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NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



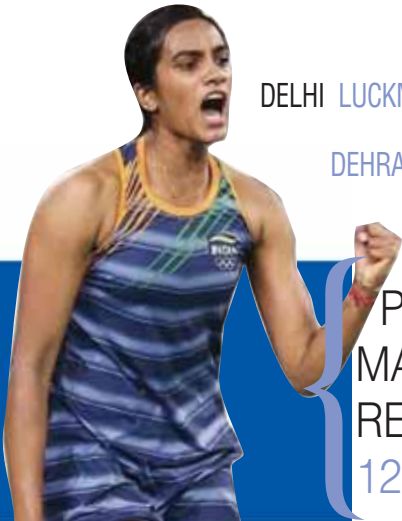
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PV SINDHU
MAKES WINNING
RETURN
12 SPORT



Rain wreaks havoc in U'khand, 42 lives lost

4 killed in UP,
Kerala flood
situation grim

PNS ■ DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

Heavy rain wreaked havoc in many parts of Uttarakhand for the second consecutive day on Tuesday killing at least 42 people in Kumaon region as several houses collapsed, taking the toll due to rain-related incidents in the State to 47. Uttar Pradesh witnessed four fatalities, even as heavy downpour in Kerala filled several dams to the brim and multiple districts were on alert.

Twenty-eight people were killed in Nainital district, six each in Almora and Champawat, and one each in Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar districts, the official said. Around 100 people stranded at the Lemon Tree resort on the Ramnagar-Ranikhet route after water from a swollen Kosi river entered the resort were later evacuated to safety.

Electricity, telecom and internet connectivity in Nainital remained badly hit



Submerged cars are seen at a flooded hotel resort as extreme rainfall caused the Kosi River to overflow at the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand on Tuesday

AP

throughout the day.

As per the information given by the State emergency control room, eight people are reported missing while many have suffered injuries.

The rainfall in many places of Kumaon broke all previous records. Scores of roads in different parts of the State are blocked due to landslides and some of the important bridges have suffered damage. The rail connection between Lalkuan

and Kathgodam has been severed due to a breach of bridge on Gaula River in Haldwani.

All the major rivers of the State are flowing above the danger mark and low-lying areas in different parts of the State have been inundated with water.

Concerned over the fury of nature, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami over phone and assured every possible help to the State.

Dhami visited the disaster-affected areas of the State and also conducted an aerial inspection of many areas. He was accompanied by the Disaster Management Minister Dhan Singh Rawat and other senior officers. Nainital district was the worst-affected in the State as 18 people were reported dead in different incidents. In this district, five people are reported missing.

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China renews focus along Arunachal amid stand-off

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/RUPA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Amid continued tension at the border in Ladakh in the west, China has stepped up its military presence in the east, including Arunachal Pradesh. It has also built infrastructure close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) besides enhancing the intensity of its military drills.

Not willing to take any chances, India has taken adequate measures and correspondingly firmed up contingency plans to deal with any threat in that sector, Eastern Command chief Lt General Manoj Pande said on Tuesday.

Giving a sense of the situation in the sensitive eastern sector, Pande said the Chinese army has stepped its annual training exercises in their depth areas. Moreover, additional troops deployed by China in the east after the Ladakh stand-off last year remain there, he said.

The Eastern Command chief also noted China is setting up dwelling units or hamlets close to the hamlet and said the "dual-use" of these villages was a matter of concern.

The Asapila sector in Arunachal Pradesh was among the areas where the Indian Army observed infrastructure



Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Manoj Pande

development by PLA close to LAC, and it had led to a corresponding increase in troop deployment there, he said.

The main objective of the Chinese drills was to launch integrated operations and India has taken adequate counter-measures, including a sufficient number of troops in all the sectors in the east, Pande said. The LAC in the east, including Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, is nearly 1,400 km.

On face-off between troops of India and China at Naku La

in north Sikkim, he said patrols came face-to-face in the area because of different perception of the LAC, and protocols were in place to resolve the situation even though sometimes confrontations lasted longer.

Scores of Indian and Chinese soldiers were involved in a face-off in Naku La in May 2020, with rival troops suffering injuries in the incident following an exchange of blows. Another face-off took place in Naku La between the two sides earlier this year.

Given the increased Chinese activities on its side of the LAC, the Indian Army has increased surveillance along the border using satellites, long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and other hi-tech intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) systems, Pande said.

The Eastern Command chief also said the focus is on honing the surveillance capabilities using niche technologies, including modern aerial platforms, a superior network of radars, hi-tech night vision systems, and modern communication equipment.

He said the Army's new mountain strike corps, raised to counter the Chinese threat in the east, was fully operational now.

He said new equipment deployed in the Ladakh sector is being simultaneously inducted in the east, with the focus being on enhancing mobility, drone and counter-drone systems, precision-guided ammunition and surveillance systems.

Giving an account of India's overall military modernisation, Pande also said in-principle approval was given to new combat formations called the Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) which can mobilise fast with a more effective approach.

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Few takers for 2nd shot as India nears 100-cr mark, Govt worried

Experts attribute it to growing complacency as cases decrease

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the Government hopes to breach the ambitious 100-crore Covid doses mark on October 21, poor response to the second dose of Covid-19 among people is leaving it jittery.

Health experts have attributed it to growing complacency among beneficiaries in view of reports of nationwide low infection. The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday in a review meeting asked the States and Union Territories to re-plan their strategy and rope in ASHA workers and focus on convincing people about the importance of full vaccination.

India has so far vaccinated



more than 70 per cent of the adult population with the first dose, whereas around 30 per cent of the target population has been vaccinated with the second dose or is fully vaccinated.

According to reports, while the States have been maintaining a comfortable balance of vaccine stock in hand, the number of doses administered is relatively low. For instance, on Saturday last week, the stock available with States stood

at 11.12 crore vaccines, whereas they administered a total of around 38 lakh doses. Similarly, on Wednesday, a balance of around 8.50 crore was available with States whereas the doses administered stood at 50 lakh. On Thursday, 27 lakh doses were administered, whereas 8.89 crore doses were available.

The Ministry noted that a sizeable number of eligible beneficiaries had not received their second vaccine dose.

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Priyanka announces 40% quota to women in UP polls

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

Amid move by political parties to tap the votes of Brahmin, Backward, Dalit and other caste and communities for the coming Assembly elections, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday tried to attract half of the population by announcing 40 per cent reservations in the party tickets to women contestants in Uttar Pradesh.

Priyanka said her party's decision is based on realism and idealism. She said all women who want to bring about a change in the system, are welcome to come forward and contest elections.

"Any woman who wants to contest can give an application till October 15," she said.

She did not rule out contesting the Assembly polls in the State to lead from the front. "That is not the issue of contesting the polls and I had yet to take a call on it. Let's see how things progress on and it



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra being welcomed by the party workers at the party office in Lucknow on Tuesday

PTI

will be decided in time to come," she said.

Priyanka was addressing a Press conference here on Tuesday where she announced 40 per cent of seats reserved by the party in UP polls to be given on merit. Slamming Yogi Adityanath's Government on the issue of crime against

women, the Congress leader said UP CM has a "patriarchal mindset" and wants to keep women under supervision.

"What does UP CM say? He says women should live under parental guidance. When this is the thought process, I wonder in what generation of mindset they live. In

every speech you say *matao aur behno*. Yes, we are mothers and sisters but we also have an identity as a woman. What's the point when you can't recognise us as women," she asked.

"As I had said earlier, over the past 2 years wherever I went in Uttar Pradesh, I had seen women struggling, fighting for their rights. Every walk of women has been fighting for her rights. Violence against women has increased from Unnao to Hathras and to Lakhimpur, women has been victim of patriarchy, caste domination and exploration. I feel larger participation in politics is the key to fighting out against oppression," she said.

Priyanka said idealism and realism both should be in politics. "Both need to co exist. I truly believe it is both idealistic as well as realistic. 50 per cent of our society is women so what stops them from coming together. Effort is now being made to build this unity," she added.

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Multi-agency probe into Pandora starts

MAG to seek info from countries concerning Indian entities named through AEOI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Multi-Agency Group (MAG) started its preliminary investigation in the Pandora Papers case on Tuesday. The group is headed by the chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) JB Mohapatra.

The CBDT chairman held a meeting with officials of Enforcement Director (ED), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to go into the charges of secret offshore accounts held by entities and persons named in the Pandora Papers.

An International Consortium of International Journalists' report exposed the offshore accounts held by hundreds of people from more than 200 countries and territories.

"Only a few of the 380 Indian names and entities have appeared in the media so far. MAG will fast track its investigation once the rest of the names of Indian entities are released by ICIJ," ANI quotes sources as saying.

The agency decided to seek information from countries concerned on Indian entities through the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI). "Through AEOI tax authorities match the incomes earned or account held abroad, with that declared in their tax returns so as to detect instances, if any, of tax evasion," ANI quoted sources.

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B'desh PM asks Ministers to take action after attacks on Hindus

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday instructed her home minister to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion as she asked the people not to trust anything on social media without fact-checking.

The foreign ministry said in a statement that domestic elements that opposed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan 50 year ago were still propagating their "toxic narratives to instigate violence, hatred and bigotry".

Attacks on Hindu temples have intensified in Bangladesh since last Wednesday after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations. On late Sunday night, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of



Hindus in Bangladesh.

During the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Prime Minister Hasina instructed Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam was quoted as saying by the *Dhaka Tribune* newspaper.

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Growing anti-Hindu mindset in Bangladesh alarming: Taslima

New Delhi: Anguished over the anti-Hindu violence in Bangladesh, renowned writer Taslima Nasreen has said the country has now become a "Jehadistan" where madrasas are a breeding ground for fundamentalism and accused the

Sheikh Hasina government of using religion for political gains.

Hindus and Buddhists in Bangladesh have become "third class citizens" and the growing anti-Hindu mindset is alarming, the writer said.

Capt to launch party, to tie up with BJP if farm issue resolved

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader and former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said he would soon announce his own political party and is hopeful of a seat arrangement with the BJP if the farmers' issue is resolved in their interest.

Singh resigned as the Chief Minister of Punjab last month after a bitter feud with Navjot Singh Sidhu and infighting in the State Congress. The party high command replaced him with dalit Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi.

"The battle for Punjab's future is on. Will soon announce the launch of my own political party to serve the interests of Punjab & its people, including our farmers who've

been fighting for their survival for over a year," Singh said on Tuesday.

The former Punjab CM also said he will not rest until he secures the future of "my people and my State". "Punjab needs political stability and protection from internal and external threats. I promise my people I will do what it takes to ensure its peace and security, which is today at stake," he was quoted as saying by his media adviser.

"Hopeful of a seat arrangement with BJP in 2022 Punjab Assembly polls if Farmers Protest is resolved in farmers' interest. Also looking at alliance with like-minded parties such as breakaway Akali groups, particularly Dhindsa & Brahmputra factions," Singh said.

3 bank employees among 12 held for siphoning off money from NRI account

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has busted a gang, including HDFC Bank employees, for bid to withdraw money from accounts of a Non-resident Indian (NRI).

Around 12 people, including three HDFC Bank employees, have been arrested for this, officials said on Tuesday. The bank had filed a complaint after noticing several unauthorised attempts to access a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) account using internet banking services and to withdraw cash using a fraudulently obtained cheque book, the police said.

The miscreants also tried to replace a US-based mobile phone number associated with the bank account with an identical Indian number, they said.

HDFC Bank alleged 66 attempts were made to access the internet banking of the account. The miscreants had come to know somehow that the account was dormant and had huge funds, and they began gathering information about it, the police said.

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SC to hear Lakhimpur Kheri matter today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Wednesday the matter pertaining to the October 3 violence in Lakhimpur Kheri in which eight persons, including four farmers, were killed during a farmers' protest.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, which had on October 8 expressed dissatisfaction over the steps taken by the Uttar Pradesh Government in the brutal murder of eight persons, would hear the matter.

Ten people, including Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, have been arrested so far in connection with the case.

The top court is hearing the matter after two lawyers had written a letter to the CJI seeking a high-level judicial inquiry, also involving the CBI, into the incident.

Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV in Lakhimpur Kheri when a group agitating against the Centre's three new farm laws was holding a demonstration against the visit of Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on October 3.

Two BJP workers and a dri-



ver were beaten to death allegedly by the angry protesters, while a local journalist was also killed in the violence.

Several farmer organisations are protesting against the passage of three laws — The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 and Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 since last November.

The apex court had stayed the implementation of these laws in January.

Initially, the protests started from Punjab in November last year and later spread to

Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh

While hearing the matter on October 8, the apex court had questioned the Uttar Pradesh Government over the non-arrest of all the accused and had directed preservation of evidence.

The bench had said, the law must take its course against all accused and the Government has to take all remedial steps in this regard to inspire confidence in the investigation of brutal murder of eight persons.

The counsel appearing for the State Government had assured the top court on October 8 that all appropriate action would be taken in the case. **PTI**

Madhya Pradesh to give ₹20,500 cr power subsidy to farmers, domestic consumers

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved subsidy in power bills of over ₹15,700 crore for farmers, and the continuance of subsidy of ₹4,980 crore for domestic electricity consumers during the current fiscal.

It also gave the nod to a scheme under which tribal families in 16 districts would get doorstep delivery of foodgrains from PDS (ration) shops.

After the meeting held virtually and chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Home Minister and government spokesperson Narottam Mishra said the Cabinet decided to provide over ₹ 20,500 crore of subsidy on power bills to farmers and domestic consumers.

An official statement said later that continuance of the subsidy for domestic consumers, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and those in Below Poverty Line category, under the Grah Jyoti Yojana will cost the exchequer ₹4,981.69 crore.

A subsidy ₹15,722.87 crore will be given in bills of agriculture pumps (up to 10 horse power capacity) and other farm sector consumers. It is estimated to benefit about 21.75 lakh farmers.

SC and ST farmers owning up to one hectare of land will get free power supply, the statement said. The State Government also approved the Mukhyamantri Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana which will benefit tribals in 7,511 villages across 74 blocks of 16 districts.



Under the scheme, tribal families will get doorstep delivery of ration from Public Distribution System (PDS) shops.

This scheme will not be launched in the areas where bypolls are going to take place later this month, Mishra clarified.

"This is not a new announcement. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan had made this announcement on September 18 and it was approved today by the cabinet. This should not be linked to the bypolls," he said.

Byelections to three Assembly and one Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh are scheduled for October 30. **PTI**

YSRCP cadre attacked our offices in AP, TDP alleges; YSRCP denies

Amaravati: Ruling YSR Congress Party cadre on Tuesday allegedly ransacked Telugu Desam Party's headquarters at Mangalagiri near here, offices at Visakhapatnam and other places, blaming that a spokesperson of the opposition party made objectionable comments against the Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in a press conference.

TDP spokesperson K Pttabhi Ram earlier in the morning, objecting to police notices to former Minister Nakka Ananda Babu, made caustic remarks against Jagan Mohan Reddy.

"Telugu Desam Party strongly condemn the attacks by YSRCP goons on the party's headquarters and office in Visakhapatnam and on the residences of the party leaders. We don't understand whether we are living in a democratic country or a fascist country. Chief Minister and DGP should take the responsibility (for these attacks)," AP TDP president Atchannaaidu said.

He demanded that the Chief Minister should resign for failing to keep law and order under control.

Unidentified persons attacked Pattabhi's residence in Vijayawada, family members said.

Director General of Police Gautam Sawang said there were "sporadic reactions" across the State objecting to Pattabhi's comments. Appealing to people not to create law and order problems, he said leaders should refrain

themselves from making derogatory remarks.

"Some of the rank and file of YSRCP are objecting to the comments made by some leaders. There were some sporadic reactions. Everything is now under control. Some people must have been taken into custody," the DGP told PTI.

A press release from the DGP's office said additional forces have been deployed across the state and also requested the people not to get provocative. Stern action will be taken against people who make provocative remarks, he added.

Pattabhi said TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu has taken the issue to the notice of the centre and also spoke to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take note of the conditions prevailing in the state.

"The Centre should imitate steps to save democracy and takes stern action against Ganja mafia (in the state)," the TDP leader said. Refuting the YSRCP cadres' involvement in the attacks, party's senior legislator Malladi Vishnu said Pattabhi should not have used objectionable words on the CM. Vishnu alleged that Pattabhi was always making provocative comments and used abusive words against the YSRCP government.

"What relation the YSR Congress will have with these attacks? They are trying to drag our party to malign our image in the public. **PTI**

Swiss Ambassador meets Raj CM to discuss possibilities of mutual cooperation



Jaipur: The Ambassador of Switzerland to India, Dr Roff Hackner, met Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot on Monday evening at the Chief Minister's residence. This was a courtesy call by Hackner on Gehlot.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister discussed the possibilities of mutual cooperation between Rajasthan and Switzerland. He said that the State Government is going to organize State Investor Summit 'Invest Rajasthan-2022' in Jaipur on January 20 and 21, 2022 to encourage investment. In which participation of Swiss investors is also expected.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government has taken several important decisions to encourage investment in the State. In these, many important policies and programs have been implemented like MSME Act-2019, Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS-2019), Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy-2019, Solar and Wind Policy, One Stop Shop System. These policy reforms have created a better investment climate in Rajasthan.

Hackner apprised the Chief Minister that due to the huge investment opportunities and the continuous decisions being taken by the Rajasthan Government for Ease of Doing Business, a positive message has also been sent to Swiss companies and investors and they are showing interest to participate in this summit.

3 bank employees among 12 held for siphoning off...

From Page 1

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell) KPS Malhotra said, "Police conducted raids on 20 locations across Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, and arrested 12 people, including three employees of the bank who were involved in issuing the cheque book, updating the mobile phone number and removing the debt freeze of the account."

The group lured in an employee of the bank for issuing a cheque book and removing the account's debt freeze by promising her Rs 10 lakh. They also promised to buy insurance from her for Rs 15 lakh, a target assigned to her by the bank for appraisal purposes, the DCP said.

In the past too, attempts were made to withdraw money from this account, and two cases had been registered in Ghaziabad and Mohali, the police said.

More raids are in progress, they added.

HDFC Bank in statement said, "Our systems detected unauthorised and suspicious attempts to transact in certain accounts. We reported the matter to law enforcement agencies for further and necessary investigation, and lodged an FIR."

Based on the FIR, police have arrested some suspects, including bank staff, it said, adding, "We have suspended bank staff pending outcome of the investigation."



Jain community children take part in a programme appealing people to not use crackers on Diwali to help check the pollution, in Surat on Tuesday

PTI

B'desh PM asks Ministers...

From Page 1

Prime Minister Hasina, who joined the meeting through video conferencing from her official residence, also urged the people of the country not to trust anything on social media without fact-checking, he added.

She has instructed the home ministry to remain vigilant and take steps to prevent such incidents from recurring, Islam said.

Local media reported that six Hindus were killed in separate attacks, but the figures could not be confirmed independently.

"The Comilla incident is being investigated. What really happened can be known soon," he said, adding that the home ministry is working to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Prime Minister Hasina has promised to bring to justice the perpetrators of recent violence. She has announced to provide all possible assistance to the affected families.

The foreign ministry statement underlined that the Government of Bangladesh "unequivocally condemned those incidents and took serious note of the reactions from within and outside the Hindu community."

Regrettably, it said, the domestic elements that opposed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan 50 year ago were still

propagating their "toxic narratives to instigate violence, hatred and bigotry".

But the government took quick steps to contain the disturbing situation, calling out paramilitary and other elite law enforcement forces to support police and administration to secure the Hindu religious sites and idols, it said.

Police have arrested 450 suspected attackers in different parts of the country and a manhunt was underway to track down more.

"A total of 71 cases were filed and so far 450 people were arrested. The figure of cases and arrests could rise as a manhunt is underway to track down the culprits who are on the run to evade justice," a police spokesman said.

"The Government remains committed to prevent the recurrence of such untoward incidents and would expect that further complication or misunderstanding would be averted through responsible and fact-based reporting through all media platforms," the foreign office statement said.

The statement claimed that Bangladesh is perhaps the only country where the major religious festivals of all religions are observed as public holidays.

This year, on the occasion of Durga Puja, the Prime Minister donated Taka 30 million (USD 35,000) to the Hindu Kalyan Trust for the smooth observance of the festival.

Few takers...

From Page 1

The States and UTs should focus on the second dose, said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan after having a discussion and reviewing the mass vaccination drive across the country virtually with Health Secretaries and National Health Mission Managing Directors of states and UTs.

The Ministry also asked States and UTs to identify and prioritise districts with low coverage for focused action and explore requirements for mobilisation efforts, addressing local challenges, the need for additional Covid vaccination centres, and improving access in rural areas.

Officials have been asked to draft strategies such as the nationwide campaign to increase the uptake of the second dose of Covid-19 vaccines. "After the completion of 100 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine, there seems to be a need to promote the second dose. As the cases of infection are going down, people are also taking the second shot lightly and not turning up on their due dates," said a senior official at the Ministry.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, leading Hemato-Oncologist practicing in Fortis Hospital, Gurugram said people are becoming complacent as cases are declining. But they should know that the virus is still lurking in the air. "People should not lower their guard and seriously adopt Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. In fact not only people should get fully vaccinated, but the Government must also work on a strategy to provide booster doses," he said.

