

OPINION 6
BUMPY ROAD AHEAD
FOR AFGHAN GOVT**WORLD 8**
B'DESH MIN BLAMES OPP, PRO-PAK
ELEMENTS FOR ATTACKS ON HINDUS**SPORT 12**
WEST INDIES KNOCK OUT
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10 VIVACITY

Vax not foolproof shield against Covid-19: Study

Vaccination cuts down risk of death, severe illness: Lancet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vaccinated or not vaccinated, in the open air or in the house, every individual remains vulnerable to the Covid-19, more so Delta variant, a study has said, suggesting that Covid-appropriate behaviour such as wearing a mask, social distancing is now the way of life for everybody.

Significantly, in several countries such as the USA and Russia, a large number of cases are still reported daily despite more than three fourths of the population getting both the vaccine jabs.

"Those who have got two Covid-19 jabs can be just as infectious as those who have not been vaccinated, even if they have no or a few symptoms. Also, the chance of them transmitting the virus to other unvaccinated housemates is about two in five, or 38 per cent. If all the housemates are fully vaccinated, the infection rate drops to one in four," said



the study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases. It emphasised that Covid-appropriate behaviours such as wearing a mask, social distancing and testing remain important even in vaccinated individuals.

"Unvaccinated people cannot rely on those around them being jabbed to remove their risk of getting infected," the study warned.

Vaccines do an excellent job of preventing serious Covid-19 illness and deaths, but are less good at stopping infections, particularly since the emergence of the more infectious Delta variant which is dominant in the UK.

And over time, the protection offered by vaccines wanes and needs boosting with further doses. According to the study, which ran from September 2020 to September 2021 and included 440 households in London and Bolton doing PCR Covid tests, people who are double jabbed have a lower, but still appreciable, risk of becoming infected with the Delta variant compared with unvaccinated people.

Prof Ajit Lalvani of Imperial College London, UK, who co-led the study, said, "The ongoing transmission we are seeing between vaccinated people makes it essential for unvaccinated people to get vaccinated to protect themselves from acquiring infection and severe Covid-19, especially as more people will be spending time inside in close

proximity during the winter months.

"We found that susceptibility to infection increased already within a few months after the second vaccine dose, so those eligible for booster shots should get them promptly."

"Our findings provide important insights into the effect of vaccination in the face of new variants, and specifically, why the Delta variant is continuing to cause high Covid case numbers around the world, even in countries with high vaccination rates," added co-author Dr Anika Singanayagam, also from the Imperial College.

"Continued public health and social measures to curb transmission such as mask wearing, social distancing, and testing thus remain important, even in vaccinated individuals."

"By carrying out repeated sampling from contacts, we found that vaccinated people could pass on the infection within households, including to vaccinated members. Continued public health and social measures to curb transmission, such as wearing a mask, social distancing and testing, remain important even in vaccinated individuals," added Singanayagam.

PM Modi holds talks with top EU leaders in Rome

Discussions covered trade, climate change, and coronavirus

PTI ■ ROME

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a joint meeting with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen here and discussed ways to enhance economic as well as people-to-people linkages aimed at creating a better planet during their "productive interaction."

This is Prime Minister Modi's first official engagement after he arrived here to participate in the G20 Summit where he will join other leaders in discussions on global economic and health recovery from Covid-19, sustainable development and climate change.

"Official engagements in Rome begin with a productive interaction with @eucopresident Charles Michel and @vonderleyen, President of the @EU_Commission. The leaders discussed ways to enhance economic as well as people-to-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Rome on Friday

people linkages aimed at creating a better planet," Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet.

The 15th India-EU summit, held in virtual mode in July 2020, was attended by Prime Minister Modi, European Council President Michel and European Commission President Leyen. In 2020, India was the EU's

10th largest trading partner accounting for 1.8 per cent of EU's total bilateral trade in goods. India-EU bilateral trade in goods in 2020 was valued at Euro 65.30 billion.

India-EU bilateral relations date back to the early 1960s with India being amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic

Community in 1962.

The first India-EU Summit took place on 28 June 2000 in Lisbon. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' during the 5th India-EU Summit held in 2004 in The Hague.

The 27-member EU is a political and economic bloc comprising 27 member states located primarily in Europe.

SC: Can't ask Govt to revaccinate for foreign travel, await WHO nod

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asking the petitioners to await for the WHO's response on Covaxin approval, the Supreme Court on Friday said that it cannot play with the lives of people by directing the Centre to revaccinate people with Covishield to enable them to travel abroad during the Covid-19 pandemic. People who have taken both jabs of Covaxin cannot use the vaccination certificate to travel abroad.

The apex court was hearing a petition that said that Covaxin was not approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) and people here are facing difficulty in getting permission to travel abroad.

"We cannot play with the lives of people by directing Centre to revaccinate. We don't have any data with us. We have read in newspapers that Bharat Biotech has filed an application with the WHO for recognition. Let us wait for the response of the WHO. We will take up this



matter post-Diwali vacation," the bench of justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna said.

The bench said the court did not have any data of what will be the effect on the people and it cannot simply direct the Centre to re-vaccinate people with Covishield.

Advocate Kartik Seth, appearing in person, contended that every day some students and people are willing to go abroad but they are denied entry as Covaxin is not recognised by the WHO

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Police remove barricades from Ghazipur protest site

Farmers will now go to Parliament to sell crops, says Rakesh Tikait

PNS/STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the Delhi Police beginning to remove barricades and concertina wires at two farmer protest sites — Tikri and Ghazipur — where farmers are sitting and protesting against the three farm laws, Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson Rakesh Tikait on Friday said since the barricades were removed, farmers will now go to Parliament to sell their crops.

"The Prime Minister had said farmers can sell crops anywhere. Now we will tell the farmers where to sell the crops whose harvest remains unsold. If roads are open, we will go to Delhi. We will go to Parliament to sell our crop," Tikait said.

The BKU spokesperson further said they (Delhi Police) removed barriers which they



Barbed wires and barricades being removed from the site of farmers' agitation against three farm laws at Ghazipur border in Delhi on Friday

put up earlier.

Farmer leaders said any decision to entirely clear both the carriageways at the protest sites would be taken by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM).

Continued on Page 2

Varun seeks legal guarantee for MSP

New Delhi: Echoing sentiments of farmers who are demanding guarantee on the MSP and raising his lone dissenting voice in the party, BJP member of Parliament Varun Gandhi on Friday said farmers would continue to be "exploited" in "mandis" till there is no legal guarantee for the MSP of crops.

HC sets aside CAT order on plea by Bengal ex-Chief Secy

PNS ■ DELHI

In a setback to the Centre, the Calcutta High Court on Friday set aside an order of the principal bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) to transfer an application by former West Bengal chief secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay, challenging proceedings against him by the Centre, from the Kolkata bench to itself in New Delhi.

A division bench comprising justices Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya and Rabindranath Samanta directed the Kolkata bench of the CAT to expedite the hearing of Bandopadhyay's application and dispose of it at the earliest.

Bandopadhyay had moved the Kolkata bench of CAT, challenging the proceedings initiated against him by the Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievance and Pensions relating to attending a meeting on May 28 at the Kalakunda Air Force station that was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the effects of the cyclone Yaas.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

FIREWORKS CONTAINING BARIUM PROHIBITED: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday clarified that there is no total ban on use of firecrackers and only those fireworks which contain Barium salts are prohibited. A Bench of Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna, however, said that no authority can be permitted violation of the directions issued by it and allow banned firecrackers under the guise of celebration.

LAST JEWISH WOMAN FINALLY LEAVES AF

Jerusalem: For years, Zebulon Simentov branded himself as the "last Jew of Afghanistan," the sole remnant of a centuries-old community. He charged reporters for interviews and held court in Kabul's only remaining synagogue. He left the country last month for Istanbul after the Taliban seized power. Now it appears he was not the last one. Simentov's distant cousin, Tova Moradi, was born and raised in Kabul and lived there until last week, more than a month after Simentov departed in Sept.

JAIN TO GET AWARD FOR CHANDNI CHOWK FACELIFT

New Delhi: Urban Development Minister of Delhi Satyendar Jain will receive award conferred to Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for Chandni Chowk redevelopment project.

Heart attack claims 'Kannada superstar'

Industry and fans in shock!

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Kannada cinema's reigning star and celebrity television host Puneeth Rajkumar, known for films such as "Appu," "Veera Kannadiga" and "Maurya", died here on Friday following a massive heart attack, hospital said. He was 46.

Puneeth, who was known to be a fitness enthusiast, was rushed to Vikram Hospital after he complained of chest pain following a two-hour workout in the gym, doctors treating him said. He died shortly after. He is survived by

PUNEETH RAJKUMAR
✦17 Mar 1975 – 29 Oct 2021✦

his wife Ashwini Revanth and two daughters Dhriti and Vanditha.

Restless crowds of stunned fans milled around the hospi-

tal complex as news came in of the sudden death of the actor, the son of much loved matinee idol Rajkumar who fast outgrew his father's shadow to carve a place all his own in the Kannada showbiz industry.

Puneeth's body will be kept at the Kanteerava Stadium to enable the public to pay their last respects, State Minister R Ashoka told reporters. He said Puneeth's last rites will be performed with full state honours and the family will decide when it will happen.

Later, a Government order said his last rites will be performed at the Kanteerava Studio where his parents — Dr Rajkumar and Parvathamma — were cremated.

Continued on Page 2

FB India summoned over Delhi violence

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly's Peace and Harmony committee has asked Facebook India to send a senior representative to depose before it on November 2 over the February 2020 riots in northeast Delhi, an official statement said.

Since Facebook has lakhs of users in Delhi, summons have been issued in accordance with the mandate of the Supreme Court judgment on July 8, 2021, the statement said.

The court has held that the committee has the power to direct members and non-members to appear before it and depose on oath, it said.

The committee wants to discuss the "important role of



social media in curbing the spread of false and malicious messages" which can fan disharmony and affect peace, it said.

At least 53 people had died and hundreds were injured in clashes between supporters of the Citizenship Amendment Act and those opposing it between February 23 and February 26, 2020, in North East Delhi.

Aryan stays 1 more night in jail for want of bail papers

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In somewhat of a "so near and yet so far" situation, Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan failed to walk out of the Arthur Road Central Jail on Friday, as the duly completed bail papers did not reach the prison authorities from the court till the stipulated time of 5.30 pm.

Aryan will have to spend one more night in the prison before he returns to his home "Mannat" on Saturday.

Hours within a single-member HC bench of Justice Nitin W Sambre ordered the release of Aryan and two other accused from the jail after they furnished a ₹1 lakh and surety of the like amount, SRK's



actress-friend stood surety for the actor's son and his lawyers completed the other formalities. However, the High Court papers ordering the release of Aryan did not reach the Arthur Road Jail before the stipulated deadline of 5.30 pm.

Talking to media persons here, Arthur Road Jail

Superintendent Nitin Waychal said, "If a person is ordered to be released from the prison, then a physical copy of the release order has to land in the bail box kept outside the prison. The jail officials wait for this till 5.30 pm." The court officials said since the release papers reached the prison after the stipulated deadline, Aryan would be released on Saturday.

Earlier, talking to media persons after she signed bail documents standing surety for Aryan — who she has known since his childhood — actress Juhi Chawla sporting a monogrammed black face-mask with a 'J' (Juhi) written on it-said, "I am happy that Aryan will return home very soon."

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30 held for disrupting namaz in G'gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram police have arrested 30 members of Hindu outfits for allegedly disrupting Muslims offer namaz (prayers) from the Sector-12 area in Gurugram on Friday.

The protesting members were shouting slogans of “Jai Shree Ram,” “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” and carrying placards against Friday namaz.

However, around 500 police personnel were deployed at five spots as a precautionary measure where Muslims offer prayers in the city on Friday following threats from Right-wing Hindu groups to disrupt prayers that are offered in the open.

The five designated prayer sites are DLF Phase-3, Sector 12A, Sector 14, Sector 56 and Sector 47.

In 2018, the district administration designated 37 sites in the city for Muslims to offer Friday prayers, following which there were protests by Hindu groups. This was the fourth



consecutive week of Hindu outfits staging protests against Friday prayers. Earlier the group had disrupted one of the sites in Sector 47. Residents and locals had joined the protest, chanting Hindu prayers at the time of namaz on consecutive Fridays over the past two weeks.

Apart from this, on October 26, Hindu groups, under the banner of Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti, sub-

mitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram, stating that they would not tolerate Friday prayers in the open.

However, officials claimed that they are prepared to tackle any issue and no one will be allowed to disturb the law and order situation across the district.

A senior police official of the Gurugram Police said that they have deployed several



police personnel to control law and order at all sensitive spots. “We have elaborate security arrangements and a senior police officer will patrol sensitive areas who will ensure safety and security of people offering namaz,” he said.

Haji Shehzad Khan, the chairman of Muslim Ekta Manch, said, “We are following all necessary direction given by the local administration. We don't want to disturb the law

and order situation, but if they (Hindu groups) target us, we will not sit silent.”

In connection with the incident on Thursday, a furniture shop owner Mehmoood Khan in Sector 12 complained to the police that last Friday, residents and groups of a few people staged a protest against namaz in an open area. A complaint in this regard was lodged at the Sector 14 police station.

AAP will end inspector raj, hafta in Punjab: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said that his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will take responsibility for the security of traders in Punjab if elected.

The AAP supremo was in Bhatinda to interact with traders of Punjab ahead of the Assembly polls in the State scheduled for next year. “Our Government will end corrupt practices of bribery and hafta and inspector raj,” Kejriwal said.

Assuring the trader community of its safety, Kejriwal said it will be the responsibility of AAP to end the atmosphere of fear and pave the way for brotherhood and peace and improvements in the law and order system. “We will end corrupt practices like hafta, bribery and inspector raj in Punjab,” said Kejriwal. “How can a trader do his work in an atmosphere like this? We will

also make sure that no one calls traders ‘bicholiyas’ (middlemen). Small traders are backbone of the economy,” said Kejriwal.

Hitting out at the State Government over Covid-19 management, the AAP leader said: “The way we support people in Delhi, including traders is being discussed all over the country. But here in Punjab, the Government was not worried about medicines, traders, hospitals, but they were rather fighting against each other for the post of Chief Minister.”

He also targeted the newly-appointed Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, saying, “CMs talk about getting big investments at their events. Can't the existing investments, industries and traders of Punjab be saved, who are moving out of Punjab?” Putting forward his Government's achievements in ending corruption in Delhi, he said, “In

Delhi, when I had my Government for 49 days, I had managed to end inspector raj and bribery. Officials were afraid. No one would dare to harass the traders. I had asked traders to pull out their phones and capture the corrupt officials and send them to my personal WhatsApp number. It had caused a lot of chaos in Delhi among the ones who were corrupt. When we came back to power, the Centre snatched our Anti-Corruption unit. But we will implement everything we tried to give Delhi in Punjab for the traders since it is a full State.”

The AAP leader there stressed on the need of farmers to work together with industrialists for the development of the State, terming them as two wheels of Punjab's development.

“We will solve the issue of power cuts in Punjab,” Kejriwal said, citing the example of Capital city.

‘RED LIGHT ON, GAADI OFF’ CAMPAIGN

Social Welfare Minister

Gautam leads at Africa Avenue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the rising levels of pollution in the national capital, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Rajendra Pal Gautam Friday led the ‘Red Light on, Gaadi Off’ campaign at Africa Avenue and urged people to switch off vehicles engines while waiting at the traffic signal at major intersections.

Gautam encouraged the drivers to turn their vehicles off at the red light by giving them roses. During the visit, the Civil Defence Volunteers distributed pamphlets containing ‘Chief Minister's appeal to the citizens, in which the CM has appealed to the commuters to turn off their vehicles when the red light is on.

12 held for running fake Govt portal, duping people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of 12 people, including two women from Noida, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police has busted an illegal module that was running a fake online redressal system with the scammers pretending to be Government officials. Police said that the syndicate has cheated around 3,000 victims across the country.

Police said that the scammers were duping those individuals, who tried to lodge a complaint regarding online cheating. “They charged the victims (already cheated) processing fees and subsequently stopped responding by blocking them,” said police.

According to KPS Malhotra, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Special Cell, inputs were received that some racketeers

are employing various mechanisms to defraud the victims of online cheating by projecting themselves as Government officials on the fraudulently created web pages having similar nomenclature as of the Government complaint redressal system. “Further, a complaint was also received, wherein the complainant had alleged that while he was trying to complain about an incident of cheating, he came across a website, www.jansurkashakendara.in, claiming to be a crime reporting portal. He called on the mobile phone number provided on the website and on the pretext of lodging and enquiring his complaint, the alleged persons charged Rs 2,850 from him,” said the DCP.

“Further, the accused persons have created some more similar websites with names Jan Shikayat Kendra, Grahak Suraksha Kendra, Nyaya Bharat and others,” said the DCP. “Once the payment was

received, the complainant's number was blocked by the accused. A First Information Report (FIR) under Sections 419, 420 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered and investigation was taken up,” said the DCP. “Whenever anybody is a victim of cyber-crime, they should report it on the Government portal https://www.cybercrime.gov.in/ and call the helpline number 155260. No Government office charges any processing fee for putting Government machinery in action,” the DCP added.

“During investigation, police team found seven more similar complaints registered at National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. One FIR was also found registered in Karnataka. The bank account details of the payment gateways and was collected and analysed. During scrutiny, it was revealed that the fraudsters have received Rs 1.74 crore in the past year,” said the DCP.

PICTALK



Police detain AISA members who were staging a protest against Tripura violence outside the Tripura Bhawan, in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

Air quality in city worsens to very poor category for the first time this season

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With 20 per cent farm fire share in Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5, Delhi's air quality recorded ‘very poor’ for the first time in winter season as the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI) colored ‘Red’ with overall AQI 302 micrograms per cubic on Friday.

The air quality will start improving from Saturday (October 30).

According to SAFAR, a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), the total fire count in Punjab and Haryana were 1112 while the transport level winds and speed was highly favourable (north-westerly) for downward transport to Delhi and percent share of stubble burning.

While the values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) also recorded abnormally higher than prescribed standards of Indian Meteorological Department

(IMD) and World Health Organisation, the pollution monitoring agencies cautioned citizens for long exposure. “Avoid all Physical activity outdoor and move activities indoors.

If asthmatics, keep relief medicine handy. Stop outdoor activity at early morning and after sunset times. Avoid prolonged or heavy exertion,” SAFAR said.

