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Established 1864

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

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6
*Late City Vol. 31 Issue 288
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY OCTOBER 17, 2021; PAGES 12+4 ₹4

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I'm full-time, hands-on Cong prez, avers Sonia

Rahul hints at taking party helm; Cong prez election in Aug-Sept 2022

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The crucial meeting of the Congress Working Committee on Saturday saw Sonia Gandhi asserting herself as a "full-time and hands-on Congress president" and Rahul Gandhi hinting at his return at the helm of the party. The CWC decided to hold the election of Congress president between August 21 and September 20, 2022.

Sonia hit back at critics within the party — the G-23 — who have been pushing for over a year now for an organisational overhaul and a more "visible leadership".

The G-23 is a group of 23 senior leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Shashi Tharoor, P Chidambaram among others. Since last August, members of the G-23 have been vocal on several party issues, including that of leadership crisis.

"I have always appreciated frankness" and "there is no need to speak to me through the media," Sonia said at the first offline CWC meeting post-Covid pandemic. Sources said the organisational elections were discussed amid indications that Rahul could return as the party chief same time around next year.

"I am, if you will allow me to say so, a full-time and hands-on Congress president," Sonia observed.

In the past two years, a large number of young colleagues have taken leadership roles in taking party policies and programmes to the people, she asserted.

Addressing the meeting of the party's highest decision-making body, Sonia also underscored that the entire organisation wants a revival of the party, but this requires unity and keeping the party's interests paramount.

Continued on Page 4

Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi with party leader Rahul Gandhi and others during the Congress Working Committee meeting to discuss the current political situation, upcoming Assembly polls, and organisational elections, at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

2 more martyred; LeT top ultra killed in J&K

Total 9 Army jawans dead in op to flush out terrorists

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

With the recovery of two more bodies from the encounter site in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch late on Saturday evening, the death toll of the Indian Army has mounted to nine, including two JCOs and seven other ranks. So far this is the highest toll in any recent counter terrorist operation in Jammu & Kashmir in recent years.

Meanwhile, in a joint operation with the Central forces, the Jammu & Kashmir Police on Saturday avenged the killing of their two colleagues by successfully eliminating one of the top Lashkar-e-Tayyeba commanders, along with his associate, in the Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The LeT commander, identified as Umar Mushtaq Khandey, had figured in the most wanted list of 10 terrorists prepared by the J&K Police.

In the first incident involving the Army, during the search operations and a brief firefight with the terrorists, the Army jawans had received critical injuries late on Thursday evening. Two dead bodies were recovered on Friday, while searches continued as one JCO and another jawan was found missing since October 14.

On October 11, five soldiers, including a Junior Commissioner Officer (JCO), were killed in action during a encounter with the terrorists in a thickly forested area of Dera Ki Gali in Surankote tehsil of frontier Poonch district. Among the martyred soldiers three hailed from Punjab and one each from Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.

Defence PRO Lt-Col Devender Anand in a statement said, "Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh of Indian Army were killed in action during search operations being conducted by the Indian Army along with the Jammu & Kashmir Police in densely forested area of Nar Khas forest in Mendhar, Poonch."

Lt-Col Anand said, "Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh were part of search operations launched by the security forces to flush out terrorists hiding in the forested area."

Continued on Page 4

Security personnel stand guard near the site of an encounter with terrorists at the Nar Khas forest area in Poonch on Saturday PTI

CAPSULE

DU COLLEGES RELEASE THIRD CUT-OFF LIST

New Delhi: Some Delhi University colleges released their third cut-off list on Saturday with the required marks to get admissions in undergraduate courses seeing a decline in the range of 0.25 per cent to 1.5 per cent. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College released its third cut-off list with the marks required for B.Sc (Honours) Computer Science going down by 1.5 per cent.

DRAVID ALL SET TO TAKE OVER AS INDIA COACH

New Delhi: India's batting stalwart and former captain Rahul Dravid is all set to take over as the national cricket team's head coach following the T20 World Cup in the UAE, having agreed to the BCCI's offer after initial reluctance.

JAISHANKAR ON ISRAEL VISIT FROM OCT 17-21

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Israel beginning on Sunday during which he will hold talks with his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. This will be Jaishankar's first visit to the country as External Affairs Minister.

GEELANI'S GRANDSON SACKED FROM GOVT JOB

Srinagar: The grandson of pro-Pakistan separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani was terminated from Government service on Saturday for allegedly aiding terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir, officials said.

Nihang Sikh surrenders for lynching at Singhu border

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A Nihang Sikh, Parminder Singh, on Saturday surrendered at a gurdwara before police in Amarkot village in Jandiala Guru area of Amritsar in connection with the Singhu border lynching incident.

A police team had gone to arrest him. He had announced to surrender after paying obeisance at Akal Takht. Parminder Singh allegedly murdered Lakhbir Singh, a drug addict, who it is alleged had committed sacrilege.

Meanwhile, a court in Sonepat on Saturday remanded Sarabjit Singh, arrested in connection with the lynching of Lakhbir Singh at the farmers' protest site at Singhu border, in police custody for seven days, with the accused pointing to the involvement of a few more people in the gruesome killing.

The body of Lakhbir Singh, a labourer from Punjab's Tarn Taran district, was found on Friday tied to a barricade at the Delhi-Haryana border where the anti-farm law protesters have been camping.

Continued on Page 4

Hindu's body found; B'desh Durga Puja attacks toll rises to 5

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Durga Puja celebrations have concluded in Bangladesh even as another Hindu devotee was found dead on Saturday amid days of communal unrest and violence unleashed by unidentified Muslim bigots who vandalised temples over alleged blasphemy, leading to the deployment of paramilitary forces in more than half of administrative districts. With the latest killing, the death toll during the Durga Puja celebrations across the country has reached five.

Authorities overnight imposed a nationwide security vigil while officials said that initial investigations have thrown up crucial evidence against the perpetrators of violence against the minority Hindu community's Durga Puja. The paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has expanded the vigil from 22 to 34 out of 64 administrative districts.

The elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion said it expects to arrest some of the key perpetrators of the sporadic violence which took place in the past three days. Voicing optimism over the investigation, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told reporters that "We expect developments of the investigations in the next one or two days".

The police, meanwhile, said that they have recovered the body of a Hindu devotee from a pond near a temple in southeastern Begumganj sub-district of Noakhali.

Continued on Page 4

Muslims participate in a protest over an alleged insult to Islam, outside the country's main Baitul Mukarram Mosque in Dhaka on Saturday AP

Six people dead, dozen reported missing as rain lashes Kerala

PTI ■ KOTTAYAM/IDUKKI

At least six people died and a dozen others were missing on Saturday as heavy rain pounded south and central Kerala causing flash floods and landslides in many parts, prompting the State Government to seek the assistance of the defence forces for rescue operations.

Several people have been injured and displaced in rain-related incidents in Kerala where dams in many districts are nearing its full capacity and small towns and villages in the hilly areas are totally cut off from the outside world.

Many hilly areas of Kottayam, Idukki and Pathanamthitta are experiencing situation almost similar to that during the time of devastating floods of 2018 and 2019 but authorities said everything was under control and there was no need for any panic.

However, the rescue teams of the State police and fire force could not reach the affected areas due to floods and adverse weather conditions prevailing there.

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30% deprived of water, soap at home!

2.3 bn vulnerable to Covid across world: UNICEF

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Covid-19 pandemic, hand washing has become a new norm to keep the deadly virus at bay, but ironically globally three in 10 people, or 2.3 billion, do not have basic facilities like water and soap available at home, the UNICEF has said, suggesting that the have-nots remain at the risk of getting infected with coronavirus.

The situation is worse in the least developed countries, with over six in 10 people without access to basic hand hygiene, the UN agency said in a fact sheet on Global Hand washing Day observed on October 15. The cost to provide hand hygiene in all homes in 46 of the world's least developed countries by 2030 is an estimated at $11 billion.

Nonetheless, what has come as a relief is that some progress has been made since 2015: The global population with access to basic hand hygiene at home has increased from 5 billion to 5.5 billion, or from 67 per cent to 71 per cent.

However, if current trends persist, 1.9 billion people will still not have access to basic hand hygiene by the end of the decade.

According to the latest estimates, two in five schools worldwide do not have basic hygiene services with water and soap, affecting 818 million students, of which 462 million attend schools with no facility at all. In the least developed countries, seven out of 10 schools have no place for children to wash their hands.

One-third of health care facilities worldwide do not have hand hygiene facilities at points of care where the patient, health care worker, and treatment involve contact with the patient.

Continued on Page 4

HOME THEATRE

Heart in right place

RASHMI ROCKET
ZEE5
***ing: Supriya Pathak, Manoj Joshi, Taapsee Pannu, Priyanshu Painyuli, Abhishek Banerjee, Varun Badola**
Rated: 5.5/10

There are some films which have a great storyline and the makers choose a fantastic subject. The star cast is strong as well, yet there is something missing that refuse to resonate and make it a movie that is par excellence. Rashmi fits this category.

Directed by Akarsh Khurana and produced by Ronnie Screwvala, Neha Anand and Pranjal Khandhdiya, the film has heart in the right place. However, what is missing is the soul that puts life into a subject that is sensitive and talks about gender testing for women athletes globally – a subject that has been in debate for years.

Taapsee Pannu, who has done movies like Pink, Badla and Thappad, despite remaining the driving force behind Rashmi Rocket looks totally helpless in the second half of the movie. This is a bit strange since she has shown to be a woman who is strong minded and definitely not someone who will bow down to anybody let alone a bunch of women athletes out to get her. Of course, there is a scene where she hits out but that does nothing to give the impression that she is in any ways the girl that she was at the start of the movie.

And this is where Rashmi Rocket falters. It is strange to see such a U-turn in a character – from a woman who dominates to a woman who is helpless – doesn't fit with her persona and how she was brought up. Then there are other things that don't fit. Take the Bhuj earthquake that finds its way in the film. The 2001 earthquake on January 26 killed more than 20,000 people and injured over 1,5 lakh people is shown in a blasé manner. While it has no bearing on the film or the subject, a two second shot of cracked earth takes away the devastation it left.

But not all is lost. There are some parts of the movie that are truly inspiring – Taapsee Pannu's need to fight against the injustice meted out to her. The strong family backing that she has – from her mother played by Supriya Pathak and husband played by Priyanshu Painyuli. Both have done a great job here. Mohan Joshi does his bit too even if his screen presence is for 10 minutes.

It is Abhishek Banerjee who needs a special mention here. He plays a funny part serious lawyer with great aplomb. His blundering, at the start, are endearing like where he addresses the judge as ma'am instead of Your Honor. If you are a Taapsee Pannu fan, you will like this.

— Shalini Saksena

About family ties

THE REUNION
Zoom Studio
***ing: Lillete Dubey, KK Raina, Veer Rajwant Singh, Kashmira Irani, Prabal Panjabi, Devika Vatsa**
Rated: 4/10

The Reunion is about a family that has not met for years but come together at the death of a family member and to carry out her last wishes. The subject and the underlying message that family comes first is great. It is rare to watch a film or a web series on such a subject these days. Definitely a welcome change.

Another plus of this web series is that none of the nine episodes are more than 24 minutes. This makes it easy to watch them at one go. Also, the locale chosen is very nice. Again, a rarity to see so much greenery and pristine beaches. The acting by the star cast is in the right place. Also, the story ends after nine episodes. So, if the makers want to extend this, it has to be a completely different track but may be with the same cast.

The father-sons relationship has been shown realistically. It is something that one sees often; usually fathers and sons don't share a very good relationship and this has been brought out naturally. Given that people are looking for realistic cinema, this is right up their alley.

However, there are a few no-nos too. The acting by all is stilted; they appear to be just going with the motion of acting rather put in an effort. There is no chemistry between Veer Rajwant Singh and Kashmira Irani who play husband and wife here.

Those who are looking for realism, will like this one.

— Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Sunday

VIVID SHUFFLE SEASON 5 - LEAGUE QUALIFIERS

BREEZER Vivid Shuffle - India's Biggest Hip-Hop League - is back for its 5th year to find the best breakers, poppers, rappers, graffiti artists and showcase crews from across the country and bring home the Voice of the Streets! Shortlisted artists will advance to the 2-day League Qualifiers - 23 and 30 October 2021 - where YOU get to watch them battle and perform LIVE to earn their spots in the Finale.

The event may have interactive elements and will involve participation from the audience. You may not be able to join the live experience if you are late.

What: Theatre and Arts
Where: Online
When: October 23 and 30, 2021
Time: 6 pm

NATYA SOCIAL - MANWA LAAGE

Natya Social is a dance institute based in Mumbai. Our lead choreographers Vinayak Ghoshal and Asifali Bagwan have been conducting workshops in Mumbai and other cities since 2018. You may not be able to attend the live session if you are late.

You may face interruptions during the course of the live stream due to internet connectivity issues. Show details and the artist lineup are subject to change as per the artist's discretion.

No refunds on purchased tickets are possible, even in case of any rescheduling.

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

TELLYTALE

'SHABANA IS OUR FIRST TOGETHER'

The first teaser poster for Indian television's popular couple, Prince Narula and Yuvika Chaudhary starrer *Shabana* is here! Ullu Originals has managed a casting coup by getting this much-admired couple together on screen for the first time in their upcoming web-series, titled *Shabana*.

Along with veteran actor Anil George and the dashing Rahul Dev, the cast have prepped themselves to get into the skin of the character. Ullu has unveiled a fascinating teaser poster for the drama. The teaser poster showcases a stark contrast to what audiences have seen the star couple as. It reveals Prince and Yuvika as two simple, homely, completely deglamourized and yet look like two young people who are happy just sitting beside each other. The smile on their faces is captivating as also the characters writ large over their faces that relate to the common man. Several shades darker, Prince has a rustic ruggedness on his face and Yuvika complements him beautifully with her innocence and charm.

Ullu Digital Pvt Ltd, CEO, Vibhu Agrawal, says, "This series titled *Shabana* is one that our team at Ullu has been painstakingly developing for awhile and we are delighted to share its first look. Right from its story to its casting to its first teaser poster, it's going to create curiosity and make the industry and audiences alike take notice.

RESCUED OR NOT

Rakshanda Khan says "I am very kicked about Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na as it is starkly different from any show that I've been a part of till date. In fact, we've seen shows having a fairy tale ending, but our show starts with a fairy tale love story and what follows afterwards makes up the rest of the narrative. It has interesting twists and turns, and I am actually excited about playing such a royal character for the very first time."

She adds, "I hope everyone will enjoy seeing me in this imperial avatar. My character of Jaya Maa is very polished with a royal demeanor and someone who upholds the traditions of the royal family while having a business-oriented mind. She has a lot of layers to her too, so it will be challenging yet fun, and I hope everyone keeps showering their love."

Jaya Laxmi or Jaya Maa, as she is fondly called, is the caretaker of the Royal Family of Ambikapur.

RAKSHANDA KHAN IN ROYAL AVATAR

Rakshanda Khan says "I am very kicked about Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na as it is starkly different from any show that I've been a part of till date. In fact, we've seen shows having a fairy tale ending, but our show starts with a fairy tale love story and what follows afterwards makes up the rest of the narrative. It has interesting twists and turns, and I am actually excited about playing such a royal character for the very first time."

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RANVEER GIFTS RUNNING SHOES

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh has won hearts with his acting performances, dedication and prodigious fashion style. But on COLORS' *The Big Picture*, he will win everyone's heart with his generosity in the first episode. Here the viewers will see the first contestant Karishma Toor, a police constable from Haryana, talking about her family and wishing to give them a better life. Midway in the conversation, she will reveal to the actor how she loves running.

Ranveer Singh takes note and, immediately after the quiz, presents her with a pair of running shoes. He even helps her put on the shoes by going down on his knee.

COLORS' *The Big Picture* is India's first visual-based quiz show that brings wholesome entertainment to your television's premieres on October 16, every weekend at 8pm. With plenty of fun and excitement, the show promises both contestants and viewers to win big, every week and weekend too!

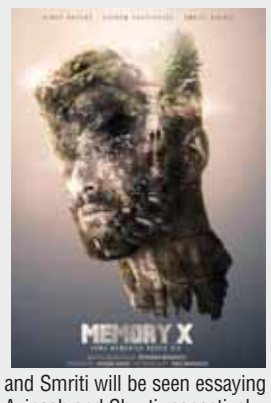
&TV ACTORS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Paying attention to mental health is just as important as your physical health. Mental health must be prioritised and therefore it is important to spread awareness about mental illness and eradicate the stigma attached with it.

On this World Mental Health Day, &TV actors Farhana Fatema (Shanti Mishra) of Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?, Sonali Nikam (Keerti Kaul) of Mauka-E-Vardaat – Operation Vijay, Kenisha Bhardwaj (Nisha Agarwal) of Ghar Ek Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaj Ki, Himani Shivpuri (Katori Amma) of Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi) of Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai raise awareness about mental health issues and share healthy lifestyle tips.

Fatema seen as Shanti Mishrasays, "In our fast-paced lives, we often forget that it is imperative to maintain mental wellbeing along with staying fit. By dancing I relieve myself of stress and also stay happy and energised."

FIRST-EVER PSYCHOLOGICAL ROMANCE



Vikram Chatterjee and Smriti Kalra from the Bengali entertainment industry join critically acclaimed actor Vinay Pathak for their upcoming psychological romance. Memory X is a feature that explores the theory of time and mindspace. This exciting plot is crafted by writer director Tathagata Mukherjee, produced by Avinaba Ghosh, and co-produced by Tania Mukherjee, Tathagata Mukherjee, and Debleena Production Creations.

This fascinating story is shot mostly in Sikkim. Vikram and Smriti will be seen essaying Avinash and Shruti respectively.

'Daily soaps are all about how you live on a day-to-day basis'

NARENDRA GUPTA who plays Newton Chattopadhyay in &TV's Mauka-E-Vardaat – Operation Vijay talks to SUPRIYA RAMESH about his character, why he agreed to the role and how much work goes into playing a crime genre

What is Mauka-E-Vardaat – Operation Vijay about?

It is self defining. A band of Indian officers detect a crime and try to nab culprits and they do it successfully. I play the role of a scientist, who is the brains and helps the Indian officers. He draws conclusions from the past and present to guide and help the officers.

Tell us about your role?

Its a very different role. I play a scientist who lives away from reach. Nobody knows my whereabouts and contact information. But the main character Newton Chattopadhyay knows everything and keeps track of everything. While doing so if something goes south, he appears suddenly and guides people. He is an expert who doesn't get himself involved but is always on standby. He is like a father figure, professor, friend, scientist. He is the amalgamation of everything, every emotion.

What made you say yes to this role?

I agreed to this role because this character is with them and still not with them. When I'm shooting, I'm at my den and from there itself I'm explaining things to other characters and that too without seeing them. It's a different type of challenge. Most times in acting, there is another artist with whom you give and take dialogues. I react to these dialogues on the fly and it is pretty challenging. There are certain instances where I suddenly appear somewhere and then disappear from there after finishing my dialogue. Very knowledgeable, it is a character that I havent portrayed so I have accepted it and I'm enjoying while finding it interesting. I'm sure.

What does 'Aalokik Shaktiyan' mean here?

Aalokik shaktiya refers to the powers that are beyond our regular scientific reach and understand. "Lok" means people and "lokik" means where people are from. "Aalokik" means something that isn't from where people live. For example, superhuman capabilities. The spiritual powered that aren't discovered yet but loosely based on scientific terms. The main agonist and antagonist keep finding new powers like these. To produce these thoughts realistically, is very challenging because it's beyond our imagination.

The antagonist has these "aalokik shaktiya" but the protagonists use their cunning and the current superior technology to equalize the situation. They don't have the luxury of exemplary powers but they have their courage, Braun and attitude to change the tides.

You have mostly been a part of the crime genre be it series or a movie. What are the challenges?

Daily soaps are all about how you live on a day to day basis and react accordingly. Whereas in crime shows, you have to take care of a specific story, crime and genre. You have to showcase your emotions differently and have a realistic approach about the detection of the crime. It's different because of the increase in intuitiveness and overall information.

We understand that you have also worked in Bollywoood movies. How is the work environment different?

For an actor, working in films or working in television or any media is the same. But there are certain limitations and aspects with acting in every media. If you talk about acting in films, there is no limitation in the sense of time constraint. The same can't be said about acting in television because every episode has one. You have to edit it and telecast it in planned schedules. It's a good challenge as there is less time for relaxation. You're are always shooting on time and procrastinating has no place here no matter what. The channel cannot go blank on that day.

How was shooting in a pandemic different?

In the pandemic, there are not many people on set that used to be. There are many protocols in place that prohibit the interaction of multiple people together. The workload has increased but as many actors take initiative and do some things themselves. We have to help each other and share responsibilities. There is no crowding and audiences because of these important restrictions. We all are very happy that we are able to work while keeping each other safe by following these rules.

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Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

City's air quality starts deteriorating, AQI crosses 300

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Air quality in Delhi started deteriorating as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded 304 microgram/cubic on Thursday.

Mentioning the highest stubble fire count, SAFAR, a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) said, "14 percent of fire incident recorded in neighbouring States of Delhi – National Capital Region (NCR)."

"With 1572 effective fire counts as per SAFAR harmonised methodology which includes data of two ISRO satellites, the stubble burning contribution in Delhi's air has suddenly increased to 14%. Fire counts are gradually increasing and wind direction is favorable and coming from North-west direction at transport level (900 mb) for intrusion," It added.

The pollution monitoring agency, SAFAR, in air quality forecast said that under the influence of approaching western disturbance, wind reversal to easterly will happen by Sunday (October 17)." "Rain is likely and Air quality Index (AQI) is forecast to improve but will remain in poor category however it is likely to be moderate for next three days."

Sharing satellite images of stibble fire in neighbouring states on micro - blogging website, Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "stubble fire on Oct 13 and Oct 16."

Meanwhile according to SAFAR, values of harmful Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) also recorded higher than their prescribed standards of WHO and Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

SAFAR warned as concentration of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 was recorded 125 micrograms per cubic and PM 10 was 253 on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI).

As Stubble fire count has been considered major reason for polluting air in the National Capital, Delhi Government, earlier, had appealed to the Chief Ministers and governments of neignbouring states and Centre to provide free Pusa -made decomposer. City government has also prepared a green war room to deal with air pollution problem. Besides, government will start 'Red Light on, Gadi (Vehicle) off 'campaign to reduce vehicular pollution; moreover, anti-dust campaign also in Delhi.

Remark : STUBBLE IMPACT is high.

AIR POLLUTION FORECAST

SPMs (Values in microgram/cubic) Source : SAFAR/ CPCB/ DPCC	Today (Oct 16)	(Oct 17, Sun)	(Oct 18, Mon)	Status
PM 2.5	125	138	100	Moderate
PM 10	253	278	202	Poor

Light rain for next 3 days, predicts IMD

New Delhi: The National Capital Region (NCR) woke up to a clear sky on Saturday with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting light rain or thundershowers towards the evening or night for the next three days.

The department also predicted that the rain for the next three days will bring down the temperature in the capital and pave way for winter chills.

The precipitation will also improve Delhi's air quality.

The Department has also issued a yellow alert for Sunday and Monday with the possibility of light rain at some places on Saturday. It has pegged the maximum temperature for the day at 34 degrees Celsius and minimum at 20 degrees Celsius for the day. The relative humidity has been recorded at 82 per cent.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR),the Air Quality Index (AQI) is 'poor' in the national capital. It has forecasted a moderate advisory for the level of PM 10 pollutants at 238 and, poor for PM 2.5 at 112.

According to the National Air Quality Index of Central Pollution Control Board data of 10 a.m., the AQI at Anand Vihar stands at 306, meaning 'very poor', that of ITO is at 226 - 'poor'. 198 i.e. moderate at RK Puram. ***IANS***

GRAP imposed to curb pollution in G'gram

Gurugram: To curb pollution in the city, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been implemented in Gurugram from Friday. After this, all the departments of the city have become active to curb pollution in Gurugram.

Officials said after the implementation of the GRAP, the construction material in the city will have to be covered, activities responsible for pollution will be stopped and if someone is found disobeying GRAP norms, will be fined.

However, despite this, the people are facing problems due to the piles of rubble lying all across the city.

In connection with the matter, during the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG), a house meeting, the MCG councillors had also sought answers from the corporation officials regarding the Construction and Waste (C&D) issue, on which the officials had said the debris from the city will be lifted in two days, but even after the commotion of the corporation councillors, the lifting of construction waste from the city is yet to be started.

Municipal Commissioner Mukesh Kumar Ahuja told the councillors that a meeting with the company responsible for C&D waste will be held to resolve the matter.

However, the commissioner had talked with the company and starting work on it soon. But till now no solution has been found for this problem.

Notably, a private agency has been hired by the MCG to lift the debris from the city, but even after spending crores, the C&D waste can be seen in several locations of the city. Officials said more than two thousand tonnes of debris is coming out of the city every day, but it is neither being disposed of nor the piles of debris lying in public places are being transported to the identified places of the corporation.

"So far, the lifting of the piles of rubble lying all over the city has not started. The officers are working with their dictatorship, no attention is being paid to the demands of the councillors. If there is a provision to impose a fine as per the GRAP, then why is the corporation not being challenged on C&D waste," Ashwani Sharma, Ward-19 Councilor said.

"Wherever there is debris lying in public places, those places will be marked and sprinkled with water tankers will be done. The company's capacity to lift debris is 300 tonnes per day, but the city is getting more debris daily. In such a situation, water will be sprinkled there by following the rules of GRAP," Hari Om Attri, Joint Commissioner, Headquarters, MCG said. ***SR***

City reports 21 new Covid cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national capital reported 21 new cases on Saturday while the positivity rate stood at 0.04 per cent, according to a health bulletin issued by the health department of the Delhi Government.

The number of active cases decreased to 326 on Saturday from 327 a day before, according to the bulletin. The number of people under home isolation stood at 96 on Saturday while it was 104 a day before, and the number of containment zones increased to 104 from 99 on Friday, the bulletin said

A total of 48,870 tests -- 43,504 RT-PCR tests and 5,366 rapid antigen tests -- were conducted a day ago, the bulletin said.

According to the bulletin, the Covid case tally in Delhi reached 1439358 of which over 14.13 lakh patients have recovered. The death toll has risen to 25,089.

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

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

Two fatalities due to COVID-19 have been recorded so far this month in Delhi, on October 2 and 10, according to official data.

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

Cousin held for raping teen after 2 months

New Delhi: The Delhi Police arrested a man for raping a minor girl in Kotla Mubarakpur area of South Delhi. A woman had lodged a complaint at the KM Pur police station that around 2 months ago when she came back to Delhi from her native village in Uttar Pradesh, her 15-year-old daughter told her that while she was alone at home one afternoon, she was raped by her cousin.

The accused had also threatened her not to disclose about the incident, the police said on Saturday.

As per the statement of the victim, an FIR was registered on Thursday under sections 376, 506 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 4 of the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act and the accused has been arrested, the police said. Further investigation is underway. ***IANS***

Drone warfare new challenge, we are capable to handle it, says NSG DG

Manesar (Gurugram): National Security Guard (NSG) DG MA Ganapathi on Saturday said that drone warfare is a new challenge and the NSG is fully capable to handle it. He was speaking on the sidelines of the 37th foundation day event of the NSG, here on Saturday.

