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## Historic milestone in war on Covid

Modi calls 100 cr jobs triumph of collective spirit of 130 crore Indians; world leaders hail India's success

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday crossed the historic 100-crore Covid-19 vaccination mark, achieving rare distinction in the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in expressing his gratitude to doctors, nurses, and all others who worked for crossing the milestone.

Leaders from across the world and various agencies too congratulated the Government for the watershed moment.

As per Union Health Ministry data, India took 85 days to touch the 10-crore vaccination mark, 45 more days to cross the 20-crore mark and 29 more days to reach the 30-crore mark. The country took 24 days to reach the 40-crore mark from 30-crore doses



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the vaccination centre at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

and then 20 more days to surpass the 50-crore vaccination mark on August 6. It then took 76 days to go past the 100-crore mark.

The top five States which have administered the highest number of doses are Uttar Pradesh followed by Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, said the Ministry.

Modi said in a tweet, "India scripts history. We are witnessing the triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore Indians. Congrats India on crossing

100 crore vaccinations. Gratitude to our doctors, nurses and all those who worked to achieve this feat."

Modi called the achievement "the triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore Indians".

"The vaccine has brought pride and protection in the lives of our citizens," he noted.

The Prime Minister visited the Ram Manohar Lohia



A poster announces about the 1 billion Covid-19 vaccination milestone crossed by India at Red Fort in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Hospital in Delhi, where he interacted with healthcare workers and people receiving the vaccine.

In a tweet, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya too congratulated the country on achieving the feat, and said it was the result of the able leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

To mark the occasion, the Union Health Ministry held a series of events. It released a two-minute and four-second video with rap and visual representation of the country's fight against Covid-19.

World leaders too lauded India's achievement.

"We congratulate India for the extraordinary accomplishment of administering one billion doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. I applaud India's successes in fighting Covid-19 at home and for its efforts to help end the pandemic in the Indo-

Pacific region and well beyond," said Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State.

Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih took to Twitter to thank India for supporting the Maldives in its fight against Covid-19.

"Congratulations to PM @narendramodi and the Government of India for administering 1 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines, displaying the innovation and solidarity of the Indian people. Thank you also, India, for supporting Maldives' Covid-19 recovery and vaccination efforts," Solih said in a tweet.

Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett too congratulated his Indian counterpart on the historic feat.

**Continued on Page 2**  
**See P7: Team India: Delivering on the vaccine promise**

## You cannot block roads: SC to kisan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said farmers agitating against the three farm laws cannot block roads indefinitely. The court said even when a legal challenge against the three farm laws is pending, the court is not opposed to the right of the farmers but such prolonged road blockade was unacceptable.

The farmers' unions alleged that the police were responsible for the blockade at the Delhi borders as it suits them to allow a feeling in the minds of the citizens that farmers are blocking the road, while the Centre refuted their allegations.

Key roads connecting Delhi to Haryana and Uttar Pradesh remained impacted ever since the protests began in November last year amid the continued stalemate between the Centre and the protesting farmers over the three farm laws.

The bench headed by Justice SK Kaul said it is not against the right to protest even when a legal challenge is pending but ultimately some solution has to be found.

"Farmers have the right to protest but they cannot keep roads blocked indefinitely. You

Court: Protest is a right, prolonged road blockade not



may have a right to agitate in any manner but roads should not be blocked like this. People have the right to go on roads but it cannot be blocked," the bench also comprising Justice MM Sundresh said.

The top court asked the farmer unions to respond within three weeks on the issue and posted the matter for further hearing on December 7. The bench noted that only four respondents have appeared before it in pursuance of its earlier direction.

**Continued on Page 2**

## If poor nations not given jobs, Covid to stay in '22: WHO

WHO warns only 5% people in Africa have got vaccine doses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 pandemic will continue till 2022 if poor countries don't get vaccines quickly, the WHO has said adding that only 5 per cent of people in African countries have been vaccinated so far.

Dr Bruce Aylward, senior adviser to the WHO director-general, pointed out that only 5 per cent of Africa's population have been vaccinated so far. The continent accounts for 2.6 per cent doses administered globally. He urged other countries to limit their procurement of coronavirus vaccines so that pharmaceutical companies could prioritise low-income nations.

"I can tell you we're not on track," Aylward said. "We really need to speed it up or you know what? This pandemic is going to go on for a year longer than it needs to."

According to a global news agency the People's Vaccine — an alliance of charities across



the world — only one in seven doses of the pharmaceutical companies and wealthy countries are reaching their destinations in poorer nations. The charities said that the majority of doses were going to high-income or upper middle-income countries.

The group of charities also criticised the United Kingdom and Canada for availing vaccines through Covax.

Covax, which is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the WHO, aims to speed up the development and manufacturing of Covid-19 vaccines. It also works to guarantee fair and equitable access to the shots for every country in the world.

**Continued on Page 2**

## NCB visits SRK's home, summons Ananya Panday

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday scheduled the bail application of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in the mid-sea drug bust case for hearing for October 26, even as a team of a Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) paid a formal "visit" to SRK's residence "Mannat" hours after the actor met his son at the Arthur Road Jail.

Sleuths of the Narcotics Control Bureau visited the residence of Shah Rukh Khan for seeking certain material related to their investigation into a cruise drugs party case, a senior NCB official said. It was not a raid, he said.

The NCB summoned actress Ananya Panday for questioning and raided a location in Andheri, in connection with the ongoing investigations. Ananya's name has allegedly figured in some of Aryan's WhatsApp chats.

In a day of multiple del-



Shah Rukh Khan leaves Arthur Road Jail after visiting his son Aryan Khan in Mumbai on Thursday PTI

opment, Maharashtra Minister and NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik launched a fresh attack on NCB's western zone chief Sameer Wankhede, by demanding to know as to what the latter doing in Maldives and Dubai with his family during the Covid 19-triggered lockdown and accusing him of filing "fake" cases against Bollywood personalities.

## India, China diplomatic talks for LAC disengagement by Oct 31

Parleys come after 13th round of military-level talks on Oct 10

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China are likely to hold diplomatic-level talks towards this month end in an effort to find ways to hasten up disengagement from the friction points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

The proposed parleys come after the 13th round of military-level talks on October 10 did not make much headway. India had said it made "constructive" suggestions, but China could not come up with "forward looking" proposals to resolve tension.

China said India persisted with "unreasonable and unrealistic demands."

The diplomatic-level talks will be held under the aegis of



the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) between the representatives of Foreign Ministries of India and China.

The two sides have held several rounds of talks through this mechanism in the past one and half years since trouble erupted on the LAC in Ladakh.

The forthcoming talks are likely to focus on the friction points in the Hot Springs and Depsang Valley from where the Chinese side did not agree for withdrawal during the Corps Commander level talks on

October 10.

India has all along maintained that complete disengagement from all the stand-off sites is a prerequisite for normalisation of ties with China.

India and China share nearly 1,500 km long LAC in the Ladakh region. At present, more than 50,000 troops each from both the sides are deployed at the LAC there since May last year. The troops from both the armies remained stationed even during the winter months last year and will remain there in the

fast approaching harsh cold months.

Army Chief General MM Naravane recently visited the forward areas in Ladakh to review the operational readiness and logistical back up for the winter months.

Given the persisting logjam after the October 10 talks, India and China agreed to go in for diplomatic option and dates for the WMCC parleys are likely to be announced soon, sources said here on Thursday.

**Continued on Page 2**

### CAPSULE

**GOT 65-70% CONVICTIONS, AIM FOR 75%: CBI TO SC**

**New Delhi:** Days after the Supreme Court observed that the "success rate" in cases taken up by the CBI is perceived low, the agency has informed it that it has achieved the conviction rate of about 65-70 per cent, and would try to raise it to 75 per cent by August 2022. In an affidavit filed before the top court, CBI director S K Jaiswal stated that CBI secured the conviction of the accused in 69.83 per cent and 69.19 per cent of the cases in 2020 and 2019 respectively.

**GAURI MURDER: SC SETS ASIDE HC ORDER**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday set aside the Karnataka High Court order quashing the chargesheet against an accused in the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh for purported offences under provisions of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA).

## Landslides in Kerala result of human greed

KUMAR CHERLLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Unprecedented instances of landslides in Kerala are being seen as the fallout of the encroachment of rivers by individuals and institutions, according to environmentalists.

Landslides caused by downpour and winds claimed more than 30 lives in Idukki, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta, all known as the State's Mala Nadu (hilly regions).

Manimalayaar, Pambayyar, Achankoilayar, Kalladayaar and Meenachilaar, rivers known for their beautiful landscapes which have inspired poets to compose songs eulogising the beauty, have taken the brunt of greedy encroachers.

These rivers were the venues of snake boat races till the early 2000s and had attracted thousands of travelers from India and abroad.

The tributaries that fed these rivers have become things of the past, said Sivakumar Amrithakala, an environmentalist who is the organiser of Pamba Paithruka Mela, an

annual cultural event to sustain and save these rivers for future generations.

"Lands along the banks of these rivers were encroached

upon by hundreds of people. The passion to have houses along the river bank is the main reason for this wanton encroachment. The local self-

governments which were entrusted with the preservation of these rivers themselves have usurped the river banks under the pretext of infrastructure

development," said Sivakumar, a well known sopana sangeetham musician and activist of Tapasya Sahityavedi, the State's oldest socio-cultural organisation.

CR Neelakantan, an engineer-turned-environmental activist, has some startling revelations to make. "Most of the rivers in Kerala, once flooded for 365 days every year, have become mere streams because of encroachment and construction of dams." Neelakantan worked with Atomic Energy Commission as a scientist. "A river dies below the dam," he said when asked to elaborate.

John Peruvanthanam, another naturalist who has dedicated his life to the cause of the environment, said the entire buildings and roads built along the river banks in Kerala lie inside the river.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Diwali gift: Cabinet hikes DA, DR to 31%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a Diwali gift, the Union Cabinet on Thursday hiked Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief by 3 per cent to 31 per cent, which will benefit about 47.14 lakh Central Government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners.

The Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the approval to release an additional installment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners with effect from July 1 to compensate for price rise.

**Continued on Page 2**



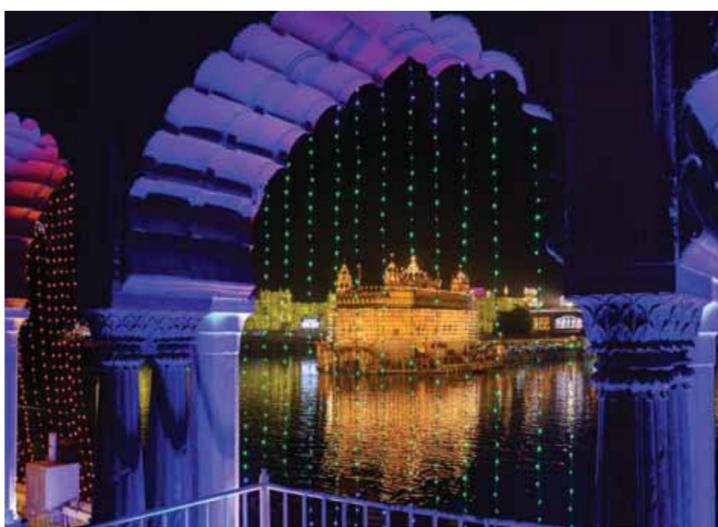
# Mehbooba: BJP has taken J&K back by decades

**Srinagar:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday alleged that the BJP Government's policies on Jammu & Kashmir have taken the union territory "back by decades".

The former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister made the remarks in response to photographs and videos on social media in which security forces are seen frisking women and minors during surprise checking in Lal Chowk and other commercial areas of the city.

"Sums up the current situation in Kashmir where women & even children are suspects now. This is what BJP has brought J&K to. Their policies have taken us back by decades," she said in a tweet.

The checking was intensified in the city and elsewhere in the valley after the recent killings of civilians including non-local labourers by militants.



Golden Temple illuminated on the eve of the birth anniversary of the fourth Sikh Guru Ram Das, in Amritsar on Thursday PTI

# SC restores KCOCA charges against accused, sets aside HC order

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Thursday restored the charges under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) against one of the accused in the journalist Gauri Lankesh murder case by setting aside the high court order which had quashed the charge sheet for alleged offences under the stringent law.



A three-judge bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar allowed the two separate appeals filed by the state and Kavitha Lankesh, the sister of Gauri Lankesh, who have challenged the April 22 order of the Karnataka High Court.

The apex court said the conclusion reached by the high court in partly allowing the plea filed before it by accused Mohan Nayak N was "manifestly wrong" and "cannot be countenanced".

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, noted that the high court had quashed the August 14, 2018 order issued by the Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, according to prior approval to invoke offences under section 3 of the KCOCA against the accused.

"Further, the high court has clearly exceeded its jurisdiction in quashing the charge sheet filed against the writ petitioner--Mohan Nayak N for offences punishable under section 3(2), 3(3) and 3(4) of the 2000 Act at this stage (of prior approval under section 24(1)(a))," the bench said in its 29-page judgement.

Lankesh was shot dead on the night of September 5, 2017, from close range near her house in Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru.

In its verdict, the top court noted that as regards offences punishable under section 3(2), 3(3), 3(4), or 3(5) of the Act, it can proceed against any person "sans such previous offence registered against him, if there is material to indicate that he happens to be a member of the organized crime syndicate who had committed the offences in question and it can be established that there is material about his nexus with the accused who is a member of the organized crime syndicate."

It said the high court had "completely glossed" over the crucial fact that the writ petition was filed before it by the accused only after the sanction was accorded by the competent authority and more so, cognizance was also taken by the competent court of the alleged offence of organized crime, to which there was no challenge.

"Taking any view of the matter, therefore, these appeals deserve to be allowed and the impugned judgement and order of the high court needs to be set aside," the bench said. It said the rejection of the plea filed by the accused would not come in his way in pursuing other remedies as may be available to him and permissible in law.

The Centre is with the State Government and it will give all support to Uttarakhand in its rehabilitation efforts, the Union Minister said.

He said all blocked roads in the affected areas have been cleared, except three which suffered nearly 25-metre breaches, and added that 3,500 people have been rescued so far.

Big breaches may take more time to repair, he said. Shah said 80 per cent telephone connectivity has been restored and availability of 60 per cent electricity has been ensured so far in the affected areas. The remaining shortage will also be removed soon.

At a high-level meeting with senior officials and state ministers after surveying the rain-hit areas, Shah asked the Uttarakhand government to send medical teams to the affected areas to prevent the spread of diseases.

The bench said its judgement is limited to the consideration of the question of whether the prior approval of August 14, 2018, granted by the Commissioner of Police was valid or not and it has held that the same "does not suffer from any infirmity".

It said the high court had opined that in the absence of at least two charge sheets filed against the accused in respect of specified offences and of which cognizance had been taken by the competent court as required to attract the offence of organized crime, he was not engaged in continuing unlawful activity.

# Shah conducts aerial survey of rain-hit areas in U'khand

**Dehradun:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday conducted an aerial survey of Uttarakhand's rain-ravaged areas to assess the damage that the State Government has pegged at ₹7,000 crore.

Talking to reporters at the Jollygrant airport here after returning from the survey of the affected areas in the Kumaon region, Shah said that the alertness of the central and state government agencies helped contain the damage.

Relief and rescue operations continued in the worst-hit Kumaon region amid efforts to restore connectivity and evacuate people from vulnerable areas.

Earlier, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that three days of incessant rains in the state have caused damages worth ₹7,000 crore.

Restoring the network of damaged roads and bridges at the earliest and evacuating people to safety is the priority at the moment, he said.

"A heavy rain alert was issued well in advance that helped take the required precautionary steps like halting the Chardham Yatra. The damage could have been more if it was not done. Timely mobilisation

of search and rescue teams and arrival of IAF helicopters to assist in rescue operations helped minimise the potential damage," Shah said.

"Sixty-four unfortunate rain-related deaths have been reported in the state, while more than 11 people are still missing," he said.

According to state authorities, the death toll due to rain-related incidents in the State increased to 54, with 19 people injured and five still missing. At 28, Nainital district has reported the maximum number of deaths.

Shah did not announce any immediate relief package

for Uttarakhand and said that a detailed estimate of the losses needs to be prepared first.

He said the State was given ₹250 crore nearly a month ago considering its vulnerability to natural disasters and that can take care of the relief and rescue measures currently underway.

# Raj Govt did not promote Covid vaccines, claims BJP MP Rathore

**Jaipur:** BJP national spokesperson and Jaipur Rural MP Rajyavardhan Rathore on Thursday alleged that the Congress Government in Rajasthan has not promoted coronavirus vaccination in the State and has instead politicised the inoculation drive.

He claimed that there was discrimination in the vaccination campaign in the state due to which people had to wait in long lines to get their jabs.

"Congress workers used the government machinery in their favour due to which the public had to wait in long lines for vaccination," he told reporters at the party office here.

He said there was a war-like situation during the pandemic and even at that time the Congress did not do any work in the interest of the people and made allegations against the central government.

Rathore said the vaccines do not belong to any party as it was for the whole country but a lot of politics was done over it.

# Cong leaders slam derogatory comments against Gehlot

**Jaipur:** Congress on Thursday reacted sharply to the recent comments of Union Minister SP Singh Bhagel against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, saying indecency has no place in democracy and civilized society.

Addressing a public meeting on Wednesday in Kharsan area in Udaipur's Vallabh Nagar assembly constituency where a bypoll is scheduled, Baghel, who is the Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, called Gehlot a liar and went on to question the parentage of those who do not stick to their words. Baghel also said that Gehlot was born on the day when a thousand liars had died.

Former deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, Pradesh Congress Committee chief Govind Singh Dotsra, Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, and Health Minister Raghu Sharma condemned the remarks.

In Jaipur, Congress workers burnt an effigy of the Union minister and raised slogans against him while demanding an apology.

Highlighting the contents of the manifesto that the Congress came out with ahead of the 2018 Rajasthan assembly polls, Baghel alleged that the Ashok Gehlot-led government has failed to fulfil promises made to people.

"Gehlot ji, you had said that if the Congress forms government (in Rajasthan), you will give unemployment allowance" if you (people) have got it, just tell me," Baghel asked the people present there in the video clip posted on a social media account by Dotsra.

# Karnataka bypolls: Congress accuses BJP of distributing ₹2,000 per vote, CM hits back

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**

The Congress in Karnataka on Thursday accused the ruling BJP of distributing ₹2,000 per vote in the bypoll bound Sindagi and Hanganal Assembly segments, fearing defeat.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, rejecting the allegation, accused the Congress of having indulged in such activities, and claimed that love and trust of the people was BJP's strength.

"As far as I know, a lot of money is being spent, the information that has spread there (constituencies) is that ₹2,000 is being paid per vote," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "on what basis will they (BJP) seek vote? other than money there is nothing for them, they can't show any achievement."

They could not manage Corona effectively, did not give proper compensation to those dead, the number of deaths itself is lies. In fact they indulged in corruption in Corona related purchases."

State Congress President D K Shivakumar too alleged that BJP was distributing ₹2,000 per vote.

"It seems that the Chief Minister has got the intelligence report that they (BJP) will lose in both constituencies, so he has sent all the Ministers with bags of money and the money is getting distributed from the neighbouring constituency," he said addressing the election campaign in Hanganal.

Hitting out at Congress leaders for the allegation, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, BJP was going to the election with the love and trust of the people, which is the party's strength.

# If poor nations not given jabs...

**From Page 1**

Rohit Malpani, the global health advisor at Oxfam, a confederation of 20 British charities, said that while Canada was allowed to get vaccines through the Covax route, it was "morally indefensible" that the country had obtained a million doses through bilateral agreements with other nations. "They [Canada and UK] should not have been acquiring these doses from Covax," he said. "It's nothing better than double-dipping and means that poorer countries which are already at the back of the queue, will end up waiting longer." WHO has also been critical of the countries that are administering the booster doses of coronavirus vaccines when a few other nations have been struggling to administer a single dose.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in September had called for a moratorium on administering booster shots of coronavirus vaccines till at least the end of the year.

The WHO chief had said that poorer countries were "not the second or third priority," and that high-risk groups in these countries have the same right to be protected as those in wealthy nations. In August, Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, had said that the decision by some of the richer countries to roll out Covid-19 booster shots for their citizens makes a mockery of vaccine equity. Globally, 672 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered, according to Johns Hopkins University

# Diwali gift... Historic milestone in...

**From Page 1**

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both dearness allowance and dearness relief would be Rs 9,488.70 crore per annum. This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission, said Information Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, briefing media.

Earlier in July, the Government had restored the dearness allowance and dearness relief and increased the rate of allowance from 17 per cent to 28 per cent. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the central government had frozen the three additional installments of the DA and DR, which were due from January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021.

The Cabinet also approved PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, including implementation, monitoring and support mechanism, for providing multi-modal connectivity.