According to SAFAR's short range weather and air quality forecast, AQI on Friday reported very poor category and likely to deteriorate further during day until early morning of Saturday and then likely to improve marginally from evening onwards, “however will remain in lower end of very poor to poor due to slightly improved ventilation coefficient,” it added.

Meanwhile, on SAFAR's index, values of PM 10 and 2.5 were recorded at 253 and 124 micrograms per cubic and 304 and 147 for Saturday.

Delhi Police holds 1st badminton championship

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Minister of State (Home), Nityanand Rai on Friday inaugurated Delhi Police's first badminton championship “esprit de corps” at the National Capital's IGI Stadium Complex. Delhi Police Commissioner, Rakesh Asthana welcomed the chief guest Rai and expressed gratitude on behalf of the force for sharing his valuable time to encourage the sportsmen.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of State emphasized that sports play an important role in overall personality development of an individual, besides being a great stress buster. “It was heartening to note that Delhi Police can organize such mega sports events, besides serving the society and giving valuable contribution in nation building. Sports will play a vital role in realizing the dreams of ‘Champion India’ and ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharat,’” he said.

DMRC kicks off e-rickshaw services

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to ensure last mile connectivity for Metro commuters, Dr Mangu Singh, Managing Director of DMRC, on Friday flagged off a fleet of 25 e-rickshaws called ‘ETO’ from Noida Electronic City Metro station of Blue Line.

These E-rickshaws will be plying from 6 AM to 11 PM daily providing last mile connectivity to nearby localities of Noida Electronic City Metro

station, a senior DMRC official said.

Initially, 25 ETO rickshaws are being introduced into service from the station which will be increased to 100 by the end of next month, covering more stations in Noida section of Blue Line which include Sector-62, Noida Sector-59, Noida Sector-61, Noida Sector-34 etc, he said.

The official said that these GPS enabled e-rickshaws are specially designed having a covered cabin and full front

windscreen to provide last mile connectivity within an area of 4-5 KM around Metro stations. “The fares have been kept very nominal at a base price of Rs. 10 for first 2 KM and Rs 5 for subsequent KM. The commuters can also book vehicles through the ETO app and pay digitally for their rides,” he said.

“To boost last mile connectivity, DMRC will be further introducing e-rickshaw services from 13 more Metro stations by the end of next month,” he added.

NMC launches ‘Gift a Tree’ programme

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) launched an application to boost a new green initiative called “Gift a Tree”, a programme through which residents may gift tree saplings instead of extravagant gifts to their friends and relatives on special occasions and festivals.

North Corporation's

Commissioner Sanjay Goel said that this initiative will make an excellent gift for residents, especially environment lovers. “Recipients of the gift in the form of a tree will be surprised by the eco-friendly gesture and also feel special and deeply honoured.” Citizens also have an option to select the location as well as timing for the plantation so that they can be present for it if wanted.

DDA approves schemes at Narela

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to improve connectivity by ensuring overall development of Narela, Estimate Approval Committee (EAC) of DDA, under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman approved various development schemes at sectors of Narela with the cost of ₹824.73 Crore.

A senior DDA official said that various schemes were approved including construction of a 20-meter-wide road of about 10 kilometers at an approximate cost of ₹50 Crore, water supply lines for about ₹27.5 Crore, storm water drains for ₹117 Crore, sewerage schemes for ₹23 Crore, boundary wall for ₹14 Crore besides others.

Chalo Voter Bane Hum campaign

CEO Ranbir Singh holds meeting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to spread awareness and encourage Delhi's citizens for their voting rights, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Dr. Ranbir Singh Friday held a crucial meeting with the senior members and officers of CII (Confederation of Indian Industry).

The meeting was with reference to Special Summary Revision -2022 and Dr Singh collaborated with CII to promote enrollment of new and left out voters under the “Chalo

Voter Bane Hum” campaign.

“Special camps will be organised on 6th, 7th, 27th and 28th of November to expedite the process of enrolment of voters.

Every citizen must download the Voter Helpline app at the earliest, and Divyang citizens should download the “PwD App” to access all electoral services on their mobile phones,” Dr Singh said.

Dr. Singh stated that, according to the Election Commission of India's sched-

ule, the Integrated Draft Electoral Roll will be released on November 1, 2021, and claims and objections will be received from November 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021.

During this timeframe, eligible voters who have reached the age of 18 on or before January 1, 2022, can fill out Form 6 along with photo address and age proof. Those who are not internet savvy can file applications off line by travelling to Polling Stations or Voter Centers or Common Service Centers.

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e-AUCTION PROGRAMME

MSTC WILL HOLD E-AUCTION OF BUILDING AND STANDING STRUCTURE AT PLOT NO. 177 ON 10.11.2021 ON LEASE BASIS ON BEHALF OF NOIDA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY. FOR DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT MR. GAURAV MISHRA (MSTC), MOBILE NO. 9911221587, MR. NITIN GUPTA (NSEZ), MOBILE NO. 9818942898.
For details log on to www.mstcecommerce.com or www.mstcindia.co.in

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e-AUCTION PROGRAMME

MSTC WILL HOLD E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL CANTEEN NO.- 2 AT NOIDA ON 12.11.2021 ON LEASE RENTAL BASIS ON BEHALF OF NOIDA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY. FOR DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT MR. GAURAV MISHRA (MSTC), MOBILE NO. 9911221587, MR. NITIN GUPTA (NSEZ), MOBILE NO. 9818942898.
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‘NDA entry a strong step towards gender equality’



PNS ■ NEW DELHI / PUNE

With the Government opening the doors of the elite National Defence Academy (NDA) for women cadets, Army Chief General M M Naravane said on Friday it is expected they are welcomed with the same sense of fair play and professionalism as Indian armed forces are known world over.

He also said this will ensure gender parity and in a couple of years, “they will be standing where I am standing.” The training for both men and women cadets will be the same, he said.

Making these observations at the NDA passing out parade at Khadakwasla, Pune, he said induction of women cadets will be the “first step towards gender equality” in the armed forces.

Incidentally, he, along with Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh and then IAF chief R K S Bhaduria, had visited the NDA some months back to take stock of the infrastructure and other arrangements made for the induction of the women cadets. They will join the academy for the first time since it was formed in 1954.

Addressing the cadets after the parade, Naravane said, “As we open the portals of the NDA for women cadets, we expect you to welcome them with the same sense of fair play and professionalism as Indian armed forces are known world



DRDO, IAF flight-test bomb that can hit target up to 150 kms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PUNE

In a significant development towards self-reliance in niche technology, the DRDO and IAF team jointly on Friday flight tested indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb successfully from an aerial platform. The bomb can

hit a target between a range of 50 kms and 150kms.

This crucial test came two days after India successfully launched Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile Agni-5 capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometres with a very high degree of accuracy.

over.”

Last month, the Ministry of Defence had informed the Supreme Court that a notification allowing women candidates to appear for the entrance examination to the NDA will be out by May next year.

But observing that induction of women to the NDA cannot be postponed by one year, the apex court had allowed female candidates to take the examination in November this year and not wait till May 2022 as requested by the Government.

Naravane said as women are being inducted into NDA, he is sure that they will perform better than their male counterparts.

Naravane said he was

greatly honoured to review the passing-out-parade. “A little over 42 years back, when I stood as a cadet at the same drill square as you stand today, little I could have imagined that I would be reviewing this parade,” he said.

Fielding questions from the media after the parade about how he sees the role of women in the armed forces in the next 20 to 30 years, he said, “At least 40 years down the line, they will be standing where I am standing.”

Replying to a question on whether there will be any infrastructural changes in view of women joining the NDA, he said that infrastructure will be slightly changed as per the requirements, but the training would remain the same.

CISF to protect Power Grid substation in Anantnag



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Friday took over the security of a Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) sub-station located in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir with the induction of an armed contingent of 140 commandos.

“The New Wanpoh located power plant is “one of the most sensitive power grid installations established by PGCIL in the Union Territory of J&K”, the CISF said.

It is situated on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway (NH-44) in Qazigund tehsil of Anantnag district in the cusp of Kashmir valley at an altitude of 1663.27 metres, the CISF said in a statement.

This substation is a “vital strategic link” in power distribution system of the country with a transmission capacity of 400/220 KV, it said.

The power unit was located here keeping in view the increasing demand of power in



the Kashmir valley, especially during the winter months, the paramilitary said.

“Due to its location, the sub-station is inherently vulnerable to threats from anti-nationals and militants. The CISF will provide round-the-clock armed security cover to the facility under the command of a deputy commandant rank officer,” it said.

The CISF personnel armed with assault rifles like the AK series and the INSAS will secure the perimeter of the substation and also carry out anti-sabotage checks at the facility. There will be a quick reaction team (QRT) to respond to any emergency or

terrorist attack.

The force will control the entry and exit of staffers and other people at the facility and will be authorised to carry out frisking of visitors in special cases and also check the bags they carry, a senior officer said.

This is the 353rd unit under the armed cover of the CISF that guards a number of vital and sensitive installations in the country, including those in the nuclear and aerospace domain apart from 64 civil airports, the Delhi Metro network and historical monuments like the Red Fort and Taj Mahal besides government buildings in the national Capital.

CRPF to hold physical course for overweight staff

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI



The CRPF has decided to initiate a four-week physical course for overweight subordinate officers and jawans after subjecting them to a number of medical tests before enlisting them for the weight management programme.

The syllabus for overweight personnel for subordinate officers and other ranks (jawans) has been prepared and the Training Directorate of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has circulated it to all the formations to organise the fitness programme at the Sector level.

Besides the activities mentioned in the syllabus, measures recommended by the Medical Directorate will also be adopted before starting the course to rule out any comorbidity.

The Medical Directorate has advised that the course should be gradual and physical activity must be increased gradually. All such personnel should be provided one packet of electoral powder daily to overcome electrolyte imbalance and they should be subjected to at least undergo electrolyte test on a weekly basis. In addition to these, running/long distance route marches should be started in the early morning to prevent heat stroke.

Tests like blood sugar, CBC, ECG, lipid profile, KFT and LFT of the overweight personnel should be undertaken. In addition, TMT test

must be conducted for personnel above 40 years old. Personnel must be asked about irregular heartbeats and about treatment history of such an ailment, the Medical Directorate has advised.

The syllabus will cover a range of exercises like walk, road run, heat exercise, ground work, strengthening arms/abdomen and circuit physical training among others.

The training module will also include long distance march, yoga, aerobics/zumba and athletic competition.

The course will also emphasise on issues like fitness, balanced diet and calories, body mass index, weight gain and obesity and eating correctly, concept of cardio and aerobic exercises besides others such aspects like muscle building and bodybuilding.

The trainees will also be imparted lessons on the effects of alcohol, smoking, tobacco and drugs, and motivational counseling as also modules on body physiology and metabolism.

The month-long course will entail 192 periods of 40 minutes each, subdivided into eight periods daily for 24 days in a month with a six-day weekly cycle.

Farmers’ exploitation to continue in ‘mandis’ in absence of legal guarantee for crop MSP: Varun

PNS ■ NEW DELHI / LUCKNOW

Echoing sentiments of farmers who are demanding guarantee on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and raising his lone ‘dissenting voice’ in the party, BJP member of Parliament Varun Gandhi on Friday said farmers would continue to be “exploited” in ‘mandis’ till there is no legal guarantee for the MSP of crops.

Varun also said farmers in 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh, including in his own constituency Pilibhit, have put their agriculture produce on fire. “This is a matter of shame for entire UP which, he said, has also become an issue across the country .

The BJP MP said “farmers are on the verge of death” and “you are asking him to sell outside” ‘mandis’ where “there is a Nexus”.

Announcing that he is appointing one representative in each of the buying centres to record proceedings and be a witness there, Varun said if he found there is “corruption or exploitation of farmers” he will not tolerate it.

“Main sarkar ke haath-paoun nahin Jodunga .. seedhe sakhsh ke saath court jaunga aur longo ko giraftar karvaunga”, (if I find exploitation of farmers, I will not plead before the Government but straight away go to court and get corrupt arrested) .

Varun said farmers would continue to be exploited in ‘mandis’ till there is no legal guarantee for the MSP.

“Till there is no statutory guarantee of MSP, farmers will continue to be exploited in mandis. Strict action should be taken on this,” he tweeted.

Modi is 24-carat gold, says Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is “24-carat gold” and that the PM’s political journey in the last two decades as the Head of Government should be taught in management schools as a case study on “effective leadership and efficient governance”.

“A true leadership is identified by its intent and integrity and in both cases, Modi ji is 24-carat gold. There is not a single stain of corruption on him even after being the head of a government for 20 years,” Singh said.

At the same time, he said India has clearly told Pakistan that action against terrorism will be taken not only on this side of the border but also on their side if needed. He said Modi has redesigned and redefined India’s attitude

against terrorism.

Putting this point across during his address at the ‘National Conference on Delivering Democracy: Reviewing the two-decades of Narendra Modi as head of government’, he said “People used to say that if Article 370 is abolished, then the entire Kashmir will burn...All in all, Jammu and Kashmir is peaceful except for a few incidents.”

“Modiji has redesigned and redefined India’s attitude against terrorism.

Remember, what a soft attitude was maintained against terrorists during earlier Governments”, Rajnath said.

There used to be talk of playing or not playing matches against Pakistan, he said adding “Now the situation has changed. Our Government has said clearly that terrorism and talks cannot go hand in hand.

Pilots’ body seeks reversal of pay cuts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air India pilots’ union Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) has written to Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia urging him reversal of the pay cuts due to the pandemic last year. They seek to reinstate pre-pandemic allowances that were discontinued as part of cost-cutting measures adopted in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The two airline pilots’ unions earlier had written individually but did not receive any response from their respective management.

“With the COVID scenario on the decline and aviation returning to normal, we seek your intervention to restore the salaries and roll back the unjust pay cuts rendered to pilots since the beginning of the pandemic,” they said. This has been a long stated demand of pilots and they say that as other airlines have returned to pre-COVID salaries, they should also be remunerated appropriately.

“The massive pay cut of up to 60% for Air India pilots has dramatically diminished our livelihoods. Looking at the current aviation industry standards, the continuation of the pay cut does not merit any justification,” read the letter.

Covid patients report symptoms affecting ears, reveals study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Many Covid-19 patients have reported symptoms affecting the ears, including hearing loss and tinnitus. Dizziness and balance problems can also occur, suggesting that the SARS-CoV-2 virus may be able to infect the inner ear, said a new study from MIT and Massachusetts Eye and Ear.

It has provided evidence that the virus can indeed infect cells of the inner ear, including hair cells, which are critical for both hearing and balance. The researchers also found that the pattern of infection seen in human inner ear tissue is consistent with the symptoms seen in a study of 10 Covid-19 patients who reported a variety of ear-related symptoms.

The researchers used novel cellular models of the human inner ear that they developed, as well as hard-to-obtain adult human inner ear tissue, for their studies. The limited availability of such tissue has hindered previous studies of Covid-19 and other viruses that can cause hearing loss.

“Having the models is the first step, and this work opens a path now for working with not only SARS-CoV-2 but also

other viruses that affect hearing,” says Lee Gehrke, the Hermann L.E. von Helmholtz Professor in MIT’s Institute for Medical Engineering and Science, who co-led the study published in the Communications Medicine.

Konstantina Stankovic, a former associate professor at Harvard Medical School and former chief of otology and neurotology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, who is now the Bertarelli Foundation Professor and chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine, co-led the study. Minjin Jeong, a former postdoc in Stankovic’s laboratory at Harvard Medical School, who is now at Stanford Medical School, is the lead author of the paper.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic began, Gehrke and Stankovic began working together on a project to develop cellular models to study infections of the human inner ear. Viruses such as cytomegalovirus, mumps virus, and hepatitis viruses can all cause deafness, but exactly how they do so is not well-understood.

PCV brought under universal immunisation plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), which protects young children from pneumonia, meningitis and blood infections caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria, has been brought under the ambit of the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

Launching the nationwide rollout of the vaccine as a part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday said the move aims to reduce the child mortality rate by 60 per cent.

“In India, around 16 per cent of deaths in children occur due to pneumonia. The nationwide rollout of PCV will reduce child mortality by around 60 per cent,” he stated.

Speaking on how the nation-wide rollout of PCV under UIP will significantly reduce the instances of child mortality due to pneumonia, Mandaviya said, “It is for the first time in the country that PCV will be available for universal use. Pneumonia is a leading cause of death among children under-5 years old, globally and in India. Pneumonia caused by pneumococcus is the most common cause of severe pneumonia in children.

The Minister also released communication and awareness packages on PCV to create widespread mass awareness.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to run the following Express Special Trains with revised compositions as under:-

REVISED COMPOSITION OF SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Existing Composition	Revised Composition	Date w.e.f. (Originating Station)
02715/02716 Hazrat Sahib Nanded - Amritsar Jn. - Hazrat Sahib Nanded Special Express	Generator car-2 2nd Seating-2, Sleeper-9, 3 Tier AC-5, 2 Tier AC-1, 1st AC-1, Parcel Van-1 = 21 Coaches	Generator car-2 2nd Seating-2, Sleeper-9 3 Tier AC-6, 2 Tier AC-1, 1st AC-1, Parcel Van-1 = 22 Coaches	Ex. Hazrat Sahib Nanded upto 10.11.2021 Ex. Amritsar Jn. 31.10.2021 to 12.11.2021
02963/02964 Udaipur City - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Udaipur City Special Express	Generator car-2 2nd Seating-4, Sleeper-7 3 Tier AC-6, 2 Tier AC-2, 1st AC-1 = 22 Coaches	Generator car-1 Second Luggage, Guard & Divyaang-1 2nd Seating-4, Sleeper-7 3 Tier AC-6, 2 Tier AC-2, 1st AC-1 = 22 Coaches	Ex. Udaipur City 01.11.2021 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin 02.11.2021

Note :- Whenever permanent Train No. 12963/12964 Udaipur City-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Udaipur City shall be restored, the same composition shall be applicable for that.

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

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

2481/21

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

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1	UHBVN	NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 13/UH/MM/XEN/P-IV/QHII/2061 DATED 29.07.2021 2021_HBC_181696_1	PROCUREMENT OF GI HEXAGONAL NUTS AND BOLTS UHBVN & DHBVN. DATE OF SUBMISSION UPTO 02.11.2021 (13.00 HRS.)	www.uhbvn.org.in	9023360202 cemm@uhbvn.org.in

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India, Isreal to form Task Force to boost ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a step towards further strengthening defence and strategic ties, India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Bilateral Defence Cooperation has agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation.