Dr RK Dhamija, head of the Neurological Department in Lady Hardinge Hospital expressed similar views and said vaccination means safety. At least vaccination will ensure that even if infected it will not be fatal, he added.

China renews focus...

From Page 1

The IBGs will comprise a mix of infantry, artillery, air defence, tanks, and logistics units, and the new setup is expected to revamp the Army's warfighting capabilities, particularly along the borders with China and Pakistan. "We have adequate forces that are available in each sector to deal with any contingency that may arise. We are practising and rehearsing various contingencies that may arise," he said.

Meanwhile, along with the drones, the Indian Army's aviation wing has also been deploying the Weapon System Integrated (WSI) variant of the Advanced Light Helicopter Rudra in the region adding more teeth to its tactical missions in the region. The government is also working on connecting Tangang with a railway network as part of the decision to enhance infrastructure in the region.

India and China have held 13 rounds of Corps Commander level talks to end the stand-offs in Eastern Ladakh. However, the latest round on October 10 failed to make any breakthrough with the Chinese side not agreeing to suggestions made by the Indian Army.

The military dialogue took place more than two months after the last round of talks that led to the disengagement of forward-deployed troops from Gogra, or Patrol Point-17A, which was one of the flashpoints on the LAC in Ladakh, in early August.

Multi-agency probe...

From Page 1

On October 5, the Centre ordered the Multi-Agency Group probe into the Pandora Papers case. In a statement, the CBDT had said the government has taken note of this and relevant investigative agencies would undertake an investigation in these cases and appropriate action would be taken as per law.

To ensure effective investigation of these cases, the government has also decided to proactively engage with foreign jurisdictions for obtaining information in respect of relevant taxpayers/entities.

Rain wreaks havoc...

From Page 1

In Ramgarh area of Bhawal Tehsil of Nainital, cloudburst triggered a landslide due to which a retaining wall fell over some huts of labourers. Nine people died while one was injured in the incident. Five people were reported dead in the Totapani village of Mukteshwar in Nainital district. In view of the incessant rains, Dhami reiterated his appeal to Chardham yatis to stay where they are and not to resume their journeys beyond the weather improved.

With 23 rain-related deaths on Tuesday, the State's toll rose to 28, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), which also said the Kumaon region was the worst-hit.

Five deaths were reported on Monday. Director General of Uttarakhand Police Ashok Kumar, who accompanied Dhami on a visit to the rain-hit areas of the Kumaon region, said roads, bridges and railway tracks have been damaged in Kathgodam and Lalkuan in Nainital and Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar.

It will take at least four-five days to repair the damaged tracks, Kumar told PTI.

Three Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters have arrived in the State and are assisting in relief and rescue operations. Two of them have been deployed in Nainital district, which has suffered extensive damage due to cloudbursts and landslides, Dhami said.

According to a rough estimate, around 100 pilgrims from different parts of Gujarat who had gone to Uttarakhand for the Chardham Yatra were stranded following heavy rains and landslides, Gujarat Revenue Minister Rajendra

Trivedi said.

The National Disaster Response Force has rescued over 300 people from flood-affected areas of Uttarakhand, the federal force said on Tuesday. The NDRF has deployed 15 teams in the State.

Meanwhile, heavy rainfall was reported from other parts of the country as well including

Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, according to the IMD, which forecast an intense spell of rain over east and north-east till Wednesday, and south peninsular region during next four-five days.

A 35-year-old woman and her mother-in-law died in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur after a wall of their house collapsed following heavy rains. In Bareilly, also in UP, two labourers died of electrocution in Bisalpur road after coming in contact with a solar panel following heavy rains, police said.

In West Bengal, the Met Department said heavy rainfall is very likely to continue till Thursday morning even as the low-pressure system that developed over the Gangetic Basin in the southern part of the state moved to Bihar, parts of which received heavy rains during the day. The weatherman warned of extremely heavy rainfall over Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Alipurduar till Wednesday morning and downpour till Thursday over all sub-Himalayan districts.

The IMD forecast more rain on Wednesday in Odisha, which has already been battered by low-pressure area-induced downpour for the last three days. Fishermen were advised not to venture into the Bay of Bengal for the next 48 hours.

Priyanka announces 40% quota to women in UP polls

From Page 1

Hitting out at the Opposition about her new women strategy, she said, "Our rivals will see it with a negative mindset. Let them do so. I believe the real purpose of politics is development and change for betterment. Today the meaning of politics has changed."

Claiming that there was effort to mislead people by false propaganda about development and better life, she asked, "Who is able to pay Rs 1,000 for a cooking gas cylinder? Who is not troubled with escalating prices of petrol and diesel?"

"People are thinking what actually betterment has taken place in their life. People are unable to meet the household expenses but advertisements claim that all is good," she alleged.

Meanwhile, when asked whether the same formula of 40 per cent reservation for women

would be extended to the Congress-ruled States, including Punjab, Priyanka said, "I am in charge of UP and we have taken this decision here. If they (Punjab), they are welcome to implement the formula." She said women were being divided on the basis of caste which weakened their battle for justice. "A woman's struggle is not limited to a gas cylinder or Rs 2,000. It goes beyond that. We have to rise above the shackles of casteism and communalism and come together as a group," she said.

When asked whether wives and daughters of leaders would not take advantage of this reservation, Priyanka said, "What is wrong with that if it leads to empowerment. In Amethi, a village pradhan's wife contested and won elections. After some months, he met me and said that his wife has started making decisions in the house as well. This is empowerment." She

said the Congress would help women fight elections and next time, they will be stronger. She further said the candidates would be decided on the basis of merit. Talking about the Opposition onslaught on her, Priyanka said, "The other parties should get more creative when they attack me. Political tourists and Twitter leaders have become stale," she said.

Priyanka is touring the poll-bound state for the last few months regularly and meeting the party workers. She is now all set to shift base permanently to Lucknow till elections are held.

Priyanka wants to send a message to the Congress workers that the party leadership is serious about its revival plans and wants to fight the next assembly polls with full force. Priyanka has asked party workers to strengthen the party at the block level, form committees and reach out to the public.

EMBEZZLEMENT OF ₹300 CRORE BANK LOAN CASE

EOW notice asks Niira Radia to join probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police on Monday served a notice on Niira Radia and other promoters and directors of Nayati Healthcare and Research NCR Pvt Ltd, to join the investigation in connection with the alleged embezzlement of an over ₹300 crore bank loan, next week. According to sources, Radia is now in London.

A senior police official said on Tuesday that they have arrested three accused, identified as Yateesh Wahaal, Satish Kumar Narula, and Rahul Singh Yadav, for misappropriation of crores of Rupees.

According to RK Singh, the Additional Commissioner of Police, EOW, a complaint was filed by orthopaedic surgeon



Rajeev Kumar Sharma against M/s Naarayani Investment Pvt Ltd., holding company of M/s Nayati Healthcare and Research NCR Pvt Ltd. and its promoters and directors Radia, her sister Karuna Menon, Satish Narula and Yateesh Wahaal and others.

"It is stated that he is the vice-chairman and executive director of Naarayani

Investment Pvt Ltd. The company was incorporated with a view to build and run a hospital in Gurugram and the complainant had 49 per cent shares whereas the remaining 51 per cent shares were held by other two directors of the company Chandan Mishra and Charchit Mishra," said the Additional CP.

"The complainant was also

promised a remuneration of ₹30 lakh per month as professional fees for his services. It is further stated that during the construction of Gurgaon Hospital, OSL Healthcare Pvt Ltd faced certain financial problems and majority shareholders/directors sold their shares (51%) to Naarayani Investment Pvt Ltd at the consideration of Rs 99 crores," he said.

"Once the alleged persons/company entered into the shoes of the majority shareholder, they took all the major decisions. It is alleged that the company took a loan of ₹312 crore from YES Bank for development of Gurgaon Hospital, but the money was not used for the said purpose and misappropriated by the alleged persons," said the Additional CP.

"It is further alleged that

they had not paid the complainant his professional fees worth ₹15.28 crore and brought down his shareholding deceitfully from 49 per cent to 6.3 per cent," he said.

"During investigation, it was found that Naarayani Investment Pvt Ltd has 93 per cent of shareholding and Radia is the main promoter of the company. After receiving a loan amount of ₹312 crore from YES Bank by the alleged company, a sum of ₹208 crore was transferred to a bank account in the name of Ahluwalia Construction," he said.

"On verification of the account, it was found that the account was opened by one Rahul Singh Yadav only with a view to divert or siphon off the loan amount as it was a dummy account," he said.

During investigation, it was also found that the transfer of ₹208 crore was authorized by Yateesh Wahaal and SK Narula, being director/authorised signatory of the loan account of the alleged company.

Police conducted raids at various places in Delhi-NCR and apprehended all three accused persons. After interrogation, all were arrested on Thursday," said the additional CP.

Other directors and promoters are being examined to ascertain their role and involvement in the whole incident. It is further found that money transferred to the account of Ahluwalia Construction was further transferred to several other beneficiaries, which are being verified during investigation.

MCDs doing nothing to control dengue, malaria, says AAP

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) accused the BJP-ruled municipal corporations of doing nothing on the ground to contain cases of vector-borne diseases in the national Capital. AAP senior leader and MLA Atishi on Tuesday said that the BJP-ruled MCDs are not leaving even a single opportunity to completely ransack and turn Delhi into a city of doom.

"On the one hand the Kejriwal Government is trying to reach each and every citizen in their anti-dengue campaign but on the other hand the MCDs are not even deputing their staff to check the situation," she said. Atishi further accused the corporations of committing criminal negligence by not doing anything to control the mosquito menace.

"BJP leaders have put the

budget of dealing with dengue-malaria in their own pockets instead of spending them on machines and medications. The MCDs have not bought anti-dengue medication for fogging even till this month. At least one fogging machine is required in every ward, but the MCDs do not even have enough fogging machines. How can one even trust them at this point," she asked? Reacting to the allegation, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that AAP leaders are in the habit of leveling allegations. "Municipal Corporations are running awareness campaigns, doing fogging and checking the spread of vector-borne diseases while Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal is wasting crores of rupees on hoarding campaigns," he added.

Centre extends ability of existing air quality early warning sys to have decision-making capability

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday extended the ability of the existing air quality early warning system (AQEWS) to have decision-making capability for air quality management in the Delhi-NCR region.

Union minister Jitendra Singh said the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), an autonomous institute of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has developed a new Decision Support System (DSS) and extended the ability of the existing air quality early warning system to have decision-making capability for managing the air quality in Delhi-NCR. A dedicated website has also been created to deliver quantitative information about the contribution of emissions from Delhi and surrounding 19 districts to the air quality in the national capital, the Ministry of Earth Sciences said in a statement. The need was stated by the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas during a meeting held in January and requested the Ministry of Earth Sciences institutions (IITM and IMD) for the same, it said.

"Recently, the commission has reviewed the progress made by IITM and has in principle approved the current version of DSS for air quality management in the Delhi-NCR region. IITM, Pune has also developed a new website for DSS and recently, the entire system has been made operational," the statement said.

PTI

DPCC slaps fine of ₹90 lakh on 286 construction sites

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on Tuesday said that it imposed penalties to the tune of ₹90 lac after finding violations at 286 sites across the State.

According to Environment Minister Gopal Rai, DPCC teams have visited 1,105 construction sites so far.

Delhi Government is running an Anti-Dust campaign from October 7 to control air pollution in Delhi.

"Anti-dust campaign is being run to save the people of Delhi from the danger of air pollution which is likely to affect their breath," Rai said, "All agencies should take up

construction work following the guidelines issued by the Delhi Government related to construction work, so that the fight against pollution can be carried forward strongly."

"All the teams have been instructed to submit daily reports, along with this, instructions have also been given that strict action should be taken against every single agency causing dust pollution, so that dust pollution can be controlled," Rai added.

Meanwhile, according to SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research), air quality in Delhi recorded 'satisfactory' on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI).

Delhi Government allows weekly off to FSP owners

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has withdrawn its order asking fair price shops (FPS) to remain open all seven days of the week and in a new directive allowed a weekly off for such shops owners in the city, officials said on Tuesday.

The move comes following the HC's directions to allow such ration distribution shop owners to take an off once a week. It may be recalled that the Delhi HC on September 23 in its order said that owners of fair price shops in the city will be permitted by the Government to have a weekly off to enable them to function efficiently. The Department of

Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs of the Delhi Government on Monday issued an order to implement the HC's directives. The HC of Delhi in its order dated 23/9/2021 has modified its earlier order dated 27/04/2021 to the extent that Fair Price Shop owners will be permitted to have a weekly off, to enable them function efficiently.

"Accordingly, in compliance with the latest directions of the High Court of Delhi, the instructions of the department issued wide order dated 05/05/2020 on distribution of food grains to beneficiaries on all seven days of the week are hereby withdrawn," the Food and Supply department said in the order.

EDMC runs green campaign

Plans to make Vikas Marg stretch single-use plastic-free

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

From conducting a prolonged drive to make a stretch of Vikas Marg free of single-use plastic to staging street theatres to raise awareness, the civic body in east Delhi is running a campaign to promote cleanliness and sustainability.




As part of its larger vision for a cleaner and greener environment, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) Tuesday launched 'Pollution Mitigation Action Plan 2021-2022'.

A senior official said the civic body has been running

the campaign to cut use of plastic, and civic teams are conducting awareness drives too, including through 'nukkad natak'.

Starting October 1, a month-long drive had been started to make a stretch of Vikas Marg single-use plastic-free as a demonstrative activity to motivate the masses and set an example.

"Our teams go on that stretch from time to time, and talk to people and distribute handbills to raise awareness," the official said. The campaign also finds space in the pollution mitigation action plan of the civic body.



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Maharishi Valmiki Ji

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Shah briefs Modi on J&K situation



PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and informed him about the steps taken by the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the Union Home Ministry to improve the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah reached PM Modi's official residence 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in the morning to brief him about the situation in Kashmir.

The two leaders discussed the atmosphere of fear created due to target killings by ter-

rorists in Kashmir. The Home Minister also informed the Prime Minister about the exodus of fear driven migrants from the Valley.

During the meeting with the PM, the Home Minister also briefed him about other important issues related to internal security.

In the last 16 days, terrorists have killed 11 non-local individuals in the Valley. Due to this an atmosphere of fear has been created there leading to the exodus of migrants.

Amit Shah will visit Jammu and Kashmir on October 23-25 and will hold important high-level meet-

ings with regard to the security situation in Kashmir. This is the first visit of the Union Home Minister to the union territory after the abrogation of Article 370.

During this visit, the Home Minister will not only give tips to improve security situation but will also make various announcements related to the developmental projects.

Earlier on Monday, Amit Shah held a marathon meeting with senior officials including DGPs, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, IB Chief and discussed the situation of internal security in detail.

NIA likely to take over probe into Kashmir Hindu labourers' killing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is likely to take over probes into the recent killings of Hindu migrant labourers and minority school teachers as also a local non-Muslim businessman in Kashmir Valley to unravel the possible larger conspiracy by Pakistan-sponsored Islamist terror groups.

Discussions are underway in the Union Home Ministry to entrust the four cases of recent civilian killings in Srinagar including the broad daylight murder of Kashmiri Pandit and pharma dealer ML Bindroo, street vendor Virendra Paswan of Bihar, and school teachers Supinder Kaur and Deepak Chand besides two more migrant labourers killed in Kulgam.

The NIA is mandated to probe terror crimes of inter-State or international ramifications and the recent of killings in the Valley are being assessed by the Intelligence

community as a reoriented terror tactic of the master-minds in Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its terror cohorts like the Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad among others.

The NIA is already investigating a number of terror-related cases in the Valley as also the drone attack at the Jammu airbase.

The frequency and the pattern of the terror hits on minorities and migrant labourers is part of a modulated shift in the ever-evolving terror tactics by Pakistan and the NIA probe would help unravel the grand conspiracy behind such targeted killings, sources here said.

The recent surge in the targeted killings in the Valley was thoroughly discussed in the National Security Strategy Conference held here on Monday.

The Conference chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah discussed the trend with the stakeholders in the

security agencies.

The civilian killings in the Valley have triggered an exodus of migrant labourers and non-Kashmiris which have been designed to project the administration as failing, an official said.

The terror attacks have also led to a fear psychosis among the Kashmiri Pandits who had braved the violence in the nineties to stay back in the Valley.

Following these attacks, the NIA had been informally providing assistance to the Jammu and Kashmir police that has been probing these cases.

Experts said the stone pelters who were released earlier as part of the peace overtures could be behind the recent killings.

In-charge Director General of NIA, Kuldeep Singh who visited Srinagar on Monday discussed these terror cases with Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh, sources said.

Govt to develop Northeast as bio-economic hub

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Nestled in Eastern Himalayan Region—home to mega-biodiversity rich zones and among the 34 biodiversity hotspots of the world—Northeast has drawn the attention of the Government which has decided to develop the region as India's bio-economic hub. The aim is to help it achieve its target of making India a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub by 2025 and ensure its position among the top 5 nations of the world, said Union Minister of State for Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday.

He said, there is a need to put these invaluable genetic resources to use for the economic growth of the region in particular and to the nation in general, through biotechnological interventions. He was speaking after his visit to the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal.

In fact, the Government has already started taking initiative in this direction by supporting various projects on a pilot basis. Recently, strawberry cultivation with sustainable agro-technological interventions using high-quality planting material in farmers' fields in Meghalaya was demonstrated jointly at Bio-Resources Development Centre, Shillong and Institute of Horticulture Technology, Mandira, Assam.

Similarly, about 50 tissue-culture raised plantlets of elite varieties of strawberry are proposed to be distributed to the farmers in Manipur.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that DBT-funded Phyto-pharmaceutical Lab Facility at IBSD is promoting the Phyto-pharmaceutical Mission of North Eastern Region. "This Mission that aims to promote the documentation, scientific validation and evaluation of traditional healthcare practices is an important step and assumes special significance in the context of the vast plant resources and diverse traditional healthcare practices of the North-East.

Dr Singh said, due to consistent and renewed focus of the Modi Government, India will be recognized as a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub by 2025 and will figure among the top 5 countries of the world.

"India's Bio-Economy is on its way to achieve a 150-billion-dollar target from the current 70 billion-dollar by 2025 and will contribute effectively to the Prime Minister's vision of a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2024-25," he said.

Dr Singh said that IBSD should not only become a center of excellence in the region with state-of-the-art facilities but also generate technology packages toward employment generation for the welfare of the people.

VHP condemns attacks on temples, Hindus in Bangladesh



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Tuesday condemned the incidents of attacks on temples and Hindus in Bangladesh and demanded the Indian Government to step in and save the community from the atrocities.

"The Hindu society won't tolerate inhuman atrocities being committed on Hindus. A demonstration will be held on October 20 in front of Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi. Demonstrations will also be held at dist. headquarters across the country, Dr Surendra Jain, joint general secretary, VHP, said.

The VHP also slammed the Sheikh Hasina government, alleging that the dispensation is not just a "mute spectator", but is "also hand-in-glove with the extremists".

"Ethnic cleansing of Hindus is happening in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan, while the UN is sitting like a mute spectator... This is a failure of the UN, which should send peace-keeping forces to these countries," Jain said.

At least six people have died in the attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh so far. The violence began last week when a Facebook live allegedly showed a blasphemous inci-

Jain said PM Hasina isn't interested in saving Hindus, and is instead motivating extremist elements in the country

dent at a Durga Puja pandal in Comilla city, sparking protests. Several Hindu religious sites have been vandalised, and homes attacked.

Jain said PM Hasina isn't interested in saving Hindus, and is instead motivating extremist elements in the country. "Minorities in all Muslim countries have to face the same issue and ethnic cleansing of minorities happen. In 1992, there were 22% Hindus (in Bangladesh) and now only 7% are left. The rest were killed or were thrown out of the country," he charged.

"More than 150 Durga idols have been disintegrated and over 300 pandals destroyed in Bangladesh, 12 Hindus have been killed, women have been gangraped and three ISKCON temples have been hired besides two priests killed," Jain claimed.

Data: Crop fires take India's global contribution to GHG emissions to 12.2%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Latest data analysis has shown that compared to the previous three years, there has been an increase in emissions due to crop fires in 2019-2020 by 12.8 per cent, taking India's global contribution to 12.2 per cent.

The new insights into recent trends in biomass fires, including emissions from forest and crop residue fires in India, showed a downward trend in crop fires being observed between 2016-19 citing a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to cropland fires by 11.39 per cent during the three years.

However, the data and analysis for GHG emissions available online, show that even when India tops the chart when it comes to crop fires, this particular emission quantum comes at 47th position when total emission categories from agriculture sector are considered. That inventory is dominated by enteric fermentation, managed soil, and rice cultivation.

Modi to interact with CEOs of oil firms over rising fuel prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of a steep hike in the domestic oil and diesel prices, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with CEOs and experts of the global oil and gas sector on Wednesday via video conferencing.

