

OPINION 6

WOMEN AND MENTAL
HEALTH MORBIDITIES

WORLD 8

TAIWAN REJECTS CHINA'S PATH
AMID MILITARY FORCE SHOW

SPORT 12

T20 WORLD CUP: \$1.6M
FOR WINNERS

NEW DELHI, MONDAY OCTOBER 11, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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10 VIVACITY

CAPSULE

DIESEL CROSSES ₹100
MARK IN GANDHINAGAR

New Delhi: Diesel prices on Sunday crossed ₹100-a-litre-mark in Gandhinagar and Leh as fuel prices were hiked again in sync with firming international oil prices. Petrol price was hiked by 30 paise per litre and diesel by 35 paise a litre, according to a price notification of fuel retailers. The sixth straight day of price hike pushed fuel rates to a new record high. The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹104.14 a litre and ₹110.12 per litre in Mumbai, the notification showed. In Mumbai, diesel now comes for ₹100.66 a litre. **P9**

N-POWERED CARRIER
FOR MALABAR EXERCISE

New Delhi: Nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson will be part of the second phase of the high-voltage Malabar exercise from October 12-15, featuring the navies of all four Quad countries, India, the US, Australia and Japan.

NCB RECORDS STATEMENT
OF SRK'S DRIVER

Mumbai: The Narcotics Control Bureau has recorded the statement of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's driver in connection with the seizure of drugs from a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast, an NCB official said on Sunday.

GEHLOT'S BROTHER
SUMMONED BY ED

New Delhi: The brother of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has been summoned again by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in a case of illegal export of fertiliser.

'No power in blackout, coal shortage rumours'

Miscommunication
from GAIL, Tata
Power in Delhi
created panic: Min

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After several States, including Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Tamil Nadu, raised concerns of blackouts amid fears of coal shortage, the Government on Sunday said that there was no shortage of coal in the country.

Union Power Minister RK Singh, who reviewed the coal stock position at thermal power plants, including those plants which are supplying power to distribution companies of Delhi on Sunday, lashed out at Tata Power and GAIL for sending "baseless SMSs" to customers and creating panic about a power crisis, warning that such acts will be treated as instances of "irresponsible behavior."

Singh noted that the country is four days ahead of the average requirement of coal per day and an "unnecessary panic" was being created over the issue.

"We have an average coal reserve (at power stations) that can last for more than four days. The stock is replenished

♦ Punjab has already been experiencing at least three-four hours of power cuts on a regular basis due to the severe coal shortage at thermal power plants. According to reports, two units each at the Talwandi Sabo power plant, Ropar plant and one unit at the Lehra Mohabbat, 475 MW plant have been shut. Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi asked the Centre to immediately increase the State's coal supply as per its quota.

♦ Rajasthan has announced that it is resorting to two to three hours scheduled power cuts daily to tide over the power crisis. Tata Power, which has signed contracts to supply

1,850 MW of electricity to Gujarat, 475 MW to Punjab, 380 MW to Rajasthan, 760 MW to Maharashtra and 380 MW to Haryana from its imported coal-based power plant at Mundra in Gujarat, has stopped generation.

♦ Jharkhand is also witnessing a huge power crisis and resorted to six to seven hours of load shedding in Dhanbad, Bokaro, Giridih, Chatra, Koderma and Hazaribagh.

♦ Bihar is getting only 2,400 MW of power from the NTPC during the peak hours as against the 4,500

MW committed by it. Most areas are facing four to five hours of power cuts in the State.

♦ The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation said it suspended power supply in parts of Chennai to carry out maintenance work.

♦ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "urgent personal attention" calling the situation "quite alarming". "The power sector is being pushed into turmoil because of coal shortage," Reddy pointed out.



every day. We are supplying power to the entire country. Whoever wants, give me a requisition and I will supply them," adding that he was in touch with Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Pralhad Joshi.

Dismissing Delhi's concerns over a potential power crisis in the national Capital, which prompted Chief

Continued on Page 2

Sisodia accuses Centre of 'turning a blind eye' to every problem

New Delhi: Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday alleged that the Centre is not ready to accept that there is a coal crisis and its policy to "turn a blind eye" to every problem could prove fatal for the country. His

remarks came after the Coal Ministry asserted that sufficient dry fuel is available in the country to meet the demand of electricity generating plants and dismissed as "entirely misplaced" any fear of disruption in power supply. **See Page 2**

Min Mishra's son
sent to 14-day
judicial custody

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A local court in Lakhimpur Kheri has sent Ashish Mishra alias Monu, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra, to 14 days' judicial remand after his arrest by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Uttar Pradesh Police after 12 hours of intensive interrogation on Saturday night.

The cops, however, failed to nab MP Akhilesh Das' nephew Ankit Das, also one of the prime suspects in the case.

Special Remand Magistrate Diksha Bharati refused the application of the SIT seeking police remand after midnight and sent Ashish to 14-days' judicial remand. However, the SIT will move the court again on Monday to seek police remand of Ashish Mishra for further interrogation.

During the marathon interrogation on Saturday, Ashish failed to furnish any supportive evidence to prove his innocence, that he was not present in any of the three SUVs that went about crushing the farmers, killing four of them, in Tikonina area of Kheri on Sunday last.

Continued on Page 2

'Lakhimpur's people have no hope of justice from UP Govt'

Priyanka blows
Cong poll bugle in
PM's constituency

RAMATMA SRIVASTAVA ■ VARANASI

Coming down heavily on the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government, Congress national general secretary and the party's UP incharge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday said the farmers and the common man have no hope of justice from the BJP-led Government, and it's for the first time in the country that the police "invited" a murder accused for talk at the police station.

"The Congress will continue its fight until the victims of Lakhimpur Kheri get justice and the Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra tenders his resignation" she said.

Blowing the election bugle of the Congress while addressing a Kisan Nyay Rally at Jagatpur Inter College Grounds in Varanasi, Priyanka said that when she visited Sonbhadra where 13 *adivasis* were killed by people having the patronage of



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi being felicitated during the 'Kisan Nyay' rally, ahead of UP Assembly Elections 2022 in Varanasi on Sunday **PTI**

the administration and the police, she realised that the victims' families just wanted justice and not compensation from the Government. Similarly, when she visited Hathras after the rape of a girl, and recently Lakhimpur Kheri, the victims'

families wanted only justice and not compensation.

"But they have no hope of justice from the present BJP-led Government and are looking towards the Congress Party," she said.

Continued on Page 2

'Don't turn issue into Hindu vs Sikh narrative'

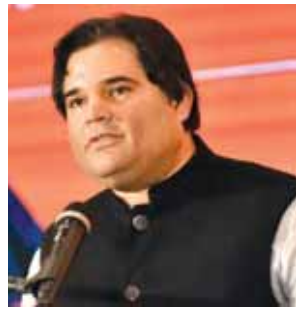
Risky to reopen
wounds that
have taken long
to heal: Varun

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's Member of Parliament (MP) Varun Gandhi, who had earlier demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible for the "murder" of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh (UP), on Sunday warned against attempts to communalise the incident and turn it into a "Hindu vs Sikh battle."

Varun said it was dangerous to create these "fault-lines" and reopen wounds that have taken a long time to heal.

By making these comments, the three-time BJP MP from Pilibhit has hit-out at



Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra who had blamed "Khalistanis" for the Lakhimpur Kheri incident that occurred on October 3.

Mishra's son Ashish Mishra is an accused in the case and was arrested by the UP Police after the Supreme Court lashed-out at the UP Government for not taking him into custody even though a case had been registered against him a week ago after an SUV ran-over agitating farmers in the State.

Continued on Page 2

Two held in J&K in
IED recovery caseThree ISIS
associates also
arrested by NIA

PNS ■ JAMMU



ried out simultaneous searches with the assistance of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and J&K Police.

In another development three people were held in J&K over their alleged association with the banned ISIS.

Continued on Page 2

Setback for Abdullah's
party in JammuTwo prominent
leaders Slathia,
Rana quit NC

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Devendra Singh Rana, who is a former close aide of Omar Abdullah and Provincial President of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC), on Sunday resigned from the primary membership of the party.

Rana is the younger brother of the Minister of State in the PMO Dr Jitendra Singh.

Along with him another senior party leader Surjit Singh Slathia also resigned from all his positions in NC with immediate effect. Confirming this political development the NC tweeted, "Dr Farooq Abdullah

has received & accepted the resignations of Mr Salathia & Mr Rana. No further action or comment is deemed necessary."

Rana, who had worked closely with former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as his political advisor, is tipped to join the Bharatiya Janata Party in the national Capital on Monday.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* over telephone, three-time J&K Legislator Rana said, "Yes, I have resigned from the NC. You will get to know about my next move soon". After making the formal announcement in Jammu, Rana left for New Delhi.

For about one week speculations were rife in the political quarters about Rana's next political move.

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'Modi's goal is not to stay in power but to change country'

Shah slams Opp
for portraying
PM as a dictator

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the "biggest reformer" and "unparalleled listener" and a democrat, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that he made a "new model of development" that "echoes" from Gujarat to Delhi and slammed the Opposition for trying to bring the Prime Minister down and portraying him as a dictator.

Shah said that the goal of Modi is not to stay in power but to change the country.

Describing Modi as the



biggest reformer, Shah said in a TV interview that the Prime Minister made a new model of development that echoes from Gujarat to Delhi.

Heaping praise on the Prime Minister, the former BJP president said as a Chief Minister of Gujarat Modi had shown that the multi-party system can work effectively and efficiently in India. Shah said it was Modi who by his efforts

overcame the water crisis in Gujarat and ended "tanker Raj" in the State.

Shah spoke at length about Modi's achievements as CM and PM, and also slammed the Opposition for trying to bring Modi down. When asked if criticism affects Modi, Shah said, "He (PM) only gets stronger as more and more criticise him".

When asked about his comments on the perception that Modi does not listen to anyone and takes all decisions by himself in a way a dictator would do, Shah said "I am fortunate to work with him both when he was CM and now as PM and I have not seen a better and calm listener than him, in all the meetings he listens for long and does not speak at all, and then decides".

Continued on Page 2

3-judge Bench
to hear Kalkaji
matter: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that its three-judge Bench would hear an appeal challenging a Delhi High Court order directing removal of encroachments and unauthorised occupants and shopkeepers from the Kalkaji Temple in South Delhi.

A Bench of Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh noted that a three-judge Bench of the apex court is already seized of the issue which has been dealt with by the single judge of the High Court.

"We are informed that a three-judge Bench of this Court is monitoring the issue which has been dealt with by the single judge in the impugned order and the date of the listing of that matter is October 25, 2021..."

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India is headed towards power crisis: Sisodia

‘CENTRE SHOULD WAKE UP FROM ITS SLUMBER AND ARRANGE FOR COAL’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday alleged that the Central Government is not ready to accept that there is a coal crisis.

“India is headed towards power crisis and the Centre should wake up from its slumber soon and arrange for coal,” adding, “Central Government is incompetent and can not run the country.” Centre runs away from every crisis,” Sisodia said.

His reaction came after the Union Power Minister R K Singh called ‘Delhi’s power crisis’ a ‘rumor.’

“The Union Power Minister said there isn’t any coal crisis and that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal should not have written a letter to the Prime Minister on the issue. It is sad that a Union Cabinet Minister has adopted such an irresponsible approach,” Sisodia said while addressing a press conference.

Sisodia linked the power crisis with the Oxygen crisis during the second wave of Covid-19. “In the second wave of Covid-19, the country had faced an oxygen crisis due to



this irresponsible attitude of the Centre, thousands of people had lost their life,” the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said.

Sisodia targeted Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) ruled Centre and said, “the Central government is driving the country into trouble. The governments of Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat etc. are warning the Center about the incoming crisis. Many power plants have closed. The state governments are planning long power cuts. In spite of this, the Central Government is turning a blind eye. The Central Government is neither con-

cerned with this crisis nor does it want to solve it. At this time the Central Government, as a responsible government, should accept that there is a coal crisis in the country, find a solution and not blame the state governments.”

Appealing to the Central Government, Sisodia said that if charge not taken in time, there would be a bigger crisis in the country. He said that governments run with cooperation, so to overcome this crisis as a nation, the Central Government should adopt a cooperative attitude and take the state governments with it to make a plan to overcome this crisis.

Meanwhile, Delhi state BJP leader said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is misleading citizens on possible power cuts. “Both Union Power Minister Raj Kumar Singh and Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi have categorically stated that the Center will not allow any shortage of fuel for power plants supplying power to Delhi. One fails to understand why despite Centre’s assurance the Delhi Government continues to mislead people,” Aadesh Gupta, president , Delhi BJP said.

Cops asked to keep vigil over terror threat during festive season

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the festival season round the corner, Rakesh Asthana, the Delhi Police Commissioner has instructed Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) to renew emphasis on anti-terror measures, enhance police visibility on the ground and intensify night patrolling across the national Capital.

In the crime and Covid review meeting on Saturday, the CP laid emphasis on anti-terror measures by strengthening the eyes and ears scheme of the force, public participation and interactions with market as well as Residents Welfare Associations

He also emphasised on enhanced police visibility on the ground and intensifying night patrolling.

Reviewing the state of street crime and organised crime in the city, the CP said that a lot of action has been recently taken against gangsters and further instructed the senior district officers to strengthen efforts to nab them.

Through another virtual meeting, he addressed over 5,000 police personnel of the ranks of Assistant Commissioner of Police, Station House Officer, Sub-Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of different units of the force and conveyed them greetings on Navratri and the upcoming festivities, according to police officials.

Outlining the various welfare

measures taken for the personnel recently, he informed them about the mandatory annual preventive health check-up for Delhi Police personnel above the age of 40, a measure taken to keep a check on health issues so that personnel remain fit and healthy at work, the officials said.

The CP also said that henceforth personnel deployed on night duty will be asked to report for duty the next day after 2 pm.

“Earlier, post night checking, personnel were asked to report at the office the next day by 10 am on many occasions but henceforth, the Delhi CP has directed that personnel be called only from 2 pm onwards the next day so that they can get adequate rest and report to duty fresh,” the officials said.

Delhi Police personnel will now get leaves to spend time with their families to celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries among other important occasions of their lives.

Police personnel above the age of 50 would also be considered for transfer postings to locations near their house so as to avoid inconvenience to them and can attend to family responsibilities as well.

During the crime review meeting, the district DCPs have also been asked to personally hear grievance redressal of their personnel and address their concerns.

Over 32 trees in city to be felled, 632 to get transplanted for Govt colony’s redevelopment

New Delhi: The Delhi forest department has given permission to fell 32 trees and transplant another 632 for the redevelopment of a Government residential colony at Kasturba Nagar in South Delhi.

The 32 trees to be felled include 13 dry trees. The forest department has asked the user agency, Central Public Works Department (CPWD), to deposit Rs 3.71 crore for creation and maintenance of compensatory plantation for a period of seven years.

A total of 6,510 saplings of Neem, Amaltas, Peepal, Pilkhan, Gular, Bargad, Desi Kikkar and Arjun will be planted as compensatory plantation at Utsav Marg in Rohini.

The forest department has asked the CPWD to submit a detailed plan for site preparation and plantation before initiating tree felling and transplantation.

The transplantation of trees has to be initiated immediately after permission is issued and should be completed in three months, after which a completion report has to be submitted to the tree officer.

