

OPINION 6
LAKHIMPUR KHERI—
WAS IT AVOIDABLE?**WORLD 8**
NEW CHAPTER OPENED IN AF,
WORLD RELATIONS: TALIBAN FM**SPORT 12**
IT'S CSK VS KKR
IN IPL FINAL!

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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I'M VERY
HEADSTRONG:
MALAIKA
10 VIVACITY

India headed for jab milestone

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

tancy. As for the availability of vaccines, the production for October alone is about 28 crore doses. Of these 22 crore doses are of Covishield, 6 crore of Covaxin and 60 lakh of the DNA vaccine," the sources said. In the meantime, India reported 15,823 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, 10.5 per cent higher than Tuesday when the country saw the lowest daily rise in Covid cases since early March with 14,313 infections. India also reported 226 deaths due to coronavirus.

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

Meanwhile, news agency

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

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

"In an infection by the Delta variant, which is widespread, there is a six-eight fold drop in the potential of antisera from vaccines to neutralise the variant compared to the wild type (used for vaccination-spike or whole virus). "Nobody still has a clear



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

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

Doctors fear Covid surge in Bengal over protocol violation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

The administration's lenient execution of the corona protocol framed by the Calcutta High Court tends to push up the fear. Dr RK Patra,



a senior physician, warned, "If the positivity percentage goes beyond 5 per cent, then the administration will certainly

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

This even as a senior doc-

tor of the Calcutta Medical College, the oldest such hospital in Asia, said how before Maha Panchami day the infectivity rate in Bengal was in the vicinity of 1.75 per cent which had crossed 2.53 by the end of Maha Saptami day.

While the infectibility rate remain more or less static, it is showing upward swing in Kolkata and adjacent North 24 Parganas which forms the part of greater Kolkata, thanks to the increasing crowd of pandal hoppers who have been cramming the sidewalks.

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

PTI ■ BOSTON



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

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

Continued on Page 2

Ashish Mishra denied bail, 2 more arrested

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

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

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

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

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

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



Magistrate Chinta Ram.

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

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

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

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

NIA arrests 9 in J&K for terror conspiracy

Of those, 5 held during searches in Srinagar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The case relates to the conspiracy for conducting violent



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

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

Srinagar, Bilal Ahmed Mir alias Bilal Fufu of Parimpora, Srinagar, and Tariq Ahmed Bafanda of Rajauri Kadal in Srinagar.

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

Continued on Page 2

JeM commander gunned down in encounter with forces in Pulwama

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

CAPSULE

MANMOHAN SINGH ADMITTED TO AIIMS

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

INFLATION RISES 5.4% FROM YEAR AGO

Washington: Consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent last month, slightly higher than August's gain and pushing annual inflation back to the highest increase in 13 years.

'NO TEMPORARY LICENCE FOR FIRECRACKERS'

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Wednesday said it will not issue any temporary licence for the storage and sale of firecrackers this festival season.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The plan targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time, Modi said, adding it would lend more power and speed to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform. The infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and States will be designed and executed with a common vision.

Modi said taxpayers' money in the past was "insulted" through a lethargic approach to development work, with departments working in silos and



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

pjb

there was no coordination on projects. Development, he said, is not possible without quality infrastructure and the Government has now resolved to develop it in a holistic manner. Gati

Shakti joins different departments for the coordinated development of projects from road to railways, aviation to agriculture, the PM said.

Continued on Page 2

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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that the international

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

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

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PROTEST OUTSIDE DELHI POLICE HQ BY CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS

Cops accused of sexually assaulting two students

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A protest was carried out by various civil society groups outside the Delhi Police headquarters in the national Capital following the alleged sexual assault of two women students by police personnel during a recent protest.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Left-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA) had alleged that two women students were sexually assaulted by Delhi Police personnel while they were participating in a protest outside Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence on October 10. The allegations were rejected by the Delhi Police as "totally baseless".

On Wednesday, around 60



activists gathered outside the Delhi Police headquarters at Ashoka Road and raised slogans against the force. They demanded that the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Chanakyapuri be sacked for allegedly instructing police personnel to assault women protesters.

Members of the AISA were

detailed on Sunday as they staged a protest near Amit Shah's residence here demanding the expulsion of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra over the October 3 Lakhimpur Khari violence in which Mishra's son is accused of mowing down four farmers and a journalist with his vehicle.

Network of fictitious exporters busted; 1 held for GST fraud

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST officers in Delhi have busted a network of fictitious exporters and arrested one person for fraudulently claiming input tax credit of ₹134 crore.

The Finance Ministry said that based on risk analysis, M/s Vibe Tradex, engaged in export of Pan Masala, chewing tobacco, FMCG goods etc, was identified for scrutiny.

"The officers of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Commissionerate, Delhi East, carried out the detailed analysis and unearthed a network of fictitious exporters who were availing and utilizing fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) of ₹134 crore under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) with an intent to claim IGST refund fraudu-



lently," the Ministry said.

The network of fictitious exporters was being operated by Chirag Goel. On an extensive analysis of the e-Way Bills generated by two supplier firms/ companies owned by his associate, who is at large, it was found that the vehicles for which the e-way Bill were generated for purported supply of goods were being used in dis-

tant cities namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and had never entered Delhi during the said period.

The statement said that Goel masterminded the conspiracy to defraud the government. He has been remanded to 14 days judicial custody till October 26. Further investigation in the case is under progress.

Failure to remove illegal hawkers impacts citizens right to life: HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Authorities' failure to dis-charge their duty to remove hawkers and vendors from no vending zone "very severely and adversely" impacts citizens' rights to life, a healthy and clean environment, the Delhi High Court has said while directing removal of unauthorised hawkers and vendors in Connaught Place area here.

The high court gave a stern warning to the officers of New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) and Delhi Police, who have jurisdiction over the CP area, to ensure strict compliance of orders and scheme approved by the Supreme Court on unauthorised encroachments.

A bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said

the law has to prevail and it cannot allow the city to be taken over by illegal encroachers or vendors.

There should be zero tolerance shown to them and all unauthorised hawkers and vendors should be removed with bag and baggage, the bench said.

