

## OPINION 6

LAKHIMPUR KHERI—  
WAS IT AVOIDABLE?

## WORLD 8

NEW CHAPTER OPENED IN AF,  
WORLD RELATIONS: TALIBAN FM

## SPORT 11

DC SET 136  
TARGET FOR KKR

RAIPUR, THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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I'M VERY  
HEADSTRONG:  
MALAIKA  
10 VIVACITY

## India slams China protest of V-P visit to Arunachal

## AP inalienable part of India, says New Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday slammed China for its objection to a recent visit to Arunachal Pradesh by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, asserting that the State is an “integral and inalienable” part of India.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Chinese objections to the visit of Indian leaders to a State of India “does not stand to reason and understanding” of Indian people.

“We have noted the comments made today by the Chinese official spokesperson. We reject such comments. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India,” the MEA Spokesperson said.

Bagchi was responding to a question on comments in Beijing by a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry objecting to Naidu's visit to Arunachal Pradesh over the weekend.

“Indian leaders routinely travel to the State of Arunachal Pradesh as they do to any other State of India. Objecting to the visit of Indian leaders to a State of India does not stand to reason and understanding of



Indian people,” he said.

China has been objecting to visits of Indian leaders to Arunachal Pradesh in its bid to use the issue as a bargaining leverage with New Delhi for boundary negotiations. Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as a part of South Tibet which is contrary to the ground position.

The fresh war of words between the two sides came three days after the 13th round

of military talks on the 17-month eastern Ladakh stand-off ended in a stalemate.

The 13th round military talks were held amid pinpricks in Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh as also propaganda warfare online by People's Liberation Army (PLA) to demoralise the Indian delegations for the confabulations on Sunday.

“Further, as we have mentioned earlier, the current situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas has been caused by unilateral attempts of the Chinese side to alter the status quo in violation of the bilateral agreements,” Bagchi said.

“Therefore, we expect the Chinese side to work towards early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols rather than trying to link unrelated issues,” Bagchi said.

On Monday, a day after the 13th round of military talks, Indian Army said the “constructive suggestions” made by it were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor it could provide any “forward-looking” proposals.

The Chinese PLA's Western Theatre Command, however, said India insisted on “unreasonable and unrealistic demands, adding difficulties to the negotiations.”

## JeM commander gunned down in encounter with forces in Pulwama

PNS ■ JAMMU

One of the top commanders of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit was eliminated by the joint team of the security forces in Tilwani Mohalla Waggad area of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday.

The slain terrorist has been identified as Shamus-ud-Din Sofi, alias ShamSofi. According to police records he was first arrested in 2004 and detained under PSA. He rejoined the ranks of JeM in 2019 and since then was active in the area.

He provided shelter and logistics support to the foreign terrorists of JeM in the area.

According to a police spokesman, “The joint operation was launched in the area after confirming his whereabouts by the Awantipora police.”

During the search operation, the terrorist was given repeated opportunities to surrender. Instead of responding, he opened indiscriminate fire on the security forces. In the ensuing encounter he was neutralised by the security forces.



terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and other major cities by the cadre of proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), and their affiliates Al Badr, The Resistance Front (TRF), People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF) and Mujahideen Ghazwat-ul-Hind (MGH) among others.

The agency had on Tuesday conducted searches at 16 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama, and Shopian districts and arrested four accused persons. The arrested accused are Waseem Ahmed Sofi of Chattabal, Srinagar, Tariq Ahmed Dar of

Shergarhi, Srinagar, Bilal Ahmed Mir alias Bilal Fufu of Parimpora, Srinagar, and Tariq Ahmed Bafanda of Rajauri Kadal in Srinagar.

The agency was pursuing a case on the intelligence input regarding hatching of conspiracy both physically and in cyberspace for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and other major cities of India, including New Delhi, by the cadres of proscribed terrorist organisations LeT, JeM, HM, Al Badr and similar other outfits and their affiliates such as the TRF and PAFF among others, the NIA said in a statement.

## NIA arrests 9 in J&amp;K for terror conspiracy

## Of those, 5 held during searches in Srinagar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday said it has arrested nine persons, including five during the searches conducted in Srinagar, in the Jammu & Kashmir terrorism conspiracy case.

