

## WORLD 7

XI VOWS TO REUNIFY  
TAIWAN WITH CHINA

## MONEY 8

DIESEL CROSSES ₹100  
MARK IN MUMBAI

## SPORT 11

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NEW DELHI, SUNDAY OCTOBER 10, 2021; PAGES 12+4 ₹4

## sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



# Delhi stares at blackout over plants' coal crisis

Kejriwal writes to PM; power plants have 1 day stock; Govt says situation will improve soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi is staring at a blackout situation due to an acute coal shortage and just one day of coal stock is left to keep the power plants operational, the Delhi Government has said. Power situation in Punjab is also precarious due to shortage of fuel for the plants.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his attention and intervention to the coal shortage that has affected the power generation.

Meanwhile, the Union Power Ministry has said the coal supply situation is likely to improve soon. Officials said that increase in demand of electricity due to revival of economy, heavy rains in coal mine areas, increase in price of imported coal are responsible for supply crunch.

Kejriwal tweeted, "Delhi could face a power crisis. I am personally keeping a close



In this file photo, labourers eat lunch at a coal loading site in the village of Godhar in Jharia, a remote corner of eastern Jharkhand. An energy crisis is looming over India as coal stockpiles grow perilously low. Supplies at the majority of coal-fired power plants in India have dwindled to just days worth of stock

AP

watch over the situation. We are trying our best to avoid it. In the meanwhile, I wrote a letter to the PM seeking his personal intervention."

The letter to the PM reads, "I draw your attention to the prevailing coal shortage situation that is continuing since August/September 21 for the third month in a row, which has affected the power generation from the major Central Generating plants supplying power to NCT of Delhi."

"The coal stock situation depleting in power generating stations, the dependence on gas

stations supplying the power to Delhi increases. But, even the gas station supplying power to Delhi does not have adequate APM gas to run at full capacity. If the situation continues, it would severely impact the power supply situation in Delhi."

Meanwhile, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (DDL), which operates mainly in northwest Delhi, has sent the SMS (message) to its customers asking them to use electricity judiciously, referring to the ongoing issue.

The SMS stated, "Due to

limited coal availability in generation plants across north, power supply scenario between 2 pm and 6 pm is at critical level. Kindly use electricity judiciously."

Meanwhile, Delhi Power Minister Stateyendar Jain called a high-level meeting to discuss possible solutions to the crisis.

"The whole country is facing a crisis due to which power plants are unable to function properly. All the power plants that supply electricity to Delhi are supposed to keep a 30-day reserve stock but at present they have only 1 day's stock left. The demand for electricity in the country is not at 'peak yet, the power plants are not able to produce the required amount of electricity. The power plants are not functioning at 100 per cent capacity," Jain said.

"Even the hydroelectric power plants are not running at their full capacity. Very little electricity is produced in Delhi. Delhi does not produce electricity using coal. The maximum power supply in Delhi is purchased from power plants located outside Delhi. Most of the power is procured from the Central Government's NTPC, where coal reserves have to be kept for at least one month, which has come down to only one day," added the Delhi Delhi Power Minister.

# Union Minister Ajay's son held in Lakhimpur case

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

Within 24-hours of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's claim that the Lakhimpur Kheri "guilty" will not be spared irrespective of their stature, the sleuths of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) grilled Ashish Mishra aka Monu — son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni — for over 10 hours before finally arresting him late on Saturday.

Sources said Ashish failed to furnish any supportive evidence to prove that he was not present in any of the three SUVs that ploughed into a crowd of farmers killing four of them. He will now be produced before a remand magistrate so that police can further grill him.

The SIT team carried out a series of raids to arrest another key suspect Ankit Das, nephew of former BSP MP Akhilesh Das. The search operation was carried out in Lucknow as well in Lakhimpur Kheri but Ankit managed to remain elusive; the SIT picked up his driver who was driving the SUV which was part of the cavalcade that ran over farmers. The car was later set on fire by the protesting farmers.

Ashish appeared before the Crime Branch on Saturday at

around 10.35 am, well before the scheduled time to appear at 11 am as mentioned in the notice. To give the media a miss, Ashish came on a scooter and reached the police line by entering from the back gate.

His father Ajay Mishra, BJP MLA from Kheri Sadar constituency Yogesh Verma, as well as two lawyers, accompanied Ashish. After dropping him at the gate of the police station, MoS Mishra remained in the BJP's office in Kheri.

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Ashish Mishra, accused in the Tikononia violence case, arrives at the Crime Branch office in Lakhimpur Kheri on Saturday

PTI

# Farmers 'rail roko' on Oct 18, 'mahapanchayat' on Oct 26

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Demanding the resignation of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra and the arrest of his son Ashish, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) — an umbrella body of farmers protesting against the contentious farm laws — on Saturday called for "rail roko" on October 18 to protest Lakhimpur Kheri violence. The farmers will also hold "mahapanchayat" in Lucknow on October 26.

The farmers plan to burn

effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Dussehra on October 15 to mark their protest.

The SKM has demanded the dismissal of Mishra and the arrest of his son Ashish and plans to perform an "antim ardas" and "bhog ceremony" on October 12 for the four deceased farmers. The SKM will observe the day as Shaheed Kisan Diwas across India.

"Farmers from across the country will reach Lakhimpur Kheri on October 12... what

happened there was no less than the Jallianwala Bagh and we request all civic organisations to take out candle marches in their cities at 8 pm (on October 12)," Swaraj India chief Yogendra Yadav said.

"Farmers will go to every State with the ashes (of those farmers who died in Lakhimpur Kheri) and immersions will be done... Dussehra is on October 15 and all farmers will burn effigies of Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah," he added.

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# CWC meet on Oct 16 to discuss chief's election, political situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet on October 16 to deliberate on the current political situation, including the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, and decide on the schedule for the organisational elections to elect a new party chief.

The CWC has been convened after demands from some quarters, including senior leaders like former Union Ministers Ghulam Nabi Azad, P Chidambaram, Shahshi Tharoor, to discuss the all-important issues of the leadership vacuum.

"A meeting of the Congress Working Committee will be held on Saturday, October 16, at AICC headquarters to discuss current political situation, forthcoming Assembly elections and organisational elections," said AICC general secretary KC Venugopal.

The party, in its CWC meeting, held on January 22 had decided that the Congress would have an elected president by June 2021, but the same



was deferred at the May 10 CWC meeting in the wake of the Covid-19 situation.

The latest meeting is being held in the wake of the Lakhimpur clashes on October 3 in which nine people lost their lives, including four farmers, who were allegedly run over by an SUV belonging to the convoy of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, and 2 lynching by the protesting farmers.

The incident has given enough ammo to the Congress to corner the BJP Government and recapture the lost political

space. The CWC meeting will also discuss certain dissenting notes rising within the party over the spat of defections and the party's poor electoral fortunes.

Sonia Gandhi took over as the interim Congress president in August 2019 after Rahul Gandhi resigned in the wake of the party's Lok Sabha debacle in May 2019. There have been demands from a section of Congress leaders for having a full-time and active party president as well as an organisational overhaul.

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# China's LAC build-up a concern: Army Chief

If they continue deployment, we will do the same: Gen Naravane

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The military build-up by China in the eastern Ladakh region and new infrastructure development to sustain the large-scale deployment are matters of concern and India has been keeping a close watch on all the activities by the Chinese PLA, Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane said on Saturday.

He said if the Chinese military maintains the deployment through the second winter, it may lead to a LoC-like situation (Line of Control) though not an active LoC as is there on the western front with Pakistan.

The Chief of Army Staff said if the Chinese military



continues with its deployment, the Indian Army too will maintain its presence on its side which is "as good as what the PLA (People's Liberation Army) has done".

Indian and Chinese militaries have been on a standoff in several areas along the Line

of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh for nearly 17 months though both sides disengaged from a number of friction points this year following a series of talks.

"Yes, it is a matter of concern that the large-scale build-up has occurred and continues to be in place, and to sustain that kind of a build-up, there has been an equal amount of infrastructure development on the Chinese side," Gen Naravane said at the Indian Today conclave.

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# Afghan-origin terrorists may try to enter J&K: Naravane

New Delhi: Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane on Saturday did not rule out the possibility of Afghan-origin foreign terrorists attempting to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir once the situation stabilises in Afghanistan as he cited similar instances when the

Taliban was in power in Kabul over two decades ago. At the same time, he said Indian armed forces are prepared to deal with any eventuality as they have a very strong counter-infiltration grid as well as a mechanism to check terrorist activities in the hinterland in J&K.

# Tikait justifies lynching of 2 men for ploughing vehicles into protesters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson Rakesh Tikait on Saturday stoked a controversy by saying that the lynching of two BJP workers in Lakhimpur Kheri is a reaction to the action and he doesn't consider those who were involved in the killings as culprits as they only reacted to SUV running over protesters.

"The killing of two BJP workers in Lakhimpur Kheri after a convoy of cars ran over four farmers is a reaction to an action. I do not consider those involved in the killings as guilty (of a crime). Hum galat nahi mante hain (would not call it wrong)," Tikait said on the sidelines of a press conference.

His shocking comment came at a time when the farmers' unions are planning a series of protests against the Lakhimpur Kheri violence. Earlier, Tikait has emerged as a key figure in managing the aftermath of the Lakhimpur



Samyukta Kisan Morcha leaders Rakesh Tikait and Yogendra Yadav in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

Kheri incident by not only facilitating the post-mortem of the deceased farmers but also coordinating with police officers to pacify the enraged farmers.

Tikait, who has a good rapport with many officials earlier posted in the West UP region, assured them that he believed that there should be peace in the region and no one should be allowed to take political advantage of the situation.

Continued on Page 4

# Centre stalling doorstep delivery, says AAP Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Saturday said the Centre refused to allow the AAP Government to implement "doorstep delivery of ration scheme despite the High Court orders.

The AAP alleged that on the basis of a complaint made by ration shopkeepers, the Centre directed the Delhi Government no to implement the scheme. "The Centre seems to be very sympathetic to ration shopkeepers," a statement from Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

On the Centre's move, AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj from Chirag Dilli said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has lost all sense and morality and gone against a High Court order that permitted the Kejriwal Government to implement the doorstep delivery of

ration scheme.

Targeting BJP ruled Central Government, Bharadwaj said, "Surprisingly, the BJP is working at the behest of a group of ration dealers and is even willing to go against court for them."

"There is strong nexus between ration mafia and the BJP," the AAP MLA said.

The AAP is trying its best to eliminate the ration mafia and give people ration with dignity and honesty but the BJP doesn't want that to happen, he said, adding that they want the people to still remain the stooges of the ration dealers so that the BJP can fill its treasury. He said, "I want to ask the BJP, have all your leaders stopped caring even for the court's orders now? The Centre has made no objection in the court but in the letter they have said it goes against NFSA guidelines."

# DU UG second cut-off still too high at 98.5%

Marks down by 0.25 to 1.5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University's Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College on Saturday released its second cut-off list with the marks required for BSc(Honours) Computer Science going down by 1.5 per cent.

The cut-off for the course in the first list was pegged at 100 per cent but there were no applications received for the course in the first list.

The cut-off for the course is pegged at 98.5 per cent in the second list but it is closed for admissions in SC, ST, PwD and EWS categories.

The other colleges that had pegged the cut-off at 100 per cent for the course were



The admissions to BSc (Honours) Mathematics, BSc (Honours) Zoology, BSc (Life Science) have been closed while BA programme combinations of Economics and Political Science and History and Political Science are also closed.

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# NCB released 3 after BJP leaders' call, alleges NCP

Nawab Malik seeks CDR of BJP leaders, NCB zonal director

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's Minister and NCB's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik on Saturday made a sensational allegation that the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) released three persons within hours of their arrest in the mid-sea drug bust case, including Rishabh Sachdev, brother-in-law of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Mohit Kambhoj (Bharatiya), following telephone calls from the BJP leaders in Delhi and Maharashtra.

"In all 11 persons, including Aryan Khan, were detained during the raid on Cordelia Cruises' Empress ship on the



Nationalist Congress Party leader Nawab Malik addresses the media at the party office in Mumbai on Saturday

PTI

night of October 2. However, the NCB officials let off three of the detainees — Sachdev, Pratik Gaba and Amir Furniturewala — after receiving calls from BJP leaders based in Delhi and Maharashtra. Subsequently the number of detentions came

down from 11 to 8.

Malik charged that several BJP leaders from New Delhi and Maharashtra had made "frantic calls" to the NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede for the release of the three detainees.

Continued on Page 4

## CAPSULE

**MUMBAI POLICE SUMMONS CBI DIRECTOR IN PHONE TAPPING CASE**

**Mumbai:** The Cyber Cell of Mumbai Police on Saturday summoned CBI Director and former Maharashtra DGP Subodh Kumar Jaiswal in a phone tapping and data leak case. Jaiswal has been asked to be present to record his statement on October 14. The summons was sent by email, he added. The case relates to the 'leak' of a report prepared by IPS officer Rashmi Shukla about alleged corruption in police transfers in Maharashtra when she headed the State intelligence department.

P4

**PANDITS' KILLINGS A FOUL DESIGN: J&K EX-DY CM Srinagar:** Former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Muzaffar Hussain Baig on Saturday said that the recent spate of killings of minorities in Kashmir appears to be a "foul design" to scare them.



HOME THEATRE

Weird not scary



**THE MANOR**  
Amazon Prime  
\*ing: Barbara Hershey, Bruce Davison, Stacey Travis, Ciera Payton, Jill Larson  
Rated: 4.5/10

Movies where everything looks hunky dory are sure signs that things are not going to go well – either for the characters or for those watching it. And if the genre is horror, it is bound to scare the heebie-jeebies out of you. Sadly, of late all the scary films coming out of either Hollywood or Bollywood are either gory – a lot of blood and ugly faces or weird. The scare quotient is no longer there. Barring a few films like the Conjuring series, the rest just make you squirm because the ghost, the being, the

witch or and even the zombies are ugly as sin.

Hope that the directors understand that ugly and twisted bodies with long teeth dripping saliva or blood are hardly going to scare the audience. Have they forgotten Venom? Most people love him – his ugly looking face. People wait for the next in the series.

So, The Manor has nothing new to offer to the viewers. A 70-year-old moves into a caregiver home because she can no longer stay at home despite a daughter and a grandson at home! A weird concept for us in India. Then of course, weird things start to happen. Predictable. That this lady is inquisitive is an understatement. This too is predictable. That every caregiver is involved. Obviously. That she befriends three happy-

go-lucky people in a place where others are in a zombie state should have raised the hackles of the daughter. Weirdly it doesn't. She prefers to believe a doctor over what her mother has to say.

But then this is a movie. Nothing here is close to reality or something that people will find a connection with. Even things that go bump in the night are not scary. Sadly, this is where The Manor falters. It is a horror film. Where was the horror? Unless one considers a part of the tree uproot itself and walk out to devour its victim. Not frightening! Again – we have seen the Narnia series. Everything here is similar.

A horror film has to offer something never seen before to scare you. All this one does is end up with a weird climax.

Shalini Sakseena

It is cute and sweet

**MUPPETS HAUNTED MANSION**  
Disney+Hotstar  
\*ing: Bill Barretta, Dave Goelz, Brian Henson, Eric Jacobson, Peter Linz  
Rated: 5.5/10

It is strange that even though this is not Halloween week, there are so many horror films that are being released on the OTT. There is a silver lining here. Puppets Haunted Mansion is at least for the pre-teenagers. Another plus is that they are muppets and they are cute and sweet.

Many of us have grown up

watching Kermit the muppet – the green frog sure entertained us. Sadly, his presence in this one is only for a couple of minutes. But it doesn't take away the fun that kids will have watching this.

Of course, there are ghosts but they are all muppets, so not really scary looking. We all know that they are weird looking from the start. Take Pepe, the muppet. He is King Prawn. Even with his weird flagellar setae all over the place, he looks cute and endears himself. He does get scared at the drop of a hat, yet he is funny. There is in The Great Gonzo himself – a

muppet who is not scared of anything under the sun. And true to his nature. Nothing scares him more than losing his friend Pepe. With his long-curved nose, Gonzo entertains you.

The rest of the ghosts are funny too. Dialogues like 'Oh how ghoul (cool)', 'I shall be your host this evening. Your Ghost Host' and 'And no flash pictures please. The spirits are frightfully sensitive to bright lights' will keep the adults smiling all through and the kids entertained.

A movie that will keep your kids busy for 50 minutes. — Shalini Sakseena



Plan Your Sunday

THE DOJO SELF DEFENCE WORKSHOP

Today's day and age makes it critical for us to be able defend ourselves physically when faced with danger. If you want to protect yourself or just learn a necessary life-skill or new martial art, LBB has something in store for you. The Dojo is hosting an online self-defence workshop to help teach us how to defend ourselves in practical and real-world circumstances. The 90 minute workshop will include a body warm-up, an assessment of where your strengths and weaknesses lie and basic mobility techniques. This will be followed by a mental response mechanism technique and self-defence methods. You will be taught how to act and react in practical situations and real-life scenarios, followed by an interactive Q

& A session. A cool down and meditation will round up the



informative session.

**What:** Workshop  
**Where:** Online  
**When:** October 16, 2021  
**Time:** 4 pm to 5:30 pm

URBAN DANCERA BOLLYWOOD DANCE WORKSHOP

The festive season is upon us and what better way is there to welcome it, than by dance? We at LBB have a Diwali Dhamaka planned for you and would love for you to groove to some classic Bollywood numbers. So that you learn to flaunt your Bollywood dance skills when the festivities come beckoning, sign up for this free-for-all Bollywood Dance Workshop organised by seasoned choreographers at Urban Dancera, straight out of Mumbai. This one's for all you occasional shy dancers, the party or baaraat experts, the seasoned dance influencers and not to forget, the little ones. Here's what's in store - a dance warmup to Bollywood songs, a choreographed routine to a trending Bollywood



number, and a dance showcase for the batch followed by a Q & A session.

**What:** Workshop  
**Where:** Online  
**When:** October 23, 2021  
**Time:** 5 pm to 6 pm

TELLY TALE

'SHORT FILMS ARE SUCH UNIQUE BEASTS'

Actor Harsh A Singh whom we have recently seen in *Mumbai Diaries* 26/11 is on cloud nine as his recent short film *Green Room* : Thehrav won the audience award at the Cannes Film Festival. Speaking about the big win Harsh says, "It's been a wonderful experience. We shot it in an empty flat in Powai."

A small group of amazing creative funny people helped put the whole film together. These wonderful people from Misfit Motion Pictures felt like a community effort. Everyone putting their heart and soul into this story. It's such a sweet and funny script. Totally an actor's script. All about what actors go through. It's only 2 actors in the whole film so it's even more important that we were convincing 8n our roles. Apart from me, actor Raj Chauhan is there and it's directed by Abhishek Krishnan who is the whizkid, - actor, director, entrepreneur.

Abhishek and I met during our NCPA play *Gandhi*. We were acting together in that



and then he sent me this script, which he wanted to direct. I said yes without even reading it. I would do it for Abhishek blindly.

He's such a talented person and has my wicked sense of humour. Whenever we meet, we have some great quality time."

He also adds, "Short films are such unique beasts. They can be totally a directors or an actor's medium. They don't really have to be box office hits so short film makers tend to be more experimental and they also give actors more breathing space. They are always different - fresher concepts, easier to make, less expensive to produce. I just wish there were more avenues to watch these films and I wish the audience would be more receptive to this format."

This is Harsh's 6th short film. His last short film "Ibadat" won the Dada Saheb Phalke Award for best story. The year his other film "Hello Mumbai" won the Best Short Film at the National Short Film Awards. He has even written and directed one called "The Good Girl" which was nominated for best film and best actor at the NMIMS awards.

DREAM COME TRUE

Ever since its premiere, Zee TV's latest fiction show - *Rishton Ka Manjha*, has made a remarkable impression on the audience through its intriguing plot and relatable characters of Arjun (Krushal Ahuja) and Diya (Aanchal Goswami). The duo has already received immense love from the viewers for their adorable chemistry, and in a surprising twist, they will be seen getting married in a sudden manner. However, it is Diya's wedding look that has already gone viral. The actress, who was seen in a chic Bengali bridal avatar, has suddenly become the talk of the town.

To showcase Diya's character as authentic as possible, Aanchal had recently taken up an authentic Bengali bridal avatar for *Rishton Ka Manjha*'s upcoming wedding sequence. The actress looked gorgeous as she wore a red Banarasi saree embellished with golden details and embroidery to match the gold jewelry that she adorned. While her snaps

from the set and promo have been trending, it looks like Aanchal had a gala time getting into such an avatar and shooting for this crucial sequence. In fact, the actress



also revealed how Bipasha Basu was one of the biggest inspirations behind the look.

She reveals reveals, "I love the Bengali culture and I got really excited when I came to know that I'll have to shoot for a wedding sequence in *Rishton ka Manjha*. While playing Diya and embodying the Bengali culture has been pretty exciting, the show has also made my dream of being a Bengali bride come true."

TECH SAVY OR NOT?

Ony SAB's *Wagle Ki Duniya* – *Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey* catering to three different generations has struck a chord with the viewers, and its refreshing storyline is loved and appreciated across the country. The upcoming episodes will showcase Rajesh's (Sumeet Raghavan) enthusiasm as he takes up the challenge of learning coding for his official work.

With Kiara's, Rajesh's boss, (Anju Jadhav) attempt to introduce technologically drivencoders into the company, Rajesh finds himself taking on a new challenge of learning how to code so that he is able to supervise his team. He takes up the challenge and asks for eight days from his boss to do a crash course. Everyone is surprised as Rajesh steps up to learn new technology through coding at the age of 40. He doesn't pay heed to the comments thrown at him for being ambitious, and after facing several hurdles, he finally joins a coding class. He co-incidentally lands into the same coaching centre as his son, Atharva (Sheehan Kapahi). It becomes difficult for Rajesh to grasp new things at the class as compared to Atharva, who does



it effortlessly. Will Rajesh be able to keep up with the fast pace learning module like his son? Will he succeed in learning how to code in just eight days?

Sumeet Raghavan, essaying the role of Rajesh Wagle, said, "It was a back to school situation for Rajesh and these episodes also took me back to my school days. I had a great time shooting for these episode as it was a lot of fun, and I had an opportunity of reminiscing old days. I believe that there is no end or a right age for learning. To learn anything new, one must have the right attitude and passion towards it."

'I love doing a crime thriller'

ANUJA SATHE who plays Leela in MX Player's *Ek Thi Begum 2* talks to SUPRIYA RAMESH about her experience of being a part of the show, how did acting happen to her and how her character in this season is different from what she has done anything before

■What is Ek Thi Begum about?

Ek thi Begum is all about a woman in the man's world. She is courageous, she is strong, determined, focused and she can go to any lengths to achieve what she has decided to achieve. I think is the side of a woman which shows her inner strength, pain and heart. Which makes her so revengeful, we can say.