Fuel prices were hiked again on Sunday for the fourth consecutive day, mainly due to surging global crude oil prices. In the national Capital, petrol prices were hiked by 35 paise from ₹105.49 per litre to ₹105.84 per litre, while diesel rates were also hiked by 35 paise from ₹94.22 to ₹94.57, according to Indian Oil Corporation.

Interestingly, petrol now costs 33 per cent more than the price at which aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is sold to airlines. ATF in Delhi costs ₹79,020.16 per kilo litre or ₹79 per litre.

Prime Minister's interaction, the sixth such annual interaction which began in 2016, marks the participation of global leaders in the oil and gas sector, who deliberate upon



key issues of the sector and explore potential areas of collaboration and investment with India, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Prime Minister Modi will interact with CEOs and experts of the global oil and gas sector on October 20 at 6 PM via video conferencing, it said.

The broad theme of the upcoming interaction is promotion of clean growth and sustainability.

The interaction will focus on areas like encouraging exploration and production in hydrocarbon sector in India,

energy independence, gas-based economy, emissions reduction through clean and energy efficient solutions, green hydrogen economy, enhancement of biofuels production and waste to wealth creation, according to the PMO.

CEOs and experts from leading multinational corporations and top international organisations will be participating in this exchange of ideas, the statement said.

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri will be present on the occasion.

IMD predicts clear sky in Delhi

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast 'mainly clear sky' in the national capital on Tuesday, with the maximum temperature likely to hover around 29 degrees Celsius and the minimum at 19.9 degrees Celsius.

As per the morning update, a temperature of 22.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at 8.30 a.m. with a relative humidity of 91 per cent. The wind was blowing in the southwest direction at a speed of 12.9 km per hour.

The city observed sunrise at 6.25 a.m. and the sun is likely to set at 5.48 p.m.

In the past 24 hours, the maximum temperature was

recorded at 23.9 degrees Celsius, nine notches departure from normal, and the minimum was at 19.9 degrees Celsius. The city witnessed heavy rainfall on Monday that plummeted the temperature.

According to the IMD, the national capital has received 94.6 mm of rain in October so far the highest in 65 years, when 236.2 mm of rain was received in the whole month in 1956. The 24-hour accumulated rainfall is also the highest since then.

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) said Delhi-NCR's Air Quality Index (AQI) improved to "good" towards Monday evening with PM 2.5 pollutant recorded at 43 and



PM 10 at 25.

Usually, the air quality is categorised as "good" when AQI is between 0 to 50, "satisfactory" between 51-100, "moderate" between 101-200, "poor" between 201-300, "very poor" between 301-400, "severe" between 401-500, or "hazardous" at 500+.

Delhi, generally, has good to satisfactory air quality. However, the pollution levels during October to February

due to various factors including stubble burning, road dust, vehicle pollution, and cold weather lead to a deterioration in the AQI.

Notably, Delhi has 36 monitoring stations that accurately record the levels of both particulate matters. As per the latest update at 9.45 a.m., the other pollutants Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and ozone (O3) were recorded at 12 and 76, respectively.

Former BJP, now TMC leader Supriyo resigns as Lok Sabha member



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former BJP Member of Parliament Babul Supriyo seems to be quite undecided whether the BJP "trusts" him or distrusts him or vice versa.

After attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "not trusting Bengalis enough", former BJP leader Babul Supriyo on Tuesday turned melodramatic following his resignation as an MP saying his "heart is heavy" and thanked the PM and the Home Minister Amit Shah for "showing confidence" in him.

Soon after quitting the BJP and joining the Trinamool Congress, Supriyo had accused Modi of either not

trusting Bengalis enough or failing to establish harmony with them. Supriyo who held ministerial positions in the Modi-Government at the Centre was dropped on July 8 reshuffle in the Union Council of Ministers along with a few other senior BJP leaders.

Immediately after leaving the BJP, about two-months following his exit as a Union Minister, the singer-turned-politician had changed his tune and accused Modi of not only trusting enough Bengalis but also others like BJP MP from Bengal SS Ahluwalia.

"During my stint of seven-eight years in Delhi, I have come to know that the Prime Minister either does not have faith in Bengalis or is not able to establish harmony somewhere," Supriyo had said.

"Why only me? There are even senior people than me. Ahluwaliaji came from the Congress he is a senior leader or, those people who are winning from Bengal and going there are not being trusted there is a lack of harmony somewhere," thus spoke the former BJP MP then.

Zomato faces netizens' flak after its staff asks TN customer to learn Hindi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Fabindia, food delivery giant Zomato has found itself under the netizen scanner and drawn massive criticism on social media platform Twitter after a customer service executive asked a customer from Tamil Nadu to learn the "national language" Hindi to be able to converse. The issue erupted when a screenshots of the conversation were shared on Twitter by a user named @Vikash67456607, who alleged the executive called him a liar and said everyone should know Hindi. This has triggered a major Twitter backlash with the hashtag #Reject_Zomato trending on top at the social media

site.

After trending on Twitter, Zomato apologised to Vikash and also issued a statement both in Tamil and English, stressing that the company stood for diversity.

Vikash, who was facing trouble with his order, reached out to Zomato's customer care service after an item from his order, placed via the delivery app, was left out. The executive told Vikash that they were unable to get clarity from the restaurant due to a "language barrier". Vikash then demanded a refund and said, "If Zomato is available in Tamil Nadu, they should have hired people who understand the language."

To this, the customer care executive replied, "For your kind information, Hindi is our national language. So, it is very common that everybody should know Hindi little bit." Again Vikash posted the screenshots on his Twitter handle and wrote, "Customer care says the amount can't be refunded as I didn't know Hindi. Also takes lessons that being an Indian I should know Hindi. Tagged me a liar as he didn't know Tamil. @zomato not the way you talk to a customer."

Soon, Twitter was flooded with posts denouncing Zomato and #RejectZomato trended on the micro-blogging site. A user wrote: "You don't have



customer support in Tamil language then how can you sending notification in Tamil. Another Twitter wrote, "Hindi is not the national language, It

is just one of the official languages of India."

After trending on social media, Zomato apologised to Vikash and also issued a state-

ment both in Tamil and English which started off with the traditional Tamil salutation "Vanakkam" Tamil Nadu, it said the company was "sorry" for the behaviour of its former employee. "We have terminated the agent for their negligence towards our diverse culture. The termination is in line with our protocols and (the) agent's behaviour was clearly against the principles of sensitivity that we train our agents for on a regular basis," the statement uploaded on Zomato's Twitter handle said. It said the sacked employee's statements do not "represent our company's stance towards language and diversity."

Zomato further said it was

building a Tamil version of its mobile app and that it had already localised its marketing communication in the local language in the state. It also pointed to roping in well-known Tamil musician Anirudh Ravichander as its local brand ambassador.

However, company founder Deepinder Goyal later announced reinstating the sacked agent, saying it was "an ignorant mistake" on the part of the employee. In a series of tweets, he said "an ignorant mistake by someone in a support centre of a food delivery company became a national issue. The level of tolerance and chill in our country needs to be way higher than it is nowadays.

Who's to be blamed here?" We should all tolerate each other's imperfections and appreciate each other's language and regional sentiments, he said.

Fabindia's new collection that launched before Diwali, christening 'Jashn-e-Riwaaz' also ran into a boycott trend with several users urging consumers to boycott the brand. Users called this "de-Hinduising Deepawali". Following this, the company had to take down some tweets promoting the collection. Learning platform Unacademy, beauty platform Nykaa, edtech platform Byju's have been subjected to Twitter trials very recently.

CPM rebuilding image, party structure in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It is springtime for the CPI(M) in Kerala. The party is all set to emerge as the undisputed leader in the State as more and more Congress leaders ditch their parent organisation and cast the lot with the Marxists. The resignation of P V Balachandran, former chief of Wayanad District Congress Committee, had shocked the Grand Old Party despite the fact that the former does not command any following in the region. Wayanad parliamentary constituency is represented by Rahul Gandhi, former AICC President.

The surprising element in these defections are that unlike in the rest of the country, leader who ditch the Congress join the CPI(M) with the full knowledge that they would be on probation for years in the new camp and may not make it as big in the near future.

The CPI(M)'s Kerala unit, which was facing a series of allegations including the role of certain leaders in gold smuggling, is putting all the charges behind it and is on a path to invigorate the party. The branch, area, local and city committee conventions of the

CPI(M)'s Kerala unit, which was facing a series of allegations including the role of certain leaders in gold smuggling, is putting all the charges behind it and is on a path to invigorate the party

party are in progress as a prelude to the triennial State Conference and the Party Congress which would be held early 2022.

The party's leadership has cracked whip over those who created chaos during the 2019 Lok Sabha and 2021 assembly elections. Many regional and local satraps of the party against whom there were charges of corruption and carelessness. Local leaders like N C Mohanan (former chairman of public sector unit TELK) and C K Mani Shankar have been suspended for acts of indiscipline sending string message to the cadre that no one is above the party discipline.

Many frontline leaders in the districts have either been suspended or put under observation by the secretariat while some have been asked to work as branch committee members, the lowest wrung in the CPI(M). "Though the CPI(M) has many inherent problems, the party is blessed with dedi-

cated cadre who are neither corrupt nor communal. They will sustain the party in the long run," said E Balakrishnan, a PhD holder on The History of Communist Movement in Kerala.

He pointed out that the CPI(M) ensures that the cadre keep abreast of all political and social issues haunting the State as well as the country.

The decision of all those who left the Congress to join the CPI(M) is to be seen in this perspective, said a national leader of the BJP. "The biggest and largest Hindu party in Kerala is the CPI(M). The BJP has no relevance here. You should understand the kind of work put in by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his colleagues like M V Govindan to develop the party. There are no leaders in the BJP or Congress in Kerala who can match their stature," said the BJP leader on condition of anonymity.

Life has come a full circle for the CPI(M), as Sandeep Nair, one of the prime accused in the infamous gold smuggling case who came out on bail recently saying that there was pressure on him to name Vijayan and other CPI(M) leaders as accused.

Covid toll crosses 27K in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

With the Kerala Minister for Health Veena George announcing on Tuesday that 77 persons succumbed to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours, the total fatalities recorded till date in the State crossed the 27,000 mark. On Tuesday, 7,643 new patients were diagnosed with Covid-19 out of the 82,408 samples tested during the last 24 hours.

Test Positivity Rate came down to 9.27 per cent in the State much to the relief of the medical fraternity and the State administration. Thrissur is the only district that logged more than 1000 new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday (1017). As on Tuesday, the death toll stood at 27,002 while the total number of Covid-19 cases across the State showed 80,262.

Army chief visits forward areas along LoC

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane on Tuesday took a first hand assessment of the ongoing counter terrorist operations going on in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch. Senior army officers of the Nagrota based 16 corps headquarters briefed him about the present situation and ongoing counter infiltration operations in the region. Elite para commandos of the Indian army are also preparing for the offensive to flush out the terrorists holding on in the thickly forested area for the last nine days.

Meanwhile, local villagers in the nearby forward villages were strictly directed to remain indoors on Tuesday. These announcements were made via loudspeakers fitted atop mosques in the area to prevent movement of civilians in the forested area where operations are currently going on to flush out the heavily armed terrorists.



Army chief General MM Naravane taking stock of the situation along the LoC in Poonch on Tuesday

The ongoing operation is turning out to be one of the longest counter terrorist operations in recent history.

In January 2009, the Indian Army had called off a similar operation on the ninth day in Bhati Dhar area of Poonch. Three Indian soldiers were killed in action while four terrorists were reportedly neutralised during the operations. The army, however, could not retrieve the dead bodies of the terrorists.

"General MM Naravane COAS (Chief of Army Staff) visited forward areas of

WhiteKnight Corps & undertook a first-hand assessment of the situation along the Line of Control. COAS was briefed by commanders on the ground about the present situation & ongoing counter-infiltration operations," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army tweeted.

So far, eight people, including a mother-son duo, have been detained for questioning in connection with providing logistic support to the terrorists. Security experts

believed the group of terrorists holding on in the area are well equipped and better trained than regular infiltrators.

Sharing his observations with regard to the ongoing operations in Poonch, Retired Brigadier Anil Gupta told The Pioneer, the terrorists hiding in the area are well versed with the topography and have been present in the area for a long time. Brigadier Gupta also claimed the role of the Pakistan army regulars in this operation cannot be ruled out.

He said due to active involvement in the Eastern sector the counter infiltration grid in the region was possibly compromised which led to the infiltration of a large group of infiltrators. He, however, maintained it is not appropriate to speculate on the actual numbers of the terrorists holding on in the thickly forested area of Poonch.

So far nine Indian soldiers have sacrificed their lives in the ongoing operations since October 11, 2021.

PM afraid of speaking on China, says Owaisi

Our soldiers have died. Will you play T20?, Owaisi asks Modi

Hyderabad: Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for keeping "quiet" on the rising fuel prices and Chinese "intrusion" in Indian territory, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi here alleged that Modi is afraid of talking about China.

The Hyderabad MP also said targeted civilian killings was going on in Kashmir due to failure of the BJP-led Central Government.

"The Prime Minister never speaks on two things--rise in petrol and diesel prices and on China which has entered our country and is sitting inside. The prices have skyrocketed but the Prime Minister does not speak anything," the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief said while addressing a public meeting here on Monday night.

"And now China has entered and sitting inside our country. When Pakistan did Pulwama (attack) then Modi had said 'ghar

mein ghus ke mareng' (will hit them inside their home) but now China has entered and sitting in India but he is not doing anything. India's Prime Minister is afraid of talking about China," Owaisi alleged.

He further said "Nine of our soldiers were killed (in Jammu and Kashmir recently) and on October 24 there is a T20 match between India and Pakistan (India's upcoming T20 World Cup game against Pakistan)".

"Modi ji...Nine of our soldiers were killed and will you play T20? Pakistan is playing T20 in Kashmir with lives of Indians. Poor workers from Bihar are getting killed and targeted killing is happening. What is the IB (Intelligence Bureau) and Amit Shah (Union Home Minister) doing. What is the Intelligence doing in Kashmir," Owaisi asked.

"Weapons are coming and terrorists are coming from Pakistan and will you play match," he said, adding what is happening in Kashmir is the failure of the BJP-led central Government, which, he claimed, does not have a policy to deal with terrorism.

PTI

Assam bypolls: Nearly 8L voters eligible to decide fate of 31 candidates in 5 seats

Guwahati: A total of 7,96,456 voters are eligible to decide the fate of 31 candidates in the by-elections to five Assembly seats in Assam on October 30, an official release said on Tuesday.

Of the total electorate, 4,03,374 are males, 3,93,078 females and four are transgender. There are a total of 3,165 service voters, while 8,864 electors are aged above 80 and 4,998 are People with Disability (PwD), the CEO release said.

By-elections to the Gossaigaon, Bhabanipur, Tamulpur, Mariani and Thowra constituencies will be held on October 30.

The counting of votes will be taken up on November 2 and the entire polling process will be over by November 5.

A total of 43,229 voters were added to the electoral roll after revision. Tamulpur has the highest number of electors at 2,17,432, while Thowra has the lowest at 1,15,971.

The Election Commission of India has banned exit polls related to the by-elections and the CEO's office urged everyone to abide by the ECI guidelines.

By-elections in Gossaigaon and Tamulpur were necessitated following the deaths of sitting MLAs, while the incumbents of Bhabanipur, Mariani and Thowra resigned from their seats and joined the ruling BJP.

UPPL had won the Gossaigaon seat in this year's assembly election, while BPF had bagged Tamulpur.

PTI



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श्री धन्वंतरी जेनेरिक मेडिकल स्टोर
केमिस्ट एण्ड ड्रगिस्ट

50% की भारी छूट पर उपलब्ध

श्री धन्वंतरी जेनेरिक मेडिकल स्टोर
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Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Photo : Bilaspur



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Sigh of relief

A majority of unvaccinated children developing COVID-19 antibodies comes as hope

The results of the third serosurvey conducted in Haryana are comforting. Antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 were found among 76.3 per cent of the State's population. This is a steep rise from a mere 14.8 per cent in October 2020 and eight per cent last August. A sero-positivity of 81.6 per cent was found in vaccinated people and 75.5 per cent in non-vaccinated. In urban Haryana, antibodies were found in 78.1 per cent of the people; in the rural areas the percentage is 75.1. The best news, however, relates to children. The survey found a sero-positivity rate of 69.8 per cent in children aged 6-9 years and 73.2 per cent in adolescents aged 10-17 years. This is the first time when children were included in the survey. It is also established for the first time that over 70 per cent of non-vaccinated children have COVID-19 antibodies. The news comes as a relief when children remain the only segment of the population who have not been vaccinated even though the country is close to giving nearly 100 crore jabs. The vaccines for children are still undergoing human trials. The decision to re-open schools after a gap of a year hinges on this very issue and some States have reluctantly agreed to re-open schools in stages. There still is a hesitancy among parents to send their wards to school. A few other States are planning to begin classes in November. School managements are ensuring that the teaching and non-teaching staff are fully vaccinated and safety protocols are in place to minimise the risk of infection.



Recent surveys from abroad have justified the fears of infection among children. A study by teams from hospitals in MIT and Harvard has conclusively proved that infants, children and adolescents are equally capable of replicating the COVID-19 virus. Examining COVID-19 positive children, they found that the levels of infection are highest early in the illness in both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. Overall, the viral load did not correlate with the severity of the disease in the kids even though they could infect other people. However, several studies have stated that very few children have symptoms and they are at low risk of contracting the illness. In this context, the Haryana serosurvey on children is a reassuring one. Based on the Haryana survey results, it can safely be assumed that one can go slow with the vaccination of healthy children and instead focus on fully covering the vulnerable population — the elderly, and adults and children with co-morbidities. Even though a couple of vaccines have received the emergency use authorisation (EUA), it is unclear when the vaccines for children below 18 will be available in the country. The chief of the national COVID-19 task force, VK Paul, has said that a final decision will depend on the scientific rationale for vaccinating kids and the availability of sufficient doses for them.

PICTALK



Snow-covered mountains after fresh snowfall, in Shimla

PTI

Blood sport?

The International Olympic Committee does not heed protests against the Beijing Olympics

The flame of the 2022 Winter Olympics reaches Beijing in a day or two but China has more cause for concern than celebration. A swarm of protests follows the flame, lit at the birthplace of the ancient Olympics in southern Greece on Monday, calling for a global boycott of the Games on account of alleged human rights violations by the Chinese Government. The ceremony of lighting the torch in Greece was marred by protests, as three activists managed to sneak into the venue holding a Tibetan flag and a banner reading 'No genocide games'. The protests were growing in tenor all through the year. Human rights watch groups in the US and Europe launched a campaign to boycott the games because China allegedly continues to harass Tibetans, strip Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang of their religious and cultural identities, punish pro-democracy agitators in Hong Kong, and intimidate Taiwan. The possibility of the US boycotting the games is remote but efforts are on to at least have a diplomatic boycott by that country.



This is not the first time that China is facing flak in the run-up to an international sporting event. It lost the bid for the 2000 Olympic games in 1993 because of the bloody crackdown on student agitators in Tiananmen Square in 1989. China had hoped to resurrect its international image by hosting the games but that was not to be. It never faced a worse insult globally. It subsequently bid for the 2008 games. To show a democratic face to the world, China came up with several concessions to impress the Olympic committee. They included extending press freedom for foreign journalists in China, allowing them to travel across the country without having to apply for permission. However, the protests continued as China refused to acknowledge any wrong-doing. The Communist Party of China, which routinely ignores all human rights charges, would do well to realise turning a deaf ear would not make the problem go away. Evidence of Chinese high-handedness in Tibet and Xinjiang keeps leaking out of the two regions despite State censorship. Those who manage to escape from the mainland bring sordid tales with them. It comes as a small relief for China that the International Olympic Committee is not interested in taking up the boycott call only because it feels the games are neutral and should not be politicised.

More in our history than the 1971 war

The Indian military's habit of not fully recording war diaries has provided opportunity to individuals to fiddle with and fabricate events



ASHOK K MEHTA

Fifty years of the 1971 India-Pakistan war is being commemorated with great verve and gusto by recalling the geostrategy, tactics and heroics of the great Indian victory — one in 1000 years where the gains on the battlefield were frittered away across the negotiating table. The war corrected the geographical incongruity of Pakistan split into two entities separated by 1000 miles. The late politician and writer, Jaswant Singh, called the victory geography's revenge over history — when use of force resulted in the birth of a new country Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan. It was the 20th century's last decisive war though it could not settle the root cause of India-Pakistan enmity — not J&K but inimical behaviour of the Pakistan Army.