The five arrested accused persons are Md Haneef Chiralu (Srinagar) Hafeez (Budgam), Owais Dar (Pulwama), Mateen Bhat (Shopian), and Arif Farooq Bhat (Srinagar).

The arrests came close on the heels of searches at 16 locations in Kashmir on Tuesday. The NIA had registered the case on Sunday. During the searches, the agency seized several electronic devices, incriminating jihadi documents, and records of suspicious financial transactions.

The case relates to the conspiracy for conducting violent

## Ashish Mishra denied bail, 2 more arrested

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Two more persons were on Wednesday arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur violence, while a court here denied bail to Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

Ankit Das and Latif, alias Kale, who appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT), were taken in custody after questioning and produced in court which sent them in judicial remand for 14 days, official sources said.

With this, the total number of people arrested in connection with the mowing down of four farmers here on October 3 has gone to six.

While the police sought their custody for interrogation, their lawyer opposed it saying no recovery is to be done from them. The court reserved its order on the application for police remand of the two, they said.

Senior prosecution officer SP Yadav told PTI that Ashish Mishra and his alleged accomplice Ashish Pandey moved bail applications on Wednesday but they were rejected by Chief Judicial Magistrate Chinta



Ram.

Ashish Mishra, who was arrested on October 9 by the special investigation team after 12 hours of questioning, had been sent to three days in police custody from Tuesday.

The court also remanded Shekhar Bharti, arrested on Tuesday, in police custody for three days.

Police have now arrested six people — Ashish Mishra, Luvkush, Ashish Pandey, Bharti, Ankit and Kale — in connection with the case.

The investigators had summoned Das and Kale for questioning in connection with the October 3 violence that had left eight people, including four lynched by the protesting farmers.

## Doctors fear Covid surge in Bengal over protocol violation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Kolkata seems to be failing where Mumbai succeeded in the rigorous implementation of the corona protocol during Ganesh festival. With lakhs of frenzied pandal hoppers hitting the Kolkata streets amid pandemic times, the doctors of the eastern metro fear a revival of the disease in Bengal soon after the Durga Puja.

The administration's lenient execution of the corona protocol framed by the Calcutta High Court tends to push up the fear. Dr RK Patra,



a senior physician, warned, “If the positivity percentage goes beyond 5 per cent, then the administration will certainly

have to think about re-imposing lockdown in some way or the other.”

This even as a senior doc-

tor of the Calcutta Medical College, the oldest such hospital in Asia, said how before Maha Panchami day the infectivity rate in Bengal was in the vicinity of 1.75 per cent which had crossed 2.53 by the end of Maha Saptami day.

While the infectibility rate remain more or less static, it is showing upward swing in Kolkata and adjacent North 24 Parganas which forms the part of greater Kolkata, thanks to the increasing crowd of pandal hoppers who have been cramming the sidewalks.

## Lakhimpur Kheri violence 'condemnable' but lopsided attention dangerous: FM

PTI ■ BOSTON

The Lakhimpur Kheri violence, in which four farmers were killed, is “absolutely condemnable,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, emphasising that there are issues of such nature happening in other parts of India equally which should be raised “when they happen and not when it suits others” because there is a BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh.

Sitharaman, who is on an official visit to the US, was responding to a question during a conversation at Harvard Kennedy School on Tuesday about the killing of four farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri and the arrest of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra.

She was asked why there is no word on this from the Prime Minister, senior Ministers and why there is a “defensive reaction” when somebody asks questions about such things.

“No, absolutely not... It's nice of you to have picked up



that one incident which is absolutely condemnable, every one of us say that. Equally there are instances happening elsewhere, is my concern.

“India has issues of such nature happening in very many different parts of the country equally. I would like you, and many others, including Dr Amartya Sen, who all know India, to raise it at every time when it happens, not just raise it when it suits us because it's a State where BJP is in power, one of my cabinet colleague's son is in probably trouble, and also assume that it's actually them who did it and not anybody else.

## CAPSULE

## MANMOHAN SINGH ADMITTED TO AIIMS

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was admitted to the AIIMS here Wednesday evening after he complained of weakness following a fever, sources said.

## INFLATION RISES 5.4% FROM YEAR AGO

Washington: Consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent last month, slightly higher than August's gain and pushing annual inflation back to the highest increase in 13 years.