"Every security force needs to upgrade counter drone technology. Drones are an easy way to create mischief, to drop bombs and payload like weapons and ammunition," he said. Earlier, speaking at the 37th foundation day of the NSG, the DG said that the NSG has been upgrading itself to the new security challenges and in the last few years, many initiatives have been taken to strengthen the counter terror measures.

"To effectively deal with drone attacks, the Force is now equipped with counter drone equipment, radar, jammers and drone killing guns", Ganapathi said.

Referring to the upgradation of the force in the last one year, he further said that in light of the drone attacks on Jammu airport recently, the Counter terrorism Commando forces of NSG, equipped with anti-drone technology, been deployed at the Jammu and Srinagar airports to provide anti-drone cover to these vital installations.

The force has also destroyed the IEDs and tiffin box bombs sent across the border through drones in Amritsar in Punjab, he added.

The NSG DG further said that the Force has been equipped with modern weapons and equipment and also strengthened the infrastructural setups across the country and indoor shooting ranges have been established in Manesar, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Kolkata.

With an aim to increase the efficiency of the bomb disposal squads, mini-remotely operated vehicles, total containment vehicles, and robots have been added to the force, he added.

He also said that to deal with multiple attacks at multiple locations at the same time, the Gandiv 3 mock exercise was conducted last month and in coordination with all agencies, and forces were dispatched to Bhopal, Ahmedabad from Delhi for this exercise.

Ganapathi also said that NSG's Close Protection Force has provided security to the VVIPs in over 4,600 events in the last one year despite Covid-19 restrictions and also provided security to the VVIPs in over 260 public gatherings and road shows during the last assembly elections.

He also said all NSG personnel have been fully vaccinated for Covid-19 and a 60 bedded hospital has been set up at NSG campus here with its own resources. ***IANS***

Manmohan diagnosed with dengue, gradually improving: AIIMS

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manamohan Singh has been diagnosed with dengue, but his health condition is gradually improving and is out of danger, an AIIMS official said on Saturday.

The official said that the former Prime Minister's "platelets are increasing and is out of danger now".

The veteran Congress leader was admitted to the AIIMS on Wednesday evening after he complained of fever and weakness.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also visited him and enquired about his health.

A team of doctors, under the guidance of Nitish Nayak, a well -known cardiologist, are attending on the former Prime Minister.

He had developed fever three days ago and was feeling weak after which he was rushed to AIIMS.

Singh had tested positive for Covid-19 in April this year during the second wave of the pandemic and had been admitted to the AIIMS. ***IANS***

Devotees immerse Durga idols in Yamuna despite ban

New Delhi: Despite ban on idol immersion in Yamuna river and other natural water bodies in the national Capital, several people flouted the rules issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), a day before the 'visarjan' (immersion) ritual.

Yamuna Ghat at the ITO was found littered with idols and other religious materials on Saturday morning.

DPCC in its October 13 order had ruled that idol immersion during Durga Puja and other forthcoming festivals in any public place, including river Yamuna or any other water body, ponds and ghats, should not be allowed.

"Consequent pollution of such water bodies has been a matter of concern. In addition to silting, toxic chemicals used in making idols tend to leach out and pose serious problems of water pollution. Studies carried out to assess deterioration in water quality due to idol immersion reveal the deterioration of water quality in respect to conductivity, biochemical oxygen demand and heavy metal concentration," the order read.

The DPCC had ruled that idol immersion rituals may be performed in a bucket and container within the home premises. Convener of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan, Manoj Mishra, told IANS, "The prohibition of idol immersion in any public place including Yamuna imposed by DPCC is a welcome step especially in view of idols made of Plaster of Paris (PoP) or painted with lead-based paints. But it is hardly a measure to rejuvenate the river which is already overloaded with sewage and toxic pollutants from industries."

The DPCC had directed the District Magistrates to enforce guidelines related to idol immersion, adding that each violator will be liable to pay Rs 50,000 to the DPCC body.

River Yamuna whose catchment covers parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in addition to that of Delhi, is most polluted in and around the national capital. Its top pollution sources are the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), untreated water from unauthorised colonies as well as sewer from authorised colonies.

However, a clean and pollution-free Yamuna has been the poll promise of Delhi government for more than 25 years now.

The first Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for which a loan agreement was signed in 1992, aimed at improved water quality conservation and hygienic environment in the river basin. ***IANS***

CM: Haryana will come up with new policy to issue electricity connections in private developer colonies

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The State Government is soon going to formulate a policy for such colonies developed by private developers in Gurugram where permanent and temporary electricity connections are not being provided due to a lack of infrastructure. This policy will give relief to the people living in private developer colonies.

This announcement was made by Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar while presiding over the monthly meeting of District Public Relations and Grievance Redressal Committee in Gurugram on Saturday.

A total of 17 problems or complaints were placed in the meeting, out of which the CM resolved most of them on the spot. Apart from these, during the meeting, the District Sports Officer was called after a problem related to sports in village Khandevala, but he was found absent in the meeting without any information, taking it seriously, the Chief Minister immediately ordered his suspension.

16 private developer colonies in Gurugram including Sushant Lok-1,2 & 3, Palam Vihar, South City-1 & 2, Malibu Town, Aardee City, Mayfield Garden, Uppal Southend, Suncity, Vipul World, Saraswati Kunj due to the lack of infrastructure, the matter of stopping the provision of permanent and temporary electricity connections to the consumers was taken up with the Chief Minister.

On this, the CM said that a new policy is being made for such consumers by grouping three types so that relief can be provided to the people living in those colonies. He told that the consumers who have deposited all the EDC money with the developer, that money will be removed from the developer to the lack of infrastructure and connections will be issued to the consumers.

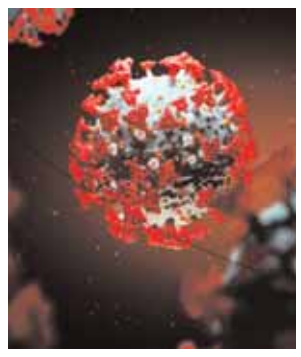
Similarly, the consumers whose EDC money is pending will be given the connections after completing the infrastructure by filling that amount.

While disposing of the complaint regarding the lack of infrastructure like electricity, water, roads etc. in DLF Phase-3, Khattar asked the representative of DLF to hand over the colony to the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) on December 31 by removing the lack of infrastructure.

After that, the MCG will survey the deficit infrastructure in the next 15 days and if any deficiency is found, then it will be given to DLF by making an estimate.

According to the estimate, DLF will have to deposit the amount so that the corporation will remove that shortfall. On the same lines, action will be taken in 14 other colonies of Gurugram. The Chief Minister said that in the case of those colonies, the tripartite agreement should be made in which the MCG, the concerned developer and the District Town Planner (DTP) would be involved and the responsibility of getting the infrastructure completed as per the rules would rest with the DTP.

Kerala records 7,995 new Covid cases, 57 deaths



Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala reported 7,995 new positive cases and 57 Covid-19 -related deaths on Saturday, taking the total affected in the state to 48,37,560 and the death toll to 26,791.

State Health Minister Veena George said 79,722 samples were tested in the last 24 hours and there are 211 wards across 158 local self government bodies with a weekly infection population ratio above ten per cent.

Among the districts, Ernakulam reported the highest number of fresh infections--1,280, followed by Thiruvananthapuram with 985 and Kozhikode 937.

"There are 90,885 active Covid-19 cases of which only 9.8 per cent are admitted to hospitals," the minister said in a release.

Meanwhile, 11,769 persons recuperated from the disease, taking the total cured to 47,28,497.

According to the release, of those found infected today, 27 reached the state from outside while 7,562 contracted the disease through their contact. The source of infection of 321 persons is yet to be traced and 45 health workers are also among the infected.

Currently, there are 3,14,640 people under observation of which 10,404 are in isolation wards of various hospitals. *PTI*

Gujarat: Eight students test +ve at tuition centre in Surat

Surat: Eight students of a tuition centre in Gujarat's Surat city tested Covid-19 positive after testing of samples, an official said on Saturday.

A student, who was regularly attending classes at this tuition centre, had tested coronavirus positive on October 7, following which all the 125 students were tested. Out of them, seven samples tested positive, said Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Health), Ashish Naik. The tuition class has been sealed as a precautionary measure, he said. This is the second time in October that Covid-19 cases were reported from an educational institution. A private school was shut temporarily after some students tested positive early this month.

Surat city has so far reported 1,11,669 coronavirus positive cases and 1,09,975 recoveries, with a recovery rate of 98.48 per cent. A total of 1,629 Covid-19 patients have died so far in Surat, as per the latest bulletin released by the municipal corporation. *PTI*

I insisted that Uddhav become CM of Maha: Pawar

Dismisses Fadnavis charge that Uddhav was ambitious to become CM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

The political temperature increased in Maharashtra on Saturday, as NCP chief Sharad Pawar dismissed BJP leader and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis' charge that Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray was "ambitious" to become the chief minister and and became one as "baseless" and said that it was he who "forced" Uddhav to occupy the post.

Hitting out at Fadnavis for his claim that Uddhav had fulfilled his "ambition" of becoming the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Pawar said: "There is no truth in Fadnavis' charge. At a time when he was not interested in becoming the chief minister, it was I who proposed his name and got it approved by the MLAs present at the meeting of the legislators of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress".

"He (Fadnavis) should know that I played a role in the formation of Maha Vikas Aghadi government (comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress). There were three names for the post of chief minister. But, the name of Uddhav Thackeray did not figure in the list. Uddhav was not ready to become the chief minister...I had close relations with his father late Sena chief Bal Thackeray. Late Thackeray has contributed a great deal to Maharashtra. Keeping this in mind, it was I who forced Uddhav to become the chief minister," the NCP chief said, while talking to media persons at Pimpri in Pune district. Pawar was defending Uddhav against the criticism of Fadnavis who had earlier in the day charged that the MVA government was formed "dishonestly" by the Shiv Sena in alliance with the NCP and Congress and that Uddhav severed the Sena's links with the BJP as he was "ambitious" to become the chief minister, an ambition the latter fulfilled when the MVA Government came to power in November 2019.

Fadnavis – in his interactIon with the media in Nagpur – had taken on Uddhav in response to a sensational statement made by the latter at his Dussehra rally on Friday that had the BJP fulfilled its pre-Assembly poll promise of giving the CM's post to his party, he would have perhaps stepped aside, made Shiv Sainik the chief minister and even retired from politics.

"If the BJP had fulfilled its promise of giving (the first term) of the chief ministership, I would have perhaps stepped aside, made a Shiv Sainik the chief minister and even retired from politics. I am being criticised in politics. This is not my field. I came here to fulfil the responsibility as a son (of late Balasaheb Thackeray). I will not keep quiet till I fulfil my responsibility. It is with this intent that I am here," Uddhav had said.

Slamming the BJP for calling the Shiv Sena corrupt after the two parties' alliance ended in 2019, Uddhav dared it to topple his Sena-NCP-Congress coalition government which will complete two years next month.

"I do not go after anyone. But, if someone targets me, I would not spare them. What is your stature to attack me? If you have some strength in you to take on me directly, please do it. But, do not use CBI, ED and IT to hand over threats to me. If you take on directly, I will retaliate as the Shiv Sena and not as the chief minister. Unlike you, I am not the one to hide behind police or enforcement agencies. I will do whatever I can through my Shiv Sainiks," Uddhav had said.

Alluding to Fadnavis' charge that some ministers in the MVA government possessed a software that enabled them to "extort" money, the NCP chief said: "Fadnavis talks about computer chip that enables ministers to extort money from people. If there is indeed such a software, I want him to show that would enrich our knowledge".

Defending Uddhav's style of functioning as the chief minister, Pawar said: "When I used to be chief minister, I would rush to the spot whenever there was a big incident. Uddhav is different. He handles crises well by not stirring out of the place. Maharashtra has faced so many crises, including floods and Covid-19, Uddhav and his colleagues have effectively handled all the crises. Uddhav has proved that he can handle difficult situation even while working from home. Hence there is absolutely no truth in Fadnavis' allegation.

Referring to Fadnavis' "baseless" allegations against Uddhav and MVA Government, Pawar said: " I have not read any statement that augurs well for a leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. Fadnavis is frustrated because he is not in power. He has said that he feels he is a chief minister even now. Looks like he will not quiet till he become a chief minister. That's why keeps saying anything that comes to his mind".

"For instance, Fadnavis has said that he will not allow Maharashtra to go West Bengal way. Is he suggesting that he would not allow the contributions by great personalities like Ravidranath Tagore and Subhash Chandra Bose and that he would not allow such patriots in Maharashtra? The man who was the chief minister of one state should not be talking about the other state in this manner," the NCP chief said.

Hindu's body found; B'desh Durga Puja ...

From Page 1

According to a Hindu community leader, the deceased was a victim of bigot attacks on devotees on Friday.

Four people were killed and scores of others injured during clashes between Muslim bigots and the police at Hajiganj sub-district in central Chandpur on Wednesday and Thursday, prompting the government to call out paramilitary forces to maintain law and order across the country.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promised to bring to justice the culprits behind the violence, saying anyone involved in the attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues in Comilla will not be spared.

"The incidents in Comilla are being thoroughly investigated. Nobody will be spared. It doesn't matter which religion they belong to. They will be hunted down and punished," she said while exchanging greetings with the Hindu community members during an event at Dhakeshwari National Temple in Dhaka on the occasion of Durga Puja.

The violence had erupted after an alleged blasphemy incident at a Durga Puja pavilion in Cumilla, bordering Chandpur and about 100 kms from Dhaka, after which a probe was launched.

30% deprived of water, soap at home!

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"Global response efforts to the pandemic have created an unprecedented time for hand hygiene. Yet progress remains far too slow for the most vulnerable, underserved communities," Unicef WASH Director Kelly Ann Naylor was quoted as saying in a statement. "Hand hygiene cannot be viewed as a temporary provision to manage Covid-19. Further long-term investment in water, sanitation and hygiene can help prevent the next health crisis from coming. It also means fewer people falling ill with respiratory infections, fewer children dying from diarrhoea diseases, and more pregnant mothers and newborns protected from preventable conditions like sepsis."

UNHEALTHY FACTS:

*Three in 10 people ie 2.3 billion people in the world, do not have handwashing facilities with water and soap available at home

*Two in five schools worldwide do not have basic hygiene services with water and soap, affecting 818 million students, of which 462 million attend schools with no facilities at all.

*In the least developed countries, seven out of 10 schools have no place for children to wash their hands.

*One-third of health care facilities worldwide do not have hand hygiene facilities at points of care where the patient, health care worker, and treatment involve contact with the patient.

2 more martyred...

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"On October 14, 2021 after a fierce firefight with terrorists, the communication with Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh was disrupted. Relentless operations continued to neutralise the terrorists and to re-establish communication with the soldiers. Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh were killed in action in the fierce fight and their bodies have been recovered in the evening of 16 Oct 21," he added.

Subedar Ajay Singh is a resident of village - Rampur, Post- Jajal, Tehsil- Narendra Nagar, District - Tehri, Uttrakhand.

Naik Harendra Singh is a native of village - Pipalsari, Post- Rikhnikhal, Tehsil- Lansdowne, District - Pauri, Uttrakhand. To prevent further loss of lives of the Indian Army jawans, the elite para commandos have directed to neutralise the group of terrorists hiding in the thickly forested area. The elite commandos were earlier inducted into the operations keeping in mind the difficult terrain and thick foliage.

After a brief lull since last evening, fresh contact was established with the terrorists on Saturday. The exchange of fire also took place for some time, but the terrorists continued to remain at large even on the sixth day of the operations.

Deputy Inspector General (Rajouri Poonch range)Vivek Gupta told reporters in Poonch that the counter terrorist operation is going on in the thickly forested area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch. He said the joint grid of the security forces was tracking the terrorists in the area for over two months now.

"So far the security forces have established contact with the terrorists on three occasions," said Vivek Gupta, adding, "We have managed to hold these terrorists in a particular area and following all the SoP's in order to neutralise these terrorists as soon as possible." He said the traffic in the area has been diverted to ensure safety of the commuters.

Meanwhile, after the targeted killings of civilians in different parts of Kashmir valley the security forces have adopted an aggressive posturing. Since October 8, 13 terrorists have been neutralised in nine encounters.

Hitting back, terrorists shot dead two non-locals labourers, hailing from Hindi heartland states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were shot dead in Srinagar and Pulwama districts late Saturday evening .

According to a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police, terrorists fired upon two nonlocal labourers in Srinagar & Pulwama late Saturday evening.

The non-locals have been identified as Arvind Kumar Shah of Banka Bihar and Sagir Ahmad of Saharanpur in UP.

Arvind Kumar was targeted in the Eidgah area of Srinagar and was rushed to the SMHS hospital where doctors declared him brought dead while Sagir was targeted in Pulwama area.

In a tweet Kashmir Zone Police said, "LeT terrorist Umar Mustaq Khandey who martyred our two colleagues SgCT Mohd Yousf and Ct Suhail Ah-in Baghat, Srinagar while they were having tea, was neutralised in Drangbal, Pampore. Amongst various other crimes of the terrorists, this stands out as most unforgivable."

On the other hand, Inspector General of Police Kashmir range Vijay Kumar on Saturday ruled out any security lapse behind the recent civilian killings in the valley and said it is not possible to provide security to all those who may be soft targets for terrorists.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said none of the civilians killed last week had been provided security by the police.

Seven civilians, including four from minority communities, were killed by terrorists in Kashmir last week, triggering fear among the people in the Valley and criticism of the security apparatus by political parties. "There was no lapse in securityâ¦ They (terrorists) chose soft targets, we had not provided security to them (civilians). It is not possible to provide security to all soft targets," Kumar said.

He said security forces acted swiftly and identified all five terrorists involved in the killings.

"Two of them have been neutralised and the other three will also be tracked down soon," he added.

Dismissing criticism of the security apparatus by politicians, Kumar said the police are dealing with the situation professionally.

Six people dead...

From Page 1

"The situation is serious", Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. He, however, said the latest weather forecast indicates that the situation is not going to get worse. Officials said personnel of the Army, Airforce and the Navy were on the way to Koottickal and Peruvanthanam--the two hilly villages falling under Kottayam and Idukki districts respectively--where an overflowing river swept through houses, displacing and isolating many.

State Cooperation Minister VN Vasavan, who reached the neighbourhood of these landslide-hit villages, said bodies of two women and a child who died, were recovered while search was on to recover the body of a man who also lost his life in the incident.

He said at least 12 people are missing from these villages.

In a separate rain related incident, a man and a woman--both 30-years-old-- died as their car was swept away in the flood waters

in Kanjar in Idukki district, police said. Their bodies have been recovered, they said.

According to a defence spokesperson, Mi-17 and Sarang Helicopters are already in standby mode to meet the requirements but they could not start operations as the weather at Kottayam is still bad. Air Force assets are still at Sulur in a standby mode, she said.

"All the bases under Southern Air Command have been put on high alert in view of the prevalent weather situation at Kerala," the spokesperson said in a statement.

"The Indian Army has already deployed army personnel to the flood affected areas. One column consisting of One Officer,

I'm full-time, hands-on...

From Page 1

"Above all, it requires self-control and discipline," she said amidst the demand from senior leaders like AK Antony as well as Chief Ministers of Punjab, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh to bring back Rahul as the chief of the grand old party.

News agency *ANI*, quoting sources said that on the insistence of senior leaders at the CWC meeting, Rahul said that he "will consider" becoming the party president again.

The CWC decided that elections for the top post will be held between August 21 and September 20 next year and the next chief could take the baton by October 2022. It emerged during the course of the discussion that there should not be any immediate changes in top leadership due to the impending crucial Assembly elections, including that of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab next year.

After a nearly five-hour-long meeting of the CWC, AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal announced the election schedule, which includes a massive membership drive for the polls starting from November 1, 2021, and will go on till March 31, 2022.

At a Press conference, Venugopal also stated that the election of PCC presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, PCC executives, and AICC members by the PCC general body will be held between July 21 and August 20, 2022. The election of the Congress president will be held between August 21 and September 20, 2022, he said.

Speaking at the press conference Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said all members of the CWC have reassured their full faith in Sonia and her leadership.

On being asked whether Rahul can become the party's president before the organisational elections, Surjewala said, "The dates have been already announced, any changes that take place will happen accordingly."

"There is no need to speak to me through the media. So let us all have a free and honest discussion. But what should get communicated outside the four walls of this room is the collective decision of the CWC," Sonia noted in her opening remarks.

Talking about the party's revival, a key theme raised by the G-23, she said, "The entire organisation wants a revival of the Congress. But this requires unity and keeping the party's interests paramount. Above all, it requires self-control and discipline. "Never have we let issues of public importance and concern go unaddressed. You are aware that I have been taking them up with the Prime Minister as have Dr Manmohan Singh and Rahul ji. I have been interacting with like-minded political parties regularly. We have issued joint statements on national issues and coordinated our strategy in Parliament as well."

The CWC also passed three resolutions, including a political calling upon all democratic parties and forces to join hands to resolutely oppose the Modi Government in order to protect the values on which our country was founded and to advance the causes of the people.

Sonia also spoke about the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, the farmers' agitation, inflation, foreign policy and the continuing border stand-off with China, targeted killing in Jammu and Kashmir and the disinvestment process. One of the resolutionss was on agrarian distress and the CWC mentioned, "We reiterate our continued resolve to fight the battle alongside the farmers and farm labourers to defeat the Modi Government's deliberate attack on India's Anndatas." The CWC also urged the Centre to 'take immediate steps to reduce prices' as part of a resolution on inflation during the meeting. Regarding the same, the Opposition party also announced to undertake mass agitation on price rise between Nov 14 and 29.

"All supporters and leaders will take up padyatras to polling booths. This will be followed by small meetings," said Venugopal.

Nihang Sikh surrenders for...

From Page 1

A senior police official of Sonepat police said while seeking Sarabjit's custody, police submitted before the court that they have to make certain recoveries from the accused arrested in the case. The official said Sarabjit has named four more people during interrogations while pointing to their involvement in the incident.

"We produced Sarabjit before the court. The accused has been remanded in seven days' police custody by the court," Sonepat's Deputy Superintendent of Police, Virender Singh said. "The accused has pointed to the involvement of four more people in the case and taken their names...we are conducting further investigations in this regard. We have to make some recoveries from the arrested accused, including the weapon used in the crime and the clothes he was wearing," he said. The total number of accused in the crime could be more than five, the DSP said, adding further investigations were on.

Hours after the macabre crime on Friday, a man wearing the blue robes of the Sikhs' Nihang order appeared before the media, claiming that he had "punished" the victim for "desecrating" a Sikh holy book. Other Nihangs had claimed he had "surrendered" to police, while police had later said Sarabjit Singh, who hails from Gurdaspur district, has been arrested in the case. Earlier on Friday, in a video clip that surfaced on social media, some Nihangs were seen standing around the injured man with his severed left hand close to his head. The group was heard accusing him of desecrating a Sikh holy book.

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Bid No. E-29/2021-22 **E-Tenders** Date : 11.10.2021

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence :- S. No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. **S. No. 1**. 04215012 (26.10.2021), Under Frame Asm complete, PL No. 17039873, 1 Set. **S. No. 2**. R/A (Double Bid System) 04211058 (09.11.2021), Ballast assly Part No. 29170163 qty. 155 Sets. **S. No. 3**. 05211016A (28.10.2021), Copper Coated Corbon Electrodes, Part No. 76018441, 930 Nos. **S. No. 4**. 05211063A (28.10.2021), Night Latch 7 Leavers, Part No. 74908315, 217 Nos. **S. No. 5**. 05211045B (11.11.2021), Special Socket, Part No. 15620013, 04 Nos. **S. No. 6**. 05215191A (11.11.2021), Die & Punch for CNC Turret Punch Machine, 01 Set. **S. No. 7**. 06211010 (08.11.2021), MAIN COMPRESSOR WITH MOUNTING ACCESSORIES ALONG WITH MOTOR (SAFETY SLING TO BE PURCHASED FROM CLW APPROVED SOURCE ONLY) DRG. NO. 29511008 ALT-NIL Spec.: Spec. No. 1-RDSO/2018/EL/SPEC/0137 REV-0 2. SPEC/E-10/3/09 MOTOR WITH AMENDMENT NOS. 01, 02, 03, 04 and 05 OR LATEST TO PL No. 29511008, Qty. 592 SETS. **S. No. 8**. 06211870 (08.11.2021), PANTOGRAPH FOR A.C. FREIGHT ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES WITH 5% EXTRA THROTTLE VALVE AS MANUFACTURING SPARES FOR WAG-9 ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE CAT. NO. P/0/0168 C & D NO. T016/001 Spec. : SPEC. NO. RDSO/2008/EL/SPEC/0066, REV. 0, AMD. NO. 1 DT. 31.12.08 WITH AMENDMENT NO.-2 TO MODIFICATION SHEET NO. ELRS/MS/0333, REV. 0 DATED 20.12.2004 & RDSO/ELRS/EL/MS/0389 REV. 0 DATED 31.08.10 To PL No. 29880026, Qty.-400 Nos. **S. No. 9**. 06210176 (08.11.2021), CREW FAN CAT. NO. P/0/0015 C & D No. T022/001 Spec. : Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0110/E to PL No. 29470080, Qty. - 1121 Nos. **S. No. 10**. 06211848 (12.11.2021), PRIMARY CURRENT TRANSFORMER CAT. NO. N/0/0117 C & D No./Stock No. T016/007 Spec : Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0013/B to PL No. 29690043, Qty. - 247 Nos. **S. No. 11**. 06211881 (15.11.2021), LED BASED FLASHER LIGHT Spec : I) ELRS/SPEC/LFL/0017 (REV. 1 SEPT. 2004) II) CLW/ES/SK-3/L21/C to PL No. 29612937, Qty. - 610 Sets. **S. No. 12**. 06211882 (15.11.2021), LED MARKER LIGHT I) ELRS/SPEC/PR/0022 (Rev. 1, Oct. 2004) EXCEPT PAGE NO. 24 II) CLW/ES/SK-1/L-29 ALT-A Spec : I) ELRS/SPEC/PR/0022 (REV. 1, OCT. 2004) EXCEPT PAGE NO. 24 II) CLW/ES/SK-1/L-29 ALT-A to PL NO. 29612925, Qty. - 999 Sets. **S. No. 13**. 06211864 (12.11.2021), Pantograph Disconnecting + Earthing Device CAT no. P/0/0146 C & D No/Stock No. T016/005 Spec : Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0008/B to PL No. 29810050, Qty. - 562 Nos. **S. No. 14**. 06211778 (01.11.2021), F.L. LAMP DRIVERS CAB LIGHTING CAT. NO. P/0/0031 C & D No./stock No. T022/013 3EHP590065R1117 Spec : ABB Drg./CLW Drg./Spec. No. 1. CLW/ES/3/0041 2. 3EHP590065R1117 to PL No. 29610461, Qty. - 1209 Nos. **S. No. 15**. 06211867 (01.11.2021), Roof Line insulator CAT. NO. P/1/0141a C & D No. T016/559 Spec : CLW Spec. No. CLW/ES/AC/I-1/J, CLW/ES/SK-2/AC/I-1/I to PL No. 29810139, Qty. - 2568 Nos. **S. No. 16**. 06211708 (02.11.2021), AUXILIARY COMPRESSOR (MCPA) to CLW Spec. No. : CLW/ES/C-4, Alt-F to PL No. 25513000, Qty. - 283 Sets. **S. No. 17**. 06211762 (08.11.2021), AMPLIFIER TO SENSOR OIL CIRCUIT Cat No. N/0/0104, C&D No. T020/012 Spec : Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0035/G to PL No. 29500059, Qty. - 592 Nos. **S. No. 18**. 06210010 (15.11.2021), MAIN TRANSFORMER 6531 KVA TYPE ABB LOT 6500 OR SIMILAR FOR WAG-9 ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE CAT NO. P/0/0006, C&D NO. T011/001 Spec : CLW SPEC. NO. CLW/ES/3/0456 REV. I to PL No. 29731008, Qty. - 160 Nos. **S. No. 19**. 06211753 (02.11.2021), Complete Cubicle-F, along with all equipments & cabling, nil Spec : CLW Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0652, Alt. D to PL No. 29178162, Qty. - 579 Nos. **S. No. 20**. 09211120 (08.11.2021), Capacitor (22 Micro Farad), to PL No. 29771031, 580 Nos. **S. No. 21**. 09211121 (08.11.2021), Circuit Breaker Battery, to PL No. 29710212, 250 Nos. **S. No. 22**. 09211076A (01.11.2021), DC LINK CONTACTOR T/F, to PL No. 18310795, 15 Nos. **S. No. 23**. 09210120 (03.11.2021), TRACTION MOTOR BLOWER INCLUDING, to PL. No. 29440075, 538 Sets. **S. No. 24**. 09211200A (03.11.2021), SCAVENGE BLOWER TO MR, to PL. No. 29440129, 609 Sets. **S. No. 25**. 09210123 (03.11.2021), F. L. LAMP CORRIDOR LIGHTING, to PL. No. 29610450, 1676 Nos. **S. No. 26**. 09211055 (08.11.2021), CIRCUIT MODULE, & PENAL MODULE, to PL. No. 18120076, 2 Nos. & PL No. 18120088, 3 Nos. The details of above Tenders are available on **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in**.