The user agency has been asked to adhere to all conditions mentioned in Tree Transplantation Policy 2020 scrupulously.

According to the policy notified in December last year, agencies concerned have to transplant a minimum of 80 percent of the trees affected by their development works.

Ten saplings are required to be planted for each tree transplanted or felled and the Department of Forests and Wildlife has to keep a detailed and up-to-date record of applications approved for tree felling under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 on its website. **PTI**

City records 29 fresh Covid cases, 1 death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital reported one death due to Covid-19 and 29 fresh cases on Sunday 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 “The death toll due to the coronavirus infection in Delhi stands at 25,089. A total of 58989 tests -- 43135 RT-PCR and 15854 rapid antigen tests -- were conducted a day ago,” it said.

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.

Setback for...

From page 1

It is learnt differences had cropped up between him and the top brass of the party ever since he vociferously started battling for fulfilling the political aspirations of the people belonging to the Jammu region. A section of leaders based in Kashmir had raised objections over his political statements from Jammu. Rana even visited Srinagar and met JKNC President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice-President Omar Abdullah. However, he later claimed he went there only to condole the demise of a close relative of the Abdullahs.

Two held...

From page 1

Giving a statement on the arrests in the EID case the NIA said, “The case was initially registered as FIR no. 234/2021 dated 27.06.2021 of PS Bahu Fort District Jammu, relating to the recovery of an IED from a Lashker-e-Toiba terrorist in Bathindi, Jammu, on 27.06.2021 for indulging in terrorist acts in J&K”.

After launching investigations in the case, the NIA had registered the case as RC-04/2021/NIA/JMU dated 19.07.2021. So far three LeT terrorists have been arrested in this case.

Ongoing investigations have so far revealed that Pakistan-based handlers of proscribed terror outfit LeT and their associates based in J&K had conspired to cause extensive terror activities for harming the general public. They had planned that the responsibility for the terrorist acts so committed would be taken by the pseudo-acronym TRF so as to maintain plausible deniability and evade law enforcement agencies.

Min Mishra’s...

From page 1

DIG Upendra Agarwal, who led the interrogation, informed media persons on Saturday night that they were taking Ashish Mishra in custody. The DIG also disclosed that Ashish was not cooperating with the investigating team.

Sources said that the minister’s son could not give details of his whereabouts at the time of the incident when the violence took place.

The sources confirmed that Ashish provided videos to the team that he was not present at the time of the violence but the video had contradictory visuals. Ashish tried to convince that he was at a wrestling function in his Banveerpur village at the time of the violence. But his video could not prove it.

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Vivek Bansal & Ms. Madhvi Bansal are interlopers to purchase the Property no. 42/1, East Patel Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi, 110008 (hereinafter referred to as said property) from Mr. Hemanshu Parwani and Ms. Madhvi Bansal are the owners of said property by way of Will dated 14.12.1999 executed by Mr. J. S. Parwani (hereinafter referred to as Mr. P.W. Parwani) registered on 14.12.1999 in the City Sub-Registrar Delhi as per Book No. 3 2/d No. 34 Page No. 12 & Document No. 5361 and Now, Mr. Vivek Bansal & Ms. Ashima Bansal have agreed to create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients FNB Housing Finance Ltd. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and/or objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said property or part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 7 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objection raised after the completion of 7 days shall not be binding upon the said property or any Client & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Suchir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertals, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-II, Tower, B-98, Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9618228636 (M)

AAP to start free spraying of bio-decomposer on farms under Winter Action Plan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Sunday said it will start the free spraying of the bio-decomposer solution on farmlands from Monday under winter action plan. Free spraying of decomposer will be started from Fatehpur Jat village of the Narela Vidhan Sabha.

With the help of Pusa scientists, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi is preparing at Kharkhari Nahar the solution from September 24 and will provide it free to the farmers.

Aiming to deal with stubble burning pollution, Delhi government also urged neighbouring states to provide this microbial solution free to their farmers.

Environment minister Gopal Rai, said, “Stubble burning also causes pollution in Delhi.”

Meanwhile, the AAP government has also submitted a



third party audit report to the Commission for Air Quality Management.

According to SAFAR, a unit of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), air quality in Delhi recorded under moderate category. It will further deteriorate in the next three days, as the pollution monitoring agency said. “Delhi’s AQI is in the moderate category with PM10 as fire emission upwind along with local and regional dust under dry conditions. With the presence of such dry conditions both fire emission and dust suspension are going to degrade. AQI will degrade to be in poor condition for next three days,” it added.

Revenue Dept calls for revising circle rates based on prevailing market rates

New Delhi:The Delhi Government’s Revenue Department has prepared a report to revise circle rates of properties in the city by breaking it down into sub categories within eight existing categories to reflect the prevailing market rates, officials said.

A committee of the Revenue Department, after evaluation of circle rates of different kinds of landed properties, has prepared the report which will be examined at the minister level before sending it for approval of the government, said a senior officer of the department.

“The circle rates are currently fixed as per eight categories as per municipal classifications. It could be further be broken down into 3-4 sub categories within each category for better appreciation of property rates,” the officer said.

The circle rates in Delhi were last increased in 2014. Currently, depending on the area, circle rates are divided in eight categories of ‘A’ to ‘H’ following classification of the municipal corporation.

The circle rate in ‘A’ category areas like posh Vasant Vihar is Rs 7.74 lakh per square metre while in the least developed ‘H’ areas like Nand Nagri is Rs 23,280 per square metre. Officials said that market rates of properties even within a given category have been found to be varying widely depending on level of development and commercial value.

“So even within a lower circle rate category, a particular area may have high market value of properties there which may be more than a less developed part of a higher circle rate category,” the officer said. **PTI**

3-judge...

From page 1

“In view of the aforesaid, it would be appropriate that the present matter is also listed along with the same,” the bench said.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by Kalkaji Mandir Vikreta Sangathan challenging the September 27 order of the high court directing removal of encroachments and unauthorised occupants and shopkeepers, who do not have any valid legal rights to occupy the shops, from Kalkaji Temple in South Delhi.

The high court had said it is essential for a temple, where thousands of devotees visit for conducting puja every day, irrespective of its public or private status, to be devoid of unauthorised encroachments, which results in extreme inconvenience and safety and security concerns for the devotees.

It had appointed retired Delhi High Court judge, Justice J R Midha as the administrator of the Kalkaji Temple for performing various functions in relation to the religious place.

The high court had also appointed Goonmeet Singh Chauhan, a renowned architect who has undertaken various projects of public importance, to submit a re-development plan for the Kalkaji Temple and the entire surrounding complex, and said he shall work closely with the Administrator and his team.

‘Modi’s...

From page 1

“Sometime I myself think where is the need for so much discussion...,” said the senior BJP leader and rejected as “completely baseless the view that Modi is dictatorial.”

“Leadership is the biggest quality in PM Modi,” said Shah.

“Modi gives importance to quality suggestions, not to persons giving the suggestions”, he added. During the interview, Shah time and again sought to emphasise on the country’s economic growth under Modi’s regime and pointed-out Gujarat model of development and how Modi gave a model for others to learn from. “Modi ji takes decisions by taking risks. Our aim is to spur change in the country. The world’s largest democracy with a population of 130 crores has to be taken to a respectable place in the world”, he said.

He said that Modi works for the poor, while the Opposition sits in power by making discontent inside the political capital. “After nearly 27 years of Left rule in Bengal, see the State’s situation, and compare it with Gujarat”, he said. Shah recalled “three big stages of Prime Minister Modi’s life, all three were challenging”, he said.

“Modi Ji’s public life can be divided into three parts. First- as a General Secretary (Organisation) after joining the BJP. Secondly- as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Third- As Prime Minister in national politics”, said Home Minister.

‘Don’t turn...

From page 1

Varun, who along with his mother Maneka Gandhi, was recently dropped from the BJP National Executive, said the struggle for justice in Kalkipur Kheri is about the “cruel massacre of poor farmers in the face of an arrogant local power elite”, and the issue has no religious connotations.

“To use the word ‘Khalistani’ liberally to describe the protesting farmers is not only an insult to the generations of these proud sons of the Tarai who have fought and shed blood on our borders, it is also extremely dangerous for our national unity if this provokes the wrong kind of reaction,” he said.

In a tweet, he said: “An attempt to turn Kalkipur Kheri into a Hindu vs Sikh battle is being made. Not only is this an immoral & false narrative, it is dangerous to create these fault-lines & reopen wounds that have taken a generation to heal. We must not put petty political gains above national unity.” Varun, who on October 2 on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, described the glorification of Nathuram Godse, the assassin of the Mahatma, as “shameful”, has taken a completely contrarian line on the farmers’ agitation by supporting their demands, which is against the BJP’s official stand.

The BJP MP who has penned a book ‘Rural Manifesto- Realising India through her villages’ has divergent views from the party on developing the rural economy.

‘No power...

From page 1

Minister Arvind Kejriwal to seek Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s intervention, the Minister said that there was no crisis regarding power supply in Delhi.

“Delhi is being supplied the required amount of electricity and it will continue. Panic has been unnecessarily created about coal shortage and this is due to miscommunication from GAIL and Tata Power”, he said.

Singh explained that the panic over possible power shortage started because GAIL sent a message to Delhi discoms about stopping gas supply because their contract is ending.

“The Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi spoke with me on Saturday evening about a letter written by the Delhi CM regarding possible power supply disruption. I communicated to him that our officials are monitoring the situation and no such issue would arise,” the Minister said.

“I have asked the GAIL CMD to continue supplying the required amount of gas to power stations across the country. He has assured me that the supplies will continue. Neither was there any shortage of gas in the past, nor will it happen in the future,” he added.

The National Thermal Power Corporation has also been advised to offer the normative declared capacity to the Delhi discoms as per their allocations from gas-based power plants under respective PPAs.



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Railways not sure if ‘Rail Neer’ is a packaged item



DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

It is as surprising as it gets. More than a year since the Indian Railways allowed the sale of only “packed items” on platforms keeping in mind the Covid protocols, its bureaucracy hasn’t been able to decide whether its very own branded bottled mineral water “Rail Neer” is a “packaged article” or not.

As per the August 2020 circular, the Ministry of Railways directed only packaged items to be sold at the contract shops, licensed trolleys and vendors on the platforms in line with the covid protocols. The Railway Board, in its August 13, 2020 com-

mercial circular, permitted the Zonal Railways sale of ‘other’ packed items besides the permission for sale of fresh fruits and juices from the authorised fruit and juice stalls across the railway stations in the country.

Interestingly, while most of the railway zones abided by the policy and allowed the sale of Rail Neer along with packed food, snacks and beverages items, the Northern Railways took exception and suspended the sale of Rail Neer with a query forwarded to the Railway Board to clarify that it be allowed under packed articles or not.

The prolonged indecisiveness of the Railway Board, Northern Railways and its catering arm IRCTC

has, thus, left lakhs of daily passengers, authorised caterers and vendors in lurch across railway stations.

“Whether Rail Neer is permitted under packed items or not,” the Northern Railway queried from the Railway Board twice in last three months between March and June 2021, after several follow ups by the vendors and caterers associations under the Delhi Division.

“We have been running from pillar to post to seek one approval that Rail Neer should be considered under packed item as per the policy guidelines issued by the railways in the wake of covid sale purchase guidelines. It is ridiculous that such a big

machinery is taking so many months just to decide whether water they seal in their dedicated units are packaged water bottles or not,” said Ravindra Gupta, President of the All India Railway Catering Licensees Welfare Association.

When sought comment on the crisis, a senior railway official requesting anonymity said that he will have to look into the matter and enquire why such an unfriendly issue is entangled between the railways, caterers and above all the passengers.

Railway rued the fact that while passengers are a more harassed lot when they are unable to buy a water bottle from the railways’ contractually engaged stalls and vendors, the railways failed to understand that it is losing revenue as compared to the vendor or the authorised sellers. “The allowing of sale of Rail Neer under packaged item will benefit more the railways,” said Gupta.

Owner of a railway stall selling packed fruit juices, snacks items at New Delhi Railway Station, Diwakar Mishra, stated that rather than stall owners who already incurring huge losses due to the pandemic incurred business impact, the stall owners are looking into the aspect where passengers the end users will be more benefitted. “Passengers can buy all permitted edible items under one roof including the packaged water bottle or mineral water. It is now more than a year the decision on this crisis is pending,” Mishra said when enquired after visiting his stall.

Mental health of 73% Indians hit by pandemic: Survey



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A whopping 73 per cent of Indians have said that their mental health has been impacted by the pandemic — either due to isolation, restrictions or concerns for well-being while nearly 85 per cent of those surveyed spent more on wellness items during the crisis compared to previous years, according to a survey titled ‘Amex Trendex’, the trend report from American Express.

Around 2,000 general population travellers in the United States and 1,000 in Japan, Australia, Mexico, the UK, Canada and India were surveyed.

A whopping 93 per cent said they would rather choose to have a stronger mental health than a new car and 89 per cent agreed they would give up their favourite TV show for

it. More than 80 per cent Indian consumers said they have taken advantage of new mental health resources during the pandemic.

They are also spending more on natural vitamins and supplements (59 per cent), in-home fitness equipment (56 per cent) and organic food (58 per cent) and exercise (43 per cent). Also Read — Anxiety of socialisation can be cause of concern for students returning to schools.

In the meantime, on the World Mental Health Day, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region noted that while there has been an increase in demand, the critical mental health services have either been disrupted or halted.

Bereavement, isolation, loss of income, anxiety and fear

have triggered mental health conditions or worsened existing ones. This has increased the risk of severe outcomes for people with pre-existing mental, neurological or substance use disorders.

“Most of the Member countries currently spend less than 1% of their health budgets on mental health despite evidence of high returns on the investment for care and treatment of mental health disorders, and despite growth in mental health awareness,” she said in a statement here.

The WHO South-East Asia Region which is home to one-fourth of the global population, accounts for 39% of the nearly 700,000 suicides that take place globally every year. Suicide is the leading cause of death among young people aged 15-29, added the statement.

Look into gravity of offence before granting anticipatory bail: SC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gravity of an offence and specific allegations are the parameters which should be looked into by a court while granting anticipatory bail to an accused, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna made the observations while setting aside an order passed by the Madhya Pradesh High Court granting anticipatory bail to two persons accused in a murder case.

The top court said it has to determine whether on the basis of the material available at this stage, the high court applied the correct principles in allowing the applications for anticipatory bail.

“Courts ought to be generally guided by considerations such as the nature and gravity of the offences, the role attributed to the applicant, and the facts of the case, while considering whether to grant anticipatory bail, or refuse it,” the bench said.

The top court was hearing appeals challenging anticipatory bail granted to two accused in connection with an offence registered under Sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) read with 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

Cong seeks to meet President to present facts in Lakhimpur case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Sunday wrote a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind seeking an urgent meeting over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in order to raise questions on the investigation that followed after the incident.

Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal urged the President to allow a delegation of seven party members led by Rahul Gandhi to “present a detailed memorandum of facts”.

Calling it a “shocking incident of broad day massacre of farmers”, Venugopal noted that it has “shaken the conscience of the entire nation”.

“Even more tragic are the open warnings given by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Mishra Teni and consequent trampling of farmers under a Thar Jeep owned by



the Minister and his family,” he wrote.