## 'NO TEMPORARY LICENCE FOR FIRECRACKERS'

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Wednesday said it will not issue any temporary licence for the storage and sale of firecrackers this festival season.

## PM unveils ₹100L cr master plan to give Gati to economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a ₹100 lakh crore national master plan — PM Gati Shakti — for multi-modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

The plan targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time, Modi said, adding it would lend more power and speed to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform. The infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and States will be designed and executed with a common vision.

Modi said taxpayers' money in the past was “insulted” through a lethargic approach to development work, with departments working in silos and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches PM Gati Shakti, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Wednesday

PIB

there was no coordination on projects. Development, he said, is not possible without quality infrastructure and the Government has now resolved to develop it in a

holistic manner. Gati Shakti joins different departments for the coordinated development of projects from road to railways, aviation to agriculture, the PM said.

## Humanitarian aid doesn't mean Taliban Govt's recognition: G20

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the G-20 meeting in a virtual summit pledged to provide aid to the people of Afghanistan in a bid to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the war-torn country, *Tolo News* reported. The summit was hosted by Italy on Tuesday. Some members of the summit cited that provision of aids didn't indicate recognition of the “Taliban” Government.

Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, said that her country is not ready to recognise the “Taliban”. According to her, the Taliban have not met the international measures and expectations of the world, the report said.

The US said it would provide donation through aid organisations to the people of Afghanistan. Addressing the summit, US



President Joe Biden also expressed concerns over the presence of armed groups such as ISIS-K or so-called Daesh group in Afghanistan.

The European Union pledged to provide one million Euro in support of humanitarian donation to the country.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that the international

community emphasised on preservation of the human rights, particularly the rights of girls and women.

The summit was not attended by the Presidents of China and Russia. This comes as earlier, the UN and humanitarian organisations had warned of triggering a severe humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.



# Kejriwal’s 10 promises to Punjab traders; 24-hr power supply

## Eradicating corrupt ‘inspector raj’, red-tapism, unnecessary laws

PNS ■ JALANDHAR

Am Aadmi Party’s (AAP) National convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday made 10 promises to the traders and businessmen for the development and upliftment of industry, trade, and commerce while appealing to them to be part of AAP Government to be formed in 2022.

Seeking the support of traders, businessmen and industrialists in ‘Kejriwal’s talk with traders and businessmen’ in Jalandhar, AAP supremo said: “You have tried the Congress-Captain and the Badals, now give us a chance. We don’t need funds from businessmen, we just need sup-

port.”

Kejriwal interacted with traders and businessmen for the purpose of soliciting suggestions to the problems and difficulties faced by them.

After listening to the problems and solutions of the traders and businessmen, Kejriwal first announced 24-hour uninterrupted power supply for the industry. “At present, there are long power-cuts in Punjab. Without electricity, neither industry nor trade could run smoothly. On formation of AAP government, 24-hour power supply would be provided as done by the AAP in Delhi,” he said.

Kejriwal also announced to end red-tapism and ‘inspector raj’. “Corruption runs in the

KEJRIWALS’ 10 PROMISES			
➤ 24-hour power supply	➤ Ending enhancement process		
➤ Eradicating red-tapism and ‘inspector raj’	➤ No CLU, or other such approvals at areas declared as industrial zones		
➤ Old laws to be rectified, unnecessary laws will be scrapped	➤ Eradicating goonda tax		
➤ VAT refund to be ensured between 3-6 months; Instalment system to be introduced for big refunds	➤ Joint body of businessmen-traders with Minister as its head to take decisions		
➤ Strengthening of infrastructure, including roads, water and sewerage	➤ More emphasis on small traders and MSMEs, to generate unemployment		

system because the intentions of the governments were bad. If there is an honest CM and Cabinet at the top, I can challenge that the entire structure below will be alright. We did

this in Delhi,” he said.

AAP leader said that old laws will be rectified, unnecessary laws will be scrapped, and a system will be built wherein existing industries

need not waste time over government and will be able to invest their time in business.

On the problem of VAT refund, Kejriwal promised to ensure VAT refund between 3

to 6 months and an instalment system will be made for big refunds.