This was decided at the

15th JWG meeting held on Wednesday in Tel Aviv, Israel, the defence ministry said here on Friday. The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Director General of the Israel's Ministry of Defence, Major General (Retired) Amir Eshel.

The JWG is the apex body between the Ministry of Defence of India and Israel's Ministry of Defence to comprehensively review and guide all aspects of Bilateral Defence Cooperation.

The two sides reviewed the progress made in Military to Military engagements including exercises and industry cooperation. The Co-chairs were also appraised on the progress made by the Sub Working Groups (SWG) on Defence Procurement, Production and Research and



Development.

It was also decided to form a SWG on Defence Industry Cooperation and in this regard a Terms of Reference was signed between the two sides. The formation of this SWG will enable efficient utilisation of bilateral resources, effective flow of technologies and sharing industrial capabilities.

It was also decided to schedule the Service level Staff talks in a specific time frame. The two sides also agreed to hold the next JWG in India on mutually convenient dates.

Israel has emerged as one of the major defence partners of India since diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in the early 1990s.

Mamata tells Goans she is their ‘didi’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister on Friday arrived in Goa with a new message of camaraderie telling she too was Goa's daughter and "your sister" who had come to take part in the development of the tiny State.

Sending out a message to the party men who had joined TMC from the Congress and the lesser parties who could be her likely alliance partners she said that she had "not come to usurp power ... Not to become the Chief Minister ... but to serve you in your endeavour for good governance as we have done in Bengal."

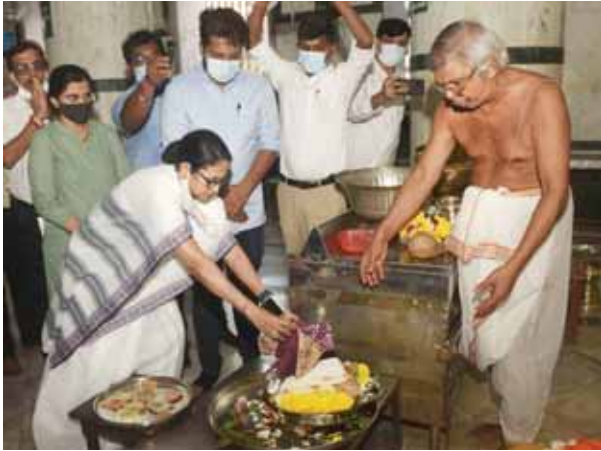
The Chief Minister who was earlier black flagged by alleged BJP men said, "some people showed me black flag ... But I greeted them with namaste ... I too am an Indian and so not a stranger to Goa .. in fact I also belong to Goa ... I am your sister."

The Bengal Chief Minister was on a three-day trip of the coastal state where she has declared a war against the BJP."

Vouching for Trinamool Congress' secular record she said the TMC stood for "Temple, Mosque and Church" which "drives home our secular credentials... we are secular and stand for a united India."

Goa goes to polls Early next year.

The TMC supremo who



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during her visit to the Mangeshi temple, in Goa

took former Goa Chief Minister Luizinho Fereiro in TMC two months ago appealed to the people of the State to "give us one chance to see how we can work along with you for the development of Goa ... Like the way we have done in Bengal where poverty has come down by 40 percent."

She also listed a number of popular schemes in Bengal saying, "our schemes where the Government provides cycles laptops, to students and scholarships to girl children have been received well by the people of Bengal... TMC can promise you a true people's government."

On alliances with other parties she sais she did not want

to impose her decision on party leaders. "It is a collective decision ... Let all the leaders and workers sit and decide on such issues."

Saying that fish and football connect Goa she said she said she was a Goan as any other Goan was. "We will not allow the Centre's dadagiri here," she said.

Earlier Banerjee's picture was vandalized by unknown people though the TMC blamed the BJP for the act warning there we would be Khela hobe in Goa too.

Early this year the TMC defeated BJP in Bengal elections when Khela hobe (a game is in the offing) became a famous political slogan.

For Modi to be PM, Yogi as UP CM a must: Shah

Lucknow: Scotching speculation over the BJP's Chief Ministerial face in the coming UP assembly elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Yogi Adityanath has to become CM in 2022 for Narendra Modi to be sworn in as the Prime Minister again in 2024.

The Union Home Minister made the decisive remark at a function while kickstarting the BJP's membership expansion drive here at the Defence Expo Ground and addressing the BJP's Shakti Kendra conveners and in-charges of the Awadh region.

On the occasion, the former BJP president also unveiled a slogan "Mera Parivar, BJP Parivar" amid the party consistently dubbing its rivals and opposition parties as "family-run parties".

"When Modi Ji is the prime minister, he gives all that is required by Uttar Pradesh. The foundation of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, which has to be won under the leadership of Modi Ji, will be laid in the 2022 assembly elections here," the Union Home Minister said.

"Modi Ji has to be made

the Prime Minister in 2024 and (for that) Yogi Ji will have to be made the UP Chief Minister once again in 2022," he said. Terming the upcoming polls as elections meant to make Bharat Mata a 'Vishwa Guru' (world leader), Shah said after Deepawali, the electioneering will gain momentum and exhorted party men to work dedicatedly for it.

"When the BJP men come out and walk with the lotus flag and its slogans, the opposition parties start feeling threatened," he said, further exhorting the party men to aim at winning more than 300 seats in the upcoming UP Assembly polls.

Pointing out that the BJP's membership expansion drives were started earlier before the 2014, 2017 and 2019 elections, Shah said the membership campaign before the 2022 elections is being launched on Friday.

Recalling the glorious past of the state, Shah said since the Mughal rule till the BJP came to power in 2017 with a full majority, it never appeared that Uttar Pradesh is the land of Baba Vishwanath, Lord Ram



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses party workers during the launch of 'Mera Pariwar, Bhajpa Pariwar' campaign in Lucknow on Friday

and Lord Krishna. He emphasised that the BJP worked for getting the right recognition due to the state and took it ahead to empower it further.

"The BJP has proved for the first time that the governments are formed not for the family but for the poorest of the poor in the State," he said, taking a dig at various opposition parties.

Attacking opposition parties and leaders, especially Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his poll-related activities, Shah said

"after the drums of elections were sounded, those sitting at home have come out in new clothes to show that their government is going to be formed."

"I ask Akhilesh (Yadav) to give an account for how many days he stayed abroad in five years, give the account to the people of UP," he said.

"These people ruled for themselves, for their families and if they had any broader thinking, for their caste men but never for anyone else," Shah further taunted. Recalling the 1990 police firing

at Kar Sevaks in Ayodhya during the Mulayam Singh Yadav regime, Shah said these people in 2014, 2017 and 2019, mocked the BJP with their slogans "mandir wahin banayenge, par tithi nahi batayenge (Will build the temple there

but won't tell the date when it will start)". But the foundation stone for a grand Lord Ram Lala temple

has already been laid in Ayodhya today and the construction work is on in full swing, he thundered. Under the guidance of Modi Ji, Yogi Ji has run the Government for the poor, women, youth and the unemployed, he stressed, lauding the working of the Yogi government. Shah also attacked Gandhi and Vadra families along with the SP and BSP.

The former BJP president was welcomed by prominent leaders and ministers including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya at the Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport Lucknow on his arrival.

CCI manipulating cotton prices: Traders

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCH

Cotton Corporation of India, a public sector undertaking and designated as Mini Rathna Company, has earned the wrath of the textile industry as well as that of the farmers for knowingly or unknowingly dancing to the tunes of cotton traders and some multinational companies and thereby causing havoc on the country's economy.

Raja M Shannmugham, president, Tirupur Exporters Association, has sent an urgent message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi listing the hardship caused to the cotton farmers and textile industry by the cotton traders-MNCs-CCI cartel which he alleged is manipulating the market through unjustifiable manner.

"This ploy has the potential to destabilise the textile industry which is the only labour intensive industry in the country. If the textile industry in India

loses its competitiveness, we will be wiped out from the sector and it would be like a death blow to millions of workers and their families," Shannmugham told The Pioneer.

He said that cotton traders and some MNCs were indulging in hoarding as well as manipulating the price of cotton to suit their convenience. "A few MNCs play a hatched game against the interest of our textile industry by way of hoarding a huge stock during the cotton yielding season by using their very low cost of international fund. Further, MNCs make use of CCI procured cotton stock also in their favour by booking in advance with CCI on a huge volume basis by making CCI establishment itself knowingly or unknowingly to sail with their hatched game plan of creating an artificial demand in the market and make available a staggered supply of cotton to the consuming textile mills,"

Shannmugham said in his letter to the Prime Minister. The industrialist said that desi textile industry should get the preference during the sale of cotton procured from Indian cotton farmers.

"That is the only leverage we have in this highly competitive industry. Our demand is that traders and MNCs should be barred from trading in Indian cotton. The MNCs procure raw cotton to ease out the Indian textile industry out of the race. The CCI should allocate the cotton procured from Indian farmers to our own industries. The interests of the industry as well as that of the cotton farmers should be protected," said Shannmugham.

The TEA wants the Government to issue a directive to the CCI to protect the interest of farmers and act as a facilitator or catalyst to accelerate the growth of value chain of textile industry. "Textile Mills are consisting of Small, Medium and

Large enterprises and the CCI should supply cotton directly to the above segments relating to their capacities instead of fixing a higher benchmark to the quantities, which only benefit to either Corporates or MNCs in cotton trade," said the TEA chief.

P Chengal Reddy, advisor to the Consortium of Indian Farmers' Association (CIFA) expressed his reservation about the role played by the CCI in manipulating cotton prices. "The farmers should get the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government. The CCI has a responsibility to ensure that the farmers get the MSP. We will approach the Prime Minister with a demand soon," said Chengal Reddy. He said there was a deficiency in the availability of quality cotton cultivated in India . This is because of the non-availability of new and high yielding GM seeds," said Reddy.

Man held for raping teenage girl in Ballia



Ballia (UP): A man was arrested here for allegedly abducting and raping a teenage girl, police said on Friday.

The girl was abducted by one Sonu Singh of her village on October 24. She was taken to Ballia and Kanpur, and raped, police said.

On the complaint of the victim's mother, an FIR was registered against Singh under relevant sections of the IPC and the POCSO Act.The accused was arrested and the girl sent for a medical examination. A probe is on into the matter. *PTI*

Congress urges EC to cancel Huzurabad Assembly bypoll

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Attacking both the TRS and the BJP for the "brazen violation of the model code of conduct (MCC)", the Congress on Thursday alleged that both the parties tried to influence voters by distributing money and gifts, obstructing the conduct of a free and fair election.

The Congress leaders appealed to the Election Commission for the cancellation of the Huzurabad Assembly constituency bypoll, scheduled to be held on Saturday.

AICC leaders, including Dasoju Sravan, Ch Vamshichand Reddy and party senior leaders J

Kusum Kumar and H Venugopal Rao, submitted a formal representation in this regard to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra.

Addressing a Press conference, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that after the bypoll campaign ended, both the TRS and BJP brazenly began distributing money in broad daylight to 'purchase votes'.

Each voter was given ₹6,000 to ₹10,000. "Within three hours, about Rs 90 crore was distributed among 1.5 lakh voters. This was unprecedented in Independent India," Surjewala said.Ends

HC takes a dig at Kerala over its deals with conman

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kerala Government was left clueless and spellbound on Friday by Justice Devan Ramachandran of the Kerala High Court who gave the former a piece of his mind while going through the affidavit submitted by the former in the fake antique dealer Monson Mavunkal case.

Monson Mavunkal, allegedly a conman had taken the Kerala Police for a ride by claiming that he was in possession of the Staff used by Moses, throne of Tipu Sultan and the oil lamp used by prophet Mohammed. Loknath Behra, the then chef of the Kerala Police and his deputy Manoj Abraham, a nationally

decorated police officer were regular visitors to the rented house of Monson. Photographs of then posing with the staff of Moses and relaxing on the throne of Sultan went viral which put the Kerala Government in an embarrassing situation.

"What kind of police force the State has at its disposal? Doesn't he chief of the force not aware of what are artefacts and antiquity materials? Doesn't he know that any items which are more than 100 years old should be registered with the Archaeological Survey of India? There is a Central Act, called the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 and it has a set of Rules as well. The competent authority to deal with

these articles is the Archeological Survey Department. Now if you go through Section 2 of the Act, antiquity has been defined there. According to the Act, anything over 100 years is an antiquity, and such an item has to be compulsorily registered with the competent authority," Judge Ramachandran told the Director General of Prosecution after reading the affidavit submitted by the State Government.

Monson Mavunkal is in police custody since last month on charges of duping certain business groups in the State of crores of rupees after promising them loans at unbelievable interest rates. His claim was that the ₹2 lakh crore sent to

him by the Sultan of Brunei has been seized by the Finance Ministry of the union government which has been demanding that he pay ₹60 crore to release the same. Monson was in possession of a fleet of swanky imported cars, which the Motor Vehicles department were found to be junk and unusable.

Besides Behra and Abraham, many senior IPS officers were seen rubbing shoulders with Monson. Though he never had a passport in his name, Monson was the chief of Global Malayalee Foundation and was a keynote speaker in the international cyber security seminar organised by the Kerala Police. Monson is a school drop out.

Guj: Dalit family attacked for visiting temple, 20 booked

PTI ■ GANDHIDHAM

Six members of a Dalit family were allegedly attacked by around 20 men for visiting a temple in their village near Gandhidham town of Gujarat's Kutch district, police said on Friday.

While the alleged incident took place on Tuesday (October 26) at Ner village under Bhachau police station, no arrests have been made so far, deputy superintendent of police Kishorsinh Zala said.

"Two FIRs were registered in this regard, one by Govind Vaghela and another by his father Jagabhai.

The duo claimed that around 20 persons attacked them. We have formed eight teams to nab the culprits," Zala said.

The case has been registered against a mob of 20 persons, including Kana Ahir, Rajesh Maharaj, Kesra Rabai, Paba Rabari and Kana Koli, on the charges of attempt to murder, dacoity, robbery, assault, and under relevant sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, it was stated.

As per the FIR, the accused were angry that Govind Vaghela and his family had visited the Ram temple at Ner village on October 20 to offer prayers when a Prana Pratishtha ritual was underway.

On October 26, Vaghela was at his shop, when he learnt that some persons had destroyed his standing crop by sending cattle into his field, the complaint stated.

When the complainant and his uncle Ganesh Vaghela reached the spot, the accused attacked them with pipes, sticks and sharp weapons for visiting the temple, the police said

16 regional parties declared receiving ₹24.7 cr donations without PAN details: ADR

New Delhi: The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Friday said that about 16 regional parties have declared receiving 1,026 donations worth ₹24.779 crore without PAN details during the financial year 2019-20.Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Lok Janshakti Party, Samajwadi Party and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) saw the maximum percentage increase in their income from donations between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

A report, prepared by ADR, focuses on donations declared by regional political parties during the financial year 2019-20, as submitted by the parties to the Election Commission."The top five parties, which declared the highest donations in FY 2019-20 are Shiv Sena, AIADMK, AAP, Biju Janata Dal and YSR-C. Out of these parties, SHS, BJD and Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party declared a decrease in their donations, while the AIADMK and the AAP declared an increase in donations in comparison to 2018-19," the report said.

Maximum donations in cash were declared by the Indian Union Muslim League, which collected Rs 4.63 crore, followed by Tamil Nadu's Pattali Makkal Katchi with Rs 52.20 lakh, LJP with ₹6

lakh, Nagaland and Manipur's Naga People's Front with ₹3.92 lakh and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) with ₹29,000.

The report said 16 regional parties have declared receiving 1,026 donations worth ₹24.779 crore without PAN details.Out of 53 regional parties analysed, only two had submitted their donation reports to the Election Commission in the stipulated time period and 28 others had delayed their submission by a minimum of six to 320 days.

There are 23 regional political parties who have defaulted on the submission of their donation reports to the EC during 2019-20, till date.

With regard to the total amount of donations, the Shiv Sena leads with ₹ 62.859 crore from 436 donations, followed by the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), which has declared receiving ₹52.17 crore from three donations. The AAP declared receiving ₹37.37 crore that is the third highest amongst all the regional parties.

The BJD and the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSR-C) have declared total donations of ₹28.20 crore and ₹ 8.924 crore, respectively. *PNS*

Kerala logs 7,772 new Covid cases

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala on Friday logged 7,772 fresh cases of Covid-19 infections, pushing the caseload to 49,44,857, while the death toll rose to 31,156 with 471 more deaths.

Of the 471 deaths, 86 were reported in the last few days, 276 were those which were not confirmed until June 18 last year due to lack of adequate documentation and 109 were designated as Covid-19 deaths after receiving appeals based on the new guidelines of the Centre and Supreme Court directions, a State Government release said.With 6,648 more people recovering from the virus since Thursday, the total recoveries touched 48,43,5768, leaving 78,722 active cases, the release said. As many as 71,681 samples were tested in the last 24 hours. Among the 14 districts, Thiruvananthapuram recorded the highest with 1,087 cases, followed by Ernakulam (1,047) and Thrissur (847). Of the new cases, 45 were health workers, 43 from outside the state and 7,348 infected through contact with the source of it not being clear in 286.

HC rejects Anil Deshmukh's plea to cancel ED summons

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a setback to Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, the Bombay High Court on Friday rejected his petition challenging the summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons for him to appear before it.

Rejecting his petition seeking the court to invoke its special powers to prohibit the ED from any coercive action against him, AHC bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sarang Kotwa noted that Deshmukh was free to apply to a competent court for anticipatory bail under section 438 of the Cr PC if he apprehended arrest.

Deshmukh resigned from his post as the State Home Minister on April 5 2021 within hours after the Bombay High Court ordered a "Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the serious charges of corruption made against him by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. He is being investigated by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) over the allegations of corruption made by Param Bir

Singh.

It may be recalled that on March 20, the former commissioner of police had alleged that State Home Minister Deshmukh had asked now arrested and dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to "collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources.

Deshmukh is being investigated by the CBI in connection with a First Information Report (FIR) registered by it on April 24 section 7 of the amended Prevention of Corruption of Corruption Act and section 120-b (conspiracy) of IPC for an "attempt to obtain undue advantage for important and dishonest performance of the public duty".