The court directed removal of illegal encroachers and vendors from the CP area and directed the authorities to ensure that the area remains clean on a regular basis and they do not return. It directed the Chairman and concerned executive engineers of NDMC, having jurisdiction over the area, and the Deputy Commissioner of

Police and SHO of the local police station to remain present before the court on November 18.

De-concretise trees, PWD tells its workforce

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) has asked its officials to de-concretise the base of trees in the city and ensure that at least one metre area around them is left unpaved while laying tiles on footpaths or road construction, officials said on Wednesday.

According to PWD officials, the department has also asked officials concerned to remove concrete around trees wherever their base has been concretised. These directions came after numerous complaints of concretisation of base of trees across the city. The department has also issued a circular in this connection. In July this year, Delhi

Government's Forest Department had conducted a survey and found that the base of over 1,600 trees were concretised alongside arterial roads and local streets.

Following the survey, concerned agencies such as PWD and the civic bodies were asked to take corrective measures.

A senior PWD official said that the department had also received complaints from the public that tree bases were paved entirely which may lead to decaying of trees.

The circular issued by the PWD said that it has been observed that tile or concrete has been laid right upto the periphery of trees and in many cases, it is detrimental to the healthy growth and life of trees.

Fake investment scheme: 3 held for duping people of ₹7 cr

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested three men for allegedly cheating over 100 people of approximately ₹7 crore on the pretext of providing higher returns by investing in the business of fisheries, floriculture and plantation of medicinal trees.

The accused have been identified as Rajesh Kumar Laura (45), Ravi (28) and Gajanand Kaushik (41) and the duo misappropriated around Rs seven crore from 135 victims.

Police said that the accused Laura is the kingpin of the alleged scam. He had mobilised the investors in collusion with

Police said that the accused Rajesh Laura is the kingpin of the alleged scam

his associates, police said, adding a case was registered against them in 2019 at EOW unit for running a ponzy scheme.

According to RK Singh, the Additional Commissioner of Police, EOW, in his complaint, one of the victim reported that on the allurements of the accused, he invested money in the partnership firm on the pretext that invested money will be used for the business of fisheries, floriculture and plantation of medicinal trees.

SDMC fines construction sites for dust pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to curb pollution caused by 'Construction and Demolition' (C&D) waste, the building department of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has launched a massive drive to control dust pollution in its area and fined as many as 72 companies, builders, owners to the tune of nearly ₹65 lakh for not adhering to the orders and guidelines issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

A senior SDMC official said that the department has initiated stringent action against the offenders found to be violating the orders and guidelines issued by DPCC in terms of environmental conditions, construction and demolition activities. During the last one week, the department has fined as many as 72 companies/builders/owners amounting to nearly ₹65 lakh

Private builders, owners have also been given challans after violation of the DPCC norms was found

for not adhering with orders and guidelines of the DPCC.

The South Zone of the SDMC's building department has observed grave violations in some big projects being executed by the NBCC and has imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh against them, he said.

"We have fined different projects including IIT (Delhi) complex of ₹20 lakh accordingly for violating norms. One other project at Sports Injury Centre-Safdarjung Hospital has also been imposed a fine of ₹5

lakh.

Other big projects relating to re-development, heavy fines have been imposed by the department. Private builders, owners have also been imposed challans after finding violation of the DPCC norms," he added.

The official further said that to curb pollution, hot spots areas are being kept under constant surveillance and monitoring by the officials of the SDMC.

"The measures under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), as issued by the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority are being enforced in this regard.

The concerned officials have been keeping strict watch and vigil on all such under-construction sites with a view to ensuring that all preventive measures to lessen the pollution are being taken by the owners/builders," he added.

Delhi records 31 fresh Covid cases; positivity rate at 0.05%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 31 new cases on Wednesday while the positivity rate stood at 0.05 per cent, according to a health bulletin issued by the health department of the Delhi Government.

As per the bulletin, a total of 65548 tests - 46,426 RT-PCR tests and 19,122 rapid antigen tests - were conducted a day ago, the bulletin said.

"The Covid case tally in Delhi reached 1439283 of which over 14.13 lakh patients have recovered. The death toll has risen to 25,089," it said.

The national Capital has 12,600 ICU beds as on Tuesday. Delhi battled a brutal second wave of the pandemic in April and May that claimed a massive number of lives with the issue of oxygen shortage in hospitals adding to the woes.

Rai conducts surprise inspection of WHO building construction site

Issues notice for violation of norms

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

City Government on Wednesday inspected 226 construction sites out of which 69 were found non-compliant.

A fine of ₹19.4 Lakh imposed for violating dust control norms. According to a report on the 'dust drive' campaign of the Delhi Government, 522 construction sites were inspected in the past four days, out of which 165 sites were found violating the guidelines. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai, along with Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) officials conducted a surprise inspection of the construction site of the WHO Building at Mahatma Gandhi Marg, IP Estate.

On the site, the team found minor violations of the guidelines. "Construction agency has been issued a notice, warning



them of a fine if all the guidelines are not complied with within two days," Rai said. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) minister will chair a meeting with revenue, transport and Delhi police department officials. There he will discuss the 'Red light on, Gadi off' campaign. To curb vehicular pollution, 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign is being started from 18th October. Tomorrow I will hold a meeting with senior officials of Environment, Revenue, Delhi Police, and Civil Defence, in which we will make the complete outline of the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign, and on 18th October we will launch this campaign," Rai said.

2 welders fall from 3rd floor, injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a tragic incident, two labourers were injured after falling from the third floor of a house in southeast Delhi's Lajpat Nagar-1 area where they were carrying out welding work.

One of them fell to the ground and sustained serious injuries while the other's fall was broken by a metal grill on the second floor on which he got stuck and escaped with minor injuries.

Police said that the seriously injured labourer is out of danger and under treatment at a nearby hospital.



PICTALK



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi at a photo exhibition on the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, at the AICC headquarter lawns in New Delhi on Wednesday



Delhi Police
Shanti • Sewa • Nyaya



NO FIRECRACKERS
USE OF FIRECRACKERS BANNED
TILL 1ST JAN' 2022



Delhi Pollution Control Committee has
PROHIBITED

the Sale and Use of Firecrackers in The National Capital Territory of Delhi upto January 1st, 2022

Process of grant of temporary licence is therefore dispensed with.