The Prime Minister, on October 13, had launched a Rs 100 lakh crore national master plan for multi-modal connectivity to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

**From Page 1**

"Congratulations to PM Modi on leading India's successful #COVID19 vaccination campaign that has now administered more than 1 billion vaccines to the Indian people. These life-saving vaccines are helping us all defeat the global pandemic," he said.

Similarly, Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering called it a huge accomplishment not just for India but for the world. "In what is a huge accomplishment not just for your country but the world, India hit the one billion mark of Covid-19 vaccination doses. On behalf of the people of Bhutan, I congratulate India," he tweeted.

Congratulations to PM Narendra Modi, the medical community and front liners of India for achieving this mammoth task, said Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa while French Ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain, said, "Congratulations, India, on this historic milestone! This impressive achievement brings the world closer to overcoming the pandemic. I salute the efforts of doctors, nurses and all frontline workers."

In a tweet, he said, "Congratulations to PM @narendramodi, the medical community & frontliners of #India for achieving this mammoth task. The way forward & adjusting to the new normal while staying safe is highly dependent on a successful vaccination drive. Congratulations on reaching this milestone."

The United States called it a major milestone in the world's efforts to combat the global pandemic.

"Congratulations to India on administering its 1 billionth dose of Covid-19 vaccine today," said the US Embassy in a tweet.

India's immunisation campaign has covered three-quarters of its 944 million adults with at least one dose but only 31 per cent with two. The Government has plans to vaccinate all adults by the end of this year.

Danish Ambassador to India Freddy Svane in a tweet said, "Bravo India - reaching 1 billion doses. That's a remarkable and outstanding achievement in the fight against Covid."

Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell tweeted, "Another wax milestone - Congratulations #India on administering 1 billion vaccine doses as part of India's #vaccination program - thanks to the Flag of India Govt. #100CroreVaccination"

Regional director of WHO South-East Asia Poonam Khetrapal Singh said the extraordinary feat was not possible in a short span without a strong political leadership, inter-sectoral convergence, dedicated efforts of the entire health and frontline workforce and the people themselves.

Chairman and managing director of Bharat Biotech Dr Krishna Ella observed that reaching the one billion mark of vaccination in just nine months was a remarkable achievement for the nation.

# India, China diplomatic...

**From Page 1**

The Indian Army had said after the 13th round, the "constructive suggestions" made by it at the talks were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor could Beijing provide any "forward-looking" proposals to resolve the issues. In a statement in Beijing, the PLA, however, said during the meeting, the Chinese side made "great efforts to promote the easing and cooling of the border situation and fully demonstrated China's sincerity of maintaining overall interests of bilateral relations." However, the Indian side still persisted in its "unreasonable and unrealistic demands, which added difficulties to the negotiations," the PLA claimed.

# Landslides in Kerala result...

**From Page 1**

He said, "All rivers originating from the Western Ghats in the State flow along the lineaments of the landscapes. Whenever there was a fall in the water level, people encroached into that space and built their houses and bungalows. Man's passion to have houses on river banks knows no limit though the adage in the State is that one should not live near the forests or rivers." The deluge in 2018 was caused by the choking of tributaries that feed these rivers, according to Sivakumar who grew up along the Pamba river. "The tributaries bring with them not only water but an equal quantity of clay which gets deposited along the banks. People devour these areas despite the fact that these are parts of the rivers. When the natural flow is affected, water in its urge to flow downstream finds another route and this is the root cause of landslides," explained Sivakumar. The Ashtapadi he sings has the aura of sadness in them now.

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# Poland pact to help Delhi clean

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Poland and India may enter into a twin cities agreement on solid waste management and tourism. A plan in this regard was proposed by Ambassador of Poland to India to the Delhi Government.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India at the Delhi Secretariat and discussed several issues including the possibilities of the city Government's collaboration with Poland on solid waste management and tourism on Thursday.

"Polish ambassador to India, HE Prof. @Adam\_Burakowski called on Hon'ble CM @ArvindKejriwal at Delhi Secretariat today," Chief Minister's Office tweet-



Soon after his meeting with the Ambassador, Chief Minister Kejriwal said, "We are already working on solid waste management but will be happy to take Poland's expertise in this and bolster our initiatives. In this regard, a discussion can be held in detail between the

Minister of Urban Development and the top companies of Poland who specialise in this. They can give their presentations to the Ministry." "As far as tourism, art and culture is concerned, all this work is being done under the supervision of Deputy Chief

Minister Manish Sisodia," CM Kejriwal added further.

"Poland can help strengthen the solid waste management system in Delhi. Earlier, solid waste used to be a challenge in Poland too, but we worked efficiently towards solid waste management. Today we have beaches on the banks of the river and cleanliness is everywhere in the country. We would be happy to share our solutions to help Delhi in solid waste management," said Burakowski, adding, "I understand that a large part of the pollution that plagues Delhi comes from other states, but implementing concrete solutions can solve this problem to a great extent."

The Ambassador may also discuss the matter with Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia

# Tributes paid to bravehearts on Police Commemoration Day

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Thursday paid tributes to bravehearts at the National Police Memorial (NPM) here on Police Commemoration Day, 2021.

The senior officials of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and State police forces also paid tributes at the NPM on this occasion.

Hailing the police forces, Rai said that whenever there is any security challenge before the nation, the police forces have fought back with bravery and alacrity.

The Minister said that the security forces have also contributed a lot to reduce the impact of climate change by planting lakhs of trees.

Speaking at the occasion, the Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar said that a total of 377 policemen have sacrificed their lives in the line of the duty while 2,458 police and CAPF personnel fell prey to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a message on this occasion, Prime Minister Modi said that he acknowledged the outstanding efforts made by the police forces in preserving law and order and assisting others. "I pay homage to all those police personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty," he said in a message.

"The Police forces are the finest example of courage, patience and diligence. On Police Memorial Day, on behalf of the nation, I pay homage to all brave soldiers who made their supreme sacrifice to protect the nation's sovereignty. The sacrifices and dedication of every policeman inspire us to serve the nation", Union Home



Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana during the Police Commemoration Day Parade in New Delhi on Thursday  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer Photo

Minister Amit Shah said.

To honour the police personnel who sacrificed their lives in line of duty for national security, the idea of setting up a NPM in Delhi was approved by Ministry of Home Affairs in 1992.

The Prime Minister dedicated the NPM, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, to the nation on Police Commemoration Day on October 21, 2018.

Police and CAPF personnel played a significant role as Covid warriors with little regard to their own safety in 2020 and 2021. As a result, 2,458 Police and CAPF personnel fell prey to the coronavirus, in the line of duty, while contributing to Covid management and this year the Police Commemoration Day was dedicated to these police personnel.

# Two people stabbed over money dispute in Badli

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A man and his friend were stabbed by five persons in Delhi's Samaypur Badli over a money dispute. Police said that two people have been arrested from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh in the matter.

The victims have been identified as Puneet Sharma and Rupinder Dahiya. As per the medico-legal report obtained by the police, Sharma received three wounds and Dahiya two. According to police, Dahiya had loaned a sum of ₹22,000 to one Gaurav Tyagi of Prahadpur village who was known to Sharma. As per their pact, Tyagi was supposed to return the sum in first week of October, but when the time came stopped taking Dahiya's calls. The incident took place on Monday when Dahiya demanded his money back once more. Following a heated argument over the phone, Tyagi asked Dahiya to come over to his house to collect the money. Dahiya, accompanied by Sharma, went to Tyagi's house in Badli, and when the two were in staircase they were attacked with knives by five people, who fled after seriously wounding them, said Brijendra Kumar Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer north.

The other four assailants were identified as Arvind, Ankit, Aman Tripathi and Ankesh, all Tyagi's friends, police said. On the basis of Dahiya's statement, a case under section 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Samaypur Badli police station, police said.

## PICTALK



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya stands near the worlds largest khadi Tricolour on the premises of the historic Red Fort in New Delhi on Thursday  
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer Photo

# Farmers open service road at Ghazipur border closed for 11 months



IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Farmers protesting on the Ghazipur border at Delhi for the last 11 months against the three farm laws enacted by the Centre last year, have started to open the service lane to ease the traffic. They said it is the police who have closed the road and not them. Farmers belonging to the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) on Thursday started removing the tents built on the service road to start the traffic movement.

Farmers have claimed that

wrong information is being spread about them in the Supreme Court. "We had never closed the road, we wanted to go to Delhi. The police did not allow us to go across the border," the farmers said.

The farmers have removed the media centre on the Ghazipur border, while they have parked their vehicles near the police barricade. Meanwhile, a meeting of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) is going on at the Singhu border, in which a decision can be taken to open the roads. The Delhi Meerut

Expressway from the Ghaziabad side to Delhi is completely closed due to the farmers' agitation for the last 11 months, due to which lakhs of people are facing problems in commuting every day.

Earlier on Thursday, the Supreme Court reiterated that farmer groups have the right to protest, but they cannot keep roads blocked indefinitely. The top court sought a response from the SKM, an umbrella body of farmer unions, and other farmer unions on a petition filed by a Noida woman.

# Woman found dead in Noida flat

IAN S ■ NOIDA

A woman was allegedly murdered by her distant relative in Noida, an official said on Thursday.

According to the official, they had received an information on Wednesday evening about a woman found in a flat at Paramount Golf Villa society.

"A forensic team also inspected the spot to find any clue about the murder," DCP Central Noida, Harish Chander said.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused, identified as Arjun, was known

to the 28-year-old victim.

"The accused, who was the brother of the victim's sister-in-law, came in the absence of her parents and murdered her," the official said.

The police have arrested one person in connection with the case. However, the prime accused Arjun is still absconding.

The police have recovered a scooter on which the accused came, and also some jewellery and the victim's mobile phone which was missing after the incident.

The DCP assured that the accused will be arrested soon and will be brought to justice.



# Clear weather for Delhi-NCR, minimum temperature may dip to 19 degrees C

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-NCR woke up to a clear Thursday morning with the maximum temperature being pegged at 32 degrees Celsius and minimum at 19 degrees Celsius for the day, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.

The relative humidity at 8.30 a.m. was 82 per cent.

The maximum temperature recorded on Wednesday was 31.2 degrees Celsius.

Over the next six days, the maximum temperature in the city is likely to be 31 degree Celsius and, minimum may range between 18 to 20 degree Celsius.

As for the air quality, it deteriorated to 'poor' on Thursday after a day of 'good' AQI. According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), the air quality monitoring and forecasting system under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the level of PM2.5 and PM 10 pollutants stood at 91



(moderate) and 171 (poor), respectively.

SAFAR has attributed mixing layer height, local wind speed, ventilation factor, stubble burning impact, external dust intrusion for the air quality today. Delhi's AQI is in the poor category.

"Fire count is 746 and its share in PM2.5 is 12 per cent. Fire emission from upwind region enhances PM2.5 concentration as winds at transport level are from the northwest region. Stubble burning share

is likely to increase in the next two days if there is no rain. The overall AQI is likely to further degrade to the higher end of poor for the next three days," it stated.

Overall AQI of Delhi at 9.00 a.m. stood at 201 with ITO, Pusa Institute, IIT-Delhi and Delhi University categorised under 'poor' and Noida and T3 under 'moderate'.

The rainfall this week had improved Delhi-NCR's AQI to 'good' on Monday and 'satisfactory' on Tuesday.

# City reports 22 new Covid cases; 0.05 positivity rate

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital reported 22 new cases reported on Thursday while the positivity rate stood at 0.05 per cent, according to a health bulletin issued by the health department of the Delhi Government.

As per the bulletin, the cumulative Covid-19 cases now stand at 14,39,488 and the death toll remains at 25,089. A total of 42,563 tests were conducted a day ago.

The number of active cases decreased to 311 on from 322 a day before, according to the bulletin. The number of people under home isolation stood at 99 while it was 103 a day before, and the number of containment zones increased to 96, the bulletin said.

# 'Vikas Rally' will be historic, to be held on Oct 23, says Sohna MLA

**Gurugram:** In Gurugram, a 'Vikas Rally' of Sohna Assembly constituency is being organised in village Sirmathala on 23rd October, which will be the biggest rally held in the state in the last two years.

This claim has been made by Sohna MLA Sanjay Singh. Singh revealed during the press conference on Thursday said that Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar would be the chief guest in this rally and he would also unveil a 23 feet tall statue of Maharana Pratap on that day.

The MLA said that in the rally, many demands related to

the development of the Sohna assembly constituency will be placed before the Chief Minister.

These will mainly focus on projects related to the health and education of the region.

Singh said that the Union Civil Aviation Minister had talked about setting up five heli hubs in the past and due to its proximity to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and KMP Expressway, Sohna is the most suitable for setting up a heli hub. The demand in this regard will also be placed before the Chief Minister.



# SAFAR: Delhi's AQI likely to degrade in next two days

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Attributing to increasing stubble burning incidents in the national Capital's neighbourhood, SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research) said, "the effective fire counts were 1234 and its share 15 per cent in polluting air as transport level winds were favorable for intrusion."

In its air quality forecast, it said the overall AQI on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI) is likely to degrade in next two days.

As Delhi's Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) stepped on city road to generate awareness among masses to follow 'Red Light On, Gaadi (Vehicle) Off' campaign to reduce vehicular pollution, the AQI in most busiest ITO intersection was recorded at 202.

According to pollution monitoring agencies, the total AQI is expected to worsen to the higher end of poor in the next three days. "If there is no rain in the following two days,



the share of stubble burning would likely grow," according to SAFAR.

Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 and PM 10 concentrations were 82 in the 'poor' category and 202 in the 'moderate' category, respectively. According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), some sections of Delhi, including Chandni Chowk and Rohini, had 'bad' air quality, with AQI values of 230 and 232, respectively, while Lodhi Road had a 'moderate' AQI of 165.

SAFAR in its short-range air quality weather forecast said that Delhi's AQI recorded the moderate category. As per SAFAR methodology effective

# Delhi BJP leaders' 'Jhuggi Samman Yatra' reaches Nimdi, Wazirpur industrial area

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Adesh Gupta's 'Jhuggi Samman Yatra' Thursday reached out to jhuggi dwellers of Nimdi Colony and Wazirpur Industrial Area.

BJP leaders interacted with slum dwellers there and distributed 20 Ujwala Gas Connections to families.

In his inaugural speech, Gaurav Bhatia, National Spokesperson, said that we have gathered here today with a resolve to give home to every homeless poor, and to make dreams of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the benefits of development to the last person of society come true. "We have to ensure that the poorest of the poor have a reason to smile," Bhatia said. "Jhuggi dwellers are hard-working; we have to not only appreciate them but also connect their educated children with the mainstream of society," he added.

In his address to jhuggi dwellers Gupta said that for almost the last 25 years Congress and Aam Aadmi Party have shown hollow dreams to jhuggi dwellers but when it came to development of jhuggi bastis they ignored them.

"We have started this journey to end ignorance of development in jhuggi bastis," the BJP leader added.

Gupta, president, Dlehi BJP said on one hand I feel happy to see hard working children of jhuggi dwellers gaining good educational degrees but on other I feel sad that these hard-working jhuggi dwellers are compelled to drink dirty water and their camps lack health facilities. "Children in jhuggi camps want to study science but Delhi government schools in their vicinity don't have provision to teach science," "we will change the situation and force Delhi's Kejriwal Government to start development works in jhuggi camps," said the BJP leader.

# LAC tension has disturbed tranquility, says Shringla



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh has "seriously disturbed the peace and tranquility" in border areas and an impact on broader relationship too, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla said on Thursday.

Underlining this issue, he also mentioned that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said the ability of India and China to work together will determine the Asian century. For this to materialise, peace and tranquility in the border areas is a sine qua non.

He articulated that development of "our ties can only be based on mutuality—mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests should guide this process".

"We hope that the Chinese side will work with us to bring a satisfactory resolution to the current issues so as to make progress on our bilateral relations keeping in view each other's sensitivities, aspirations and interests," he added.

These developments also impacted the growing trade deficit between the two countries, Shringla said adding India has regularly raised its concerns at various platforms with China.

Making these observations while inaugurating a seminar on the topic of "Leveraging China's Economy," organised by the Gateway House, the Foreign Secretary, however, noted the total trade volume between the two countries was around US\$ 88 billion.



In the first nine months of this year, bilateral trade touched US\$ 90 billion, an increase of 49% over last year. "At this rate, we are likely to attain the highest ever bilateral trade between two countries. The trade, however, remains unbalanced with a large trade balance in favour of China," he said.

Observing that with its GDP reaching USD 14.7 trillion in 2020, China's economy is the second largest in the world. Under the shadow of ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, China is the only major economy to have registered positive growth in 2020.

He said relations between the two countries generally followed a positive trajectory since 1988 when we re-established contacts at the highest level.

The two countries were engaged in developing a broad-based bilateral relationship. The advancement of ties in this period was clearly predicated on ensuring that peace and tranquility were not disturbed.

The areas of cooperation were not limited to bilateral but also had regional and global dimensions. It was also recognised that relations between India and China were in the interest of not only our two countries but also in the interest of peace, stability and security in the region and world at large.

It was against this back-

# IAF personnel now much better prepared, acclimatised to face harsh climate: Air Chief



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With most of its front line fighter jets deployed close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) from west to east for the past one and a half years after trouble erupted in Ladakh, the IAF personnel are now much better prepared and acclimatised to withstand harsh climate, IAF chief V R Chaudhari said here on Thursday.

He said after stand-offs began in May last year in eastern Ladakh, situation required acclimatisation of a large number of IAF personnel and stretching of equipment to limits. However, the force is "much better prepared" now in case there is a "long haul", the IAF chief assured.

In an interaction at a defence conclave here, he also said in the last one year, due to the challenges faced in the harsh atmosphere of the region, "we have realised, where we fell short" whether it was in terms of adequate clothing, shelters for people to live there.

"The situation that developed in eastern Ladakh last year was something that we were not very familiar with, particularly in the kind of environment that we needed to operate. It required acclimatisation of a large number of personnel at short notice, required stretching our equipment to limits, which



some of it were not cleared for," he said.

The IAF chief said the force has moved equipment to altitude, well above the altitudes they were tried and tested for, "when we acquired those systems".

Following the escalation in tension in eastern Ladakh in mid-June last year, the IAF deployed almost all its front-line fighter jets like Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft as well as its attack helicopters in the key air bases in eastern Ladakh and elsewhere along the LAC.

At the conclave, Chaudhari also shared other challenges faced by the air force in the region. There was also the challenge of continuously rotating the manpower, to take care of their health, he said.

"As a result, over the last one year, we have realised, where we fell short, whether it was in terms of adequate clothing, shelters for people to live there. So, we have overcome all those shortages now, and I think, we are better prepared, in case there is a long haul, we are prepared this winter, much better than what we were last year," he said.

# EC asks parties not to hold any political activity directly related to bypoll in adjoining districts



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday asked parties not to hold any political activity directly related to the by-polls in areas adjoining the poll-going districts or constituencies against the backdrop of "certain political parties" doing so.

In an advisory, the EC said its existing instructions, regarding enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct during by-elections to parliamentary and Assembly seats, provide that the applicability of the poll code will be to the district concerned, comprising the poll-going constituency.

"It has been brought to the notice of the commission that certain political parties/candidates are organising electioneering activities in the areas adjoining the district/constituency where the by-election is being conducted," the EC said. "In this regard all political parties/candidates are advised not to organise any political activities directly related to the by-elections even in the areas adjoining the district/constituency where the by-elections are being held," the

EC warned. District election officers concerned will ensure that the model code instructions and Covid-19 guidelines relating to the norms of social distancing are followed in districts adjoining the poll-going district and constituency, it noted.

In a separate statement, the EC said that in case, the constituency is comprised in a state capital or metropolitan city or municipal corporation, then model code instructions would be applicable in the area of the constituency concerned only.

In all other cases, instructions will be enforced in the entire district covering the constituency going for by-election. "The spirit of these instructions has been that developmental and administrative works should continue without the implications of the model code and the campaigning for the by-election should be restricted in the constituency concerned only," the EC said.

There exists a situation that political activities akin to ongoing by-elections may be held outside the parliamentary or assembly seat but within the district, it observed.

# Bypolls to three Lok Sabha seats and 30 Assembly constituencies spread across various States will be held on October 30

"Such activities will be in contravention to the spirit of the aforesaid instructions. Thus, it is further clarified that if any electioneering activities connected to ongoing by-election are organised anywhere within the district, then all instructions related to enforcement of the model code, Covid guidelines and expenditure monitoring shall apply as done in case of political activities. The district election officer concerned shall exercise all necessary action in such cases and ensure strict compliance," the EC said.

Bypolls to three Lok Sabha seats and 30 assembly constituencies spread across various states will be held on October 30. The counting of votes will take place on November 2.

# 'Konkan Shakti' naval drill signifies growing Indo-UK ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The maiden seven-day India-United Kingdom Tri-service exercise "Konkan Shakti" commenced on Thursday to derive mutual benefits and showcase the continuing co-operation between the two countries.