PRO/BLW/S-34 SMM/Imp-I

/blwvaranasi Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 12 Date 14.10.2021

Email: cos@ner.railnet.gov.in , Fax No.: 0551-2200721
Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Item No	Tender Number	Due on	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from	Qty. Required	Earnest Money(₹)
1	30211069	09.11.2021	110 V DC Mobile Phone charging etc.	ICF	25000 Nos.	191160/-
2	22200735C	09.11.2021	Revised IRS side buffer etc.	RDSO	1360 Nos.	146710/-
3	22210851	09.09.2021	Thermoplastic polyester etc./	RDSO	7600 Nos.	163090/-
4	22211705	09.11.2021	Gravity cock 1/2" chrome plated etc.	--	35000 Nos.	77600/-
5	22201448A	10.09.2021	Side panel sheet for corrosion etc.	--	1328 Nos.	54040/-
6	22201449A	10.11.2021	Side panel sheet for corrosion etc.	--	2438 Nos.	76190/-
7	22201047	11.11.2021	Coupler yoke for upgraded etc.	RDSO	876 Nos.	297670/-
8	22211060	12.11.2021	Equalising stay complete etc.	--	3400 Nos.	143550/-
9	22211378	15.11.2021	203 MM bogie mounted air brake etc.	ICF	1015 Nos.	172650/-
10	22210215	15.11.2021	Axle box housing finish etc.	ICF	3024 Nos.	753780/-
11	22211045	15.11.2021	Modified elastomeric pad etc.	RDSO	12636 Nos.	358360/-
12	22210767	15.11.2021	Air brake hose coupling etc.	RDSO	5063 Nos.	132420/-
13	26210482	16.11.2021	1-Decorative thermosetting etc. 2-Decorative thermosetting etc.	--	3100 Nos. 10200 Nos.	360960/-
14	22211350A	17.11.2021	Lower spring beam arrangement etc.	ICF,MCF RCF	905 Nos.	191570/-
15	22211293	17.11.2021	Bogie centre pivot bottom etc.	RDSO	1272 Nos.	99720/-
16	29210186	17.11.2021	Set of cover assembly etc.	--	750 sets	61500/-
17	22211142	18.11.2021	High capacity draft gear etc.	RDSO	480 Nos.	253530/-
18	22210682	18.11.2021	Knuckle for transition etc.	RDSO	1536 Nos.	247730/-
19	28210704B	25.11.2021	1-Dissolved acetylene Gas etc 2-Compressed oxygen Gas etc	--	23435 CUM 77187 CUM	217610/-
20	28211405B	26.11.2021	Paint Enamel Synthetic etc.	RDSO	28800Ltr	60360/-
21	22201457B	01.12.2021	Polymer buffer spring etc.	RDSO	2042 set	204920/-

CPRO/S-59 Principal Chief Material Manager,Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

J&K LAKES AND WATERWAYS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

Head Office,
Vice Chairman,
J & K Lakes & waterways Development Authority,
Miskeen Bagh Khanyar, District Srinagar 190003
Email: - vclwda@yahoo.com
Fax : +91-194-2451025
Phone: +91-194-2451073

Implementing Agency
Executive Engineer,
Executive Engineer Lake Division 1st,
J & K LDA
email: xenlakediv1st@gmail.com

Fresh e- N.I.T No: - 38 of 2021-22 **Date: - 13/10/2021**

For and on behalf of The Hon'ble Governor of J&K UT, fresh e-tender (Two cover System), is invited from reputed and resourceful A class contractors/Firms/companies/joint venture of repute on comprehensive and extensive basis, which should be uploaded on the e-Procurement web portal **http://www.jktenders.gov.in,** as per given **bidding Schedule** for below mentioned works as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification , to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form NO:- 25 are accepted. The detailed tender document, Specifications and drawings can be downloaded on the e-procurement Portal **http://www.jktenders.gov.in** and also on departmental web site "**www.jklda.org** . The cost of the document (nontransferable /Nonrefundable) should be in the shape Bank Payin Slip to be deposited in the given Divisional account No.

S. No. 01 Name of work :- Dredging of acquired land at Hazratbal Basin of Dal Lake near Tilla Mohalla Ashai Bagh including Construction of Dike near Check Saderbal Nigeen.

Advertised Cost of Work :- Rs. 491.14 Lacs., **Class of Contract :-** AAY & Above, **Cost of Document** :- 5000/- , **Period of completion :-** 04 calendar Months, **Tender receiving authority :-** Vice Chairman J&K LWDA

Tender Fee to be deposited into account No. CDG/01850102 00 00 0004, (IFSC CODE JAKA0SATHOO) JK Bank Upper Sathu through E-challan / treasury receipt/Pay in Slip. However the contractors who have participated in the tendering in pursuance of the original NIT are exempted from deposition of tender fee.

Online bidding schedule:

01. Date of issue of Tender Notice :- **13/10/2021**
02. Date of downloading of bidding documents :- **14/10/2021 from 10.00 A.M**
03. Bid submission start date :- **14/10/2021 from 11.00 A.M**
04. Pre bid meeting :- **16/10/2021 at 11 A.M in the office of the Vice Chairman, J&K LWDA at Miskeen Bagh Khanyar Srinagar, or Video Conference.**
05. Bid Submission end date :- **20/10/2021 up to 03.00 P.M**
06. Date & time of opening Bids (on line) :- **20/10/2021 at 4.30 P.M**

For and on behalf Of the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Lake Division 1st,LDA

No. DIPK-NB/4257/21 Dated:- 16.10.2021

Navy to review its readiness on Mon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Navy top echelon will next week review the readiness of its fleet in the backdrop of China flexing its maritime muscle in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific. The five-day Commanders' conference will commence here from Monday.

Giving details here on Saturday, Navy officials said the conference, held twice a year, serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important maritime matters at the military-strategic level as well as interact with senior Government officials through an institutionalised forum.

Due to the rapidly changing geostrategic situation of the region, the significance and importance of the Conference is manifold. It is an institutionalised platform to deliberate, direct, devise and decide issues of utmost importance, which will shape future course of the Indian Navy.

During the Conference, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address and interact with the Naval Commanders on matters pertaining to national security.

Among many issues being discussed, the Chief of the Naval Staff, along with other Naval Commanders, will review major operational, materiel, logistics, human resource development, training and administrative activities undertaken by the Indian Navy in the last few months and deliberate upon future plans for important activities and initiatives.

The Navy has focused on being Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive force and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, continues to assiduously execute its mandate. The Indian Navy has witnessed a significant growth in its operational tasking over the years in consonance with India's rising maritime interests.

Indian Naval ships on Mission Based Deployments across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) have remained poised for quick response to any developing situation. Indian warships deployed in the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf continue to provide security for trade flowing through these areas.

In 2020-21, warships have undertaken multiple Covid related outreach missions to provide food and medical aid to IOR littoral nations and beyond as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

The Chief of Defence Staff, and the Chiefs of Indian Army and Indian Air Force will also interact with the Naval Commanders to address convergence of the three Services vis-à-vis the operational environment, and on avenues for augmenting Tri-Service synergy.

Air chief to visit forward areas along LoC to assess operational preparedness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Air Force (IAF) chief VR Chaudhari is visiting forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LC) in Ladakh to review operational readiness of the armed forces. This is his first visit after assuming the top job earlier this month.

The visit comes at a time when India and China are in a stand-off situation at some locations in Eastern Ladakh since May last year.

The two Corps Commanders have held 13 rounds of talks to ease tension at the LAC and find ways for early disengagement from the flash points.

Chaudhari arrived in Leh on Saturday and will visit forward areas.

He will also hold talks with the operational commanders of the IAF and the Army to take a sense of the situation there.

Even though Chaudhari took over as the IAF chief recently, he was handling the LAC flare up and resultant build up to protect the LAC as the Western Air Command chief and then as the Vice-Chief.

During the ongoing visit, Chaudhari will visit the forward air bases in the Ladakh region besides some positions where the troops are deployed to thwart any transgressions by the Chinese troops, sources said here on Saturday.

The IAF has also upgraded its facilities in the northern sector where troops have been stationed with the surface-to-air missiles to counter even slow moving helicopters.

The Air Force has also deployed the Rafale fighter aircraft along with the MiG-29 fighters to guard the LAC. In fact, the IAF has deployed all its front line fighter jets including the SU-30s and Jaguars at the airbases near the 4,000 KM LAC stretching from Ladakh in the north to Arunachal Pradesh in the east since June last year.

At present, more than 50,000 troops each from India and China are deployed along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh since May last year.

The two sides did not retreat in the winter months and are likely to stay put at all the flash points during the coming winter months.

Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited the LAC for two days on October one to take stock of the operational preparedness of his troops.

He reportedly also reviewed the preparations for deploying troops in the winter months.

Jaishankar to visit Israel to strengthen bilateral ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to further strengthen ties between the two countries, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit Israel and hold talks with his counterpart there on the entire gamut of relationship. The three-day visit begins on October 19.

The two countries have robust strategic and defence ties and Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid will focus to strengthen the strategic partnership. This will be Jaishankar's first visit to the country as External Affairs Minister.

The Ministry of External Affairs said here in a statement on Saturday Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Israel at the invitation of Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Lapid.

He will hold a bilateral meeting with Lapid and will also call on President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, and Knesset Speaker Mickey Levy during his visit.

India and Israel elevated bilateral relations to a strategic partnership during the historic visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel in July 2017.

Since then, the relationship between the two countries has focused on expanding knowledge-based partnership, which includes collaboration in innovation and research, including boosting the 'Make in India' initiative, the ministry said.

> Israel has emerged as a major defence partner of India since diplomatic ties were established in the early 1990s

During his visit, Jaishankar will interact with the Indian-origin Jewish community in Israel, Indologists, Indian students who are currently pursuing their education in Israeli universities, and business people, including from the hi-tech industries, the statement said.

The visit will also be an occasion to pay tribute to the valiant Indian soldiers who laid their lives in the region, especially during the First World War, it said. The visit is seen towards cementing diplomatic and political ties between the two countries in the post-Benjamin Netanyahu era.

Israel has emerged as a major defence partner of India since diplomatic ties were established in the early 1990s. Over the years, Israel has supplied technology for the Indian missile programme, sophisticated rifles, Phalcon airborne early warning radar system(AWACS), drones, sensors and other related equipment. The two countries also share close relationship in fighting terrorism through intelligence sharing and counter-terrorism operations. Jaishankar will first visit Dubai on Sunday and will then leave for Israel.

In the United Arab Emirates(UAE), the external affairs minister is likely to hold talks with the leadership there on issues like the situation in Afghanistan. Incidentally, the UAE established diplomatic relations with Israel under the Abraham Accord signed on August 13, 2020.

NSG commandos deployed at Srinagar, Jammu airbases for anti-drone cover

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Units of the National Security Guard (NSG) have been deployed at the Srinagar and Jammu airbases to provide anti-drone cover, paramilitary chief MA Ganapathy said on Saturday.

The move comes after Jammu air station was hit by drone attacks earlier this year. The NSG on Saturday celebrated its 37th raising at its campus in Manesar.

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) conspired to execute the first-ever drone attack on June 27 at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jammu where two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which came from across the border, dropped bombs, injuring two airmen and damaging a portion of a building.

The two IAF facilities in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir are located close to the Pakistan border/Line of Control (LoC) respectively and are categorised as 'sensitive' locations.

On the NSG Raising Day on Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeted the elite counter-terrorism force, terming it is a "world-class trained force to tackle all facets of terrorism" and the country is proud of its troops.

The elite striking force, the NSG was established in 1984 after the Union Cabinet decided to create a 'Federal Contingency Force' that was 'well trained to tackle various manifestations of terrorism.

Every year, the Raising Day of the NSG is celebrated on October 16. This year marks the 37th anniversary of the establishment of the NSG, popularly known as Black Cats.

"Greetings to our brave NSG personnel on their 37th Raising Day. NSG is a world-class trained force to tackle all facets of terrorism. This formidable force has left no stone unturned to live up to its motto 'Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha'. India is proud of NSG black cats," the Home Minister tweeted.

> On the NSG Raising Day on Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeted the elite counter-terrorism force

NSG is mandated to be deployed in exceptional circumstances only. The task-oriented force comprises two complementary elements in the form of the Special Action Group (SAG).

The 37th Raising Day was addressed by junior Home Minister Nityanand Rai who presented medals to the NSG personnel who were awarded the President's Medal for Meritorious Service.

NSG DG Ganapthy also addressed the event and dwelt on the evolution of the force and continuous modernisation of the force to deal with the dynamic nature of threats.

Four CRPF jawans injured in accidental fuse box explosion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four CRPF jawans were injured when an ammunition fuse box exploded when it was being loaded on a train at the Raipur station on Saturday.

The 211 Company of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was in the train when ammunition was being loaded on Saturday morning, the paramilitary said in a statement.

"Boxes of arms and ammunition were being loaded on the train by Head Constable Vikas Lakshman and other jawans. The ammunition fuse box exploded in Lakshman's hand near the toilet of the train's compartment," it said.

Due to the fuse box explosion, Lakshman got injured and he was immediately admitted to the Sreenarayana hospital in Raipur. Three other jawans also suffered some injuries and they were given first aid treatment at the station, the statement said.

The CRPF said that "a case has been filed with the GRP railway station and it has directed to investigate the matter".

The special train was scheduled to carry the CRPF personnel to Jammu from Raipur, Raipur police said in Chattisgarh capital.

"A minor explosion was recorded in a special train of the CRPF at the Raipur railway station around 6.30 am today. The train was heading to Jammu from Jharsuguda (Odisha)," Raipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Prashant Agrawal said.

> The spl train was scheduled to carry the CRPF personnel to Jammu from Raipur, Raipur police said in Chattisgarh capital

"The explosion occurred during the shifting of a container carrying detonators and HD cartridges. While shifting the container in train, it accidentally slipped in coach number-9, which led to the blast," the SP added.

Left parties urge Centre to withdraw extended jurisdiction of BSF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Left parties CPI(M) and CPI on Saturday urged the Central Government to withdraw the extended jurisdiction to Border Security Force (BSF) in States having international borders of Punjab, West Bengal and Assam.

CPI general Secretary D Raja said the Central Government must reconsider this decision and it is an encroachment on State's powers on policing.

"The decision of the Central government to extend the jurisdiction of the Border Security force (BSF) upto 50 kilometers inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam from the earlier 15 kilometers jurisdiction is an encroachment on the rights of the states and the federal principle. The Central government has taken this decision to extend the jurisdiction of the Central police force without consulting the states. Policing and law and order is a state subject and this decision violates federalism, a basic feature of our Constitution," said CPI(M) polit bureau in a statement.

"The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India condemns the decision of the central government to extend the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) up to 50 kilometres from the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam from the existing 15 kilometres. The unilateral decision of the central government is a blatant violation of the federal principle of governance. The Party wants the government to reconsider the decision and consult the concerned state governments before taking such a decision," said CPI in a statement.

BJP slams Congress for 'not offering any comment' on Singhu border killing of dalit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lashing out at the Congress for "not offering any comment" on the ghastly killing of a dalit at the Singhu-border, the BJP on Saturday asked the opposition whether it was supporting the 'Talibani thinking" and the anti-social elements which are "misusing" farmers protests to further their own vested interests.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP's National Spokesman Gaurav Bhatia also took to task Bhartiya Kisan Union president Rakesh Tikait who is leading the farm stir, for saying that "organisers have no accountability towards the incident".

"Have professional protestors no responsibility towards their own citizens ?", he asked.

Bhatia accused the opposition, particularly the Congress, of keeping a silence for their " petty and cheap vote-bank politics".

"For petty and cheap vote-bank politics, the opposition, particularly the Congress, is maintaining a deafening silence..no courage to call a spade a spade as it does not suit their policies of convenience", he said.

On the killing of a dalit on the Singhu-border, Bhatia wondered whether the Congress is subscribing to the Talibani traditions.

BJP leader said the anti-social elements have joined the protest and are firing guns from the shoulders of the agitating farmers.

The BJP spokesperson referred to the statement from the Congress Working Committee and said Congress President' Sonia's "silence is dangerous" as the opposition party, he said is otherwise very quick and regular on raising convenient issues on the farmers.

BJP said that "anarchists behind these protests need to be exposed as they are doing a great disservice to the nation".

"The professional protesters who are masking themselves as farmers are doing great disservice to the nation. Those who take the life of an innocent man, rape women and insult the tricolour and justify the killings of citizens as reaction to the action cannot be termed as farmers, " Bhatia said.

The BJP leader also took pot-shots at Sonia's announcement that she is a full-time and hands-on President, saying the Congress has once again moved on with its " all lies and create confusion politics" by brushing aside party's long internal strife andthe subsequent issues raised by G-23 group within it.

"It is not CWC but PBWC-'Parivar Bachao working committee", he quipped

BJP's IT Cell in-charge Amit Malviya also blamed Tikait for the Singhu-border incident. He took to Twitter to say that the gory murder would not have occurred if Rakesh Tikait had "not justified the mob lynching in Lakhimpur".

Covid anthem released to mark 100-cr vax doses milestone

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday released a Covid anthem, penned by singer Kailash Kher, in the run up to India crossing the landmark of 100-crore Covid-19 vaccine doses next week. While the anthem is aimed at dispelling the myths and shedding vaccine hesitancy, the Centre cautioned that it was too early to declare victory over the virus that has swept the world as well as India.

Till Saturday evening, as many as "97.23 crore have been administered the first dose of Covid vaccine in the country", said Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at an event here held to release the anthem.

So far, more than 101 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses have been provided to states and union territories so far while over 11.12 crore balance and unutilised vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs.

The vaccines administered suggest about 70 per cent of the population getting at least one dose and about 30 per cent of the population has got two doses, said the Minister.

"We administered 2.5 crore doses one single day on September 17 and next week we will reach the 100 crore mark," he said. "This has happened because of the effort put in by all."

The minister said while it takes 5-10 years to test and develop vaccines, India has researched and developed an in-house vaccine, and to add to the complex manufacturing, the humongous logistics involving setting up cold chains, airport transfers, delivery to states, local storage and last-mile connectivity were set up in no time.

Kher, who has composed and sung the anthem, said it is essential to dispel myths and rumours surrounding vaccines and promote its usage so as to ensure all get the vaccine.

"We will be better equipped to deal with (a new challenge) both in terms of infrastructure and medical science" but "we should not declare victory yet," Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said adding that vaccination has now become a people's movement despite the negative narrative and falsehood spread by some in the country.

India has recorded 15,981 Covid-19 cases in a day, taking the infection tally to 3,40,53,573 while 166 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 4,51,980, according to the Union Health Ministry's data on Saturday.

The number of active Covid cases has declined to 2,01,632, the lowest in 218 days. The national recovery rate was at 98.07 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

Guj Govt to give ₹5K help to tribals for Ayodhya visit

Offer for those visiting Ram Janmabhoomi

Ahmedabad: The BJP Government in Gujarat has decided to offer financial assistance of ₹5,000 per person from the State's tribal community for pilgrimage to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya, Tourism and Pilgrimage Development Minister Purnesh Modi said.

Addressing a gathering in the Shabari Dham -- a pilgrim site in Gujarat's Dangs district associated with Lord Sri Ram -- on the occasion of Dussehra on Friday, Modi also said that henceforth the State-level 'Dussehra Mahotsav' will be organised every year at different places of pilgrimage associated with Lord Ram in Gujarat. He said the tribal pilgrims will be given financial assistance of ₹5,000 per person for pilgrimage to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi.

The State-level Dussehra Mahotsav programme at Shabari Dham featured various tribal dance forms of Gujarat.

Modi also said the Gujarat Government is working to develop a tourism circuit between Saputara in the Dangs district and the 'Statue of Unity' at Kevadia in the Narmada district, connecting tribal areas of the eastern part of Gujarat.

Modi, who also holds the portfolio of the Roads and Buildings Department in the Bhupendra Patel Government, said the celebration of the Dussehra festival, especially in tribal areas, would highlight the cultural and historical heritage of such areas.

Notably, the assembly elections are due in Gujarat in December next year. Ram Janmabhoomi is believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram in Ayodhya.

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust, which was set up after the Supreme Court verdict in November 2019, is entrusted with the task of constructing a temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya.

Speaking on the occasion on Friday, Valsad MP KC Patel said Narendra Modi government has ensured the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya and the Union and Uttar Pradesh Governments are working together for the development of that area. In a surprise move, which is seen as an effort by the ruling BJP to blunt anti-incumbency ahead of the Assembly elections, the entire cabinet in Gujarat was replaced with new faces in September with the resignation of the chief minister Vijay Rupani, who was replaced with Bhupendra Patel. ***PTI***

PM to offer prayer at Kedarnath on Nov 5

Dehradun: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Kedarnath on November 5 to offer prayers and inaugurate Kedarpuri reconstruction projects worth ₹250 crore.

This will be his second visit to the State within a month. The prime minister had visited the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh on October 7 to inaugurate an oxygen plant there.

Confirming Modi's visit to Kedarnath next month, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said apart from offering prayers at the Himalayan temple, the Prime Minister is likely to inaugurate Kedarpuri reconstruction projects worth ₹ 250 crore, including the rebuilt Samadhi of Adi Guru Shankaracharya.

The Prime Minister is also likely to lay foundation stones of second phase of Kedarpuri reconstruction projects worth ₹150 crore, Dhami said.

Modi has visited Kedarnath several times since becoming prime minister in 2014. He could not come to Kedarnath last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With the pandemic situation relatively under control now there was speculation about his visit to the temple.

The Prime Minister has been closely monitoring Kedarpuri reconstruction projects.

The portals of Kedarnath are scheduled to be closed for winter on November 6 on the occasion of Bhaiyya Dooj. ***PTI***

BJP only knows jeebh chalana, jeep chadhana, says Akhilesh

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday took potshots at the BJP over the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, saying the ruling party only knows 'jeebh chalana' (lip service) and 'jeep chadhana' (mowing down people).

His criticism of the BJP came days after eight people were killed in violence during a farmers' protest in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri which left eight, including four farmers, dead.

BJP leader and Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish has been arrested in connection with the case after he was accused of mowing down farmers with his vehicle. The minister has defended his son, claiming he is "innocent".

"The truth is the BJP knows only two things -- 'jeebh chalana' (lip service) and 'jeep chadhana' (mowing down people). Crushing people and suppressing their voice is their (BJP) agenda," Yadav said while addressing party workers at the Samajwadi Party headquarters here.

Ashish and others have been named in the FIR filed in this connection and the latter was arrested last week.

Claiming the BJP Government's tenure was "full of failures", Yadav alleged that because of "wrong policies" of the ruling party, the state lagged behind with runaway inflation and high unemployment.

"The entire tenure of the BJP government was full of failures. Due to the wrong policies of the BJP government, Uttar Pradesh lagged behind and there was no control on inflation, unemployment. The law and order also got worse," said a party statement, quoting Yadav.

"The BJP government has not done any work in public interest. The BJP is a strange party which is making tall claims without doing anything. The double engine Government of the BJP has harassed every section of society and has not done anything itself but has been appearing in advertisements claiming the works of the Samajwadi Party government as its own," he said.

Speaking about the 2022 Assembly elections, he said it would decide the direction of national politics and would also be a testing time for democracy.

Cautioning the workers, the SP chief said, "We have to be careful of the possible conspiracies of the BJP. Since the BJP is very clever, this time there should be no mistake and SP workers and leaders need to mobilise themselves up to the booth level."

He said people's problems will end and the interest of farmers and youths protected only when the SP forms a Government in the State. ***PTI***

SP, BSP district chiefs among seven held for 17-yr-old girl's rape in UP

Lalitpur (UP): Seven people, including the district presidents of the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, have so far been arrested in connection with the rape of a 17-year-old girl here, police said on Saturday.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) said it has dissolved its Lalitpur district unit.

Superintendent of Police Nikhil Pathak said the arrests were made following the girl's complaint that she was raped for five years in different parts of the city. She named 25 people in her complaint along with three unknown persons, Pathak said.

A case was registered at Sadar Kotwali police station on October 12 against 25 people -- including the victim's father and her uncle -- and three unknown persons.

The official said a hotel in Mirzapur district was raided on Friday from where Tilak Yadav and Deepak Ahirvar, the SP and the BSP district chiefs of Lalitpur respectively, and an engineer named Mahendra Dubey were arrested.The three were produced before a local court, which sent them to a 14-day judicial custody.

Earlier, four people were arrested in connection with the case. In a statement issued in Lucknow, SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said the entire Lalitpur district unit of the party has been dissolved with immediate effect on the directions of party chief Akhilesh Yadav. ***PTI***

A boy collects the harvested paddy from a field in Kadamakudi near Kochi on Saturday PTI

K'taka CM launches district admins march towards villages with focus on development

Davangere (Karnataka): Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said a Government can become pro-people only if all the institutions working in rural areas function effectively.

"With the motto of serving people in rural areas, the Government will reach the people at their doorstep," the Chief Minister said at the launch of 'District Administration's March Towards Villages' in the village of Surahonne in Nyamati Taluk to address people's woes and complaints in rural areas.

The Government has chosen 227 villages where the scheme would be launched to convert them into model villages.

Bommai said it is not the district administration, which is reaching the villages but the entire government machinery is.