“Farmers, who were eyewitnesses, have openly stated that they were run over by vehicle being driven by son of the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. Despite all-round protests and intervention of the Supreme Court, no decisive action has been taken

either against the guilty or against the Minister,” he added in a letter written a day before the arrest of alleged accused.

The proposed seven-member delegation, apart from Rahul Gandhi, includes AK Antony, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Priyanka Gandhi, KC Venugopal and Adhir Ranjan Choudhury.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Those who think that vaping or e-cigarettes are healthier than smoking conventional cigarettes, think again. Researchers have found that vaping aerosols contain thousands of unknown chemicals and substances not disclosed by manufacturers, including industrial chemicals and caffeine. Johns Hopkins University researchers also found the vaping aerosols contain three industrial chemicals, a pesticide and two flavorings linked with possible toxic effects and respiratory irritation which even the vapers are unaware of.

The study is published in the journal Chemical Research in Toxicology. The study is the first to apply to vaping liquids and aerosols, an advanced fingerprinting technique used to identify chemicals in food and wastewater.

“Existing research that compared e-cigarettes with normal cigarettes found that cigarette contaminants are much lower in e-cigarettes. The problem is that e-cigarette aerosols contain other completely uncharacterized chemicals that might have health risks that we don’t yet know about,” said senior author Carsten Prasse, an assistant professor of environmental health and engineering at Johns Hopkins.

Previous studies of e-cigarettes have looked specifically for evidence of the hazardous chemicals found in traditional cigarettes. But here the researchers performed a non-targeted analysis to explore the full range of chemicals both in the vaping liquid and the aerosols. Using a chemical fingerprinting technique based on liquid chromatography/high-resolution mass spectrometry, never used on vape samples but used before to identify organic compounds in wastewater, food and blood, the team tested four popular products. Although it’s possible to buy vaping products in hundreds of flavors, here for consistency they tested only tobacco flavored liquid.

They found thousands of unknown chemicals in the e-liquid, and the number of compounds increased significantly in the aerosol. Furthermore, they detected



hydrocarbon-like compounds, typically associated with combustion, which manufacturers say is not happening during vaping. In traditional cigarettes, the condensed hydrocarbons generated during combustion are toxic.

“One of the main ways electronic cigarettes have been marketed is that they operate at temperatures below combustion, which would make them safer than traditional smoking,” said lead author Mina Tehrani, a postdoctoral fellow in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. “Our study shows that this novel fingerprinting approach can be applied to assess whether combustion-like processes are going on.”

The team found nearly 2,000 chemicals, the vast majority of which are unidentified. Of those the team could identify, six substances were potentially harmful, including

three chemicals never previously found in e-cigarettes. Tehrani was particularly surprised to find the stimulant caffeine in two of the four products. Caffeine has previously been detected in e-cigarettes but only in the caffeine-oriented flavors like coffee and chocolate.

“That might be giving smokers an extra kick that is not disclosed,” she said. “We wonder if they are adding it intentionally.”

“People just need to know that they’re inhaling a very complex mixture of chemicals when they vape. And for a lot of these compounds we have no idea what they actually are,” Prasse said. Co-author Ana M. Rule, an expert in metals exposures from vaping with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said many young people who vape never smoked — so they aren’t making a healthier choice, only starting out with a risky one.

SC sets aside C’garh HC order that directed CBI to lodge FIR in SRC case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has set aside a Chhattisgarh High Court order which had directed the CBI to register an FIR in connection with the alleged misappropriation of over ₹ 1,000 crore in the State Resource Centre (SRC) and Physical Referral Rehabilitation Centre (PRRC) over a period of around 10 years.

The high court had passed the order in January last year on a public interest litigation seeking direction to the CBI to register an FIR, including against some senior bureaucrats, in connection with the alleged siphoning of funds from the SRC and PRRC of the state government.

The apex court noted that in his plea filed in the high court, the petitioner had arrayed 31 respondents including some senior officials as parties but there was nothing on record to indicate that all of them were duly served before the order was passed.

“This is not the way a public interest litigation can be proceeded with. More so, in respect of allegations which are serious, attributing criminality to high officials of the state government and other persons,” a three-judge bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar said in its order passed on October 7.

The bench, also comprising justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, passed the order while hearing a plea against the high court order.

It said the petitioner having chosen to implead the parties by name, “the minimum fairness in dealing with the allegations in the writ petition was to put all such respondents to notice before passing any peremptory order.”

“Accordingly, we set aside the impugned judgment and order and relegate the parties by restoring the writ petition to the file of the high court to its original number for being considered afresh on its own merit and in accordance with law,” it said.

The bench was informed that on the basis of the high court order, the CBI had registered an FIR in the matter in February last year.

It said the FIR would stand revived and investigation can proceed only if the high court finally answers the issue in favour of the petitioner.

“Until the final order is passed, no precipitative steps be taken by the CBI in connection with the said FIR,” it said, while disposing of the appeal.

The bench, which said the parties would appear before the high court on October 28, requested the high court to deal with the matter expeditiously.

Nod to export 40 lakh India-made ‘Sputnik Light’ doses to Russia

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

India has allowed export of around 40 lakh doses of domestically-manufactured coronavirus vaccine ‘Sputnik Light’ to Russia, sources said on Sunday.

Sputnik Light - the single-dose Covid-19 vaccine variant of Russia’s Sputnik - has not yet been approved for emergency use in India.

Hetero and Dr Reddy’s Laboratories, the Indian partner of Russian sovereign wealth fund RDIF, markets the Sputnik range of vaccines globally.

There were various view points among Indian experts about the single-dose vaccine’s efficacy on Indians.

In September, the Drugs Controller General of India had granted permission for the conducting Phase 3 bridging trials of Sputnik Light on the Indian population.

The nod comes after a recent study published in the medical journal The Lancet said that Sputnik Light showed 78.6 to 83.7 per cent efficacy against Covid-19, significantly higher than most two-shot vaccines.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation’s Subject Expert Committee had, in July, denied grant of emergency use authorisation to Sputnik Light, stressing need to Phase 3 trial of the Russian vaccine in the country.

MoU signed for production of quality planting material of medicinal plants



FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) has joined hands with the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), in Himachal Pradesh’s Palampur, to promote the production of quality planting material of medicinal plants.

The two organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the development of

Quality Planting Material (QPM) of medicinal plants and herbs identified by NMPB and help in the establishment of their nurseries for QPM development, promotion, conservation and cultivation of the appropriate medicinal plants in different agro-climatic zones, including the Rare Endangered Threatened (RET) species and those growing in high-altitude regions.

The CSIR-IHBT will also undertake research on mass multiplication and agro-tech-

nology development while the NMPB, through its implementing agencies i.e. State Medicinal Plant Boards, State AYUSH societies, State Horticulture Departments and Regional-cum-Facilitation Centres across India, will support projects related to QPM Development.

The NMPB works towards supporting policies and programmes for the growth of trade, export, conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants.

Two cyclonic circulations to bring heavy rainfall to central, peninsular India: IMD



FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as conditions have become favourable for further withdrawal of southwest monsoon from large parts of northwest India, two cyclonic circulations in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal each will bring in heavy rainfall in much of central and peninsular India over next two days, the IMD said on Sunday.

Conditions are becoming favourable for further withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from some more parts of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, most parts of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and some parts of Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal during next two days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a statement.

The first cyclonic circulation lies over north Andaman Sea and its neighbourhood. Under its influence, a Low Pressure Area is very likely to form over the same region during next 36 hours. It is likely to become more marked and move west-north-westwards towards south Odisha-north

Andhra Pradesh coasts during subsequent 4-5 days, the IMD said.

“Under its influence, light to moderate rainfall at most places with isolated thunderstorm (wind speed 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph) and heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely over Andaman and Nicobar Islands during next 5 days,” it added.

A cyclonic circulation also lies over east central Arabian Sea and extends up to mid tropospheric level tilting south-westwards with height. It is very likely to persist during next 3-4 days, and under its influence, fairly widespread to widespread light to moderate rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over southern peninsular India during next 5 days and over Maharashtra during next two days.

Isolated very heavy rainfall is very likely over Kerala and Mahe between October 12 and 14, the IMD release said.

The withdrawal of southwest monsoon commenced very late on October 6 this year as against the normal date of September 17.

Raj: 4 held for lynching Dalit man over love affair

Jaipur: Four people have been arrested and one minor detained for allegedly beating a Dalit man to death over his love affair in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on October 7 in the Prempura area of Hanumangarh where the accused thrashed Jagdish with sticks until he died.

The accused also shot a video of the entire incident in which they are seen giving water to the victim to drink and then thrashing him repeatedly with sticks. Efforts are on to nab other accused, police added.

A sum of ₹4.12 lakh has been approved by the district collector as compensation, DGP ML Lather said in a statement.

The arrested have been



identified as Mukesh Kumar Ode, Dilip Kumar, Sikandar and Hansraj.

BSP supremo Mayawati took to Twitter to corner the ruling Congress over the incident.

"Beating a Dalit until death in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh is sad and condemnable but why the Congress high command is silent? Will Punjab and Chhattisgarh CM will go there and help the victim family with ₹50 lakh? The BSP wants an answer, otherwise, stop shedding crocodile tears in the name of the Dalits," Mayawati tweeted.

ADGP (Crime) Ravi Prakash said the victim, Jagdish Meghwal, was having an affair with his neighbour's wife.

Owing to a family dispute, she separated from her husband, and October 7, Jagdish had gone to meet the woman at her rented accommodation in Suratgarh.

Knowing this, her husband and 10 others kidnapped Jagdish from Suratgarh and took him to a farm house and thrashed him with sticks. The accused later dumped Jagdish outside his residence. By the time the family could act, Jagdish succumbed to his injuries, the officer said.

He said a case has been registered for kidnapping, murder and under sections of the SC/ST Act. The investigation has been handed over to the Rawatsar DSP. **PTI**

Railways for pocket-sized biodegradable spittoons

New Delhi: As public spitting remains a major nuisance despite more stringent provisions introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, a pocket-sized reusable and biodegradable spittoon, with seeds that will grow into plants when it is disposed of, is the latest green innovation being pushed by the Railways to tackle the menace.

It is estimated that the Indian Railways spends around ₹1,200 crore and a lot of water annually to clean the stains and marks caused by spitting on its premises, especially by pan and tobacco users. To discourage passengers from spitting on railway premises, vending machines or kiosks are being set up at 42 stations to provide the spittoon pouch for as little as ₹5 to ₹10. Three railway zones – Western, Northern and Central-- have awarded contracts to a startup, EzySpit, for this. These spittoons can be easily carried in pockets

and enable passengers to spit whenever they want and wherever they want while leaving the rail premises without ugly stains.

The product features macromolecule pulp technology and is equipped with a material that locks in bacteria and viruses present in saliva, according to its manufacturer.

These biodegradable pouches, which come in different sizes and are reusable up to 15 to 20 times, also contain seeds along with a material that absorbs the spit and turns them into a solid. Once used, these pouches when disposed of in mud or soil, encourage plant growth.

The Nagpur-based company has already started installing EzySpit vending machines at stations. They have also entered into contract with Nagpur Municipal Corporation and Aurangabad Municipal Corporation.



Women catch fish with 'jakois' in a water body at Disangmukh in Sivasagar on Sunday

PTI

Security beefed up for Durga Puja in Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police have beefed up security measures in the eastern metropolis following high alert issued by the Home Department in the wake security inputs that terror moves were on the prowl and could play mischief during the Durga Puja festivals. Security has been heightened in the lesser cities of Siliguri, Asansol and other district towns also, sources said.

Considering the fact that lakhs of pandal hoppers throng the streets of India's cultural capital 24x7, Kolkata Police is not leaving anything to chances. The police administration has roped in the community Puja organisers to play a role in strengthening the security network.

"Most Puja pandals have been equipped with CCTV cameras and watch towers near the Puja pandals as also the important thoroughfares," said a senior IPS officer adding the Puja committees have been

asked to appoint security volunteers to keep vigil on all suspicious things and movements.

"While most of the pandals are out of bounds for vehicles ... crowd movement is also being monitored closely," said the official adding makeshift police outposts have been constructed in all the big Puja pandals with a Deputy Commissioner level officer in charge of affairs. "The administration has not only asked us to take strictly maintain corona protocol but also keep an eye on the movements around," said an organizer of Tridhara Sanmilani a big Puja committee in South Kolkata adding "there are volunteers authorized by the Kolkata Police working on security network."

A notice issued by the State Home Department has also mentioned that immersion of all idols have to be completed between October 15 (Dashami) and October 18 in consultation with local police stations. "In the context of the



prevailing threats from divisive and terrorist groups to destabilise the country and to create law-and-order problems, you are advised to exercise utmost vigilance during the celebration of the festivals," the statement read.

The notice has also asked the community puja organizers "to engage adequate numbers of volunteers in Puja pandals to keep vigil on the movement of suspicious persons and all the volunteers should be directed to keep in touch with local police constantly."

The decisions to beef up security have been taken in the wake of arrests made by the National Investigation Agency and Kolkata Police Special Task Force over the past few months. The arrests have only strengthened the theory that the Bangladesh based terror outfits are trying to make Kolkata and Bengal a veritable terror corridor.

The arrest of Aal Halif alias Abu Ibrahim -- one of the most dreaded IS handlers --- from Bengaluru in 2020 by the NIA brought to light the exis-

tence of an elaborate terror network. Halif was disguised as Sujit Chandra Debnath a Bengali Hindu who was working as civil labourer a mason.

The Kolkata STF too had arrested alleged Bangladeshi terror modules Nazim Rahman Pavel, Mikail Khan and Rabiul Islam who were residing in cosmopolitan locality of Haridevpur taking Hindu names. These people have been working for the Jamat ul Mujahideen (JMB) Bangladesh. "These are the people we have arrested ... we do not know how many more like them are around ... so the police are on high alert leaving nothing to chances," the senior official said.

Meanwhile thousands of devotees had already started thronging the Kolkata streets from Maha Chaturthi and Maha Panchami (fourth and fifth day) of the Pujas giving a small hint as to what things would turn out to be from Sasthi (sixth day) to Dashami (tenth day).

Kerala Women's Commission's new chief 'shocked' at men's attitude

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Psatheedevi, the newly appointed chairperson of Kerala Women's Commission is unhappy and upset over the attitude of men in the State. The day she took charge of the Women's Commission, a 21 year old student in St Thomas College, Pala in Kottayam district was murdered in a gruesome manner by her own lover and that too in the campus. "I was shocked when I saw the reaction of the murderer in TV news channels. There was no remorse on his face and he enacted how he murdered his lover with elan. This is the new trend among men," the suave Sathidevi told the media on Saturday.

She was a highly respected Member of Parliament from Badagara constituency during 2004 to 2009 and is known as

a politician who does not mince her words. "The men folk feel that they are the masters and the females are their slaves. This attitude has to change," said Sathidevi.

The new SWC chief is of the view that situation in Kerala as far as the safety and security of women was a cause of concern.

"The campus murder which we saw recently is not a rare incident of its kind. There was this incident of a youth shooting to death his lover, a dental science student and committing suicide. These are instances which prove that there is something seriously wrong with the men," said Sathidevi.