The maritime component of the exercise, to be conducted off the west coast of India, is scheduled to be held in two phases. The harbour phase is planned at Mumbai from October 21 to 23, while at sea, the exercises will be conducted from October 24 - 27, navy officials said here on Thursday.

The naval linkages between India and the United Kingdom are one of antiquity and, over a period, it has grown substantially in terms of interoperability and synergy.

Over decades now, both navies have undertaken bilateral exercises, exchanges and enhanced their technical cooperation. Rightly so, this has formed the basis for the maiden tri-service bilateral exercise, 'Konkan Shakti -21'.

Royal Navy (RN) will be represented by its aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, with her integral F-35 fighter



aircraft and helicopters, the Type 45 Daring Class air-defence destroyer HMS Defender, the Type 23 frigate HMS Richmond, a Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Fort Victoria, and a Royal Netherlands Navy Frigate HNLMS Evertsen.

The Indian Navy (IN) will be represented by three of its indigenously built stealth guided missile destroyers INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai, two stealth frigates, INS Talwar and INS Teg, and the tanker INS Aditya.

The IN will also be participating with integral Sea King 42-B, Kamov-31 and Chetak helicopters, MiG 29-K fighter aircraft, Dornier and P-8 I

active interaction between planners of both navies, exchange of information by respective subject matter experts, and interaction of personnel participating in the exercise.

The land phase of the exercise is being conducted between the Indian Army and UK Army at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand from October 21-27 under the aegis of Golden Key Division of Surya Command.

The UK Army is being represented by officers and troops of the 1st Battalion of the Fusilier Regiment and the Indian Army is represented by the troops of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles. The Joint Company Level Exercise between the two nations is aimed at training troops in conduct of humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations by coalition forces in an opposed environment.

The tri-service exercise aims to derive mutual benefits from each other's experiences and also showcase the continuing cooperation between the two countries. Maritime cooperation is a distinguishable symbol of the commitment of both nations in ensuring a positive climate at sea for enhancing strategic stability and promoting global economic prosperity. The interoperability achieved over the years, as a result of such exercises, has proved to be operationally beneficial to armed forces of both countries, they said.

The joint phase of the exercise would also include air-tactical operations involving F-35s, MiG 29-Ks and Indian Air Force elements. To facilitate smooth execution of the exercise, the harbour phase will see

erages, and meals on all domestic flights. The DGCA had asked airline companies to use disposable plates, cutlery and set-up plates, which will not be used again. Tea, coffee and other beverages will be served in disposable glasses, bottles, cans and containers. Along with this, the crew will have to wear a new set of gloves to serve any meal and drink

In April during the second Covid-19 wave this year, it asked airlines to serve meals only on domestic flights with over two hours' journey.

The DGCA has recently released air traffic data according to which domestic aviation registered an annual growth of 20.54 percent during the January to September 2021 period. Passengers carried by domestic airlines during the period were 531.11 lakh as against 440.60 lakh during the corresponding period last year.

# Quarantine no more mandatory for CRPF officials on resuming duty

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With almost all of its 3.25 lakh personnel fully vaccinated against Covid-19, the CRPF has done away with the mandatory quarantine, as per the Covid protocols in vogue till now, for inbound personnel resuming duties after leave and reporting to various formations.

Henceforth, the personnel will be allowed to join duty soon after returning from leave. On reporting to duty, such personnel will be required to undergo RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction) test only if they exhibit clinical symptoms and undertake isolation measures after the test reports are positive or as per medical advice.

The move comes after the status of Covid-19 in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was reviewed and it was observed that the number of patients hit by the deadly viral disease and positivity rate has significantly reduced.

The decision has also

come into effect from the date of issue of the order issued on Wednesday as almost all the personnel have been fully vaccinated, officials said.

"All the personnel reporting from leave/duties would be allowed to join normal duties at respective units/office. On reporting from leave/duty, if any one shows clinical symptoms, then RT-PCR test be conducted as per Medical Officer's advice and action for isolation, if needed, be taken accordingly," reads the order circulated to various formations of the paramilitary.

All Sectors/Composite Hospitals have been asked to take action accordingly. "Further, as desired by Competent Authority, henceforth vaccination reports may be forwarded to the headquarters on every Thursday and Saturday instead of sending it on a daily basis," added the order.

As on Thursday, as many as 25,847 CRPF personnel have contracted Covid-19 and

25,646 patients have recovered from the disease. A total of 131 personnel have died due to Covid-19. Only 70 paramilitary personnel are currently active cases of Covid-19, including six personnel who contracted the coronavirus contagion in the last 24 hours.

A total of 87,684 personnel of the paramilitary forces including the CRPF, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and National Security Guard (NSG) were hit by Covid-19 since the outbreak of the disease early last year.

Out of the 87,684 personnel from the various paramilitary forces who were hit by Covid-19, as many as 87,098 patients have recovered and 344 succumbed to the disease. A total of 242 personnel of these Forces continue to be active with the infection, including 20 men who contracted the disease during the last 24 hours.

# Welcome back: SC tells advocates on resumption of physical hearing

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judges on Thursday said they are happy to see lawyers appearing before the court for physical hearing.

Justice DY Chandrachud told lawyers in the courtroom: "We are happy to see you all." He said that it was not a pleasant experience to look into the screen every day in the backdrop of an empty courtroom.

The top court had gone virtual since the beginning of the lockdown, to control the spread of Covid-19, in March 2020.

Similarly, many other judges expressed their happiness on resumption of physical hearing in a limited manner.

Scores of lawyers thronged to the top court to argue in their respective matter, and formed long queues to enter the court premises.

During court proceedings, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said the court may ramp up physical hearings after the Diwali break.

The chief justice made this remark in response to senior advocates Rakesh Dwivedi and Ranjit Kumar, thanking him for resuming physical hearing of cases.

Justice Ramana said: "After Diwali, we may start it on a larger scale."

The top court has resumed physical hearing of cases twice a week -- Wednesday and Thursday -- during non-miscellaneous days. It will continue to take matters virtually on Monday and Friday, and on Tuesday, advocates can choose either physical hearing or virtual hearing.

Senior lawyers on Wednesday had expressed a difference of opinion on the top court's decision to resume physical hearing two days a week. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was supported by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, said lawyers should not be forced to appear physically, which was vehemently opposed by Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Vikas Singh.

Sibal told chief justice NV Ramana that physical presence of advocates must be made optional in the backdrop of the ongoing Covid pandemic.

# Vistara to start again hot inflight veg meals



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vistara airline has decided to resume hot vegetarian meals—masala uttappam, medu vada, idli with sambar, biryani with dal, jeera pulao, masala pao bhaji and noodles—in economy class of domestic flights replacing the pre-packaged snacks that were being served since May last year due



to the Covid-related guidelines.

"For instance, in Economy Class, breakfast options include Masala Uttappam, Medu Vada, Idli with sambar etc.; lunch and dinner options include Vegetable Biryani with Dal Makhani, Jeera Pulao with Chana Masala, and more; Masala Pao with Bhaji, Hot Garlic Vegetables with

Noodles, etc. will be served as snacks on relevant flights," the statement said. In addition, the airline in a statement said the in-flight menu for all classes will be refreshed every three days and will include several options for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks that are customer favourites.

In August last year, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had permitted airlines to serve or sell pre-packed snacks, bev-

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth ₹7.48 crore belonging to retired Chief Engineer, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore, SM Basavaraju under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The attached movable/immovable properties include balance amounts lying in bank accounts, 3.41 kg gold and diamond jewellery along with immovable properties situated in various locations in Bangalore and Mysore which includes two residential sites, one commercial complex and six residential flats, the agency said. The ED had initiated money laundering investiga-



tion on the basis of an FIR registered by Karnataka Lokayukta, Bangalore City Division, Bangalore under Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. "As per the chargesheet filed by Karnataka Lokayukta in 2018, Basavaraju had amassed wealth beyond his known sources of income," the ED said in a statement.

Money laundering investigation conducted by ED revealed that Basavaraju had amassed wealth beyond his legitimate sources of income and purchased various movable/immovable properties in his name or as benami properties, in the name of his family members including his mother-in-law, it added.

# Didi to start campaign in Goa, Tripura after Diwali

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Post Diwali the Trinamool Congress will step up its campaign in Tripura and Goa, the two States from where the party is trying to oust the BJP. To begin with Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will visit Goa on October 28, party sources said on Thursday. The Chief Minister will first go to North Bengal --- which has suffered massive devastation due to rain and flash floods --- on coming Sunday. "Completing her three-day administrative visit of North Bengal she will fly off to Goa on the evening of October 28," sources said adding in Goa Banerjee will take part in a host of political programmes alongside former Goa Chief Minister Luizinho Faleiro who joined the Trinamool Congress in Kolkata in September. In Goa a number of other leaders are likely to join the Trinamool Congress in presence of the Bengal Chief Minister sources said adding Banerjee return to Kolkata on November 1.

"Already our senior leaders including MPs like Derek O'Brien are busy doing the spade work in Goa along with our campaign partner Indian Political Action Committee or I-PAC led by poll strategist Prashant Kishore. The Trinamool Congress has vowed to oust the BJP from power in the western state which will go to polls early next year. "We will give all our weight in Goa and we will fight alone. We will fight BJP head on," earlier TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said. O'Brien said "This is the right time for TMC in Goa because people want a proper alternative," adding the people of Goa had seen the Congress in 2017, the BJP which was currently in power. Apart from Goa the TMC is planning to go full blast in Tripura too where the party on Thursday staged a core committee meeting to discuss the future strategies. "A meeting of the TMC steering committee was held in Tripura where the party discussed all the aspects regarding

our political strategy," a senior TMC leader and MP said adding Thursday's meeting was attended by party Rajya Sabha MP Sushmita Dev who recently left the Congress to join Trinamool and senior leader Subal Bhowmick. The TMC will contest the coming municipal elections in Tripura Dev said. "We will expose the BJP in the municipal elections by telling the people where they have failed besides telling the people of Tripura what Mamata Banerjee has done for Bengal and how new schemes have benefited the people of the State," Dev said adding the BJP had failed to keep its promise and the people wanted to throw them out of power. "They have been attacking our senior leaders because they know that they are losing ground... we will tell this story of political attacks to the people of Tripura," she said. The TMC sources also said that Abhishek Banerjee will visit Tripura after Diwali to chalk out a road map for future political campaigns in the north-eastern State.

# Longest-ever counter-terror op still on in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the longest ever counter terrorist operation going on in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch since October 11 no fresh exchange of fire has been reported since Wednesday morning. With the help of drone technology and other technological tools the Indian Army is learnt to have established a tight cordon in the area from where they had recovered the dead bodies of the Indian soldiers after they sacrificed their lives in the firefight on October 14. For the time being the Indian Army has adopted a 'wait and watch' strategy to prevent further loss of lives. So far 9 soldiers including two JCO's have sacrificed their lives during the search operations in the area. Ground reports suggested the jaws of the Indian army including elite para commandos have been gradually closing in inside the thickly forested area before launching a final assault to neutralise the group of terrorists hiding in the area. Several locals, who may have provided shelter and ration supplies to these terrorists, have been rounded up in the area to get a sense of the total number of terrorists present in the area. According to official sources, "a total number of nine locals including women have been picked up by the local police and other agencies to gather information about the formation of the terrorist group camping in the area for a long time".



Senior J&k police officers supervising the operations in the area claimed there are chances that these terrorists may have carved out safe hideouts or used natural caves to dodge the security personnel. Despite facing numerous challenges on ground zero the Indian army has searched the thickly forested area inch by inch and have not been able to track down the footprints of these terrorists. Meanwhile, residents living in the area continue to face numerous hardships due to suspension of civilian traffic on the route between Bhimber Gali and Surankote. Alternate roads have been thrown open to facilitate the commuters but due to long routes and long traffic jams they avoid using the same route. On the other hand, Indian army jaws Thursday recovered an IED in the forest area of Sawalkot on Ratanpir ridge in Poonch. The IED was later destroyed

# Priyanka assures legal assistance, compensation to Agra victim's family

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Congress once again made a big announcement on Thursday to help the kin of safai worker, Arun Valmiki, who died in police custody after it was suspected that he was behind the theft from the Malkhana of a police station in Agra. Earlier, the Congress had sanctioned ₹1 crore compensation each to the farmers and a journalist who were killed in the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who visited Agra on Wednesday night and met the family members of the victim, assured legal help to the family besides ₹30 lakh compensation to Arun's dependents. She met Arun's wife and mother and other relatives. The UP Government has already announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh and a Government job in Agra Nagar Nigam to one of the dependants of the victim. "Arun Valmiki's relatives told me that the entire family was tortured. They claimed that Arun Valmiki was given electric shocks and his hands were crushed under a chair by the police. Besides, around 40 members of the Valmiki community were also arrested and tortured," the Congress general secretary told reporters. "I have been working for the past two years in Uttar Pradesh and I have seen that there is no justice for Dalits and women in this state," she said and added, "Is the law in this country only to save the sons of ministers? A Minister's son can do anything but, on the other hand, a poor family is harassed with no one to help them." Meanwhile, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday claimed that the Yogi Adityanath government was planning to take action against some policewomen who had posed for a photograph with her. "News is coming that Yogi ji got so upset with this picture that he wants to take action against these policewomen," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi along with the picture which is said to have been clicked on Wednesday while she was on her way to Agra to meet the family of the Dalit sanitation worker who died in police custody. "If it is a crime to take pictures with me, then I should also be punished as it does not suit the government to spoil the career of these hardworking and loyal policewomen," Priyanka added.

# Fuel prices don't matter, 95% people don't need petrol: UP Minister

Lucknow: Dismissing criticism over the rising fuel prices, Uttar Pradesh Minister Upendra Tiwari on Thursday said 95 per cent people have no use for petrol. Tiwari also argued that fuel prices had not really risen in real terms when the per capita income now is compared with that in 2014, referring to the year when a BJP-led government first came to power at the Centre. "Today, there are just a handful of people who travel in four-wheel vehicles and use petrol. At present, 95 per cent people don't need petrol," Tiwari told reporters in Jalaun. Higher fuel costs, however, impact virtually every citizen.

For example, they lead to an increase in the price of all commodities -- including food-grain, fruit and vegetables -- that are transported from one part of the country to another. The Minister's remark comes when petrol prices have crossed ₹100 per litre in most parts of the country, and diesel hovers close to that mark. He claimed that the opposition doesn't have any real issue to attack the government. "You see the data before 2014. What is the per capita income after the formation of the Modi and the Yogi governments?" he said, referring to the BJP-led Governments at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh. PTI

# JD(S) is not a secular party: Siddaramaiah

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Continuing his attack against the JD(S), ahead of the bypolls to two assembly seats in Karnataka, Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Thursday said the party led by former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda is "not secular". Hitting back, JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy said, his party doesn't require any certificate from Siddaramaiah on being secular, as he reminded him about his roots. "JD(S) had formed a Government with BJP in the past (in 2006), they have joined hands with BJP in the Mysuru corporation, what strong ideology does the JD(S) have? How much ever they may try to appease minority or Muslim for votes, voters are clever," Siddaramaiah said. Speaking to reporters here, the leader of opposition in the state assembly, accused the JD(S) of having "internal understanding" with the BJP, and that's the reason they have fielded minority community candidates in Hangal and Sindagi constituencies that are going for bypolls. "Will JD(S) be secular despite having formed a Government with the BJP?... I can only say that JD(S) is not a secular party, they are a regional party, but not secular. They have

Secular in their party name, but they are not secular in their conduct or behavior, they are communal," he added. Sharply reacting, Kumaraswamy said, "Should Siddaramaiah give certificates to my party as to whether it is secular or not? All communities are respected in our party. We don't want any sermons from him." Pointing out that Siddaramaiah grew as a leader in JD(S) under Deve Gowda's leadership, he said, "9 senior Muslim leaders in the state are JD(S) and Deve Gowda's contribution." Siddaramaiah had recently urged the voters from the minority community not to cast even a single vote to the JD(S) during the Hangal and Sindagi bypolls, as voting for the regional party, means voting for the BJP. The former Chief Minister had even accused the JD(S) of deliberately fielding minority community candidates in both the constituencies to help the BJP. Bypolls will be held on October 30, while counting of votes will take place on November 2. The by-elections have been necessitated as the seats fell vacant following the death of Sindagi JD(S) legislator M C Managuli and BJP's C M Udasi from Hangal.

# Farmer shot dead in UP, cops detain son for questioning

PTI ■ BANDA (UP)

A 40-year-old farmer was allegedly shot dead in a village in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Thursday. The police have detained the farmer's son for questioning after he repeatedly changed his statements during initial inquiry. According to the police, Kamal Babu Chauhan was sleeping outside his house in Nandadev village in Jaspura area on Wednesday evening when he was shot dead. Jaspura police station SHO Sunil Kumar Singh said Chauhan had gunshot injury on his left shoulder and chest and that a country-made pistol was found near his body.

# SANITATION WORKER'S CUSTODIAL DEATH UP Govt should reform its police system: Mayawati

Lucknow: Taking strong exception to the death of a sanitation worker in police custody in Agra after a Kanpur businessman had recently died allegedly due to police thrashing, BSP president Mayawati on Thursday asked the Uttar Pradesh Government to bring necessary reforms in its police system. The former Chief Minister also said a BSP delegation will be visiting Agra later on Thursday and meet the family members and administrative officers in connection with the case. "After the tragic murder of a businessman in a hotel by police in Gorakhpur, now the present BJP Government is again in the dock due to the death of a Dalit sweeper in police custody in Agra. Therefore, the Government should bring necessary reforms in its police system. This is the demand of the BSP," Mayawati said in a tweet in Hindi. She also said, "In connection with the very sad incident of the death of a sweeper in police custody in Agra, a delegation led by Gayacharan Dinkar will go to Agra today to meet the victim's family and the administration for ensuring punishment to the accused and justice for the victim's family." Political parties on Wednesday condemned the death of a sanitation worker Arun, who was accused of stealing Rs 25 lakh from Jagdishpura police station in Agra, in police custody after his health deteriorated during interrogation. An inspector, a sub-inspector and three constables, who were on duty at Jagdishpura police station when the accused died, were suspended after an uproar in the city over the incident. PTI

# MID-SEA DRUG BUST CASE HC schedules Aryan's bail plea for Oct 26

NCB summons Ananya Pandey for questioning on WhatsApp chat with Aryan

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday scheduled the bail application of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in the mid-sea drug bust case for hearing for October 26, even as a team of a Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) paid a formal "visit" to SRK's residence "Mannat" hours after the actor met his son at the Arthur Road Jail. A day after a Special Court rejected the bail pleas of SRK's son and two others in the mid-sea drug bust case, Aryan's lawyer Satish Maneshinde mentioned the bail application made before the high court in front of Justice Nitin Sambre. The Judge posted Aryan's bail plea for hearing on Tuesday. In a day of multiple development, Maharashtra Minister and NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik launched a fresh attack on NCB's western zone chief Sameer Wankhede, by demanding to know as to what the latter doing in Maldives and Dubai with his family during the Covid 19-triggered lockdown and accusing him of filing "fake" cases against Bollywood personalities. Malik also shared photos of Wankhede's family holidaying in Maldives when the entire Bollywood was also there. Talking to media persons within hours after the Minister made fresh allegations against him, Wankhede denied Malik's allegations and threatened to proceed legally against the minister for his defamation. Coming to Wankhede's defence, NCB's Deputy Director South-West Region Mutha Ashok Jain in a statement issued in the evening said among other things: "Shri. Wankhede, IRS joined NCB on loan basis on 31.08.2020 and after this he has not submitted

any application for Ex-India leave to Dubai. As per the approval of Competent Authority vide NCB Order No. A50/2/2021-Acctss/146 dated 27.07.2021, the officer has availed Ex-India leave along with his family to Maldives." In a related development, Shah Rukh Khan visited Arthur Road Central Jail to meet his son Aryan, who was initially in the NCB's custody, has been lodged at the Arthur Road Central jail for the past two weeks. Hours later, the NCB officials visited SRK's "Mannat" residence ostensibly to collect some documents and material in connection with the investigations into the sensational case. Meanwhile, the NCB summoned actress Ananya Pandey for questioning and raided a location in Andheri, in connection with the ongoing investigations in the mid-sea drug bust case. Ananya's name has allegedly figured in some of Aryan's WhatsApp chats. Ananya Pandey is the daughter of Bollywood actor Chunky Pandey and granddaughter of the renowned heart surgeon, the late Dr. Sharad Pandey. Denying speculation in a section of the media that his department officials had "raided" actor's residence, NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede said in a statement: "The NCB Mumbai Zonal Unit officials visited 'Mannat' the residence of Aryan Khan in connection with the (Cr.94/21 case) for seeking certain material related to the investigation of the case from Shah Rukh Khan, by following due procedure of notice, etc," NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede said in a statement. Official sources said that the NCB officials had visited

SRK's residence to serve a notice to the actor saying that if Aryan Khan possessed any other electronic device other than the mobile seized by them, the family should hand it over to them. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik who has been seeking to "expose" the NCB and its zonal director Sameer Wankhede ever since Aryan and others were arrested on October 3 in connection with the mid-sea drug bust case. Talking to media persons, Malik demanded to know what Wankhede was doing in Dubai and Maldives with his family during the pandemic lockdown. He said that he would not keep quiet till Wankhede was put behind the bars for "concocting" drug cases against Bollywood personalities. Malik shared photos of Wankhede's family holidaying in Maldives when the entire Bollywood was also there. "They (BJP) have a puppet in Wankhede. He is running a multi-thousand crore extortion racket on behalf of the BJP. He files bogus cases against people. Wankhede will lose his job within a year. I won't be silent till he is put behind the bars. We have evidence of bogus cases filed by him," Malik said. "It's very clear." "Vasuli" (extortion) took place in Maldives and Dubai... I am releasing those photos... What was he doing in Maldives and Dubai? He must answer," Malik t Malik went onto accuse Wankhede of colluding with "some BJP people" of threatening the film industry people "I am repeating... He keeps filing false cases and arresting people based on WhatsApp chats and without any evidence... I am going to reveal more on this," Malik said. Among the photographs that Malik released were that of Wankhede's sister Jasmeen

Wankhede, ostensibly shot in Maldives with captions and tagging her friends, including Fletcher Patel who had called her the "Lady Don". Upset by Malik's allegation, the Opposition MNS's film wing chief Ameya Khopkar warned the NCP leader "to keep off and stop dragging" his party colleague Jasmeen Wankhede) into his politics. Hitting back at Malik, Jasmeen Wankhede wondered whether "Malik is a judge". She said she was accountable to her family or friends and that the NCP leader had no business to make public her private trip. On his part, Sameer Wankhede, who had earlier arrested Malik's son-in-law Sameer Khan in January 2021 in an alleged drugs case, said: "I fail to understand why the attacks on me, my sister, my retired father, my deceased mother, when I am merely doing my duty... The cases are sub-judice. I will give a fitting reply later." Malik claimed that Wankhede had called him after the arrest of his son-in-law and quoted the latter having told that he was under pressure. "If he (Wankhede) is under pressure, he should come clean and tell us who is putting pressure on him." Malik alleged that the Centre posted Wankhede after the mysterious death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput in June last, but the mystery continued if the actor committed suicide or it was a murder. "But, thereafter, the NCB has started playing its games with the film industry... Dozens of stars were summoned on WhatsApp conversations. Rhea Chakraborty was arrested for making payment of some ₹4,000 to someone," Malik said, as demanded an inquiry into the whatsapp records of Wankhede.

