings, e-Sanjeevani and all training programmes," said Dr T N Suresh, general secretary, KGMOA, in a release.

## Upset farming community to file PIL seeking publication of SC-appointed committee's recommendation

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Upset over the Supreme Court's delay in pronouncing the verdict of their petition against the farm laws enacted in a hurry in Parliament by the Union Government, farmers in the country would soon approach the apex court with a public interest litigation, a senior farm leader told *The Pioneer*.

"The committee of experts appointed by the Supreme Court had submitted a detailed report to the apex court on March 19 itself about the farm Bills. But nothing has moved since then," P Chengal Reddy, veteran farm leader and adviser to Confederation of Indian Farmers' Association (CIFA) told this newspaper. He said it would be ideal if the Supreme Court discloses the recommendations made by the expert committee consisting of Anil Ghanwat, president, Shetkari Sanghatana, Ashok Gulati, agriculture economist and Pramod Kumar Joshi, International Food Policy Research Institute. Though Bhupinder Singh Mann, president, Bhartiya Kisan Union was also a member, he quit later.

Reddy, a highly respected farm leader from Andhra Pradesh, said it has been more than six months since the committee submitted its report and it was shocking to see nothing has been done since then. "We could have avoided the kind of riots which we saw in Uttar Pradesh the other day that claimed nine lives had there been a verdict by the apex court. It seems filing of a Public Interest Litigation demanding the publication of the expert committee report is the only option," said Reddy.

## UP hospital sealed for treating patients on pavement

IAN S ■ FIROZABAD (UP)

A private hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad has been sealed after visuals of over 30 fever patients, lying on pavement with intravenous drip bottles tacked to the side-wall of a flyover of a busy national highway, went viral on social media.

The hospital was sealed on Tuesday after health officials faced the ire of families of patients being treated in the open.

Later, the patients were taken to government health centres.

According to sources, when the rooms of the private hospital were fully occupied, arrangements were made for treatment at the footpath on service lane of National Highway-2, which passes in front of the nursing home.

Contacted for comment, Chief Medical Officer of Firozabad district, Dr Dinesh Kumar Premi, said: "The nursing home has been sealed and a committee headed by an Additional Chief Medical Officer is investigating the entire matter. All the patients have been transferred to government centres. On the basis of the probe report, suitable action will be taken against the concerned doctors."



CHANGE OF NAME

**I, MOHAMMAD JAVED Khan** S/o. Gaffar Khan, R/o. A-16A, Third Floor, Johri Farm, Noor Nagar, Extn., Okhla, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have Changed my name to Javed Khan for all future purposes.

PD(9087)A

## रायगढ़, जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी निविदा संशोधन सूचना पत्र

System Tender No.	Description Project	Old last date for online submission	New last date for online submission
82668	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Pusposhi city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	05/10/2021	07/10/2021
82675	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Kordimal nagar city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	05/10/2021	07/10/2021
82671	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Ghagghedi city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	05/10/2021	07/10/2021
82702	Selection of Private Partner for establishment of Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at Sanjya city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) (1st Call)	05/10/2021	07/10/2021

निविदा दस्तावेज जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 08.10.2021 तक स्प्रीड पोस्ट/रजिस्टर्ड पोस्ट के माध्यम से सायं 03:00 बजे तक नगर पब्लिक निगम रायगढ़ कार्यालय में पहुँचना अनिवार्य है एवं उक्त दिनांक को सायं 4:00 बजे निविदा खोली जायेगी।

हस्ता /—  
नोडल अधिकारी  
(मु.स.द.यु.)  
रायगढ़ जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी  
रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

# They can't kill spirit: Daughter of terror victim

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Daughter of a medical store Downer Makhal Lal Bindroo, killed by an 'unidentified' terrorist late Tuesday evening in Iqbal Park area of Srinagar Wednesday, sent out a stern message to the perpetrators of terrorist violence saying, "you may kill the body, the spirit lives on. Bindroo will remain alive in spirit."

Paying glowing tributes in the memory of her father, an emotionally charged Dr Shraddha Bindroo also said, "I am an associate professor. I started from zero; my father started from a bicycle, my brother is a famous diabetologist, my mother sits in the shop — that is what Makhan Lal Bindroo made us. A Kashmiri Pandit, he will never die. Despite being a Hindu, I have read the Quran. The Quran says you may kill the body, the spirit lives on. Bindroo will remain alive in spirit."

She also challenged the terrorist, "Mister, who shot my father dead while he was working, if you have the guts and courage, come and have a face-to-face debate with us. Then we will see what you are. You won't be able to utter a word. All you can do is throw stones and shoot bullets from behind."

The message sent out by Dr Shraddha Bindroo, shortly before performing the last rites of her father, was amplified across various social media platforms. The community elders, across different destinations reacted angrily to the merciless killing of ML Bindroo. They also cornered the ruling dispensation for ignoring the security concerns of the members belonging to the minority community in Kashmir valley.

"This is not an isolated incident. Since January 2021, at least five Kashmiri pandits and non locals including political workers, policemen and businessmen have been targeted by terrorists in different parts of Kashmir valley", a community elder said in Jammu while they assembled here to stage a peaceful protest demonstration.

Dr Agnishekhar of Panun Kashmir, told The Pioneer, "merciless killing of Makhan Lal Bindroo is a clear cut warning. The situation is not normal in Kashmir valley. It's a warning for those people who have been misled to believe that a conducive atmosphere is being prepared to ensure early return of Kashmiri pandits to the Kashmir valley".

Dr Agnishekhar said, "Its the true face of the Jehadi terrorism in Kashmir valley. They don't want to see return of Kashmiri pandits to the Kashmir valley. Every time government takes certain steps in the direction they resort to killing of Kashmiri pandits to send across a tough message".

"There is no space for secularism and Nationalism in Kashmir valley. Some agencies are claiming the situation is normal but in reality it is not normal. He said the government must concede our demand for creating Panun Kashmir and recognize the genocide of the Kashmiri pandits. It is the only solution to address this issue and ensure return of Kashmiri pandits to their homes", he added.

An emergent meeting of the Executive Body of KP Sabha was also held under the chairmanship of K. K. Khosa to condemn the gruesome killing of M. L. Bindroo at Iqbal Park, Srinagar on Tuesday.

All the members of the Sabha expressed their deep shock on the selective killing of the members of KP Community living in the valley in harmony with the majority community for the past 32 years thereby aiming at creating a scare within the minorities and also vitiating the environment all over again.

## Tripura BJP MLA shaves his head in 'atonement', leaves party

IAN S ■ KOLKATA

In an interesting development, BJP MLA from Tripura Ashis Das after offering puja at Kalighat temple and shaving head as an "act of atonement" for being associated with "a communal party", announced that he is leaving the party.

Though there are strong rumours of Das' joining Trinamool Congress but the BJP MLA from Surma constituency didn't divulge the details regarding joining the new party.

Terming BJP as a 'communal political party', Das said, "BJP promised a lot of things but not a single commitment has been fulfilled. People wanted to end the 25 years of Left rule and I was also one of them. I joined the BJP because I thought it would work for the betterment of the people. I did wrong with the people of Tripura and so I decided to go for penance."

Speaking highly of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the BJP MLA who came from a farmer's family said, "If Mamata didi becomes



the PM, it will be justice for Bengalis and undo the wrong of decades. It will be a matter of pride for all Bengalis. Also, after Indira Gandhi, a woman will wield the power in the country."

When asked about joining Trinamool Congress, Das said, "I am here in Kolkata because the entire country is looking at Mamata di (Mamata Banerjee) to save India from a communal party like BJP. After the 2021 assembly poll results in West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee has emerged as a strong contender to take on Narendra Modi. I personally believe that it's only Mamata Banerjee who can free India from the BJP. I came here to seek her blessings and soon things will be clear (on his stand)."

## SC: Suspend Tihar officials who colluded with ex-Unitech...

From page 1

On August 26, the apex court had directed that the Chandra brothers be shifted from Tihar jail in the national Capital to Mumbai's Arthur Road jail and Talaja prison in Maharashtra after the ED had said that they were conducting business from the premises in connivance with the staff. The top court, which then perused

two status reports of the ED, had said Tihar jail Superintendent and other staff are "absolutely shameless" for conniving with the Chandra brothers to flout the court orders and undermine its jurisdiction. Pursuant to the direction of the top court, the Chandra brothers were shifted to the jails in Mumbai. The two ED reports have raised some

"serious and disturbing" issues for consideration and will be dealt with accordingly, the top court had said.

Besides ED and SFIO, the Economic Offence Wing of Delhi Police is also conducting an investigation into the affairs of the Unitech Group and business transactions of the erstwhile promoters of the real estate company. Both Sanjay

and Ajay, who are in jail since August 2017, are accused of allegedly siphoning home buyers' money of more than Rs.8,000 crore. In one case they got bail after depositing Rs.750 crore. On Monday, their father and Unitech Group founder Ramesh Chandra and Sanjay's wife Preeti Chandra were also arrested by ED.

# NCP terms SRK son's drug bust...

From page 1

"Not a single gram of drug was seized from the arrested persons during the raid. No panchanama was done... Television coverage and photographs showed a bearded and bespectacled Bhanushali, a BJP worker, was seen dragging out Merchant and the bald Gosavi was shown pulling Khan out of the International Cruise Terminal.

Charging that the photos and videos of the seized drugs released by the NCB were not taken from the cruise, but forged in the anti-drug agency's zonal office, Malik alleged, "Bhanushali was in New Delhi and Gandhinagar (Gujarat) in the last week of September, especially on September 21 and 22 when a huge drug haul was made from the Mundhra Port."

Malik said Bhanushali had posted his photos with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, State Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Devendra Fadnavis, plus current and former Central and State Ministers, and other senior BJP leaders.

"The BJP should come clean and tell the people: Who is this person? How does he have access to such top people? The NCB must clarify in what capacity these two persons (Gosavi and Bhanushali) were seen during the so-called raid and arrests. Gosavi also has a criminal record in Pune... Is the NCB taking help of people with a criminal background to nab other accused?", Malik asked.

in progress. Some allegations levelled against the organisation are baseless and seem to be with malice and probable prejudice that may have been harboured in retaliation against earlier legal actions carried out by NCB. NCB reiterates that its procedure has been and will continue to be professionally and legally transparent and unbiased," the NCB said.

Elaborating on its Saturday's operations, NCB's Deputy Director General Gyaneshwar Singh, said, "On the specific information, the team of NCB Mumbai raided at International Cruise Terminal, Green Gate Mumbai & Cordillia Cruise ship on 02.10.2021 and intercepted 8 persons namely Vikrant Chhokar, Ishmeet Singh Chadha, Arbaaz A Merchant, Prabhakar Sail, Kiran Gosavi, Manish Bhanushali, Aubrey Gomez, Adil Usmani, V Waigankar, Aparna Rane, Prakash Bahadur, Shoaib Faiz and Muzammil Ibrahim. Incidentally, two of the nine named by the NCB - Bhanushali and Gosavi - are the ones identified by Malik.

Meanwhile, Bhanushali told a Martathi channel that he had tipped the NCB off about the rave and had accompanied them as a "witness" to affix his signature on the relevant case papers. He also threatened to launch defamation proceedings against Malik.

On its part, the NCB said in all four follow-up seizures have been affected after the seizure from the Cruise following due procedure as per rules.

"Investigation of the case is

Manish Rajgaria who was invited as guest in the ship and recovered Hydroponic Weed @Multi strain Cannabis. NCB Mumbai also arrested one AvinSahu who sailed in the Ship/Cruise Cordelia on consumption charges on October 4.

It may be recalled that twenty-three-year-old Aryan and seven others were initially detained on Saturday night and later arrested on Sunday, 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 Cruises' Empress ship, off the Mumbai coast here.

Meanwhile, the total number of persons arrested in connection with the mid-sea drug bust case went to 16, as the NCB sought and got the custody of four accused, Gopal Anand, Samir Saigal, Manav Singhal and Bhaskar Arora who are said to be the organisers of the rave party on the cruise.

A magistrate court in south Mumbai remanded the four accused to Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) custody till October 14 in the mid-sea drug bust case.