She said that even as she was speaking to the media, there were reports coming from various parts of the country including Kerala about

women and young girls being molested, abused and assaulted. "In many cases I have noticed that the media give a macho image to the aggressor. This is not a good precedence. An assault or molestation is an attack and the accused has to be treated as an accused. I would like the media to stay away from sensationalising the events," asked Sathidevi.

Even as the chairperson was speaking to the media, reports about the arrest of three youths for sexually assaulting and blackmailing a young girl trickled in. Shamzad Waynadu (24), who claims himself to be a Good Samaritan and his friends Mehmood (23) and Rehman (26) were arrested on Saturday by the police for raping and assaulting a 26 year old woman after promising her financial help for the medical treatment of her child.

J&K ACCESSION FILES

Disclosure of Bucher papers to NMML in national interest: CIC

New Delhi: The disclosure of files provided by India's second army chief General Sir Roy Bucher to Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) about Jammu and Kashmir related to the period of 1947-49, which may throw light on Accession, is in "national interest", the Central Information Commission has observed in an order.

The Commission stopped short of ordering disclosure of these crucial documents, withheld from the public on orders of the Ministry of External Affairs. Information Commissioner Uday Mahurkar has instead asked the NMML's Central Public Information Officer "to take up the matter with higher officials" and "secure the necessary permission" before sharing the information with RTI activist Venkatesh Nayak.

The highest adjudicating authority on RTI matters, the CIC, did not specify if the information can be disclosed if there is an objection from "higher officials".

RTI activist Venkatesh Nayak had sought the documents from NMML under the transparency law but it was

denied to him without citing any exemption clauses in the RTI Act.

"Keeping in view the facts of the case and the submissions made by both the parties, the Commission observes that the objective of the Appellant (is) in National interest. Therefore the Commission directs the CPIO to take up the matter with higher officials of the Respondent Authority and cite this order of the Commission and secure the necessary permission from them before sharing the information with the Appellant," Mahurkar said in the order.

Nayak while researching accession of Jammu and Kashmir had stumbled upon an interview of Bucher to noted biographer BR Nanda, couple of decades after his retirement in 1949.

"He (Nayak) said the operation of the instruments of accession was handled by the then 2nd Army Chief and there are some documents connected with him which have not been disclosed to the public so far but which throw light on the truth of accession," Mahurkar noted in his order.

In the interview Bucher had made multiple references to files and papers related to Jammu and Kashmir affairs for

the period 1947-49 compiled by him and given to the NMML, Nayak said.

General Sir Francis Robert Roy Butcher served as second chief of the Indian Army between January 1, 1948 to January 15, 1949.

Nayak said he had pressed for larger public interest in the disclosure of the information as October, 2021 will usher in the 75th anniversary year of signing of instrument of accession by Maharaja Hari Singh but Information Commissioner Uday Mahurkar used the word "national interest" in his order.

The NMML has kept this documents closed from public scrutiny even after 70 years on the instructions of the External Affairs Ministry, he said.

He used the Right to Information Act to seek inspection of files and records submitted by Bucher to NMML and among other details such as a list of documents held by the prestigious library which are closed to the public.

NMML was prompt enough to give details of documents which are closed to the public but said it cannot share the Bucher papers as they are withheld on the instructions from the Ministry of External Affairs.

Reliance buys REC Solar for \$771 mn

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's newly-floated energy firm has made its first acquisition, buying REC Solar for \$771 million, the company said on Sunday.

"Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNESL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has announced acquisition of 100% shareholding of REC Solar Holdings AS (REC Group) from China National Bluestar (Group) Co Ltd., for an enterprise value of USD 771 million," it said in a statement. REC is headquartered in Norway and has its operational headquarters in Singapore and regional hubs in North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia-Pacific.

REC Group is an international pioneering solar energy company leading the industry through its technological innovations and superior, high efficiency and long-life solar cells and panels for clean and affordable solar power.

The 25-year-old company has three manufacturing facilities -- two in Norway for making solar grade polysilicon and one in Singapore making PV cells and modules. "Reliance will strongly

support for REC's planned expansions including 2-3 GW Cells and Module capacity in Singapore, brand new 2 GW Cells and Module unit in France and another 1 GW Modules plant in the US," it said.

In India, Reliance plans to use this industry leading technology in their fully integrated, metallic Silicon to PV Panel manufacturing giga factory at Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex, Jamnagar initially starting with 4 GW per annum capacity and eventually growing to 10 GW per annum.

Reliance's deep expertise of scale, project execution and operational excellence coupled with REC's technology will facilitate the establishment of state-of-the-art next-generation fully integrated PV manufacturing facility at Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex and subsequently replicate such complexes around the world.

The acquisition of REC will help Reliance with a ready global platform and the opportunity to expand and grow in key green energy markets globally, including in the US, Europe, Australia and elsewhere in Asia. **PTI**

Rajasthan Girl, 20, spends a day as British High Commissioner to India

New Delhi: Twenty-year-old Aditi Maheshwari from Rajasthan recently became the British High Commissioner to India for a day.

Ms Maheshwari, who is pursuing her Bachelor's in Physical Science from Delhi University's Miranda House College, won the 'High Commissioner for the Day' contest organised annually since 2017 to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, British High Commission said in a press release. Ms Maheshwari, who aspires to join the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), is the fifth winner of the India edition of the competition.

As the UK's top diplomat in India, Ms Maheshwari experienced a broad variety of diplomatic activities on Friday. She observed the India-UK Energy for Growth Dialogue alongside Ministers Raj Kumar Singh and Kwasi Kwarteng, the release said.

"She met with beneficiaries

of a leadership programme for aspiring female politicians funded by the Chevening Alumni Programme Fund, climate experts from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), who signed the UK in India Pledge for Progress, to show their leadership in gender equality and young leaders from the not-for-profit Global Youth," the British High Commission informed.

Ms Maheshwari's packed day also included a hands-on demonstration of the I-PACE - Jaguar's zero-emissions, all-electric performance SUV to be used by world leaders at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow next month.

Talking about her experience, Ms Maheshwari said, "I had applied for the competition last year as well and I'm really pleased that I got the opportunity. The interaction with senior diplomats and with women from 'She Leads' leadership programme were the two personal highlights of the day for me."



Newly-inaugurated Electric BEST Buses during a rally on the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, in Mumbai on Sunday

PTI

Class 10 student hangs self after being molested by classmate in UP

Bulandshahr (UP): A class 10 student died by suicide in Bulandshahr after she was allegedly molested by a classmate and being threatened by his relatives, police said on Sunday.

The 15-year-old girl was found hanging from the ceiling on Saturday. The police have registered a case under provisions of the POCSO Act and IPC sections 306 (abetment to suicide), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 452 (house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint) among others against seven identified and eight unidentified people on the basis of a complaint lodged by the girl's father.

On October 8, the girl's classmate allegedly molested her and made obscene remarks against her, according to the complaint. The



victim informed the school's principal about the incident, following which he promised to scold the accused.

Later in the evening, the accused, along with 15 others, reached the girl's house and started hurling abuses at her, the complaint stated.

The next day in school, the accused again misbehaved with the victim and threatened her.

Upset over this, the girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling at her home, the police added. **PTI**

Girl raped by cousin in Rajasthan

PTI ■ JAIPUR

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her cousin in Jaipur, police said on Sunday.

Manish (23) has been booked on the basis of a complaint lodged by the girl's family members, Galta Gate police station SHO Satish Kumar said.


The rape survivor's medical examination has been conducted and her statement will be recorded before the magistrate on Monday.

According to the complaint, the accused had taken the minor out on the pretext of going to the market but instead took her to a secluded place and allegedly raped her.

Manish has been charged under section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.


FIRST COLUMN

DESTROY THE WHISTLEBLOWERS!



GWYNNE DYER

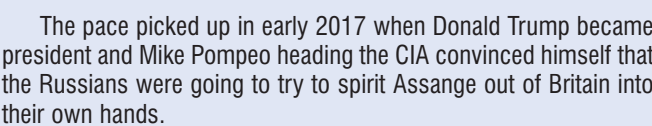
Intelligence can be useful in war, but the bulk of what it does in peacetime is pointless



A long time ago now I was asked to do a television series about the world's intelligence services - and I turned it down flat. My main reason was a feeling that there was less to the whole intelligence world than met the eye, and the subsequent thirty years have only served to confirm that judgement.

The latest case in point is the recent revelations about the US CIA. In 2017, it turns out, the CIA flirted with the idea of kidnapping or killing Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, in his refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

Wikipedia profoundly embarrassed the CIA in 2010 by putting a huge trove of secret US records about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on the web. Fearing extradition to the United States, Assange (who is Australian), sought asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London in 2012.



The pace picked up in early 2017 when Donald Trump became president and Mike Pompeo heading the CIA convinced himself that the Russians were going to try to spirit Assange out of Britain into their own hands.

So, the CIA began planning to preempt the Russians by kidnapping Assange from the embassy and take him to the US - or, if that didn't work, kill him. Contingency plans were also discussed for thwarting a possible Russian attempt to get Assange out.

The Ecuadorian Government changed and Assange was expelled from the London embassy in 2019, but he still faced an American demand for extradition. A British court rejected that early this year, but he continues to sit in prison awaiting the outcome of a US appeal to a higher court.

And here's the thing. None of the information Assange released hurt anybody, and a lot of it needed to be revealed: war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan and government surveillance of tens of millions of US citizens. The CIA made it all secret because it could, not because it was necessary or justifiable.

It's not just American intelligence agencies, of course, and they don't always think about killing those who spill their precious secrets. Thus Israeli Mordechai Vanunu, who confirmed the existence of Israel's nuclear weapons in 1986, was only kidnapped in Italy and jailed in Israel for 18 years (11 years in solitary).

Vanunu's revelation changed nothing: everybody already knew that Israel has nuclear weapons, even if it will never confirm it publicly. Thirty-five years after he was kidnapped, however, Vanunu is still not allowed to leave Israel. If he speaks to foreigners he is arrested, and sometimes jailed again for a few months.

Then there's Edward Snowden, a former CIA employee who revealed huge amounts of data about the US National Security Agency's global surveillance programmes in 2013. Revealing that the US was hacking the phones of friendly foreign leaders like Germany's Angela Merkel was the right thing to do, but he can never go home again.

These people are not 'helping terrorists' or betraying their countries. The 'intelligence services' (the old term 'secret services' was less misleading) reflexively build bureaucratic empires and ceaselessly expand their reach because that's what bureaucracies do. They can be useful in war, but the vast bulk of what they do in peacetime is pointless.

I only suspected that in 1990, when the Cold War was just ending. By now, it is blindingly obvious. All these cases are victimless 'crimes' where things that should be known about the illegal, counter-productive, and even criminal behaviour of governments are finally revealed - and the intelligence services then relentlessly harass the whistle-blowers to frighten others into silence.

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

CPHC: Collaborative Sino-Pakistan threat?

The possible transfer of sophisticated Chinese bio-medical technology to Pakistan would be an upcoming threat for India and the world

Recent news of the China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC), in collaboration with Pakistani and Chinese medical universities, research institutes and biotechnological firms, is more than a routine, academic and scientific exchange. The fact that five million Chinese will be associated with CPHC and working in Pakistan in the next four years is startling, making one wonder about the type of collaboration in the works. There are no precedents yet in academics of such a large number of people from one nation gathering in a host country in a short period of time to undertake 'scientific research'. There could be more than what meets the eye.

An article in PLA Daily recently asserted that "talent cultivation, commanding system and armaments development should proceed in coordination", a tactical move that can trigger different kinds of permutation combinations in the defence studies. In this respect, President Xi Jinping had previously declared that "In circumstances of increasingly intense global military competition, only the innovators win". In the last two decades, China has immensely modernised its military apart from absorbing the R&D of civilian sectors.

China's Institute of Military Medicine has reportedly made much progress in active anti-biological warfare. These dual-purpose advancements include laser and biotechnology, space, apart from artificial intelligence. Such advancements outpace the international regulatory framework of biosecurity. The development of any new pathogens through the CPHC could bypass the existing and evolving medicine system and hence should be a health security concern. The possible transfer of such sophisticated bio-medical technology to Pakistan would be an upcoming threat for India and the world.

The 'gunpoint diplomacy' that Pakistan has initiated against India could escalate. The role of the new and evolving technologies coupled with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and an active collaborative Sino-Pak threat has broadened the horizons of conventional and hybrid warfare. For instance, artificial intelligence medical robots used for surgeries can be resized to evade military detection. Bio-inspired AI weapons are already in place with a few countries. With the ability to carry harmful pathogens, they could broaden the asymmetric warfare. Their potential use as delivery mechanisms for a bio warfare purpose aimed to target the people, crops or livestock animals can create havoc.

Biological agents can also be directed against India's food security through agro-terror to create social unrest and economic devastation. Emerging plant and crop diseases or livestock diseases thus have to be watched for through a novel 'sector management' system in which the border and coastal areas can be divided into sectors and kept under constant surveillance for the changes in the soil and water properties or



THE TACTIC OF 'GUNPOINT DIPLOMACY' THAT PAKISTAN HAS INITIATED AGAINST INDIA COULD ESCALATE. THE ROLE OF THE NEW AND EVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES COUPLED WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AN ACTIVE COLLABORATIVE SINO-PAK THREAT HAS BROADENED THE HORIZONS OF CONVENTIONAL AND HYBRID WARFARE

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



any other new and emerging diseases. India should be cooperating with the US and Israel in this domain since these countries have included food and livestock security in their overall security outlook.

Hypothetically assuming the case that the current pandemic was an "accidental leak" do not mitigate the risks of future "accidental" or deliberate leaks. Pakistan's single-pointed anti-India approach in its foreign policy has reduced its stature positioning as a pawn in the hands of China. At a domestic level, the Talibanisation of its society makes the country an active security threat to India and the world. China is not yet proven innocent concerning the pandemic. Also, the report of Australian journalist Klan in 2020 pointed out the Sino-Pak bio warfare agent's nexus and the manipulations of pathogens apart from helping Islamabad develop its lethal and drug-resistant viruses.

Pakistan's belligerent status and China's habitual secrecy and duplicity, along with its anti-India posturing, are collaborative threats. Democratic countries should demand of a no confidentiality clauses in the upcoming agreements related to CPHC. The facilities and the research institutes should be mandatorily open for international inspection. The details of the number of P-4 level safety or high containment labs and their research staff should be made available to the international agencies for regular inspection. WHO should be watchful of the imports of health equipment and the raw materials related to bio-medical research. Such steps are essential to avoid Pakistan's development of offensive

biological weapons and anti-biological weapons safety programs under the garb of 'scientific research'. The role of the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention thus will have an important role to play.

The Indian Government needs to ask questions at an international forum. How will the labs/research institutes' security be ensured, especially when there are dangers to Islamabad's internal security? How will the world community ensure that the facilities or pathogens do not fall into the hands of Islamic fundamentalists in the Pakistani army and society? What will the two countries do to ensure no artificial manipulation and subsequent weaponisation of the pathogens that will be the subject of research? There are possibilities that such labs or their output might be used by Pakistan to militarily intimidate India to leverage the conventional or even nuclear superiority.