# Sikkim sees record tourist footfall; CM urges people not to travel amid landslides

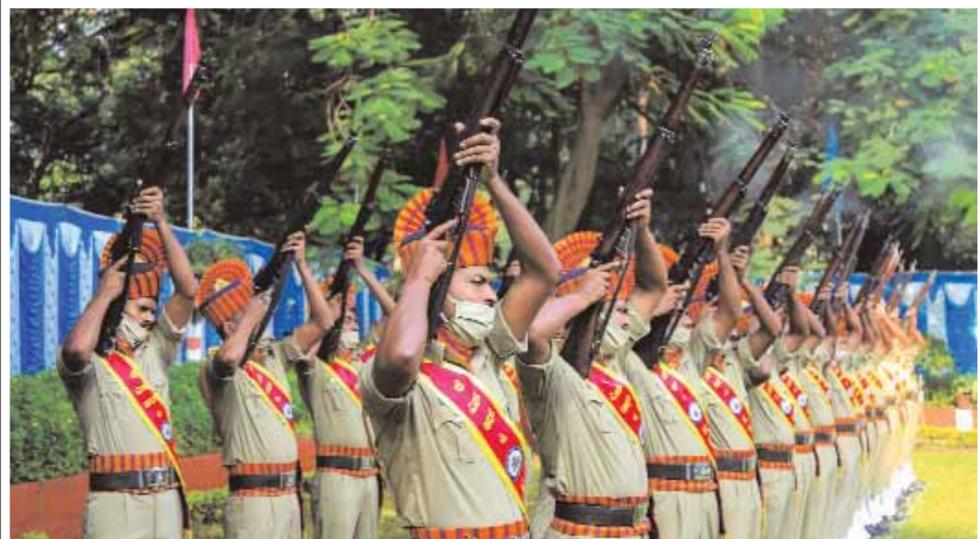
PTI ■ GANGTOK

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Thursday urged the people not to travel in view of the landslides as the state registered a record tourist footfall during the Durga puja vacation. Over 22,000 domestic tourists and 651 foreign travellers visited the state over the last week, Tourism Department officials said. An average of 5,000 tourists are entering Sikkim daily at present, they said, adding that it would soon double. The surge was recorded after the Dte Government withdrew all Covid-related restrictions and reopened its borders. The Government took several measures to encourage tourism this festive season to make up for the financial hit it took last year. The two-month lockdown during the

peak season last year caused an estimated loss of ₹500-700 crore, officials said. Nearly a quarter of the State's population is dependent on tourism, which generates annual revenue of ₹4,000-5,000 crore, they said. However, as landslides hit the state over the last three days, cutting road connectivity to several places, the chief minister urged people to avoid travelling. "In the past couple of days, Sikkim has witnessed incessant rainfall, leading to landslides in several parts of the State, causing roadblocks at multiple spots. I am in constant touch with the line departments and closely monitoring the current situation," Tamang said. "I in order to avoid any untoward incident, I appeal to all our citizens to refrain from travelling in these circumstances, and pray for their safety," he added.

# BJP always engrossed in festival-like celebrations, even during calamity: Akhilesh

Lucknow: The BJP is always engrossed in "festival-like celebrations", even during a calamity like the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed several lives, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Thursday, as events were organised to mark the administering of 100-crore Covid doses in the country. He also said the BJP only knows politics of lies and deceit, and alleged that it has done nothing for the people, who are facing problems due to inflation and corruption. "The BJP is a strange party. Whatever may be the calamity and even in deaths, the BJP is always engrossed in festival-like celebrations. It's a habit that even in a calamity, it finds the opportunity for celebrations," Yadav said in a statement issued here. "The BJP celebrated record vaccinations. When people were dying due to the coronavirus, the BJP was celebrating with beating of 'thalis' (plates)," he said. The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said the Kushinagar international airport was his government's plan, "but the BJP itself has started celebrating it by taking credit for it". Similarly, the Purvanchal Expressway was given by the Samajwadi Party government to the state, but the BJP has no problem in "celebrating" this too, he said. The truth is that the BJP only knows the politics of lies and deceit. In its entire tenure in Uttar Pradesh and at the Centre, it has not done anything in public interest. PTI



Police personnel pay tribute to martyrs on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, in Bengaluru on Thursday

PTI

## Big talks

Countries vow humanitarian aid to Afghanistan but the Taliban fail to honour its promises

Two things happened at the Moscow meeting Russia hosted on Wednesday of representatives of India, Pakistan, China, Iran and five former Soviet Central Asian states. One, Russia, with its record in Afghanistan, had the cake and ate it too by setting the meeting's agenda and promoting its role as an influencer in the region. While China and Pakistan, the early birds to try and convince the world to back the Taliban, remained spectators, Russia took the initiative by declaring that nobody is interested in the "complete paralysis of an entire State". Russia is playing its cards well. Its foreign policy is pragmatic rather than alarmist. Its strategic interest is retaining its influential role in Central Asia and preventing anything untoward in Afghanistan that can destabilise the situation there. It is not really at risk from an immediate spillover of Islamist terrorism. It will not risk any armed engagement in or on account of Afghanistan. It does not wish others to drag it into the conflict either.

And now it has led a bloc, including the Taliban and minus the United States, to voice a shared concern. Two, the Taliban got the backing of the Moscow group for a donor conference by the United Nations to help Afghanistan survive a humanitarian catastrophe. It was in line with last week's G-20 economies' bid to resolve the humanitarian crisis even if that meant coordinating with the as yet unrecognised interim Taliban Government. These two meetings, between them represented by the world's dominant economies and influential actors in South and Central Asia, have

thus used the dire situation in Afghanistan as the reason to justify working with the Taliban notwithstanding the international community's objections to its terror links and regressive laws and non-inclusive Government. As long as the impoverished millions in that country get relief in terms of nutrition and medical care, that too formally supervised by the United Nations, not much role is left to play for the question of "recognition" of the Taliban's interim Government. It was in effect circumvented in the name of shielding the Afghans from going hungry. In return for the humane gesture by these countries, the Taliban gave them yet another rendition of its original rhetoric when it set up the interim Government that it will not allow Afghanistan's soil to be used by anyone to threaten the security of another country. It did not seem to matter at the Wednesday meeting that the Taliban again failed to commit itself to sever its links with terrorist groups sheltered in Afghanistan, did not say whether it was at all time-bound and whether its Government would be made inclusive and when. Rather, the Taliban would be even more relieved that the meeting put it on record that any practical engagement with Afghanistan will have to take into account the "new reality" of the Taliban being in power, irrespective of whether it is recognised or not.



The Parliament building illuminated to mark the 1 billion vaccination milestone PTI

## Hopes

As international pressure builds up and citizens unite, the Myanmar Military seems cornered

The political turmoil in Myanmar is nowhere near settling down. The army's stubborn stance has only worsened the chances of peace. Meanwhile, citizens' hardships are increasing as sanctions and economic paralysis are worsening the situation. The military coup of February 1, 2021, has united people like never before. Moreover, international pressure is also leading to some concessions from the otherwise stubborn Military regime. This is one common ground the people of Myanmar have with one another.

The Military Junta and the vested interests had worked hard to split Myanmar down the middle. The hate against Rohingyas was systematically spread to polarise people and that eventually led to violent clashes and subsequently the ethnic cleansing drive that led to the exodus of Rohingyas. The consolidation of the movement against the military regime has led to a better understanding among the Buddhist majority about the issues concerning the Rohingyas. It is now a national movement and people from all communities are up against the military regime and calling the bluff of the army and seeing through the veneer of ethnic nationalism and political polarisation.

The most vocal and significant contribution towards initiating the democratic process has been made by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which has expressed disappointment, condemned the military regime and taken stern actions. At a recent meeting, the Asean Foreign Ministers criticised the Myanmar Army's reluctance to initiate democratic process and give peace a chance. Malaysia's Foreign Minister even warned Myanmar that it could be excluded from this month's summit of Asean leaders if it refuses to cooperate with the group's special envoy in resolving the crisis. Asean has maintained that Myanmar's Military has made no progress in implementing a Southeast Asian roadmap for peace despite assurances. The pressure from Asean seems to be working. Recently, Myanmar announced that it would release more than 5,000 political prisoners. The Military's failure to act on a five-point plan it had agreed to in April is being viewed as "backtracking". Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has also been vocal about the situation in Myanmar. Most of the refugees fleeing Myanmar are camped in Bangladesh. Earlier, Hasina had appealed to India to play an active role in resolving the Rohingya crisis but India has remained non-committal so far.

# The police losing power to the BSF?



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

The Government has increased the jurisdiction of the BSF in border States to 50 km, which the Opposition parties haven't received well

The gazette notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) dated October 11, 2021 — amending the schedule of an earlier notification of July 3, 2014 in terms of extending the Border Security Force (BSF) jurisdiction up to 50 kms inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam — has been criticised by the Opposition parties, especially by the Governments of Punjab and West Bengal, accusing the ruling party for interfering in the federal structure of the States by curtailing the rights of the State's police. The fresh notification outlines the BSF jurisdiction as "the whole of the area comprised in the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and so much of the area comprised within a belt of 50 kilometers in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, running along the borders of India". At the same time, in the case of Gujarat, the Ministry has reduced the area of operation of BSF from 80 kms from the border to 50 kms. Earlier, the powers of BSF — which includes arrest, search and seizure — were limited to 15 Km in the States mentioned above.

Brushing aside the criticism, the Government clarified that it was acting within its jurisdiction by executing the powers available under the Border Security Force Act of 1968. The Government sources claim that the objective of this move was to ensure operational efficiency and bring in uniformity. The MHA sources defended the move on the grounds that in the past, the jurisdiction of BSF differed from State to State and the officials faced problems in mounting action even when they had definite information about a crime in areas outside the jurisdiction of BSF. The vast areas of Assam, Punjab and West Bengal are situated on international borders and face threats from hostile neighbours. The situation has only worsened after the establishment of the Taliban rule in Afghanistan. The seizure of 3,000 kg of heroin which



came from Afghanistan in September, 2021, and the regular instances of insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir are cases in point. The increasing instances of drone-dropped weapons and drugs in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab were cited for bringing out this notification.

The States ruled by Opposition — Punjab and West Bengal — argue that law and order is a State subject and enhancing the jurisdiction of BSF infringes upon powers of the State Government. According to sources, the BSF is not authorised to take legal actions or file chargesheet in a case. Every arrested person or seized item by the BSF has to be handed over to the State police or Customs, as the case may be. The local police can take actions without the interference of the BSF, even in areas that fall under the BSF's jurisdiction. At times, when a crime is reported in areas away from the local police stations, the BSF has to take action till the police reach the spot. Hence, the role of the police and the BSF is to complement and supplement each other.

Now, the question is whether this notification would impact the jurisdiction of State police? The former



THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE POLICE HAS NEITHER BEEN CURTAILED NOR ITS POWER REDUCED IN ANY MANNER. IT'S JUST THAT THE BSF WILL ALSO BE EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO SEARCH, SEIZURE AND ARREST

Director General of BSF, Prakash Singh, commenting on this move said "The jurisdiction of the State police has neither been curtailed nor its power is reduced in any manner. It's just that the BSF will also be exercising the powers of search, seizure and arrest, in respect of only the Passport Act, 1967, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the special sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. It is merely an enabling provision aimed at strengthening and complementing the efforts of the State police. The BSF would, in any case, be handing over the accused together with the seized contraband to the local police. The power to register the FIR and investigate the case remains with the police", he added.

However, it is interesting to note that both the ruling party and the Opposition stand exposed as far as their stand on this issue is concerned. The UPA Government — when in power in 2011 — had introduced a Bill in the Parliament to provide the BSF the power to search, seize and arrest in any part of the country where it was deployed. The bill was dropped because the then Opposition had opposed the

move. On the other hand, in 2012, Narendra Modi, as the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, wrote to the then Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, accusing the Centre of weakening the country's federal structure, calling the move an attempt to "create a State within a State". Now, the Narendra Modi led Government is doing the same and the Opposition is in a protest mode. Evidently, the stands of politicians and political parties change as per their interest.

Undoubtedly, India is a federal State where police and law and order are the responsibility of the States. But, as stated by Sir Ivor Jennings, "India has a federation with a strong centralising tendency". In extraordinary situations, the will of the Central Government prevails and it may override the autonomy of the State when it comes to external threats. The best way to do it in a democratic country is to take the States in confidence and convince them of the need for taking the required action in the interest of the country.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WE NEED TO TALK, NOW!

Sir — Like so many issues relating to women's health in India, breast cancer, too, has not been a subject of discussion, largely on account of social taboos. Hence, breast cancer's mortality rates in India are higher especially in rural parts of the country. There is a significant share of breast cancer in women among all other cancers. Its cases have been rising at an alarming rate across the globe and is one of the most common cancers among women. Doctors (Oncologists) treating the cancer patients are of the view that 90 per cent of the patients can survive when breast cancer is detected at an early stage; hence nothing works better than an early detection.

We should spread awareness that it is important for women to do a self examination regularly and consult with a doctor if changes are noticed. Some of the common symptoms include painless lump in the breast or armpit, change in breast shape, dimpling in the breast skin, abnormal nipple discharge and nipple retraction or ulceration. As breast cancer typically has no symptoms when the tumor is small, it can most likely be treated. Therefore, if women start talking about it, they can be given an early treatment and be saved.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

### THE QUEEN SHOWS THE SPIRIT

Sir — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is reported to have politely refused the 'Oldie of the Year' title, an honour conferred upon people of advanced age by a British magazine, stating "one is as old as one feels". This means that she is still young and does not feel old enough to accept the award. While it is said that age is a mere number, still it all depends upon one's mindset. Once the feeling of old age sets in, then one succumbs to such a thought process which ultimately takes a toll on him.

While one cannot defy the process of ageing, which is but natural, one can always surmount the feeling of having become old, by remaining active and

## October is no longer the same



The month of October used to be known for a pleasant autumn, signalling the onset of winters. To our surprise, the last few days have witnessed incessant rains leading to flooding, landslides in several parts of India including Nainital. The fragility of the Himalayas and recurrences of floods, landslides and natural calamities points to the helplessness of humanity despite advances in meteorology and early warning systems. Of late, the frequency and intensity of such

calamities is alarming. That road construction, mining and quarrying, deforestation, construction of dams in high altitude areas expose the vulnerabilities of a fragile ecosystem and has been brought to light umpteen times by the expert committees like Gadgil Committee and scientists.

Madhav Gadgil in 2011 had recommended that the 130,000 square km area covering Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu be declared an environmentally sensitive zone in order to regulate developmental activities. But, none of the five States agreed. And, after a decade, our neglect has resulted in our diminishing natural wealth both in terms of intrinsic value and losses in terms of man and material. Sadly, we have failed to hear the sane voices. No doubt development is necessary to keep the wheels of the economy moving, but it should not come at our peril. All eco-sensitive States which are a hotbed of biodiversity must coordinate to devise an action plan to deal with such calamities. It is time to act or perish.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

keeping themselves busy with daily chores like walking, going through the dailies, indulging in discussions on various topics, spending time with the neighbours and, involving themselves with social activities.

VS Jayaraman | Chennai

### MIGRANTS ALWAYS PAY THE PRICE

Sir — It has been more than two years now since the country witnessed the sad exodus of migrant workers migrating from urban cities to their rural roots when the national lockdown and the pandemic was at its fury. The tough times continued till recently, before they returned to their respective works. This time, the nemesis is not any pathogen or lockdown, rather some terror groups. Migrants in Kashmir's several cities working on developmental projects, tunnels, highways and bridges, were targeted by the terrorists and reli-

gious radicals ruthlessly.

The news report highlighted that such targeted attacks were to fix fears in the minds of non-Kashmiris. But such nefarious actions by a few anti-India people are taking the lives of innocent migrant workers. They are forced to put their life in danger, because they have to go to work to provide for their family. The point of the matter is that nobody is serious about fixing responsibility on this crucial matter. Migrant workers are still helpless, the Government is ensuring their rights in talks, but ground reality reflects a whole another picture. The Government must ensure a safety net for them that covers their food, employment, safety and welfare needs.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

## SOUND BITE

India has created history by crossing the 100 crore vaccination mark. It is a feeling of confidence.



Union Health Minister — Mansukh Mandaviya



It has consistently been our view. We have stated our openness to having discussions with North Korea for months now.

White House press secretary — Jen Psaki



I am on cloud nine. The response I have received for the role of Eshita is truly overwhelming.

Actor — Abhishek Banerjee



India has a greater chance than any other team of winning this T20 World Cup, especially in conditions like these.

Former Pakistan captain — Inzamam-ul-Haq



Pinarayi Vijayan is surrounded by a group of flatterers and all know that he does not like criticism.

Congress leader — VD Satheesan

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN THE WEST ASIAN QUAD, AS THEY SAY!

For the first time, India to have a dialogue with the UAE and Israel on the same platform



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

External affairs minister S Jaishankar had his first high-level engagement with Israel's new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. He also addressed a virtual conference of foreign ministers of India, the US, UAE and Israel — a body touted as the West Asia Quad sharing issues of common concern. This is a first from many perspectives. It is the first time India has chosen to engage on a joint platform with Israel and the Arab world. India has so far engaged with Israel on a whole lot of issues while shying away from making any direct comments on the relationship between Israel and the Arab world. Parallely, India has been a key trade partner with the oil-rich Arab world, one of whose key members is the UAE. For the first time India has chosen to have a dialogue with these two strategically important nations on the same platform. The US has always played a key role in West Asia. However, it has always been dubbed as a shadow player pushing its own interests through various sovereign Governments in the region. Most of this changed last August when the US facilitated a historic regional cooperation dialogue called the Abraham Accord. The US government under new president Joe Biden carried forward from where Donald Trump left. This October, the US, Israel and UAE launched two working groups, the focus of which will be on water, energy, religious co-existence and tolerance. However,



to be in the same room with India would be a first step towards a long-term multilateral play for the US. The third most significant aspect of this meeting would be a complete reimagining of engagement and influencing opportunities for the US, Israel, India and UAE. These four countries have robust bilateral relationships amongst themselves and sometimes even trilateral engagements. However, the four strategic partners coming together and keeping China out of the equation is a vociferous call for identity as an important partner in the region for like-minded countries or groups to align. It sends a strong voice end to end, horizontally across the globe. Now comes the crucial aspect of deciding on the future agenda of this group of nations to engage meaningfully.