Under the programme, the district authorities would spend time in the villages, understand the problems there and resolve them at the earliest.

The Chief Minister said, "When development reaches people, their struggle reduces helping them live a stable life."

He further said preparations were under way to distribute rations at the doorstep of the people and that the social security schemes too would reach the people that way.

He said the people need not visit the Taluk offices to get issues sorted out as they can be resolved, even issues regarding pensions, at the gram panchayats-level.

All officials, right from the Chief Secretary to the Gram Panchayat officers, must join hands to serve, said the Chief Minister.

The Government has also planned to provide all facilities to the Gram Panchayats under the Janasevaka programme, and the pilot project would be launched in all the 28 Assembly constituencies of Bengaluru on November 1 through mobile phone, Bommai said. ***PTI***

Mumbaikars can now directly contact postman through mobile app

India Post, Mumbai launches 'Know Your Postman' app

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a people-friendly initiative, India Post, Mumbai Region, on Saturday launched a trail-blazing mobile application "Know Your Postman", under which citizens can easily get the details of their beat postman.

The mobile application enables the citizens to search their postman by locality, area, post office name and pin code. There is a database of 86,000 localities of Mumbai city and suburbs.

Launching the "Know Your Postman" (KYP) mobile App on the occasion of National Mails Day at the Mumbai Press Club here, Postmaster General, India Post Mumbai Region Swati Pandey said: "The App is an in-house attempt of Mumbai Post region to be citizen friendly, citizen centric and also promote digitisation at the same time. This is completely for the benefit of all Mumbaikars. This is a revolutionary step. More than 86,000 addresses have been tapped so far."

Pandey said that the KYP

Postmaster General, India Post Mumbai Region, Swati Pandey launching the 'Know Your Postman' (KYP) mobile App on the occasion of National Mails Day at the Mumbai Press Club on Saturday

App, which can be downloaded from https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kyp.ipmp, provides citizens an option to add their address, if a particular address is not found. "There is a link through which citizens can click and share the details of their address to be added and India Post, Mumbai will update the address within 24 hours," she said.

According to Pandey, the KYP mobile App will help you in providing details of the Postman, his contact number, the post office he is attached to and its contact details including the telephone number and its address. "There are 89 delivery post offices of Mumbai city with approximately 2000 postmen/women with mobile devices. Mumbai city delivers approximately 2 to 2.5 lakh mails everyday which includes speed post, registered posts, Aadhaar cards, passports," she said, adding that India Post's backbone has always been its delivery services.

"Currently, we are conducting several training programmes for postmen/women whose average age is 45 years which is very high. As many as 1,800 postmen are being trained in soft skills. They are trained on how to respond to the customers," she said. said.

"Know your Postman" is India Post, Mumbai Region's initiative towards Digitisation of the postal network that will facilitate the working population of Mumbai. The app will enable citizens to directly communicate with their beat postman and facilitate delivery as per their convenience," she said.

31 in fray for Oct 30 bypoll to 5 Assembly seats in Assam

Guwahati: Altogether 31 contestants are in the fray after withdrawal of nomination on Saturday for the upcoming by-election in five Assam Assembly constituencies on October 30, a State Election Department release said here.

Eight candidates withdrew their papers leaving 31 in the electoral contest for Gossaigaon, Bhabanipur, Tamulpur, Mariani and Thowra constituencies.

The candidates who withdrew their nomination include three from Tamulpur constituency and five from Gossaigaon, said the release.

The contesting candidates for Gossaigaon seat are Jowel Tudu (INC), Jiron Basumatary (UPPL), Dhruba Kumar Brahma Narzary (BPF), Khairul Anam Khandakar (AIUDF), besides Uttam Kumar Talukdar, Kamal Roy, Osman Gani Sk and Abdul Hashem Akand (all Independents).

For Bhabanipur seat, the candidates in the fray are Phanidhar Talukdar(BJP), Sailendra Nath Das (INC), Jubbar Ali (AIUDF), Merijul Haque (Road Map Party), Siben Das (Voters Party International), besides Shawkat Ali Ahmed, Khampha Khungur Goyary and Ariful Islam (all Independents).

The contestants in the Tamulpur constituency are Bhaskar Dahal (INC), Brajendra Nath Deka (Gana Suraksha Party), Jolen Daimary (UPPL), Raj Kumar Baro (VPI), besides Ganesh Kachary and Yaswanta Chauhan (both Independents).

In Mariani seat the candidates are Rupjyoti Kurmi (BJP), Luhit Konwar (INC), Gopal Chandra Ghatuwar (Asom Sangrami Mancha) and Sanjib Gogoi (Independent).

In Thowra the contestants are Sushanta Borgohain (BJP), Monuranjan Konwar (INC), Krishna Gogoi (CPI), besides Dhaijya Konwar and Lohit Gowala (both Independents).

By-polls in Gossaigaon and Tamulpur have been necessitated due to death of the sitting MLAs, while the incumbents of Bhapanipur, Mariani and Thowra resigned from their seats to join the ruling BJP.

Sasikala visits Jaya mausoleum, keeps alive her bid to make political comeback

Chennai: VK Sasikala, who was eased out of the AIADMK years ago, on Saturday paid homage at the mausoleum of former party supremo J Jayalalithaa here and cryptically remarked that she has 'unburdened' herself and the party has a bright future.

On the eve of AIADMK's 50th anniversary of its founding, Sasikala, confidante of the former Chief Minister said she 'unburdened' herself to Amma, the 'burden' of her heart, that lingered for about five years after Jayalalaithaa's death in 2016.

"I have unburdened myself (at the mausoleum of Jayalalithaa)," she said after paying homage, adding she 'told Amma' the happenings over the years and that the party has a bright future.

The party founder M G Ramachandran and late supremo Jayalalithaa lived for party workers and the people of Tamil Nadu and she was confident that they would "save the party and cadres."

While paying homage, Sasikala, who appeared emotional and meditative, closed her eyes and also paid floral

Expelled AIADMK leader VK Sasikala pays tribute at former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa's memorial at Marina Beach, in Chennai on Saturday PTI

tributes at the mausoleums of MGR and Dravidian icon CN Annadurai and offered prayers at a temple.

Sasikala, who made a public appearance after months was welcomed by a large number of her supporters who chanted slogans like "Puratchi Thai Chinnamma" (Revolutionary mother, the younger mother) and 'Kazhaga Kaval Theivam' (Guardian angel of the party) and 'Thiayaga Thalaivi' (Leader of sacrifices). Her supporters also visited her at her T Nagar residence here and reiterated their support.

While she travelled in a car, the bonnet of which sported an AIADMK flag, several of her supporters too waved the official flag of the main opposition party. On her visit, much publicised by her supporters, AIADMK senior leader D Jayakumar said it was of no significance as she neither enjoyed the support of party workers nor the people. ***PTI***

Children dressed as Lord Rama, Bharat, Lakshmana and Shatrughan during Nati Imli Bharat Milap Leela, in Varanasi on Saturday PTI

Nearly 9,000 mobile phones worth ₹7 crore looted from truck

Mathura (UP): Unidentified miscreants looted nearly 9,000 mobile phones worth ₹7 crore from a Bengaluru-bound truck and allegedly attacked the driver by beating him up and throwing him out of the vehicle, police here said on Saturday. The incident took place on October 5 in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district but a case was registered in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura.

Superintendent of Police (City) Martand Prakash Singh said, "In a complaint filed by Sachin Manav, manager of Oppo Mobile Company, it has been said that the driver of Farrukhabad district, Munish Yadav, left Greater Noida on October 5 morning for Bengaluru after loading mobile phones in the truck when two people boarded the vehicle as passengers from Gwalior bypass of Farah police station area."

As soon as the truck crossed the Babina toll in Jhansi, the miscreants allegedly beat up the driver and threw him out of the vehicle in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh and fled with the truck, police said.

The miscreants fled leaving the empty truck in Manpur police station area of Sheopur district, he said.

The complainant has alleged that he had approached the Madhya Pradesh Police to file a complaint in this regard, however, they refused to do so citing that it will be filed based on the starting point, which is Mathura. ***PTI***

Modi will open seven medical colleges in UP on Oct 25, says UP CM

Siddharthnagar (UP): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate seven new medical colleges in the State from Siddharthnagar district on October 25.

The Chief Minister, who was here to review the preparations for the PM's arrival in Siddharthnagar, said a chain of new medical colleges will be functioning in UP.

The newly constructed medical colleges in seven districts -- Siddharthnagar, Deoria, Mirzapur, Etah, Hardoi, Ghazipur and Bahraich -- will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on October 25. The admission process will be done in these medical colleges from this academic session through NEET examination, he said. The Chief Minister, who inspected the newly constructed medical college building and its premises here, also held a meeting with public representatives and officials on the preparations for the arrival of the PM.

Talking to media persons later, Adityanath said health services have improved in UP. "Three to five life supporting ambulances are available in every district of the state," he said.

These seven new medical colleges will not only help the people of nearby districts but also neighbouring Nepal, he said, adding that the medical college in Siddharthnagar will be named after Madhav Prasad Tripathi, who was an active member of Jana Sangh and the first state president of BJP. Tripathi was a resident of Bansi assembly constituency of the district. ***PTI***

ISIS claims Shia mosque bombing in Afghanistan

AP ■ KABUL

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shia mosque in southern Afghanistan that killed 47 people and wounded scores more. Relatives laid the bodies of the victims to rest on Saturday and called on the Taliban to protect them.

ISIS said in a statement posted late on Friday on social media that two of the group's members shot and killed security guards manning the entrance of the Fatimiya mosque in Kandahar province.

One detonated his explosives at the entrance of the mosque and the other inside.

ISIS's news agency *Amaq* in a statement gave the names of the attackers as Anas al-Khurasani and Abu Ali al-Baluchi, both Afghan nationals.

The families of the victims Saturday dug their graves and carried the bodies to their final resting place. In total, 63 graves were dug, but the Taliban's chief for the provincial department of culture and information maintained the official death toll was 47.

"There are so many who have lost body parts, and among those in hospital in serious condition, I don't know how many more numbers will be added to the death toll," said community elder Hajji Farhad.

Relatives carry the body of a victim of Friday's suicide attack during a mass funeral in Kandahar on Saturday AP

Shiite leader Sayed Mohammed Agha called on the Taliban Government to take serious measures to protect the Shia minority, "because our enemies will harm our society by any means they can."

The attack came a week after a bombing claimed by the local Islamic State affiliate killed 46 people at a Shia mosque in northern Afghanistan, raising fears that ISIS — an enemy of both the Taliban and the West — is expanding its foothold in Afghanistan.

Friday's attack was the deadliest to strike Afghanistan since the dramatic US exit from the country, which allowed the Taliban to seize control of the Afghan capital. It was also the first major attack by the group in the country's south.

ISIS carries out frequent attacks in its eastern stronghold, but recently has shown signs of expansion, with attacks in the north and Kabul.

The attacks have brought into question the Taliban's ability to counter the growing ISIS threat. The Taliban have pledged to restore peace and security after decades of war and have also given the US assurances that they will not allow the country to be used as a base for launching extremist attacks on other countries.

America vows to pay relatives of Afghans killed in drone strike

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Defense Department said on Friday that it is committed to offering condolence payments to relatives of the 10 people who were killed in an errant US drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement that the Defense Department was also working with the State Department to help surviving family members relocate to the United States.

Kirby said the matter arose in a meeting Thursday between Dr. Colin Kahl, under secretary of defense for policy, and Dr. Steven Kwon, founder and president of the nonprofit group Nutrition & Education International.

"Dr. Kahl reiterated Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's commitment to the families, including offering ex gratia condolence payments," Kirby said. He did not say how much money would be offered.

On August 29, a US Hellfire missile struck a car driven by Zemerai Ahmadi, who had just pulled into the driveway of the Ahmadi family compound. In all, 10 members of the family, including seven children, were killed in the strike.

Weeks later, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, called the strike a "tragic mistake" and said innocent civilians were indeed killed in the attack.

During the meeting Thursday, Kwon told Kahl that Ahmadi had work with NEI for many years, "providing care and lifesaving assistance for people facing high mortality rates in Afghanistan," according to Kirby.

The U.S. military initially defended the strike, saying it had targeted an Islamic State group's "facilitator" and disrupted the militants' ability to carry out attacks during the chaotic final stage of the withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan.

Discrepancies between the military's portrayal of the strike and findings on the ground quickly emerged. *The Associated Press* and other news organizations reported that the driver of the targeted vehicle was a longtime employee at a US humanitarian organisation. There were no signs of a large secondary blast, despite the Pentagon's assertion that the vehicle contained explosives.

The drone strike followed a devastating suicide bombing by an Islamic State offshoot that killed 169 Afghans and 13 US military personnel at one of the gates to the Kabul airport in late August.

UN official: Taliban to announce secondary school for girls

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

A senior UN official said on Friday the Taliban told him they will announce "very soon" that all Afghan girls will be allowed to attend secondary schools.

UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Omar Abdi, who visited Kabul last week, told reporters at UN headquarters that five of Afghanistan's 34 provinces — Balkh, Jawzjan and Samangan in the northwest, Kunduz in the northeast and Urozgan in the southwest — are already allowing girls to attend secondary school.

He said the Taliban's education minister told him they are working on "a framework" to allow all girls to continue their schooling beyond the sixth grade, which should be published "between a month and two."

"As I speak to you today, millions of girls of secondary school age are missing out on education for the 27th consecutive day," Abdi said. "We are urging them not to wait. Any day that we wait — it's a day lost for those girls that are out of school."

During the Taliban's previous rule of Afghanistan from 1996-2001, they denied girls and women the right to education and barred them from working and public life. Since their August 15 takeover of Afghanistan as US and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal from the country after 20 years, the Taliban have come under increasing international pressure to ensure women's rights to education and work.

Abdi said that in every meeting he pressed the Taliban "to let girls resume their learning," calling it "critical for the girls themselves and for the country as a whole."

When the Taliban were ousted from power in 2001 by a US-led coalition for harboring Osama bin Laden who masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the United States, only one million Afghan children were in school at all levels, he said.

Over the past 20 years, that figure rose to almost 10 million children at all levels, including 4 million girls, Abdi said, and in the last decade the number of schools tripled from 6,000 to 18,000.

"Education gains of the past two decades must be strengthened and not rolled back," he said.

GLOBE TROTTING

NEPAL RECORDS MASSIVE DIP IN NEW COVID CASES

Kathmandu: Nepal reported 136 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, a record low in comparison to the last few months, taking the national tally to 804,652 cases, the health ministry said on Wednesday. There are 12,598 active Covid cases across the country. During the last 24 hours, 845 people recovered from the disease.

MoU WITH BHUTAN TO SPEED UP TALKS: CHINA

Beijing: China has said that its MoU with Bhutan firming up a three-step roadmap for expediting the boundary negotiations will make a "meaningful contribution" to speed up the border talks and establishment of diplomatic ties with Thimphu. The two countries on October 14 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Expediting the China-Bhutan Boundary Negotiation in Beijing and Thimphu via video link.

ERDOGAN BIDS FAREWELL TO MERKEL AFTER 16 YRS

Istanbul: Angela Merkel's final visit to Turkey as German chancellor on Saturday saw two of Europe's longest serving leaders pay tribute to one another as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosted her for farewell talks overlooking the Bosporus. Erdogan had been in office for more than two years when Merkel came to power in 2005. Since then, they have built a relationship based on pragmatism that has weathered several crises.

OVER 90 SNAKES FOUND UNDER CALIFORNIA HOME

San Francisco (US): Al Wolf is used to clearing one or two snakes from under houses but recently was called by a woman who said she had seen rattlesnakes scurry under her Northern California house and was surprised to find more than 90 rattlesnakes getting ready to hibernate.

4 TOURISTS FOUND DEAD AT ALBANIA BEACH RESORT

Tirana (Albania): Police say four Russian tourists were found dead at a beach resort in western Albania.Albanian police issued a statement Saturday saying the four were found asphyxiated in a hotel sauna in the village of Qerret.

11 KIDS DROWNED IN INDONESIAN RIVER

Jakarta: Eleven students drowned and 10 others were rescued during a school outing for a river cleanup in Indonesia's West Java Province.

Scotland Yard probes Islamist terror link to British MP's fatal stabbing

PTI ■ LONDON

Scotland Yard on Saturday said the killing of Conservative MP David Amess is being treated as a terrorist attack and it was probing a potential Islamist terrorism link to the fatal stabbing, an incident that has shocked the country and prompted calls for a review of security measures for lawmakers engaged in constituency work.

Amess, 69 and a member of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ruling Conservative Party, died after being stabbed several times on Friday as he was meeting his constituents in at Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

A 25-year-old British man, believed to be of Somali heritage, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder and remains in custody at a police station in Essex, south-east England. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Opposition Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer laid flowers at the scene of the stabbing, together on Saturday morning.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer, second from left, carry flowers as they arrive at the scene where a member of Parliament was stabbed Friday, in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, England on Saturday AP

"Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon formally declared the incident as terrorism. The early investigation has revealed a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

"A 25-year-old British man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder. He is currently in custody at a police station in Essex. As part of the investigation, officers are currently carrying out searches at two addresses in the London area and these are ongoing," it said.

"It is believed that he acted alone, and we are not seeking anyone else in connection with the incident at this time. However, enquiries into the circumstances continue," it added.

ASEAN downgrades Myanmar presence at summit

MAJOR REBUKE

Myanmar junta chief excluded

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Southeast Asian Foreign Ministers have agreed to downgrade Myanmar's participation in an upcoming summit in their sharpest rebuke yet of its leaders following a February 1 military takeover.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations will invite a non-political representative instead of Myanmar's military leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the grouping's chair Brunei said on Saturday.

The decision was made at an emergency meeting late Friday after Myanmar refused to cooperate with the bloc's crisis envoy, Erywan Yusof, who is Brunei's Second Foreign Minister.

In a swift response, Myanmar's foreign ministry said it was "extremely disappointed and strongly objected" to the group's decision, which was made without a consensus.

"Linking the matter of Myanmar's representation at the ASEAN summit with the visit of the special envoy would be counterproductive as it is merely putting pressure on Myanmar," the statement said.

It also claimed that the military junta's current government was in line with Myanmar's constitution.

The 10-member bloc has been under intense international pressure to do more to force member state Myanmar to free scores of political figures, including ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as halt the violence that has left more than 1,100 civilians dead. ASEAN's envoy abruptly canceled a trip to Myanmar this week after he was told he would not be able to meet with Suu Kyi, and others as he wanted. Myanmar contended Erywan could not meet with people facing legal proceedings such as Suu Kyi and deposed President Win Myint, Brunei said in a statement.

Suu Kyi and other top civilian leaders were detained in the army takeover. She faces various charges that her supporters and independent analysts say are an attempt to legitimize the military action.

The statement from Brunei said the ASEAN ministers were concerned about the impact of the Myanmar crisis on regional security and about the "unity, credibility and centrality of ASEAN as a rules-based organization." The bloc's envoy must have access to all concerned parties, it said.

Members of the political opposition's National Unity Government, which views itself as a shadow government, have asked to attend the October 26-28 summit, it said.

'God have mercy': Tigray residents describe life under siege

AP ■ NAIROBI

As food and the means to buy it dwindled in a city under siege, the young mother felt she could do no more. She killed herself, unable to feed her children.

In a Catholic church across town, flour and oil to make communion wafers will soon run out. And the flagship hospital in Mekele, the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region, wrestles with whether to give patients the expired medications that remain. Its soap and bleach are gone.

A year of war and months of government-enforced deprivation have left the city of a half-million people with rapidly shrinking stocks of food, fuel, medicine and cash. In rural areas, life is even grimmer as thousands of people survive on wild cactus fruit or sell the meager aid they receive. Man-made famine, the world's worst hunger crisis in a decade, has begun.

Despite the severing of almost all communication with the outside world, *The Associated Press* drew on a dozen interviews with people inside Mekele, along with internal aid documents, for the most detailed picture yet of life under the Ethiopian government's blockade of the Tigray region's 6 million people.

Russia's daily virus deaths top 1,000 for first time

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's daily death toll from Covid-19 has exceeded 1,000 for the first time as the country faces a sustained wave of rising infections.

The national coronavirus task force on Saturday reported 1,002 deaths in the previous day, up from 999 on Friday, along with 33,208 new confirmed Covid-19 cases, more than 1,000 higher than the day before.

Russian authorities have tried to speed up the pace of vaccinations with lotteries, bonuses and other incentives, but widespread vaccine skepticism and conflicting signals from officials stymied the efforts. The Government said this week that about 43 million Russians, or about 29% of the country's nearly 146 million people, are fully vaccinated.

Despite the mounting toll, the Kremlin has ruled out a new nationwide lockdown like the one early on in the pandemic that badly hurt the economy, eroding President Vladimir Putin's popularity.

An Indonesian soldier walks past houses damaged by an earthquake-triggered landslide in Bangli, on the island of Bali, Indonesia on Saturday. A few people were killed and another several were injured when a moderately strong earthquake and an aftershock hit the island early on Saturday AP

UN extends Haiti political mission after US-China dispute

United Nations: The UN Security Council voted unanimously Friday evening to extend the UN political mission in Haiti after a dispute between China which has no diplomatic relations with Latin America's poorest country and many other members who stressed the importance of the long-term presence of the United Nations in the crisis-wracked nation.

In a compromise just hours before the mission's mandate ends at midnight Friday, the United States and Mexico, who drafted the council resolution, reached agreement with China to extend it for nine months -- less than the year Washington wanted and more than the six months Beijing was seeking.

That averted a threatened Chinese veto of the resolution and led to the 15-0 vote approving the measure, diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because negotiations were private.

Diplomats said the reason behind China's down-to-the-wire action is Beijing's anger at Haiti for maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan. ***AP***

NASA's asteroid hunter Lucy soars into sky with diamonds

AP ■ CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA.

NASA spacecraft named Lucy rocketed into the sky with diamonds Saturday morning on a 12-year quest to explore eight asteroids.

Seven of the mysterious space rocks are among swarms of asteroids sharing Jupiter's orbit, thought to be the pristine leftovers of planetary formation.

An Atlas V rocket blasted off before dawn, sending Lucy on a roundabout journey spanning nearly 4 billion miles (6.3 billion kilometers). Researchers grew emotional describing the successful launch — lead scientist Hal Levison said it was like witnessing the birth of a child. "Go Lucy!" he urged.

A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying the LUCY spacecraft lifts off from Launch Complex 41 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station on Saturday AP

Lucy is named after the 3.2 million-year-old skeletal remains of a human ancestor found in Ethiopia nearly a half-century ago.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Manjeet Kaur W/o Late S. Surjeet Singh R/o G-18A, Backside, Vijay Nagar, Delhi and her family has severed their relations from her Son S. Kulwant Singh and his wife Smt. Manpreet Kaur, from today and disowned /disinherited them from her all movable and immovable properties, as relations, attitude and behavior of Smt. Manpreet Kaur with my client is not good and torturous and if any person deals with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible for the same.

Sarika Jain (Advocate)
Ch. No. 307, Lawyers Chamber,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Busara Parveen W/o Umarshad Khan R/o Flat No 78B Block U-3, Dhawalgiri Apartment, Sec-11, Noida, Distt G.B. Nagar, (U.P). In Future I will be Known as Busara Parveen. For all purpose.

-Busara Parveen

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic 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 dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manorama Devi/ Rakesh Kumar/ (27300000358 & QZDWA00005021560)	Dda Janta Flat No- 198, 3rd Floor Pocket- 7, Phase-1 Nasir Pur, Dwarka Delhi/ October 12, 2021	June 03, 2021 Rs. 12,65,589/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day 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.

Date : October 16, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Cars with lower running costs likely to gain higher traction among buyers: Report

New Delhi: With fuel prices going up by 35 per cent over the past 15 months thereby impacting overall vehicle running costs, cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs are expected to gain higher traction among buyers in India, specially in the sub-Rs 10 lakh category, according to a report.

Considering the fact that 70 per cent of the passenger vehicles market in India is still accounted for by vehicles costing less than Rs 10 lakh, the development augurs well for market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL), said the report by HSBC Global Research.

"Over the past 15 months, fuel prices have gone up 35 per cent, impacting overall vehicle running costs...Our channel interactions suggest that customers are increasingly becoming considerate of the recent rise in fuel prices," it said.

Citing the example of Maruti Suzuki's Swift petrol, the report said for a compact passenger vehicle fuel now accounts for around 40 per cent of the vehicle's life-time cost compared with 30 per cent in mid-2020.

"In the current environment, we believe cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs should gain relatively higher traction among buyers, especially in the less than Rs 10 lakh category, which is still 70 per cent of the market in India," it said.

Stating that MSIL continues to score well in that regard, HSBC Global Research said, "In our analysis, both in absolute terms and relative to competition, MSIL remains the market leader in fuel efficiency and total cost of ownership (COO)."

MSIL's competitive positioning should remain compelling given the fact that it has around 65 per cent market share in the less-than-Rs 10 lakh price category, it added.

The report also pointed out that MSIL's fuel efficiency has improved by 15-30 per cent in the past 10 years, citing the examples of fuel efficiency of Swift/Swift Dzire, which was 18 km per litre (kmpl) nearly 10 years back to 23.3 kmpl. ***PTI***

IMF hails India's 'swift and substantial' response to Covid crisis

Washington: Describing the Indian government's response to the Covid-19 situation as "swift and substantial", the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said the country continued with labour reforms and privatisation despite the pandemic.

The IMF in its report based on "consultations" among members, however, sounded a note of caution saying that the economic outlook remains "clouded" due to pandemic-related uncertainties, contributing to both downside and upside risks.

In its "Article IV" consultations report, it further said that a persistent negative impact of COVID-19 on investment and other growth drivers could prolong the economic recovery.

On the Indian government's handling of the pandemic, the multilateral agency said it was "swift and substantial...Has included fiscal support, including scaled-up support to vulnerable groups, monetary policy easing, liquidity provision, and accommodative financial sector and regulatory policies".

"Despite the pandemic, the authorities have continued to introduce structural reforms, including labour reforms and a privatisation plan," the report said. The IMF has projected India's economic growth at 9.5 per cent in FY2021-22 and 8.5 per cent in 2022-23. Headline inflation is projected at 5.6 per cent in 2021-22, amid elevated price pressures.

"The economic outlook remains clouded due to pandemic-related uncertainties contributing to both downside and upside risks. A persistent negative impact of COVID-19 on investment, human capital, and other growth drivers could prolong the recovery and impact medium-term growth," the IMF said.

It further said that while India benefits from favourable demographics, disruption to access to education and training due to the pandemic could weigh on improvements in human capital.

At the same time, the recovery could also be faster than expected, it said adding that faster vaccination and better therapeutics could help contain the spread and limit the impact of the pandemic.

In addition, successful implementation of the announced wide-ranging structural reforms could increase India's growth potential, the IMF noted.

Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. ***PTI***

Tatas plan to pilot synergy between airlines, post SPA

New Delhi: Conglomerate Tata Group plans to pilot synergy between all its airlines to compete in various market segments.

Post the SPA transaction, Tatas will have two full-service carriers — Vistara and Air India — along with two low-cost airlines — Air India Express and AirAsia India -- and a ground and cargo handling company, AISATS.