■ Tell us about your role?

In the first season, Ashraf and her transition to Sapna, a bar dancer and now in the second season as Leela Pasvan with the same motive in mind, but only the hurdles have changed. The people around her have changed, the obstacles have increased and the challenges have increased. So it's the journey from Ashraf to Sapna to Leela and all about what happens next.

■How did you come on board for this project?

Sachin Darekar happens to be the writer and the director of the show. He approached me with the script and we had a narration and script reading in the office and when I acknowledged the story and the character, there were no two ways about it and I just instantly said yes.

■You are doing a crime thriller for the first time. How was it different and what challenges did you face?

It was very different from the previous roles that I portrayed before. As we call it a crime thriller, there were a lot of things that I needed to research for, like the era. Which was completely new to me, the late 80s and early 90s underworld. So I was not that aware of the situation at that time. So I had to go through a lot of articles, read a lot of stories about the women involved in underworld. And obviously Sachin and the research team helped me a lot through it.

■How much do you relate to your character?

I can absolutely relate

to Ashraf as in with the strength, courage, consistency and determination that she has. I think I can definitely identify myself with it because I'm also a quite focused, determined and strong personality myself.

■How did acting happen?

I started acting when I was in college but it was not on a professional or a commercial level. I used to do theatre and I had not thought of taking up acting as a career at that time.



I was quite young, I was 19,20 years old. There was this play that was appreciated by a lot of people and I had some friends at that time who had passed out from institutes like FDI, NSD and they all pushed me and encouraged me to do it as a career. Then I got an opportunity to work in a marathi television show which was supposed to happen in Mumbai so I took it up and shifted to Mumbai. So I think that's where seriously my acting career like in real sense started back in 2009-2010.

■You have worked in films. How would you like to differentiate between the working environment of a film and a TV show?

There's not much of a difference in the working environment as to particularly point out. There is no difference in it. It's just the difference of a medium. What medium you are working with, just television or OTT or cinema. Its just that. I think television has deadlines because you have to air the episodes on time everyday. It's an everyday job. I think there is a time crunch there but otherwise work culture or work environment is not different as such.

■What has been your favourite role so far and why?

It's difficult to pick any one character that I have already played on screen. But I think Ashraf in *Ek Thi Begum* is one of the most challenging and difficult role I ever played. So it's very close to my heart. I started my Hindi career with a television show called *tammanah* where I played a cricketer. That was again a challenging one so I think these two are very precious and close to my heart.

■How was shooting in the pandemic different?

There was a difference obviously because we had to follow a lot of protocols and government guidelines. There was a time crunch because we were not supposed to shoot for 12-13 hours a day. So we had time crunch, we had to maintain the distance socially and sanitize everything so it was quite time consuming but I think it was great to be back on set and be with the people that I love to work with and I think that's all mattered. Other stuff will keep on happening like all the safety measures were taken and I think that's become a new normal for all of us.



# Anti-dust drive: 32 sites fined for norms violation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's pollution monitoring agency – Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on Saturday inspected 103 construction sites as part of its anti-dust campaign and imposed fines to 32 such sites to the tune of ₹ 15 lakhs for violating norms.

Environment Minister Gopal Ri expressed satisfaction with compliance of anti-dust measures in Khyber Pass area. "Today I conducted a surprise inspection of the construction site of a commercial complex. After inspection we found no violation of the rules," Rai said.

"Teams of DPCC are inspecting construction sites," Rai added. Rai also appealed private and Government agencies to follow anti-dust norms to control dust pollution.

Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality started deteriorating. According to Central Government nodal agency – System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) forecast air quality will

be poor in next there days. "Delhi's AQI is in the moderate category with PM10 as fire emission upwind along with local and regional dust under dry conditions. With presence of such dry condition both fire emission and dust-suspension is going to degrade AQI will degrade to be in moderate to poor for next 3 days," it said.

Value of harmful Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) on the National Ambient Air Quality index (NAAQI) recorded 184 and 76 for Particulate Matter 10 and 2.5 in (µgm-3) Delhi government initiated an anti-dust campaign on October 7 to control dust pollution.

To take this campaign to the ground, 31 teams have been formed which are working in different areas to monitor which construction agencies are following the guidelines issued by the government. Teams have also been instructed to submit daily reports. Along with this, it has also been directed that strict action should be taken against every single agency causing dust pollution, so that the pollution of dust can be controlled.

# MCG seizes eight tractors dumping debris illegally

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) has taken stringent action against those who are illegally dumping debris in the city.

To curb such illegal activities, the civic body has now started catching the tractors that dump the debris illegally.

Following this, on Friday an Enforcement team of the MCG and Pragati an agency of the Corporation seized eight tractors involving dumping debris in public places and Aravalli foothills.

All these tractors have been confiscated in the Sector-42 office of the Municipal Corporation.

These offending vehicles were seized from different locations of the city. With this action, the MCG has started vigil on those who throw the

debris in the open.

According to the MCG officials, actions against such offenders will continue in future.

In the MCG house meeting held on July 31, the MCG councillors had raised the issue of debris lying at places in the city, now the municipal corporation has started action against those who throw illegal debris in the city.

"Action is being taken by the MCG against those who illegally dumped debris. 8 tractors have been caught which were illegally dumping debris. Heavy fines will also be imposed by the Municipal Corporation. Now people have to take permission from the corporation to lift the debris. The corporation itself will dump that debris at the designated places," Hari Om Attri, Joint Commissioner, Headquarters, MCG said.



# Some DU colleges put out 2nd cut off list, marks down by 0.25 to 1.5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University's Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College on Saturday released its second cut-off list with the marks required for BSc(Honours) Computer Science going down by 1.5 per cent.

The cut-off for the course in the first list was pegged at 100 per cent but there were no applications received for the course in the first list.

The cut-off for the course is pegged at 98.5 per cent in the second list but it is closed for admissions in SC, ST, PwD and EWS categories.

The other colleges that had pegged the cut-off at 100 per cent for the course were Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies and Hansraj College with the former also drawing a blank for the course.

The admissions to BSc (Honours) Mathematics, BSc (Honours) Zoology, BSc (Life Science) have been closed while BA programme combinations of Economics and Political Science and History and Political Science are also closed.

Some courses like BSc (Honours) Chemistry, BA (Honours) English, BSc Physical Science with Chemistry are closed for admissions in the reserved categories.

Female students will get a one per cent relaxation in the asking marks for all courses.

Aryabhata College also released its second cut-off list with the decline



range between 0.25 to one per cent.

The college had kept the highest cut-off for BA (Honours) Psychology among all the courses at 98.5 per cent in the first list which came down to 98.25 per cent in the second list.

The cut-offs for BA (Honours) Economics, BA (Honours) Hindi, BSc (Honours) Mathematics saw a one per cent decline to 97, 85 and 96 per cent, respectively. The cut-off for BA (Honours) English and BA (Honours) History, BCom (Honours) have come down to 95.5 per cent, 94.5 per cent and 97.5 per cent, a decline of 0.5 per cent from the list.

The courses that are closed are BA (Honours) Political Science, BCom Programme and BA Programme combination of History and Political Science.

Apart from BA (Honours) Political Science, BA (Honours) English, BA (Honours) Psychology

and BCom (Honours), all other courses have a one per cent relaxation for female students.

Apart from Hindi (Honours), the cut-off for which has been pegged at 68 per cent, BVoc Retail Management and IT and BVoc Healthcare Management, Jesus and Mary College has said there won't be any second list for other courses, which means their seats have been filled.

The college had pegged the cut-off for BA (Honours) Psychology at 100 per cent for those who do not include the subject while calculating their best of four percentage.

The cut-off for students who were to include the subject in their best of four subjects (BFS) marks was 99 per cent.

Delhi University will release the second list later in the day. Nearly half of the seats have been filled after admission under the first list.

# Capital logs 30 Covid cases on Sat, positivity stands at .05

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Saturday reported 30 new cases of Covid-19 while the positivity rate stood at 0.05 per cent, according to data shared by the health department of the Delhi Government.

According to the bulletin, one death due to coronavirus infection has been recorded so far in October. Last month, five fatalities were reported in Delhi.

"The death toll due to the coronavirus infection in Delhi stands at 25,088. On Saturday, 30 cases were reported with a positivity rate of 0.05 per cent. A total of 62,450 tests -- 43,170 RT-PCR and 19,280 rapid antigen tests -- were conducted a day ago," it said.

The national capital reported 39 Covid cases On Friday with a positivity rate of 0.06 per cent. The day before, 44 cases were recorded with a positivity rate of 0.07 per cent.

On April 20, Delhi had reported 28,395 cases, the highest in the city since the beginning of the pandemic last year. On April 22, the case positivity rate was 36.2 per cent, the highest so far.

The highest number of 448 deaths was reported on May 3. The Delhi government has been ramping up the health infrastructure in the city to prevent a repeat of the crisis witnessed during the peak of the second wave.

The Delhi Government has taken steps to increase the number of hospital beds to accommodate up to 37,000 patients a day and to become self-reliant in terms of oxygen supply.

The daily case count had dropped to 17 on September 13, with no death being recorded, while the positivity rate was 0.04 per cent. The tally of cases reported in Delhi so far stood at 14,39,166. Over 14.13 lakh patients have recovered from the virus, it said.

# Set up critical care units, Centre urged

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ISCCM on Saturday urged the Central Government to pre-plan setting up of fully functional critical care units with trained personnel, citing possibilities of a third wave of Covid-19.

Commemorating their 28th Foundation Day, the Indian Society for Critical Care Medicine (ISCCM) organised a two-day research conclave with an endeavour to put Indian physicians in the forefront of clinical research in the near future.

The sessions highlighted the importance of a critical care unit in hospitals, which act as lifelines in salvaging patients from moribund conditions and the dire need for skilled and technically updated facility, which can never be over emphasised, an ISCCM statement said.

It said the entire medical fraternity paid homage to the brave soldiers whose lives were unfairly cut short amid the pandemic and also pledged to support their bereaved families through their loss.

The brain storming session witnessed a gathering of over 450 participants including physicians, specialists, nurses



and technicians, according to the statement.

"Since the purpose, aim and goal of ISCCM is continued education, research, spread of knowledge and skill development in the field of critical care medicine, our primary function is to provide a platform to all the practitioners of critical care medicine to brain-storm new concepts and ideas alongside regular discussions of academic interest," said Dr Deepak Govil, President, Indian Society for Critical Care Medicine.

"Witnessing a huge deficit in 'critical care specialists, nurses and technicians in the country that was glaringly

showcased at the fore-front amid the pandemic crisis, ISCCM strives to train personnel both academically and develop the appropriate skills required to curb down the gap," he added.

According to Govil, Indian Critical care is at par with international standards and it is "only a matter of time that we prove the same to the world at large".

"Intensive care should be made more accessible and affordable to the common man. This is where the ISCCM steps in and contributes its knowledge and skill," the doctor said.

# Delhi HC allows woman to undergo medical termination of pregnancy after 24 weeks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has permitted an over 24-week pregnant woman to undergo medical termination of pregnancy, considering that the chances of survival of the foetus after birth were very remote.

Justice Rekha Palli, hearing the woman's plea seeking permission to undergo medical termination of her pregnancy under the Medication Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971, stated that even if the newborn survives, his quality of life will be highly compromised and thus directed that the procedure of termination be carried out at the Lady Hardinge Hospital.

According to a report of the medical board constituted in the case, the foetus suffered from anencephaly, a type of neural tube defect which is "incompatible with life and non-viable after birth in 100 per cent case", the court recorded.

"(W)hen it is evident that in case the pregnancy is carried to term, the chances of survival of the anencephalic child are very remote and even if he survives, his quality of life will be highly compromised as he would need consistent medical care, I am of the considered view that the petitioner deserves to be allowed and the petitioner ought to be granted permission to undergo the procedure of medical termination of her pregnancy so that the foetus can be terminated immediately, especially keeping in



view the fact that petitioner has already completed 24 weeks of gestation period," the judge said in her order dated October 6.

The medical board also opined that the woman was "physically and psychologically fit to undergo the procedure for medical termination of pregnancy".

The court also put on record its appreciation for the "expeditious steps" taken by Lady Hardinge Hospital in constituting the medical board for the examination of the pregnant woman. In her petition, the woman stated that the anencephaly resulted in a deformed vertebral column and omphalocele (a birth defect of the abdominal wall).

It was stated that the abnormalities came to the notice only when an ultrasound was carried out in late September.

# 4 firemen hurt while dousing Narela blaze



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Four firemen sustained injuries after a building collapsed due to an explosion during a firefighting operation in outer Delhi's Narela Industrial area on Saturday morning.

According to Atul Garg, the Director, Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a call about fire at a factory in Narela Industrial area was received around 7.15 AM following which a total of 33 fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

"The fire was in paper plates and other items that were being manufactured at on the first floor of the building. During the firefighting operation, there was an explosion and the building collapsed as a result of which a fireman got hurt in his leg while three others received burn injuries," said Garg.

The injured firemen have been taken to Gangaram, hospital for treatment, Garg added.

The factory, which has a basement, ground and two floors, doesn't have an NOC (Non Objection Certificate), according to the fire department.

# Jackal falls in 8-ft deep dry water tank, rescued

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A golden jackal that had fallen in an eight-feet deep dry water tank in a Chattarpur farmhouse on Saturday morning has been rescued. The animal was released back into its natural habitat later.

Incidentally, the jackal was spotted by residents and staff of a farmhouse located in Bhatti Khurd, Chattarpur who heard a strange whimpering noise on their premises.

A two-member team from Wildlife SOS NGO immediately arrived at the location with all the necessary equipment in hand. The team members utilized a ladder to reach the bottom of the water tank which was filled with bricks and pieces of trash.

After an hour-long rescue operation, the jackal was safely extricated from the well and transferred into a transportation carrier. Found with no injuries, the jackal was later released back into its natural habitat.

Gulab Singh, the person who called Wildlife SOS, said, "We contacted Wildlife SOS after our neighbours informed us that they had previously helped rescue animals in the area."



Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-Founder and CEO of Wildlife SOS, said, "Chattarpur attracts a multitude of wild animals due to its proximity with the Delhi ridge. Rescue operations involving jackals need to be carried out with a lot of skill and patience. Our rescue team is trained to ensure that the operation is carried out swiftly and the animal is not harmed."

Wasim Akram, Deputy Director Special Projects, Wildlife SOS, said, "Golden Jackal or Indian jackal is widespread across India. Spotting a

Jackal in Delhi is relatively rare but not uncommon. Due to habitat encroachment and rapid urbanization, wild animals are being forced to traverse human-dominated areas in search of food or shelter."

Jackals play an important ecological role and are valuable for the health of a habitat. Omnivores in nature, they feed on small mammals, insects, hares, fish, birds and fruits and often venture into human habitats in search of the same.

This species is protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

# LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE Youth Cong seeks Union Minister's ouster

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) on Saturday staged a protest here demanding the resignation of Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra and arrest of his son Ashish in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

The protesters, led by IYC national president Srinivas BV, assembled at Sunehri Bagh Road to march towards Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence on Krishna Menon Marg, but were stopped by the police, which erected barricades at the protest venue.

Seeking justice for the farmers who were killed in the violent clash at Lakhimpur Kheri, the protestors demanded immediate arrest of Mishra's son Ajay.

Four of the eight people



who died in the violence on Sunday were farmers, allegedly knocked down by a vehicle carrying BJP workers. Angry farmers then allegedly lynched some people in the vehicles.

The other dead included

two BJP workers and their driver.

Farmers have claimed that Ashish Mishra was in one of the vehicles, an allegation denied by him and his father who say they can produce evi-

# Discussion held to mark world mental health day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AIIMS organised a series of programmes on Saturday to create awareness among the people especially youths on importance of mental health on the occasion of the world mental health day at the department of psychiatry and



NDDTC, AIIMS. It will be celebrated on October 10. This year, theme of world mental health day is "Mental Health in an Unequal World" to highlight the reason for inequalities in mental health care and find ways to deal with the inequalities globally.



South East District Magistrate Vishwendra and Magaysay Awardee Rajendra Singh, who is known as waterman of India launched "Clean Yamuna Campaign" in Delhi. Pioneer photo



PHONE TAPPING-DATA LEAK CASE

# Mumbai Police summons CBI chief

**Mumba:** The Cyber Cell of Mumbai Police on Saturday summoned CBI director and former Maharashtra DGP Subodh Kumar Jaiswal in a phone tapping and data leak case, a senior official said here. Jaiswal has been asked to be present to record his statement on October 14, the police official said.

The summons was sent by email, he added. The case relates to the 'leak' of a report prepared by IPS officer Rashmi Shukla about alleged corruption in police transfers in Maharashtra when she headed the state intelligence department (SID). Jaiswal was the director general of police during this period.

It was alleged that phones of senior politicians and officials were tapped illegally during the inquiry and the report was leaked deliberately, but the FIR registered in this

regard by the cyber cell does not name Shukla or any other official. Officials of the BKC cyber police station had earlier recorded Shukla's statement. Shukla is now posted as Additional Director General of CRPF.

The FIR was registered against unknown persons for obtaining "a classified letter and classified information" of the SID under section 30 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (fraudulently retaining a message delivered by mistake), sections 44(b) (failure to furnish information in time) and 66 (computer-related offence) of the Information Technology Act, 2008, and section 5 (wrongful communication of information) of the Official Secrets Act, 1923. Jais wal, a 1985 Maharashtra-cadre IPS officer, has also served as Mumbai police commissioner in the past. **PTI**

# States told to work towards achieving 100 cr shots goal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

**U**nion Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday asked the states to focus on working towards achieving the nation's 100-crore Covid-19 vaccine doses goal. India has so far administered 94 crore vaccine doses.

During a review meeting, the Minister exhorted each State to increase their target so that the administration of the last 6 crore doses for reaching the mark of 100 crore is achieved in the next few days.

The Health Minister also warned that if festivals are not celebrated in accordance to Covid protocols in the country, it can derail the containment of Covid-19.

Interacting with the Principal Secretaries and Mission Directors of National Health Mission of some of the states, Mandaviya

reviewed the Covid vaccination progress there and advised for safe festivities in view of coming festivals. He said, "The two-pronged solution is to follow Covid protocols very strictly and speed up vaccination."

He cited results of experiments that pegged the number of first dose recipients not developing severe Covid-19 to be 96 per cent and further pointed out that the number increases to nearly 98 per cent for people who have taken both doses of the vaccine.

Observing that more than 8 crore balance doses are available with the states, Mandaviya also enquired regarding the specific hurdles, if any, faced by the states in accelerating the pace of vaccination.

The officials in the Ministry are confident of touching the 100 crore doses mark within next few days as they cited a survey by the online community platform LocalCircles which had received

12,810 responses from citizens -- 67 per cent men and 33 per cent women -- across 301 districts. It said that only 7 per cent Indian adults are currently hesitant to get inoculated against Covid-19, the lowest vaccine hesitancy level in the country so far. The Government on its part has also launched campaigns in the urban and rural areas to dispel myths about vaccines and vaccinations.

Various NGOs and organisations too have been coming forward to create awareness about the Covid safety measures and importance of having vaccines among people. Jagdish Kaur, President from WILGA, an NGO which has been recently holding a series of nukkad Natak in various slums and interiors of the capital in this regard, said that it is important to raise awareness about vaccination and reach out to masses in the rural areas of the city, where people often don't abide by safety measures.

# Unhindered maritime access important: Min

**New Delhi:** India's prosperity is largely linked to its seas and unhindered maritime access is one of the country's primary requirements as it continues its march on the path of development, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

"We have had a close relationship with seas for a very long time... Our trade, economy, festivals and culture are closely linked with seas to a large extent. However, we have faced a significant number of challenges linked to the seas," he said during his speech at the Investiture Ceremony of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

These challenges have taught us that without ensuring maritime security, it is not possible to create a comprehensive internal and external security framework, the minister said.

"Our security requirements, environmental health and economic development are ensured by keeping India's maritime zones safe, secure and pollution-free. I am real-

ly happy to say that the ICG is addressing all these challenges successfully," he noted. India is very quickly moving on the path of development and unhindered maritime access is one of its primary requirements, he said.

"Our prosperity is largely linked to our seas since we are an arriving maritime power. That is why security and development of not just ourselves but of countries in the entire region is our primary aim," Singh mentioned.

According to the vision of the Indian government, the ICG has been at the forefront in promoting regional cooperation, maintaining peace in the Indian Ocean region, and working with international maritime agencies, he stated.

"I am really happy to say that the ICG's gallant acts to ensure the maritime security has not only affected our region but our neighbourhood too. Each of your successful missions show your efficiency and your effective response," Singh added. **PTI**

# Madhya Pradesh HC directs Jabalpur admin to continue to conduct drive against dengue

**Jabalpur:** The Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the Jabalpur district collector and the municipal commissioner to continue with the drive to educate people through different modes to contain the spread of dengue in Jabalpur.

The order passed on Friday was made available on Saturday. Jabalpur accounts for 693 cases of dengue since January 18, Ajay Kureel, spokesperson of the Jabalpur-based Seth Govind Das District Hospital told PTI on Saturday.

According to another health officer, the highest number of dengue cases- more than 1,200- has been reported from the Mandsaur district in Madhya Pradesh so far since January 1. He said the cases might have crossed over the 6,200 mark in Madhya Pradesh so far since January 1.

"We direct the collector, Jabalpur, and commissioner, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation, to continue to undertake the drive for raising the awareness among the public by the use of loud-speaker and also putting hoardings/pamphlets on important sites to educate people for the steps required to be taken to contain the spread of dengue in the city," a division bench comprising Chief Justice M Rafiq and Justice PK Kaurav said.

The high court issued the order on a PIL (Public Interest Litigation) filed by Saurabh Sharma seeking direction to the authorities to prevent the spread of diseases like dengue which allegedly spread due to the lack of cleanliness in the municipal limits.

"The respondents have taken all necessary steps including regular fogging of the affected areas to contain the spread of dengue and municipal authorities are getting regular surveys conducted in areas where water is accumulated and where larvae are found, the fines are being imposed", the order said. The high court said it is contended that municipal authorities are regularly in touch with the hospitals to identify the areas from where the dengue patients are coming and in those areas steps are being taken for fogging of the affected areas. **PTI**



Commuters cross submerged Musarambagh bridge due to heavy rain in Hyderabad on Saturday

PTI

# Tribal woman gangraped in Bengal, two held

**Bardhaman (WB):** A tribal woman has been allegedly gangraped in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district, police said on Saturday.

The survivor had returned to Bardhaman town from her maternal house in a village in Galsi police station area on Wednesday night. She was waiting at a bus stand for her husband to pick her up when six men abducted the woman and took her to a house where they took turns to rape her. Two accused have been arrested.