"Accidental leaks" can be equally devastating. What mechanisms will be in place to ensure that the people who handle the labs report their sickness? Does a developing country like Pakistan have facilities to filter the bio-medical waste, including its water, before leaving the facility? The Arabian Sea may be more prone to dumping waste that might reach the Indian Ocean and damage the fisheries. Contamination of fisheries will eventually jeopardise human health.

Additionally, China's policy of reverse engineering of weapons could be applied to the pharma industry too. CPHC might also aim to punch the US position in the bio-pharma industry. Currently, the active Chinese presence in the US

through their biotechnology R&D firms in Boston, San Francisco, and Research Triangle Park in North Carolina pose dangers of technology replication and sale in the global market at cheaper rates. As Beijing has access to new technologies, it can bring back the structural make-up of new drugs and undermine its intellectual property regime apart from sharing it with Pakistan and other rogue States.

From another perspective, various international agencies have often pinpointed that Uighur Muslims have been illegally detained and used for human experiments. There are possibilities of Uighur Muslims being transported to Pakistan for human experiments to circumvent the attention of the international agencies. The Sino-Pak-Taliban nexus raises doubts over the subjects of human experiments for gene editing being broadened to include minorities in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Taliban and Pakistan have been infamous for organ trading and human trafficking. Thus, the international community should be keeping a watch on their population fluctuations and should be allowed access to the inner areas of northern Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the western province of Xinjiang to verify and assess the situation.

The Indian security agencies have to broaden the range of the threat spectrum, which should now encompass radiological, biological and AI weapons. New approaches that could be flexible, comprehensive, and essentially Indo-centric have to be brought within the narratives of the security domain to detect and neutralise the threats.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE PANIC ABOUT COAL SHORTAGE IS UNNECESSARY. NEITHER THERE WAS ANY SHORTAGE, NOR THERE WILL BE.
—UNION POWER MINISTER
RK SINGH



WHEN WE HAD AN OXYGEN CRISIS, THEY KEPT SAYING THERE WAS NO SUCH CRISIS. THE COAL SITUATION IS SIMILAR.
—DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
MANISH SISODIA

Tata gets Air India, but power crisis is a new jolt

The CBDT allows Tatas not to bother about taxes for eight years as they would be adjusted against losses that Tatas are sharing

The sale of Air India (AI), an eight-year tax reprieve to Tatas, a severe power crisis, and the stepping down of Chief Economic Advisor K Subramanian give a new twist to the country's economic affairs.

It is not an easy situation to steer through. The country may heave a sigh of relief as it hives off an airline with over Rs 7,0820 crore losses as on March 31, 2020 and a combined debt of Rs 61,562 crore.

Of the total debt, the Tatas take over Rs 15,300 crore and the rest will be repaid by AI Assets Holding through monetising of Rs 14,000 crore assets that are not given to Tatas, and the rest will be paid through government revenues.



SHIVAJI SARKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Tatas effectively take over AI, AI Express and 50 percent of cargo handler AI SATS Airport Services for Rs 2,700 crore in cash and the rest is adjusted against its debt takeover of Rs 15,300 crore.

No wonder the CEA in his exit statement avers that he served "a period of tremendous uncertainty and epochal change".

The country effectively reduces the recurring losses. For eight years, Central Board of Direct Taxes allows Tatas not to bother about the taxes as these would be adjusted against losses Tatas are sharing. Still, nobody knows why AI and Indian Airlines merger in 2007-08 by UPA led to continuous losses to a moderately profit maker. This was marked by a process of allow-



ing many profitable routes to its competitors.

The power crisis is also unique. Almost the entire generation is in the public sector while distribution and revenue earning has been shifted to private hands. With coal shortage, despite high reserves, it is to hive off profits, increase costs as coal

prices rise internationally. It would heap a heavy cost on all activities as the tariff has to increase, add to severe inflation and cause production losses at a time when the country post-pandemic needs to move faster. The problem accentuates as petroleum crude prices also going beyond \$77 a barrel. There could be more job losses against recent hopes of adding to employment.

Even AI's sale would have repercussions on the jobs of 12,085 AI and 1,433 AI Express employees for a year. After that Tatas can decide on the terms and that effectively means a large number of people would exit and fewer new jobs would be created.

That does not mean that the decision to hive off is not

proper. It raises questions on why the 2007-08 merger happened and who was responsible for it. The country may have to decide on the process of decision-making, without a public discussion. The power sector is going through such a crisis. Since Independence, despite the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru government offering to the private giants, no private sector has tried to get into the critical power generation. Despite stress on green energy and rise in solar generation, it still remains nascent and thermal, coal-fired, power remains the mainstay.

India being the highest consumer of coal feels the pinch when prices shoot up.

Importing more coal to make up for domestic short-

ages is not the option at present. If this happens the costs as higher tariff would be passed on to the consumers causing prices to rise more.

Another shock stems from the fact that the model of activity in the digitised world has changed. It has moved out of production-linked market to service and finance-oriented secondary operations. World over, there are efforts to reduce on manpower but aim at high growth. The impractical is happening and causing social instability.

This is in contrast to the model of employing larger number of people and empowering them for social good even at financial losses. It has changed to the opposite - minimum jobs and no bothering about social distress or

working conditions. The Air India case, interestingly enough, fits the bill.

The troubled national carrier has earned the dubious distinction of being an airline with the highest number of employees on its rolls per aircraft as it has been hiring staff to oblige political bosses. AI has the highest ratio of 221 worker per aircraft. British Airways has 178 employees, 140 for Singapore Airlines and Lufthansa has 127. So, a cut in jobs is natural. While such high ratio looks impractical, the lows that many are adopting also are problematic and that too at low wages.

While one may feel happy with the sale of AI, it has to be realised that solutions cannot be achieved by mere selling of assets.

Bishops wait for the arrival of Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica on the occasion of a mass for the opening of the Bishops' Synod, at the Vatican on Sunday

Over 12 PSUs on block after AI privatisation

■ NEW DELHI

The Government's final move to privatise the national carrier Air India has given a fresh lease of life to its strategic disinvestment plan.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), which oversees the disinvestment policy, is now planning to cede management control over a dozen public sector enterprises in the next six months.

Sources said the successful culmination of the Air India disinvestment process has upped investor interest in picking up management control of public sector undertakings put on the block for privatisation. Overseas investors are also looking at the country's disinvestment plan with interest.

The Government wants to tap into this positive sentiment, which has also been heightened with a Moody's upgrade of the country's ratings, to put its strategic disinvestment plan on the fast track.

Government sources said they had received inquiries from multinational corporations about their possible participation in the strategic disinvestment plan post the Centre's decision to amend

retrospective taxation provisions in the Income Tax Act. The amendment introduces certainty on taxation regulations and has improved India's ranking by several notches on the ease of doing business index.

As a result, the strategic disinvestment proposals of companies such as Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited (FSNL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam, Container Corporation of India, IDBI Bank and Neelanchal Ispat Nigam may get a fresh lease of life and the process may get extensions if more time is required to bring larger number of overseas investors into the picture.

The government is also seeing an increased interest of foreign investors in the proposed initial public offer (IPO) of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which is likely to be floated soon.

The government has a list of 34 PSUs that have been given 'in principle' approval for disinvestment. These include Scooters India, Bridge and Roof Co., Cement Corporation of India and Pawan Hans.

The government has not yet made its stand clear on the pending cases of disinvestment where the process has

reached the financial bidding stage, but sources said a second thought on re-inviting investors even in these cases may be considered. This could help increase the participation of MNCs in the disinvestment of companies such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Shipping Corporation of India and Pawan Hans.

DIPAM's views on this matter could not be ascertained, but recently its Secretary, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, said that for all these enterprises, the government had received adequate interest from bidders, now at the second stage of due diligence.

Both portfolio investors and direct foreign investors have shown increased interest in running and investing in Indian companies up for privatisation.

The government had budgeted for Rs 1.75 lakh crore from stakes sales in PSUs and state-owned financial institutions, including two PSU banks and one insurance company, in 2021-22. It is hoping that larger overseas participation would help complete the process of strategic disinvestment of the larger PSUs.

IRDAI needs young CEO, abolish licence permit raj: Experts

■ CHENNAI

Indian insurance sector is crying for reform 2.0 wherein the licence permit raj is abolished and the sectoral regulator is headed by a dynamic young person to increase the insurance penetration, said a senior industry official.

"For the first few years the IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) was developing regulations. After that it is regulating the industry's development," P.S. Prabhakar, Senior Partner of the accounting firm Rajagopal & Badrinarayanan and a former insurance industry official told IANS.

After N.Rangachary, the first IRDAI Chairman, told IANS that it is time to do a review of IRDAI since it is more than two decades old, several senior industry officials have voiced their views to IANS.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abdul Majid Pampori S/o. Late Ghulam Ahmed Pampori, R/o. F-15/9, Jogabai Extension, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Abdul Majeed Pampori for all future purposes.

PD(9089)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No(s) 36439; 45474 for 200 share(s) having Distinctive No(s) 4986901 – 4987000; 9940101 – 9940200 held under Folio No. 0002075 respectively of Metro Industries Ltd., having its registered office at 5, Alexandra court, 60/1, Chowringhee Road, Kolkata-700020 registered in the name of Ghanshyam Das P-1/45A. Budh Vihar Phase-1 Suttanpuri C Block North West Delhi Delhi - 110086 I, now have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the above. Any person having any objection to the issue of duplicate Share certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s) as aforesaid is requested to lodge his/her/their objection thereto with the Company at their above address or to its Registrars C B MANAGEMENT SERVICES (P) LTD. P-22, Borel Road, Kolkata-700 019 in writing within 15 days from the date of publication.

Date: 11.10.2021
Place: Delhi
Ghanshyam Das P-1/45A. Budh Vihar Phase-1 Suttanpuri C Block North West Delhi Delhi - 110086

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Diesel crosses ₹100 mark in Gandhinagar, other places as fuel prices go up again

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel prices on Sunday crossed ₹100-a litre-mark in Gandhinagar and Leh as fuel prices were hiked again in sync with firming international oil prices.

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 sixth straight day of price hike pushed fuel rates to a new record high.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹104.14 a litre and ₹110.12 per litre in Mumbai, the notification showed.

In Mumbai, diesel now comes for ₹100.66 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs ₹92.82.

After Mumbai and Hyderabad, diesel rates cross the ₹100 per litre mark in Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat state, and UT of Leh. Diesel now costs ₹100.21 a litre in Gandhinagar and ₹100.06 in Leh.

Bhopal, Raipur and Jaipur are other state capitals where diesel is above that mark.

The relentless fuel price hike has also pushed petrol above the ₹100 mark in all but one state capital, with Dehradun, Chandigarh and Gwahati joining that list. Ranchi is the only state capital with petrol less than that mark.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Shedding the modest price change policy, state-owned fuel retailers have since October 6 started passing on the larger incidence of cost to consumers.

For five 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. Prior



to that, petrol price was increased by 25 paise and diesel by 30 paise.

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.

Since then, diesel rates have gone up by ₹4.20 paise per litre and petrol price has increased by ₹2.95.

Prior to the July/August price cuts, the petrol price was increased by ₹11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by ₹9.14 during this period.

Telecom Secy asks C-DoT to work on 6G; launches Quantum Communication Lab

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman has asked State-owned telecom research and development organisation C-DoT to start working on 6G and other futuristic technologies in order to catch up with the global market in time, a statement said on Sunday.

Samsung, Huawei, LG and some other companies have started working on 6G technologies which is said to be 50 times faster than 5G and is expected to be commercially launched between 2028-2030.

As per theoretical calculations, peak data download speed of 5G is pegged at 20 gigabit per second (gbps). However, Vodafone Idea has claimed to have achieved the highest peak speed of 3.7 gbps during trials in India.

"The telecom secretary has stressed upon C-DoT to keep track of emerging technologies, aligned with the technology life cycle. He has asked C-DOT to start working on 6G and other futuristic technologies in order to catch up with the market in time," Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) said in the statement. According to Department of Telecom (DoT), 5G technology is expected to deliver ten times better download speed than that of 4G and up to three times greater spectrum efficiency.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has recorded the top speed of 4G at around 20 megabit per second in Reliance Jio network

in the country.

The department has begun the process for commercial launch of 5G in India. It has sought Trai's views on the base price of spectrum to be allocated for 5G services.

Rajaraman, who took charge as Secretary of DoT on October 1, also advised C-DoT to focus on commercialization of technology and consider setting up incubators in C-DoT for faster technology commercialization.

He visited C-DoT on Saturday where he inaugurated its Quantum Communication Lab and unveiled the indigenously developed Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) solution.

"QKD is essential to address the threat that rapid advancement in Quantum Computing poses to the security of the data being transported by various critical sectors through the current communication networks," the statement said.

The government has allocated USD 1 billion for the National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications spanning over a period of 8 years.

The statement said C-DoT has become the first organization in India to offer complete portfolio of indigenous quantum secure telecom products and solutions to comprehensively address the requirements of telecom operators as well as that of strategic sector like Defence, in India.

C-DoT's 4G technology is under proof of concept (POC) trial in BSNL network at Chandigarh and Ambala.

NFRA has no jurisdiction over small, medium cos; no direct nexus between quality, cost of audit: ICAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coming out strongly against certain recommendations made by NFRA, chartered accountants' apex body ICAI on Sunday said the watchdog does not have jurisdiction over micro, small and medium companies, and asserted that audit helps in mitigating the risk of corporate governance lapses.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) also stressed that "there is no direct nexus between the quality of the audit and the cost of conducting the audit as is mentioned in a consultation paper by NFRA as the auditors have to comply with the standards in auditing and other relevant standards while conducting an audit".

The latest comments from ICAI President Nihar N Jambusaria come less than two weeks after the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) came out with a consultation paper on statutory audit and auditing standards for micro, small and medium

companies (MSMCs).

In the consultation paper, for which public comments have been sought till November 10, NFRA said it was appropriate to revisit the requirement of compulsory statutory audit for all companies irrespective of their size and/or public interest.

Besides, the watchdog cited its preliminary analysis on the key financial parameters of the companies and said the fees paid to auditors by a large majority of MSMCs are way below what an audit, when performed in compliance with the letter and spirit of the standards of auditing, would require.

Against this backdrop, Jambusaria said NFRA does not have jurisdiction over MSMCs.

"It is not within its purview to propose whether audit of a particular class of companies is required or not. However, we may look at merits in having audits of these companies," he said.

Global cues push up energy crisis in India, Govt looks to step up generation

■ NEW DELHI

The build up power crisis in the country has worsened this month as acute fuel shortages at power plants threaten outages in coming days stalling the revival wheels of the world's fastest growing major economy. As per official data, the country's 135-odd thermal plants on an average were sitting on just four days of coal stocks at the end of September, down from 13 days coal stocks at the beginning of August. Regulations mandate 22 days of stock at thermal plants. To meet the domestic shortages, option is available to buy coal from abroad, but the post Covid surge in electricity demand worldwide has created added interest securing fuel sources that had shot up global oil prices.

Several plants in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu are on alert for outages. The coal shortages at power plants had come at a time when production from CIL, which meets almost 80 per cent of the fuel needs of the country, had fallen owing to long monsoon this year and disruption in supply. Though CIL maintains that its supplies are nowhere at a lower level this year compared to the level last year, power sector sources said that the problem is also compounding due to lower interest shown by debt-ridden State utilities to buy more coal to run power plants at the optimal levels.