In the previous century, except for the World Wars, there is no clear example of a decisive interstate war. But intra-state conflicts produced outcomes. The stamping out of Khalistan movement was a rare success for India. So was the Taliban's first take-over of Afghanistan. Peaceful separation of Czechoslovakia into Czech Republic and Slovakia was a unique event. In the 21st century also, a number of internal conflicts were resolved by use of force — defeat of LTTE in Sri Lanka and the recent re-conquest of Afghanistan by the Taliban. Another genre of military success without the use of military force was 'fait accompli' operations like the Russian occupation of Crimea, Chinese seizure of islands in the South China Sea and the Chinese intrusions into East Ladakh. In the space between war and no-peace is grey-zone operations, (HERE IS THE CHANGE) which is the defender's dilemma. And now, with the advent of cyber war and artificial intelligence, thinkers and practitioners of war and conflict have much to mull over. While the nature and character of war have changed, the principles of war are more or less the same, technology being the consistent key driver of shaping their outcomes.

Past wars and internal conflicts are not replicable. Take the war for Bangladesh. The ten months available for preparation,



obtaining air superiority and assistance of Mukti Bahini are some conditions that cannot be recreated. Neither can the political cover provided by USSR through its use of veto which brought India time to ensure the war did not end in cessation of hostilities as Pakistan wished but ended on Indian terms of a full and complete surrender. The talking point of the war was whether Dacca was nominated as the final objective of the war. It is clear from study of various historical accounts that Dacca was initially not the ultimate objective but a less ambitious mission was assigned to the Eastern Army. Improvisation and innovation by both sides played a big part in the war. Maj Gen Nazir Husain Shah, GOC 16 Pakistan Infantry Division and an alumni of Fort Leavenworth USA, used to split a single battalion into two even as portraying a broad front was also practised by Indian forces.

I would like to see during commemoration events greater emphasis on recalling Infantry-led epic battles of Pirgunj, Hilli, Sylhet and Akhaura to name a few. The roadblock at Pirgunj by 2/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF), for example, turned the flank of Pakistan 16 Infantry Division fighting fortress defence at Hilli by crossing the

INDIA MUST CHERISH THE 1971 VICTORY AGAINST PAKISTAN BUT FOCUS ON SMALL-UNIT ACTIONS THAT WILL BE RELEVANT TO FUTURE EXTERNAL WARS

Karatoya river. It was the first turning movement south towards Bogra and Dacca and divided Pakistan's 16 Infantry Division. Similarly, 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF) conducted India's first helicopter operations and while reduced to half a battalion in combat, took the surrender of two Pakistani Brigades on 15 December, one clear day in advance of the Dacca surrender. They had earlier carried out the first silent 'khukuri' attack at Atrgram though the British Gurkhas claimed the honour earlier in Indonesia. These short and sharp battles hastened the termination of war confirming Infantry as the queen of battle. It would be more useful to invite officers who took part in these actions rather than have the post-1971 war generation of officers to pontificate on lessons and dialectics of deterrence.

India must cherish the 1971 victory against Pakistan but focus on small-unit actions that will be relevant to future external wars. The limited war in Kargil was another classic demonstration of Infantry-led small unit battles that evicted intruding Pakistani forces across the LoC. It is a pity that war histories on 1962 and IPKF Sri Lanka, though chronicled, have not been released for

political reasons. The Indian military's bad habit of not fully and faithfully recording war diaries has provided opportunity to individual participants in wars to fiddle with and fabricate events to enhance their personal heroics. The media in general and social media in particular, without verifying facts, have contributed to this.

Biographies and autobiographies are especially culpable as they embellish the record of units and individuals beyond what is recorded in regimental history. And where there is no official regimental history, some writers have gone to town enhancing their stature. All write-ups about past wars must be vetted by MoD historical section and a certification obtained from the authors that they have not used material which is not in official records. The Government has fudged events in East Ladakh, pretending the PLA intrusions have not altered the LAC. Even so, the 1971 success on the battlefield is India's big redeemer and greatest victory.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE MONSOON'S MOOD SWINGS

Sir — The Indian monsoon is nature's gift to us. It is what gives us sustenance; it is inseparable from Indian civilisation. Still over the last few years, it has become erratic to the extent of venting nature's fury and causing widespread devastation. Its onset, occurrence and withdrawal have come to acquire a frightening dimension. Visuals have shown how this year's southwest monsoon has taken the shape of a 'natural' disaster. The stunning collapse of a house in one unbroken piece into flood water has become the defining image of the destruction caused by the deluge in Kerala and other parts of the country.

The floods recurring year after year add a new urgency to the restoration of the monsoon to what it was before it assumed the proportions of a 'natural' disaster. The protection of mountains that serve as natural life givers in its wider sense will more than halve the problem. Deforestation, mining, construction and cultivation of cash crops that are ecologically unsustainable and explain much of the change in the monsoons must end; political parties and governments must free themselves from the hold of lobbies of various kinds towards this end. The governments should discontinue the practice of relaxing rules pertaining to environmental clearance in the name of ease of doing business. It is a basic fact that economic growth at the cost of ecology spells disaster.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

FINDING FENI IN GOA'S MUSEUM

Sir — India's first museum dedicated to alcohol has opened its doors to spirit enthusiasts in Goa. The museum, *All About Alcohol* is a place to rejoice in North Goa's Candolim village. The museum houses hundreds of artefacts linked to Feni — Goa's very own and a popular alcoholic drink — including large, traditional glass vats in which the local cashew-based alcohol used to be stored centuries ago. The idea behind the museum was to make the world aware of Goa's rich heritage, especially the story of Feni. The answer to whether there is another alcohol museum in the world is absolutely no.

Can Sasikala fill the gaps?



Once a 'girl Friday' of the former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, VK Sasikala Natarajan is back on the political scene after having spent four years behind bars following a disproportionate assets case against her in 2017. Implicit in her recent overtures is her cherished will of becoming an 'all in all' of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), she even unveiled a stone plaque naming her as the general secretary of the party at the memorial of MG Ramachandran, the founder of the AIADMK. But to the cha-

grin of Edappadi K Palaniswami and Utakarra Thevar Panneerselvam, whose eyebrows were raised while asserting that no one would be elevated to the numero uno post of general secretary once held by 'Ammu', who still happens to be the incumbent despite being no more.

Moreover, it is the people of Tamil Nadu who are at the receiving end of the confusion obfuscating the answer as to who among the OPS-EPS-Sasikala trilogy, is the right choice. Simultaneously, the TN Chief Minister MK Stalin cannot afford to look forward to a new challenger more, with the grand old party keeping a low profile and the BJP thinking of siding with the ruling DMK in the State. At the end of the day, with the OPS-EPS together eyeing a much more significant aspect of the circumstances, whether or not VK Sasikala will succeed in putting herself in Jayalalitha's shoes remains a burning question.

Azhara A Khan | Rampu

If you go to Scotland, they are very happy about their water, about their drinks, etc. Similarly, in Russia, people feel happy to show the drinks they have. When we come to India, we project alcohol differently. For Goans, consumption of alcohol is a symbol of hospitality. It is a part and parcel of the system in Goa. The amount of information preserved here is amazing. Feni lovers are awestruck with the place. The amount of information they have kept here for visitors to see is super amazing. Sip on a glass of Feni as Goa displays the right trademark for its traditional drink. An indigenous alcoholic drink synonymous with Goa, Feni will now be on display in the museum.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

100 CRORE JABS, FINALLY

Sir — India has finally achieved the milestone of 100 crore vaccinations. Festive season will see yet another celebration soon with tricolour hoisted at Red Fort, flag raised at North and South Block in Delhi with announcements at railway stations,

aeroplanes, ships at the moment India breach the 100 crores mark in administering cumulative number of COVID-19 doses. Additionally, the efforts of frontline and healthcare workers in remote areas, have been chronicled in the newly-launched book 'Sentinels of the Soil', that encapsulates stories of hardship faced by healthcare workers from various states who travelled to help propel India's vaccination drive.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Government, doctors, scientists and to all the people of the country who got vaccinated and helped the Government achieve this mark. There are plans of 80,000 vaccination centres to be activated to further speed up the vaccination drive and be prepared for any uncertainties. Congratulations to every single person who has contributed his effort in this achievement.

Somya Agrawal | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Tejashwi Yadav violated the coalition pact. He denied our demand of one seat of our stronghold Kusheshwar Asthan.



Congress Bihar in-charge — Bhakta Charan Das



The US values Georgia as a strategic partner and our support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity is unwavering.

US Defence Secretary — Lloyd Austin

I believe *Dhaakad* is Bollywood's first woman-centred spy thriller. I am really happy about this.



Actor — Kargana Ranaut



Ravindra Jadeja's batting has come out in leaps and bounds. So you can treat him as one of the top-order batsmen.

Former India bowler — Ajit Agarkar



The friendship between India and Bangladesh is very old. Fundamentalist or any other forces should not be allowed to destroy these relations.

Tripura Chief Minister — Bipal Kumar Deb

FIRST COLUMN

THE NEXT BIG THING IN JOURNALISM

Journalism has seen a sea change because of technological adoptions over time



ANAND J KULKARNI **SANTOSH K BISWAL**

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of journalism, often dubbed as a race with the machine, is getting eventually apparent. Recently, certain international news media organizations have tapped the power of AI to cover and report on the recent blast at a mosque in Kandahar city of Afghanistan that killed 37 people. AI tools are used to measure and report that the nation is grappling with insecurity and unrest. These news media organizations have been actively engaged in automating tasks essential for journalistic production. AI has come in handy to detect, extract and verify data essential for news stories and graphics. Such tools are being used for sorting, selecting and prioritizing the filters in the journalistic process of news stories. The use of AI is comparatively new. Its efficacy in reporting and disseminating conflicting news stories is established. It has the ability to build and update data visualizations in real time. The tools can be beneficial for the reporters in conflict zones in which the machine makes easy to source through footage from war zones. Human rights activists have started resorting to source the footage required for documenting human rights violations. Hence, AI tools are intensifying the level of activism in real time. During the time of the pandemic, AI tools provided potential aids for journalists in disseminating useful information to the citizens. When thousands of jour-



nalists were infected with the virus, the importance of AI tools in gathering, sorting, verifying and disseminating information went up substantially. AI tools are systematically programmed to identify fake news, helping journalists file correct and unbiased news stories. It can also debunk fake news flooded in social media platforms. AI thus protects the spirit of news values and ethical responsibility of journalists. The field of journalism has witnessed sea changes because of technological adoptions from time to time. All these raise the pros and cons of using AI tools in journalism. Augmenting reporting has become a major area of journalism. AI in journalism has brought numerous benefits. These tools have comparatively made easy for investigative journalists to save time and money. This has further strengthened the process and format of storytelling. Automation has facilitated reporting from local to international stories. Data journalism is transforming to the next level. AI robots are turning into news reporters. All these are becoming viable because of algorithms, databases and machine learning. There are fair chances for errors and biases to creep into the newsrooms. A small or a hyper-local media organization which might not be equipped with minimum resources to adopt AI tools may see newsmen falling prey to the machines. Journalists need to be trained and transformed for the best utilization of technologies. The fear of machine replacing the human is still there. However, any technology including AI is not going to replace journalists; however, this new technology can be a friendly assistant or a buddy. With the advent of new technological tools, all from reporters to editors will be re-oriented to deliver more credible and value-added contents to their target audience. Moreover, the issue of digital divide in newsrooms is there across the globe. Newsrooms in western countries are better positioned than the rest of the world in exploiting the AI tools in storytelling. The emergence of innovation and adoption of newer technologies in any profession has become obligatory. The profession of journalism is no exception to it. The production, distribution and consumption of news will be considerably driven by AI tools in the days to come. Digital literacy is the need of the hour on the part of the journalists across the competitive globe.

(Kulkarni is an Associate Director of the Institute of Artificial Intelligence, MIT World Peace University, Pune. Biswal teaches at Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune. The views expressed are personal.)

Setting up ‘bad banks’ for the good

In India, Government-sponsored bad bank has never been tried, though there are several asset reconstruction companies functioning sub-optimally

India's first-ever government-sponsored "Bad Bank" is now closer to reality. Following the Finance Minister's announcement in the Union Budget earlier this year, a National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) has been set up to acquire fully provisioned stressed assets worth about ₹2 lakh crore from various commercial banks in different phases, about a quarter of the total.

Another entity called India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) will then sell these stressed assets in the market to pay back to the banks. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) will have almost half the total shares of both (51 and 49 percent respectively), in which the private sector will also be stakeholders. The initial investment would be around ₹6,000 crore.

NARCL will buy the distressed assets at a discount from the banks by paying 15 percent cash; for the balance 85 percent, they will issue security receipts like debentures, bonds, etc., to the banks. Last month the government had cleared the proposal to provide ₹30,600 crore to the NARCL as a guarantee for the security receipts to be invoked in case the sale results in a loss to cover the same, but the guarantee will not be valid beyond five years to build in some incentive to accelerate the process of resolution; the guarantee fee to be paid by NARCL will also increase gradually. Since guarantees constitute contingent liability for the government, there would be no immediate fiscal impact or cash outflow for the Centre.

Inherited as a legacy from the past, partly as a fallout of the economic meltdown of 2008 and partly because of crony capitalism which forced many PSBs to give loans without proper assessment of profitability of the relevant project proposals due to which many of these projects either could not materialise or were unable to generate enough income to pay back the loans, the NPAs started mounting. Since 2016, when the RBI tightened the controls on banks and forced them to clean their balance sheets, the NPAs had to be written off or recognised in their balance sheets. This eroded their capital base making them unable to lend afresh, and their profitability was seriously affected.

To keep such banks — mostly PSBs — in business, the government had to recapitalise them from time to time with public funds. Things took a turn for the worse when since 2017 when the economy had started slowing, and the pandemic then delivered the death blow. As per S&P Global Ratings estimate, stressed assets of Indian banks including restructured loans will reach 11-12 percent in 2021-22, up from 8.7 percent at the end of the last fiscal, one of the highest in the world, comparable to Russia or Greece. By taking over the stressed assets and paying the banks which will provide them fresh capital, the bad bank will help the



IN 2018, JUST TWO OUT OF 21 PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS WERE PROFITABLE. BUT IN 2021, ONLY TWO BANKS (PUNJAB & SIND BANK AND CENTRAL BANK) REPORTED LOSSES. AS PART OF THE REFORMS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MERGED MANY SMALLER PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS WITH LARGER ONES AND NOW THEIR TOTAL NUMBER STANDS AT 12

(The author is former Director General, Comptroller & Auditor General of India and currently a professor at Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management. The views expressed are personal.)



commercial banks to recover a part of their bad loans.

This is a most welcome and a long overdue proposal to resolve the stressed asset problem of banks, private as well as public. The existing acts, viz., the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016 and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Securitisation and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002, have proved inadequate for insolvency resolution and to address the problem of NPAs of banks. The SARFAESI Act which enables registration and regulation of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) by the RBI allows the banks to auction the residential and commercial properties of borrowers to recover outstanding dues. It applies where the borrowing entity is left with neither any revenue source nor an opportunity to resurrect the business, and where no substantial assets are also lying with the guarantors, while a resolution plan under the IBC is intended to put the debtor back on its feet, not simply for recovering the dues of its creditors. As the Supreme Court had said in a case, "the primary focus of the legislation (IBC) is to ensure revival and continuance of the corporate debtor by protecting the corporate debtor from its own management and from a corporate death by liquidation."

About 4,541 corporates have so far been admitted into the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), only 1,745 CIRPs

have completed the process, either yielding resolution plans or ending up with liquidation. IBC, now five years old and which was suspended during the Covid crisis, is due for an overhaul, including pre-pack for the MSMEs which could later be extended to other companies, allowing a debt resolution mechanism outside the IBC. The existing processes need additional support from other mechanisms, and this is where the band bank fits in.

Bad bank is not a new idea — they have been in existence since the 1980s, but the East Asian currency crisis and the 2008 subprime crisis made many countries to set up bad banks, including the US, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Malaysia, South Korea, China or Indonesia, but in India the idea of government sponsored bad bank has never been tried earlier, though there are several private Asset Reconstruction Companies which are functioning sub-optimally.

This is another major institutional reform and the Government must be given the credit for it. Whether it will work or not, only time can tell. While it has met with success in many countries, in China they have been struggling, and the collapse of Evergrande is likely to worsen the situation further. In any case, ARCs cannot be a permanent mechanism, indeed it has a sunset clause allowing it to be wound up within five to eight years.

Banking reform has been one major focus area of the govern-

ment which came up with a 4-R strategy - recognition, resolution, recapitalisation and reforms. After recognition, quantification of NPAs started in a planned manner and banks slowly started recovering their dues. In 2018, just two out of 21 public sector banks were profitable. But in 2021, only two banks (Punjab & Sind Bank and Central Bank) reported losses. As part of the reforms, the government has merged many smaller PSBs with larger ones, and now their total number stands at 12.

There are several problems, apart from finding potential buyers from the stressed assets of banks. Valuation of the assets is one, which will determine the loss. In fact, there has been some criticism that the government is actually guaranteeing the losses of private enterprises and that the PSBs, being shareholders of both NARCL and IDRCL, will in effect be buying their own stressed assets. So far, the Indian experience has preferred resolution via IBC over the private ARCs, which have a low capital requirement of only ₹100 crore.

The regulatory environment for the ARCs which has remained practically static ever since they had emerged in the 2000s also needs an overhaul. Stressed assets will not disappear anytime soon, and we need to enable such institutions to help absorb the stressed assets. Economy cannot grow without an adequate supply of credit and creating a level playing field for all.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

BY MAKING THE GIRLS WEAR TURBANS RESEMBLING COLOURS OF THE BJP SYMBOL, THE CM HAS POLITICISED KANYA PUJAN. —CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON NARENDRA SALUJA



CONGRESS LEADERS ARE OPPOSING KANYA PUJAN DONE BY ME. THEN WHAT SHALL I DO, PERFORM CONGRESS PUJAN? —MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Party stuck with Gandhis; Gandhis with the party

As expected, not even a whimper was heard from the G23 that made much noise in media for months on the need for full-time leadership

The Gandhi family has established its claim over the Congress party this week as seen by Sonia Gandhi's assertive speech at Saturday's Working Committee meeting. Her message to the Party in simple words is that "we are the Gandhis, and we rule as long as we want; challenge us now." As expected, not even a whimper was heard from the Group of 23 rebels that made much noise in the media for months on the need for full-time leadership and organisational elections. As expected, the CWC unanimously expressed confidence in the Gandhi family. The CWC meeting went off as per Gandhi's script.

Indeed, she shut them by giving a road map for elections, but it will take place only

KALYANI SHANKAR

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

next after the crucial elections to some States taken place.

The loyalists who numbered many also raised a chorus for Rahul Gandhi to take over the party. He has condescended to consider the issue keeping his options open. Meanwhile, he will continue to make decisions with his sister Priyanka Gandhi and impose their favorites on the Party in powerful positions as they have done with Punjab leader Navjot Sidhu and elsewhere. They will also have a free hand in distributing tickets in the upcoming elections.

Sonia has announced that she is a 'full-time and hands-on' president, but this will be tougher than it was for her in 1998 or 2004. Then, she was much younger and had reasonably good political

advisers. There was a mystique around her. Those leaders, like Arjun Singh, ML Fotedar, Ahmed Patel, and AK Antony, were experienced and shrewd politicians. Today, she has to run the Party through her children while taking flak for their immature decisions.

Sonia Gandhi fights well when there are challenges, as she has had shown since 1998. She took over the reins of the Party when it was sinking

under Sitaram Kesri's leadership and a surging BJP. No one expected the UPA to win in 2004. The real coup was when she chose to do back-seat driving rather than become the Prime Minister and she 'appointed' Dr Manmohan Singh to the post. She ran the Party and the Government for the next ten years from remote. A Gandhi family member at the helm is certainly a comforting feeling for Congress persons, not with standing the opinion of voters.

When Rahul resigned owning moral responsibility for the Party's poor show in 2019, the Party could not look beyond the Gandhis. Rahul got what he wanted — an unassailable decision-making power without responsibility. By now, his sister Priyanka

Gandhi has joined her brother in taking decisions from afar.

Sonia's first challenge now is to check the continuous erosion in the Party. Leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada, now Amarendra Singh and former Goa Chief Minister Luizinho Faleiro have quit the Party for greener pastures. More are likely to follow.

The second challenge is to win some States in the upcoming Assembly polls. Uttar Pradesh is crucial though the Party has not tasted power there since 1989. It was in a position to win Punjab, but the Gandhi siblings spoil it by choosing an undeserving Sidhu as PCC chief.

The third is reviving the organisation's machinery. The

general secretaries in charge of poll-bound States should spend more time on the ground. The selection of candidates is vital. Sonia needs to enthuse the organisation. She should set up booth committees that play a crucial role at the time of elections.

The fourth is to choose vital issues for exposing the Modi Government. There are many such issues like petrol price hike, inflation, farmer's agitation, COVID handling and many more. Sonia needs foot soldiers to do the propaganda.

The fifth is uniting the Opposition. Many of them like Mamata Banerjee and Sharad Pawar are making efforts to join the resistance. Otherwise, Modi has the advantage even in 2024. Fortunately, Sonia has

got adequate respect and command from the opposition leaders.

But before everything, she must address the grievances of the Group of 23 rebels and bring them back to her side. They cannot be suppressed as leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor, Kapil Sibal, and Manish Tiwari are articulate. As Sonia herself said in the meeting, unity and discipline in the Party are very important.