After they left the spot, the woman came out of the house and was spotted by a rickshaw-puller who dropped her near a state-run hospital, where some people found the survivor and admitted her to the medical establishment. **PTI**

# Farmers 'rail...

**From Page 1**

The SKM has appealed to all farmer organizations to organize special prayer meetings for martyr farmers at their respective places on that day at gurudwara, temple, mosque, church or at any public place, toll plaza or morchas. Candle marches will be organized on that day in the evening.

"If our demands are not met we will announce the remaining four parts of the plan, which include a 'rail roko' on October 18," the SKM leaders said, adding this will be followed by a massive "mahapanchayat" in Lucknow on October 26.

The SKM alleged that the Centre was increasingly resorting to violence to quell the farmers' protests, but assured that the peasants' movement would continue to remain non-violent.

Pointing to the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, SKM coordination committee convener Dr Darshan Pal alleged that there is a possibility of further attacks on farmers -- especially on Punjabi farmers in the district.

"This incident has completely exposed the character of the Union Government, the Uttar Pradesh Government, and the Bharatiya Janata Party which is in power at Centre and State both. The BJP is not ready to take any step against its leaders and goons even after clear evidence of such a big murder and involvement of the BJP leaders in it. It is clear that the BJP has now turned to violence after losing ground in the face of this historic farm movement," the SKM said.

Meanwhile, Tikait said that the killing of two BJP workers in Lakhimpur Kheri after a convoy of cars mowed down four farmers is a reaction to an action. I do not consider those involved in the killings as culprits.

# Union Minister Ajay's son...

**From Page 1**

Sources claim that the grilling started around 11 am and police officials put 40 queries before the Minister's son. They also gave him time to provide evidence in his support that he was not present at the spot.

The police asked him where he was at the time of the incident? How many vehicles were there in the fleet? How many persons were present in the vehicles? Who was driving his vehicle? After the case was registered, where was he? Who did he meet? Why was his phone off? Did he meet any eyewitnesses related to the case? The questioning was made in presence of a Magistrate and the entire proceedings were recorded.

His father Ajay Mishra was claiming from the beginning that his son is "innocent" and that he was not present at the spot. He even said that if his son would be found guilty he would quit the ministry. An FIR has been registered against Ashish Mishra under Section 302, 120B and 304A , 147,148,149 ,279 and 338 of the IPC.

THE PIONEER

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Abu Sadiq Ashiq Ali Asari**  
S/o Late Gul Hasan, R/o C-107, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-II, (Shaheen Bagh) Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have Changed my name to Ashiq Ali Asari for all future purposes.

**PD(9088)A**

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK

Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-97-21-22

Date: 27.09.2021

Work : Miscellaneous P.way works for maintenance of track under the jurisdiction of SSE (P.way)/Khongsara for two years. **Tender value (In Rs.): 2,38,75,173.02/-, Completion Period: 24 Months.**

Srl. No. (2) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-98-21-22

Date: 27.09.2021

Work : Execution of CTR(S), TRR(S), Renewal of Glued joints, SEJ's and other associated P.way work under the jurisdiction of SSE/Pendra of Bilaspur division. **Tender value (In Rs.): 41,43,375.63/-, Completion Period: 12 Months.**

Srl. No. (3) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-99-21-22

Date: 27.09.2021

Work : Renewal of Glued joints, SEJ's and other related P. Way work under the jurisdiction of SSE/KGS. **Tender value (In Rs.): 41,27,801.53/-, Completion Period: 12 Months.**

Start date of Submission of Tender: From 11.10.2021, Last date of Submission of Tender: Upto 11.00 hrs. on 25.10.2021.

The complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available over websites <https://www.reps.gov.in>. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.

Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.)

CPR/10/200 S.E.C. Railway/Bilaspur

South East Central Railway @secrail

# NCB released ...

**From Page 1**

"Who were the persons calling up the NCB that night and why? The Maharashtra and Mumbai Police must probe the call detail records (CDR) data of Wankhede, Sachdev, Furniturewala and Gabha," Malik said.

Refuting Malik's allegations, Deputy Director General, NCB Gyaneshwar Singh said, "A total 14 people were brought to the NCB office that day. Their statements were recorded. Eight were arrested on the basis of evidence and six were released since there was no evidence against them."

Alluding to Malik's allegation about the two BJP activists' involvement in the raid, the senior NCB official said that as operations are conducted on a real-time basis, "field verification" of independent witnesses is not possible as the main focus is recovering contraband.

"A total of 9 independent witnesses were involved in the whole operation and Manish Bhanushali and KP Gosavi were among them. None of the independent witnesses, including the 2 names above, were known to NCB before 02/10/2021," Singh said.

Earlier this afternoon, releasing videos substantiating his claim about the detention and release of the three persons, Malik said: "When Sachdev was released along with two others, his father and uncle were present with him. The names of Gaba and Furniturewala figured in the arguments during the hearing in the court. Aryan Khan had gone there upon invitation from these three".

On the questions raised

pertaining to the 'panchnamas', the NCB head said these are made on the respective spots so the place, timing, situation and resources may differ, but they are part of the court records and will be included in the charge-sheet in future, and also open to scrutiny at appropriate fora.

In another charge, the NCP Minister said that a BJP leader and a "so-called private detective" Kiran P Gosavi had signed on two "panchnamas" giving different addresses of Thane and Navi Mumbai.

"While one 4-page panchnama of pages was handwritten by a NCB official Satish Kumar, the other 9-page 'panchnama' was typed Ashish R Prasad and was a computer printout... How did this happen?" Malik asked.

"Normally, the 'panchas' prominent or respectable persons, but in this case, the NCB got at least 2 politicians — Manish Bhanushali and Gosavi. Of them, Gosavi is wanted by the Pune Police," Malik said.

Calling for action under section 59 of NDPS Act against culprits were involved in the cruise ship raids, State Congress spokesperson, Chavan wanted to know from the NCB who were involved in the cruise ship raids and how a relative of a BJP leader came to be released from detention and how how BJP activists like Gosavi and Bhanushali were involved in the raids and then taken as 'independent witnesses'

On his part, Leader of Opposition (Council) Pravin Darekar of the BJP dismissed the NCP's allegations saying it was intended to seek publicity and arising out of frustration as Malik's son-in-law was nabbed by the NCB in a drug case.

# China's LAC build-up...

**From Page 1**

"So, it means that they (PLA) are there to stay. We are keeping a close watch on all these developments, but if they are there to stay, we are there to stay too," he said.

Gen Naravane said the build-up and the infrastructure development on the Indian side are as good as what PLA has done.

"But what this would, especially if they continue to stay there through the second winter, definitely mean that we will be in a kind of LC (Line of Control) situation though not an active LC as is there on the western front," he said.

"But definitely, we will have to keep a close eye on all the troop build-up and deployments to see that they do not get into any misadventure once again," the Army Chief said.

To a question, Gen Naravane said it is difficult to understand why China triggered the standoff when the world was reeling under the COVID-19 pandemic and when that country had certain issues on its eastern seaboard.

"While all that is going on, to sort of open up one more front is very difficult to understand or fathom," he said.

"But whatever it might have been, I do not think they have been able to achieve any of those because of the rapid response done by the Indian armed forces," the Army Chief added.

Asked to comment on the overall situation in eastern Ladakh, Gen Naravane referred to a recent statement by a in the Ministry of External Affairs and said he had clearly mentioned that whatever has happened on the Northern border is because of the massive build-up by the Chinese side and the non-adherence to various protocols.

"So that is very clear as to what was the trigger for all that which has happened," Gen Naravane said.

The Army Chief said following the standoff in eastern Ladakh, Indian Army realised that it needs to do more in the area of ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance).

"So that has been the thrust of our modernisation over the last one year. Similarly, other weapons and equipment that we thought we need for future, those have got our attention also," he said. The border standoff between the Indian and the Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year in eastern Ladakh following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

# DU UG second cut-off still...

**From Page 1**

Some courses like BSc (Honours) Chemistry, BA (Honours) English, BSc Physical Science with Chemistry are closed for admissions in the reserved categories.

Female students will get a one per cent relaxation in the asking marks for all courses.

Aryabhata College also released its second cut-off list with the decline ranging between 0.25 to one per cent.

The college had kept the highest cut-off for BA (Honours) Psychology among all the courses at 98.5 per cent in the first list which came down to 98.25 per cent in the second list.

The cut-offs for BA (Honours) Economics, BA (Honours) Hindi, BSc (Honours) Mathematics saw a one per cent decline to 97, 85 and 96 per cent, respectively. The cut-off for BA (Honours) English and BA (Honours) History, BCom (Honours) have come down to 95.5 per cent, 94.5 per cent and 97.5 per cent, a decline of 0.5 per cent from the list.

The courses that are closed are BA (Honours) Political Science, BCom Programme and BA Programme combination of History and Political Science.

Apart from BA (Honours) Political Science, BA (Honours) English, BA (Honours) Psychology and BCom (Honours), all other courses have a one per cent relaxation for female students.

Apart from Hindi (Honours), the cut-off for which has been pegged at 68 per cent, BVoc Retail Management and IT and BVoc Healthcare Management, Jesus and Mary College has said there won't be any second list for other courses, which means their seats have been filled.

The college had pegged the cut-off for BA (Honours) Psychology at 100 per cent for those who do not include the subject while calculating their best of four percentage.

The cut-off for students who were to include the subject in their best of four subjects (BFS) marks was 99 per cent.

Delhi University will release the second list later in the day. Nearly half of the seats have been filled after admission under the first list.

# Tikait justifies lynching of 2...

**From Page 1**

Earlier, Tikait speaking at the India Today conclave said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should for once express grief in Parliament over the death of around 750 farmers during the months-long anti-farm law protests on Delhi's borders. He slammed the BJP-led Centre over the minimum support price (MSP) issue, and alleged that the Government's assurance that the system would continue is "only on paper" and the farmers want it in reality.

# CWC meet on Oct 16 to elect chief, discuss political situation

**From Page 1**

The demand grew louder after a storm in the party in August last year over a letter to Sonia by a group of 23 leaders, including Azad, Anand Sharma, Bhupinder Hooda, Prithviraj Chavan, Kapil Sibal, Manish Tewari and Mukul Wasnik raising these issues. A fortnight ago Azad had written to the Congress president to convene a meeting of the CWC soon.

BHOPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BHOPAL (M.P.)								
No 643/E-E-7/e-tender/BDA/21			BHOPAL, Date 07/10/2021					
<b>Notice Inviting e-Tenders</b>								
On-line percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from Contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration & eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document.								
S. No.	Portal Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amounts of Contract (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (excluding portal fees) (Rs.)	Period of Completion i/c rainy season			
1-	2021-DTCP-163492	All Scheduled works for Establishment of External Electrification for whole area of Misrod Phase-1 and Vidhya Nagar Schemes etc. to be charged by the feeder of proposed 132 K.V. Electric sub station at Saliya	2694.70 Lacs	75,000/-	8 months i/c rainy season			
1. The detailed NIT and all other details relating to the Bid Document can be viewed on the website <a href="http://www.mptenders.gov.in">http://www.mptenders.gov.in</a>								
2. The Bid Document can be purchased & deposit after making on-line payment of portal fees and cost of Bid Document through Credit Card/Debit Card/Cash Card or Internet Banking system at aforesaid website from 11-10-2021 at 17:30 hrs. up to 18-10-2021 at 17:30 hrs. Other key dates may be seen in bid data sheet.								
3. Amendments to the NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.								
4. Any relevant information can be obtained from office of the undersigned during the office working hours & days.								
Executive Engineer Division No 7								



# Tharoor to continue helming panel on IT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite the demand for his removal by BJP MPs, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor will continue to chair the parliamentary panel on information technology. This apart, while former Union Minister and Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who recently resigned from the Union Cabinet in protest against the farm bills, too finds a place as a member of the panel on external affairs, various other Congress leaders who were critical of the government as chairperson of their respective parliamentary panels have also been retained.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in consultation with Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday announced the composition of several reconstituted parliamentary standing committees.

Tharoor, whose decisions to summon Facebook executives and take up the suspension of 4G internet services in J&K, had drawn criticism from the committee's BJP members,

some of whom had even sought his ouster.

Congress leader Anand Sharma will continue to chair the parliamentary panel on home affairs and Jairam Ramesh will remain the head of the panel on environment and science and technology.

The chairpersons of all parliamentary standing committees have been retained.

YSR Congress's Vijaysai Reddy has been reappointed the chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce, Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav of Health, TRS's K Keshava Rao of Industry, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, BJD's Bhartuhari Mahtab of Labour.

DMK's Kanimozhi will continue to lead the panel on chemicals and fertilizers and JD(U)'s Rajiv Ranjan Singh will head the panel on energy.

All remaining chairpersons of the parliamentary standing committees, most of who are from the BJP, have also not been changed.

Sources said of the 237 Rajya Sabha Members nominated by Chairman M.Venkaiah Naidu on 24 DRSCs reconstituted for 2021-22. 50 have been changed to new committees and these 50 include 28 who had poor attendance in the meetings of committees held during 2020-21.

With Naidu suggesting attendance to be considered while recommending members on 24 DRSCs of Parliament, Sushil Kumar Modi has been moved from committees on Science and Technology and Urban Development to Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice (PPG) as its chairman after Bhupender Yadav became Minister.

While Chaya Verma has been moved from Agriculture to Social Justice and Empowerment, Prof Manoj Kr Jha from Railways to Labour, Shaktisinh Gohil from IT to Transport and Sasmit Patra from Education to PPG, Abhishek Manu Singhvi has been moved from Defence to Home while Derek O'Brien



Transport to Home, Indu Bala Goswami from Health to science and Technology while Mausam Noor from Commerce to Water Resources. Mary Kom has been moved from Food to Urban Development, sources in RS secretariat said. Each committee has 11 members of Rajya Sabha and 20 of Lok Sabha

Sources said attendance based nominations and changes could have been more but some leaders opined that poor attendance last year was due to covid and state elections. Most of the 50 changes were suggested by respective parties only that have nine by BJP, six by TMC, four changes sought by Congress while three each by Shiv Sena, CPM, RJD, YSRCP and two each by DMK,BJD and TRS and 1 each among other parties.

All three members of Shiv Sena who had kept best attendance records have been moved to new committees. Sanjay Raut from Defence to External Affairs, Anil Desai from Coal and Steel to Commerce and Priyanka Chaturvedi from Commerce to Transport, Tourism and Culture.

# Security agencies yet to gauge Haqqania reach, threat in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite reports of Pakistani terror seminary Haqqania University addressing an online session in December 2020 at Darul Uloom Deoband, Saharanpur, the security agencies are yet to launch an enquiry to ascertain the radical outfit's reach and possible threats due to the outfit's activities in India.

The Pioneer had earlier reported that the threat to India from the terror groups from Afghanistan-Pakistan region like the Haqqani Network and Islamic State Khorasan Province is real and imminent.

The Haqqani Network, a project of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), has ostensibly made inroads into the Islamic seminaries in the country through the Haqqania University, also known as as Darul Uloom Haqqania, in an apparent bid to attract gullible youth to join its fold for taking forward Islamist agenda in the subcontinent.

According to a 37-minute video recording of the seminar, Hamid-ul Haque Haqqani, a



radical scholar and Vice Chancellor of Darul Uloom Haqqania, Akora Khattak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan addressed an online conference at Darul Uloom Deoband, Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh on December 7 last year as part of a three-day conclave that began on December 6, 2020, the anniversary of the demolition of the erstwhile Ramjanmbhoomi-Babri Masjid complex.

Hamid-ul Haque Haqqani is also the Chairman of the Difa-e-Pakistan Council of which Lashkar-e-Tayabba chief Hafiz Sayeed is a founder chairman. Haqqani is the son of

Sami-ul Haq who is considered the Father of Taliban. After his father's assassination, Haqqani also became chairman of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Pakistan.

The Haqqani Network's outreach in India had apparently led to the clamour for supporting the Taliban regime from a cross-section of individuals of a particular community and Muslim clerics giving call to segregate education for girls and boys in line with the Taliban exhortations.

As a matter of fact, Darul Uloom Haqqania is the alma mater of top global terrorists of the world. The Darul Uloom Haqqania has the notorious

distinction of producing several global terrorists like the founder of Taliban, Mullah Omar, Lashkar-e-Tayabba chief Hafiz Sayeed and Jaish-e-Mohammad boss Masood Azhar among others. Mullah Omar's son Mullah Mohammad Yakooob is the Defence Minister of Afghanistan under the current Taliban regime in Kabul.

The main campus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa radicalizes an estimated 4,000 students every year. The seminary has 10 campuses in the Af-Pak region.

The online address by Haqqani was facilitated by the vice chancellor of Darul Uloom Deoband, Saharanpur, Arshad Madani. Madani is also the President of the Arshad faction of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, an outfit of Muslim clerics, since the split of the parent organization in 2008.

Post-takeover of Afghanistan by Taliban last month, Madani gave a call for segregating education for girls and boys including by non-Muslims in order to propagate the Taliban ideology. Following his call and Taliban's ascent in Kabul last month, a number of leaders from several States exhorted recognition to the Taliban regime. Their direct or indirect linkages to the Haqqani Network could not be ruled out and need to be probed, security experts said.

# NIA raids locations across States in Mundra drug haul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at multiple locations in different States in the case of 2,998 kg drugs seizure at Mundra Port, Gujarat.

The agency conducted searches in Chennai, Coimbatore and Vijaywada at the premises of the accused/suspects.

During searches, various incriminating documents, articles and other items have been seized. Further investigation in the case continues," the agency said in a statement.

The NIA had taken over the case on October 6 from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence that initially uncovered the smuggling racket. The case has been registered under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), provisions of the Narcotic



Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The case relates to seizure of 2988.21 kg narcotics substance (Heroin) seized at Mundra Port, Gujarat having involvement of foreign persons in procurement and delivery of consignment.

The narcotics drugs were found concealed in import consignment of 'Semi-processed Talc stones' originating from Afghanistan

which had arrived from Bandar Abbas Port, Iran.

The NIA took over the probe from DRI following a reference from the Union Home Ministry as preliminary findings suggested terror funding through narco trade which could have a bearing on national security.

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

# PM to unveil infra projects during Varanasi tour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit his constituency Varanasi on October 25 and announce a series of development projects in the region before 'Deepawali' festival.

The Prime Minister has made his visits to Varanasi and other cities in Uttar Pradesh more frequent in the run-up to the Assembly polls in the State, early next year.

Modi is now making monthly visits to his constituency. He made his last visit to Varanasi on July 15.

The Yogi-Government is preparing a list of infrastructure projects for which foundation stones will be laid or to be inaugurated by Modi when he starts his trip to the city.

According to sources, projects worth ₹3,000 crore are to be announced during Prime Minister's visit which



include highway projects, sewer-treatment plant, residential hostel, construction of 'ghats', underground parking and beautification plan in Varanasi.

The announcement of Varanasi-centric infra-projects comes before 'Deepawali' festival falling on November 4.

In his July 15 visit to his constituency, Modi inaugurated or laid foundations for projects worth ₹1,500 crore which included opening of an international cooperation and convention centre, 'Rudraksh', offering a glimpse of the cultural richness of the ancient city of 'Kashi'.

The centre has a seating capacity of about 1,200 people.

# Govt imposes stock limits on edible oil till Mar 31 to check rising prices



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to check skyrocketing edible oils prices ahead of the festive seasons—Dussehra and Diwali—the Government has imposed stock limits on edible oil till March 31, 2022.

"All Edible Oils and oilseeds put together for a period upto 31st March, 2022. The stock limit will be decided by the respective States/Union Territories on the basis of available stock and consumption pattern of the State/Union Territory," the ministry of consumer affairs said in a notification.

"All Edible Oils and oilseeds put together for a period upto 31st March, 2022. The stock limit will be decided by the respective States/Union Territories on the basis of available stock and consumption pattern of the State/Union Territory," the ministry said in a notification.

"An exporter, being a refiner, miller, extractor, wholesaler or retailer or dealer, having Importer Exporter Code Number issued by the Director General of Foreign Trade, if such exporter is able to demonstrate that the whole or part of his stock in respect of edible oils and edible oilseeds are

meant for exports, to the extent of the stock meant for export".

"An importer, being a refiner, miller, extractor, wholesaler or retailer or dealer, if such importer is able to demonstrate that part of his stock in respect of edible oils and edible oilseeds are sourced from imports," it said.

In case, the stocks held by respective legal entities are higher than the prescribed limits then they shall declare the same on the portal (<https://evegoils.nic.in>) of Department of Food & Public Distribution and bring it to the prescribed stock limits as decided by the State/UT administration where it is conducting its business within 30 days of the issue of such notification by the said authorities.

The Government had earlier reduced import duty aimed at reducing edible oil prices. At the same time, the government had also approved the import of several oils. But despite these steps, the prices of edible oil have not been affected much. Prices have fallen slightly, but these steps have not had any major impact.

As per the ministry of consumer affairs' price monitoring division which collects data of retail and wholesale prices of commodities on Friday, the

maximum price of groundnut oil was reported at ₹251 a kg while the average price was ₹182.61 a kg. The average price of mustard oil was reported ₹184 a kg. The maximum price was ₹224 a kg and the minimum price was ₹117 a kg. The maximum price of vanaspati oil was ₹224 a kg and modal price was ₹131 a kg. The maximum price of Soya oil was ₹222 a kg while the maximum price of Palm oil was ₹185 a kg.

Meanwhile, the Government on Friday claimed retail prices of cooking oils, except mustard oil, have fallen in the domestic market despite a surge in global rates on the back of its decision to reduce import duties on crude and refined edible oils.

In a statement, the ministry of consumer affairs said that international prices of edible oils have gone up in the range of 1.95 per cent to 7.17 per cent after the import duty reduction. After the duty reduction (with effect from September 11) on imported edible oils, domestic retail prices have reduced in the range of 0.22 per cent to 1.83 per cent. Taking into the account of rise in global prices, the net impact on rates is decline in the range of 3.26 per cent to 8.58 per cent since September 10.

# Global depression cases rose by 25% in 2020 due to Covid



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cases of depression and anxiety swell by more than a quarter worldwide in 2020 due to Covid-19, according to the first global estimate of the impact of the pandemic on mental health, published in the journal The Lancet. It suggests that additional 53 million cases of major depressive disorder and 76 million cases of anxiety disorders were due to the pandemic.

Even before the pandemic, mental healthcare systems in most countries have historically been under-resourced and disorganised in their service delivery. However, countries with high Covid-19 infection rates and major reductions in the movement of people – a consequence of measures such as lockdowns and school closures – had the greatest increases in prevalence of major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders.

The researchers warned that "meeting the added demand for mental health services due to Covid-19 will be challenging, but taking no action should not be an option."

"Countries hit hardest by the pandemic in 2020 had the greatest increases in cases of major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders," said the authors, calling for urgent action by governments and policy makers to strengthen mental health systems globally to meet increased demand due to the pandemic.