Auto retailers staring at huge losses this festive season as chip shortage hinders supplies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile retailers are staring at huge losses this festive season as manufacturers struggle with vehicle dispatches to dealerships amid the ongoing semiconductor shortage crisis, according to a top FADA official.

With chip shortage continuing unabated, auto manufacturers are faced with production issues forcing them to curtail supplies to dealer partners.

With the 42-day long peak season having commenced with the first navratra, dealers are finding it difficult to convince the customers to wait indefinitely for the vehicles of their choice.

Amid robust demand for several models, dealers are witnessing booking cancellations and there is also a drop in on the spot buying due to dearth of inventory at their end.

"Festive season is the most important period in terms of sales for us. On an average, the two month period accounts for 40 per cent of our total sales during a year. This is the time when we actually earn and save for operations for the rest of the year. This year we are not getting adequate vehicles and are staring at losses," FADA President Vinkesh Gulati told PTI.

He noted that in the passenger vehicle segment, the waiting period on most of the models has gone up drastically from the earlier period of 1-3 months.

HDB Financial Services Limited
Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavnagar Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400034 Tel No.: +91 22 49116300

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on **16-10-2021** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date Of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
1	9721021	Virender Kumar	19/11/2019	6457.14	Delhi- Bhajanpura
2	10836996	Aaqil Khan	10/02/2020	8471.97	Delhi- Bhajanpura
3	11222958	Sarfraz Ahmad	13/03/2020	16299	Delhi- Bhajanpura
4	11488896	Sachin S	03/06/2020	114469	Delhi- Bhajanpura
5	11807380	Maresh Kumar	09/07/2020	5465	Delhi- Bhajanpura
6	13655094	Prithvi Ramakant	24/12/2020	3076	Delhi- Bhajanpura
7	13984240	Pappu P	20/01/2021	21968	Delhi- Bhajanpura
8	14627415	Vinod Rajput	15/03/2021	17104	Delhi- Bhajanpura
9	8651493	Manju Bhurtiya	26/08/2019	11376	Delhi- Bhajanpura
10	5370252	Manoj Kumar Verma	26/09/2018	7434.77	Delhi- Kashmiri Gate
11	12555857	Sumit Choudhary	22/09/2020	31184	Delhi Ncr - Burari
12	12079839	Jyoti Kumari	07/08/2020	8124	Delhi Ncr - Burari
13	13892796	Satish Singh	13/01/2021	19174	Delhi Ncr - Burari
14	14762377	Guddu Sharma	25/03/2021	12110	Delhi Ncr - Burari
15	7794494	Ajesh Kumar	04/06/2019	6904	Delhi Ncr - Burari
16	12587776	Asha Attri	25/09/2020	8210	Delhi Shahdara
17	14197209	Mithan R	08/02/2021	15351	Delhi Shahdara
18	11260147	Ashok Kumar	18/03/2020	26363	Delhi Uttam Nagar
19	12070185	Safi Mohammad	12/08/2020	51997	Delhi Uttam Nagar
20	12414479	Sangeeta K	11/09/2020	69582	Delhi Uttam Nagar
21	124627281	Subhash Jain	15/09/2020	28640	Delhi Uttam Nagar
22	13496181	Pramod Arora	09/12/2020	21937	Delhi Uttam Nagar
23	13940119	Indra Kala	23/07/2020	24872	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
24	7048129	Ashwani A	26/03/2019	6752.24	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
25	12635897	Jatin Raj Kumar	30/09/2020	46085	Delhi-Badarpur
26	12722462	Ajay Ram	09/10/2020	17320	Delhi-Badarpur
27	12218294	Nikhat Parveen	29/08/2020	209526	Delhi-Chandni Chowk
28	13362067	Rohit Sharma	27/11/2020	105034	Delhi-Chandni Chowk
29	9382589	Mohammad Ahsan	25/10/2019	11022.42	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
30	9027106	Balvinder Kaur	30/09/2019	5418.1	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
31	10899435	Rahul Kataria	14/02/2020	17187.54	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
32	11443940	Yasin Mohammad	29/05/2020	49586	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
33	11900883	Vipin Braham Singh	17/07/2020	12224	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
34	12194621	Pradeep Kumar	18/08/2020	5295	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
35	12387138	Dharmendra Kumar	07/09/2020	11241	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
36	13287918	Sohan Beer Singh	20/11/2020	6435	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
37	14170783	Sushil S	06/02/2021	7805	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
38	14143696	Asaif Khan	04/02/2021	10346	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
39	12554589	Dinesh Kumar	22/09/2020	7770	Delhi-Hari Nagar
40	13280875	Vikas Khandelwal	21/11/2020	13485	Delhi-Hari Nagar
41	14193418	Hemant Kumar Sharma	09/02/2021	5712	Delhi-Hari Nagar
42	12499877	Pankaj Kumar Singh	17/09/2020	65905	Delhi-Jagatpuri
43	14710397	Sanjay Sharma	22/03/2021	2800	Delhi-Jagatpuri
44	14244231	Mohd Nizamuddin	11/09/2020	17622	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
45	12971487	Jeetender Kumar	29/10/2020	6985	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
46	13408103	Varun Kumar Jain	30/11/2020	7282	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
47	12632845	Bhim Sain	29/09/2020	16495	Delhi-Karol Bagh
48	8452827	Geeta G	13/08/2019	7354.68	Delhi-Karol Bagh
49	10120611	Sandeep Sharma	26/12/2019	4679.88	Delhi-Lajpat Nagar
50	12872879	Md Atesham Alam	21/10/2020	39136	Delhi-Lajpat Nagar
51	14696393	Poonam Shrivani	19/03/2021	20972	Delhi-Lajpat Nagar
52	9955961	Varun Jain	20/12/2019	13380	Delhi-Laxmi Nagar
53	11710169	Abhishek Sharma	30/06/2020	13595	Delhi-Laxmi Nagar
54	9102048	Mahab Ali	09/10/2019	3720	Delhi-Madipur
55	8270166	Mohammad Ishaq	19/07/2019	4770.13	Delhi-Madipur
56	8082292	Mohd Nafees Khan	30/06/2019	6988	Delhi-Madipur
57	6726471	Arun Kumar Dhar	22/02/2019	32760	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
58	14691126	Sujit Sharma	19/03/2021	11080	Delhi-Mayapuri
59	11409137	Afnan Ahmed	22/05/2020	8550	Delhi-Nai Sadak
60	12123696	Mushtaq Alam	12/08/2020	13712	Delhi-Nai Sadak
61	14149375	Sanjay Kumar	04/02/2021	24688	Delhi-Nai Sadak
62	15010232	Mohd Adnan Ansari	16/04/2021	48800	Delhi-Nai Sadak
63	11651857	Raju Gupta	22/06/2020	13699	Delhi-Nangloi
64	11540590	Makhan Lal	09/06/2020	8045	Delhi-Nangloi
65	12326218	Kamal Kumar	02/09/2020	23690	Delhi-Nangloi
66	13482454	Harish Chand Verma	07/12/2020	37206	Delhi-Nangloi
67	13551518	Manisha Anoop	14/12/2020	6640	Delhi-Narela
68	11627029	Abbas Ali	18/06/2020	5920	Delhi-Patel Nagar
69	12128179	Bhavika Anilmalhotra	13/08/2020	65705	Delhi-Patel Nagar
70	13494527	Hasina Kedarkhan	09/12/2020	39370	Delhi-Patel Nagar
71	12245850	Ram Chatur Sharma	24/08/2020	32504	Delhi-Ramesh Nagar
72	13665856	Anil Kumar Porwal	24/12/2020	18500	Delhi-Ramesh Nagar
73	14368499	Harpal Singh	23/02/2021	7845	Delhi-Ramesh Nagar
74	11415589	Vinay Kumar	06/03/2020	4816	Delhi-Sadar
75	12190785	Vinod Kumar	19/08/2020	5909	Delhi-Sadar
76	14901471	Abhishek Gupta	07/04/2021	8920	Delhi-Sadar
77	5967459	Dinesh Kumar	29/11/2018	4224.1	Delhi-Sadar
78	11792522	Amit Gupta	08/07/2020	64245	Delhi-Shastri Nagar
79	12171461	Jitendra Kumar	17/03/2020	4995	Delhi-Shastri Nagar
80	12576009	Kashish Dhawan	23/09/2020	76065	Delhi-Shastri Nagar
81	12502737	Mohan Singh	17/09/2020	22320	Delhi-Shastri Nagar
82	14776295	Indra Devi	25/03/2021	7925	Delhi-Shastri Nagar
83	12529099	Atavinder Pal Singh	19/09/2020	8370.4	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
84	13600572	Paramjeet Singh	18/12/2020	40392	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
85	7415708	Valaiti Singh	30/04/2019	8926.24	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
86	7986304	Mukesh Kumar	20/06/2019	7642.47	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
87	7416254	Valaiti Singh	30/04/2019	8255.24	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
88	7416153	Valaiti Singh	30/04/2019	10791.46	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
89	8206235	Bharat Bhushan	12/07/2019	6107.57	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
90	9524966	Asakthivel Arumugam Sakthivel	05/11/2019	6552	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
91	9525358	Asakthivel Arumugam Sakthivel	05/11/2019	14220	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
92	8020539	Asakthivel Arumugam Sakthivel	12/07/2019	5728	Delhi-Tilak Nagar

PRISONER REFORMATION IN INDIA

TANMAYA DAS explores the plight of inmates involved in the justice system

Everyone has a past, and I don't want to waste any more time thinking about it or looking back. I've always found a way to improve my life and help others understand why they shouldn't commit crimes and how they are affected by them. I've always believed that persuading individuals with my words will help them make better life choices than falling into the traps of unlawful and anti-social activities," said Aman (name changed), an ex-inmate, who is now working as a volunteer in the Turn Your Concern Into Action (TYCIA) foundation, Delhi.

Another ex-inmate, Radha (name changed), did not know sewing when she was in the prison; however, she completed a sewing course while she was there and began her new life after being released. She now earns ₹4,000-5,000 per month from tailoring and stitching work, which allows her to support her entire family.

People like Aman, Radha, and others hope to accomplish a set of goals in life, but we, as an institution, have failed to help them realise their dreams.

The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data reveals that the number of prisons at the national level has creased from 1,339 to 1,350 in 2019. The number of people imprisoned has risen from 4,66,084 in 2018 to 4,78,600 in 2019 (as of December 31 of every year). Uttar Pradesh has the most jail capacity, accounting for 14.95 per cent of total capacity, followed by Bihar (10.46 per cent) and MP (7.1 per cent). According to the data published in 2019, there are 4,58,678 male inmates and 19,913 female inmates. The states with the most prisoners are Uttar Pradesh, followed by MP, Bihar, Maharashtra, Punjab, and West Bengal. Several reasons such as illiteracy, ineffective laws and constitution in India, lack of parental care, drug consumption and so forth contribute to the increasing crime rates in India. Several prisons have denied basic human rights, leading to the mistreatment of inmates.



Gauri, who is leading the prison reformation and rehabilitation domain at TYCIA foundation, expressed, "The inmates go through socio-emotional and psychological issues due to the lack of connection with families, especially in case of any crisis. It was observed during the pandemic that they had minimal or no contact with their families, which led to stress, anxiety, and several psychological issues that impacted their overall well-being."

She added, "Besides the issues of overcrowding, there is a lack of health facilities, recreational needs due to infrastructure and budgetary constraints. The quality of relationships formed with the prison officials is directly linked to the kind of opportunities being provided to an inmate by them. Inside the prison, they strengthen and work on the skills that can support them inside the prison and upon release. Mental health, strengthening of their well-being, emotional and adversity quotient, and working on their soft skills are the areas that are not addressed. In addition, there is a lack of preparedness before release concerning their employment opportunities, acceptance by society, family and friends."

Similarly, Monika Dhawan, the

director of Vision India Foundation, stated, "Many prisons in states like Delhi and Uttar Pradesh are overcrowded as a result of high crime rates; however, the population of Uttar Pradesh is larger than that of Haryana, therefore it depends on the size of the state. As there are so few NGOs working in the field of prison reform, it is difficult for them to succeed. Prisons are always closed environments, it is up to the superintendent or DG of the prison to invite NGOs to work inside the prison, so it is based on the prison administration's invitation, which is another challenging issue."

She added, "Another difficulty that NGOs encounter is fund administration for prison rehabilitation. There is no government assistance for NGOs who undertake prisoner reform programmes. Corporate sectors occasionally assist us with finances, allowing us to start initiatives in the prison."

Apart from the logistical difficulties of running a programme inside the prison, such as misalignment of objectives with jail authorities, the dynamic nature of the geography, and fund shortages, there are significant challenges of running a programme outside the prison. A clash between NGOs and the prison system has been a serious obstacle. The co-founder and CEO of

TYCIA foundation, Saanchi, reveals, "The idea of prison as a regulated environment, that promotes punishment as a technique for discipline, can clash with the value system of a civil society organisation that operates on empathy, self-reflection, and healing, so prison is observed as a correctional institute for rehabilitation. Moreover, staying persistent, passionate, and not losing the vision amidst difficult circumstances to bring systematic changes may take years to move an inch."

Due to a lack of funding and official assistance, most NGOs find it difficult to carry out prisoner reformation programmes. Many NGOs operate rehabilitation programmes with the help of corporate financing. Saanchi pointed out, "Government must recognise NGOs working as key players and collaborators to bring about systemic change in the prisons along with encouraging, incentivising the participation of NGOs working on various domains in prisons to bring relief and resources through long-term interventions. The government must ensure continuity of impactful programmes in prisons, as project-based approach and donour dependence is insufficient in prison settings."

While looking into the solutions and finding several ways by which the government can assist the NGOs, Monika noted, "I believe the government should create a portal for NGOs working on prisoner reform as such platforms may help them in sharing their knowledge and work with other

NGOs there, allowing additional NGOs to collaborate to work inside the prison. Also, the government can sponsor NGOs, conduct credible background checks on them, and provide funding to them to carry out reform initiatives. Regular training programmes for jail personnel should be implemented. More NGOs are appearing to lend a hand, but transformation requires a regular training programme for prison officers."

Many NGOs give life skills training to assist convicts in resuming their normal lives. However, many underprivileged people, such as Aman, have difficulty getting back on their feet. He explained, "It is difficult for inmates to find work once the inmates are released, but many NGOs work to assist them in their efforts to find an employment. Several NGOs collaborate with other organisations to assist offenders in obtaining employment. As a result, the majority of NGOs want to keep their ex-inmates on board. The stipend or salary they receive from the support is insufficient, but we manage our family somehow."

Prisoner rehabilitation contributes to lower crime rates by creating a therapeutic atmosphere that includes gardening, meditation, and spiritual well-being. Introducing a variety of works and soft skills that contribute towards the development of a prisoner's personality and their ability to find work after their release. "The prisoners will reform through all of the rehabilitation activities. Here, the term, reform refers to cognitive, physical, and emotional well being, while using all these components skillfully to reintegrate into society. When they gain more understanding, they commit fewer crimes because they have a different perspective and skills that will empower them to run and learn a livelihood. So, if you want to reduce India's crime rate, reformation and well-being is essential for inmates," Monika expressed.