Announcing strengthening of infrastructure, Kejriwal said that 80 percent of industries were located outside the focal point and there were many problems including roads, water and sewerage; which the AAP government will solve by bringing a budgetary provision.

Kejriwal also announced to end enhancement process on the formation of AAP government in Punjab, besides bringing to an end the CLU (Change of land use) and other types of hassles at the areas which have been declared as industrial zones with an automatic intimidation only.

AAP chief said that extortion in the form of ‘monthly’ and ‘weekly’ will also be eradicated along with ‘goonda tax’ which continues unabated. “Goonda tax was collected from every truck as the system had been occupied by the ministers. It is my guarantee to end this system and it will be our responsibility to let the traders work smoothly,” he added.

Inviting the traders and businessmen to become partners in the future AAP government, he said a joint body of businessmen-traders will be formed, which will be headed by a Minister with representatives from each business sector so that it could get geographically and sector-wise representation; and will meet every month.

“Decisions will be taken during the same meeting and the government will implement them immediately,” he said.

Kejriwal said that more emphasis will be given to small traders and MSMEs so that unemployment will be generated. Taking a promise from the industrialists, businessmen, and traders, Kejriwal assured that he will ensure employment to the unemployed and the AAP government will resolve all their problems.

He claimed that such development will be done so that no one will remain unemployed in Punjab. Kejriwal urged the industrialists, businessmen and traders to make the AAP win all nine seats of Jalandhar.

# Punjab CM shoulders mortal remains of Poonch martyr

**Accompanies family to lit pyre, shares grief with bereaved family of Sepoy Gajjan Singh at his native village Pachranda**

PNS ■ PACHRANDA (RUPNAGAR)

In what is being seen as a patriotic and humanitarian gesture, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP Singh on Wednesday lend their shoulders to the bier of the Poonch martyr Sepoy Gajjan Singh. They also laid the wreath and participated in the ardas (last prayers) while paying glowing tributes to the martyr, who was cremated at his native village Pachranda, Nurpur Bedi in Rupnagar district, with full military honours.

Channi also accompanied the martyr’s nephew and his father to lit the pyre of the brave heart who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in a gunfight with the terrorists in Poonch sector (Jammu and Kashmir) on October 11 (Monday).

Sharing his heartfelt sympathies with the members of the bereaved family, the Chief Minister said that Gajjan Singh’s unprecedented sacrifice would inspire his fellow soldiers to per-



form their duties with utmost dedication and commitment to preserve the country’s sovereignty and integrity.

Married eight months ago, 26-year-old Sepoy Gajjan Singh was the youngest of four brothers and had joined the army nine years ago.

He got married in February and his picture in wedding attire, holding a farmer union flag, was widely circulated on social media.

The martyr is survived by his wife Harpreet Kaur and parents — Charan Singh and Malkeet Kaur.



# Formalities related to the construction of AIIMS in Rewari completed, says Haryana CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said that for the expansion of health services in the State, all the formalities related to the construction of the proposed All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) project at village Majra in Rewari district have been completed.

A meeting was held here under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister in the presence of the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Rao Inderjit Singh and senior officers regarding the project. A delegation of farmers who have provided land for the project also attended the meeting.

While sanctioning a separate budget for the project, Khattar directed the officers of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department to start the process of disbursing payments to the farmers who have provided land for the said project at the earliest.

He also asked farmers to start the next process required for doing other works related to the project after assuring mutual consent among them.

The Chief Minister also directed the officers of Town and Country Planning and Development and Panchayats Department to complete all the necessary works and also to expedite the work on

the issues related to farmers within a stipulated time period regarding the project.

Khattar while giving a patient hearing to views shared by farmers’ delegation also discussed all the aspects related to the project extensively. During the meeting, the farmers’ delegation said that the government had given in-principle approval for their main demand regarding giving Rs 40 lakh per acre for land and development of commercial complex along with AIIMS. The delegation also expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and Union Minister for accepting their major demands.

They informed that due to the development of the area and acceptance of the major demands, most of the farmers have agreed to give land for the project.

Deputy Commissioner Rewari, Yashendra Singh apprised the Chief Minister about the action taken related to the project and informed that registration has been started for the cooperative society setup for farmers.