"Promoting mental well-being, targeting factors contributing to poor mental health that have been made worse by the pandemic, and improving treatment for those who develop a mental disorder should be central to efforts to improve support services," said lead study author Dr Damian Santomauro of School of Public Health, University of Queensland, Australia.

# Centre restricts export of syringes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure uninterrupted supply and boost domestic production of syringes, the Government has imposed a quantitative restriction on the export of syringes even as it made clear that the ban is on just three categories of medical items for three months.

"The restriction applies to just three categories of syringes for three months," according to a statement here.

It further said, "With a firm political commitment to vaccinate India's last citizen, fulfilling the philosophy of 'Antyodaya' espoused by Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, the Government has put in place a quantitative restriction on the export of syringes to boost their domestic availability and uptake."

The ministry stated that syringes are vital to sustaining the momentum of the pro-



gram to vaccinate all eligible citizens in the shortest possible time.

It further added that with a view to ensure adequate availability of the syringes, used to administer the vaccine, the Government has enacted this quantitative restriction on the export of following denominations of the syringes only on 0.5 ml/ 1ml AD (auto-disable) syringes, 0.5 ml/1 ml/2 ml/3 ml disposable syringes, and 1ml/2 ml/3 ml RUP (re-use prevention).

However, the syringe manufacturers are not happy. According to reports, they have urged the Government to lift export restrictions on non-Covid syringes as it will

hit India's reputation as dependable producers will be threatened with such decisions.

On 5 October, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had said the export policy for syringes with or without needles had been amended from 'free' to 'restricted'.

All India Syringe and Needle Manufacturers Association said "It takes lots of effort and years to build credibility as a global supplier and India's reputation as a manufacturing hub of syringes will be tarnished as being undependable. We will always prioritise domestic needs."

"To ensure there are no local shortages, on a voluntary basis, many Indian syringe manufacturers have not accepted new business export opportunities from many overseas buyers," said the Association.

infection rate and reduced movement of people were associated with increased prevalence of major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders, suggesting that countries hit hardest by the pandemic in 2020 had the greatest increases in prevalence of the disorders.

In the absence of the pandemic, model estimates suggest there would have been 193 million cases of major depressive disorder (2,471 cases per 100,000 population) globally in 2020.

However, the analysis shows there were 246 million cases (3,153 per 100,000), an

increase of 28 per cent (an additional 53 million cases).

More than 35 million of the additional cases were in women, compared with close to 18 million in men, the findings showed.

Model estimates suggest there would have been 298 million cases of anxiety disorders (3,825 per 100,000 population) globally in 2020 had the pandemic not happened.

The analysis indicates there were in fact an estimated 374 million cases (4,802 per 100,000) during 2020, an increase of 26 per cent (an additional 76 million cases).

# Facebook says sorry to its users for second outage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Facebook on Saturday 'apologised' to its users as it experienced a second outage, just days after a massive outage was caused in a similar fashion. Facebook and its applications Instagram and WhatsApp as well as Messenger were down again and its users around the world again had problems accessing services for hours.

Facebook took to Twitter to announce the outage. "We're aware that some people are having trouble accessing our apps and products," it said. "We're working to get things back to normal as quickly as possible and we apologize for any inconvenience." It happened around 12 am (IST), according to downdetector, a portal that



detects outages on websites. The company said that a "configuration change" had impacted users globally. Around two hours later, the company said that it has fixed the problem.

"We're so sorry if you weren't able to access our products during the last couple of hours," the company said it a statement on Friday evening. "We know how much you

depend on us to communicate with one another. We fixed the issue — thanks again for your patience this week."

Hundreds of millions of people were unable to access Facebook, Instagram or WhatsApp for more than six hours on Monday, underscoring the world's reliance on platforms owned by the Silicon Valley giant.



RECENT KILLINGS IN KASHMIR

# ‘Foul design to scare minorities out of Valley’

**Srinagar:** Former deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Muzaffar Hussain Baig on Saturday said that the recent spate of killings of minorities in Kashmir appears to be a "foul design" to scare them out of the valley.

The onus of trying to repair the damage, he said, is on the shoulders of Kashmiri Muslims.

Seven civilians, four of them from minority communities, have been killed by militants in Kashmir in five days.

"This week has witnessed the most foul crimes in the history of Kashmir. The victims were Kashmiri Hindus and

Sikhs and obviously, Kashmiri Muslims were suspected," Baig said in a statement.

"There appears to be a foul design to scare away the few Kashmiri Hindus who had the moral and patriotic courage to stay back in their motherland," he said.

After targeting Kashmiri Hindus, now even the Sikh community, which is known for its valour and courage, has been targeted, he added.

"The onus to try to repair the damage obviously falls on the shoulders of Kashmiri Muslims. I hope that Kashmiri Muslims will condemn the neo-Nazism that may raise its

head in Kashmir," Baig said.

He said he also hoped that the recent events would not "prompt others to engage in a circle of violence".

On Thursday, a school principal, Supinder Kaur, and a teacher, Deepak Chand, were shot dead by militants at point-blank range in Srinagar.

While Kaur was a Srinagar-based Sikh, Chand was a Hindu from Jammu.

Besides Kaur and Chand, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit who owned Srinagar's most famous pharmacy and a roadside vendor from Bihar were among those gunned down by militants earlier this week. **PTI**

# Centre using muscular policy to reap political dividends: Mehbooba

**Srinagar:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said the situation in Jammu & Kashmir has gone from bad to worse and accused the Centre of using a "muscular policy" to reap political dividends.

Mufti claimed she has been placed under house arrest to prevent her from visiting the family of a Muslim man who was shot dead by CRPF personnel on Thursday in Anantnag district.

"The situation in J&K has gone from bad to worse. My fears are compounded by the fact that instead of course correction, GOI will continue its muscular policy to reap political dividends in elections.

Case in point being the upcoming UP polls," Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

"Under house arrest for the umpteenth time today. Wanted to visit the family of the innocent civilian shot dead by CRPF. GOI wants us to selectively condemn killings. They are outraged only in cases where hate politics can be lapped up to polarise people," she added.

Parvaiz Ahmad was shot dead by CRPF personnel after he allegedly failed to stop his vehicle at a checkpoint when signalled to do so.

He was killed the same day when two teachers were shot dead by militants in Eidgah area of the city. **PTI**

# Stranded Kashmiri Pandit employees return to Jammu

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Large number of Kashmiri Pandit employees stranded across different transit accommodations in different parts of Kashmir valley on Saturday evening safely reached Jammu. Their close relatives and well wishers also heaved a sigh of relief as they were able to reunite with their loved ones after a long gap.

Palpable tension was in the air ever since series of targeted killings of members belonging to the minority community took place in Srinagar.

Sensing the mood of the employees, deployed under PM's package, the UT administration has also exempted them from joining their duties at least for the next two weeks.

A couple serving in

Kashmir valley reached Jammu late evening told *The Pioneer* over telephone, "we were lucky to return home as large number of employees were facing difficulties as the local authorities in Anantnag and Baramulla had initially sealed their main gates with additional deployment of the security forces".The couple claimed, due to prevailing circumstances everyone is feeling insecure.

Unless some concrete measures are taken on ground zero it would be difficult for the employees to return to their duties immediately.

Another Kashmiri pandit teacher posted in Anantnag told *The Pioneer*, "Several colleagues camping there wanted to join us but were not permitted to move out of the transit camps in Vesu,

Baramulla and Hall".

He however added, during the day when some of the employees started protesting seeking safe return to Jammu the restrictions on their movement was relaxed. Large number of families from Sheikhpora transit camp have shifted to Jammu. Similarly families from Mattan, Baramulla,Vesu and Hall are gradually shifting due to restrictions on their movement.

Meanwhile, in Jammu a section of Kashmiri pandit employees held an informal meeting to chalk out their future course of action. The employees are scheduled to organise a token protest demonstration on Sunday to highlight their genuine grievances before the UT administration.

# BJP opposes use of shoes to decorate Durga puja pandal, seeks Chief Secy's intervention

**PTI ■ KOLKATA**

The BJP on Saturday objected to the use of shoes for "decorating" a Durga puja pandal here, alleging that it would hurt religious sentiments of people. Organisers of the puja pandal in Dumdum, however, rejected the assertion and said that the shoe installation on the sidewalk leading to the marquee depicts farmers' movement in the country, and the Durga idol, set up at a considerable distance from it, is surrounded by paddy stacks.

Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said in a tweet on Saturday that the organisers have committed a "heinous act" by adorning the pandal wall with shoes, and urged the chief secretary and home secretary to look into the

matter. "A Durga Puja pandal in Dumdum Park has been decorated with shoes. This heinous act of insulting Maa Durga in the name of 'Artistic liberty' won't be tolerated. I urge the Chief & Home Secretary @egiyebangla to intervene and compel the organizers to remove the shoes before Shashti," he added.

Echoing him, former Meghalaya Governor and veteran BJP leader Tathagata Roy told reporters that "everything cannot be tolerated in the name of artistic freedom. This is a grave insult to goddess Durga and hurts our religious sentiment". An office-bearer of Dumdum Park Bharat Chakra puja committee, on his part, clarified that the shoe installation was at a distance from the pandal.

# Durga puja celebrated by people cutting across religions: Mamata



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurates the puja of Goddess Durga ahead of the Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata on Saturday **PTI**

**Kolkata:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday described Durga puja as a festival that is celebrated by people cutting across religions.

Banerjee, who had been inaugurating community pujas since October 6, interacted with Chhau dancers of Purulia, during the day, at Bhabanipur 75 Pally pandal, and said that the

artistes have made the State proud with their cultural performances across the country and abroad.

"Bhabanipur is the melting pot of different religions and communities. It thus represents Bengal and India. Durga puja is celebrated by people cutting across religions. Let us celebrate the spirit of harmony and amity

during this festive season," she said.

The CM recently won bypoll from Bhabanipur Assembly seat by a huge margin. The TMC boss, who praised the intricate and colourful artwork at pandal by artisans from Purulia, also tried her hand at playing the traditional 'Dhamsa' (drum) from JUNGLEMAHAL region, as the handful people who gathered there cheered for her.

"The Chhau dancers are part of the rich tapestry of Bengal's cultural milieu. They make us proud in the country and abroad," she said.

Later, the CM also inaugurated Bakulbagan, Padmapukur, Chakraberia puja pandals. She, once again, appealed to people to wear masks and avoid crowding at the pandals, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. **PTI**



Devotees wait in long queues to offer prayers at Vindhyavasini temple during Navratri festival in Mirzapur on Saturday **PTI**

# Chipi airport goes on nat'l map as 1st flight takes off

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The new Greenfield Chipi airport at Sindhudurg went on the national air map, as Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri Jyotiradiya M Scindia and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray flagged off the first-ever flight from Sindhudurg to Mumbai.

The Union Civil Aviation Minister virtually flagged off the first ever flight between Sindhudurg and Mumbai.

The inaugural event was conducted in hybrid mode where the Maharashtra Chief Minister flagged off the flight from the Sindhudurg Airport, while Scindia flagged off the flight from the greenfield airport Sindhudurg under Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN-RCS).

Vineet Sood, CEO Air Alliance, handed over the first boarding pass of the flight from Sindhudurg, to the union minister Scindia in Delhi, while Uddhav handed over the boarding pass to Maharashtra Industries Minister Subash Desai, at Sindhudurg in the coastal Konkan region.

Apart from Scindia and the Chief Minister, among those present on the occasion were Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane, Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Speaking on the occasion, Scindia said: "Owing to this airport, a distance of 530 km will be covered in just 50 minutes; we should have 20 to 25 aircrafts



(direct/connecting) for Sindhudurg, in the next five years"

Scindia assured the MVA Government that his Ministry would extend all possible cooperation for the development and progress of the airport in Maharashtra.

Applauding the Maharashtra Maharashtra for the new airport, Scindia said: "I congratulate the Maharashtra Government and MIDC on the inauguration of Chipi Airport. The glorious history of Konkan and Sindhudurg region and its beauty has now come on the map of air transport through the inauguration of this airport today."

He said that the inauguration of the airport in Sindhudurg district has fulfilled a three-decades-old dream.

Remembering Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, he said that Maharashtra has a glorious history. He also shared that this was an emotional moment in his life.

Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane expressed that the inauguration of Chipi Airport in Sindhudurg district was a very

happy moment in his life and that it will be very useful for Sindhudurg district. He also mentioned that the inauguration of this airport would bring economic prosperity to the district through tourism.

Sindhudurg Airport with the cost outlay of approx. Rs.800 Crores and concession period of above 90 years is the first of its kind in the South Konkan Region, which is aimed at establishing and enhancing air connectivity of the region with Western Maharashtra, Mumbai, southern States Mumbai and subsequently to all regions of the country.

The airport has a runway of 2500 metre length and 45 metre width, which can be extended by another 1,000 metres. The airport can handle up to 400 passengers or two flights per hour with an estimated annual capacity over a million passengers.

The airport can handle aircraft like A-320 and B-737 which would give a huge fillip to tourism in Konkan, known for its long and picturesque coastline, dazzling beaches, big and small rivers, creeks, abundant greenery and natural beauty, ancient temples, sea and land forts, a rich cultural heritage, unique lifestyle and major historical landmarks.

Meanwhile, Indian Oil Aviation today fuelled the first flight of Alliance Air at Sindhudurg Airport to mark the inauguration of this greenfield airport at Sindhudurg in Maharashtra. Government has allocated Indian Oil for making refuelling arrangements at Sindhudurg Airport.

# 16-year-old girl on way to school gangraped by 5 men in Karnataka



**Mangaluru:** A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped by five men at Amtady in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka, police said on Saturday.

It is alleged that the minor girl was taken to some secluded place and raped by the assailants. Sources said the police have gathered some clues based on the statement of the victim.

According to the FIR, the girl was walking on the road on her way from her residence to school at about 7 am on Friday when she was kidnapped by a man and his accomplices who

came in a car.

She is currently admitted as an inpatient at the Lady Goschen hospital in the city.

A search has been launched for the accused, police said. It has also been gathered that the assailants had dropped off the girl at Brahmarakootlu and the same has been caught on CCTV camera, the sources added.

A case has been registered under IPC sections and POCSO Act at Bantwal police station on October 8, according to police. **PTI**

# Teacher held over objectionable messages to girls

**Jaipur:** A schoolteacher was arrested here for allegedly sending obscene messages to girl students, police said on Saturday. Nikhil Jose, an NCC teacher at a private school, was arrested on Friday night after screenshots of his obscene chats started circulating on social media.

Obscene chats were found in his mobile phone and a case has been registered against him under sections of the IT Act, Ashok Nagar SHO Surendra Saini said. Jose reportedly in his defence said he came to know on Thursday that messages were being sent from his Instagram account. **PTI**

# Rape victim dies after consuming poison in UP over police inaction

**Azamgarh (UP):** An alleged rape victim on Saturday committed suicide after consuming some poisonous material here in protest against police inaction following which an SHO was suspended, officials said.

The woman, a resident of a village under Mehnajpur police station area, was allegedly sexually assaulted recently. Her husband claimed that she had identified one Anil of the same village as one of the accused, but police failed to take any action

in the matter, Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Singh said.

"In-charge of the police station Chunna Singh has been suspended for negligence," he said.

The victim's family alleged that they had appealed to the police many times for justice, but in vain.

The woman reached the police station on Saturday and later consumed poison. She was rushed to a hospital where was declared brought dead, the SP said. **PTI**

# TN Govt forms panels to prevent pollution of Cauvery, tributaries

**Chennai:** The Tamil Nadu Government on Saturday said five committees have been constituted to look into the issue of letting out noxious waste into the Cauvery river and its tributaries and assured that sustained efforts are on to protect the water resources in the State.

Samples of the water have been obtained from several areas to ascertain the level of contamination and to initiate appropriate action, State Environment and Climate Change Minister Siva V Meyyanathan said. The State Government has been taking steps to prevent the pollution of rivers including Cauvery in Tamil Nadu under the guidance of the Chief Minister M K Stalin.

"The latest initiative is to constitute five panels compris-

ing the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) on October 6 to monitor if untreated effluents from the dyeing units in Erode, Kumarapalayam, Pallipalayam, Karur and Tirupur were discharged into the Cauvery and its tributaries," the Minister said.

The committees are inspecting the units in the above areas, he said in a statement here. In addition, engineers from the TNPCB and IIT (M) team have collected samples at various places from Mettur to Mayiladuthurai on October 9 and sent them for analysis in the wake of the IIT Madras findings that the Cauvery river is polluted by pharmaceutically-active compounds, plastics, heavy metals and pesticides, among others. **PTI**



People take part in a special puja during Navratri festival at the Pavakkulam Mahadeva temple in Kaloor, in Kochi on Saturday **PTI**

# Kanpur trader's murder: Police increase reward on information about accused

**Kanpur (UP):** The State police on Saturday increased the reward to ₹1 lakh for information on each of the six policemen booked in the murder case of a Kanpur business.

Property dealer Manish Gupta was allegedly thrashed by the policemen in a Gorkhapur hotel last month, leading to his death. Earlier, police had announced a reward of ₹25,000 for information leading to the arrest of the each of them.

A communique issued by the Kanpur police commissionerate said the reward has been increased to Rs 1 lakh. Police Commissioner Asim Arun said the cash reward of ₹1 lakh each has been announced on Inspector Jagat Narain Singh, a resident of Amethi; Sub-Inspectors Akshay Kumar Mishra, Vijay Yadav and Rahul Dubey, residents of Balia, Jaunpur and Mirzapur, respec-

tively; besides Head Constable Kamlesh Singh Yadav and Constable Prashant Kumar, both from Ghazipur.

"If any person is having any kind of information about the police personnel named in the death case of Kanpur property dealer Manish Gupta, he may kindly inform the SIT and a cash reward of ₹1 lakh for each arrest will be given to him," he added.

"The names of informants will be kept secret," Arun said, adding that they have taken the responsibility to ensure safety and security of the informant.

He said the SIT is carrying out raids across UP and all possible places to nab the absconding policemen at the earliest.

As many as eight police teams have already been pressed into the task to nab the absconding police personnel, he said. **PTI**

# Tiger carcass found floating in UP canal

**Bahraich (UP):** The carcass of a male tiger was found floating in a canal in the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary here on Saturday evening, forest officials said.

No external injury marks were found on the carcass, they said.

The carcass, which was floating under the Chaudhary Charan Singh Barrage built on a canal connected to the Ghaghra river, was spotted by locals, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Akashdeep Badhawan told PTI.

The locals immediately informed the forest and irrigation departments. A Forest Department team was rushed to the spot to bring the carcass to the Katarniaghat forest range office, he said.

Prima facie, the tiger was 3-4 years old. No external injury marks were found on the carcass. **PTI**



**GLOBE TROTTER**

**UK HITS 2M BOOSTER VACCINE SHOTS MARK**

**London:** More than 2 million so-called “top up” Covid-19 vaccine booster jabs have been delivered to people in priority categories in England within three weeks, the UK health service announced on Saturday. The National Health Service (NHS) said people in the high-risk categories have been quick to take up the offer of the booster jabs ahead of winter, with a total of 2.08 million “top ups” administered so far.

**GUARDS KILL 6 MIGRANTS IN LIBYA: UN OFFICIALS**

**Aboard Geo Barents:** Guards at a Libyan detention center for migrants shot and killed at least six people amid chaos in the overcrowded facility, UN officials said on Saturday as they again condemned widespread abuses against migrants in the North African country.

**ULTRA WANTED FOR ROLE IN 1985 HIJACKING, DIES**

**Beirut:** Ali Atwa, a senior Hezbollah operative who was on the FBI's most wanted list for his role in one of the most notorious plane hijackings in aviation history, has died, the Lebanese militant group said on Saturday. Atwa, who was believed to be in his early 60s, died of complications related to cancer, Hezbollah said.

**CRUISE SHIPS RETURN TO SAN FRANCISCO**

**San Francisco:** Cruise ships are returning to San Francisco after a 19-month hiatus brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Mayor London Breed announced the Majestic Princess will sail into the port of San Francisco on Monday. It's the first cruise ship to dock in the San Francisco Bay Area since March 2020, when the Grand Princess captured the world's attention. The ship was carrying people infected with the coronavirus, and thousands on board were quarantined as it idled off the California coast.

**SCANDAL-TAINTED PM ANDREJ BABIS IN LEAD**

**Prague:** The centrist ANO (YES) movement led by populist billionaire Andrej Babis was leading in the Czech Republic's parliamentary election, partial results suggested Saturday, despite a turbulent first term for Babis with numerous scandals. The two-day election to fill 200 seats in the lower house of the Czech Republic's Parliament took place shortly after the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists reported details of Babis' overseas financial dealings in a project dubbed the “Pandora Papers.”

**HUNGARY COMES TO POLAND'S DEFENCE**

**Warsaw:** Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban signed a Government resolution on Saturday welcoming a Polish constitutional court ruling that challenges the primacy of European Union law.

**MAX Healthcare**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**DESTRUCTION OF MEDICAL RECORD OF PATIENTS**

Notice is hereby given that Max Super Speciality Hospital Saket (A Unit of Devki Devi Foundation) will be destroying medical records related to the treatment and/or test performed of its patients at the Hospital pertaining to the period January/ 2013 to December/ 2016.

In addition hospital will be destroying the Death & Medical Legal Case files (Medical Records related to treatment) from Dec-2004 to Dec-2010.

Any patient who wishes to acquire Certified True Copy of his/her Medical Records pertaining to above stated period may request in writing to the contact person mentioned in the table below, between 10.00am-5.00pm (Monday to Saturday). All such request applications must reach the concerned person as mentioned in the below, within 3 (Three) month from the date of publication of this Notice. The request for medical records should be submitted in the prescribed format along with the self-attested copy of the photo identity proof of the patient. The patient can also authorize any other person to apply for and/or collect the Medical Records on his/her behalf with a valid authority letter/power of attorney for the same along with the self-attested copy of the photo identity and signature proof of the Patient and authorized person. In case of deceased patients, the attendant recorded in the Medical Records may apply/authorize someone to apply for the same. Please note that standard charges shall be applicable for supplying such records.

**Name & Address of the Hospital**  
Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket (East Block)  
(A Unit of Devki Devi Foundation)  
1, Press Enclave Road, Saket, New Delhi-110017  
**Contact Person's detail**  
Mr. Cham Narain  
Email: cham.narain@maxhealthcare.com  
Mobile: 7838 797 414  
Office: 011-40632700

**For Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket (East Block)**  
(A Unit of Devki Devi Foundation)  
**Sd/-**  
**Authorised Signatory**  
Date: 29/09/2021

# Xi vows to reunify Taiwan with China

AP ■ TAIPEI

Chinese leader Xi Jinping said on Saturday that a “peaceful” reunification of Taiwan with China's mainland was in Beijing's interests, despite ratcheted up military threats against the self-governing island.

