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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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10 VIVACITY

# Won't spare corrupt: Modi

'No matter how powerful, persons betraying nation won't be let off'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that no matter how powerful a person may be, stern action should be taken against those who work against the interest of the nation or its people by indulging in corruption.

Virtually addressing a joint conference of the CVC and the CBI at Kevadia in Gujarat, the PM asked the agencies to ensure that there are no safe havens anywhere in the world for those who betray the country.

Modi's assertions come against the backdrop of the Centre's engagement in legal proceedings to bring back alleged economic offenders like Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, who have taken refuge in foreign countries after allegedly duping the nation of thousands of crores of rupees.

"You have to remember that your partnership is with this 'mitti' (soil), with *Maa Bharti* (Mother India). There should not be any safe havens anywhere in the world for those who betray the country or its people," Modi said in his address.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the Mahaparinirvana Temple, on the occasion of the Abhidhamma Day, at Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday

"However powerful one may be, stern action should be taken against those who work contrary to the national interest or against the people of the country. Everyone should continue to work in the national interest," he said.

Modi said due to the hard work of his Government in the last six-seven years, a faith has been established among people that corruption can be stemmed.

"In the last six-seven years, we have been able to establish a faith among people that it is possible to stop corruption in the country. People of the

country have faith today that they will get benefits of Government schemes without any give and take or without any middlemen," he said.

"Corruption, big or small, takes away the rights of common people. It is a hindrance in the progress of the country and affects our collective energy," he added.

Taking a swipe at earlier dispensations, Modi said, "The way the earlier Government functioned, it lacked the political and administrative will to fight corruption. Today, there is a political will and administrative reforms are also being

carried out to achieve the goal."

Post-Independence, the mindset of the Governments was to keep everything under their control. Those Governments kept maximum control with themselves and due to it, the system witnessed many wrong practices, he said.

Maximum control, be it at home, in family or in the country, causes maximum damage, he said. Modi added, "We started as a mission to simplify the life of people by reducing controls, we believe in minimum Government and maximum Governance."

Continued on Page 2

350 air routes, UDAN has taken big leap, says PM

PNS ■ KUSHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the Centre has approved around 900 new air routes under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme of which 350 have already become operational while more than 50 new airports, or those which were not in service earlier, have become operational.

"The Government is also working on preparing more than 200 airports, heliports, and water ports for seaplanes in the next four years," the Prime Minister said while addressing a big public meeting here after inaugurating and laying the foundation of 12 projects worth over ₹345 crores, including a ₹280 crore 500-bedded new medical college in Kushinagar.

Modi pointed out that the goal behind all these steps is to provide better connectivity to people living in the remotest corners, while air, rail, road, and waterways add to people's comfort. The Prime Minister said more middle-class people were able to avail flight services today than in the past due to the steps taken by the Government.

Continued on Page 2

# SC raps UP for slow Lakhimpur probe

Court asks Govt to shed image, orders witness protection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reprimanded the Uttar Pradesh Government for "dragging its feet" in the probe into Lakhimpur violence and ordered the protection of witness. The apex court cautioned the State police that probe should not be an "unending story" and UP Government is required to "dispel" that impression and should ensure recording of statements of witnesses before magistrates.

"We think you are dragging your feet, please dispel that impression," said the top court, and red-flagged the issue of non-recording of statements of nearly 40 prosecution witnesses, of the total 44, before judicial magistrates under section 164 of the CrPC.

"Please ask them to immediately take steps to record section 164 statements. That is the most important thing... Protection to the victims as well as the witnesses," said the bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli.

Statements under section 164 of the CrPC (Code of



Criminal Procedure) are recorded before a judicial magistrate and they have evidentiary value. The State Govt informed the court that statements of four out of the 44 witnesses have been recorded by the judicial magistrate.

Ten people, including Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, have been arrested in connection with the violence that has triggered a political slugfest ahead of the crucial Assembly elections in the State.

The bench also raised the issue of filing of the status report on the day of hearing with the CJI observing, "We waited till 1 am last night for any filing. But we received nothing."

Senior advocate Harish Salve, who appeared along with

advocate Garima Prasad for the State Government, said the status report has been filed in a sealed cover on Wednesday because of the impression that it was for the perusal of the court only. "No that was not required and we have just received it now... We never said anything about sealed covers," the bench said while declining the request to hear the matter on Friday. It listed the next hearing on October 26.

The Bench said, "Mr Salve, you said that you (police) have examined 44 witnesses and out of them, four witnesses' statements have been recorded under section 164 (before a judicial magistrate) of CrPC. Why have you not recorded the statements of other witnesses under 164?"

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# BJP open to alliance with 'nationalist' Amarinder

Captain is a patriot: BJP

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI



the agitation against the three farm laws which they feel may hit the traditional "mandi system" of sell and purchase of agricultural produce and may even end minimum support price, sooner or later, the BJP may think in terms of seeking some sort of reconciliation with the farmers to pave the way for an alliance with Amarinder.

BJP party general secretary and Punjab in-charge Dushyant Gautam on Wednesday said "Amarinder is a patriot" and the BJP is open to an alliance with him. "Amarinder was once a soldier

and his stand on the issues of national security should be praised," the BJP leader said.

On Amarinder's condition of resolving farmers' issues, BJP general secretary said Singh did not talk about ending the farmers' agitation. "He talked about farmers' issues. We are committed to it and are working for the welfare of farmers. If the time comes, both will sit together and discuss farmers' issues," Gautam was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

As far as the agitation is concerned, it is politically motivated, he added.

"Our main agenda is nationalism and keeping the nation first. All those parties who want to form alliances with us on this agenda are welcome," he said.

Amarinder has openly announced that he would see that congress Punjab chief Navjot Singh Sidhu is defeated in the polls as he is a "threat to the national security".

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# 4 LeT terrorists killed in Op All Out, migrants' murder avenged

Soldier martyred, 2 hurt; 17 ultras killed in 2 weeks

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU



Security forces during an encounter with terrorists at Nar Khas forest area of Poonch district on Wednesday

PTI

The joint team of security forces on Wednesday avenged the death of migrant labourers by eliminating four Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists in the South Kashmir districts of Shopian and Kulgam. Three Army jawans also sustained bullet injuries during the operation in the Dragad area of Shopian.

One among them, Sepoy Karamveer Singh, succumbed to his injuries in hospital. He hailed from the Rampur area of Madhya Pradesh.

After the recent killing of migrant labourers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the security forces have launched an operation All Out to flush out the terrorists.

So far, 17 terrorists have

been eliminated in 11 encounters in the last two weeks. Eleven civilians, including five laborers, also lost their lives during targeted killings.

Kashmir range IGP Vijay Kumar said two LeT terrorists

killed in Devsar area of Kulgam were behind the killing of two labourers from Bihar.

In the first operation, security forces eliminated two terrorists, including Adil Ahmad Wani, a LeT terrorist, believed

to have targeted a carpenter Sager Ahmad hailing from Saharanpur area of Uttar Pradesh.

In the second encounter, a joint team of security forces neutralised LeT district commander Gulzar Ahmad Reshi in the Devsar area of Kulgam. Reshi was behind the killing of two poor labourers from Bihar.

According to a police spokesman, a joint cordon and search operation was launched in the Dragad area of Shopian after receiving inputs about the presence of LeT terrorists in the area on Wednesday. After confirming their whereabouts in the areas the terrorists were given the opportunity to surrender.

Instead of paying heed to these appeals, the terrorists chose to open indiscriminate firing on the security forces, he said. The police spokesman said in the encounter, two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter.

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## CAPSULE

### WEAPONS, 1 KG DRUGS RECOVERED AT BORDER

**Chandigarh:** The Punjab Police and the BSF have recovered a huge cache of weapons near the India-Pakistan border in the Khemkaran area of Tarn Taran district. In a joint operation, the Counter Intelligence wing of the Punjab Police and the BSF recovered 22 pistols, 44 magazines and 100 rounds of ammunition, the police official said. One kg of heroin was also recovered, he added

### 43 NAXALS SURRENDER IN SUKMA DISTRICT

**Sukma:** A total of 43 Naxals, including nine women cadres, surrendered before the police in Chhattisgarh's worst Maoist-hit Sukma district on Wednesday.

### COVID-INDUCED NIGHT CURFEW LIFTED IN UP

**Lucknow:** In view of the improved Covid-19 situation in Uttar Pradesh, the State Government lifted night curfew between 11 pm to 6 am.

### CBI FILES CHARGESHEET IN DHANBAD JUDGE CASE

**New Delhi:** The CBI has filed a chargesheet against two accused in the alleged murder of Dhanbad Judge Uttam Anand, who was mowed down by an auto-rickshaw on July 28.

# Delhi Govt to pay ₹50,000/hectare to kisan for crop damage: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi will ensure that farmers in the city who suffered losses due to crop damage this year get compensation at the rate of ₹50,000 per hectare.

Addressing media online, Kejriwal said Delhi farmers need not get distressed over crop damage as their son stands with them. "I have directed District Magistrates and SDMs to complete the surveying of damaged crops in two weeks. Compensation should reach the farmers' accounts within one to one and a half months after that," he added.

A delegation of farmers had recently met the chief minister seeking help of the Government in view of crop damage due to rain.

# Char dham yatra resumes as rain fury subsides after killing over 50

PNS ■ DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

As rain subsided in Uttarakhand after taking lives of over 50 people and damaging properties worth hundreds of crores, the "char dham" yatra resumed on Wednesday. The "char dham" pilgrimage was suspended for three days, from October 17 to 19, amid warning of heavy rainfall in the hill State during this period.

At least 14 people, including eight trekkers from West Bengal and Delhi, have gone missing at separate places in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district amid snowfall.

After its late withdrawal from northwest India, the southwest monsoon remains active over some parts of the country. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the southwest monsoon will withdraw completely from



Stranded tourists being evacuated by the NDRF from the landslide affected area following heavy rain in Nainital

PTI

the entire country around October 26, paving the way for the commencement of the

northeast monsoon. There will be rainfall activity over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry,

coastal and south Karnataka during October 20-24.

Continued on Page 2

# Can't promise no coercive action as Param Bir not traceable: Maha

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The whereabouts of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh were not known, the Maharashtra Government on Wednesday told the Bombay High Court.

As Singh is not traceable, it did not wish to continue its assurance that no coercive action (such as arrest) would be taken against him in an Atrocities Act case, the Government said.

"He isn't traceable. In these circumstances, we do not want to continue our earlier statement where the Government said it would not take any coercive action against him," State senior counsel Darius Khambata told a division bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sarang Kotwal.

Continued on Page 2

# Denied bail, Aryan moves Bombay HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Special Court set up under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on Wednesday rejected the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan Khan and two others in the mid-sea drug bust case, prompting Aryan's lawyers of to challenge the sessions court's order in the Bombay High Court.

Apart from Aryan's bail application, the two other bail pleas that Additional Sessions Judge VV Patil rejected — in his much-awaited order — were that of his co-accused Arbaaz Merchantt and Munmun Dhamecha.

"Bail application nos 2571/21, 2576/21 and 2583/21 stand rejected. Accordingly, the bail applications are disposed of. The authenticated copy of roz-



nama be supplied to advocates and SPP," the Judge noted in his order that he passed at 2.45 pm.

Less than two hours after the Special Court rejected his plea, Aryan's lawyers moved the High Court challenging the lower court's order denying him bail in the mid-sea drug bust case.



# Woman with ₹21.60 cr heroin arrested in Maha Inter-State drug racket busted

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Sluths of the Anti Narcotics Cell of Mumbai Police have busted a major racket involving the traffic of drugs between Rajasthan and Maharashtra, by arresting a woman with around 7.20 kilograms of hero- in worth over ₹21.60 crore in the international markets.

Giving details of the inter-state drug racket, the ANC of the Mumbai police said on Wednesday that its personnel arrested the alleged female drug trafficker – identified as one Amina Hamza Sheikh alias Lalli (53)-- along with the contraband from Sion in north-central Mumbai on Tuesday.

The intelligence inputs based on which the ANC was working have revealed that there have been instances of banned narcotics having originated from the drugs mafia based in Pratapgarh and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan. The drugs were

being transported to Mumbai by trains or inter-state buses.

Quoting the confession made by accused Amina Lalli, the seized consignment was procured from two suppliers in Devaldi, Navgama in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan.

The contraband was picked up in Mumbai by Amina Lalli and her associates, along with the drugs meant for onward distribution to suppliers and peddlers in Mumbai and her other customers, said the police.

Amina Lalli, a history sheeter, had earlier been arrested in different cases by the ANC units of Worli in 2015 and Ghatkopar in 2018 for dealing in various types of banned drugs.

The investigators are looking into her other links with the drugs mafia operating in the states of Rajasthan and Maharashtra and trying to track down her accomplices.

# Can't promise no coercive action as Param Bir...

**From page 1**

Param Bir Singh's counsel Mahesh Jethmalani said he had not been declared as an absconder yet.

"In this case, he was summoned twice and both the times he responded," Jethmalani said.

The high court was hearing a petition filed by the senior IPS officer seeking to quash the FIR lodged against him under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and relevant IPC sections on a complaint filed by police inspector Bhimrao Ghadge.

The judges adjourned the hearing to the next week.

Ghadge, presently posted in Akola district, has leveled allegations of corruption against Singh and some other officers when Singh was Thane police commissioner.

Singh pressurised him to drop the names of some persons from a case and when he refused, he was framed up in false cases, Ghadge claimed.

The FIR was registered

under the Atrocities Act as the complainant belongs to an SC community as well for extortion and some other Indian Penal Code offenses.

Singh's lawyer claimed that the FIR was a backlash over Singh's allegations of corruption against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh.

The IPS officer is also facing at least four extortion cases in Thane and Mumbai.

He was transferred from the post of Mumbai police commissioner in March after the arrest of police officer (now dismissed) Sachin Waze in the case of an SUV with explosives found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence and the murder of businessman Mansukh Hiran.

Singh then accused Deshmukh of asking Waze to collect Rs 100 crore every month from bars and restaurants in Mumbai. The NCP leader, who denied the allegation, soon stepped down as minister and is facing CBI probe.

**FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS**  
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that to meet the demand of extra traffic, Railways have decided to run the following Festival Special Trains as under:-

01678/01677 New Delhi - Gaya Jn. - New Delhi Superfast Festival Special Express (Bi-Weekly)		16 Trips
TRAIN NO. 01678		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS
—	08:10	New Delhi
00:30	—	Gaya Jn.
Days of Run : 01678 Ex New Delhi on every Monday & Friday from 25.10.2021 to 19.11.2021 and 01677 Ex Gaya Jn. on every Tuesday & Saturday from 26.10.2021 to 20.11.2021		
Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).		
Stoppages : Ghaziabad Jn., Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram Jn. & Dehri On Sone stations.		
09189/09190 Bandra (T) - H. Nizamuddin - Bandra (T) AC Superfast Festival Special Express (Bi-Weekly)		20 Trips
TRAIN NO. 09189		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS
—	17:30	Bandra (T)
10:15	—	H. Nizamuddin
Days of Run : 09189 Ex Bandra (T) on every Sunday & Wednesday from 27.10.2021 to 28.11.2021 and 09190 Ex H. Nizamuddin on every Monday & Thursday from 28.10.2021 to 29.11.2021		
Accommodation : AC 3 Tier and AC Chair Car.		
Stoppages : Surat, Vadodara Jn., Ratlam Jn., Kota Jn. & Mathura Jn. stations.		
Note: The above Special Trains will run with full reserved Accommodation		
For any kind of information such as detailed Time -Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website: <a href="http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in">www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in</a> or NTES App.		
All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.		
RailMadad Helpline No. 139	Visit RailMadad website: <a href="http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in">www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in</a> Download Railmadad App	
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# Did Capt collude with BJP in framing farmers law, asks Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday took a swipe at former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, asking him if he had colluded with the BJP in bringing the three agriculture laws against whom the farmers are protesting since last year. The comments came a day after Amarinder Singh, who resigned as Chief Minister in September after he had fallen out with the Congress leadership, said he would float his political party and may align with the BJP if the farmers' protest is resolved.

"The way such statements are being given in public, the question is whether Amarinder Singh and the BJP were in collusion with each other over the bringing of three black agri laws," said Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh, adding Singh's statements vindicate the party's decision to replace him as chief minister.

"It seems the BJP and Amarinder Singh were together in bringing the three farm laws," he said when asked about Singh's statement. The Congress veteran had quit as Chief Minister, saying he will not face further humiliation by the party, and was replaced by Charanjit Singh Channi.

Vallabh said that "99 per cent of Punjab MLAs understood these issues" and the language used by Singh that he has no problems in tying up with BJP, which brought the three black laws, proves the Congress party's action of

replacing him was right.

Vallabh said without underestimating his contribution to the Congress, Singh's statements are proving what some skeptics used to say a few weeks ago and now he is ready to go with that party which is not giving a legal guarantee to the MSP.

Harish Rawat, the AICC general secretary in-charge of Punjab, also said that Amarinder Singh has proved what the MLAs were saying for some time that he is with the BJP and the Akalis. He said "he will cut into the votes of the Congress and will, in turn, help the BJP", but people of Punjab now understand everything.

Rawat has also urged the party high command to relieve him of the duties of in-charge of Punjab as he wanted to spend all his time in his 'karm-bhoomi' Uttarakhand, which has been badly affected by floods. In a Facebook post, he said elections are due in Punjab and Uttarakhand after some months and one cannot spend full-time in both places.

"If I do justice to my motherland then only I will be able to do justice to my workplace. I am very grateful to Punjab Congress and the people of Punjab for continuous blessings and moral support to me," he said in his post.

"I have decided to pray to the leadership that I can remain fully dedicated to Uttarakhand in the next few months. That's why I should be freed from that responsibility which is my current responsibility in Punjab," he said.

# Heavy rain, landslides bring life to standstill in N-Bengal



PNS ■ KOLKATA

After Uttarkhand it is the turn of the eastern mountains of North Bengal with cloud bursts and heavy rains bringing lives in most towns of the northern part of the State to a standstill.

The road link between Bengal and Sikkim was snapped due to landslides at various places off Rangpo, sources in Darjeeling district administration said adding a part of the Balasan Bridge the one that connects Bengal to Assam and Bihar had subsided resulting in total blocking of the traffic which was currently being divert through another route.

Similarly National Highway 10 and 55 had been blocked due to landslides and flash flood, sources said adding heavy rains in Bhutan

had caused rivers like Jaldhaka to overflow. Two children were drawn in Kalimpong flowing flash flood.

"There has been heavy rains for the past three days with Siliguri witnessing 245 mm of rain... Darjeeling getting more than 200 mm, Kalimpong 199 mm, Jalpaiguri getting 151 and Malbazar witnessing 320 mm rain," Paresch Adhikari a minister said adding the tourists who were currently in the hills have been asked not to move out.

There has been heavy landslides at Lava, Bijanbari, Gorubathan, Sukhia Pokhri, Manebhanjan and elsewhere leading to virtual closer of most of the roads connecting hill towns to Siliguri. Large parts of Jalpaiguri too had been flooded, sources said.