Having prima facie found "cognisance offences" of corruption and conspiracy against him during a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) conducted by it into the allegations made against him by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh, the CBI on April 21 registered a regular case against him and other unknown people.



Police patrol the Yamuna river behind Taj Mahal ahead of Diwali in Agra on Friday

Fair play

The State’s tendency to charge anyone under the UAPA is facing sustained legal challenge

A pushback is discernible from the judiciary against the inappropriate use of the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967. The State banking on UAPA to arrest and charge anyone with terrorism is facing a sustained legal challenge. On Thursday, the Supreme Court granted bail to a Kerala youth held under UAPA since 2019 for Maoist links, saying mere association with or support to a terror organisation, the CPI-ML (Maoist) in this case, is “not sufficient” to prove the offence. The “intention of furthering the activities of a terrorist organisation” is missing, the court pointed out. The NIA court, which originally gave bail to the accused, did not *prima facie* find any evidence in the charge sheet showing this “intention”. The Kerala High Court, which set aside the bail order, did not record this *prima facie* finding, the Supreme Court observed. Giving bail in UAPA cases is a cumbersome affair as the court has to satisfy itself that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the charge of terrorism against the accused is *prima facie* not true. In this case, both the NIA court and the apex court came to that conclusion. It is not often that such a conclusion comes about. A *prima facie* analysis tests the judge’s perspicacity to weigh evidence filed by the prosecution and defence. That is possible more in civil cases than UAPA cases because the evidence in the former is mostly documentary. Moreover, a Supreme Court judgment in 2019 said that a court cannot go into the merits of a case or scrutinise the admissibility of evidence when deciding on bail.

As a result, in most cases, bail is ruled out. In the case of Stan Swamy, who was old, not in good health, hardly a flight risk and where the court had the power to place enough restrictions on him, bail was still not granted. One can only hope the court found a *prima facie* case against him. The pushback began in a startling case of judicial activism this June when the Delhi High Court gave bail to three student activists on the ground that protests, like inflammatory speeches and roadblocks, were not terrorist acts under UAPA. The court rejected the prosecution case built around WhatsApp messages and statements of witnesses who later turned “approvers” and said that tough penal laws could not be applied to ordinary protests which should be dealt with under ordinary criminal laws. The Supreme Court did not intervene in the High Court bail order while not treating it as a precedent. The court rightly felt the issue had “pan-India ramifications” and it had to “decide” on the “many questions involved” for the “good of the entire country”. The judiciary has so far been restrained in ensuring that draconian provisions, arbitrarily used, do not come in the way of granting bail to the accused. That is changing. It is time to hold the State to higher standards and disallow it to get away with questionable prosecutions.



People shop for Diwali items in a fair at the Blind Relief Association, in New Delhi Ranjan Dimri | The Pioneer

Farming for votes

The situation has turned against the Congress in Punjab and the AAP looks to take advantage

The Congress party was in the driver’s seat in Punjab’s politics when Charanjit Singh Channi, the party’s Dalit face, was appointed the Chief Minister just last month. Apparently, the picture has changed over the last few weeks and the grand old party’s Punjab prospects might need a booster shot to get back on course. The two main reasons causing worry to the grand old party are former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, and the latter seems ready to harvest all the electoral benefits arising out of the prevailing political atmosphere. While the BJP’s significance in the State is pretty limited — its vote share declined from 8.21 per cent in 2007 to 5.4 per cent in 2017 — the Captain, who has met Union Home Minister Amit Shah thrice since tendering his resignation, can render heavy damage to the Congress prospects as he is said to enjoy considerable influence over Jat farmers. Punjab’s politics has lately been driven by personal prospects; earlier Navjot Singh Sidhu was acting like an “unguided missile” and now the Captain has become a wounded lion who’d give it all to make the Congress pay for “humiliating” him. Further, Kejriwal, who’s on a two-day visit to Punjab, his second visit to the State this month in the run-up

to the Assembly elections early next year, has already fortified his party’s position after it emerged the second-largest party in the 2017 Assembly elections.

Clearly, it’s all against the Congress in Punjab and how its leaders attempt to protect one of the only three party-ruled States is the synopsis of Indian politics. Just like Ayodhya is the launchpad of Uttar Pradesh’s political spectrum, farmers have become the epicentre of Punjab politics and Kejriwal is playing just the right strings. His current Punjab visit too has freebies, this time only calculated ones. Making a bold promise, he said on Thursday: “After April 1, 2022, the farmers and labourers in Punjab will not be forced to commit suicide due to crop failure. This is my promise and Kejriwal does what he says.” He also promised to make agriculture profitable, of course if voted to power. With the Congress in a confused state and the farmers’ agitation heading into its first anniversary, the AAP’s electoral prospects in Punjab have increased. But whether it translates into storming the fort remains to be seen.

Bumpy road ahead for Afghan Govt

Will a bitterly divided Taliban be able to deliver an orderly Government, especially in the wake of the factional feuds intensifying since Aug-Sept?

Will the Taliban be able to provide stability and peace to Afghanistan? The deep fault lines within, that are now apparent, warrant the question. Time was when the *Ameer-ul-Momineen* (Commander of the Faithful) Mullah Mohammad Omar’s word was law for the Taliban. Nevertheless, there were factions within the Islamist militia, which emerged in 2015 when it came to be known that Mullah Omar had died on April 13, 2013, but the fact was kept a secret and Mullah Akhtar Mansour was running the organisation in his name. Mansour, who became the successor in July 2015, was killed by a US drone strike on May 21, 2016, following which Sheikh Haibatullah Akhaundzada became *Ameer-ul-Momineen*.

The continuing factional tussles intensified sharply during the exercise in Government formation that followed the Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan, with capital Kabul falling to it on August 15, 2021. The first indication of this was the fact that Zabiullah Mujahid, Taliban’s chief spokesman, announced a caretaker Government with 33 Ministers as late as September 7, 2021. The need to reconcile conflicting claims for shares of ministerial berths clearly made for the delay, which was over three weeks. The argument that the Taliban were not ready with a list of ministerial nominees because they could not anticipate their lightning victory, will not wash. Their peace treaty with the US, signed on February 29, 2021, which came in the midst of their violently extending their sway over progressively wider chunks of Afghan territory, was widely regarded as paving the way, wittingly or unwittingly, for their not-so-distant accession to power in Afghanistan. This and the fact that they themselves were confident about victory, should certainly have prompted them to have the blueprint for a Government and a list of potential Ministers ready — particularly when Pakistan was regularly providing them with guidance.

It is now clear that the Taliban had neither such a list nor a blueprint for governance ready. Hence the factional struggle in which the



main contenders were the faction identified with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, dominant in Kandahar, and the one headed by the Haqqani family active in the Paktia, Paktika and Khost provinces in eastern Afghanistan close the Pakistan, as well as northwestern Pakistan.

Media reportage as well as the train of events are revealing. *Tolo News*, a 24-hours-seven-days-a-week Afghan news channel, reported on September 3, 2021, that Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar (who headed the Islamist militia’s political office in Doha) would lead the Government-to-be in Afghanistan. It also said that Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, Taliban co-founder Mullah Mohammad Omar’s son, and Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai would hold senior positions in the Government.

As it turned out, it was not Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar but Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund who was to head the “caretaker” Government announced by the Taliban on September 7, 2021. Mullah Baradar was named his deputy along with Moulavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, a prominent Uzbek member of the negotiating team. Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob got the Defence portfolio. Stanekzai

“THE MISTRUST AND ANTIPATHY ARE GOING TO INCREASE AS THE BARADAR FACTION WANTS THE GOVERNMENT TO BE INCLUSIVE AND ADOPT A MODERATE STANCE ON ISSUES LIKE HUMAN RIGHTS WHILE THE HAQQANI FACTION RETAINS A HARD-LINE APPROACH

was marginalised and made Deputy Foreign Minister, with Amir Khan Muttaqi, a negotiator at the Afghan-American Doha peace talks, as Foreign Minister.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, son of Jalaluddin Haqqani, the founder of the Haqqani network, got the key Interior Ministry while Mullah Hidayatullah Badri received Finance, and Sheikh Moulavi Noorullah Munir and Mullah Khairullah Khairkhw, Education and Information and Broadcasting respectively. All of them had “acting” prefixed to their designations as it was a caretaker Government. Sheikh Haibatullah Akhaundzada, it was said, would remain the supreme leader, the ultimate authority over the group’s political, religious and military affairs, that he has held since 2016.

The expansion announced on October 19, which increased the Cabinet’s strength to 50, further reflected a balancing act between the Baradar and Haqqani factions, with the possibility that the appointment of Mullah Mohammad Ibrahim as Deputy Minister for Internal Security was a placatory gesture to the Baradar faction, to which he belongs, as Sirajuddin Haqqani has been made Interior Minister. There have been, of course, more visible signs of

factional conflict. Mullah Baradar was reportedly hurt on September 3, 2021, when his supporters clashed with those of the Haqqanis in Kabul and Khalil-ul-Rahman Haqqani reportedly punched him. Baradar disappeared after the incident, triggering speculation that he had died in the clash, but issued a statement on September 13 dispelling the conjecture. He returned to Kabul in early October but the report that he has refused to accept official security, and has brought his own security staff from Kandahar, shows the depth of mistrust and antipathy that continues between his and the Haqqani factions.

The mistrust and antipathy are going to increase as the Baradar faction wants the Afghan Government to be inclusive and adopt a moderate stance on issues like human rights, particularly in respect of women, while the Haqqani faction retains a hard-line approach. Mutual accusations will fly if the economy remains prostrate. There will also be violent challenges from terrorist outfits like the Islamic State of Khorasan Province. The Taliban have a bumpy road ahead.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IT’S TOUGH TERRAIN FOR THE CONGRESS

Sir — The Congress being the prime Opposition party, with the vast experience of ruling the country for over five decades, is now naturally entrusted with the responsibility to voice its due concern and draw the Government’s attention to the latter’s Achilles heels in dealing with the problems people face in various sectors, besides suggesting some pragmatic remedies as well. But for this to happen, the party needs to keep its own house in order in the first place.

The recent CWC meeting presided by the interim president Sonia Gandhi actually came across as a damage control exercise in this regard and which concluded sans any brouhaha against the expectations harboured by the party’s political rivals as Sonia Gandhi succeeded in prevailing upon the sidelined G23 leaders to fall in line with the party’s constitution by acceding to their longstanding demand for conducting the organisational elections including that of a full-time party president after the upcoming Assembly elections in the six States are over. Moreover, the interim president called a meeting of the party general secretaries and State-incharges along with UP Congress presidents on October 26, wherein she discussed the ‘Jan Jagran Abhiyan’ with a view to strengthening the Congress’s base.


Azhar A Khan | Rampur

ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE

Sir — In the forthcoming Conference of Parties (COP), the assistance that developing countries such as India need for mitigating carbon emissions, adapting to a warming world and insisting on a firm, transparent framework that lays out how this can be met, will be the points of discussion. Thus, adopting the stand that a national deadline for net zero carbon dioxide emissions is uncalled for, given its moral claim to a far greater share of the remaining global carbon budget.

The budget, which represents the estimated volume of future emissions that will allow global average temperature rise to be kept within safe limits — well below

Gone too early, Power Star



Puneeth Rajkumar (1975 – 2021) was an Indian actor known for his versatile acting in Kannada films. His jubilant face and kind nature were well known in both his reel and real life. His sudden death at a very early age of 43 years is shocking and heart-breaking. It leaves his family, friends, fans and well-wishers in grief. Rajkumar made an early debut in the film industry. It would be fair to say that he grew up on sets as he made his debut in films as a six-month-old infant — a cameo appearance in *Premada Kanike* (1976). Most of his earlier films had his father Rajkumar, play his on-screen father as well. He ended his childhood appearances with the action film *Parashuram*.

Fondly known as ‘Power Star’ and ‘Appu’, Puneeth’s first lead role came opposite Rakshita in *Appu* (2002). He acted in about 29 movies and won many awards, including State awards and Filmfare awards, among others. Many people in the Indian film industry are passing away at a very young age. This shows that the Indian film industry urgently needs to imbibe practices that help the artistes manage stress and other issues that become the cause of premature death. A good lifestyle, among other positive habits, should be incorporated not only by the actors but everybody. It is true that death is inevitable, but that does not mean one should indulge in practices that make us leave behind our loved ones way earlier than we should.

Madhu PV | Secunderabad

2°C or 1.5°C under the Paris Agreement — must be “shared by all countries.” India, it points out, will again rely on its historical energy poverty, underdevelopment and low per capita emissions to convince the world that a net zero target is incongruous with the present reality.

Krishnan Ramani | Calicut

AN EMERGING HUB OF INVESTMENTS

Sir — Having lived in Uttar Pradesh since 1978, I found the recent development in the State monumental and outstanding. With the Delhi Metro almost touching Ghaziabad in UP, we can see Noida, Vaishali are just at a stone’s distance from the Capital. Uttar Pradesh has achieved various milestones of development in the last four-and-a-half years. Making its mark as a frontrunner in sustainable, equitable and inclusive growth, the State Government not only successfully handled the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but also converted the dis-

aster into an opportunity by pursuing the goal with greater force and fast growth momentum.

The Government’s model of COVID management has been acknowledged not only in the country but also globally. UP was a backward State and it was a crime center but with the BJP taking over, the situation has changed drastically. And, now the State is moving towards a milestone of achievements and that changed the entire State drastically. With vast development and a harmonious law and order situation, more and more foreign investments are coming into the State because of the amenable condition here. As we would like to see, the current term is going to continue for a further period. We can witness a backward State becoming a booming State.

MR Jayanthi | Coimbatore

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

After April 1, 2022, no farmers or farm labourers in Punjab will die by suicide due to crop failure. This is my promise.

Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal

Today we are seen as a social media company. But in our DNA, we are a company that builds technology to connect people.

Facebook CEO — Mark Zuckerberg

Instead of saving money for your daughter’s wedding day, save it for her education and prepare her for herself.

Actor — Samantha

Shutting the critics down? No, never. That’s the world of sport. When you ride the highs, you’ve got to ride the lows.


Australia batsman — David Warner

I reiterate that the Aryan Khan drug case is completely bogus. The kids were deliberately framed in this case.

NCP leader — Nawab Malik


FIRST COLUMN

WHY THE COP26 ISN'T LIKELY TO DELIVER



GWYNNE DYER

The world is on a catastrophic pathway to 2.7°C of heating,” said UN Secretary General António Guterres. “There is a high risk of failure of COP26.” That’s the global climate summit that meets every five years to plot a course away from climate disaster. And it really isn’t looking good. COP26 starts on October 30 in Glasgow but much that should already have happened has not happened. The draft texts are only half-done due to the pandemic. Neither China’s President Xi Jinping nor President Vladimir Putin of Russia is even showing up. This meeting is the last chance to keep average global temperature below +1.5°C. That target was adopted at the last summit in Paris in 2015. Reaching that Paris goal, however, would require a 45 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. That’s not unthinkable if we treated this as an existential emergency but the grim fact is that we have never yet managed to cut global emissions at all. “We are not going to get to a 45 per cent reduction,” admitted a UN official, “but there must be some level of contributions on the table to show the downward trend of emissions.” Why would a conference full of highly educated, well informed and mostly well-intentioned people behave like this? They’re not wicked people, and almost all of them do know the truth. They just cannot afford to get too far ahead of the people they lead. A



majority of citizens in almost every country worry about global heating, but dramatic change isn’t possible because it hasn’t reached their ‘pain threshold’ yet. That phrase acquired its political meaning during the American war in Vietnam.

The idea was that a gradually escalating US bombing campaign would make the North Vietnamese government stop trying to reunite the country by force when the damage to North Vietnam reached its ‘threshold of pain’. ‘Operation Rolling Thunder’ lasted three years, but it never did find the Hanoi regime’s pain threshold. Similarly, the accumulating damage to people and property done by various sorts of wild weather has not yet reached the population’s pain threshold anywhere except for a few low-lying island countries that are already close to going underwater. On our current track, we will irrevocably commit to +1.5°C by 2029 or 2030, but the time lag with CO2 means that the immediate effects of even that abject failure might not be severe enough to shock a critical mass of people into action. So, what can usefully be done while we wait for the heating to reach our collective pain threshold? The best hope at the moment is the Global Methane Pledge, whose supporters promise to cut their methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030. Methane has accounted for at least a third of the warming so far, but it allows for a quick partial fix for two reasons. It stays in the atmosphere a far shorter time than CO2 - eight years instead of 200 - so emission cuts show quick results. And one source of methane in particular is cheap, low-hanging fruit: the fossil-fuel industry. Just stop flaring unwanted gas and fix all the leaks in almost 3 million km. of gas pipelines, and the 30 per cent cut is a done deal. Not only that, it will practically pay for itself, since you can burn the saved methane. It will produce carbon dioxide, of course, but that’s a 200-year problem and we need results now. Almost forty countries have already made the methane pledge. We could even delay +1.5°C down into the 2030s, and something else might turn up by then. Grasping at straws, perhaps, but what’s the better option?

(Gwynne Dyer’s new book is ‘The Shortest History of War’. The views expressed are personal.)

100 crore jabs: Govt system can deliver



ALOK RANJAN

The record must not lull us into a sense of complacency. The warlike effort must continue so that there is no possibility of the pandemic striking back in the form of a third wave

October 21, 2021 was a momentous day when India achieved the remarkable figure of 100 crore (one billion) vaccinations. Next to China this is the highest in the world and it has been made possible by untiring coordinated efforts over the last 10 months. The whole exercise of vaccination has been done in a campaign mode. The credit for this must, undoubtedly, go to the political will from the top at the Center and the States and the effort put in by the entire Government system with its civil service and health care administration providing the leadership and the healthcare workers taking care of the last mile delivery.

We got off to a slow start in January and there was also the debatable issue of vaccine-maitri whereby around six crore doses were exported to other countries. However, the drastic second wave of Coronavirus sent the entire country into a state of shock bringing forth the realization that the only way out was to vaccinate the eligible population with both doses at the earliest possible to prevent further disaster through the third wave.

Accordingly, the Prime Minister gave a clarion call for vaccinating the entire adult population by December 31. Initially, the progress was slow and there was a lot of cynicism about India’s ability to achieve this ambitious goal. There was the policy issue of vaccine being procured by the States which led to a lot of problems and the policy was revised to have the procurement done by Government of India. This was indeed a very positive policy amendment without which this 100-crore figure would never have been realized.