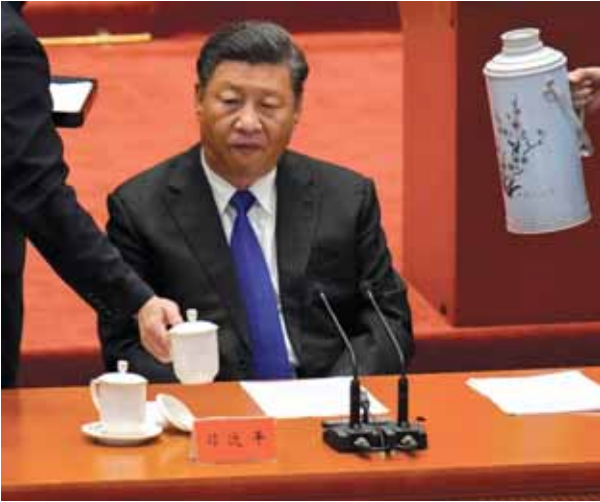
Xi spoke at an official celebration in Beijing's Great Hall of the People that focused largely on the need for the ruling Communist Party to continue to lead China as the country rises in power and influence.

“Reunification of the nation must be realized, and will definitely be realized,” Xi vowed before an audience of politicians, military personnel and others gathered in the hulking chamber that serves as the seat of China's ceremonial legislature.

“Reunification through a peaceful manner is the most in line with the overall interest of the Chinese nation, including Taiwan compatriots,” the leader added.

Xi's remarks came just days after the Chinese military sent a record number of military aircraft flying towards Taiwan in exercises that the self-ruled island has called a threat. Over the course of four days, starting last week, the mainland People's Liberation Army flew fighter jets, bombers and airborne early warning aircraft 149 times towards Taiwan, with the largest single maneuver involving 52 jets.

Taiwan and China split in



Hostesses refill tea for Chinese President Xi Jinping during an event commemorating the 110th anniversary of Xinhai Revolution at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Saturday

1949 amid a civil war, with the then-ruling Nationalist Party fleeing to the island as Mao Zedong's Communists swept to power on the mainland.

Saturday's ceremony in Beijing was in honor of the 110th anniversary of the Chinese revolution that led to the overthrow of the Qing emperors and the establishment of the Republic of China under Sun Yat-sen. Taiwan celebrates Oct. 10 as National Day and Xi's address touched on common aspirations for a unified future, despite the stark differences between China's authoritarian one-party system and Taiwan's vibrant multi-party democracy.

Taiwan's National Day celebrations this year will feature

a rare display of military equipment, including missiles and a performance by fighter jets to be held Sunday in front of the Presidential Office Building in the center of the capital, Taipei.

That marks the first inclusion of military hardware in Taipei's official celebrations in years, and the first since Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016.

Local media coverage of rehearsals for the celebration showed large missile launch vehicles driving on Taipei's streets, although the missiles themselves were not directly visible.

In the past, the Taiwanese government has kept its missile capabilities out of the public eye

## Peaceful reunification in best interest of all: Jinping

to avoid appearing provocative, said Kuo Yu-jen, a defense studies expert at the Institute for National Policy Research in Taiwan.

Kuo added that Taipei feels it “must demonstrate that Taiwan has the ability to deter China's threat” as Beijing becomes “overly assertive.”

In years past, the national day celebration has featured choreographed performances by motorcycle-riding military police and overflights by the island's air force. However, missiles were not part of that display.

“I think this is to raise Taiwan's people's morale,” said Pan Shih-ping, a professor of political science at National Taiwan Normal University.

Taiwan's leader Tsai has placed a higher premium on national defense than her predecessor from the more China-friendly Nationalist Party, launching a revitalization of the island's shipbuilding industry and commissioning a program to build submarines domestically. She has also instituted reforms in the military, including improving benefits for military personnel and even increasing the quality of food served in the messes.

Taiwanese Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng told legislators Wednesday that the situation with China “is the most severe in the 40 years since I've enlisted.” Chiu later told reporters that he believed China would have “comprehensive” capabilities to invade Taiwan by 2025.

# US condemns attack on Afghan mosque

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has condemned in the strongest terms the suicide attack on worshippers at a mosque in Afghanistan in which at least 46 people were killed, saying the Afghan people deserve a “future free of terror.”

The Islamic State terror group has claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing that tore through the packed Shiite Mosque in northern Afghanistan's city of Kunduz.

At least 46 people were killed and dozens of others

injured in the attack which was the latest in a series of Islamic State bombings targeting Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers, religious institutions and members of the country's minority Shiite Muslims.

In a statement on Friday, State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said that the US condemns in the strongest terms the Friday's attack on worshippers at a mosque in northern Afghanistan.

“We offer our deepest condolences to the victims and their families. The Afghan peo-

ple deserve a future free of terror,” Price said.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference: “Obviously, any loss is an enormous tragedy, and our heart goes out to the families who lost loved ones.”

“We, of course, will continue to work in partnership with leaders in the region to work to get partners who stood by our side out of Afghanistan, who want to depart. That's something that there's ongoing work on, as we speak,” Psaki added.

## China, US hold meeting on freight trade issues

AP ■ BEIJING

China and the US held a virtual meeting on Saturday regarding the two countries' freight trade relationship, after a lengthy break in negotiations.

China's top trade negotiator Liu He called US trade Representative Katherine Tai to discuss the “Phase 1” trade deal, negotiated under the Trump administration, along with other major economic concerns, according to a statement from China's Commerce Ministry.

Both sides “conducted pragmatic, candid and constructive exchanges” according to the statement.

Tai had said this week that she plans frank conversations with officials in Beijing about an interim trade deal aimed at

resolving a tariff war.

Liu, a vice premier and member of the ruling Communist Party's Politburo, also pushed for the cancellation of additional tariffs and sanctions levied by the US on Chinese goods.

The “Phase 1” trade deal put on pause a trade war enacted by former president Donald Trump, who raised tariffs on Chinese imports over complaints about Beijing's industrial policy and trade surplus. China retaliated by suspending purchases of US soybeans and raising tariffs on other goods.

Under President Joe Biden, the administration has maintained the higher tariffs and other policies that have elicited complaints from Beijing, but has sought a more cordial tone in bilateral discussions.

## Climate activist Nakate visits huge coal mine

AP ■ LUETZERATH

Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate on Saturday visited a vast German open-pit coal mine and a village that is to be bulldozed for its expansion, saying the destruction is “really disturbing” and has implications far beyond Germany.

The visit by Nakate and other young climate activists comes a few weeks before U.N. climate talks open in Glasgow, Scotland on October 31.



# Over 100 dead or missing after boat capsizes in DR Congo

AFP ■ KINSHASA

Over 100 people are dead or missing after nine interlocked canoes sank this week in the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials said on Saturday. It was the latest in a series of maritime accidents in the sprawling country where people often travel on overloaded and unsafe vessels on the Congo, one of Africa's biggest rivers.

Sixty-one bodies had been recovered from the sinking during the night of Monday to Tuesday, and another 60 are believed to be missing, Nestor Magbado, a spokesman for the governor of the northwestern province of Mongala, told AFP.

He said there were 39 survivors. With no manifest of the passengers on board, the number missing is an estimate based on the capacity of the boat, he said.

The vessel was actually nine traditional wooden canoes, known as pirogues, all tied together, Magbado said.

He added that the accident may have been caused by “over-

crowding aggravated by bad weather” during the night.

The victims included hawkers and students travelling to the provincial capital Bumba, Magbado said. “There were all kinds of people”.

The scale of the accident was not clear until it was reported by media late on Friday, and confirmed on Saturday by provincial authorities.

Magbado said the Mongala authorities had informed Kinshasa of the sinking just after it occurred, but had waited for more information about the number of casualties.

Search and rescue operations are continuing, but hopes are fading of finding more survivors, he said, adding that rescue efforts were hamstrung by the limited resources available to the authorities.

“We are struggling to make do with what we have,” he said, adding that hopes of finding survivors were “fading with every passing day”.

Provincial authorities have declared three days of mourning from Monday.



A girl braves the rain at a park near the waterfront of Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong on Saturday. The Hong Kong Observatory issued the number 8 storm signal, as the tropical storm Lionrock was southwest of the regional financial hub, which has a population of 7.5 million

## Syria's Assad allows exiled uncle to return to avoid prison

AP ■ BEIRUT

President Bashar Assad allowed his exiled uncle back into Syria to avoid serving a four-year prison term in France, where he had spent more than 30 years, a Syrian pro-government newspaper reported late Friday.

Rifaat Assad's lawyer confirmed his client has left France, denying he fled French justice.

Assad, 84, was sentenced last year for illegally using Syrian state funds to build a French real estate empire. He did not attend the trial because he was in poor health, and a French appeals court has upheld the sentence. Assad's lawyer took the case to France's highest court, which is yet to render its ruling.

## Post Modi-Biden meet, focus now on moving ahead on range of issues: White House

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A fortnight after the first in-person meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden here, the White House has said that the focus of the Indo-US bilateral relations is now on continuing to move forward on a range of issues, including economy, national security and getting the pandemic under control.

Since the September 24 meeting between Modi and Biden at the White House,

there has been a flurry of high-level visits between the two countries and several Cabinet-level visits are in the pipeline in the next few weeks.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki, addressing reporters at her daily news conference on Friday, said that the Quad and bilateral meetings here in September were an opportunity “to discuss the importance of the relationship and the partnership, the work that can be done moving forward as well as of course the bilateral meeting”.

## Congo confirms new case of Ebola in country's east

**Beni:** A case of Ebola has been confirmed in eastern Congo, according to the country's Health Ministry and the National Institute of Biomedical Research, about five months after the country declared an end to the last outbreak that killed six people in the region.

A child of nearly 3 years old was sent to the Butsili hospital in Beni after presenting various symptoms related to

Ebola. He died on Oct. 6 and tested positive for Ebola, according to the research institute and the ministry.

“This is certainly concerning given the toll of infectious diseases in this region including Covid and beyond and highlights the need for continual surveillance and preparedness even with highly efficacious vaccines,” said Jason Kindrachuk.

AP

# New river of lava threatens even more buildings on La Palma

AP ■ LOS LLANOS DE ARIDANE

A new lava flow belched Saturday from the La Palma volcano, threatening to spread more destruction on the Atlantic Ocean island, where over 1,000 buildings have already been engulfed or badly damaged by streams of molten rock.

The partial collapse of the volcanic cone overnight gave birth to a new lava stream that started to follow a similar path down the Cumbre Vieja ridge

toward the western shore of the island to the ocean.

Authorities said the new lava flow is within the area that was hastily evacuated following the Sept. 19 eruption, when 6,000 residents were forced to flee their homes and farms.

Police let residents whose homes could now be in danger make trips to save what they could. Trucks entered the exclusion zone empty and left with mattresses, furniture and other belongings. Emergency official

Miguel Ángel Morcuende said experts were closely watching the delta of new land being formed off the island's coast since the main lava flow reached the sea last week. He said that parts of it could collapse, causing explosions and large waves, but that would not pose a danger since the immediate area is already evacuated.

La Palma's airport was operational again after being closed for several days due to volcanic ash.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

“It is to inform to the public at large that my client Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sharma, approached Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. for a Home Loan against Built-up Freehold Built Up Property Bearing No. 716 along with the area of the Land area Measuring 32 sq. Yards, i.e. 26.756 Sq. Meters (Bottom to Top with its Terrace right up to Sky). Situated in the area of 716, KH. No. 51111, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi hereinafter referred to as “the said property” which he is intending to purchase vide **Notarized Agreement** to sell executed by Smt. Kulwant Kaur W/o Sh. Jogindra Singh in favour of Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sharma. Smt. Kulwant Kaur W/o Sh. Jogindra Singh became the owner of the said property vide Regd. GPA, ( Vide Doc. No. 10054, **Notarized ATS, Notarized Will** dated 20.05.2005 executed by Smt. Laxmi Devi w/o Sh. Dina Nath Grover his favour. That this is a General publication made in favour of public if any person further having any type of claim/right/title/intent over the said property may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

**Prasoon Lata, Advocate**  
SO Associates  
Basement C 78 Sector 2 Noida  
0120-4554882, 7011172764

**JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE&TA to Dir.Engg.-II/2021-22/D-107 Date : 08.10.2021

**NOTICE INVITING BID**

**NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-II/23/2021-22**  
Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given :-

S. No.	Zone	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	EE-12A	JDA2122WSOB00344	292.96	209/2021-22	Construction of Internal Roads in Hatoj Kardhani and Hatoj Kardhani Vistar	01.11.2021
2.	EE-12A	JDA2122WSOB00345	457.95	208/2021-22	Civil Development Works in Amrut Kunj II	01.11.2021
3.	EE-13	JDA2122WSOB00346	220.65	229/2020-21	Renewal and Construction of Various Roads in Bassi Constituency	01.11.2021
4.	EE-Housing-I	JDA2122WLOB00352	1026.00	107/2009-10	Concessionaire for Govt. Funded Vacant Houses into ARHCs for a Period of 25 Years	17.11.2021

Details are available at Procurement Portal website [www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in), [www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in) and [www.jda.urban.rajjasthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.urban.rajjasthan.gov.in)  
Raj. Samwad/C/2021-22/7102  
Executive Engineer & TA to Dir. Engg.-II



# India may have to withdraw equalisation levy from Oct 8

## If global minimum tax deal comes through

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India may have to withdraw digital services tax or the equalisation levy and give a commitment not to introduce such measures in the future if the global minimum tax deal comes through.

In a major reform of the international tax system, 136 countries, including India, have agreed to an overhaul of global tax norms to ensure that multinationals pay taxes wherever they operate and at a minimum 15 per cent rate.

However, the deal requires



countries to remove all digital services tax and other similar measures and to commit not to introduce such measures in the future, as per the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) implementation plan released late on Friday. "No newly enacted digital services taxes or other relevant similar measures will be imposed on any company from October 8 and until the earlier of December 31, 2023, or the coming into force of the MLC (multilateral convention)," the OECD said.

The proposed two-pillar solution of the global tax deal consists of two components - Pillar One which is about reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and Pillar Two consisting of minimum tax and subject to tax rules.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier this week said that India is "very close" to arriving at the specifics of the two-pillar taxation proposition at the G-20 and is in the last stage of finalising the details.

The Finance Ministers of G-20 countries are scheduled to meet on October 13 in Washington and finalise it.

Nangia Andersen Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said the statement released by the OECD on Friday weighed against the one in July 2021 brings out some interesting observations, on which taxmen and taxpayers had their eyes laid on.

"As a significant move, the OECD has sought for an immediate and upfront withdrawal of unilateral digital services tax and a commitment not to introduce such measures in the future.

"No newly enacted digital services taxes or other relevant similar measures would be imposed on any company from October 8 and until the earlier of December 31, 2023, or the coming into force of the multilateral convention," he said.

The modality for the removal of existing digital ser-

vices taxes and other relevant similar measures needs to be appropriately coordinated, Jhunjhunwala added.

"Pillar Two which was initially proposed to be brought into effect from 2023 has now been deferred to 2024," he added.

Deloitte India Partner Sumit Singhania said the two pillar solutions finally agreed will result in redistribution of USD 125 billion taxable profits annually, and ensure global MNEs pay minimum 15 per cent tax once these measures are implemented in 2023 through a multilateral convention to be signed next year.

Consensus on global minimum tax will practically make tax competition amongst nations rather unfeasible by narrowing down any such opportunities to rarest circumstances, he said.

"In reaching final Two-pillar solutions, OECD Inclusive Framework has tied up sever-

al loose ends and drawn the roadmap to its implementation. The final solution offers 25 per cent share in super normal profits (i.e. Profits in excess of 10 per cent) sought to be reallocated to market countries," Singhania said.

He said the signing of MLI will also lead to consistent withdrawal of digital Services tax and any such similar taxes /levies, and will prevent any future enactment of such order.

"In the end, two pillar solutions ought to be reckoned as enduring overhaul of the century old international tax regime, that's here to change the rule of the global profit allocation amongst taxing jurisdictions completely," Singhania added.

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. Partner Gouri Puri said a consensus on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 are key to secure a more certain and stable tax regime for multinationals and governments.

## Diesel crosses ₹100 mark in Mumbai, fuel prices up again

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai on Saturday became the first metro city in the country to see diesel prices cross the ₹ 100 per litre mark after fuel prices were hiked again.

Petrol price was hiked by 30 paise per litre and diesel by 35 paise a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The fifth straight day of price hike pushed fuel rates to a new record high. In Mumbai, diesel now comes for ₹100.29 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs ₹92.47.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹103.84 a litre and ₹109.83 per litre in Mumbai, the notification showed.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes. Shedding the modest price change poli-

cy, state-owned fuel retailers have since Wednesday started passing on the larger incidence of cost to consumers. For four days in a row, the price of petrol has been hiked by 30 paise a litre and diesel by 35 paise, the biggest rally in rates.

This is because the international benchmark Brent crude has soared to over USD 82 per barrel after the decision by OPEC+ not to increase output more than 0.4 million barrels per day, fuel rates are being increased by a larger proportion.

A month ago, Brent was around USD 72 per barrel.

Being a net importer of oil, India prices petrol and diesel at rates equivalent to international prices.

The surge in international oil prices ended a three-week hiatus in rates on September 28 for petrol and September 24 for diesel.

## Indian job market grows 57% annually in Sept ahead of festive season: Naukri JobSpeak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian job market maintained its record-breaking run for the third consecutive month in a row, clocking 57 per cent year-on-year growth in September, according to the latest Naukri JobSpeak report.

At 2,753 job postings, the index hit an all-time high in September surpassing pre-COVID levels in September 2019 by 21 per cent.

The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index that calculates and records hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.Com website month on month. The objective of Naukri JobSpeak is to measure the hiring activity in various industries, cities, and experience levels.

Year-on-year, most sectors showcased significant annual growth, led by IT (138 per cent) and hospitality (+82 per cent).

"The recent wave of digital transformation among Indian organisations continues to generate demand for tech professionals. YoY hiring in the IT-software/services sector has grown by 138 per cent in September 2021.

It said sectors like hospitality (82 per



cent) and retail (+70 per cent) which were most impacted by the pandemic, also witnessed significant YoY growth in September with several hotels and physical store outlets across the country gradually reopening.

Hiring activity has also grown in the education (53 per cent), banking/financial services (43 per cent) and telecom/ISP (+37 per cent) sectors as compared to September, 2020.

Metros recorded 88 per cent annual growth in September, surpassing Tier 2 cities that grew by 30 per cent.

"The continuous positive growth of the IT-software/software services sector has enabled major IT hubs to outperform other cities in the annual growth charts," it said.

Bengaluru (133 per cent), Hyderabad (110 per cent), Pune (95 per cent) and Chennai (85 per cent) recorded the high-

est YoY growth in September.

Hiring activity was also positive in Delhi/NCR (72 per cent) while Mumbai and Kolkata both recorded 60 per cent growth. Among the tier-II cities, Ahmedabad (82 per cent) and Coimbatore (46 per cent) recorded the highest annual growth followed by Vadodara (33 per cent) and Kochi (19 per cent)," it said.

Hiring across all experience bands increased in September as compared last year, largely due to the overall positive performance of the hiring market as it recovers from the setbacks caused by the pandemic.

During this period, demand for senior professionals belonging to the 8-12 years (75 per cent) bracket witnessed a maximum increase followed by 4-7 years (65 per cent), 13-16 years (57 per cent), 0-3 years (54 per cent) and above 16 years (38 per cent).

Pawan Goyal, Chief Business Officer, Naukri.Com said, "India is witnessing a never seen before activity in hiring. Fuelled by the demand for IT professionals, it truly is heartening to see the industries recover at the onset of the festive season.

## Most PSUs on Govt's privatisation list created by private sector: Sanya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defending privatisation policy, Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal on Saturday said most of the public sector undertakings (PSUs) that the Government intends to sell were actually created by the private sector. Stressing that this Government is unapologetic about privatisation, he said "you (Opposition) made the point that this (PSUs) has been built through the blood and sweat of the public sector. So, let me put the record straight on this: Actually much of what we are attempting to privatise were actually built by the private sector."

Citing an example, he said Air India was simply taken away from the private sector and nationalised in 1953.

"In 1969, banks were simply taken away and nationalised. So, when people say that

these institutions were built by the blood and sweat of the Indian bureaucracy, let me point out to you that these things were originally built by private companies," he said at India Today Conclave.

He said that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has already outlined strategic and non-strategic sectors for the purpose of privatisation and there will be bare minimum presence of the government in the strategic sector.

He also said the government will not shy away from creating new public sector entities where ever required.

Giving an example of the setting up of a development finance institution (DFI), he said the government recently created the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) to fund the huge infra require-

ment.

Talking about the banking sector, he said it is part of the strategic sector and the government will have its presence in the sector.

"There are certain reasons you want to do that...The fact of the matter is there are problems with private sector banking as well as. We have seen certain instances like YES Bank and so on. So, this is a sector where you need a public presence as well," he said.

Many countries around the world have retained some public banking systems, or even had in the case of the global financial crisis to nationalise, he said.

Last year, the capital-starved YES Bank was placed under a moratorium and its board was superseded. Multiple agencies are investigating fraud done by the erstwhile management.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to all concern that Sh. Deepak Sharma S/o Sh. N.D. Sharma R/o D-14 Sector-10, Noida, G. B. Nagar U.P. is the allottee of Plot No. B-03 Sector-51 Noida. Noida Authority had shifted the said above plot to A-38, Sector-44 Noida. He has executed a Registered Agreement to sell in favour of Sh. Pradeep Kapoor S/o Sh. Amrit Lal Kapoor R/o A-211, Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi dated 05/06/1995 in Book No. I Volume No. 108 on page No. 231 to 242. Document No. 1477 at Sub. Registrar (I), Noida and Registered G.P.A. in favour of Smt. Binu Kapoor W/o Sh. Pradeep Kapoor R/o A-211, Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi dated 05/06/1995 in Book No. IV, Volume No. 106 on page No. 335 to 340. Document No. 1706 at Sub. Registrar (I), Noida, Sh. Pradeep Kapoor has expired on 31/08/1995. As per the order by Supreme court, Authority had cancelled the allotment of plot no. A-38 Sector 44 and restore the allotment of original plot B-03 Sector-51, Noida. Now the said above Plot is going to be transferred through the said above registered G.P.A. in favour of Amrit Kapoor S/o Late Sh. Pradeep Kapoor R/o M-37 Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110048. If anyone has/have any objection, he/she may file his/her objection along with the Sufficient proof in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority, Sector 6 Noida within the 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Amit Kapoor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

To inform that I Sarita Sharma W/o Late Vinod Kumar Sharma R/o Flat bearing no.139 on GF, Type II, Area measuring 68Sq. Feet Sec-37, Situated in the Sector-37, with in New Okhla Industrial Development Area (Noida), Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. have been test my Original Possession Certificate issued by Noida Authority, in favour of Lt. Col. P. N. Saxena including death Certificate copy and SMC in the name of legal heirs after mention address. Police complained has lodged vide FIR No. L.A.R. No.2021000155489 dt. 08/10/21 in Police Station, Noida. Any person(s) found these papers and any person claiming any right interest having any objection may right within 7 days from the date of publication. Contact with above R/o-37/139, Sector-37, Noida U.P., Mo.: 929914605

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Kailash Wati, age 72 years, W/o Late Sh. Ganesh Lal, R/at B-706, Himalaya Apartment, Plot No. 3, Sector-5, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad-201012, Uttar Pradesh and presently r/at J-083, Sears Tower, SJR Palazza City, Doddakannelli, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore-560 035 do hereby declare that my correct name is KAILASH WATI, but in my official records my name is wrongly spelt as KAILASH instead of KAILASH WATI, vide affidavit dated 7th October 2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary ARUNA V. at Bangalore.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Veena Behal W/o Late Gopal Dass Behal was having residential property in joint ownership along with her Son Mr. Umesh Behal in project Vatika India Next, Unit No. 6, P. 3.2, Sector-84, Gurugram measuring 2160 Sq.Ft., which her legal heirs i.e. Gopal Dass Behal, Mrs. Neelam Miglani, Mr. Manoj Behal & Mr. Umesh Behal request the company to transfer to her legal heirs. Any person having objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which no claim would be accepted.