Seeking the custody of four persons, Special Public Prosecutor Advait Sethna argued that they were part of the team that had organised the rave party on board Goa-bound Cordelia Cruises' Empress ship. He said the two arrested accused were directors of Kin Plus Pvt Ltd while the other two are associated with it.



LAKHIMPUR KHERI DEATHS

Why no action against accused, asks Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Condemning the deaths of four farmers and a journalist in Lakhimpur Kheri, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure justice for the families of the victims.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Kejriwal also demanded that the accused in the case be arrested and that Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay Kumar Mishra, whose son has been named as accused in the incident, be sacked.

"The entire system is trying to protect the farmers' killers," Kejriwal alleged while targeting the Centre.

Kejriwal questioned Prime Minister Modi and said, "Can the rich and powerful get away with murders under your

watch now? Do you know where we see criminals mercilessly running their cars over innocent people only to have the entire system bow down before them and shield them from the law? We only see it happen in Bollywood movies and the people of this country do not deserve to see it become a reality."

He added, "Mr Prime Minister, each and every person of this country is seeing it pan out into reality on the TV and social media today. A car came, murdered people and no action was taken against them. What message do you want to give out to this country by protecting murderers? Is there no value of life left for you?"

He targeted Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath and said, "It feels like that car ran over the

Government and the system itself. Is the Government celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by arresting leaders who are going to console the mourning families?"

This is what the tyrannical British used to do. Our forefathers did not get martyred in the struggle for freedom for this country to see this day! What are you trying to hide from the nation?"

Why are you not letting the media or the politicians and farmers of this country go to that place?"

The nation wants to know what happened in Lakhimpur and why the perpetrators are being protected? The people of this country deserve to know the truth, they deserve to know who murdered those innocent farmers," he added, further mentioning that over 600 farmers have died till date.

Killers roam free while Priyanka detained: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar along with Congress workers, left for Lucknow to reach Lakhimpur Kheri on Wednesday to express solidarity with the farmers.

Kumar said that UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had unleashed a reign of terror by keeping Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi in detention for the past three days and had conspired to kill the farmers, who have been peacefully protesting against the anti-farmer laws and demanding their repeal for the last ten months. Kumar said that UP had become a hotbed of corruption and lawlessness.

He said that the son of the Union Minister who mowed down four farmers with his vehicle, was roaming free while Priyanka, who wanted to meet the kin of the farmers had been illegally detained for the three days.

Anti-dust campaign begins today: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to mitigate dust pollution in the national Capital, the Delhi Government will run an anti-dust campaign from Thursday.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that it was mandatory for all to implement 14 norms laid out for construction on all sites in Delhi from October 7. "A public notice has also been issued in this regard. 31 teams have been formed under the 'Anti-Dust' campaign; 17 teams of the DPCC and 14 teams of Green War Room's Green Marshals have been included in this.

He said that as per the NGT guidelines, a fine ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 5 lakh would be imposed for violation of rules at construction sites. An online portal will be launched for self auditing and management of C&D waste."

The Delhi Government had run an anti-dust campaign in Delhi last year as well. "On the basis of our experience last



year, we have prepared a robust plan for running this campaign in an organised manner throughout Delhi," Rai added.

The DPCC will have one team in each district of East Delhi, North East Delhi, Shahdara, South East Delhi and South West Delhi. Two teams each will be deployed in New Delhi, North West Delhi, North Delhi, South Delhi, West Delhi and Central Delhi. Each district will have a 1 team of Green Marshals as well.

27 PSA plants of 31 MT capacity installed in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

New 27 PSA plants of 31 metric ton capacity and two cryogenic oxygen refilling plants of 12 metric ton capacity have been inducted in Delhi Government's hospitals on Wednesday.

This move came in view of the possible threat of Covid - 19 cases rising in the Capital city ahead festivals.

Inaugurating oxygen plants, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that Covid-19 infection in Delhi has reduced, but the Delhi Government is prepared to fight any such future crisis. The Delhi Government is setting up PSA oxygen plants in Delhi hospitals to reduce their oxygen dependence on external agencies and other hospitals can also refill oxygen cylinders from these oxygen plants during emergencies."

Health Minister Satyendar

Jain said, "A large part of the oxygen production can be done in the Delhi Government's hospitals with PSA. Out of these 27 PSA plants, 3 plants were started in LNJP Hospital and 1 plant at Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital. Their capacity is 5.31 MT and 1.80 MT, respectively." To reduce dependency in emergency situation, the Delhi Government had approved the Medical Oxygen Production Promotion Policy - 2021 . One PSA plant of 0.9 metric tons at the Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, one PSA Plant of 1.80 MT at Dr Hedgewar Hospital, three PSA plants with a total capacity of 5.31 MT at LNJP, one PSA plant at Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital with a total capacity of 1.80 MT, two PSA plants with a total capacity of 3.60 MT at Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital, one PSA Plant of 1.80 MT at Guru Tegh Bahadur.

ISIC inducts advanced integrated robotics, imaging platform for spine surgeries

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Doctors at the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) have successfully operated on two young girls, suffering from spinal deformity using O-Arm, a 3D imaging system, with MAZOR X" stealth edition.

Swati, 13-year-old was diagnosed with early onset acquired thoracic scoliosis that bent her at 85 degrees. On the other hand, 16-year-old Mannatpreet was suffering from spinal TB since 2018 and had difficulty in walking fol-

lowing tuberculosis treatment due to weakness in lower limbs.

"The surgery combining robotics and O-Arm did not only help in improving the accuracy of inserting screws during the surgeries, it also lowered their risk of paralysis as well as exposure to radiation, blood loss and postoperative pain," the hospital said in a statement. The newly-inducted system is the most advanced minimally-invasive robotics procedure, for spinal, orthopaedic and neurological conditions.

2 juveniles among 4 nabbed for stabbing 19-yr-old to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested two men while two juveniles have been apprehended for allegedly stabbing to death a 19-year-old man following an argument over ₹300 in the national Capital.

The incident occurred in central Delhi's Anand Parbat area on October 2 when Shailendra Kumar was returning home along with his friend. On the way, he spotted five people, and a juvenile among them called them.

According to police, an altercation ensued between

Kumar and the five people, during which a juvenile stabbed the victim twice and all of them escaped. Kumar was taken to a hospital where doctors declared him dead, said police.

"One of the accused was arrested on Sunday. Later, three more accused were nabbed, including two juveniles. During interrogation, the accused revealed that there was a dispute over ₹300 between one of them and the victim which had led to arguments over phone earlier," said Shweta Chauhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district.


3 killed in fire due to leakage in cooking gas


NEW DELHI: In a tragic incident, a 36-year-old woman and her two children died after a fire broke out due to leakage in cooking gas at their Anand Parbat residence. According to Shweta Chauhan, DCP, Central district, on Tuesday morning, a call about four people sustaining injuries in a fire was received following which Emergency Response Vehicle was dispatched.

"Police rushed the injured to the RML Hospital. Sushila and her two kids, Mansi and Mohan, both aged seven, succumbed to injuries. Mehak sustained 40 per cent burns and is under treatment," said police.




Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel, party general secretary Randeep Surjewala and KC Venugopal during a special press conference at the AICC HQ in New Delhi on Wednesday





Government of Haryana



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ALLIANCE WITH SP

# Shivpal tells ‘Bhatija’ he cannot wait indefinitely

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivpal Singh Yadav has said that his party is not willing to wait indefinitely for an alliance with the Samajwadi Party led by his nephew Akhilesh Yadav.

Shivpal Yadav said he had not received any indication from the Samajwadi Party president on an alliance even though they had talked about mending ties several times.

Losing hope of an alliance with SP for 2022 UP polls, Shivpal Yadav is now working on a separate ‘Samajik Parivartan Yatra’ beginning October 15 from Vrindavan area of Mathura.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is also embarking on a ‘Samajwadi Vijay Yatra’ from October 12.

“There has been no reply from Akhilesh Yadav on alliance; hence there will be a confrontation in elections. We have already announced our yatra,” Shivpal Yadav said.

The PSPL chief did not stop here and went on to give an example of the Kauravas of Mahabharata. Without naming the SP, he called the party as an army of Kauravas.



“No one could kill Dronacharya, Bhishma and Duryodhana, the characters of Mahabharata, but Shri Krishna was with the Pandavas due to which everything was destroyed,” he said.

Referring to the Kaurava-Pandava saga of the Mahabharata, Shivpal Yadav said, “Like the Pandavas, we have only sought respect for ourselves and our companions. We have no ambition.”

“I have also been a minister and have also become the party president and now I am the national president. That’s why I don’t want anything, but in politics, along with struggle, sacrifice is very important.

Kauravas were given the entire kingdom while the Pandavas sought only five villages, we have also asked for only respect for our companions like Pandavas, but that too is not



being given. Give us respect or not, but give respect to our people,” he said.

Shivpal Yadav made it clear that his intention was to keep the Bharatiya Janata Party out of power in 2022 and that was why he was keen for an alliance with the SP.

The estranged uncle of the SP chief and younger brother of Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shivpal Yadav indicated that he would continue with his own yatra as Akhilesh Yadav was not responding to his calls.

“Even today I had called Akhilesh Yadav and had also sent him a message. But there was no response from Akhilesh. The SP chief is constantly ignoring the initiative of PSPL for an alliance with SP. Netaji did not want us to be separated from SP, but still we were separated from SP,” said Shivpal.

## LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

# Tikait demands arrest of accused, threatens countrywide agitation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Lakhimpur police yet to initiate any action against prime accused Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra ‘Teni’, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday threatened to launch a big agitation in the country if the people guilty in the October 3 violence were not arrested in next six days.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, the BKU leader said, “We will not stay calm till the culprits who are responsible for the killing of the farmers are punished.”

He said the UP Government would have to arrest the people involved in crushing the farmers under their vehicles even if one was the son of a Union Minister.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has demanded dismissal of Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra and registration of murder case against his son and supporters. Besides, the SKM has demanded a Supreme Court judge-monitored probe into the incident as UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath assured that his government would investigate it.

Rakesh Tikait has reached Lakhimpur to decide the future course of action for the farmers’ protest. Even so, Union minister Ajay Mishra has denied the allegations and has said that his son was not present at the site during the clashes.

Earlier, Tikait had visited the house of deceased farmer Lovepreet Singh of Moharnia in Bahraich late on Tuesday evening. The cremation of the mortal remains of Singh was done on Wednesday



after the doctors conducted the post-mortem for the second time late Tuesday night. The last rites of Daljit Singh, a resident of Banjaran Tada of Nanpara Kotwali in Bahraich, were performed late Tuesday evening.

Sources said with the threat by BKU, the administration could ask Ashish Mishra to surrender in a court and seek bail or proceed with his arrest to save the government from any embarrassment.

Meanwhile, ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said on Wednesday that the police had set up a helpline number on which people could share evidence regarding the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. Kumar also said that the identities of people providing evidence would be kept confidential in order to ensure a fair investigation.

“The last rites of some of those who died were performed on October 5. However, one of the farmers’ families was

not satisfied, therefore the administration agreed to conduct a second post-mortem. After that, the last rites were performed today,” the ADG said.

Kumar also said that several videos of the Lakhimpur violence had come up and the police were analysing them. He also said that the police would take action against anyone misusing or peddling false narratives through the videos. The police have assured that a detailed investigation will be conducted and no accused will be spared.

Kumar said that the Uttar Pradesh government had imposed restrictions to maintain law and order and not to restrict any movement. He said the state government had now permitted people in groups of five to visit Lakhimpur Kheri.

“Anyone who wants to go there can go now. The state government’s decision was taken to maintain law and order,” Prashant Kumar said.

## Brij Lal questions Maya’s silence on Dalit’s death in Kheri incident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sharp attack on Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, Rajya Sabha member Brij Lal questioned her silence on the Lakhimpur incident where a Dalit man lost his life.

In a statement issued in this regard, the former DGP of Uttar Pradesh said, “Why did the tears of ‘Behanji’ dried up in expressing condolences to the deceased Dalit in the Lakhimpur incident? This is proof that her Dalit love is just a pretence. In the true sense, she is the daughter of wealth.”