# Farmers Commission should be formed, says BKU's Bhanu Pratap Singh

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Bhanu Pratap Singh, the national president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union's Bhanu faction, said that farmers commission should be formed in the country, in which only farmers should be included as representatives, not politicians. Along with this, only the Farmers Commission should have the right to decide the price of the crops. He demanded that the Government should give a compensation of one crore rupees to the farmer's family in case of accidental death and a pension of ten thousand rupees per month on completion of 60 years of age.

Bhanu Pratap Singh reached in Dinesh Chandra Sharma's program in Khampur village of the area to attend a program. Where the BKU officials welcomed the national president under the leadership of state general secretary Dr. Shailendra Pal Singh.

Senior Vice President Tarun Sharma, State Incharge Western Uttar Pradesh Dr. Praveen Singh, etc. were present on this occasion.

# Char dham yatra resumes as rain...

**From page 1**

"Yamunotri-Gangotri, Kedarnath Dham Yatra has started again. However, due to the closure of Badrinath Highway near Joshimath, the Badrinath Yatra could not start at present. Badrinath Yatra will also become smooth soon," Uttarakhand Police tweeted.

The decision to start "char dham" yatra was taken after Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama took the review meeting following an aerial review of Garhwal and Kumaon.

According to Uttarakhand Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board, more than one thousand pilgrims stranded in Son Prayag and Lincholi have proceeded to Kedarnath temple after the administration allowed the yatra. Pilgrims for Badrinath yatra have been stopped at Joshimath and Pipalkoti due to landslide and heavy rains.

"With likely setting in of northeasterly winds in the lower tropospheric levels over the Bay of Bengal and extreme south Peninsular India, the Southwest Monsoon is likely to withdraw from the entire country around 26th October 2021. Simultaneously, the Northeast Monsoon rains are also likely to commence over Southeast Peninsular India from around 26th October 2021," it said.

The northeast monsoon brings rains over Tamil Nadu, parts of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh. The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from northwest India commenced on October 6. The retreat was the second-most delayed withdrawal of the southwest monsoon since 1975. The southwest monsoon withdrawal from northwest India in 2019 started on October 9.

The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from northwest India usually begins on September 17. However, the southwest monsoon remains active over several parts of the country. The IMD said a cyclonic circulation lies over Bihar and neighbouring areas.

Under its influence, fairly widespread to widespread, light to moderate rainfall with isolated heavy fall and thunderstorms and lightning is very likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Tripura, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim on October 20 and 21 and over Gangetic West Bengal and Bihar on October 20 and (it will) reduce thereafter.

# Won't spare corrupt: Modi

**From page 1**

Exhorting officials to work to prevent corruption, instead of just focusing on ways to detect crime after a fraud takes place, the PM listed various initiatives taken by his

Government to curb corruption in the last seven years by using technology and trusting people.

The PM also asked officials of the CBI and CVC to brainstorm on how to find ways to save people from cyber frauds.

# BJP open to alliance...

**From page 1**

Soon after resigning as the Chief Minister, Amarinder had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

"...He (Amarinder) was a soldier. He knows about the threats to the country and how to secure it. He is patriotic. And whenever it was a matter of national security and security at the borders, we have appreciated his stand," Gautam said, adding that nationalists are not "untouchables" to the BJP.

The BJP leader also said his

party has often been critical of Amarinder on social issues of Punjab.

Gautam, however, indicated that nothing has been finalised yet as "Amarinder still needs to form his party and put forward his views".

Amarinder-BJP poll tie-up in Punjab is certain to invite Congress, AAP and Akali Dal's political attack against him that the former Chief Minister has 'betrayed farmers' interests. The Congress, AAP, and Akali Dal are publicly backing agitating farmers' demand for the annulment of three farm laws.

# Followed assessment scheme in evaluating marks of Class XII students, CBSE tells SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that it has "duly followed" the assessment scheme in evaluating marks of class XII students whose exams were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The counsel appearing for the CBSE made the statement before a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and C T Ravikumar which was hearing a batch of pleas, including those which have alleged that the board has failed in properly implementing the procedure of dispute redressal mechanism relating to the result of class 12 exams.

"We have duly followed the policy," the counsel representing the CBSE told the bench. On June 17, the top court had approved the assessment schemes of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and the CBSE, which

had adopted the 30:30:40 formula for evaluation of marks for students of 12th standard based on results of class 10, 11, and 12 respectively.

During the hearing on Wednesday, the counsel appearing for petitioners in one of the pleas referred to a chart and claimed there was a variance of around 24 per cent between the marks of one of the students as per the 30:30:40 formula and the marks awarded by the CBSE after moderating it with school average score.

"That is the evaluation scheme. Is it not? The school performance is also relevant," the bench observed. The bench asked the counsel appearing for the CBSE about the grievance raised by the petitioners. The CBSE's counsel, while referring to an affidavit filed by the board in the matter, said the chart showing variation in marks has been prepared on the basis of the "wrong reading" of the evaluation policy.

# SC raps UP for slow...

**From page 1**

Salve responded to say that the process is going on, adding that earlier the concern was that it appeared that police were going "little soft on the accused and now they all have been arrested and now everybody is in jail."

He said there were two crimes and in the first one, the accused drove into the farmers during their protests and in the second FIR, three of the accused, who drove into the farmers, were lynched. In the lynching case, the probe is "little difficult" as who did what is difficult to ascertain given the big crowd of farmers, he said. The bench said it was asking questions about the first FIR and sought to know the number of accused and their status in the probe.

"Today, how many of them are in judicial custody and how many of them are in

police custody... Because, until or unless they are interrogated you may not get any information." In his reply, Salve said total 10 accused have been arrested and out of them, four are in police custody while the remaining six have been sent to jail in judicial custody.

The bench then said, "What happened to the remaining six accused and asked, "Did you apply to seek their police custody or they were straight-way sent to judicial custody. They were in police custody and as you did not seek their police remand so they were sent to judicial custody. What is the situation in this case? We just want the facts to be clarified."

The top court said there are situations where the police demand the custody of the accused and the court declines and send the accused to judicial custody.

# 4 LeT terrorists killed in...

**From page 1**

They have been identified as Adil Hussain Wani son of Ghulam Hussain Wani resident of Shirmal, District Commander Shopian of proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF), and Shakir Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Qadir Wani resident of Litter Pulwama.

As per police records, both the killed terrorists were involved in several terror crime cases including civilian atrocities. Terrorist Adil Ahmad was active since July-2020 and was involved in sev-

eral terror crime cases including the recent killing of one poor carpenter Sager Ahmad Ansari of Saharanpur UP at Litter Pulwama on 16/10/2021.

IGP Kashmir congratulated the joint teams for carrying out anti-terrorist operations successfully and also congratulated police and security forces for working with great synergy and coordination on the ground that led to 11 successful anti-terrorist operations post recent civilian killing.



# HC: Seeking default bail is part of right to liberty



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Right to seek 'default' bail is a fundamental right and an inalienable part of right to personal liberty under the Constitution which cannot be suspended even during a pandemic situation, the Delhi High Court (HC) said. The HC said the right of the accused to be set at liberty takes precedence over the right of the State to carry on the investigation and file a chargesheet. As per law, once the maximum period, that is, 60, 90 and 180 days from arrest, provided for an investigation in a case is over and no chargesheet is filed, the accused becomes entitled to be

released on bail, which is called the 'default' bail. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri said the order of remanding an undertrial to custody or its extension is held to be a judicial function requiring due application of mind. "The right to seek default bail under Section 167(2) CrPC is a fundamental right and not merely a statutory right, which flows from Article 21 of the Constitution. It has been held to be an inalienable part of the right to personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution, and such a right cannot be suspended even during a pandemic situation."

The court said the rights of

an undertrial under the Constitution cannot be allowed to be defeated on technicalities of procedure, and laid down a slew of directions to ensure that their right to seek default bail is not defeated and the custody of an accused is not extended mechanically. The judgement came on a petition by an accused challenging a trial court's order dismissing his revision plea seeking default bail on account of failure of prosecution to file chargesheet within the statutory period of 90 days from arrest in a case of dowry death and causing harassment to a married woman. The HC released the man on default bail on furnishing of a personal bond of Rs 25,000 and a surety of the like amount and directed him not to try to tamper with the evidence or leave Delhi without prior permission. The man was arrested in the dowry death case on January 18, 2020 and was sent to judicial custody by a magisterial court and his custody was extended from time to time.

# L-G transfers 7 IAS officers; S Sharma is new Health Secy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi, Anil Bajjal, transferred seven bureaucrats, with senior IAS officer Swati Sharma being appointed as Health Secretary of the Delhi Government, an official order stated. The Delhi Government's Services department issued the transfer and posting order of these seven IAS officers of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre where they have been given different responsibilities, according to the order dated October 18. "Senior IAS officer of 2003 batch Swati Sharma has been given additional charge of Health and Family Welfare secretary of the Delhi

Government. She is currently posted as Secretary, tourism and has additional charges of art, culture and language along with MD Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC)," it said. IAS officer of 2007 batch, Udit Prakash Rai has been transferred and posted as CEO Delhi Jal Board (DJB) from Director (Education). He will continue to have additional charge of Special Secretary, Health and Family Welfare department. The reshuffle in the health department is seen after Covid-19 cases have considerably gone down in the national Capital. Social Welfare secretary Garima Gupta has been transferred and posted as CEO Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB).

She will continue to keep additional charge of MD Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC), the order said. The order added that 2003 batch IAS officer Neeraj Semwal will be the new Secretary-cum-Commissioner (Food and Supplies). He will also hold additional charge of MD Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), relieving Ashish Kundra (AGMUT, 1996) of this charge. Senior IAS officer of 2000 batch and Secretary-cum-Commissioner (development), Madhup Vyas has been given additional charge of Secretary (Social Welfare). The order said Deputy Commissioner of North Delhi Municipal Corporation, Himanshu Gupta (AGMUT, 2012) has been transferred and posted as Director (Education) with additional charge of OSD Health and Family department along with MD DSFDC (Delhi SC/ST/OBD/Minorities and Handicapped Financial and Development Corporation). PWD secretary and IAS officer of 2000 batch, Dilraj Kaur has been given additional charge of Secretary Irrigation and Flood Control, it added.

# Delhi Police solves child's kidnapping case in three hours



FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly kidnapping a seven-year-old child from the Gandhi Nagar area here in the national Capital, an official said here on Wednesday. According to the official, they received a call at the Gandhi Nagar Police Station at around 5.39 pm about a kidnapping incident in which the kidnapper was demanding Rs 1.10 crore for the safe release of the child. The family informed the police that their son had been kidnapped by their servant, identified as Monu, who had been employed by them just a month ago. "He worked with them for eight-nine days and went away. About five-six days ago, he was again reemployed with a higher salary as the child had been crying and demanding his return due to his attachment to the servant. Thus Monu started working with them again," Deputy Commissioner of Police R. Sathiyasundaram said. At about 4 pm on Tuesday, Monu took the victim for a walk after informing the child's mother. After about one hour, when they did not return, she tried to contact her servant but his phone was switched off. After a few minutes, Monu called back on her mobile phone and demanded Rs 1.10 crore for the safe release of the

child. The police began its investigation after deploying several teams and one family member was attached with every team. The task became very challenging as the complainant had not done any police verification of the servant. Moreover, the accused was always on the move. Accordingly, several teams, some in civil clothes, were dispatched to railway stations, nearby metro stations, ISBTs, check posts, etc as well as suspected hideouts of the accused. The team also covered various parks, isolated/abandoned buildings, and parking lots, the police said. Meanwhile, the family continued negotiation efforts as the ransom amount was huge. The accused was told that the family could pay only Rs 10 lakh as they didn't have that much money. However, the accused instructed the parents to arrange Rs 1 crore within one hour and switched off the mobile after that. After a rigorous investigation for three hours, the kidnapper along with the child was spotted near the Gokulpuri Metro Station at about 8.30 p.m. where the accused was waiting to get a call back from the parents after arranging the money demanded. The police arrested the accused and safely recovered the abducted child.

# Spurned lover, 2 aids held for stabbing woman to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a man and his two friends a day after he allegedly stabbed a 24-year-old woman to death for repeatedly spurning his proposals. Police said the main accused, Ankit Gaba (24), fractured his legs as he jumped off the second floor of an under-construction building in Dwarka Sector 23 while trying to evade the arrest. Police said that investigators have not interrogated Gaba as he was admitted to a hospital, adding that things will become clearer only after his questioning. Gaba's two friends - Himanshu (20) and Manish Sharma - have also been arrested and they are all residents of southwest Delhi's Uttam Nagar area. According to a senior police official, on Tuesday around 2.15 AM, while emergency response vehicle was patrolling, they received information by a delivery boy that a woman was lying in a pool of blood near Gurudwara Sewa Simran at Street number-1,

Uttam Nagar. "Police reached the spot. The victim, identified as Dolly Babber, was rushed to DDU hospital where she was declared brought dead. Inquiry revealed that around 11.30 PM, Babber had gone to attend her friend's birthday party along with her friends Ankit, Himanshu and Manish. Her brother Lakshay said that deceased told them that she was going to her friend's birthday party at 11.30 PM," said the senior police official. Police formed six teams to arrest all the accused. All the

CCTV cameras installed in the area were analyzed and it was found that the incident happened around 1.38 am. In the video, the accused is seen stabbing her once. Later, he stabs the deceased six more times, the official said. "Prima-facie it has been found that Babber was known to the three and in the evening, they were partying together on the terrace of an under-construction building at Matiala Road, near to the residence of Babber, where Gaba was also present," he said. During the party, an argument broke out between Gaba and Babber over "some personal issues and alleged inter personal relations" which turned into a fight, he said. They all came downstairs and Gaba, who had reached there on his scooter, took out a knife from the two-wheeler and stabbed Babber in the presence of his friends. After stabbing her, he left the spot along with his two friends. The woman received seven stab wounds and was declared brought dead in the hospital, police said. After the incident, police

checked the CCTV footage. The accused went to Vikas Nagar and took an auto to Anand Vihar. They wanted to go to Chandigarh, but did not get a bus for the city. They then hired another auto-rickshaw and went to Kashmiri Gate ISBT. From the ISBT, the accused took a bus for Chandigarh and travelled to Patiala, police said. Police conducted raids in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana at their possible hideouts. They were running out of money and returned to the national capital from Patiala, they said.

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## PICTALK



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the flag-off ceremony of the Shobha Yatra on the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

# RED LIGHT ON, GAADI OFF CAMPAIGN Rai requests Mins to take part in drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to reduce vehicular pollution, Environment Minister Gopal Rai urged Delhi people to contribute actively in 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign, moreover, the minister also said all the members of legislative Assembly will participate in the campaign to create awareness among people. "Public participation is the key to success behind any government initiative; it can protect Delhi from pollution only when the Government and the society come together," Rai said, "if two crore people of Delhi contribute responsibly and bolster the campaign, then vehicle pollution can be reduced by a staggering 15 to 20 percent. On October 21, all the MLAs of Delhi will raise awareness about the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign near the Chandgi Ram Akhara." The Delhi Government has started the 'Red Light On, Gaadi



Off' campaign in Delhi with an aim to reduce vehicular pollution. The campaign was started by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal under the 'Yuddh, Pradushan Ke Viruddh' initiative and drivers are being made aware about it by Green Marshals posted at 100 major intersections of Delhi. Apart from this, to give further impetus to the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign, all the MLAs of Delhi will also take to the road from Thursday.

# Delhi reports 25 new Covid cases; no death

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Wednesday reported 25 new Covid-19 cases, taking the overall caseload to 14,39,466, the Delhi Health Department said. No fatality, however, has been reported. The city's death toll stands at 25,090. The national Capital has recorded only three deaths due to the infection in this month, so far. The death rate stands at 1.74 per cent. The Covid infection rate in the national capital has dropped to 0.04 per cent. Meanwhile, the active cases tally has registered a decline and it stands at 310. A total of 37 patients recovered in the last 24 hours to take the total number of recoveries to 14,14,066, the health bulletin said. Currently, 96 patients are being treated in home isolation.



With a 98.23 per cent of Covid recovery rate, the active Covid cases rate in Delhi stands at 0.021 per cent. Meanwhile, a total of 56,293 new tests - 47,577 RT-PCR and 8,716 Rapid Antigen -- were conducted in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of tests done so far to 2,88,12,339. The number of containment zones in the city currently stands at 97. Out of 74,744 vaccines administered in the last 24 hours, 24,739 were first doses and 50,015 second doses. The total number of cumulative beneficiaries vaccinated so far stands at 1,97,70,682, according to the health bulletin.



**DELHI POLICE**  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

## Police Commemoration Day

21<sup>st</sup> October, 2021



**Holding back our tears,  
we salute our colleagues who  
sacrificed their lives  
in the line of duty**



**Today we honour the memory of our brave colleagues  
who laid down their lives in the line of duty.**

**Their supreme sacrifice shall always inspire us and strengthen our  
resolve to serve and protect the citizens with greater dedication.**

DP/29/2021



# Events lined up to celebrate 100 cr jab feat



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With around 99.4 crore doses already administered on Wednesday, the Government hopes to complete 1 billion, or 100 crore, doses by Thursday. The Government has lined up a string of programmes for the 'great achievement which comes nine months after the vaccination drive started in the country.

Sources said party leaders have been asked to visit vaccination centres; party chief JP Nadda will be in Ghaziabad in UP, which votes early next year, for the occasion, while General Secretaries Arun Singh and Dushyant Gautam will be in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore and Lucknow, respectively.

To mark the billionth shot the government had also planned to make announcements over loudspeakers on trains, planes, and ships, and hoist the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi. In the meantime,

the Government said that it has set a target of vaccinating the entire adult population of the country by the end of 2021. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare said that more than 99 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered in the country so far, the Minister added.

Only one other country has administered over a billion vaccine doses - China (crossed 1 billion doses in June), which is also the only other country to have a population of more than one billion.

Last month the centre - to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday - administered over 2.5 crore doses in a day; that was the fourth time over one crore doses were given in a day.

The administering of one billion vaccine doses - given the unknown and unpredictable nature of the coronavirus, the scale and intensity of the pandemic, and the challenges sur-

## CO2 emissions to keep rising for want of bids on safe constructions: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic caused CO2 emissions from buildings and construction to fall significantly in 2020, but a lack of efforts to decarbonise in real sense means that emissions will keep rising and contribute to dangerous climate change, according to the 2021 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction.

The report, published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), finds that in 2020, the sector accounted for 36 per cent of global final energy consumption and 37 per cent of energy related CO2 emissions, as compared to other end use sectors.

While the level of emissions within the sector are 10

per cent lower than in 2015, reaching lows not seen since 2007, this was largely due to lockdowns, slowing of economies, difficulties households and businesses faced in maintaining and affording energy access and a fall in construction activity. Efforts to decarbonize the sector played only a small role.

With large growth projected in the buildings sector, emissions are set to rise if there is no effort to decarbonize buildings and improve their energy efficiency. In Asia and Africa, building stock is expected to double by 2050. Global material use is expected to more than double by 2060, with one-third of this rise attributable to construction materials.

"This year showed that climate change is an immediate, direct threat to every community on this planet, and it is

only going to intensify," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. "The buildings and construction sector, as a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, must urgently be decarbonized through a triple strategy of reducing energy demand, decarbonising the power supply and addressing building materials' carbon footprint, if we are to have any chance of meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C."

The GlobalABC's Global Buildings Climate Tracker found that there have been some incremental improvements in action to decarbonize and improve the energy efficiency of the sector.