How Firecrackers are harmful to health:-

Smog caused by firecrackers is harmful when inhaled

The fumes that these crackers produce are harmful to the environment and us

Causes irritation in the respiratory tract

Reduces the oxygen carrying capacity of blood, leading to anaemia.

Delhi Police wishes citizens to celebrate a clean and pollution-free Diwali

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.rakeshasthana@delhipolice.gov.in
Write to CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL : 112 **TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL : 1090**

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The Zydus Cadila vaccine

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tomato prices in retail markets of metro cities have shot up to ₹72 per kilogram on tight supply due to unseasonal rain in key producing States like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Among the metros, the maximum increase in the retail price of tomato was seen in Kolkata where the key kitchen vegetable was ruling as high as ₹72 per kg on October 12 when compared to ₹38 per kg during the month-ago period.

Interestingly, India, the world's second largest tomato producer after China, produces around 19.75 million tonnes from an area of 7.89 lakh hectares with an average yield of 25.05 tonnes per hectare. Similarly, onion prices have also been hiked and now, it is around ₹50 per kg which used to be sold earlier at around ₹35-40 per kg.

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

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

"Unseasonal rains in producing states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have damaged the crop due to which the supply to consum-



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

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

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

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

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

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

Cong leaders meet Prez, seek Min's sacking over Lakhimpur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Working Committee on Saturday.

Later talking to the media, Rahul said that he conveyed to the President that the MoS Home should resign to ensure an impartial probe in the Lakhimpur violence as his son Ashish is an accused in the matter. Ashish Mishra, who has been named in the FIR and is accused of mowing down



farmers in Lakhimpur Khari, was arrested on Saturday by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Four farmers were among eight people killed in the violence in Lakhimpur Khari on October 3.

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

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

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

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

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

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

90K staff of ex-Ghani Govt starving in Af

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

₹3.25 cr khadi products sold on Gandhi Jayanti in Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Chief Minister of Gujarat



Bhupendra Patel and several other ministers also visited Khadi India outlets to purchase Khadi products.

KVIC Chairman VK Saxena attributed the massive Khadi sales to the frequent appeals of the Prime Minister to buy and promote Khadi and also the acceptance of Khadi among the masses in Gujarat.

"Gujarat is the land where Babu first spun Khadi.

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT ASYM
DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM
E-mail : medsupdhh@gmail.com

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

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

Sd/- Medical Superintendent
ASYM District Hospital Budgam

No. DIPP-10581/21 Dated: 13.10.2021

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	SUB- LT XLPE ARMoured CABLE OF SIZE SC25 SQ.MM SHORT TERM NIT NO. 15/UH/MM/XEN/P-III (QST-II/2063) DATED 29.09.2021	PART-I OPENING DATE EXTENDED UPTO 19.10.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	9023360202 cemm@uhbvn.org.in
2	UHBVN	EOI- 31Q/EMP/ PO&C/ PKJ/ 2021	CORRECTION IN PARAGRAPHS OF CLAUSE 1.1. OF SCOPE OF WORK MENTIONED AT PAGE NO. 8 IN BID DOCUMENT VOLUME- I. OPENING DATE 29/10/2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01722570431 cepdcc@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 5186

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OPENING DATE (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	
1	UHBVN	33 KV TRANSFORMER CTS AS PER NIGAM SPECIFICATION IN 33KV/11/DH/ UH/P&D/2020-21 WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS. RATIO 600-300/5-5-5-3A. RATIO 400-200/5-5-5-5A 33 KV PTS AS PER NIGAM SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-XXXX/R-II/DH/UH/P&D/ 2015-16 WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS. 33 KV CT/PT COMBINED UNITS.	CLOSING DATE 27.10.2021	1.43 CRORE www.uhbvn.org.in	98880021007 cemm@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 5187

MID-SEA DRUG BUST CASE

Aryan Khan played role in procurement: NCB

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and four others --- Arbaaz, Mohak, Nupur and Dhamecha -- were among the eight persons arrested by the NCB on October 3, a night after the NCB officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of Charas, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) and Rs 1.33 lakh in cash from Goa-bound cruise ship off the Mumbai coast here.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Desai went onto tell the court that

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

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

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

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

Maharashtra Cabinet supports reservation in promotion in Govt jobs

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

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

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

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

STs and backward communities in higher posts in public jobs.

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

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

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

Karunakaran's daughter Padmaja alleges betrayal by Cong leader

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

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

of rampant groupism in the party.

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

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

Sooraj gets life for snakebite murder

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kerala: Covid cases keep on increasing

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

President Kovind to celebrate Dussehra with jawans in Drass

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"As observed herein above, it appears that Bar Council of State is not interested in taking action and, therefore, now the Bar Council of India has to step in and take appropriate action against the erring advo-

cates, who are found to have indulged into filing of such fake claims," the bench said.

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

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

DMK MP held in connection with unnatural death of employee

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT)

4th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006
Visit us at: <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

PUBLIC NOTICE - BATTERIES MANAGEMENT

Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 came into force w.e.f 16th May, 2001. These rules mandate various responsibilities on manufacturers, importers, assemblers, re-conditioners, dealers, recyclers, consumers, bulk consumers and auctioneers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under.

Manufacturers/Importers

- ✓ Shall ensure that the new batteries be sold only to the registered dealers and the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold excluding those sold to original equipment manufacturer and bulk consumer(s).
- ✓ Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales and buy-back to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in **Form- I** latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.
- ✓ Set up collection centres either individually or jointly at various places for collection of used batteries from consumers or dealers and shall ensure that the collected batteries are sent only to the registered recyclers.
- ✓ Shall ensure that necessary arrangements are made with dealers for safe transportation from collection centres to the premises of registered recyclers and shall ensure that no damage to the environment occurs during the transportation.
- ✓ Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regards to **(a) hazard of lead (b) responsibility of consumers to return their used batteries only to the dealer or deliver at designated collection centre and (c) address of the dealer and designated collection centres.**
- ✓ Buy recycled lead only from registered recyclers.
- ✓ Bring to the notice of the DPCC or the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for any violation by the dealers.
- ✓ Importers shall apply for registration as per **Form II and Form III** on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) online portal for a period of five years (link: <http://cpccbrms.nic.in/>).