Stating that Dalits were just a vote bank for Mayawati, Brij Lal said, “She has nothing to do with their pain. Had there been a concern, Mayawati would have definitely spoken something about the Dalit who died in the incident.”

“In fact, the Uttar Pradesh government does not need advice from her regarding this incident. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath did as much for the families of the dead farmers as you (Mayawati) can’t even imagine. The CM did not sleep the entire night to sort out the matter. Senior officers were sent to the spot immediately. Along with financial assistance of Rs 45 lakh to the dependents of deceased, a government job has also been promised to one of the family members,” he stated, adding that the government had also ordered a speedy and fair judicial inquiry into the incident.

Targeting the BSP supremo, the Rajya Sabha member said, “People are well aware of your misery. The real reason for your sorrow is that you have not been able to take political advantage of this incident. Surely, you will never get this opportunity in Yogi ji’s government.”

# Our MPs entered Lakhimpur in disguise: Didi

## TMC attacks ‘part-timer’ Rahul on Kheri comments

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has taken “strong exception to part-time politician

like Rahul Gandhi” making “suggestive and demeaning representation” of TMC leaders’ visit to Lakhimpur Kheri where agitating farmers were allegedly mowed down by speeding vehicles allegedly driven by BJP leaders.

While Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that her “team of party MPs were not automatically allowed into Lakhimpur but

they on Tuesday had to sneak into that village stealthily and in disguise”, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh slammed Gandhi calling him a part-time politician who was making “loaded statements (indicating tacit support of the BJP in letting the TMC MPs into Lakhimpur) against the TMC.”

He said “if he continues to do so then he will have to

digest stronger replies from us.” Ghosh said “We respect Congress’ stands ... we have also been saying that Congress will be a part of a broad-based alliance against the BJP but we will definitely not tolerate such offensive statements from part-time politicians like Rahul Gandhi who has messed up with his own party’s affairs in Punjab, Rajasthan and elsewhere ...

much in advantage of the BJP... His comments (on TMC leaders’ visit to UP) are baseless.”


The Chief Minister speaking in a party programme said “it was not easy for our party MPs, Dola Sen, Kakoli Ghoshdastidar and Pratima Mandalto enter Lakhimpur ... it took 12 hours for them to enter the village stealthily ... in fact Dola Sen told me

that she entered that village in the guise of a Punjabi woman...” Banerjee had earlier called the UP “massacre of farmers” as “barbaric, inhuman and undemocratic.”

Bengal Pradesh Congress president and party’s Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury hit back saying “TMC and Aam Aadmi Party had been deployed by the

BJP to finish off the Congress ... Lakhimpur is one example of that or why the BJP Government would have held Priyanka Gandhi captive for more than 50 hours on the one hand and welcomed TMC MPs to Lakhimpur village ... We have always said that the Trinamool Congress has been created by the BJP to divide the opposition and rule the country.”

# छत्तीसगढ़ की अद्वितीय सांस्कृतिक धरोहर

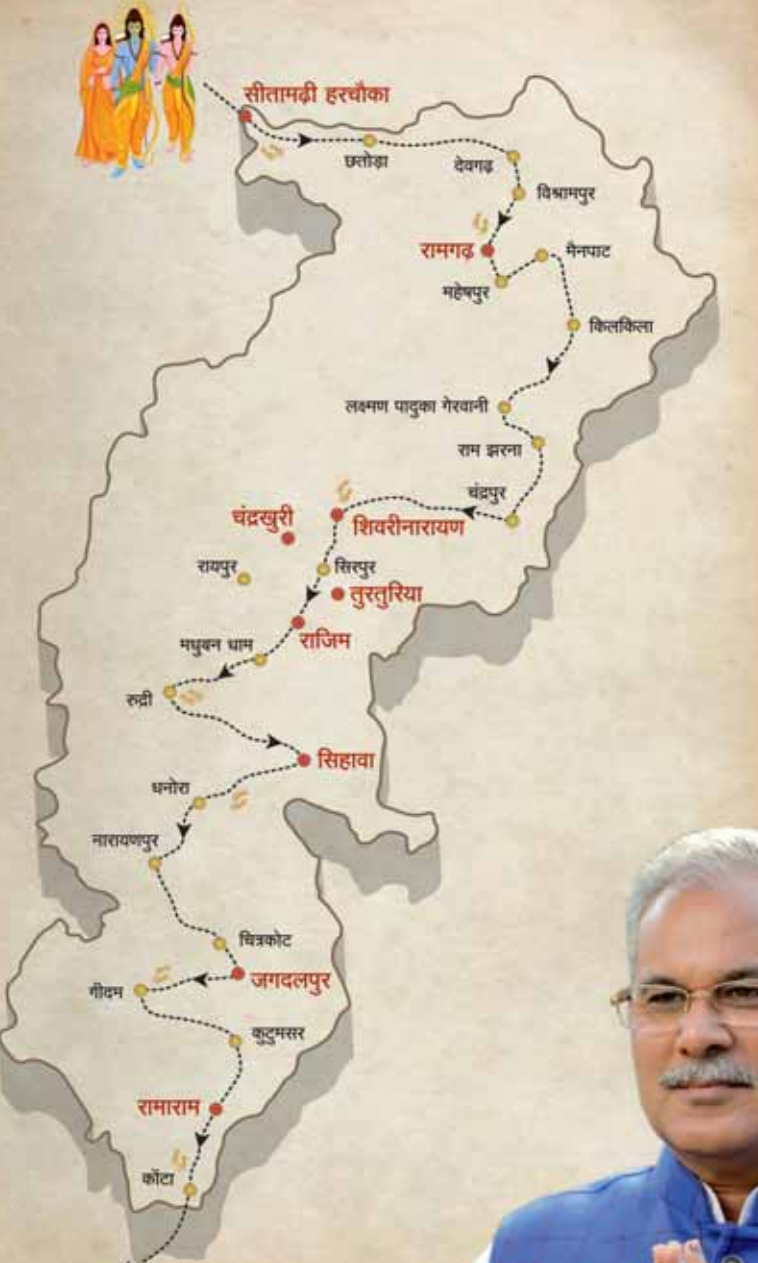


## आइये चलें आराध्य सियाराम के पदचिन्हों पर

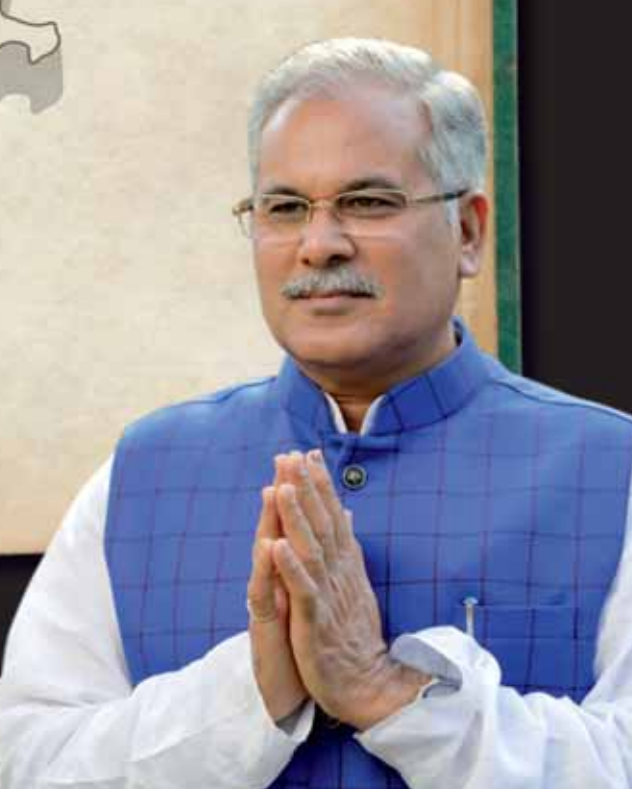
### राम वन गमन पर्यटन परिपथ

2260 किमी  
हर एक कदम आस्था और विश्वास का

9 पड़ाव  
पौराणिक कथाओं की जीवंतता के केंद्र




सीतामढ़ी हरचौका  
रामगढ़  
चंद्रखुरी  
रायपुर  
मधुबन धाम  
लक्ष्मण पादुका गेरवानी  
शिवरीनारायण  
जगदलपुर  
रामाराम



श्री भूपेश बघेल  
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

### राम वन गमन पर्यटन परिपथ समारोह

7-9 अक्टूबर 2021, चंद्रखुरी, रायपुर



विश्व विख्यात चंद्रखुरी स्थित कौशल्या माता के एकमात्र मंदिर में प्रथम चरण का लोकार्पण







FIRST COLUMN

BECAUSE THE SUN NEVER REALLY SETS

If harnessed properly, solar energy can be an inexhaustible source of power



RAVI KUMAR

Climate change induced by greenhouse gas emissions poses a major threat to the global economy and will affect a wide range of economic sectors. Increasing levels of pollution and irreversible damages to mother earth due to the use of fossil fuels and cutting down of forests need to stop immediately. In addition, diminishing sources of fossil fuel and increasing demand for power are not sustainable in the longer run. Renewable energy is the solution and need of the hour. Sun, an inexhaustible source of power, has blessed us with its energy throughout the year. Solar energy has emerged as a promising green solution for combating climate change by lowering reliance on traditional fossil fuel-based energy. It has the potential to feed the economy while leaving a better future for our next generation. India has taken up an ambitious target of 175 GW by the year 2022, of which solar has been given 100 GW since it is the easiest to install and requires the least amount of maintenance.



And recently India surpassed the 100 GW milestone. In addition, the Government of India has announced a revised target of 450 GW by 2030. Renewable energy will be a game-changer to fuel the economy in the coming future. Solar energy technology and the ecosystem are evolving fast. The efficiency, operating life, and affordability are far better today as compared to a few years back. The price of solar panels has fallen by 90% over the last decade and adoption by residential, commercial, and industrial end consumers is gaining momentum. Pro-solar policies by the government and net-metering arrangements are enhancing the solar adoptions experience. Net-metering enables consumers to produce power through the day and use it whenever required with minimal overhead charges. In addition, the Indian government has established a number of initiatives to promote electricity generation in the utility, industrial, commercial, and residential sectors via solar. Open access policies for captive and utility-scale solar parks, SRISTI (Sustainable Rooftop Implementation for Solar Transfiguration of India), VGF (Viability Gap Funding), and others are a few examples. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the One Sun One World One Grid programme (OSOWOG), which would secure the supply of power across countries. The idea behind this design is that 'The Sun Never Sets,' and that it is always constant in any given geographical place at any given time. With such measures, India, as well as other countries, will be able to become green, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and maintain environmental sustainability.

There are a few frictions, though. Lack of awareness, reliability and affordable financing are a few of these challenges. Implementation of solar energy systems is capital intensive and access to affordable financing enhances adoption. Platforms like Oorjan build awareness, offer reliable technology and affordable financing options to the end consumers by offering easy EMI and pay as you go (PAYG) options. Investment in solar by the end consumers breaks-even in hardly 3-5 years as against a life expectancy of 25 years. The savings are more than sufficient to serve the EMIs for a 5 years' loan tenure. One kilowatt of solar panels has the potential to produce 1500 units per year and it's equivalent to a plantation of 49 teak-wood trees. Every kWp would mitigate carbon emissions by 31 tons of CO2 equivalent over the project life when compared to coal-based sources of energy. As aware citizens, we need to act before climate change escalates and impacts our future further. We must adopt solar energy as it has the potential to propel the economy to new heights while also safeguarding the environment.

*(The writer is a founding team member of Oorjan Cleantech. The views expressed are personal.)*

Forest onslaught since Independence in India



BKP SINHA

Forests prevent soil erosion and reduce the effects of climate change. However, in spite of our reliance on forests, we are still destroying them

Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru had very different visions for India's future. Gandhi's concept of "Gram Swara" states that self-sufficient villages are the cornerstones of sustainable economic growth. To make India self-sufficient, Gandhian economics advocated village woodlots, agroforestry, and organic farming.