In 2015, 90 countries included actions for addressing building emissions or improving energy efficiency in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under



the Paris Agreement. This number has now hit 136, although ambition varies.

Since 2015, an additional 18 countries have put in place building energy codes - a move that is crucial to shift emissions downwards - bringing the total to 80. Local cities and governments have also developed codes. Investment in energy efficiency rose to over 180 billion USD in 2020, up from 129 billion in 2015. Green building certification has increased by 13.9 per cent compared to 2019.

Overall, however, the report finds that these efforts are insufficient, both in terms of speed and scale.

Other key findings of the report include: two-thirds of countries still lack mandatory buildings codes; most of the increase in energy efficiency spending came from a small number of European countries; too small a share of finance goes into deep energy retrofits, and there is a lack of ambitious decarbonization targets in NDCs.

Energy demand in the

buildings and construction sector is likely to rebound as economic recovery efforts take hold and as pent-up demands for new construction are realized. By 2030, to be on track to achieving a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, the International Energy Agency says that direct building CO2 emissions would need to decrease by 50 per cent while indirect building sector emissions will have to drop through a reduction of 60 per cent in power generation emissions.

## 'Flower protein expression' could accurately predict hospitalisation or death: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Especially helpful in cases of the early phase of Covid-19 illness, the 'flower protein expression', a particular protein on the cell surface, could accurately predict hospitalisation or death as well as forecast who would have a less serious infection, scientists have said in a study published in EMBO Molecular Medicine.

The study shows that analysis of a particular protein on the cell surface is likely to predict who is in danger of a serious infection caused by the virus, explains Assistant Professor Rajan Gogna, lead author of the new study.

"Cells have a so-called fitness status, and by analysing it we could predict hospitalisation or death in Covid-19 patients, potentially making such a biomarker an earlier prediction tool, especially because it can be detected from the common nasal swap covid-19-tests," says Rajan Gogna from the Won Group at the Biotech Research & Innovation Centre.

If the cell fitness status is poor, it indicates that the cell

does not develop well, either because the cell is aged, lacks reliability, has an ill-functioning metabolism or is disease prone etc. Earlier in 2021, the research team discovered that fitness status is expressed in proteins called flower proteins. These flower proteins are on the surface of the cell, and they are expressed in two forms, explains Rajan Gogna.

"In one form, they tell the surrounding cells that this cell is doing well. In the other form, they indicate to the surrounding tissue that this particular cell is not doing well and thus has a bad fitness status. If the cell's fitness status is not great, the cell will get phased out and killed by the surrounding cells."

Especially helpful in cases of the early phase of COVID-19 illness, the flower protein expression could accurately predict hospitalisation or death as well predict who would have a less serious infection.

"The method could predict who needed hospitalisation with an accuracy of 78.7 per cent. With COVID-19 patients who would not have a serious

infection, the prediction was accurate at 93.9 percent," said Associate Professor and Group Leader Kyoung Jae Won, who analyzed the data using machine learning.

In order to analyse the data, the researchers performed a post-mortem examination of the infected lung tissue in deceased COVID-19 patients to determine the flower protein's biological role in acute lung injury, which is the main cause of death from the disease.

"The cell fitness, expressed by the flower protein, could help explain why some people respond poorly to COVID-19 and provide an opportunity for pre-identification of high-risk individuals. This discovery has the potential to help save their lives by severely alerting them to be extra protective of themselves, or until they are fortunate enough to get their hands on a vaccine.

In some other nations, the population in general has great hesitancy against vaccination. But people are not hesitant about a test, and we hope this will improve outcomes," said Rajan Gogna.

## Negative RT-PCR test must for int'l travellers visiting India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All international travellers visiting India will need a negative RT-PCR test, according to the revised guidelines for international arrivals that will be implemented from October 25. An order issued by the Union Health Ministry said, "The global trajectory of Covid-19 pandemic continues to decline with certain regional variations. The need to monitor the continuously changing nature of the virus and the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) must still remain in focus."

"The existing guidelines (issued on 17th February 2021 with subsequent addendums) for international arrivals in India have been formulated taking a risk-based approach. In view of increasing vaccination coverage across the globe

and the changing nature of the pandemic, the existing guidelines for international arrivals in India have been reviewed," said the guidelines.

The order stated that the revised protocols need to be adhered to by international travellers as well as by airlines at points of entry (airports, seaports and land borders) for risk profiling of passengers.

As per the order, all travellers should submit a self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal before the scheduled travel, upload a negative Covid-19 RT-PCR report (this test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey) and each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to the authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution if found otherwise.

## NIA raids locations in J&K terror conspiracy case, 4 held

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations in four districts of Jammu and Kashmir and arrested four accused persons in the J&K terrorism conspiracy case.

The agency conducted searches at 11 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama, Kulgam and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir and arrested four accused persons -- Suhail Ahmad Thokar (Kulgam), Kamran Ashraf Reshi (Hazratbal, Srinagar), Rayid Bashir (Srinagar) and Hanan Gulzar Dar (Srinagar), the NIA said in a statement.

## Multiple spots raided in Mudra drug haul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Wednesday conducted searches in Delhi in the case of seizure of 3,000 Kg drugs at Mundra Port, Gujarat. The agency conducted the searches at a godown in Nebsarai here, the agency said. The search was conducted at Nebsarai in connection with the seizure of

narcotics substance imported in the guise of semi processed talc stones by private firm Aashi Trading company. "During the search conducted today white powder material, suspected to be talc mixed with narcotics, has been seized with the help of FSL (Forensic Sciences Laboratory)," the NIA said in a statement.



among others.

The NIA had registered the case on October 10, 2021 and initiated the investigation. Till now, nine accused persons have been arrested in this case by the agency.

"Searches conducted today have led to recovery and seizure of electronic devices and incriminating jihadi documents/posters etc.," it said.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that the four arrested accused persons are terror associates/OGWs (over ground workers) of various proscribed terrorist organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to the terrorists, it added.

## BSF seizes bag full of foreign made pistols

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday said it has recovered a bag containing 22 pistols of Chinese, Pakistani and Italian make besides hundreds of rounds of ammunition from the border in Punjab in a joint operation with the Punjab police.

The seizures of the weapons, ammunition and the contraband items were made in the operational area of Khemkaran in Ferozepur district of Punjab.

"On 19th Oct' 2021, based on intelligence of Punjab Police regarding presence of consignment ahead of Border Security Fence

(in between B S Fence Gate No 159 to 160) in the AOR (Area of responsibility) of BOP (Border Out Post) Uttar and T Bundh, a joint search operation was carried out by the BSF troops and a team of Punjab Police, Amritsar," the BSF said in a statement.

During the search operation, one shoulder bag (black in colour) was found lying inside the paddy fields (short of 10 metres from International Boundary), in the said alignment of BOP No 160/2 in the operational area of BOP T Bundh, it said.

From the recovered shoulder bag, the seized contraband included 22 pistols.

## Jacqueline appears before ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Having evaded four summons served to her by the agency, Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to record her statement under prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a money laundering case related to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar who has allegedly duped high profile personalities of Rs 200 crore.

Fernandez appeared before the agency here at around 3 PM. Along with the summons, the agency had also asked Fernandez to bring with her bank statements pertaining to her debit and credit cards trans-

actions, they added.

Fernandez's financial transactions and her alleged association with Sukesh Chandrashekar are under the ED scanner. While investigating the money trail of Chandrashekar, the investigators learnt about the alleged link between Fernandez and the conman, sources said.

The ED sleuths are seeking to ascertain any possible financial transactions between Chandrashekar and Fernandez.

The investigators are learnt to have posed to her questions like when was the first time she met either Chandrashekar or his wife Leena Maria Paul. Did she speak to Chandrashekar over the phone and if yes, how many times and whether she knew if

the person on the other side was Chandrashekar.

In August, the ED had one questioned Fernandez in connection with the case and then she had reportedly told the investigators that she was also a victim of Chandrashekar and denied any wrongdoing.

Chandrashekar, along with his wife and actor Leena Paul, is in ED custody along with five others in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion case.

Earlier this month, actor and performer Nora Fatehi was also questioned by the agency over her reported links with Chandrashekar and Paul.

Fatehi's spokesperson had later issued a statement saying that the actor did not have any personal links with conman Sukesh Chandrashekar.

## Cong demands immediate restoration of J&K statehood

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday demanded immediate restoration of statehood and a democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, while alleging that the Centre has "utterly failed" to tackle the situation there. The party also questioned the "silence" of Home Minister Amit Shah after the "selective killings" of 32 civilians and nine soldiers in the Union territory.

"Even after the selective murder of 32 civilians and nine soldiers, the home minister is still silent. This means that neither the Government

of India, under whose direct jurisdiction is Jammu and Kashmir, is able to understand the situation, nor can it tackle the situation," Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said at the AICC Press conference.

"We demand that full statehood be given to Jammu and Kashmir immediately and there should be a government by democratic process and as per the Constitution of the country, and not by bypassing the Constitution. The people who have left Jammu and Kashmir should be immediately provided with financial assis-

tance and employment opportunities at the place of their return," Vallabh said in the wake of the exodus of migrant workers from Jammu and Kashmir.

Noting that Government of India made several promises about the development of the Union territory, he asked why employment rate there is the lowest in the country and why the tourist footfall and capital inflow has decreased since it came under the direct control of the Centre.

Selective murders are taking place because the Centre is unable to govern the State.

## Govts plan to double production of energy from fossil fuels by 2030: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite increased climate ambition and net-zero commitments, Governments still plan to produce more than double the amount of energy from fossil fuels in 2030, than the amount that would limit global warming to the Paris Agreement level of 1.5°C, according to the 2021 Production Gap Report, released Wednesday by research institutes and the UN Environment Programme

(UNEP).

Over the next two decades, governments are projecting an increase in global oil and gas production, and only a modest decrease in coal production, said the report, cautioning that taken together, these plans mean that fossil fuel production will increase overall, to at least 2040.

For Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, "there is still time to limit long-term warming to 1.5°C [above pre-industrial levels], but this win-

dow of opportunity is rapidly closing."

Andersen said that at the UN Climate Conference, COP26, taking place in early November in Glasgow, "governments must step up, taking rapid and immediate steps to close the fossil fuel production gap and ensure a just and equitable transition."

"This is what climate ambition looks like," she said.

This year's report provides profiles for 15 major producer countries, showing that most

**This year's report provides profiles for 15 major producer countries, showing that most will continue to support fossil fuel production growth**

will continue to support fossil fuel production growth.

Reacting to the report, the UN Secretary General highlighted recent announcements by the world's largest economies to end financing of coal, calling them "a much-needed step" in phasing out fossil fuels.

For António Guterres, though, the report shows that "there is still a long way to go to a clean energy future."

"It is urgent that all remaining public financiers as well as private finance, including com-

mercial banks and asset managers, switch their funding from coal to renewables to promote full decarbonization of the power sector and access to renewable energy for all," he said.

As per the report, countries surveyed plan to produce around 110 per cent more fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with the 1.5°C limit, and 45 per cent more than what would allow a 2°C heating impact.

The report, first launched in 2019, measures the gap between

governments' production plans and the levels consistent with the Paris Agreement. Two years later, the size of the gap has remained largely unchanged.

Current plans would lead to about 240 per cent more coal, 57 per cent more oil, and 71 per cent more gas production in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Global gas output is projected to increase the most between 2020 and 2040, continuing a trend of long-term

global expansion inconsistent with the Paris Agreement.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, countries have directed over \$300 billion in new funds towards fossil fuel activities - more than they have towards clean energy.

For lead author of the report, Ploy Achakulwisut, the research is clear: "Global coal, oil, and gas production must start declining immediately and steeply to be consistent with limiting long-term warming to 1.5°C."



# OPS-EPS rift visible; hints of fracture in AIADMK

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The process of disintegration of the AIADMK began in right earnest on Wednesday as a prelude to the Golden Jubilee celebration of the party that falls in 2022. The AIADMK's chief coordinator O Panneerselvam was conspicuous by his absence in the official delegation that called on Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi on Wednesday. This comes amidst reports that the party is getting ready to revert back to the single power centre of general secretary against the present system of dual leadership. As on date the AIADMK is led by the Palaniswamy-Panneerselvam combination. But following the debacle of the party in two successive elections (2019 and 2021) there has been a strong demand by veteran leaders to go back to the system of general secretary heading the party.

No official reason has been given by the AIADMK for the absence of Panneerselvam though the delegation was led by Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palanisamy and included former ministers C V Shanmugham, K Jayakumar, K P Munusamy, Vaithyalingam, Thankamani and Velumani.

According to Palanisamy,



the leaders submitted a memorandum to the Governor listing the “widespread” irregularities in the recent Panchayat election held in the newly carved out nine districts. The opposition AIADMK was routed in the polls which was swept by the DMK.

Accusing the ruling party for irregularities in election is a ritual in Tamil Nadu and both the AIADMK and the DMK have figured as ‘accused’ depending on who is ruling the State. What is left unsaid this time by Palaniswamy is another issue which he raised with the Governor. The ruling DMK is selectively targeting leaders belonging to the Palaniswamy camp by subjecting their residences and offices to raids by the Directorate of Vigilance and Ant-Corruption (DVAC), a convenient tool in the hands of the ruling party.

While senior functionaries of the party like Rama Ramanathan are tight lipped about the absence of Panneerselvam in the delegation to Raj Bhavan, they said all was well within the party. Ramanathan said that the report about Panneerselvam not accompanying Palaniswamy was being blown out of proportion. Sources close to Palaniswamy told *The Pioneer* that Panneerselvam has not been informed of the scheduled meeting between the AIADMK team and the Governor. “The recent statement on golden jubilee celebrations issued by the party had the signature of only Palaniswamy though all statements till date were issued with the signatures of both the leaders. This is the indication that plans are afoot to convene the general body meeting to elect the general secretary.

# BJP, TMC spar over Didi’s silence on anti-Hindu riots

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh riots continued to have its political ramifications in this side of the border with the BJP firing more salvos at Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for giving no reactions to “the torture being perpetrated on the minority Hindus of that country.”

Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar on Wednesday attacked the Chief Minister for her “mysterious silence on the Bangladesh riots where Hindus are being murdered, looted and tortured at will.” He said “this is the same Chief Minister who had threatened to go to the United Nations if Citizenship Amendment Act was implemented in Bengal ... now why she has suddenly gone silent on the riots taking place in Bangladesh where houses and properties of Hindus are being looted and burnt down ... and they are being killed ... why is she not uttering a single word on this.”

The Chief Minister's silence on the issue was a matter of concern he said adding the BJP would however do its duty by organizing protests until the Hindus of Bangladesh got justice.

Bengal opposition Leader



Suvendu Adhikari earlier linked the Chief Minister's silence to her alleged “vote bank politics” saying “the Chief Minister does not want to earn the displeasure of a particular section of the society who are incidentally her voters ... so she is keeping mysteriously silent about the whole issue... But the people of Bengal are observing this silence closely.”

The Trinamool Congress however hit back saying unlike the BJP it was not trying to politicize the issue. “We have already protested against what happened in Bangladesh ... Mamata Banerjee is unwell and is not appearing in public for same reason ... our senior leader and Minister Partho Chatterjee has already spoken about this ... the BJP has pre-

ferred to ignore what the TMC leader said ... this is because they want to politicize the issue and encash it,” senior TMC leader and Bengal Minister Subroto Mukherjee said.

Meanwhile, actor and director Aparna Sen too condemned the Bangla riots saying “in a modern democratic system right to practice one's own religion is guaranteed everywhere ... hence it is the duty of the majority community to ensure that the minorities can follow and practice their religion without hindrance ... I am not talking only about Bangladesh though my immediate context is the riots taking place in that country ... I am talking about all the countries including India.”

# Fake communal strife videos go viral, WB on alert

IANIS ■ KOLKATA

The West Bengal Home Department has put all the districts, particularly those bordering Bangladesh, on high alert after fake videos aiming to create communal tension following the attacks on Hindus during Durga Puja in Bangladesh, went viral.

One particular video from Bangladesh that has been making the rounds in Bengal is a clip having a tagline “how Jatan Saha, a Hindu Grand Alliance activist, was murdered in a temple at Noakhali”.

Several BJP leaders, such as Debdas Mondal, general secretary of the party in Bongaon district, shared the video on Tuesday, seeking justice for the deceased. On the development, Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on Tuesday said a group with “vested interests” was circulating fake videos on social media to create communal tension. Referring to the video, Khan explained that the 30-second clip he was referring to was of the May 16 incident in Dhaka's Pallabi area over a property dispute. “But a group with vested interests is circulating it, calling it the footage of the killing of Jatan Kumar Saha in

Noakhali, who died in the recent clashes. This is being done with the intention of creating communal tension. We condemn such actions,” Khan said at a programme titled “Technological Modernisation of RAB (Rapid Action Battalion)”. A senior official of the state home department said that officials had been asked to keep track of all social media posts, as there are apprehensions that some forces might try to use the “assault on Hindus” in Bangladesh to create trouble in Bengal. “All units are being instructed to keep a sharp vigil on videos that are being forwarded. Even small matters of communal overtures are to be reported promptly at the highest level,” he added.

“Any post which is spreading hatred, falsehood or rumours is to be dealt with sternly, as some groups and individuals have launched a concerted effort in the social media to spread communal hatred and create law and order issues,” the official said.

The intelligence department has already sent a missive to all the SPs and senior police officers in the state to stay alert, considering the communal unrest in Bangladesh.

## Dalit youth suspected of stealing ₹25L dies in Agra police custody

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Valmiki Jayanati turned out to be a dampener for Agra police as a Dalit youth suspected of stealing ₹25 lakh died in police custody shortly after being taken to his home for recovering the booty in Jagdishpura police station area on Wednesday.

As the news of his death spread, hundreds of members of Valmiki community laid siege to the police station and staged a strong protest, accus-

ing the cops of killing the victim by using third degree torture during interrogation.

The protest ended only after a case was registered against the police team and Senior Superintendent of Police of Agra G Muniraj suspended five cops, including an inspector, a sub-inspector and three constables.

As per reports, victim Arun Kumar worked as a janitor and used to clean the premises of Jagdishpura police station. On October 17, a total of Rs 25 lakh and some confiscated pistols

were found missing from the ‘malkhana’ of the police station. After the incident came to light, the SSP of Agra suspended six police officials, including the then station house officer (inspector).

However during the probe, the police zeroed in on Arun and during quizzing he reportedly confessed to stealing the money from the police station and stashing it at his home.

On Wednesday, a police team took the suspect to his house and while the cash was

being recovered, Arun's health deteriorated. The cops rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Soon after his death, members of Valmiki community gheraoed the police station, accusing the police of using extreme methods to exact a confession leading to Arun's death. The community also declared to cancel Valmiki Jayanti celebrations on Wednesday to protest the custodial killing.

**Lucknow:** Congress general secretary and UP incharge of the party, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's motorcade heading to the house of a Dalit youth who died in police custody in Agra on Valmiki Jayanti was stopped by the Lucknow police personnel on Agra- Lucknow Expressway on Wednesday.

Priyanka had targeted the Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh for the death of Dalit youth Arun Kumar in the custody of Jagdishpura police station personnel in Agra.