Saturday's CWC proved that the Party is stuck with the Gandhis and the Gandhis are stuck with the Party. Both have to change their attitudes and walk in step with the voters; the electorate has changed and has become more aspirational and impatient.

GLOBE TROTTER

98 WOMEN SWORN IN AS JUDGES IN EGYPT

Cairo: Nearly 100 women Tuesday became the first female judges to join Egypt's State Council, one of the country's main judicial bodies. The 98 women were sworn in before the council's chief judge, Mohammed Hossam el-Din, in a celebratory event in Cairo. The swearing-in came months after President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi asked for women to join the State Council and the Public Prosecution, the two judicial bodies that until recently were exclusively male.

SCUBA DIVER DISCOVERS ANCIENT SWORD

Jerusalem: An Israeli scuba diver has salvaged an ancient sword off the country's Mediterranean coast that experts say dates back to the Crusaders. Israel's Antiquities Authority said Monday the man was on a weekend dive in northern Israel when he spotted a trove of ancient artifacts that included anchors, pottery and a meter-long (yard-long) sword.

HAITI GANG SEEKS \$17M FOR US MISSIONARIES

Port-Au-Prince: A gang that kidnapped 17 members of a US-based missionary group has demanded a \$17 million ransom for them, according to Haiti's justice minister, as quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*. Justice Minister Liszt Quietel said the gang was demanding \$1 million per person. Quietel did not immediately return messages for comment, but he also confirmed the figure to the *New York Times*.

KHALILZAD RESIGNS AS SPECIAL AFGHAN ENVOY

Washington: Zalmay Khalilzad, the Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation who brokered the peace deal between the United States and the Taliban, has stepped down and replaced by veteran American diplomat Thomas West, Secretary of State Tony Blinken said. "As Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad steps down from his role. I extend my gratitude for his decades of service to the American people," Blinken said.

'Pak may remain on 'grey list' till FATF's next meet'

Islamabad: Pakistan may remain on the 'grey list' of the FATF till the global money laundering and terror financing watchdog meets for its next session in April 2022, according to a media report on Tuesday.

Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will be in session for three days from October 19-21 and it is expected that Tuesday's session may be informed that Pakistan is still short of meeting the FATF criterion, according to a report in The News International reported from the French capital.

The report, quoting sources in German media house Deutsche Welle, said the global body's decision on putting Pakistan off the 'grey list' may be taken in the next session slated for April 2022.

The FATF in June retained Pakistan on its 'grey list' for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and asked Islamabad to investigate and prosecute senior leaders and commanders of

UN-designated terror groups, including Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar.

It also asked Pakistan to work to address its strategically-important deficiencies.

Virtually connected delegates will join those that are able to travel to Paris for three days of meetings, during which they will discuss key issues to strengthen global action against the financial flows that fuel crime and terrorism, the FATF said in a statement on Monday.

The FATF said it will finalise key reports, including the revised guidance on virtual assets and their service providers and discuss next steps to strengthen its standards on transparency of beneficial ownership.

Delegates will also discuss the outcomes of the FATF's survey to identify areas where divergent anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing rules or their implementation cause friction for cross-border payments. FATF is leading work on this aspect of the G20's priority to improve

cross-border payments, it said.

The FATF, which will announce the outcomes of the plenary on October 21, will also update its statements identifying jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies in their measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the FATF in June, 2018 and was given a plan of action to complete it by October, 2019. Since then the country continues to be in that list due to its failure to comply with the FATF mandates.

With Pakistan's continuation in the grey list, it is increasingly becoming difficult for the country to get financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the country.

Pakistan has so far avoided being on the blacklist with the help of China, Turkey and Malaysia.

PTI

Russia hits another record of daily coronavirus deaths

MOSCOW: Russia registered another daily record of coronavirus deaths Tuesday as rapidly surging infection rates raised pressure on the country's health care system and prompted the government to suggest declaring a nonworking week.

The government task force reported 1,015 coronavirus deaths over the past 24 hours, the highest number since the start of the pandemic. That brought the total death toll to 225,325 — by far the highest in Europe. It also registered 33,740 new infections over the past day.

Amid a spike in infections and deaths, Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova suggested introducing a weeklong nonworking period starting Oct. 30 that includes an extended public holiday. She said the Cabinet will ask President Vladimir Putin to authorize the move.

Until now, the Kremlin has ruled out a new nationwide lockdown like the one early on

in the pandemic that dealt a heavy blow to the economy and sapped Putin's popularity

The daily coronavirus mortality numbers have been surging for weeks and topped 1,000 for the first time over the weekend amid sluggish vaccination rates, lax public attitude toward taking precautions and the government's reluctance to toughen restrictions.

Russia boasted about becoming the first country in the world to authorize a coronavirus vaccine in August 2020 even though it was only tested on a few dozen of people at the time, proudly naming the shot Sputnik V after the world's first satellite to underline the country's scientific achievements.

While extolling Sputnik and three other domestic vaccines developed later, Russia's state-controlled media chafed at the perceived flaws of Western-made shots, a controversial message that many observers saw as feeding public doubts about vaccines. **PTI**

Crowds outside Myanmar's prisons greet freed detainees

BANGKOK: Crowds gathered Tuesday outside prisons around Myanmar, waiting for at least a glimpse of friends and relatives who were being freed under an amnesty for people arrested for protesting against military rule.

The head of the army-installed government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, announced the amnesty covering more than 5,600 people on Monday. State television said it included 1,316 convicts who would be freed from prisons around the country and 4,320 others pending trial whose charges would be suspended.

The announcement came three days after the Association of Southeast Asian Nations delivered a rare snub by declining to invite Min Aung Hlaing

to an upcoming summit, even though Myanmar is part of the 10-member bloc.

The move reflected ASEAN's frustration with the continued stalling of a visit to the country by its special envoy, who was appointed as part of an initiative to find a way out of the violent crisis that has gripped Myanmar since the army overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in February.

The government had refused to grant the request of the special envoy, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof, to meet with Suu Kyi. She has been detained since the military takeover and is being tried on several charges that her supporters say are politically motivated. **AP**

UN atomic agency head to visit Iran as nuke talks uncertain

WASHINGTON: The head of the U.N.'s atomic watchdog plans to visit Iran before the end of next month amid questions about whether Iran will return to negotiations aimed at reviving the languishing 2015 nuclear deal.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi said Tuesday he intends to visit Tehran "soon" to discuss and hopefully resolve specific concerns about Iran's nuclear program. Iran is in violation of several aspects of the 2015 deal that the IAEA is charged with monitoring and has suspended some elements of other cooperation with the watchdog.

On a visit to Washington, Grossi told reporters that he expects to go to Iran before the next meeting of the IAEA board of governors in late November. Some countries are pushing for the board to condemn Iran's nuclear activity, including violations of the nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA.

Grossi, who met on Monday with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, would not predict whether the IAEA board would take such action, saying it will likely depend on what Iran does in the meantime. **AP**

North Korea tests possible submarine missile amid tensions

SEOUL: North Korea on Tuesday fired at least one ballistic missile, which South Korea's military said was likely designed to be launched from a submarine, in what is possibly the most significant demonstration of the North's military might since U.S. President Joe Biden took office.

The launch of the missile into the sea came hours after the U.S. reaffirmed an offer to resume talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program. It underscored how North Korea has continued to expand its military capabilities during the pause in diplomacy.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement it detected that North Korea fired one short-range missile it

believed was a submarine-launched ballistic missile from waters near the eastern port of Sinpo, and that the South Korean and U.S. militaries were closely analyzing the launch.

The South Korean military said the launch was made at sea, but it didn't say whether it was fired from a vessel under water or another launch platform above the sea's surface.

Japan's military said its initial analysis suggested that North Korea fired two ballistic missiles. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said officials were examining whether they were submarine-launched.

Kishida interrupted a campaign trip ahead of Japanese legislative elections later this month and returned to Tokyo

because of the launch. He ordered his government to start revising the country's national security strategy to adapt to growing North Korean threats, including the possible development of the ability to pre-emptively strike North Korean military targets.

"We cannot overlook North Korea's recent development in missile technology and its impact on the security of Japan and in the region," he said.

Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said one of the North Korean missiles reached a maximum altitude of 50 kilometers (30 miles) and flew on "an irregular trajectory" while traveling as far as 600 kilometers (360 miles). **AP**

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

Auction Notice No. 11/2021-22

E-Auction Program for the Month of November -2021

All prospective bidders are invited to participate in the on-line public auctions being conducted for sale of scrap material.

E-Auction Dates	Jurisdiction of lots	Contact No.
12,22 & 30 Nov. 2021	Dy. CMM/GSD/Gorakhpur	0551-2283558
10, 17 & 25 Nov. 2021	Dy. CMM/GSD/Izzatnagar	0581-2518138
9, 18 & 26 Nov. 2021	Sr. DMM/Lucknow	0522-2233113
8, 16 & 25 Nov. 2021	Sr. DMM/Varanasi	0542-2224819
12, 22 & 30 Nov. 2021	Sr. DMM/Izzatnagar	0581-2518104

Type of material: Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, Melting, MS, condemned Rolling Stock (Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives), Turning & Boring, Non-Ferrous such as copper, Aluminium, Batteries etc. In the event of Auction not being completed on the same day, Auction will be continued on the subsequent days also. Details of Auction catalogue, Procedure and Conditions of Sale are available at www.ireps.gov.in. This auction program is also available on North Eastern Railway website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in.
CPRO/S-60

Principal Chief Materials Manager

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to all concern that Smt. Pushpa Kayat D/o Sh. Gopi Ram R/o H. No.-7, Church Lane, Jangpura, Bhogal, Delhi-110014 and Sh. Shivam Gaur S/o Sh. Ranvir Singh R/o B-166 Sector-14 Noida are the co-owner of Plot No. C-2/32 Sector-31 Noida. Smt. Pushpa Kayat has executed a Registered G.P.A. of her part in the said above plot in favour of her sister Smt. Sneha Gaur D/o Sh. Gopi Ram R/o B-166, Sector-14, Noida dated 03/11/2018 in Book No. IV, Volume No. 1535 on Page No. 195 to 210, Document No. 2224 at Sub. Registrar (III), Noida. It is also to be informed that Smt Pushpa Kayat applied in the Noida Authority to transfer her share in the plot in favour of her sister Smt. Sneha Gaur. Which is still pending. Now Smt. Sneha Gaur, instead of her name, want to transfer the share of said above plot through registered G P A in favour of Shivam Gaur S/o Sh. Ranvir Singh R/o B-166, Sector-14, Noida. If anyone has/have any objection, he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Plot Department of NOIDA Authority, Sector 6, Noida within the 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of the Work : Annual Maintenance Contract for 01 (one) number Morara Axle Grinding Machine (CLW's M/c No. 09/4626/02) of Shop-09/CLW, Chittaranjan for a period of 02 (two) years. (a) **Tender Notice No. :** MW/ELM/S/AMC-2 (MORARA-1). (b). **Tender No.:** MW/ELM/S/AMC-2 (MORARA-1). (c) **Cost of Tender Form (Document):** Rupees 5,000.00 (Rupees five thousand only). (d) **Approximate Value of the Work (Tender Value):** Rupees 61,04,499.00. (e) **Earnest Money to be deposited :** NIL. (f) **Duration of Contract :** 02 (two) years. (g) **Validity of offer (Days) :** 90 days. (h) **Auction Head :** 01/05/59. (i) **Tender Submission Closing Date :** 01/11/2021 at 13.00 Hrs. (j) **Complete Details of Tender** can be seen in the Railways Websites : www.ireps.gov.in
PR3-249 Dy. CME/Plant/CLW/CRJ
Like us on : www.facebook.com/clwrailways

Reopen girls schools in Af: Malala Yousafzai to Taliban

Islamabad: Malala Yousafzai has appealed to the Taliban leadership in Afghanistan to revoke the de facto ban imposed on female education and immediately reopen girls senior secondary schools across the nation, emphasising that the new rulers in Kabul should abide by their assurances given to the world of respecting women's rights.

In an open letter written to the Taliban regime following the tough rules imposed on the girl's education, the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate said that Afghanistan is the only nation in the world that forbids girl's education.

"Afghanistan is now the only country in the world that forbids girls' education. Leaders everywhere must take urgent, decisive action to get every Afghan girl back in school," the 24-year-old London-based Pakistani activist said in the letter which was posted on her Twitter handle.

"To the Taliban authorities, you assured the world that you would respect the rights of girls and women — but you are denying millions their right to learn, she added. **PTI**

Israel gives legal status to 4K in gesture to Palestinians

Jerusalem: Israel said on Tuesday it would grant legal residency to 4,000 Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, a gesture to the Palestinian Authority that will allow people who have lived under severe restrictions for years to get official IDs.

It's one of a series of gestures announced after a rare high-level meeting in August between Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas aimed at strengthening the PA, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank and coordinates with Israel on security. **AP**

China's Communist Party appoints Xinjiang official facing US sanctions to head Tibet's party unit

Beijing: China's ruling Communist Party has appointed Wang Junzheng, sanctioned by the US, Britain, EU and Canada for his alleged role in the human rights violations against Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang, as the head of its party unit in the sensitive Himalayan region of Tibet.

Wang Junzheng has been appointed as secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee, replacing Wu Yingjie, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on

Tuesday.

Wang, 58, became China's highest-ranking official to be sanctioned in March over accusations of human rights violations during his tenure as Xinjiang's deputy party secretary and security chief, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

He served as Xinjiang's security chief from 2019 before starting his most recent role last year as political commissar of the paramilitary Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, while retaining his post

as deputy party chief.

For over a year China is battling out allegations of human rights violations against Uygur Muslim population in Xinjiang where Beijing has deployed a large number of security forces to quell unrest among Uygurs over the increasing settlements of majority Han Chinese from other provinces.

The US has termed China's security crackdown in Xinjiang where thousands of Uygurs reportedly were held in detention camps as genocide. **PTI**

Turkey summons 10 diplomats over call for activist's release

ANKARA: Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday summoned the ambassadors of the United States and nine other countries to protest a statement they issued that called for the release of imprisoned philanthropist and civil rights activist Osman Kavala in line with a European Court of Human Rights decision. The statement angered government officials who accused the countries of meddling in the Turkish judiciary.

Kavala, 64, has been kept behind bars for four years, accused of attempting to overthrow the Turkish government through the 2013 nationwide demonstrations that started at Istanbul's Gezi Park. He has also been charged with espionage and attempting to overthrow the government in connection with a failed military coup in 2016. **AP**

Taliban recruit women cadres to counter its anti-women image

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Taliban have recruited women cadres in its fold to raise a women's wing with the twin agenda of projecting itself as pro-women and countering its anti-women image through these women who have graduated from Quranic schools.

On Monday, as many as 31 women students participated in a graduation party after these students of Dar Al-Hifaz and Muflihun Quranic School in Kabul passed out from these schools.

Dar al-Hifaz and Muflihun School of Quran Education celebrated the first graduation of more than 30 female students of this school in the sec-

tion of interpretation and translation of the Holy Quran in the presence of a number of Islamic scholars besides parents of the passing out students in Kabul.

Founder of Afghanistan Republican Salvation Front and counter terrorism analyst of Afghan origin, Dr Ajmal Sohail said, "The Taliban has decided to launch the women wing of the movement comprising graduates of the Quranic schools who would be assigned to take part at the Ministry for promoting righteousness and preventing evil."

The women graduates in Islamic interpretation will also counter feminism alongside promoting radical Islamic mindset in the Afghan society.

"The women wing of the Taliban will be assigned task to educate Taliban-inspired radical Islamists of Central Asia and Asia Pacific," said Dr Sohail who is based in Germany.

The Taliban move to form a women wing is to expand the base of radical ideologies pursued by the outfit in Afghan and spread such mindsets in the region to create a pool of like minded Muslims in the entire region for gaining control as well as legitimacy. The move is part of the larger project of the Barre Saghir movement being run by the Al Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent to rope in likeminded clerics and students to perpetuate the radical ideology of Taliban.

Taliban agree to new polio vaccination across Afghanistan

Istanbul: agencies are gearing up to vaccinate all of Afghanistan's children under 5 against polio for the first time since 2018, after the Taliban agreed to the campaign, the World Health Organization says.

For the past three years, the Taliban barred U.N.-organized vaccination teams from doing door-to-door campaigns in parts of Afghanistan under their control, apparently out of suspicion they could be spies for the government or the West. Because of the ban and ongoing fighting, some 3.3 million children over the past three years have not been vaccinated.

The Taliban's reported agreement now, after becoming the rulers of Afghanistan,

Mali asks Islamic High Council to dialogue with al-Qaida

BAMAKO: Mali's Government has asked the country's Islamic High Council to begin a dialogue with al-Qaida-linked groups in a new effort to address a nearly decade-long insecurity crisis. It is not clear when the dialogue will begin, but the council will lead discussions with Malian jihadist leaders Iyad Ag Ghaly and Amadou Kouffa of the al-Qaida-linked group known as JNIM, the council said.

Mohamed Kibiri, spokesman for the council, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he was asked by the government last week to launch discussions. He said they are working with their representatives in the country's north. "The only directive we have received is to negotiate only with the Malians," he said. "The other jihadists we consider invaders."

He also said the subject of Shariah law is not "taboo. Everything is negotiable."

Mali's minister of religious affairs and worship, Mamadou Koné, confirmed that the gov-

ernment asked the council to lead discussions with the two groups.

This is not the first time the Malian government has asked the council to open dialogue with jihadist groups. Earlier this year, the council reached a cease-fire agreement between an al-Qaida-linked group and local fighters in a village in the Niono circle in central Mali. The jihadists granted freedom of movement to the villagers, and peaceful cohabitation with the army and local armed groups, in exchange for compulsory veiling of women, collection of taxes and traditional justice.

Mali has been fighting growing insecurity since 2012, when al-Qaida-linked groups took over parts of the north. Despite a French-led military operation that forced many rebels from their northern strongholds in 2013, insurgents quickly regrouped and have been advancing year after year toward the south of the country, where the Malian capital is located. **AP**

Blocked Indian submarine from entering into Pak's waters: Pak Navy

Islamabad: Pakistan's military on Tuesday claimed that its navy blocked an Indian submarine from entering into the country's waters last week.

There was no immediate response from the Indian Navy to the Pakistani claim.

The incident occurred on October 16 when an Indian submarine was detected by a Pakistan Navy (PN) patrol aircraft, the Pakistan military said in a statement. The navy "detected and blocked the Indian submarine on 16 Oct 21 from entering into Pakistani waters," according to the statement. It said that during the prevailing security milieu, a strict monitoring watch has been kept by the Pakistan Navy to safeguard maritime frontiers of the country.

According to the statement, it is the third incident of its kind during which an Indian Naval Submarine has been prematurely detected and tracked by the Pakistan Navy's Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

The army also shared a short footage of the purported incident. An incident of this nature was last reported in March 2019 when the navy had detected and thwarted an attempted entry by an Indian submarine, the statement claimed.

"The Pakistan Navy used its specialised skills to ward off the submarine, successfully keeping it from entering Pakistani waters," PN had said in a statement at the time. **PTI**

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 03 / 2021-22 वृत्त चित्तौड़गढ़ अन्तर्गत विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्य		
क्रमांक: 1203	दिनांक: 6.10.2021	
मुख्यालय का नाम	:	कार्यालय अग्रहस्त अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त चित्तौड़गढ़
निविदा का कार्य	:	वृत्त चित्तौड़गढ़ अन्तर्गत विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्य (कुल पैकज संख्या 6)
निविदा की कुल लागत	रु. 1248.89 लाख	
निविदा आवेदन खोलने/बंद करने की तारीख (वेबसाइट पर)	दिनांक 20.10.2021 प्रातः 09.30 बजे से दिनांक 09.11.2021 को सां. 06.00 बजे तक	
निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख (वेबसाइट पर)	दिनांक 20.10.2021 प्रातः 09.30 बजे से दिनांक 09.11.2021 को सां. 06.00 बजे तक	
प्रोपोजिटर सूचना निविदा शुल्क एवं चर्चा/हस्त जमा कराने की प्रक्रिया	:	वित्त विभाग द्वारा जारी परिपत्र प.6(5)/वित्त/सांविदेनि/2018 दिनांक 27.04.2020 के अनुसार ई प्रातः पर आनलाईन के माध्यम से जालान द्वारा (परिपत्र संलग्न)
		1. प्राविधिक शुल्क- 8658-00-102-16-02 निर्माण विभाग (BISL Form)
		2. निविदा शुल्क- 0075-00-800-82-01
		3. चर्चा/हस्त जमा- राश्ट्रीय वित्त (साधारण वित्तीय एवं लेखा विभाग) विभाग के परिपत्र क्रमांक फ-2 (1) वित्त/ जीएफटी-एसपीएफसी/2017 जलपुर दिनांक 23.12.2020 की पालना में बिड सिस्टम/रिटि राशि प्राप्ति नहीं करने हेतु घोषणा पत्र (Declaration) पर 50.00 रुपये रकम द्यूद्धी की राशि पर नियमानुसार 30 प्रतिशत सरकारी देय होगा जो कि निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ अनिवार्य अपलोड किया जाना है एवं मौखिक रूप से कार्यालय में जमा कराना आवश्यक होगा।
निविदा खोलने की तारीख	:	दिनांक 11.11.2021 अपराह्न 01.00 बजे
PWD2122WSSOB08601, 08602, 08603, 08604, 08605, 08606		
		हस्ता/— (सहस्र) अध्यक्ष अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक वृत्त चित्तौड़गढ़
DIPRC/10555/2021		

COAL CRISIS

Power projects with less than 4-day stock now 58

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The coal stock situation at thermal power projects has improved further as the number of non-pit head projects having less than four days of coal (supercritical stock) reduced to 58 on Monday from 69 a week ago, Government data showed.

