

OPINION 6

KASHMIR DILEMMA
IS DEEPLY ROOTED

WORLD 8

KEY SUSPECT BEHIND
B'DESH VIOLENCE HELD

SPORT 12

SINDHU LOSES
IN QUARTERS

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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ATTRACTED
TO ROMANCE:
SANYA
10 VIVACITY

Vax feat is New India's show: PM

Modi says 100-cr milestone
is a befitting reply to those
doubting India's capabilities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded the 100-crore vaccination "milestone" achieved by India and said it is "the answer to every question and doubts raised about India's ability over it".

Addressing the nation on the occasion, Modi said, "100-crore vaccinations are not just a figure, but a reflection of the strength of the country, it is the creation of a new chapter of history. This is a picture of a new India that sets difficult goals and knows how to achieve them."

The Prime Minister's praise for the country reaching a long way in its fight against the pandemic has come against the Congress-led Opposition's criticism of the Modi Government's handling of coronavirus and the large number of deaths taking place due to the shortage of life-saving Oxygen across the country.

He said the speed with which India crossed the 100-crore mark is also being appreciated across the world. However, he pointed out, in this analysis the point of beginning for India is often missed. He said developed countries

had decades of expertise in researching and developing vaccines. India mostly depended on vaccines made by these countries.

He said for "this reason when the biggest pandemic of the century struck, various questions were raised about India's ability to fight the global pandemic. Questions like from where India will get the money to buy so many vaccines from other countries, when India will get the vaccine, whether the people of India will get the vaccine or not, and whether India will be able to vaccinate enough people to stop the pandemic from spreading were all answered by achieving this feat of administering 100 crore vaccinations."

He stressed that India has not only administered 100 crore vaccine doses to its citizens "but has also done that free of cost." He said the acceptance that India enjoys in the world as a pharma hub will be further strengthened.

The Prime Minister said at the beginning of the corona pandemic, people were anxious that it would be very difficult to fight this pandemic in a democracy like India.

He said that the country



has only one mantra that if the disease did not discriminate, then there cannot be any discrimination in the vaccination.

Modi said that was the reason why "it was ensured that the VIP culture of entitlement does not dominate the vaccination campaign."

The Prime Minister said questions were raised that most of the people in India would not go to the vaccination centre to get vaccinated.

"Vaccine hesitancy remains a major challenge even today in many major developed countries of the world. But the people of India have answered it by taking 100 crore vaccine doses", Modi said.

He said a campaign is "everybody's effort" and if

everyone's efforts are synergised, the results are amazing. The Government made public participation the first line of defence in the country's fight against the pandemic.

The Prime Minister said India's "entire vaccination programme is born in the womb of science, has grown on scientific grounds and has reached all four directions through scientific methods."

The PM said resources were increased with extraordinary speed and the CoWIN platform not only gave convenience to the common people but also made the work of our medical staff easier.

As against the Opposition parties' criticism of the Government for its "mishan-

dling" of the economy during the onslaught of the Covid-19, the Prime Minister said experts and many agencies from home and abroad are very positive about India's economy.

"Today not only are record investments coming in Indian companies but new employment opportunities are also being created for the youth. With record investment in start-ups, unicorns are being made. New energy is also visible in the housing sector", he said.

Modi said many reforms and initiatives taken in the last few months will play a big role in making India's economy grow faster.

In the backdrop of about 10-month-old farmers' agitation and demand for scrapping three farm laws intending to open up the agriculture sector to private traders, Modi said during the pandemic, the agriculture sector kept our economy strong.

"Today Government procurement of food grains is happening at a record level. The money is going directly into the bank accounts of the farmers," he said.

Modi stuck a note of caution against Covid-19 despite 100 crore vaccination saying "we need to be constantly careful no matter how good the cover is, no matter how modern the armour is, even if armour gives a complete guarantee of protection, weapons are not given up while the battle is on."

Scrap consumer Act if you don't want tribunals, SC tells Centre

Court angry over
appointment delay

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The delay in filling vacancies in tribunals again invited the Supreme Court's wrath against the Centre.

Expressing displeasure over delay in appointments in the districts and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions, the apex court on Friday said if the Government did not want the tribunals then it should abolish the Consumer Protection Act.

The bench comprising Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh said it is unfortunate that the top court is being called upon to examine and see that vacancies in tribunals are filled up.

"If the Government does not want the tribunals then abolish the act... We are stretching our jurisdiction to see the vacancies are filled in. Normally we should not spend time on this and the posts should be filled. Unfortunately, the judiciary is called upon to see that these posts are manned. This is not a very happy situation," the bench said.

The SC was hearing a suo motu case on the inaction of the Governments in appointing president and members/staff of Districts and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and inadequate



infrastructure across India.

The apex court in its order directed that the process of filling up vacancies in the State Consumer Commissions as per its earlier directions must not be impeded by the judgement of the Bombay High Court which had quashed certain Consumer Protection Rules.

As the hearing commenced, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appointed as amicus curiae in the case, apprised the court of the judgement passed by the Bombay High Court at Nagpur Bench quashing certain Consumer Protection Rules.

He said the Centre introduced the Tribunal Reforms Act in violation of the apex court judgement in the Madras Bar Association case. Additional Solicitor General Aman Lekhi, appearing for the Centre, said the Government is in the process of filing an appeal against the Bombay High Court order which quashed certain provisions of Consumer Protection Rules.

He told the bench that the Tribunal Reforms Act introduced by the Centre was not in

contravention rather it was in consonance with the Madras Bar Association judgement of the apex court.

The apex court, however, remarked, "It seems that the bench says something and you do something else and some kind of embargo is being created and in this process, the citizens of the country are suffering. These are places for remedy like consumer forums. These are small issues that people deal with and these are not high stake matters."

The very purpose of setting up these tribunals to provide consumer remedy is not being met, the bench remarked.

The apex court also directed the States to submit data in a prescribed form within one week failing which the concerned secretary has to remain present before it.

After the conclusion of the hearing in the case, Justice Sundresh said there is a need to look into the problem from a different perspective and permanent consumer courts should replace consumer commissions which are manned by retired judicial officers on an ad-hoc basis.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

MAN FALLS TO DEATH
FROM 19TH FLOOR

Mumbai: A 30-year-old security guard fell to death from the balcony of a flat located on the 19th floor of a 61-storey residential building in central Mumbai after a major fire broke out there on Friday, a fire brigade official said.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY
FLIGHT-TESTS ABHYAS

Balasore: India on Friday successfully flight-tested the endogenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT), ABHYAS, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha, a DRDO source said.

Koregaon panel
summons 'missing'
Mumbai ex-top copFormer Pune CP
Rashmi Shukla
also to appear
as a witness

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At a time when he has gone "missing" and not responded to warrants issued to him in two important cases, the Koregaon Bhima commission of inquiry on Friday issued summons against Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh to appear before it as a witness in the ongoing investigations into the manner in which the previous BJP-led Government handled the 2018 Bhima Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case.

The Commission headed by JN Patel, retired chief justice of Kolkata High Court, and comprising Sumit Mullick, former Maharashtra Chief

Secretary, also summoned Pune's former Police Commissioner Rashmi Shukla to appear as a witness in the ongoing proceedings before it.

The summons issued by the commission to both Param Bir and Shukla read thus: "Considering that Param Bir was ADG (law and order) State of Maharashtra at the relevant time when the incident of violence took place at Bhima Koregaon on January 1, 2018 and sometime prior and after that date in some parts of the State. As such he must have received valuable inputs concerning terms of reference before the commission."

"Under the tenure of Shukla who was the police commissioner for Pune city, some incidents of violence had taken place in and around Pune city. The CP office must have received valuable inputs/information concerning the terms of reference before the commission."

Continued on Page 2

Harish replaces Harish!
Raj Min named Punjab
Congress' incharge

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After witnessing a colossal transformation in the Congress party's Punjab unit, Uttarakhand's former Chief Minister Harish Rawat was relieved of the charge of the State party affairs' general secretary in-charge on Friday.

Rajasthan's Revenue Minister Harish Chaudhary will be the new Congress in-charge of poll-bound Punjab replacing veteran Congress leader.

The development came after Rawat had requested the party high command to relieve him of the responsibility of Punjab as his home State, Uttarakhand, will also go to polls along with Punjab early next year.

Chaudhary's name was being speculated as Rawat's replacement for some time as Rajasthan MLA was appointed observer to oversee the change of guard in Punjab Congress.



Newly appointed AICC in-charge of Punjab and Chandigarh Harish Chaudhary, during a public meeting at Nimbola Biswa village in Nagaur district on Friday

PTI

"Congress president has appointed Harish Chaudhary as AICC in-charge of Punjab and Chandigarh with immediate effect. Harish Rawat is being relieved from his current responsibility as AICC general secretary in-charge of Punjab and Chandigarh."

Continued on Page 2



Members of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo perform on board HMS Defender, a type 45 air-defence destroyer ship, during the Royal Navy and Indian Navy meet in Mumbai on Friday

AP

Winter Session of Parl
from 4th week of Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Winter Session of Parliament is likely to start in the fourth week of November. The month-long Session, which is likely to have around 20 sittings, would con-

clude ahead of Christmas.

Though an official decision has not been taken yet, the sources said the session could commence from November 29 and would end around December 23.

Continued on Page 2

Army deploys
hi-tech Pinaka,
Smerch along
China border

ANI ■ GUWAHATI

The Indian Army has deployed Pinaka and Smerch Multiple Rocket Launcher Systems (MRLS) at forward position near the China border to counter any threat arising across on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Pinaka weapon system is an autonomous rocket artillery system that can engage area targets up to 38km at mean sea level. At these altitudes, the ranges are enhanced significantly which further augments the deep strike capability of the weapon system.

A battery of six launchers of Pinaka can fire a salvo of 72 rockets in 44 seconds thereby neutralising an area of 1,000m by 800m.

Talking about the weapon systems, deployed battery commander at the location Lieutenant Colonel Sarath told ANI, "The Pinaka weapon system is indigenous multi rocket launcher system designed by DRDO and it is a state-of-the-art, completely autonomous weapon system, which can engage targets up to 38 kilometres at mean sea level and at higher altitudes, the ranges get significantly enhanced, which subsequently enhance our deep strike capability."

Continued on Page 2

Kheri violence:
Minister's son
remanded in
police custody

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, arrested for his alleged role in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, was on Friday remanded in police custody for two days.

It was for the second time that he was remanded in police custody Chief Judicial Magistrate Chinta Ram.

Besides, Mishra, CJM Ram also sent three other accused in the case — Ankit Das, Shekhar Bharti and Latif — to police custody, acceding to the prosecution's request for their police remand. The two-day police remand for the four, starting from 5 pm on Friday, will end at the same time on Sunday.

Continued on Page 2

CBI arrests six for posts
against judges, judiciaryAndhra HC
Registrar filed
FIR against
influencers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday arrested six more accused persons in an ongoing investigation of a case related to making derogatory posts on social media against judges and the judiciary.

The accused arrested in the case are Sridhar Reddy Avuthu, Jalagam Venkata Satyanarayana, Guda Sridhar Reddy, Sreenath Suswaram, Kishore Kumar Darisa, alias Kishore Reddy Darisa, alias Sudduluri Ajay Amruth.



The agency said the arrested accused will be produced before the competent court.

The CBI had registered a case on November 11 last year against 16 accused and took over the investigation of 12 FIRs from CID of the Andhra Pradesh Police in pursuance of the orders of Andhra Pradesh High Court. The High Court had directed the CBI to probe the matter in response to a writ petition filed in 2020.

The original FIRs were registered on the complaints

from the Registrar General of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

"It was alleged that the key personnel occupying posts of prominence in the State of Andhra Pradesh by intentionally targeting the judiciary, made derogatory posts on social media platform against judges and judiciary following some court verdicts delivered by the judges of High Court of Andhra Pradesh," the agency has said.

Continued on Page 2

Save people with artificial limbs from
airport security ordeal: Sudhaa to PM

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Narrating the ordeal she goes through at the airports during security checks, actor and well-known Bharatanatyam dancer Sudhaa Chandran has made an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide a special card to people with artificial limbs.

The 56-year-old actor posted a video on her Instagram page on Thursday evening and said she is "totally hurt" to go through the "grill" at the airports every time she is flying.

"Totally hurtEach time going through this grill is very very hurting....Hope my message reaches the state and the central govt authorities....And expecting a prompt action..." she wrote.

In the video, which seems to be shot at an airport, Chandran first introduced her-



self. "This is a very personal note that I want to tell our dear Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. This is an appeal to the Central Government and the

State Government. I am Sudhaa Chandran, an actress and dancer by profession, who has danced with an artificial limb and created history and made my country very proud of me," the actor said.

Chandran said she has requested the airport authorities to conduct an "ETD (Explosive Trace Detector) for her artificial limb" but they always ask her to remove it.

Continued on Page 2

CISF apologises to Sudhaa after she
is asked to remove prosthetic limb

New Delhi: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Friday apologised to noted dancer and actor Sudhaa Chandran after she said she felt

disheartened and humiliated when she was recently asked to remove her artificial limb during the security check at an airport.

3 days of record rain causes losses worth ₹2,000 cr in Kumaon

Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand): Three days of record rain between October 17 to 19 in Kumaon caused losses worth ₹2,000 crore to the region, Divisional Commissioner Sushil Kumar said on Friday.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama had said on Thursday that the incessant rain in Uttarakhand caused damages worth ₹7,000 crore across the state.

"Kumaon division bore the brunt of the unseasonal spell of rains which damaged crops and property worth ₹2,000 crore besides accounting for the highest number of deaths and large scale destruction of houses," the Kumaon Divisional Commissioner said.

Out of a total of 65 rain-related deaths in Uttarakhand, 59 were reported from Kumaon region alone with Nainital reporting the maximum of 35 deaths followed by 11 in Champawat, six in Almora, one in Bageshwar, three in Pithoragarh and one in Udham Singh Nagar district.

Seven IAF helicopters and one private helicopter rescued 100 tourists from remote trekking routes of Gunji, Jolingkong, Tidang and Pindari in the region over the past few days, the Kumaon



Commissioner said.

"Besides rescuing tourists stranded in these high altitude regions, our 22 NDRF, SDRF teams and 1,500 police jawans rescued 816 people trapped in different areas and evacuated over 7,880 tourists from different tourist spots and sent them to their destination," the commissioner said.

According to the commissioner, the state government agencies have distributed over 1,500 food packets and set up langars (free kitchens) wherever required.

"We have released a sum of Rs 10 crore to each district magistrate in the region to carry out relief work. Additional funds will be released if the DMs require more," Kumar said.

India successfully flight-tests ABHYAS off Odisha coast

PTI ■ BALASORE (ODISHA)

India on Friday successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT), ABHYAS, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha, DRDO officials said.

The flight-test was conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at its ITR, Chandipur near here. The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of various missile systems. The performance of the target aircraft was monitored through telemetry and various tracking sensors including Radars and Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS), official sources said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO for the successful flight trial of Abhyas.

The current test was carried out as a part of developmental flight trials. Expression of interest for production of the vehicle has already been floated for bidding by Indian companies. This indigenous target aircraft, once developed, will meet the

requirements of High-speed Expendable Aerial Targets (HEAT) for Indian Armed Forces, they said. ABHYAS is designed and developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.

The air vehicle was launched using twin under-slung boosters which provide the initial acceleration to the vehicle. It is powered by a gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at subsonic speed, they said adding that the target aircraft is equipped with MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems) based Inertial Navigation System (INS) for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer (FCC) for guidance and control.

The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight. The check-out of air vehicle is done using laptop-based Ground Control Station (GCS). Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO also congratulated the teams associated with the successful flight test of 'ABHYAS' and termed it as a force-multiplier considering its accuracy and effectiveness.



Workers with cotton sacks at Khetiwadi Ulpann Bazar Samiti yard at Bedi in Rajkot on Friday

PTI

Save people with...

From Page 1

"Every time I go on my professional visits, each time, I am stopped at the airport, and when I request them at the security, to the CISF officials, that please do an ETD (Explosive Trace Detector) test for my artificial limb, they still want me to remove my artificial limb and show it to them. Is it humanly possible, Modi ji?"

"Is this what our country is talking about? Is this the respect that a woman gives another woman in our society? It is my humble request to you Modi ji that please give us a card just like senior citizens have," she said in the video.

On Friday, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) replied to a news story about Chandran's grievances and apologised to the actor for the "inconvenience".

"We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience caused to Ms. Sudhaa Chandran. As per protocol, prosthetics are to be removed for security checks only under exceptional circumstances," read the tweet from CISF. "We will examine why the lady personnel concerned requested Ms.

Sudhaa Chandran to remove the prosthetics. We assure Ms. Sudhaa Chandran that all our personnel will be sensitised again on the protocols so that no inconvenience is caused to travelling passengers," it added.

Chandran lost right leg at the age of 16 in 1981. She got injured in an accident and was later admitted to a hospital, where doctors had to amputate her leg after discovering gangrene formation.

She subsequently regained some mobility with the help of a prosthetic Jaipur foot. Since then, she has been performing as a professional dancer as well as acting in films and television shows.

Kheri violence: Minister's son...

From Page 1

After his arrest on October 9, the son of Union MoS (Home) was first remanded to police custody on October 11 with the remand period starting on October 12 and ending on October 15.

After the expiry of his first remand period, he had been sent back to the Lakhimpur Jail under judicial custody. "The Special Investigation Team probing into the Lakhimpur Kheri violence had approached the CJM's court here again requesting police custody of Ashish Mishra alias Monu and three others -- Ankit Das, Shekhar Bharti and Latif," Special Prosecution Officer S P Yadav told PTI.

"After hearing the arguments from the prosecution and defence counsel, the court remanded the four in police custody from October 22 to 24 for their custodial interrogation," he added.

While remanding the four in police custody, the court allowed their lawyers to watch their questioning from a distance without interfering with the investigation. The court also asked the police to get the accused medically examination at the start and the end of their remand period.

The court had earlier on Thursday remanded four other accused -- Sumit Jaiswal, Satya Prakash Tripathi alias Satyam,

Nandan Singh Bisht and Shishu Pal -- in police custody for three days.

Accordingly, the police remand of all seven accused will end on October 24 evening.

In the FIR lodged at the Tikonía police station in Lakhimpur Kheri district following the October 3 violence there in which eight people, including four farmers, were killed, Ashish Mishra figures as the prime accused besides 10-15 other unidentified, unmade persons.

The violence was triggered after an SUV of BJP supporters' convoy had alleged ploughed into a crowd of farmers protesting against the planned visit of Union MoS (Home) Mishra along with UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya there, leaving four people in the crowd dead.

In the ensuing violence, two BJP supporters, an SUV driver and a freelance journalist were killed. After the registration of the first FIR, a second counter-FIR was lodged at the same police station on the complaint by BJP supporter Sumit Jaiswal, who too was arrested subsequently.

The UP government has set up an SIT, headed by DIG Upendra Kumar Agarwal, to probe into the case. A total of ten people have been arrested in the case so far.

Tomar: Cong distributed certificates to MP farmers, but did not waive off loans

Bhopal: Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday said the previous Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh under Kamal Nath distributed loan waiver certificates to farmers but had not waived off the money till now.

This, he said, was a sin unacceptable to God and that is why the Nath government, which came to power in late 2018, fell in just 15 months in March, 2020.

"In 2018, the BJP got four to five seats less and the Congress formed a government in MP. Soon, after taking oath as chief minister, Nath signed the farm loan waiver file and

distributed loan waiver certificates to farmers, but, till date, these loans have not been waived off," Tomar said while addressing a bypoll rally in Raigaon in Satna.

"As this sin of the Congress was not acceptable to God, the Kamal Nath government fell," he added.

The Raigaon (SC) bypoll is scheduled for October 30 and results are to be announced on November 2, with the main fight being between BJP's Pratima Bagri and Congress's Kalpana Verma. It has been necessitated due to the death of sitting BJP MLA Jugal Kishore Bagri.

K'taka CM accuses Siddaramaiah of misleading people on 17L EWS houses

Haveri: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday accused former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of misleading people by saying that 17 lakh houses were built for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) during his tenure.

"Siddaramaiah has given a statement that he gave away 17 lakh houses when he was the chief minister. The fact is that he had only sanctioned 15 lakh houses on paper whereas he should have allocated funds too," Bommai told reporters in Hanagal. Bommai was in Hanagal, his home district, to campaign for the BJP candidate Shivraj Sajjanar contesting the Hanagal assembly bypoll.

"It is not a great achievement to sanction 15 lakh houses three months ahead of elections. If he had sanctioned it at the beginning of his tenure and completed it then it was a feat. Siddaramaiah is misleading people," Bommai said.

The Chief Minister said he has sanctioned four lakh houses in rural areas and one

lakh in the urban areas since he took over and now the process to identify the beneficiaries has begun.

Also, at an election rally in Hanagal, Bommai alleged that Siddaramaiah's claim of giving rice under the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme could happen due to the subsidy provided by the Centre. He also said giving rice at subsidised rate has been going on since independence and there was nothing new about it.