Jawaharlal Nehru was a disciple of Gandhi but he believed that industrialisation was the key to progress. Hence, after independence, India followed the mainstream western model of development based on heavy industrialisation such as steel mills, atomic power plants, river valley projects and urea plants, etc. Therefore, in its anxiety to mobilize the resources, the Government issued a tacit direction to replace all miscellaneous forests with fast-growing species, such as eucalyptus and poplar (short rotation: 8-10years), despite the fact that these forests were a source of livelihood for the landless and poor peasants for their fuel, fodder and other household needs like poles, postand scaffolding. As a result, all the miscellaneous forests in the Himalayas' foothills were replaced by fast-growing species with little or no undergrowth. Due to depletion of forests, fertility declined either by means of soil erosion or by failure to retain river sediment.

After independence, agricultural expansion became the major cause of depletion of the forest resources. A rise in intensive farming and commercial plantation (tea, coffee, sugarcane, etc.) led to the conversion of forest land into agriculture. Different development projects like river valley projects, urbanisation, mining activities were major contributors to deforestation and degradation of forest land. This is true even today.

Indian Forest Policy 1952 recognized the need to increase forest cover to one-third of the total land area. Professional lobbyists at the top shaped these policies without considering informed citizens' inputs into account.

During the Green Revolution, millions of hectares of forests were ploughed or destroyed to make way for river valley irrigation/power projects. In addition to the devastating ecological impacts, deforestation has resulted in flooding and the loss of the fertile soil's nutrient layer.

When the Government of India realized the deteriorating forestry situation, it constituted the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) in 1976. In the interim report of the NCA, 'Social Forestry' was recognized as an important aspect of forestry for meeting rural needs.

There is often a lack of clarity as to what social forestry is. It was believed that any forestry intended to meet societal needs outside of a monetized economy was Social Forestry. What does social mean then? What is the purpose of planting? Is it to provide food for the community's subsistence needs, to expand the planted area



AFTER INDEPENDENCE, AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION BECAME THE MAJOR CAUSE OF DEPLETION OF FOREST RESOURCES. A RISE IN INTENSIVE FARMING AND COMMERCIAL PLANTATION LED TO THE CONVERSION OF FORESTS INTO AGRICULTURAL LAND. AND SADLY, THIS IS TRUE EVEN TODAY

*(The writer is a former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP. The views expressed are personal.)*



for market consumption, or to conserve the natural ecology of the forest?

Programs of social forestry were a mixture of successful and miserable failures. It has completely failed to meet the primary objective of providing fuelwood and fodder to rural households. Generally, only large farmers benefited from this program. Also, tribal members who are keen to protect and promote forests were left out of the process. There was no control over cattle browsing or grazing. Landless people have not been included in the afforestation process, which has worsened rural poverty and unemployment. Landless and small farmers thus began to enter the miscellaneous forest, resulting in another wave of deforestation and degradation.

Following the earth summit and the climate change negotiations, a series of new measures to afforest and reforest lands were conceived and implemented or are under implementation. As a result of the 42nd Constitutional Amendment and Forest Conservation Act 1980, a number of new measures such as urban forestry and strip plantations were introduced. This Act aims at reducing deforestation, conserving biodiversity, and protecting wildlife. Thus, India has seen a gradual increase in tree cover, but natural forests have continued to degrade.

In 1988, the National Forest Policy shifted from concentrating on commercial interests to encouraging the ecological role of forests and participatory management.

Recently efforts were made to regularize and empower forest dwellers by enacting the Forest Rights Act 2006. However, this Act has resulted in a spate of new encroachments into forest areas.

According to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs of the Government of India, individual forest rights of habitation and cultivation have been recognized on 4.1 million acres of forest land. Following a Supreme Court order dated 13-2-2019, the Ministry has directed states to review all rejected cases.

Forest Survey of India Report 2017 concludes: The forest survey report shows the changes in forest cover across three density classes, scrub and non-forest areas. As the density of 12,183 sq km of MDF increased to VDF, 4,148 sq km of VDF was converted to MDF/OF/Scrub/NF respectively, indicating degradation/deforestation in these areas.

Additionally, 17,520 sq km of MDF was converted to OF, Scrub, and NF, resulting in a decrease in density. There has been improvement in 24,175 sq km of NF and 6,360 sq km of Scrub, indicating improved conservation and planting measures.

The density of VDF has, therefore, increased in areas of dense and very dense forests totalling 4,148 sq km of MAF. Nevertheless, the fact remains that deforestation is still occurring unabated in some areas. In contrast to forest products, forest influences are not transferrable from one region to another. The need for forests is universal, regardless of topography, climate, or edaphic factors.

Forest Survey of India's Status of Forests Report 2019 does not include data on VDF, MDF, OF, Scrub, and Non-Forest due to limited satellite imagery scale; this poses a potential threat to the rewilding of forest lands. It is also going to increase the threat and effects of man-animal conflict, cause further deforestation, harm biological diversity and gene pool, and negatively affect ecosystem services alongside becoming formidable barriers to the movement of fauna, spores, pollen, insects, pollinating agents, etc.

Forests are integral to sustainable agriculture systems, especially under marginal conditions, and play many roles in protecting the land from eroding losses, providing food, fodder, and building materials, and improving genetic diversity. This is why the key person is not usually a forester, but someone who is close to the community and can act as a catalyst between the community and the professionals.

Forest Department has been entrusted with the responsibility of protecting and conserving forests, but professional foresters have struggled to persuade the political masters to support their long-term and short-term conservation plans. The Supreme Court has, from time to time, intervened and given direction to the State with regard to forest conservation and management under the Constitution of India.

Dorothy Stang asserts that "The death of the forest is the end of our life". Forests are one of the world's most important ecosystems. Along with providing habitat for animals and jobs for humans, forests prevent soil erosion and reduce the effects of climate change. In spite of our reliance on forests, we are still destroying them. There is often a disagreement between foresters and environmentalists on the importance associated with the different roles of forests. The sustainability of land can only be ensured by participatory management, which requires government commitment. Therefore, in one sense, India today stands as a crucible test case for forestry's ability to make trees serve people- people means people of all the constituencies.

POINT COUNTERPOINT


THE CENTRE SHOULD ADDRESS THE MAN-MADE FLOOD SITUATION IN BENGAL WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. —BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE



MAMATA ONLY UNDERTAKES AERIAL SURVEYS, BLAMES THE CENTRE AND WRITES LETTERS TO THE PRIME MINISTER. —BJP NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT DILIP GHOSH

# Inadequate social protection for children

## There is a dire need for global social protection reforms for children in order to mitigate child labour, abuse and exploitation across the world



RAKESH SENGER

India is home to over 30.3 per cent of extremely poor children. These children, especially girls, suffer systematic discrimination and exclusion in the form of higher school dropout rates, and greater vulnerability to child labour, trafficking and child marriage. Multiple development schemes for poverty alleviation and enhancing social security in rural areas exist, but there is a glaring absence of direct assistance.

The pandemic has disrupted the access to healthcare, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, social and child protection. This in turn has made children more vulnerable to deprivation, abuse and exploitation.

India took a major hit on the economy whose brunt is

*(The writer is Executive Director (Programmes), Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)*

being borne by children. Yet, instead of prioritising child social protection reforms budget, budgetary allocation for children was reduced. The overall outlay for the Union Budget 2021-22 was Rs 3,483,235.63 crore, and the total allocation for children was Rs 85,712.56 crore. While the total Union Budget (BE 2021-22) saw an increase of 14.5 per cent, the share for children declined by 10.8 per cent compared to 2020. This year's share of budgetary allocation for children in proportion to the Union budget has been the lowest in the last 10 years. It is reduced by 2.05 percentage points: To 2.46 per cent (2021-22 BE) from 4.51 per cent (2011-12 BE). This will not only make it difficult for India to attain meet its

international commitments, constitutional mandates and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but it will further push children to the most marginalized and dangerous corners of the society.

The total budget for the Ministry of Women and Child Development has seen a significant decline as against the previous year. The introduction of Saksham

Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 have emerged as critical schemes to support existing schemes such as Anganwadi Services, National Nutrition Mission, National Crèche Scheme and Scheme for Adolescent Girls. It received a total allocation of Rs 19,412.6 crore. However, the combined allocation for these four schemes in 2020 was Rs 23,941.41 crore, roughly 19 per cent higher.

In fact, there was an increase in crime against children during the pandemic, but the budget allocation for child protection was cut down 40 per cent for the FY 2021-22, as against FY 20-21.

The United Nations has marked 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.

low-income countries should invest in national social protection floors. These form the safety net that is necessary for every child in the world to live a life of dignity, irrespective of where they live.

Recently, The Laureates and Leaders for Children launched the Fair Share to End Child Labour Campaign and hosted a UNGA side event that was co-sponsored by the Government of Sweden, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the ILO involving global leaders, former child laborers and present advocates as well as youth activists coming together to demand action to end child labour, a fair share for children and to pledge their commitment to end child labor. The campaign

also involved grassroots awareness programs that took place in marginalised communities. Mr. Satyarthi, in his speech at an event of the United Nations General Assembly stated "\$52 billion which amounts to just 2 day's worth of COVID relief in G7 countries last year and 0.4 per cent of social security expenditure in Europe, which can give social protection to every child and pregnant woman in low-income countries. This can end child labor and reduce poverty."

When families are denied support for their basic needs like food and healthcare, and forced to live in dire conditions, their children can be forced into child labour. Social protection is necessary to stop this injustice.



**जनसंपर्क संचालनालय**  
**छत्तीसगढ़ शासन**  
इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़  
फोन:- 0771-2221616

क्रमांक 3788 / जसं.सं / वि.अ.प्र. / 2021

नवा रायपुर, दिनांक: 05/10/2021

**गणतंत्र दिवस परेड 2022 के अवसर पर नई दिल्ली में वयजित होने पर प्रदर्शित की जाने वाली छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य की झांकी निर्माण के लिए निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

जनसम्पर्क संचालनालय, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, नवा रायपुर की ओर से नई दिल्ली में आयोजित होने वाली गणतंत्र दिवस 2022 की राष्ट्रीय परेड में वयजित होने पर प्रदर्शित होने वाली झांकी की डिजाइन/मॉडल प्रस्तुत करने तथा अनुमोदन प्रस्ताव तथा रक्षा मंत्रालय के निर्देशानुसार फेब्रिकेशन आदि कार्य कर झांकी तैयार करने हेतु टर्न-की आधार पर अनुभवी झांकी/टेब्ल्यू निर्माताओं/फर्मों से मुहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

इम्प्लूक (झांकी) टेब्ल्यू निर्माता/फर्म जनसंपर्क विभाग की वेबसाईट [www.dprcg.gov.in](http://www.dprcg.gov.in) & [www.cg.nic.in/dpr](http://www.cg.nic.in/dpr) से निविदा प्रारूप, नियम-शर्तें डाउनलोड कर निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क राशि रु. 2,000/- (दो हजार रुपए मात्र) (वापसी योग्य नहीं) का 'संचालक, जनसंपर्क संचालनालय' रायपुर के नाम से रायपुर में देय डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट टेविनकल बिड लिफाफा के साथ जमा करना अनिवार्य है। उक्त निविदा में किसी प्रकार परिवर्तन अथवा संशोधन होने पर जानकारी उक्त वेबसाईट में प्रदर्शित की जायेगी। संशोधन सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा।

(1) पूर्णतः भरे प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 26/10/2021 दोपहर 2 बजे तक।

(2) तकनीकी प्रस्ताव प्रपत्र खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 26/10/2021 सायं 3 बजे से।

आयुक्त सह संचालक  
जनसंपर्क संचालनालय  
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

R.O. No. 64259/3  
R.O. Date:- 05/10/2021

**जनसंपर्क संचालनालय**  
**छत्तीसगढ़ शासन**  
इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़  
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आयुक्त सह संचालक  
जनसंपर्क संचालनालय  
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

R.O. No. 64259/3  
R.O. Date:- 05/10/2021



# Cabinet approves 7 mega integrated textile parks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel parks with a total outlay of ₹4,445 crore for five years to position India strongly on the global textiles map.

Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks were announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22.

The parks will be set up at greenfield/brownfield sites located in different willing states.