On Wednesday morning, the Congress general secretary accompanied by some party leaders left her Kaul House residence in Lucknow to meet and express condolences to the family members of deceased Arun Kumar at Agra. But as her motorcade reached the Agra- Lucknow Expressway, officers and personnel of Lucknow police accompanied by a magistrate stopped the vehicles from proceeding forward, citing imposition of prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the

Criminal Procedure Code.

Soon, scores of Congress leaders and workers resorted to sloganeering against the Yogi government and created a ruckus. After some heated exchange of words, Priyanka and some of her party men were taken to the reserve police lines and detained till evening.

Upon her release after a day-long high drama, Priyanka and her party leaders proceeded to Agra in the evening.

In a video that went viral soon after, Priyanka is heard

saying, “They say I can't go to Agra. They stop me wherever I go. Should I keep sitting in restaurants just because it is politically convenient for them? I want to meet them (victim's kin), what is the big deal? The moment I try to visit any place other than the party office, then they (administration) try to stop me. It also caused inconvenience to the public. What is the law and order issue? Someone has died...we are just two-three persons going to meet the family”. **PNS**

दिल्ली सरकार

आप की सरकार

सावधानी से त्योहारों का जश्न मनायें

कोरोना नहीं, खुशियाँ घर लायें

सभी सरकारी कोविड-19 टीकाकरण केन्द्रों पर पहली और दूसरी डोज़ के लिए वॉक-इन टीकाकरण की सुविधा उपलब्ध है। पूर्व पंजीकरण अनिवार्य नहीं है।

सरकारी कोविड-19 टीकाकरण केन्द्रों की सूची [www.dshm.gov.in](http://www.dshm.gov.in) और [www.cowin.gov.in](http://www.cowin.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है

कोविड से सुरक्षा के लिए टीका ज़रूर लगवायें।

टीके के बाद भी अनुरूप व्यवहारों को जारी रखें।

बार-बार साबुन से हाथ धोयें

मास्क सटी पहनें

सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करें

गंभीर दिव्यांगता के कारण टीकाकरण केन्द्र पर जाने में असमर्थ व्यक्ति, टीकाकरण की सुविधा के लिए नीचे दिये गये फोन नम्बरों पर संपर्क करें।

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परिवार कल्याण निदेशालय, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार

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FIRST COLUMN

REVAMPING THE EDUCATION SECTOR



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL


The new education policy aims at providing premium yet affordable education to all

Eyebrows were raised when a member of the Kasturirangan-led committee, set up recently to revise the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and lay down the broad guidelines for school syllabus and textbooks, said that the existing curriculum in schools dwells "too much on defeats", and that "in the light of new facts, history should be rewritten". The member, an ideologue, also remarked that textbooks should talk about the "fighting spirit" of rulers such as Maharana Pratap in battles against foreign invaders. When Dr Murl Manohar Joshi, HRD Minister in the Vajpayee government, caused some revision in the school text books, it was considered by the left-wing as saffronisation of the syllabus. The revision of the extant NCF has been necessitated by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It is not new or novel. It was last revised in 2005, and earlier in 1975, 1988 and 2000. The NEP, the first education policy of the 21st century, aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of India. The NEP envisages revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance and to create a new system aligned with the aspirational goals of the 21st century and the SDG4, while building upon India's great traditions and value systems. The NEP unambiguously says that 'the pursuit of knowl-

edge (Jnan), wisdom (Pragya), and truth (Satya) was always considered in Indian thought and philosophy as the highest human goal. A member of the National Steering Committee entrusted the task of drafting the NCF, and a right-wing ideologue, has hinted at re-writing history and the text books 'in the light of new facts' of history. The precise mandate of the steering committee is to develop the NCF within the mandated remit. The NEP speaks, among other things, of incorporating local content and flavour as the students must know about their past, immediate surroundings and topography, India's civilisational heritage, constitutional values, so as to develop the spirit of critical thinking and enquiry. The Policy advocates multilingualism, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of life-long opportunities for all by 2030 by incorporating rapid changes in the knowledge landscape in the globalised world. The aim is to promote India as a global study destination by providing premium education at affordable costs so as to help 'restore its role as a Viswa Guru'. Evidently, the founding fathers of our republic laid the foundation of a civic nation, and not an ethnic nation by crafting a republican democratic Constitution, solemnly affirming to secure to all its citizens: justice, liberty, equality and fraternity—assuring the dignity of the individual. When one speaks of India's civilisational heritage and the need for inculcating the spirit of enquiry and scientific temper, the following Vedic hymn flashes across the mind — 'Whether God's will created it (the universe), or...Only He who is its overseer in highest heaven knows, Only He knows, or perhaps He does not know.' In a steering committee of 12 eminences in diverse fields of knowledge, there may be initial difference of opinion but when they talk together, deliberate, build consensus, they will surmount parochial considerations and develop the national curricular framework in perfect accord with the hallowed provisions of the NEP 2020, staying clear of the potential carping criticism of the extreme left or the radical right, by not harking too much on the past. Of course, we must analyse the past — without being its prisoner — in the context of the present for the purpose of building a resurgent India by laying the foundation of a sound, secure and holistic school education system to meet the aspirational needs of the 21st century.

(The writer is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha, and member of the Delhi Bar Council. The views expressed are personal.)

Making sense of the power crisis debate



SUBHASH C PANDEY

For import-dependent India, it is costlier to import longer haul Australian coal than shorter haul Indonesian coal which is getting diverted to China

A barrage of news about rising electricity consumption, rising international price of coal and shortage of coal with power plants have raised fears of an impending power crisis. There are 135 coal-fired power plants with total installed capacity of about 202 GW meeting about 70 per cent of electricity supply. On October 7, more than half of these plants had coal stocks of less than three days. 16 small plants with total capacity of 17GW had no coal stock. Low coal stocks with thermal power plants does not mean shortage of coal in the country.

Here is the big picture; facts that speak for themselves. There is absolutely no shortage of power if people are willing to pay its price, both in terms of cash and health.

International Energy Agency has highlighted that energy demand has shot up worldwide as economic activity picks up post-pandemic. During April-September 2019, India's electricity consumption was 68100 crore units (kwh). It fell down 62500 crore in April-Sept 2020, mainly during the lockdown months of April-May 2020. However, electricity consumption during April-Sept 2021 jumped to 71500 crore units, more than the pre-covid level even though there was a distressing second wave in April-May 2021 and the tour/travel/hospitality industry is not yet back to pre-covid level. Air/rail travel is not fully restored.

Increase in electricity demand is a positive sign indicating economic recovery. Increased coverage of households with access to electricity connection have brought new electricity consumers in the market. Growing digital economy also contributes to rising demand. A welcome surge in electricity demand has raised supply concerns, especially, as all indications are further increase in electricity demand in coming months.

Since 2013, total primary energy consumption in India has been the third highest in the world after China and the U.S. Total power generation capacity in India has increased from 243 GW in March 2014 to 320 GW in March 2017 to 388 GW in August 2021. Out of this, 202 GW is coal/lignite fired thermal power, 46 GW is from large hydroelectric projects, 45 GW from Solar and 40 GW from Wind power. Renewable energy capacity is about 37 per cent of total and India will reach 40 per cent renewable energy capacity well before 2030 as per target accepted under 2015 Paris Climate Change agreement.

Although coal-based power plants contribute only to 52 per cent of installed electricity generation capacity, these plants meet almost 75 per cent of total electricity demand. So even though we have made impressive gains in expanding solar power, we are still largely dependent on coal for electricity. Our domestic production of coal is about 730 MMT and we annually import over 300 MMT. Electricity sector accounts for about 2/3rd of total coal consumption.



SINCE 2013, TOTAL PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN INDIA HAS BEEN THE THIRD HIGHEST IN THE WORLD AFTER CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. TOTAL POWER GENERATION CAPACITY IN INDIA HAS INCREASED FROM 243 GW IN MARCH 2014 TO 388 GW IN AUGUST 2021

(The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The views expressed are personal.)



India is the second largest coal consumer after China. International prices of coal have risen recently for two reasons. Sharper increase in gas prices mean that countries are increasing dependence on cheaper coal-based thermal plants.

China is facing increased electricity demand in post-pandemic economic recovery and in a trade war with Australia, China stopped coal imports from Australia, one of the major exporters of coal.

Coal makes up nearly 60 per cent of China's energy consumption. Increased coal/power demand from China has set coal prices soaring high and many coastal power plants depending on (previously cheaper) coal imports are now switching to domestic coal in India.

For import dependent Indian power producers, it is costlier to import longer haul Australian coal than shorter haul Indonesian coal that is increasingly getting diverted to China. The net result of all this is higher demand for coal, higher price for coal and resultant financial stress on power generating companies.

There have been temporary supply disruptions (monsoon-related) in coal mining and transportation. The coal supply position is steadily improving but there are basic issues to be addressed to ensure long term health of the power sector which is victim to populism. Coal supply is a temporary problem. There is enough coal and production/transport will increase once monsoon woes are over. But the real issue of financial distress on power generating companies remains. Power generating companies owe about ₹20,000 crore to Coal India Limited alone.

Thermal plants are expected to have stock of 20 days requirement

but many power producers don't have money to stock coal because they have themselves not been paid by discoms for power supplied. Discoms are cash starved because tariffs don't cover all costs, many consumers don't pay their bills or delay payment. Power theft and leakage through unmetered supply continues to be rather high. This is all reflected in discoms inability to pay to power producers.

Power producers give 45 days' credit to Electricity Distribution companies (discoms). If the dues are not cleared in 45 days, outstanding dues are called 'overdues' liable to charge of penal interest.

On 17 October, 2021, discoms owed an overdue amount of ₹98,067 crore to power generation/transmission companies. Nearly ₹23,310 crore is payable to public sector thermal power generating companies (NTPC, etc.) Around ₹51,899 crore is payable to public sector thermal power generating companies (maximum amount payable to a single company is ₹25,611 crore, to Adani Power). Around ₹17,980 crore is payable to renewable power producers and ₹4,877 crore is payable to PowerGrid.

If coal companies have to recover ₹20,000 crore from power utilities, will it make sense for them to produce more coal and supply on credit? If power producers are not getting paid for power supplied, will they not reduce production? Does it make sense for them to improve plant load factor and produce more electricity to supply on credit? That is the real problem.

The discom reform scheme UDAY ended in 2019-20 with most of the states failing to meet their stipulated targets. On July 1, the Centre has launched a new scheme of 'Reforms-based and Results-linked,

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme' to provide conditional financial assistance to discoms for strengthening of supply infrastructure. The scheme with total outlay of ₹3,03,758 crore will involve Central government budget support of ₹97,631 crore by 2024-25. All existing power sector reform schemes namely DDUGJY, IPDS, PM-KUSUM scheme would be subsumed into this new umbrella program.

Among the many contemplated reforms is a measure to create separate feeder for agricultural electricity supply, expansion of network of solar run irrigation systems. Other pending electricity reforms are removal of cross subsidies and open access, introducing competition by allowing consumers choice of electricity supplier.

States are presently administering two types of cross subsidy arrangements. One is between high-end and low-end household consumers and the other is between household consumers on one hand and industrial/commercial consumers on the other.

There are just too many consumer categories and tariff lines - slabs and fixed charges, making electricity pricing quite complex and non-transparent. On top of tariffs fixed by 'independent regulators', States levy electricity duty (as it is not subsumed in GST) which ranges from 0-70 per cent for certain categories of consumers.

Cross-subsidy burden on industry is problematic because it adversely affects cost competitiveness — manufacturing and exports and resultant job creation. It is frustrating that these reforms are getting delayed and deferred. Any myopic politics will sap the nation of energy in the long run.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

RAHUL GANDHI IS A DRUG ADDICT AND A DRUG PEDDLER. I DO NOT SAY THIS, IT HAS APPEARED IN NEWS REPORTS. —KARNATAKA BJP PRESIDENT NALIN KUMAR KATEEL




KATEEL MIGHT HAVE CONSUMED SOME DRUGS SEIZED FROM THE ADANI PORT, WHICH IS WHY HE IS MAKING SUCH REMARKS. —AICC GENERAL SECRETARY RANDEEP SURJEWALA

# Women officers in the armed forces

There is no doubt that officers and other ranks have to undergo a sea change in their thinking process and attitude to accept gender equality

The recent Supreme Court judgement directing the Government to open the portals of the National Defence Academy for women has finally paved way for across-the-board gender equality in the armed Forces. Eligible women will now be permitted to appear for the NDA Entrance Examination for the first time and the sky will be the limit for their career aspirations. This will now enable women to join all available combat or non-combat branches of the three services.

Notwithstanding the above judgement, women have always had their presence in the armed forces, though in a limited role like that of doctors in all the three wings of the armed forces. It



RAVI CHANDER KOCHHAR

(The writer, a retired Rear Admiral, is Group Pro Vice Chancellor & OSD (HR), Amity University, Uttar Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

has, however, been almost three decades when women entered many other branches where only men dominated once.

The women officers in Indian armed forces have come a long way and have adapted well with the changing times. However, it is incumbent on the services to be accommodative in assimilating women in all domains — be it combat, administration, engineering or medical. Therefore, the onus is still upon the male-dominated armed forces to recognize the power of women officers and facilitate them to achieve their full potential.

I still fondly remember, whilst I was in command of INS Vikrant in 1992, when the first batch of women officers

reported onboard for initial sea training for Short Service Commission in the Indian Navy. The lady officers were very enthusiastic and took keen interest in the training. Normally when officers join for sea training, they all live on the ship throughout their training. In this case as there were no separate arrangements onboard for their stay, the ship was in harbour and they would come in the morning and leave in the

evening. Throughout their training they exhibited their skill levels, adaptability, physical fitness and mental alertness to match with standards laid down for men.

These young lady officers were quick on the uptake and always enthusiastic to learn the service ways. They were happy with the training but had one observation — why they could not stay onboard. It was explained to them that as of now the arrangements onboard ships are for men, especially living spaces and washrooms. Whilst they all understood the existing constraints, they were keen to know when ships will have women's quarters as well. I recollect my reaction to that was 'when a child is born, he/she first learns to

crawl, then stand and only thereafter runs'. I can only say that the time has come for all of them to run.

On the lighter side, many of those young lady officers found their soul mates amongst the naval officers during their initial service career and thereafter, lived happily ever after. Being from the same service the understanding between the partners also proved to be of higher quality, essential for marital harmony. In short it is a win in situation, as both the partners know each other's service conditions and do not take long to settle.

I can only say that the day has come when the idea of women joining armed forces had taken shape and has now evolved to women getting

permanent commission and entering areas dominated by men like fighter pilots, combat units and serving onboard ships and sailing on operational missions.

There's is no doubt that officers and other ranks have also to undergo a sea change in their thinking process and attitude so as to accept gender equality and when required, take orders from women officers in command. Having said that, women must also remember that they are getting into new fields and must tread with caution and never hesitate to take guidance from men who have been holding the fort for a much longer period.

By the way in the US Navy, for the first time, a woman officer has recently

been appointed to command a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. I have no doubt it is only a matter of time when we will have lady officers in command of combat units and move shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts.

Indian history is replete with examples of women in command of combat troops, like "Rani of Jhansi" and many others who have led troops in battle and given a befitting reply to the enemy. It was only somewhere along the time when we lost the plot and armed forces became the forte of men alone.

At the end, I can only say, 'Welcome to Indian armed forces, brave Ladies, you are indeed the pride of India.'



# Russia hosts Af talks, calls for inclusive Govt

MOSCOW: Russia hosted talks on Afghanistan on Wednesday involving senior representatives of the Taliban and other factions, a round of diplomacy that underlines Moscow's clout.

Opening the talks, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized that "forming a really inclusive government fully reflecting the interests of not only all ethnic groups but all political forces of the country" is necessary to achieve a stable peace in Afghanistan.

Russia had worked for years to establish contacts with the Taliban, even though it has designated the group a terrorist organization in 2003 and never took it of the list. Any contact with such groups is punishable under Russian law, but the Foreign Ministry has responded to questions about the apparent contradiction by saying that its exchanges with the Taliban are essential for helping stabilize Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union fought a 10-year war in Afghanistan that ended with its troops withdrawing in 1989. In recent years, Moscow has made a strong comeback as an influential power broker in international talks on Afghanistan, hosting the Taliban representatives and members of other

factions for bilateral and multilateral meetings.

Unlike many other countries, Russia hasn't evacuated its embassy in Kabul and its ambassador has maintained regular contacts with the Taliban after they took over the Afghan capital in August.

Lavrov in his opening speech at the conference commended the Taliban for their efforts to stabilize the situation in the country and ensure the operation of state structures.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that there must be no rush in officially recognizing the Taliban as the new rulers of Afghanistan, but emphasized the need to engage in talks with them.

At the same time, he emphasized the security challenges posed by the Islamic State group and other militants based in northern Afghanistan, and noted that drug trafficking from Afghanistan will continue to present a challenge.

Russia has vowed to provide military assistance to its ex-Soviet allies in Central Asia to help counter the threats, and held a series of joint drills in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan that neighbor Afghanistan.

Another sweeping military exercise in Tajikistan

involving 5,000 troops, more than 700 military vehicles and combat jets has started this week. **AP**

## Pak Army chief urges world to avert humanitarian crisis in Afghan

**Islamabad:** Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday urged the international community to get together to stop a brewing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, which is now ruled by the Taliban.

Gen Bajwa made the appeal during his meeting with Stefano Pontecorvo, Senior Civil Representative NATO, who called on him at the army headquarters in Rawalpindi, the army said in a statement.

During their meeting, matters related to mutual interest, peace and stability in the region and the Afghanistan situation were discussed, it said.

"There is a need for global convergence on Afghanistan to avoid a humanitarian crisis," Gen Bajwa said.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in the Afghan situation including successful evacuation operations and efforts for regional stability. He also assured to enhance cooperation with Pakistan on Afghanistan and regular engagement by the NATO countries for all bilateral issues. Pakistan has been trying to convince the world to engage with the Taliban in Afghanistan as it fears a humanitarian crisis in the neighbouring country due to looming shortages of food and other essential commodities. The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a costly two-decade war. **PTI**

# Protesters in Bangladesh demand law to protect minorities

## They condemn violence against Hindus

**DHAKA:** Demanding that the Bangladesh government should enact a new law to ensure religious freedom for everyone, protesters and academicians across the country condemned the mob attacks on the Hindu community and vandalism of temples and idols during Durga Puja festivities.

Attacks on Hindus and their 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.

Condemning the attacks on the Hindu community, protests were held across the country for the sixth day on Tuesday, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Speakers at various programmes demanded that the perpetrators of the violence be brought to justice, as well as other measures to protect minorities in Bangladesh, it said.

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in the attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues across the country.

They also urged the government to enact a new law to ensure religious freedom for everyone.

Over a hundred teachers from various departments of the university participated in the programme and made a human chain, voicing the demands, at the Dhaka University campus.

Condemning the violence, DU Vice-Chancellor M Akhtaruzzaman said: "'The Durga Puja celebration of this country was a model of secularism for the entire world. This festival is supposed to be open

to people of all religions. The rise of communal evil in various parts of the country is disgraceful and cannot be tolerated. We urge the government to identify the perpetrators immediately and bring them to book.'" According to M Wahiduzzaman, former VC of Noakhali Science and Technology University, the government should immediately enact a law that effectively discourages communal violence.