Accordingly, plans are afoot to run all these brands as independent entities under one vertical for sometime after the SPA. Nonetheless, the group intends to drive-in major synergies between the airlines in terms of fleet management, route deployment, flight timings and airport slot planning.

In terms of USPs, Vistara is expected to retain the premium services tag, while Air India will predominantly focus on key international and metro routes. The domestic feeder traffic is expected to be driven by AirAsia India which may get few aircraft from Air India's fleet. Furthermore, mergers will depend on profitability, performance and market situation apart from each airline's unique culture and suitability of brand. ***IANS***

UP's Purvanchal emerging as hub of vegetable export

Lucknow: The Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh is emerging as the export hub for vegetables.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, huge consignments of fresh green vegetables were flown from Purvanchal to the Gulf countries, for the second time in less than two years, benefitting farmers substantially in terms of income.

According to a state government spokesperson, an Air India Express' aircraft carrying two metric tonnes of vegetables from Prayagraj, Bhadohi and Varanasi took off from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport to reach Dubai and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Regional in-charge of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), C.B. Singh, said: "The vegetables being exported include okra, sweet gourd, pointed gourd, ivy gourd and elephant foot yam (jimikand).

"Last year, three metric tonnes of langda mangoes were flown to London from Varanasi in April and over one metric tonnes in June. We also exported nearly three metric tonnes of green chili to Dubai in May and black salt rice to the UK, Qatar and the UAE."

Furthermore, exporters also purchased 80 metric tonnes of black salt rice from farmers of Chandauli district, popularly known as the 'rice bowl' of Uttar Pradesh, with the help of APEDA in June 2020.

Around Rs 68 lakhs raised from the export of the rice was directly transferred to the bank accounts of 152 farmers.

Besides, 532 metric tonnes of regional rice, including 12 metric tonnes of the famous black salt rice of Chandauli was exported to Qatar in December 2020.

Oman's Global Logistics Group also visited Varanasi in order to boost exports.

Farmers are now exporting food items directly without the involvement of middlemen which is bringing them more financial benefits while ensuring transparency in the system. They are exporting their farm produce through the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO). ***IANS***

HDFC Bank's Q2FY22 YoY net profit up 17.6%

Mumbai: Lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a year-on-year rise of 17.6 per cent in its net profit for Q2FY22.

The bank's net profit increased to Rs 8,834.3 crore during the period under review over the quarter ended September 30, 2020.

Besides, the bank's net interest income (income earned less interest expended) rose 12.1 per cent from Rs 15,776.4 crore to Rs 17,684.4 crore for the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The lender's net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 14.7 per cent, from Rs 21,868.8 crore to Rs 25,085.2 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2020.

"Advances grew at 15.5 per cent reaching new heights driven through relationship management, digital offering and breadth of products. Core net interest margin was at 4.1 per cent. New liability relationships added during the quarter were at an all time high," HDFC Bank said in a statement. ***IANS***

India's forex reserves rise by over $2 bn

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by $2.039 billion during the week ended October 8.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forex reserves rose to $639.516 billion from $637.477 billion reported for the week ended October 1.

India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, SDRs, and the country's reserve position with the IMF.

On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by $1.550 billion to $577.001 billion. Similarly, the value of the country's gold reserves rose by $464 million to $38.022 billion.

However, SDR value fell by $28 million to $19.268 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also fell by $3 million to $5.225 billion. ***IANS***

Cement demand recovery continues post second wave: Report

New Delhi: Cement prices are expected to rise during H2FY22, as cost inflation firms up unabatedly, said a report by HDFC Securities.

Cement demand has picked up from June 2021 onwards, as the Covid impact started to recede.

According to the report, cement demand is recovering well and has supported limited price correction during the monsoon period.

"We expect cement prices to rise during H2FY22, as cost inflation is firming up unabated and has impacted the whole industry. Good demand and increased consolidation should support the industry's cost pass through ability," the report said.

As per the report, rising fuel and diesel prices will further inflate the operating costs of the producers.

"While pet coke prices have surged another 20 per cent QoQ (double YoY), imported thermal coal prices have also spiked up by 33 per cent QoQ. Rising crude prices have pushed up diesel prices by 7 per cent QoQ. Thus, we have built in Rs 80-100 per MT input cost inflation and RS 20-40 per MT freight cost increase QoQ for our coverage universe," it said.

The brokerage house expects aggregate revenue from its coverage universe to rise 14 per cent YoY on higher volumes in 2QFY22E. ***IANS***

SCO meet: India calls for special working group on start-ups

New Delhi: India has proposed creation of a new Special Working Group on Start-ups and Innovation at the SCO.

The proposal was made by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel, in her intervention, at the 20th meeting of the SCO Ministers.

Stressing on the need for effective cooperation between the member states for a balanced and equitable growth in trade and commerce, Patel proposed the creation of a new Special Working Group on Start-ups and Innovation and for setting up a new Expert Working Group on Cooperation in Traditional Medicine.

"She also stated that cooperation in the field of start-ups and innovation can be a focal point in reviving our economies from the consequences of the pandemic," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement.

She highlighted that there is "a significant gap in digital technologies between developed ang developing countries which needs to be narrowed down by building digital capacities".

On the environment issues, the minister welcomed the need for environment protection and mitigation of adverse effects of climate change.

She also stressed that the climate agenda should not introduce measures which becomes unnecessary barriers to trade.

In her concluding remarks, Patel emphasised that SCO members must prepare, act and stand in solidarity with each other and pursue an agenda that is equitable and inclusive and development oriented. ***IANS***

Keen to offer solutions to UAE: K'taka Minister

Bengaluru: Karnataka being a hub of startups in India is keen to offer ground-breaking solutions to private companies and Government organisations of UAE in various sectors ranging from logistics to infrastructure, oil-and-gas to environment and waste management to healthcare C.N. Ashwath Narayan, the Minister for IT/Bt and Science Technology said in Dubai on Saturday.

Addressing the Inauguration Ceremony of 3 days event 'World Dubai Expo 2020', he said that some of the sectors in the UAE that are witnessing the massive presence of Indians, especially Bengaluru based start-ups and tech majors.

"Karnakata government which is playing the role of a facilitator has been undertaking all tech-focused initiatives in line with achieving the vision set by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India reach the 5 trillion dollar economy by 2025. Shared economic visions and geopolitical outlooks have spurred the two sides (Karnataka and UAE) to seek to expand cooperation across multiple domains including in investment, technology, and the knowledge economy", Minister Narayan explained.

Karnataka is one of the prosperous states in India with an estimated GSDP of $220 billion and has been a leader in sectors of Information Technology, I-T enabled services, Electronics, Machine Tools, Aerospace, and Biotechnology, he pointed out.

Further, the Minister added, "Karnataka has a robust Startup which includes MNCs/GCCs, incubators, and accelerators. Besides the State is home to premier higher education institutions such as Indian Institute of Science (IISc), the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), and several others. ***IANS***

Turkish lira hits record low after central bank policymakers sacked

Ankara: The Turkish lira has hit a new record low against the US dollar after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dismissed three central bank members.

The lira dropped nearly 1.2 per cent to 9.18 against $1 on Thursday after the currency had already weakened as much as 19 per cent this year, reports Xinhua news agency.

Erdogan removed two deputy governors, Semih Tumen and Ugur Namik Kucuk, along with the member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Abdullah Yavas, according to a decision published in the official gazette on early Thursday.

He appointed two new members, Taha Cakmak as a deputy governor, and Yusuf Tuna as an Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member.

Erdogan has fired three central bank governors in the last two and a half years over policy disagreements.

Last month, the central bank cut its policy rate to 18 per cent from 19 per cent.

Local media reported that deputy governor Kucuk had opposed the decision to cut the main interest rate. ***IANS***

Court order to affect working capital of companies filing GST appeals

New Delhi: In what may affect the working capital of taxpayers looking at filing appeals against GST claims, it had now been held that anyone seeking remedy against indirect tax decision would have to make pre-deposit amount in cash and not by debiting electronic credit ledger.

Recently, the Division Bench of the Orissa High Court held that pre-deposit at the time of filing an appeal under section 107(6) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act) cannot be made by debiting the Electronic Credit Ledger (ECRL). The payment of pre-deposit should be made by debiting the Electronic Cash Ledger (ECL) in accordance with section 49(3) of the CGST Act read with Rule 85(4) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 (CGST Rules).

What this order in effect does is that it puts the burden on taxpayers to pay the pre-deposit (ie 10 per cent of disputed tax) amount in cash by transferring money from electronic cash ledger (ECL) for any tax dispute raised by them. This would mean more cash outflows leaving little for working capital needs.

In case that went to the Orissa High Court, the revenue raised demands of GST along with interest on the petitioners, who were engaged in execution of works contract. The petitioner filed an appeal and made payment towards pre-deposit (i.e. 10 per cent of disputed tax) for filing an appeal, by utilising the balance in the ECRL. The revenue dismissed the appeal and considered it to be defective, emphasising that the liability of pre- deposit can be discharged only by debiting ECL.

The petitioner's contention was that any payment towards output tax can be made through ECRL. Since pre-deposit can be construed as a percentage of output tax, it can be paid by debiting ECRL.

Revenue department contended that the CGST Act specifically provides that ECRL can be utilised towards payment of output tax. However, pre-deposit required to be made cannot be equated with output tax payable. Input tax credit can be utilised only to discharge 'self-assessed output tax as per the return'.

The High Court's accepted this contention and observed that the pre-deposit cannot be equated with 'output tax' and that the restriction under proviso to section 41(2) of the CGST Act, limits the usage of the credit ledger for making pre-deposit. ***IANS***

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank | **Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic 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 dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manjeet Singh Arora/ Kawaljeet Kaur Arora/ Simranjeet Singh/ LBDEL00004698911/ LBDEL00004715225	Plot No:- 2634, Entire Second Floor Portion Only Without Roof/ Terrace Rights, Hodson Lines, Kingway Camp, Delhi/ October 12, 2021	June 16, 2021 Rs. 79,72,567/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Shiv Narayan/ Raj Kumari/ Dona Doni Fashion Pvt Ltd/ LBDEL00002442625/ LBDEL00002442383	Plot No-211, 3rd Floor, With Roof Rights, Tagore Park, Delhi/ October 12, 2021	June 23, 2021 Rs. 3,04,08,337/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Mukesh Tiwari/ Punit Tiwari/ LBDEL00001900929	11C, 2nd Floor Block- WP, Category- LIG, Pitam Pura Delhi Delhi Delhi/ October 12, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 11,37,670/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Richa Jha/ Prabhu Chandra Mishra/ LBGUR00002928099	Flat No-69, Block No-B, Floor-2 Plot/ Appartment No-35, Kallol Apartment, IP Extn Patparganj, Delhi/ October 12, 2021	May 29, 2021 Rs. 75,83,211/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day 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.

Date : October 16, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Office of the Project Manager, Construction Unit,
Uttarakhand Peyjal Sansadhan Vikas Evam Nirman Nigam, Haldwani
R.T.O. Road, Near Vasundhara Banquet Hall, Haldwani (Nainital) Uttarakhand Email: pmnwramnagar@gmail.com

Letter No.: 1352 / आदेश–4 / 130 **Date : 16.10.2021**

Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice

	Name of Scheme	Cost of Work	Work Completion Period
1	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Devipura Ramnagar Nainital	61.52 Lakh	12 Month
2	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Karanpur Ramnagar Nainital	61.52 Lakh	12 Month
3	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Kotabagh Ramnagar Nainital	61.33 Lakh	12 Month
4	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Lamachaur Haldwani Nainital	60.93 Lakh	12 Month
5	Construction of Proposed Laboratory for Govt. Inter College at Patkot Ramnagar Nainital	61.53 Lakh	12 Month
6	Construction of Proposed Storage Hall for Rajkiya Ayurvedic Hospital at Halduchaur Haldwani Nainital	43.67 Lakh	12 Month
	Key Dates :-		
1	Date of Online Publication on E- Portal	18.10.2021, 17:00 hrs	
2	Document Download from E- Portal : Start Date	18.10.2021, 17:00 hrs	
3	Pre Bid Meeting	23.10.2021, 11:00 hrs	
4	Online Bid Submission : Start Date	28.10.2021, 10:00 hrs	
5	Online Bid Submission : End Date	08.11.2021, 17:00 hrs	
6	Offline submission of original copy of document : End Date	09.11.2021, 17:00 hrs	
7	Date of Technical Bid Opening	11.11.2021, 12:00 hrs	
8	Date of Financial Bid Opening	To be intimated later	
	Details of subsequent addendum/ corrigendum /cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website :- Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in		

Project Manager

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Mithlesh Devi is owners of Property bearing No. C-5/4A One Shop on Ground Floor (without roof rights) area measuring 110 sq. yds. (on road side) and another one Shop on Ground Floor (without roof rights) area measuring 41.66 sq. yds. (eparate entry from Gali No. 1) and First Floor (without roof rights) area measuring 200 sq. yds. out of Khasra No. 391/1 situated at Village Ghonda, Gujran Khadar, Block-C, Bhajan Pura, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi vide Relinquishment Deed dated 20/03/201Document no. 471, executed by Mr. Karan Chaudhary and Mrs. Shalu Bansal and Now, Mrs. Mithlesh Devi is mortgaging the above said property/floor with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited& in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mr. Naresh Kumar Gupta, Mr. Ashwani Arora, Mr. Naresh Sharma and Mr. Sandeep Mittal are owners of First Floor (Back side Portion) of Property bearing No. RZ-94 built on Plot No. 94 area measuring 100 sq. yds. out of Khasra No. 333, situated at Village Nasirpur, Delhi State Delhi, West Sagarpur, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated17.11.2020Document no. 7651, executed by Mrs. Trishla Sharma through her GPA Mr. Naresh Kumar Gupta, Mr. Ashwini Arora, Mr. Naresh Sharma and Mr. Sandeep Mittal and Now, Mr. Naresh Kumar Gupta through GPA Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Mr. Ashwani Arora, Mr. Naresh Sharma and Mr. Sandeep Mittal are intending to sell the above said property/FloortoMr. Sanjeev Kumar and Mrs. Punam who are mortgaging the above said property/floor with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.& in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** Approx 25-30 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Normal, was wearing Blue Shirt and Blue Pant, was found dead due to accident at Lahori Gate Chowk, Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No. 572/21 U/s 279/304A IPC, dated 14.10.2021 has been registered at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi.**

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

SHO
P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23953776, 23958234

DP/1603/N/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 40 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White Linedar Shirt, and Grey Colour Lower, who was found at Nityanand Marg Bus stop near Metro Gate No.3, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case **FIR No/DD No. 24-A U/s 174 CrPC dated 08.10.2021 has been registered at P. S. Kashmeri Gate, 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: Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Tel. No 011-23967889

DP/1600/N/2021

THE DEATH STING

At present, Delhi is witnessing a rise in Dengue patients, reporting the maximum number of cases since 2018 due to prolonged monsoon. SUPRIYA RAMESH talks to experts to know more

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Dengue cases have grown dramatically around the world in recent decades. A vast majority of cases are asymptomatic or mild and self-managed, and hence the actual numbers of Dengue cases are under-reported. Many cases are also misdiagnosed as other febrile illnesses.

With the advent of the rainy season, we surely get some respite from the scorching summer heat but many water-borne diseases tag along. And one of the most common diseases is Dengue, a mosquito-borne viral infection that is common in warm, tropical climates. It is caused by any one of four closely related antigenically distinct groups called serotypes that are DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4, which means that it is possible to be infected four times in a lifetime. A particular serotype can be predominant at different times in a geographical area. It gives space to a wide number of symptoms that can be extremely mild (unnoticeable) to extremely severe. In severe cases, it can also be fatal.

Currently, Delhi is witnessing a surge in cases, reporting the maximum number of cases since 2018 for the same period due to prolonged monsoon. Whereas Punjab which observed 8,400 cases last year has reported only 5,889 cases this year, Hoshiarpur topping the list with 933 cases.

While many Dengue infections cause only mild illness, there have been cases where it has also caused an acute flu-like illness. Over time, this forms into a potentially lethal complication, called severe Dengue. WHO states that severe Dengue is a leading cause of serious illness and death in some Asian and Latin American countries and requires management by medical professionals.

As per a comparative study published in Clinical Infectious Diseases, the incidence of Dengue has grown dramatically around the world in recent decades. A vast majority of cases are asymptomatic or mild and self-managed, and hence the actual numbers of Dengue cases are under-reported. Many cases are also misdiagnosed as other febrile illnesses.

The number of Dengue cases reported to WHO increased eight times over the last two decades, from 505,430 cases in 2000 to over 2.4 million in 2010, and 5.2 million in 2019. Reported deaths between the years 2000 and 2015 increased from 960 to 4032.

But why are we talking about DENV-2 at the moment? Is it more severe than all other serotypes? How worried should we be? These are the questions our mind is flooded with and it is high time we all should understand the seriousness of the disease and keep an ear to the ground.

The DENV-2 or D2 variant of Dengue was struck many cases of fever and deaths in western UP districts of Firozabad, Agra, Mathura and Aligarh. The term severe Dengue is in circulation now. It was earlier known as Dengue haemorrhagic fever and Dengue shock syndrome.

The new variant has been observed in 11 states and has become a topic of discussion amongst medical experts and organisations. "With DENV-2 type there seems to be a higher incidence of Dengue hemorrhagic fever where there is a capillary leak and bleed with low platelets and it may eventually progress to Dengue shock syndrome where blood pressure drops," Dr Dilip Gude, Sr Consultant Physician, Yashoda Hospitals Hyderabad tells you.

"A person previously infected with Dengue when gets infected with a different serotype has a higher chance of developing hemorrhagic fever or shock syndrome," tells Dr Anurag Aggarwal, Consultant Internal Medicine, QRG Super Speciality Hospital.

With all the talk about mosquitoes increasing during the rainy season, it is equally important to know that mosquitoes are also mainly attracted to carbon dioxide and heat, which indicates that they are equally active during summer. Moreover, DENV has the potential to infect people all year round and with this, the risk and fear remain throughout. Dr Anurag tells you more about the factors responsible for mosquito-spread. "Lack of adequate drainage, open drains and open areas of water stagnation are factors responsible for rapid spread. Increased movement of people without the adequate coverage of the body with exposed arms and legs increases their risk of getting bitten by an infected mosquito, wherein one in four people infected with Dengue virus will develop the disease."

Talking about the symptoms, they can develop four to 10 days after the mosquito bites and last anywhere from two to seven days. We might be aware of only the common, usually talked about symptoms like high fever, severe body pain and internal bleeding with falling platelets but Dr Aggarwal gives a detailed note on the same. "High-grade fever with chills, backache, abdominal pain, rash, vomiting, joint pains, muscle aches, generalised weakness and fatigue and in severe cases shock, hemorrhagic manifestation like vomiting out blood, bleeding from anus, nose, gums and blood in the urine."

He further adds that when a patient is having severe abdominal pain, recurrent vomiting and increased irritability, it may indicate the patient is developing severe Dengue. The intensity of fever has no correlation with the severity of illness a patient develops in the following days of illness.

In case one is facing possible symptoms and is sceptical about the testing, all you need to know is that there are two ways to get yourself tested, a card test and ELISA. Dr Aggarwal elaborates, "Testing is done by blood. One is through the card test which is not as sensitive as another test called ELISA. Two types of antigens are of significance, NS1 which is usually detectable within 24 hrs of symptom onset and may remain positive until nine days and other is IgM which is usually detectable four to five days after symptom onset and remains positive up to 12 weeks after catching an infection or maybe even longer."

A person previously infected with dengue when gets infected with a different serotype has a higher chance of developing hemorrhagic fever or shock syndrome

— DR ANURAG AGGARWAL
Consultant Internal Medicine, QRG Super Speciality Hospital

THE MANAGEMENT INCLUDES INTRAVENOUS FLUID THERAPY, MONITORING OF THE CLINICAL CONDITION, AND INTENSIVE CARE. THIS HELPS REDUCE THE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY IN DENGUE FEVER COMPLICATIONS. MILD AND UNCOMPLICATED CASES CAN BE MANAGED AT HOME UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE DOCTOR

— DR ANJALI SAXENA

More than 20,000 confirmed Dengue cases across the country have been reported with more than 220 deaths occurring only in Uttar Pradesh. Cases have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

There are no vaccines and currently, the treatment of Dengue is through supportive care and no specific medication is available. "The management includes intravenous fluid therapy, monitoring of the clinical condition, and intensive care. This helps reduce the morbidity and mortality in Dengue fever complications. Mild and uncomplicated cases can be managed at home under the supervision of the doctor," Dr Anjali Saxena, Senior Consultant, General Pediatrics tells you.

Moreover, WHO has advised that patients should seek medical advice, rest and drink plenty of fluids. Paracetamol can be taken to bring down fever and reduce joint pains. However, aspirin or ibuprofen should not be taken since they can increase the risk of bleeding.

We can say that the Dengue outbreak is still under control but it has led to a surge in cases of high fever countrywide. As it is known to cause more morbidity than other variants, patients are having high-grade fever. Dr Gude tells you that there is an epidemiological hypothesis that there is a four-year cyclical spurt for Dengue outbursts and DENV-2 serotype now is known to cause a much-complicated disease.

- Diseases that are spread to people by mosquitoes include Zika virus, West Nile virus, Chikungunya virus, yellow fever and malaria.
- Zika fever, also known as Zika virus disease or simply Zika, is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the Zika virus. In many cases, there are no symptoms, but it can present in a similar way to dengue fever.
- Yellow fever is a viral disease of typically short duration. However, approximately 30,000 people around the world die from yellow fever every year.
- Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans via infected mosquitoes. Symptoms typically include fever, joint pain, headache, muscle pain, joint swelling and rash.

With this, he advises that early diagnosis, aggressive hydration, and admitting high-risk groups such as the elderly and children and immunosuppressed patients may be important.

Considering the pandemic, how worried should we be about the Dengue virus? Are there chances that it could worsen amidst the pandemic? These are again a few questions that might cross our minds. Early symptoms of both COVID and Dengue can be the same and it would be nearly impossible for a common man to self detect if he/she has been infected by corona or Dengue. And coinfections are common and if someone gets COVID and Dengue then the outcome is going to be deadly.

"In this pandemic background, one needs to be extra careful and take all necessary precautions to prevent mosquito-borne diseases," Dr Gude tells you.

Dr Saxena tells you that during these times healthcare resources can get overwhelmed and this can be detrimental to providing medical care to the needy.

Your safety is in your hands and making sure that you are not giving a breeding ground to mosquitoes is your responsibility. Keep the surroundings of your house as dry as possible with no scope for stagnant water, cover your body with full sleeves clothes, put on mosquito repellent creams, coils, nets. Dr Gude suggests that having a high index of suspicion and taking a clinician's help as early as possible is important.

"Do not allow water to stagnate, cover drains or sprinkle oil over stagnated water, empty pots/tyres of water in your house, wear full sleeves clothes when stepping outside the house," Dr Aggarwal tells you.

He further adds that in case of fever, visit your nearest physician as soon as possible. Watch for symptoms like intense abdominal pain, bleeding from any site, restlessness and breathlessness when you need to be concerned.

"The proximity of mosquito vector breeding sites to human habitation is a significant risk factor for Dengue as well as for other diseases that Aedes mosquito transmit. At present, the main method to control or prevent the transmission of Dengue virus is to combat the mosquito vectors," WHO advises and suggest ways through which it can be achieved.

◆Prevention of mosquito breeding

Preventing mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats by environmental management and modification

Applying appropriate insecticides to water storage outdoor containers

◆Personal protection from mosquito bites

Using of personal household protection measures, such as window screens, repellents, insecticide-treated materials, coils and vaporizer and wearing clothing that minimises skin exposure

◆Community engagement

Educating the community on the risks of mosquito-borne diseases

◆Reactive vector control

Emergency vector control measures such as applying insecticides as space spraying during outbreaks may be used by health authorities

In addition, there is ongoing research amongst many groups of international collaborators in search of novel tools and innovative strategies that will contribute to global efforts to interrupt the transmission of Dengue, as well as other mosquito-borne diseases.

MYTHBUSTER

You cannot get dengue fever twice

The dengue virus (DENV) known to cause dengue fever has four different but related serotypes, DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 AND DENV4. When a person recovers from their first infection, they gain lifetime immunity from this single serotype only. Contracting the disease from the other three dengue types is still possible, with each subsequent infection potentially more severe than its predecessor.

Dengue is contagious

Dengue is transmitted to humans when an infected female mosquito bites, mainly the Aedes aegypti mosquito. A person cannot contract the virus through an infected person if he or she sneezes or coughs. Moreover, cases of DENV transmission through blood transfusion or organ transplantation are also rare.

An infected mosquito breeds only in dirty stagnant water

An Aedes aegypti mosquito may not necessarily lay eggs only in dirty water, it can do it in clean stagnant water too. It is important to drain or to keep the containers and surfaces around the house like basins, pots, jars and rain gutters firmly closed with a lid at all times.

Dengue fever is only prevalent during the rainy season

The sole reason why people believe this myth that dengue fever is more during the rainy season is because the Aedes aegypti lay eggs in water so it is natural to relate to it. Mosquitoes are also attracted to carbon dioxide and heat, which suggests that they are just as active during summer.

Your body may heal itself naturally from dengue fever

A person might suffer from dengue fever for a week with severe headaches, vomiting, and bone and muscle pain. People might have the ability to recover without getting hospitalised but they cannot recover without proper rest, hydration and painkillers. The disease might evolve into severe dengue if self-managed.

Harmanpreet, Rodrigues shine for Melbourne

PTI ■ HOBART

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur held her nerves under pressure while opener Jemimah Rodrigues scored an invaluable 33 as Melbourne Renegades beat hosts Hobart Hurricanes by six wickets in a Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) match here on Saturday.

Chasing 122, Rodrigues and skipper Sophie Molineaux (16 off 16) shared 22 runs for the opening stand before the latter departed.

Rodrigues, whose knock came off 34 balls and was laced with two boundaries and a six, then stitched 68 runs for the second wicket with Courtney Webb (31) before three quick wickets made the chase a little tricky for Renegades.

With pressure building after the loss of quick wickets, the onus was on the experienced Harmanpreet (24 not out off 19) to hold the innings together and get Renegades over the finishing line. The Indian completed the job with four balls in hand and with a bit of support from George Wareham (5 not out) at the other end.

Earlier, Renegades' spin twin of Molineux (2/12) and Wareham (3/13) applied the brakes before bowling out Hurricanes for 121.

Harmanpreet also registered her name in the wicket-takers' list, taking the wicket of compatriot Richa Ghosh, who played a 14-ball 21-run cameo.

Meanwhile, in the second match of the day, Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma failed to live up to their reputations as their side Sydney Thunder lost by 30 runs against Adelaide Strikers here.

Sent into bat, Adelaide Strikers rode on skipper Tahlia McGrath's 42 and Madeline Penna's 35 to post a competitive 140 for seven.

Deepti Sharma turned out to be expensive with the ball, giving away 32 runs from her four overs while accounting for one wicket.

While chasing, the Indian duo of Mandhana (4) and Deepti (4) failed to sparkle with the bat as Sydney Thunders were bowled out for 110.

Both the matches were played behind closed doors under strict bio-security protocols after the state of Tasmania went into a three-day lockdown on Friday following a COVID scare.