Proposals of state governments having ready availability of contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcels of 1,000 plus acres along with other textiles related facilities ecosystem are welcome, said an official release.

Giving details about the decision taken at the Cabinet meeting, Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal said 10 states have already shown interest in setting up the parks.

The states are Tamil Nadu,

Punjab, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana. Sites for the park will be selected by a “Challenge Method” based on objective criteria. Goyal said the parks will create direct employment for 7 lakh people and indirect employment for 14 lakh.

The parks will offer an opportunity to create an integrated textiles value chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing at one location. An integrated textile value chain at one location will also reduce the logistics cost of the industry.

Maximum Development Capital Support (DCS) of Rs 500 crore to all greenfield parks and a maximum of ₹200 crore to brownfield ones will be provided for the development of common infrastructure

(30 per cent of the project cost). Also, ₹300 crore of Competitiveness Incentive Support (CIS) will be provided to each park for the early establishment of textiles manufacturing units.

Under PM MITRA, 50 per cent area will be developed for pure manufacturing activity, 20 per cent area for utilities, and 10 per cent of the area for commercial development.

The release further said the parks will be developed by a special purpose vehicle (SPV), which will be owned by the state government and the central government in a public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

“The Master Developer will not only develop the Industrial Park but also maintain it during the concession period. Selection of this Master Developer will happen based on objective criteria developed jointly by State and Central Governments,” the release said.

The SPV, in which the state government has majority ownership, will be entitled to receive part of the lease rental from developed industrial sites and will be able to use that for further expansion of the textiles industry in the area by expanding the PM MITRA Park, providing skill development initiatives and other welfare measures for workers.

# Cabinet approves bonus for Railway employees

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a productivity-linked bonus equivalent to 78 days’ wage to eligible non-gazetted Railway employees, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said.

The bonus for the financial year 2020-21 will benefit about 11.56 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees, he said.

An expenditure of nearly ₹ 1,985 crore will be incurred on this. The bonus is usually announced ahead of Dussehra and Puja festivities.

The wage calculation ceiling prescribed for payment of PLB to the eligible non-

gazetted railway employees is ₹ 7000/- p.M.

The maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is ₹17,951 for 78 days.About 11.56 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees are likely to benefit from the decision. Railway Board Chairman and COO Suneet Sharma, later at a press conference, said that the bonus will be disbursed as usual before Dussehra.

He said that the payment of these bonuses, specially after a tough year that saw railwaymen battling against coronavirus and still reporting for duty, would encourage them to work harder.



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal and Union State Minister of Railways, Darshana Jardosh (L) during a press conference on the Cabinet decisions in New Delhi on Wednesday

# LPG price hiked by ₹15/cylinder; petrol, diesel at all-time high



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cooking gas LPG price on Wednesday was hiked by ₹15 per cylinder while petrol and diesel rates saw their steepest increase in recent weeks, pushing prices to all-time high levels across the country.

Rates of both subsidised and non-subsidised LPG were hiked, taking the total increase in rates since July to ₹90 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

Cooking gas now costs ₹899.50 per cylinder in Delhi and Mumbai, and ₹926 in Kolkata, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.The Government has through periodic increases eliminated subsidies on LPG in most cities. Domestic household kitchens, who are entitled

to 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each at subsidised rates in a year, and Ujjwala beneficiaries, who got free connections, now pay the market price. A 5-kg LPG cylinder now costs ₹502.

This is the fourth increase in LPG prices since July. Rates were increased by ₹25.50 per cylinder in July, followed by ₹25 hike each on August 17 and September 1.

Alongside, petrol price was increased by 30 paise per litre and diesel by 35 paise a litre.

This is the steepest daily increase in recent weeks and follows international oil prices touching a seven-year high.

The petrol price in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹102.94 a litre and to ₹108.96 in Mumbai, the notification showed.

## Saudi Aramco hits \$2T valuation on back of higher oil prices

AP ■ DUBAI

Saudi Arabia’s oil company Aramco reached a \$2 trillion valuation as it hit near record levels Wednesday during trading hours.

Its market cap value puts Aramco just behind Microsoft and Apple as the world’s most valuable company. It comes as crude oil prices climb to over \$82 a barrel, the highest in seven years.

Demand for energy is picking up, despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic’s continued toll on travel and other key gas-guzzling sectors.Aramco is mostly owned by the government of Saudi Arabia, with just under 2% of the company publicly listed on the Saudi Tadawul stock exchange.

# Sensex sinks 555 pts as surging oil triggers global selloff

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian markets were caught in a global selloff on Wednesday as hardening crude oil prices and supply chain bottlenecks stoked fears of rising inflation crimping economic recovery around the world.

A depreciating rupee, which plunged 54 paise against the US dollar, added to the woes.

Snapping its two-day winning run, the 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 555.15 points or 0.93 per cent to close at 59,189.73.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tumbled 176.30 points or 0.99 per cent to 17,646.

IndusInd Bank, which had topped the Sensex gainers chart in the previous session, was the biggest laggard on Wednesday, shedding 3.38 per cent.

Tata Steel, Bajaj Auto, Sun Pharma, HCL Tech, Reliance Industries and Titan were among the other major losers.

Only three counters managed to close in the green --

HDFC twins and Bajaj Finance, advancing up to 1.24 per cent. “Weak global markets, which resulted in profit booking in metals and IT stocks, led domestic indices to trade in red, trimming its early gains. Spike in crude prices is spooking the Indian market while inflation is affecting US bond yields.

“RBI commenced its three-day MPC meeting in which the central bank

is expected to keep rates unchanged, however, it is likely to announce measures to gradually pump out liquidity from the economy,” said

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

S Hariharan, Head- Sales Trading, Emkay Global Financial Services, said the global backdrop is worrisome with surging energy prices, slowing demand conditions and a global supply chain crunch across basic materials.

## Rupee plunges 54 paise to over 5-mth low of 74.98 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Wednesday suffered its biggest single-day drop in six months, losing 54 paise against the US dollar to end at 74.98 as investors turned cautious in view of massive selloffs in domestic equities and strengthening greenback against key rivals. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.63 and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.54 and a low of 74.99 against the US dollar in day trade.

The local unit finally settled at 74.98 a dollar, down 54 paise over its previous close. This was also the lowest closing for the rupee since April 23 this year.The dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.41 per cent higher at 94.36. Meanwhile, Brent crude oil futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.55 per cent to USD 82.11 per barrel.On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 555.15 points or 0.93 per cent lower at 59,189.73.

# Moody’s raises rating outlook to stable for 18 corporates, banks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody’s Investors Service on Wednesday raised the rating outlook for 18 Indian corporates and banks, including Reliance Industries, Infosys, SBI and Axis Bank, to ‘stable’ from ‘negative’.

This follows the upgrade by the US-based rating agency in India’s sovereign rating outlook to ‘stable’ from ‘negative’ on Tuesday. The agency had affirmed the sovereign rating at ‘Baa3’. The nine companies whose rating outlook has been revised upwards are RIL, TCS, Infosys, ONGC, Petronet LNG Ltd, UltraTech Cement, Oil India, Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).

The agency also affirmed the rating on privatisation-bound Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), but maintained the ‘negative’ outlook. The nine banks whose outlook has been revised to ‘stable’ are SBI, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, PNB, Union Bank and



EXIM Bank. “Stabilization in asset quality and improved capital are the main drivers of this rating action,” Moody’s said. Also, the rating outlook has been revised to ‘stable’ from ‘negative’ on 10 Indian infrastructure issuers, including NTPC, NHAI, PGCIL, Gail, Adani Transmission and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ).

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age : About 42 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Fair, Built: Thin, wearing Red Colour Shirt, was found dead on 30.09.2021 at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 71A dated 30.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.**

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

**SHO : P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi**  
**Tel. No. : 011-24106345, 24106346**

## कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

## लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड धमतरी (छ.ग.)

Email ID - eedha-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone Number-07722-238719

// ई-प्रोक्यूमेंट निविदा सूचना //

एकीकृत पंजीजन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहस्र श्रेणी में पंजीकृत उद्देदारों से प्रपत्र-“E” में प्रतिशत दर पर जल जीवन मिशन के रेट्रोफिटिंग नलजल प्रदाय योजनान्तर्गत निर्माण कार्यों हेतु निम्नलिखित आनलाईन (OnLine) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./दिनांक सिरय देहरादू	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)
01	146/01.10.2021, 84632	विस्मरखंड कुलर के जल छान छान Retrofitting	36.01
02	147/01.10.2021, 84637	विस्मरखंड कुलर के जल जीजानगंभीरकरी Retrofitting	211.18
03	148/01.10.2021, 84638	विस्मरखंड कुलर के जल परस्टीमुग Retrofitting	120.22
04	149/01.10.2021, 84639	विस्मरखंड कुलर के जल वादकीर रिभरलुभनगु Retrofitting	190.15
05	150/01.10.2021, 84640	विस्मरखंड कुलर के जल हाव Retrofitting	138.47
06	151/01.10.2021, 84641	विस्मरखंड कुलर के जल वादकीर (धुमरलररररररररर Retrofitting	230.42
07	152/01.10.2021, 84642	विस्मरखंड कुलर के जल नीती Retrofitting	113.48
08	153/01.10.2021, 84643	विस्मरखंड कुलर के जल कुलरनीनीनी Retrofitting	101.81
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लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड  
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Email ID - eedha-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone Number-07722-238719

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# A COP'S TALE

CHRISTY VARGHESE has a chat with RONIT ROY, who features in and as *ACP Gautam*, Spotify's latest audio-thriller

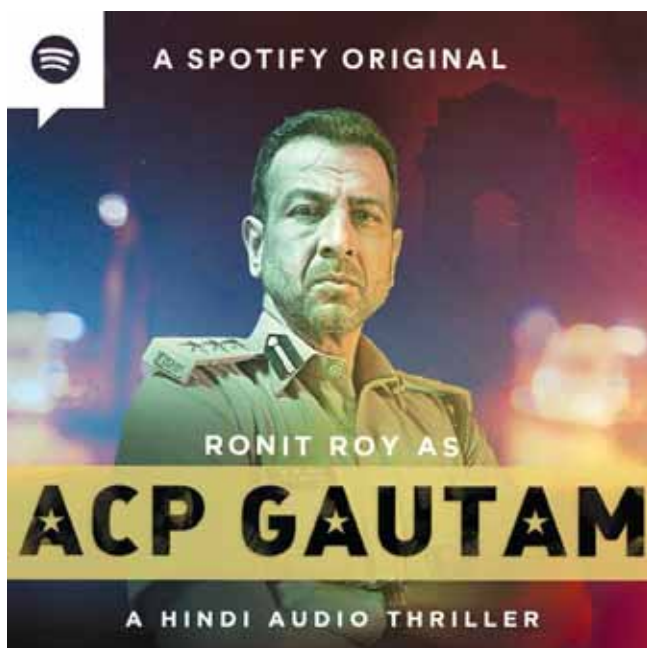
Are you a fan of all things crime drama? If so, then you are not alone. Many of us harbour a fascination with thrilling, nail-biting content, be it books, films or shows. We've grown up watching and reading crime stories, both fictional and real. And now, even on-the-go, you can take the excitement of discovering who committed the crime and why, with Spotify's new original podcast — *ACP Gautam*, with Ronit Roy lending his voice to the protagonist.

Yes, we know what you are thinking. This is not Roy's first stint as a policeman, and he laughs when we bring it up. "It's not that I have a penchant for playing policemen in cinema but I have to admit I have played policemen on quite a few occasions. Right off the top off my head, some prominent instances wherein I have portrayed a cop include films such as *Shootout At Wadala*, *Boss* and *Ugly*. And I am playing a policeman yet again, in a forthcoming film for Cine 1 Studios, shares Roy, hinting that his role at the forthcoming film is an interesting one.

Coming back to *ACP Gautam*, this 10-episode fiction crime thriller tells the story of a legendary cop, voiced by Roy, who takes the audience on a journey through his long and illustrious career. Each episode will lure listeners with instances of mysterious murders, robberies, kidnapping, extortion, terror investigations, and more. As Roy so aptly puts it, "All the tales are fictional but like I choose to believe, reel life is inspired by real life. So, the stories that we tell have, in some form or the other, happened somewhere to somebody."