Assemblers/Re-conditioners

- ✓ Shall ensure that the used batteries collected back are of similar type and specifications as that of the new batteries sold and shall ensure that used batteries collected are sent only to registered recyclers.

- ✓ Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regard to **hazards of lead.**

Dealers

- ✓ Apply for registration by submitting online application in **Form- IV** available on DPCC website by creating user ID and password for the period of five years.
- ✓ Shall ensure that the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold.
- ✓ Shall ensure safe transportation of collected batteries to the designated collection centres or to registered recyclers.
- ✓ Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales

means with regards to **(a) hazard of lead, and (b) obligation of consumers to return used batteries only to the registered dealers or deliver at the designated collection centres.**

Consumers/Bulk Consumers

- ✓ Shall ensure that used batteries are not disposed off in any manner other than by depositing with the dealer/ manufacturer/ registered recycler/ importer/ re-conditioner or at the designated collection centres.
- ✓ Bulk consumers shall file half-yearly return latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) in **Form- I** to DPCC.
- ✓ Bulk consumers to their user units may auction used batteries to registered recyclers only.



and buy-back of old batteries to the DPCC and manufacturer in **Form-V** latest by 31st May (for Oct-Mar) and 30th November (for Apr-Sept) of every year.

Recyclers

- ✓ Shall apply for registration to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change or an agency designated by it (if not applied already), by submitting information in **Form VI.**
- ✓ Shall submit half-yearly returns as per **Form-VII** to the DPCC latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.
- ✓ Shall make available all records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield to be submitted to the DPCC.
- ✓ Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other

Auctioneers

- ✓ Shall ensure that used batteries are auctioned to the registered recyclers only.
- ✓ Shall maintain records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield and submit to DPCC.
- ✓ Shall file half-yearly returns of their auctions latest by 30th June and 31st December to DPCC in **Form-IX.**

Note:- As per Batteries (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2010, every dealer of Lead Acid Battery shall obtain registration from DPCC, within 30 days of this Notice and in case of failure legal action including prosecution shall be initiated.

Member Secretary

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Bailed out

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

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

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

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

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

PICTALK



Devotees at the Sri Govindaraja Swamy temple, in Tirupati

PTI

Blood and gore

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

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

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

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

Lakhimpur Kheri— Was it avoidable?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

First to invoke presumptuous theories to pre-deter-

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

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

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

likely to take advantage of the situation.

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

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

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

SOUND BITE

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



NCP president
—Sharad Pawar



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

Pakistan Chief of Army Staff
—Qamar Javed Bajwa

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



Actor
—Taapsee Pannu



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

Former Australia cricketer
—Shane Watson

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



BJP national general secretary
—Dushyant Gautam

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IT'S ALL FAIR IN POLITICS

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

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

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

SOFT DRINKS ARE HARD ON HEALTH

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

Vaccine on the way



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

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

G David Milton | Maruthancode

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

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

RESPECT IS GREATER THAN WORSHIP

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

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

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

Swagatika Sahoo | Raghunathpur

Send your feedback to:
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FIRST COLUMN

CHANGING INNOVATION LANDSCAPE IN INDIA

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



MOHIT GAMBHIR

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



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

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

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

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

Extending sympathies to the new laureate

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



BALAKRISHNAN SATYAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



published a sequel several decades later with nothing in between.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

be in the spotlight.

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

Healthcare infrastructure needs a check-up

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



HARSH VARDHAN

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is President and Head of ERP Solutions, Ramco Systems. The views expressed are personal.)

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 of the Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 26th October, 2021 at the registered office of the Company, inter alia to consider and approve and take on record Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter/half year ended on 30th September, 2021.

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FOR INDO COTSPIN LTD

Date : 06.10.2021	Sd/-
Place : Panipat	Raj Pal Aggarwal
	Director
	DIN : 00456189

Inflation rises 5.4% from year ago

MATCHING 13-YEAR HIGH

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent last month, slightly higher than August's gain and pushing annual inflation back to the highest increase in 13 years.

The consumer price index rose 5.4per cent in September from a year ago, the Labor Department said Wednesday, up slightly from August's gain of 5.3per cent and matching the increases in June and July, which were the highest since 2008.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core inflation rose 0.2per cent in September and 4per cent compared with a year ago. Core prices hit a three-decade high

of 4.5per cent in June.

The unexpected burst of inflation this year reflects sharply higher prices for food and energy, but also new and used cars, hotel rooms, clothing, and furniture, among other goods and services.

Covid-19 has shut down factories in Asia and slowed U.S. Port operations, leaving container ships anchored at sea and consumers and businesses paying more for goods that don't arrive for months.

Higher prices are also outstripping the pay gains many workers are able to obtain from businesses, who are having to pay more to attract employees. Average hourly wages rose 4.6per cent in September from a year earlier, a healthy increase, but not enough to keep up with inflation.

Gas prices jumped 1.2per cent last month and have

soared more than 42per cent compared with a year ago. Electricity prices rose 0.8per cent in September from August.

Supply chain disruptions continue to drive new car prices higher, which rose 1.3per cent last month and are up 8.7per cent from a year ago, the largest 12-month increase since 1980. A shortage of semiconductors has restrained vehicle production and left fewer cars on dealer lots.

The rapid price increases have raised pressure on the Federal Reserve, which has pegged its benchmark interest rate at nearly zero to spur more borrowing and spending. Yet inflation is far above its target of 2 per cent. Chair Jerome Powell has repeatedly said that the price gains should "abate" next year, bringing inflation closer to the target.

Market on a roll: Indices capture new peaks; log 5th straight gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity gauges Sensex and Nifty on Wednesday climbed to new record highs, stretching their winning run to the fifth consecutive session, as investors continued to lap up auto, power and infra shares.

After scaling a lifetime intraday high of 60,836.63 during the session, the 30-share Sensex settled 452.74 points or 0.75 per cent higher at 60,737.05 - its all-time closing high.

Similarly, the Nifty rallied 169.80 points or 0.94 per cent to a new closing peak of 18,161.75. It also touched an intra-day record of 18,197.80.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, zooming over 5 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, ITC, L&T, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and Titan.

On the other hand, Maruti Suzuki, HUL, Nestle India, Axis Bankand SBI were among

the laggards.