"Compensation must be ensured for all the victims of the recent attacks," he added.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Jagannath University Mijanur Rahman said perpetrators of communal violence often get away without punishment, and this needs to be stopped.

Leaders and activists of the Progressive Student Alliance and the Khulna University Teachers' Association also condemned the violence against the Hindu community.

Students and teachers of Dhaka University also staged a street drama titled 'Dekhte Ki Pao, Purche Bangla? (Can you see that Bangla is burning?)' to protest the attacks.

Rights activists under the banner 'Poets, litterateur, artists and journalists against communal terrorism' organised a rally in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh on Tuesday. **PTI**

# Vladimir Putin orders week-long paid holiday as Covid cases soar in Russia

**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered a nationwide week-long paid holiday to curb Covid infections in Europe's worst affected country and urged Russians to show "responsibility" and get vaccinated.

Putin approved a government plan to declare a non-working week across the country from October 30 as Russia registered a record 1,028 coronavirus deaths in a single day.

"The main aim is to protect the lives and health of our citizens," the 69-year-old Kremlin chief said during a televised meeting.

He said the severity of the outbreak in Russia was linked to the country's vaccination rates that are "unfortunately" low.

Infection rates have soared in recent weeks amid a stalled vaccination campaign, with only 35 percent of the country fully inoculated despite several widely available vaccines including Sputnik V.

Putin said he was surprised by how many Russians were refusing the vaccine, even among his "close friends."

"It's strange. People with a good education, scientific degrees... I just don't understand what is happening."

Putin has made numerous pleas for Russians to get Covid jabs, and on Wednesday once again called on people to get immunised.

"Please, show responsibility," he said.

On Wednesday, the country recorded over 34,000 new virus cases and a total of 226,353 fatalities -- the highest death toll on the European continent. Russian authorities have been accused of vastly downplaying the scale of the pandemic, and Putin told regional authorities not to under-report the number of virus cases, calling it "dangerous."

Putin has introduced paid holidays during coronavirus peaks before, most recently in May. The new non-working week will coincide with national school holidays.

Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova said the new restrictions were tough but necessary. **AFP**

# Iran urges UN action against Israeli threats to n-programme

**Tehran:** Iranian Ambassador to the UN Majid Takht Ravanchi has called for an action by the UN Security Council (UNSC) to tackle rising Israeli threats to Tehran's nuclear programme.

In a letter to the UNSC on Tuesday, Takht Ravanchi said over the past months, the intensity of Israel's "provocative and adventurist threats" to Iran's nuclear programme have consistently grown and reached an alarming level, Xinhua reported on Wednesday citing Tasnim news agency.

The Iranian envoy referred to the latest remarks by Israeli senior military officials of "operational plans against Iran's nuclear programme", saying that "such systematic explicit and public threats by the Israeli regime against a founding member of the United Nations constitute flagrant violations of international law". Takht Ravanchi warned against any possible military act of Israel against Iran and its nuclear programme, stressing that Iran reserves the right to self-defence to decisively respond to any threat. **IANS**

# Bus bombs kill 14 in Syria capital shells elsewhere kill 10

**Damascus:** Two bombs attached to a bus carrying Syrian troops exploded in Damascus during the morning rush hour Wednesday, a military official said. Fourteen people were killed in the attack, one of the deadliest in the capital in years.

While the Syrian government's decade-long conflict with insurgents continues in parts of the country including the rebel-held northwest, the bombings in Damascus have become exceedingly rare since President Bashar Assad's troops pushed opposition fighters from the capital's suburbs in 2018.

The explosions, which also left several wounded, happened at a busy intersection, near a main bus transfer point where commuters and schoolchildren typically converge. After the blasts, Syrian state TV showed footage of smoke rising from a charred bus as soldiers hosed down the vehicle and onlookers flocked to a nearby bridge to watch.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but several insurgent and jihadist groups that seek to overthrow Assad are active in Syria.

Separately, rescue workers reported 10 people were killed, including four children and a woman, in government shelling of a town in the last rebel enclave in the country's northwest. The UN Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator Mark Cutts described as "shocking" the reports of the shelling that hit a market and roads near schools as students were heading to classes.

In addition to the four children killed, their teacher also died, according to UNICEF, the UN children's agency.

"Today's violence is yet another reminder that the war in Syria has not come to an end. Civilians, among them many children, keep bearing the brunt of a brutal decade-long conflict," the agency said. "Attacks on civilians including children are a violation of international humanitarian law." **AP**

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II  
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street,  
New Delhi-110001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

Notice Under Rule 38 of The Second Schedule to The Income Tax Act, 1961 Read With Section 25(a) The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

RC No. 312/2014      Dated:..09.09.2021

In the matter of: ICICI BANK V/S BHARAT SOMASTAMB

To,  
CD#  
Bharat Somastamb S/o Sh. Krishan Gopal Somastamb  
R/o House No. 523, Sector-21C Faridabad, Haryana- 121001.  
Also at: Bharat Enterprises G1/203A, Indera Enclave, Sector-21-D, Faridabad- 121002.

Whereas in execution of ibid **RC No.312/2014** dated **28.08.2014** in **OA No.308/2013** drawn up by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi, the CD is to pay to the applicant **Rs.12,16,823/- (Rs. Twelve Lacs Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred And Twenty Three Only)** has become due from you as per the ibid Recovery Certificate drawn in **OA No. 308/2013** by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal- II, Delhi. The applicant is entitled to recover a sum of **Rs. Rs.12,01,823/- (Rs. Twelve Lacs One Thousand Eight Hundred And Twenty Three Only)** alongwith pendente lite and future interest @15.01% per annum w.e.f. **18.10.2013** till realization with cost of **Rs.15,000/-** and costs from the Certificate Debtor (CD), failing which the amount shall be recovered by sale of the hypothecated vehicles. In case of any shortfall, the same shall be recovered from the personal movable and immovable assets of the CD.

2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of the hypothecated vehicle mentioned in scheduled property for satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate.

3. Notice is hereby given that in the absence of any order of postponement, the said hypothecated vehicle (mentioned under the schedule of property below) shall be sold through e auction through **https://auctions.cardkho.com/ auctions@cardkho.com**, by e-auction at **11:00 AM on 27.10.2021**.

4. The CH bank shall ensure that prospective bidders are allowed inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle (mentioned under the schedule of property below) before day of auction for which interested individuals may contact the concerned officer of CH **Ms. Kalayani Preeti (MOB: 9599281817)**.

5. The sale shall be of the movable property of the above named Certificate Defaulters (CD), subject to the liabilities and claims attaching to the said hypothecated vehicle, if any.

6. The sale shall be stopped if, before lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate alongwith the interest and costs has been paid to the undersigned.

7. At the sale the public generally are invited to bid either personally or by duly authorized agent. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.

8. The property is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS" BASIS**. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Scheduled to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further conditions.

9. The particulars specified in the Schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.

10. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) be fixed as follows-

S. No.	Details of property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)
1.	Mercedes Benz/ E280CDI, bearing Registration No. HR- 51Y-0945.	1,60,000/-	16,000/-

11. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be determined by the Officer conducting the sale. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put to auction.

12. Intending bidders shall be required to pay Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of pay order/demand draft payable at New Delhi and in favour of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi before the start of bidding and identity proofs, address proofs etc. The said deposit shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidders; and in the case of unsuccessful bidders the same shall be refunded without interest, on the date of sale.

13. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale proceeds by way of pay order/demand draft favoring the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, within 24 hours (next working day) by way of bank draft, after adjusting the EMD stated above, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

14. The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds alongwith poundage fee @ 2% upto Rupees 1,000/- @ 1% of the sale price exceeding Rupees 1,000/- within 15 days from the date of auction. The Poundage fees shall be deposited through a demand draft payable in favor of the Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi.

15. In case of default, the amount earlier deposited by the bidder, if the undersigned considers fit, after defraying the expenses of the sale shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold, and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part thereof or of any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

16. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

S. No.	Description of property to be sold with names co-owners where the property belongs to the defaulter and any other persons is co-owners	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrances to which the property is liable	Claims, if any which have been put forward to the property and other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
1.	Mercedes Benz/ E280CDI, bearing Registration No. HR- 51Y-0945.	No Information	No Information	No Information

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at New Delhi on this **09.09.2021**.  

(Dattatreya Bajpayee)  
Recovery Officer-II  
DRT-II, Delhi

# 48 died, 31 missing in Nepal's flood and landslides

**Kathmandu:** At least 48 people have died and 31 others went missing in Nepal's flood and landslides triggered by incessant rains from Sunday, Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs said.

Similarly, thousands of farmers across the country have lost their crops to rains this year. Destruction of the paddy crop is a major setback for Nepal's overall economy. Paddy alone contributes around 7 per cent to the national gross domestic product and is the major income source for more than half of the population.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has called an emergency Cabinet meeting on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the situation created by the rain, floods, and landslides. As many as 11 districts of the country reported deaths and missing people, according to the Home Ministry.

Some bridges collapsed and highways were obstructed. Some cities and airports are inundated and in some districts, some human settlements were submerged under the floods. Local authorities have shifted some settlements to safe places in some districts to save people from the flood and landslides.

Several districts of the country have been hit hard by the unexpected autumn rain. According to Nepali Airlines officials, at least 100 domestic flights scheduled for an operation to and from the capital, Kathmandu were suspended on Wednesday owing to bad weather conditions. This is the highest number of flight suspensions recorded in a single day in recent times as air carriers could not operate services to various hilly as well as plain areas due to incessant rains and bad weather conditions.

The Home Ministry said that 31 people are still missing in landslides and floods in several parts of the country and search and rescue operation is underway. The sudden and extreme rainfall in the third week of October, has left experts wondering-and worried-how climate change is impacting the economy and livelihoods of the people.

Nepal's economic well-being is intimately linked with the rainy season. Water from the skies is the lifeblood of Nepal's Rs 4.26 trillion economy which is farm-dependent, as nearly two-thirds of the farmlands are rain-fed. A large part of the country gets nearly 80 percent of its annual rainfall during the four months-June to September. Given the above-normal rainfall this year, Nepal was expecting a bumper harvest. **IANS**

# Jailed Russian Opp leader Navalny wins top EU prize

**Brussels:** Imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was awarded the European Union's top human rights prize Wednesday in a clear slap at President Vladimir Putin.

In awarding the Sakharov Prize to Navalny, the European Parliament praised his "immense personal bravery". The 45-year-old activist was poisoned with a nerve agent last year and promptly arrested upon his return to Moscow from treatment in Germany and later imprisoned.

"He has campaigned consistently against the corruption of Vladimir Putin's regime, and through his social media accounts and political campaigns, Navalny has helped expose abuses and mobilize the support of millions of people across Russia. For this, he was poisoned and thrown in jail," parliament President David Sassoli in a statement.

Sassoli called for Navalny's immediate release.

The recognition of Navalny will further sour relations between the 27-nation bloc and Russia. These ties have been on the decline for years, especially following Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and its support for a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

The impact reverberated beyond the EU as well.

Days after Russia suspended its mission at NATO and ordered the closure of the alliance's office in Moscow in retaliation for NATO's expulsion of Russian diplomats, the organisation's chief said he embraced the news. **AP**

**Lahore:** Pakistan's Opposition parties on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Imran Khan of selling gifts he received from other countries' heads, including an expensive watch worth USD 1 million.

Gifts are routinely exchanged between heads of states or officers holding constitutional positions during a state visit. According to the gift depository (Toshakhana) rules, these gifts remain the property of the state unless sold at an open auction. Rules allow officials to retain gifts with a market value of less than Rs 10,000 without paying anything. The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

"Imran Khan has sold the gifts he received from other countries," PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz tweeted in Urdu. **PTI**

# Career diplomat Donald Blome named US envoy to Pakistan

**Washington:** U.S. President Joe Biden plans to nominate Donald Blome, currently ambassador to Tunisia, as his top diplomat in Pakistan as Washington works to manage the situation in neighboring Afghanistan following the

withdrawal of American troops.

Joe Biden will announce plans to nominate Blome to the job in Pakistan, the White House said. Blome is a career Foreign Service diplomat with long experience in the region who once worked in the Kabul embassy, shuttered earlier this year during the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Pakistan is playing a major role in diplomacy with its Taliban-ruled neighbor.

International agencies have warned that Afghanistan is on the verge of humanitarian collapse without access to aid or foreign reserves, which remain frozen in the United States.

Pakistan's relationship with neighboring China has also been of interest to the Biden administration, which regards Beijing as its chief international rival. Tunisia, where Blome has worked as ambassador since 2019, is an important diplomatic outpost for the United States in North Africa, representing interests beyond the country's borders, including in neighboring Libya. **PTI**

# Volcano in southwest Japan erupts, warning issued

**Tokyo:** An eruption was observed on Wednesday at Mt Aso in Kyushu area, southwestern Japan, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters in Tokyo that no injuries have been reported so far and that local authorities are working to determine whether there are any climbers still on the mountain, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the JMA, the eruption occurred at 11.43 a.m. local time at the No 1 Nakadake crater, with smoke billowing out of the peak in Kumamoto Prefecture.

Volcanic ash has blown more than 1 km from the crater and reached a height of about 3,500 meters, and pyroclastic flows could occur in areas within about 2 km, the JMA said.

The agency raised the volcanic alert level of Mt Aso to 3 on a scale of 5. **IANS**

# Former German troops arrested over alleged terror plot

**Berlin:** Two former German soldiers have been arrested on suspicion of trying to form a terrorist mercenary force to fight in Yemen's civil war, officials said. The former soldiers -- Arend-Adolf G and Achim A, face terrorism charges after police raids in southern Germany on Wednesday, the BBC reported.

They allegedly planned to recruit up to 150 men for a private army made up of former police officers and soldiers.

According to prosecutors, they wanted to offer their services to Saudi Arabia's government for illegal missions in Yemen. Yemen has been racked by a civil war between the Saudi Arabia-backed internationally recognised government and the armed Houthi movement since 2014. Saudi Arabia entered the civil war in 2015 shortly after the capture of the capital, Sanaa, by the Houthis, who are supported by Iran. **IANS**

# Queen cancels travel plans within UK after medical advice to rest

**London:** Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has cancelled a planned visit to Northern Ireland following medical advice to rest for a few days, Buckingham Palace said on Wednesday.

The 95-year-old monarch was to begin a two-day trip to Hillsborough in County Down and attend a church service marking the centenary of the formation of Northern Ireland in Armagh on Thursday, but will now remain at Windsor Castle instead.

"The Queen has reluctantly accepted medical advice to rest for the next few days," a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said. "Her Majesty is in good spirits and is disappointed that she will no longer be able to visit Northern Ireland, where she had been due to undertake a series of engagements today and tomorrow. The Queen sends her warmest good wishes to the people of Northern Ireland and looks forward to visiting in the future," **IANS**

the spokesperson said.

The decision is not believed to be related to coronavirus and the monarch is now said to be resting at her Windsor Castle residence in Berkshire, south-east England.

The Queen, the UK's longest-serving monarch, has been attending a series of public events in recent days, including hosting a Global Investment Summit at Windsor Castle on Tuesday evening. It was revealed on Tuesday that the Queen had declined a so-called "Oldie of the Year" award, from a magazine of the same name, saying: "You are only as old as you feel".

She is still expected to attend the UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

The Queen was seen using a walking stick for the first time at a major public event earlier this week, when attending a Westminster Abbey service marking the centenary of UK armed forces charity Royal British Legion. **AP**



# Decision on Air India will give new energy: Modi

## AVIATION SECTOR

PTI ■ KUSHINAGAR

With Air India set to be acquired by Tata group, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the decision on the national carrier will give new energy to the country's aviation sector.

His comments come weeks after Tata group emerged as the winning bidder for Air India paying the way for dis-investment of the loss-making carrier.

In an address after inaugurating the Kushinagar International airport, Modi said the decision on Air India will give new energy to the aviation sector of India.



Tata group has emerged as the winning bidder for Air India, and on October 11, a letter of intent (LoI) was issued to the group.

Earlier this month, the government accepted an offer by Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of Tata group, to pay ₹ 2,700 crore cash and takeover ₹15,300 crore of

Air India's debt.

After Tatas accept the LoI, the share purchase agreement (SPA) for the sale will be signed.

Along with Air India, Tatas will acquire low-cost carrier Air India Express and Air India's 50 per cent stake in equal joint venture AISATS.

# Power crisis: Govt looks to revise coal stocking norms for thermal plants

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to avert power crisis being triggered in the country due to fuel shortages in the months following monsoon rains, the government proposes revise the coal stocking norms for thermal power plants, based on regular shift stock limits, depending on the actual fuel requirement during a particular period.

Sources said that the Central Electricity Authority will come up with revised coal stocking guidelines that will have higher stocking requirement for non-pit head power plants while lower for those located near the coal-bearing regions of the country.

As per a draft that is being discussed, against the uniform requirement of 20-22 day coal

stocks to be maintained by power plants, lower coal stock of 10 days may be mandated for pit-head power plants while 20 days stock may be needed for power plants farther from coal-producing areas. But in the peak summer months (April-June), non-pit head plants would still require to stock 22 days of coal while pit head plants around 12 days. The norms of stocking may change slightly in winter months. The thinking within the government is that the revised coal stocking norms will prevent a situation like the one that faced the country recently when post monsoons, several of the 135 coal-based power plants in the country were found to be sitting with critical coal stock levels sufficient to meet just three to four days of supply.

# IMF revises down Asia economy growth forecast to 6.5%

IANS ■ WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised down its 2021 economic growth forecast for Asia to 6.5 per cent, down by 1.1 percentage points from its April projection, according to a newly released regional economic outlook.

"The resurgence of the pandemic, amid initially low vaccination rates, slowed the recovery in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in emerging market and developing economies," Chang Yong Rhee, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency.Noting that the Asia-Pacific remains the fastest growing region in the world, Rhee said as vaccination rates accelerate, the region is expected to grow by 4.9 per cent in

2022, 0.4 percentage points faster than projected in April.

For advanced economies, the latest IMF forecast is broadly unchanged for 2021 with upgrades in South Korea and New Zealand and downgrades in Japan and Australia, according to the report.

Most of the downgrades in the region come from emerging market and low-income countries, led by India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.China is projected to grow by 8.0 per cent in 2021, down by 0.4 percentage point from the April projection, according to the report.India is projected to grow by 9.5 per cent after a sharp decline in 2020. While the pandemic

surge earlier this year had a large adverse impact on growth, the subsequent rebound in activity has gained strength, it said.The ASEAN-5 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand), are still facing "severe challenges" from a resurgent virus and weakness in contact-intensive sectors.

"The divergence between Asian advanced economies and developing economies is deepening, with output levels in the emerging market economies and low-income countries expected to remain below pre-pandemic trends in the coming years, reflecting differences in policy support and vaccination rollout," Rhee said.

# IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath to leave job and return to Harvard University

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

IMF's Chief Economist Gita Gopinath will leave her job in January next year and return to the prestigious Harvard University's Economics Department, according to the global financial institution.The 49-year-old prominent Indian-American economist had joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the Chief Economist in January 2019.She was the John

Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University when she joined the Washington-based global lender.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Tuesday announced that the search for Gopinath's successor would begin shortly."Gita's contribution to the Fund and our membership has been truly remarkable - quite simply, her impact on the IMF's work has been tremendous," Georgieva said.