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah challenged Bommai to come for a debate in public on the issue of development of Hanagal and questioned his ability to be the Chief Minister of the state.

"The Nelluru lake bund got damaged in 2018. If the tank bund could not be repaired in the past four years, then the people of this region will decide whether you are capable or incapable of becoming chief minister," Siddaramaiah said during an election rally in Hanagal.

Army deploys...

From Page 1

Talking about the advantage of Pinaka and Smerch to India's firepower, he said, "The quick reaction time and the high accuracy of these weapon systems ensure delivery of a very high volume of firepower on critical and time-sensitive enemy targets in a very short time."

The Smerch system is the longest range conventional rocket system in Indian army inventory having a maximum range of 90 Km. A battery of four launchers can fire a salvo of 48 rockets in 40 seconds neutralising an area of 1200m by 1200m.

Describing the features of the weapon system, the battery commander of Smerch Major Srinath said, "The launcher is a very potent weapon in the arsenal of Indian artillery. The weapon can fire up to a range of

90 kilometres. Being based on a 10 by 10 tatra, it's extremely mobile, and there is no issue with mobility in any sort of terrain. There are 12 tubes in the cluster, and it fires 12 rockets in a span of 40 seconds."

Pinaka is named after the bow of Lord Shiva. Both these weapon systems (Pinaka and Smerch) are designed to fire a variety of ammunition like high explosives and submunitions against area targets.

The upgraded version of the Pinaka ammunition system is already on the production line and can fire up to a range of 75km with superior precision which significantly enhances the existing capability manifolds. The quick response and high accuracy of these weapon systems ensure the delivery of a large volume of fire against critical and time-sensitive enemy targets, within a very short time.

Harish replaces...

From Page 1

He shall continue as a member of CWC. The party appreciates his contributions as General Secretary," said AICC general secretary KC Venugopal in a statement.

Chaudhary's name was speculated at a time when Navjot Singh Sidhu resigned from the post of the Punjab Congress chief following his differences with Charanjit Singh Channi over appointments. At that time, Chaudhary said he would take whatever opportunity the party will give him.

The differences between Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and Sidhu were resolved and Sidhu continued in the post of the party president. The situation was overcome after it was decided that a coordination committee will be formed.

While the change in the party affairs in-charge was due, an apparent new threat to Punjab Congress is Capt Amarinder Singh floating a new party that may tie up with the BJP. The Congress,

however, asserted that this will not be a threat for the party and Amarinder's outfit will only divide the rival votes.

Chaudhary was a key part of the developments that rocked Punjab in the last few months, including Amarinder's resignation, Channi's elevation as the Chief Minister.

Rawat tweeted to thank his colleagues from Punjab for the support he got during his stint as AICC in-charge and stated that he would now focus on his home State of Uttarakhand, where elections are scheduled next year along with Punjab.

On Wednesday, asking the leadership to relieve him of his Punjab duties, Rawat had tweeted, "Today I have been able to overcome a big dilemma. One the one hand, I have a duty towards my janmabhoomi (birthplace) and the other hand, I have to offer my services to my karmabhoomi (land where one works). Things are getting complicated as elections are drawing closer and a person has to give full time to both the places. So that I can devote myself to Uttarakhand completely, I should be relieved of my present duties".

Scrap consumer...

From Page 1

"We need to have a permanent structure like the permanent court. The time has come for us to have a permanent court for consumer court and have judges as we select it for district and higher judiciary. We need to look at it from a different perspective. We have to rethink if we go on with an ad hoc continuance of members for 5 years etc," Justice Sundresh said.

The judge said, "What is the point of having a retired judicial officer? What is the motivation

level for him and what will be his mindset? How do you fix accountability? Is it required for the development of the institution." The top court had in January said consumer rights are "important rights" and non-manning of posts and inadequate infrastructure in the district and state consumer commissions across the country would deprive the citizens of redressal of their grievances.

The top court had appointed senior advocate Gopal Shankaranarayan and lawyer Aaditya Narain as amicus curiae to assist it in the matter.

Koregaon...

From Page 1

Therefore, the commission deems it expedient to examine Param Bir and Shukla and for production of documents as prayed in the application. Singh and Shukla would be at liberty to file an affidavit, if they desire, hence, the order," Justice (Retd) Patel, who heads the two-member commission, stated.

The commission has asked both Param Bir and Shukla to respond to the summons by November 8. While Param Bir has gone "missing" for more than three months now, Shukla -- who was the Pune Police Commissioner when the 2018 Koregaon Bhima violence took place -- is currently posted in Hyderabad as the Additional Director General of CRPF (South Zone).

The inquiry relates to the cases registered against 23 activists in connection with the violence that erupted on January 1, 2018 at a gathering of thousands of dalits at Bhima-Koregaon in Pune district. The dalits were celebrating 200th anniversary of January 1, 1818 victory of British troops over Peshwa Bajirao at Bhima Koregaon in Pune district, and also the provocative speeches delivered by the activists at an Elgar Parishad held in Pune on December 31, 2017, a day before the celebrations at Bhima Koregaon.

The Maharashtra

Government had set up commission after NCP chief Sharad Pawar expressed serious displeasure over the Centre's decision over the investigations into the 2018 Bhima Koregaon-Elgar Parishad case. "Under the Constitution, maintaining law & order is a State subject. In the first place, it was improper on the Centre to encroach upon the rights of the State and take over the case from the Pune police. It was much more improper on the State Government's part to support the Centre's move (to ask the NIA to take over the case)," Pawar had said then.

"The re-investigations are necessary in the case, because the Centre's move has aroused suspicions...The Centre might have apprehended that if a re-investigation is ordered into the case, the previous BJP Government and its hand-picked officials might be exposed. Only an independent probe will bring out truth in the case," Pawar had said.

The police had arrested ten CPI (Maoist) activists in two batches in connection with the Elgar Parishad-cum- Bhima-Koregaon riots case. They were among the 15 activists against whom the police had registered cases. The five are still absconding.

All the accused have been booked for serious offences under unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 117 (abetting commission of offence), 120-b (conspiracy) read with 34

Winter...

From Page 1

In the wake of the pandemic, the Winter Session of Parliament was not held last year and all the subsequent sessions — Budget and Monsoon — were curtailed due to Covid. The Winter session assumes significance as it will be held just months before the assembly elections in five states, including politically crucial Uttar Pradesh, which is seen as a semi-final for the 2024 general elections.

CBI arrests six...

From Page 1

"Action was also initiated by the CBI, after it had registered this case to get objectionable posts removed from the social media platforms, public domains and a lot of such posts/accounts were removed from the Internet," the agency said in a statement.

During investigation of the case, the CBI had earlier arrested five accused and also filed five separate chargesheets against them. "Investigation is continuing, including through the channels of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and Interpol to collect evidence from abroad," it added.

| NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| E-Tendering Tender Notice | | | Prayagraj Division | |
| Tender Notice No. 4620212022 | | | Dated: 20.10.2021 | |
| Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/ North Central Railway, Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites online open tenders (E-tender) as detailed below:- | | | | |
| S. No. | E-Tender Notice No. | Name of work | Approx. Cost (in ₹) | Completion Period |
| 1 | 4620212022-115 | Provision of parking behind G & H block of HQ / NCR Subdarganj. | ₹ 1,06,65,083.42 | 05 Months |
| 2 | 4620212022-116 | Periodical Cleaning & Disinfection of water storage tanks in the section of ADE/N/HQ-I/PRYJ & ADE/N/HQ/II/PRYJ for a period of two years. | ₹ 1,35,28,056.79 | 24 Months |
| 3 | 4620212022-117 | Balance work of Combined tender for Repairs of road Colony No. 1, 2, 3, Zero colony & Chauhatika Colony and Repairing of road in Railgaon Colony along with the Type-I to Type-V quarters under ADE/N/HQ-II/ALD. | ₹ 1,12,52,283.96 | 06 Months |
| 4 | 4620212022-118 | Construction of Master Bins at Prayagraj Station. | ₹ 16,62,453.39 | 03 Months |
| 5 | 4620212022-119 | Operation & maintenance of swimming pool and upkeep of badminton hall in Railgaon/ Subdarganj colony for 03 years. | ₹ 8,64,008.10 | 36 Months |
| Earnest Money : 0.00 and Date & Time of Closing for all tenders: 15.11.2021 at 15.00 pm. NOTE- 1. Tender online can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. Of date 15.11.2021. 2. For full details and submission of tenders, please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in . 1120/21 FA | | | | |
| [f] North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in [t] North Central Railway@CPNCR | | | | |

| Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice No.-MCF/RBL/ Tender/ Hiring of Shearing Machine/2021-22/C-496A Dt. 18.10.2021 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & Housekeeping, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of president of India for the following work-Description of Work- Hiring of Shearing machine without man power as per scope of work. Approx. Value (₹) 23,36,400.00 Cost of Tender document (₹)- Zero EMD Firm has to submit the Bid Security Declaration at the time of E-Bid submission in lieu of requisite Earnest Money Deposit. Quantity of Work- 900 Shift. Completion period of Work- 12 months. Date & time of closing of Tender- 09.11.2021 up to 15.00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. | | | |
| Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & House Keeping | | | |
| e-Advertised Tender Notice NO 42/ET/2021-22 Dated: 21-10-2021 | | | |
| SN | Tender No. | Short Description | Qty. Due Date |
| 01 | 11211198 | Kit for Side Wall Component Items for LSLRD Coach. | 50 Set 26.11.2021 |
| 02 | 12211053A | Plate Spring DIA160x DIA82x6 MM | 17970 Nos 25.11.2021 |
| 03 | 05211380 | Harness of Under frame and Super Structure Arrangement for HOG Compliant LHB EOG High Capacity Parcel Van Coaches. | 53 Set 18.11.2021 |
| 04 | 05211382 | LED Light Fitting for reading light | 15097 Nos 18.11.2021 |
| 05 | 03211804 | Gangway Bridge Mounting | 3390 Nos 14.12.2021 |
| 06 | 11211195 | End Wall Construction assembly Complete fitted along with Shutter Complete. | 1247 Nos 26.11.2021 |
| 07 | 11211188 | Roof ARCH for AC 3 Tier LHB Coaches. | 16200 Nos 24.11.2021 |
| Corrigendum | | | |
| 01 | 39/ET/2021-22 Dated: 07.10.2021 | Tender No. 05211110 | Due date may be read as 17.11.2021 instead of 02.11.2021 |
| 02 | 38/ET/2021-22 Dated: 29.09.2021 | Tender No. 12211227 | Due date may be read as 03.05.2022 instead of 05.05.2022 |
| 03 | 41/ET/2021-22 Dated: 13.10.2021 | Tender No. 04211400 | Qty. may be read as 250 Nos instead of 719 Nos |
| Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in & www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in | | | |
| SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE | | | |

REAL-TIME SOURCE APPORTIONMENT AND FORECASTING FOR ADVANCE AIR POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN DELHI

DPCC, IIT-Kanpur ink MoU for clean air



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the data plays a pivotal role in analysing air pollution in the city, the Delhi Government's environment wing – Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) Friday signed a MoU with IIT-Kanpur to understand pollutants on a real-time basis; moreover, with this, the national Capital has become the first State to implement an advanced technology.

With the signing of the MoU, the Delhi Government will work with IIT-Kanpur professors and scientists on a project titled 'Real-Time Source Apportionment and Forecasting for Advance Air Pollution Management in

Delhi.' Pitching their fight against pollution, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "We are thrilled to sign this MoU." Reena Gupta from the Dialogue & Development Commission of Delhi said, "We are collaborating with the best minds in the world to solve the air pollution crisis of Delhi."

According to senior officials in the environment division, the technology to carry out real-time source apportionment of pollution has not been implemented in any other city in the country. Weekly, monthly, and seasonal interpretation of air quality will take place, along with additional knowledge of PAHs, molecular markers, and secondary organ-

33 SDMs to help curb Diwali pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To strengthen its anti-pollution campaign, the city Government on Friday gave power to a team of 33 SDMs to take stringent action against violators ahead the festival of 'Dipawali'. These SDMs will hold meetings with representatives from different sections on October 31 and generate awareness about the Government's campaign including anti-cracker campaigns to curb pollution.

All SDMs will also hold a meeting with police officials

on October 25 regarding fire-crackers and make a strategy to manage Diwali pollution.

Pitching the slogan - 'Diye Se Diwali Hoti Hai, Patakhe Se Pollution Hota Hai', Environment Minister Gopal Rai asked all SDMs to hold meetings RWAs, market associations, and other eminent figures to generate awareness.

"These SDMs will accelerate the fight against pollution on the ground and hold meetings and make people aware of air pollution status and methods to curb it," Rai said.

ic and inorganic aerosols.

"State-of-the-art supersites capable of monitoring NOx, SO2, Ozone, BTX, elemental carbon, organic carbon, and other organic compounds will take place. There will also be a mobile van that will be stationed at various locations in Delhi in order to identify various sources of pollution in dif-

ferent localities of Delhi," the Delhi Government said.

The project will help identify the factors responsible for the spike in air pollution at any spot in Delhi. It will help understand the real-time impact of various pollution sources like vehicles, dust, biomass burning, stubble burning, and emissions from industries.

FARM FIRE ADDS 4% POLLUTION TO CAPITAL'S AIR

NEW DELHI: According to SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research), a unit of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOEs), the farm fire impact was four per cent. "As per SAFAR methodology effective fire counts are 894 and its share is 4% in Delhi's PM2.5 as transport level winds are not favourable for intrusion. In presence of local dry weather and westerly wind local dust emission will lead to high PM10. Additional dust transport from Rajasthan desert areas due to higher winds and dry conditions are contributing to PM10 enhancement. Impact of fire emission is almost negligible due to faster dispersion and unfavorable wind direction. The overall AQI is forecasted to remain in moderate for next two days."

Based on the results obtained, the Delhi Government will be able to take the necessary actions to curb the sources of pollution.

DDMA to review Covid situation, Chhath puja ban



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will meet on October 27 to discuss the current Covid-19 situation in the national Capital, and is also likely to "reconsider" its ban on Chhath Puja celebrations in public places, officials said on Friday.

The DDMA, in its September 30 order, had prohibited celebration of Chhath Puja at public places, including Yamuna riverbanks, water bodies and temples in the city, in view of the pandemic.

"The DDMA will meet on

October 27 to discuss the current pandemic situation and reconsider its decision to prohibit Chhath at public places," said a senior Government officer.

Delhi BJP leaders, including party MP Manoj Tiwari, had attacked the Kejriwal Government over the ban and asked it to send a proposal to the DDMA for allowing the celebration of the festival at public places in Delhi.

In the backdrop of protests by the BJP and Congress against Chhath Puja ban, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had last week urged Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal to call a

meeting of the DDMA as soon as possible to allow Chhath Puja celebrations, saying the Covid situation in Delhi was under control.

This was followed by Bajjal's direction to the chief secretary to convene a meeting of the DDMA to discuss the issue. The L-G is the Chairman of DDMA while Delhi Chief Minister is its Vice-Chairman.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had written a letter to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, urging for clarity over Chhath in view of Covid and issuing of guidelines to celebrate the festival.

PIC TALK



DCP Sweta Chauhan inaugurated the women's pink booth in Karol Bagh on Friday. Prashakti Beat and Veera Squad were inaugurated. During this, women soldiers did patrolling in the Karol Bagh area in New Delhi on Friday

CAA-NRC PROTESTS AND VIOLENCE

JNU student Sharjeel Imam denied bail by court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi trial court handling the cases related to Delhi riots on Friday denied bail to JNU student Sharjeel Imam in a seditious case lodged against him for delivering an inflammatory speech and inciting violence during the CAA-NRC protests in 2019, saying free speech cannot be exercised at the cost of communal peace and harmony. Imam on December 13, 2019, had made a provocative speech, which, according to the police, resulted in riots two days later when a mob consisting of over 3,000 people attacked police personnel and torched several vehicles in the Jamia Nagar area in south Delhi.

Rejecting his bail plea, Additional Sessions Judge Anuj Agrawal, however noted that the evidence in support of the allegations that the rioters got

instigated by Imam's speech and thereafter indulged in the acts of rioting, mischief, attacking the police party, was scanty and sketchy. The judge in his order said that cursory and plain reading of the speech showed that it was clearly on communal lines.

"The tone and tenor of the incendiary speech tend to have a debilitating effect upon public tranquility, peace, and harmony of the society," the judge said adding that "it is no gain-saying that fundamental right of 'freedom of speech and expression' cannot be exercised at the cost of communal peace and harmony of the society."

The Delhi Police charged that Imam instigated a "particular religious community" against the Central Government by creating unfounded fears in their minds regarding the Citizenship



Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC). The court highlighted a portion of Imam's alleged inflammatory speech in the order copy while rejecting his bail. While maintaining that the evidence in support of the allegations that the rioters got instigated by Imam's speech was scanty and sketchy, the court said "neither any eye witness has been cited by prosecution nor there is any other evidence on record to suggest that co-accused got instigated

and committed the alleged act of rioting upon hearing the speech of Sharjeel Imam."

While noting that the fundamental right of 'freedom of speech and expression' cannot be exercised at the cost of communal peace and harmony, the judge quoted British poet and intellect, John Milton, as saying, "give me the liberty to know, to argue freely, and to utter according to conscience, above all liberties." The judge also quoted spiritual leader Swami Vivekanand in the bail order as saying, "We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think; Words are secondary; Thoughts live; they travel far."

Besides this case, Imam is also accused of being the "mastermind" of the February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. He has been booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities.

Man arrested with 11.15 quintals of crackers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 44-year-old man from Rohini's Sector-24 with 11.15 quintals of banned firecrackers in his possession.

The accused has been identified as Amit Mittal, a resident of Narela. Police said that Mittal owns a mobile shop in Narela area.

According to Paranjay Tayal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Rohini district, Mittal was arrested on Thursday after police raided his warehouse acting on a tip-off. "He was in the process of unloading banned firecrackers into his rented warehouse. Mittal failed to provide any legal document and valid license for firecrackers. He stored them in a residential area which can be hazardous to the local residents," said the DCP.

"A case was registered against Mittal under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code's Explosives Act at Begumpur police station," the DCP added. Considering the rise in pollution around Diwali every year, the Delhi government announced a complete ban on sale and storing of fire-crackers on October 1. Last year, the National Green Tribunal too had imposed a similar ban across the national Capital Region.



2 men held for theft in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly stealing valuables from a 50-year-old person after making him unconscious with the help of chemical in north Delhi's Civil Lines area.

The accused have been identified as Mohammad Aarif (39), a resident of Sultanpuri, and Aarif Khan (25), a resident of Johripur.

According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, complainant Vikas Sethi, a resident of GTB Nagar, told police that on September 12 around 6 pm, he stopped his scooter near Kashmeri Gate metro gate number 3 to receive a call. "Meanwhile, a man came there and he convinced Sethi to give him lift up to Hindu Rao Hospital after saying that his relative was admitted there," said the DCP.

"When they reached at the roundabout of Hindu Rao Hospital, one person was already present there and the accused asked Sethi to stop the scooter. The duo made the complainant unconscious through a chemical substance," he said.

After regaining his consciousness, he found that his mobile phone, two gold rings, one debit card and some money were missing. The accused also withdrew Rs 50,000 from victim's bank account, which the victim came to know later, said the DCP.

More than 100 CCTV cameras installed in Kashmeri Gate area to Khajuri Khas were examined. The accused were seen walking in a camera footage, police said.

SIR GANGA RAM HOSPITAL 375 cases of achalasia cardia treated in 5 yrs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) has done 375 special procedures in the last five years to treat achalasia cardia, a rare and debilitating disease which affects a person's food pipe, the hospital said in a statement.

The SGRH, a leading private hospital in the national capital, said that a recent advancement called POEM (Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy) has dramatically improved the treatment outcomes of this complex disorder. The Institute of Liver, Gastroenterology and Pancreaticobiliary Sciences (ILGPS) at the SGRH has consistently been at the forefront of performing and pioneering POEM procedures in north India. Doctors at the facility have performed 375 POEM procedures over the last five years and all these patients were in the age group of 14-90 with mean age of 47 years, and comprised 43 per cent females and 57 per cent males, it said.

According to Dr Anil Arora, Chairman, Institute of Liver, Gastroenterology and Pancreaticobiliary Sciences "In Achalasia Cardia, the LES fails to relax during swallowing and hence food cannot enter the stomach and gets stuck up in the food pipe. As a result patients with Achalasia Cardia have difficulty in swallowing, develop chest pain followed by vomiting out of the swallowed food. The symptoms can be

devastating with most patients suffering from loss of weight and poor quality of life."