There were a lot of people who doubted the capacity of the government system to deliver. Concerns were raised about the availability of vaccines, the transportation of vaccines to the remotest areas, the existence of a cold chain, the availability of trained vaccinators, the actual conduct of the vaccination, the record keeping, the wastage of vaccines and many other similar issues. No doubt, delivering vaccine to every part of the country was by no means an easy task and required high level coordination, team spirit, motivation, inspiration, decision making, communication and leadership at all levels.

The vaccine manufacturers had to be given the demand well in time so that they could augment their facilities and schedule their production accordingly. They had to be given necessary financial assistance from the Government and a mechanism developed where payment for vaccine bought could be made on time so that there is no disruption in the flow. Thereafter the existing cold chain and other infrastructure used for the massive child immunization programmes had to be made ready to receive and handle the Covid vaccines.

Vaccination centers had to be setup



SUCH A VAST AND COMPLEX GOVERNANCE EXERCISE INVOLVING COORDINATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS IS A HUGE TASK AND DUE CREDIT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE ENTIRE TEAM TO HAVE ACHIEVED IT. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD RIGHTLY SAID THAT VACCINATION WOULD HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE ELECTION MODE

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)



at thousands of points so that the citizen does not have to travel far to get vaccinated. Then the huge army of vaccinators had to be trained in such a short time. There after duties were assigned to employees and officers to run these centers and ensure hassle free vaccination. The problem was far more acute in the rural areas where the basic infrastructure is not of the same level as the cities. The entire exercise was managed through a Cowin portal developed by the national health authority through which you could fix your appointment for vaccination and also get the certificates. There was some debate about the usefulness of Cowin for those not having access to internet facility but the issues were ironed out and the result is that 100 crore vaccinations has been reached.

Such a vast and complex governance exercise involving coordination at various levels is a huge task and due credit must be given to the entire team to have achieved it. In my 38 years of experience as a civil servant the only exercise that can be a parallel to this is the conduct of nationwide elections. The Prime Minister had rightly said that vaccination would have to be done in the election mode. Just like elections all arms of the government had to work together to make this vaccination possible. It required a lot of daily coordination between Government of India and the State Government. Thereafter the leadership had to be

given by the political executive at the state level and prompt decision making by the policy planners like the Secretary and Director. Finally, it was the district where action took place under the leadership of the District Magistrate and the Chief medical officer.

The last-mile delivery was made possible by the health workers including Asha and Anganwadi workers. In rural areas vaccination had to be taken to the door step of the people. I could witness a tremendous sense of enthusiasm amongst all concerned with the vaccination process. My personal experience of vaccination was also very good as I found that the vaccination centers were being managed very efficiently with full courtesy and protocol. There was vaccine hesitancy in quite a few people and a lot of communication was required to convince the citizens to come forward for the vaccination. The point I want to make is that very often people have a negative perception about government officers and employees.

This vaccination drive has shown the entire government system in positive colors. The entire system has risen to the occasion in response to the challenge of the pandemic in a most professional and effective manner. To a large extent the government must take the blame for not being able to anticipate the coming of the second wave and then not being able to respond adequately to it. There was a definite failure to provide oxygen,

ICU beds and medicines during the height of the second wave. However, with the success of the vaccination so far, the government system has been able to redeem itself to a large extent.

The battle is not over and the momentum has to be continued to meet the target of vaccinating the entire adult population by December 31. We must celebrate attaining the 100 crore figure but it must not lull us into a sense of complacency. The war-like effort must continue so that there is no possibility of the Pandemic striking back in the form of a third wave. There are lessons to be drawn from the success story of vaccination for the future overhaul of the public health system which is in urgent need of being modernized and upgraded.

The Center as well as the States will have to focus on spending a larger portion of their expenditure on health care. More Doctors, nurses and paramedics are required necessitating the opening of more educational institutions to cater to this demand. District hospitals need to be converted into centers of excellence and primary health care centers made operational. The pandemic has exposed the poor State of health infrastructure in the rural areas which needs to be addressed on priority. The success of the vaccination drive has shown that this is possible and the same leadership, team spirit and motivation are required to transform the public health sector.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I WILL NOT FORGIVE ANY OFFICIAL OF THE DISTRICT, POLICE OR THE PWD WHO IGNORES WHAT MY PEOPLE SAY.

—UTTAR PRADESH DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA



A GOVERNMENT OFFICER IS SUPPOSED TO WORK AS PER RULES AND REGULATIONS, NOT ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE BJP.

—SAMAJWADI PARTY SPOKESPERSON ABDUL HAFIZ GANDHI

How much to spend, and how much we must save

Thrift is the habit of procuring goods and services only when necessary and in a restrained manner, avoiding wastage and extravagance



HARISH BARTHWAL

The biggest beneficiary in the festive season, Dussehra to Diwali particularly in north India, is the marketer. A significant number of them especially the sweets and garment dealers earn as much in a few days as in the entire year. The colourfully decorated, well-lit markets and makeshift shops attract buyers with special offers, discounts and incentives stimulating the customers’ shopping urge. The choicest items in the shopping list are apparels, upholstery, linens, kitchenware. Many book a new vehicle or home. A reflexively parsimonious person also buys something tangible on these auspicious days. The buoyant spending goes on till the New Year, and beyond.

The tendency of indiscriminate buying leads to accu-

mulation of unwanted goods, machinery and equipment in an already diminishing residential, commercial, government and industrial spaces. “Thrift was never more necessary in the world’s history than it is today,” said the noted US banker Francis H. Sisson. Our age and times warrant exercising utmost thrift in any additional purchases for multiple reasons.

Thrift or frugality is not a derogatory term; being frugal doesn’t mean going by the lowest price or compromising on quality; it doesn’t mean depriving oneself of pleasures of life either. Thrift is the habit of procuring goods and services only when necessary, and in a restrained manner, avoiding wastage and extravagance. Frugality empowers one to

devote resources to a cause that is worthwhile and meaningful. By observing frugality, you bring your money under your control.

Kitchen items like mixer-grinder, coffee maker, dough kneaders; medical equipment like blood pressure or sugar level devices, etc. often procured on an impulse remain idle for years and are eventually discarded or handed over for repair, never to be duly brought back.

Purchases are at times made as status symbol irrespective of utility. There are examples of government offices procuring scientific equipment at enormous cost that were hardly or never used, for any reason, thus entailing colossal wastage apart from blocking precious space. A 2016 CAG report on National Health Mission deplored that life-saving equipment like blood storage units, ultrasound and X-ray machines worth crores of rupees remained unutilised since skilled manpower to run the advanced machines was not in place. In fact, the disposal of the unwanted materials itself turns out to be a formidable problem. Apart from occupying precious spaces, such junk creates negative, counter-productive vibes. The

message is loud and clear: before you buy something, consider whether you actually need it.

In an era when many oldsters hardly have children around, they can bank on their savings to meet their necessary needs of products and services. Here is a take for youngsters: espouse frugality from early years. Concrete savings provide not only a cushion to meet unforeseen financial needs but also feeling of security, a dire need of the aged. To promote a saving habit in a planned way as in banks (rather than under the mattresses) among people at large, World Savings Bank Institute (WSBI) has been sponsoring World Savings (or Thrift) Day annually on October 31 since 1925 (in

India it is celebrated on October 30). Through formal savings not only the young generations find themselves in a ‘socially and economically safe environment’ but such funds do contribute to development agenda of the nations.

On the flip side, emphasis on savings can create imbalances. Mark the massive food grains being dropped into the ocean or elsewhere because the procurement was far in excess of storage facilities, or cooked food items stored in refrigerators being thrown out as they could not be consumed in time. Apropos also of many grandparents who grew up in poverty and whose savings accounts usually remained unknown to their kith and kin even posthumously and ultimately their hard-earned

deposits were appropriated by bankers in absence of claimants.

On the other extreme is the younger generation unmindful of Benjamin Franklin’s precept, “beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.” They prefer a lifestyle of spending to the extent their wallets or credit cards permit, an addiction of sorts. After making every one a debtor in developed countries, the plastic money kingpins now have eyes set on high salaried Indian youth. For every 100 persons at a workplace in metro cities there are 150 credit cards - not a good sign. It is time for us to take stock of how much do we actually need in our life time *vis-à-vis* our resources, and how much to store for the future.

DURGA PUJA VIOLENCE B'desh Minister blames Opp, Pro-Pak elements

Kolkata: Bangladesh Information and Broadcasting Minister M Hasan Mahmud on Thursday blamed Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and pro-Pakistan elements for the recent communal violence in the country during Durga Puja.

Addressing the media at Kolkata Press Club, Mr Mahmud said, "The people of Bangladesh and West Bengal are well aware of who is behind this. Some parties like BNP and Jamaat believe in communalism and they capitalise on it and create instability."

"You all know that even during the country's liberation struggle (1971), there were some people who supported the Pakistani army. Don't forget that their descendants are still there," added the Bangladesh minister.

Violence had erupted in pockets of Bangladesh over an alleged blasphemy incident at a Durga Puja pavilion at Cumilla, following which paramilitary forces were deployed in many affected areas.

Sporadic clashes broke out between the police and hardliners resulting in the vandal-

isation of Hindu temples and Durga puja venues.

At least five people were killed and scores injured in the clashes. Based on the analysis of the CCTV footage, the police identified Iqbal Hossain, a resident of Cumilla, as the person responsible for the incident.

The police official said he confessed to placing the Quran on the lap of the idol of Hanuman, a central character in the epic of Ramayana, before stealing the club from the idol's hand.

He further blamed the communal politics of BNP and Pakistan for the violence in the country and stated that the Bangladesh government has taken strict action against all the culprits.

BNP do communal politics, they who follow the ideology of Pakistan, their religion first for the people. This is the difference between those people and us. Bangladesh government has taken strict action against all the culprits after communal incidents took place in different parts of the country," said Mr Mahmud.

"When elections come, these people give anti-India,

anti-Hindu slogans and also say that you people should not go to vote and these people have done this incident for political purpose," Mr Mahmud said.

He said that atrocities on the Hindu community were one such attempt through which they wanted to incite riots across the country.

"No Hindu had kept the Quran in the puja pandal. In the end, the investigation revealed that a Muslim named Iqbal had done it under provocation. Agencies are probing the matter and strict action is being taken," he added.

"In Bangladesh, we do not believe in minorities. Everyone is Bangladeshi and this is our first identity. The festival of worship is not only for Hindus as we all participate in it and so is the case with Eid, which is celebrated by all," added the minister.

"When Eid is celebrated in Bangladesh, not only Muslims but people of all religions take part in it and the same happens in India. Out of 32,000 pujas, only five or six were attacked by some people who are trying to communalise Bangladesh's politics," he said. **PTI**

Joyous Indian diaspora greets PM Modi in Italy

ROME: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Friday greeted by a jubilant and cheering Indian diaspora, who recited hymns and chanted his name to welcome him on his visit to Italy.

In a video shared on social media, Prime Minister Modi is seen in a happy mood, walking along a park cloaked with heavy security, greeting and shaking hands with the members of the Indian diaspora.

Before meeting the Indian community, Modi paid floral tributes at the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Piazza Gandhi.

The community members, holding Indian flags, are seen chanting Modi's name cheerfully, with PM Modi reciprocating by waving to the crowd.

With folded hands and full attention, Prime Minister Modi listened to the recital of hymns by a group of members, who also offered a bunch of books to him.

Modi also joined them in reciting "Om Namah Shivay" at the end.

He praised their effort and also exchanged a few words with them.

With concern, he enquired



about a community member's injured hand, "what did you do to your hand?"

Prime Minister Modi, who arrived here earlier in the day to participate in the G20

Summit, began his official engagements in Rome with a "productive interaction" with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

Prime Minister Modi held wide-ranging talks with the top leaders of the European Union here during which the two sides discussed deepening the India-EU friendship, particularly in areas such as trade, commerce, culture and the environment. **PTI**

Woman now thought to be Afghan's last Jew flees country

Jerusalem: For years, Zebulon Simentov branded himself as the "last Jew of Afghanistan," the sole remnant of a centuries-old community. He charged reporters for interviews and held court in Kabul's only remaining synagogue. He left the country last month for Istanbul after the Taliban seized power.

Now it appears he was not the last one. Simentov's distant cousin, Tova Moradi, was born and raised in Kabul and lived there until last week, more than a month after Simentov departed in September. Fearing for their safety, Moradi, her children and nearly two dozen grandchildren fled the country

in recent weeks in an escape orchestrated by an Israeli aid group, activists and prominent Jewish philanthropists.

"I loved my country, loved it very much, but had to leave because my children were in danger," Moradi told The Associated Press from her modest quarters in the Albanian town of Golem, whose beachside resorts have been converted to makeshift homes for some 2,000 Afghan refugees. Moradi, 83, was one of 10 children born to a Jewish family in Kabul. At age 16, she ran away from home and married a Muslim man. She never converted to Islam, maintained some Jewish traditions, and it was no secret in her neigh-

bourhood that she was Jewish. "She never denied her Judaism, she just got married in order to save her life as you cannot be safe as a young girl in Afghanistan," Moradi's daughter, Khorshid, told the AP from her home in Canada, where she and three of her siblings moved after the Taliban first seized power in Afghanistan in the 1990s.

Despite friction over her decision to marry outside the faith, Moradi said she stayed in touch with some of her family over the years. Her parents and siblings fled Afghanistan in the 1960s and 1980s. Her parents are buried at Jerusalem's Har Menuhot cemetery, and many of her surviving siblings

and their descendants live in Israel.

But until this week, she had not spoken to some of her sisters in over half a century.

"Yesterday, I saw my sisters, nieces and nephews after around 60 years through a video call. We spoke for hours," Moradi said. "I was really happy, I saw their children and they met mine." "They said it's like she came back from the grave," Khorshid said. During the first period of Taliban rule, from 1996 until the 2001 US-led invasion, Moradi tried to maintain a low profile. But she risked her life by hiding Rabbi Isaak Levi, one of the few remaining Afghan Jews, from the Taliban. **AP**

S Korea to develop homegrown naval interception system

Seoul: South Korea will launch a project next month to develop a homegrown naval interception system designed to protect warships from hostile aircraft and missiles, the state arms procurement agency said Friday.

The Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) said the project aims to develop the Close In Weapon System-II (CIWS-II) - a ship-based gun capable of countering incoming attacks in the final stage of the Navy's multilayered interception program — by 2027. **IANS**

US, India urge Taliban to ensure Afghan is not used as terrorists' safe haven

WASHINGTON: India and the US have called on the Taliban to ensure that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists, as offi-

cials from the two countries concluded their joint dialogue on counter-terrorism to expand their cooperation to combat the scourge.

The Indian and the US sides also called for concerted action against all terror groups, including those proscribed by

the UN Security Council such as al-Qaida, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), a joint statement issued after the meeting here said on Thursday.

Reaffirming counter-terrorism cooperation as an important pillar under the US-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, both sides pledged to further expand cooperation on law enforcement, information sharing, exchange of best practices and strategic convergence on counter-terrorism challenges, it said.

During the two-day meet-

ing here on October 26 and 27, the US reiterated its commitment to stand together with the people and the government of India in the fight against terrorism.

ALSO READ | Taliban founder Mullah Omar's son gives first public appearance as hardline rulers polish image

They called on the Taliban to ensure that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US' complete troop withdrawal on August 31 after a costly two-

decade war.

According to the joint US-India statement, the two countries strongly condemned any use of terrorist proxies and cross-border terrorism in all its forms, and called for the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attack to be brought to justice.

The 2008 Mumbai attack was one of the most horrific terrorist attacks in India in which 166 people, including six Americans, were killed and over 300 injured as 10 heavily-armed terrorists from Pakistan created mayhem in the country's financial capital.

IANS

US announces \$144 million in humanitarian aid for people of Af

Washington: The US Secretary of State Tony Blinken announced on Thursday that the United States will roll out USD144 million in a bid to help the people of Afghanistan who have been facing a grave humanitarian crisis since the

atrocious Taliban takeover.

Blinken also added that the financial assistance would be provided directly to independent international and non-governmental humanitarian organisations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the World Health Organization (WHO), following extensive vetting and monitoring.

"This funding provides support directly to some of the more than 18 million vulnerable Afghans in need in the

region, including Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries," he said.

"To be clear, this humanitarian assistance will benefit the people of Afghanistan and not the Taliban, whom we will continue to hold accountable for the commitments they have made," he asserted.

Observing that Afghanistan's neighbours have long hosted one of the largest and most protracted refugee situations in the world, Blinken thanked the host countries and urged them to keep their borders open to Afghans seeking international protection.

"With this new humanitarian funding, we will continue to support our partners in the region with lifesaving assistance and protection services to Afghan refugees, while we continue to support Afghans in need inside Afghanistan," Blinken said. **IANS**

Taliban seeks int'l community's backing for sanctions removal

IANS ■ KABUL

During a meeting with 14 foreign envoys, The Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has urged the international community's support for the removal of sanctions on the incumbent government of Afghanistan led by the group, the media reported.

The meeting took place in Doha on Wednesday, TOLO News reported. During the meeting, "Minister Muttaqi elaborated on the new Islamic government, ensuring security, ties with the international community, economic situation, sanctions imposed on Afghanistan, and elimination of corruption", Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi said in a statement.

"Afghanistan is witnessing a dominant government in 40 years, therefore the international community should call on the US to remove sanctions on the Afghan people's national wealth," the Minister was quoted as saying in the meeting. The new Afghan government "as a responsible government" fulfilled all of the conditions and that it should be recognised, he added. In the meeting, reportedly mediated by the Qatari government, the envoys urged the Taliban to abide by international rules, respect human rights, guarantee safe passage to Afghanistan and eradicate terrorism. Earlier on Wednesday, the Acting Foreign Minister held talks with Markus Potzel, Germany's Ambassador-designate to Afghanistan.

IANS

Myanmar Junta sentences Aung San Suu Kyi aide to 20 years in jail for treason

Yangon: Myanmar's military sentenced a close aide of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi to 20 years in prison on Friday, his lawyer said, the first high-ranking member of her party to be jailed by a junta court.

The country has been in turmoil since a February 1 coup ousted Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) government, accusing it of fraud in 2020 polls it won in a landslide.

Myanmar has since been in chaos, with huge democracy protests and a crackdown on dissent that has killed more than 1,200 people, according to a local monitoring group.

Former member of parliament and NLD speaker Win Htein was handed 20 years in jail for treason by a special court in the capital Naypyidaw, lawyer Myint Thwin told AFP.