There are over four lakh people in prisons, and anyone who is inside will be released into the society someday. As a result, we must work together to ensure that the people we are releasing are reformers, or else we will see an increase in hostility and crime. As a consequence, prisoner rehabilitation is crucial, and we must all work together to lower India's crime-rate.



NAVARATRI: THE EMBODIMENT OF FEMININE POWER

The need of the hour is to change our attitude towards the girl-child, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI, while calling out the hypocrisy behind worshipping daughters

Navaratri is one such Indian festivals that is popular among people from all the age groups, be it children, youngsters or elders. It is a festival that celebrates Shakti, embodiment of feminine power. No other country in the world has a tradition where so many female goddesses are worshipped together for 9 days. Durga, Laxmi, Saraswati and Kali are considered the epitome of power, wealth, wisdom and might. Millions of people in India worship these goddesses and young girls during Navaratri festival in the hope of getting their blessings. Yet in this same land, we have men and women who deliberately choose to abort the birth of their child when they discover it is going to be a daughter. Such silent homicides are carried out blatantly by parents who feel giving birth to a daughter would mean a huge financial burden. This evil practice has emerged from a long prevalent social practice of dowry system which entails paying huge amounts of money by the girl's family to the groom's family to get her married.

In most countries of the world, there are approximately 105 female births for every 100 males as compared to India, where there are less than 93 women for every 100 men in the population. Surprisingly, the preference for a son is not limited to poor families alone; it is rooted in the social norms and cultural beliefs of the bourgeois middle class families, too. The issue of female foeticide is a complex one because it is connected with social mores, tradition, economic constraints, and so on. The patriarchal society in India has always meted out unfair treatment to girls and women. From childhood itself, little girls are made to feel inferior to boys, unwanted and as if they are a life-long liability. They are under-fed, purposely under-educated and under-privileged most of their lives. They cannot remain single because of financial considerations and social ostracism. They are forced to live through a bad marriage and suffer physical and mental abuse by their in-laws and husbands. Nowadays, even educated women find it quite difficult to lead a single life in our male-dominated society, and it's a bitter fact that nobody really wants to accept.

Today, people find it easier and probably less sinful to do away with an unborn foetus than to kill a born girl-child, which amounts to infanticide. Even though detection of the gender of an unborn child is banned in India, still scores of clinics have mushroomed in places where preference for a son is high. Very little has been done over the years to end the rampant violation of laws that prohibit sex-determination tests and give tough punishment to violators. We fail to understand that every human being has a right to live and humans cannot give or snatch others' lives as and when they wish. Don't forget that the law of karma is infallible. Hence, every soul is born in a new human body, according to its previous karma. The family in which a soul takes a new birth is decided by its own karma. So, denying a soul the right to take birth by using illegal means is like inverting the fundamental spiritual laws which will definitely lead to painful ends.

Today, the need of the hour is to change our attitude towards the girl-child, rather than making new laws and legislations. This change will, however, come only when something is done to curb the evil of the dowry system, because at the root of all these wrongdoings is greed. We must understand that temporal laws can only limit the crime to some extent but people have to be made aware of a higher law i.e. the law of karma that decides the destiny of their lives.

Religious and spiritual leaders can play a vital role in empowering women by developing their innate values and strengths by creating awareness in their communities and issue directives to stop this inhuman practice. The feminine power was considered very sacred and powerful in many ancient cultures. The Shakti and Devi are still invoked for various powers by millions of devotees across the world. Remember, in a world that is being torn apart by increasing fragmentation at all levels of existence, it is the feminine values like tolerance, sacrifice, patience and compassion that will ultimately create lasting peace and harmony on earth. But our spirituality and devotion to female goddesses would be considered a hypocrisy if we do not take steps for emancipating girls and women from centuries-old suffering and bondage. The first step towards emancipation must begin with giving the girl child the right to be born and to live with dignity. So let us all pledge this Navaratri that we would give every girl child the right to take birth in this beautiful world and allow her to live life with freedom and dignity.



Between October 31 and November 12, the United Nations will host the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland. The conference, which aims at bringing parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is facing criticism from environmental activists. Reasons are exclusion of voices of communities that are most impacted by the climate crisis, voices from Global South, indigenous communities especially women. It is primarily because of travel restrictions imposed due to Covid.

Social impact of climate change

In the past, economic, and environmental impacts of climate change formed the discussion at these platforms. Recently, the emphasis has shifted to the social implications that have arisen out of climate. The gendered impacts of climate change need our immediate attention. Based on the statistics received from the Indian Space Research Institute (ISRO), the Indian Ocean has been rising at a rate of 2.5 millimeters annually. By 2050, the sea level could possibly rise by 15-36 centimeters, considering that the seas around India keep rising at this rate. A rise in the sea level will lead to inevitable inundation of many areas which will force several indige-



Women amid changing climate

RACHANA PRIYADARSHINI explains the impact of environment on gender

nous communities to leave their native places and migrate. Among these displaced communities, women are going to be worst affected. It is crucial that women representatives must raise their concerns in the forthcoming COP 26.

Women are more sensitive to climate change

According to the United Nations Population Fund, women in developing countries are more vulnerable to the dangers of climate change as they play an important role in natural resource management in their families. Eight out of 10 women in lower- and middle-income countries are responsible for collecting water for their households. In India, women account for more than 65 per cent of the agricultural workforce. Since women are

integral to farming and animal husbandry, they are more sensitive to climate change, yet no reliable data is available to measure the role and involvement of women in climate change adaptation.

As per the United Nations, women, as compared to men, are much more likely to lose their lives during extreme natural hazardous events. Women are often the first victims of droughts, floods, tsunamis, and other disasters. As per a study, there was a drop of 20 per cent in the enrollment of women in colleges because of the droughts and floods in the 1970s. In such a scenario, it is likely that, as the effects of climate change worsen, women and girls will fall behind in the race for development. The challenges faced while performing household chores and the time they con-



sume might result in girls dropping out of school.

A study conducted by Britain's University of East Anglia (UEA) stated that men in Asia and Africa, due to climate change, are leaving their farmlands and migrating to cities in search of work. As a result, burden increases on women who are left behind as the whole responsibility of children and farms falls on their shoulders. Living under such extreme circumstances, their health gets deeply affected. This report was published in an international journal, *Nature Climate Change*.

Girls' education and health are also being negatively affected because of lack of water and fuel. Wherever these issues are more complex, the rate of female school dropout is higher, as is the rate

of child marriage and crimes against women. The condition of women, on average, is worsening with the change in the climate.

Effects of climate change on rural women

It is likely that climate change affects women in the rural areas more than their urban counterparts. Climate change induced floods and droughts make it difficult for agriculture-dependent rural women to run their families. Due to deforestation, crop damage, and the crisis of natural resources, families are left with insufficient diets. In such circumstances, while fulfilling nutritional needs of their families, rural women fail to take care of their own diet and suffer malnutrition.

The destruction of the environment leads to a scarcity of natural resources. This, in turn, creates pressure on existing ecosystems, increasing the strain on humans. Women and girls in underdeveloped areas are responsible for arranging water, fodder, and fuel. At times, women often become victims of violence and sexual abuse. Recently, there have been instances where the absence of water and toilets in a household has led to sexual abuse of a woman member of that household.

Nitya Rao, a gender and development professor from the University of East Anglia, who has conducted more than 25 studies in 11 African and

Asian countries has concluded that climate change is exacerbating the problems of women. Therefore, the fight to prevent climate change will be unsuccessful without women's participation.

According to Aditi Kapoor, a member of OneWorld Foundation India, usually people do not believe that there is a correlation between climate change and gender issues. In reality, women perform more than 70 per cent of agricultural labour and, according to the planning commission, the majority of work-related to fodder and resources from forests are also done by women. Consequently, when climate change affects our natural resources, women are the most affected.

Climate change indirectly violates human rights and increases gender inequality. While formulating any policies on climate change by the administration, women need to be at the center, so that, in addition to addressing the threat of climate change, gender inequality can be eliminated. In the forthcoming COP 26, not only the dangers that loom large at women due to changing climate need to be discussed, but also the traditional ecological knowledge that women hold should be focussed. This has helped the past generations coexist with their natural environment; this will help the current and future generation to survive.

—Charkha Features

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Beware the barrenness of a busy life.
—Socrates

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DEALING WITH MENTAL HEALTH IN INDIA

It's nearly two years since the Covid-19 pandemic struck the world. Yet the fear and anxiety it brought, especially in those who suffered from the infectious disease, forced to remain in isolation at home, lost their near and dear ones and were left jobless for months, is hard to let go. However, with Covid easing and India reopening, it is time to open up and start mingling with people with proper precaution, bring happiness back in your life and shun depression and anxiety, health experts said, ahead of the World Mental Health day on October 10. "While we are not yet out of the pandemic and must adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour, one also needs to be cognisant of physical and mental health, do exercise/yoga and spend good time with family", advised Dr Vipul Rastogi, consultant neuropsychiatrist at Medanta hospital, Gurugram. "Don't bottle-up your emotions. Share your feelings and if it doesn't help, seek professional aid," he added.



APP THAT CAN HELP TRACK ADHD SYMPTOMS

A smartphone-based application, called iBehavior, can help improve the accuracy of data in some clinical trials involving individuals with intellectual disability. The most common genetic causes of intellectual disability are Down syndrome and the fragile X syndrome. The goal, said the researchers at University of California-Davis Health in the US, is to track symptoms related to executive function, often associated with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), using the new smartphone app. The study will focus on children and young adults with intellectual disability. "The app uses what we call an ecological momentary assessment, where a parent or teacher observes the child or young adult and provides ratings of behaviour much closer to the time the behaviour occurred," said David Hessel, a professor in the department of psychiatry and behavioural sciences at UC Davis MIND Institute. He was awarded a two-year \$431,000 grant from the NIH for the project.



WOMEN AND YOUTH MOST AFFECTED: LANCET

The pandemic has led to a significant rise in major depressive and anxiety disorders globally, affecting women and younger people more in 2020, a global estimate of Covid-19 impact on mental health has revealed. The study, published in *The Lancet*, suggests that an additional 53 million cases of depressive disorders and 76 million cases of anxiety disorders were due to the pandemic. Countries with high Covid 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 disorders and anxiety disorders. Even before the pandemic, mental healthcare systems in most countries have historically been under-resourced and disorganised in their service delivery. "Meeting the added demand for mental health services due to Covid-19 will be challenging, but taking no action should not be an option," said lead study author Dr Damian Santomauro.



IT MIGHT BE A 'WET' DURGA PUJA IN BENGAL

Bengalis might experience another 'wet' puja this year. The Alipore Meteorological department has predicted that the formation of a depression in the sea of Andaman might create favourable conditions for showers in South Bengal, including Kolkata, between October 13-15. The four days of Durga Puja starts in West Bengal on October 12 and ends on October 15. The cyclone, formed in the Bay of Bengal, has lost its strength leading to sunny days in South Bengal, but the Met department has said that another low depression is set to be formed in the seas of Andaman from Sunday which will gradually gain strength and move towards North Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The department also predicted that sky in Kolkata will be partly cloudy from Friday and there is a possibility of light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorms.



WHO DEFINES THE POST-COVID SITUATION

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a clinical case definition of post-Covid situation to ensure better treatment and care for affected person. People with post-Covid conditions can experience lingering symptoms for months after recovery, said global health body WHO in a tweet, adding that the symptoms may begin right after being sick with Covid-19 or later, and may come and go. The WHO has developed the definition by Delphi methodology that states, "Common symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, cognitive dysfunction but also others and generally have an impact on everyday functioning. Symptoms may be new onset following initial recovery from an acute Covid-19 episode or persist from the initial illness. Symptoms may also fluctuate or relapse over time".



CSK MAKES IT TO ANOTHER IPL FINAL

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ageless Mahendra Singh Dhoni produced a nostalgic little innings to take a band of old men from Chennai Super Kings into their ninth Indian Premier League final after beating Delhi Capitals by four wickets here on Sunday.

DC though will get another shot at making it to the final when they meet the winner of the eliminator between KKR and RCB scheduled Monday.

Needing 13 off the last over, Dhoni hit a square cut, got a bit of luck going his way and then pulled DC's best bowler Tom Curran for the most celebrated T20 boundary of recent times. Before that, he had just slapped Avesh Khan for a six over mid-wicket.

Curran and Avesh weren't bad but it was one of those days, the cricketing Gods wanted the 40-year-old to finish it in style.

It was 18 not out in six balls that helped CSK reach 173 for 6 in 19.4 overs.

It was all about turning the clock back for the former India captain who has struggled to finish for years but 'Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Man' as he did once more for his favourite cricket team.

Robin Uthappa (63 off 44 balls) turned the clock back to his halcyon days being the pace setter in company of the irresistible Ruturaj Gaikwad (70 off 50 balls).

After Faf du Plessis was bowled by Kagiso Rabada, Uthappa decided to counter attack with such ferocity that it caught the Delhi Capitals completely unawares. Here was a player, who has been out of circulation for quite some time



but with in-form Gaikwad (70 off 50 balls), he added 110 runs as DC looked down and out after the first 10 overs.

There were drives, the reverse sweep, the Uthappa pull-shot and those shots while he also shimmied down the track to unsettle the line of the bowlers.

In all, he hit seven fours and two sixes before a brilliant piece of fielding by Shreyas Iyer at long-on boundary off Tom Curran. Iyer almost collided with Axar Patel but kept his balance to throw the ball in and catch it on second attempt.

Gaikwad still played his shots despite a mini-collapse

before a nice catch by Axar in deep off Avesh Khan made it 25 off 11 balls before Dhoni came in.

Pant got an ideal support from his buddy Shimron Hetmyer (37 off 24 balls) as the duo added 83 runs for the fifth wicket with some breathtaking shots towards the end of the innings.

Pant hit three fours and two sixes as Delhi Capitals didn't ultimately pay the price for playing a specialist batter short as they capitalised on a blazing start provided by opener Prithvi Shaw (60 off 34 balls), who took the opposition on with seven fours and

three sixes.

Coming together at 80 for 4, Hetmyer and Pant initially just nudged around for a few singles and doubles before the flamboyant Caribbean pulled a short one from Moeen Ali for a six. He then bisected the off-side field off Dwayne Bravo for a boundary.

Pant, who was being kept quiet by the spinners, finally showed some spark with his trademark one-handed six off Shardul Thakur.

Once they had put on a half-century partnership, Pant and Hetmyer did start throwing their bats around at the back-end when the pacers once again were back in operation.

If Hetmyer thumped Josh Hazlewood (4-0-29-2) over his head, Pant whipped him towards deep mid-wicket to bring up the 150 for the team.

Deepak Chahar's second over turned out to be a nightmare for the seamer as he was smashed for four boundaries - first a streaky inside edge followed by two square cuts on either side of a flick.

While Shikhar Dhawan (7) and Shreyas Iyer (1) were dismissed by Hazlewood within the Powerplay, Axar Patel (10) was promoted without much success.

As Shardul Thakur reached his fifty off only 27 balls, he was piercing the off-side field regularly even as Axar perished failing to get the desired distance while trying to loft Moeen Ali.

The seasoned pair of Moeen Ali (1/27 in 4 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/23 in 3 overs) suddenly stifled the runs post Powerplay with some measured bowling which led to Shaw trying to loft the left-arm spinner inside-out.