Sectorally, BSE auto, utilities, momentum, industrials and power indices rallied up to 3.46 per cent, while realty index ended in the red.

Broader midcap and smallcap indices surged up to 1.56 per cent.

"Auto stocks led by Tata Motors propelled the Nifty to new highs of 18200 with good support from infra and metal stocks on the launch of the Master Plan for Infrastructure Development and Multi-Modal Connectivity," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities, said.

As the street awaits earnings today from big IT names, Tata Group stocks hogged the limelight despite profit-taking in late afternoon trade, he added.

Sustained rebound in financials and Reliance Industries supported broader indices.

Rupee recovers 15 paise to 75.37 on weak dollar, lower crude prices

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Wednesday rebounded by 15 paise to close at 75.37 against the US dollar following a rally in domestic equities and weak American currency in the overseas markets.

In addition, lower crude prices and a benign retail inflation in September also supported the rupee sentiment, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened strong at 75.29 against the greenback.

During the session, the domestic unit swung between 75.19 and 75.51.

On Tuesday, the rupee had closed at 75.52 against the dollar.Retail inflation fell to a five-month low of 4.35 per cent in September from 7.27 per cent in the year-ago period as prices of vegetables and other items declined.

BRIEFS

PETROL, DIESEL PRICES RISE ON HOLD

New Delhi: Petrol and diesel price rise remained paused again on Wednesday much to the relief of consumers faced with an unprecedented increase in auto fuel prices for the past one month that has taken retail rates to record high levels across the country. Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol continues to be sold at ₹104.44 per litre and diesel at ₹93.17 per litre, the same levels as Tuesday.

RELIANCE BOOSTS GREEN ENERGY PUSH

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries will buy a German maker of photovoltaic solar wafers and signed a deal with a Danish firm to manufacture hydrogen electrolyser as the oil-to-retail conglomerate acquired end-to-end technology for its multi-billion-dollar clean energy portfolio. Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNESL), a unit of the nation's most valuable company, will acquire NexWafe GmbH for 25 millioneuros (Rs 218 crore). Reliance said in a late stock exchange filing on Tuesday. It will also license Stiesdal A/S's technology for the hydrolysers, it said in a separate statement.

TAKE FUEL WIN CAR CAMPAIGN

New Delhi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd has launched "HPCL Ao Car Le Jao" Campaign for customers to have the opportunity to win car, bikes, laptops, LED TVs, smart phones, fuel vouchers on fueling from over 30 petrol pumps of HPCL in East Delhi, South Delhi and New Delhi. The campaign started on Wednesday will continue till until first week of January 2022.

TIE-UP TO FACILITATE LARGER REACH FOR HOMEBUYERS

New Delhi: Online real estate company Housing.com has announced a tie-up with the country's largest community management app MyGate to enable users of MyGate Homes to simultaneously list their properties on Housing.com and at the same time, it would help Housing.com to expand its customer base.

Gati Shakti to mark paradigm shift in governance: KM Birla

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Wednesday said that PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for infrastructure "embodies and combines" some unique features that mark a paradigm shift in governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday unveiled ₹100 lakh crore Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost

the economy.

"To me, Gati Shakti embodies and combines some unique features that mark a paradigm shift in governance," Birla said while participating at the event.

Using the most modern technology, Gati Shakti brings all stakeholders on one platform, he added. "Such breaking of silos within the government is indeed a dream come true for all of Industry," he said, adding that the platform approach also increases transparency all around and helps resolve bottlenecks quickly.

Centre for Trauma Studies and Innovation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IDFC FIRST Bank on Wednesday announced the launch of India's first Centre for Trauma Studies and Innovation (CTSI), in association with Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health (BALM).

The initiative, that was launched on World Mental Health Day, aims to address the need to look at mental health from a trauma lens, besides also creating awareness about mental wellbeing. Through this initiative, the Centre for Trauma will create curriculums and facilitate trauma-related courses for healthcare professionals at both urban and grassroot levels.

UN, World Bank, IMF in need of urgent reforms: FM

Boston:Institutions such as United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund need to be urgently reformed as they no longer speak for countries whose issues have remained unattended for decades, Nirmala Sitharaman said.All these organistions will have to look at reforming themselves, she said here at Harvard Kennedy School on Tuesday. During the conversation with Professor at Harvard University , Sitharaman said "while reforms in countries are happening in different stages, these global institutions have remained the way they have been for the last several decades." **PTI**

Fertiliser subsidy of ₹8,655 cr in rabi season to benefit farmers, industry: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rating agency ICRA has termed the Government's decision to provide a special one-time package for extra subsidy on DAP fertiliser as positive for farmers as well as the industry, and said the availability of key nutrients will improve in the coming months.

On Tuesday, the government announced a net subsidy of ₹28,655 crore on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the October-March period of this fiscal to ensure that farmers get nutrients at affordable prices during the rabi sowing season.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for P&K fertilisers for October 2021 to March 2022.In a statement, the rating agency said the Centre has approved a special one-time package for pay-out of additional subsidy for DAP and three most consumed NPK grades.

The subsidy rates under the NBS scheme have been kept unchanged from the announcement made in May 2021. However, an additional pay out of ₹438/bag (₹ 8,760 per tonne) for DAP and ₹100 per bag (₹2,000 per tonne) for

the three most consumed NPK grades has been approved, it added.

"The step is positive for the farmers and the industry as it will ensure farmers get access to fertilisers at a reasonable retail price and the industry also does not face losses on account of the elevated international prices of fertilisers and key inputs," ICRA said.

The additional subsidy has been approved only for four grades of fertilisers out of the 24 fertilisers covered under the NBS scheme and has become effective from October 1, 2021.

Wipro's consolidated Q2FY22 YoY net profit up 18.9%

IAANS ■ MUMBAI

IT major Wipro on Wednesday reported 18.86 per cent year-on-year growth in its consolidated net profit for the second quarter of FY22.

The net profit attributable to equity holders of the company rose to ₹2,930.7 crore during the period under review from ₹2,465.6 crore during the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

Its revenue increased 30.12 per cent during Q2FY22 to ₹19,667.4 crore from ₹15,114.5 crore from the like quarter of FY21.

Managing Director and CEO Thierry Delaporte said: "The Q2 results demonstrate that our business strategy is working well."