Those who have dubbed this group to be the second Quad of West Asia have talked about quickly summoning a head of Government level in-person meeting with a progressive agenda. On the table could be an assortment of committees drawn from the best in the four countries into sectors such as technology, cyber security, space explorations and mining, climate change, energy conservation, terrorism and security and cultural exchanges. The group, meanwhile, has announced the formation of an international forum on economic cooperation and a joint working group with focus on infrastructure projects, transport and technology. Some of these nations could also have trilateral trade agreements given the economic angle of the relationship. At this stage, putting a military partnership angle to this group would be premature given the sensibilities involved. In my view this group should also try to put a nomenclature to their partnership like, Indo-Abraham accord which has been suggested by some policy pundits. India has a strategic yet nimble role to play in the region, given the evolving scenario within its borders, in its immediate vicinity, and at multilateral platforms. West Asia will remain home to nearly eight million diaspora and the numbers will grow. The dependency on each other for items ranging from oil to oceans will multiply. The time calls for deeper engagements and India should try to lead from the front on multiple platforms.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

# Team India: Delivering on the vaccine promise



NARENDRA MODI

The journey from anxiety to assurance has taken place and our nation has emerged stronger, thanks to the world's largest vaccination drive

India completed the vaccination of 100 crore doses on October 21, 2021, just about nine months since starting the exercise. This has been a tremendous journey in deal-ing with COVID-19, especially when we recall how things stood in early 2020. Humanity was dealing with such a pandemic after 100 years and no one knew much about the virus. We remember how unpredictable the situation appeared then, as we were faced by an unknown and invisible enemy mutating rapidly.

The journey from anxiety to assurance has happened and our nation has emerged stronger, thanks to the world's largest vaccination drive.

It has been a truly 'bhagirath' effort involving multiple sections of society. To get a sense of the scale, assume that each vaccination took just two minutes for a health-care worker. At this rate, it took around 41 lakh man-days or approximately eleven thousand man-years of effort to reach this landmark.

For any effort to attain and sustain speed and scale, the trust of all stakeholders is crucial. One of the reasons for the success of the campaign was the trust that people developed in the vaccine and the process followed, despite various efforts to create mistrust and panic.

There are some among us who only trust foreign brands, even for simple everyday necessities. However, when it came to something as crucial as the COVID-19 vaccine, the people of India unanimously trusted 'Made in India' vaccines. This is a significant paradigm shift.

India's vaccine drive is an example of what India can achieve if the citizens and the Government come together with a common goal in the spirit of 'Jan Bhagidari'. When India started its vaccination program, many people doubted the capabilities of 130 crore Indians. Some said India would take three to four years. Some others said people will not come forward to get vaccinated. Some said there will be gross mis-management and chaos in the vaccination process. Some even said that India will not be able to manage supply chains. However, just like the Janta Curfew and sub-sequent lockdowns, the people of India showed how spectacular the results can be if they are made trusted partners.

When everyone takes ownership, nothing is impossible. Our healthcare workers traversed hills and crossed rivers across difficult geographies to vaccinate people. Our youth, social workers, healthcare workers, social and religious leaders, all deserve credit for the fact that India faces minimal vaccine hesitancy when compared to even developed nations.

There was a lot of pressure from different interest groups to give preferential treatment to them in vaccination. But the Government ensured that, like our



THE CREDIT FOR A PROMISING VACCINATION DRIVE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INDIAN SCIENTISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS FOR RISING TO THE OCCASION. IT IS BECAUSE OF THEIR TALENT AND HARD WORK THAT INDIA IS TRULY 'AATMANIRBHAR' WHEN IT COMES TO VACCINES

(The writer is the Prime Minister of India.)



other schemes, there is no VIP culture in the vaccination drive either.

In early 2020, when COVID-19 was rampaging across the world, it was clear to us that this pandemic will have to be eventually fought with the help of vaccines. We started preparing early. We constituted expert groups and started preparing a roadmap right from April 2020.

Till today, only a handful of countries have developed their own vaccines. More than 180 countries are dependent on an extremely limited pool of producers and dozens of nations are still waiting for the supply of vaccines, even as India has crossed 100 crore doses! Imagine the situation if India did not have its own vaccine. How would have India secured enough vaccines for such a large population and how many years would that have taken? It is here that credit should be given to Indian scientists and entrepreneurs for rising to the occasion. It is due to their talent and hard-work that India is truly Aatmanirbhar when it comes to vaccines. Our vaccine manufacturers, by scaling up to meet the demands of such a large population, have shown that they are second to none.

In a nation where Governments used to be known as a roadblock impeding forward movement, our Government has instead been an accelerator and enabler of progress. The

Government partnered with the vaccine makers right from day one and gave them support in the form of institutional assistance, scientific research, funding, as well as accelerated regulatory processes. All ministries of the Government came together to facilitate the vaccine makers and remove any bottlenecks as a result of our 'whole of Government' approach.

In a country of the scale of India, it is not enough to just produce. The focus has to be on last-mile delivery and seamless logistics. To understand the challenges involved, imagine the journey taken by one vial of vaccines. From a plant in Pune or Hyderabad, the vial is sent to a hub in any of the States, from where it is transported to the district hub. From there, it reaches a vaccination centre. This entails the deployment of thousands of trips taken by flights and trains. During this entire journey, the temperature has to be maintained in a particular range that is centrally monitored. For this, over one lakh pieces of cold-chain equipment were utilised. States were given advance notice of the delivery schedule of the vaccines so that they could plan their drives better and vaccines reached them on the pre-decided days. This has been an unprecedented effort in the history of independent India.

All these efforts were complemented by a robust tech platform in CoWIN. It ensured that the

vaccine drive was equitable, scalable, trackable, and transparent. This ensured that there was no scope for favouritism or jumping the queue. It also ensured that a poor worker could take the first dose in his village and the second dose of the same vaccine in the city where he works, after the required time interval. In addition to a real-time dashboard to boost transparency, the QR-coded certificates ensured verifiability. There are hardly any examples of such efforts not only in India but also the world.

In my Independence Day Address in 2015, I had said that our country is moving ahead because of 'Team India' and this 'Team India' is a big team of our 130 crore people. People's participation is the biggest strength of democracy. If we run the country through the participation of 130 crore Indians, our country will be moving ahead 130 crore steps every moment. Our vaccination drive has yet again shown the power of this 'Team India'. India's success in its vaccination drive has also demonstrated to the whole world that 'democracy can deliver'.

I am optimistic that the success achieved in the world's largest vaccination drive will further spur our youth, our innovators and all levels of the Government to set new benchmarks of public service delivery which will be a model not only for our country but also for the world.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

HOPEFUL OF A SEAT ARRANGEMENT WITH THE BJP IN THE 2022 PUNJAB POLLS IF THE FARMERS' PROTEST IS RESOLVED.

— FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER  
CAPT AMARINDER SINGH



THE CAPTAIN HAS NO PROBLEM IN TYING UP WITH THE BJP, IT PROVES THAT THE DECISION OF REPLACING HIM WAS RIGHT.

— CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON  
GOURAV VALLABH

# Sujok: A therapy seeking recognition

The Sujok therapy became popular in some parts of India among people suffering from chronic diseases after delivering promising results

Medical experts are always busy inventing new medicines and procedures for the rapidly proliferating new diseases across the world. However, a large number of diseases still elude modern medical science. The COVID-19 pandemic proved that to tackle this serious menace, apart from vaccination, we also need to study and explore alternative therapies like Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy with an open mind.

The allopathic standard procedures and protocols announced by AIIMS and ICMR have been changing. First, the anti-viral Remdesivir injection was touted as an effective option for treating severe COVID-19 cases but now it is off the list. Patients

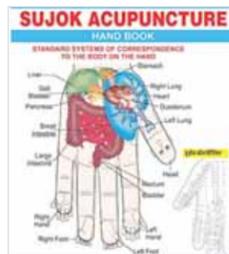


VK BAHUGUNA

(The author is chairman of Centre for Resource Management and Environment. The views expressed are personal.)

bought this drug for as high as ₹40,000 a dose.

Allopathic doctors at the same time poooh-poohed other claims of treatment by alternative therapies proposed by Ayurveda, Siddha and Homeopathy. It is a fact that Coronavirus was easily weathered by more than 85 per cent of population due to strong immunity; it is the balance 15 per cent that is at risk of complication and mortality. So, common sense demands that an immunity booster would help overcome the disease. It was successfully done by many Ayurvedic and homeopathic formulations. The Yajurved pharmacy, run by a young entrepreneur couple with modern methods of extraction of molecules for Ayurvedic medicines have successfully



treated more than 200 COVID-19 patients in Jaipur. The objective of narrating this is to exhort the government of India's health experts to open their mind to alternative medicines. There are several diseases which have no treatment in modern medical science. The writer through his organisations, has been monitoring such examples of alter-

native therapies. One such therapy — which is doing well in India, especially in Nagpur belt of Maharashtra and in Uttarakhand — is the 'Sujok Therapy', an advance version of acupressure with several additional methods like use of colour, magnets and lentils. This drugless therapy was invented by a Korean Professor, the late Park Jae Woo, a few decades ago. It is a mixture of Acupressure and other healing methods. Sujok is made of two words Su (Hand) and Jok (Feet). Sujok treatment is based on the principle that all parts of the body have a positional link in our palm and feet and it thus focuses only on treating the hands and feet. After successfully treating many chronic diseases in his country Prof

Park chose India to propagate his therapy and established Sujok Association of India in Nagpur. He groomed and trained a few physiotherapists and kept on visiting India to popularise this treatment. The therapy became popular in some parts of India among people suffering from chronic diseases like axonal neuropathy and cerebral palsy, epilepsy, migraine, autism, spectrum disorder, etc. It is a painless procedure and is a natural therapy, is safe and is without any need for oral medicine. Besides being affordable, it gives quick relief.

The Sujok treatment is carried out by using small needles and magnets specially defined and made with expert precision to carry out specialised treatment in the hands

and feet. Sujok needles are made of steel suitable for medical use. The needles have spring-like handles and are perfectly shaped for painless insertion. The therapy also uses the energy in lentil seeds and colour therapy. One of the most effective ways to massage the points of the body where the treatment is needed is done by a diagnostic and therapeutic stick after identifying the points and then treating those points by massaging.

Magnets are the most important tools in the armoury of the Sujok healer. They are used to channelise the flow of energy in the identified body part. Yet another way of treatment is the application of elastic ring messenger as useful and hand way to provide continuous pressure

on the identified point.

In chronic diseases like axonal neuropathy and cerebral palsy, Sujok therapy has achieved success. Then what is the hitch in recognising the procedure after verification of the protocol? After all, it is a procedure without any medicine and is not injurious to health. It is the obduracy and superiority complex of mandarins of health infrastructure in India that prevent recognition of such new procedures. The Sujok Association in India has been trying for recognition of its procedures for a few incurable chronic diseases. In some states like Uttarakhand, the health experts agreed to recognize it after they saw the cured patients' details but insist on prior approval from the government of India.

# NATO weighs Afghan lessons in waging major ops abroad

**BRUSSELS:** NATO Defense Ministers are weighing Thursday what lessons to draw from the almost two-decade-long military mission in Afghanistan, including whether the world's biggest security organization should even undertake major operations outside Europe and North America.

Ahead of the meeting at the U.S.-led military alliance's headquarters in Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the way the organization's biggest-ever operation ended shows that the challenges of such endeavors should not be underestimated.

"It highlights the challenges and the risks to engage in big missions and operations outside NATO territory," Stoltenberg told reporters. At

the same time, he said, "the lesson cannot be that we will never engage."

"We should not draw the wrong conclusion on Afghanistan and think that NATO allies and NATO should never again engage in military operations to fight extremism, or terrorism," he said.

NATO took the lead on international security efforts in Afghanistan in 2003 but ended combat operations in 2014 to focus on training local security forces. It helped build up an Afghan army of some 300,000 troops, but that force withered in just days in August in the face of a Taliban offensive.

More than 100,000 people were evacuated from the Afghan capital Kabul during the frenzied final days of a U.S. airlift after President Joe Biden

# China has been aggressor against India, must be held accountable: US diplomat

**Washington:** China has been an aggressor against India along the Himalayan border, a top American diplomat nominated by President Joe Biden as his next envoy to Beijing has told lawmakers, stating that the US must hold the Chinese government accountable for failing to play by the rules.

Nicholas Burns told members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his confirmation hearing on Wednesday that the US will challenge China where it must, including when Beijing takes actions that run counter to America's values and interests; threaten the security of the United States or its allies and partners; or undermine the rules-based international order.

"Beijing has been an aggressor against India along their Himalayan border; against Vietnam, the Philippines, and others in the South China Sea; against Japan in the East China Sea; and has launched an intimidation campaign against Australia and Lithuania," Burns said.

China claims sovereignty over all of the South

China Sea, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims.

Beijing is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. It has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region. Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and are also vital to global trade.

Burns, who served as the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 2005 to 2008, said the "Chinese genocide in Xinjiang and abuses in Tibet, its smothering of Hong Kong's autonomy and freedoms, and its bullying of Taiwan are unjust, and must stop".

Beijing's recent actions against Taiwan are especially objectionable and the US is right to continue to adhere to its one-China policy, he said.

"We are also right to support the peaceful resolution of disputes, and to oppose unilateral actions that undermine the status quo and stability in the Indo-Pacific," Burns, who

led negotiations on the landmark US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, told Americans lawmakers.

Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state - but China views the self-ruled island as a breakaway province. Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to achieve unification. Burns told lawmakers that the US will compete and compete vigorously with China where it should, including on jobs and the economy, critical infrastructure and emerging technologies.

The US will cooperate with China where it is in its interest, including on climate change, counter-narcotics, global health and non-proliferation, he told members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

China, he said, seeks to become the most powerful military, economic, and political actor in the Indo-Pacific.

"We must stand with our allies and partners to uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific, including by maintaining America's commercial and military superiority in 21st century technologies. **PTI**

# TTP terrorists killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Pak Police

**Peshawar:** Three militants of the banned terror outfit, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have been gunned down in a police raid in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, officials said on Thursday.

Based on intelligence, a counter-terrorism team of the police raided a compound in Shahpur area of Peshawar district on Wednesday night, they said.

The three terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire, while few others managed to escape, the police said.

The killed included wanted militant Hizbullah, the other two are yet to be identified, police said.

Search is on for the gunmen who escaped during the raid, officials said.

In the last few months, there has been an uptick in terror activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces. **PTI**

# Pak FM Qureshi, ISI chief in Kabul for talks with Taliban

**Islamabad:** During the day-long visit, the Pakistani delegation will hold talks with Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and call on leadership of the interim government in Kabul and other Afghan leaders, according to Foreign Office.

Muttaqi welcomed the Pakistani delegation at the Kabul International Airport.

"The talks between the two sides will cover the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and focus on ways and means to deepen cooperation in diverse areas," the Foreign Office said.

The Foreign Minister will also share Pakistan's perspective on issues of regional peace and stability, it said.

As a close fraternal neighbour, Pakistan has always stood by Afghanistan, keeping the border crossing points open for trade and pedestrian crossing under COVID protocols, it said.

Facilitative visa regime for Afghan nationals and border crossing procedures for trade and cargo have been instituted, while in recent months Pakistan has also provided humanitarian aid and assistance in the form of food stuffs

and medicines.

The Foreign Minister's visit reflects Pakistan's consistent policy of supporting the brotherly Afghan people, deepening bilateral trade and economic relations, and facilitating closer people-to-people contacts, according to FO.

The visit is taking place after the recent meeting of officials from China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Russia in Moscow and ahead of an upcoming meeting of foreign ministers of neighbours of Afghanistan plus Russia in Tehran next week. **PTI**

# UK Police charges 25-yr-old man with lawmaker's murder

**LONDON** — A man has been charged with murder and preparing acts of terrorism in the stabbing of a U.K. lawmaker who was killed as he met with the public at a church hall last week.

Authorities say a 25-year-old British man with Somali heritage, Ali Harbi Ali, has been charged in the death of David Amess. The case shook a nation accustomed to having face-to-face contact with its leaders.

"We will submit to the court that this murder has a terrorist connection, namely that it had both religious and ideological motivations," said Nick Price of the Crown

Prosecution Service.

"He has also been charged with the preparation of terrorist acts."

The death of Amess, a Conservative who had served in Parliament for almost 40 years and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2015, has shocked Britain's politicians, who pride themselves on being accessible to their constituents.

It has prompted conversations at the highest levels about how the country protects its leaders and grapples with extremism at home.

The slaying came five years after Labour Party lawmaker Jo Cox was shot and stabbed to death by a far-right extremist.

Cox was the first British lawmaker to be killed since a peace accord ended large-scale Northern Ireland violence almost 30 years earlier.

Amess, 69, was a social conservative who opposed abortion, campaigned for animal rights and strongly supported Britain's exit from the European Union.

Matt Jukes, the Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner for Specialist Operations, said the force "will continue to build our case." He said detectives had analyzed computers, searched several London addresses and reviewed CCTV footage as part of the investigation. **AP**

# Death toll reaches 88 as rain lashes Nepal, triggers floods, landslides

**Kathmandu:** Thirty people have gone missing in the incidents so far, according to the latest data published by the ministry's Disaster Management Division.

Panchthar, a district in eastern Nepal, recorded the highest number of deaths at 27, followed by 13 each in Ilam and Doti districts. Fatalities were also reported from 15 other districts, including Kalikot, Baitadi, Daddeldhura, Bajhang, Humla, Solukhumbu, Pyuthan, Dhankuta, Morang, Sunsari and Udayapur. At least 88 people lost their lives in the recent incidents of flood, landslides and inundation that hit different parts of the country, following incessant rains over the past

three days, health ministry officials said.

Eleven people were confirmed dead on Thursday morning. As many as 63 people died on Wednesday, while the death toll was 14 on Tuesday, they said.

The natural disaster hit 20 districts of Nepal. In Bajhang district, 21 people have gone missing. However, weather conditions have started improving from Thursday, the officials said. Home Minister Balkrishna Khand has directed the Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, National Investigation Department and Nepal Army to promptly rescue the foreign tourists stranded at Humla district. **PTI**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN**

This is to inform the General Public that following share certificates of Ausom Enterprise limited having its Registered Office at Secretarial Dept.606, Swagat, Near Lal Banglow, C.G. Road, Ahmedabad-380006 registered in the name of the following Shareholders have been lost by them.

Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.	Shares covered in each certificate
Mr. Suhas Pandurang Kulkarni	0006572	34839	2679125-2679174	50
	0006572	34840	2679175-2679224	50
	0006572	34841	2679225-2679274	50
	0006572	34842	2679275-2679324	50
	0006572	34843	2679325-2679374	50
	0006572	9557	754751-754800	50
Mrs. Vaishali Suhas Kulkarni	0006573	34844	2679375-2679424	50
	0006573	34845	2679425-2679474	50
	0006573	34846	2679475-2679524	50
	0006573	34847	2679525-2679574	50
	0006573	34848	2679575-2679624	50
	0006573	9550	754401-754450	50

The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificates.

Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificates should lodge such claim with the Ausom Enterprise limited having its registered office at Secretarial Dept.606, Swagat, Near Lal Banglow, C.G. Road, Ahmedabad-380006 or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Intime India Pvt Limited, 5TH floor 506 TO 508, Amarnath Business Centre-1 (ABC-1), Beside Gala Buss Centre, Nr. St. Xavier's College Corner, Off C G Road, Ellisebroad, Ahmedabad-380006, GUJARAT within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

**Place: Delhi**  
**Date: 22/10/2021**

**Vaishali Suhas Kulkarni**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Pradeep Kumar is owner of Shop Bearing No. 642, having serial No. 565, area measuring 43 sq. yds., situated at Kisan Garj Bazar, Palwal, Haryana (the "SANTA FLAT BEARING NO. 173, on 2ND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, IN POCKET-1, SITUATED AT MADIPUR PASCHIM PURI NEW DELHI. Accordingly, Police complaint has already been lodged dated 13/10/2021 in P.S. - Crime Branch Delhi, Vide LR- No. 819111/2021 and the same is under investigation. If any person has found/information /possession /knowledge of above said missing sale deed dated 04/03/2013 Doc 811 or has any claim/right/title of any kind over the above said property, then submit/intimate within 7 days in writing to Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, AB-18, Mianwali Nagar, PO Sunder Vihar, Delhi - 110087. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be acceptable.

**Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)**  
220, 2nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Kot Nagre, N. Delhi-110017  
Ph: 011-4111257-29 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

**LOST AND FOUND**

I, Sneh Kochhar, w/o late Mr. Deepak Kochhar, r/o M-119, Greater Kailash 1, New Delhi 110048, have misplaced/lost the original Sale Deed of M 119, Greater Kailash 1, New Delhi, executed between DLF Housing & Construction Private Limited & Dr. Dharshraj Ojha, duly registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, New Delhi on 22nd March, 1965 as Document No. 1174 in Additional Book No.1 Volume No. 1281 on Pages 172 to 173. Finder contact 9810381629

# Australia, UK defend AUKUS pact, say fears overhyped

**Kuala Lumpur:** Australia and Britain on Thursday defended their nuclear submarine deal with the US amid concerns it could escalate tensions in the region and spark an arms race.

UK Minister for Armed Forces James Heappey said there "has been a lot of over-hyping" of the pact known as AUKUS. He said the UK and the US have been sharing such technologies for decades and that Australia's decision to join was merely to develop its own submarine capability.

The pact will provide Australia with nuclear reactors to power its submarines but the subs will not be nuclear-armed. It drew mixed reactions in the region, with Malaysia and Indonesia expressing concern it could escalate tensions in hotspots such as the South China Sea. China, which claims most of the disputed sea, slammed the pact and warned it would threaten regional stability. **AP**

# Ukraine hits all-time death record amid vaccine hesitancy

**AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE**

Coronavirus infections and deaths in Ukraine surged to all-time highs Thursday amid a laggard pace of vaccination, with overall inocula-

tions among the lowest in Europe. Ukrainian authorities reported 22,415 new confirmed infections and 546 deaths in the past 24 hours, the highest numbers since the start of the pandemic.

# Biden's ambassador pick emphasises US strengths in countering China

**Washington:** US President Joe Biden's pick for ambassador to Beijing has told lawmakers considering his nomination that Americans should "have confidence in our strength when dealing with the rise of China, a nation he said the US and its allies could manage."

Nicholas Burns, a former senior State Department official and diplomat with decades of experience in Washington and overseas, on Wednesday testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at a time when the Biden administration is trying to swing US focus overseas to managing competition with China. The post of China ambassador stands to be one of

the most important for US foreign policy.

China's assertiveness militarily, diplomatically and economically in the region and beyond under its ambitious president, Xi Jinping, increasingly has given rise to warnings of a new Cold War. This includes hawkish talk of an arms race with warnings of China threatening to overtake the US in high tech, trade, military technology and other arenas while challenging the US for world influence.

In his testimony Wednesday, Burns had a calmer take, framing the US relationship with China as manageable. **AP**

**Government of Maharashtra**

**Public Works Division No 2, Gadchiroli**

**E-Tender Notice No. 12 /2021-2022**

Online percentage rate e-tenders in 'B-1' form are invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No 2, Gadchiroli for the following works from registered contractors in appropriate class of the Public Works Department of the Maharashtra State.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs.) Lakhs	Earnest money (Rs.)	Time limit for completion (months)	Class of Contractor	Cost of E-Tender (Rs.)	
1	Construction of compound wall for treasury office building at dhanora taluka dhanora dist gadchiroli	72.00	72,000/-	06 Months	IV (A) & Above	1120/-	
		<b>Society</b>					
1	Miscellaneous work to tahsil office building at dhanora taluka dist. gadchiroli	29.00	Exempted	03 Months	A & Above	560/-	
2	Miscellaneous work to grain godaun (old) (2 numbers) building at dhanora tah. dhanora dist gadchiroli	30.00	Exempted	03 Months	A & Above	560/-	
3	Miscellaneous work to sub-divisional engineer quarter pwd sub-division dhanora (south) at dhanora tah. dhanora dist. gadchiroli	25.00	Exempted	03 Months	A & Above	560/-	

**Note :-**

- All the Details of Tender are available on portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
- Bidders should submit their bid online.
- Payment of Bills will be made as per availability of funds.
- Bidders are advised not to wait for last day of submission of tenders. Extension for date of submission, due to any technical / software problems in website, will not be granted.
- As per Government of Maharashtra, Public Works Department Circular No.2016/CR-20/Bldg-2, Mantralaya, Mumbai 400032 Dt.28.04.2016, E-MB Recording and E-Payment will be implemented in due course. The above condition of E-MB Recording and E-Payment as per circular as above will be applicable subject to completion of necessary training of concerned persons.
- For further clarification bidders should contact on 07132-233381.
- Contact Details Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Gadchiroli, Telephone No. - 07132-233381 E-mail: gadchiroli2\_ee@mahapwd.com

**Executive Engineer,  
Public Works Division No 2,  
Gadchiroli**

**DGIPPR/C2413/21-22**

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**

**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड धमतरा (छ.ग.)**

Email ID- eedha-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone Number-07722-238718

**// ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना //**

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से प्रपत्र - "ए" में प्रतिष्ठित दर पर जल जीवन मिशन के रेट्रोफिटिंग/सिंगल किलेज नलजल प्रदाय योजनान्तर्गत निर्माण कार्य हेतु निम्नाखिखत आनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./पिनकोड	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
01	173/18.10.2021.85657	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम मोटे-पलतावा+अरलीक+कावराव SVS	190.29
02	174/18.10.2021.85660	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम बेरबहल+कनली+गोथली SVS	174.69
03	175/18.10.2021.85661	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम मोहाबाव+पेंदपारी+गोथली+बोडरा SVS	197.37
04	176/18.10.2021.85662	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम कोडगाव+मोहनपुरी+विरातावली SVS	174.91
05	177/18.10.2021.85663	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम बागविया SVS	76.78
06	178/18.10.2021.85664	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम चंभरपुर+भाली+सुनपुरी+भालनरी SVS	266.60
07	179/18.10.2021.85665	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम पिंढेवा+मोरेमान+कावराव+पेंदपारी SVS	206.28
08	180/18.10.2021.85666	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम तावलाव+मिंलाव+कांका कुम्भारवाडीका+मोहनपुरी SVS	276.01
09	181/18.10.2021.85667	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम ठेठरी+सुखीसा+देवडीकेवणे+कावराव+अर्दुने+वाली SVS	298.95
10	182/18.10.2021.85668	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम रितावला SVS	299.81
11	183/18.10.2021.85669	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम कसुदु Retrofitting	273.63
12	184/18.10.2021.85670	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम विठरी+कावराव+पेंदपारी Retrofitting	245.15
13	185/18.10.2021.85671	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम कानो+मिंलाव+मोहनपुरी+पेंदपारी Retrofitting	255.33
14	186/18.10.2021.85672	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम लार्गोडी Retrofitting	5.63
15	187/18.10.2021.85673	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम सेराव (सी) Retrofitting	123.95
16	188/18.10.2021.85674	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम मण्डा Retrofitting	67.21
17	189/18.10.2021.85675	विकासखंड नगरी के ग्राम वापरी (सी) Retrofitting	48.28

**नोट :-** उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामग्य शर्तें धरौहर राशि की विस्तृत निविदा, विज्ञापित निविदा, दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) से दिनांक-25.10.2021 को देखा जा सकता है एवं दिनांक 08.11.2021 साय 5:30 बजे तक निविदा में नाम ली जा सकती है।

हस्ता / -

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड  
धमतरा (छ.ग.)

**R.O. No- 64606/11**  
**R.O. Date- 21/10/2021**

**SPECIAL TRAIN**

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that to meet the demand of extra traffic, Railways have decided to run the following Special Train as under:-

06239/06240 Yesvantpur-Chandigarh-Yesvantpur Express Special (Bi-Weekly)					
Train No. 06239		STATIONS		Train No. 06240	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	13:55	YESVANTPUR	06:05	---	---
15:50	---	CHANDIGARH	---	03:35	---

**Days of Run : 06239 Ex. Yesvantpur** from 03.11.2021 on every Wednesday, Saturday and **06240 Ex. Chandigarh** from 06.06.2021 on every Tuesday, Saturday

**Stoppage:** Tumkur, Arsikere, Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Miraj Jn., Pune, Manmad, Bhusaval, Bhopal, Jhansi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Panipat & Ambala Cantt. Stations.

**Accommodation :** 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper and 2nd Seating

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Visit RailMadad website [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in) Download RailMadad app.

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**Office of the Chief General Manager, Construction & Design Services, (E/M), Nalkoop Wing, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), 5/381, Viram Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow**

**Letter No. 1363/Karya-3(21)/20**  
**Date: 18-10-2021**

**E-Tender Notice**

Digitally signed e-bids are invited on behalf of the Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) for execution of Works for annual Operation and Maintenance of water supply tube wells, rising mains, distribution mains up to different building including with pumping of different types of pumps as per requirement of site etc. complete in all respect at **Government Institute of Medical Science, Greater Noida.**

From eligible, reputed and experienced bidder. Detailed E-bid documents will be available for download on 23.10.2021 by 10:00 Hrs. onwards submission of e-bid till 29.10.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs. and opening of e-bid on 30/10/2021 at 15:00 Hrs. onwards. EMD required as per details given NIT & E-tender Cost is Rs 5000.00 + GST @ 18% for each tender. Details are also available on U.P. Govt. e-procurement portal <http://tender.up.nic.in> & UPJN website [www.jn.uspcd.gov.in](http://www.jn.uspcd.gov.in).





**Bollywood**  
 'Playing a paratrooper in *Bull* would be exhilarating and an honour.'  
 —Shahid Kapoor

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/>



## AFTER THE STORM

**ALOK BANSAL** ruminates on some aspects that employers need to bear in mind while coming to terms with a post-pandemic world

Times of crisis, of disruption or constructive change, are not only predictable, but desirable. They mean growth. Taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear the most.

Personally, this is my favourite take on crisis and was articulated by Fyodor Dostoevsky, the Russian novelist and philosopher behind classics such as *Crime And Punishment*, *The Brothers Karamazov* among many others. A more recent opinion that I found interesting was expressed by Judy Smith, an author, television producer and crisis management expert whose work inspired the famous series *Scandal* but we are digressing. She said that there's always an opportunity within a crisis. Just as it forces an individual to look inside, it forces a company to re-examine its policies and practices. I agree and also subscribe to Dostoevsky's opinion that a crisis helps us confront what we fear the most.

This pandemic, for instance, has put us all in the throes of change that we never saw coming. Covid-19 has drastically ravaged economies across the globe and underscored the urgent need for corporate reinvention. There is an opportunity in this gloom to reinvent the wheel, push ourselves out of our comfort zone and reimagine the post pandemic workplace. There is

however a lot more ahead of us that we need to process. For instance, a Harvard Business Review report says that post-pandemic, the office will only become a secondary place to carry out tasks or for routine meetings. Much of the work will be done from home and yet can we do without tangible human connection when we work? These are some of the questions that I have grappled with, apart from the obvious ones about hybrid offices, flexibility and, the downside of increased digital intensity.

Here are some of thoughts on how we can ensure that positive change and evolution unfold in the present and the near future:

### Adaptability is key

According to the McKinsey Consumer Pulse surveys conducted around the world, roughly three-quarters of people using digital channels for the first time during the pandemic say they will continue using them even when things return to 'normal'. Covid-19 has decisively pushed the world towards digital transformation and the new normal requires us to upskill, adapt, innovate, automate and adopt cutting edge technologies to move forward.

In a McKinsey global survey of 800 senior executives in July 2020, two-thirds of the respondents said they were



increasing investment in automation and AI. All over the world, we are beginning to see an increase in digitisation and technology-driven businesses. There is hence an enormous need for professionals who can work with Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, cryptocurrencies and NLP's (Natural Language Processing). E-commerce and digital transactions are being embraced extensively and so businesses must adapt to digitisation or will be left behind. As Jared Spataro, corporate VP for Microsoft 365, said, "If we just let the default reign, we'll end up in a worse place than pre-pandemic."

### Flexible offices are here to stay

In the post pandemic world, rigid work flows, regimented work spaces and office hierarchies are no longer relevant. Remote work, virtual meetings and flexible workspaces are normative now and will remain so for a while.

In 2020, in the first flush of the pandemic, multiple surveys hinted that substantial reduction in office space is estimated but this trend will keep growing if the need for physical infrastructure continues to diminish. Remote work modules will also afford companies the opportunity to engage workers beyond borders and in demographics that, due to geographical constraints, were inaccessible earlier.

However, whether too much flexibility make us less productive is another important question. Jan Rezag, founder and CEO of productivity analytics firm, Time Is Ltd, said that if interruptions keep us from focusing at home, we will just be as unproductive as we were before.

### Investing in human capital

Thought leaders all over the world are advocating that the human element must be made central to businesses. Radical tech-interventions alone will not serve us in this ever-evolving digital world. The world will need people who can synergise and create solutions

for problems that all of us are facing currently.

To thrive in a holistic way, companies must invest in the human capital that makes their success and survival possible, especially in the current scenario. More than ever before, it is essential that employees feel safe, appreciated and financially protected. Whether it is a dedicated mental health helpline, a network of ambulances and doctors on call, telemedicine consults, medical safety nets like free vaccination and health benefits or leave with-pay to high-risk employees, nothing should be left to chance to help a team through this unprecedented time.

### Leveraging young talent

The pandemic may have disrupted businesses and impacted millions of jobs, however, we can gain lost ground. Take India's example, for instance. Young people between 18 and 29 years constitute 22 per cent of India's population and if we leverage this talent through skilling initiatives especially in non-tier one cities, our growth as a nation will be unstoppable.

The key is to not forget the vast talent pool in cities with inadequate corporate infrastructure. Skilling is all about making the most of India's untapped youth potential.

### Making the industry more equitable

According to The Gensler Workplace Survey 2020, while workers around the world have developed new needs and expectations because of Covid-19, many of their pre-existent issues have just been exacerbated by the pandemic. Hence, the future belongs to those who want to co-create solutions and build a better world. To do that we must acknowledge existing faults, including a yawning digital divide. When we speak of skilling the young, we also must focus on increasing digital literacy.

Technology must be democratised so that we do not leave anyone behind and the existent financial, social, and professional inequities do not continue to expand among underserved demographics. Businesses must become more equitable, learn to respect non-traditional work experiences, unusual professional backgrounds and ethnicities. Including more people with disabilities is also important in the post-pandemic office, now that mobility is not a precondition for working in the tech industry.

(The author is the MD of Visionet Systems (India) and the global head of BFSI Business.)

## Making it happen

Actor VIDYUT JAMMWAL can be credited with almost single-handedly putting together his latest film, *Sanak: Hope Under Siege*

Vidyt Jammwal is undoubtedly one of the biggest action-stars in Bollywood. His stunts, grit and the constant pursuit for excellence in action sequences are unparalleled. His latest action-thriller, *Sanak: Hope Under Siege* has garnered much love from the audience.

The novel action sequences, edge-of-the-seat narrative, amazing performances and the nerve-wracking experience the movie offers seem to have clicked with the audience. Naturally, Vidyt is thrilled with the amazing response that the film has been receiving across the globe.

But, there's an interesting story behind the making of the film. Generally, a director casts the actors to translate the story on paper into a reel life experience. However, with *Sanak*, things were a little different. Here, the lead actor got the director to put together the film. Not many people know this, but it was Vidyt who had fixed a meeting between *Sanak*'s director, Kanishk Varma, and the film's producer, Vipul Amrutlal Shah.

Shedding light on the incident, the actor said he has known the Kanishk for quite some time. "Kanishk has been a friend since our Delhi University days. He used to study with my brother. I have known him for more than a decade now," shares Vidyt.

He adds that having known the director for such a long time and having spent time with him, he had complete faith in his capabilities and that's what pushed him to take the matter up with the producer.

Vidyt reveals, "We had been hanging around together and I have always believed that he is supremely talented and when you have people who you can see have talent, why not work with them. So I introduced him to Vipul sir and he eventually came on board for *Sanak*."

Also starring Chandan Roy Sanyal, Neha Dhupia and debutant Rukmini Maitra, *Sanak: Hope Under Siege* is presented by Zee Studios, in association with Sunshine Pictures Pvt Ltd, and is available to stream exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar Multiplex.

—JANS



## When fame calls

**TEAM VIVA** looks at five Bollywood actors who will be seen in some major Hollywood projects!

Gal Gadot, Arnie Hammer, Annette Bening, Russell Brand, Rose Leslie, Leticia Wright and Emma Mackey among others. Both films are adapted from books penned by renowned author, Agatha Christie.

### Sikandar Kher

Sikandar Kher is all set to play his part in Dev Patel's directorial debut, *Monkey Man*. Extremely excited to land the project, Sikandar has been known to play unusual characters that suit his persona. It is only a matter of time before we see what he has to offer us through his role in this project.

### Dhanush

Next in line is the south-Indian superstar, Dhanush who will soon be seen in *The Gray Man*. Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo (of *The Avengers* fame) the film is an action thriller based on the debut novel by Mark Greaney. The film also stars Ryan Gosling and Chris Evans.

Dhanush might most probably be playing the head of one of the teams that is after the freelance assassin and former CIA operative, Court Gentry played by Ryan Gosling.

### Kubbra Sait

Kubbra Sait is all set to star in Apple TV's international mega original series *Foundation* based on the series of Novels by Isaac Asimov. The series has been created by David S Goyer and Josh Friedman and has Kubbra playing the role of Phara Kaeen, a Grand Huntress from Planet Anacreon. The first episodes of the series came out on September 24.

The lines are blurring, talents are exploring and the world is gearing up to witness creative geniuses share screen space from across seven oceans. Once upon a time the meeting of the East and West was a distant dream. Our stars are finally making this dream come true. We wish each one of our much loved homegrown stars make as much noise in Hollywood as they have been doing in Bollywood.

**Alia Bhatt**  
 First of the many is our very own *desi* Greek God, Hrithik Roshan who is all set to make his debut in an American spy-thriller. All set to play the parallel lead, the news has brought a lot of curiosity and excitement for his fans. He has the Indian audience grooving to his moves already. It is only a matter of time before we see the star make the world swoon to his act.

**Ali Fazal**  
 Ali Fazal will soon be seen in the Hollywood film, *Death On The Nile* which is a follow-up to director Kenneth Branagh's *Murder On The Orient Express*. It stars



When it comes to dating today, there's a high probability that it would either involve meeting someone virtually or through an online dating app, more than any other way, especially in the post-pandemic world.

Of course, people still meet in cafes, through mutual friends, or even at work. But lately, dating apps have been witnessing a steep rise, perhaps, due to the dramatic shift over the years in people's mindsets. Simply put, even though the feeling of love and romance is something that has remained constant forever, how people connect, including the baby boomers, is ever changing because of the evolving times.

Let's delve deeper to explore the real difference between how baby boomers and millennials prefer dating in the current times.

### Virtual vs physical

It's a no-brainer that social media has had a significant impact on not just the way we live, but also how our paths meet with others. Since the medium is overwhelmingly used by millennials today, it has become a new territory to traverse in dating with its own principles and characteristics, which most in the boomer age haven't experienced.

According to a recent survey by a leading dating app, around 83 per cent of the people above 50 years and 72 per cent between the ages of 21-30 would wish to meet their partners in person to make real connections. Baby boomers seem to be uncomfortable when it comes to virtual dating. They wish to keep the experience real.

However, on the contrary, only 46 per cent of youngsters

## Love across generations

**RAVI MITTAL** draws a contrast between the dating preferences of millennials and baby boomers



below the age of 20 would prefer a virtual date. Adding to the surprise element, while 73 per cent of people from both metro cities and small towns favour meeting in person, 27 per cent of them would still go for virtual dating due to the fear of the pandemic.

### Ghosting

Undoubtedly, breaking off with someone can never be easy. But at least, baby boomers know how to call it off respectfully, unlike millennials. For them, the breakup paradigm has switched to something cloudier — ghosting, as it has come to be known.

It's basically ceasing communication with the other person without giving proper reasons, and also ignoring any of their further attempts to reach out. This form of emotional stonewalling is arguably worse than the actual breakup itself. Interestingly, there's been no

solid evidence on the increasing frequency of ghosting by millennials. It's just looked at as a symptom of the increasing role social media plays in our lives, particularly in relationships.

As per the same survey, nearly 58 per cent of people in the age group 18-20 would ghost their match if they found someone better. Conversely, 73 per cent baby boomers would rather remain friends and end things on a good note.

### Casual relationships, friendships or marriage?

It is arguably gen Z's breezy approach that gave rise to online dating apps and made phrases such as 'hooking up' and 'friends with benefits' part of the lexicon. But when it comes to serious life-long relationships, they like to take it slow. As the survey states, approximately 45 per cent of people in the age group of 18-30 are looking for friendships on dating

### The fear of rejection

A pervasive trope maintains that baby boomers have thicker skin than millennials, and one cannot agree more. Earlier, when dating apps didn't exist and people met physically, baby boomers used to take the risk of getting rejected right then and there. Terrifying prospects like these didn't stop them from expressing their feelings.