"The biggest enigma in diagnosis of this rare condition which occurs in one in 100000 individuals is that the disease is often missed initially and is mistakenly diagnosed as Gastroesophageal reflux disease called GERD which is very common condition prevalent in one fifth of the population as the symptoms of chest pain, vomiting and regurgitation of food are equally prevalent in both diseases with diametrically opposite treatment," Dr Arora said

According to Dr Shrihari Anikhandi, Consultant, Institute of Liver, Gastroenterology and Pancreaticobiliary Sciences at the hospital said "Among the various treatment options available for Achalasia Cardia, POEM has now become the preferred treatment option due to its minimally invasive non-surgical nature and rapid and almost complete symptom relief with excellent outcomes. In POEM, the non-relaxing LES is cut from within the cavity of the esophagus using endoscopy. Reporting on their experience, they have noted excellent success rates of up to 95 per cent at their centre."

Achalasia cardia affects the food pipe, also called the oesophagus, and leads to problems in swallowing. The oesophagus performs a vital function of transporting the food into the stomach.

North corporation rolls back hike in trade, factory licence fees

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With civic body polls scheduled early next year, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Thursday rolled back the hike in trade and factory licence fees, officials said.

The corporation had increased the fees for general trade licence and factory licence last year in August.

However, a senior official in the north corporation said the decision will have an adverse effect on the financial health of the civic body.

The decision to roll back the hike was taken during a House meeting of the corporation on Thursday.

"We have rolled back the increased trade and factory licence fees.

It has been passed by the House today (Thursday). Now the earlier charges of trade and factory licence fees will be applicable. The decision will benefit a large number of traders in the jurisdiction of North MCD," Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh said.

The opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had protested against the hike and demanded its immediate roll back.

With this move, traders in category A and B areas will now have to pay ₹500 yearly trade license fee instead of an increased rate of ₹3,450. Similarly in C and D category, traders will now have to pay Rs 500 instead of ₹2,300 while in E,F, G and H category areas, traders will have to pay ₹500 instead of ₹1,150.

Good monsoon contributes to cleaner pre-winter air

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Due to the cleanest monsoon in the last four years, pre-winter pollution in Delhi recorded cleaner this year, CSE (Centre for Science and Environment) said on Friday.

The CSE in its analyses on air pollution said pollution build-up well synchronized across the Indo-Gangetic Plain and this demands regional action and demanded for making short-term emergency measures more robust, and also push for deeper system changes to reduce traffic volumes, eliminate waste burning, ban dirty industrial fuels, and implement stringent dust control measures especially in the construction sector.

According to the CSE report on air pollution, the extraordinarily wet monsoon season has also translated into

the cleanest monsoon season for Delhi in the last four years.

"The city-wide average for the monsoon this year stood at 41 microgramme per cubic metre (ug/m3), with 96 days meeting the 24-hour standard for PM2.5. There was a progressive increase in the number of cleaner days with an average 6 per cent annual improvement since 2018. In Delhi, Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range recorded the lowest seasonal average of 33 ug/m3, while the National Stadium had 100 days that met the daily standard. Anand Vihar, with a seasonal average of 61 ug/m3 had lesser number of days – 54 -- meeting the standard and was the worst hotspot in the city," the Delhi based think-tank said, adding, "The start of the monsoon's retreat date almost perfectly coincides with the start of bad air days in Delhi."

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE: "The 2021 winter is starting with a cleaner threshold compared to the previous years, largely due to the intense and prolonged effect of the monsoons. While winter pollution cannot be predicted at this moment, the evidence of rising summer pollution in 2021 despite the lockdown and the evidence of a synchronised effect of winter pollution across the Indo-Gangetic Plain add to our concern.

How soon and intensely the winter pollution will hit us will depend on the scale and speed of action across the region and leveraging it for more sustained air quality gains."

CSE also said summer pollution is also increasing. Comparing summer 2020 pol-

lution data with 2021, it said the advantage of improved air quality during the summer of 2020 due to the lockdown was lost in the 2021 summer, with the seasonal average climbing to 79 ug/m3 and the number of days meeting the standard plummeting to 51 (from 90 in 2020). "In fact, PM2.5 levels this summer have almost returned to the 2019 levels despite the partial lockdowns," it said.

"The first phase of winter smog is often triggered by large-scale stubble burning in the region. The contribution of farm stubble fire this year started roughly around October 10, the same time as in 2018 and 2020. Peak contribution this year so far was registered on October 16 when 14 percent of Delhi's PM2.5 was attributed to stubble fire smoke (according to SAFAR).

HIGH-LEVEL MEET FROM MONDAY

Army Top brass to discuss situation along LAC, LOC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China and Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan will figure prominently during the Army Commanders' conference starting here next week. The top brass will review the operational readiness of the force to deal with any threat.

The four-day meet starting Wednesday will take place at a time when tension prevails at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh and the recently held 13th round of Corps Commander level talks did not yield any result.

Given the stalemate at the stand-off sites, both the countries are readying their troops for winter deployment in the forward areas in Eastern Ladakh. The Commanders will take stock of the preparations made to ensure troops posted there during the harsh winter months are able to per-

form their duty effectively. To that effect, logistical back up will also be reviewed, sources said here on Friday.

At present, more than 50,000 troops each from both the sides are deployed in forward areas besides the friction points thereby leading to tension. The conference will review the current status of readiness of these troops, they added. Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited some forward posts in the first week of this month at the LAC in Ladakh and reviewed preparedness for winter months.

In fact, the status of the entire 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east will be reviewed by the commanders.

As regards Pakistan, the ceasefire by both the armies in February this year at the LOC to avoid collateral damage has, so far, managed to hold except



some incidents last month when the Pakistan army violated the pact. The firing was in an apparent attempt to push militants into Jammu and Kashmir from launch pads across the LOC in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).

The commanders will review the situation especially

in the backdrop of recent spurt in terrorist violence in Kashmir, sources said. Army Chief General M M Naravane visited Jammu region earlier this week to assess the situation on the ground.

The commanders conference of all the three Services take place twice a year.

PM misleading country, only 21% fully vaccinated: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Government celebrated the 100-crore vaccination mark, the Congress on Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of misleading the country on the jab drive as only 21 per cent of the country's population was fully vaccinated.

The Congress asked the Prime Minister to bring out a white paper on how his Government intends to vaccinate all adults by year-end, a promise made by him earlier.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh also alleged that the Prime Minister, in his address to the nation, did not talk about issues of inflation and terrorism confronting the country.

He said that instead of offering condolences to the families of 4.53 lakh people who lost their lives due to the coronavirus, the Prime Minister is celebrating.

"The Prime Minister should talk about the issues confronting the nation, but instead he is celebrating

'Mahotsava'. The PM touched issues in a wrong manner and shared wrong data while trying to mislead the country," he told reporters.

Vallabh also alleged that "the PM gave the data which is semi-baked, as half-truth is very dangerous."

He said there are only two countries having more than 50 crore population and the claim that India is the first country to achieve 100-crore plus vaccinations is "false" as China had achieved 216 crore doses of vaccinations in September.

He said China has double vaccinated 80 per cent of its population while India has only vaccinated 20 per cent of the population.

"We would like to ask the prime minister that it would have been nice if he had shared when we are going to start vaccinations for our school-going and college-going students. It would have been good if the PM answered when his promise of the entire population would be fulfilled by December 31, 2021.

"Please share a white paper



on how we are going to receive 106 crore vaccines in the next 70 days to vaccinate our entire adult population," Vallabh said.

He said that "we thought he would talk about inflation because from January 1 till date there is a hike in (price of) diesel by 29 per cent and petrol by 27 per cent."

"Is there anybody on this earth except the prime minister's few friends whose income level has increased in last nine months by 29 per cent," he asked.

"We were expecting you to speak on the issue when innocents were killed in Jammu and Kashmir, including 32 persons murdered in the last two weeks and nine soldiers gave supreme sacrifice saving our motherland. But the prime minister does not have time for any of such things.

CAPSULE

152 SAKSHAM CENTRES LAUNCHED IN A WEEK

New Delhi: As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a total of 152 Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres), one stop solutions/single window system for basic financial needs of Self-Help Group across 77 districts of 13 states have been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development during 4-8th October, said a statement here from the Ministry.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE TO OPEN SCHOOLS IN INDIA

New Delhi: After setting up its schools in China and Thailand, international schools' group, Wellington College, is making its foray in India to establish its first educational institute in Pune. In this regard, its subsidiary Wellington College International has joined hands with the Unison Group, a premium education provider in India. The Wellington College, founded under the British Royal Charter in 1853, is a leading UK day and boarding school while Unison Group has four education institutions in Dehradun and Delhi NCR, according to a statement here.

LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY HOLDS SCIENCE EVENT

New Delhi: Four policies formulated by Department of Science and Technology (DST)—on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR), Liberalised Geospatial Guidelines and Scientific Research Infrastructure, Sharing Maintenance and Networks (SRIMAN) would go a long way in taking benefits of science, technology and innovation to the common man and realise the dreams of Atmanirbhar Bharat, said Dr Akhilesh Gupta, senior adviser, Department of Science & Technology, at a programme organised online by the University of Lucknow.

ARMY TIES UP WITH AMITY UNIVERSITY

New Delhi: The Indian Army on Friday tied up with Amity University to establish a long-term symbiotic relationship for Academic & Research Cooperation. It will be the first of a kind with any private university, towards starting a joint "Centre of Excellence" for Studies in Engineering, Innovation & Technology at AUUP premises.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is looking forward to Indian airlines purchasing and leasing many more wide-bodied aircraft once the Indian aviation sector recuperates from the Covid-induced crisis.

Only two Indian carriers — Air India and Vistara — currently have wide-bodied aircraft, which have bigger fuel tanks that allows them to operate long-haul flights such as on India-US routes.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia while speaking at a conference of Public Affairs Forum of India on Friday, said Air India's successful sale to the Tata group is a testament of the belief of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this Government that "the private sector has an integral to play in

making sure that service value proposition is there for all customers".

"I think in many ways, this (privatisation) changes the long standing perception of the Government in business," he added. The Centre had announced on October 8 that a Tata group subsidiary made the winning bid for Air India by quoting Rs 18,000 crore. Both Air India and Vistara are owned by the Tata group now.

The minister said: "Our national flagship carrier (Air India), over the last 10 years, due to the policies of the past governments, had really become a drag on the resources of the country." "That divestment process was completed. The hand over is in process. I wish the new owners all success," he mentioned.

Scindia said there is a need to have a level playing field and

break down of all the gatekeepers to allow proliferation of aviation sector players -- not only new players but also existing players that will augment capacity.

Stating that he does not want to put the cart before the horse, Scindia said once the normalisation happens, there should be expansion of capacities. "And the expansion of capacities that I would like to see is not only for domestic traffic but also for international traffic. So, I am looking forward to our domestic airlines purchasing many more and leasing many more wide-bodied aircraft so that they can also travel abroad," he said.

"And these long-haul flights, which will shorten the gap between the RASK and the CASK, the revenue structure and the cost structure of the airline, is something that I am



looking forward to," he stated. RASK stands for revenue per available seat-kilometre and it is calculated by dividing the total revenue earned from a flight with the total number of seats and the distance travelled. Similarly, CASK stands for cost per available seat-kilometre.

The minister said he is looking to the return of normalcy in the domestic aviation sector in the next couple of months. He said he wished his very best to the two airlines -- re-born Jet Airways and new airline Akasa -- that were coming on board.

SC seeks response from Twitter India ex-MD on UP's plea against Karnataka HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from former Twitter Managing Director Manish Maheshwari on an appeal of the Uttar Pradesh Government against the Karnataka High Court's decision to quash a notice seeking his personal appearance as part of the probe into a communally sensitive video uploaded by a user on the microblogging site.

The bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State Government, and issued notice to Maheshwari, who has been transferred to the USA by his employer Twitter Inc in August. "We issue notice. We need to hear the case," said the bench which also comprised justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli.

Earlier, the State Government, which has filed the plea through Senior Superintendent of Police of Ghaziabad, had on September 8 mentioned its appeal for an urgent hearing. The plea challenges the July 23 order of the Karnataka High Court quashing the notice issued to Maheshwari to appear before the police and cooperate in the

probe related to uploading of a communally sensitive video on Twitter. The Karnataka High Court has interfered with the summons issued to the then Twitter Managing Director by the Uttar Pradesh Police, the law officer had said.

Holding the notice as "mala fide", the high court had said the notice under Section 41(A) of the CrPC should be treated as Section under 160 of CrPC, allowing the Ghaziabad Police to question Maheshwari through virtual mode, at his office or his residential address in Bengaluru. Section 41 (A) of the CrPC gives power to police to issue a notice to an accused to appear before it when a complaint is filed and if the accused complies with the notice and cooperates, then he is not required to be arrested.

The Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) Police had issued a notice under Section 41-A of the CrPC on June 21 asking him to report at the Loni Border police station at 10:30 AM on June 24. Maheshwari then moved the Karnataka High Court as he was at that time staying in Bengaluru in Karnataka. On June 24, the High Court, in an interim order, restrained the Ghaziabad

Police from initiating any coercive action against him.

The Ghaziabad Police on June 15 booked Twitter Inc, Twitter Communications India Pvt Ltd (Twitter India), news website The Wire, journalists Mohammed Zubair and Rana Ayyub, besides Congress leaders Salman Nizami, Maskoor Usmani, Shama Mohamed and

writer Saba Naqvi.

They were booked over the circulation of a video in which an elderly man, Abdul Shamad Saifi, alleged that he was thrashed by some young men, who also asked him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' on June five. According to police, the video was shared to cause communal unrest.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to some Women Short Service Commission Officers (WSSCO) in the Army, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to issue orders granting Permanent Commission (PC) to 39 such officers in seven working days and furnish the details of 25 officers with rea-



sons, who were not considered. The Centre informed the top court that after re-examining the case of each 72 women SSC officers, one officer has decided to quit, 39 officers can be considered for PC, seven have been found medically unfit and 25 officers cannot be granted PC as they have adverse ACR report of indiscipline and disobedience and poor operational report.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna said that in respect of the officers forming part of the group of 36 WSSCOs who have filed four contempt peti-

Defence Ministry signs ₹400-crore contract with US for procurement of arms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to provide more lethal equipment to the Navy to destroy enemy submarines and warships, the Defence ministry has signed a contract with the US worth over ₹400 crores for torpedoes and expendable(chaff and flares).

These weapons will be fitted on the long range P-8 I long range maritime reconnaissance

aircraft now with the Navy. These aircraft are also US made and the Indian Navy has 11 aircraft manufactured by Boeing.

The defence ministry said here the torpedoes deal worth Rs 423 crores is through the Foreign Military Sale route wherein the US stands guarantee for all the contractual clauses and delivery schedule.

These weapons are the outfit of P-8I Aircraft which is used

for Long range Maritime Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASV).

The first batch of the P-8 I was inducted in 2013 and the latest one joined service earlier this week. In addition to unmatched maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the P-8I has been deployed to assist during disaster relief.

SC directs Centre to issue order for grant of PC in seven days to 39 women officers in Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to some Women Short Service Commission Officers (WSSCO) in the Army, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to issue orders granting Permanent Commission (PC) to 39 such officers in seven working days and furnish the details of 25 officers with rea-

sions, who were not considered. The Centre informed the top court that after re-examining the case of each 72 women SSC officers, one officer has decided to quit, 39 officers can be considered for PC, seven have been found medically unfit and 25 officers cannot be granted PC as they have adverse ACR report of indiscipline and disobedience and poor operational report.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna said that in respect of the officers forming part of the group of 36 WSSCOs who have filed four contempt peti-

tions in the top court and are not found eligible for grant of PC, the Centre shall file statements in a tabulated form giving the reasons for each of the officers not found eligible or are denied PC.

"In the above facts, we are of the view that ends of justice would be met, if to begin with, orders for the grant of PC are issued for all the 39 officers, in terms of the statement which have been made before this court by the ASG Sanjay Jain within a period of one seven working days from today. Compliance shall be scrupulously ensured within seven working days", it said.

The Centre has earlier told the top court that all these 72 WSSCOs have been found unfit for grant of permanent commission in the Army.

ASG Jain said that besides the 39 WSSCOs of the 72 officers, one officer has decided to quit while seven officers have been found medically unfit and 25 officers have been denied PC on disciplinary grounds, disobedience, and weak operational report. The apex court listed the matter for further hearing after Diwali vacation.

On October 1, the top court had restrained the Army from discharging the 72

WSSCOs, who were not considered for PC, till further orders and had sought a reply within a week on why they were not considered for the service.

The women officers have alleged that the top court's March 25 ruling was not considered by the Army and all 72 of them were rejected from consideration for the PC at one go. The apex court had directed that within three months, all serving SSC women officers have to be considered for PCs irrespective of them having crossed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service.

Covid seasonal infection linked to low temp and humidity: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 is a seasonal infection linked to low temperatures and humidity, much like seasonal influenza, researchers from Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) have claimed.

The results, published in Nature Computational Science, also support the considerable contribution of airborne SARS-CoV-2 transmission and the need to shift to measures that promote "air hygiene". Researchers worked on a

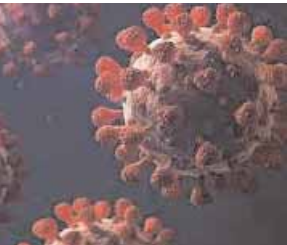
key question regarding SARS-CoV-2 was whether it was behaving, or will behave, as a seasonal virus like influenza, or whether it will be equally transmitted during any time of the year.

"The question of whether Covid-19 is a genuine seasonal disease becomes increasingly central, with implications for determining effective intervention measures," explained Xavier Rodó, director of the Climate and Health programme at ISGlobal and coordinator of the study.

To answer this question, Rodó and his team first analysed the association of temperature and humidity in the initial phase of SARS-CoV-2 spread in 162 countries across five continents, before changes in human behaviour and public health policies were put into place. The results show a negative relationship between the transmission rate (R0) and both temperature and humidity at the global scale: higher transmission rates were associated with lower temperatures and humidity.

The team then analysed how this association between climate and disease evolved over time, and whether it was consistent at different geographical scales. For this, they used a statistical method that was specifically developed to identify similar patterns of variation (i.e. a pattern-recognition tool) at different windows of time.

Again, they found a strong negative association for short time windows between disease (number of cases) and climate (temperature and humid-



ity), with consistent patterns during the first, second and third waves of the pandemic at different spatial scales: worldwide, countries, down to individual regions within highly affected countries (Lombardy,

Thüringen and Catalonia) and even to the city level (Barcelona).

The first epidemic waves waned as temperature and humidity rose, and the second wave rose as temperatures and humidity fell. However, this pattern was broken during summertime in all continents. "This could be explained by several factors, including mass gatherings of young people, tourism, and air conditioning, among others," explains Alejandro Fontal, researcher at ISGlobal and first author of the

study.

Finally, using an epidemiological model, the research team showed that incorporating temperature into the transmission rate works better for predicting the rise and fall of the different waves, particularly the first and third ones in Europe. "Altogether, our findings support the view of COVID-19 as a true seasonal low-temperature infection, similar to influenza and to the more benign circulating coronaviruses," says Rodó.

This seasonality could con-

tribute importantly to the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, since low humidity conditions have been shown to reduce the size of aerosols, and thereby increase airborne transmission of seasonal viruses such as influenza. "This link warrants an emphasis on 'air hygiene' through improved indoor ventilation as aerosols are capable to persist suspended for longer times," says Rodó, and highlights the need to include meteorological parameters in the evaluation and planning of control measures.

Announcement for Haj, online process to start in Nov: Naqvi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Thursday said the official announcement of Haj 2022 will be made in the first week of November and along with that the process of online application for Haj will also be started.

He said that selection process of Haj pilgrims will be done according to complete vaccination with both the doses and guidelines and criteria to be decided by Indian and Saudi Arabia Governments, keeping in view Corona protocols during the time of Haj 2022.

While chairing Haj Review Meeting here Naqvi said that Digital Health Card, "E-MASI-HA" health facility and "E-luggage pre-tagging", providing all information regarding accommodation/transportation in Makkah-Madinah, will be provided to all the Haj pilgrims.

He said that preparations for Haj 2022 have been started keeping in mind the health and corona protocol of Saudi Arabia Government and Government of India.

The entire Haj 2022 process in India will be 100 per cent digital. India sends the second largest number of Haj pilgrims after Indonesia.

Naqvi said that arrangements for special training for Haj 2022 regarding Corona protocols and Health and Hygiene are being made in India and Saudi Arabia for the Haj pilgrims. National-international protocol guidelines due to pandemic position will be implemented and followed strictly during Haj 2022.

Haj 2022 process is being chalked out after deliberations among Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Haj Committee of India, Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia and India's Consul General in Jeddah and other agencies keeping in view all aspects of the pandemic challenges.

PDP slaps defamation notice on Malik

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday sent a legal notice to former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, seeking ₹10 crore in damages for making “vexatious, false motivated and incorrect” statement regarding her being a beneficiary of Roshni Act.

Sharing a copy of the legal notice on various social media platforms the twitter handle of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party stated, “Legal notice served to former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik, of fax machine fiasco fame, for levelling defamatory allegations against PDP President”.

The legal notice served by Advocate Anil Sethi also stated, “A video has been circulated in the media where you, while being escorted by the official staff of Raj Bhawan of Meghalaya, are shown as holding a press conference. While recounting your days as Governor in



erstwhile State of J&K, at 0.23 seconds of the said video clip, you have alleged that my client took benefit of the State Land under the J&K State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 which is popularly known as the Roshni Act and that on verification, you found the above allegation to be correct”.