T20 World Cup: USD 1.6 mn for winners

2 drinks interval of two and half mins per innings

PTI ■ DUBAI

The winners of the ICC men's T20 World Cup will take home a winners cheque of USD 1.6 million while the runners up will get half that amount, the International Cricket Council confirmed on Sunday.

All 16 competing teams will receive a part of the USD 5.6 million allocated as prize money for the tournament, which will be played in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from October 17 to November 14.

The two losing semi-finalists will receive USD 400,000 each from the games

taking place on November 10 and 11.

The teams confirmed to be competing in the Super 12 stage are Afghanistan, Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, and the West Indies. The eight teams who will lose out on a semi-final berth will get USD 70,000 each while teams knocked out in the first round will take USD 40,000 each.

Teams who will strive to make Super 12s are Bangladesh, Ireland, Namibia, Netherlands, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, and Sri Lanka. Just like in 2016, there will be a bonus amount for every

match that teams win in the Super 12 stage.

The victors in each of the 30 games in that phase will this time win USD 40,000.

Drinks break introduced Meanwhile, there will be two scheduled Drinks Intervals in each game instead of usual one. Each break will last for two minutes and 30 seconds and will be taken at the midpoint of each innings.

The introduction of official drinks break will help the broadcasters earn advertisement revenue worth five minutes and for India matches, the rates are expected to be high.

Sports Minister questions Hockey India's decision to withdraw from 2022 CWG

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Sunday came down heavily on Hockey India's decision to pull out of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England next year, saying that this is not the federation's decision alone to make.

Speaking to reporters here, the minister said the government should have been consulted before announcing such a major decision.

"I think any federation should refrain from passing these kinds of statements. They should discuss it with the government first. It is not the federation's team that is going. It is the country's team that goes for



an event. In a country of 130 crore, there just are not 18 players who can represent the country. I believe Hockey India should consult with the government and the Sports department," Thakur said.

"There is no shortage of talent in hockey in our counsion alone to make.

try. If you see cricket, the IPL is going on and then there is the World Cup. If they can't play, then why cannot the same be done in other sports? I understand Asian Games is being prioritised, I am not going into this issue. I am just saying where India will be playing just does not lie with the federation; it lies with the government as well," he added.

DRS to make debut in upcoming men's T20 World Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Decision Review System (DRS) will make its debut in The men's T20 World Cup to be held in Oman and UAE starting this month, after the ICC approved its usage in the tournament. The ICC announced the introduction of DRS at the upcoming showpiece in the playing conditions for the event released by it earlier this week.

The men's T20 World Cup will be held from October 17 to November 14.

According to an ESPNcricinfo report, each team will get a maximum of two reviews per innings.

The governing body had confirmed in June last year an additional unsuccessful DRS review for each team in each

innings of a match across all formats, "keeping in mind that there may be less experienced umpires on duty at times" owing to COVID-19-related reasons.

Bottas wins Turkish GP, Verstappen reclaims title lead

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas won the Turkish Grand Prix for his first victory of the season on Sunday, while Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second to reclaim the overall lead from title rival Lewis Hamilton.

Sergio Perez capped a strong day for Red Bull by finishing in third place. He wiped away Hamilton's two-point lead and now leads the Mercedes driver by six points with six races left in a thrilling title battle that could go all the way to the final race in Abu Dhabi.

Defending champion Hamilton lost valuable points by finishing fifth after coming in for a late tire



change, despite telling his team he wanted to stay on track when still in third.

Hamilton was getting increasingly agitated as he fell behind Leclerc and with Pierre Gasly's AlphaTauri gaining on him.

"Just leave it alone," he snapped to his race engineer when informed of Gasly's gap.

Bottas finally got the winning feeling again when he overtook Ferrari's Charles Leclerc with about a dozen laps left, clinching his first victory since the Russian GP in September last year.

"Haha, yes!" Bottas shouted after his 10th career win and a much-needed one during a frustrating last season with Mercedes before

joining Alfa Romeo next year.

To cap it off he clocked the fastest lap on the 5.3-kilometer (3.3-mile) Istanbul Park circuit beneath a grey sky amid persistent drizzle.

Hamilton finally came in for new tires on Lap 51 but did not agree with the decision. "Why did you give up that place?" a frustrated Hamilton barked on team radio using an expletive. Leclerc came in earlier than Hamilton and placed fourth, missing out on a 14th career podium.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. And McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo started from the back after complete engine changes. Sainz Jr. Managed to finish a commendable eighth.

Neymar says World Cup in Qatar may be his last

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazil star Neymar says next year's World Cup in Qatar could be the last of his career.

The comments by the 29-year-old striker were made in the documentary "Neymar & The Line Of Kings," produced by DAZN. An excerpt was published on the channel's Twitter feed on Sunday.

"Man, I think it will be my last World Cup," Neymar said.

"I am facing it like the last World Cup because I don't know whether I will be able to, mentally, to endure more soccer.

HEAD TO HEAD:

OVERALL:

Matches: 28

Kolkata Knight Riders won:

15

Royal Challengers Bangalore won:

13

THIS SEASON'S MATCHES:

□ Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 38 runs at Chennai

□ Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 9 wickets at Abu Dhabi

FOR THE RECORD:

□ Rahul Tripathi with 377 runs at an average of 31.41 in 13 innings of 14 matches is the highest run-getter for Kolkata Knight Riders in this season.

□ Virat Kohli who hit 896 fours in 303 innings of 318 matches, needs four more fours to become the second Indian and seventh batsman overall to complete 900 fours in Twenty-20 matches.

□ Royal Challengers Bangalore have won four and lost one in last five matches played against Kolkata Knight Riders.

ROAD TO ELIMINATOR:

KOLKATA KINHGT RIDERS:

□ Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Chennai

□ Lost to Mumbai Indians by 10 runs at Chennai

□ Lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore by 38 runs at Chennai

□ Lost to Chennai Super Kings by 18 runs at Mumbai

□ Lost to Rajasthan Royals by 6 wickets at Mumbai

□ Beat Punjab Kings by 5 wickets at Ahmedabad

□ Lost to Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets at Ahmedabad

□ Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 9 wickets at Abu Dhabi

□ Beat Mumbai Indians by 7 wickets at Abu Dhabi

□ Lost to Chennai Super Kings by 2 wickets at Abu Dhabi

□ Beat Delhi Capitals by 3 wickets at Sharjah

□ Lost to Punjab Kings by 5 wickets at Dubai

□ Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Dubai

□ Beat Rajasthan Royals by 86 runs at Sharjah

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE:

□ Beat Mumbai Indians by 2 wickets at Chennai

□ Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 runs at Chennai

□ Beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 38 runs at Chennai

□ Beat Rajasthan Royals by 10 wickets at Mumbai

□ Lost to Chennai Super Kings by 69 runs at Mumbai

□ Beat Delhi Capitals by 1 ru ay Ahmedabad

□ Lost to Punjab Kings by 34 runs at Ahmedabad

□ Lost to Kolkata Knight Riders by 9 wickets at Abu Dhabi

□ Lost to Super Kings by 6 wickets at Sharjah

□ Beat Mumbai Indians by 54 runs at Dubai

□ Beat Rajasthan Royals by 7 wickets at Dubai

□ Beat Punjab Kings by 6 runs at Sharjah

□ Lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad by 4 runs at Abu Dhabi

□ Beat Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets at Dubai

FAISEL FEATURES

England name full-strength squad for 2021-22 Ashes, Buttler included

London: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Sunday named the strongest available squad for the 2021-22 Ashes with wicketkeeper and vice-captain Jos Buttler joining captain Joe Root in committing to the tour of Australia, starting in November.

Of the 17-member squad, ten will be touring Australia in an Ashes series for the first time.

As anticipated, Ben Stokes was not considered for selection as he continues to take an

indefinite break from cricket to manage his well-being. The all-rounder's absence is no surprise but leaves a huge hole in Joe Root's team as they attempt to reclaim the Ashes and win in Australia for the first time in eleven years.

Stuart Broad, who tore a calf after the first Test against India in August, has also been included subject to proving his fitness in a pre-departure training camp at Loughborough. It will be Broad's fourth Ashes tour.

Meanwhile, all-rounder, Sam Curran was not considered for selection after a second scan confirmed that he has a stress fracture in his lower back.

England's fast-bowling attack is set to lack the variety due to injuries to Jofra Archer and Olly Stone. Mark Wood is the only genuine pace bowler and Ollie Robinson, Craig Overton Broad, James Anderson, and Chris Woakes have also been included in the squad. **IANIS**



Saina retires after injury, India beat Spain 3-2

PTI ■ AARHUS

A ce shuttler Saina Nehwal was forced to retire midway through her opening match but India's young brigade produced a clinical display to notch up a fine 3-2 win over Spain and make a winning start to their campaign at the Uber Cup Final here on Sunday.

Starting the proceedings for India, London Olympics bronze medalist Saina had to concede her match after losing the first game 20-22 against Spain's Clara Azurmendi as she developed discomfort in her groin area.

However, Malvika Bansod ensured that India quickly recovers from the opening game reversal as she dished out a dominating 21-13 21-15 win over former world No. 20 Beatriz Corrales to bring India at level par with the Spanish team.

Tanisha Crasto and Rutaparna Panda then produced an equally impressive display, completely outplaying Spain's Paula Lopez and Lorena Usle 21-10 21-8 as India grabbed a 2-1 lead in the five-match rubber.

In the third singles, Aditi Bhatt gave ample display of her talent during the 21-16 21-14 win over Spain's Ania Setien in the third singles as India sealed the contest 3-1.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallists N Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, however, could not get past world No. 122 pair of Azurmendi and Corrales, losing 18-21 21-14 17-21 in the second women's doubles match.

India will face Scotland in their second group B match on Tuesday.

Saina was forced to walk out from the court after feeling a sudden pain in her groin midway through the first women's singles match.

"There was a certain catch in my groin. I was surprised at how it happened. I was trying to get back my rhythm and I couldn't get it and I had to give it up because it was hurting when I was taking long lunges," Saina was quoted as saying by olympics.Com.

The 31-year-old from Hyderabad said she will monitor her injury in the next few days.

"I think let us see the next three, four days, how it is. There are two more matches, so I just want to see how it goes. I don't want to take any sudden decision at the moment because my body feels good but this groin issue has to go."

It was, however, a delightful sight to see the youngsters stepping up.

Neymar's return since the 2-0 win against Peru on Sept. 10, in which he turned in a key Brazil performance with an assist and a goal. Despite his efforts, Neymar made clear after the match that he is upset with the treatment he gets at home.

"I don't know what else I need to do with this shirt for people to respect Neymar," he said. Local media accused the striker of being out of shape in the 1-0 win at Chile earlier in September, which prompted the striker to walk around shirtless during training to show how fit he is.

India lose 3rd T20I by 14 runs

PTI ■ GOLD COAST

The Indian women's team committed batting harakiri despite a fine half century from opener Smriti Mandhana to lose the third and final T20 International by 14 runs as Australia clinched the multi-format series by 11-5 margin.

Australia won four of the six white ball games (three WODIs and three WT20Is) which paved way for an easy series win with Indians playing well only in patches.

Chasing a challenging 150-run target, Mandhana smashed 52 off 49 balls and shared 57 runs with Jemimah Rodrigues (23 off 26) for the second wicket to set the platform for India before the visitors lost four wickets in a span of 10 runs to lose the plot.

For Australia, right-arm pacer Nicola Carey (2/42) was the pick of the bowlers, while Ashleigh Gardner (1/22), Annabel Sutherland (1/13) and Georgia Wareham (1/15) scalped a wicket each.

India thus ended their Australia tour heartbroken, having already lost the three-match ODI series 1-2 before drawing the rain-marred lone historic day/night Test.

India's run chase started on a disappointing fashion as they lost hard-hitting opener Shafali Verma (1) early, caught by Vlaeminck at short fine-leg off Gardner in the second over.

SINGLES

SHUBHANKAR LIES FIFTH AT OPEN DE ESPANA

Madrid: Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma carded a sedate one-under 70 in the third round to slip two places to lie tied fifth at the ACCIONA Open de España here. Sharma, who shot 67-64 on first two days, had just two birdies against one bogey in the third round to lie at 12-under. He shared the fifth place with overnight leader Wil Besseling (72), Alexander Levy (65) and Richard Bland (64). Sharma, who has been showing good signs over the past few weeks, is looking at his first Top-5 or better in this season and also a comfortable place in the Top-60 for Race to Dubai's World Tour Championships later in the year. Sharma birdied seventh and 14th and dropped a shot on 11th. Rafa Cabrera Bello carded a bogey free 64 to take a two shot lead into the final round. The former World Top-50 player moved to 17-under. Cabrera Bello has won this event at every age level from under-seven to under-18 as an amateur but now a win as a professional event would rank very highly in his list of career highlights.

LAHIRI SLIPS ON THIRD DAY AT SHRINERS OPEN

Las Vegas (US): Struggling a windy day, Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri slipped down the leaderboard from Tied 30 to 54 after carding a one-over 72 at the Shriners Children's Open, here. Lahiri had shot 65 and 70 on the first two days. Adam Schenk (64-65-66) was the leader at 18 under while Matthew Wolff (64-67-65) was second at 17 under. Chad Ramey, Sam Burns, and Andrew Putnam are tied for third at 16 under. On a day when it was windy and not very easy, Lahiri missed the few chances that came his way but he also managed a few tough pars on Saturday. He looked like getting off to a good start with a birdie on the second from 14 feet but a miss from inside five feet and then from 13 feet meant he dropped back-to-back bogeys.

AFGHANISTAN ALL SET FOR T20 WORLD CUP

Dubai: ICC Acting CEO Geoff Allardice on Sunday made it clear that there is no threat to Afghanistan's participation in the T20 World Cup but said it will keep a close watch on how things unfold after the change in regime in the strife-torn country. There were reports that ICC might forbid Afghanistan from participating in the showpiece event if the team decides to play under the Taliban flag amid the ongoing turmoil in the country. "They are a full member at the ICC and the team is preparing for the event (World Cup) at the moment (and) will be playing in (the) Group league. In terms of their participation, it is proceeding as the normal," Allardice said at a virtual con-call. With Taliban taking over of the country's political setup, Afghanistan cricket team has been in a state of chaos. Last month, Taliban had replaced Hamid Shinwari with Naseed Zadran Khan as Afghanistan Cricket Board's Chief Executive.

AMANEED FALTERS IN FINAL ROUND

Tourettes (France): India's Amandeep Drall faltered on the final day with a five-over 77 card and plummeted from overnight second position to finish tied-11th at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open golf tournament here. Vani Kapoor, the other Indian in the field, also shot 77 and finished T-26 after being T-11 overnight. Sweden's Linn Grant rounded off an excellent week, producing a final round of 72 to win the title by four shots. Heading into the final day, the 22-year-old held a six-shot lead after rounds of 68 (-4) and 66 (-6) on her first two days. The former Arizona State University player ensured she produced a level-par final round to finish on 10-under-par and win her first tournament as a professional. In second place was Danish amateur Amalie Leth-Nissen, who shot a final round of 69 (-3) to be four shots behind Grant. Scotland's Rachael Taylor ended the tournament in the fourth place after a final round of 70. **AGENCIES**