Today, millennials, on the other hand, are afraid to start anything serious, just in case everything turns out badly in the end. Hence, they're more open to living in a detached and passive state than putting themselves out there. This is exactly what has led to the increasing demand for online dating apps.

(The author is the founder and CEO of QuackQuack, an online dating platform.)

## TRENDBLAZER

### SPEAKING UP FOR NATURE: TIGER SHROFF

The world is sitting on a ticking time bomb and, as members of the human species, we need to act now before the damage becomes irreversible. Recently, actor **TIGER SHROFF** extended his support to Bhamla Foundation for the cause of urban afforestation.

Shroff shares, "Conserving the urban forests and slowing down climate change is the need of the hour if we want to build a sustainable future for us all. Even a small change in your lifestyle at home can go a long way in protecting the environment."



### fairtalk EMRAAN HASHMI

"In India, horror films are not really up to speed like other genres because not too many people have worked in this genre. Not many people have explored it. And I feel that not many filmmakers dare to do something new and different in today's times. It is a genre that people have not been able to tap into good aesthetics, but when done well, the audience has sat up and noticed."



### dailytalk RAFTAAR

"I've always gotten a rush by performing on stage. I'm glad I did *One Mic Stand 2* since I got to experience a new form of performance that is very different from music. I have seen the last season and it was absolutely fantastic. I loved all of the performances. I thought the guest celebrities had great spirit and did complete justice to their sets."



### GADOT'S THUMBS UP TO BATMAN AND CATWOMAN

*Wonder Woman* star **GAL GADOT** has given a thumbs up to actor Robert Pattinson as the new Batman and Zoe Kravitz as Catwoman.

She expressed her admiration during an event at the Academy Museum when she was asked if she had seen the new *The Batman* trailer. "Rob looks amazing. I love his voice and the whole tone of everything. And Zoe looks incredible, she's an extremely talented sweetheart. I'm so happy to have another female as a comrade," was her response.



It was some time in the second half of the '90s that on the insistence of a friend (a friend's boyfriend to be precise) that I gingerly sampled something which did not spell love at first sight. Several white blobs placed on a plate, which tasted somewhat bland and served with a fiery red chutney was certainly not my idea of gourmet food and I refused to dig into a second piece. While the couple parted ways, I gradually developed a great affinity to this snack like the rest of Delhi so much so that I craved for it on days when the in-between meals hunger pangs strike. So, when The Art of Dumpling (TAOD), a fine dining restaurant dedicated to... you guessed it, dumplings, I was raring to dig in.



**Full up with filling**

With its spread of 149 varieties, The Art of Dumpling scores not just on quantity but also taste, says SAIMI SATTAR

Located in the heart of the city, the wooden interiors, warm lighting, unobtrusive yet attentive service makes the place quite popular among families as well as groups. On the night that I dine there, at various times, the restau-

our lips and anticipating the food that is in store. First up is the *Gondi soup* where ball-shaped dumplings are stuffed with chicken that has been seasoned with herbs. While the broth is delicately flavoured, it is the taste of the succulent balls that seem to explode in the mouth and elevate a simple soup to the next level. The *Oromo*, where Tzatziki oyster mushrooms are rolled into a beautifully tender, almost transparent cover had a clean



flavour. The chicken dumplings, where the spices are a little more pronounced, have us asking for more. Rangoon, a crispy, fried dumpling with all the crunch minus the sticky oil has a crab filling and Burmese flavours. The creamy filling contrasts and complements the crispy exterior while ensuring that a mental note is made of... to be ordered the next time we are here. The platter that is put up for us next looked more like round

*koftas* or kebabs. Called *Rissolops dumpling*, it is a soft, melt-in-the-mouth variety. And the flavours, a tad more intense than what we had earlier. While the restaurant specialises in an extensive dumpling menu, it also has an extensive Indian menu on offer. We had the *Chef's special chicken tikka*, which is the only dish that strikes a slightly discordant note in the otherwise perfect meal. Though cooked to perfection, the flavours are a little too strong.

All too soon, we are digging into the main course. The *Khao pad rice*, a vegetarian offering with Asian flavours, can be eaten without a side dish. The rice, with a slight bite, has the sauces and vegetables in a perfect balance. We team it with *Fish in mahalak sauce* which is tender. The umami flavours are heightened by the spring onions and mushrooms that add a slight bite to balance the succulent fish. What comes up next is a surprise. It looks like noodles or spaghetti but rather than pale white, it is greyish black in colour. However, it is only when you dip your spoon in do you realise that it slips right through the *Auric black spaghetti* which begins to melt a little. It is ice cream! The flavour is minty. It cleanses my palate—instead of adding another heavy note of flavour—leaving me satiated, happy and content.

**Cuisine without borders**

The newly relaunched Pickwick by Claridges takes KHUSHBU KIRTI back in time to the Victorian era



While my experience at Dhaba, Claridges, was extremely pleasant, I didn't think Pickwick would match my already high expectations but I was wrong. Not only was the ambience of the posh place elegant, with a Victorian setting, but also was the food highly commendable.

Its name, of course you guessed it right, comes from Charles Dickens' novel The Pickwick Papers. The Pickwick Club depicted the adventures and the travel experiences of those who visited it.

The aforementioned club was fundamentally a society set for the gathering of intellectuals, sharing scientific facts and knowledge. Dickens' popular character Thomas Gradgrind and his obsession with facts is what comes to my mind here.

What caught my eye first in the all-day luxurious dining area was the huge world map drawn on the entire ceiling. Sukirti Singhal, the marcom manager, acquainted me with the concept behind the same. The map was actually of how the world looked around the 18th century. Jazz music was being played in the background which only enhanced the environment.

Their themed menu of 'cuisine without borders' entailed European, American, Indian and Japanese dining mixed with innovative cooking techniques. An exclusive Sushi bar was displayed with panache, taken care of by a Japanese chef to maintain the authenticity. They also served colourfully decorated *Omakase sushi*, prepared especially by the chef. The bar of classy wines and cocktails, too, dazzled the spectators. What was aberrant about the restaurant was that they had a cosy little corner especially to prepare pizzas. The sushis at the sushi bar, as explained by Ashish, one of the servers there, could be customised to the needs of the people.

Already amazed by the atmosphere, I couldn't wait to eat out the food. We were served with a bread basket in the beginning, that encom-

passed bellpepper, Fukashiya bread with Oregano Fukashiya. The *Mulligatawny soup* that consisted of Madras curry powder, and tasted of lentils, carrots, apples and delicious coconut milk was next on the list. The dish was served with a little rice and beaten poppadom. The soup was of a bright sunny yellow colour and was warm and soothing as it trickled through the throat, calming the insides. It, undoubtedly, made for an excellent appetiser. Chef Rajesh explicated how continental food was his passion and how he observed that customers would always return for the sizzlers. The Japanese *Tuna pizza* looked aesthetic with minuscule slices of palatable tuna, fresh jalapeno and avocado. It was cold and extremely flavourful due to the presence of truffle aioli, garnished with 24K gold.

Further, the *Homemade meat tortellini* comprised well-cooked lamb, ring shaped pasta that looked like dumplings, butter and pepper jus. It had a slight savoury taste which was only complemented by what was served next — the *Shepherd's pie*. With the base of thoroughly cooked meat-pie and the surface of a crust of mashed potatoes which made it creamy, the pie was, in every way, delectable. It was filling and the taste lingered. It had become my favourite on the very first bite.

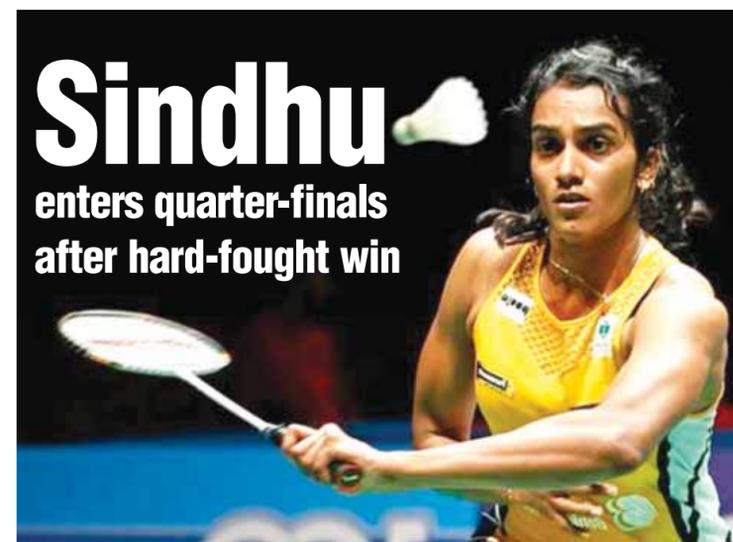
Another English dish we received was the *Fish and chips*. The beer batter river sole fish was crunchy and juicy at the same time, and served with mushy peas, and lemony tartar sauce. The taste was only augmented with the sides of fries and malt vinegar with it. Towards the end, while my belly was completely full and satisfied, the classic British dessert of *24K gold English bread butter pudding*, garnished with a gold leaf, was presented. I was more impressed by its appearance. This signature dish was made of brios bread, luscious sugar syrup, it had the goodness of vanilla and blueberries.

**DHFL** National Office Address: HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051. Branch Address: Dhiraaj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice(s) to the Borrower(s) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the said Borrower(s)), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00000141 of Raj Nagar Branch) Blacksmith Interiors Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Ashok B. Asoya (Co Borrower 1) Juhu Juhu (Co Borrower 2) Blacksmith Project Pvt Ltd (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 17813367 /- (₹ One Crore Seventy Eight lakh Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Seven) NPA (10-04-2020)	Apartment No. C3-202, 2nd Floor Block C3, Diplomatic Greens Phase 2 Gurgaon H O Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana - 122001	(LC No. 00043086 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Nikhil Kumar Singh (Borrower) Priyanka Kapoor (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 5213707 /- (₹ Fifty Two lakh Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Plot No-63, Block-d, Ugf, Hukilgatar Road, Kharsa No-262/258/217/4, Viage- Bharola, Adash Nagar Delhi Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110033
(LC No. 0000430 of Gurgaon Branch) Ashok Bansal (Borrower) Saroj (Co Borrower 1) Dharmender Bansal (Co Borrower 2) Pinky Bansal (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 10452025 /- (₹ One Crore Forty Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Twenty Five) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	Plot No. C 57 South Extension Part 1 New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110001	(LC No. 00001633 of Gurgaon Branch) Paarth Graphics (Borrower) Navneet Gulati (Co Borrower 1) Sarika Gulati (Co Borrower 2) Kaushal Belgoo (Guarantor 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 5076722 /- (₹ Fifty Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Two) NPA ( 09-02-2021 )	M_MACHINE_NAME :- 1) Printing Machine / 8 Colour Flexo Printing Machine Multitec AID-S Pvt Ltd 2) UPS / 120 Kva True Online Ups With 100 Ah Smt Batts KAVERI POWER MANAGING PVT LTD. AP_INVOICE_NO :- SLS/TAX/015 & PROFORMA/18
(LC No. 00000004 of Noida Branch) Kumari Kumar Pandey (Borrower) Priyanka Kumari (Co Borrower 1) Brisk Infonet Pvt Ltd (Co Borrower 2) Dharmendra Kumar Singh (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 4501921 /- (₹ Forty Five lakh One Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One) NPA ( 09-02-2021 )	Unit No E 33 Type E Plot No. Bgh A Paramount Golf Foreste Site C Opp Sector Zeta Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308	(LC No. 00000952 of Bhiwadi Branch) Jay Narayan (Borrower) Kusum Devi (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 3739952 /- (₹ Thirty Seven lakh Thirteen Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Two) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	B-512-A (Adjoining Prop No. B-513), SF (Front LHS Flat) without roof, Plot no.1 Kh no.2750/616, Village Basal Parapur Sardarshah Park New Delhi Delhi - 110015
(LC No. 00043168 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Prashant Kumar Singh (Borrower) Satyender Kumar Singh (Co Borrower 1) Anuradha Singh (Co Borrower 2) Somya Singh (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 3801229 /- (₹ Thirty Eight lakh One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Nine) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	Unit No D Dp 1204 Penta House Tower D cascade Gardens Sector 99 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana - 122001	(LC No. 00002048 of Ghaziabad Branch) Vishal Kumar Jain (Borrower) Anu Jain (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 3479246 /- (₹ Thirty Four lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty Six) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	440/1F, Khata No. 76 & 27, Kharsa No.398/34-0/41, Village- Seelampur, Gandhi Nagar, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110031
(LC No. 00001429 of New Delhi-west Branch) Dinesh Bhasin (Borrower) Anju Bhasin (Co Borrower 1) Kanika Bhasin (Co Borrower 2) Sidharth Bhasin (Guarantor 1) Sanjay Bhasin (Guarantor 2)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 6642415 /- (₹ Sixty Six lakh Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	H. No. S-1 / 91(Old Mpl No. 43), G. F, Plot No-78a Old Mahavir Nagar Kharsa No. 4 Tilak Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110018	(LC No. DEL37623 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) ASHA YADAV (Borrower)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 3173201 /- (₹ Thirty One lakh Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred One) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	H/FLAT NO.8C, FLOOR NO. SECOND, PLOT NO. LIG FLAT, PRASHAD NAGAR, VILLAGE. KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI New Delhi Delhi - 110005
(LC No. 00043729 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Gurpreet Singh Dhanua (Borrower) Bahadur Singh (Co Borrower 1) Mohinder Singh (Co Borrower 2) Gur Sewak Kaur (Guarantor 1) Gurinder Kaur (Guarantor 2)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 4040002 /- (₹ Forty lakh Forty Thousand Two) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	208 A Kh No 181/150 3rd With Roof Rights Prakash Mohalla Garhiharja Maria East Of Kailash Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110065	(LC No. 00001074 of New Delhi-west Branch) Amit Agarwal (Borrower) Manish Aggarwal (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 2757006 /- (₹ Twenty Seven lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Six) NPA (09-08-2021)	Plot No. M 32 Third Floor With Roof Rights, block M Tihar,harj Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110064
(LC No. 00001882 of Noida Branch) Delta Securities Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Arjun Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Anuradhika Sharma (Co Borrower 2) Dhruv Sharma (Guarantor 1) Bhupender Sharma (Guarantor 2)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 18149247 /- (₹ One Crore Eighty One lakh Forty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty Seven) NPA ( 11-03-2021 )	Plot No. 14/B6 Block No. 14 Malviya Nagar Near Vijaya Bank Jaipur Jaipur Rajasthan - 302001	(LC No. 00001796 of Raj Nagar Branch) Hira Lal Pareek (Borrower) Rekha Devi (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 2794249 /- (₹ Twenty Seven lakh Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Nine) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Prop Nos-x/1506 & Y/1508,third floor Rear Side,plot No-a-57,kharsa No- 129 Gali No-7,willghondhijarjaghar Colony,shahdara,delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110031
(LC No. 00000910 of Gurgaon Branch) Poonam Devi (Borrower) Lokesh Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Yogesh Kumar (Co Borrower 2) Ram Prasad (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 3350817 /- (₹ Thirty Three lakh Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen) NPA ( 11-05-2020 )	Flat No 767, Second Floor Pocket 2, Sector E Vasant Kunj New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110070	(LC No. 00001790 of Gurgaon Branch) Classic Moulds (Borrower) Thaneswar Dayal Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Bindu Sharma (Co Borrower 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 2300371 /- (₹ Twenty Three lakh Three Hundred Seventy One) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	M_MACHINE_NAME :- 1) Cnc Engraving machine / Double Spindle Cnc Engraving Machine With Standard Accessories The Double Head CNC Company 2) Cnc Vertical Machining Center COSMOS IMPEX INDIA PVT LTD. AP_INVOICE_NO :- 219/R/17-18VMC & GS-17-001
(LC No. 00002137 of Noida Branch) Maninder Singh (Borrower) Manmeet Singh Makar (Co Borrower 1) Achint Kaur (Co Borrower 2) S Manjeet Singh (Guarantor 1) Gurdeep Kaur (Guarantor 2)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 7476450 /- (₹ Seventy Four lakh Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty) NPA ( 09-02-2021 )	H.no-168, Basement, SF And TF Old No 423, Old Gupta Colony, Village Rajpur Chhano North Delhi, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110009	(LC No. 000011005 of Greater Noida Branch) Prasantjeet Mitra (Borrower) Divya Mitra (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 2052865 /- (₹ Twenty lakh Fifty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Plot No - 700 First floor Rm (Hs) Flat No-c, Lig Flat Shalimar Garden Ext - 1 Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201001
(LC No. 00001097 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Sukhvinder Singh (Borrower) Samardeep Singh (Co Borrower 1) Mohinder Kaur (Co Borrower 2) Bharat Manmohan (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 4229362 /- (₹ Forty Two lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Two) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	Prop No-8, Ground Floor Rhs Part And First Floor, Kharsa No-25/44 Main Road Pandav Nagar, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110092	(LC No. 00001775 of Gurgaon Branch) Hridya Graphics Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Ajay Mandal (Co Borrower 1) Aparupa Mandal (Co Borrower 2) Sanjay Mandal (Guarantor 1) Jhuma Sen (Guarantor 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1958485 /- (₹ Nineteen lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Five) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	M_MACHINE_NAME :- Offset Printing machine / Heidelberg Make Used Five Colour Model Year 1993 AP_INVOICE_NO :- SE/7/4/2017-18
(LC No. 00001669 of Faridabad Branch) Sandeep Dhar (Borrower) Tanuja Dhar (Co Borrower 1) Pramod Gupta (Co Borrower 2) Suman Gupta (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 4220873 /- (₹ Forty Two lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three) NPA ( 09-02-2021 )	Property No. B-12, Second Floor Front Side Without Roof, Dr. Lohia Road Adarsh Ngr Kh No-262/258/217/4 Village Bharola, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110033	(LC No. 00002807 of Gurgaon Branch) Hridya Graphics Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Ajay Mandal (Co Borrower 1) Aparupa Mandal (Co Borrower 2) Sanjay Mandal (Guarantor 1) Jhuma Sen (Guarantor 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1575167 /- (₹ Fifteen lakh Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty Seven) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Plot No 33 3rd Floor With Roof Right Front Side Khra No 4/23 Block B1 Sewak Park Uttam Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00001153 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Anil Arora (Borrower) Renu Arora (Co Borrower 1) Kunal Arora (Co Borrower 2) Karan Arora (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 22426185 /- (₹ Two Crore Twenty Four lakh Twenty Six Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five) NPA ( 09-01-2021 )	Prop No C-487, Third Floor with roof rights Yojna Vihar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110092	(LC No. 00001613 of Gurgaon Branch) Jain Badri Graphics (Borrower) Sachin Kumar Jain (Co Borrower 1) Ankit Jain (Co Borrower 2) Jain Badri Colour Scan (Guarantor 1) Sonia Jain (Guarantor 2) Akansha Jain (Guarantor 3)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1575167 /- (₹ Fifteen lakh Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty Seven) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Rz-d-1/89, Sf, Vijay Enclave, Vinod Park Kh No. 11/16/1, Cd-block, Mahavir Enclave New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045
(LC No. 00001768 of Noida Branch) Kasna Indane Gas Service (Borrower) Gopal Krishan (Co Borrower 1) Dayachand Sharma (Co Borrower 2) Sakshi Sharma (Guarantor 1)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 5764376 /- (₹ Fifty Seven lakh Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six) NPA ( 10-03-2020 )	Plot No - 39 Block - 5 H Sector-141, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301	(LC No. 00002806 of Gurgaon Branch) Nestiva Healthcare Private Limited (Borrower) Anshel Ranjan (Co Borrower 1) Amit Chaudhary (Co Borrower 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1547583 /- (₹ Fifteen lakh Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Three) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	M_MACHINE_NAME :- 1) MAGLUMI 800 CL IA Analyser with Computer / Maglumi 800 CLIA Analyser with Computer 2) Cell Counter / Cell Counter Icount 3cp 3part AP_INVOICE_NO :- 120 & 85
(LC No. 00001274 of Faridabad Branch) Manish Chawla (Borrower) Kusum Chawla (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 4529209 /- (₹ Forty Five lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Nine) NPA ( 10-07-2012 )	Unit No-1907, Block 2, 19th Floor Era Landmark Sector-76 Faridabad Faridabad Haryana - 121001	(LC No. 00001847 of Durgapur Branch) Md Tashfin Ansari (Borrower) Md Sajid (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1532754 /- (₹ Fifteen lakh Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Four) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Ismile,south Shosti Nagar, Po Asansol Ps Hirapurj/22,plot 417, Mool Ismile Nr. Homiopathy College,Asansol Bardhaman West Bengal - 713325
(LC No. 00000770 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Sachin Kumar (Borrower) Manjusha Pillai (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 3972049 /- (₹ Thirty Nine lakh Seventy Two Thousand Forty Nine) NPA ( 01-04-2019 )	Unit No. Iris 107, 1st Floor, Iris Block Green Avenue, Plot No. H R A - 10 Site - C, Greater Noida Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201308	(LC No. 00002051 of Ghaziabad Branch) Vishal Kumar Jain (Borrower) Anu Jain (Co Borrower 1) Nitin Jain (Co Borrower 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1262318 /- (₹ Twelve lakh Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Two) NPA ( 09-02-2021 )	440/1F, Khata No. 26 & 27, Kharsa No.398/340/41, Village-seelampur, Gandhi Nagar, Ilaqa Shahdara, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110031
(LC No. 00003286 of New Delhi Branch) Mamta Kapoor (Borrower) Shakuntala Kapoor (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 1799558 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA ( 09-06-2020 )	Flat No-523, Second Floor, Shivji Enclave, Kharar, Kharar, Kharar, Rupnagar-140301 Punjab	(LC No. 00000260 of Greater Noida Branch) Tarun Kumar Gautam (Borrower) Vandesh Gautam (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 9793904 /- (₹ Nine lakh Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred Four) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Flat No-382, 2nd Floor, Block-C Sector-Omicron-03 Greater Noida Gautam Budh Nagar Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201308
(LC No. 00001370 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Sunil Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Anjali Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 4833300 /- (₹ Forty Eight lakh Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety) NPA ( 09-06-2021 )	H/FLAT NO.KGT 02 1501, FLOOR NO. KING-HTS COURT, PLOT NO. 15TH FLOOR, JAYP-EE GREENS, VILLAGE, NO IDA NOIDA Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201301	(LC No. 00001827 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Lakhani Singh (Borrower) Sunita Devi (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 8807777 /- (₹ Eight lakh Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Seven) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Rz-i-77a,(old No 77)3rd floor (back Side With-roof)kh No-15/18,mirzapur Mahavir Enclave New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045
(LC No. DEL33264 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Radhey Shyam (Borrower) Nitin Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 3031170 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Seventy) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	FLOOR NO. YAMUNA EXPRESSWAY, PLOT NO. D-73, GREEN BAY GREENVALE GOLF VILLAGE, SECTOR, SECTOR-22D, VIL LAGE. GREATER NOIDA NOIDA Uttar Pradesh - 201301	(LC No. 00002051 of Ghaziabad Branch) Vishal Kumar Jain (Borrower) Anu Jain (Co Borrower 1) Nitin Jain (Co Borrower 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1096837 /- (₹ Ten lakh Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Seven) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	440/1F, Khata No. 26 & 27, Kharsa No.398/340/41, Village-seelampur, Gandhi Nagar, Ilaqa Shahdara, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110031
(LC No. PTA31956 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Pankaj Agrawal (Borrower) Preeti Agrawal (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 2127815 /- (₹ Twenty One lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifteen) NPA ( 12-05-2021 )	H/FLAT NO.1217,12th Floor Tower No-T-2 Lid Spire Nene, Sec-37 C Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana - 122001	(LC No. 00001346 of New Delhi-west Branch) Ajay Kumar Shrivastava (Borrower) Dilip Singh Shrivastava (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1118340 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Lig Flat No 16, 3rd Floor Sec G 2, Pocket 02, Block No F 5, Narela, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110040
(LC No. 00001274 of Faridabad Branch) Manish Chawla (Borrower) Kusum Chawla (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 1799558 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA ( 09-06-2020 )	Unit No.p-32,second Floor Era Green Word Sector-8 Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121002	(LC No. 00002252 of Gurgaon Branch) Dhairya Plastic (Borrower) Nidhi Jain (Co Borrower 1) Nitin Jain (Co Borrower 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1113097 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Thirteen Thousand Ninety Seven) NPA (09-01-2021)	M_MACHINE_NAME :- MICROPROCESSOR BASED SCREW TYPE PLASTIC INJECTION Micro Processor Controlled Fully Automatic Screw. AP_INVOICE_NO :- 017
(LC No. 00001370 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Sunil Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Anjali Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 4833300 /- (₹ Forty Eight lakh Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety) NPA ( 09-06-2021 )	H/FLAT NO.KGT 02 1501, FLOOR NO. KING-HTS COURT, PLOT NO. 15TH FLOOR, JAYP-EE GREENS, VILLAGE, NO IDA NOIDA Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201301	(LC No. 00001346 of New Delhi-west Branch) Ajay Kumar Shrivastava (Borrower) Dilip Singh Shrivastava (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1113097 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Thirteen Thousand Ninety Seven) NPA (09-01-2021)	M_MACHINE_NAME :- MICROPROCESSOR BASED SCREW TYPE PLASTIC INJECTION Micro Processor Controlled Fully Automatic Screw. AP_INVOICE_NO :- 017
(LC No. DEL33264 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Radhey Shyam (Borrower) Nitin Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 3031170 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Seventy) NPA ( 10-12-2020 )	FLOOR NO. YAMUNA EXPRESSWAY, PLOT NO. D-73, GREEN BAY GREENVALE GOLF VILLAGE, SECTOR, SECTOR-22D, VIL LAGE. GREATER NOIDA NOIDA Uttar Pradesh - 201301	(LC No. 00001346 of New Delhi-west Branch) Ajay Kumar Shrivastava (Borrower) Dilip Singh Shrivastava (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1118340 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Lig Flat No 16, 3rd Floor Sec G 2, Pocket 02, Block No F 5, Narela, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110040
(LC No. 00001274 of Faridabad Branch) Manish Chawla (Borrower) Kusum Chawla (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 1799558 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA ( 09-06-2020 )	Unit No.p-32,second Floor Era Green Word Sector-8 Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121002	(LC No. 00002252 of Gurgaon Branch) Dhairya Plastic (Borrower) Nidhi Jain (Co Borrower 1) Nitin Jain (Co Borrower 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1113097 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Thirteen Thousand Ninety Seven) NPA (09-01-2021)	M_MACHINE_NAME :- MICROPROCESSOR BASED SCREW TYPE PLASTIC INJECTION Micro Processor Controlled Fully Automatic Screw. AP_INVOICE_NO :- 017
(LC No. 00001370 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Sunil Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Anjali Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 4833300 /- (₹ Forty Eight lakh Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety) NPA ( 09-06-2021 )	H/FLAT NO.KGT 02 1501, FLOOR NO. KING-HTS COURT, PLOT NO. 15TH FLOOR, JAYP-EE GREENS, VILLAGE, NO IDA NOIDA Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201301	(LC No. 00001346 of New Delhi-west Branch) Ajay Kumar Shrivastava (Borrower) Dilip Singh Shrivastava (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1118340 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Lig Flat No 16, 3rd Floor Sec G 2, Pocket 02, Block No F 5, Narela, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110040
(LC No. 00001274 of Faridabad Branch) Manish Chawla (Borrower) Kusum Chawla (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 1799558 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA ( 09-06-2020 )	Unit No.p-32,second Floor Era Green Word Sector-8 Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121002	(LC No. 00002252 of Gurgaon Branch) Dhairya Plastic (Borrower) Nidhi Jain (Co Borrower 1) Nitin Jain (Co Borrower 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1113097 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Thirteen Thousand Ninety Seven) NPA (09-01-2021)	M_MACHINE_NAME :- MICROPROCESSOR BASED SCREW TYPE PLASTIC INJECTION Micro Processor Controlled Fully Automatic Screw. AP_INVOICE_NO :- 017
(LC No. 00001370 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Sunil Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Anjali Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 4833300 /- (₹ Forty Eight lakh Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety) NPA ( 09-06-2021 )	H/FLAT NO.KGT 02 1501, FLOOR NO. KING-HTS COURT, PLOT NO. 15TH FLOOR, JAYP-EE GREENS, VILLAGE, NO IDA NOIDA Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201301	(LC No. 00001346 of New Delhi-west Branch) Ajay Kumar Shrivastava (Borrower) Dilip Singh Shrivastava (Co Borrower 1)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1118340 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty) NPA ( 09-08-2021 )	Lig Flat No 16, 3rd Floor Sec G 2, Pocket 02, Block No F 5, Narela, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110040
(LC No. 00001274 of Faridabad Branch) Manish Chawla (Borrower) Kusum Chawla (Co Borrower 1)	10-08-2021 / ₹ 1799558 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA ( 09-06-2020 )	Unit No.p-32,second Floor Era Green Word Sector-8 Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121002	(LC No. 00002252 of Gurgaon Branch) Dhairya Plastic (Borrower) Nidhi Jain (Co Borrower 1) Nitin Jain (Co Borrower 2)	24-09-2021 / ₹ 1113097 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Thirteen Thousand Nin	