“By conducting yourself as an Ex-Governor of J&K State and making utterances about the benefit being taken by my client under Roshni Act,

which are not only false and incorrect, you have defamed my client and have levelled scandalous and serious allegations against her with the sole objective of tarnishing her otherwise politically neat and clean image.”

Advocate Sethi said that it was a fact that “(Mehbooba) has never been beneficiary of State land under Roshni Act and has never taken any land (under the Act) which now stands quashed/ repealed.”

“By making such false utterances, you have tarnished the image of my client (Mehbooba) and have defamed her and lowered her reputation in the estimation of public,” read the notice, adding, “All the allegations in the video clip are vexatious, false motivated and incorrect and this fact is known to you as well.”

He said although no amount of money can compensate her for the loss of reputation and good name which loss has been caused by Satya Pal Malik’s

conduct, “yet my client has decided to sue you for claiming compensation / damages for loss of reputation and good name earned by her and for establishing that the allegations levelled you are incorrect and false and have been levelled at a juncture which hints at a political collusion behind, the speech made by you.”

“By virtue of this Legal Notice, I, therefore, call upon you to pay compensatory damages to my client (Mehbooba) to the extent of Rs. 10 crores within 30 days of receipt of this Legal Notice. (This amount of damages/ compensation is not supposed to be utilised by my client for her personal gains/ benefits but shall be donated/ utilised for public good).”

Malik has been asked to treat the legal notice in terms of Section 80 CPC. “Further legal consequences shall follow in case of non-compliance of the demand made herein,” the notice added.

Counter-terror op: Fresh firing after 48 hrs in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Fresh exchange of firing was reported after a gap of almost 48 hours on the 12th day of the counter terrorist operation going on in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch on Friday. After confirming the presence of the highly trained terrorists in the area the security forces exercised extra caution to prevent further loss of lives.

Till date nine Indian soldiers including two JCO’s have sacrificed their lives while not a single terrorist, believed to have taken shelter behind natural caves in the forest area, has been neutralised.

The security forces are now expected to adopt a new

strategy to tackle the situation at hand.

As the searches continued during the day the security forces recovered two small boxes, suspected to be the IEDs. The same were destroyed in situ to prevent any grievous injury.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up across different parts of Kashmir valley ahead of the three day long visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir beginning October 23. Several new check posts and bunkers came up in different parts of Srinagar to prevent targeted killing of civilians and security personnel.

The common citizens were

subjected to frisking in main city centres including Lal Chowk area of Srinagar. Paramilitary forces along with jawans of the Jammu & Kashmir police were seen randomly checking vehicles and verifying papers of two wheeler owners. In the recent strikes on civilians, the terrorists used two wheelers for swift movement in the busy market areas.

In Jammu, a high level security review conference was chaired by the corps commander of Nagrota based 16 corps.

Senior Army, BSF, J&K police and CRPF officers attended the meeting and discussed measures taken to further strengthen the security apparatus in the region.

Bengal on alert as cases spike

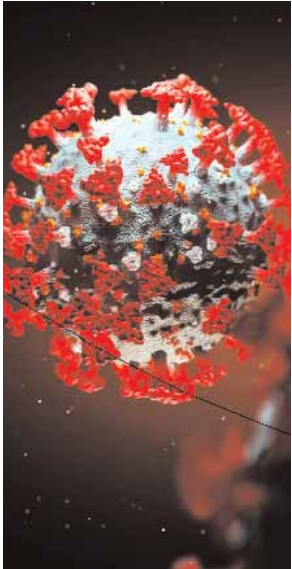
SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government has moved into an alert mode following spike in corona cases post the festivities.

The State has witnessed more than 1,000 new cases in the past 48 hours with Capital Kolkata alone witnessing 319 cases between Thursday and Friday, sources said adding the number of cases are likely to go up further.

According to sources in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation sources out of 319 patients about 150 patients had received double doses of vaccine while 15 had received a single dose.

“The question is not that vaccinated people are getting infected because that is not unusual as vaccines generally provide 65-7- percent protection ... the question is the reason why the people are getting infected once again ... it is simply because we had thrown caution to the wind during the Pujas ... the Government too was not cautious enough and



the people were doubly negligent ... this had to happen ... one only hopes that the corona cases do not go up further,” said heart surgeon Dr Kunal Sarkar.

Another senior doctor from the state of art SSKM Hospital cautioned the Government

against a steep rise in the corona cases if crowds are not controlled during Kali Puja-Diwali and Chhath Puja when people get out of their houses in large numbers.

“We are looking in the face of a third wave if we do not take lessons from the past mistakes ... vaccination is not enough ... it can only limit fatality rates but it cannot provide cent percent guarantee against infection ... so it is necessary for both the Government and the people to exercise utmost caution,” he said.

Meanwhile, sources in the KMC Health department said that “in view of rising cases a quarantine centre and two safe homes have once again been created in Kolkata ... if the cases go up there will more such centres.”

A senior State Health Department official said that “there is no need to panic at this point of time because there ample number of beds in the hospitals and the Government is keeping a close vigil on the situation.”

Kerala reports 9,361 new Covid cases

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala logged 9,361 new Covid-19 cases and 99 deaths on Friday, pushing the infection count to 48,88,678 and the death toll to 27,765. According to a release, 9,401 people recuperated from the disease today, taking the total cured in the state to 47,88,629.

“Currently there are 80,892 active Covid-19 cases of which only 9.8 per cent are hospitalised,” State Health Minister Veena George said in a release.

She said 80,393 samples were tested in the last 24 hours and there are 211 wards with a weekly infection population ratio above ten per cent.

Among the districts, Ernakulam reported the highest number of fresh positive cases today--1,552, followed by Thiruvananthapuram with 1,214 and Kollam-1,214.

Of those found infected today, 39 reached the state from outside while 9,012 contracted the disease through their contact. **PTI**

TMC cries political terrorism as Sushmita Dev attacked

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday launched a frontal attack on the BJP for carrying out “political terrorism” in Tripura. This, after the convoy of TMC’s charge de affairs in the North-East Sushmita Dev was attacked by alleged BJP miscreants.

With Tripura civic elections just about a month away TMC Rajya Sabha MP Dev was on a “Jana Sanyog Abhiyan” (mass connectivity drive) along with the members of TMC’s campaign partner Indian Political Action Committee or I-PAC to drum up support for her party.

Dev’s car was damaged and her hand bag was allegedly snatched away by the BJP men, the TMC leadership alleged. Other party men too were injured in the attack. The BJP however denied the allegations.

“Under BJP Biplab’s Duare Gunda Raj (goons at the door step), attack on political oppo-

nents is setting new records! Physically manhandling a sitting female Rajya Sabha MP, Sushmita Dev is Beyond Shameful and Political Terrorism by BJP Tripura goons! The time is near. People of Tripura will answer,” Banerjee tweeted. Banerjee, is likely to visit Tripura post Diwali.

“People of Tripura will give a befitting response to this Barbaric attack... Police must immediately stop acting as mere spectators. This collapse of law and order is unacceptable. We demand justice,” the Tripura wing of the TMC tweeted.

A police complaint lodged by the TMC said “Sushmita Dev along with 10 other party workers of TMC were brutally attacked by workers of the BJP at Amtali Bazar around 1:30 pm. The perpetrators vandalised vehicles, physically assaulted workers of the TMC and outraged the modesty of female party workers.” The TMC also alleged “this was accompanied by theft of property including mobile phones

belonging to supporters of the party. We request you to urgently enquire about the matter and bring the perpetrators to justice.”

The TMC leadership have been alleging similar attacks over the past several months with leaders from Bengal including junior Banerjee’s vehicle getting attacked by alleged BJP cadres.

Incidentally the Opposition Left Front has called such attacks as aploy to provide Trinamool Congress a toe-hold in Tripura. “The BJP afforded the TMC a place in Bengal, the BJP is trying to return the favour in Tripura... but people here have taken the lesson from Bengal and they will not commit the same mistake again,” said former Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar.

Dev, who quit the Congress in August to join the Trinamool, has been travelling across Tripura to drum up support for her new party ahead not only of the Assembly but also of the civic polls that are likely to take

place in that State on November 25.

“Our national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has declared that the TMC will be contesting all the upcoming elections in Tripura and likewise we are preparing to contest the civic body polls. Let the polls be declared then the party will formulate a final strategy,” Dev said.

Elsewhere in Goa the second state where the Bengal ruling outfit is trying to find a toe-hold the TMC will start campaigning from October 25, party sources said.

While Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will reach Goa on October 28 to take part in a 2-day programme party leader and senior MP Saugato Roy would start campaigning in that State from October 25, TMC sources in Kolkata said.

Supriyo a former BJP leader and Union Minister who joined the TMC barely two months ago was also being given a great responsibility in Goa. He too would campaign with Roy in that State.



People from Liangmai tribe perform their cultural dance during the ‘Go To Hills 2.0’ programme, at Konsa Khul village in Kangpokpi district on Friday

PTI

Assam CM woos tea tribe of bypoll-bound Mariani with promises of roads, schools, jobs

Mariani (Assam): Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday promised to improve road connectivity, build schools and provide clean tap water at homes for all tea garden workers in Jorhat’s by-poll-bound Mariani assembly constituency.

Addressing an election rally here at Hatigarh playground, Sarma also said that his Government is working on a plan to reserve one lakh jobs for youths from tea garden communities.

The CM further said that the BJP-led government was committed to working for the development and welfare of the tea tribe.

“It was with this purpose in mind Congress MLA Rupiyoti Kurmi left his party to join the BJP a few months ago,” he stated.

Four-time legislator Kurmi, who was the lone tea tribe MLA of the Congress, quit the grand old party and gave up assembly membership after the BJP won elections and formed government for the second consecutive term, thus necessitating the by-poll.

He has been fielded by the BJP, this time, for Mariani by-elections. Making a host of promises for the development of tea garden areas and its workers, the Chief Minister announced that his Government would sanction Rs 1 crore each for construction of roads inside the constituency’s 40 estates. He gave assurance that clean tap water and electricity would be made available at every tea garden worker’s household in the area in the next six months.

Sarma further said that 10 composite high schools and a Government college will be set up in the constituency for locals.

He also said mini sports stadiums will be built in the vicinity of the gardens, apart from the ₹12-crore one that has already allotted to the constituency.

“The government is working on a plan to

reserve one lakh jobs for tea tribe youths, under existing Other Backward Classes quota, within a year, in keeping with the promise made by the BJP ahead of the state elections held earlier this year,” the CM underlined.

He said that guest houses will be built near each government medical college and hospital in the state for accommodating the attendants of patients from the community.

The CM, during his spech, highlighted other steps taken by the government for welfare of the tea tribe, including increase in daily wages to ₹ 205, monetary dole for pregnant women, MGNREGA cards for casual garden workers and health insurance cards under central and state government schemes.

“The culture and traditions of all tea garden tribes and sub-tribes will be conserved by the new Indigenous and Tribal Faith and Culture department that our Government has set up,” Sarma noted.

Talking about the wild elephant menace in Mariani, which leaves acres of crops in ruins, he said, “As far as possible, we shall put up electric fences to keep them away.”

He also affirmed that the Orunudoj scheme of the state government will cover additional 6,000 families in Mariani in the next three months, taking the total number of beneficiaries here to 21,000.

“We are also contemplating the idea of increasing the dole from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 or ₹2,500 under the scheme as it will help ease problems of locals to a greater extent,” Sarma added.

The chief minister addressed multiple election rallies in Mariani during the day. Mariani, along with Tamulpur, Gossaigaon, Bhabanipur and Thowra constituencies, will go to polls on October 30. Votes will be counted on November 2. **PTI**

Centre not bothered about people: Gehlot

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday hit out at the Union Government over the farmers’ agitation and rising inflation, accusing it of adopting an arrogant attitude and saying it is not bothered about people. “Inflation is increasing because prices of petrol and diesel are increasing day by day and the Central Government is not bothered about it. They have no idea that people are under distress,” he told reporters in Nagaur’s Nimbola Biswa village.

Gehlot visited the village to attend a camp under his government’s “Prashasan Gaon ke Sang” programme.

“They should understand sentiments of the countrymen. They feel that there is no reaction among people but the reaction is very much in the mind and heart,” he said accusing the Government of being arrogant.

Gehlot also targeted the Union Government on the farmers’ stir against central farm laws.

He said farmers have been agitating for a year and no one cares about them. Gehlot said it has never happened in the history of the country and the world that farmers have been agitating for more than a year.

Gehlot said the situation in the country is dangerous. The media is under pressure and the government misuses the CBI, Income Tax Department and Enforcement Directorate, Gehlot said. The Chief Minister also said there was a conspiracy to weaken his Government but the MLAs supported the Government and stayed together for 34 days last year else the Government would have gone. **PTI**

BJP expels three Udaipur leaders for anti-party activities

Jaipur: The Rajasthan BJP on Friday expelled its three Udaipur leaders for six years for alleged anti-party activities. The move has come days before the bypolls to the Vallabhnagar Assembly segment in Udaipur.

BJP’s State general secretary Bhajan Lal Sharma issued the orders on the directions of state party president Satish Poonia, according to a statement.

Udailal Dangi was expelled for contesting the bypolls as an independent candidate against the party’s official candidate, Himmat Singh. Dangi turned rebel after the denial of ticket to him.

Deependra Kunwar and Kalu Lal were expelled for campaigning against the party’s official candidate.

Deependra Kunwar had also filed nomination as a Janta Sena candidate when she was denied ticket but later withdrew her papers.

However, she is now campaigning for her husband Randhir Singh Bhindar, who is contesting the bypolls as an independent candidate. Dhariawad (Pratapgarh) and Vallabhnnagar (Udaipur) Assembly constituencies in Rajasthan are going to the polls on October 30 and the counting will take place on November 2. **PTI**

A-G: Hindus alone entitled for recruitment in HR&CE institutions

Chennai: Hindus alone are entitled for appointment in teaching and non-teaching posts in educational institutions run and funded by the State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department, the Tamil Nadu Government informed the Madras High Court on Friday.

Advocate-General R Shunmugasundaram said this when Justice C Saravanan was hearing a writ petition from a Muslim youth challenging the relevant provision today.

The petition from Suhail sought to quash an employment advertisement in a Tamil daily dated October 13, which invit-

ed applications only from Hindus for appointment for teaching and non-teaching posts in the newly started Shri Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science College in Kolathur and consequently direct the authorities to permit him to compete for the post of Office Assistant.

Petitioner contended that the HR&CE has no authority to impose the condition that other religious persons are not eligible to be appointed. Being an Indian citizen and native of Tamil Nadu, he claimed he is entitled for the protection provided under Articles 16(1) and 16(2) of the Constitution, which provide equal opportunity in matters of public employment.**PTI**



Women shop for lanterns and other decorative items ahead of the Diwali festival, in Thane on Friday

PTI



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Jab half done

The 1 billion vaccines is a big milestone but our fight against the virus is just half way through

A billion vaccinations are done in India. That is a gigantic achievement. Only two countries in the world can claim the record. The other country is China. It reached the one-billion mark in June and the two-billion mark in September. As India celebrates the billionth dose, there is also the realisation that the job is half done. Just under a billion more doses will ensure that the country's adult population gets fully vaccinated. India's eligible adults need over 1.8 billion doses. Anything less than that is unacceptable. Seventy-five per cent of India's adult population — over 707 million people — has received one dose. Seventy more days remain till December 31. Twelve million doses a day are needed to fully cover the entire adult population in this period. There could also be about 70 million "vulnerable" adults above 45 yet to get even a single dose. Next, come the children. Over 35 per cent of the population is in the group of 0-14 years. Over 41 per cent of the population accounts for children under 18. India needs 26 crore to vaccinate children in the 12-17 age group. A similar number of doses are needed for children below 12.



Amid the celebrations, a note of caution is necessary. The first issue is the supply of vaccines. Most of the billion shots have come in the last two or three months. The vaccine roll-out that began in January did not pick up pace for the first half of the year because of the short supply of vaccines and teething problems with the supply chain. The Government needs assurance from the vaccine suppliers that the pace of supply will not slacken now. The Government wants to complete the programme by this year-end. That means the speed of vaccination has to be phenomenal. It will be a bigger logistical challenge. The Government has also to counter the usual hitches like vaccine hesitancy and vaccine complacency. Reports still come in about health workers trying to convince people, mostly in the interior rural areas, to take the vaccine. Reports also talk about people, in both urban and rural areas, being careless about taking the jabs. Thousands of people are also missing their second dose because of overcrowded vaccination centres or the centres being far away from their homes. The Government is tackling this problem by reaching vaccines to far-off places via drones. A tougher task that faces the Government is when to vaccinate the children. Emergency use authorisation has been given for some vaccines but peer-reviewed human trial reports are yet to be studied and the vaccines released for use. The biggest worry would be about vaccinated parents in the rural areas visiting the vaccination centres again for their children's sake. Also, the Government has to decide if paediatricians should be allowed to vaccinate children as well. That can speed up the process.

PICTALK



An Army personnel during a workshop, in Rajouri district

PTI

Rivals meet

Cricket fans are in for a treat as India, Pakistan come face-to-face after 2019

Cricket between India and Pakistan is a different ballgame altogether, especially if it's a World Cup game. The stakes are high, the spirit is fierced and, of course, a sense of rivalry prevails during the game. Having said that, the ICC T20 World Cup 2021 is already off the mark and the two sides will go head-to-head come Sunday, at the Dubai International Stadium, the UAE. Though both the teams have already played one warm-up match each, the real heat will come out when they collide on October, 24. This comes as hope for the Pakistan Cricket Board which earlier took jolts when New Zealand in September pulled out of a limited overs game just minutes before it was set to start off. The New Zealand Cricket said they were abandoning their tour of Pakistan following a Government "security alert". A few days later, England, too, cancelled their men's and women's teams white-ball series in Pakistan, citing security concerns. The setbacks were disheartening for the Pakistani cricket fans too. Therefore, the T20 World Cup seems to be the only platform for



Pakistan to represent itself, after its whining about India at the UN General Assembly 2021.

Pakistan has never tasted success against India in the T20 or ODI World Cup and it would certainly look forward to changing that. The two teams have not faced each other since the 2019 ODI World Cup. The Pakistan captain Babar Azam is often compared with his Indian counterpart Virat Kohli and how they stand against each other would be worth the watch. However, ahead of the match, there was strong uproar against the India-Pak match in view of the terrorist attack on Indian Army personnel in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir on October 11. Several politicians including Union Minister Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, AAP leader Atishi Marlena and former Olympian Pargat Singh strongly called for the cancellation of the match against Pakistan. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi targeting the Government said, "Our nine soldiers died in J&K, and on October 24 India-Pakistan T20 match will happen". But apparently, the match cannot be called off under the International Cricket Council's (ICC) commitments. If the idea is to send a "strong message" to Pakistan or Pakistan-based terrorist groups, pulling out of a match will not help. Rather, the leaders should build pressure on the Government to wipe out the terrorist hideouts. That would send a strong message. That would be the solidarity the martyrs deserve.

Kashmir dilemma is deeply rooted

To overcome the gulf in Kashmir, everyone should understand one another so that the Government does not keep going round the mulberry bush



PRAFULL GORADIA

A Kashmiri acquaintance recently described the situation in Kashmir as a continuation of the Indo-Pak conflict by proxy. The soft locals fear that their Valley will soon be filled with outsiders, whereas tougher Kashmiris look at the abolition of Article 370 as an opportunity to prolong the fight.

At least from the time of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of Aligarh fame, the belief that the British dispossessed Siraj-ud-Daulah of Bengal, Tipu Sultan of Mysore and Wajid Ali Shah of Awadh, has lingered. The feeling also is that when the British Crown left India, it should have the courtesy to "return it to us". Homeland and New Medina was the cause of Partition. This was also MA Jinnah's decoy for British ears in 1946-47.

Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad firmly opposed the partition of India because in a hundred years, India would have had a Muslim majority. In 1983, a Pakistani journalist visited Tehran to interview Iran's religious dictator Ayatollah Khomeini, in connection with the celebrations around Pakistan Day, namely March 23. The interviewer's final question was: What did Khomeini *sahib* think of Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah? The Ayatollah's answer was: He was a brilliant man but could have benefited from vision. He should have been patient and his community would have gotten the whole of India, not merely its crumbs. But then, Jinnah was not a *momin* but a recently minted coin.

It is true that until 1935, Jinnah was widely called "the ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity", a term coined by Sarojini Naidu. In his presidential address on the eve of proposing the Pakistan Resolution in 1940, Jinnah said, "We know that the history of the last 1,200 years has failed to achieve unity and has witnessed India always divided into Hindu India and Muslim India. Muslim India cannot accept any constitution which must result in a Hindu majority Government; in combination with democracy, it would be a Hindu Raj which Muslims, cannot tolerate."

The Qaid's other contention



was that "Muslims are not a minority. Muslims are a nation according to any definition; they must have their homeland, their territory and their State."