Vatika Limited

A-002, Ground Floor, Block - A, Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector-83, Gurugram, Haryana, India-122012



### PUBLIC NOTICE

DESTRUCTION OF MEDICAL RECORD OF PATIENTS

Notice is hereby given that the below mentioned Max Hospitals (hereinafter referred to as the "Hospitals") will be destroying Medical Records related to the treatment and/or test performed of its patients at the Hospitals pertaining to the period January 2013 to December 2016.

In addition hospital will be destroying the Death & Medico Legal Case files (Medical Records related to treatment) from May-2006 to Dec-2010

Any patient who wishes to acquire certified true copy of his/her Medical Records pertaining to above stated period may request in writing to the contact person mentioned in the table below, between 10.00am - 5.00pm (Monday to Saturday). All such request applications must reach the concerned person as mentioned in the below, within 3 (Three) month from the date of publication of this notice. The request for Medical Records should be submitted in the prescribed format along with the self-attested copy of the photo identity proof of the patient. The patient can also authorize any other person to apply for and/or collect the Medical Records on his/her behalf with a valid authority letter/power of attorney for the same along with the self-attested copy of the photo identity and signature proof of the patient and authorized person. In case of deceased patients, the attendant recorded in the Medical Records may apply/authenticate someone to apply for the same. Please note that standard charges shall be applicable for supplying such records.

Name & Address of the Hospital  
Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket (West Block)

1, Press Enclave Road Saket, New Delhi-110017

Contact Person's detail  
Mr. Cham Narain

Email: cham.narain@maxhealthcare.com  
Mobile: 7838 797 414  
Office: 011-40632700

For Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket (West Block)  
Sd/-  
Authorized Signatory  
Date:29/09/2021

## Aim for \$450-500 bn exports next year: Goyal to exporters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's exports are growing at a healthy rate and now exporters can aim for \$ 450-500 billion of outbound shipments during the next fiscal year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

Exports have touched USD 197 billion during April-September this fiscal, he said.

Goyal said with 48 per cent of the targeted volumes have been achieved, exports are on the right track to achieve this year's target of USD 400 billion.

"Our exporters have made all of us Indians proud

today...We can aim to scale USD 450-500 billion exports next year," he said while chairing mid-term review of exports with different export promotion councils.

He also said that India is negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) with various countries and blocs including the UK, the UAE, Oman, Australia, Canada, the EU, Russia and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) comprising Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland.

The minister said engineering goods have much more potential and textile exports should aim for USD 100 billion.

## Time for a committee to review IRDAI: N Rangachary

IANs ■ CHENNAI

More than two decades have passed since the setting up of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). It is time for a committee to review it, said its first Chairman N Rangachary.

Echoing his views were several industry experts who were past members of IRDAI and the head honchos of life and non-life insurance majors.

Insurance industry officials concur with this view given IRDAI's human resources issues and the problems faced by the regulated entities for the past several years.

"It is time to do a review of IRDAI. It is more than two decades since IRDAI came

into existence. As a matter of fact, every regulatory organisation should be reviewed at regular intervals," Rangachary told IANS.

It was Rangachary who had paved the regulatory path for the sector as the first head of IRDAI.

"There should be a review committee to go into all regulatory aspects. It is time to see whether the original goal of forming the regulatory body has been fulfilled and if not, the action to be taken," Rangachary suggested.

Echoing similar views was R. Ramakrishnan, Member of the Malhotra Committee on Insurance Reforms.

"It is high time the IRDAI is completely reviewed. This should have been done at the end of the first five years. Better late than never," Ramakrishnan told IANS.

Queried as to what is to be reviewed, experts said the entire organisation, its structure, and regulations governing the sector.

"The review should be on IRDAI's human resource policies and the regulatory aspects including the procedures and the organisational set up. The IRDAI should be made transparent," S.B. Mathur, former Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation of India, told IANS.

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: about 30 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Eyes: Black, Hair: Short & Black, Wearing: Green coloured T-shirt & Blue coloured jeans pant, was found dead on 29.09.2021 at 10:01 PM from DDU Hospital, Hari Nagar, New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the mortuary of DDU Hospital. In this regard a FIR/DO No.28A, dated 29.09.2021 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Hari Nagar, New Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO  
P.S. Hari Nagar, New Delhi  
Ph.: 011-28525719  
Mob.: 8750871128  
DP/583/WD/2021



### सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि यमुना एक्सप्रेस- वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के एलएफओडी-01 परियोजना के अन्तर्गत आवंटित भवन सं-0-KLP-04-1103, Kalypso Court Tower-04, Jaypee Greens Vish Town, Sector-128, Noida, Super Area- 169.40Sq.m. के आवंटित स्व. श्री विजय कुमार चोपड़ा की मृत्यु उपरान्त उक्त भवन उनके पुत्र श्री गौरव चोपड़ा के नाम पर नामांतरण (Death Mutation) किये जाने हेतु प्राधिकरण में आवेदन किया गया है।

अतः इस नामांतरण (Death Mutation) के सम्बन्ध में किसी को कोई आपत्ति है तो प्रकाशन कि तिथि से 35 दिनों के भीतर अपनी लिखित आपत्ति प्राधिकरण कार्यालय में दर्ज कराने का कष्ट करें, अन्यथा नियमानुसार प्राधिकरण अभिलेखों में श्री विजय कुमार चोपड़ा की मृत्यु उपरान्त उक्त भवन उनके पुत्र श्री गौरव चोपड़ा के नाम पर दर्ज कर दिया जायेगा।

सहायक महाप्रबन्धक (सम्पत्ति)

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

प्रथम तल, कमर्शियल कामप्लेक्स, ब्लॉक - पी 2, सेक्टर - ओमेगा 1, ग्रेटर नोएडा, पिन कोड - 201308 जिला - गौतमबुद्धनगर उडओ  
दूरभाष नं - 0120 - 2395201, फैक्स नं - 0120-2395150

## Reduction in cost to push e-2W's market penetration

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Reducing cost of electric vehicles (EV) as well as increase in subsidies along with the newer model are expected to increase electric two-wheeler's (e-2W) penetration.

In FY21, e-2Ws contributed less than one per cent of overall two-wheelers sales.

The sub-segment is expected to contribute 7-10 per cent to the overall 2W sales by FY25.

"As e-mobility penetration is likely to be more in scooters, e-scooters sales as the overall percentage of total scooter sales would be much higher at 20-25 per cent," said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

This growth, the agency expects, would majorly be driven by the reducing delta between the price of an electric vehicles (EV) and internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles due to the increased subsidies under FAME-II scheme along with the newer model launches anticipated over the next few years.

"Ind-Ra believes e-scooters

would lead electrification in this industry segment, given their higher urban presence."

"Moreover, the new models launched recently as well as planned over the next few years are likely to have a better range, speed and battery size, thus making the performance of e-2W comparable to existing ICE variants available in the market."

As per the agency, the total cost of ownership of an e-scooter is now comparable to that of an ICE scooter; the former becomes economically more feasible in case of a long distance travelled.

"As such, Ind-Ra expects higher adoption of e-2Ws by e-commerce companies/delivery-based application companies as well as bike-taxis, thus supporting a further ramp up of EV penetration in 2Ws in India."

However, it pointed out that electrification in motor-cycles could take fairly longer as the performance of the available e-variants is still not at par with that of an ICE vehicle, and enhancing battery configuration could impact both weight and cost of the vehicle.

## IMF board says needs more time to weigh data-rigging details

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The executive board of the International Monetary Fund said late Friday that it is seeking more "clarifying details" in its investigation into allegations that the head of the IMF pressured staff at the World Bank to change business rankings for China in an effort to placate that country.

In her own statement late Friday, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said she had answered "all questions that have been put to me" and hoped that the investigation could be concluded as soon as possible.

The IMF's 24-member executive board said it had

made significant progress in its investigation but it agreed at Friday's meeting "to request more clarifying details with a view to very soon concluding its consideration of this matter."

Georgieva appeared before the panel for more than five hours Wednesday.

That appearance followed a presentation by the law firm WilmerHale that alleged Georgieva played a role in data-rigging when she was a top official at the World Bank.

The report contended that she and other World Bank officials had pressured staff to alter data affecting the business climate rankings of China and other nations.





Photos: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

# Severe weather events associated with floods and cyclones contribute to maximum human deaths in India apart from massive economic losses. SHALINI SAKSENA tells you more

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s State of the Climate Report, the year 2016 (+0.71°C) remains the warmest ever year the country has recorded since 1901 while the year 2020 was the eighth warmest (despite the cooling effect of La Nina). This is marginally lower than the average global temperature rise of 1.2°C reported for the year 2020.

Interestingly, the past decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record both globally and for India. The annual rainfall over the country in 2020 was 109 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA) calculated for the period of 1961-2010. The Southwest monsoon rainfall too in the year 2021 has remained normal (96-106 per cent of the LPA) for the third straight year.

Climatologists like Professor Murari Lal opine that what is of concern is that the extreme weather and climate events linked with anthropogenic climate change have become more frequent and intense around the world since the 1950s.

"The sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC released only last week says that changes in extremes will be larger with projected global warming. India is one of the most impacted countries by extreme weather events and is at high risk due to its high vulnerability. Climatic disaster incidences have been increasing in recent decades, which is also the leading cause of natural disaster mortality. States like Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Kerala, and Maharashtra, with high populations, had the maximum mortality rates due to extreme weather events in the last two decades," Professor Lal says.

Severe weather events associated with floods and cyclones contribute to maximum human deaths in India (28 per cent of the mortalities by cyclones in past 50 years is second only to floods which accounted for maximum mortality of 46 per cent) apart from massive economic losses.

"Floods are one of the most costly and dangerous natural hazards worldwide today. Some of the recent disastrous floods in India include the flash floods triggered by very heavy rainfall and cloudburst in Uttarakhand on 16-17 June 2013 and more recent one on 7 Feb 2021 (due to ice and rock avalanche), Srinagar in 2014, Chennai in 2015, Gujarat in 2017, Kerala flood in 2018 & 2019, Assam flood in 2020 and Himachal Pradesh in 2021. The major flood prone regions in India are in the Gangetic plains including Uttar Pradesh, North Bihar and West Bengal, the Brahmaputra valley, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, and southern Gujarat," he tells you.

Professor Lal points out that Bihar is most flood-prone state, with 76 per cent

population in the North Bihar living under the recurring threat of flood devastation. The State makes up 16.5 per cent of India's flood affected area and 22.1 per cent of India's flood affected population. The State's North districts are vulnerable to at least five major flood-causing rivers during monsoon — Mahananda River, Koshi River, Bagmati River, Burhi Gandak River and Gandak — which originate in Nepal. Some south Bihar districts have also become vulnerable to floods from Son, Punpun and Phalgu rivers.

Recent trends indicate that flash floods which begin within six hours, and often within three hours of the rainfall are most often due to extremely heavy rainfall from thunderstorms (when natural watercourses do not have the capacity to carry excess water).

"These cloud bursts are identified as disastrous weather event in which, the heavy rainfall occurs over a localised area at rate of the order of 100mm per hour. The greatest increases are likely to occur in short-duration rain storms lasting less than a day, potentially leading to an increase in the magnitude and frequency of flash floods. The cloud bursts occur during monsoon season over the orographically dominant regions like Himalayan region, north-eastern States and the Western Ghats due to strong monsoon circulation or the interaction of monsoon circulation with the mid-latitude westerly system. The associated convective cloud can extend up to and beyond a height of 15 km above the ground. At least 180 people were killed in landslides and flooding triggered by heaviest rain spell during July in two districts of Maharashtra this year," Professor Lal says.

Heavy rains lashed the Latur district in Maharashtra through the day (66.09 millimetres of rainfall in 24 hours) on September 27 this year. A cloud burst and incessant rain in Kishtwar district within the upper reaches of Jammu on the intervening night of July 27-28, 2021 inundated villages and washed away several houses apart from loss of lives.

In Ladakh, cloud bursts hit two villages in Kargil district on July 28, 2021 and flash floods forced Kargil-Zaskar road to close. Ladakh is not known to be frequently affected by cloud burst phenomena. Leh is a cold desert and average rainfall for the month of August is 15.4 mm only — the highest rainfall ever recorded over Leh during 24 hours period has been 51.3 mm recorded on August 22, 1933 until August 2010 cloud burst.

This shows that the intensity of the rains has increased in recent times perhaps in association with mesoscale cloud burst and structural changes in monsoon clouds. Scientists have warned that extreme weather is likely to become more common and

more intense in the coming decades as sea levels rise and the Indian Ocean becomes warmer. In India, floods caused by the extreme weather events such as very heavy rainfall, flash floods due to cloud burst and associated landslides have resulted in economic losses of around \$3 billion per year. It is, therefore, critical to understand the changing behaviour and impacts of extreme rainfall to support rural and urban planning policies and the design of flood protection infrastructure in India.

The deaths due to heatwave and thunderstorms/lightning have also increased in recent years and need urgent attention. An abnormal increase in extreme weather events was experienced in the year 2019 when 73 heatwave spells were recorded during summer months against a normal of 17 (average during 1986-2016). Ocean temperatures are also becoming increasingly important because oceans are absorbing much of the additional heat trapped due to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

"More than 90 per cent of the excess heat absorbed by oceans raises the sub-surface ocean temperatures keep the cyclones intensifying because the strong winds churn up the ocean and take up that energy. As a consequence, the time required for intensification of cyclones and maintain stronger wind speed for longer duration is now shorter. The total lifespan of the 'Fani' cyclone in Bay of Bengal in 2019 was double the climatological lifespan," Professor Lal explains.

Recent scientific advances lead us to confidently say that the increased intensity and frequency of some, but not all, of these extreme weather events is influenced by human-induced climate change. Extreme weather events cause both economic as well as humanitarian losses. Economic developments in the form of high value assets being built in climate vulnerable areas and ever increasing population concentration in urban centres, alongside changes in climate, will continue to increase economic losses due to weather events in the future.

"Despite the importance of understanding sub-daily rainfall from both a scientific and impact-centred perspective, we currently do not have a complete picture of how sub-daily extreme rainfall patterns might change in a future climate. Quality-controlled global rainfall data at sub-daily time scales are still unavailable and modelling studies capable of resolving the physical processes that cause sub-daily extremes are scarce," Professor Lal says.

There are also several alternative hypotheses about the mechanisms that can cause sub-daily extremes to increase with atmospheric temperature, with potential implications for their use in future predictions. The potential for highly localised effects like those due to orography, have also



THE KEY CHALLENGE TO OUR UNDERSTANDING AND PREDICTING WEATHER AND CLIMATE EXTREMES IN THE COMING YEARS WOULD LIKELY DEPEND ON THE FOLLOWING: ADVANCES IN WEATHER PREDICTION AND CLIMATE MODELLING; ADVANCES IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHYSICAL MECHANISMS LEADING TO WEATHER EXTREMES; INCREASED EFFORT TO EXTEND THE HISTORICAL OBSERVATIONAL RECORD, INCLUDING REANALYSIS OVER LONGER HISTORICAL PERIODS

been identified recently. The issue remains whether extreme sub-daily rainfall has intensified —and will continue to intensify — as a result of climate change. Given the scientific appreciation of the link between greenhouse gas emissions and changes to atmospheric temperature, theoretical and empirical perspectives on the association between sub-daily rainfall intensity and atmospheric temperature must be reviewed.

Atmospheric temperature strongly influences the intensity of extreme rainfall, as warmer air is capable of holding more water than cooler air (governed by the Clausius-Clapeyron equation), and therefore has the potential to provide more moisture to rainfall events (rate of 6-7% per°C a certain temperature threshold of approximately 24°C).

In view of global warming and the expected intensification in rainfall extremes it is important to review the relationship between rainfall intensity and atmospheric temperature. In the tropics, the onset of convection and precipitation can be described as a phase transition, with strong increases in precipitation near a critical value of the water vapor path. Moreover, convective and large-scale rainfall have different spatial and temporal scales, so that one would expect changes in rainfall intensity with temperature to depend on the temporal and spatial scale as also on the cloud feedbacks through latent heat release.

Professor Lal tells you that the key challenge to our understanding and predicting weather and climate extremes in the coming years would likely depend on the following: Advances in weather prediction and climate modelling; advances in the understanding of the physical mechanisms lead-

ing to weather extremes; increased effort to extend the historical observational record, including reanalyses over longer historical periods.

"Improvements in remote sensing products that extend long enough to document trends and sample extremes; model characteristics that are required to reliably reproduce extreme events of different types and scales and understanding natural variability, including the interplay between a changing climate and natural variability, and improved characterisation of the skill of models to represent low-frequency natural variability in regional climate phenomena and circulation are others among the long list," Professor Lal says.

Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries is a target of Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action.

In keeping with the discourse on mitigation, the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) in India for 2021-26 has recommended setting up disaster mitigation funds at central and state levels. In a departure from the expenditure-based approach to assessing state-wise allocations for the state disaster response and management fund, the XVFC for 2021-26 introduces a methodology that reflects the risk and vulnerability profile of each State.

Of the total fund to be given to a State for disaster management, 20 per cent has to be segregated as the State Disaster Mitigation Fund to be spent as per guidelines developed by Ministry of Home Affairs for the said purpose.

It is expected that this mitigation fund will bolster the State's ongoing efforts to scale up climate-resilient infrastructure in collaboration with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). The vulnerable states have also proactively initiated risk and resilience assessment study for surface transport, power and drinking water sectors.

Understanding the risk of how and why frequencies or magnitudes of extreme weather events are changing can enhance our ability to accurately predict and project future weather and climatic states, which is crucial for Governments and businesses.

"An early weather warning and awareness may save losses to human life, but only robust future climate predictions can facilitate policymakers to plan risk mitigation infrastructure, optimal land use, and better insurance coverage for the vulnerable populations. Integrated weather-to-climate forecasting efforts on a broad range of timescales is therefore required with an ultimate goal of providing predictive risk-based forecasts of extreme events at lead times of days to seasons in India," Professor Lal says.

## FIGURATIVELY

**Cyclone Gulaab**  
This cyclone hit after Cyclone Yaas which had left behind a trail of destruction across several States. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued warnings for north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining Odisha coasts on September 25, 2021.

**Cyclone Tauktae**  
It was the first cyclonic storm that

emerged from the Arabian Sea. It hit southern Gujarat on May 17, 2021. It was a very severe cyclonic storm. Twenty-four people died — 12 in Maharashtra, eight in Karnataka and four in Gujarat.

**Cyclone Yaas**  
The cyclonic storm formed in the Bay of Bengal and hit West Bengal and adjoining Odisha coasts in May 2021.

The name of the cyclone was given by Oman.

**Cyclone Nisarga**  
This was the second pre-monsoon cyclone that emerged from the Arabian Sea. It hit Alibag in Mumbai and weakened in a few hours. It was the first cyclone to impact Mumbai since Phyan of 2009. It led to six deaths and 16 injuries in Maharashtra.

**Cyclone Amphan**  
It was a powerful tropical cyclone that led to the destruction of lives and property in Odisha and West Bengal. Cyclone Amphan was the first pre-monsoon super cyclone of this century that emerged from the Bay of Bengal.

**Cyclone Kyarr**  
It was the second strongest tropical cyclone since Cyclone Gonu in 2007. It

developed in the Arabian Sea and moved towards the Gulf of Aden. It hit Western India, Oman, UAE, Socotra and Somalia.

**Cyclone Maha**  
It was an extremely severe cyclonic storm that became very intense while moving parallel to the Indian coast. The cyclone weakened when it approached Gujarat.

**Cyclone Vayu**  
Cyclone Vayu emerged from the Arabian Sea and was a very severe cyclonic storm that caused moderate damage to lives and property in the state of Gujarat. It was the strongest cyclone that hit the State since the 1998 Gujarat Cyclone. Vayu also affected Maldives, Pakistan and Oman.

**Cyclon Hikka**  
It emerged from the Arabian Sea and turned intense and hit Oman.

**Cyclone Fani**  
It was the strongest tropical storm that hit Odisha since the 1998. It emerged from the Indian Ocean and caused huge destruction of lives and property in Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and East India.



# Indian batters flop as Australia win by 4 wickets

PTI ■ GOLD COAST

Indian bowlers put up a valiant effort with very few runs to defend before rookie Tahlia McGrath won the battle of nerves at the death, guiding Australia to a four-wicket victory in the second women's T20 International and also clinch the multi-format series 9-5.

Batting first, India put up an inept performance, scoring only 118 for nine, largely due to a 37 off 26 balls by Pooja Vastrakar.

Australia scored the runs in 19.1 overs, courtesy rookie McGrath (42 not out off 33 balls), who launched into Shikha Pandey's 18th over, getting 14 runs which proved to be a game-changer.

Renuka Singh's inexperience also cost India dearly as the 19th over yielded 13 runs with McGrath, playing only in her second T20 International, winning it for the hosts.

"We were 20 runs short on this track," India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said after the game.

Pandey (1/27 in 4 overs) bowled one that jagged back a long way to breach through Alyssa Healy's (4) defence and after that it was

Rajeshwari Gayakwad, who controlled the middle-overs by getting rid of Meg Lanning (15), drawing the Southern Stars skipper out with a flighted one and let the ball grip enough to beat her.

Ashleigh Gardener (1) was guilty of belting a half-tracker from Harmanpreet straight into point fielder Gayakwad.

Deepthi Sharma then got the dangerous Ellyse Perry (1) as Harmanpreet timed her jump to perfection at the cover, leaving Australia tottering at 46 for four.