He added that he would appeal the sentence, and that his client was in good health.

Win Htein, 80, is the first high-ranking NLD member to be sentenced by the junta after a trial.

The former soldier is a longtime political prisoner who has spent long stretches of time in detention for campaigning against military rule.

Considered Suu Kyi's right-hand man, he was long been sought out by international and domestic media for insights into what Myanmar's former de facto leader is thinking.

The wheelchair-bound politician requires oxygen to help him breathe, according to local media. **PTI**

**PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED**
Regd. Office: Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (UP)

Tel.: 011-47627400, Fax: 011-47627497
Email: delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com

CIN No. - L50102UP1982PLC015532
website: www.pasupatiacrylon.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, the 01st November, 2021 inter-alia to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and six months ended 30th September, 2021. The said intimation is available on the Company's website www.pasupatiacrylon.com, BSE's website at www.bseindia.com and NSE's website at www.nseindia.com.

By order of the Board
For Pasupati Acrylon Ltd. Sd/-
Bharat Kapoor
Company Secretary

Dated: 29.10.2021
Place: New Delhi

**UJVN LIMITED**
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं. 806, दिनांक 28.10.2021

Details of corrigendum of tender document and date extension for e-Tender No.02/EE(Civil-I)/LMP/2021-22 are given below :

Name of work: Repair/Reconstruction of Lakhwar Project road near village Lohari Dist. Dehradun.

Last date for submission of bids on : 18-11-2021 at 16:00 Hrs website

Date of opening bids on website : 20-11-2021 upto 11:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer (Civil-I)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

**UJVN LTD.**
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No. 808 Date Extension Notice-01 Dated : 29.10.2021

Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the e-NIT No. NCB/18/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 & NCB/19/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 invited by the office of the Executive Engineer Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar is being extended as below:

Last Date & Time for submission of bids on the portal Upto 15:00 hrs of 03.11.2021

Date & Time of Opening of bids on the portal at 16:00 hrs of 03.11.2021

Information regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website.

Full & Further Details of tender can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://uktenders.gov.in>".

Executive Engineer (PCM)

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

**UJVN LIMITED**
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Tel.: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135-2763508, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं. 801 e-Tender Notice दिनांक 28.10.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (Maintenance) Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi invites sealed online tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. : 09/EE(M)/2021-22

Name of work : Annual Operation and maintenance of water supply from tube well plant to CWR Tiloth and CWR Tiloth to Kuteti Devi Colony.

Estimated cost : Rs. 8,69,875.00 (Taxes Extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 29.10.2021 at 16:00hrs.

Last date for submission of bids on website: 19.11.2021 at 16:00hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"

Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**UJVN Limited**
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं. 807 दिनांक : 29 / 10 / 2021

Short term tender Corrigendum Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-IILWR), Vyasi Project, Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd. Invites Tender Specification No. 06/EE (E&M-IILWR)/VP/2021-22 - SITC of 12.5-meter-high mast with LED flood Light at Dam site Juddo, Vikasnagar. The following amendments

1. Special condition Clause no-2 & 3 page-13 & 14 make of LED lights & Technical condition Clause no-7 XVIII LED lights. & Page No 37, clause No 8 iv make of mast.

Other terms and condition of tender unchanged.

For any details, addendum, modifications etc., Bidders are kindly advised to regularly visit at www.ujvn.com

Executive Engineer (E&M-IILWR)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of JICCI Bank Ltd. that Mr. Gulshan Babbar, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Babbar, Mr. Sukhdev Babbar and Mrs. Sudeesh Babbar are legal heirs of late Mr. Jagat Singh, & Mrs. Janaki Devi and claiming ownership of Property No. 10/14, in Block-C, area measuring 167.77 sq. yds, situated at Surya Nagar, Ghazabad, UP, (the said property) by virtue of Mutation letter dated 01.07.2021, in the record of GDA. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said property to Mr. Ankur Jain who is taking Loan from JICCI Bank Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. Gulshan Babbar, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Babbar, Mr. Sukhdev Babbar, Mr. Sudeesh Babbar, Mr. Jagat Singh, & Mrs. Janaki Devi, they should file their objections in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the date of this notice. **Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)** 200, Tind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mot Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph : 9011-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to bring to the notice of general public that, As per its policy Madhukar ENT Centre located at Rajouri Garden, are discarding all the IPD & OPD Medical Records of patients till 31st Dec. 2017. In case anybody wants to retain a copy of their record, they can collect that same from the medical director within 15 days of this notice.

MADHUKAR ENT CENTRE
G-18/1A, FIRST FLOOR, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110027 PH. 9811015409

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Smt. Anjana Mathur W/o Mr. Surender Mohan Mathur R/o B-8/6115, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070 was having commercial property in Joint Ownership along with her husband Mr. Surender Mohan Mathur on her project Vatika Business Park, flat no 1421, Block-B admeasuring 401.38sq.ft which her legal heirs (Mr. Surender Mohan Mathur, Mr. Abhishek Mathur and Mrs. Gunjan Gupta) requested the company to be transfer to her husband Mr. Surender Mohan Mathur and her Son Mr. Abhishek Mathur. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.

Vatika Limited
Vatikainxt City Centre, 4th Floor, Block A, Sector-83, Vatika India Next, Gurugram, Haryana-122012 Contact : 09555930930

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Smt. Anjana Mathur W/o Mr. Surender Mohan Mathur R/o B-8/6115, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070 was having commercial property in Joint Ownership along with her husband Mr. Surender Mohan Mathur on her project Vatika Business Park, flat no 1419, Block-B admeasuring 271sq.ft which her legal heirs (Mr. Surender Mohan Mathur, Mr. Abhishek Mathur and Mrs. Gunjan Gupta) requested the company to be transfer to her husband Mr. Surender Mohan Mathur. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.

atika Limited
Vatikainxt City Centre, 4th Floor, Block A, Sector-83, Vatika India Next, Gurugram, Haryana-122012 Contact : 09555930930

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Vekay Industries, Rakesh Singh and Mr. Amit Singh (Co-applicants) Mortgage is intending to Purchase Industrial Property Bearing No.58, Block E, Sector 6, Noida, U.P. (hereinafter called the said property) from SDC Builders Realty Pvt. Ltd. who claims to be owner and in Possession of said property by virtue of Transfer Deed Document No.5018, as per the Mortgagee said M/s SDC Builders Realty Pvt. Ltd., Allotment Letter Possession Certificate issued by Noida in favour of Dajal Singh and Transfer Deed Dated 18.08.2018 executed by M/s Graphix Mega Times Ltd. in favour of Mr. Anil Gupta Doc No.4076(hereinafter referred to as the "Document/s") pertaining to the said property have been misplaced and Lease Deed Dated 02.07.1992 executed by Noida in favour of Dajal Singh Doc No.2846 is Laminated. Any person/s/institution coming into possession or in possession of the aforesaid Document/s and/or any person/s who is/are having knowledge of the whereabouts of the Document, are hereby requested to intimate the undersigned, about the same within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which our client (DFC First Bank Limited, Branch Rajendra Place, N.D. shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof. Public Institutions are warned not to deal with the Document and any person receiving or dealing with the said Document would not be at their own risk and responsibility (including criminal liability) and our client shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person(s) on account of any such unauthorized dealing.

Vishal Diwan (Advocates)
For Diwan and Company, Advocates and Solicitors H.No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex, N.D.-19 (MO): 9818399999

New Delhi: An unprecedented meeting of Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) is taking place in Rome to coincide with the G20 summit to expose China's human rights abuses before the international community.

"Hello from Rome! I'm here as Co-Chair of @ipac-global, and today we're talking about #China and its disrespect of human rights and the rule of law. As the #G20summit kicks off, we're highlighting China's behaviour to the international community," Barry Ward said in a tweet.

"I'm in Rome today for the first in-person conference of @ipacglobal. As world leaders come together for the G20, they must confront the CCP's attacks on human rights and the rule of law," Garnett Genius,

another participant of the meet, tweeted.

"Every time I see a world leader shaking hands with Xi Jinping, I am reminded that the survival of my community is not important enough for them to take a stand... An incredibly powerful statement from @MahmutRahima at the @ipacglobal #G20 counter-meeting this morning," Stop Uyghur Genocide said in a tweet. India has joined IPAC as the 21st legislature represented. "India joins IPAC with co-chairs @SujeetKOfficial and @ninong_erring. As the world's largest democracy, India has an integral part to play in the upholding of the rules based international order. India is the 21st legislature represented in #IPAC," IPAC tweeted. Chinese mouthpiece Global Times has

China abruptly restricts use of BeiDou along borders with India

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has abruptly restricted the use of its navigation system, BeiDou along borders with India fearing their movement might be tracked. Sources said the change in Chinese stance happened the moment India increased its surveillance mechanism along the Line of Actual Control. China, lately, has been making attempts of transgression in Indian territory.

Taking note of all these, the India Army enhanced surveillance both close to the LAC as well as in the depth areas by synergizing efforts of all surveillance equipment right from the strategic level till the tactical level where soldiers actually deployed. As surveillance increased, Intelligence agencies stated, a decrease in activation of BeiDou terminals all along the Northern Borders in the last one month was observed. Sources said that PLA is now using it only to send confirmations that they have reached their desired locations.

"It may be a deliberate attempt by the PLA to hide its important activities or preparations across Northern Borders," the source said. The system was launched on June 23, 2020 finally ending a project that went on for two decades. BDS, stated to be rivaling US' GPS, is the fourth global satellite navigation system in the world. Other systems are Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo. India too is developing its own navigational system called the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), with an operational name of NAVIC. China wants to end the US-based GPS hegemony and push for its own developed navigation system first in the Asian region. To do so, China has established a monitoring station at its Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) for monitoring and assessing the BeiDou Global Navigation Satellite System (GNS). Now China is pushing the use of Beidou in many countries as part of their ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. Currently, Beidou covers nearly 30 countries including Pakistan, Egypt and Indonesia.

8 core sectors' output rises by 4.4% in Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The output of eight core sectors rose 4.4 per cent in September on account of healthy performance by segments like natural gas, refinery products and cement, official data showed on Friday.

The eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity had grown by 0.6 per cent in September 2020, as per the data released by the commerce and industry ministry.

Core sectors' growth stood at 11.5 per cent in August this year.

The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Production of natural gas,



refinery products, and cement increased by 27.5 per cent, 6 per cent and 10.8 per cent in September 2021, respectively.

However, crude oil production declined by 1.7 per cent in September year-on-

year.

The growth rate of these infrastructure industries during April-September 2021-22 stood at 16.6 per cent, as against a contraction of 14.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

Retail inflation for industrial workers eases to 4.41% in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation for industrial workers eases to 4.41 per cent in September mainly due to lower prices of certain food items.

“Year-on-year inflation for the month (September) stood at 4.41 per cent compared to 4.79 per cent for the previous month (August 2021) and 5.62 per cent during the corresponding month (September 2020) a year before,” a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated that food inflation stood at 2.26 per cent against 4.83 per cent of the previous month and 7.51 per cent during the corresponding month a year ago.

The All-India CPI-IW (Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers) for September, 2021 increased by 0.3 point and stood at 123.3 points compared to 123 points

in August 2021. On one-month percentage change, it increased by 0.24 per cent with respect to previous month compared to an increase of 0.62 per cent recorded between corresponding months a year ago.The maximum upward pressure in current index came from fuel and light group contributing 0.21 percentage points to the total change.

However, this increase was largely checked by rice, apple, petrol for vehicle, etc, putting downward pressure on the index.DPS Negi, Principal Labour and Employment Advisor said in the statement that the increase observed in index is mainly due to items like cooking gas, fire wood and chips, match box, poultry/chicken, mustard oil, brinjal, sugar-white, doctor/surgeon's fee, etc, which experienced an increase in prices.

Centre's fiscal deficit touches 35% of Budget estimates at Sept end

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Government's fiscal deficit has worked out to be ₹5.26 lakh crore or 35 per cent of the budget estimates at the end of September 2021, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday.

The deficit figures in the current fiscal appear much better than the previous financial year when it had soared to 114.8 per cent of the estimates mainly on account of a jump in expenditure to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue was ₹5,26,851 crore at end of August, the CGA said.

For the current financial year, the Government expects the deficit at 6.8 per cent of GDP or ₹5,06,812 crore.

As per the data, the central government's total receipts stood at ₹10.99 lakh crore or



55.6 per cent of corresponding budget estimates (BE) 2021-22 up to September, 2021. The total receipts were 25.2 per cent of the BE of 2020-21 during the corresponding period of last financial year.

Of the total receipts, the tax revenue was ₹9.2 lakh crore or 59.6 per cent of BE. The tax revenue was only 28 per cent of BE of 2020-21 in the year ago period. The CGA data further said central government's total expenditure at the end of the first half of the fiscal year stood at Rs 16.26 lakh crore or

46.7 per cent of current fiscal's BE.

Of the total expenditure, out of ₹13,96,666 crore was on revenue account and ₹2,29,351 crore was on capital account. Out of the total revenue expenditure, ₹3,63,757 crore was on account of interest payments and ₹1,80,959 crore is on account of major subsidies.The fiscal deficit for 2020-21 was 9.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), better than 9.5 per cent projected in the revised estimates in the budget in February.

Forex reserves decline by USD 908 million to USD 640.1 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 908 million to USD 640.1 billion in the week ended October 22, RBI data showed.

In the previous week ended October 15, the reserves had increased by USD 1.492 billion to USD 641.008 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 22, the dip in the reserves was due to a fall in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, and in the gold reserves, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data released on Friday showed.

FCA declined by USD 853 million to USD 577.098 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

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.

At least 40 cr individuals don't have any financial protection for health: Niti Aayog

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the absence of low-cost health insurance products, at least 30 per cent of India's population or 40 crore individuals are devoid of any financial protection through insurance, according to a report released by Niti Aayog.

The report titled 'Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle' said that expansion of health insurance coverage is a necessary step and a pathway in India's effort to achieve universal health coverage (UHC). “At least 30 per cent of the population, or 40 crore individuals – called the missing middle in this report – are devoid of any financial protection for health... In the absence of a low-cost health insurance product, the missing middle remains uncovered despite the ability to pay nominal premiums,” it said.

According to the report, the ‘missing middle’ is a broad category which lacks health insurance, positioned between the deprived poorer sections, and the relatively well-off organised sector.

The report pointed out that Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya



Yojana (AB-PMJAY) launched in September 2018, and state government extension schemes, provide comprehensive hospitalisation cover to the bottom 50 per cent of the population – around 70 crore individuals. Around 20 per cent of the population – 25 crore individuals – are covered through social health insurance, and private voluntary health insurance.

“The remaining 30 per cent of the population is devoid of health insurance; the actual uncovered population is higher due to existing coverage gaps in PMJAY and overlap between schemes.” This uncovered population is termed as the missing middle,” the report said. The report noted that missing middle is not a monolith – it contains multiple groups across all expenditure quintiles.

Horticulture production hits record high at 329.86 million tonnes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to have the highest ever horticulture production of 331.05 million tonnes in 2020-21, as compared to 320.47 million tonnes over previous year. The demand for healthy foods had increased overall consumption of spices in the country and also in the export markets served by India which reflected in the increase in production of spices, vegetables, medicinal and aromatic crops. “Aromatic and medicinal crops have registered a growth of 6.2 per cent with estimated production of



0.78 million tonnes this year as compared to 0.73 million tonnes previous year.

“During the current year, 8,951 hectares area for exotic fruits and 7,154 hectares area for indigenous fruits will be brought under cultivation,” Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said

addressing a conference to commemorate the international year of fruits and vegetables. The government will promote expansion of

According to the third advance estimates for horticulture released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Friday, the production of fruits is estimated to be 103 million tonnes this year as compared to 102.1 million tonnes achieved in the year 2019-20, while production of vegetables is estimated to be 197.2 million tonnes, up by 4.8 percent as compared to 188.3 million tonnes in the previous year.

Sitharaman meets Singapore FM

PTI ■ ROME/NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman on Friday met her Singapore counterpart Lawrence Wong to discuss opportunities for boosting economic and trade relations between the two Asian economies.

Sitharaman reached Rome earlier in the day to participate in the G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' meeting, ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit on October 30-31.

“Finance Minister @nsitharaman met @LawrenceWongST Finance Minister of Singapore on the sidelines of #G20 Finance & Health Ministers Meeting in #Rome ahead of #G20RomeSummit. Noting strong

#IndiaSingapore relations, the ministers discussed opportunities for further collaboration,” the Finance Ministry tweeted.

Sitharaman also met GlobalFund Executive Director Peter Sands and appreciated Global Fund's efforts in fighting AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.”Discussions were held on global preparedness for dealing with future health emergencies and sustaining the campaigns against other diseases,” the Finance Ministry said. This is the first joint meeting of the G20 Finance and Health Ministers under the Italian G20 Presidency. The meeting will be co-chaired by Italian Minister of Economy and Finance Daniele Franco and Italian Minister of Health Roberto Speranza.

BRIEFS

ITPO EXTENDS 'HELP DESK' TO SUPPORT NEW APPLICANTS

Enhanced Space with improved logistics One of the most awaited business events in South-Asia region, the India International Trade Fair (IITF) is back again at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from November 14 to 27, 2021. There is a considerable interest among Indian as well as foreign business fraternity who are eager to regain their business targets and place their brands among the right buyers. In view of the considerable interest of the participants, the organiser of the event, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has made extensive arrangements in terms of providing a dedicated “Help Desk” to support the new applicants for booking space in the fair. Due to induction of New Exhibition Complex of International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan, the area of IITF 2021 has been increased to 73,000 sq.mtr approximately, which is three times in comparison to that in the last edition. The New Exhibition Complex was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on October 13, 2021. The theme of the fair is 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) - the vision of 'New India'.

HUNAR HAAT INAUGURATION ON 30TH AT DEHRADUN

Dehradun: “Hunar Haat”, the “National Brand” of “Swadeshi” and “Vocal for Local”, was today inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun in the august presence of Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Deputy Leader, Rajya Sabha, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. Lok Sabha MP and former Uttarakhand CM Tirath Singh Rawat, MLA and former Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, Lok Sabha MP Smt. Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, Rajya Sabha MP Naresh Bansal, Dehradun Mayor Sunil Uniyal, Rishikesh Mayor Smt. Anita Mamgai, various other people's representatives, Union Minority Affairs Ministry Secretary Smt Renuka Kumar and other senior officials were present at the inauguration of “Hunar Haat” at Guru Nanak Public Girls Inter College Ground (Khurbura), Race Course, Dehradun.