Dr BR Ambedkar wrote in his 1941 reply to Jinnah's resolution: No one has expressed shock at the thought of separating Karnataka from Andhra, what then is there to be shocked in the demand for the separation of Pakistan? If it is disruptive in its effect, it is no more so than the separation of Hindu provinces such as Karnataka from Maharashtra, or Andhra from Madras. Pakistan is merely another manifestation of a cultural unit demanding freedom. There is nothing new about the resolution which merely resuscitates the scheme which was put forth by Mohammad Iqbal in 1930. Mr Rahmat Ali gave it the name Pakistan. After Iqbal, there is nothing new in linking the northwestern provinces.

"Uncannily, there is nothing new in outing together many districts of Bengal and Assam into one province. Viceroy Curzon had done it in 1905. The British or the Anglo-Indian was not a nation; Indians referred only to the people of India."

"French Orientalist Joseph



COULD IT BE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN DELHI AND THE GOVERNOR IN SRINAGAR ARE UNABLE TO RELATE TO THE KASHMIRIS WHO ARE OF A DIFFERENT FAITH?

Renan has written that a nation is a living soul, a spiritual principle. The Doctor continues: "The Hindus draw their inspiration from the *Ramayana* etc; whereas the Muslims derive their inspiration from the Quran and Hadith". Thus, the things that divide and the things that unite, in Ambedkar's opinion, there is no argument against the claim for partition if they insist upon it.

The Doctor quotes Lord Acton's phrase that Pakistan is a soul wandering in search of a body. Ambedkar went deep into the subject and showed that the Indian army then was dominated in numbers by Muslim Punjabis, but their pay and perks were indirectly paid for by the Hindu provinces. He concluded by writing that in any case it is better to have the enemy outside the borders rather than inside.

To go back to the Kashmir problem, could it be that the Government in Delhi and the Governor in Srinagar are unable to relate to the Kashmiris who are of a different faith? They begin with God, move on to the Prophet and then to the scripture. On the other hand, we do not have a single authoritative book or Prophet, but are believers in karma. Their way

of thinking, in the lingo of logic, is called deductive, which begins with a premise and ends with a logical conclusion, top down. Our faith is inductive and begins with ground realities to move upwards till it reaches a conclusion. A few scholars realise the huge gulf between the two categories of faiths, Abrahamic and Eastern.

The Abrahamic method of approaching the issue would be to shoot and kill, whereas the Eastern way would be to worry about the relationship between the two sides after the bullets and battles. This explains that we are an ancient civilisation and at the same time, have taken nearly 75 years to get down to grappling with the problem.

India and Pakistan were born as independent countries at the same time. Yet look at the difference in the distance covered by the two countries. To overcome the gulf in the Kashmir Valley, everyone should understand one another so that the Government of India does not keep going round and round the mulberry bush.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BLOCKING ROADS IS NOT THE WAY

Sir — The Constitution gives us the right to protest, but unorganised protests make life of commoners difficult. Roadblocks cause traffic problems and as a result, the public suffers. This also leads to excess fuel consumption and ultimately more pollution. Road is public property. Therefore, it should be used in the same way. The method of agitating the public by blocking the roads is wrong. To get the attention of the Government, roads are blocked. But, the protestors don't care that the public is suffering unnecessarily.

Just like the protesters have questions, the common people also have a question, why are people being harassed by blocking the road through this movement? Delhi is a busy city and the police have to always be on their toes. In such a situation, there is an agitation by blocking the road. This puts a lot of pressure on the police. The public will not have difficulty when protests are staged in a more organised and peaceful way. It is the duty of the protesters to take care of this. Now, the Supreme Court has told the farmers what is right. The apex court said that the farmers have the right to protest but they cannot block the roads and the farmers must abide by the decision.

Jayesh Rane | Mumbai

TOO EARLY TO CELEBRATE

Sir — It is definitely a milestone that India has administered 100 crore doses so far, but not a moment to celebrate as only 30 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated. Approximately 88 crore additional doses are needed to fully vaccinate the adult population. Even so, India must stand-up and salute all scientists, doctors, frontline workers as well as vaccine manufacturers, in making India proud with vaccine development and administering the same to a billion people. Hats off to all.

But, how a publicity lover, power hungry Government, will not take the credit for it as the Assembly polls are coming closer? As a second country after China, India crossed the billion vaccines mark, but the way India used its resources

Remembering Shammi



The trilogy of legendary actors Shammi-Joy-Biswajit not only carved a niche for itself in the Indian cinema, but also ruled the roost in the very presence of the firmly established Dilip-Raj-Dev triumvirate in the 1960s-70s. October 21 was the birth anniversary of a tall, handsome and energetic Shammi Kapoor who rose from the ashes of 18 flops shouting a skyhigh 'yahoo' in 1960's blockbuster *Jungle*, that went to become his trademark and the heartbeat of thousands of his fans. Thereafter, Shammi Kapoor never looked behind and had to his credit numer-

ous hits and superhits like — Jaanwar, Bad Tameez, Bluff Master, Prince, Rajkumar, Professor and *Brahamchari*, Pagla Kahin Ka, Latt Sahib and dozens more. Even the songs picturised on Shammi Kapoor were largely sung by Rafi Sahib in Shammi Kapoor's signature style.

Shammi Kapoor was awarded thrice by the Filmfare — twice as Best Actor for *Brahamchari* and *Vidhata* (supporting), besides the Lifetime Achievement Award. Born as Shamsheer Bahadur Singh, Shammi Kapoor was born on October 21 in 1931 and left for his heavenly abode in August, 2011. Ironically, this iconic star, besides another departed taller and handsome Joy Mukerji and by God's grace living legend Biswajit, is still awaiting, though posthumously, an official acknowledgement of his unmatched acting flair! His younger brother Shashi Kapoor was conferred with the Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards in 2011 and 2015 respectively.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

to drain for upgrading or boosting the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not worth it. Israel, which has a record of administering double dose to the entire population, has never drained its resources to boost the image of their political leader. The truth is that we could have been here in July; only if the Government had been proactive. By not vaccinating sooner, it has hurt India's economy too.

Bidyut K Chatterjee | Faridabad

KASHMIR SITUATION CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Sir — Is the situation in Kashmir snowballing into a major national problem? Otherwise, how would one explain the former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik's contention that everything was normal during his tenure and things have changed drastically overnight. Is the abrogation of Article 370 slowly repulsing with renewed vigour from the natives or is it a ploy from neighbouring country, not to speak of new developments in

Afghanistan, or is it a spontaneous revolt from among Kashmiris to assert their rights or combination of all the three that is pushing the Indian Government to a corner?

It is during such a time of crisis that an acute need arises for cooperation of all political parties to douse the embers of communal disharmony and friction between locals and non-locals as India is a free country where people can live as they wish without any feeling of alienation. Only a multi pronged approach of following a democratic process of listening to all and acting thereupon, duly protecting human rights of the people may lead to a semblance of return to peace. More all party meetings where 'doodh ka doodh aur paani ka paani' should be discussed threadbare with a give and take approach to reach a viable solution.

D Nagarjuna | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Nitish Kumar is afraid of facing the people of the State. That is why he travels in helicopters to campaign in the election.



RJD leader — Tejashwi Yadav



The countries that were fighting there (in Afghanistan) for 20 years bear primary responsibility for what is happening there.

Russian President — Vladimir Putin

Being an athlete and playing sports has played a tremendous role in shaping my personality.



Actor — Deepika Padukone



I'm obviously backing Team India to win the match but personally, I believe no team should be taken lightly.

India cricketer — Ajinkya Rahane

When you buy petrol and diesel, remember that the Modi Government has earned Rs 23 lakh crore through tax.



Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

THE BREXIT IS NOT A ‘FANTASTIC DEAL’

A new crisis is bubbling up as the Northern Ireland part of the Brexit deal is falling apart



GWYNNE DYER

International treaties are serious business. A lot of time and effort goes into negotiating them, and they become part of international law. It's very rare for a politician to say, only a couple of years after negotiating a treaty, that his country always felt it was "a little bit provisional and open to review." That was Lord David Frost, who is still described as Britain's chief Brexit negotiator two years after Brexit happened. (That's because he is still trying to renegotiate it.) At the time he called the Brexit treaty an "excellent deal" and Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed it as a "fantastic deal", but that was before the 2019 election. A new crisis is bubbling up now because the Northern Ireland part of the deal is falling apart. It could trigger a British trade war with the European Union and a return to real war in Northern Ireland, but the deal is falling apart mainly because the Conservative-led British government was lying when it agreed to it in 2019. Boris Johnson was new in office in 2019 and desperately needed to 'get Brexit done'. Only then could he call an election and hope to win a majority in Parliament. So, he made an agreement with the EU on post-Brexit trade relations, especially regarding Northern Ireland, that fell far short of what his government actually wanted. Dominic Cummings, who was Johnson's right-hand man until he lost an internal power struggle a year ago, explained



last week why he and a few allies got Johnson to sign a document they had no intention of honouring. "We wriggled [through the negotiations with the EU] with the best option we could," Cummings said, "and intended to get Johnson to ditch the bits we didn't like after whacking (Labour Party leader Jeremy) Corbyn" in an early election. And so, it came to pass.

The Conservatives buried Corbyn in a landslide in the December 2019 election, and the United Kingdom finally left the EU in January 2020 — or rather, most of it did. The 'bits we didn't like' mostly had to do with Northern Ireland, which for customs purposes remained in the European Union. Why? When the agreement was signed both the UK and the Irish Republic were members of the EU, so the border between them could be opened: no check-points, no movement controls, no customs duties. That allowed Nationalists to come and go as they wished and think of themselves as Irish citizens, while Loyalists could go on believing they lived in the United Kingdom. Now, there would continue to be complete freedom of movement for people and goods throughout Ireland, while goods coming into Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK would go through EU customs checks at the Northern Irish ports. Which brings us to the present. There have been serious delays in the way the customs controls work in the Northern Irish ports, and the EU has just offered to exempt about half the affected food and medicines from all checks. That was an olive branch, but Johnson just raised a new demand: that the European Court of Justice no longer have jurisdiction over possible violations of the treaty. And Lord Frost has threatened to 'suspend' the treaty entirely if the EU does not give in. EU authorities suspect that Johnson is seeking an excuse to blow up the treaty so that he can scapegoat the Europeans for the ensuing trade war and renewed war in Northern Ireland. Matters are getting worse in the UK on a number of fronts, and he needs a distraction. Would he really do that? He probably doesn't know yet himself. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

Germany expects new Chancellor by Xmas

Despite being hailed as winner of this election, Scholz faces a difficult situation as he has to negotiate with two more parties to form a Government

Germany's federal elections have delivered the suspense promised by the polls: a close race between the two grand old parties (the Union, i.e., CDU & CSU combined and the Social Democrats, SPD) and a fractured mandate in which none of the political parties represented in the German Parliament (Bundestag) can form the government own their own. Although the winner of the elections, SPD, is currently an ally in Angela Merkel's "Grand Coalition", it has been traditionally as well as ideologically an arch political rival of the conservative "Union" — the party alliance of CDU (now commonly known as "Merkel's Party") and CSU which together stand as the second winner.

The SPD beat the Union by a slim margin of less than one per cent (25.7 per cent vs 24.1 per cent). Yet the difference feels monumental to Germany's national political landscape: for the first time in almost 20 years, the SPD ended the race ahead of the Union.

The main reason for the result may be found in the loss of the "Merkel factor". Her immense popularity among the vast spectra of voters from moderate to left led to the Union's successive electoral victories. But with her departure as Federal Chancellor, this unifying factor vanished. And with it a certain cohesion within the party. Merkel herself did little to build a second line of leadership and empower a successor to lead the Union and win the upcoming elections. Her only endorsement went unsuccessful when Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer succeeded her as head of party (CDU) in 2018 but did not stand up to the party's expectations. She had to make way in early 2021 for the current chancellor candidate Armin Laschet.

The unclear mandate throws up three possible scenarios for government formation: A renewal of the incumbent Grand Coalition finds no friends within the parties nor the public and has since been ruled out. This leaves Union or SPD only the option of taking on board two of the smaller parties to form a governing majority in the German Bundestag. Any coalition with the right-wing populist party AfD had been ruled out beforehand by all four.

Both Union and SPD derive the equal claim to form the next government. It is not the 0.8 percent lead that gives the SPD the advantage in taking the reins. In the past days, the Union found itself increasingly engaged in negative debates about consequences from the historically bad election results while the SPD managed to reinforce its public perception of a winner. Their light improvement — still their third-worst result in the history of Germany's post-war elections — lets the party and their chancellor-to-be Olaf Scholz shine.

Despite being hailed as winner of this election, Scholz faces a difficult situation as he has to negotiate with two more parties to form a majority government in the Bundestag.



GERMANY IS A LEADER IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND SEES ITS FUTURE AT THE HEART OF IT. ACCORDINGLY, OTHER EU MEMBER STATES ARE EAGERLY AWAITING THE IMMINENT OUTCOME OF THE COALITION TALKS. LARGER DECISIONS SUCH AS THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE POSTPONED UNTIL THEN

(The writer is Resident Representative, Hams Seidel Foundation India. The views expressed are personal.)



The two parties that find themselves in a position as unusual as convenient are the Green Party and the FDP (Germany's Liberal Party). The Greens emerged with their best ever result of a Federal Election, largely fuelled by their political stance on climate change. Conversely, the Liberals (FDP) openly favour the Union for a government as they see more ideological overlap with their economy-focused politics. It is this divergent ideological positioning, which led to FDP and Greens meeting first for initial talks to iron out differences and explore common grounds. There can be no Government without the support of these two smaller parties. All in all, Germany is readying up for a new era of three-party coalition.

Now the country witnesses that the CDU - stately centre of power for 50 years in the past -- finds itself discussing internal consequences of their election result. Despite gaining almost the same number of seats as that of the SPD, the party faces calls from within that the disappointing result would not suffice as mandate to form a government and too, criticism of the common chancellor candidate, Armin Laschet. The party is sledging its own (elected) candidate while he is engaged in coalition talks with the Greens and Liberals. With the impaired bargaining position, the Union would find it challenging to deliver sufficient arguments to convince Greens and FDP to join a so-called Union-led "Jamaica Coalition" (dubbed for its colour combination of the black,

green and yellow parties). Instead, the country is preparing for a so-called "traffic light"-coalition of Red (SPD), Yellow (FDP) and Green.

On last Sunday, both SPD and Green Party received the blessing from their respective party committees to go ahead with negotiations to form the next German Federal Government. The FDP is expected to follow suit. Seen as the "odd man out" earlier in the three way-coalition, their charismatic leader Christian Lindner was quick to preempt doubts about the party's agreement to go ahead with the talks. This is seen as the main obstacle removed. The unanimity among the three new partners is not perceived without scepticism: in 2017, the FDP withdrew from three-way-talks (on a "Jamaica coalition" with CDU/CSU and Greens) at an advanced stage. This time, however, the Union of CDU and CSU does not seem to pose an attractive alternative anymore.

The ensued discussion initially centred around personnel: Public polls (before the election) displayed a considerably higher popularity of the CSU party head and Chief Minister of the Free State of Bavaria — Markus Söder — as compared to Laschet. Söder's candidacy was rejected by the CSU's much larger sister party CDU (of which Laschet is a member). While many in the party expect Söder to run for Chancellor in 2025, the main focus is now on reconciliation, renewal and display of unity. At a party summit of the Union's youth organisation, a new path was already declared before the new government

is formed: Merkel's party will accept the unusual role in opposition rather than risk the "experiment" of heading a potentially unstable three-party-government under a weakened leader. It would not befit the self-concept of a party whose roots of success lie in stability. It has now four years to shed off the weight of the Merkel persona. Sacrificing its top candidate Laschet, who is incumbent Chief Minister of Germany's most populous state North Rhine-Westphalia, is a price the Union seems to be willing to pay.

The rift within CDU and CSU is an unwelcome damper for the Liberals' hope to form a conservative-liberal government again after the Merkel II cabinet (2009-2013). It leaves the FDP with little hope to play a larger role in the upcoming government. Having scored 11.5 percent in the elections, the traditional role of providing the Deputy Federal Chancellor and Foreign Minister will fall to the Green Party - regardless of which party will lead the government.

Germany is a leader in the European Union (EU) and sees its future at the heart of it. Accordingly, other EU member states are eagerly awaiting the imminent outcome of the coalition talks. Larger decisions such as Free Trade Agreement negotiations may be postponed until then. Additionally, it might take months (as it did in 2017) for the parties to come to an agreement. With a general understanding among all three parties underway, Germany could have a new government and Federal Chancellor by Christmas.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE TRAVEL IN FOUR-WHEELERS AND USE PETROL. AT PRESENT, 95 PER CENT PEOPLE DON'T NEED PETROL. — BJP LEADER UPENDRA TIWARI



THE MINISTER SAID THAT PEOPLE DO NOT NEED PETROL. THE TRUTH IS THAT 95 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE DO NOT NEED THE BJP. — SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV

Private players crucial in defence manufacturing

The corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board has to be seen in the overall context of improving India's military industry capability

India has to make its armed forced self-reliant — 'Aatmanirbhar'. The Army accounts for more than half of the total defence budget of India, with most of the expenditure going into the maintenance of cantonments, salaries and pensions, instead of critical arms and ammunition.

On February 1, 2020, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earmarked ₹4,71,378 crore for the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Of the total allocation, ₹3,23,053 crore was provided for the Defence Services Estimates (DSE) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The balance allocation is distributed between defence pensions and MoD (Civil). Representing a growth of 9.4 per cent,



PK VASUDEVA

(The writer is former Senior Professor, International Trade and Member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

MoD's overall allocation translates into an increase of ₹40,367 crore. This raises the question, how would this increase affect India's defence and modernisation in particular?

This budget is just 1.7 per cent of the GDP, which is just not sufficient for the modernisation of defence forces keeping in view the threat perception from China and Pakistan.

India emerged as the second-largest importer of arms transferred between 2016-20, with a share of 9.5 per cent of global arms imports. To make India self-reliant, the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has been split into seven government-owned corporate entities to help improve self-reliance in defence preparedness. Business in the



seven new entities started from October 1, 2021. These new companies are: Troop Comforts Limited (TCL); Yantra India Limited (YIL); Gliders India Limited (GIL); India Optel Limited (IOL); Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India); and Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI).

The companies now have an order book of ₹65,000 crore. These orders were already in the pipeline and

were just shifted to the new entities. These companies have complete functional autonomy and the interests of the employees are fully protected.

According to Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh, "It is to transform the Ordnance Factories to improve expertise in product range; profitable and productive assets; ensure self-reliance; enhance cost effectiveness and improve quality and increase competitiveness."

The Centre, in May 2020, had announced increasing the FDI limit from 49 per cent to 74 per cent under the automatic route in the defence sector. The government has been emphasising boosting indigenous defence manufacturing. The Ministry has set a goal of a turnover of ₹1.75 lakh crore

in defence manufacturing by 2025 that included an export target of ₹35,000 crore worth of military hardware.

Despite these initiatives, India's military industry capability shows a sorry picture and the private sector is still not being treated as a partner in India's quest for higher self-reliance. A GE 404 engine from the US powers the much-hyped indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), while the radar is sourced from Israel. The Kaveri engine development by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) has been an unmitigated disaster. German MTU engines power the Main Battle Tank (MBT), the showpiece indigenous tank. Despite the hike in FDI, the inflow has only been \$300

million from April to September 2020; largely due to the number of caveats for allowing 76 per cent FDI.

The Kalam Committee assessed our Self Reliance Index (SRI) in 1993 as 30 per cent, with a road map to increase it to 70 per cent in a decade's time. The committee had identified a number of critical subsystems like the focal plane array, passive seekers, stealth, AESA radar, RLG and carbon fibres where India's design and development quality needs to be ramped up. Weapons, propulsion and sensors remain the main bugbears of India's design capability in the DRDO and India's SRI has not inched forward.

Technology transfer has been India's major policy mosaic to build major systems

and platforms since 1963 (in the aftermath of the MiG-21 aircraft). HAL has been producing Sukhoi Su-30 on the basis of technology transfer documents from Russia. Similar is the story of the T90 produced in the Avadi tank factory.

The major problem afflicting the OFB is not the lack of autonomy or accountability but the wherewithal to improve capability. Its corporatisation has to be seen in the overall context of improving India's military industry capability, self-reliance quotient, design capability in critical systems and quality, time and cost-effectiveness and involvement of private players in defence manufacturing as partners in tandem with OEMs and design houses.

Key suspect behind B'desh violence held

PTI ■ DHAKA

A 35-year-old Bangladeshi man, the key suspect who was arrested overnight in connection with a slew of violence against Hindus and mob attacks on temples in the country during Durga Puja festivities, would be interrogated by security agencies, police said on Friday.

Iqbal Hossain was arrested from Cox's Bazar sea beach area on Thursday after a massive hunt and is suspected to be the one who placed a copy of the Quran at a Durga Puja venue in Cumilla, some 100 km southeast of Dhaka.