According to latest coal stock data of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the number of non-pit head projects having less than four days of coal was 58 on October 18 and 69 on October 11.

The data showed that the number of plants with super-critical stock was 61 this Sunday (October 17). Thus, the coal stock situation is inching towards normalcy.

The improvement in the coal stock situation assumes significance in view of the ongoing shortage of the dry fuel at thermal power plants in the country.

The Central Electricity Authority monitors coal stock situation of 135 thermal power plants with cumulative generation capacity of over 165 GW.

The data also showed that the number of power plants

with zero days of coal has come down to 13 as of Monday with cumulative installed generation capacity of 11,710 MW, compared to 15 with 15,290 MW capacity a week back.

The number of the plants with one day of coal stock has increased to 28 with 34,795 MW capacity as on October 18, compared to 27 with 35,360 MW capacity on October 11.

The number of plants with two days of coal decreased to 18 (with 27,490 MW capacity) from 20 (22,755 MW) a week ago. The number of plants with three days of coal also came down to 12 (with 16,874 MW capacity) from 21 (27,014 MW) a week ago.

The number of plants with four days of coal has decreased to 18 with 20,725 MW capacity as of Monday, from 20 with 25,840 MW capacity a week ago, showing improvement in dry fuel stock.

The number of plants with five days of coal has increased to 12 (12,840 MW capacity) from five (4,105 MW) a week ago. The power ministry data also showed improvement in the power shortage situation as it came down to 2,060 MW on October 18 from 6,857 MW a week back.

Coal supply prioritised temporarily to power sector to replenish dwindling stock: CIL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Tuesday said the supply of coal was prioritised temporarily to power producers to replenish their dwindling stock of the dry fuel.

The statement assumes significance in the wake of the country's power plants grappling with fuel shortages.

"In view of the low stock position at the power house end due to a spurt in economic activities during post-second wave of COVID-19, the supply of coal was prioritised temporarily to the power sector to replenish their dwindling coal stock," Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a statement.

To achieve the same in the quickest possible time, coal companies were advised only to go slow temporarily on conducting further e-auction of coal, barring the special forward e-auction for power.

Moody's upgrades banking system outlook to 'stable'

ECO RECOVERY TO DRIVE CREDIT GROWTH

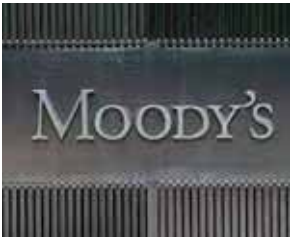
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday raised the outlook for the Indian banking system to 'stable' from 'negative' citing moderate deterioration of asset quality since the onset of the pandemic and likely pick-up in credit growth with economic recovery.

Moody's expects India's economy to continue to recover in the next 12-18 months, with GDP growing 9.3 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 2022 and 7.9 per cent in the following year.

"The pick-up in economic activity will drive credit growth, which we expect to be 10-13 per cent annually. Weak corporate financials and funding constraints at finance companies have been key negative factors for banks but these risks have receded," Moody's said in its 'Banking system outlook - India' report.

The quality of corporate loans has improved, indicating that banks have recognized and provisioned for all legacy problem loans in this segment. quality of retail loans has deteriorated, but to a limited degree



because large-scale job losses have not occurred.

"We have revised the outlook for the Indian banking system to stable from negative. The deterioration of asset quality since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic has been moderate, and an improving operating environment will support asset quality. Declining credit costs as a result of improving asset quality will lead to improvements in profitability," Moody's said.

The rating agency assumes that the government will provide a very high level of support for rated public sector banks, given their strong links to the government.

Earlier this month, Moody's had raised India's sovereign rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative'. It also affirmed sovereign rating at 'Baa3'.

Govt to roll out 5-year strategic perspective plan to make India big tech player: Chandrasekhar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is looking at rolling out a five-year strategic perspective plan to make India a significant tech player, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Tuesday.

The Minister added that the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) will partner with the private sector in areas not just limited to soliciting business for them but for future technology developments like quantum computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and semiconductors, according to an official statement released by the ministry.

"Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has set some serious ambitions and wants India to be a significant player in the tech space."

"Soon, we are going to roll out a five-year strategic perspective plan, detailing the competency and capabilities that need to be developed for realising these ambitions," Chandrasekhar said at a technology conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

He added that there have been tremendous strides in digitising the country's economy and public services in the



past six years, which has helped India remain resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have created Unicorns at the rate of two a month, attracting USD 65 billion investment in the tech space," Chandrasekhar said.

The minister said the post-COVID-19 era offers a new set of opportunities and there has never been a more exciting time for those in technology than today.

"At MeitY, we have clear objectives, we expect to be partners with the private sector in areas not just limited to soliciting business for you...But even in areas of future technology development whether it is quantum computing or strategic areas, where we want India to create competencies like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and semiconductors, etc," he said.

Bank gross NPAs to rise to 8-9% : Report

STRESSED ASSETS TO TOUCH 10-11%

Mumbai:Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks will rise to 8-9 per cent this fiscal, well below the peak of 11.2 per cent seen at the end of fiscal, ratings agency Crisil said in a report.

The Covid-19 relief measures such as the restructuring dispensation, and the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) will help limit the rise, the report added. With 2 per cent of bank credit expected under restructuring by the end of this fiscal, stressed assets-comprising gross NPAs and loan book under restructuring-should touch 10-11 per cent. Krishnan Sitaraman, Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, CRISIL Ratings, said: "The retail and MSME segments, which together form 40 per cent of bank credit, are expected to see higher accretion of NPAs and stressed assets this time around. Stressed assets in these segments are seen rising to 4-5 per cent and 17-18 per cent, respectively, by this fiscal end. The numbers would have trended even higher but for write-offs, primarily in the unsecured segment." **IANS**

India will produce the cheapest hydrogen in the world: Gautam Adani

IANS ■ LONDON

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said that policies to manage and overcome the climate change crisis must be equitable and pragmatic. Speaking to business leaders on the sidelines of the UK's Global Investment Summit at the London Science Museum, he noted that green policies and climate action not based on equitable growth will struggle in the long run.

Decision makers, he said, must consider the voices of the vulnerable when developing climate strategies and mitigation measures. He also suggested that a collaborative approach was needed wherein

developed nations, which have emitted more greenhouse gases over time, shoulder greater responsibility and propose policies and targets that fairly address the needs of the developing world. "While net zero targets are much needed, a company's sustainability initiatives must be aligned with the nation's sustainability goals," said Adani. "One must recognise that India has already demonstrated its commitment through the bold stand taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi since the 2015 COP-21 summit and India has emerged as one of the most responsible major nations in the world when it comes to addressing climate change."

Adani group commits 70% capex until 2030 to energy transition

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Port-to-energy conglomerate Adani Group will invest over USD 50-70 billion in renewable energy value chain over the next decade and the group firms have committed 70 per cent of planned capex until 2030 to the energy transition, its billionaire chairman Gautam Adani said on Tuesday.

Speaking to business leaders on the sidelines of the UK's Global Investment Summit at the London Science Museum, he made a plea for equitable and pragmatic policies in the battle against climate change and recommended setting practical goals and agendas.

Hydrogen, he said, is a game-changer and the group's green energy portfolio will expand to become one of the world's largest green hydrogen producers.

"Green policies and climate action not based on equitable growth will struggle in the long run," he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by Adani Group.

Sensex snaps 7-day winning run on fag-end selloff

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks closed with modest losses on Tuesday after a seven-session winning streak as investors opted to pocket some gains at record levels.

FMCG counters led the losses after HUL's Q2 earnings missed estimates, while IT and private bank stocks stood tall. After scaling the 62,000-mark for the first time, the 30-share BSE Sensex succumbed to selling pressure in fag-end trade to close 49.54 points or 0.08 per cent lower at 61,716.05.

Similarly, the Nifty shed 58.30 points or 0.32 per cent to close at 18,418.75. It touched a new intra-day record of 18,604.45 in early deals.

ITC was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, tanking 6.23 per cent, followed by HUL at 4.06 per cent.

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Tuesday reported a 10.69 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,185 crore for the second quarter ended

September 2021.

Titan, Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement and PowerGrid were among the other laggards.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, L&T, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, HDFC Bank and Kotak Bank were among the gainers, spurring up to 4.12 per cent.

Gold demand likely to be robust in 2022: WGC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The demand for gold is likely to remain subdued this year following Covid-related disruptions that continues in India, the World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report.

However, in 2022, the impact of pent-up demand for the precious metal is likely to herald a period of robust demand, the report suggested.

Duty relief on fuel expected to brighten festive mood in country

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Consumers could expect relief from the surging price of auto fuels this festive season as the Government may opt for an excise duty cut on petrol and diesel, for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic.

By doing so, the government aims to prevent rising crude oil prices from adversely affecting the retail price of these two commonly-used products. Petrol and diesel prices have already reached historic high levels across the country and have risen on most days for past one month, burning a larger hole in consumers' pockets. Sources said that ₹2-3 per litre cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel might be announced as a shield to prevent a further spike in prices of auto fuels. The announcement may be made ahead of Diwali to sweeten the festivities for consumers who have bore the brunt of rising fuel prices with petrol rates increasing by ₹ 30 per litre since January 1 while diesel prices rose close to ₹26 per litre.

IMF sees economic growth with higher inflation for West Asia

AP ■ DUBAI

The Middle East is expected to see significant economic growth this year, but also soaring inflation and food prices, as coronavirus vaccines are unevenly rolled out across the region, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday.

The lender's new report projects that the region's economies will grow by around 4%, while inflation will reach 17% this year in oil-importing countries. It said the situation is particularly dire in countries already facing severe economic crises, such as Lebanon and Afghanistan. The IMF said globally, inflation is rising in part due to pandemic-related supply shortages. Food prices have soared to their highest level since 2014, with an expected increase of nearly 28% in 2021. Across the Middle East, about 7 million more people are estimated to have entered extreme poverty over the course of 2020, compared to the fund's projections before the coronavirus pandemic.

The IMF warned that uneven recovery from the global health crisis could lead to "a permanent widening of existing wealth, income, and social gaps and, ultimately...Less inclusive societies."

In one example of that uneven recovery, the Gulf Arab oil-exporting nations of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar will see inflation peak at just 2.8% this year compared to the the Mideast's oil-importing nations, where average inflation will climb to 17% in 2021 before dipping to just under 10% in 2022, according to the IMF's forecast. The lender also found that the average unemployment rate in the region increased from 9.4% before the pandemic to 10.7% in 2020.

The IMF said this represents the second largest regional increase globally after Central and Latin America. The hardest-hit sectors were low-skilled workers - particularly those unable to do their jobs remotely - including women, young people and the millions who work in the informal sector and lack formal workplace protections such as health insurance, pensions and contracts.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER SUPPLY
MASTER PLAN DIVISION SRINAGAR
Fax-Phone: 0194-2401904, E-mail ID: xenwamp@gmail.com
Subject:- CANCELLATION NOTICE
The work namely "Providing, Laying, Jointing, Testing, Commissioning Including Operation and Maintenance for Two years of 800mm 700mm DIA. K9 D.I. Water Pipe Line from PHE Control Room at Awanta Bhawan to Saidapora washout point via Bohlochipora" put to tenders vide e-NIT No. 21/WSMP of 10/2021 dated 16-10-2021 issued under endorsement No. 5849-5882 dated 16-10-2021 is hereby cancelled due to some technical reasons.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
No. DIPK-10877/21
Dated: 18-10-2021
Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar.

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006.
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com
पञ्चांक सं. 771 दिनांक 18.10.2021
TENDER NOTICE
Office of the (Executive Engineer, Generation, Dharasu Power House, Chinyalisaur), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. (1) 22/EE(GEN)/MB-II/2021-22 and (2) 23/EE(GEN)/MB-II/2021-22
Name of work/supply/services: 1.Repairing and overhauling of different valves of Generator cooling system, MB-II, Dharasu Power House. 2. Repair & Maintenance works on 11 kV Bus Duct of Generator Transformers at Dharasu Power House.
Estimated cost : Rs. 1203000/- and Rs. 990400 +GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website : 20.10.2021
Last date for submission of tender: 11.11.2021 upto 11:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com".
Executive Engineer (Generation)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

WANTED
General public is here by informed that two persons namely Punit Bhandari, Virender Bhandari Director of M/s Puransons Alloys Pvt. Ltd. R/o 102-103, Ashoka Apartment, Near Satyam Cineplex, Ranjit Nagar, Commercial Complex, New Delhi also at Flat No. B001, Raheja Atlantis, Sec. 31, Gurgaon, Opp. 32 Miles, Gurgaon-122001 also at F-934, RIICO Industrial Area, Phase-III, Bhiwadi, Distt. Alwar, Rajasthan-301019 are wanted in case FIR No. 136/18 dated 04.05.2018 has been registered at P.S. Maurya Enclave, New Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about these accused persons may kindly inform to the following:-
E-mail: ctc@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 24368639,
Tel.: 24368638/24368641
SHO :
P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-27325006
8750870225

PUBLIC NOTICE
Plot # 326 Sector-7 Phase-I, IMT Manesar measuring 450 sq. mtrs. was allotted by the Corporation to M/s. Ample Auto Corporation having its office at 52 Main Market, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027, a proprietorship firm of Mr. Manoj Gaba S/o late Shri Ram Saran Gaba R/o J-52/F2 Upper 3rd Floor, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 vide its Allotment Letter dated 13.5.2004.
The Corporation has been informed that the original allottee's proprietor, Mr. Manoj Gaba has expired on 12.5.2021. The legal heirs of the deceased allottee, Ms. Shalini Gaba, Miss Richa Gaba and Mr. Aman Gaba has approached the Corporation for transfer of the plot in question in favour of Ms. Shalini Gaba W/o late Shri Manoj Gaba.
The Corporation is in process of considering their request and transferring the said plot in the name of Ms. Shalini Gaba W/o late Shri Manoj Gaba. Through this public notice, it is hereby informed that in case, any of the legal heirs of late Shri Manoj Gaba or any other person having reservation / objection to the said transfer may file his / her objection in writing before the undersigned or Addl. General Manager (Estates), M/s. HSIDC Ltd., C-13-14, Sector-6, Panchsila, Haryana along with an affidavit within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case, no response is received within the aforesaid period, it will be presumed that no one has any objection to transfer of the said plot in the name of Ms. Shalini Gaba W/o late Shri Manoj Gaba and the Corporation shall go ahead with transfer of the plot in her favour.
The Estate Manager
M/s. HSIDC Ltd.
IMT Manesar-122050, Distt. Gurgaon

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Anand Yadav S/o Narayan Yadav R/o H.No. D-1/301, Nand Nagri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR 83/17 u/s 33 Ex. Act., PS Nand Nagri, Delhi and it has been written to the warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person **Anand Yadav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Anand Yadav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrants). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Anand Yadav** of FIR 83/17 u/s 33 Ex. Act. PS Nand Nagri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.11.2021**.
By Order:
Sh. Animesh Bhaskar Mani Tripathi
Metropolitan Magistrate-03,
Room No. 19, Karkardooma Court, Delhi
DP/1112/NE/21

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely : Kishan, S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age: 70 years, Height : 5'6", Face: Round, Complexion : Wheatish, Hair : White, Wearing : Grey Colour pant** has been found dead in the area of P.S. Timarpur, Delhi on 10.10.2021. In this regard a case vide FIR No 327/21U/s 279/337/304A IPC dated 11.10.2021 has been registered at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO :
P.S. Timarpur, Delhi
North Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23812734, 23814421
DP/1605/N/2021

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Pankaj Mishra, S/o: Hem Chand, R/o: H.No. 1/432, Trilok Puri, Delhi, Aged: 48 years**, has been missing since 16.09.2021 at 9.00 AM from H.No. 1/432, Trilok Puri, Delhi. **Vide DD No. 34A, Dated 27.09.2021**, has been lodged at P.S. Kalyan Puri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:
Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Clothing: White Colour Shirt, Black Lower & Black Pant Hawaii Chappal in his feet.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Kalyan Puri, Delhi at **E-mail: ctc@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in** **Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641**
S.H.O
P.S. Kalyan Puri, Delhi
Ph: 011-22772287, 22772251
DP/737/ED/21.

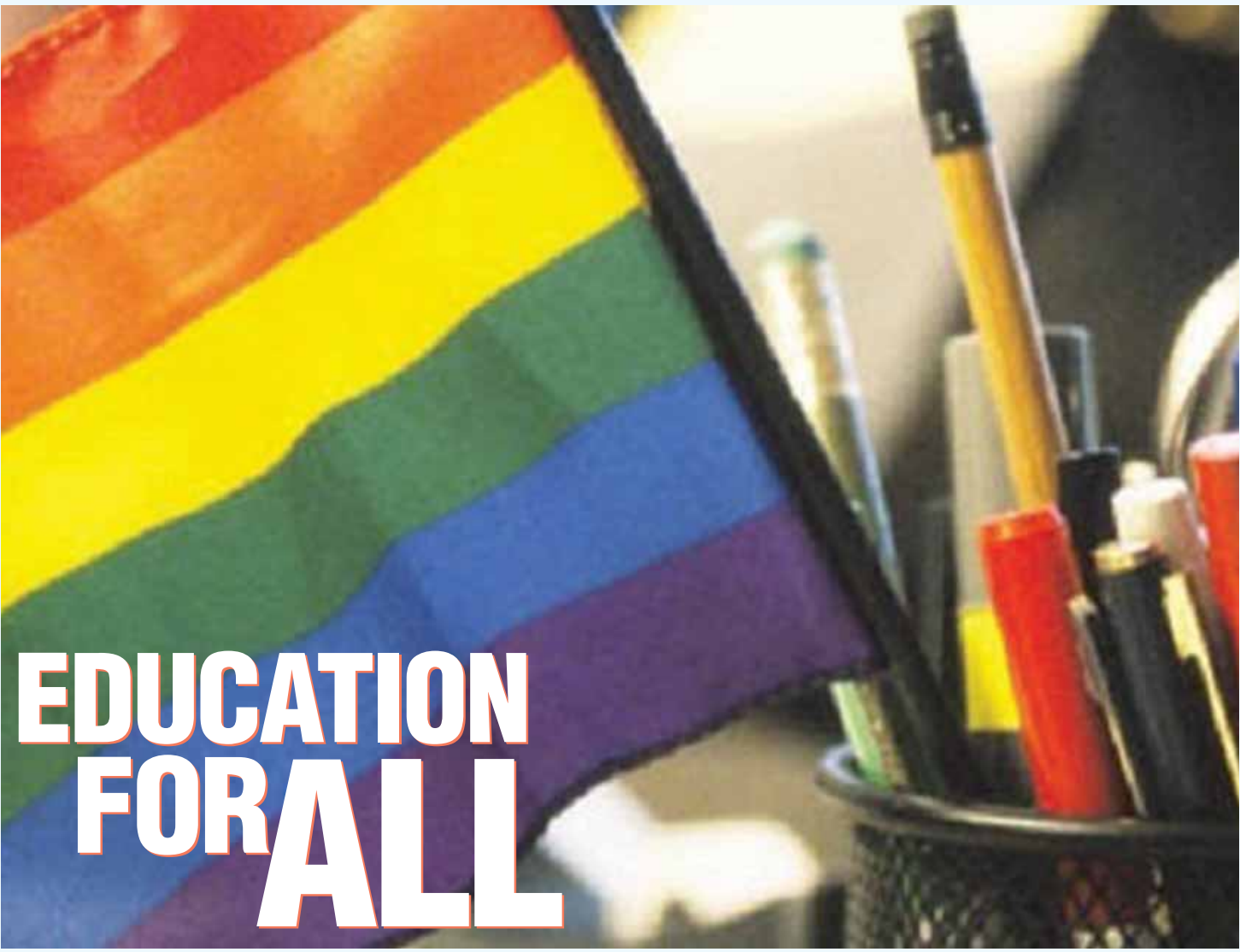
SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY

Meenu
General public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Meenu, W/o Raj Kumar, R/o 134, C Block, Azad Vihar, Khora Colony, Ghaziabad, Ultra Pradesh. Age 23 years (in 2016), Height 5'2", Complexion Fair, Oval Face, Thin Built, Wearing Orange salwar with suit and sandal in feet** has been missing since 04.05.2016 from the area of PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this lady, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a FIR No. 276/16 dated 05.05.2016 U/S 365 IPC has been registered at PS New Ashok Vihar, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about this missing lady may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Email: ctc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/731/ED/2021
SHO
PS: New Ashok Nagar, Delhi
Ph. 011-22610839, 22610954

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Tarana
General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Tarana S/o Panchu, R/o Sheikhpora, Bihar, Age: 10 years, Height: 3'9", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Hair & Eyes: Black, wearing Red colour T-Shirt and Red colour half pant**, has been missing/kidnapped since 19.09.2021. In this regard a **FIR No. 506/21 U/S 363 IPC, dated 19.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.
Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail : ctc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22772287, 22772251
DP/720/ED/2021

The lack of policies and practices that validate and support the LGBTQIA+ youth and the failure in implementing existing safeguards puts them at a physical and psychological risk, restricting their potential to excel in their education, says AACHAL JAIN



EDUCATION FOR ALL

cians in the classroom. LGBTQIA+ students in schools with an inclusive curriculum can relate to adverse school experiences and strengthen their sense of belonging to the school community.