# India to see salary hike at 9.3% in 2022: Report

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

After a pandemic-induced lull, pay rises are making a comeback. With India projected a salary increase of 9.3 per cent next year, the country is set to be the highest payer in Asia Pacific, according to a report.

This is an increase of 8 per cent compared to 2021, revealed the latest report by advisory, broking and solutions company Willis Towers Watson.

India is followed by Sri Lanka (5.5 per cent),

China (6 per cent), Indonesia (6.9 per cent), and Singapore (3.9 per cent) for the highest salary increase for 2021 in the Asia Pacific region.

Pointing towards a much-anticipated economic recovery, a majority (52.2 per cent) of companies in India have projected a positive business revenue outlook for the next 12 months, up from 37 per cent in Q4 2020.

This translates in increased hiring across businesses with 30 per cent of companies planning to hire in the next 12 months. This is almost three times more than last year.

# India needs to become a global power to defend itself:Gadkari

New Delhi:Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said India needs to become a global power, not to attack anyone but to defend itself. Addressing an event organised by industry body FICCI, he said India is not an expansionist power and does not intend to attack its smaller neighbours. "We need to make India a global power...We need to become powerful but not to attack anyone," the road transport and highways minister said.Gadkari noted that India is becoming self-reliant in the defence sector. "We are a rich nation with a poor population. We need to work to make India a rich nation with a rich population," he emphasised.


PTI


**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

**(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)**  
**Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813**  
**Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact Number 96461-18774)**

**Tender Inquiry No. 04/2122/CD** **Dated: 19-10-2021**  
 Dy. Chief Engineer/CIVIL DESIGN, PSPCL, E-2, Shakti Vihar, Patiala, invites E-tender for  
 DNIT FOR PURCHASE OF 43 GRADE ORDINARY PORTLAND CEMENT CONFORMING  
 TO IS:269/2015 (WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS)/PACKED IN NEW SYNTHETIC/JUTE  
 BAGS CONTAINING 20 BAGS IN A MT AT PSPCL PILOT WORKSHOPS MOHALI,  
 MUKTSAR & SARNA--- QUANTITY= 20000 MT. For detailed NIT & tender specification,  
 please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> (Contact No.- 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284)  
 from 21.10.2021 from 05:00 PM onwards.  
 Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at  
<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

**RO NO. 76155/12/499/2021/9067** **C37B/21**


**NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA**  
 Ministry of Education, Government of India Nehru Bhawan,  
 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070,  
 Tel: 011-2670783  
**Email: [office.nbt@nic.in](mailto:office.nbt@nic.in) ♦ Website : [www.nbtindia.gov.in](http://www.nbtindia.gov.in)**


**TENDER FOR A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON PROMOTION OF ANGANWADIS**  
 National Book Trust, India, an autonomous organization established by the Government of India in the year 1957 to develop reading habits and creation of book culture in the country intends to produce a Short documentary/ promotional film on the age- appropriate books available at Anganwadi Centres for children, which is the largest outreach programme of NBT.  
 NBT India invites tender/bids from all interested Agencies for the production of a 30-40 minute documentary film, a 5-minute short film and 1-minute on promotional video including on-site interviews with teachers, learners, Anganwadi-sevikas, villagers and key stakeholders in Amethi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Muzaffarnagar.  
 For Tender Form and detailed terms and conditions, please refer to our website i.e. [www.nbtindia.gov.in](http://www.nbtindia.gov.in). Last date for submitting tender/bids is **10 November 2021 upto 10:00 AM**. The decision of the Director, NBT, India will be final and binding.  
**davp 21103/11/0018/2122**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
 Dy. CSTE/TW, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 for & on behalf of "President of India" invites online OPEN E-tender in two packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

Name of work	
Provision of Indian Railway KAVACH (Formerly known as Train Collision Avoidance System) (IR Kavach) over NDLS-PWL, Ex TKJ-CPYZ, LKO-Ex CNB Sections of Northern Railway including Provision for Double Distant along with Interlocking of required Block section LCs in LKO-Ex CNB section and Provision of STIM/Telecom towers at stations wherever not available in NDLS-PWL & Ex TKJ-CPYZ sections along with loco TCAS filament works in 106 nos of 160kmph Electric locos in connection with achieving speeds upto 160kmph over New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah (including Lucknow-Kanpur) routes of Indian Railways.	
<b>Tender No.</b>	172-Sig-TW-Tender-EPC-T13
<b>Approximate cost of the work</b>	Rs. 123.027 Crs
<b>Cost of tender form</b>	Nil
<b>Address from where tender document can be downloaded</b>	Indian Railways website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 21.10.2021
<b>Earnest Money</b>	Nil (Bid Security declaration required)
<b>Completion Period</b>	700 days.
<b>Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender</b>	Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 21.10.2021 up to 11:00 hrs of 23.02.2022. <b>Date of tender Opening: 02.03.2022 after 16:00 hrs.</b>
<b>Detailed Tender Notice</b>	Available at Indian Railways website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
<b>No: 172-Sig-TW-Tender-EPC-T13 Date: 20.10.2021</b>	2383/2021
<b>Serving Customers With A Smile</b>	


**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 The Shabad Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd., Plot No.5, Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi -75 has proposed for clearance of the member as under:  
 1) Smt. Archana Bhatia, (2) Sh. Dheeraj Chhabra (3) Sh. Mahesh Kumar Jethani (4) Sh. Ashwani Sharma (5) Mrs. Jaya Asrani for allotment of flats by way of draw by DDA/RCS objections are invited from general public, members of the society and all concerned, if any within 15 days of publication of this Public Notice.

**NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 28th October, 2021, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results Prov. of the Company for the quarter ended on 30th Sept., 2021.  
 The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website [www.cubical90.com](http://www.cubical90.com) as also on the website of the Stock Exchange viz. BSE Limited- [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)  
 For Cubical Financial Services Limited  
 Sd/-  
 Place: New Delhi (Ashwani Kumar Gupta)  
 Date: 20-10-2021 Managing Director


**MAHATRANSCO**  
 Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.  
**MAHARASHTRA STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LTD.**  
 Praskashgad, 1st Floor, Plot No.9, Station Road, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400 051.  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/16- 2021-22**  
 Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0609/1021 [RFx No. 5000000942] (Two Bid System)	773.88	02.11.2021 02.11.2021 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:05Hrs
Procurement and Retrofit of Existing Old Quadruple Break SF6 Circuit Breakers (Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning) by New one alongwith Dismantling of Existing 400KV Quad Circuit Breakers for HVDC-I & II Line Bays at owners yard of 400KV Chandrapur & Padghe S/s.	5,000.00	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)  
 Tel. No.022-2647421 1/022-26472131 Extn.2491/2493.  
 Email:eegrp6@mahatransco.in, dyeegrp5@mahatransco.in  
 For further details visit our website <http://www.srm.tender.mahatransco.in>  
 Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website [www.mahatransco.in](http://www.mahatransco.in). So bidders are requested to check the website.  
**DGIPR/C 2405/21-22** **Executive Engineer (P&C)**


**CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED**  
**Corporate Office:** 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001.  
**Branch Office:**1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005

**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002**  
 You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Name and Address of the Borrower/s	Loan Amount	Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding	Description of the property/ Secured Asset
<b>LOAN ACCOUNT NO.X0HEDHE00000875978</b> <b>MANMOHAN SINGH (BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> C-82 GALI 1A WEST AZAD NAGAR KRISHNA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110051 <b>Also At:-</b> PROPERTY BEARING NO. C-82, AREA MEASURING90 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 165 MIN. SITUATEDIN BLOCK-C, WEST AZAD NAGAR, KNOWN AS AREA OF VILLAGE GHOUNDLI, DELHI <b>MANMEET SINGH (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> C-82 GALI 1A WEST AZAD NAGAR KRISHNA, NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110051 <b>BHAGAT SINGH (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> C-82 GALI 1A WEST AZAD NAGAR KRISHNA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110051 <b>PARAMJEET KAUR (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> C-82 GALI 1A WEST AZAD NAGAR KRISHNA, NAGAR, NEWDELHI-110051 <b>CHARANJEET KAUR (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> C-82 GALI 1A WEST AZAD NAGAR KRISHNA NAGAR, NEWDELHI-110051 <b>M/S ASER ELECTRONIC PVT LTD (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> 42 A /27 1ST FLOOR LAXMI NARAYN COMPOUND, DILSHAD GARDEN INDUSTRIAL AREA, NEW DELHI-110095	<b>Rs. 1,03,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Only)</b>	<b>27-09-2021 Rs.70,11,562/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Two Only)</b>	<b>ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROERTY BEARING PROPERTY BEARING NO. C-82, AREA MEASURING 90 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 165 MIN. SITUATED IN BLOCK-C, WEST AZAD NAGAR, KNOWN AS AREA OF VILLAGE GHOUNDLI, DELHI-110051</b> <b>NORTH: PROPERTY NO. C-83 SOUTH: ROAD EAST: PORTION OF PROPERTY NO. C-82 WEST: PROPERTY NO. C-80</b>
<b>LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEDL00001926828</b> <b>SATISH KUMAR SAINI (BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> H.NO.61, SAINI MOHALLA, NANGLOI, NEW DELHI-110041 <b>Also At:-</b> KHATU NARESH TENT HOUSE 668, KHASRA NO-126, SAINI MOHALLA NANGLOI, DELHI-110041 <b>Also At:-</b> PROPERTY BEARING NO. C-225, KHASRA NO. 62/25/2, VILLAGE NANGLOI, KNOWN AS SAINI VIHAR, LAXMI PARK, NEW DELHI. <b>MANJU SAINI (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> H.NO.61, SAINI MOHALLA, NANGLOI, NEW DELHI-110041 <b>KHATU NARESH TENT HOUSE (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR MR SATISH KUMAR SAINI 668 KHASRA NO.126,SAINI MOHALLA, NANGLOI, NEW DELHI-110041	<b>Rs. 20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Only)</b>	<b>27-09-2021 Rs.18,13,079/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirteen Thousand Seventy Only)</b>	<b>ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROERTY BEARING PROPERTY BEARING NO. C-225, AREA MEASURING 100 SQ.YDS., SITUATED IN THE AREA VILLAGE NANGLOI JAT, COLONY KNOWN AS LAXMI PARK, NAGLOI, NEW DELHI, BOUNDED ON: NORTH: OTHER'S PROPERTY SOUTH: ROAD 25 FT WIDE EAST: ROAD 12 FT WIDE WEST: OTHER'S PROPERTY</b>
<b>LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEDL00001683751</b> <b>VIKAS GOEL (BORROWER)</b> <b>B-45, GALI NO-2, CHANDU NAGAR, BIHARI PUR NORTH EAST DELHI NEWDELHI-110094</b> <b>MANGE RAM GOEL (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> B-45, GALI NO-2, CHANDU NAGAR, BIHARI PUR NORTH EAST DELHI NEWDELHI-110094 <b>KUSUM GOEL (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> B-45, GALI NO-2, CHANDU NAGAR, KARAWAL NAGAR SABAPUR NORTH EAST DELHI NEWDELHI-110094 <b>HARYANA TRADING COMPANY (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> A-18, GALI NO-2, CHANDU NAGAR, KARAWAL NAGAR ROAD, NEAR BHAINPURA, NEWDELHI, NEWDELHI-110094 <b>NIYATI GOEL (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> B-45, GALI NO-2, CHANDU NAGAR, BIHARI PUR NORTH EAST DELHI NEWDELHI-110094 <b>HARSH GOEL (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> B-45, GALI NO-2, CHANDU NAGAR, BIHARI PUR NORTH EAST DELHI NEWDELHI-110094 <b>GOEL TRADERS (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> A-18, GALI NO-2, CHANDU NAGAR, KARAWAL NAGAR ROAD, NEAR BHAINPURA, NEWDELHI, NEWDELHI-110094	<b>Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Only)</b>	<b>27-09-2021 Rs. 1,01,02,098.85/- (Rupees One Crore One Lakh(s) Two Thousand Ninety Eight And Paise Eighty Five Only)</b>	<b>ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROERTY BEARING PROPERTY BEARING OLD NO. B-40, NEW NO. B-45, MESURING AREA 160 SQ. YDS., I.E 133.77 SQ.MTRS OUT OF KHASRA NO. 40, FITTED WITH ELECTRICITY AND WATER CONNECTION IN RUNNING CONDITIONS, CONSISTING OF ACCORDING TO SITE WITH CONSTRUCT UPTO THE LAST STOREY SITUATED AT VILLAGE MEERAPUR TURK, IN THE ABADI OF GALI NO.2, CHANDU NAGAR, KARAWAL NAGAR, ILLAQ SHAHDARA SHAHDARA, DELHI 110094</b>
<b>LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEDHE00001142898 &amp; X0HEDHE00001356212</b> <b>RENU SHARMA (BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> HOUSE NO-7 SECOND FLOOR BLK-B, SHAKTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110052 <b>Also At:-</b> PROPERTY NO. 7, BLOCK-B, SITUATED IN THE DELHI CORPORATION ENGINEERING CHBS LTD. SHAKTI NAGAR EXTN, DELHI <b>RAJ KUMAR SHARMA (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>HOUSE NO-7 SECOND FLOOR BLK-B, SHAKTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110052</b> <b>Also At 1094, KASHMERE GATE PO PS KASHMERE GATE DELHI 110006</b> <b>PRATEEK SHARMA (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> HOUSENO-7 SECOND FLOOR BLK-B, SHAKTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110052	<b>Rs. 2,65,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Five Lakh(s) Only)</b>	<b>27-09-2021 Rs. 1,80,06,787.65/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Lakh(s) Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Seven And Paise Sixty Five Only)</b>	<b>ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO. B-7, CONSISTING OF GROUND FLOOR, FIRST FLOOR AND SECOND FLOOR WITH TERRACE/ROOF RIGHTS BUILT ON F R E E H O L D L A N D ADMEASURING 275.55 SQ. YDS., SITUATED IN THE LAYOUT PLAN OF THE DELHI CORPORATION CO - O P E R A T I V E H O U S E BUILDING SOCIETY LTD, SHAKTI NAGAR EXTENSION, DELHI-110052, BOUNDED BY: NORTH: ROAD 45' WIDE SOUTH: SERVICE ROAD 15' WIDE EAST: PLOT NO.B-8 WEST: PLOT NO. B-6</b> <b>ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO. 17, BLOCK NO. 10, CONSTRUCTED ON PIECE OF LAND MEASURING 275 SQ YADS APPROX. OR WHATSOEVER IS MORE OR LESS IN THE BOUNDARIES SITUATED AT SHAKTI NAGAR ELHI-110007, BOUNDED BY: NORTH: ROAD 15 FT. SOUTH: OTHERS PROPERTY NO. 10/16 EAST: MAIN ROAD WEST: ROAD 15 FT WIDE.</b>
<b>LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEDL00001892604 &amp; X0HEDL00001892629</b> <b>ANIL KUMAR (BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> CN-482 MAIN SABOLI ROAD SANJAY COLONY, NARELA, NEW DELHI-110040 <b>Also At:-</b> PROPERTY BEARING NO. 482, KHASRA NO. 37/6/2, NEAR SABOLIROAD, OLD ABADI OF VILLAGE NARELA, DELHI-110040 (AREA MEASURING 144.4 SQ. YDS.) <b>SANGEETA (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> CN-482 MAIN SABOLI ROAD SANJAY COLONY, NARELA, NEW DELHI-110040 <b>BHARDWAJ TRADERS (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> 1961/6A SABZI MANDI, NARELA, NEW DELHI-110040 <b>ASHISH KUMAR (Co-BORROWER)</b> <b>At:-</b> CN-482 MAIN SABOLI ROAD SANJAY COLONY, NARELA, NEW DELHI-110040	<b>Rs. 4500000/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh(s) Only)</b>	<b>27-09-2021 Rs. 4700007.26/- (Rupees Fourty Seven Lakh(s) Seven And Paise Twenty Six Only)</b>	<b>ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROERTY BEARING NO. 482, GROUND FLOOR (WITH ROOF RIGHTS UPTO SKY) FORMING PART OF KHASRA NO. 37/6/2, SITUATED AT NEAR SABOLI ROAD, OLD ABADI OF VILLAGE NARELA, DELHI-110040 (AREA MEASURING 144.4 SQ. YDS.)</b>

Date : 21.10.2021  
 Place : Delhi

AUTHORISED OFFICER  
 Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited.



# EXPLORING THE CONFLICT WITHIN

Writer-director, HARDIK GAJJAR, and lead actor, PRATIK GANDHI, tell CHRISTY VARGHESE that there is much more to *Bhavai* than the controversy surrounding its previous name, *Raavan Leela*

Pratik Gandhi became a household name after the raging success of *Scam 1992*. However, how many of us can claim to know that he was quite a prominent name in the Gujarati theatre circuit, much before *Scam 1992*?

Hardik Gajjar, the writer-director of Gandhi's forthcoming film, *Bhavai*, is someone who knew him from his theatre days. They have collaborated on and off over the years, their camaraderie only grew with time. And believe it or not, Gandhi was shooting for the film when he got the opportunity to star in *Scam*.

*Bhavai* was all set to release in theatres on October 1. However, the release date was pushed forward to October 22, following the announcement by the Maharashtra government that cinema halls in the state will reopen on October 22.

You may have heard of *Bhavai*, although under a different name; it had been named *Raavan Leela*, however, after a certain section of audience flagged the concern that the film may hurt religious sentiments, the name of the film was duly changed.

When we quiz Gajjar on the prompt renaming of the film, he shares unabashedly, “I did not expect the audience to misinterpret the name of the film. When I coined the name, *Raavan Leela*, I was talking about the Raavan that is all around us. When I conceptualised the film, what I had in mind was the essence of the story — internal conflict. Am I right, or am I wrong? And I believe the best way to depict the same was through *Ramayana*. I feel that both Ram ji and Raavan are within us. It is all about perception, and intention. When we got to know that some people were not pleased about the name of the film, we changed it without any hesitation, since it has no bearing on the film itself. There is nothing in the film related to the *Ramayana* or Ramlila, for that matter.”

What does *Bhavai* mean, though? “It all depends on your perception. (chuckles before continuing) For me, the word mean two things. When something



goes wrong in life, it is termed ‘bhavai’ in our lingo. As in, ‘*Ye kya bhavai ho gaya?*’ Bhavai is also a form of folk-theatre in Gujarat,” expresses Gajjar animatedly.

He went on to reveal that he has a long line up of projects with Gandhi in the pipeline, with the next one being the horror rom-com, *Atithi Bhooto Bhava*.

When we ask Gajjar whether he has a message for the audience, pat comes the reply, “I welcome everyone’s opinion, but I would urge you to go watch the film with an open mind before passing your verdict on the same.

Keep reading for excerpts of our conversation with the protagonist of *Bhavai* and *Scam 1992*, Gandhi...

**Q We heard that after *Scam 1992*, you opted to star in a Gujarati web-series, *Vitthal Teedi*, because of your character. Other interviews have you stating that when it comes to choosing new projects, you go by your intuition. What was it about *Bhavai* that reeled you in?**

The same formula. The first time the film was narrated, I felt that I could relate to the character’s emotions. And without any second thoughts, I said yes, let’s do it. This was before *Scam* and I was searching for something I could perform in. I wanted to get into the shoes of a character in a story that touched me. And the process you mentioned, I have been following it since a long time now.