Attacks on Hindu temples have been reported in Bangladesh since last Wednesday after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations.

On late Sunday night, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh.

"We have arrested (eastern) Cumilla's Iqbal Hossain, who is the key suspect of the one week's of widespread communal unrest from the Cox's Bazar beach," a police headquarters spokesman said.

He added that police and

Iqbal Hossain was arrested from Cox's Bazar sea beach area after a massive hunt and is suspected to be the one who placed a copy of the Quran at a Durga Puja venue

other security and intelligence agencies would now interrogate Hossain, whom the police earlier described as a "vagabond".

TV footage showed Hossain was brought under heavy security escorts from Cox's Bazar to Cumilla by road while officials said after initial interrogation he would be produced before a court seeking him to be placed under police remand for next several days.

"We expect the court to order him to be remanded in our custody when several other security and intelligence agencies would interrogate him as well," another police officer in Cumilla said.

The violence erupted on October 13 after a copy of Islam's holy book of Quran was

found at the feet of a Hindu goddess in Cumilla ahead of the Hindu community's Durga Puja. Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Unity Council said over 70 temples, makeshift puja pavilions and many Hindu households were burnt or damaged across Bangladesh in subsequent violence which drew sharp international concern.

Social media was widely used to spread the unrest, forcing authorities to briefly suspend Facebook and internet connectivity to contain the violence.

Police said they had launched a massive manhunt for Hossain based on the clue from the security camera footage at the Cumilla's puja pavilion.

Their initial investigations indicated he was a vagabond while family members claimed he was a mentally imbalanced person. However, police said even if the claim was true some vested quarters could have used him to instigate the violence.

"This could not be mere a task of a vagabond; somebody is definitely there behind the incident to instigate the attacks," Hindu rights activist Rana Dasgupta said.

Woman from India among 2 foreigners killed in shootout in Mexico's Tulum resort

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

Two foreigners, including one from India, were killed and three wounded in a shooting at a restaurant in the Mexican Caribbean resort town of Tulum, authorities said on Thursday.

Authorities said one of the dead women was from Germany and the other from India. The three wounded included two Germans and a tourist from the Netherlands.

The shooting broke out Wednesday night at a street-side eatery that has some outdoor tables, right off Tulum's main strip.

The fight was between two groups that operate street-level drug sales in the area, the Quintana Roo state prosecutor's office said in a statement. The tourists were apparently dining at the restaurant and may have been caught in the crossfire.

One woman died at the scene and the other in a hospi-

tal. One of the aggressors, who was also wounded, was subsequently arrested. There was no immediate word on the condition of the wounded tourists.

Tulum has experienced growing pains moving from laid back beach retreat to major international destination. It had long been spared the violence seen sporadically in larger Cancun and Playa del Carmen farther up the coast.

But in June, two men were shot to death on the beach in Tulum and a third was wounded. The administration of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has pinned its hopes on Tulum, where it has announced plans to build an international airport and a stop for the Maya train, which will run in a loop around the Yucatan peninsula.

But Quintana Roo state, where beach resorts like Tulum, Playa del Carmen and Cancun are located, has been plagued by both violence and corruption.

From exile, female former Afghan leader keeps fighting

AP ■ NEW YORK

Two months after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, one of the country's once-prominent female leaders — a former parliament member, candidate for president and a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize — is visiting the United Nations, not as a representative of her government but as a woman in exile.

In an interview with *The Associated Press*, Fawzia Koofi called for humanitarian aid sent to Afghanistan to be contingent on the participation of women in its distribution, as well as free and safe travel for Afghans into and out of the country.

Aid "should not be politicized. ... Women should be involved in every stage of it and they should be listened to. Women should not be only the recipients," said Koofi, part of a delegation of Afghan women visiting the UN to urge member states not to compromise on inclusion and equal rights.

Since fleeing Kabul in August, Koofi has been living in



Fawzia Koofi, one of the Afghanistari's once-prominent female leaders — a former Parliament member, candidate for President and a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize

AP

hotel rooms in Europe. She described the pain of separation from her country, of two decades of hopes dashed and of searching for permanent residence for herself and her two daughters.

"This is not an Afghanistan I fought for," she told the AP. "The Afghanistan that I was hoping for was (that) women should not suffer as much as I suffered during my childhood, during the time that I was a teenager, when (the) Taliban took over."

"I wanted other girls to

enjoy at least the freedom of choosing which school they should go. But now, their choice is limited to which room in their houses they should spend during the day. This is heartbreaking."

Koofi, a former deputy speaker of parliament, was one of only four women in talks to reach a power-sharing deal with the Taliban, which ultimately failed. She described watching the Taliban's commitment to negotiations change after they signed a peace agreement with the United States in February 2020.

"After they signed the agreement, they were more extreme and they were more into buying time, preferring a military strategy," she said.

Taliban fighters pursued that strategy in the summer, seizing province after province until they reached Kabul in August. When then-President Ashraf Ghani fled, the Taliban entered the capital, sparking panic among many who had opposed their rule and feared for their lives and futures.

China vows no concessions on Taiwan after Biden comments

AP ■ BEIJING

China on Friday said there is "no room" for compromise or concessions over the issue of Taiwan, following a comment by US President Joe Biden that the US is committed to defending the island if it is attacked.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin reasserted China's longstanding claim that the island is its territory at a daily briefing after Biden made his comment a day before at a forum hosted by CNN.

China has recently upped its threat to bring Taiwan under its control by force if necessary

by flying warplanes near the island and rehearsing beach landings.

"When it comes to issues related to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and other core interests, there is no room for China to compromise or make concessions, and no one should underestimate the strong determination, firm will and strong ability of the Chinese people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wang said.

"Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The Taiwan issue is purely an internal affair of China that

allows no foreign intervention," Wang said.

Biden's comments on Thursday were viewed as stretching the "strategic ambiguity" Washington has maintained over how it would respond to an assault on the self-governing island republic.

The US should "be cautious with its words and actions on the Taiwan issue, and not send any wrong signals to the separatist forces of Taiwan independence, so as not to seriously damage China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Wang said.

US concerned over China's hypersonic missiles: Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US is concerned about the Chinese hypersonic missiles, President Joe Biden has said, days after a media report claimed that China recently tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that caught America's intelligence by surprise.

Asked at the White House on Thursday if the US is concerned about the latest hypersonic missile tests by China, Biden told reporters, "Yes".

Pressure mounts on China to respect Uyghur rights

AFP ■ BEIJING

Forty-three countries have called on China to "ensure full respect for the rule of law" for the Muslim Uyghur community in Xinjiang, in a statement read at the United Nations on Thursday that sparked outrage from Beijing.

The declaration, signed by the United States as well as several European and Asian member states and others, accused China of a litany of human rights violations against the Uyghurs, including torture, forced sterilisation and forced disappearances.

"We call on China to allow immediate, meaningful and unfettered access to Xinjiang for independent observers, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and her office," the countries said in a joint statement, read at the United Nations by France.

"We are particularly concerned about the situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region," the statement continued, citing "credible" reports that "indicate the existence of a large network of 'political reeducation' camps where over a million people have been arbitrarily detained."

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that this male namely **Vipul, S/o: Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal, R/o H.No. 9023, 3rd Floor, Shidhipura, near SBI ATM, Delhi, Age: 31 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Normal, wearing Blue colour Half T-Shirt, Jeans and Black Shoes** in feet has been missing from his house since 01.10.2021 at 10:00 AM. In this

regard a **DD No. 42A, dated 01.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform to the following.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/1051/CD/2021

SHO

P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi
Ph: 011-23613252, 23537374

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Reena, W/o Khayali Ram, R/o Unknown, Age: 30 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Light Red Suit with Black & White Print** was admitted in LHMC Hospital, New Delhi and gave birth to a child. During postnatal treatment, she was missing from the hospital since 03.04.2020. In this regard a vide **DD No. 02A, dated 04.04.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/344/ND/2021

SHO
P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23364100, 8750870522, 7988876315

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ravi Verma S/o Mahender Singh R/o H.No. 356/2, Gali No. 02, Firoz Gandhi Colony No. 02, Gurugram Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 67/20 u/s 33/38/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Moti Nagar, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ravi Verma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ravi Verma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ravi Verma** accused of **FIR No. 67/20 u/s 33/38/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Moti Nagar, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.12.2021.**

By Order : **Sh. Abhinav Pandey Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (West), Room No. 268, Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi**

DP/593/WD/21

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead near Pillar No 344 Metro Patri Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar dated **18.10.2021 at 10:30 PM.** In this regard vide **DD No. 27A, dated 18.10.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi.** The description of the dead body is given as under **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 60-70 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt and Green Colour Lower.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

DP/595/WD/2021



SHO

P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25101150, 8750871125

16 KILLED IN RUSSIAN FACTORY BLAST

Moscow: An explosion and fire at a gunpowder factory in Russia on Friday killed 16 people, officials said. The Emergency Situations Ministry said the explosion hit the Elastik factory in the Ryazan region.

6 ROHINGYA DIE IN CLASHES IN B'DESH

Dhaka: Two groups of Rohingya refugees clashed Friday in a camp in southern Bangladesh, leaving at least six refugees dead and 10 others injured, police said. The violence broke out in Cox's Bazar district when one side opened fire, killing four people at the scene, said Shihab Kaiser Khan, commander of the Armed Police Battalion, which oversees the camp's security.

VIOLENCE ERUPTS AT RALLY IN PAKISTAN

Lahore: Violent clashes erupted between Pakistan's security forces and radical Islamists here on Friday, leaving four people dead, including two policemen, and 15 others injured.

BALDWIN SHOTS FILMER DEAD WITH PROP GUN

Santa Fe (US): Actor Alec Baldwin fired a prop gun on a movie set and killed the cinematographer, authorities said. The director of the Western being filmed was also wounded, and authorities are investigating. Halyna Hutchins, cinematographer on the movie "Rust," and director Joel Souza were shot on the rustic film set in the desert on the southern outskirts of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County Sheriff's officials said.



सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

1911 से सेन्ट्रल आपके लिए CENTRAL TO YOU SINCE 1911

Regional Office: Jawahar Market, Model Town, Opp. D-park, Rohtak-124001 (Haryana)

E-Auction Sale Notice

E-Auction Sale Notice of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Bank, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on date 25.11.2021, for recovery of dues to the Central Bank of India from below mentioned Borrower(s). Reserve Price & EMD and other details are in below table.

| Branch Name of the Borrower/Guarantor | Details of Property | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount of Notice | Reserve Price EMD |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| VAKM Bahadurgarh | Smt. Chandewati Yadav W/o Sh. Lalji Yadav Residential Property (House) bearing No. 868/18 measuring 110 Sq. yards comprised in out of Khasra No. 74/3/35 situated in colony Rajender Singh Lakra Marg Mundka Extn. Village Mundka Delhi, as per registered Sale Deed no. 15132 dated 15.10.2003 registered with Sub Registrar Sub Div-II Delhi West Distt. Delhi. Bounded as: East: Others Plot, West: Others Plot, North: Others Plot, South: Road | 11.12.2019/ Rs. 27,79,320/- as on date of demand notice + intt. & Charges | Bid Increase Amt. 43.31 Lakh 4.34 Lakh 0.10 Lakh |

Last Date & Time of submission of EMD and Documents (Online) on or before 24.11.2021 up to 5.00 pm. Date and Time of e-Auction: 25.11.2021 from 2.00 P.M. to 04:00 P.M. with Auto Extension of 10 minutes.

Bidders have to register on website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> and upload KYC documents and after verification of KYC documents (which takes time of 2-3 working days) by the service provider, EMD to be deposited in Global EMD wallet through NEFT/RTGS/transfer (after generation of challan from <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>). The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider "<https://www.mstcecommerce.com>".


For detailed terms and conditions please go to the bank's website www.centralbankofindia.co.in

Date: 22/10/2021

Place: Rohtak

AUTHORISED OFFICER
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

10



संकेतिक संवत्साधन सूचना

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

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below- mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number | Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|---------|--|--|--|----------------|
| 1. | Aditi Bhardwaj/ Pushpendra Kumar Bhardi/ LBDEL00002378352 | Fiat No-503, 5th Floor, Tower-B, 5GH-16A, Morpheus Pratiksha Sec-01, Greater Noida/ October 18, 2021 | June 23, 2021 Rs. 32,45,774/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 2. | Dinesh Kumar/ Manju Devi/ LBGUR00004213020 | Fiat No 1302, 13th Floor Block-E 7 Sector-1 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021 | March 25, 2021 Rs. 59,27,488/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 3. | Dula Ram Meena/ Suman Meena/ LBNO00004233165 | Fiat No 104 1st Floor, Tower c2 Plot No Gh-06, Eco Village III, Sector 16 B Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021 | March 25, 2021 Rs. 51,98,753/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 4. | Kalyan Kuamr Gupta/ Poonam Gupta/ LBDEL00002290948 | Fiat No 1603, 16th Floor, Plot No Gh 11, Sector-1, Greater Noida, Tower B, Gayatri Aura, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021 | March 25, 2021 Rs. 23,34,999/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 5. | Kanhajia Mittal/ Laxman Prasad Mittal/ Gopal Mittal/ LBGH200003608580 | Fiat No 1602, Floor 16th Eco Village 3, Block-F G and Tower-2 Plot No Gh 06 Sector 16 Bgreater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021 | March 25, 2021 Rs. 44,72,425/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 6. | Sharan Gopal/ Anirban Mukherjee/ LBDEL00002367308 | Fiat No-302, 3rd Floor, Tower- B2, Victory Ace Plot No GH 02, Pocket No-2, Sector-143, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021 | May 29, 2021 Rs. 82,05,302/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 7. | Swati Rathil/ Vishnu Rathil/ LBDEL00003299957 | Fiat No-6065, 6th Floor, Tower-H Gaur City-2, 14th Avenue, Plot No GC GH-03, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021 | June 23, 2021 Rs. 28,81,868/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 8. | Pooja Tiwari/ Shivam Tiwari/ LBGH200005051413 | Fiat No 1093, 3rd Floor New Lig Flats Kondli Gharoli Mayur Vihar Phase 3 Delhi/ October 18, 2021 | June 19, 2021 Rs. 23,05,679/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 9. | M.H. Textiles Pvt. Ltd./ Jai Prakash Keswani/ Harish Keswani/ Om Prakash Keswani/ Shri Chand Keswani/ LBDFB00000986096 | Plot No- 29, Corner, Pocket-1, Jasola Behind Appolo Hospital Residential Scheme, Delhi/ October 20, 2021 | May 31, 2021/ Rs. 1,07,99,005/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 10. | Mohd Ashfaque Qureshi/ Mohd Ashfaque Qureshi/ Tushering Doma/ LBDEL00004191691 | Fiat No. 2273, Top Floor, Pocket- 2 & 3, Sec-B Vasant Kunj, Delhi, Delhi/ October 20, 2021 | June 23, 2021 Rs. 32,96,912/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 11. | Ramesh Chand Sharma/ Sharma Sanitary & Hardwire Store/ LBDEL00001409245/ LBDEL00004213183/ LBDEL00002054381 | Fiat No 240, Hauz Khas New Delhi, Delhi/ October 20, 2021 | June 25, 2021 Rs. 14,37,458/- | Delhi/ Ncr |
| 12. | Rahul Chaudhry/ Shalini Chaudhary/ LBGUR00002387119 | Fiat No- 503, 5th Floor Tower-4 Sunworld Arista, Plot Num GH 01/C Sector-168, Noida, Noida Uttar Pradesh/ October 18, 2021 | June 23, 2021/ Rs. 1,04,67,530/- | Delhi/ Ncr |

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

Date : October 22, 2021

Place: Delhi/ Ncr

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

11

Onion prices not too high: Secy

NO CASE FOR BANNING EXPORTS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday claimed that retail onion prices are not extraordinarily high to necessitate banning export of the key kitchen staple and buffer stock are being released to cool down the prices further while prices of food oils are still low despite the high international prices. On the other hand, experts say the higher prices of food oils will continue in the festive season and will start softening from December with arrival of new crops and a possible decline in global rates.

Addressing the press conference, Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey on Friday the average onion price was ruling at ₹41.5 per kg on October 21, much lower than ₹55.6 per kg in the year-ago period. State Governments are of the opinion that there is no possibility of sharp increase in onion prices in the coming days as domestic kharif onion production is estimated to be higher at 43.88 lakh tonne in

the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) as against 37.38 lakh tonne in the year-ago period, he said.

As per the Government data, retail prices were ruling at ₹ 48/kg in Delhi, ₹43/kg in Mumbai, ₹37/kg in Chennai and ₹57/kg in Kolkata on Friday. The Food Secretary said: “Onion prices are not extraordinarily high. The average prices are lower than last year.”

Market intervention has already been initiated to check prices of onion, but the rates have not reached anywhere close to the level that necessitates further immediate action as per the Essential Commodities Act, he said.

Asked about plans to ban onion exports, the Secretary said, “There is no such scenario. Exports are lower than last year. It is better to monitor than speculate.” Already more than 81,000 tonne of onion from the buffer stock has been released in the market where prices are rising at a fast pace, to improve availability and control prices, he said.

India can become world’s edtech capital: Kant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Friday said India can become the edtech capital of the world, with the private sector playing a key role and the public sector acting as a facilitator.

Speaking at a virtual conference of Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Kant also said India needs to significantly improve its learning outcomes, and technology can help the country leapfrog in a big way.

“I am confident that India can become the edtech capital of the world with the private sector playing a key role and the public sector acting as a facilitator,” he said.

Kant said affordable internet connectivity and technology-based infrastructure are the only ways to enhance the education sector in the country.

“Relying only on physical infrastructure will not be sufficient,” he noted.According to the Niti Aayog CEO, the Indian edtech ecosystem has great growth potential.

Forex reserves up by USD 1.492 bn to USD 641 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country’s foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 1.492 billion to reach USD 641.008 billion in the week ended October 15, RBI data showed on Friday.

In the previous week ended October 8, the reserves had increased by USD 2.039 billion to USD 639.516 billion. The reserves had touched a lifetime high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021.

In the reporting week ended October 15, the rise in the forex kitty was mainly on account of an increase in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the over-all reserves

FCAs rose by USD 950 million to USD 577.951 billion, as per weekly data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves climbed by USD 557 million to USD 38.579 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined by USD 21 million to USD 19.247 billion.

The country’s reserve position with the IMF rose by USD 6 million to USD 5.231 billion.

Covid vax programme success can boost economic growth: India Inc

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Inc on Friday said the country’s “hugely successful” Covid-19 vaccination programme under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership can boost economic growth and help realise the vision of a New India.

Hailing crossing of the 100-crore vaccine doses milestone, Modi on Friday said India’s vaccination programme was science-born, science-driven and science-based.

In an address to the nation, the Prime Minister also urged people to keep following Covid protocol during the festival season and not drop their guard.

T V Narendran, president of industry chamber CII, said, “Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, India has been hugely successful in delivering on the Covid vaccination program, the largest in the world driven by indigenously manufactured vaccines, which can boost economic growth.”

“With around 75 per cent of adults inoculated, we can now be confident about realizing the vision of a new India

PM also urged people to keep following Covid protocol during the festival season and not drop their guard

where growth with inclusion would be the way forward,” he added.

Pradeep Multani, president, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said it is encouraging to note the vaccination drive has not only increased the confidence of people, trade and industry, but has also created positive economic projections by various national and international organisations.

Porus Doctor, partner and consumer industry leader, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, said, “Whilst the upcoming festive season will bring some cheer to the consumer sector with discretionary spends on the rise, consumers must exercise abundant caution to ensure there is no spike in COVID19 cases.” stic) will increase during the festive season and this augurs well for the travel sector,” he added.

Yes Bank’s Q2FY22 YoY net profit up over 74%

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

Yes Bank on Friday reported a rise of 74.3 per cent in its net profit for Q2FY22 on a year-on-year basis. The lender’s net profit during the preiod under review rose to ₹225 crore from ₹129 crore for Q2FY21.

However, the bank’s net interest income declined on a YoY basis to ₹1,512 crore from ₹1,973 crore earned during Q2FY21. In contrast, the non-interest income rose by 30.2 per cent during the period under review to ₹778 crore from ₹597 crore.

Similarly, the bank’s provisions declined on a YoY basis. It fell to ₹377 crore from ₹1,078 crore.“NPPA ratio at 15 per cent vs 15.6 per cent last quarter, Overdue Book (31- 90 days) lower by Rs 6,000 crore Q-o-Q,” the lender said in a statement.

“Resolution momentum continues with ₹987 crore of Cash Recoveries & ₹969 crore of upgrades in Q2FY22.”

DoT amends RoW rules defining framework for laying aerial OFC to facilitate 5G

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Department of Telecommunication (DoT), has by way of gazette notification, amended Indian Telegraph RoW Rules November, 2016 to prescribe various terms and conditions for laying overhead Optical Fiber Cable (OFC).

Optical Fiber is a fundamental and structural part of both mobile and fixed broadband networks. Faster rollout of fibre is important for backhauling a large amount of data at high throughput, improving reliability, and reducing latency.