Focus on the emotional well-being

Efforts to develop and understand school protective factors and their impact on LGBTQIA+ students have often encountered institutional challenges. Formative research on the role of protective factors such as school networking, supportive educators, anti-bullying strategies has shown promising ways to improve the LGBTQIA+ community's health and well-being.

Develop a positive environment Supportive educators are a lifeline for LGBTQIA+ children, and school is frequently the only place where they can connect with peers and adults who can mitigate rejection and provide acceptance. As John Dewey has shared "Schools are a reflection of our society", it is crucial that schools take active steps to create a safe and supportive learning environment. This can be done in simple ways like putting up "safe space" signs or rainbow flags in the



Aachal Jain
Pastoral Care Coordinator,
Aditya Birla World Academy

AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT HAVING A GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA) ON CAMPUS HAS A LONG AND HEALTHY IMPACT ON STUDENT'S HEALTH, WELFARE, AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. PRIDE CLUBS AND GROUPS FOR LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS ARE ESSENTIAL

corridors. Schools could speak about landmark days for LGBTQIA+ community in the school assembly, display books with LGBTQIA+ representation in the library, etc. Over time, these little things will help create a shift in attitudes among the others.

Conduct programmes to build awareness

Sex education is a common area to start when it comes to teaching the students about sexual orientation and gender identity and encouraging inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals and families. At the moment, sex education programmes seldom, if ever, include sexual orientation and gender identity, and when they do, the content is often misleading and extremely negative. Therefore, this space needs attention of all stakeholders to implement LGBTQIA+ inclusive sex education. We may also need to look into legal aspects when working on this.

Promote student support groups

Pride clubs and similar student groups for LGBTQIA+ students are particularly essential platforms for linking students with support-

ive adults. An increasing amount of evidence shows that having a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) on campus has a long and healthy impact on the student's health, welfare, and academic achievement. Student-led GSAs can assist schools in combating LGBTQIA+ student harassment, foster dialogue about diversity and acceptance to create a thriving safe space for queer and trans youth at school.

Provide training to staff and teachers

Schools must ensure that the staff is competent and confident in their ability to implement learning opportunities such as cultural skills training and safety training to increase awareness of issues affecting LGBTQIA+ students and develop effective strategies to improve their educational experience. Schools must also examine their policies around bullying, discrimination and exclusion highlighting the need for the staff to respond to all forms of abuse. Schools must also ensure that vocational training involves LGBTQIA+ students with different and overlapping identities, as this can truly help make a difference!

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.

— Cesar Chavez

FASHION DESIGN COURSES AT EDU BRAIN ACADEMY

The Edu Brain Academy collaborated with the National and International universities offering bachelor programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers postgraduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion technology.

It offers these programmes through its creative studio-based education at its campus in New Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand.

It recently announced opening of admissions at the Edu Brain Academy School of Design for UG, PG and diploma-level courses.

Applications: Eligible students can apply online and offline. Admissions on marks and merit basis.

Eligibility: For the degree course, students should have completed Class 12 from any stream from a recognised board. For the diploma course, students should have passed Class 10 in any stream from an approved school board. Personal Interview.

Deadline: 30th October



MSC SATELLITE DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for the MSc Satellite Data for Sustainable Development course starting in January 2022. The course will have a focus on the practical use of satellite data in direct applications to SDGs through the analysis of case studies and engagement, through student projects and invited talks with start-ups and NGOs actively working in the field. Students will gain an insight in to the broad use of satellite data across various industries and will be equipped with the necessary technical skills

Eligibility: First or second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in either Engineering, Science, Public Policy, Law, and Business.

Fee: 1,850 for international students

Admissions for Spring 2022 at Truman State University

Truman State University has announced student enrolments for on-campus studies for its programmes – Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry and Business Administration for those aspiring for international education. Classes commence January 10, 2022.

"The ravages of the global pandemic have impacted the dreams and decisions of many Indian students who planned to study abroad in the past 18 months," said Tim Urbonya, Executive Director of International Education at Truman. We are looking for-

ward to welcoming our new Indian students in the spring 2022 session in Missouri. Programmes provide students with the skills and experience industry requires.

To help students reach their study goals during these challenging times, Truman introduced special merit-based scholarships of up to \$10,000 for high achieving students from India.

The deadline to apply for Spring semester scholarship consideration has been extended to October 30, 2021, while the deadline to apply for fall 2022 scholarship consideration is April 30, 2022.

It is time to prosper digitally

The use of the digital course has deepened hopes of a radical shift in various sections such as agriculture, health, education, small loans, and commerce in the next few years

We recently celebrated the 26th anniversary of the launch of internet services in India. In the past 26 years, our country has touched many digital technology dimensions. IndiaStack is one among them, which is vital for overall digital development. It is a combination of several digital technology projects to provide a robust digital infrastructure to the country. Even today, it has solved many complex problems of the country. IndiaStack's mantra is to promote paperless, non-attendance, non-currency service, and transaction processes.

Stack is a commonly used word in Information Technology, including compatible technologies that create software, web apps, or mobile apps. The stack requires the operating system, server, programming language, database, and other related technical aspects to be consistent. The Government of India has developed IndiaStack for the entire country, providing various facilities and services including identification, verification, and payment. The basic services currently available are Aadhaar Authentication, Aadhaar e-KYC, Electronic Signature, DigiLocker, UPI, and Digital Consent (currently under development). Its services have enabled our country to emerge as a leader in fintech. It is the only stack to be launched that is named after a country, and which has a proper combination of governance, technology, and regulators.

Fintech came into being in 2009 with the setting up of two institutions - the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and the Unique Identity Authority of India (UIDAI). In 2012, UIDAI facilitated consumer verification for businesspeople by enabling e-

The use of the digital revolution in the last decade has led to a direct increase in transparency and accountability in public services. Our small and medium industries have also undergone positive changes. In the next phase, the Government is working on the appropriate, effective, and controlled use of personal data



organisation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology also ensured digital verification of documents and certificates by providing DigiLocker services to the general public. Thanks to this development, it has now become unnecessary to carry physical documents. All these services are part of the IndiaStack Scheme of the Government of India.

Because of the services included in it, the direct benefits of the schemes reached the general public. Farmers, senior citizens, or BPL families, everyone gets 100% allowance, pension, and other benefits directly to their

accounts. Now, people in remote areas can conduct financial transactions from their mobile phones with the help of the UPI app. We no longer have to sign many documents at government offices; Aadhaar's one-time password leads to quick verification. At the same time, fast and better disposal of services has begun. The use of IndiaStack has also facilitated the rapid and convenient collection of Indian taxes.

The Government is engaged in providing a more significant and efficient structure to the digital revolution.

IndiaStack is not as closed a system as China, where the country-made apps alone are promoted. It also does not follow economic principles such as laissez-faire as in the United States, where only a few companies have more market dominance in the open market. It is a robust, integrated, and open platform that can be used by Government, private, businesspeople, and people of all walks. In the next phase of the digital revolution, the Government is working on the appropriate, effective, and controlled use of personal data. It has also planned to use artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies for Civil Services.

The use of the digital revolution in the last decade has led to a direct increase in transparency and accountability in public services. Our small and medium industries have also undergone positive changes from the digital revolution. The use of the digital course has deepened hopes of a radical shift in various sections such as agriculture, health, education, small loans, and commerce in the next few years.

Prabhat Sinha, IT Expert & Amazon Bestseller Author of Innovate & Seize Your Success

Internet, new playground for gen Z

The generation Z, also termed as Centennials, are the generation of the people born between 1997 and 2012. One unique thing about it is that we basically grew up on the internet. Anything our parents say they would do on pen and paper, we say, "There's an app for it."

Some elders say that we might be spoiled or spoon fed but we are just working in a more efficient way. A few decades into the past, one might have to go through an entire dictionary to find the meaning of one word, but not today. With Google today, we can find the meaning of any word, or in that case, the answer to any logical questions we may have, at the tap of a few buttons.

We love to meet and interact with people face-to-face, who doesn't? Well to meet people, we don't have to mandatorily be in the same location. With apps like Zoom, Skype, Facetime, imo, Google Duo right at our fingertips we can meet anyone, anywhere and at any time.

One cooler thing that we have is that we can purchase basically anything without having to go in-store waiting in long queues.

Groceries, clothes, stationary, food, furniture, you name it! You can buy anything you wished only with the click of a few buttons. Gen Z also accounts

for more than three-quarters (77%) of digital buyers with estimates to reach 85% (over 55M) by 2025.

The oldest people in our generation are now scratching the surface of adulthood. Gen Z is coming, to become a part of the multi-generational workspace. It is a bit evident that there will probably be a vast involvement of technology in it. If our new ways and perspectives are dealt with in the right way, powerful forces of innovation and introduction of new skills and abilities will be brought to the team.

Technology and the exposure to social media platforms at such an early age has influenced our lives immensely. If channelled in the right way, it can be vastly beneficial, if not, it will have its disadvantages. We are, without a doubt, the most potential laden generation of all time. But as Franklin D Roosevelt once said, "Great power involves great responsibility."

Like every other generation before us, the hope of humanity regarding advancement lies with us. With our whole lives ahead of us, we should look up with optimism because given time, opportunity and information, virtually everything is possible.

The writer is Diva Ailani, Student, Jasudben ML School

Food expedition for class 5 students

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Heritage Xperiential Learning School, known for its experiential learning pedagogy, recently launched a food-based expedition for its Class 5 students. Learning expeditions at Heritage are designed to allow for application of knowledge from multiple disciplines and usage of various skills, packing in experiences that

make learning real for students. The "I Am What I Eat" expedition explored the various aspects connected with food which ranged from studying the various components of food, deficiency diseases, and what comprises a balanced diet. It also introduced students to different types of food systems and farming practices like organic farming.

The unique aspect about

this expedition was that none of the above topics were taught only from the textbook but real-life, hands-on experiences were built into the learning of each of these. Some of the experiences that students had included nurturing a kitchen garden in their home, identifying and creating healthy recipes and selecting cooking methods, cooking oils and utensils which they found to be healthier

options explaining their reasons for choosing them.

Neena Kaul, Principal, Heritage Xperiential Learning School, said, "We at Heritage believe in enabling and empowering students so the effort in educating students is always to simulate real-life where one does not apply knowledge in a compartmentalized manner and being able to transfer knowledge across situations and subjects is critical.

SRM and Mahindra sign MoU

PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR

The Department of Automobile Engineering under the School of Mechanical Engineering at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra and Mahindra, Mahindra Research Valley, Mahindra World City, Chennai.

The key highlights of this MoU are, FIIP - Faculty Industry



Immersion Programme for SRMIST Faculty members; usage of SRM - BRIN Centre, Centre of Excellence in Automation Technologies on "Hydraulics and

Pneumatics Technologies", Mechatronics and Wind Tunnel facility for M&M's Mahindra Research Valley ("MRV") engineers and experimental study;

MRV experts to deliver guest lectures to SRM Students and SRM Faculties to deliver trainings to MRV engineers, in turn, based on need; M&M to offer internship to SRM Students, at MRV, without any payments; Submission of joint R&D proposals to Government; Industry visit for SRM students at MRV; and any other collaborations as the parties may mutually agree on from time to time. Dr Shankar M Venugopal elaborated the broad areas of research done at the valley.



COMMUNICATE FASHIONABLY

Marketers are using digital tools like search advertising, email marketing and search engine marketing to build brand awareness and recall, says DR SUNITA GUPTA KONWAR

Fashion marketing is where fashion and business intersect to build awareness of brands' core philosophy and products, connect with the target audience, drive sales and boost revenue. Fashion entrepreneurs need to be thoroughly abreast of marketing communication trends and position their brand as the top choice for customers. Unlike other sectors, fashion communication campaigns should be able to achieve their goals and objectives within a short timeline after their launch. Thus, the short cycle is the salient feature of fashion marketing campaigns.

The fashion industry is highly dynamic, with trends rapidly evolving. The competition is also stiff marked by the entry of several new brands. Here are some marketing communication trends redefining the fashion industry.

The acceleration of digital transformation has reimaged the fashion communication landscape. Marketers are increasingly leveraging digital tools such as search advertising, email marketing, search engine marketing, etc., to build brand awareness and

recall. Nevertheless, mobile-friendly websites, advertisements and landing pages are among the top trends for the fashion industry due to increasing traffic from mobile devices over any other channels.

Mobile marketing provides personalised, location and time-sensitive information to customers on the go. Nevertheless, the rise of digital platforms in no way implies the death-knell of traditional marketing. While digital platforms help to boost engagement and reach, traditional media build awareness and recall. Both mediums will co-thrive as fashion brands ramp up their communication strategies to achieve tangible outcomes.

The COVID-19 has catalysed digitisation, paving the way for fashion shows to go digital. Designers are collaborating with tech companies to harness computer-aided models to showcase the new collections. A salient feature of these events is the harnessing of innovative technologies like Augmented Reality and Artificial Intelligence to offer curated experiences. For instance,

The penetration of e-commerce, proliferation of emerging technologies and increasing social media consumption have prompted marketers to rethink their marketing communication strategies to monetise existing platforms effectively

The fabric of reality simulated an experience of guests moving down a purple carpet in a futuristic museum toward the exhibition hall.

The hallmark of the show was a 360-degree immersive experience, including a mix of fashion, music and graphics. It also leveraged the power of collaboration among digital experts and designers to produce animated videos.

Technology has also emerged as a panacea to enhance efficiency, ensure cost-effectiveness and maximise Return On Investment (ROI) on fashion communication campaigns. Technologies like AI help marketers gain insight into behavioural and purchase patterns of their target audience, segment them and customise their strategy accordingly.

Social shopping is among the relatively new fashion marketing trends. Fashion brands are linking their social media handles with their websites to enable viewers to make a purchase at one click anytime and anywhere.

Fashion bloggers/vloggers help reach out to new markets, increase lead generation and drive

sales for businesses.

Live streaming is another avenue with constant growth. Live streaming videos help fashion brands amplify their reach by enabling netizens to tune in to events from their devices in real-time. The fashion communication strategy should be geared towards establishing their official Livestream channels instead of relying on third-party players, besides YouTube, Instagram Live, Facebook Live, Vimeo Livestream, Streamshark and Ustream are fantastic live streaming platforms.

The penetration of e-commerce, the proliferation of emerging technologies and increasing social media consumption have prompted marketers to rethink their marketing communication strategies to monetise existing platforms more effectively and maximise their ROI from them. Nevertheless, great content with powerful storytelling and emotion will continue to be the key ingredient of successful marketing campaigns.

The writer is course leader, Associate Professor, Fashion Business Management, Indian Institute of Art and Design

'Prepare engineers for digital roles'

The need of the hour is to promote experiential learning in engineering colleges across the country, says NARAYAN MAHADEVAN

As per the Oxford language dictionary, the word engineer means a person who designs, builds or maintains engines, machines, or structures. Similarly, engineering is the branch of science and technology concerned with the design, building, and use of engines, devices, and facilities. The word had originated to define to describe the people behind structural or building marvels. However, over the period of time, the definition of engineer has expanded.

Today, we have several fields of engineering - ranging from civil to mechanical, electrical and software. With rapid digitalisation in every area, it is vital to prepare future engineers from every engineering field for digital roles. In India, the engineering curriculums are limited to theories, rote learning, and getting high scores, none of which is beneficial in getting the jobs rather they have only limited the job prospects of engineering graduates.



Narayan Mahadevan
Founder, Bridgelabz

The need of the hour is to promote experiential learning in engineering colleges across India. Companies nowadays look for employees that are innovative and experimental with their roles. Due to the lack of practical knowledge, engineers in India are not suitable for the available job profiles. One of the reasons that India has left behind in leading the tech innovation despite producing such a large number of engineers is that being experimental is not encouraged, new ideas are not given the space to grow in engineering institutes.

Apart from changing the curriculum, making the Indian engineers ready for future technologies is upskilling them and providing them with the required training. Engineering institutes need to encourage problem-solving and critical thinking skills by shifting the base to project-based education. Here are some of the other ways that can be adopted to make future Indian engineers tech-savvy.

Boot camps

Most engineers go for boot camps during their college. There are often instances of engineering graduates learning more at boot camps and internships than during their course of the degree. It is the reason why some

companies prefer CVs that have boot camps experience on it because it means better skilled. Hence, encouraging more boot camps for engineers is another way to go.

IT Labs

When it comes to building and nurturing talent, it is not the sole responsibility of engineering institutes. Companies need to come forward with opportunities where students can learn the process of, for instance, building applications from beginning to end. It will expose them to the process of coming up with an idea, designing it and project management, among other parts of the journey of making a tech-based product. Hence, introducing young engineers to IT labs is one way to make them a better workforce.

For engineers of tomorrow, the change has to come from within in the whole education and training process. In a nutshell, the way terms engineering and engineer have become inclusive of other fields, and it is vital for these fields themselves to become inclusive of technological advancements for a better future. India has given CEOs to tech giants like Google and Facebook. It's time we start engineering products of the level that cater for the world markets across fields.

Law governs the universe and every discipline contains the element of law within its sphere. By its very nature law is dynamic and progressive suiting to the needs of the society. By the term 'Law', we mean a set of rules specified for a given area which regulates the conduct of humans and prepares the people kind to meet the future exigencies.

Interestingly, law is omnipresent as its presence is found in every field of study, namely, medical, engineering, media, management, chartered accountancy, sociology, economics, geography, political science, psychology,

anthropology, philosophy, history, cultural and religious studies and so on and so forth. For instance, under the ambit of medical studies, one studies subjects like medical jurisprudence, forensic science and laws relating to negligence. One gets acquainted with Intellectual Property Rights Law, Cyber Laws, Information and Technology Laws and Telecommunication Laws, to name a few. In the field of mass media, various media related laws are covered like Prasar Bharti Act, 1990, Cable Networks Act, 1995, Press Council of India Act, 1978, relevant constitutional provisions and Right to Information Act, 2005. The

MIND IT

study in Management and Chartered Accountancy too remains incomplete without the study of business and commercial laws too.

The Central Board of Secondary Education made an incredible move by introducing legal studies as a subject from Class XI onwards in schools in 2013. The study of law helps an individual to understand his rights and duties. In India, law degrees are conferred as per the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961.

The study of law assumes tremendous importance as lawyers are considered to be the social scientists, social engineers and above all social entrepreneurs.

Dissemination of quality legal education signifies the grooming of budding lawyers in the proper environment resulting in the right conditioning of their minds to serve the society.

Since change is the only constant in

law, therefore the concept of continuing legal education has been introduced in India in the recent past so that the lawyers keep themselves abreast with the latest development in the field of law.

The progressive efforts for providing continuing legal education to the lawyers must be made by various law schools/universities, courts, commissions, law firms, ministries and various NGOs which are working for improving the quality of legal education in India. The popular methods employed in continuing legal education encompass participation in seminars/webinars, workshops, colloquiums and

conferences, writing research papers/articles and providing pro bono legal services and teaching.

Study of law is not only the learning of legal provisions but also training of mind to analyse and interpret legal provisions and suggest changes suiting needs of the time and society. To conclude, the study of law by every section of society certainly results into the expansion of legal awareness, raising one's consciousness and promoting a sense of well-being for one and all in the society.

The writer is Dr Daksha Sharma Assistant Professor of Law, School of Law, Bennett University



The Faculty of Science Masters Scholarship are open for international students — January 2022 intake.

Scholarships of between £3,000 - £5,000 are available to new international students joining the MSc Advanced Computer Science or MSc Advanced Software Engineering in the Faculty of Science commencing January 2022 at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

Eligibility: In order to be considered for a Faculty of Science International Masters Scholarship, candidates must:

- Be a new, international fee-paying student holding an offer of admission of a full-time place in MSc Advanced Computer Science or MSc Advanced Software Engineering.
- Be self-funded. The Faculty of Science's decision on the awarding of scholarships is final. Appeals will not be considered.
- For further information visit: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-with-us/scholarships/sci-encescholarships/facultyof-science-masters-scholarships-for-international-students-january-intake2122/>
- Application deadline:** It is December 15, 2021.