With pressure building after the loss of quick wickets, the onus was on the experienced Harmanpreet (24 not out off 19) to hold the innings together and get Renegades over the finishing line. The Indian completed the job with four balls in hand and with a bit of support from George Wareham (5 not out) at the other end

India win SAAF Championship for 8th time

PTI ■ MALE (MALDIVES)

India crushed Nepal 3-0 to win their eight SAFF Championship title after second-half goals from Sunil Chhetri, Suresh Singh and Sahal Abdul Samad in the final here on Saturday.

Chhetri scored in the 49th minute of the match, which put him level with Lionel Messi on 80 international goals, while Suresh Singh doubled the lead in the 50th to pave the way for India's title triumph, a much-needed after a series of mediocre outings.

Sahal Abdul Samad made it 3-0 when he dribbled past a few defenders on the 90th minute.

India dominated possession in the first-half but failed to break the deadlock. However, Chhetri put India ahead minutes into the second half and even before Nepal could down settle down, Suresh made it 2-0.

This is the Indian football team's first title triumph under head coach Igor Stimac, who faced criticism in recent times for his side's inability to win enough games.

However, when it mattered the most in this edition of the regional tournament, Stimac's players delivered the results the team's fans had been waiting for.

Stimac also became the third foreign coach after Jiri Pesek (1993) and Stephen Constantine (2015) to clinch the title with the Indian team.

Chhetri gave India the lead after he charged in to neatly head in a delivery from Pritam Kotal on the right flank, leaving the Nepalese goalkeeper with no chance to come to his team's rescue.

Barely a minute after Chhetri's opener, another attack by India caught Nepal completely off-guard as Suresh found the back of the net after

Yasir Mohammad brilliantly cut it back for the mid-fielder.

Their tails up after two quick strikes, India pressed hard for more but could not add to the tally.

There was a chance for Manvir Singh in the 52nd minute after he was played through, but his left-footed effort was blocked.

In the 79th minute, there was great chance for Udanta Singh as he was in the clear to take a crack at goal but Rohit Chand came up with a fine block to deny the Indian winger.

It remained goalless at the break as both India and Nepal could not capitalise on the chances that came their way.

India could have gone ahead minutes before the half-time but the ball that was delivered from the right flank for Chhetri was not met with properly as the Indian captain's his effort went wide.

However, India more than made up for that with their second-half display, much to Stimac's delight.

Indian Golfer team lies 13th

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok carded a two-under 70 to be placed Tied-13th after the second round of the Aramco Team Series here.

Another Indian, Tvesa Malik (74-72), was T-37th. World No. 1 Nelly Korda (69-66) was on top of the individual standings.

Alison Lee, also from the US, was second with cards of 69 and 67. Three players, Pia Babnik (68-69), Danielle Kang (68-69) and Lindsay Weaver (71-66), were tied for third.

In the team competition, Team Ashok, which includes Pia Babnik, Marta Sanz Barrio and amateur S Keogh, was lying T-13, alongside the group led by Korda at 21-under.

Tvesa, who is part of Team Salas, led by LPGA player, Lizzette Salas, was T-26 at 14-under.

Korda sisters, Jessica and Nelly, were in lead in the Team and individual standings respectively.

The leaders in Team event, were the ones led by Bronte Law, whose partners are Kelsey McDonald, Amy Boulden and J Ziegler. They shot 16-under-par in the second round to be 31-under.

The quartet of Bronte Law, Kelsey Macdonald, Amy Boulden and amateur Jordan Ziegler have gelled together nicely throughout this week and sit in pole position on 31-under-par heading into the final day.

One stroke behind the leaders in second place is Team Pace, which also fired a round of 16-under with no bogeys.

Three teams are tied for third at the end of the second day with Team Jessica Korda, Team Strom and Team Popov all on 29-under-par.

CSK coach Fleming joins NZ camp ahead of World Cup

PTI ■ DUBAI

Chennai Super Kings' IPL-winning head coach Stephen Fleming on Saturday joined the New Zealand camp for a short stint to help the Kiwis prepare themselves for the T20 World Cup.

Fleming, a former New Zealand captain, joined the national team camp a day after guiding CSK to their fourth Indian Premier League title triumph here. They beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs in the final on Friday night.

"Fresh from the @IPL Final - it's great to have @ChennaiIPL winning coach @SPFleming7 joining us for a few days ahead of the start of the @T20WorldCup #T20WorldCup," the BLACKCAPS tweeted.

New Zealand will begin their T20 World Cup campaign against Pakistan in the Super 12 stage at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on October 26.

New Zealand will play India three days later at the Dubai International Stadium.

Besides Afghanistan, there will be two qualifiers from Round 1 in Group 2 of the Super 12 stage.

Australia, England, South Africa and the West Indies along with two qualifiers will form Group 1 in Super 12s.

The T20 World Cup will start in the UAE and Oman on Sunday with the final scheduled to be held here on on November 14.

Bahrain GP kicks off 23-race F1 season in 2022

AP ■ PARIS

Next year's Formula One season will feature 23 races and open in Bahrain rather than its traditional start in Australia, with Singapore and Canada returning after two straight cancellations amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The 2022 calendar was approved by governing body FIA's World Motor Sport Council on Friday.

The Bahrain Grand Prix in Sakhir on March 20 will be followed by the second hosting of the Saudi Arabia GP in Jeddah and then the Australian GP in Melbourne on April 10.

The season then jumps to Europe two weeks later for the Emilia Romagna GP in Italy (subject to contract approval) and then to the United States for the Miami GP on May 8 (subject to circuit approval by the FIA).

"We prepare to enter a new era with brand new regulations and cars for next year that are designed to create closer racing," F1 president Stefano Domenicali said.

The Spanish GP on May 22 (also subject to contract approval) is followed by the showcase Monaco race one week later before F1 goes to Baku in Azerbaijan on June 12.

Then, Canada returns one week later after the race was canceled for the second straight year and replaced by Turkey.

A large European swing then features the British GP at Silverstone earlier than usual on July 3 followed by races in Austria (July 10), France (July 24) and Hungary (July 31) as the usual last race before the four-week midseason break.

The Belgian GP in Spa on Aug. 28 kicks off the second half of the season as is customary, followed by the hugely popular Dutch GP in Zandvoort (Sept. 4) and the iconic Italian GP in Monza the following week.

There's a two-week gap before the Russian GP in Sochi on Sept. 25 and Singapore on Oct. 2 (subject to contract approval) for the first time since 2019 after the street race was canceled this year and last amid the pandemic.

Young Saurashtra player Avi Barot expires

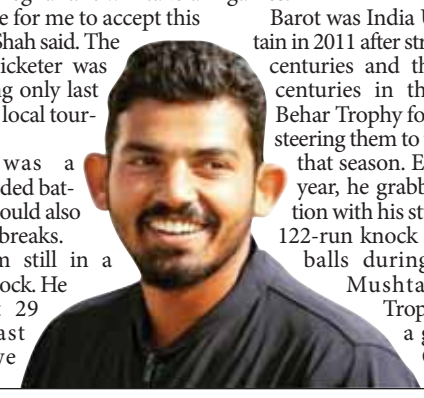
PTI ■ RAJKOT/AHMEDABAD

Saurashtra batter Avi Barot, a former India Under-19 captain and a member of the Ranji Trophy winning team in the 2019-20 season, has died after suffering a cardiac arrest at a shockingly young age of 29.

The player, who also represented Haryana and Gujarat in his career, died on Friday while being taken to a hospital after he felt unwell at his home in Ahmedabad. He is survived by his mother and wife, who is expecting the couple's first child.

"Avi was at home when he felt unwell. He was being rushed to the hospital and breathed his last inside the ambulance. He was a very lively boy and seeing his talent, I brought him to Saurashtra from Haryana where he started his first class career," Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) President Jaydev Shah told PTI.

"Avi's father passed away at 42. He is now survived by his mother and wife who is four months pregnant. It will take a lot of time for me to accept this tragedy," Shah said. The young cricketer was competing only last week in a local tournament.



He was a right-handed batter, who could also bowl off-breaks.

"I am still in a state of shock. He was just 29 and last week we had a state-level tournament Jeevan Trophy where he came and played. I infact told him you are scoring runs, you can take it easy but he said 'Jaydev bhai we need to win it'," Shah recalled.

Barot played 38 first-class matches, 38 List A matches and 20 Domestic T20 games. He was a wicket-keeper-batsman and scored 1,547 runs in first-class matches, 1030 runs in list-A games and 717 runs in T20s.

"Extremely shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely demise of Avi Barot. A bright young cricketer, who represented India U19, Saurashtra and Haryana has left us all too early. Condolences to his family and friends in this hour of grief," stated BCCI Secretary Jay Shah.

Barot was a part of the Ranji Trophy winning Saurashtra team, which had defeated Bengal in the summit clash. He had scored a half century in that match.

For Saurashtra, he played 21 Ranji Trophy matches, 17 List A matches and 11 domestic T20 games.

Barot was India U-19 captain in 2011 after striking four centuries and three half-centuries in the Cooch Behar Trophy for Gujarat, steering them to the title in that season. Earlier this year, he grabbed attention with his stupendous 122-run knock in just 53 balls during a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Goa.

Pedri signs new deal with 'greatest club' Barcelona

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona midfielder Pedri González signed a new contract through 2026, with the club hoping the teenager can help it recover from the traumatic departure of Lionel Messi.

Pedri has been one of the very few bright spots for Barcelona over the past year, during which a president has resigned and its debt has skyrocketed. Barcelona had to let Messi walk away when it could not pay his wages. Painful losses on the field have followed.

"My desire was to remain here for many years," the 18-year-old Pedri said after signing.

"It is true that we are going through a difficult moment, but we are the greatest club in the world and we are going to work this out."

Pedri is coming off a breakout season, his first with Barcelona after joining from Las Palmas. The playmaker led Barcelona with 53 appearances, helping it win the Copa del Rey. Pedri also became a key player for Spain, helping the national team reach the semifinals of the European Championship and winning a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

His salary was not made public but

Barcelona president Joan Laporta thanked Pedri for making "an effort" to reach an agreement that the cash-strapped club could afford. An exultant Laporta, who at one point in their joint news conference accidently called Pedri "Messi," said re-signing the teenager was "of those days when it pays to be Barça's president."

In a sign of the expectations Barcelona has placed on Pedri, his contract includes a release clause of 1 billion euros ($1.1 billion), the highest in club history. Barcelona director of football Mateu Alemany said Pedri's release clause "means he will be off the market for several years."

Pedri signed for Barcelona in 2019 from Las Palmas, a second-division club on his native Canary Islands. The transfer fee of 5 million euros ($5.8 million) proved a steal. At Barcelona, Pedri quickly convinced coach Ronald Koeman that he should be his central playmaker in a similar role to former great Andrés Iniesta.

Northern European countries oppose biennial World Cup plan

AP ■ GENEVA

The six-nation Nordic group of European soccer federations have detailed their opposition to FIFA's push to stage the World Cup every two years.

Increasing the number of World Cups would "cannibalize" existing competitions, make European Championships "obsolete" and marginalize women's tournaments, the federations wrote in a co-signed statement.

"It (the FIFA proposal) can fundamentally make it impossible to continue with our current model of national tournaments and national team matches," said the statement, which was released after a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Nordic opposition wasn't unexpected with influential officials from the region working at European governing body UEFA, which has called for "proper consultation" before a decision is made. Karl-Erik

Nilsson of Sweden is UEFA's first vice president and Danish soccer president Jesper Møller is a UEFA executive committee member.

Still, most of the Nordics meet FIFA's target market of national teams which typically are not at the World Cup and might vote to get twice as many chances to qualify.

Finland and the Faeroe Islands have never qualified, Iceland's appearance in 2018 was its first and Norway has not played at the World Cup since 1998.

On Tuesday, Denmark became the second European nation to advance to the 2022 tournament in Qatar. Sweden leads its qualifying group ahead of Spain.

The Nordic group also said FIFA should not try to rush through such radical changes.

Outside Europe, the biennial plan has been publicly supported by soccer bodies most loyal to FIFA president Gianni Infantino — in Africa and with Asian soccer federations allied with Saudi Arabia.

FIFA, which already expanded the World Cup to 48 teams starting in 2026, says biennial tournaments will raise money and fuel soccer development, help close the gap on European and South American dominance, and give players and fans more meaningful games to watch.

"The Nordic football associations will work with constructive amendments to make football prosper further in other regions, but this should not be at the cost of successful developments in Europe," the six nations said. FIFA has said it is still consulting soccer organizations but it could make a decision in December when its 211 members meet.

DRAVID ALL SET TO TAKE OVER AS INDIA COACH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's batting stalwart and former captain Rahul Dravid is all set to take over as the national cricket team's head coach following the T20 World Cup in the UAE, having agreed to the BCCI's offer after initial reluctance.

The 48-year-old Dravid, one of the greatest ever to have played for India, has been in charge of the national 'A' and U-19 set-up for the past six years and a lot of players such as Rishabh Pant,

Avesh Khan, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari, and Shubman Gill have come through the system prepared by him.

He currently heads the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and was in Dubai during the just-concluded IPL to meet his former teammate and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and Board secretary Jay Shah for an elaborate discussion.

"Yes, Rahul has agreed to coach the Indian team till 2023 World Cup. Initially, he was reluctant but it is understood that president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah had a meeting with Rahul on the sidelines of the IPL final where they were able to convince him," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"It won't be an interim role," he added.

In Dubai when he was asked about the development ahead of the T20 World Cup, India captain Virat Kohli said he has "no idea exactly what's happening".

"No idea exactly what's happening on that front. No detailed discussion with anyone yet," Kohli said on Saturday when asked about Dravid's appointment.

Dravid's trusted lieutenant Paras Mhambrey is expected to be the bowling coach while Vikram Rathour is likely to continue as batting coach.

However, it is understood that the BCCI will nonetheless give an advertisement for the position to ensure that due process is followed.

The Board has to form a Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which would be mandated to complete the process as prescribed by the Lodha reforms.

The Board mandarins are mulling on how to make the best use of Dravid's vast knowledge of talent resource in Indian cricket and his role may be a more holistic one rather than just being confined to the chief coach of the national team.

While India A or U-19 teams would have their respective coaches, the BCCI could well make Dravid, the head of all coaches, to whom all the cricketing departments, along with the NCA staff, report.

When Ganguly took charge of BCCI, he had spoken to the media about the synergy he wanted between the national team, age-group team as well as NCA which is the centre of excellence.

Having seen incumbent Ravi Shastri achieve a lot of success, the BCCI was always keen on appointing an Indian coach but there were only a few of stature. Shastri's tenure ends with the T20 World Cup.

One former Indian captain and stalwart had refused to become the coach in the current team set-up as Virat Kohli still remains the Test and ODI captain.

It is learnt that bigger names were wary of coaching a team where Kohli had mostly called the shots till the Australia tour earlier this year.

The dynamics have changed ever since as the team out-maneuvered a stronger Australia in the absence of Kohli, who was on paternity leave at that time.

Shastri was in charge of the side at a fee of Rs 8.5 crore and it is understood that the BCCI is offering Dravid a significant hike, which will be more than his NCA remuneration as well as Shastri's current pay cheque.

Also Dravid, who had in earlier years said no because of his young family, is expected to contribute in a broader manner.

Dravid's elder son Samit has made a name for himself as a batter in the Karnataka's age-group circle.

The basic idea behind having the Dravid-Mhambrey combination in the Indian team set-up is to ensure that in another two years, when the transition in the current team happens, the changing of nucleus is smooth.

"Rohit will be 35 next year, Virat is days away from his 33rd birthday. Apart from them Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, and Ajinkya Rahane are all fantastic players but at some point during next two years, they will be phased out.

"The players who are set to come in are mostly from the U-19 set-up.

So it's imperative that Dravid is appointed," the source said. Also the fact that BCCI always wanted someone of real stature.

There culd have been none better than India's second highest run-getter in Test cricket (13,288 runs), who also has nearly 11,000 (10,889) runs in ODI cricket.It is expected that BCCI will complete the formalities of his appointment before the start of the New Zealand series in India from November 17.

CAPTAIN SPEAK

No idea: Kohli on Dravid's appointment as head coach

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian captain Virat Kohli on Saturday said he has "no idea exactly what's happening" when asked about the legendary Rahul Dravid being in line to be the team's head coach after the T20 World Cup. Batting great and former captain Dravid is all set to take over as the national cricket team's head coach following the T20 World Cup, having agreed to the BCCI's offer after initial reluctance to succeed incumbent Ravi Shastri.

"No idea exactly what's happening on that front. No detailed discussion with anyone yet," Kohli said when asked about Dravid's appointment. The India skipper was speaking during a captains' media session ahead of the T20 World Cup that begins in the UAE and Oman with the first round matches on Sunday.

The 48-year-old Dravid, one of the greatest ever to have played for India, has been in charge of the national 'A' and U-19 set-up for the past six years and a lot of players such as Rishabh Pant,

Avesh Khan, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari, and Shubman Gill have come through the system prepared by him.

His presence will increase our confidence: Kohli on team mentor Dhoni

Dubai: His mere presence aside, Indian team mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni's "eye for intricate details" and "practical advice" will help in enhancing the confidence of the squad in the T20 World Cup here, captain Virat Kohli said on Saturday.

Iconic former captain Dhoni was last month brought in as mentor of India's 15-member T20 World Cup squad by the BCCI, a move that took everyone by surprise.

During a pre-tournament media interaction organised by the ICC, Kohli, who is still chasing a world title as skipper of the Indian team, expressed his delight at Dhoni's appointment. "He has got massive experience. He is quite excited himself to be back in that environment. He has always been a mentor for all of us when we were starting our careers through till the time he was with the team," Kohli said during the media session.

PTI

Barring hype over ticket sales, India vs Pak is just another game for us: Kohli

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli on Saturday played down the "hype" surrounding the high-profile upcoming T20 World Cup game against Pakistan, saying it's "just another match for us" despite the ridiculously high demand for tickets.

India have never lost to their arch-rivals in either ODI or T20 World Cup games and Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has said that they are confident of beating their neighbours on October 24. Kohli however, when asked about the match, didn't take the bait to make tall claims. "I honestly never felt so," Kohli said when asked if it feels different whenever India meets its neighbouring country.

"I have just approached this game as another game of cricket and I know there is a lot of hype around this game, more so with ticket sales and demands of tickets," the Indian captain, who has had some great performances against Pakistan added.

On a lighter note, Kohli said that he has refused a lot of friends who have asked for tickets.

Indian team needs to show maturity to win T20 WC: Ganguly

PTI ■ DUBAI

BCCI President and former captain Sourav Ganguly on Saturday said the Indian cricket team under Virat Kohli has all the talent to be considered a legitimate contender for the T20 World Cup and it only needs to show a bit of maturity to claim the trophy.

India will open their T20 World Cup campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 24.

"So, you don't become champions easily and you just don't become champions just by stepping into a tournament, so they have to get through the process, they have to show maturity," Ganguly said when asked what India needs to do to win the title.

"...They all have the talent, they all have the skill to score runs and take wickets at this level. They just have to be mentally in good space to win the World Cup," the flamboyant former left-handed batter quipped.

Ganguly said the side should focus on winning every game instead of targetting the title straight up.

"...(the) title is only won when the finals are finished. So, you have a lot of cricket to be played before that and I think India should focus (on) every game, India should focus on winning every game and just

taking it from there and not think about the title at the start," he said.

"They (India) will always be contenders in whatever competition they play in and the challenge for them is to be at peace with themselves, focus on the process rather than the results because the most toughest thing and the most wrong thing to do is when you take guard and you think I am here to win the World Cup.

"...What is important is to play the next ball which is coming out of the hand and keep doing that till you get to the finals," he added.

The former skipper was speaking after Games24x7, a multi-game platform launched a new campaign -- titled 'Game Ke Deewane' -- for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, on its fantasy sports platform, 'My11Circle'.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021

Round 1

Group A ■ Sri Lanka ■ Ireland ■ Netherlands ■ Namibia

Group B ■ Bangladesh ■ Scotland ■ Papua New Guinea (PNG) ■ Oman

Oct 17	Oman vs PNG	Bangladesh vs Scotland
Oct 18	Ireland vs Netherlands	Sri Lanka vs Namibia
Oct 19	Scotland vs PNG	Oman vs Bangladesh
Oct 20	Namibia vs Netherlands	Sri Lanka vs Ireland
Oct 21	Bangladesh vs PNG	Oman vs Scotland
Oct 22	Namibia vs Ireland	Sri Lanka vs Netherlands

Super 12

Group 1 ■ England ■ Australia ■ South Africa ■ West Indies ■ Winner of Group A *(A1)* ■ Runner-up of Group B *(B2)*

Group 2 ■ **India** ■ Pakistan ■ New Zealand ■ Afghanistan ■ Runner-up of Group A *(A2)* ■ Winner of Group B *(B1)*

Oct 23	Australia vs South Africa	England vs West Indies
Oct 24	A1 vs B2	**India** vs Pakistan
Oct 25	Afghanistan vs B1	
Oct 26	South Africa vs West Indies	Pakistan vs New Zealand
Oct 27	England vs B2	B1 vs A2
Oct 28	Australia vs A1	
Oct 29	West Indies vs B2	Afghanistan vs Pakistan
Oct 30	South Africa vs A1	England vs Australia
Oct 31	Afghanistan vs A2	**India** vs New Zealand
Nov 1	England vs A1	
Nov 2	South Africa vs B2	Pakistan vs A2
Nov 3	New Zealand vs B1	**India** vs Afghanistan
Nov 4	Australia vs B2	West Indies vs A1
Nov 5	New Zealand vs A2	**India** vs B1
Nov 6	Australia vs West Indies	England vs South Africa
Nov 7	New Zealand vs Afghanistan	Pakistan vs B1
Nov 8	**India** vs A2	

T20 RANKING

1	England
2	India
3	New Zealand
4	Pakistan
5	South Africa
6	Australia
7	Afghanistan
8	Sri Lanka
9	West Indies
10	Bangladesh
13	Ireland
14	Scotland
16	PNG
17	Netherlands
18	Oman
19	Namibia

As on Aug 17, 2021

First Semifinal — Nov 10 — Winner of Group 1 *vs* Runner-up of Group 2

Second Semifinal — Nov 11 — Winner of Group 2 *vs* Runner-up of Group 1

Nov 14 Final

Venues

■ Dubai International Stadium, **Dubai** ■ Sharjah Stadium, **Sharjah**
■ Al Amerat Cricket Stadium, **Muscat** ■ Sheikh Zayed Stadium, **Abu Dhabi**

Timings (IST): 7:30 pm on single match day; 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm on days having two matches

KBK SportsGraphics

LESS SIXES AND LESS FOURS IN 14TH EDITION OF IPL:

❒The 14th edition of Indian Premier League started slowly in terms of run-scoring, but by the end it picked up sufficiently so that the overall numbers are pretty similar to what was achieved in the last year.

❒The six count went down from 734 to 687 — a decrease of 47 while there were 34 less fours this time. As many as 1548 fours were hit in 14th edition while 1582 were smashed last year.

❒The 872 sixes by 93 batsmen in 120 innings of 60 matches in 2018 was the most sixes in a single edition of IPL. A total number of 78 batsmen hit 734 sixes in last edition.

❒As many as 97 batsmen hit 687 sixes in this edition with Punjab Kings' Lokesh Rahul topped the list with 30 sixes in 13 innings. Royal Challengers Bangalore's Glenn Maxwell is on second spot with 21 sixes in 12 innings. Chennai Super Kings' Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad shared the second spot with 23 sixes each.

❒Chennai Super Kings batsmen hit the highest number of sixes in this IPL. Their 10 batsmen hit 115 sixes in 16 innings of as many matches.

❒In this edition, 111 batsman hit 1648 fours in 120 innings of 60 matches. 99 batsmen hit 1582 fours in 120 innings of 60 matches last year. The record of most fours in a single edition was set in 2013 when 125 batsmen hit 2051 fours in 76 matches.

❒Chennai Super Kings' Ruturaj Gaikwad topped the lost with 64 fours in 16 innings of as many matches, Delhi Capitals' Shikhar Dhawan is second with 63 fours in 16 innings of as many matches.

SIXES BY EACH TEAM IN INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE-14:

Team	M	Sixes	Players	Most Sixes
Chennai Super Kings	16	115	10	Faf du Plessis/Ruturaj Gaikwad (23 sixes each)
Kolkata Knight Riders	17	98	12	Nitish Rana (17 sixes)
Punjab Kings	14	93	13	Lokesh Rahul (30 sixes)
Rajasthan Royals	14	90	16	Sanju Samson (17 sixes)
Royal Challengers	15	79	10	Glenn Maxwell (21 sixes)
Mumbai Indians	14	76	12	Kieron Pollard (16 sixes)
Sunrisers Hyderabad	14	70	15	Jonny Bairstow (15 sixes)
Delhi Capitals	16	66	9	Prithvi Shaw (18 sixes)
Total	60	687		Lokesh Rahul (30 sixes)

FOURS BY EACH TEAM IN INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE-14:

Team	M	Fours Players	Most Fours	
Delhi Capitals	16	233	16	Shikhar Dhawan (63 fours)
Chennai Super Kings	16	231	10	Ruturaj Gaikwad (64 fours)
Kolkata Knight Riders	17	220	12	Shubman Gill(50 fours)
Royal Challengers	15	190	12	Glenn Maxwell (48 fours)
Rajasthan Royals	14	187	15	Sanju Samson (45 fours)
Mumbai Indians	14	181	13	Suriykumar Yadav (40 fours)
Punjab Kings	14	155	14	Lokesh Rahul (48 fours)
Sunrisers Hyderabad	14	151	19	Kane Williamson (29 fours)
Total	60	1548	111	Ruturaj Gaikwad (64 fours)

FAISEL FEATURES

Stakes always high when India, Pak play together: Agarkar

IANS ■ MUMBAI

Former India all-rounder Ajit Agarkar believes that stakes are always high when India and Pakistan play together in a World Cup. He also said that Pakistan may not pose much of a challenge, taking into consideration the form of the Indian team and statistics.

"The stakes are always high when India and Pakistan play together but going by Team India's current form and taking the stats into consideration, I don't think Pakistan will pose that much of a challenge. Having said that, I don't think we should take our neighbours lightly because cricket is a funny game, and things can change at any moment, especially in the T20 format," Agarkar told on 'Class of 2007' show on Star Sports.

Talking about the 2007 World Cup, which India won after defeating Pakistan by five runs in the final, Agarkar said, "The entire tournament (2007 T20 World Cup) was a dream tour for us. We never thought a bunch of youngsters could achieve such a feat, that too against Pakistan. I think the India-Pakistan rivalry always brings a tidal wave of emotions and is one the most anticipated clashes in the World Cup."

Meanwhile, former pacer Irfan Pathan recalled why the bowl-out match, which India won in the group stage against Pakistan in Durban, is his most memorable match from the tournament.

Year	Winner	Runner-up
2021	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders
2020	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals
2019	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
2018	Chennai Super Kings	Sunrisers Hyderabad
2017	Mumbai Indians	Rising Pune Supergiants
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Royal Challengers Bangalore
2015	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders	Kings XI Punjab
2013	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings	Royal Challengers Bangalore
2010	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
2009	Deccan Chargers	Royal Challengers Bangalore
2008	Rajasthan Royals	Chennai Super Kings

Source: IPLT20.com

KBK SportsGraphics

Proud to leave legacy behind? Still, I haven't left behind, says Dhoni

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni in his inimitable style kept questions on his IPL retirement open-ended but did admit that a lot of things will depend on the kind of retention policy that BCCI puts in place for the big auction next year.