Although the story revolves around one protagonist, it is also the other compelling characters and sinister twists that bring the show to life. Talking about the podcast, Roy reveals, "The episodes are all regular, run of the mill, what you would call, whodunits. You might have good reason to think that I am biased

towards the show (chuckles), but I feel it is quite interesting how the crimes take place and the way each subsequent investigation unfolds. There are multiple elements in the background, such as some light humour, friendships, which make it a very intriguing show. It goes without saying that crime is an extremely popular genre across the globe. Everyone is trying to



'ALL THE TALES IN SPOTIFY'S LATEST PODCAST, *ACP GAUTAM*, ARE FICTIONAL BUT LIKE I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE, REEL LIFE IS INSPIRED BY REAL LIFE'

second-guess what happens next."

How did the transition feel, though, going from an audio-visual medium such as cinema, to one which relied on purely audio? "Well, there are some adjustments that I had to make consciously. As someone who was accustomed to working in front of the camera, I had formed the subconscious habit of relying of, what we in the industry call, silent cues. One has the

luxury of expressing without using any words or sounds, since your face can be seen. However, this was a different ballgame altogether. Here, expression needs to be through voice. I regard this experience as a learning curve that will help me with my performances in front of the camera as well."

"I really enjoyed lending my voice to *ACP Gautam*. Whether it's good or not, that's something the audience will decide," concludes Roy succinctly.

Well, audience. Don't go by our account of what *ACP Gautam* is all about. As *ACP Gautam* himself would say, "What you see, isn't always true." With the fourth episode releasing today, and new episodes releasing every Thursday, you have to hear at least one of *ACP Gautam*'s tales on Spotify before you pass your verdict on the podcast.

## NEW APPROACHES TO MARRIAGES

PAWAN GUPTA finds that 83 per cent of the young urban population believes that compatibility and mutual interests matter while looking for a life partner



For years, it has been believed that marriages are made in heaven, but the traditional matchmaking in India is more of a hassle to fix multiple dates, meeting with families that are often based on outdated criteria, including religion, caste, community, and not compatibility. With a shift in the mindset of the urban Indians, there has been a swift change in the approach of the life-partner searching process. It has become more realistic rather than a patriarchal fairy tale checklist nowadays.

Betterhalf.ai recommends profiles based on true compatibility, preferences. Recently, it conducted an online survey to understand the mindset and requirements of independent working professionals. The survey revealed a radical change in the mindset of urban professionals while finding a life partner.

Out of 220 respondents, 83 per cent of urban Indians consider compatibility and mutual interests shall matter while searching for a perfect partner. On the other hand, 10 per cent of the respondents believe in looks and family background, while five per cent consider *kundli*, caste, religion, and three per cent believe profession and salary are significant components.

Matchmaking in India is more about going over a series of tea or coffee meetings that involve parents. Living in a fast-paced world prompt-

ed us to conduct this survey; the findings reveal that the life-partner searching process has become more realistic than the conventional process.

Due to the repetitive practices of old-age custom, the idea of a *paraya dhan* and *kanyadaan* has become so ingrained in our minds that it doesn't even look like a violation of rights at all. As women have grown up with these values, they are mostly put down for questioning the traditions and are looked down upon if they resist the notion. That's how every traditional belief and value continues to reign over our societies.

According to the survey findings, if given a choice, 63 per cent of urban Indians would want to live separately with their partner, while 27 per cent do not wish to change the old-age stereotype of having the bride leave her house after marriage. Apart from this, close to 10 per cent think that husbands should move to wife's houses after marriage.

Creating a profile on matrimonial sites happen out of the enthusiasm of parents, completing a list of conventional questions while signing up. However, the mindset of urban Indians is changing, and the influx of new ideas related to a successful marriage is bliss in the changing world.

(The author is the CEO of Betterhalf.ai, India's first matrimonial application without parents' involvement.)

## Courtroom appearance in *Rashmi Rocket*

Actor ABHISHEK BANERJEE discusses his incredible experiences preparing for his role as a lawyer

The actor, Abhishek Banerjee, who essays the role of a lawyer in the upcoming movie, 'Rashmi Rocket', followed a unique path to prepare for his courtroom appearance. He says that lawyers are performers as they do shadow practice.

While describing his role in detail Abhishek shared, "I wanted to go to courtrooms to see the proceedings, but unfortunately I couldn't because of lockdown as courts were not functioning or functioning at 50 per cent capacity or no public was allowed at all. However, I asked my lawyer friends for help."

"One of my very good lawyer friends is a senior advocate and runs his own company. I spoke to him, and he told me about a lawyer's life. I kept observing him, and also how he would easily jump from a normal subject to the legality of that subject, and he told me about how some lawyers are quite a star in the courtroom, and people go especially to listen to their proceedings!"

Abhishek added that his friend also told him that lawyers have their own performance styles, and they can alter their body language, voice, speech to entice, intrigue the judge, and that is what he also tried as well.

"I tried to create my own personality when I was in the courtroom and had a completely different personality when I was outside the courtroom. Also, during the process, I realised that lawyers are performers, they do shadow practice, they rehearse their lines, they do their research work exactly like how actors do," he said.

Abhishek added, "So, I had to find a fine balance between being rehearsed as Ishit, but not look rehearsed as an actor. I enjoyed the process a lot, let's see how the audience reacts!"

—IANS



## A better world for moms

Supporting the mental health of new mothers post-pregnancy is important, says SHRADHA SHEJEKAR

Pregnancy is one of the most beautiful phases in a woman's life. At the same time, it is a phase which brings a lot of changes in the body physically, hormonally, and emotionally. This is why the mother is susceptible to a lot of mental health issues. Many factors can predispose a new mother to mental health issues, including hormonal changes, feelings of incompetence to care for or breastfeed the baby, weight gain, body image concerns, baby health concerns, job related concerns, health complications during pregnancy, lack of sleep, excessive work load, and a genetic predisposition to mental health issues.

Most of the common mental health issues seen during or after pregnancy are persistently low mood or unusually happy mood, low self-esteem, sleep disturbance, and lack of motivation to carry out daily activities. Additionally, a mother may find it difficult to bathe or feed the baby, may feel unhappy about the pregnancy or birth of her child, and may take poor care of herself and of the baby. She may feel anxious about whether she will be able to give good care to the baby, or adequately breastfeed, if she will be able to get back in shape, or if her life will ever go back to her pre-pregnancy days. In certain severe cases, a mother may also report hearing unusual voices, sounds or seeing unusual things even when it is not there, or may even have hallucinations. Some rare cases may even have a tendency to increased suspicion, delusion, unusually feeling threatened, fear being harmed, get suicidal thoughts, or might want to harm the baby. Most people suppress such emotions and avoid talking about it which could lead to long-term harm.

Support from society, family, and ensuring that the mother has help available to her whenever required is important to help her cope with her mental



health. Knowledge is power, and the more you understand about your partner's changing body, how it may influence their mental and physical states, and what kinds of problems they may be encountering, the more you will be able to aid and support them. The same is true for your baby's healthy growth and how to prepare for labour and afterwards. Talking to someone you trust about the problem helps. Talking to others about how you're feeling may be a great relief and serve as a reminder that you're not alone. Some women utilise pregnancy forums on the internet. You'll probably discover that other people are going through similar things, and you could get some helpful ideas on how to cope with any issues. You may also find it beneficial to discuss your feelings with your midwife or doctor. Apart from that, society must also take some proactive measures by watching out for a new mother. If a mother around you has any of the above predisposing factors, or if you recognise any changes in behaviour during or after pregnancy as listed above, help her share her concerns with any other family member.

Additionally, ensure that she has access to a healthy diet and good sleep and help her consult a psychiatrist at the earliest. While diet and sleep are vital for recovery, this alone is not enough and these mothers require quick psychiatric intervention in the form of medications and therapy. Many mothers are concerned about the side effects of medication on the baby (while breastfeeding), but the good news is that science has developed quite safe medications which can be dosed and timed in ways that would not interfere with the breastfeeding, simultaneously helping mothers to quickly recover and enjoy motherhood.

(The author is a consultant-psychiatrist at Aster RV Hospital in Bengaluru.)

## TRENDBLAZER

**fairtalk**  
KARAN KUNDRA



'I am not a person who shies away from letting people know about my life, because I chose this life. Yes, it is a different level of exposure in *Bigg Boss*, where people will be watching us all the time, but it has got its own perks. As long as I know I am not duping anybody, being irrational or hurting someone, I am good. I am not scared of that part.'

**dailytalk**  
SHARAD MALHOTRA



'*Vidrohi* is an untold story of our rich history so we wanted to say it right. As I belong to Kolkata, I can vouch for the similarities between the two states, Odisha and West Bengal, which helped. I have had to do a lot for the show. There was an action workshop conducted where we were taught some local martial arts of Odisha. The episodes have come out to be fantastic is what I've heard.'

## KRISTEN ON PLAYING DIANA

KRISTEN STEWART, who is all set to portray the late princess of Wales, Diana, in the forthcoming drama *Spencer*, has opened up on the amount of research she did to get an understanding of her character.

"She is, sadly and ironically, one of the most unknown people in history, when all she wanted was to just be closer to people and bare herself," Kristen noted.

"Absorbing her completely over the last six months was something," she added.



## WE MUST SAVE NATURE: PANKAJ

The *Mirzapur* star, PANKAJ TRIPATHI, is encouraging people to grow trees by endorsing Daan Utsav.

"Nature is not just a beautiful backdrop to click an Instagrammable picture, a resource, or a tool. Organisations like Grow-Trees.com help us understand and respect ecosystems. I hope millions more join a massive mass afforestation movement and plant trees during Daan Utsav and afterwards," Pankaj said.

"Nature is a living, breathing system that sustains us. We must make it healthier," he added.



# MOSR INSPECTS RAILWAY'S PROJECT IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

The Minister of State for Railways (MoSR) also participated in Swachhta awareness programme at Srinagar Railway Station

Minister of State for Railways (MoSR), Darshana Vikram Jardosh on a visit to Kashmir Valley, reviewed the progress of work on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link National Project (USBRL). The Minister arrived at Banihal railway station by a train from Srinagar accompanied by Additional General Manager of Northern Railway Navin Gulati, Divisional Railway Manager, Firozpur, Dr Seema Sharma, Chief Engineer USBRL B.B.S. Tomar, Executive Director IRCON A K Goyal and other senior officers of Northern Railway and IRCON. Enroute, the minister also travelled in the cabin of the train engine. She was briefed about the driving process by the crew. She took keen interest in the procedure of the train running.

The Minister went around the scenic Banihal station and inspected the control room of Tunnel T-80. With a length of 11.2 km, at present it is the longest Railway tunnel in India. It runs across the mighty Pir Panjal Himalayan range connecting the towns of Banihal and Quazigund in J&K. The monitoring of the tunnel is done for efficient train-running within the structure. She then visited the IRCON Campus in Banihal where she was briefed about the progress of work on the final leg (Katra-Banihal) of the project. She also visited the site of tunnel T-144 and oversaw the cut and cover procedure ongoing there.

MoSR visited the location of the newly constructed Navyug Road Tunnel



across Pir Panjal, close to Banihal and interacted with the officials of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials present there. She later left for Srinagar by the train from Banihal railway station. Enroute at Qazigund station and on arriving at Srinagar railway station, the Minister participated in the Swachhta awareness programmes. These are a part

of the fortnight long cleanliness drive being carried out by the Railways in commemoration of Gandhi Jayanti.

Addressing the press and media at the Srinagar station the Minister expressed satisfaction on the progress of the USBRL project. She said that, the aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir to get a good Railway transportation system to remain



connected to the rest of the country all year round has to be fulfilled. She called upon the engineers working on the project to expedite the remaining portion on mission mode.

The USBRL is a national project undertaken by the Indian Railways for construction of a broad-gauge railway line through the Himalayas with the aim of

connecting the Kashmir region with the rest of the country. The all-weather, comfortable, convenient and cost-effective mass transportation system will be the catalyst for the overall development of the northernmost alpine region of the country.