The Shawnee State University invites applications for its Merit-Based

Scholarships in the US, 2022.

Eligibility: An ACT score of 30 and a higher or an SAT score of 1320+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.8/4.0 scale you will be considered for this prestigious award. Those in consideration will be asked to submit sample work.

Shawnee Achievement Award: Score of 27 and a higher or an SAT score of 1210+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.8/4.0 scale.

Shawnee Excellence Award: Score of 25 and a higher or an SAT score of 1130+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.6/4.0 scale.

Shawnee Success Award: Score of 23 and a higher or an SAT score of 1060+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.4/4.0 scale.

Blue & Gray Award: Score of 21 and a higher or SAT score of 980+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.2/4.0 scale.

English language: Students whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in English by submitting satisfactory scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

How to apply: Apply to Shawnee State. Application for admission will be used as your application. Send ACT/SAT score to the Office of Admission. Send your current high school grade point average to their Office of Admission.

Application deadline: It is December 1, 2021.

QUESTION-SOLVING (PCMB) AT RANCIKE LEARNING
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹12,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3f6a45
Deadline: October 28, 2021

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT THRIFTY SOFTWARE
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000-₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/166170
Deadline: October 28, 2021

TEACHING (MATHEMATICS) AT SKILLSANTA
Location - Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4469c4
Deadline: October 28, 2021

BUSINESS ANALYTICS AT SUPRDAILY
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹40,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/e716a6
Deadline: October 28, 2021

IOS APP DEVELOPMENT AT ANTINO LABS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/c18468
Deadline: October 28, 2021

DATA MINING AT OPEN HAND SOLUTIONS
Location: Chandigarh, Ambala, Mohali
Stipend: ₹13,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/441b8c
Deadline: October 27, 2021

OPERATIONS AT JAIN AVIATION INTERNATIONAL
Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2f6367
Deadline: October 27, 2021



INBRIEF

WHITE LIGHT EMITTER FOR LEDs

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers have developed a white light emitter for use in LEDs. The development of energy-efficient Light Emitting Diodes or LEDs replaced the energy-inefficient incandescent lamps in lighting and display applications. While LEDs have been available in almost all colours, white LEDs are a more recent development. Conventional LED materials can't emit white light and specialised techniques like coating blue LED with yellow phosphor and combining blue, green, and red LEDs, have been used to produce white light. There has been a worldwide search for materials that can directly emit white light rather than through these indirect techniques that can cause loss of efficiency.

The innovation has been patented by the Researchers and was recently granted the Technology Translation Award. The Science and Engineering Research Board provides financial assistance to researchers, academic institutions, research and development laboratories, industrial concerns, and other agencies. The team proposes to use the grant money of ₹30 lakh to produce LEDs using their distorted perovskite materials.

JAIN ONLINE TO CO-HOST EDUCATE SUMMIT

The Jain Online has partnered to co-host Techspeciations EDUCATE 2021 to be held on October 23, 2021.

The 4th edition of the summit will witness a huge gathering of industry leaders across the nation on a single virtual platform to discuss the future of Indian education in a new normal era.

Industry leaders will discuss evolving trends in education space.

TESTING OF NEW ENGINEERING EXAM

The Pearson VUE, the global leader in computer-based testing has announced the launch of a new engineering exam.

The entrance exam for engineering is a first-of-its-kind product, aimed specifically at engineering students during the important university admissions stage.

The first exam was launched in December 2020 as a general aptitude test for all undergraduate courses.

Building off the successful market entry of this exam, Pearson VUE is now starting to offer tailored exam content for specialist subjects.

LSAT-INDIA 2022 IN TWO CYCLES NOW

The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) has announced plans to administer the LSAT-India 2022 in two cycles using the online proctored format that will allow law school aspirants to take the test safely, from the convenience of their own homes.

The first administration of the test will be conducted on January 15, 2022 and the second administration would be over a five-day period, starting May 9, 2022 to accommodate the larger number of anticipated test takers.

Registration are open. In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LSAT-India 2022 will again be administered through an online delivery system with artificial intelligence-assisted remote proctoring to ensure the integrity and validity of each test. This format enabled more than 7,600 aspiring law students, as well as law colleges to enjoy an uninterrupted admission cycle despite the extraordinary circumstances of the global health emergency.

The LSAC's Vice President Yusuf Abdul-Kareem explained that two opportunities to appear for the LSAT-India will help aspirants maximise their law college admission process.

PROGRAMMES ON AI, BI, ML & DL FOR CORPORATES

These courses will enable organisations build resource capability facilitating digital transformation and upskilling learners across domains. There are five courses — Business Intelligence Transformation, AI & ML for Everyone, ML & Data Science Essentials, ML & Data Science: Specialised Programmes, and Application-Based ML & DS Programmes.

EDUCATION LOANS FOR UG & PG IN RAJASTHAN

The EmpowerYouth.com has now opened up its offerings to students in Rajasthan, after the immense success of their education loans for studies across Punjab and Himachal.

The organisation has tied up with Shyam University, Dausa to help their students with availability of education loans. More such partnerships across Rajasthan are being finalised.

The students will be provided with interest free education loans. In addition, the company will provide various other benefits like campus placements for jobs and internships, as well as expert sessions with industry leaders from across India and the globe.

The organisation has also tied up with [PaisaOnline.net](https://www.empoweryouth.com) to provide fee-financing solutions to students coming from rural areas of the State of Rajasthan.

Loans up to ₹10 lakh will be provided under interest-free scheme to the students for college education in EmpowerYouth.com partner institutions. Loans in non-partner institutions will be provided at very low rates of interest.

For more information, please visit: www.empoweryouth.com.



Sindhu makes winning return

Srikanth, Sameer too advance at Denmark Open

PTI ■ ODENSE

Returning to action after a break, double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu saw off Turkey's Neslihan Yigit in straight games to join compatriots Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma in the second round of the Denmark Open here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, took 30 minutes to get across Yigit, ranked 29th, 21-12 21-10 in her women's singles opener of the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament.

The fourth seeded Indian, who had skipped the Sudirman Cup and Uber Cup Final after the Tokyo Olympics, will next face Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan.

Former champion Srikanth and Sameer also made winning starts to their men's singles campaigns at the USD 850,000 event.

While Srikanth, who had claimed the title in 2017, outsmarted compatriot B Sai Praneeth 21-14 21-11 in 30 minutes, Sameer, ranked 28th, prevailed over Thailand's world no 21 Kunlavut Vitidsarn 21-17 21-14 in a 42-minute clash.

World no 14 Srikanth will meet world no 1 and top seeded Japanese Kento Momota in the second round, while Sameer is likely to face Denmark's third seed Anders Antonsen in the next round.

Indian men's doubles players, however, had a mixed day in office. While Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated English pair of

Sindhu should prioritise winning All England title, says Padukone

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India ace PV Sindhu is currently the best badminton player in the world but she should prioritise winning the All England Championship, which is the only trophy missing from her illustrious cabinet, said the legendary Prakash Padukone on Tuesday.

Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist and the reigning world champion, has won medals in almost all big-ticket events but the All England trophy has eluded her so far.

Padukone, India's first All England champion, said Sindhu should plan her schedule in such a way that she is in the best possible shape for winning the prestigious title.

"If I was in her (Sindhu's) place, I would do that (prioritise the tournament). That is one title, which is missing from her ... otherwise I think she has done a fantastic job," Padukone said after launching the PSM Badminton Coaching Programme at the National Sports Club of India.

"...probably she is the best badminton player, she has won everything: Olympics, World Championship, five medals. All England is one which is not in her (winners list trophies)," he told reporters here on Tuesday.

Sindhu had become the first Indian woman to claim two Olympic medals when she won the bronze at Tokyo Games to go with her silver at Rio five years ago.

Callum Hemming and Steven Stallwood 23-21 21-15 in their opener, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila stunned England's world no 17 pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy 21-19 21-15 to make a positive start to their campaign.

But Manu Attri and B Sumeth Reddy lost 18-21 11-21 to Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin in the opening round to bow out of the competition.

World no 7 Sindhu, who had claimed a bronze at Tokyo Games to go with her Rio sil-

ver medal, hardly broke any sweat during her opening contest against Yigit.

The Indian was up 5-4 and then kept moving ahead to comfortably pocket the opening game.

The second game was no different as Sindhu erased a 1-3 deficit to grab a 10-4 lead. Yigit made it 9-10 before the Indian held a two-point advantage at the break.

After the interval, it was a one-way traffic as Sindhu sealed the contest without much ado.

Scotland beat PNG for second win in a row Inch closer to Super 12s

PTI ■ AL AMERAT (OMAN),

Richie Berrington slammed a stroke-filled 70 while Josh Davey snapped four wickets as Scotland inched closer to the Super 12s with a comfortable 17-run win over Papua New Guinea in their Group B match of the ICC T20 World Cup on Tuesday.

Scotland grabbed the top position in Group B with two wins having shocked Bangladesh in their opening game. Berrington put on 92 runs off 65 balls with Matthew Cross (45) before adding

another 33 with Calum MacLeod (10) as Scotland posted a challenging 165 for 9 after opting to bat.

Kyle Coetzer's men then produced a splendid bowling effort to skittle out PNG for 148 in 19.3 overs with Davey (4/18) emerging as the standout bowler.

PNG thus made an early exit to their maiden campaign at the T20 World Cup following the second successive loss. They had lost to Oman by 10 wickets in their tournament opener.

Chasing 166 to win, PNG needed their batters to fire but they couldn't get any momentum and were soon reduced to 35 for 5 in 6 overs.

Norman Vanua (47) and Kiplin Doriga (18) then fought back adding 53 off 29 balls to raise hopes but Watt broke the partnership dismissing the latter in the 17th over.

Davey then returned to remove Vanua to dash PNG's slim hopes of a mid-



B'desh beat Oman by 26 runs

PTI ■ AL AMERAT

Bangladesh beat Oman by 26 runs in their Group B match of the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Opener Mohammad Naim struck a fine half-century before co-hosts Oman bowled out Bangladesh for 153. In response, Oman could only manage 127 for nine in 20 overs.

Opting to bat in a must game win, Bangladesh, who lost their tournament opener to Scotland, struggled to 29 for the loss of two wickets in the powerplay.

Naim, who hit 64 of 51 deliveries, and star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (42 off 29) shared an 81-run stand to give



their side the much-needed momentum. Pacers Fayyaz Butt (3/30), Kaleemullah (2/30) and Bilal Khan (3/18) shared eight wickets while left-arm spinner Zeeshan Maqsood (1/17) accounted for one.

Brief Scores:
Bangladesh: 153 all out in 20 overs (Mohammad Naim 64, Shakib Al Hasan 42; Fayyaz Butt (3/30), Bilal Khan (3/18).
Oman: 127/9 in 20 overs (Jatinder Singh 40; Mustafizur Raham 4/36).

Harbhajan Singh, Javagal Srinath awarded MCC life membership



PTI ■ LONDON

India's Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath were on Tuesday awarded life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), joining 16 other cricketers who were given the honour this year. The MCC, based at Lord's, is the custodian of cricket laws. Harbhajan and Srinath both enjoyed fine international careers. Harbhajan is India's

third-highest wicket-taker in Tests, with 417 dismissals in 103 Tests and more than 700 plus international wickets across formats. Srinath, currently an ICC Elite Panel Match Referee, is one of the greatest fast bowlers with 315 ODI wickets and 236 Test victims. "Eight of the 12 Test-playing nations are represented within this year's list, which includes some of the most recognisable names in the modern game," said the MCC in a statement. England's leading Test run-scorer Alastair Cook, is joined by fellow countrymen Ian Bell and Marcus Trescothick, totalling more than 39,000 international runs between them.

A fourth England star, Sarah Taylor, returned to the field this year, appearing in the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, Charlotte Edwards Cup and The Hundred, and is recognised as one of the finest wicket-keepers of her generation.

World Snooker Qualifiers: Pankaj Advani shines with 121-point effort

IAN S ■ MUMBAI

India's most celebrated cueist, Pankaj Advani (PSPB) neatly constructed a brilliant 121 points effort as he rallied splendidly from the loss of the opening two frames to prevail over Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) 4-2 and record his fourth successive win in the Men's 'Y' Camp (1st leg) round-robin league matches of the World Snooker Qualifiers, a BSFI National Selection Tournament on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old India No. 2 Advani, started hesitantly and the left-handed Dhvaj cashed on



the opportunities to take a 2-0 lead. But, the cool and calculated Advani, winner of multiple

World titles, showed his class as he turned on the magic in compiling a stupendous run

which drew loud cheers and applause from the goody crowds as he went on to win the third frame and get back into the match.

That three-figure break, the highest break so far in the competition, seemed to have knocked the fight out of Haria as the Bengaluru-based Advani went on to comfortable win the next three frames to complete a satisfying 29-74, 31-79, 121(121)-00, 69-14, 69-03 and 72-17 win.

On Monday night, Advani had defeated Pushpender Singh (RSPB) 4-1 (68(51)-34, 86-01, 00-86(86), 120(84)-11, 61-25)

win, the organisers informed in a release on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, National champions Aditya Mehta (Men) and Vidya Pillai (Women) both suffered setbacks. The 35-year-old Mehta (PSPB) came lost to Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) who played steadily to clinch a 4-2 (13-87, 79-39, 44-55, 82-00, 67-01, 71-36) victory late on Monday. However, Mehta regained his winning form and with breaks of 83 (2nd frame), 72 (4th), and 56 (5th) defeated Pushpender Singh (RSPB) 4-1 (55-19, 98(83)-00, 56-65(46), 129(72)-00 and 69(56)-33) to keep his qualifying hopes alive.

Hardik, not bowling will not impact India's chances, feels Kapil Dev

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev has opined that all-rounder Hardik Pandya not bowling will not impact Team India's chances at the ICC T20 World Cup. However, he added that it will affect the "combination and the options" for Virat Kohli.

Kapil's comments came after Hardik refrained from bowling in India's warm-up match against England, which the Men-in-Blue won on Monday. Kohli used five full-time bowling options and they conceded 188 runs. Hardik (12* off 10

balls) played as a specialist batsman.

"An all-rounder always makes a massive difference to a team. Hardik not bowling will not impact India's chances, but it will make a difference in terms of Kohli's options. If an all-rounder is available for both, it enhances the captain's ability to rotate bowlers and gives him the extra option to fall back on," Kapil Dev told Sportskeeda.

"In Hardik's case, India should be okay given the talent in the team, but him bowling even two overs will obviously lend more flexibility," he added.

Indian women's football team faces Swedish top tier side in friendly match today

PTI ■ STOCKHOLM

With three recent international wins under its belt, a confident Indian women's football team will take on Swedish top tier league side Hammarby IF in a friendly match here on Wednesday.

This is the first of the two friendlies the Indian team will play in the Scandinavian country.

The team played four matches against UAE (4-1), Tunisia (0-1), Bahrain (5-0) and Chinese Taipei (1-0) as part of preparations for next year's women's AFC Asian Cup.

"It's a big challenge for us in Sweden, but the girls are motivated to give their best in every game," said goalkeeper Aditi Chauhán on the eve of the match.

"It's often about who wants more on the pitch, and our girls are certainly pumped up after the results that we have had recently," she added.

The Indian team under Swedish coach Thomas Dennerby scored 10 goals in the four international friendly games while conceding only one to register three wins and one loss.

"These games have been very helpful for the team. They helped us reflect on the team and individual performances. These matches helped us look at our strengths and weaknesses," another player Dalima Chhibber said.

"As a team, we are focused on building up to the AFC Women's Asian Cup next year, and competitive matches like these help us plan for the areas where we need to improve," Chhibber said that the team is working hard to adapt to the philosophy that coach Dennerby is trying to inculcate in the team.

"We are working with a new coaching philosophy both on and off the field. The preparations for the flagship tournament is going on in full swing," she said.

SINGLES

FRED GOODALL, UMPIRE IN STORMY WINDIES SERIES, NO MORE

Wellington: New Zealand cricket umpire Fred Goodall, who was at the center of a famously ill-tempered test series between New Zealand and the West Indies in 1980, has died. He was 83. His death was announced Tuesday by New Zealand Cricket, which did not specify a cause. Goodall stood in 24 test matches and 15 one-day internationals between 1965 and 1988. He is best remembered in cricket for his part in the contentious second test at Lancaster Park, Christchurch in February 1980, when he was barged by West Indies fast bowler Colin Croft.

IN-FORM AMANDEEP EYE GOOD OUTING AT 11TH LEG OF HERO WPGT

Panchkula: In-form Amandeep Drall will look to continue her impressive run when she competes at the 11th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Panchkula Golf Club beginning on Wednesday. The Kapurthala golfer, who has gained a lot of confidence with a string of events in Europe, was in excellent form in the 10th leg where she was a runaway winner and closed the week with a ladies course record 7-under 65 on the last day. Two other players showing a lot of confidence on their return from the European sojourn are Vani Kapoor and Gaurika Bishnoi, who are also in the field.

THERE IS NO CSK WITHOUT DHONI, SAYS N SRINIVASAN

New Delhi: Former BCCI president and India Cements Ltd (ICL) vice-chairman N Srinivasan has showered praise on Chennai Super Kings' captain MS Dhoni, saying "there is no CSK without Dhoni". Just to refresh the reader's mind, ICL owned the CSK from the start of IPL in 2008 till 2014, when the ownership was transferred to Chennai Super Kings Cricket Ltd, a subsidiary of ICL. The Super Kings are the IPL 2021 champion for the fourth time, thanks to Dhoni's leadership.

Once having cycled across 17 nations 67-YR-OLD MAYURE ON MISSION KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having once paddled across 17 nations and 15,000 kilometres to reach Athens back in 2004, veteran Maharashtra cyclist Sanjay Mayure has embarked on 'Bharat Darshan' as he has undertaken a challenge to cycle from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in two months.

A renowned cyclist from Maharashtra's Vidarbha region 67-year-old Mayure reached New Delhi on Tuesday after having started his mission from Srinagar's Lal Chowk on October 8.

From Delhi, Mayure will be heading to Gwalior followed by

Nagpur and then off to Hyderabad. From Hyderabad, he will be reaching Bengaluru before the final stretch which consists of three cities — Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Rameswaram covering around 4,100 kms.

Mayure is expected to cover this distance in the next two months. "I think age is just a number. It is very easy to give excuses to avoid difficult tasks.

Cycling has been my passion right from childhood. It kept me healthy and busy at this age too," said Mayure, who had some years back retired as Nayab Tahsildar of revenue department at DM's office.

Asked how he manages his accommodation as there is a fair amount of expense associated with this kind of a journey across India. "I have never taken money and mostly managed on my own. I have spent lot of nights at Gurdwaras and ate the langar food and at times stayed in Mandirs where I have survived on prasad. Some places where I have no option, I stay at budget hotels to cut costs. But this is my passion and I can't ask for money from anyone," said Mayure, who hails from a small town Buldana, which is 50 kms from Ajanta, Ellora Caves.

Mayure, who won several cycling races in his younger days and earned the reward of 'Ghatacha Raja' (King of Ghats), was 50 years old when he had cycled across 17 countries to encourage Indian Olympians during the Athens edition.

So how does he manage costs and Mayure revealed a story of passion. "My wife is a retired SBI officer, my son is also working in a bank and my daughter-in-law is a teacher. I can't tell how much my wife encourages me. I save my pension money and then use it for these trips.

SAFF Championships title not a 'special success' Aim is to qualify for 2023 Asian Cup: Coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India winning the SAFF Championships for an eighth time is not a "special success" as the country is dominant in the South Asian region and the bigger aim is to do well in the 2023 Asian Cup qualification, national football team head coach Igor Stimac said on Wednesday. India won the regional tournament after beating Nepal 3-0 in the final in Male on Saturday to hand Stimac his first trophy as in-charge of the team. "I don't consider it (the SAFF title) as a special success because it is normal that India wins when it goes to SAFF but it demonstrates that we are very dominant in this competition and we can progress in our game a lot more," Stimac said at a virtual interaction. He, however, admitted that his team was under a lot of "result pressure" after drawing Bangladesh (1-1) and Sri Lanka (0-0) in the first two round-robin league matches.

The results had put India in danger of going out of reckoning for the final. India then beat Nepal 1-0 and hosts Maldives 3-1 in must-win matches before outplaying

the Himalayan country 3-0 in the summit clash to stamp their authority.

"It was obviously a difficult situation we found after the first two matches but they looked bad only because of the results. There was no big difference in approach, the numbers and statistics, we had enough shoots, scoring chances, movement and energy by players.

"We scored sometimes and didn't score sometimes and that made the difference. So, we had a lot of results pressure on our shoulders but we dealt with it the way it should be and in the end we won the trophy which was really important." Stimac was speaking from Bengaluru after his return from Maldives and he is leaving for Dubai Tuesday night with the U-23 national team, which he has taken charge of for the 2022 Asian U-23 Championships qualifiers in the UAE from October 25 to 31.

The Croatian gaffer said that the sides aim is to make it to the 2023 Asian Cup for which the qualification third round is set to begin early February next year.