Dhoni, who is set to join the Indian team as 'Mentor' for the T20 World Cup, spoke about how he would like to create a roadmap for the next 10 years of IPL that Chennai Super Kings will be playing.

When asked if he was proud to have left a legacy behind in the 12 seasons for CSK, Dhoni assured his million fans with a wide grin, "Still I haven't left behind...."

But he said that he hasn't decided how he would fit into the retention scheme of things.

"Again I've said it before, it depends on BCCI. With two new teams coming in.....We have to decide what is good for CSK," the skipper said after his team won the fourth IPL title by beating Kolkata Knight Riders in the final.

"It's not about me being there in top-three or four. It's about making a strong core to ensure the franchise doesn't suffer. The core group, we have to have a hard look to see who can contribute for the next 10 years," he added.

Dhoni was happy that a lot

of individual match-winners have got CSK to their fourth trophy.

"We had match winners coming game after game and doing really well. Every final is special, if you look at stats, we may say we're the most consistent team to lose the final too. I feel it's important to come back strong, especially in the knockouts," he said.

Dhoni also made it clear that he is not very much into team meetings as the average attention span during these meetings are 20 minutes.

"Frankly no chats, we don't talk a lot (meetings). It's more one-on-one, our practice sessions are meeting sessions. The moment you get into a team room, it brings about different pressure. Our practice sessions have been good."

The 'Thala' had a message for the CSK fans.

"I would love to thank the fans, wherever we've played, even when we were in South Africa, we've always had a good number of CSK fans. That is what you crave for. Thanks to all of them, it feels like we're playing in Chennai. Hopefully we'll be back in Chennai for the fans."

He also at the start praised KKR for a fine show as they came back from two points in seven games to reach the final which is an achievement in itself.

"Before I start talking about CSK, need to talk about KKR. Difficult to come back and do what they have, if any team deserved to win the IPL, it's KKR. Huge credit to the coaches, team and support staff. The break really helped them."

talktime

SHANKAR MAHADEVAN

The singer who is back to judging and mentoring the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Season 30 speaks with Shalini Saksena *about how the calibre of the contestants has changed, challenges that come while judging and a song that is very close to his heart*

'I GET EXCITED BY HEARING VOICES THAT ARE NOT GENERIC'

What will we see in this season of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa?

The show has always stood for being an outstanding platform — for youngsters, musicians of the future and supremely talented singers from various genres, various voice textures and various backgrounds. It is going to be a very interesting show.

You have judged the show earlier as well. How has the calibre of candidates changed and evolved?

I am coming back to this show after almost nine years. You can make out that the youth of today realise the magnitude of the show. Probably nine years back, the level, where the show can reach and what can become of you was well understood and they work even harder now. They are well-prepared. They know that they have to make an impression the first time. So, they put in their heart and soul into music. The perfection, the talent and the way they present it is amazing. We have just finished the auditions and looks like a grand gala already.

What is the biggest challenge when it comes to judging?

The way we judge, what we look for is individuality. There are times when some voices try to impersonate another even when that original singer is there. I don't think this excites us as much as a voice that is a new species of flower — a voice that is unique. There is a contestant, whose voice has a texture that takes you back to the black and white era. She is a tiny little girl and she sounds like a Begum Akhtar or a Noor Jahan and that totally shocks you. I get excited by hearing voices that are not generic.

You also mentor. What do you tell them?

Lot of things actually. It is difficult to talk about technicalities in print. There are certain things that they miss out on like breathing technique and pitching a note. There are ways to approach a single note — you can take the help of another note or pitch this note directly. This is difficult to explain in words. This is what we have to guide me in.

How has the music industry changed since you came?

Music industry is like the fashion industry. It is like food choice; how life is. The only constant in life is change. Things and tastes keep changing. Love for a particular genre comes up, some die down some stay longer. All this has got a soul — which is the melody, the arrangement, lyrics and the way you deliver the song. If these elements are strong, it is here to stay for a long time. Some of the artists are doing great job today and people are loving it.

You have done so many films, a project/ song close to your heart?

It has to be *Breathless*. This is because it has given me the face and made me what I am today. When I look back at my journey of 30 years, there have been several milestones like *Mission Kashmir, Dil Chahata Hai* and *Bunty Aur Bubli*. There isn't a singer or composer who has not had some misses. Some songs survive even when the film tanked. I have seen a gamut of emotions in music. I have done different music over the years and enjoyed each one.

What next can we expect from you — this year?

There is lots of stuff happening. We just released *Toofan*. Then there is *Bunty Aur Bubli 2*, there is *Prithviraj*; these are two huge Yash Raj projects. There is *Yudhra* directed by Ravi Udyawar that we are working on. Then we are working on Meghna Gulzar's biopic on Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. We are working on Zoya's project. There are a lot of non-filmi collaborations as well. My academy is teaching classical music to people in 80 countries.

> A SONG CLOSE TO MY HEART IS BREATHLESS. IT HAS MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY. WHEN I LOOK BACK AT MY JOURNEY OF 30 YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MILESTONES. I HAVE SEEN A GAMUT OF EMOTIONS IN MUSIC. I HAVE DONE DIFFERENT MUSIC AND ENJOYED EACH ONE

Bolly World

Highway Nights wins at BISFF

National Award-winning filmmaker and actor Prakash Jha's short film *Highway Nights* won the grand jury prize at Best of India Short Film Festival 2021. The film will qualify for the 2023 Oscars.

The film will have a theatrical release in Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA.

Talking on the occasion, Prakash said, "I am elated to hear the news and I congratulate the whole team. It's a film with an important message and I hope the film reaches a wider audience with the theatrical, digital and television broadcast all over the world."

Highway Nights is a heartwarming story that talks about women's abuse. The film is about an aging, overworked lorry driver who gives a lift to a young, chatty sex worker one night and how they develop a bond over a small journey of few hours.

IANS

Urvashi on Dil Hai Gray

Actress Urvashi Rautela has recently announced the name of her next film which is titled *Dil Hai Gray*. It's a Hindi remake of Tamil film *Thiruttu Payale 2*.

Urvashi Rautela will be seen alongside Vineet Kumar Singh and Akshay Oberoi.

Urvashi shares: "I am excited to announce the title of my next film 'Dil Hai Gray' on the auspicious day of Vijaya Dashami. The film is very close to my heart and it was lovely working with director Susi Ganeshan sir, producer M Ramesh Reddy sir, and my co-stars Vineet Kumar Singh and Akshay Oberoi."

"The film has created a massive response in the south industry and I am very positive about the story that it will be also be loved by the audience here. I hope my fans would bless us with their love and support. Super excited to watch my film on the big screen after a long time," she concludes.

IANS

Masterstroke

Got a festive get-together to attend, want to go all out? Don't worry – Maybelline New York has got you covered with this Bold & Gold glamour look. For this look, prep your face with the FitMe primer to help hold the makeup for a longer time. Set your base well & go for the Fit Me Matte+Poreless Foundation for a mask-proof base. For the eyes, go for a striking graphic eyeliner look - use the Dramatic Gel Liner for a dramatic design like seen here on Maybelline girl Sara Ali Khan. This look will really make sure your eyes stand out. Line your waterline with a hint of Colossal kajal & a sweep of Colossal Mascara just on the upper lashes. Use the MasterChrome Highlighter in Molten Gold and apply it on the highs of your cheekbones, browbone & a little on the collarbones for an illuminated effect. Complete this look with the Superstay Matte Ink Lipstick in the shade Ruler! Festive evenings are all about glitter & this look is sure to complement your dazzled outfitit!

— Maybelline New York Makeup Expert Team

NatureTalk

The French marigold (red) is very pretty looking. The red flowers when they bloom bright up any space where you put them. While marigold can grow in full sun light to partial-shade, the plant prefers sunny areas. They grow best in moist, well-drained and fertile soil.

In order to ensure that new flowers keep coming up, remove the wilted flowers regularly. Water the marigold only when there is too much heat regularly. Otherwise only when the soil is dry.

On the whole, the French marigolds require very little care, especially when they are well-planted.

Virtual turns real

When the present pandemic hit last year, everything went online including concerts that brought millions of music lovers together in spirit on one HCL's platform in times of social distancing, says SHALINI SAKSENA

The COVID-19 has changed the way we live and go about doing our daily chores. This also includes how we look for ways to entertain ourselves. The digital world has exploded and this means how we listen to music as well. From listening to artistes perform live to watching them online, today the world is a different place.

Rohit Kaul, head, HCL Digital Concerts tells you that when they had started with Baithak, Baithak US and Soundscapes the journey has been an interesting one since they started holding digital concerts in March last year.

"When we started last year, we never thought we would end up holding so many concerts online. The 100 milestone is truly amazing. We never anticipated that more than 80 million would watch these shows. It has been enriching and gratifying as well. We have not only been able to showcase legends of the industry in our concerts but also many upcoming artistes," Kaul says.

He tells you that what they had not planned for was to get a certain number of viewership or how many concerts to hold or if there is an end date to it.

"However, with each of these platforms, be it Baithak or Soundscapes, the attempt has been to target a certain type of fans or present to them a certain type of artist. The idea is to also constantly want new platforms and look at new ways on how we can take different type of artistes to our audiences," Kaul tells you.

Interestingly, holding virtually concerts was not something new to Kaul and his team. They had been organising live streaming of their concerts even during pre-COVID-19 times.

"We had been streaming our live concerts digitally as well. This helped us when we had to quickly go digital. We had requested from the artist community wanting to know what could be done since physical concerts had come to a standstill. Our response was quick due to the learning we had. Along the way, they were several leaning. The positive was that we understood the power of digital space. We also, understood that there was need for physical concerts too. We learnt small technical details as well. We learnt what the audiences like and give feedback to the artists," Kaul recounts.

He tells you that now that things are easing up and COVID-19 numbers are coming down, they will hold their concerts in a combination — online and offline. "Of course, we still have to and should follow COVID-19 protocols.We will wait a bit longer before we go offline. Our digital model will continue though," Kaul says.

Sitar maestro Purbayan Chatterjee, who was accompanied by Satyajit Talwalkar on the *tabla* and Farooque Latif Khan on the *sarangi*, and performed at the 100 th digital HCL concert has an interesting viewpoint. He tells you that virtual is becoming more and more real.

> IN THE INTEREST OF MOVING AHEAD INSTEAD OF LIVING IN DENIAL, WE MUST EMBRACE THINGS. IT IS NOT THAT WE ARE LOSING HUMAN TOUCH. WHEN WE CHAT OVER A VIDEO CALL, THERE ARE PEOPLE AT EACH END. THAT IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY
>
> — PURBAYAN CHATTERJEE

"In the interest of moving ahead instead of living in denial, we must embrace things. It is better to go with the times. Things are easing up and now we can go to a studio to hold a virtual concert. So many things have become virtual. We are ordering food on app. It is not that we are losing human touch. The human element — the person who created that app — is still there. When we chat over a video call, there are people at each end. That is not going to go away," Chatterjee explains.

His choice of piece for the 100 th milestone was an interesting one well. He chose a piece that had an upbeat feel to it. "Since it was a celebration, I decided to go with *raag* Maru Bihag; it is very melodious and this was a happy occasion. I introduced *sarangi* which first is very auspicious and the instrument is quintessentially very Indian instruments. I wanted to promote this instrument. Also, HCL stands for going back to our roots hence I chose something that would have that happy tone to it," Chatterjee says. However, he is not new to performing virtually. In the past too, he had done virtual shows including live performance.

"Even when there was no COIVD-19 we had a virtual show for World Music Day. We did a *jugal bandhi* with Kaushiki Chakraborty which was shot in Delhi for a virtual audinece. What I had not thought of was that I would be only doing virtual shows. But things are slowly coming back on track — with live perfomance and audiences," Chatterjee tells you.

Even last year, when things had eased, things were looking up. There was a full house for a festival I did in Odisha, I did a couple of shows in Mumbai and there was good attendance. I recently did a show in Chennai and people had turned up in good numbers. I have a show in Mumbai next month. Let's see how that turns out to be. With vaccination drive doing well, fear among people is slowly easing," Chatterjee says.

'Art & quality is what drives me'

ALFEEYA DONNA, who plays Bhawna in Jihad that won several national and international film festival awards, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about challenges of playing a Kashmiri Pandit

What is Jihad about?

This film is not a typical commercial *masala* Bollywood kind of a movie. It has been specifically made for the international festival circuits. It is a drama film made on the ongoing terrorism in Kashmir. When we talk about *jihad*, it simply means to kill the anger and not to kill innocent people in the name of God. This film revolves around a militant whose path crosses with a vulnerable Kashmiri Pandit girl — Bhawna. She is four months pregnant and a widow. What happens next is what *Jihad* is all about.

What attracted you to the project?

As an actor, I have always wanted to pursue realistic cinema and take up projects with good subjects which have profound scripts and challenging roles where I can portray my acting skills. I never wanted to take up a film just for the sake of playing a character even if it was a big production banner. Art and quality is what drives me. After narration of Jihad by director Rakesh Parmar sir I was so absorbed in the story that I said yes. Also, it was a great opportunity for me to be part of a message-oriented film.

Why said yes to the character?

After Bhawna loses her husband, who was shot dead by militants, she is depressed and facing many obstacles all alone. It is a strong character. She is a loving person but at the same time she is strong and has the ability to change someone's life. It is not a glamorous role and that attracted me.

Were there challenges to your role?

I had to get the dialect correct and trained for it; I took classes for it. I interacted with the locals to see how they sit, talk, walk and eat. I wore loose fitting Kashmir clothes. We were shooting in dangerous areas of the Valley; we got threats as well. There were many safety protocols we followed.

You are a singer and an actor from Dubai. How did you get into Hindi cinema?

I have been exposed to Hindi cinema since childhood. I did my acting course at New York Academy and Anupam Kher's Actor Prepares. Then auditions for *Jihad* were happening which I give a shot at.

You are looking to launch music in Hindi and English. Tell us about that.

The first Hindi single was launched by Mika Singh's Music and Sound. Then I released a song on my YouTube channel. But I have been working on a lot of projects including one with Mika.

You also produced a short film Karb. What is it about?

It is about woman empowerment and stressing the need for women to get equal opportunity to education.

What are your upcoming projects?

I have been getting offers but I am taking it easy because of the COVID-19. I am looking for quality over quantity for now.

Sound of music

Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

Bollywood vibes

Pee Loon (Mohit Chauhan)
Agar Tum Sath Ho (Arijit Singh, Alka Yagnik)
Teri Meri (Shreya Ghoshal)
Jo Bhi Main (Mohit Chauhan)
Nadaan Parinde (A R Rahman)

English Vinglish

We Found Love (Rihanna)
Super Bass (Nicki Minaj)
Sicko Mode (Travis Scott)
Bad Guy (Billie Eilish)
Runway (Kanye West)

sunday magazine
New Delhi, October 17, 2021

the pioneer
agenda

You are only as great as the opportunities that are given to you
— Charlize Theron

FROM THE INSIDE

Get closer to God
To relive the glory of *bhanja* Ram, Chhattisgarh launches a new religious circuit covering the spots touched by Lord Ram during the exile 2

4 **Worship in celebratory mode**
The purpose of the festivities is to be geared up from within to encash the opportunities arising in emerging productive cycle

EATING OUT RIGHT

Weight loss is a journey that must be traversed with patience, over time. This festive season, when you are most likely to eat out, keeping a few things in mind while selecting the dishes should do the trick, writes author **KAVITA DEVGAN** in her new book *The Don't-Diet Plan*, An edited excerpt:

Eating out is a part of life, be it for leisure or due to travel. However, the more frequently you eat out, the more calories you ingest, getting heavier in the bargain. You don't need me to tell you that, you know it already.

Besides, every time you eat out, you ruin your happiness guessing, wishing you knew everything you were wolfing down-fat, calories, sodium, etc. and wondering if you had made a wrong choice and sabotaged your heart's health yet again.

Faced with an extensive tempting menu, it's easy to get carried away and forget all about healthy eating, but making healthier choices need not be a nightmare. Let me show you how.

GET CUISINE WISE

Here is a brief 'eating out manual' to help you navigate these four very popular cuisines when you go out to enjoy them the next time.

Italian

Here the basics are trim and healthy but the offenders to look out for are surplus oil, cream and butter (which are poured freely into most dishes).

Are you wondering what to pick then? Learn to differentiate between Northern and Southern Italian cuisines. Southern Italy traditionally follows a Mediterranean diet, which is rich in grains, fruits and vegetables, contains very little meat and uses olive oil in place of butter. Northern Italian cuisine, on the other hand, is heavy on the beef, butter and cream. Start with plain Italian bread rather than buttered garlic bread. Be careful of fresh Italian bread soaked with deliciously flavoured olive oil too. Salads can be a good starter and filler but make sure that you ask for the dressing and vinegar on the side. An all-vegetable antipasto, insalata-green salad, Panzanella, a tomato and mozzarella salad and fish in cartoccio are some good options. Do you want to eat pasta? Then skip cheese-filled ones in favour of those with red clam sauce or meat sauce. Classic pasta with marinara sauce is a lean choice. And if you want to have a heavier entrée like lasagne, then have only half of it. At the end of the meal, skip the dessert, resist the cannoli or cream-filled pastry and have a decaf cappuccino, made with low fat milk or have fresh fruit.

Mexican

In Mexican cuisine, the common offenders to look out for are enchiladas (tortillas fried in oil) and tacos (deep-fried tortillas), chimichangas, chilli rellenos, tostadas and flautas-all of them are deep fried. Cheese and sour cream toppings add extra fat and calories, so do the side-dishes like chips and nachos.

Are you wondering what to pick then? Take your cue from the names of the menu items. Foods that are prepared 'asada' are grilled, which is a non-fat cooking process. 'Fajitas' are made up of grilled meat or chicken. Use salsa on your main course instead of sour cream and cheese, as 'salsa' made with tomato, onion, chillies and herbs is virtually fat-free and bursting with vitamins A and C. Be extremely careful of the portion size. Choose the dessert carefully-a fruit plate of mangoes, guavas and papaya tastes as good and is far less calorie-dense than sopapillas (deep-fried sweet pastries) or fried ice cream.

Greek

Greek food is super healthy and comprises of grains, fruits and vegetables, olive oil and very little meat. Sauces are based on wine, stocks, tomato and yoghurt, rather than milk or cream. Lentils, beans and vegetables are commonly used in soups, appetizers and main courses. So far so good, but still, you can't be careful enough.

Are you wondering what to pick? The signature of a Greek salad, the 'Greek' olives and feta cheese, are very high in sodium, so go easy. You can even ask to have the feta rinsed before it is served to limit your sodium intake. Be wary of taramasalata, a delicious, though calorie-rich, cream-based dip. Instead, have pita bread spread with a yoghurt-based dip like tzatziki, made with yoghurt, garlic and cucumber. Breadsticks dipped in hummus (sesame paste and chickpeas) or baba ghanoush (eggplant and olive oil) are other good options. For soup, skip the better-known avgolemono soup, which has a lemon and egg base and go for torato, chilled eggplant, peppers and yoghurt soup as this has more fibre and less cholesterol. If you're watching your fat and cholesterol numbers, then pass up moussaka and pastitsio casseroles made from eggs and cheese, and opt for grilled or broiled meat, poultry or seafood.

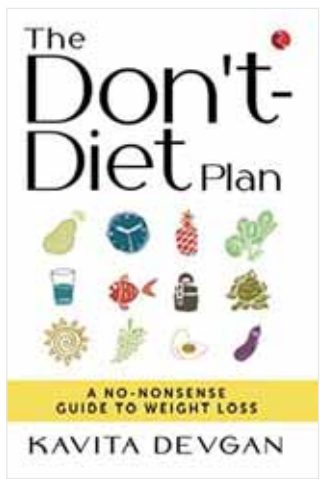
Some more good options are fish in 'plaki' sauce (broiled with tomato sauce and garlic), souvlaki (lamb marinated in lemon juice, olive oil and herbs, and then skewered and grilled) and dolmas (grape leaves stuffed with ground meat, rice and pine nuts). These are all steamed or baked dishes. And if you will simply perish without baklava for dessert, remember that the usual single portion size can serve two or three people more than adequately. Therefore, order accordingly.

Chinese

Chinese food has its share of offenders-hefty sodium content, high fat and big portion sizes, usually due to the Indianization of the Chinese recipes-the so-called 'Indian Chinese food' (because traditional Chinese cooking is rather light and healthy).

Are you wondering what to pick? Oyster, black bean and soy sauces are full of sodium and monosodium glutamate (MSG). Look out for these words on the menu card and don't hesitate to ask the chef about the ingredients before ordering anything. Deep fat frying is very common, especially in the appetizers, so go easy on fried wontons and egg or spring rolls. Instead, try steamed egg or spring rolls. Order steamed white rice or plain noodles instead of the fried versions (steamed Chinese brown rice is tasty and filling). Be wary of the word 'crispy' as this indicates that the dish is usually deep-fried, as is most of the meat in any dish labelled 'sweet and sour'. Instead, choose a roasted or grilled meat with the sweet and sour sauce on the side (always order sauce on the side and just drizzle some on top).

Eat the way the Chinese really do to stay healthy for the long haul-eat a lot of vegetables. Besides, nowhere else do vegetables taste as delicious as they do in Chinese dishes. Always start with a soup, especially a vegetable base one and round off with a cup of Chinese tea to help wash all the food down.



> FACED WITH AN EXTENSIVE TEMPTING MENU, IT'S EASY TO GET CARRIED AWAY AND FORGET ALL ABOUT HEALTHY EATING, BUT MAKING HEALTHIER CHOICES NEED NOT BE A NIGHTMARE

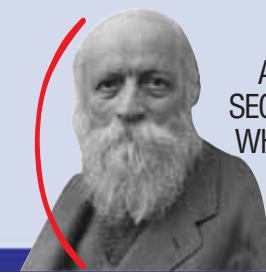
Are you diabetic?
Look for high fibre, low-fat dishes. A few great choices are beans, peas and lentils, and dark green vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, spinach and kale. Choose whole grain foods like brown rice, whole wheat bread and pasta and opt for fruits. Everyone, including people with diabetes, should eat three servings of fruit a day.

Are you watching your heart?
Skip foods high in saturated fat-foods that are fried or have a crispy coating, cream-based soups and salad dressings, and creamy cheese sauces and gravies. Don't add extra salt anything.

Are you watching your waist?
All the above rules apply. Also watch your portions, skip the desserts and go slow on carbs (breads). Load up on fibre (salad and grains) and protein (lean cuts).

Do you have a long day ahead?
Add nuts to your salad and an olive oil-based dressing; have a decent-sized helping of whole wheat bread or brown rice and substantial amounts of grilled chicken or fish.

Excerpted with permission from The Don't - Diet Plan: A no-nonsense guide to weight loss *by Kavita Devgan, Rupa, Rs 295*



ALL JOURNEYS HAVE SECRET DESTINATIONS OF WHICH THE TRAVELER IS UNAWARE
— MARTIN BUBER

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF RAM

To relive the glory of *bhanja* Ram, Chhattisgarh Tourism launches a new religious tourism circuit, titled Ram Van Gaman Paripath, covering the spots touched by Lord Ram, Mata Sita and brother Lakshman during their exile in the state. **NAVNEET MENDIRATTA** shares the story of the grand launch of the trail

There is a quaint little village near Raipur in Chhattisgarh that is said to be the parental home of Mata Kaushalya, Raja Dashrath's wife and mother of Lord Ram. In the village is the only temple in the world that is dedicated to her. The region was said to be a part of Dakshin Kaushal or Kaushal *raaj*, where Mata Kaushalya came from.

Taking pride in being his maternal home, people of the state see Ram as the nephew of the land (*bhanja* in Hindi). It is said that Ram spent 10 out of 14 years of his exile in the forests of Dakshin Kaushal.

The people of the region, in fact, have unique tradition binds the *mama* and *bhanja* together in a deeper and reverent way. In honour of Lord Ram, even today, the people put the nephew on a pedestal and, irrespective of the age, the uncle (*mama*) pays obeisance to the nephew (*bhanja*) instead of the other way around.

And now for the very first time, the Chhattisgarh government has taken it upon itself to mark the trail and promote it as a tourism circuit. Called Ram Van Gaman Paripath (RGVP), this circuit will cover nine spots along the forested route taken by Lord Ram, before he entered Maharashtra.

Covering a length of 3,000 kms, the Chhattisgarh section of the path starts from Koria district in the north to Sukma in the southern-most part of the state. The nine sites that make a part of the first phase include: Sitamarhi-Harchowka, Ramgarh, Shivrinarayan, Turturiya, Chandkhuri, Rajim, Sihawa, Jagdalpur and Ramaram.

It is believed Lord Ram entered Chhattisgarh from Sitamarhi-Harchauka area in Koriya district. Located on the banks of Mawai River, the Seetamadhi-Harchauka's cave houses 17 chambers in it. A structure marked *Sita ki rasoi* is indicative of their stay here, believe the locals. People also believe that Ram worshipped the Shivling during his stay in the cave.

Moving onward with his journey, Ram left Ghaghra and arrived at Kotadol, crossing the Ramgarh hills in Sarguja district. Ramgarh is known for Sita Bengra and Jogimara caves. The locals believe Lord Ram spent a few days of his exile along with Mata Sita and brother Lakshman in these caves. The caves also find a mention in Kalidasa's famous piece of literary art *Meghdootam*. Ramgarh is also renowned for one of the oldest '*natyashala*' (amphitheatre) where *Meghdootam* was composed.

The next location is where Lord Ram is said to have accepted the berries offered by Shabari. It is said that Sharbari (a tribal woman) had tasted the berries one by one to ensure that she fed only the sweetest ones to Ram. Called Shivrinarayan, the location is a now small town located at the Triveni Sangam (the intersection of 3 rivers) — Shivnath, Jonk and Mahanadi in the Janjgir Champa district.

CHHATTISGARH TOURISM BOARD HELD A GRAND LAUNCH OF A NEW CIRCUIT, TITLED THE RAM VAN GAMAN PARIPATH, ON THE FIRST DAY OF NAVRATRAS. A 51-FEET HIGH STATUE OF RAM SET AGAINST THE ANCIENT MATA KAUSHALYA TEMPLE WAS ALSO UNVEILED

The village of Turturiya is where Rishi Valmiki had his *ashram*. The ashram is said to be where Sita gave birth to the twins, Luv and Kush. This place is of great religious and cultural significance as it here where Maharishi Valmiki is said to written his epic work, *Ramayana*, that brought the legend of Ram to the world.

Chandkhuri sits in the middle of the trail. As you move south, you come to Rajim, where Lord Ram is said to have spent some time of his exile in the ashram of Rishi Lomash. Rajim is located at the confluence of the Mahanadi, Sondhur and Pairi rivers and is also known as the *Prayag* of Chhattisgarh. The Shivling, believed to have been established by Mata Sita, is now housed inside the famous Kuleshwar Mahadev temple. It is said that even today during the floods, the Shivling does not get submerged.