As per the directions of the government, the duty of an inspector of the Assistant Registrar Cooperative Society has been assigned in the village. All the farmers who gave land for the project will be members of this society. The members of the society will decide the other works related to their second demand with mutual consent, he informed.

# Haryana Govt starts two more teachers’ training institutions from current session 2021-22

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

In a bid to improve the quality of school education through innovation in teachers’ training, Haryana Government has decided to start two more teachers’ training institutions from the current session 2021-22 in the State.

An order in this regard has been issued by Director General Higher Education, Haryana.

The State Government has decided to start four-year integrated programmes of B.Sc B.Ed and BA B.Ed from session 2021-22 in the premises of DIET (District Institute of Education & Training Gurugram) and DIET Kurukshetra. These institutes will be known as the State Institute of Advanced Studies in Teacher Education.

The courses will be run under the existing State Institute of Advanced Studies in Teacher Education (SIASTE) at Jhajjar under the aegis of Department of Higher Education, Haryana.

Notably, the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had announced plans to open two-three more institutes of advanced studies in teachers’ education in the

state and had also directed the Department concerned to work in this direction.

The teachers’ training is a key part of national education policy (NEP) 2020 which recognises that teachers will require training in high-quality content as well as pedagogy. Haryana Government has planned to successfully implement the NEP in the state by the year 2025.

An order issued by Director General Higher Education on two new teachers’ training institutes stated, “Fresh approval/upgradation of existing D.El.Ed courses in two DIETs at Gurugram and Kurukshetra is awaited from National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). Vice Chancellors of Kurukshetra University and Gurugram University will grant provisional affiliation to these two institutes from the session 2021-22. Director, State Institute of Advanced Studies in Teacher Education, Jhajjar will take necessary action for starting admission in the courses as per the admission policy of SIASTE.”

“Apart from this, Principals of DIET Gurugram and DIET Kurukshetra will take necessary

steps in providing infrastructure and faculty for running these courses,” the order stated.

These two institutes will run four-year integrated programmes B.Sc B.Ed with 30 seats and B.A B.Ed with 70 seats each. As per the admission procedure, the candidates having passed 10+2/12th class examination during or after year 2019 from any recognised board with 60 percent (57 percent in case SC/Divyang candidates of Haryana) are eligible to apply. The institute will charge fee of Rs 18400 annually

Notably, the first SIASTE was established in 2013 in Jhajjar as a coveted project with a vision to bring phenomenal change in quality of education by producing teachers equipped with 21st century skills. The popularity of the programme can be gauged from the fact that last year the institute had more than 1200 candidates from pan India who participated in counseling for 100 seats in the institute.

At present, students from across 18 states or union territories of the country are studying at SIASTE, Jhajjar.

# Pendency of driving licenses, RCs to be cleared soon by making Sat working day, says Pb Transport min

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Stressing on clearing the Sendency in issuing driving license (D/L), registration certificates (RCs), among other matters related

to transport department, the State’s Transport Minister Amarinder Singh Raja Warring on Wednesday directed the officials to work on Saturday and open all the 32 driving test tracks till

the pending cases of driving licenses are settled. Directions have also been given to issue the driving licenses on Saturday also.

Besides, the Minister has

suggested holding of ‘Pendency Melas’ at the district level for the settlement of pending matters related to the Transport Department. Warring asked the Principal Secretary (Transport) K Siva Prasad to conduct maiden ‘Pendency Fair’ in Sri Muktsar Sahib district, and also passing necessary instructions to the Deputy Commissioners for organizing one-day ‘Pendency Mela’ across the State.

Taking up the complaints regarding delay in delivery of driving licenses, registration certificates and high security number plates received on his personal WhatsApp number, Warring on Wednesday issued strict instructions to authorities

concerned for further speeding up the process.

Warring, presiding over a meeting at his office at Punjab Civil Secretariat, instructed the officers to extend time limit of 30 days for completing the process of driving license for applicants to 45 days so that they can avail more days for choosing place and date of their choice.

Instructing the officers of Chandigarh-based centralized company ‘Smart Chip’, which provides smart driving licenses, to meet the deadline of three days, Warring asked the officers of the Transport Department to impose penalty on the company in case of delay in issuing driving licenses.