Beth Mooney (34 off 36 balls) was



cautious for the better part of her innings as McGrath started smashing the bowlers. The Indian outfielding was very poor on the day.

Once Mooney was stumped off Gayakwad and Nicola Carey was also stumped off a rebound off Richa Ghosh's body, India looked to be making a comeback at 94 for six but Pandey and Renuka couldn't bowl tight lines to prevent McGrath from taking her team to victory.

Earlier, Vastrakar gave a fine

exhibition of power-hitting as her superb 36 not out off 27 balls took India to 118 after they were reeling at 81 for nine being put into bat.

Vasktrakar, fondly called 'Chota Hardik' by her Test skipper Mithali Raj, has come of age as an all-rounder on this tour. She hit three fours and two sixes at the back end to ensure that India don't embarrass themselves on a track which was good for batting.

Even though the score is below-par against Southern Stars but

Vastrakar's clean hits at least gave them something to fight for.

Interestingly, India were 81 for nine after the 17th over and in the last three overs, the tourists scored 37 with Vastrakar making all the runs in the company of Gayakwad, who could not open her account.

After an impressive show in the first game where their fearless batting was lauded, Indian batters flattered to deceive as none save skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (28 off 20 balls)

showed the intent of taking the attack back to the opposition camp.

Instead, there was an inexplicable batting collapse with the hit-pairing of Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma falling to Tayla Vlaeminck's (2/18) pace.

Then, spinners Sophie Molineux (2/11 in 4 overs) and Ashleigh Gardner (1/12 in 4 overs) stifled the batters during the middle overs with 27 dot balls and three wickets, which broke the backbone of their batting.

## Skyview to organise 1st mountain megathon in J&K's

PTI ■ JAMMU

A two-day first annual mountain Amegathon – SKY101 would be held next month at the famous Patnitop hill resort in Jammu and Kashmir, the organisers said on Saturday, announcing promo events in different parts of the country to attract large-scale participation.

Skyview by Empyrean, the recently launched hospitality venture of Empyrean Skyview Private Limited (ESPPPL), said the main purpose of the SKY101 is to create awareness about a healthy lifestyle and promote the beautiful region of Patnitop and Sanget.

Skyview Patnitop by Empyrean is India's highest ropeway in terms of ground clearance of over 65 meters and the largest Indo-French collaboration in mountain infrastructure development.

It was built in a record time of 2.4 years under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and started its commercial operations on July 20, 2019.



"SKY101 will be held on November 13 and 14 at Skyview World, Sanget. It is the first-of-its-kind event in India, testing athletes on their multi-discipline sports

endurance – cycling and running in mountain trails," Managing Director, ESPPPL, Syed Junaid Altaf said.

He said the participants from

across India would test their skills and endurance levels on the rough terrain of the Himalayan foothills while competing for glory, cash prizes and more.

To create awareness and drive registrations, he said the first promo event was flagged off in Jammu last week at Satwari here, where almost 50 participants from various cycling clubs of Jammu, including members of Jammu's first women's cycling club cycled to Suchetgarh border and covered a total distance of about 25 kms.

"More promo events are being organised in Amritsar, Ludhiana, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Delhi in the coming days. We hope participants will register wholeheartedly and make this event a success and look forward to it as an annual event," Altaf said.

He said the SKY101 event is supported by J&K Tourism Department, cycling federation of India, Jammu Kashmir cycling association and JK Sports Council among others.

## F1: Gasly tops final practice for Turkish GP

PTI ■ ISTANBUL

French driver Pierre Gasly posted the fastest time in a rainy third and final practice session for the Turkish Grand Prix ahead of qualifying later Saturday.

The AlphaTauri driver was .24 seconds quicker than Red Bull driver Sergio Perez and .6 clear of Perez's teammate Max Verstappen on the 5.3-kilometer (3.3-mile) Istanbul Park circuit.

Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton was way down in 18th spot but hardly took part. He was saving tyres for qualifying, where he bids for a record-extending 102nd pole position.

The Mercedes star leads Verstappen by two points in a thrilling title race but could well be overtaken by the Dutchman on Sunday.

Hamilton has taken a 10-place grid penalty for going over his allocation of three engines for the season. Mercedes fitted a fourth combustion engine Friday. It means that even if Hamilton gets pole No. 102, he'll start 11th and will be battling through traffic. Hamilton was trailing Verstappen 7-3 for poles this season. There are six races to go after Turkey.

The final practice session was halted for a few minutes approaching the halfway point when Williams driver George Russell went off the track and into gravel.



## Narender Rana appointed Men's boxing head coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Boxing Federation of India has decided to replace men's chief coach C A Kuttappa with Army Sports Institute's Narender Rana ahead of this month's world championship, which is also set to mark the end of High Performance Director Santiago Nieve's tenure.

A former Asian Championship bronze-medalist and a four-time national champion, the 49-year-old Rana has been a seasoned coach with the Services Sports Control Board.

He has trained the likes of world championship medal winners Amit Panghal and Manish Kaushik at various stages of their careers.

He has been based at the Army Sports Institute (ASI) in Pune, the place credited with discovering stars such as M Suranjoy Singh, Vikas Krishan, Shiva Thapa and L Devendro Singh, among others.

The development was confirmed to PTI by Kuttappa.

"Yes, Mr Rana will take over from me. I remain a part of the coaching staff although not as chief coach," he said.

The development continues the churning in Indian boxing after the Tokyo Olympics performance, which was dubbed underwhelming by the national federation. Already, women's High Performance Director Raffaele Bergamasco has left after not getting an extension in his contract. The women's head coach Mohd Ali Qamar could also be replaced.

India had its biggest ever boxing team -- five men and four women -- competing at the Games in July-August, of whom only Lovlina Borgohain could finish on the podium with a bronze medal.



## Amandeep Drall lies 2nd in LETAS event in France

PTI ■ TOURRETTES

India's Amandeep Drall carded a fine three-under 69 to move to the second place after the second round of the Terre Blanche Ladies Open.

In a week when the Ladies European Tour was on a break, Amandeep moved to the Ladies European Tour's second rung tour, the LET Access Series and showed great form as she was four-under 140 after day two. The Indian golfer was Tied-fifth after the first round with 71.

Also making the cut was Vani Kapoor (77-68), who had a fine second round with four-under 68 and rose T-11 from overnight T-52.

Despite an early double bogey, Vani, who teed off from the 10th, fought back with seven birdies to get to five-under for the day before a closing bogey on ninth, her final hole.

The field is led by Swede Linn Grant (68-66), whose superb form saw her fire a second round of six-under 66 to hold a six-shot lead.

Amandeep, 13th in the Order of Merit, with three top-ten finishes in her last five LETAS events, said, "Coming into this week my ball striking was really good and I wanted to focus a little more on my putting."

"My ball striking has been solid, yesterday I missed just one green and today it was the same. I just need to keep calm on the greens."

"I'm really excited to be playing in the lead group tomorrow, especially on this tough course. I can be really brutal at times, but I'm really happy I put myself in a position to play in the final group and have a go at it and just stay shot by shot."

# Raducanu loses in 2 sets at Indian Wells

AP ■ INDIAN WELLS

Emma Raducanu came down to earth in her first tournament since her surprising US Open victory, losing in straight sets to Aliaksandra Sasnovich at the BNP Paribas Open.

Raducanu lost 6-2, 6-4 in the second round, ending her 10-match winning streak that began in New York. She received a wild-card into the combined ATP and WTA

tournament in the Southern California desert.

Sasnovich, a 27-year-old from Belarus ranked 100th in the world, reached the doubles semifinals last month at the U.S. Open while Raducanu was completing a stunning run from qualifier to champion at age 18.

Sasnovich got service breaks to take leads of 3-1 and 5-2 and close out the set in 30 minutes without ever losing her serve.



Raducanu rallied in the second set, taking a 4-2 lead. But Sasnovich broke for a fifth time and led 5-4 before serving out the match. Sasnovich won 53% of her second serves to just 29% for Raducanu.

Former men's No. 1 Andy Murray and U.S. Open runner-up Leyla Fernandez played night matches. Iga Swiatek needed just 71 minutes to dispatch Petra Martic 6-1, 6-3. The last time the tournament was played in

2019, Swiatek lost in qualifying. Now, she's the No. 2 seed and the 2020 French Open champion. Swiatek won nine of the first 10 games against Martic before the Polish star got broken twice and fell behind 0-3 in the second set. Swiatek rallied to win the next six games and close out the match.

"In 2019, I wasn't playing that confident, but I'm really happy that times have changed now," Swiatek said.

## Germany rallies to beat Romania in FIFA WC qualifier

IANIS ■ BERLIN

Thomas Muller's late decider helped Germany bounce back to beat Romania 2-1 on home soil in Group J of FIFA World Cup European qualification. The hosts thought they had the golden chance to break the deadlock with a penalty in the early stage, but the referee overturned his original decision after reviewing Andrei Burca's tackle on Timo Werner inside the box.

Romania scored first with only nine minutes gone on Friday evening, when Ianis Hagi danced through Germany's defence before hammering the ball past Marc-Andre ter Stegen. Germany pressed frenetically for an equaliser, while Romania kept all their men behind the ball.

The hosts kept Romania's defence busy but Hansi Flick's men lacked in accuracy to finish the job. Serge Gnabry was the main factor in Germany's game plan and forced the visitors' goalkeeper Florin Nita



into action for the first time in the 17th minute.

Gnabry remained in the thick of things as he tested Nita with an effort from a tight angle in the 35th minute before unleashing a left-footed low strike on target nine minutes later. Germany continued to dominate after the restart and got rewarded as

Gnabry eventually got his name on the scoreboard after taking advantage on Marco Reus' tee up in the 52nd minute. It was Gnabry's 20th goal in 30 international outings, Xinhua reports.

Romania couldn't hold the pace while Germany pressed relentlessly and turned things around in the 82nd minute

when Muller poked home Joshua Kimmich's flicked on a corner to make it 2-1.

With six wins from seven games, Germany tops Group J with 18 points followed by North Macedonia (12 points), Armenia (12 points), Romania (10 points), Iceland (5 points) and Lichtenstein (1 point).

## India ends junior worlds with 30 medals, tops table

PTI ■ LIMA

Indian shooters Anish Bhanwala, Iadarsh Singh and Vijayveer Sidhu combined to win the gold medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol team event as the country ended the ISSF Junior World Championship on top of the standings here.

The Indian trio shot a total of 10 to finish ahead of their German counterparts Fabian Otto, Felix Luca Hollfoth and Tobias Gsoell (2) in the gold medal contest on Friday.

India's Manvi Soni (105) bagged the junior double trap gold medal ahead of compatriot Yeshaya Hafiz Contractor (90). The bronze was won by Hitasha (96) in an event that only featured Indians.

Vinay Pratap Singh Chandrawat claimed the gold medal men's double trap event with a score of 120, while the silver went to Sehajpreet Singh (114) and the bronze to Mayank Shokeen (111).

Earlier on Friday, Ayushi Podder and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the silver in the 50m rifle 3 posi-



tions mixed team event to continue India's dominance in the tournament.

Ayushi and Aishwary shot 17 in the gold medal match to finish second to the 31 shot by the German pair of Max Braun and Anna Janssen. The Indian duo had topped the qualification round with a world record-equaling score of 590, with the eventual gold medallists finishing in second spot.

The other Indian team of Nischal and Sartaj Singh Tiwana finished eighth in the qualification round with a score of 574.

This was after the Indian pair of Rhythm Sangwan and Vijayveer Sidhu clinched the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team gold medal.



# Experienced CSK hold edge over Delhi Capitals

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL — Matches: 25  
Chennai Super Kings won: 15  
Delhi Capitals won: 10

THIS SEASON'S MATCHES:

- Delhi Capitals defeated Chennai Super Kings by 7 wickets by Mumbai
- Delhi Capitals beat Chennai Super Kings by 3 wickets at Dubai

FOR THE RECORD:

- Delhi Capitals have hit the fewest sixes of all teams by a distance, 54. Super Kings are comfortable at the top with 100. Super Kings have scored 1412 runs in the boundaries, the highest. Delhi Capitals have 1172, the second-lowest.
- Of the 10 night matches in Dubai this year, seven have been won by sides chasing. Chennai Super Kings are one of the three teams that have managed to successfully defend.
- Delhi Capitals have won four and lost one in the last five matches played against Chennai Super Kings.

ROAD TO QUALIFIER 1:  
DELHI CAPITALS:

- Beat Chennau Super Kings by 7 wickets at Mumbai
- Lost to Rajasthan Royals by 3 wickets at Mumbai
- Beat Punjab Kings by 6 wickets at Mumbai
- Beat Mumbai Indian by 6 wickets at Chennai
- Tied with Sunrisers Hyderabad at Chennai (won in Super Over)
- Lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore by 1 run at Ahmedabad
- Beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 7 wickets at Ahmedabad
- Beat Punjab Kings by 7 wickets at Ahmedabad
- Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 8 wickets at Dubai
- Beat Rajasthan Royals by 33 runs at Abu Dhabi
- Lost to Kolkata Knight Riders by 3 wickets at Sharjah
- Beat Mumbai Indians by 4 wickets at Sharjah
- Beat Chennai Super Kings by 3 wickets at Dubai
- Lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore by 7 wickets at Dubai

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:

- Lost to Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets at Mumbai
- Beat Punjab Kings by 6 wickets at Mumbai
- Beat Rajasthan Royals by 45 runs at Mumbai
- Beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 18 runs at Mumbai
- Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 69 runs at Mumbai
- Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 7 wickets at Delhi
- Lost to Mumbai Indians by 4 wickets at Delhi
- Beat Mumbai Indians by 20 runs at Dubai
- Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 6 wickets at Sharjah
- Beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 2 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Sharjah
- Lost to Rajasthan Royals by 7 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- Lost to Delhi Capitals by 3 wickets at Dubai
- Lost to Punjab Kings by 6 wickets at Dubai

FAISEL FEATURES

game against Royal Challengers Bangalore. It didn't change their pole position but did enough to shake them from their stupor.

CSK, over the years, have been in final eight times and won on three occasions which speak volumes of the team's ability to lift their game just when it's required most.

That's the reason why CSK is not one of those franchises which unleashes new talent by dozens like other franchises. Rituraj Gaikwad is an exception as he could be called a pure CSK product after more than a decade.

Dhoni has a simple cricketing philosophy — rely on tried and tested individuals who are battle-hardened and thus he has always punted on the likes of Ravindra jadeja, Ambati Rayudu, Suresh Raina, Dwayne Bravo and Faf du Plessis.

These are players, who have been there and done that. People who can control phases and win pressure situations which more often than not results in victories.

Add Josh Hazlewood or Moeen Ali, who are also international regulars in that mix and the former India captain knows exactly what is the kind of combination that he needs to put on the park. As much as one speaks about team effort, no one knows more than Dhoni that T20 is perhaps one form of cricket, where individuals win matches.

Dhoni knows that even though his batting form (96 runs in 14 games) has deserted him years back (since 2015-16) and an IPL legend like Raina (160 in 12 games) is a pale shadow of his once destructive self, he still has Gaikwad (533 runs) and Du Plessis (546), who have more often than not provided solid starts and the menacing Jadeja (227 runs) providing final flourish.

Similarly, Shardul Thakur (18 wickets in 14 games) has given runs at an expensive economy rate of 8.57 but still the breakthroughs have been important.

No one knows more than Dwayne Bravo (12 wickets) as to how one can fool the batters by changing the pace of his deliveries at the death.

Hazlewood hasn't found form but Dhoni has enormous patience in players he believes in and he is banking on that devastating first spell from the Aussie that can wreak havoc.

It could happen against Delhi Capitals, as their batting despite 10 wins, hasn't exactly inspired confidence of highest level.

Prithvi Shaw (401 runs) and Shikhar Dhawan (544 runs) have had their share of starts but in the UAE leg, they haven't exactly dominated.

Skipper Pant (362 runs) has been scratchy at best and Marcus Stoinis' absence due to injury did affect their balance as they lack big-hitters at the death save Shimron Hetmyer.

DC's strength has been their

IPL 2021: Pre-Playoffs Standing						
Points Table		Won		Net Run Rate		
		Matches	Lost		Points	
1	Delhi Capitals	14	10	4	0.481	20
2	Chennai Super Kings	14	9	5	0.455	18
3	Royal Challengers Bangalore	14	9	5	-0.140	18
4	Kolkata Knight Riders	14	7	7	0.587	14
5	Mumbai Indians	14	7	7	0.116	14
6	Punjab Kings	14	6	8	-0.001	12
7	Rajasthan Royals	14	5	9	-0.993	10
8	Sunrisers Hyderabad	14	3	11	-0.545	6


Orange Cap  
(Most Runs)


Highest Score in a Match


Most Valuable Player


Purple Cap  
(Most Wkts)


Best Bowling in a Match

  
KL Rahul  
(PBKS)  
626 runs

  
Jos Buttler  
(RR)  
124 runs

  
KL Rahul  
(PBKS)  
253.5 points

  
Harshal Patel  
(RCB)  
30 wkts

  
A Russell  
(KKR)  
5/15

Source: www.iplt20.com

KBK SportsGraphics

PTI ■ DUBAI

Chennai Super Kings' old guards with an uncanny knack of owning the big stage at right moments, will start as favourites against a solid Delhi Capitals line-up led by 'young pretender' Rishabh Pant in what

promises to be an exciting first IPL Qualifier here on Sunday.

Capitals were the best team in the league and their 20-point finish at the group stage was an indication of their consistent performances which didn't dip due to the COVID-19 forced break.

Similarly, CSK are now back in

familiar settings of play-off rounds, something that they have been done 11 out of 12 times although losing three matches on the bounce would-n't have amused their all-powerful skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

DC, on the other hand, were handed a rude jolt by Kona Bharat's last-ball six in their last group league

## Playoff games are completely different, tournament really starts now: Ponting

**Dubai:** Delhi Capitals Head Coach Ricky Ponting reckons that despite beating Chennai Super Kings twice in the group stages, playoff games will be completely different. He also said that their tournament really begins now. Delhi will meet Chennai in Qualifier 1 on Sunday in Dubai.

"I think we should be very confident. We have beaten them twice in the league games, but as you know, the playoff games are completely different, and our tournament really starts now," said Ponting in a release issued by the franchise on Saturday. "It starts when our players get their recovery done from tonight's (Friday) game, and then we make sure we get ourselves in the right

mindset to take on Chennai. They are also a very good side, they have been level pegging with us right throughout the tournament, who's gonna finish first and who's gonna second. So, we totally respect them as a playing group, and them as a franchise," added Ponting.

Ponting believes that Delhi's loss in the final match of the league stages against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Dubai gives his team a chance to reflect on mistakes and make improvements for the same ahead of Qualifier 1. Ponting termed the last-ball loss to Bangalore as a 'step forward' and added that despite losing, the team played better as compared to the last couple of matches which they won in the league stage. **IANS**

## Hardik will start bowling from next week: MI

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

India's senior chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma had said that Hardik Pandya would be bowling in IPL but Indian vice-captain and MI skipper Rohit Sharma is expecting the all-rounder to start bowling from "next week" even though he won't like to put a timeline on the subject.

Pandya played five games in the UAE leg of IPL without a lot of success save one game against Punjab Kings which he won with his batting and didn't bowl a single over as anticipated when selection committee chairman had announced publicly about the status of Baroda's man's bowling fitness. "In terms of his (Hardik)

bowling, the physios, trainers are working on his bowling. He hasn't bowled a single ball yet. We wanted to take one match at a time and see where he stands," Rohit said after Mumbai Indians' last IPL game.

"He is getting better day by day. In the next week or so, he might be able to bowl, who knows? Only the doctors and physios will be able to give an update on that," the MI skipper added. Pandya also disappointed with the bat, scoring just 127 runs at an average of 14.11 and a strike rate of 113.39. "As far as his batting is concerned, yes, he will be a little disappointed but he is a quality player. He has come back from tough situations before as well," Rohit was frank in his assessment.

## KS Bharat says refined approach to batting has helped him perform in debut IPL season

PTI ■ DUBAI

Royal Challengers Bangalore's latest star KS Bharat says a change in approach to batting, including not going after every ball, has allowed him to make instant impact in his debut IPL season.

Bharat smashed 78 not out off 52 balls and kept calm under pressure to loft Avesh Khan for a straight six with five needed off the last delivery to chase down Delhi Capitals' target of 165. It could prove to be a career-changing knock for the wicketkeeper-batter.

Talking about the change in batting approach over the last two-three years, Bharat said he has realised every ball

can't be hit for a boundary. "I was working on trying to know what my strengths and weaknesses are. As you said like the 2018-19 (domestic season) I was just going in with an intent of attacking every ball, but then I redefined my whole strategy.

"You just can't go bang bang every ball, you have to take your time, you have to work out on the angles, you have to work out on the opponent, you have to work out running between the wickets.

"There are so many different areas which I have been working over a period of time, and it really paid off at a big platform," said Bharat in a virtual media interaction on Saturday.

## Collective failure in second leg of IPL cost us dearly: Rohit

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Defending champions Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said their "collective failure as a group" in the second leg of IPL led to their early exit from the tournament.

It is for the first time in three seasons that five-time champions MI have not entered the last four after lifting the trophy in the past two editions.

"We had a fabulous run as a franchise. We can be very proud of what we have created. We were just getting into the momentum of winning games in Delhi, and then there was a break in between. Once we came here, there was collective failure as a group," a disappointed Rohit said at the post-match presentation.

"When you play for a franchise like Mumbai, you are always expected to perform. I wouldn't call it pressure. More than anything, it is the expectation. What we have created as a group stands out in the last 5-6 years."

Rohit admitted that MI encountered a stop-start season in this IPL.

"But we had an on-and-off season. But very happy with the win today, we gave everything,

and I am sure it was entertaining for the fans too. Little disappointed we couldn't go through."

The MI skipper was full of praise for young wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan who hit a whirlwind 84 off 32 balls.

"Ishan Kishan is a very talented player, just the right position to bat is crucial. He just batted the way we want Ishan to," he said of the left-hander who was won the man-of-the-match award for his exploits with the bat up the order.

SRH's stand-in skipper Manish Pandey, who hit an unbeaten 69 off 41 balls in a losing cause, too said that the sea-

son was a tale of collective failure for the side.

"We had a lot of changes in the side, that didn't work for us. We were struggling in the first few games too, and had to pull ourselves up in the second leg but the whole team didn't put in complete performances, despite some really good individual performances," he said.

He lauded Friday's wicket on offer and said for him it was the best pitch of the tournament so far.

"It was really hot, and it was an intense 20 overs. My calves are a bit cramped. I think the surface was the best of the tournament.

## Fan asks Rohit Sharma for tickets for India vs Pak match

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

A fan watching the IPL 2021 A-match between Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Friday made a humble request to the MI skipper Rohit Sharma for the tickets of the high-voltage India versus Pakistan clash at the upcoming T20 World Cup and the picture has gone viral on social media.