Sihawa, the revered place of *Sapt rishis* (seven sages) is the place of origin of the divine Mahanadi River. According to a folklore, Lord Ram spent a significant amount of his time at this place meeting and consulting the seven great sages — namely Shringi Rishi, Muchkund Rishi, Agastya Rishi, Angira Rishi, Kankar Rishi, Sharabhang Rishi and Gautama Rishi.

In Jagdalpur are situated the historic Kutumsar Caves, where Lord Ram is said to have spent considerable time. Located in the famous Bastar district, Jagdalpur was the capital of the erstwhile princely state of Bastar. Even today, a 500-year-old festival, 'Bastar Dussehra', is held that runs for 75 days a year.

The ninth destination in the trail is Ramaram in the Sukma district. This is where Lord Ram is said to have worshipped Bhoomi Devi, a Hindu deity representing the earth. It is believed that you can see the footprints of Lord Ram even today.

The entire trail can be covered over a period of 10 days, shared Anbalagan P, Secretary Tourism, Chhattisgarh. According to him, these are only nine of the 75 locations on the trail that the state plans to develop over time.

The state is also looking at hosting several festivals to push tourism in the state over the next few years, shared the State Chief Minis, Bhupesh Baghel. "We want the tourists to experience the state hospitality and view it as a religious, cultural and ethnic tourist destination," he said.

It was with this objective that the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board held a grand launch of the trail on the first day of Navratras. A 51-feet high statue of Ram set against the ancient Mata Kaushalya temple was unveiled. The temple complex wears a grand look following the beautification drive undertaken by the government.

The grand event, curated by Yasmin Kidwai of Springbox Films laong with Brandwidth Events, saw a musical opening dedicated to Lord Ram. Local as well as famous national artistes, such as Shankar Mahadevan, Indian Ocean, Kabir Café, Sukriti Sen and V.Unbeatable, participated in the event that was heavily attended by the locals. Noted actor Ashish Vidyarthi played the emcee of the evening. A 3-D film showcasing Ram's story and connect with Chhattisgarh was also showcased. The tourism board also released a special song written by *Indian Ocean*'s Himanshu Joshi that evokes the glory of Lord Ram and speaks of his relevance through the ages.

This, in fact, is the first of the many tourism campaigns that the state is planning to launch. Chhattisgarh is looking at hosting traditional as well contemporary festivals and events to create an inclusive tourism strategy. For a state that has been able to settle internal unrest, there is a lot to showcase to the world. The state is also working on creating a Buddhist circuit and connecting it the existing one. There is a lot that the travellers can expect from Chhattisgarh.

HOW FORMIDABLE IS ISIS FOR TALIBAN

With the Taliban in power in Afghanistan, there's a new enemy ascending. The Islamic State (ISIS) group threatens to usher in another violent phase. Except this time the former insurgents, the Taliban, play the role of the state, now that the US troops and their allied Afghan Government are gone.

The Taliban promised the United States to keep the extremist group in check during successive rounds of peace talks. Under the 2020 US-Taliban accord, the Taliban guaranteed that Afghanistan would not become a haven for terrorist groups threatening the US or its allies. But it is unclear if they can keep their pledge, with a sudden uptick in ISIS attacks since the Taliban takeover on August 15.

The ISIS has claimed the responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shia mosque in southern Afghanistan that killed 47 people and wounded scores more on October 15.

"Historically, the majority of IS attacks have targeted the state... Now that the US and the international presence is mostly gone, they need to go after the state — and the state is the Taliban," said Andrew Mines, research fellow at Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

LONG RIVALRY

Both the Taliban and the ISIS advocate rule by their radical interpretations of Islamic law. But there are key ideological differences that fuel their hatred of each other. The Taliban say they are creating an Islamic state in Afghanistan, within the borders of that country. The ISIS says it is the Islamic State, a global caliphate that it insists all Muslims must support. It is contemptuous of the Taliban's nationalist goals and doesn't recognise them as a pure Islamic movement. For similar reasons, the ISIS has long been a staunch enemy of al-Qaida.

Both the Taliban and the ISIS advocate particularly harsh versions of Islamic Shariah law and have used tactics like suicide bombers. But when it ruled territory in Syria and Iraq, the ISIS was even more brutal and carried out more horrific punishments than the Taliban did.

The ISIS emerged in Afghanistan in 2015 with the name Islamic State in Khorasan Province, at a time when the group was at its peak, controlling much of Iraq and Syria. It drew members from Afghan and Pakistani militants, including a wave of Taliban defectors. The group initially found support among Afghanistan's small Salafist movement in eastern Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. The Salafis had largely been marginalised by the Taliban, and by connecting with the rising ISIS, the Salafist movement found a means to establish military strength.

However, ISIS' brutal ways have since led some Salafi clerics to voice opposition. In the years after its emergence, the ISIS was badly hurt by military setbacks at the hands of the Taliban and by US airstrikes, before surging again the past year. The Taliban downplay ISIS' capabilities and dismiss them as a fringe group with no mainstream appeal.

Relatives carry the body of victims of October 15 suicide attack during a mass funeral in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Saturday. The ISIS claimed responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shia mosque that killed at least 47 people and wounded scores more AP

"They have no roots here," influential Taliban figure Sheikh Abdul-Hameed Hamasi told *The Associated Press.*

END GAME

Still, the potency of the ISIS threat is undeniable. Two deadly bombings have hit Kabul, including one outside the airport at the height of evacuations before the US exit that killed 169 Afghans and 13 US service members. Smaller scale attacks are also on the rise. "The intensity and breadth of attacks… show the capacity and level of national reach which has caught the Taliban by surprise," said Ibraheem Bahiss, a consultant with the International Crisis Group. The ISIS "is no short-term threat."

It could be a while until the ISIS has the capability to hold territory again. Its immediate aim is to destabilise the Taliban and shatter the group's image as a guardian of security. For now, its strategy is slow and methodical. It is reaching out to tribes and other groups to recruit from their ranks while stamping out dissent among moderate Salafis and carrying out jailbreaks, assassinations, and attacks on Taliban personnel. "Package all of that together, that is an entire method of insurgency the Taliban is not equipped to handle," said Mines.

Bill Roggio of the Long War Journal, produced by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies think tank, offered a different view, saying he believes the Taliban can uproot the ISIS on their own, even without the backup of US airstrikes that nearly eliminated the ISIS. Roggio said the Taliban have shown themselves capable of rooting out some ISIS cells, using their vast local intelligence-gathering networks. He noted that the ISIS — unlike the Taliban during their insurgency — don't have access to safe havens in Pakistan and Iran.

The Taliban have rejected cooperating with the US against the ISIS, ahead of the two sides' direct talks last weekend. The ISIS' future trajectory in Afghanistan will depend largely on its ability to recruit more members and win over large segments of the population.

Since their inception, they have been poaching Taliban members. In 2015, former Taliban commander Abdul Rauf Khadim was appointed deputy of the ISIS in Afghanistan and reportedly offered financial incentives to other fighters to join the group.

In 2020, when the ISIS re-emerged in Afghanistan, it was under a new leader drawn from the Haqqani Network, currently a faction of the Taliban. Hard-line members of the Taliban could join the ISIS as the Taliban leadership, now in power, has to make compromises whether at home or abroad. The Taliban have promised a more inclusive government, though the temporary administration they set up is entirely made up of Taliban members.

The more the Taliban cooperate with international states, the more they run against the image of the mujahedeen resistance fighter. "That is a key identity the Taliban will lose," Mines said.

TREATMENT OF MINORITIES

As the Taliban shift from insurgency to governance, one key test will be whether they act to protect minority groups that their fighters once tyrannised, such as the Shia Hazaras. The Hazaras have endured multiple campaigns of persecution and displacement throughout Afghanistan's history. When the Taliban were first in power in the 1990s, they carried out massacres against the community, in some cases in retaliation for massacres of ethnic Pashtuns. ***AP***

Both the Taliban and the ISIS advocate rule by their radical interpretations of Islamic law. But there are key ideological differences that fuel their hatred of each other. The Taliban say they are creating an Islamic state in Afghanistan, within the borders of that country. The ISIS says it is the Islamic State, a global caliphate that it insists all Muslims must support. It is contemptuous of the Taliban's nationalist goals and doesn't recognise them as a pure Islamic movement

OUTLOOK

Safe passages for animals

As India keeps on developing new expressways, demand for the green passages is also growing. Environmentalists claim that the speedy vehicles are killing a number of wild animals everyday, as there are a few or no provisions for their safe passage across the roads. This is clearly a denial of basic right to wildlife.

On any fine morning, a travel on NH9 from Delhi towards Moradabad may turn unpleasant as you will find at least a squirrel, jackal or a fox killed on the highway by the speeding vehicles. The NH9 passing through Hastinapur Wildlife sanctuary is spread over 2,073 square kilometre area and intersects Garhmukteshwar (Hapur) and Gajraula (Amroha). Also, a rail track passes through this sanctuary as well as State highway 51 and some local roads. The speedy traffic on these roads has posed a regular threat to the wildlife and the conservators.

Speeding vehicles aren't killing the wildlife only on this stretch. The Delhi-based Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) claims that the road and train accidents have killed at least 83 leopards around the country last year, the highest (22) in Maharashtra. Also, thousands of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles are losing their lives in similar conditions.

Though, the Government has different claims. Union Minister of Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in July 2021 informed the Lok Sabha that no incident of animal death in road accident happened during the last three years. Environmentalists may have the different opinion, but one thing is clear, we don't have safe passages for our animals, even in reserved areas.

However, NH-44 is an exception where after the intervention by the Bombay High Court, the National Highways Authority of India constructed nine underpasses. These underpasses or the wildlife crossings were constructed between Kanha & Pench tiger reserves. On rail track there are several corridors identified across India for passage of elephants and efforts are on to construct safe crossings.

What are wildlife crossings?

Wildlife crossings or the safe passages aren't a new concept. Around the globe roads are often designed to provide cave-like, concrete underpasses, overpasses, ducts, amphibian tunnels, culverts and the green roofs. These options are provided after taking into consideration the type of animals, birds, or the flies inhabiting the region. Often the underpasses are fitted with CCTV cameras, so that the movement of animals can be monitored. Wildlife crossings were first envisioned in European countries and in the 1950s the first animal bridge was built in France. It is considered a first infrastructure solution to ensure safe passage to wild animals. Nowadays such crossings are hugely popular in countries like Germany, Netherlands Canada, and the USA.

In our neighbourhood, Nepal has started building such corridors for the road safety and conservation of its wildlife.

Why do we need safe passages?

The idea of wildlife crossings is not only to avoid the human-animal conflict, but also to conserve wildlife. Their demand is on the rise as the human-made barriers like canals, electric power lines, roads and railroads continue to penetrate and divide wildlife habitats. With human population growing, pressure is increasing on jungles and the wildlife. Though, there is no exact data regarding the animals killed in road accidents in India, the figures mentioned in various reports are alarming. Data from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, suggest, that 186 elephants were killed on rail tracks across India during the last ten years.

Similarly, WPSI says leopard deaths in train and road accidents have increased over the past 10 years. There has been around 278 per cent rise in such accidents from 2010 to 2019. News reports suggest that during 2021, at least 3 tigers were killed in road accidents. We can only say the developmental activities on either side of roads/rail tracks have increased the problem for bio-conservators.

The technical issue

India has the second largest road network in the world and it is growing at a fast pace. Our roads are being upgraded and we are adding more and more lanes. Sometimes, there are eight to ten lanes which makes impossible for the animals to cross the roads without a collision with vehicles. It is sad that we are not only depriving our wild with safe passages, but also building railings and dividers on our highways/expressways to make their movement difficult. These railings and dividers result in a trap, creating the chances of more accidents. This is not only dangerous for the wild animals but also for the commuters. Along with the wild, menace of stray animals left by their owners is a big threat for road safety.

Viability of wildlife corridors in India

Studies suggest the wildlife crossings not only save wild animals but also make the roads safer for human beings, though, they make the roads little costlier. Sometimes, dried up brooks, drains and rivers provide respite but they aren't available everywhere. In the recent times when all the roads are turned into a paid facility through tolls, this investment should be worthwhile. In recent days, there have been a lot of talks regarding the wildlife corridors on Indian roads. Though the demands, claims and the announcements have not brought a big change in the situation as we may have so many excuses for not bringing forth change, in reality, these passages are eventually need of the hour not only for our wildlife but also for the safety of commuters. We should learn to live with our wild and should also learn to honour their rights.

(The writer is a journalist and teaches as a guest faculty at Delhi School of Journalism, University of Delhi)

Wildlife crossings were first envisioned in European countries and in the 1950s the first animal bridge was built in France. It is considered a first infrastructure solution to ensure safe passage to wild animals. Nowadays such crossings are hugely popular in countries like Germany, Netherlands, Canada, and the USA. In our neighbourhood, Nepal has started building such corridors for the road safety and conservation of its wildlife

SAIYED ZEGHAM MURTAZA

PERSPECTIVE

POSHAN MAAH FOR TB-MUKT BHARAT

When vision and political will come together, the people stand to gain. Under the present dispensation, certain flagship programmes certainly display vision as well as political will. For instance, the Government initiatives such as Poshan Maah or National Nutrition Month, observed in September — an important tradition put in place since 2018 to further conversations on health and nutrition services in the country — can be considered a timely reaffirmation of the country's priorities as citizens, especially the most vulnerable, navigate the stark impact of the pandemic on their lives and livelihoods. With our extensive work in the domain of nutrition and tuberculosis, we can really appreciate the centrality of such initiatives when it comes to creating positive disruption.

Thus, it has been highly encouraging to see health-nutrition being foregrounded by the Government within the national development narrative. This is also an occasion to understand why such focus must be sustained on a war-footing for some areas which are strongly linked with and fall under the ambit of undernutrition and infectious diseases. Tuberculosis or TB is an apt case study against this backdrop. Because the issue lies at the intersection of something both of us have strived hard to address over decades, we feel personally and professionally invested in any mitigation mechanism that can alleviate the people's suffering.

According to India TB Report 2021, over 23 lakh new TB cases were reported in India and approximately 89,000 people succumbed to it in 2019. Now, let's consider how malnutrition and TB essentially have a bidirectional relationship, which becomes more pronounced in the Indian context. In fact, undernutrition at the population level, according to the Health Ministry's 2017 guidance document on nutrition, contributed to an estimated 55 per cent of annual TB incidence in India.

From our experiences, we have seen how undernutrition also compromises the body's immunity and can lead to the progression of latent infection to active TB; this worsens undernutrition, which again, in turn, increases the severity of the disease creating a vicious cycle. The Government has been proactive in recognising this problem and initiating schemes such as the NPY which provides ₹500 a month to TB patients as nutritional support. It is important to build on this success to drive a holistic discussion on nutrition and its integral role within the TB treatment narrative. What can be the contours of such a discussion and what are the critical points to consider?

Any strategy for nutrition and TB must factor in the importance of recording an individual's BMI, which informs the trajectory of the treatment regimen. Data show how undernourishment doubles fatalities linked with TB. The undernourished elderly with a low BMI of less than 18.5 are also overwhelmingly affected by severe forms of TB. Patients with low BMI are ill-equipped to handle the stress of TB infection and anti-TB drugs. Therefore, it's essential to work towards a model of consistent nutritional assessments and counselling that can be integrated within the TB treatment cycle; clearer understanding of nutritional details is crucial to the success of the rigorous drug regimen for the disease.

We must also understand how, in India, TB affects the poor disproportionately; the 2017 Health Ministry's guidance document also notes a 4-fold higher prevalence in those with a low standard of living index compared to those with a higher standard of living. In this light, it may be useful to have local nutrition counsellors readily accessible to patients who can clarify for them beyond dietary supervision what holistic nutrition entails as part of TB treatment. The emphasis must be on ensuring nutritional evaluation before, during and even after the treatment regimen is complete. We must remember that below the desired BMI levels, efficacy of certain drugs may not be optimal, if not at all. To start with, we can try to incorporate initial BMI screening especially for more at-risk categories such as children and elderly at the point when patients are being screened for suspected TB.

There do exist modalities in some States to provide enhanced ration to patients through PDS linkages, and even supplementary nutrition through food baskets. A 2018 report by the Health Ministry on Patient Support Systems for TB Elimination has several recommendations in this regard that could be revisited and explored by the States for further implementation. Within the larger architecture of such recommendations, States can design targeted food baskets considering local preferences as well as infrastructure available for supply chain management. It will also be useful to have a prioritised beneficiary list comprising the most vulnerable sections of society so the nutritional resources can be allocated to those who need it the most.

Finally, the research community, which we are also a part of, does play a critical role in keeping the conversation on TB services alive. However, efforts to mitigate TB can only be amplified by increased intersectoral collaboration, considering the magnitude of the crisis. Multiple determinants of TB like poverty, malnutrition, urbanisation, indoor air pollution, sanitation, migration, etc, remain outside the purview of the health department. They may fall under different departments, but they share the commonality of being important factors in the TB narrative. For this reason, the TB programme's initiative to create an inter-Ministerial committee is welcome. It is crucial to foster convergence between different departments to ensure TB-Mukt Bharat. Such unity of purpose can only help the Jan Andolan against TB and ensure the disease is eliminated by 2025.

(Dr C Padmapriyadarsini is Director, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis; Dr R Hemalatha is Director, ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition)

It has been highly encouraging to see health-nutrition being foregrounded by the Government within the national development narrative. This is also an occasion to understand why such focus must be sustained on a war-footing for some areas which are strongly linked with and fall under the ambit of undernutrition and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. It is crucial to foster convergence to start a Jan Andolan against TB and ensure the disease is eliminated by 2025

C PADMAPRIYADARSINI

R HEMALATHA

sunday magazine
the pioneer
agenda

MUSIC IS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE SPIRITUAL AND THE SENSUAL LIFE
— LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

ARIES March 21-April 19

Your efforts for being in good health will pay you well this week. You feel energetic, creative, and versatile. There is a sense of purpose in life. You may consider activities like yoga, *pranayama* and meditation to keep yourself fit and rejuvenated. Spirituality will help you restore your confidence and add meaning to life. On the career front, you may find things going much better, almost out of the blue. A powerful person is likely to support you. This is a good time to ask for a raise or to seek employment that pays more if you are so inclined. Overall, your career front is looking up. In the context of love, it's important to remember that no relationship can stand up to constant analysis. Try to give your beloved some space.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Off-White
Lucky day Monday

TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will feel a surge of energy. You will be filled with confidence and be in the best of your health. Your health efforts will bear fruit. Do consider alternative ways to deal with health challenges. Professionally, the way your career graph is going, you need a break and professional counselling. Seek advice from a senior. To maintain control over your domain, guidelines from an expert will help you get that boost in your career. Join a virtual professional course/seminar or workshop to increase your skills. On the love front, there will be tension. You may face rejection or break-up. The singletons will remain single. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding whether in love or marriage.

Lucky number 1
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday

GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you need to let go of the past to move forward. You must look within yourself to analyse the areas of fear, trying to hold onto things. Non-attachment with anyone or anything will give you the independence to decide things. Learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. Be open to changes as it is the only constant in life. This week professionally, the need of the hour is to give your time and attention to your work. You need to be sure that your work balance is where it needs to be. Do justice to your work. Avoid confrontations and conflicts with the people in the work area as that will only tarnish your image. You find success in love and rejoice this week.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday

CANCER June 21-July 22

This is a great week for creativity and optimism, and you believe that everything will turn out in your favour. You are generous and willing to share. You have learnt to accept your flaws and to accommodate others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Health will be fine, and you enjoy it. On the work front, the feel-good factor will bring a smile to your face. This week you find the support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be recommended for promotion. Make the best use of this time. On the love front, you may have your eye on someone who you feel is not treating you the way they should. It may be that you need to stop dreaming about this person completely.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday

LEO July 23-Aug 22

The week starts with never-ending activities like meeting, attending to guests etc. This will give you no time for yourself. You are working hard. There are chances may hurt yourself. Stay focused while you drive and use all safety measures to avoid any unpleasant situation. On the work front, you feel at ease as things are going in your favour. Great things come in a small package, and this is what will happen to you. There will be new opportunities in a job, and those who are unemployed will get that job in their desired field. On the personal front, your partner may put things in some challenging situations and give you excuses for not accepting your relationships.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Avert anger and aggression. Listen to your body and treat it well. Seek the advice of an elderly in the family, maybe your mother or aunt. Her homemade remedies will bring you relief from your current health problems. Workwise, you are filled with the guts and try your level best to achieve what you want in life. Those who are waiting for the final verdict in court in legal hassle will be pleased to get the case in their favour. Those in media, opposition, and justice etc fields will do well this week. On the personal front, love is not happening, neither you have time to think about matters of the heart. The existing relationships too may suffer due to the lack of understanding and busy schedule.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Health looks promising this week. Some of you may gradually regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity. This is a great time to try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. Exercise, eating well, and making sure that you get enough sleep are all common approaches that you can consider. On the work front, there is a change of place — relocation, posting or transfer, is indicated. You are filled with new hopes and aspirations as it is your desired post, one for which you have been aspiring for a long time. The new avenues of progress will be opened, and you get a chance to prove your worth & potentials. On the personal front, you are demanding and very strict in your relationships, and this attitude will not go in married couples' favour.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Thursday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week some challenges are foreseen on the health front. Different problems may come up together and make you restless. Gastric issues, BP and depression might affect you. Your emotions and sensitivity is affected. You should spend more time relaxing. On the career front, your work graph will take a new turn this week, as your potentials will be duly recognised. The finance part will also improve. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. This is a week of attainment, accumulation and finding inner satisfaction. On the personal front, be cautious in your relationships. You may be marked as arrogant or incompatible. Married couples may not be in harmony and want their own space to escape any conflict and tension.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Rose Gold
Lucky day Tuesday

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Despite the challenges you are facing, you will feel on top of the world. Appreciation for a job well done on the domestic front will be encouraging. You have the blessings of elders, and it radiates in your personality. You have inner satisfaction, with positive energy after easing a difficult situation. On the career front, a good message is on the cards. Some of you will be promoted and assigned an important task that will give a boost to your career. You might attend a virtual seminar or training session to enhance your skills. The stars are with you, and you enjoy the results of your hard work. In love, you may not be lucky this week. If you like someone goes ahead and express yourself. Avoid the loose talk as it may affect your relationship.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week positive energy flows in your veins. You must use this energy in some creative pursuits. This can be a very creative time for you, and a good time for you to dream, play and be inventive as a child. On the professional front, things are likely to go your way. This seems to be an excellent time career-wise. A raise or promotion is certain for those who work in the private sector. Stay focused and the approach of a senior official will help make your work easy. On the relationship front, you need to talk to your partner one on one to sort out the confusion which has been created intentionally or unintentionally between you two. Take out some time and plan a romantic endeavour to boost up your love life.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Camel Brown
Lucky day Friday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are confused and pondering a change in your life's direction. Health is fluctuating and affecting the quality of life. You need guidelines, a session of counselling to gain the results of your past behaviour. It is never too late to improve. Sow the seeds today for a better tomorrow. On the work front, there will be challenges. With your determination and willpower, you are likely to take hold of the situations and emerge out as a winner. Some technical aspects may create problems and take most of your time. On the personal front, this week is likely to bring love to the centre stage of your life. This is either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You share your joy with those around you who need it.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will be balancing five elements in life for harmony between body, mind, and soul. Those with ongoing health issue may benefit from undertaking alternative therapy like nutritional counselling, massage, dietary restriction etc. Professionally, you need career counselling at this stage to sharpen your skills. Attending short courses, workshops, or lectures etc will help you in your goals. Work should be going very well if you can be organised and work as per the rules. Relationship wise you are lucky as the people around you hear you with respect and value your ideas. Professional and personal both the fronts you live life king size. In love, you make impression on your partner with your positive and honest approach.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Worship in celebratory mode

India has a tradition of worshipping in celebratory mode. When you offer prayers in a festive mode, you enjoy doing it spiritedly. You then involve your body and mind as a whole into prayers. Evidently then, you can expect desired result. The purpose of most of the festivities is not just pursuance of some age old arbitrary beliefs. The intent is to be geared up from within to encash the opportunities arising in emerging productive cycle. Also, combat and overcome all challenges coming in the way in all strength and with ease and comfort.

Even the timing is important. The festive season begins with the onset of Durga Puja on the first lunar day of waxing phase of *Ashvin* month. It is marked with a particular phase of nature during its annular course, when its energy orchestra is about to strike its lowest. For, the Sun, nature's prime energy provider operating from the front, begins to move towards to the farthest end, from the part of the globe we are situated.

During its southerly course, the Sun would be closing up with the western horizon, where as we are situated towards the eastern horizon in the northern hemisphere. The weather cycle also remains in a state of flux at this point of time — from Autumn to Winters — which is often disease prone. Accordingly, we need to be invoke our *shakti* from within to bear with the callings of changing weather.

During *Navaratra*, which has just concluded, we begin with offering prayers to Durga. Nothing moves in this dynamic world without *shakti*. Physical efforts apart, even mind process is a play of *shakti*. The irony, however, is that *shakti* is a double edged weapon. It can be used productively, and if misused knowingly or unmindfully, could prove self-defeating, as *shakti* doesn't have a drive of its own. The way you apply is how it will act.

Focus on the imagery of the Goddess Durga, shows us the way to direct our *shakti* rightfully towards productive application. That is why all forms of *shakti* — physical, aspirational or intelligence — are epitomised in motherly forms. For, mother pulls in all resources in hand, to bear with and then selflessly nurse the child. Durga is mounted on a lion. When it goes for a kill, moves carefully and intelligently without wasting its energy, till the prey would be within reach. It then evokes all its energies and promptly strike. It, however, won't go for its next kill, till it becomes hungry once again. So, even the killing is need based, not greed based. Armouries in her 10 hands are there to combat challenges coming from all directions, from within or beyond.

The particular focus is on the inconsistencies of our 10 sensory organs, which, with its monkey like flirtatious tendencies, could prove more devilish than external forces. Lotus flower associated with mother symbolises being devoid of any sense of ego, and unattached lends support in equal proportion to all. Though lotus grows out of mud in a pond, its leaves and petals won't hold even a trace of muck or water droplets.

During its nine day sojourn, the first three days are exclusively dedicated to Durga, the epitome of physical power. During the following three days, Goddess Laxmi identified with our creative urges and aspirations is also worshipped. Last three days of worship, involves Saraswati identified with wisdom and intelligence. The purpose is to use the three modes of *shakti* in a coordinated way, so as to derive maximum benefit out of our initiatives. *Shakti* is to be directed towards fulfilment of our creative urges and aspirations. Intelligence, in the first place, helps weigh all options in hand, overcome our greed, and prioritise need based application. Second, it helps articulate our actions and responses in a measured way. Third, it helps combat emerging challenges with prudence and patience.

Durga Puja is followed by Diwali, when we encounter the darkest night, as both the luminaries, the Sun and Moon are bang on the western horizon. On this day, Goddess Laxmi is worshipped once again, and in Bengal, Goddess Kali. The purpose obviously is to be geared up afresh to negotiate the callings of emerging productive cycle. The festive season concludes with *Chattha*, celebrated in Bihar and eastern part of UP, which of late with migration, has been spreading to the other parts of the nation. On this occasion, as the Sun begins gaining ground, we offer our prayers to thee to further gain strength.

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