"We grew at over 4.5 per cent organic sequential growth for a second quarter in a row, resulting in a 28 per cent YoY growth in the first half of this financial year."

Besides, the company gave a positive outlook for the quarter ending December 31, 2021.

The company expects revenue from IT Services business to be in the range of \$2,631 million to \$2,683 million, translating into a sequential growth of 2 to 4 per cent.

In addition, the company's earnings per share for the quarter rose to ₹5.36 (\$0.071), an increase of 23.8 per cent YoY.

Govt scraps basic customs duty on crude palm, soya, sunflower oil to cool down cooking oil prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday scrapped basic customs duty on crude varieties of palm, sunflower and soybean oils as well as cut duties on refined edible oils to ease retail prices of cooking oils and provide relief to consumers during the festive season.

Edible oil industry body SEA said the retail prices of cooking oils, which are ruling at a very high level, could now come down by up to Rs 15 per litre.

The cut in import duty and cess, effective from October 14, will remain in force till March

31, 2022, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in two separate notifications.

Agri infrastructure development cess (AIDC) has also been reduced on crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil.

Crude palm oil will now attract AIDC of 7.5 per cent, while the cess will be 5 per cent each for crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil. Earlier, the cess was 20 per cent, while basic customs duty was 2.5 per cent.Post reduction, the effective customs duty on crude palm oil will be 8.25 per cent. The effective duty on crude

soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil will be 5.5 per cent. Earlier, the effective duty on these three crude items was 24.75 per cent each.

The basic customs duty on refined varieties of sunflower, soyabean, palmolein and palm oil too has been slashed to 17.5 per cent each from 32.5 per cent. Refined versions do not attract AIDC.Commenting on the development, Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) Executive Director B V Mehta said: "The government has slashed import duties on edible oils because of high retail prices in the domestic market and the festive season."

Coal dispatches to power plants being enhanced: Joshi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI


Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said cumulative coal supplies to thermal power plants crossed 2 million tonne on Tuesday and dispatch of the dry fuel is being enhanced to the plants.

Various power plants are grappling with fuel shortages and efforts are being made to increase fuel supplies.

"Happy to share that cumulative coal supplies to thermal power plants from all

sources including @CoalIndiaHQ recorded more than 2 million tonnes yesterday. We are increasing coal dispatch to power plants further to ensure sufficient coal stocks at power plants," Joshi said in a tweet.

According to a Coal India official, supplies to power stations have already touched 1.62 million tonne a day in the past two days, with total offtake rising to 1.88 million tonne per day, compared with the month's average of 1.75 million tonne.



UJVN Limited
H.O. : "UJJWAL", Mahatma Bagh, GMS Road, Dohradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax No.: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

R.O. No. 761 Tender Notice Dt. 13.10.2021
Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G) Dhaliapur Power House, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No.: 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25/EE/M&G/DLR/2021-22
Name of work (i) Annual Maintenance of Hydro-Mechanical Part of Unit-A. (ii) Annual Maintenance of Hydro-Generator of Unit-A. (iii) Repairing and Over hauling of Various size Gate valves of Unit-A (iv) Repair and overhauling of Thrust bearing oil cooler and Rebabbiting of LGB of Unit A (v) Replacement of Guide Vanes Bearing housing G.M. bushes of Unit-A
Estimated cost : Rs. 12,88,400/-; Rs. 6,45,400/-; Rs. 4,61,100/-; Rs. 13,72,960/-; Rs. 7,13,880/- (GST Extra).
Date of availability of bid document on website: 14.10.2021
Last date for submission of tender: 08.11.2021 upto 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity" Executive Engineer (M&G)

Sale Notice
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

S. No	Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1.	ICICI BANK Ltd VS ARCHANA RAJ, CM (M) 573/2020	Vehicle No. UP14ET7203 Make and Model: CHEVROLET ENJOY LT, Manufacturing year 2015	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-
2.	ICICI BANK Ltd VS JITENDRA CHATURVEDI, CM (M) 22/2020	Vehicle No. UP14FT7814 Make and Model: CHEVROLET SAUV ALTA, Manufacturing year 2016	Rs. 60,000/-	Rs. 6,000/-

Auction Date: 25-October-2021 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Venue: Godara Yard, Khatwat No:166/1, Near AtulKataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022.
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction and also original DD of EMD.
Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085**, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.



Axis Bank
Retail Asset Centre: Axis Bank Ltd SCO 12, Sector-14,Gurgaon Haryana, Assel Centre at A-356, First Floor, Meera Bagh, New Delhi
Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301

Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, **Registered Office:** 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd., under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned details.
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand (Rs.)
1. Mr. Hari Singh Rajora S/O Dayal Rajora B-30, CGHS, Park View Apartment Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar West Delhi, Delhi-110087 Also At: Mr. Hari Singh Rajora S/O Dayal Rajora Proprietor of Sivasakti Plastic Plot No.-B-51, PVL Bazar Tikri Kalan West Delhi-110041	Society Built-Up Freehold MIG Flat Bearing No. B-30, On 2nd Floor, In The Lay Out Plan of Liberal Co-Operative Group Housing Society Ltd. Known As Liberal Apartments, Zone G-17, Situated At Rotak Road, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087.	1. 19-April-2021 2. 08-10-2021 3. Rs.70,52,812/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Only)	2. 08.10.2021	Rs. 70,52,812/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only)
2. Mrs. Manju Rajora, W/O Mr. Hari Singh Rajora B-30, CGHS, Park View Apartment Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar West Delhi, Delhi-110087	All That Piece And Parcel of Flat No. 02 (LIG Category), On Ground Floor In Block No. B-13, In The Layout Plan of Housing Estate At Pkt-5, Sector-35, Rohini, Delhi.	1. 19-April-2021 2. 08.10.2021 3. Rs. 12,58,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only)	2. 08.10.2021	Rs. 12,58,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only)
1. Mrs. Roshni W/O Sh. Beg Raj House No. 35, 3rd Floor, Sector-2, Pocket-7, Rohini Near Gopaji Chole Bhature, Delhi-110058 Also At: C/O Rakesh Kumar Sachdeva BC-14, Mianwali Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087	Flat No. 8 C, 2nd Floor Pocket No. C, Dwarka, Delhi -110075.	1. 19-April-2021 2. 08.10.2021 3. Rs. 5,76,258/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight Only)	2. 08.10.2021	Rs. 5,76,258/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight Only)
1. Mr. Sunil Kumar Baxla S/O Mr. Michael Baxla House No. 35, 3rd Floor, Sector-2, Pocket-7, Rohini Near Gopaji Chole Bhature, Delhi-110058 Also At: Panposh (Part) Panposh Rajgauri, Sundargarh, Orisa-770034 Also At: Pvt. Steel Structure Design & Detailing Pvt. Ltd. Wz-10, 2nd Floor, Asatlapur, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058 Also At: Flat No. 8 C, 2nd Floor, Pocket No. C, Sector-35 Dwarka, Delhi-110075	Flat No. 8 C, 2nd Floor Pocket No. C, Dwarka, Delhi -110075.	1. 19-April-2021 2. 08.10.2021 3. Rs. 5,76,258/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight Only)	2. 08.10.2021	Rs. 5,76,258/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight Only)