Construction of the first three phases of the project has been completed and

the line is in operational use for running of trains between Baramulla-Banihal in Kashmir valley and Jammu-Udhampur-Katra in Jammu region. Work on the intervening 111 km section Katra-Banihal, the most arduous and treacherous portion due to its geology and extensive riverine system replete with deep gorges is ongoing. There are several iconic bridges and tunnels coming up in this section. Most of the rail track is slated to be in tunnels or bridges in this section. In the absence of an effective surface transport system in this in-hospitable region, Railways had to first lay access roads to the tune of 205 km to reach the construction sites.

Three agencies; IRCON, KRCL and Northern Railway with extensive experience in construction of rail lines are involved in this project. Many international agencies and premier Indian institutes like IIT Roorkee, IIT Delhi, DRDO and Geological Survey of India are providing expertise in planning and implementation. Several sets of tunneling machineries and cranes have also been imported.

Presently, the Arch work of the Chenab Bridge, world's tallest railway bridge is complete, while the work on the Anji bridge, an asymmetric cable-stayed bridge, is in full swing. 88.5 km of the total 97.64 km main tunneling and 60 km out of 66.5 km escape tunnel works have been completed. 13 major and 11 minor bridges have been completed.



All thanks to the pent up travel demand, things are looking up for the tourism sector as 66 per cent millennial travellers are willing to travel to Thailand as soon as it opens up. With COVID-19 vaccination drives picking up steam across the world, bringing hope to millions that an end to the pandemic is on the horizon, 73 per cent millennials would prefer to go to international destinations with fewer Covid cases. As per the report, 67 per cent millennials would opt for destinations with defined Covid protocols to avoid unnecessary hassles while planning their international holiday in the ensuing holiday season.

"The findings aptly reflect the pent up travel demand among the Indian millennial travellers. We have started receiving queries for international travel for the upcoming holiday season but travellers are cautious too with respect to Covid restrictions, better connectivity and in selection of international destinations. It is not at all surprising that Thailand is a preferred destination for Indians who wish to travel for the purpose of tourism, shopping, golf, meetings or wellness and I am confident that it will be one of the first to pick up outbound traffic from India," says Riaz Munshi, President, Outbound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI).

## TRAVEL BUG

A survey by Tourism Authority of Thailand revealed that 66 per cent millennials are willing to travel to Thailand as soon as it opens up



The independent survey was done with over 7800 millennial travellers across the country for over a period of 4 weeks in August 2021 and revealed that 61 per cent millennials would look for better connectivity while selecting international travel destinations while 27 per cent would prefer short-haul destinations. Interestingly, 38 per cent millennial travellers would base their decisions on attractive destination campaigns highlighting their unique features and offerings. A whopping 68

per cent millennial travellers are willing to travel to Thailand for their next vacations.

Chattan Kunjara Na Ayudhya, the deputy governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand says, "We are quite pleased to see tracker results that there is such a keen interest to visit Thailand among the Indian travellers. India has always been one of the key markets for Thailand. Phuket, Pattaya, Krabi, Bangkok and Koh Samui have become very popular with Indian tourists. They have attracted high-end

tourists, honeymooners, and also budget travellers from India, because the beach destinations have diverse choices of accommodation, from luxurious five-star hotels, to comfortable resorts, budget hotels and bungalows. We are glad that India has been added to the list of low and medium-risk Covid countries and travellers from India are now allowed to visit Thailand under the guidelines included in our special pioneering projects like Phuket Sandbox. We are ensuring that all the hotels, restaurants, sight-seeing spots, tour companies have gone through stringent checks and been certified in order to welcome international tourists."

According to the survey, 83 per cent millennials would prefer beach destinations for their next holidays followed by wellness & spa destinations and Staycation at hotels and resorts at 65 and 53 per cent respectively. Interestingly, 48 per cent millennials opted for golf destinations and 43 per cent of them went for shopping destinations.

The survey also touched upon new travel trends such as rise of couple & do-it-yourself travel and innovations like popularity of touch-less technology, voice-activated services and more automation in the hospitality sector. Travellers are still looking for destinations with fewer crowds and minimum exposure.

## GIS substation and RT- DAS control system inaugurated in Dehradun

.GIS substation and RT-DAS control system inaugurated in Dehradun

A 33/11kV GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) Sub Station, and RT- DAS (Real Time Data Acquisition system) Control System under the IPDS scheme of Government of India, was inaugurated at Dehradun in Uttarakhand. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is the Nodal Agency for IPDS scheme.

The inauguration ceremony was part of Azadi ka



Amrit Mahotsav celebrations marking 75 years of India's independence. The project was inaugurated by Dr Harak Singh Rawat, Minister of Energy and Alternative Energy,

Uttarakhand along with Sowjanya, Secretary (Energy & Alternative Energy), Deepak Rawat, MD of UPCL and Saurabh Kumar Shah, ED (IPDS) of PFC.

The GIS substation, which was sanctioned at a cost of ₹85.99 crore, will benefit more than 5000 households in areas of Dehradun and the surrounding areas. Whereas the RT-DAS, known for automated monitoring of power supply, was sanctioned for the cost of ₹4.28 crore.

Additionally, the substation will reduce the curtailment of power supply, reducing the land requirement, lowering the operational and maintenance cost, all while providing a safe working environment for the attending personnel.

## Indian tribal art goes to Canada

On October 2, which marks Gandhi Jayanti, the high commissioner of India to Canada, Ajay Bisaria inaugurated Atmanirbhar Bharat corner, to showcase exquisite GI-tagged tribal art and craft products from India, for discerning consumers in Canada. The corner displays a sampling of tribal handicraft and products, offers lists and literature on the products as well as information about commercial purchase and distribution of such products in Canada. The initiative will help connect tribal artisans from India with the market in Canada.

The Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in the High Commission has been set up as part of a global initiative, in collaboration with the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), to promote products that tribal groups

across India have been creating for centuries.

TRIFED was established in August 1987 under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 by the Government of India as a national level cooperative body. TRIFED plays the dual role as both a market developer and a service provider, empowering tribal communities in India with knowledge and tools to improve operations in a systematic, scientific manner and also to assist them in developing marketing strategies.

The corner will continue to display, for public viewing, a range of tribal handicraft of India in the historic Pillai Memorial Consular Hall of the High Commission, located at 10, Springfield Road, Ottawa.

Commercial enquiries can be directed to the Commercial Wing of the High Commission (hciottawa.gov.in).



## Indian Oil celebrates Gandhi Jayanti by gifting saplings

Refineries Headquarters of Indian Oil Corporation Limited marked the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, by felicitating *suraksha karmacharis* with a Tulsi sapling with a message "Paryavaran svat: svachhh hoga, jab har ghar mein ek paudha hoga".

*Suraksha karmacharis* took the *swachhta* pledge, reiterating their commitment to keep the surroundings clean and to motivate all other stakeholders to maintain cleanliness both at their office and within their localities.



## CLW's GM inspects schools

Satish Kumar Kashyap, the general manager of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) visited railway and non-railway schools to review the facilities available. Kashyap visited and inspected various schools such as DV Boys, DV Girls, Kendriya Vidyalaya, English medium. He was accompanied by principals, head masters, teachers, as well as staff and supervisors of each school.

During the inspection, he interacted with teachers and staff of each school and queried about online classes and facilities which were provided to students. He instructed to improve the infra-



structure, teaching standards, so that a conducive learning environment be maintained.

The common services centers (CSCs), under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, signed a MoU with KRIBHCO (Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited) to provide access to fertilisers and agricultural inputs to farmers through the network of village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the last mile.

As per the MoU, CSCs will facilitate the sales and distribution of the KRIBHCO products which includes KRIBHCO fertilisers like, imported urea, DAP, NPK/NPS, bio-fertilisers, city compost, zinc sulphate, certified seeds, hybrid seeds and potash derived from molasses. KRIBHCO is engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing and marketing of fertilizers, agri inputs and seeds. CSC will use its e-platform technology for smooth and efficient delivery of KRIBHCO products.

CSC SPV is facilitating support and business to farmers, agriculturist, citizens through VLEs and Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) which are engaged in facilitating all activities related to agriculture and farming including sowing, manuring, harvesting, storage, processing, and selling of farm produce and agricultural product.

On this partnership the managing director of CSC SPV, Dr Dinesh Tyagi (IAS) said, "Our partnership with KRIBHCO is a

## KRIBHCO signs MoU with CSCs

step forward in furthering the agenda of the Government in serving the farmers and underserved community, especially those living in the rural areas. The last mile delivery is an important aspect of our activities at CSCs and the partnership will help us reach out to farmers and citizens in the villages with timely supply of reliable and quality Agri inputs."

Rajan Chowdhry, MD of KRIBHCO said, "KRIBHCO is committed towards fulfilling the goal of doubling the income of Farmers. He explained that the pandemic has resulted in organisations going digital to manage work and in the meantime people have also become tech savvy. He added that the FPOs as agribusiness retailers will transform the farming community to 'agriculture entrepreneur' from the 'agriculture producers'."

He was highly appreciative of the ICT platform which CSC had developed for the supply of Agri inputs to the Farmers. He stressed on the fact that both the organizations have similar objectives of ensuring farmers prosperity and welfare. He also expressed his firm resolve to strengthen this tie up and



scale up the business in time to come.

About KRIBHCO  
Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) is a premier National level Cooperative Society of India registered under Multi

State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 is engaged in fertilizer production and distribution. KRIBHCO produces and distributes high-quality agricultural inputs. The product basket of KRIBHCO comprises Urea, DAP, NPK, MOR,

SSP, Zinc Sulphate, Bio-Fertilizers, Compost, Potash derived from Molasses, Certified Seeds, Hybrid Seeds, BT Cotton etc. KRIBHCO distributes these products through its channel partners mainly in the cooperatives sector. It also supplies products through its own retail outlets, commonly known as Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra (KBSEs).

About Common Services Centres

Common Services Centres (CSCs) Scheme is one of key enablers of the Digital India program. CSCs are the access points for e-delivery of G2C, education, healthcare, agriculture, and financial services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society. CSCs are more than just service delivery points in rural India. They are positioned as change agents, promoting rural entrepreneurship, and building rural capacities and livelihoods. It has a pan-India network catering to regional, geographic, linguistic, and cultural diversity of the country, thus enabling the Government's mandate of a socially, financially and digitally inclusive society.



# SRH dent RCB’s chance to get top-two finish

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) made a mess of their run chase as bottom-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad dented their hopes of a top-two finish with a narrow four-run win in a last-over IPL thriller, here on Wednesday.

After putting on board a modest 141 for 7, SRH returned to limit RCB to 137 for six for only their third win in the league. Chasing the total, Devdutt Padikkal (41) and Glenn Maxwell (40) scored bulk of the runs but RCB kept losing wickets and faltered in the end. Defending 18 off last two overs, Jason Holder bowled a superb over, giving away just five runs for one wicket.

AB de Villiers smashed a six in the fourth ball of the final over bowled by Bhuvneshwar

Kumar but couldn’t take the team home as the South African could not pull off a six the team needed in the last ball.

Earlier, opener Jason Roy (44) shared a 58-ball 70 run stand with skipper Kane Williamson (31) to set the platform but SRH lost three quick wickets for two runs in seven balls to eventually end up with a below-par total.

RCB were dealt an early blow in their chase when Bhuvneshwar trapped Virat Kohli in the first over.

The decision to promote Daniel Christian at number 3 also didn’t work as he was deceived by a slower delivery by Siddarth Kaal.

At 18 for 2, Srikar Bharat joined hands with Devdutt Padikkal and produced two handsome shots for a six and a four to take RCB to 37 for 2 in six overs.



New pace sensation Umran Malik then struck in his fifth delivery, removing Bharat as RCB slipped to 38 for 2.

New-man in Maxwell made his intent clear, clobbering Rashid Khan for a maxi-

mum. He repeated the treatment again, sending the Afghan spinner over long-on and then sweeping him for another four.

But with Malik clocking 150km plus consistently, RCB

decided to target the other bowlers.