To achieve the objective of universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen, fibreisation of telecommunication networks is essential.

These DoT RoW Rules earlier covered only underground OFC and mobile towers and with this amendment in place now, desired clarity for laying overhead OFC is also available which will go a long way in creating necessary infrastructure to cater to forthcoming 5G rollouts in the country.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Sangeta W/o Mr. Hanendra Kumar is intending to sell Residential Plot No.3, area measuring 50 Sq. Yards i.e. 41.80 Sq. Meters, out of Khass No. 346, Situated in the Village Achreja Pergana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. to Mrs. Rinkal Kaur W/o Mr. Choto to be financed by KFS Housing Finance Ltd. Branch Noida The Original Sale Deed Dated 21.06.2013 vide Doc. No. 12829, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and FIR has been registered on 20.10.2021 with Police Station Badliagarh G.B. Nagar, U.P.

If any person has any claim on the aforesaid property, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property documents, within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ct. 830, Patil House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob.-+91-9878188322

PUBIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Archana Budhija Rio W/ate Shri Lucky Budhija Rio Gali No. 2, Amrit Pur Garhi, Sirinwaspur, South Delhi, Delhi 110065 have severed all their relations with her son Sh. Arpit Budhija due to his bad habits. My above-named clients have disowned and disbarred her son from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Sh Arpit Budhija will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Sh Arpit Budhija.

Advocate Anand
(011346/2019) Ph: +91 9582025769
E-mail: anand738@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mr. Rajiv Narula & Mr. Ranesh Narula are joint owners of Entire Second Floor with roof/terrace rights ("Said floor") of Property Bearing No. 161, in Block J-5, area measuring 158.7 sq. yds, situated in the revenue estate of Village Tatar Pur, Colony known as Rajouri Garden, New Delhi, by virtue of Requisitionment deed dated 11.05.2015, registration No. 6616, executed by Mr. Manav Narula and Mr. Mohit Narula, has lost/misplaced Original relinquishment deed dated 11.05.2015. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
300, Third Floor, 23, Street, Harp, West Nagar, N. Delhi-110015
Ph :- 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that I, Ishwar Chand, S/O Shri Jayanti Prasad Gupta, R/O 6/49, Gali No.2 , Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have lodged an N.C.R with Crime Branch, Delhi Police vide LR No. 841127/2021 dated 20/10/2021 regarding some lost documents of Property bearing no. 6/49, area measuring 50 sq. yds., situated at Village Chandrawali alias Shahdara, Block No. 6, Gali No.2, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, the details of which have already been mentioned in the N.C.R. Whosoever finds the said documents within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice shall communicate with Sh. Ishwar Chand, R/o 6/49, Gali No.2, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.
Contact no. :-9899158509

RAM GOPAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Suburban, Tehsil-Faridabad, Near Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana
Affiliated to Pt. B.D.Sharma University of Health & Sciences, Rohtak & Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) and State Govt., Haryana

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR SESSION 2021-22
Institute level second counselling without any reservation for vacant seats (by merging all reserved categories)

BACHELOR OF PHARMACY (4 Years)
Admission Procedure: Candidate shall have passed 10+2 examination with English as one of the subjects and Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics (P.C.M) and Biology (P.C.B) as optional subjects individually. Admission on Merit based only.

LEET (LATERAL ENTRY: 3 Years)
Admission Procedure: Candidate shall have passed D.Pharmacy with minimum 50% marks. Admission on Merit based only.

Last date of submission of application form - 24/10/2021 till 1:00 pm
Display & merit list and deposition of fees - 25/10/2021 till 1:00 pm
Website: www.ramgopcollege.com Mob.: 8920418745

UJVN LIMITED
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H. O. "ULJANAL" MAHARANI BAGH, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN - 248006, C.IN No. 04010019013G023868
Telle : 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, website: www.ujvnll.com

No. 776 **Time Extension Notice** Date : 22.10.2021
The last date for submission and opening of tender specification No. 03/EE/(E&M-I)/LP/2021-22(Repairing of street light system at Juddo) invited by Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Lakhwar Project, Dakpathar is hereby extended as under:

Last Date for downloading of tender document: 27/10/2021
Last Date for submission of tender: 28/10/2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Due Date for opening of tender: 01/11/2021 at 11:00 Hrs.
All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.
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Markets recoil for fourth day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmarks nursed losses for the fourth consecutive session on Friday, weighed by IT, FMCG and metal stocks, as risk appetite remained subdued amid muted corporate earnings and foreign fund outflows.

Participants were also in

wait-and-watch mode ahead of Q2 results by market heavyweight Reliance Industries, traders said. Reversing early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 101.88 points or 0.17 per cent to close at 60,821.62. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty shed 63.20 points or 0.35 per cent to finish at 18,114.90. ITC was the top laggard in

the Sensex pack, tumbling 3.39 per cent, followed by Maruti, Infosys, NTPC, HCL Tech, Tata Steel and M&M.

On the other hand, HDFC, Bajaj Auto, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were among the winners, rising up to 2.11 per cent.

On a weekly basis, the

Sensex lost 484.33 points or 0.79 per cent, while the Nifty fell 223.65 points or 1.21 per cent.

“Despite a strong opening owing to favourable global cues, domestic indices continued its losing streak succumbing to profit booking and barring banks and realty stocks, all major sectors bled.

| PUBLIC NOTICE | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|------------|
|  | | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 | | |
| The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice. | | | | |
| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address | Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced | Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice | NPA Date |
| 1. | Shantanu Ghosh, Niyogi Jayita, Flat No-A- 503, Exotica, East Square Appt, Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad. A/c No:-LBGHZ00001824526 | Flat No- KM-56-1101, Kosmos Jaypee Green, Noida | 03/07/2021, Rs. 4,64,703.8/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 2. | Amarendra Kumar, Chandra Mukhi, 471, Paschimabad J.N.U, Delhi, Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL000001104826 | H. No. 752, Sarswathi Puram, JNU, Delhi | 06/07/2021, Rs. 4,39,216.61/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 3. | Pal Ganshyam Ramanand, Kamala Devi, 570 Sec 10 Ballabhgarh, Faridabad, A/c No:- LBDEL00002096486 | Flat No- E/5 1st Floor, Yogi Darshanamli Silvassavalaid Pin Code 396230 Valsad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 4,36,104/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 4. | Biresh Kumar Singh, Chandrakala Singh, H No 196-A, G-2 Block, Gali No 1, Delhi, Jai Vihar Najafgarh A/c:-LBDEL00004157006 | Flat No 859, Ground Floor, Nyay Khand II, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 4,30,804/- | 31/12/2020 |
| 5. | Deepak Kumar, Murti Devi, B-2A Indra Market, Guru Ram Das Nagar, Luxmi Nagar, Delhi. A/c No:- LBND000001107315 | Unit No 18, Parsvanath Bibnab Plazaguru Ramdas Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi | 03/07/2021, Rs. 4,28,448.05/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 6. | Deepak Kumar Bind, AL- Rigga Road, P O Box-182845, Opp 4 Seasons, Resturant, Deira, UAE Ph-006592388571, Dubai, A/c:-LBGUR00002095571 | 1404 14th Floor, Tower N, The Palm Drive Sector-66 Haryana Gurgaon 122001, With Parkinf Space U-N-13 & L-N-13 | 25-06-2021, Rs. 4,26,931/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 7. | Manjeet Singh, Inderjeet Kaur, B-5 Krishna Awas R-5/120, Raj Nagar Sector-5, Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBDEL000001173589 | B-14, Jal Nigam Colony, Raj Nagar Sec-1, Near Telephone Exchange, Ghaziabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 4,20,268.12/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 8. | Suresh Kumar, Sunita, Manoj Kumar Arya, Flat No. GF- 4, First Floor, Nitikhand- 1 /46, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00000990720 | Flat No. GF- 4 First Floor, Nitikhand- 1/46, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 4,07,407.79/- | 11/01/2021 |
| 9. | Pushpendra Kumar, Somlata, 1268 Sanjay Kaloni, Arthala, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:-LBDEL00002979300 | Flat No B54-01, Ground Floor, Aasra Type-2, Upavp, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 3,98,552/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 10. | Pushpendra Kumar, Somlata, 1268 Sanjay Kaloni, Arthala, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00001977058 | Flat No B54-01, Ground Floor, Aasra Type-2, Upavp, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 3,90,959.69/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 11. | Deepak Khandelwal, Deepti, H. No E 8 Partly Ward No 14, Dayal Bagh Vill- Lafarpur, Faridabad, Faridabad, A/c:-LBGUR00005336276 | House No E-77, Dayal Bagh Colony, Suraj Kund, Faridabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 3,73,211/- | 09/01/2021 |
| 12. | Deep Chand Singh, Chhaya Singh, Nai Basti Sarfabad An Sec-72, Sec 74 Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida. A/c No:-LBND000001995423 | Flat No A4 303 3rd Floor, Tower A4 Gardenia Aims Glory Plot No GH-01, Sec-46, Noida, Noida | 03/07/2021, Rs. 3,59,027/- | 31/12/2020 |
| 13. | Sumeet Suri, Pali Suri, E-49, Kapil Vihar, Sector-21C, Faridabad, Faridabad, A/c:-LBFD000001198548 | 122, Block-1, Sunrise Tower Cghshg-7, Sec-45, Fariadbad, Haryana, Faridabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 3,54,582.09/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 14. | Narendra Kumar, Sunita Rani, H. No. 1015, Sector 14, Faridabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00001980116 | Plot No 137, Block D, Sector - 11, Faridabad, Faridabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 3,54,103.5/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 15. | Mumtaj, Mumtaj, C- 318 Ground Floor Sec-5dakshin Puri, Dr Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00003930226 | Flat No-1612, 16th Floor, Galaxy Royale-Block, Gokul Plot No- GC-03/ GH-03, Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 05/07/2021, Rs. 3,41,952/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 16. | Poonam Vijaykumar Mishra, Vijaykumar Deonath Mishra, 12 D, Mesh, New Navy Nagar, Colaba, Mumbai, Mumbai, A/c No:-LBDEL00004913462 | Flat No 402, 4th Floor, Cosmo City Silvassa Kharvel Road, Dadra Nagar, Havelis No 537 538, Silvassa | 14/07/2021, Rs. 3,35,081/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 17. | Tarun Kumar Singh, Kiran Singh, Dinesh Singh, Flat No.707/708, Aman Castle, Sector 4, Plot No. 22, Vaishali, Sahidabad, A/c:-LBDEL00000740095 | Flat No. 707., Sector IV, Plot No. 22., Vaishali, Aman Castle, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 3,02,181.04/- | 08/02/2021 |
| 18. | Prem Kumar Bhardwaj, Neetu Kumari, H.No-629, 1st Floor Sakti Khand 3, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBND000001864253 | House No-629, 1st Floor, Shakti Khand- 3, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 2,95,768/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 19. | Sarita Attri, Rajendra Singh, R-8, Main Market, Shakar Pur, Delhi, Delhi. A/c No:-LBDEL00001072005 | Flat No- 404, 4th Flr, Block-A, Krishan Apra Gardens, Plot No 7, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 2,92,973.96/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 20. | Sumeet Suri, Pali Suri, E-49, Kapil Vihar, Sector-21C, Faridabad, Faridabad, A/c:- LBFD000001426566 | 122, Block-1, Sunrise Tower CGHSGH-7, Sec-45, Fariadbad, Haryana, Faridabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 2,86,369.69/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 21. | Veni Mohan, Varun Mohan, B-5/110, Ground Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001839844 | Flat No- F1-12-1202, Uniworld City East Gurgaon, Gurgaon | 14/07/2021, Rs. 2,79,680/- | 11/01/2021 |
| 22. | Sanjeev K Kshitij, Neena Kshitij, 17 D 535, Konark Encalve, Vasudhara, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBND000001796424 | Plot No. 94, Grd Flr, Habitat Flr Jaipuria Enclave, Kavshambi, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 2,64,505/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 23. | Sanjeev Kumar, Sunanta Gambhir, House No-1312 Block- B Gaur Global Village, Crossng Republik Near NH-24 Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBND000002035091 | BS001D1202, 12th Floor, Tower-1, Buddh Circuit Studios, Sector-25, Jaypee Greens Sports City, Yeida Greater Noida Noida | 03/07/2021, Rs. 2,58,358/- | 31/12/2020 |
| 24. | Ranvir Singh, Santosh Yadav, D-184, Delta-1, Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar, Noida, A/c No:- LBND000001505239 | Flat No D-184, Sector- Delta-1, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 14/07/2021, Rs. 2,36,081/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 25. | Tanu Agarwal, Omax Construction Ltd, Palash Ranjan Agarwal, E-65, Kalkaji, 1st Floor, New Delhi, Delhi. A/c No:-LBDEL00001202747 | FF- 3, 1st Floor, Sector- 6 Vaishali Ghaziabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 2,32,878.76/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 26. | Ashwani Kumar, Gunjan Kumar, C-43, Surya Nagar, Near Ram Mandir, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBND000001078776 | G-1, Plot C43 Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 2,22,929.72/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 27. | Sanjeev Khosla, Kanayalal Khosla, Flat No: S-2, Plot No: C-179, Ramprasta, Opp Vivek Vihar, Saibabad, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00000389406 | Flat No T-2, Plot No 179, SF (RR Side) Block C, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 2,22,510.92/- | 21/01/2021 |
| 28. | Yashpal, Sonia, House No-155/8, Model Town, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon. A/c No:- LBDEL000001140423 | Plot No.- 11, Khasra No- 1522/1 Ashok Puri Gurgaon, Gurgaon | 03/07/2021, Rs. 2,18,480.98/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 29. | Yashpal, Soniya, House No- 155/8, Model Town, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon, A/c No:- LBDEL000001140419 | Plot No. 11, Khasra No. 1522/1, Ashok Puri Gurgaon | 03/07/2021, Rs. 2,09,056/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 30. | Gulab Singh, Savita Devi, Flat No- 433, Ashoka Enclave Part- 3, Sector- 35, Near Sarai, Faridabad, A/c No:- LBDEL00000945884 | Plot No 433, Ashok Enclave-3, Village Sanai Kharaja, Faridabad. Faridabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 1,93,203.5/- | 28/02/2021 |
| 31. | Sailesh Kumar, Seema Srivastava, Flat No B-2B, 011, GC Grand Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c:-LBDEL00000523535 | Flat No S-2, Plot No-296, Sec-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 1,89,594/- | 30/09/2020 |
| 32. | Ashish Dhingia, Onkar Singh Dhingia, Flat No 302, Second Floor, Jahangir Puri, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL000001101022 | Flat No. 302, Second Floor, Jahangir Puri, Delhi | 14/07/2021, Rs. 1,86,353.26/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 33. | Yati, Kavita, A-127 Sector-55, Noida, A/c:- LBDEL00004848267 | Plot No- GC7/ GH-01, Flat No-1051, Tower-G, 10th Floor, Gaur City 1, Sector 04, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida | 14/07/2021, Rs. 1,83,822/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 34. | Gopinath Nayak, Aratee Nayak, H. No: 135, Block- D, Sector-Bela-1, G. B. Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Noida, A/c:-LBDEL00004913930 | Flat No- 2633, 25th Floor Fortune Tower. Mahagan Montage Dundhahera Plot No GH 3 Crossing Republik Village Ghaziabad 201010 | 25/06/2021, Rs. 1,61,553/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 35. | Deepak Tyagi, Sarita Tyagi, Prashant Karla, Flat- No- 450, Sector-16, Vasundhara, Sec-16, Ghaziabad. A/c No:-LBDEL00000507294 | Flat No- 16/450, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 1,50,496.72/- | 08/03/2021 |
| 36. | Sushma Kumari, Ankush, H N 110 Tower- B 5th Avenue Gaur City 1 Sec-4 Noida, Pincode 201009, Noida, A/c No:-LBND000005079316 | Flat No- 110, First Floor, Tower- B 5th Venue, Plot No- GH- 01 Gaur City-1, Sector-04, Greater Noida, Noida | 14/07/2021, Rs. 1,49,050/- | 06/03/2021 |
| 37. | Rajat Kumar Mathur, Rimjhim Mathur, Flat No 1002, 10th Floor, Tower- P1 Ashiana Palm Court, Raj Nagar Ext, Noor Nagar NH-58, Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBND000001731243 | B- 109, IInd Floor, Parashwanth Paradise, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad | 03/07/2021, Rs. 1,40,256/- | 11/01/2021 |
| 38. | Hemant Kumar, Mithlesh Gupta, A-3/225 Sector-17, Rohini New Delhi, Delhi, A/c:-LBDEL00002069311 | Flat No KPA-10- 1502, Kensington Park-1 Jaypee Greens Sec-131/133 Noida 201301 | 25/06/2021, Rs. 1,38,504/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 39. | Fasihuzzaman, Anesha Verma, Flat No 404 Fourth Floor, 331 A Z1A, Manzil Nai Basti, Asif Nawaz Compound Jamia Nagar Okhla, Delhi, A/c No:- LBND00004080193 | Unit No 807, Floor 8 Tower 4 Kosmos Jaypee Wsh Town Greens Sector 134 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar | 03/07/2021, Rs. 1,34,249/- | 11/01/2021 |
| 40. | Devender Singh, Sushma Raj, W2-13 Upper Ground Floor Block-B, Om Vihar Phase-3 Unnati Chemist, Uttam Nagar West Delhi, Delhi, A/c:- LBGUR00004856664 | Unit No- 98, Spaze Tristaar- Shops, Village Dhorka, Sec-92, Gurgaon | 14/07/2021, Rs. 1,33,641/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 41. | Rishi Kumar Saluja, Brinda Mudgil, S6 203 Eldeco Amantran , Sec 119 Noida, Near Tirpathi Hospital, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar A/c:- LBND000004935537 | Flat No E 1405, 14th Floor, Apex Golf Avenue Tower E Adjoining Tech ZC Greater Noida, Noida | 14/07/2021, Rs. 1,32,395/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 42. | Rishi Kumar Saluja, Brinda Mudgil, S6 203 Eldeco Amantran , Sec 119 Noida, Near Tirpathi Hospital, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar A/c:- LBND000004935649 | Flat No E 1405, 14th Floor, Apex Golf Avenue Tower E Adjoining Tech ZC Greater Noida, Noida | 14/07/2021, Rs. 1,14,566/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 43. | Gourav Gupta, Neera Gupta, H. No-166 Sec-18 Old Faridabad, Faridabad, A/c No:- LBFD000005077155 | Flat No C 502, Floridaa- Tower C, Floor 5, Sector-82, Faridabad | 05/07/2021, Rs. 1,02,008/- | 31/12/2020 |
| 44. | Sanjay Raj Jain, Manisha Jain, P1, Pocket 12, Rohini, Sector- 24, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001844319 | Property No.171, First Floor, Pocket-12, Sector- 24, Rohini, Delhi | 05/07/2021, Rs. 97,315/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 45. | Supriya Chaubey, Shashi Kant Chaubey, Flat No 53, 2nd Floor, BLK- G PKT- 9, Sec 16 Rohini, Delhi, Delhi, Sec- 16 Rohini A/c No:- LBDEL00005168937 | LIG Flat No 597, Pocket GH-1 Sanskriti Apartment, Sector-28, Rohini, Delhi | 14/07/2021, Rs. 85,821.8/- | 12/01/2021 |
| 46. | Prakash, Vinod, U- 26- C 2/ 3 Room No 603, U Block DLF Phase 3 Gurgaon, U Block, Gurgaon, DLF Phase 3 Gurgaon A/c No:-LBGUR00005035684 | Flat No T15- 206, 2nd Floor, Arawali Homes Tower 15, Sector 4, Gurgaon | 05/07/2021, Rs. 82,463/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 47. | Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Pradeep Sharma, H.No- 4113 Sec- 4A Vasundhara, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad A/c No:-LBGHZ00005037342 | Plot No F- 45, Flat No. 4A/4113, 3rd Floor, Sector- 4A, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad | 05/07/2021, Rs. 72,499/- | 31/01/2021 |
| 48. | Sanjeev Khosla, Kanayalal Khosla, Flat No: S-2, Plot No: C- 179, Ramprasta, Opp Vivek Vihar, Saibabad, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00000563624 | Flat No T-2, Plot No 179, SF (RR Side) Block C, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad | 05/07/2021, Rs. 70,331.12/- | 21/01/2021 |
| 49. | Priti Bhasin, Vikas Bhasin, F-86, Lajpat Nagar I, Ground Floor Front Side, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001950434 | Unit No AMN0250105, Aman Jaypee Greens, Noida, Noida | 05/07/2021, Rs. 54,565/- | 11/03/2021 |
| 50. | Sailesh Kumar, Flat No 2B, 011, GC Grand Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBDEL00001872965 | Flat No S-2, Plot No -296, Sec-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad | 14/07/2021, Rs. 49,502/- | 30/09/2020 |
| 51. | Sunil Kumar, Sushma Yadav, H No -60 Vill Dundahera Tehsil Gurgaon, Gurgaon, A/c No:- LBGUR00002146579 | J FF 04, High Street Shops, Capital High Street Plot No A 56 And A 57, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan | 05/07/2021, Rs. 40,534/- | 31/01/2021 |

TRAVEL BUG

LAND OF THE WATER

When the whole world and its governments shut their borders, owing to the highly contagious Covid-19 pandemic that continues to rage even now, Maldives opened its doors to the tourists as soon as they logistically could. The island nation, comprising over 1,200 islands, south and west to India and Sri Lanka in the Arabian Sea of the Indian Ocean, is counted among the topmost luxury travel destinations. The Maldivian Archipelago is the richest in the marine eco-system and forms a terrestrial ecoregion, together with the Chagos Archipelago and Lakshadweep. The country's concept of one island one resort offers the exclusivity sought the most by those who wish to isolate themselves in a tropical paradise.