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.,

Date : 14-10-2021
Place : Delhi & NCR



General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 20-25 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Built:** Medium, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **ID Mark:** Earing in Right ear and bracelet in Right hand was found dead in Yamuna River Near Old Wazirabad Bridge Barrier, Wazirabad, Delhi on 02.10.2021.

In this regard a DD No. 24-A, Dated 02.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. **SHO P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi DP/1588/N/2021 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-239710076, 8750870131**



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found on 04.10.2021 at Mor Sarai Road, Near Kудedhan, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 86 A dated 04.10.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Kotwali, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 30-35 Years, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Camel (Matmela) T-Shirt and Black Track Suit Lower.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO Police Station Kotwali, Delhi DP/1579/N/2021 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121



General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 35 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Built:** Normal, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue Sando & Grey Colour Jeans, was found dead in Yamuna River Near Ghat No. 12, Jamna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 01.10.2021.

In this regard a DD No. 35-A, U/s 174 Cr.PC Dated 01.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. **SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi DP/1583/N/2021 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123**



General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Ravi, S/o:** unknown, **R/o:** unknown. **Age:** about 20-25 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Gray Colour T-Shirt and Gray Colour Lower, who was found at Divider footh path, Old Chandrawal near Parasnath Building, Civil Lines, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 45A, Dt. 08.10.2021 has been registered at P. S. Civil Lines, Delhi.

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

Sd/- SHO P. S: Civil Lines, Delhi Tel. No. 011-23815444 DP/1592/N/2021



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



Demonstration of the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)



Safaimitra Amrit Samman Samaroh on Gandhi Jayanti



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

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV AT CHANDIGARH

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

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

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Chandigarh

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

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

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

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

Inaugural of 22 cities & 75 Hours Placemaking Implementation

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

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

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

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

Kachra Alag Karo Amrit Diwas

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

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

Saavryanjik Shauchalaya Safai Jan Bhagidari Amrit Utsav

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

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

Cycle2Work

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

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

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

Felicitating of waste entrepreneurs and Waste-To-Art exhibition

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

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

Showcasing of Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)

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

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

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

Safaimitra Amrit Samman Samaroh

While commemorating the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and his vision for sanitation, this event was held on October 2 and 3.

During this event, 5150 *safaimitras* were felicitated. On October 2, the Mayor of Chandigarh felicitated the *safaimitras* and in the closing ceremony, felicitation was done by Banwari Lal Purohit, Punjab's Governor and Chandigarh's administrator.

Freedom to cycle — cycle rally on October 3

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

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



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



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

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



Dr Sudhir Mishra, distinguished scientist and director general of BrahMos at DRDO and the CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace was conferred the honorary degree of 'Doctor of Science' by Shri Ramswaroop Memorial

University at the varsity's first convocation ceremony on 11th October 2021, held at Lucknow-Deva Road (Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh).

He has 36 years of R&D experience in the area of missile technology, production technology, technology management and defence diplomacy and has contributed immensely in India's quest to achieve excellence in missile technologies by developing several breakthrough-technologies. His technical expertise and contribution has resulted in the realisation of several DRDO Missile Programmes.

Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC presents ₹1,560.93 crore, the final dividend of ₹3,054.45 crores for FY 2020-21 for the Government of India, to R K Singh, Minister of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.



This is the 28th consecutive year that NTPC Ltd has paid a dividend.

POWERGRID assists Rajasthan's Solar Energy Zone

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

inter-state tariff based competitive bidding (TBCB) projects established in the state of Rajasthan.

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

a 400 kV Double Circuit Transmission line.

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

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

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

The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with the district administration of Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra celebrated the Navratra Festival for 2021 at Katra. The main highlights of the nine-day long celebration was the Mata Ki Kahaani stage show by Natrang at Katra's Spiritual Growth Centre everyday at 4 pm, evening cultural performances at Higher Secondary School, Katra by the artists from Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and local artistes of Jammu region, apart from the Bhagwat Katha at Shri Raghunath Ji Temple, Katra. Another notable event was the Mega Devotional Song performance by renowned artists of Jammu at Yog Ashram Ground Katra on October 12,



Navratra festival at Katra

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

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

PM MODI LAUNCHES NEW EXHIBITION COMPLEX AT PRAGATI MAIDAN,

Launching an ambitious national master plan for multi-model connectivity, 'PM GatiShakti', the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi inaugurated the new exhibition complex (Halls 2,3,4 & 5) of International Exhibition-Cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on October 13.

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

Earlier, PM Modi was welcomed by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, along with senior government officials and he was briefed about IECC project by L C Goyal, CMD of ITPO. The PM also visited an exhibition and reviewed the model of the new exhibition complex at Pragati Maidan, before launching the 'GatiShakti' plan with the press of a remote button.

The ambitious plan of 'PM GatiShakti' envisages a centralised portal to unite the infrastructural initiatives planned and initiated by as many as 16 central ministries and departments. Speaking at the event, PM Modi also said that 'PM GatiShakti' targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time. The plan envisioned by the PM, is a campaign to lend more speed (*gati*) and power (*shakti*) to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform. This way, the infrastructure schemes of various ministries and state governments will be designed and executed with a common vision, said the PM.