# Sindhu enters quarter-finals after hard-fought win

PTI ■ ODENSE (DENMARK)

India's double Olympic medallist superstar PV Sindhu reached the quarter-finals of the Denmark Open Super 1000 tournament here on Thursday after three hard-fought games against her opponent from Thailand.

Sindhu won after a struggle against Busanan Ongbamrunphan 21-16, 12-21, 21-15 in 67 minutes in her last 16 match.

This is Sindhu's first tournament since win-

ning the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics in August. One of India's greatest Olympians, Sindhu had taken a break to rejuvenate before making a comeback in this tournament.

The big names from India included London Olympic bronze medallist Saina Nehwal and former men's world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth.

Later in the day, Lakshya Sen will be pitted against world No. 2 Viktor Axelsen in the round of 16, while Sameer Verma will meet Anders Antonsen from the host country.

# Indian dominating Aussie batters huge positive: Mandhana

PTI ■ HOBART

The series was lost but star opener Smriti Mandhana feels the Indian women's cricket team gained quite a lot from its recent tour of Australia, the biggest positive being the visiting bowlers' lion-hearted performance in the multi-format rubber.

India lost the series 5-11 after going down in the white-ball leg and drawing the lone Test.

"We had a lot of positives. Everyone did well, especially the bowling. It was one department where we were way better than the Aussies which is a huge thing for the Indian team," Mandhana said during a Clubhouse session on 10 years of Red Bull Campus Cricket during which its first ever women's edition was announced.

"To come to Australia and outplay their bowlers and outplay their pacers was so amazing to watch, the way Jhulan di (Goswami) bowled, Pooja (Vastrakar) bowled and Renuka (Singh) and



Shikha di (Pandey) bowled in the T20 format..."

"It was amazing to watch our bowlers dominating the Australian batters, that was the biggest positive," Mandhana added.

The stylish southpaw, who had one of her best away series where she scored 86 in an ODI followed by a majestic 127, her first ton in Tests, and then a 52 in the final women's T20I, added that had rain not played

spoilsport, the series could have gone India's way.

"If results would have gone differently it would have been even more better for India. Rain played spoilsport in the Test match and the first T20

which we were in a very good position to win.

"Not blaming the rain but things would have maybe been different had the rain not happened but there were so many positives from the series," said Mandhana, who is currently playing for Sydney Thunder in the Women's Big Bash here.

The 25-year-old said the Indian team is working on improving its batting depth and the recent performances by the lower middle order is testament to the efforts being put in.

"That's a conscious effort to have good batting depth specially in T20 and ODI format because in white-ball cricket we might lose a few wickets and it shouldn't always be top heavy. We should have a lot of contributors.

"Our lower middle order is contributing a lot and have done amazingly in the recent series. Jhulan di finished the match for us in the third ODI, it showed we are all working very hard on batting and getting our number 7, 8, 9 to bat," she added. The limited overs vice-captain backed the idea of multi-format series.

# Shakib takes Bangladesh to Super 12s

PTI ■ AL AMERAT

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan decimated minnows Papua New Guinea with a superb all-round performance as Bangladesh qualified for the 'Super 12s' of the T20 World Cup with a crushing 84-run victory on Thursday.

Bangladesh, with a net run rate of +1.733 and four points in the kitty, ensured a place among the elite teams after a shocking opening game defeat against Scotland.

The 'Tigers' first posted an imposing 181/7, as they rode on skipper Mahmudullah's blazing 50 off 28 balls and Shakib's aggressive 46 off 37 balls.

Shakib then showed why he is Bangladesh's greatest ever cricketer with a brilliant spell of 4/9 in his four-

over spell as Papua New Guinea were all-out for 97 in 19.3 overs.

"Obviously, it was a setback, the first game (vs Scotland), but in the T20 format the team that is better on the day wins. But now the pressure is off and we can play expressively," Shakib, who was adjudged 'Player of the Match', said after the game.

"It's not an easy format to get back into form, but luckily I'm getting more chance to bat up the order. A little tired, I've been playing non-stop cricket for the last five-six months, it's been a long season for me. But hope-off fully I can pull this tournament off," he sounded confident.

Skipper Mahmudullah, who himself played a captain's knock was



happy to see the intent of his players in the last two games which they won convincingly. "I think it was much-needed. The way that we wanted to

play, the intent was there from the batters. Having said that I think the wicket was better in comparison, so the batters did well to get 180," Mahmudullah said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Mahmudullah however feels that Powerplay batting is still a concern for Bangladesh.

"I think the two things we've been concerned about are the first six overs with bat and ball. If we get a good start, we can capitalise, so I think we need to improve on that.

"I've said it before — we're much more skilled hitters than big hitters. So we need to find the bowlers we can take on that particular day and we need to figure that out and communicate with the others as experienced batters," the skipper said.

## T20 World Cup window

**LEADERSHIP IS THE KEY IN INDO PAK CLASH: HAYDEN**

Karachi: Former Australia opener Matthew Hayden says leadership will be key in the much anticipated India-Pakistan T20 World Cup clash in "dogfight conditions" in Dubai on Sunday. Terming the match a real dogfight, Hayden who is working with the Pakistan team as batting consultant, margin for error will be very little in the big match so leadership will be the key to the outcome of the match.

**INDIA HAS SOME SERIOUS MATCH WINNERS: SMITH**

Melbourne: Seasoned Australia batter Steve Smith says a "terrific" Indian team is packed with some serious match winners going into the T20 World Cup, alluding that Virat Kohli's side will be one of the favourites to lift the title. India thumped Australia by eight wickets in a warm-up game with Rohit Sharma (60), K L Rahul (39) and Suryakumar Yadav (38) all getting some runs under their belts. Kohli did not lead the side but came out to bowl as India were still figuring out their sixth-bowling option. "They're a terrific side, they have got all bases covered and some serious match winners in there," Smith was quoted as saying by 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

# Barcelona hosts Madrid



AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona faces another test of its post-Messi era when Real Madrid visits Camp Nou on an action-packed Sunday that also features a clash between the Spanish league leader and its defending champion.

The first clásico since Lionel Messi left for Paris will inevitably overshadow an equally enticing

visit by Real Sociedad to Atlético Madrid. The Basque Country side with its sleek attacking style leads the league, while the titleholder boasts the deepest attack in the competition.

The visit by Madrid will close a three-game home stretch for Barcelona that coach Ronald Koeman called crucial to getting his team back on the winning path after a poor start to the sea-

# Low-key Verstappen heads to Texas atop F1

AP ■ TEXAS

The lineups were set in advance: Red Bull teammates Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez vs. Stewart-Haas Racing teammates Kevin Harvick and Aric Almirola in a pit stop competition at the ExxonMobil headquarters.

When it came time to loosen and then tighten a set of lug nuts, Verstappen reconfirmed his calling was inside a race car.

"I think I realised I am not a good guy for the pit box," Verstappen said.

"It is better if I drive the car."

Verstappen and Perez, like most of the F1 drivers in the paddock, have been on a whirlwind tour of the country ahead of this weekend's U.S. Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

**Verstappen and Perez, like most of the F1 drivers in the paddock, have been on a whirlwind tour of the country ahead of this weekend's US Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas**



The globetrotting series is back in North America for the first time since 2019 because the pandemic canceled stops last year in Austin, Mexico City and Montreal.

Now back in Texas for a ninth time, F1 has a new championship leader in Verstappen who may be somewhat unknown to the American fanbase.

The 24-year-old son of former F1 driver Jos Verstappen is at last having a breakout season — he has a career-high seven wins so far — and is pushing Lewis Hamilton more than the seven-time champion has been challenged in quite some time.

Verstappen has a six-point lead over Hamilton with six races remaining in a tense title fight that has tilted back and forth all season.

Hamilton, winner of four consecutive titles, last faced a proper challenge in 2016 when Nico Rosberg won the season finale to win the championship by five points over his Mercedes teammate.

# Bayern beats Benfica without sick coach

AP ■ LISBON

Bayern Munich kept up its winning start to the Champions League as Leroy Sané scored twice in a 4-0 win over Benfica, but coach Julian Nagelsmann wasn't there to see it.

Bayern didn't open the scoring until the 70th minute after two disallowed goals, but once Sané had put Bayern in front, Benfica crumbled.

The win puts Bayern five points clear of Benfica at the top of Group E with 12 goals scored and none conceded, and helps third-place Barcelona, which is now just one point off a qualifying spot following its 1-0 victory over Dynamo Kyiv earlier Wednesday.

Just over an hour before kickoff, Bayern said Nagelsmann had "a flu-like infection," leaving assistants Dino Toppmøller and Xaver Zembrod to oversee the game and implement instructions sent by Nagelsmann from his hotel room.

Nagelsmann's absence didn't seem to affect Bayern's creativity but at least to begin with there wasn't the usual precise finishing, as shots went wide or were saved by goalkeeper Odysseas Vlachodimos.

Bayern's players twice celebrated taking the lead, only for video reviews to disallow both goals. The first was Robert Lewandowski's effort which on replay went in off his upper arm, the second a well-worked move finished by Thomas Müller but only after an offside in the buildup.

Just when the Bayern players started to think it wasn't their night, Sané stepped up to take a direct free kick outside the penalty area and blazed the ball over the wall and into the net with such power than Vlachodimos couldn't get there in time to stop it.



"We had to play our game and to be patient," Sané said.

Bayern went 2-0 up in the 80th with an own-goal by Benfica as Serge Gnabry's cross bounced off winger Everton's head and in. Two minutes later, it was 3-0 when Sané turned defender Nicolas Otamendi and laid the ball off for Lewandowski to score. Sané added the fourth in the 85th off

an assist from substitute Josip Stanisic.

Benfica had chances to earn a first-ever win over Bayern and extend its nine-game unbeaten run at home in European games. Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer twice produced fine reaction saves to deny Darwin Núñez and Diogo Gonçalves in what was Neuer's 100th Champions League game for the club.

# Ronaldo saves Man U again

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Cristiano Ronaldo fell to his knees at the final whistle and looked to the sky as Manchester United's fans sang his name. The Portugal star had saved his team again in the Champions League.

The greatest scorer in the competition's history soared to head in an 81st-minute winner as United erased a two-goal halftime deficit to beat Atalanta 3-2 in a wild match at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"That's just what he does," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjær said.

Ronaldo's record-extending 138th goal in the Champions League came three weeks after he scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time to snatch a victory over Villarreal in the second round of games.

This time, the goal came earlier — and was a trademark header with hang time and unerring accuracy after meeting a cross from Luke Shaw that was whipped in from deep on the left.

"His leap, his timing — it was the perfect header," United captain Harry Maguire said.

"He has come up with a massive goal again in the Champions League."

United keeps doing it the hard way in this season's competition. There was the surprising loss to Young Boys in the first game, after Aaron Wan-Bissaka's first-half red card. Then a come-from-behind 2-1 win against Villarreal after being outplayed for large parts at Old Trafford. Now this comeback against Atalanta, which moved United into first place in Group F — two points above the Italian side and Villarreal.



## SINGLES

**BAYERN COACH TESTS POSITIVE**

Munich: Bayern Munich coach Julian Nagelsmann has tested positive for the coronavirus. Nagelsmann missed Bayern's 4-0 win over Benfica in the Champions League on Wednesday after showing signs of what the club said at the time was a "flu-like infection," but sent instructions to his assistants remotely. "Julian Nagelsmann has tested positive for Coronavirus despite being fully vaccinated. He will fly back to Munich separately from the team in a medical plane and isolate back there," Bayern said in a statement on social media on Thursday.

**HIMA DAS TESTS NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19**

New Delhi: Star Indian sprinter Hima Das on Thursday announced that she has tested negative for COVID-19, a week after contracting the virus. The 21-year-old had tested positive for COVID-19 on her return to the national camp at Patiala last week. One of the most exciting talents in Indian athletics, Das, who is making a comeback from a hamstring injury, took to Twitter to announce the development. "I am pleased to tell everyone that I have tested negative for Covid-19. Thank you all for the loving messages. Can't wait to get back on track. Hope everyone is safe and healthy."

**COMMODORE PK GARG AS NEW TOPS CEO**

New Delhi: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Thursday appointed Commodore PK Garg as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). The appointment was officially ratified at SAI's Mission Olympic Cell meeting. Garg will be assuming office on October 25, replacing Commander Rajesh Rajagopalan, who held the post from 2018 till the Tokyo Olympics. Commodore Garg was a High-Performance Director with SAI till June 2021 and is an Arjuna Awardee recipient (1990) in sailing and Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna awardee in 1993-94. He joined Indian Navy in 1984 and handled various important and prestigious assignments over 34 years of service.