However, a poor call by Padikkal ended with Maxwell being runout, while the former too was caught at the boundary line as RCB further slumped to 109 for 4 in 16.5 overs. Needing 29 off 18 balls, Shahbaz Ahmed smashed two fours to bring the equation down before being dismissed by Holder in the 19th over.

For RCB, Harshal Patel (3/33) and Daniel Christian (2/14) did the maximum damage after skipper Virat Kohli opted to bowl.

Spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal (1/27) and Shahbaz Ahmed (0/21) kept things in check, while George Garton conceded 29 runs in two overs for his one wicket.

Abhishek Sharma, asked to open the innings, smashed a four and a six off Garton in the

► IPL points table			
	M	P	NRR
DC	13	20	+0.526
CSK	13	18	+0.739
RCB	13	16	-0.159
KKR	13	12	+0.294
MI	13	12	-0.048
PBKS	13	10	-0.241
RR	13	10	-0.737
SRH	13	6	-0.422

second over before holing out to Maxwell. Williamson started off with a good-looking cover drive and then pulled one from Siraj for another boundary through square leg.

The New Zealand skipper was all elegance as he played two sweetly-timed shots for two more hits to the fence off Garton. Left-arm spinner Shahbaz attacked the stumps but when he erred Roy was quick to pull him through square leg.

# England agree to tour Australia for Ashes: Report

PTI ■ LONDON

The Joe Root-led England team has agreed to tour Australia for the Ashes, a leading daily has reported, ending weeks of speculation on their participation in the AUD 200 million series owing to a slew of COVID-19 restrictions in Australia.

The tour headed in the right direction following positive talks between players’

representatives, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Cricket Australia and the Australian government on Tuesday.

During the talks, the English players’ concerns over strict COVID-19 protocols were addressed.

The Daily Telegraph has reported that a group of England players, led by Root, have already committed to the series. The report further stat-



ed that Jos Buttler could be the only England player not to agree to travel, having previously expressed his concerns over the tour and staying away from family for long periods.

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes is taking a break from the game and pacer Jofra Archer is out injured.

On Monday, the ECB had stated that their team would travel to Australia for the

Ashes series across December and January only if its leading players are in the squad.

The ECB had said it would announce later this week if the tour would go ahead amid concerns about restrictions in place in Australia due to the pandemic.

The five-match Test series is scheduled to begin from December 8 and continue till January 18.



## Will go all out in T20 series: Harmanpreet

PTI ■ GOLD COAST

Back into the side after missing the ODIs and one-off Test match Down Under, India’s T20I captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Wednesday vowed to go all out against Australia in the three-match series, saying they need to win it at all cost.

India lost the three-match ODI series 1-2 before drawing the historic pink ball Test.

But Harmanpreet missed both the ODIs and Test due to a thumb injury and having recovered now, she is desperate to draw the curtains on the tour with a rare series win under her belt.

“It is unfortunate that I missed the ODIs and Tests but if I had more days between ODIs and the Test match, I could have recovered and played. But it is past now,” Harmanpreet said on the eve of the first T20 International here on Thursday. “We now just want to go



all out and win the series at any cost. These three matches are very important for us,” Harmanpreet said getting an opportunity to play all three formats during a tour

is a great sign for women’s cricket as a whole.

“Earlier we used to play mostly ODIs and T20s but now we are getting the opportunity to play all the three formats which is good for us. I feel everybody should get equal opportunity,” she said.

“Before this series we played against South Africa and England after almost a year but I can say that we are now in great shape.

“Playing back-to-back cricket helps in improvement of the team in all fields.”

Harmanpreet said it was tough for any player to play cricket amid the pandemic while living in bio-secure bubbles.

“We didn’t get to play cricket for the last one year and than we got the opportunity. But it was tough to live in bio-bubbles, spending long time away from friends and family and follow all rules and regulations. But that is how it is,” she said.

## Germany unveils logo for soccer’s Euro 2024 tournament

AP ■ BERLIN

Germany has unveiled the logo for soccer’s 2024 European Championship during a ceremony with a light show in the stadium that will hold the final.

Some guests and media were invited to Berlin’s Olympiastadion for the UEFA launch, though no fans were present on a damp evening in the German capita on Tuesday.

The logo features an outline of the Henri Delaunay Cup — the bulbous tournament trophy — set on a colored oval outline that resembles the Olympiastadion’s roof. It features colors from the flags of UEFA’s 55 member nations, set in 24 slices around the trophy to represent the 24 teams that will ultimately qualify for the tournament in Germany.

Organisers said the brand will promote a tournament where diversity is celebrated, and everyone should feel welcome. The tournament’s slogan “United by Football. Vereint im Herzen Europas” — or “United at the Heart of Europe” — is meant to convey a message of togetherness and inclusion.

Logos for each of the 10 host cities — Berlin, Cologne, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Leipzig, Munich and Stuttgart — were also presented with each featuring a famous local landmark. Berlin’s, for example, features the Brandenburg Gate.



“From now on, the tournament has a brand identity which reflects the ambition we have together with the host association and host cities,” UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said.

The tournament is due to be played in June and July 2024 with the match schedule to be confirmed next year.

Germany hosted the World Cup in 2006, with the final held in the refurbished Olympiastadion. The stadium was originally built for the 1936 Olympic Games hosted by Nazi Germany.

West Germany also hosted the World Cup in 1974 and the European Championship in 1988.

## BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WOMAN WRESTLER TO REACH WORLD CH’SHIP FINAL

endured one month before the World championship.

“I trained hard for this, I wanted to give my 100 per cent and will fight final like my last bout,” she said. Anshu had lost her first round bout and also repechage round at the Tokyo Olympics.

Anshu also became only the sixth Indian ever to make the Worlds gold medal match after Bishambar Singh (1967), Sushil Kumar (2010), Amit Dahiya (2013), Bajrang Punia (2018) and Deepak Punia (2019).

India has only one world Champion in Sushil till date and Anshu can create another his-

tory on Thursday. Anshu’s win also ensured India’s first medal from this edition of the event.

Anshu was clever with her moves. At least thrice, she effected take-down moves from the left of Vynnyk and finished the bout with an exposure move. The Nidani girl started competing in the senior circuit only from last year and has made a steady progress since then.

Earlier, she was hardly troubled by Kazakhstan’s Nilufar Raimova, whom she beat by technical superiority and later outwitted Mongolia’s Davaachimeg Erkhembayar 5-1 in the quarterfinals.



## Anshu creates history

PTI ■ OSLO (NORWAY)

Anshu Malik on Wednesday created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the World Championship final when she outclassed junior European champion Solomia Vynnyk but Sarita Mor lost her semifinal and will fight for a bronze here.

The 19-year-old Anshu, the reigning Asian champion, controlled the semifinal from the beginning and won by technical superiority in the 57kg category to go into history books.

Only four Indian women

wrestlers have won medals at the Worlds and all of them — Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhand (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019) — have clinched bronze.

“It’s extremely satisfying. I am so happy. It feels so good. What I could not do at the Tokyo Games I did that here. I fought each and every bout as my last bout,” said Anshu after making the final.

“The month after the Tokyo Games was very tough. I could not perform as I had wanted at the Games. I suffered an injury (elbow) and can’t explain how much pain I

## India short of one pacer for T20 World Cup: MSK Prasad

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India is a pacer short heading into the T20 World Cup this month, feels former chairman of selectors MSK Prasad, who is also a bit concerned about all-rounder Hardik Pandya not bowling in the ongoing IPL.

The T20 World Cup gets underway from October 17 in the UAE and Oman with India among favourites to clinch the title.



“It is a decent squad but I feel that they are one fast bowler short actually ...Because we are playing majority of the matches in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, so may be one more fast bowler could have been handy,” Prasad told PTI in an interview.

“Had we played more matches in Sharjah, this was okay, but one fast bowler could have (been there) and more important with Hardik not bowling, I think it is a little cause of concern,” explained the 46-year-old.

The Virat Kohli-led India will begin their T20 World Cup campaign when they take on arch-rivals Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium on October 24.

While the pitches in Sharjah have aided the spinners, the tracks in Dubai and Abu Dhabi have been helping

the fast bowlers as is being seen in the IPL.

Baroda all-rounder Pandya, a key member of the team, has not been bowling for five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians in the current UAE leg of the cash-rich league. The franchise has said repeatedly that it does not want to push him too hard keeping in mind his importance to the Indian team.

Asked about his take on the situation, Prasad said, “See, Hardik has been picked as an all-rounder, not as a batsman, he is seen an all-rounder, who will add that what you call balance to the side. “...(it is) a little surprising that, or I don’t know whether he is being instructed, not to bowl or he is being preserved to bowl only in the World Cup,” he wondered.



## Finch backs Warner to open in T20 WC, despite woes in IPL

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Star Australia batsman David Warner may be woefully out of form and hasn’t played any international match in the shortest format for over a year but his opener’s slot in the upcoming T20 World Cup is not under any doubt, limited-over captain Aaron Finch said on Wednesday.

Finch backed Warner to be his opening partner at the T20 World Cup to be played in Oman and UAE from October 17, despite Warner being dropped by Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL this year.

“Yep, absolutely He’s one of the best players to ever play the game for Australia,” Finch said

on the eve of Australia’s departure to the UAE for the showpiece.

“I’ve got no doubt that his preparation, while he would love to be playing for Hyderabad no doubt, I know that he’s still training away. He’ll be good to go,” he said, according to ESPNcricinfo.

Warner hasn’t played a T20I for Australia since September 2020, missing the last 14 matches across four series due to a combination of injury, rest, and schedule clashes.

He has endured a difficult IPL season across the two halves of the tournament, scoring just two half-centuries in eight innings.

## Hockey: India sweeps FIH annual awards

### Men’s Olympic champion Belgium says this is not normal

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

India swept the International Hockey Federation’s annual awards on Wednesday, claiming all the top honours based on a voting system which was lambasted as a “failure” by men’s Olympic champions Belgium, prompting the FIH to say that it would try to figure why some associations did not cast their ballot.

Five Indian players and the head coaches of both the men’s and women’s teams in Tokyo claimed the top honours across different categories after fetching the maximum votes. The men’s hockey team had won a bronze, its first in 41 years, in the Tokyo Olympics, while the women’s side had finished an unprecedented fourth in the showpiece.

Harmanpreet Singh won the men’s ‘Player of the Year’ award and Gurjit Kaur was recognised as the best player in the women’s P R.

Veteran P R Sreejesh and Savita Punia won the best goal-keeper awards in the men’s and women’s section, while young striker Sharmila Devi (women) and Vivek Sagar Prasad (men) were adjudged best rising stars.

The drag-click duo of Harmanpreet Singh and Gurjit were the top-scorers in their respective team’s stellar run at the Games.

Men’s team coach Graham Reid and women’s coach Joerd Marijne were also voted the best. While Reid is still with the



team, Marijne’s tenure ended after the Tokyo Games.

Hockey Belgium reacted sharply to the announcement of the winners and questioned the process as none of their Tokyo Games champions managed to win an award.

Votes from National Associations — represented by their respective national captains and coaches -- accounted for 50 per cent of the overall result, while fans and players (25 per cent) as well as media (25 per cent) made the other half of the votes.

It is to be noted that only 19 associations from the 42-strong European bloc cast their votes, compared to 29 out of 33 in Asia.

“Hockey Belgium is very disappointed with the outcome of @FIH\_Hockey Stars Awards. A gold winning team with multiple nominees in all categories but doesn’t win a single award

demonstrates failure of the voting system. We will work with FIH to ensure a fairer system in the future,” the Belgian association tweeted.

The sentiment was shared by the team’s official handle as well. “We fully agree! This is not normal! The credibility and image of our sport is once again facing hard times. It’s a pity (sic) @FIH,” stated the Red Lions.

In all, 79 National Associations voted, the others being Africa (11 out of 25 Member Associations), Oceania (3 out of 8), and Pan America (17 out of 30).

“And with a record number of almost 300,000 fans casting their votes, fan participation in the FIH Hockey Stars Awards has been exceptional,” the FIH said. Following Belgium’s objection, FIH issued a statement to clarify its stand and promised a review if necessary.