**Q What is the premise of *Bhavai*?**

The most simple way I can explain the story without giving away the plot is that we are talking about moral dilemma here. If you see Ram and Raavan as a metaphor, the good and evil is present within us all.

We all are constantly involved in the fight between Ram and Raavan. It is up to us, we have to decide who wins — Ram or Raavan?

But literally speaking, *Bhavai* is a love-story. It has nothing to do with Ram or Raavan per se.

**Q When you say that it is up to us,**

**whether we choose to be Ram or Raavan in any given moment, can you say that it is as simple as that? In a world where external factors influence everything we do, can we really claim to be in complete control of our lives?** Let me try and explain. If we take social media for instance, there are times when one has this strong urge to say something, without even thinking of the repercussions. But if we can control our urge in that moment, having that sense of mastery over yourself changes the game altogether. And I believe this is the situation throughout our life, everywhere.

However, I would agree with you that there are many variables, which we need to constantly factor in, since they are not in our control. But what we can control is how we react to it. Otherwise the world would be a chaotic place. Because, I am sure, everyone has this urge to lash out at people. Road-rage is one example that will get my point across. And such things are happening everywhere. What is of vital importance is that crit-



ical moment, when you hit that point of saturation, do you lose control over yourself? Or are you able to take a step back, and take stock of the situation? That is why they say, don’t react, just respond.

**Q Going by the first example you stated, about controlling one’s urge to be impulsive on social media, do you regret achieving stardom after *Scam 1992*?**

(laughs) Not really, no. I am well aware of the fact that once you are well known, each and every word that you utter needs to be measured. It is bound to reach a large number of people. Even if I was not a prominent actor and was instead employed elsewhere, it’s a personal choice. How you speak, what you speak, it is on you. And it should be well thought.

However, I will agree that once you have made it in the entertainment industry, you have to be more careful of your actions and words than people engaging in other professions.

**Q How have your dreams changed post *Scam 1992*?**

My dreams have not really changed, but I am more hungry now. I want to enact more characters, and be part of good scripts. In fact, I would like to broaden my horizon and perform without having language as a barrier. You might think that I have my eyes set on the international platform, however, I would love to perform in regional cinema also; I am raring to go.

## On a roll

Actor ADARSH GOURAV is all set to star alongside Meryl Streep, Sienna Miller and Kit Harington for Scott Z Burns’ anthology, *Extrapolations*. By TEAM VIVA

Adarsh Gourav had a breakthrough role in *The White Tiger* playing the role of Balram Halwai which found him incredible fame, both locally and internationally. The talented young actor earned himself three major award nominations including a BAFTA, AACTA and Independent Spirit Awards a few months back for his first international project. Now, the actor has bagged his second major project, Scott Z Burns’ anthology series for Apple TV+, titled *Extrapolations*. The show stars big wigs of the acting fraternity from the west alongside Gourav, including Meryl Streep, Sienna Miller, Kit Harington, Tahir Rahim, Matthew Rhys, Daveed Diggs, Gemma Chan and David Schwimmer.

The series explores the stories of how the changes to the planet will impact love, family, work both on a personal level and at a large human level. It will feature eight interconnected episodes which will display the need for survival in the current era, across the globe. The show has Scott as the writer, director and executive producer, with the show being helmed by Michael

Ellenberg’s Media Res. The show also has Ellenberg, Greg Jacobs, Dorothy Fortenberry and Lindsey Springer as executive producers.

Adarsh recently flew off to the US, to New York where the show is currently expected to go into production. Adarsh will wrap this project before heading back to India to start his next, *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan* with Ananya Panday and Siddhant Chaturvedi.

Adarsh expresses his joy, saying, “This is beyond anything I can express, to be honest. But to be working with such an incredible team at such an early juncture of my career is truly rewarding. I’m elated to be part of this project and grateful that I will be working alongside some of the very best in the business. I have grown up and looked up to each of my co-stars and to now be sharing screen space with them is incredible. This story is such an important one for our current generation and is interconnected with the realities of today.”



India is the world’s second-most populated country, with a majority of its people between the age group of 10 to 24. This means that the country is at a relative advantage as young adults constitute a greater percentage of job seekers. thereby having the potential to boost its economy.

However, for the past decade, India’s youth unemployment rate has been hovering around the 22 per cent mark. Almost 2 million graduates and half a million postgraduates are unemployed in India. Various reasons can be attributed to the number of educated yet unemployed youth in the country such as recession, demand-supply mismatch, but the skill gap is perhaps the greatest contributor to this pressing national problem.

**Accessibility and quality of education**

Despite having thousands of educational institutions in the country, there are at least 35 million children aged between six and 14 years in India who have no access to formal education. India being an agrarian economy has more than 70 per cent of its people living in villages. Most children living in rural areas are expected to support their families for meeting their livelihoods. Girls, especially, are dissuaded from going to school and are compelled to master household chores. Furthermore, the condition of schools in some rural areas is challenged with serious concerns such as ill-equipped staff, insufficient funds and lack of hygienic facilities, etc.

There is a desperate need to bridge the divide between urban and rural schools and their ability to impart technical and industrial skilling. While a few technical and engineering institutions aim to provide practical training to their students to make them job-ready, they are not necessarily accessible to all.

**Bridging the skill gap**

The current job market requires

## The need of the moment

PARIDHI KHAITAN talks about the importance of vocational training, citing India’s vast reserve of untapped potential



students to acquire practical skills on top of their theoretical knowledge. However, almost 80 per cent of the new job seekers get little to no opportunities for skills-based education. The talent acquisition process, wherein practical knowledge-based skills and experience are valued above academic degrees, is becoming more selective than ever before. In rural areas, attaining higher education is highly challenging, hence the presence of vocational training programmes proves to be advantageous as it provides industry-relevant education and hands-on skilling where students can acquire various soft and hard skills. Proficiency in basic office software tools such as PowerPoint, Excel, and Word, competency in communication skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving are some of the fundamental requisites for job seekers.

**Broaden your horizons**

Vocational training programmes are extremely crucial to partake as they offer a sneak peek into the real-world work scenario and help students make informed career decisions using a practical approach. These programmes are designed

for most industry sectors. Such vocational training programs facilitate students to make better career decisions.

**A viable alternative**

Vocational training addresses the affordability and accessibility challenges faced by rural children. It also empowers women belonging to low-income groups by improving their job prospects. Besides carpentry, welding, automotive repair, heating, and air conditioning, tailoring, and beauty care, vocational training programs also cater to various 21st century ready sectors such as healthcare, education, IT, financial services, retail, tourism, etc. Students passionate about such new-age sectors need not enrol themselves in highly expensive degree courses but can just attain the necessary skills through diploma courses at very affordable fees.

**Foreign exchange**

There was a time when students had no other choice but to move out of India to acquire specialised job skills. The lack of relevant facilities and exposure triggered high migra-

tion rates. The advent of global online vocational training programmes has bridged this limitation in the country. Today, Indian students can pursue these courses at affordable rates from the comfort of their homes. This has improved the retention rate of talent in the country.

**Initiatives by the government**

Under the Skill India Mission launched in 2015, the Government of India has upskilled about 1.7 crore youth by January 2021, intending to train Indian youth to become self-reliant and financially stable. Various development courses like training workshops sponsored by ISRO and AIIMS (New Delhi), among others, were made available to youth under this program.

It is with schemes like these that India can bridge the skill gap and make educated youth industry-ready. But selecting the right vocational course for a student can be tricky. Making career choices influenced by family or peer pressure could sabotage the benefits these vocational courses are meant to offer. Choosing the right course, based on individual skills and interests, is the only way to succeed.

To ensure one doesn’t falter in making the right choice, more and more students today are opting for digital career counselling. Such services bring together technology-based digital platforms and industry professionals with in-depth domain knowledge and know-how of various careers to help individuals make well-informed choices.

(The author is the MD of ProTeen, an online career guidance platform.)

It all started with an Instagram post where he announced how he quit drinking a year back. Not that actor Sidhartha Mallya was an alcoholic, just that he experienced anxiety, the morning after.

“Getting thousands of responses on an honest post was overwhelming and made me think how many more lives could I touch, and maybe help if I shared more experiences,” he shares in an interview.

Mallya’s memoir, *If I’m Honest*, published by Westland Publications, which recently hit the stands takes the reader back to 2016 when he went through depression. Something that came as a bit of a surprise to him, given that he seemingly had the world at his feet -- he was young, had just graduated from a prestigious drama school and had upcoming film projects.

However, despite all the awaiting opportunities, he was unhappy. That was when he realised that something was not right and sought professional help. Thus began the journey to understanding his current mental state as well as an exploration of the other mental issues he has suffered throughout his life and where they might have stemmed from.

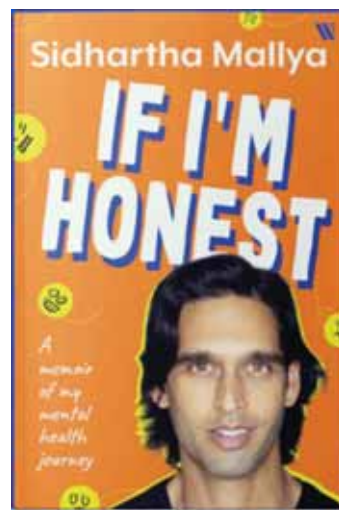
In this memoir, he opens up about struggling with depression, living with OCD, the effects of his parents’ divorce, why he quit drinking and also what helped him overcome his challenges.

“There are a few messages that I want to get across. One is that everyone can suffer from issues of mental health. And also, I think, by being honest, as the title suggests, I want to convey that it is okay to talk about these things. To embrace your own truth. It makes no sense to be ashamed talking about it,” he says.

Ask him if there was the much-hyped ‘catharsis’ post finishing the book, and he asserts, “Frankly, the whole process was quite difficult. You have to do a lot of self-work to be able to talk about these things. Writing it and reliving those things do take a toll

## It is ok to not feel ok

Actor SIDDHARTHA MALLYA shares that he wants to help as many people as possible through his memoir, *If I’m Honest*, where he opens up about lesser-known details of his life



was the fact that the director is known to do his own thing without getting distracted by box office consideration. “He is not a conformist, and that is what makes him special. We shot the film in 2014, a time when the Indian cinematic landscape was very different. All these OTT platforms did not exist then.”

Stressing that digital platforms have opened doors to multiple genres without the pressure of a box office success and also actors who might not be A-listers, he adds, “Everything is subscriber-based, and the success of a show is not based on box office revenue. Therefore, you don’t need your star names in these projects anymore. I think what it has done is it has given a lot of actors the opportunities to be in really good projects that they would not have been really able to be in the traditional model.”

Currently working on a few film projects, the lockdowns for this actor were not really drastic. “Believe it or not, despite what the people might think, I am not the most social person. I like being in bed by 9 pm and getting up by 6:30 in the morning. So, the lockdowns did not really change my life very much. I know a lot of people who love social interactions. I actually spent a lot of the time working on myself.”

And how is it being Vijay Mallya’s son? “Well, I do not want people to think ‘Vijay Mallya’s son wrote a book’. I hope that I get respected. And if you don’t like me, if you don’t like my book, that is fine. But do not dislike the book because you associate me with someone else that you don’t like.”

—IANS

on you. However, I kept telling myself that if I can just help one other person, then it is all good.

Mallya, who studied business and joined the corporate world before giving it up to enrol in the prestigious Royal Central School of Speech and Drama says that he always wanted to do something performative in India.

“From a very young age, my imagination loved running in every direction, and always wanted to do my thing. I am very pleased that I made this transition. Because if I didn’t, I don’t know if this book would have existed today. I think the switch helped me grow as a person. It helped me get in touch with myself,” he says.

Pleased that he made his debut with the rebel filmmaker Q in *Brahman Naman* (the first Indian original to release on Netflix), the actor says that what fascinated him

## TRENDBLAZER



### SONU HOSTS NEW NATGEO SERIES

Bollywood actor **SONU SOOD** is all set for a new series titled *It Happens Only in India*. Hosted by him, this 10-part series by National Geographic Channel will take viewers into the lesser-known and well-researched narratives from across the length and breadth of India.

As per Sonu, “No matter how much you learn about India, you can’t know enough. The country’s diversity has tons of incredible stories that are yet to be revealed and this show will take viewers on a fascinating journey.”

### fairtalk

SANYA MALHOTRA



‘I’m hoping with the forthcoming show, *Sasural Wonder Phool*, we are able to change a few things. It would be comforting to know that we could inspire people to be more comfortable when they’re talking about sex or sex-related issues. I honestly feel that my character in the show, Ashima, reflects our society wonderfully. She’s not so comfortable talking about sex.’

### dailytalk

GAUHAH KHAN



‘As an artiste, one always looks to expand their horizons and I am glad that I am on the path to growth. I think the best part about being an actor is that you get to experiment with different kinds of roles. In *14 Phere*, I got to play the diverse role of Zubina, the aspiring artiste who plays the fake mother to both Vikrant and Kriti during different weddings.’

### KEEP DOING YOUR THING: MEGAN FOX

Actor **MEGAN FOX** says it is hard to be a woman and has encouraged other women to wear whatever makes them ‘feel good’ and not to worry about someone else’s opinion.

She acknowledges that it’s easier said than done. However, style is a reflection of your mood. She reveals, “I change multiple times a day sometimes, don’t you? That’s my best advice for anyone — wear what makes you feel good and do not worry about what other people say.”





# ABHIDHAMMA DAY CELEBRATIONS

PM Modi believes that Buddha is universal because he encouraged people to start from within as *Buddhatva* is a sense of ultimate responsibility



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, participated in an event marking the celebrations of Abhidhamma day at the Mahaparinirvana temple in Kushinagar.

The Governor and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, union ministers, G Kishan Reddy, Kiren Rijiju, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, the cabinet minister of Sri Lankan government, Namal Rajapaksa, Buddhist delegation from Sri Lanka, diplomats from Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Bhutan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Japan,

Singapore, Nepal, and others, were present during the occasion.

Addressing the event, PM Modi noted the auspicious occasion of Ashwin Poornima and the presence of holy relics of Lord Buddha. Welcoming the delegation of Sri Lanka, he traced back the connections between India and Sri Lanka to emperor Ashoka's son, Mahendra, and daughter, Sanghamitra, taking the message of Buddhism to Sri Lanka. He also remarked that it was believed that on this day, Arahant Mahinda, a Buddhist monk, returned and told his

father that Sri Lanka had accepted Buddha's message with enthusiasm. The belief spread and Buddha's message was accepted by and for the whole world. Buddha's dhamma was for humanity.

Lauding the role of the International Buddhist Confederation in spreading the message of Lord Buddha, the Prime Minister remembered Shri Shakti Sinha, who passed away recently, for his contribution as DG of the International Buddhist Confederation. He also remarked that Buddha came back to Earth from Tushita

heaven and on Ashwin Purnima, the monks also completed their three-month *varshavas*.

He also said that Buddha was universal and *buddhatva* was a sense of ultimate responsibility. He underlined that many questions arise along with environmental concerns and climate change. But, if we adopt the message of Buddha, then instead of 'who will do,' 'what is to be done' path would start to show itself. PM Modi mentioned that Buddha was in the soul of humanity that connected different cultures and countries.

"India never believed in restricting the knowledge, great messages or the thoughts of great souls. Whatever was ours was shared with the entire humanity and that is why, human values, like non-violence and compassion, are settled in the heart of India so naturally", he commented.

He stated that Buddha was the source of inspiration for the Constitution of India as Buddha's Dhamma Chakra is sitting on the tricolour of India and giving us momentum. Even today, if someone goes to the Parliament of India, then the mantra, 'dharma chakra pravartanaya', is observed.

Talking about the influence of Lord Buddha in Gujarat and, specifically, the Prime Minister's birthplace, Vadnagar, he said Buddha's influence could be observed in western and southern parts of the country in equal measures as the eastern parts.

"The history of Gujarat shows that Buddha is beyond boundaries and directions. Mahatma Gandhi, born in the land of Gujarat was the modern flag-bearer of Buddha's message of truth and non-violence", he added.

Quoting Lord Buddha, "appa deepo bhava", meaning, "be your own lamp", the Prime Minister said that a self-illuminated person would show the path to the world. He concluded, saying that the day would mark the motivation for India to become self-reliant, providing strength to participate in the progress of every country in the world. PM Modi also remarked that Lord Buddha's teachings were being taken forward by India in the mantra of '*sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka*



## Strengthening fuel security

### NTPC ties up with Talabira mines of NLC in Odisha

In its effort to strengthen fuel security, NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) Limited, the country's largest power generator, commenced coal offtake from Talabira mines of NLC in Odisha. As per the agreement, NTPC shall offtake coal from Talabira mines to Lara and Darlipalli. Besides this, NTPC is also ramping up coal production from its captive mines.

The present installed capacity of

NTPC Group is 66,900 MW (including 13,425 MW through subsidiaries), comprising 47 NTPC stations (23 coal-based stations, seven gas-based stations, one hydro station, one small hydro, 14 solar photovoltaic system (PV), and one wind-based station), and 26 joint venture stations (nine coal-based, four gas-based, eight hydro, one small hydro, two wind, and two solar PV).

## Top innovators

BHEL wins the Clarivate South and South East Asia Innovation awards



director of Intellectual and South East Asia of Property group, South Asia Clarivate Analytics.

## Addressing public concerns

Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad visits the LIC central office and expresses his desire of seeing it as a top company

Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, the Minister of State, department of Financial Services, Government of India, visited the central office of LIC of India in Mumbai on October 18.

The chairperson, MR Kumar, and managing directors, Siddhartha Mohanty, Mini Ipe and BC Patnaik, welcomed the minister.

Karad addressed his focus on people and how they can be benefited. While expressing satisfaction over the brand image of LIC, he stated the desire of seeing LIC occupying a numero uno position in global insurance brands.

Subsequently, he visited various departments of the central office and interacted with departmental officials, wherein he emphasised on the prompt disposal of work.



## New investment strategy

LIC Mutual Fund announced the launch of LICMF BAF, an open-ended dynamic asset allocation fund which would invest across equity, debt and money market

The investment strategy for LIC MF Balanced Advantage Fund (LICMF BAF), essentially a hybrid scheme, would be uniquely driven by the Fundamental Driven Mathematical model.

Explaining the dynamics of the model-based unique investment approach for the new fund offer in LIC MF BAF, Dinesh Pangtey, the CEO of LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Ltd said, "Bond yields, in a way, represent the opportunity cost of investing in equities and perception of risk appetite. We at LIC MF would be using this inverse relationship between equity and debt in



LICMF BAF for switching from equity to debt and vice versa, based on the Fundamental Driven Mathematical model."

LICMF BAF model would precisely use this relationship to determine optimal asset allocation level for the scheme. The model would use interest rates, one-year forward price-earnings ratio and earnings yield, to arrive

at the optimum asset allocation level.

Pangtey added that the model automatically would arrive at asset allocation between equity and debt, as the underlying fundamentals change. However, the equity and debt portfolio should be managed actively by seasoned fund managers.

The model would be designed

in such a way that it automatically factors in, any change in any of the parameters, on a real-time basis and keep changing the price to earning band using linear progression.