# 2 days of coal stocks left; Punjab power situation remains critical

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Power situation in Punjab remains critical with the state’s all the private and state-owned coal-based plants left with about two-day coal stock.

To tackle the prevailing coal shortage, the state power utility — Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) — is imposing power cuts, while buying electricity from power exchange at exorbitant prices.

“Despite coal shortage, PSPCL has supplied 9,352 megawatt (MW) in Punjab on Tuesday...PSPCL shall purchase about 1,800 MW of power from power exchange at a rate of Rs 10.55 per unit on Wednesday,” said PSPCL chairman-cum-managing director A Venu Prasad in the official statement.

Giving details about coal stock position, Prasad said that critical coal stock position is still prevailing in all the thermal power plants situated in Punjab. He said that currently, all the private and state-owned



coal-based plants in the Punjab have about two days of coal stock.

He said that 13 coal rakes were received against a total requirement of 22 rakes on October 12 (Tuesday). “Although the coal rake supply is lesser, yet consistency of supply is being maintained. Besides, sufficient number of rakes are in pipeline and as such, the coal position shall improve in the coming few days,” he said.

Prasad claimed that the power cut duration was lesser on Tuesday due to improved power availability as an additional unit of GGSSTP, Ropar, Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project started 84 MW power generation after repair of channel in record

time and one unit of GVK was made operational.

“Record repair of the channel of Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project has given a big relief to PSPCL in this power deficit scenario where power has to be purchased by PSPCL at higher rates whereas the per unit cost from its own project is only 25 paise,” he said.

Prasad appreciated the efforts of hydel organization engineers or officials for their hard work, effective planning and continuous monitoring on war footing for the repair of channel of Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project.

He also added that full power supply was being given to Basmati growing feeders and vegetable related feeders.

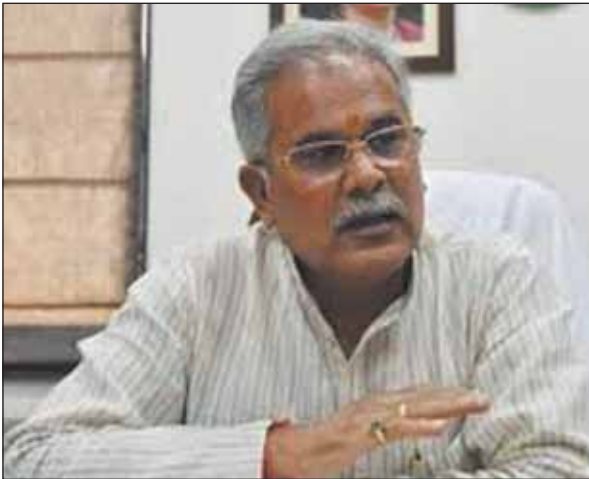


# IG-SP meet on Oct 21, Collectors' on Oct 22

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will chair a meeting of the Inspector Generals of Police and Superintendents of Police on October 21 and preside over a Collectors' conference the next day here.

'On October 22, he will review the disposal of cases received under Public Service Guarantee Act, resolution of cases of conversion, division under Revenue Department and progress of 'Girdawari' work under



Kharif 2021, settlement of Nazul land, allotment, Nazul and residential land, status of labourers in the Rajiv

Gandhi Grameen Bhumihene Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, operation of Swami Atmanand Schools, and appointment of teachers in English and Hindi medium schools.

He will review progress of infrastructure development work, ITI Higher Secondary School, progress on implementation of skill development scheme, construction of Gauthans, progress in construction of Rural Industrial Parks, cow dung procured, development of Gauthans as multi-activity centres and progress of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay

Yojana and Narva, Garva, Ghurva, Bari scheme.

The Chief Minister will discuss the preparations for paddy procurement on support price, the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission, preparations to deal with the possible wave of Covid-19, Haat Bazar Clinic Scheme, Urban Slum Health Scheme, Affordable Medicine Scheme, EWS in urban and rural areas, besides reviewing the availability and distribution status of 15 percent land reserved for the EWS category.

# Monsoon ends in Chhattisgarh

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh bid farewell to monsoon on Wednesday. H.P. Chandra, weather scientist at the Raipur centre of the India Meteorological Department, said the monsoon had withdrawn completely from the state.

"A sufficient 98 percent rainfall was witnessed by the state and it was more than satisfactory to the farmers," he said.