Turquoise waters, white sands, beautiful sunrises and perfect sunsets, life moves at a leisurely pace on these islands. For a human weary of the toll — physical and mental — that the pandemic has taken, it makes for a perfect international getaway, when there are few other options available. Lucrative packages encouraging family travel is another considerable shift in the Indian traveller perception. So if you have had the Maldives on your bucket list, this is the time to plan a trip.

A PERFECT VACATION

There is something magical about the sand in the Maldives, I had heard. It was only when I walked along the beach that I realised how soft it felt beneath the feet... and cool. The sand here is largely made of pulverized coral and coral pieces that have been excreted by parrotfish (the sand they don't want to eat comes out in the form of fine powder!) and it does not heat up to the scorching afternoon temperatures. They say each fish is responsible for roughly one ton of sand every year.

The clear water can put an aqua shade card to shame with the range of blue and green that it reflects. Sun glitters hard, making you realise that you are much closer to the equator now. This makes frequent slathering of sunscreen must, lest you end up with burnt and peeling skin. I was quite intrigued by the little holes in the sand, which I am told are created by ghost crabs for different purposes, including protection from predation and from drying out, storing food, and many others.

Most resorts comprise villas that open into the sea and most of the villas come with their private pools and steps that take you down into the lagoon. You can choose one with a plunge pool and spend an entire day doing just about nothing! The Emerald Maldives Resort & Spa, where I stayed was a five-star resort perfect for a luxury secluded escape with sea-plane transfers that set the mood.

My gorgeous villa had a spacious deck that I happily converted into a work-from-vacay station, resting my sight — from time to time — by peering into the deep sea that extended as far as the eyes could see. If you are lucky, you may even sight dolphins as I did quite by chance while enjoying my morning cuppa. The view was simply magical.

A rich marine life surrounds the island resort making it a part of a much larger eco-system. To see baby sharks swimming is perhaps the most common sight around. The resort even has a spot where you can feed the fish at a certain time. A rare stingray can also be seen swimming around along with a variety



of other beautiful fish.

Outside, there are plenty of activities that one can participate in including riding the bicycles to go around the island, beach activities, including ball games, a kids zone, non-motorised water sports and much more. I was happy to be able to paddle my way around like I did when I was a child.

WATER KINGDOM

Maldives is known to be a divers' paradise. Counted among the top diving sites in the world, Maldives has an overwhelming diversity of marine life with over 250 species of corals and 2,000-plus species of fish. Serious divers can even go for liveaboard diving trips, where you stay on a vessel for one or more nights, going from one site to another.

For others, there is scuba diving, snorkelling and a whole lot of water activities, such as dolphin cruise; fishing on traditional Dhoni boats (Dhoni is a local fishing community in the Maldives that fishes using traditional methods) and non-motorised water sports such as standing paddle boat, kayaking and ride on the catamaran.

While scuba diving is for good swimmers, non-swimmers like me can take a shot at snorkelling. Each resort has its diving centre or may be attached to a diving centre based on a nearby island. There are as many as 32 diving



points around the islands and each offers different underwater vistas and depth. I went snorkelling in the deep waters of Makunudu with Euro-Divers, stationed at Kagi Maldives Spa Island. This point is perfect for relaxed divers and is especially known for turtle-spot-

ting. It is a protected house reef and home to eagle rays and harmless nurse sharks, among others. Even Manta rays occasionally pass by.

Careful following of instructions and faith in my instructor are what I needed to take that peek below for my

first ever snorkelling experience in the deep seas. The world is magical underwater. Watching the colourful fish swim along coral reefs underneath is a sight to behold. A giant turtle swam past nonchalantly, making my trip even more memorable.

A spa-cation for wellness lovers
Spa and wellness are the two other highlights for those visiting the Maldives. You need to completely detox and unwind after a good water activity day. For a lot of leisure travellers, it's their main itinerary. Little wonder that many resorts are exploring unique spa concepts to offer an even more immersive programme for their stay. Kagi Maldives Island resort, for one, is promoting itself as an exclusive wellness luxury stay. A five-star retreat in North Male Atoll, with 50 villas, it is the destination's first dedicated wellness haven with a focus on restorative health, fitness and nourishing menus.

Specially curated food menus are coupled with wellness activities on this very quiet and eco-conscious island. The spa therapies are designed to rejuvenate the body and mind and can be developed into a full-fledged itinerary by wellness seekers.

For instance, their sound spa session reminded me of Naad Aradhana that I have experienced nearer home in the past. Similar in concept, but using different sound instruments from around the world and sound vibrations — all gentle — the therapist nudges one to focus within, helping you relax deeply. Something like a spa for the soul. Opt for an

evening session that coincides with the sunset for greater impact.

TRAVEL WITH CAUTION

This is not to say that the pandemic does not exist. Lest you throw caution to the winds and to keep its people safe, the Maldivian government has strict rules in place for the visitors. For starters, all travellers must present a certificate of a negative PCR test carried out within 96 hours before departure, clearly showing the name and address of the laboratory, as well as the date of the sample taken.

You also have to complete a health declaration form and upload your negative test result within 24 hours of your departure flight. Once you do that, you are issued a QR code that allows airport officials to verify your information and approve your stay in the Maldives. Some resorts ask for online check-ins and seek a better understanding of their guests through apps or digital questionnaires.

For those opting to stay in more than one resort, an additional RTPCR test may be required before they check-in. Indians are required to get another certificate of a negative PCR test to regain entry into the country. The Maldives has strict contact tracing, quarantine norms and other Covid-19 related procedures in place. The travellers must read the fine print carefully before setting out. One must be prepared if caught in a situation, albeit accidentally.



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Sindhu loses in quarters

PTI ■ ODENSE

Returning to action after a break, India's double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu on Friday bowed out of the Denmark open badminton tournament after losing in straight games to world no 8 Korean An Seyoung in the women's singles quarterfinals here.

Playing her first tournament since winning the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics in August, Sindhu couldn't match her fifth seeded young Korean rival, going down 11-21 12-21 in 36 minutes.

Sindhu had also lost to An Seyoung in straight games the last time they clashed here two years ago in their only career meeting.

The reigning world champion, who had taken a break to rejuvenate after a hectic Olympics campaign, just couldn't find a way across the attacking game of the Korean, who was always a step ahead during the contest.

An Seyoung made a



superb start and took just six minutes to grab a massive seven-point lead at the break with Sindhu unable to find a crack in the Korean's game.

The Indian tried to control the net but committed few unforced errors with the Korean showing great athleticism to return everything thrown at her.

The Korean dominated the forecourt and played some exceptional shots, including a few diving forehand returns, to lead 16-8. In the end, Sindhu netted to give 10 game points to the Korean, who sealed the opening game when the Indian erred again.

Sindhu tried to change her tactics by playing high lifts

but she was not disciplined enough and after trailing 7-8 at one stage, she slipped to 8-11 at the break.

It was a one-way traffic after the interval as An Seyoung jumped to 20-10 in a jiffy. Sindhu saved two match points before committing another error.

On Thursday night, India's

Sameer Verma notched up a stunning straight-game win over world no.3 Anders Antonsen to storm into the quarterfinals but it was curtains for Lakshya Sen at the Super 1000 tournament here.

World No 28 Sameer, who had qualified for the World Tour Finals in 2018 after winning three titles, produced a sensational performance to outwit local hero Antonsen 21-14 21-18 in a 50-minute men's singles battle.

The 27-year-old from Madhya Pradesh will lock horns with 33-year-old Tommy Sugianto, a bronze winner at the 2014 World Championships.

However, it proved to be too daunting a task for Lakshya to match Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen as he thrashed the Indian 21-15 21-7 in a lop-sided second-round contest.

Coming into the match with a dismal 1-5 head-to-head count, Sameer showed great athleticism and tactical acumen to down Antonsen, a silver medallist at the 2019 World Championships.

Mentors can't do much, it's players who have to perform : Gavaskar

PTI ■ DUBAI

A mentor can only help as much because it is the players who will have to go out there and perform the "actual task", the legendary Sunil Gavaskar said on the appointment of Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the Indian team mentor for the T20 World Cup.

India will play Pakistan on Sunday in the Super 12s and Gavaskar feels that in this format Virat Kohli's team can't be termed clear favourites.

"Mentor can't do much," Gavaskar told Aaj Tak.

"Yes, he can help you prepare in change room as its a fast-paced game and if needed, help you tweak the tactic."

"May be speak to batters and bowlers during time-out, so the move to employ Dhoni is a good one but Dhoni will be in the change room and its the players who have to perform the actual task in the middle. How they handle pressure would determine what the result will be," Gavaskar said during the event.

Gavaskar feels Kohli will feel lesser pressure now that he has



decided to quit captaincy in the T20 format.

"When you become a captain, you can't just think about yourself, he has to speak to a batter who is going through a bad patch or discuss strategies with a bowler.

"Amid all this, one tends to neglect his own form. When you don't have that pressure, you can focus on your own game. I think it will be good for Virat that after T20 World Cup, he doesn't have to think about responsibilities.

"So he can focus on his own

game and score as many runs as possible," he added.

Gavaskar, one of the most respected voices in world cricket, also pointed out that India's failure to win knock-out games in global tournaments has been primarily due to the faulty team selections.

"India's problem in big matches has been team combination. If they would have got final XI selection right in knock out games, they would have had less problems. At times, your thought process is different," he said.

"In knock-outs and finals, you should bat first, put runs on the board, whatever you put, 140 may be, the other team has to score and it's not always easy to score at seven runs per over in international cricket," he explained.

In T20 cricket, Gavaskar has found one flaw with the Indian batting and that's losing momentum between overs 7 and 12.

"India's batting weakness has been in the overs after Powerplay, between 7 and 12. After 7 overs, we start struggling.

Erasmus, Wiese take debutants Namibia to Super 12s of T20 WC

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Gerhard Erasmus led from the front with a well-crafted unbeaten fifty to guide debutants Namibia to a historic eight-wicket win over Ireland in the first round Group B match and qualification spot in Super 12s of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Erasmus (53 not out off 49 balls) guided Namibia's chase of 126 in the company of David Wiese, who made an unbeaten 28.

Namibia made a quiet start to their chase. Boundaries were hard to come by for Namibia batters as they dealt mostly in singles and twos. Their struggle can be gauged from the fact

that they found the fence only four times in the first 10 overs, scoring 49 for one.

Needing 77 off the last 10 overs, Erasmus and Zane Green (24) shared 48 runs for the second wicket to keep Namibia in the contest.

The duo played sensibly and brought down the equation to 55 off 42 balls and with nine wickets in hand, Namibia were clear favourites to win the contest.

But Green failed to clear Kevin O'Brien at mid-off to make the contest interesting.

After his two wickets with the ball, Wiese came to Namibia's rescue by hitting Craig Young for back-to-back sixes in the 15th over to bring



down the equation to 33 off the last five overs.

Needing 21 off 18 balls, Erasmus lofted off-spinner Simi Singh over the long-off boundary and then struck two

boundaries in the 19th over off Craig Young to finish off the chase in style with nine balls remaining.

Namibia have joined Sri Lanka in the Super 12s from

Group A.

Earlier, asked to bowl, Namibian bowlers made a strong comeback after Ireland made a brisk start to restrict them to a modest 125 for eight.

Ireland started brightly with Paul Stirling (38) and Kevin O'Brien (25) sharing 62 runs off just 44 balls for the opening stand.

But Namibia pulled things back by removing both the openers in quick succession as Ireland slumped to 67 for two in 8.4 overs.

After the opening partnership, Ireland innings literally fell apart as, barring skipper Andy Bilbirmie (21), no other batter could reach dou-

ble-digit score.

The dismissal of Gareth Delany pegged back Ireland considerably as their batters found it difficult to keep up the scoring rate, reaching just 95 runs for the loss of three wickets at the end of the 15th over.

Bilbirmie tried his best to lift the innings but he also struggled to rotate the strike against some incisive bowling by Namibia in the second half of the innings, picking up six wickets by conceding just 54 runs in the last 10 overs.

Ireland's problems were compounded when left-arm pacer Jan Frylinck snared two wickets in the 16th over -- first Bilbirmie LBW and then Curtis Campher.

T20WorldCupwindow

DANDYA WILL BE AN IMPACT PLAYER FOR INDIA: RAHANE

Dubai: Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya will be an impact player for India in the ongoing T20 World Cup, India Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane said, urging the side to rally around the injury-ravaged cricketer whose role as a bowler is uncertain due to fitness issues. There has been a lot of debate regarding Pandya's inclusion in the squad as he did not bowl in the recently-concluded IPL. The team management has, time and again, stressed on the importance of his bowling to the side's overall balance.

I AM READY TO BACK WARNER'S ABILITY: FINCH

Abu Dhabi: Australia captain Aaron Finch is ready to back the "ability and judgement" of his out-of-form opening partner David Warner, hoping that he would come out all xames here, are 0, 2, 0, 1. "I am backing Davy's ability and judgement," Finch said on the eve of the South Africa game. "If you look at his World Cup history, it's bloody good and would he like more runs? Absolutely. He is one of the greatest players Australia has ever produced and I have no doubts that come game one, he will be absolutely fired and ready to go," the skipper added. Finch said that his recovery from a knee injury had been quicker than expected.

F1 title fight could take big swing

AP ■ AUSTIN

The US Grand Prix is not a must-win race for Lewis Hamilton, and the seven-time champion brushed off such a suggestion even as he trails Max Verstappen in the title fight and his rival should be favored at Mexico City in the next round.

Verstappen is a two-time winner in Mexico City, where Formula One races Nov. 7 and the Red Bull team has been dominant. But up first is Sunday's race at the Circuit of the Americas and Hamilton, who calls COTA his "happy hunting ground" because he's won five times in Texas, trails Verstappen by six points in the standings.

"It's important to win every race somehow, you know, maximizing our points, that's our goal over these next six races,"



Hamilton said Thursday.

"It's going to be incredibly difficult and there will be moments where we can perhaps edge (Red Bull) out. I don't like to assume that Mexico is not going to be strong but they are usually very strong in Mexico."

Formula One returns to North America its next two rounds for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Races in Austin and Mexico City were canceled last year, and Montreal is set to return next year for the first time since 2019.

The series comes back now with a thrilling title fight between upstart Verstappen and the superstar Hamilton. He clinched his 2015 and 2019 titles at COTA and Hamilton has won in five of F1's eight races at the track.

Verstappen, a seven-time winner this season, hasn't won at COTA but has been good. His sensational drive in the rain to fourth as a 17-year-old rookie with Toro Rosso in 2015 unveiled his potential as a championship contender.

He finished second in 2018 and third in 2019, but now he and Red Bull are in the championship lead.

Teammates could play a huge role Sunday.

Valtteri Bottas drove his Mercedes to victory ahead of Verstappen in Turkey two weeks, and won in Austin in 2019 from pole position.

PTI ■ LONDON

The fifth and final Test between India and England, which was suspended due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the visitors' camp last month, was on Friday rescheduled to July next year.

The England and Wales Cricket Board announced that the game has been moved to Edgbaston from Manchester and will be part of India's white-ball tour. The match will be held from July 1.

"With India leading the series 2-1, the concluding fifth match will now take place from July 1, 2022, at Edgbaston, following an agreement between the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)," said the ECB in a statement.

"Ticket holders do not have to take any action as all tickets will remain valid for the equivalent rearranged matchday at their host venue.

"Host venues will communicate the new fixture details to ticket purchasers and the options available to them, including the timeframe for requesting a refund if they are not able to attend the new match day," the ECB added.

Last month, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, in an interview to PTI, had made

Fifth Test between India and England rescheduled to July 2022



it clear that the rescheduled match would be an extension of the series and not a standalone game.

"We want the series to be completed as this will be our first series win (in England) since 2007," Ganguly had said.

India were leading 2-1 when the match was called off after the visiting players refused to step on to the field following positive COVID-19 cases among its support staff, including head coach Ravi Shastri.

Benzema faces verdict in blackmail trial

AP ■ VERSAILLES (FRANCE)

A French court trying an alleged blackmail case involving Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema and four other defendants expects to render its verdict on Friday.

Benzema hasn't been attending the trial that opened Wednesday in Versailles and is scheduled to wrap up Friday. He is charged with complicity in the alleged attempt in 2015 to blackmail France teammate Mathieu Valbuena over a sex tape thought to have been stolen from his mobile phone.

Prosecutors asked Thursday that Benzema be fined 75,000 euros (\$87,000), the maximum allowed on the charge, and be given a suspended 10-month jail term. The law allows for a maximum of 5 years imprisonment.

The four other defendants are being tried on charges of attempted blackmail.

AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal hosts Aston Villa after a tepid start to the season that's been summed up by drawing the last two matches to sit 12th in the Premier League after eight games.

It took Alexandre Lacazette's late equalizer to grab a point against Crystal Palace on Monday and the forward will now be pushing for a start against Villa. The 30-year-old Frenchman has played only 72 minutes in the league so far.

There is no new contract on offer with his current deal expiring at the end of the season. Bukayo Saka could miss Friday's game after being forced off at half-time on Monday after being kicked on the calf. Villa is in 13th place with 10 points.

Osasuna goes for its fourth straight victory in the Spanish League when it hosts Granada. A win would leave the team tied on 20 points with leader Real Sociedad ahead of the weekend matches.

Osasuna hasn't won four in a row in the league since 2010. It won four of its last five matches, with the only setback a home loss against Real Betis. Granada is just outside the relegation zone with six points from eight matches.

It beat Sevilla in its last game for its first win of the season after going winless in its first seven matches. Granada is winless in its last six away games in the league.

Arsenal hosts Villa



lost three of its past four matches, drawing the other, and is in 17th place, above Genoa and Cagliari on goal difference alone.

Spezia is only a point ahead after last week's win over bottom-place Salernitana snapped a run of three straight losses. Torino is just two points above the relegation zone but has faced Lazio, Juventus and Napoli recently.

Mainz hosts Augsburg with

both teams looking to turn around wretched recent form. Mainz won three out of its first four league games this season, but none of the four since, and has dropped to 11th.

Augsburg is 16th, hasn't won any of its last three games and has the unwanted record of joint-fewest goals scored with four from eight games.

Last-place Saint-Etienne is

looking for its first win this season against Angers. The 10-time champions have just four points from 10 games and were routed 5-1 by Strasbourg in their previous game last week.

Saint-Etienne will be without suspended midfielder Zaydou Youssouf and has several doubtful players, including goalkeeper Etienne Green and right back Yvann Maçon.

SINGLES

JAISMIN EASE INTO SECOND ROUND OF WNB

Hisar: Asian Championship bronze-medallist Jaismine and defending champion Pwila Basumatary of Assam advanced to the second round of the 60kg category with convincing victories in the Women's National Boxing Championships here on Friday. Representing Haryana, Jaismine comfortably beat Chhattisgarh's Rajbala by the unanimous 5-0 verdict in her opening round, while Basumatary out-punched Karnataka's Theertha Lakshmi at the St Joseph's International School here.

SAMEER TO ENTER QUATERFINALS

Odense: India's Sameer Verma notched up a stunning straight-game win over world no.3 Anders Antonsen to storm into the quarterfinals but it was curtains for Lakshya Sen at the Denmark Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here. World No 28 Sameer, who had qualified for the World Tour Finals in 2018 after winning three titles, produced a sensational performance to outwit local hero Antonsen 21-14 21-18 in a 50-minute men's singles battle on Thursday. The 27-year-old from Madhya Pradesh will lock horns with 33-year-old Tommy Sugianto, a bronze winner at the 2014 World Championships

AMATEUR AVANI WON HERO WPGTN SEASON

Panchkula: Amateur Avani Prashanth won her second title of the season as she held off the seasoned Amandeep Drall by a shot to win the 11th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Friday. Avani and Amandeep played even par rounds, which helped the former stay ahead to emerge victor at the Panchkula Golf Club. Avani totalled 2-under 214, while Amandeep aggregated 1-under 215. Three players, Pranavi Urs (76), Jahanvi Bakshi (73) and Vani Kapoor (73) were tied for third place at 4-over 219. Seher Atwal (75) was sixth at 221 and Rhea Jha (73) was seventh. Saaniya Sharma, amateur Kriti Chowhan and Hitaasheek Bakshi occupied the eighth to 10th places.