CONSUMERS CRAVE FOR NICE DESSERTS

New Delhi: As dessert & savouries as a segment is gaining a special place for customers, So Indulgent India Pvt. Ltd has launched “Drizzle & Dust” has come up in the plush Galleria Market, Gurugram. Not only consumers crave for nice desserts but also love to experiment with new kinds of flavours and savouries, said Drizzle & Dust.

RBI GUV SHAKTIKANTA DAS GETS 3-YEAR EXTENSION

New Delhi: The Government has extended the term of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das by three years - a tenure that will make him the second longest serving head of the central bank.Das was appointed as RBI's 25th governor on December 11, 2018, for a period of three years after the surprise resignation of his predecessor Urjit Patel.An official order dated October 28 said the Government has reappointed Das as the governor of the central bank for a period of three years beyond December 10, 2021, that is till December 2024. The extension is longer than the norm of a two-year term in the last two decades. Das' re-appointment will ensure continuity at a critical juncture for the economy that is emerging out of the devastation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.



PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
TDT/MIGEN-225 (Vol-III)/20/2041 dtd. 25.10.2021
Name of the Work : “**Allotment of 09 (Nine) nos. of Manual Iron Ore/ Iron Ore Pallet Plots.**” License Fees : ₹ **2,35,85,958.00**. Wharfage Fees : ₹ **6,17,041.00**. Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid : **15.11.2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.** Date and Time of Opening (Technical Bid): **15.11.2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.** Refer our website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Traffic Manager (I/c) Paradip Port Trust
PPT/PR/119/21-22 Dt.29.10.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the public that my client Shri Riyaz Ahmed S/o Shri Mansoor Ahmed R/o Flat No. 301, 3rd Floor, in Block/Tower-G, The Hyde Park, Plot No. GH-03, Sector-78, Noida is the owner/lessor of property having Flat No. 301 on 3rd Floor Super Area 1010 sq. ft. in Block/Tower-G, The Hyde Park constructed on Plot No. GH-03, Sector-78, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar. My client has lost the following documents of aforesaid property i.e. 1). Original Sub Lease Deed favouring Shri Vipul Gupta dated 08/11/2016 vide document no. 7041. 2). Original Mutation Letter favouring Shri Riyaz Ahmed dated 22.09.2017.Anybody (Banking/ Financial Institutions/ Individuals) having any kind of interest/ claim/title/objection on the basis of Original title deed of previous owner mentioned at above as detailed here in above may submit the same to the undersigned within 7 days of the publication. Please note carefully that if any objection is not received within the notice period, the said property will be treated as un-encumbered, marketable and no claim will be accepted on the basis of aforesaid documents here in above.It is further informed that if any body dealing or misusing the above said property documents (mentioned above), clients shall not be responsible for the same
ANKUR JINDAL, (ADVOCATE)
B-215, LOHIA NAGAR, GHAZIABAD

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Joginder Kumar Batra, S/o Shri Dayal Chand Batra, R/o A-4, Mian Wali Colony, Gurgaon, Haryana, purchaser of Flat No. 127, 3rd/Top Floor, LIG Flat, Pocket-2, Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi has applied for conversion of the above said Flat from leasehold to freehold vide receipt no. REC/H/17/3676 (Request ID 152514) dated 08.12.2017 in Delhi Development Authority (DDA). The original documents viz. Demand-cum-Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, NOC for Water and Electric Connection, Site Possession Slip and Receipts of Payments dated 13.05.2000, 24.05.2001, 28.05.2001, 08.06.2001 and 29.07.2010 have been lost. A report vide LR No. 868634/2021 dated 27.10.2021 to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection and found in possession of above stated original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone no. 9811037857 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect of this property can personally inform or write to the Deputy Director LIG(LAB), Housing or Director (HJ), D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

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.	Paromita Sengupta/ Rahul Sen Gupta/ C/ 35 Sector 52 Noida Tehsil Dadri Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh Noida-201301/ LBCAL00003422133	Flat No. 802 In Cascades Unitech Uniworld City 8th FLR, Tower 5 PS Rajarhataction Area III, Newtown Rajarhat West Bengalcalcutta700156. Admeasuring an area of 1475 Sq Ft Along With One Car Parking Space/ Date of Symbolic Possession 26.10.2021	03.06.2021 Rs. 23,75,495/-	Noida/ Kolkata

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 30, 2021
Place: Noida

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Aro granite industries ltd.
(100% Export Oriented Unit)
CIN : L74899DL1988PLC031510
Regd. Office : 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi - 110025
Ph. : 011-41686169, Fax : 011-26941984, Email : investorgrievance@arotile.com, Website : www.arotile.com

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2021

Sl. No	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Year Ended	Quarter Ended
		30.09.2021	31.03.2021	30.09.2020
		(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	6,384.74	17,937.43	4,674.02
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	589.69	797.76	276.59
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	589.69	797.76	276.59
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	496.25	604.81	188.92
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	499.40	615.42	188.74
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,530.00	1,530.00	1,530.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year		17,234.10	
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)- 1. Basic: 2. Diluted:	3.26 3.26	4.02 4.02	1.23 1.23

Note:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s), www.bseindia.com, and www.nseindia.com and the Company's website www.arotile.com.

For and on behalf of the Board

-Sd-
Sunil Kumar Arora
Managing Director
DIN: 00150668

Place : HOSUR
Date : 29.10.2021

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd.JAIPUR.
ई-प्रक्रिया अधिनियम संख्या 193/2021-22
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए कंपन/ वस्तु कावचन के अधिनियमिकी नियमों द्वारा प्रकीर्णक एवं अनुपरी सर्वेक्षण से निर्धारित प्रचन में ई-प्रक्रिया अधिनियम के अनुसार अधिनियमिकी अधिनियम की जाती है-
कार्य का विवरण
अनुमानित लागत (₹00)
Construction of Automated Driving Track for DTO office at Nohar. UBN: RRC2122WSOB00351
272.54 Lakh
कंपन/ वस्तु कावचन के अधिनियमिकी नियमों द्वारा प्रकीर्णक एवं अनुपरी सर्वेक्षण से निर्धारित प्रचन में ई-प्रक्रिया अधिनियम के अनुसार अधिनियमिकी अधिनियम की जाती है-
<http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/nyds> पर रजरा जा सकता है। इसके संबंधी को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट <http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in> पर विवरित अवलोकन कर सकते हैं।
No. MIT/2021-22/13248-57
Date: 20/10/21
Sd/-
(Vijay Kr. Gupta)
Manager(Eng.)

ANS INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Regd. Off.: 136 KM, GT Road, Vill & PO Shamgarh, Karnal (Haryana)
Head Off.: 144/2, Ashram, Mathura Road, New Delhi - 110014, CIN: L15130HR1994PLC032362
E-mail : ansagro.limited@gmail.com, Website : www.ansfoods.com

NOTICE
This is to inform you that pursuant to Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 12th day of November, 2021 at 1.30 PM. at the head office of the Company inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the standalone unaudited financial result for the quarter ended 30th September, 2021.
This information is also available on the website of the Company and website of BSE.
For ANS Industries Limited
Sd/-
(Manoj Mishra)
Company Secretary
M.No. ACS-18801

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 29.10.2021

ADDENDUM TO FORM-G PUBLISHED
MITASHI EDUTAINMENT PRIVATE LIMITED (IN CIRP)
Address of Resolution Professional: Kailash T Shah, 505, 5th Floor, 21st Century Business Centre, Nr. World Trade Centre, Ring Road, Surat - 395002
E-mail: ipktsah@gmail.com, Cell No. 9824150365

Form G under IBCI (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations 2016 was published on 04.10.2021 inviting Expression of Interest (Eoi). As per Form G published last date for receipt of Eoi was 19.10.2021. Public at large may please note that as per the decision taken in the 3rd meeting of CoC held on 29.10.2021, it is decided to extend the date for submitting Expression of Interest till Saturday, 20.11.2021 before 8.00 PM. A copy of revised Eoi is available with the Resolution Professional and can be obtained in person or by mail. In case of any query, the Resolution Professional may be contacted at the address given above.

Sd/-
Kailash T Shah
Resolution Professional of **MITASHI EDUTAINMENT PRIVATE LIMITED**
Date: 30.10.2021 IBCI Reg. No. : IBCI/IPA-001/IP-P00267/2017-18/10511
Place: Mumbai Email: mitashi.crp@gmail.com

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: “UJJWAL”, Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SG025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 805 e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 28.10.2021

The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhal Stage-II, Chhinalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
Tender No: 1) NIT-49/EE(M)/MB-II/21-22 2) NIT-50/EE(M)/MB-II/21-22, Name of work / Supply/Services:
1) Maintenance for Hydro-Mechanical and Electro-Mechanical works of Dharasu Power House for the period of 06 months. 2) Procurement of Cleaning and Adhesive Products for Routine and Breakdown Maintenance of Dharasu Power House.
Estimated cost: Rs. 6000590.00, Rs. 767448.00 only Respectively + GST extra.
Date of availability of bid document on website: - 29.10.2021 from 16:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website: - 20.11.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

“Avoid wasteful use of Electricity”

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



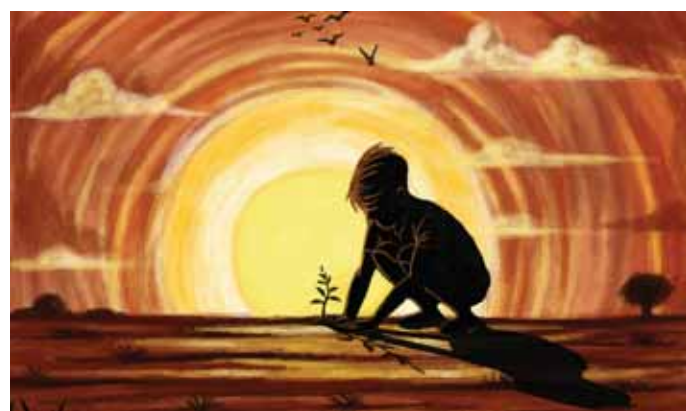
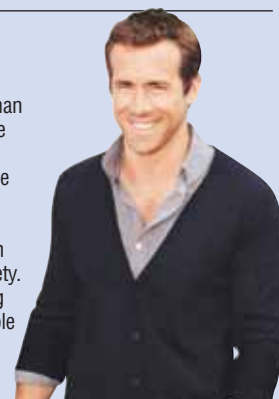
General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Hemlata D/o Ajay Kumar R/o Hajari Park, Gali No. 2, Holambi Kalan, Delhi **Age : 14 years 6 months, Height : 4'6", Face : Round, Complexion : Fair, Build : Thin, Identification:** A mole on left chick, wearing black colour suit-salwar and hawai chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnappad since 26.09.2021 from her house. In this regard FIR No. 603/21 dated 27.09.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639,
Tel.: 24368632/24368641

SHO:
P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27787592,
27787593

DP17357/ON21

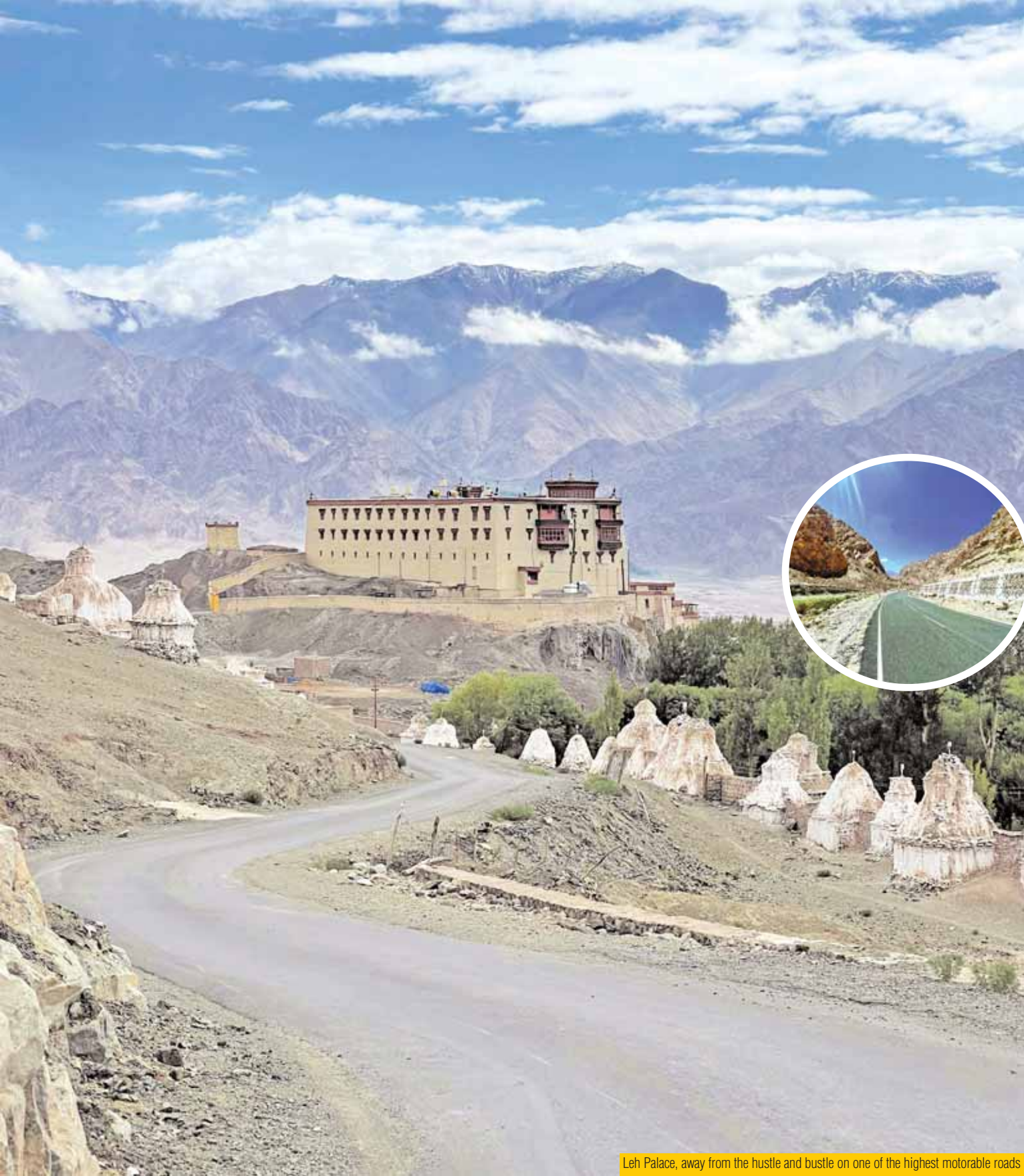


Unfortunately, we are at that point already. The science is clear, and the storms, floods, fires, and heat are not warnings, they are part of the reality we now face. Extreme weather events are everywhere and are impacting multiple facets of our lives. The urgency of the climate crisis requires swift and ambitious action to reduce emissions through all possible sustainable pathways. Carbon capture and reuse is a great example of a way we can contribute to the solution. It is through innovation like this that we can prevent any further damage to our planet, but I am afraid that there has been much damage already and people will continue to suffer around the world. We need to act now and we need to act decisively.

TRAVELBUG

SOLITARY ROADS TO SELF-DISCOVERY

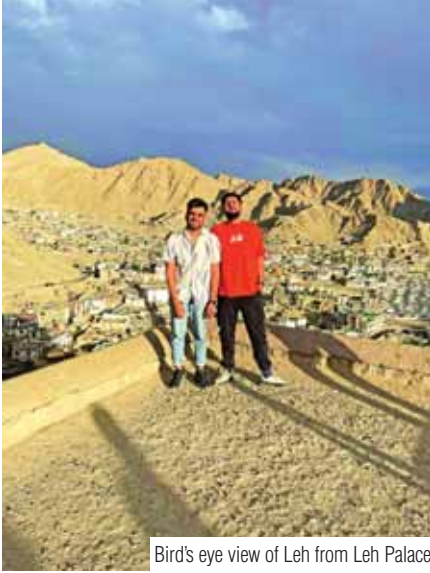
Wandering through Ladakh, GAURAV SINGH realises that no matter how far you may travel, you cannot run away from issues that you struggle with daily



Leh Palace, away from the hustle and bustle on one of the highest motorable roads



Diskit Gompa



Bird's eye view of Leh from Leh Palace



Khardung La Pass — the world's highest motorable point



One of the sleepy alleys in the last village of India, Turtuk



Turtuk



Diskit Monastery

When anyone thinks of the mountains, what usually comes to mind is lush green serenity. My love for the blue pine and the Himalayan cedar is such that it draws me to retire to the magnificent Himalayas every few months. However, I let go of my obsession with the beautiful lush terrain this time around and chose a rather rugged mountainous experience, somewhere between the Kunlun Mountains in the north and the Himalayas in the south. Tactically placed on the ancient trade route, it has for ages been one of the most prosperous trading pillars via which transport of gold, indigo, and opium was shared across the Silk Road. You might know by now, I am talking about the land of high passes, Ladakh. A dream destination for those willing to explore in isolation.

Are barren mountains beautiful?
Let me start with addressing the elephant in the room. How does it feel to be hugged by miles and miles of empti-

ness and nothingness? Honestly speaking, I was awestruck even before I landed in Leh. As soon as the desert-like landscape shows itself from the airplane window, something just shifts within you. Vast patches of just sand and military bases coloured in pop in the middle play tricks on you. Vegetation plays hide and seek but shows the most beautiful signs of life amidst pitch-barrenness. To be honest, it takes a bit, especially for someone in love with lush green, to end up liking what you see. But once you start seeing the changing terrain, it clicks with you, and you gradually get intoxicated by the piercing beauty of this magical land.

How to prepare for Ladakh and the first few days

We have all heard about the famous altitude sickness and acclimatisation required once you enter Ladakh. And all of that is true. The altitude sickness is natural and takes one to three days to pass, during which you will feel mild to moderate headaches, shortness of breath, and fatigue. Diamox is the

magic pill that can help you through this turbulence, but that is pretty much it. Any rational person would recommend you to take the pit stop in Leh for at least the first two days.