Cricket fans around the world are looking forward to the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup that kicks off on October 17.

The Indian fans are particularly watching for the epic encounter between India and

Pakistan, which is scheduled for October 24 at the Dubai International Stadium. One

## Harmanpreet joins chorus for women's IPL

PTI ■ GOLD COAST

India's T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur stressed on the need for a women's IPL after her team failed to close out a tight game against Australia in the second match of the three-match series here on Saturday. Even during the preceding ODIs, India ended on the wrong side of the result in a tight finish."If you look at the way

Tahlia McGrath batted today, we can see the confidence they are getting from a tournament like WBBL. They are ready to play international cricket," Kaur said in the post-match presser.

"She has not played much in international cricket but got to play many matches before playing for Australia. We do have a few young players who haven't played much cricket at the highest level like (pacer) Renuka Singh."

## Shoaib Malik replaces Maqsood in Pakistan squad

IANS ■ LAHORE

All-rounder Shoaib Malik Ahas replaced Sohaib Maqsood in Pakistan's squad for the men's T20 World Cup in Oman and the UAE, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Saturday.

Maqsood has been ruled out due to a lower-back injury, for which he underwent an MRI scan on Thursday after picking up the injury during a National T20 Cup match of his team Southern Punjab against Northern on October 6 and missed the match against Central Punjab on October 7.

"Sohaib is devastated to miss out on the ICC Men's T20 World Cup as he had worked hard for this event and was in sparkling form. We feel for him but injuries are part and parcel of the sport. I am sure after undergoing rehabilitation, he'll fully recover to be available for future assignments.

"In his place and following discussions with the team management, we have decided to include Shoaib Malik in the side. I am sure Shoaib's experience will be handy for the entire squad," said chief selector Mohammad Wasim in a PCB release.

Malik was the captain of the Pakistan team in the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, finishing runners-up to India. He was a member of the squad that lifted

ed the trophy in 2009 in England.

After missing out in the 2010 edition of the men's T20 World Cup, Malik featured in 2012, 2014, and 2016 editions for Pakistan.

He has played 116 T20Is for Pakistan, scoring 2,335 runs at an average of 31.13 and a strike rate of 124.20. With his off-breaks, he has scalped 28 wickets with an economy rate of 7.08.

This is the fourth change made by Pakistan to their original squad announced on September 6. They revised their 15-member squad on October 8 by including wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed and middle-

order batter Haider Ali in place of Azam Khan and Mohammad Hasnain.

They also exchanged places of Fakhar Zaman, who was named as a travelling reserve in the initial squad with Khushdil Shah, who was in the main squad.

The Pakistan squad for the men's T20 World Cup will depart for Dubai on October 15. They will play two warm-up matches against the West Indies and South Africa on October 18 and 20 before starting their Super 12 campaign in a high-stakes match against India on 24 October at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

## Ellyse Perry, most capped Australian woman cricketer

IANS ■ QUEENSLAND

Cricket 'legend' and all-rounder Ellyse Perry on Saturday etched her name in the record books after she surpassed Alex Blackwell to become Australia's most capped female player across all formats.

The 30-year-old broke Blackwell's record of 251 appearances for the Australian national women's team after she took the field against India Women for the second of three T20I games at the Carrara Oval.

It is Perry's 252nd match across all formats since making her debut in 2007. Alyssa Healy is currently on third place with 207 appearances while Meg Lanning occupies the fourth spot with 205 matches.

During the recently concluded four-day pink-ball Test, Perry had become the first Australian woman to take 300 international wickets.

The all-rounder is also the first woman with the double of 5000 runs and 300 wickets in international cricket. In her 14-year-long career, Perry has earned 9 Test caps, 118 ODI caps, and a whopping 124 T20I caps, which is most by an Australian female cricketer.

Perry's rise has seen her become one of the dominant players of her — or any — generation as well as a global icon of the game and female sport. She became the youngest Australian

ever to play international cricket when she debuted in the second ODI of the Rose Bowl series against New Zealand in July 2007, before her 17th birthday.

Her future in cricket was secured when she was in the group of the first women cricketers to be handed contracts by Cricket Australia in 2008. Later, she went on to represent Australia in World Cup football, becoming the first woman to represent the country in World Cups in two sports.

Perry had started in the Australian squad as a fast bowler. However, she gradually came to be known as an all-rounder after putting on some amazing performances with the bat as

well.

Perry made her Test debut against England in 2008 and her credentials as an allrounder grew between 2014 and 2019 after she produced stunning Ashes returns which included a double century in Sydney and another hundred in Taunton. In 2015, when she missed out with the bat, she claimed nine wickets to help Australia regain the Ashes.

She was also a part of Australia's T20 World Cup campaign on home soil in 2020, but during the group match against New Zealand she suffered a hamstring injury which ruled her out of the knockouts. However, she was there to lift the trophy with her team in front of 86,000 people at the iconic MCG.



❖ **What next?**  
I am auditioning and waiting for something that will click in me. I have shot for some ads. *Mumbai Diaries* has given me a lot of love. I get so many messages from people who managed to connect with Paul.

## Thinking Out Loud (Ed Sheeran)





# the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Get closer to God

Once we realise that we are separated from God, then a passion to be one with the Lord will be ignited in us

2



4

Withstand now, flourish later

The one who survives during difficult times, is the one who would flourish later. Face the present with patience and prudence

I don't want the fear of failure to stop me from doing what I really care about  
—Emma Watson



## FROM CLEAN BEAUTY TO GREEN BEAUTY

Green Lifestyle concept is not just exclusive to major industrial practices but also a part of our daily life. People are now considering it while choosing beauty products for themselves, writes SHIKHEE AGARWAL

The interest and need of consumers for a sustainable lifestyle practice has increased significantly in the recent times. Though the concept is old enough, it has gain more popularity since the past year. Now, the 'Green Lifestyle' concept is not just exclusive to major industrial practices but is also a part of our daily life. Given this, people are now considering it while choosing beauty products for themselves. Stepping back from using the chemical-based products, consumers are now more interested in the products based on natural and organic ingredients. Seeing this change in consumer preference, the beauty brands and manufacturers are now adopting methods to enter the rising market of sustainable beauty to make future better.

Among the majority of consumers which is 63%, the products made of 100% natural ingredients are more popular now-a-days. Not wanting to expose their delicate skin to harmful chemicals, they now want all the products to be environment and skin — friendly which includes not just the ingredients in a product but also its packaging. People are now more aware of the affects of these harsh chemicals and about the benefits of nature-based commodities.

Comparing the two, the inclination is more towards the one which is more beneficial not just for people but also for their surroundings. Since we now know how toxic these elements are to our skin, people have now started looking for products for natural ingredients in the products among which Centella Asiatic also know as Cica, Green Tea extract combined with latest technology are the most popular choices because of their amazing benefits. So, as a result, the term 'Clean Beauty' has been coined and is on a boom. Many new vegan and cruelty free brands are stepping up in the competition and seeing this the already established brands are now trying to step up the efforts to tap the trending market.

Adding more to it, the packaging of these products is also being based on natural renewable resources like soya ink, bamboo bottles etc. The reason for the changes are three major factors which consumers are taking seriously in the current scenario. These are responsibility towards the environment, the effectiveness of the products and long-term benefits after use.

Since the brands are putting efforts and capital in the manufacturing of sustainable products, selling these is also a big task which they look forward to. For this they try to look for the most profitable and preferred media among the consumers. Since a few years the most preferred medium has been online stores or e-commerce websites. Customers like to shop their favorite products from the comfort of their homes instead of venturing out to visit a store in person. And now, when the situation is such where, due to global recession and pandemic has made some businesses rolldown to the drawing board and when people are wary of any kind of physical contact with others, this medium has become the only concrete choice for not just consumers but for the brands as well.

The businesses which never had an online presence are now considering or have shifted to the world of e-commerce in order to boost their sales even in this difficult situation. Same has happened in the Beauty Industry. Now, all beauty and skincare brands have an online presence which has made easier for customers to buy the products from the choice of brands they always wanted. Seeing pathway ecommerce has led the sales on it are expected to see a steady growth by the end of this year including the big players Amazon and Flipkart.

According to professionals, the number of people shopping online and the variety of categories they shop for is certainly beneficial for the growth of online business. And, since the process of online shopping has becomes more accessible and easier with the mobile applications where it's just a matter of few clicks and slides, the customers who enjoy the convenience of shopping from the comfort of their home along with discounts and



cashbacks will certainly continue to buy the products online. Irrespective of the category.

If we take in account the current situation, there are certain developments in the consumer behavior which are the foundation for the change in sales strategies for the brands. First among the trends is 'Digitalisation of buying process' where consumers are heavily using the e-commerce touch points available at their disposal. It is said to rise given the strong rules of distancing. Thus, the digital platforms are said to play a great role in reaching out to wide audience, buzz creation to boost sales, convenience of payment with various payment modes and gaining customer loyalty. Next up is the 'Change in purchasing behaviour' where people are now interested in buying products which are value for money and are essentials in the lifestyle due to the shift towards sustainability.

Another part in these changes is 'improvisation'. This happened to be a thing due to the shortage of certain commodities and resources which led people to do the best out of what they could easily source. These creative ways and methods led towards the shift towards simple and convenient buying patterns which led people to discard excess consumption and focus only on the basic needs instead of luxury goods. In other words, the focus is more on the essentials rather than leisure.

With this being said, we can now talk about what the future has in store for the beauty industry along with others in terms of consumer behavior and how the consumers' preference is going to change more with time. There are a few trends forecasted for the upcoming years which the businesses are already looking up to. These trends are:

**Increased requirement for transparency:** Since all the consumers are heavily relying on

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online mode of shopping, there are instance where they've met with some fraudulent claims. This eventually will lead to a constant rise in the demand for transparency from the end of the brand or online store.

**Shift towards and Omnichannel presence:** to aid the consumers in convenient shopping experience. There will be a greater shift where more businesses will have a presence online along with an offline presence.

**The DIY approach:** The changes caused due to the pandemic are here to stay. People have become more habitual in doing the tasks on their own. Whether it's cooking, makeup, selfcare, taking care of their home, everything is being done by the people. Therefore, the brands might have to look into providing DIY products to customers. In terms of beauty industry, products like, mani-pedi kits, skincare kits and many more such kits have already made their way in the market.

**Green Products:** As mentioned, the focus will be heavily on the green product category that is the naturally derived products which cause least harm to the skin. Though the demand for Clean beauty is already present, it is said to grow rapidly in the coming years which will lead to more production of clean beauty products by different brands.

Knowledge of the trends in consumer behaviour before hand can give the business a boost and can turn out to be a great advantage over the competitors. Along with that, the knowledge of the trends can also act as rough framework based on which steps can be initiated to keep the brand ready for any of the emerging changes in the future. Reading the customers' mind is one of the crucial things for a business in order to tap the market effectively and it becomes even more of a crucial step in the time we are currently living in.

Coming back to sustainable beauty, the sector holds a great potential and is expected to grow rapidly in the future. The sector has already seen a growth of 15% and has surpassed the existing cosmetics and personal care market. Still the sustainable beauty sector is yet to see the expected significant growth estimated for the upcoming years.

Beauty and skincare are a booming industry and is going to reach a six-figure industry by 2026, The packaging of each product can lead to ramifications that would lead to deteriorating the environment. At times consumers discard bottles that are half used and it's up to the brands now to use the waste in the best way. Recycling would play an essential role in making the best of reuse waste that has been created at every stage of manufacturing. At times brands are making product bottles in glass bottles and they can be reused as a centerpiece on the table or as a flower vase.

In the product ingredients they need to be sustainability sourced right from the base oils to ingredients that would act as active ingredients in making the skin supple. From brands to consumers all of them have started becoming more environmentally conscious, from making subtle changes in packaging to starting loyalty programs to encourage recycling of products. Nature based skincare is less prone to allergic reactions to the skin and oils like glycerin is a humectant that would keep the skin hydrated and also keep irritation at a bay.

Hence right now it's the current time for brands to take the correct step to help in saving the environment.

*The writer has 19 years of cross-functional exposure in Beauty, FMCG, Media, and Fashion. She is AVB, Kiehl's India*







# Farewell to Duterte! Many a slip ‘twixt cup & lip

Popularly known as Digong and Rody, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the current President of the Philippines, has just announced his retirement from politics. But last month, the 76-year-old leader had made it public that he would run for the office of the Vice-President in 2022 when he completes the full term of his presidency. But suddenly, he seems to have suddenly changed his mind. As per the current Constitution of the Philippines, a person can serve only one term in the office of the President. Hence, his retirement is normal, but staying away from any other political office is somewhat mysterious. What he told in public is that he will withdraw as “the overwhelming sentiment of the Filipinos is that I am not qualified”. He even said that standing for the vice-presidency “would be the violation of the Constitution to circumvent the law”. Many say that his daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio might run for the office of the President. She is currently serving as the Mayor of the southern city of Davao.

In fact, Duterte skillfully cashed in on the chaos left behind by Benigno Aquino III, who served as the 15th President of the country from 2010-2016. Though there was not much sign of the collapse of the law and order, a systematic crisis of the political system had been developing for a long time. Interestingly Aquino remained popular till the last day of his presidency, but his liberal reformist agenda was not bearing fruit for the masses. Truly, his liberal disposition was sapped of its legitimacy by large administrative bungling and failure to address decades-old structural issues prevailing in the country. Most importantly, he miserably failed to even stop corruption cases that had already taken a full-fledged institutionalised form, and Duterte, the cunning and crude administrator, got a golden opportunity to take over the hot seat in Manila.

What political observers say is that Duterte was in the habit of taking such U-turns in the past. When he was serving as the Mayor of Davao city in September 2015, he once spoke about retiring from public life for good. But in the same year in November, he changed his mind. Incidentally, he was chosen as the candidate for presidency by the PDP-Laban party and he won the election. Therefore, his retirement statement should be taken with a pinch of salt.

The Filipino strongman has left behind a legacy full of controversies. He is known mostly for his populist and nationalist policies. Duterte took over as the 16th President of the island country in June 2016. He set a historic record by becoming the first President from the second largest island of the country, Mindanao. When he assumed office, he promised his countrymen that he will combat the drug menace and reduce the crime rate. But so far, his record is dismal. In turn, he brought one after another chaos to the high-profile office.

Since coming to office, Duterte has waged a brutal and largely extra-legal war against drug users. It has widely made international human rights bodies anxious about his real intentions and the future of democracy in the Philippines. According to the reports brought by rights groups, his controversial move has so far taken the lives of more drug victims than the people killed during the long dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos from 1966-1986. In the last five years, he has encouraged police to carry out the extra-judicial killing of thousands of suspects. And the critics say that he has termed this as his so-called “War on Drugs”.

Now the big question or irony is that why he is so popular among the common Filipinos despite all the controversies he has created? He has dumbfounded the public in the



country. However, behind this popularity, one can definitely count his achievements in these areas: First, he has been successful in reducing poverty and heralding economic inclusion to a great extent. He undertook three major policy reforms known as the Rice Tariffication Law which removed established rice monopolies; TRAIN, i.e. Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Law that exempted many from hefty income taxes and, the Universal Healthcare Act, which is in fact a socialist act copied by countries like Thailand. However, the health insurance measures were marred by massive corruption charges at the State health insurance agency called PhilHealth.

Second, the campaign against drug users has become hugely popular among the people. Since his coming to power, the Tokhang (slang referring to knocking at the door in search of criminals) has resulted in the elimination of thousands of drug lords and addicts across the country. Third, he came heavily on water and telecom

monopolies, ending decades of their unjust dominance. Fourth, the breaking up of age-old media oligarchies like the ABS-CBN Corp of the Lopezes. Fifth, under Duterte, the Philippines achieved the highest ever credit rating in 2020, despite Covid-19 lockdowns. Therefore many look up to him as a saviour and a reformer.

Nevertheless, his term has been regarded globally as a chaos, particularly when it comes to human rights record. He could not control the communist insurgency and the Muslim separatist movement. Rather, the Islamic State kind of organisations has taken a strong foothold through its local associates like the Maute Group, Abu Sayyaf Group, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and Ansar Khalifa Philippines. He has gone a long way in coddling police and military in administration. He has employed more generals and police officers unlike any other previous presidents on the Cabinet and the civilian positions. The most serious

failure of his presidency is the mismanagement of the Covid-19 pandemic. Though he had announced one of the earliest lockdowns in Southeast Asia, he could not control the pandemic in the country.

Again, Duterte has been regarded by many as China’s “newest best friend” in the region despite Beijing’s ever growing aggressive posture in the contested waters of the South China Sea. He has set aside all friendly cooperation with its decades-old ally, the US, in Southeast Asia. Besides, he has gone a long way in downgrading the Philippines relations with some of the major powers in the world.

An overwhelming global opinion is that Duterte must resign. He should not try to extend his political career by moving in as the Vice-President of the country in 2022. The Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and other organisations have indeed documented his horrendous records of thousands

of extra-judicial killings in the last five years. Records show that even children drug addicts have been brutally killed.

Further, when Duterte served as the Mayor of Davao, he was known for running Davao Death Squads, known as DDSs. Many say that these DDS were no other than Duterte Death Squads only. Unfortunately, the so-called DDSs were known for carrying out nearly 1,700 such deaths in the Davao city. When he took over as the President, he moved the very idea of such death squads to the heart of the capital city Manila. Plainly speaking, he took this operation to the national level. Ironically, within four months of the inauguration of his presidency, about 4,000 such deaths had been recorded as per various media briefings. Mostly these drug victims were either killed by police or by unknown secret agents. The saddest part is that more of such killings were unrecorded as the bodies of the drug users were thrown into the ocean or buried in secret sites.

Human rights organisations and the commoners now demand either his resignation or his final formal exit from presidency in the year 2022. Many in the Philippines say that Duterte and his cronies have fattened their long pockets in the last five years of his regime. Further, his goons have widely sowed fear and bloodshed across the country, particularly in the capital Manila, in the name of maintaining law and order. It has turned out to be a system of policing and security just to display his brutality and muscle power.

Duterte is considered as the most polarising of all the Filipino politicians till date. His brash and authoritarian functioning style has truly upended all constitutional machinery in the island nation. Opponents heaved a sigh of relief when he announced his plan to exit the public scene. It is hoped that “Dutertismo” will soon fade away from the political framework of the Philippines. However, it is not as simple as the opponents might think. He has remained impervious to blistering criticism of his blatant autocratic style of governance.

It is hoped that Duterte will not exit quietly like his predecessors. Buoyed by massive public support, he might change his mind at an opportune moment. He may turn to crafty tactics to cling on to power. It won’t be surprising in Filipino politics. However, if at all he stays in power, his pronounced illiberalism, anti-Westernism and anti-elitism may haunt the populace of the island nation for many more years.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

**It is widely hoped that ‘Dutertismo’ will soon fade away from the political framework of the Philippines. However, it is not as simple as the opponents might like to think. He has remained impervious to blistering criticism of his blatant autocratic style of governance. Duterte may not exit quietly like his predecessors. Buoyed by massive public support, he might change his mind at the opportune moment. If he clings on to power, his pronounced illiberalism, anti-Westernism and anti-elitism may haunt the populace of the island nation for many more years**



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# Chinese hurdle in US-Taliban joint fight against ISIS

**Both Afghanistan and Pakistan want the anticipated economic benefits from China’s multi-billion BRI project linking Beijing to Central and South Asia. And therefore, they have been willing to ignore China’s persecution of its Muslim Uyghur population. Consequently, now the ISIS is employing the Uyghur bombers to target both Shias and the Taliban for their purported willingness to expel Uyghurs from the region to meet demands from China**

The Taliban on Saturday ruled out cooperation with the US to contain extremist groups in Afghanistan, staking out an uncompromising position on a key issue ahead of the first direct talks between the former foes since America withdrew from the country in August.

Senior Taliban officials and US representatives are to meet on Saturday and Sunday in Doha, the capital of the Persian Gulf state of Qatar. Officials from both sides have said issues include reining in extremist groups and the evacuation of foreign citizens and Afghans from the country. The Taliban have signaled flexibility on evacuations.

Taliban political spokesman Suhail Shaheen told *The Associated Press* there would be no cooperation with Washington on going after the increasingly active Islamic State (ISIS) group affiliate in Afghanistan. The ISIS has taken responsibility for a number of attacks, including a suicide bombing that killed 46 minority Shia Muslims and wounded dozens as they prayed in a mosque.

“We are able to tackle Daesh independently,” Shaheen said, when asked whether the Taliban would work with the US to contain the Islamic State affiliate. He used an Arabic acronym for ISIS.

The ISIS has carried out relentless assaults on the country’s Shia Muslims since emerging in eastern Afghanistan in 2014. The ISIS is also seen as the greatest threat to the United States.

The weekend meetings in Doha are the first since US forces withdrew from Afghanistan in late August, ending a 20-year military presence, and the Taliban rose to power in the nation. The US has made it clear the talks are not a preamble to recognition. The talks also come on the heels of two days of difficult discussions between Pakistani officials and US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Islamabad. The focus of those talks was also Afghanistan. Pakistani officials urged the US to engage with Afghanistan’s new rulers



People view the damage inside a mosque following a bombing in Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan on Friday. A powerful explosion in the mosque frequented by a Shia Muslims left at least 46 dead, witnesses and the Taliban’s spokesman said

and release billions of dollars in international funds to stave off an economic meltdown. Pakistan also had a message for the Taliban, urging them to become more inclusive and pay attention to human rights and its minority ethnic and religious groups.

Afghanistan’s Shia clerics assailed the Taliban rulers following Friday’s attack demanding greater protection at their places of worship. The ISIS affiliate claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as a Uyghur

Muslim. The claim said the attack targeted both Shias and the Taliban for their purported willingness to expel Uyghurs to meet demands from China. It was the deadliest attack since foreign troops left Afghanistan at the end of August.

Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the US-based Wilson Center, said Friday’s attack could be a harbinger of more violence. Most of the Uyghur militants belong to the East Turkestan Islamic

Movement, which has found a safe haven in the border regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan for decades.

“If the (ISIS) claim is true, China’s concerns about terrorism in (Afghanistan) - to which the Taliban claims to be receptive - will increase,” he tweeted following the attack.

Both Afghanistan and Pakistan want the anticipated economic benefits from China’s multi-billion Belt and Road initiative project linking Beijing to Central and South Asia.

They have been willing to ignore China’s persecution of its Muslim Uyghur population. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid last month called the Chinese project the region’s most important economic venture.

During the Doha talks, US officials will also seek to hold Taliban leaders to commitments that they would allow Americans and other foreign nationals to leave Afghanistan, along with Afghans

who once worked for the US military or government and other Afghan allies, a US official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak on the record about the meetings. The Biden administration has fielded questions and complaints about the slow pace of US-facilitated evacuations from Taliban-ruled Afghanistan since the US withdrawal.

(Courtesy AP)





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