SCHOOL WARRIORS 2.0 CONTEST BY GAIL

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

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

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

The first edition of School



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

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

NORTHERN RAILWAYS GM HOLDS SAFETY/PERFORMANCE REVIEW MEETING

Ashutosh Ganal, the GM of Northern Railways held a review meeting with the departmental heads and DRMs of Northern Railway. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on passenger amenities at stations like extension of platforms, increase of level of platforms, washable aprons, provision of second entry, foot-over bridges, escalators, lifts facilities for *divyangjans*, improvement of station building including facade et al. He also reviewed the progress of mobility enhancement, developmental infrastructure works, freight-loading and safety on tracks.

He also informed that 82 different stations over Northern Railways have been selected for construction of toilets in circulating area through CSR funds. He instructed to maintained good record of punctuality of trains and expedites the works related with mobility enhance-

ment and conducting drives to check the progress. He reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and removal of scrap lying near the tracks. The GM also took stock of the tree cutting activity and removal of vegetation alongside the tracks.

Ganal emphasised upon minimising the human failures in train operation, extensive monitoring of rail fractures as well as rail-welds and said no room for error should be left. He asked the officers to enhance their inspection to assess the progress of works as well as train operations.

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

Fino Payments Bank signs actor Pankaj Tripathi as brand ambassador

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pankaj Tripathi's success story of a small town guy making it big on his own blends well with the aspirations of Fino's target group. FPBL's target segment, the emerging India customer is someone who has low levels of financial literacy, technology use, lacks financial inclusion and typically does not have access to basic banking services.

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

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

It's CSK VS KKR in final!



PTI ■ SHARJAH

Rahul Tripathi struck a stunning six in the penultimate delivery after opener Venkatesh Iyer's brilliant half century to help Kolkata Knight Riders beat Delhi Capitals by three wickets in the drama-filled second qualifier and enter the IPL final here on Wednesday.

Two-time champions KKR will face three-time winners Chennai Super Kings in the summit clash in Dubai on Friday.

The 26-year-old Iyer was the star of the day as he struck a 41-ball 55, laced with four boundaries and three sixes. He shared a 96-run stand for the opening wicket with the talented Shubman Gill (46 off 46 balls) in 12.2 overs to seemingly take the game away from DC's reach.

But the match took an incredible dramatic turn towards the end when KKR lost five wickets for seven runs, four of them for duck.

KKR were cruising at 123 for 1 in 15.5 overs but from their on they suffered a stunning batting collapse.

Nitish Rana (13) was out in the last ball of the 16th over and he was followed by Gill four balls later. Still, there was no panic in the KKR camp before Dinesh Kartik's (0) dismissal in the final ball of the 18th over sent alarm bells.

KKR needed 10 runs from the last two overs but Anrich Nortje removed KKR captain Eoin Morgan (0) with the final ball of the 19th over, leaving KKR seven runs to get from the final over.

Shakib Al Hasan (0) and Sunil Narine (0) were then removed in the third and fourth balls before Tripathi hit a six off Ashwin in the fifth ball to help KKR notch up a stunning win in the end.

This will be KKR's third final appearance after winning the title in 2012 and 2014. They had just about managed to sneak into the play-offs at the expense of five-time defending champions Mumbai Indians, thanks to their better

net run-rate. Chasing a target of 136, Iyer and Gill did not show any sign of struggle that the DC batters encountered in the first innings on a sluggish pitch as they scored runs at a relatively brisk pace.

The young pair got the gaps and rotated strikes to unsettle the DC bowlers, including senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, as KKR reached 51 for no loss at the end Powerplay overs.

Iyer swept Ashwin for a four backward of square in the second over before hoisting Axar Patel and Kagiso Rabada for a six each in the fourth and fifth overs respectively.

The only blemish early in the KKR run chase was the dropping of Iyer when on 23 by Rabada on his follow through in the fifth over.

KKR reached 76 for no loss at the halfway mark and the opening pair only got better with the DC bowlers unable to find a way to get the breakthrough.

Iyer was finally out in the 13th over but by that time the match had already

turned decisively in favour of KKR.

Earlier, KKR produced a clinical bowling display to restrict DC to 135 for 5.

Sent in to bat, DC batters struggled on a slow pitch with opener Shikhar Dhawan top-scoring with a 39-ball 36 while Shreyas Iyer remained not out on 30 off 27 balls.

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy took two wickets for 26 runs while Lockie Ferguson and Shivam Mavi got one each.

After seven dot balls in the first two overs, DC took 12 runs from the third with Shaw hoisting Shakib Al Hasan for a big six. Dhawan joined the party in the fourth over, smacking two consecutive sixes off Sunil Narine.

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

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

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

With odd ball skidding low, it was getting difficult to get runs and DC were dealt a blow when Mavi, who was bowling beautifully, got rid of Marcus Stoinis (18).

With pressure building on the DC batters, Dhawan fell in the 15th over while going for a big shot. He could only get an outside edge off a Chakravarthy delivery for Shakib Al Hasan to take a diving catch at backward point. DC were 83 for 3 in the 15th over when captain Rishabh Pant (6) came in and he disappeared in a crucial match as he went for a big shot the next over only to balloon a Ferguson delivery for Rahul Tripathi to take a regulation catch.

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

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BCCI extends date for buying ITT for new IPL teams



IANIS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

"Interested parties are requested to email at ittip2021@bcci.tv to get further details for purchasing the ITT. The email requesting the ITT should have the subject line 'ITT for the Right to Own and Operate One of Two Proposed New IPL Teams,'" said a BCCI statement.

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

Fan-inspired Team India jersey for T20 World Cup unveiled



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The board's secretary Jay Shah echoed the view.

Amandeep leads 10th leg of Hero WPGT

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ SHARJAH

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



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

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

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

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

IANIS ■ NEW YORK

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

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

T-12 in the individual standings.

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

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

Ronaldo scores hat trick, Denmark qualifies for World Cup

AP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

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



win in group play by beating Austria 1-0.

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

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

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

SINGLES

NEYMAR'S TEAM URGE HIM TO PLAY WCUP

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

FIFA ASSESS PUNISHMENT FOR CROWD UNREST

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

HIMA DAS TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID -19

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

INDIA REACH THOMAS CUP QUARTERS

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

AIFF NAMES 28 INDIA PROBABLES

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