On day one, I remember stepping out on Mall Road, which gives you a peek into the city's cosmopolitan nature. As much as it seems like the place is trying hard to fit into this depressing narrative of being a "global city", it showcases its innate cultural characteristics to those willing to see it. You'll see women by footpaths selling fresh vegetables, shopkeepers offering you the purest form of pashmina, cafes overcrowded with tourists and the Jama Masjid — down the street — with Indo-Iranian folks gathering for prayers. I distinctly remember being awestruck and embarrassing myself by asking one elderly gentleman about his eyes. I discovered that the secret behind the deep blue was him tracing his lineage to Alexander the Great. Before this, my only knowledge of Ladakh came from Andrew Harvey's riveting Journey In Ladakh, a book, that almost instantly

made me dream of being there one day. However, going there and experiencing the culture and beautiful way of life — which bears a close resemblance to how they might have lived centuries ago — is the strongest memory I want to preserve and defend.

The lay of Leh

LEH has many exciting things to offer, irrespective of how varied your interests may be. There is a relaxed cafe culture with a mix of rooftop and indoor dining + drinking experiences. If you are an art and culture geek, I recommend places like the Central Asian Museum and the Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation. For shopping, Leh is just like other popular Indian hill stations, so try not to raise your expectations too high. But, I do recommend picking up handmade lip balms with an apricot extract from local vendors near Mall Road and making a customary appointment at Jigmat Couture for some beautiful Ladakhi clothing. Not to forget the exotic culinary experiences that the city offers — whether it

is the most succulent thukpas and the lip-smacking butter tea with a side of tingmo, khambir and apricot jam. Also, I would consider it a sin if you do not try jimpo, a natural Sea Buckthorn Berry Juice.

Further afield in Ladakh

Once you acclimatise, Ladakh is your playing field. One can choose to do the typical Tso Moriri, Khardungla Pass, Pangong, Nubra sort of touristy places or you can be a backpacker and explore hidden gems like Turtuk, Chumathang, Stok, and Basgo. Either way, the journey from Leh to any of these beautiful villages is breathtaking. Apart from a few famous towns/villages, Ladakh isn't your everyday backpacking destination as hostels are rare and travel isn't the cheapest, especially thanks to COVID-19. Also, do remember that while venturing beyond Leh, you will require special inner line permits, which usually take a day to obtain.

I would walk daily to visit new villages; most times, localities seemed empty. Usually, it was just me walking with my backpack and a gazillion thoughts about existentialism for company. Is it just I, or does everybody become a bit more philosophical in the mountains?

Here it would only be fair to talk about the architecture of the houses and old establishments. While some appeared to be Buddhist and Bhutanese, others gave hints of the streets of Kashmir and some even showed remnants of the Mughal era. Though it is another melancholic contrast that hits me the worst every time I travel (almost anywhere). The cross between the intriguing ancient village and the crass ingenuity of tourist hubs, the complete mismatch, breaking the symmetry and equilibrium of a beautiful place.

Traveling with a friend

As opposed to my ideal trips, which involve me, my backpack, my AirPods and a book, this time I ended up travelling with a dear friend, Vineet. Of course, when you choose to do this, trips usually tend to become less lonely and the fact that you can share the wonders you are witnessing, with someone close, helps you enjoy the overall experience. There are times when you will have differences over food, places to visit and things to do but finding a balance and doing things shared and solo while traveling with someone is the sweet balance that we achieved and felt proud of accomplishing. What's also useful is that you can divide tasks. For some places, my

friend would make the itinerary and, in other places, I would run the day's agenda. This gives you space to check out from daily logistics and sit back to soak the place in. For someone like me, it is crucial to have downtime — a breathing space where I do not want to interact — and when that sort of understanding is developed between two friends to give each other the room when they need it, travel/life becomes effortless. Also, I feel a long(ish) trip together is the perfect test of friendship. You see parts of the other person that you would not see otherwise by virtue of being together 24x7. All that helps in strengthening the bond further.

On a lighter note, having a friend around makes it very easy for you to get pretty pictures of yourself. Far beyond vanity, it is an exercise that helps you get to know each other better (for example, how a bad photo can ruin your mood for hours, just kidding). Hey, at least you no longer have to stand there contemplating and choosing the right person who you would shyly request to take a photo of you. Right?

Comfort in solitude

Nothingness is astonishing, but it can be profoundly petrifying at the same time. The bareness of the landscape gets to you. Both in a good and not so pleasant way. No people, no network, no trees, no animals. It is like being in a no man's land. It brings a detachment from the outside world. Every time you climb up to a pass, you feel like you are levitating/floating in the air as if you have traveled to a different dimension — the atmosphere and scenery add up to create this alternate reality. I guess it is important to not fight that sinking feeling of emptiness. It is also a reminder that no matter how far you may travel, you cannot run away from issues that you struggle with daily. For me, Ladakh just invoked all that and, at times, it became overwhelming to see myself so clearly stripped away from all the filters and excuses that take over so quickly otherwise.

I would like to conclude by saying that we all want to simply venture out and be on that trip we have been meaning to take, with the vaccine passport and the revenge travel season. But while you do that, please keep your conscience clear, know that you have to be extra careful when you hit the road and, for the love of whoever you may believe in, do not litter and pollute a place you are visiting. Go explore Ladakh. I promise you will come back filled with gratitude, love, and niceness that would take a while to shake off.

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WHEN PEOPLE TAKE PACE OFF THE BALL, YOU'VE GOT TO WAIT FOR THE BALL. WHEN THERE'S PACE ON IT, THEN YOU CAN SIT ON IT

— DAVID WARNER

WEST INDIES VIRTUALLY KNOCK OUT B'DESH BY 3 RUNS

...Stay alive in World Cup



PTI ■ SHARJAH

Defending champions West Indies kept alive their slender hopes of making the semifinals while virtually knocking Bangladesh out of the T20 World Cup with a narrow three-run win here on Friday.

Asked to set a target for the third consecutive time in the tournament, West Indies posted 142 for seven with

Nicholas Pooran's 40 off 22 balls being the highlight of their innings.

The wicketkeeper batter hit four sixes and one four.

Roston Chase (39), making his T20 international debut, was the other chief contributor with the bat.

In reply, Bangladesh could manage 139 for five in 20 overs as all West Indies bowlers picked one wicket each.

With no points from three matches, Bangladesh are out of the tournament, while West Indies can still sneak into the semifinals, provided they win their remaining matches and other results go in their favour.

Bangladesh began the chase on a poor note, losing openers Mohammad Naim (17) and Shakib Al Hasan (9), who was limping, in the first six overs. But gradually picked up the momentum

with wicketkeeper batter Liton Das (44 off 43) taking the initiative.

West Indies, like Bangladesh, were sloppy in the field and the two-time champions were also guilty of missing as many as three run out opportunities.

With 50 need off the last six overs with six wickets in hand, skipper Mahmudullah (31 not out) and Das looked to be in control, converting

ones into twos while also hitting boundaries regularly.

Dwayne Bravo (1/36) produced a conducive 17th over, giving away just three runs. In the first ball of the penultimate over, he was hit for a six by Mahmudullah but the veteran all-rounder proved his mettle by getting rid of danger-man Das in his final ball.

Needing 13 of the last over, Mahmudullah failed to clear the boundary even once despite being dropped by substitute Andre Fletcher in the fourth ball to bring down the equation to four off the last ball.

But Andre Russell (1/29) bowled a gem of a final delivery full outside the off stump, denying Mahmudullah any chance to free his arms to seal a close win for West Indies.

Earlier, Pooran hit four sixes and one four while Chase (39) was the other chief contributor with the bat.

Aware of West Indies struggle against spin, Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah handed the ball to off-spinner Mahedi Hasan (2/27) to open the innings, putting pressure on the Caribbean team.

After a few overs of pace, bringing back spin in the fifth over paid immediate dividends with Hasan getting the big wicket of Chris

Gayle (4) as Bangladesh gave away just 29 runs while picking two wickets in the Powerplay.

In his next over, right after he put down Chase of his bowling, Hasan snared Shimron Hetmyer's (9) wicket.

Kieron Pollard (14 not out) and Chase tried to repair the innings before the skipper retired ill in the 13th over.

The reasons for his walking out at that stage were not clear but he came back in the final over to hit a last ball six after seven batter of his side were packed off.

In the very next ball, Andre Russell (0) was run out without facing a ball as things went from bad to worse for the West Indies.

Then on West Indies got some rub of the green when Chase was dropped once again by Hasan at deep mid-wicket before Bangladesh missed a stumping opportunity against Pooran.

The momentum slightly changed in the West Indies favour as Chase and Pooran plundered 14 runs off the 15th over.

Pooran continued the assault as he hammered Shakib Al Hasan for back-to-back sixes. 2Jason Holder too pitched in with an unbeaten five-ball 15.

► Scoreboard

WEST INDIES (BATTING)	BANGLADESH (BOWLING)
Nicholas Pooran (40)	Shoriful Islam 4 (20, 2wkt)
Roston Chase (39)	Mahedi Hasan 4 (27, 2wkt)
Jason Holder (15)	Mustafizur Rahman 4 (43, 2wkt)
Total 142 (7 wickets, 20 overs)	

BANGLADESH (BATTING)	WEST INDIES (BOWLING)
Liton Das (44)	Jason Holder 4 (22, 1wkt)
Mahmudullah (31)	Akeal Hosein 4 (24, 1wkt)
Sounmya Sarkar (17)	Ravi Rampaul 4 (25, 1wkt)
Total 139 (5 wickets, 20 overs)	

► Scoreboard

AFGHANISTAN (BATTING)	PAKISTAN (BOWLING)
M Nabi (35)	I Wasim 4 (25, 2wkt)
G Naib (35)	S Khan 4 (22, 1wkt)
N Zadran (22)	S Afridi 4 (22, 1wkt)
Total 147 (6 wickets, 20 overs)	

PAKISTAN (BATTING)	AFGHANISTAN (BOWLING)
Babar Azam (51)	Rashid Khan 4 (26, 2wkt)
Fakhar Zaman (30)	Mujeeb Ur Rahman 4 (14, 1wkt)
Asif Ali (25)	Naveen-ul-Haq 3 (22, 1wkt)

Total 148 (5 wickets, 19 overs)

► points table

Team	Matches	NRR	Points
England	2	+3.614	4
Australia	2	+0.727	4
South Africa	2	+0.179	2
Sri Lanka	2	-0.416	2
West Indies	3	-1.598	2
Bangladesh	3	-1.069	0

Team	Matches	NRR	Points
Pakistan	3	+0.638	4
Afghanistan	2	+3.092	2
Namibia	1	+0.550	2
New Zealand	1	-0.532	0
India	1	-0.973	0
Scotland	1	-3.562	0

Milne hopeful of making a difference for his team against India

PTI ■ DUBAI

New Zealand pacer Adam Milne, who was drafted into the squad in place of injured Lockie Ferguson, is eager to make the most of his rich vein of form in the ongoing T20 World Cup, including in the Super 12 match against India here on Sunday.

Initially named as a travelling reserve, Milne was drafted into the squad after Ferguson was ruled out of the showpiece owing to a calf tear and was expected to play in the team's tournament opener against Pakistan on Tuesday.

However, on reaching the ground, he was told to sit out because the team was still waiting for the ICC to approve him as an injury replacement.

"Yeah, I definitely feel like this has been the best period of consistent cricket I've had in a long, long time," Milne, who has been in splendid form playing in the Big Bash League, Vitality Blast and the Hundred, told reporters. "I'd love to make the



most of it and continue to use this period to develop and perform really well at a high level. I'm excited to hopefully make a difference with the ball in these games here and really prove this period has been influential for me," he added.

The 29-year-old, who played for Mumbai Indians in the recently concluded IPL, feels he could have added to New Zealand's performance in the five-wicket loss against Pakistan.

"I think if you'd looked at the way the pitch played throughout the course of the IPL, the faster guys that had been able to hit the wicket hard and create some uneven bounce had caused some problems for the batters," he said.

Pakistan score hat-trick of wins

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper Babar Azam hit a composed 51 while Asif Ali hit four sixes in the penultimate over as Pakistan completed a hat-trick of victories in the T20 World Cup with a five-wicket win over Afghanistan in a Super 12 Group 2 match, here on Friday.

Skipper Mohammad Nabi and Gulbadin Naib's unbeaten knocks in a splendid rearguard action had steered Afghanistan to a competitive 147 for six after they were gasping at 76 for six.

Pakistan overhauled the target in 19 overs, a victory which consolidated their top spot in the points table and enhanced their semifinal

chances with minnows Scotland and Namibia up next for them.

His side needing 24 runs from the last two overs, Asif Ali (25 off 7 balls) finished the job in 19th over, hitting four sixes off Karim Jannat.

Pakistan lost Mohammad Rizwan (8) to Mujeeb Ur Rahman early in their chase but Azam and Fakhar Zaman (30) kept the innings under control with their 63-run stand.

Mujeeb was exceptional upfront for Afghanistan as he conceded only 14 runs in his four-over spell but Pakistan batters scored runs off other bowlers.

World's top leg-spinner Rashid Khan carried Afghanistan's hopes but by the

time he came to bowl Pakistan had put 72 runs on board in 10 overs.

His magic was on work though as he got rid of Mohammad Hafeez (10) to complete a century of wickets in T20 Internationals.

He gave away only 26 runs in his four overs with most of the Pakistan batters playing him with caution.

Shoaib Malik (19) though launched Rashid for a massive six in his last over in which Azam was dropped by Naveen ul haq. However, the Pakistan skipper was bowled off a googly in the last ball.

Azam's 47-ball knock had only four shots to the fence as he mostly moved the ball around.



Really important to have stable base on these wickets: Warner

PTI ■ DUBAI

Australia opener David Warner has highlighted the importance of having a "stable base" while batting on the slow wickets of the UAE after roaring back to form with a belligerent half-century.

The 35-year-old was back to his explosive best with a sizzling 42-ball 65 in the seven-wicket win against Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup on Thursday.

Warner had dismissed the talk over his form as "quite funny" as he felt he had not played enough cricket after being sidelined by Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL.

He reiterated the same on

Thursday and revealed what worked for him and Aaron Finch against Sri Lanka.

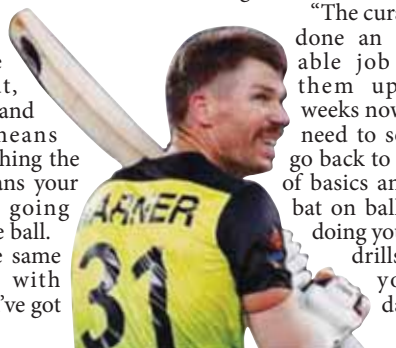
"I think people who criticize me know exactly what I'm about. For us it was really important to have a nice stable base, and seeing Finchy play straight down the ground and that nice back cut, that's nice and still. It means you're watching the ball. It means your weight is going through the ball.

"It's the same process with myself. You've got

to have a nice stable base on these wickets. When people take pace off the ball, you've got to wait for the ball. When there's pace on it, then you can sit on it," said the southpaw.

Warner had also practised on synthetic wickets going into the game.

"The curators have done an unbelievable job to have them up for 12 weeks now, but you need to sometimes go back to a little bit of basics and getting bat on ball and just doing your normal drills and get your feet dancing.



Sindhu enters quarterfinals



PTI ■ PARIS

India's double Olympic medalist P V Sindhu cruised into the quarterfinals of the French Open badminton tournament with a straight-game win over Line Christophersen of Denmark in the women's singles second round here.

Sindhu, seeded third, prevailed 21-19 21-9 over Christophersen, ranked 24th in the world, in 37 minutes late Thursday night.

The reigning world champion will face eighth seed Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Sindhu had beaten Busanan at Denmark Open last week.

Men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded fifth, also beat MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila 15-21 21-10 21-19 in an all-Indian clash to reach the quarterfinals.

The duo will meet fourth seeded Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik next.

Men's singles player Sourabh Verma, however, bowed out of the competition after losing 12-21 9-21 to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in the second round.

On Thursday, young Lakshya Sen had sailed into third round of the Super 750 event with a comfortable win over Singapore's Loh Kean Yew.

OTHER SPORTS

Boxing World C'ships: Sanjeet, Akash Kumar

PTI ■ BELGRADE

Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) defeated Russia's Andrei Stotskii in a thoroughly entertaining contest to enter the pre-quarterfinals, while Akash Kumar (54kg) got a walkover into that stage on a good day for Indians at the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships here on Friday.

Akash advanced after his German opponent Omar Salah Ibrahim fell ill and gave him a walkover here on Friday. He will face Puerto Rico's Pagan Caleb Tirado in the last-16 stage.

"His opponent did not show up for the weigh-in this morning as he was sick. Something like what happened to us in Varinder Singh's case. In that case, we suffered, today we gained," India High Performance Director Santiago Nieva told PTI.



Varinder had to pull out of his 60kg category bout due to high fever but he tested negative for COVID-19.

Sanjeet put up quite a show in the 4-1 win over Stotskii, who was not a pushover by any measure.

The Indian, however, was the more attacking of the two, at least in the first two rounds. Sanjeet displayed some flamboyance to go with his skills, dropping his guard com-

pletely to taunt Stotskii on more than one occasion.

The two exchanged blows but also smiled frequently at each other, fighting at a languid but engaging pace.

Late last night, Akash Sangwan (67kg) recorded a confident 4-1 victory against German pugilist Daniel Krotter to also enter the pre-quarterfinals. The 21-year-old will square off against Cuban boxer Kevin Brown.

cost the global beverage giant a whopping USD 4 billion.

The footage of Warner removing the bottles attracted considerable social media attention but any financial fallout is not known yet.

A well-known fitness enthusiast, Ronaldo set aside two Coca-Cola glass bottles which lay in front of him during a press conference ahead of Portugal's opening Euro match against Hungary.

Rohan Jaitley to retain DDCA presidency

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rohan Jaitley defeated senior Advocate Vikas Singh by a massive margin to be re-elected as president of the Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) while former state

Chief Minister late Sahib Singh Verma's youngest son and first-class player Siddharth Verma claimed the secretary's post.

Siddharth defeated the corruption-tainted Vinod Tihara for the position. The counting concluded well after Thursday midnight.

Gautam Gambhir's maternal uncle Pawan Ghulati will be the new treasurer of DDCA.

Former BCCI acting president CK Khanna's wife Shashi Khanna retained her vice-president's post.

For the president's post,



Jaitley got 1658 votes while Singh could only get 662.

It was the second time that Singh encountered a humiliating defeat for the president's post. Last time, Singh had lost to senior journalist Rajat Sharma.

However, the biggest upset was Verma, who fought as an independent candidate and upstaged the notorious Tihara by 618 votes.