LICMF BAF would not only help investors participate in the market rally but, more importantly, it would also aim to minimise the downward risk, and this would be a crucial part of any investment strategy. LICMF BAF would be benchmarked against a customised index, LIC MF hybrid composite 50:50 index. The index composition would be 50 per cent nifty, 50 TRI and 50 per cent nifty 10 year benchmark G-Sec. The fund endeavours to keep gross equity allocation 65 per cent or above to enable investors to avail equity taxation benefits.

The New Fund Offer (NFO), which has opened on October 20, would close on November 3, 2021. The fund managers for LIC MF BAF would be Yogesh Patil for the equity portion, and Rahul Singh for the debt portion.

International Chef's day 2021 was celebrated at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, which had live food demonstrations. The theme for this year's event was 'Healthy food for the future'.

Organised by SRM Institute of Hotel Management (SRMIHM) and South India Chef's association, chief guest Chef Dr K Damodaran, president of SICA, held an interactive session with students. The celebrity chef, who also holds a Guinness world record, shared his work experience and love for cooking healthy meals while demonstrating on how to do the traditional *meen kolumbu*.

"Chefs are the backbone of the food industry," he stated, while urging senior chefs to pass down their skills and knowledge to the youngsters so that the latter may have the opportunity to get creative and innovate newer meals.

"Traditional food has a lot of healthy optional medicinal values. This will help in beating Covid," Damodaran added.

Chef Damodaran was honoured with the Life Time Excellence award by

## Healthy food for the future

SRM honours chef Dr K Damodaran with Life Time Excellence award on International Chef's day



SRMIHM. Guest of honour, chef N Sheetharam Prasad, and general secretary of IFCA, and culinary director of GRT Hotels & Resorts, was honoured with the Service Excellence award. The Vocational Excellence award was presented to Chef Dr M Thirulogachander.

In his speech, Prasad said, "Students need to do a lot of research to develop good healthy eating habits." He urged all the upcoming chefs to practise cooking and eating local food.

SRMIHM also honoured 19 chefs, from all over the country, who had participated in the mega event. Chef Zubin Writer, executive sous chef at ITC grand Chola also held a live demonstration for students.

The fruit mixing ceremony was held during the event in which all the guests and chefs took part. The event concluded with cultural performance and prize distribution ceremony.

Also present at the event were SRMIST registrar Dr S Ponnusamy, the director of hotel management, Dr D Antony Ashok Kumar, and vice-principal of SRM IHM Lalitha, among others.

ment-friendly and sustainable operations.

Tandon, accompanied by Sridhar Patra, CMD of NALCO, visited the smelter and captive power-plants of NALCO at Angul and appreciated the efforts of NALCO in achieving the targets and scaling new heights of success amidst a challenging business environment. The IAS also interacted with officials and employees and motivated them to maintain the tempo of production and productivity.

## Welfare schemes for people

Chhattisgarh CM, Bhupesh Baghel, receives the highest popularity rating amongst all heads of Indian states, according to the Governance Index

As per the CVoter Governance Index, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, is the best performing Chief Minister in the country.

He has received the highest popularity rating among all chief ministers of states. The index report attributed his popularity to several welfare schemes introduced by the state government. Recent schemes, such as Mahatari Dular Yojana, that will provide free education to children who lost their guardians/parents to Covid, is appreciated by all. The government will bear the entire expenses of their education.

The report says that the Chief Minister is popular among the masses because of his strong decision-making ability and his CEO style of working. Around 94 per cent people of Chhattisgarh are happy with the Baghel's performance.



## Milestones in environmental management

Union Mines secretary, Alok Tandon, IAS, inaugurates the lean slurry project of NALCO at Angul

The secretary of Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Alok Tandon, inaugurated the lean slurry project of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at Angul yesterday, marking a significant milestone in the Navratna company's journey of business excellence and

adopting outstanding practices in environmental management.

Completion of the lean slurry project by the company will ensure 100 per cent utilisation of ash generated at the company's Captive Power Plant (CPP) and marks a big step forward in its commitment towards environ-





# Rohit finds his groove as India outplay Australia

PTI ■ DUBAI

India fine-tuned their T20 World Cup preparations with a convincing nine-wicket win over Australia in their final warm-up game here on Wednesday but the sixth bowler's slot remained a worry as even Virat Kohli rolled his arm over going into the tournament proper.

Captaining the side with Kohli only taking the field to bowl, Rohit Sharma (60 retired off 41) showed sublime touch alongside opening partner K L Rahul (39 off 31) as India chased down Australia's 152 for five in 17.5 overs.

Suryakumar Yadav (38 not out off 27) came at number three in Kohli's absence and got valuable time in the middle which should boost his confidence going ahead.

Hardik Pandya (14 not out off 8) came at four to finish the game and he did it with a clean hit over the bowler's head.

Another plus for India was seasoned pacer Bhuvneshwar



Australia's Marcus Stoinis looks on as India's Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul run between the wickets during the Cricket Twenty20 World Cup warm-up match between India and Australia in Dubai, on Wednesday

AP

Kumar finding rhythm after a poor outing against England. India had also beaten England in their earlier practice game.

The batting department looks more or less settled and the five specialist bowlers also inspire confidence but the same can't be said about the extra bowling option with Hardik not bringing his all-round skills to the table at the moment.

"Hardik is coming along pretty well, but it'll be a while before he will start to bowl. He hasn't started bowling, but he should be ready by the start of the tournament," said Rohit at the toss for the warm-up match against Australia.

The team management is hoping he will be ready to bowl during India's World Cup campaign which begins with the marquee clash against Pakistan on Sunday.

Skipper Kohli kept things tight with two overs of medium

pace but to expect him to do the job in high-pressure scenarios would be asking for too much from him.

India conceded 58 runs off the last five overs and that is something they would like to improve on.

After losing the toss, India put up a decent bowling effort. Rohit mentioned at the toss that Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami were rested from the game but the skipper took the field to bowl a couple of overs in which he conceded 12 runs.

India had Australia on the mat at 11 for three after Aaron Finch opted to bat first.

David Warner's barren run continued after a failed attempt at a reverse sweep had him trapped in front off Ravichandran Ashwin.

With his very next ball, Ashwin got rid of birthday boy Mitchell Marsh who played for the turn which wasn't there only to edge it to the first slip.

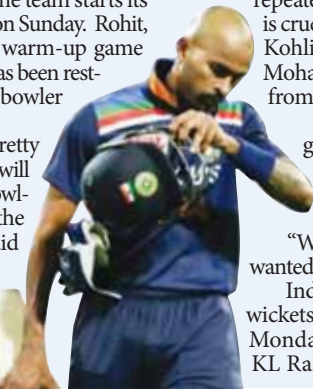
## Hardik expected to bowl when Indian T20 WC campaign begins: Rohit

PTI ■ DUBAI

India vice-captain Rohit Sharma on Wednesday said that all-rounder Hardik Pandya is expected to be "ready" to bowl when the team starts its T20 World Cup campaign here on Sunday. Rohit, who is leading the side in the warm-up game against Australia as Virat Kohli has been rested, said the team needs a sixth bowler during the showpiece.

"Hardik is coming along pretty well, but it'll be a while before he will start to bowl. He hasn't started bowling, but he should be ready by the start of the tournament," said Rohit at the toss for the warm-up match against Australia.

"We have quality in the main bowlers, but you need an option for a 6th bowler," he



added. India play Pakistan in their opening match here on Sunday. Pandya's fitness is a concern heading into the tournament as he did not bowl at all in the IPL. The team management has repeatedly stated that Pandya's bowling is crucial for the team's balance. Besides Kohli, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami were also rested from Wednesday's warm-up game.

"We want to make sure that we get the 6th bowling option, some options in the batting order as well, we'll try all those things today," Rohit said.

"We wanted to bat first as well, just wanted to try and get runs on the board." India had beaten England by seven wickets in their first warm-up game on Monday, riding on a 24-ball 51 from KL Rahul.

Ravindra Jadeja had Finch trapped LBW with a slider off his very first ball, leaving Australia with a lot of work to

do. Steve Smith (57 off 48) and in-form Glenn Maxwell (37 off 28) tried to break the shackles with a 61-run partnership.

While Maxwell used his reverse sweep to good effect, Smith kept himself busy by rotating the strike.

## T20WorldCupwindow

### 12 YR OLD DEIGNED SCOTLAND T20 WC JERSEY

**Dubai:** Scotland beating teams such as Bangladesh in the ICC T20 World Cup was never unthinkable. But what is difficult to believe is that the team's striking dark blue and purple-coloured jersey has been designed by a 12-year-old girl. Rebecca Downie is the young designer and she has been cheering her team, which proved to be the most impressive in the first week of the tournament. The team chose the design from over 200 entries from school children across the country. The jersey is based on the colours of Scotland's national emblem — the thistle.

### 'IF WE DON'T GET RESULTS, WE SEARCH FOR SCAPEGOATS'

**Karachi:** Former captain Misbah-ul-Haq said that there will be no improvement in Pakistan cricket unless it changes its culture and stops hunting for scapegoats. Speaking for the first time after his sudden resignation as head coach last month, Misbah said "cosmetic surgery" will not change anything in Pakistan cricket as the problems are deep rooted in the system."The problem is that in our cricket we only look at results and we don't give time or have patience for planning ahead and improving the system," he said on A-Sports' channel.

## Namibia beat Netherlands, keeps them in hunt for Super 12

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

In a sensational display of power-hitting, David Wiese conjured up a 66-run knock to fashion Namibia's six-wicket win over the Netherlands in a crucial first round Group A game of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Wiese's maiden international half-century changed the pace of the game in matter of minutes as runs flew thick and fast after he took charge at the crease and in the process added 93 runs with skipper Gerhard Erasmus (32) for the fourth wicket. Chasing 165 to stay alive in the competition,

debutants Namibia were stuttering at 52 for three after nine overs but Wiese single-handedly sank the Dutch side.

His onslaught on the spinners, especially the monstrous straight sixes, was a treat to watch as the Dutch bowlers were guilty of putting the balls in the slot for Wiese to clobber.

And even if the pacers drew the length a bit back, the 36-year-old Wiese had enough power to muscle the ball around for big shots.

He raised his fifty in just 29 balls, with a six off rival skipper Pietar Seelaar. His 40-ball unbeaten knock was adorned with five



sixes and four shots to the fence. Erasmus too timed the ball beautifully and got boundaries with ease in his 22-ball knock

that had four fours and a six. The victory has kept Namibia in hunt for the Super-12 stage and now need to beat

Ireland in their final game in the first round.

They had lost to Sri Lanka in their opening match.

The Netherlands now have lost both their games and their chances to make it to the next stage are quite low.

Earlier, opener Max O'Dowd (70) struck his second consecutive half-century and shared a 82-run stand with Colin Ackermann (35) to help the Netherlands post a competitive 164 for four.

O'Dowd, who had hit 51 against Ireland in the previous match, expressed himself freely, going after the bowlers. At times he played uppish shots, not exactly in control but still kept finding the gaps to keep the scoreboard going.

## Pattinson retires from international cricket

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian fast bowler James Pattinson on Wednesday retired from international cricket after realising that he won't be in the reckoning for the Ashes series due to fitness issues.

The 31-year-old, who has played 21 Tests and 15 ODIs, though will continue to play domestic cricket.

Pattinson had recently suffered a knee injury during an intra-squad Victorian trial game.

"Leading into pre-season I really wanted to give the Ashes a crack but in the end I haven't had the preparation I would have liked heading into the coming season," Pattinson was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au in a statement.

"If I was to be part of the Ashes I would need to do myself and my teammates justice. I didn't want to be in a position of battling with my body when you need to be 100 per cent fit and ready to go at any time. That would not be fair to myself or the team.

"It was then I felt that instead of trying to play at the very highest level, knowing I have only got three or four years of cricket left, I would focus more on Victoria, helping the young guys develop, perhaps some cricket in England and spending more time with my family."

## It should be spinners' World Cup, says Rashid Khan

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC T20 World Cup will belong to the spinners. Afghanistan's star leg-break bowler Rashid Khan has asserted, and said they can beat any team if they bat well in the showpiece. Since being picked up by IPL team Sunrisers Hyderabad as an 18-year-old in 2017, ace leg-spinner Rashid has emerged as T20 cricket's leading wicket-taker in this period with 333 scalps and is wanted by franchises across the world.

Appearing in his second T20 World Cup, Rashid feels spinners are always "effective" on pitches at three venues in the UAE, where the Super 12s, the



semi-finals and final will be played.

"Conditions here are always good for spinners and it should be spinners' World Cup," Rashid was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"Doesn't matter how wickets are prepared here, it is always helpful for the

spinners. Spinners will play a huge role in this World Cup.

"As we have seen in the IPL, spinners have brought back their team in the game. I feel that will be same in the World Cup as well. The best spinners will bring their team back in the game and win it."

Rashid feels Afghanistan, who are in Group 2 along with India, Pakistan and New Zealand, would need to do "lots of hard work" considering all their opponents in the Super 12s are "good players of spin".

Afghanistan have played 14 T20Is at the three venues in the UAE and have won all of them.

PTI ■ ODENSE

Young Lakshya Sen thumped compatriot Sourabh Verma in straight games to enter the second round but it was curtains for Saina Nehwal at the Denmark Open Super 1000 tournament here on Wednesday. Lakshya, who had finished runners-up at Dutch Open last Sunday, dished out a superb performance to outclass national champion Sourabh 21-9 21-7 in 26 minutes.

The 20-year-old from Almora, who had failed to make the cut for the Sudirman Cup and Thomas Cup Final after losing his only match in the trials, is likely to clash with second seed



and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark next.

London Games bronze medalist Saina, who had retired midway through her first match at Uber Cup Final due to a groin injury, couldn't match Japan's world no 20 Aya Ohori and lost

21-16 21-14 in the opening round.

The Indian doubles players had a dismal outing as apart from Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, none of the others could put up a fight in their respective matches.

While Satwik and Ashwini's gallant battle ended with a 17-21 21-14 11-21 loss to China's Feng Yan Zhe and Du Yue in mixed doubles, Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha S Ram lost 8-21 7-21 to Indonesian combination of Nita Violina Marwah and Putri Syaikhah in women's doubles. Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Ashwini and N Sikki Reddy also went down 17-21 13-

21 to second seeded Korean pair of Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan.

Lakshya had claimed five titles in 2019 before COVID-19 forced the suspension of the BWF calendar.

On Wednesday, the world no 25 Indian was up against Sourabh, an opponent against whom he had lost twice in the past but it made no difference as Lakshya dished out a dominating show to blow him away.

He led 7-2 early on and never looked in trouble as he reeled off seven straight points from 13-7 to grab seven game points. Sourabh saved two before Lakshya pocketed the opening game.

## Messi scores 2 goals to rescue PSG



AP ■ PARIS

Lionel Messi scored twice in a quick succession, including an exquisite Panenka-style penalty, to rescue Paris Saint-Germain as it rallied to beat Leipzig 3-2 in the Champions League after being dominated for long spells.

Messi equalised in the 67th minute on Tuesday, poking home from close range after goalkeeper

Peter Gulacsi tipped his first shot onto the post. He then sent Gulacsi diving to the left before dinking the ball softly down the middle for his third goal since joining PSG from Barcelona.

They have all come in the Champions League, with Kylian Mbappe setting up the first two and winning the penalty for Messi's winner against Leipzig in the 74th minute.

Mbappe pointed straight at Messi to tell him he could take the spot kick.

"It's normal, it's about respect," Mbappe said.

"He's the best player in the world. I've always said it's a privilege to play with him."

It was the 34th time that Messi scored at least two goals in a Champions League game, bringing the Argentina captain's total to 123

goals in the tournament. He remains second to longtime rival Cristiano Ronaldo on 137.

Mbappe then took a penalty in the fourth minute of stoppage time, awarded following a video review for a foul on right back Achraf Hakimi, but he blazed it well over.

PSG is atop Group A with seven points, one more than Manchester City. Leipzig is last with no points.

Mbappe opened the scoring with a ninth-minute goal. But after that, the visitors took control by pressing high up the field and forcing panicky PSG into numerous errors.

"(Were we) lucky, no? You make your own luck," Mbappe said.

"But of course, it was difficult, Leipzig played well. We had some low spells which were perhaps a little bit too low."

Striker Andre Silva equalised in the 28th and midfielder Nordi Mukiele volleyed in powerfully in the 57th, with left back Angelino setting up both with his deft left foot.

"Leipzig have a good team, full of confidence," PSG winger Julian Draxler said.

"They caused us some problems, but we ruthlessly exploited the room we were allowed."

PSG was missing forwards Neymar and Mauro Icardi, which gave Draxler a rare start alongside Mbappe and Messi in attack. Neymar has a sore adductor while Icardi was excused for family reasons.



## Olympic flame arrives in Beijing amid boycott calls

PT ■ BEIJING

The Olympic flame arrived in Beijing on Wednesday amid calls from overseas critics for a boycott of the Feb. 4-20 Winter Games.

Beijing's Communist Party Secretary Cai Qi, the top official in the Chinese capital, received the flame at a closely-guarded airport ceremony.

Beijing successfully hosted the Summer Olympics in 2008, although the event failed to produce the more open political and social environment in China that many had hoped for.

Activist groups disrupted the flame lighting ceremony in southern Greece on Monday, accusing the International Olympic Committee of granting legitimacy to rights abuses in China.

IOC officials have said they are committed to seeing the competition go ahead and that rights issues are not part of their remit.

Speaking in the ancient stadium of Olympia, IOC President Thomas Bach said the Games must be "respected as politically neutral ground."

## SINGLES

### BENZEMA ABSENT FOR BLACKMAIL TRIAL

**Versailles :** Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema wasn't present Wednesday for the opening of his three-day trial for involvement in an alleged attempt to blackmail former France teammate Mathieu Valbuena over a sex tape. The 33-year-old Benzema's legal team told the court in Versailles that professional obligations made it "impossible" for him to attend. Valbuena's lawyer said he deplored the absence. Benzema played for Madrid in Kyiv on Tuesday against Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League. Madrid plays again Sunday against Barcelona in the Spanish league. Four other people accused of attempted blackmail in the case were present in court.

### AKEAL HOSEIN REPLACES FABIAN ALLEN

**Dubai:** Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein was on Wednesday approved as replacement for an injured Fabian Allen in the West Indies squad for the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup. The Event Technical Committee of the tournament has approved Hosein as a replacement for Allen, the ICC said in a statement. Hosein, who has played nine ODIs and six T20Is, was picked after Allen was ruled out due to an ankle injury. Hosein was a reserve as per the allowance for teams to travel with extra players in view of COVID-19 quarantine requirements.

### OLYMPIANS HEADLINE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**Hisar:** Olympians Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and Pooja Rani (81kg) headline a strong field for the National Women's Boxing Championship, which will double up as a selection trial for the world championships, starting here on Thursday. The tournament, which is being conducted in association with Haryana Boxing Sangh, will see participation of more than 320 boxers from 36 States/UTs/Boards from across the country. Apart from Simranjit (60kg) and Pooja (81kg), who is the reigning Asian champion, 2019 World Championships bronze-medallist Jamuna Boro (54kg), defending champion Pwila Basumaty (60kg) and Asian Championships bronze medalist Jaismine (60kg) will be seen presenting strong challenges.