"The state recorded 1,100 mm rainfall as against 1,140 average," he was quoted as saying in a statement.

Southern and Northern Chhattisgarh received surplus rainfall. The rains trig-



gered widespread floods for four-five days in September, leading to largescale damage to life and property.

# Only 50 can gather for effigy burning at Dussehra

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government has decreed that only up to 50 people can gather to view the burning of effigies of Ravana and others on Dussehra on Friday.

This is one of the guidelines the district Collectors in the state issued on Wednesday.

The effigies should be burnt in an open space. Not more than 50 persons including the chief office-bearer of the organizing committee are permitted to gather.

The organizers will have to maintain a register of all those arriving to par-



ticipate. No cultural programmes and feeding are allowed near the site, an official communication said.

Those present at the venue should mandatorily keep physical distance,

wear a mask and use sanitizer from time to time.

Playing of loud music is banned and there will be a bar on decorations and tableaux too.

The guidelines state

that if any person gets infected after visiting an effigy burning site, the entire cost of treatment will be borne by the committee. No effigy can be burnt in any containment zone.

# CM prays for peace, prosperity in state

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday offered prayers at Mata Mahamaya Devi Temple in Ratanpur (Bilaspur), Kauhi and Agarsara (at Patan and Durg) to mark Ashtami day of Navratri festival.

He wished for peace, happiness and prosperity for the people of the state. He also greeted people on the occasion of Navratri, an official communication said.



During his visit to Kauhi and Agarsara, Baghel said the people

of Chhattisgarh are fortunate as the state is an abode of goddesses.

He said on November 1 the next instalment of Rajiv

Gandhi Nyay Yojana will be released for farmers.

# CM dedicates new buildings at Patan



**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday inaugurated newly constructed buildings at Patan in Durg district. They had been built at a cost of Rs.7.22 crores.

These include the Patan Circuit House, New Janpad Panchayat Bhawan, District

Resource Centre and Sub-Divisional Office Building, an official statement said.

He also inaugurated an open court for badminton, volleyball and cricket and a community hall of the Manwa Kurmi Kshatriya Samaj in Patan.

After the ceremony, he inspected the Circuit House.



Chhattisgarh's Parliamentary Secretary Rekhhchand Jain on Wednesday met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and, on behalf of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, invited him to the National Tribal Dance Festival starting in Raipur on November 1.

*Pioneer Photo*

# Congress to formulate strategy for 2023

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

The Congress state executive will meet on Thursday to formulate a strategy for the Chhattisgarh Assembly elections of 2023.

Sources in the Congress said some concrete decisions will be taken for better coordination between the government and the party.

The meeting will discuss a roadmap of extending government schemes to the common people.

The meeting will also review implementation of tasks assigned at the previous meeting, the sources said.



AICC Chhattisgarh in-charge P.L. Punia, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, AICC Secretary-in-charge Dr Chandan Yadav and PCC chief Mohan Markam will attend the meeting.

Punia and Yadav arrived here on Wednesday on a two-day visit to Chhattisgarh.

# Stop opposing Centre blindly: BJP

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government and the Congress party are indulging in cheap politics by opposing each and every decision of the Central government, the BJP said on Wednesday.


Because of this, the state's beneficiaries are being deprived of the benefits of central government schemes,

said BJP state President Vishnudeo Sai.

It has become an integral part of Congress and state government to oppose any decision by the central government, Sai said in a statement.

Sai said instead of indulging in a verbal duel against the Central government, the state should instead work on to commence paddy procurement from November 1.

Public Notice For kind attention of our customers			
Sr. No.	Name and address of old Branch Premises	Name and address of New Branch Premises	Date of Merger/Collection
1	Branch - Khauana (Bangoli) Branch (e Dena Bank Now Bank of Baroda) Address - Bangoli, Block-Tilda, Distt.-Raipur (C.G.)	Branch - Khauana (Bangoli) Branch (e Dena Bank Now Bank of Baroda) Address - Kharora Road Bangoli, Block- Tilda, Distt. Raipur (C.G.)	15/11/2021



IDBI BANK

CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838

IDBI BANK LTD.

Regional Office- Raipur (C.G.)- 492001

APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **IDBI BANK LIMITED** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice date as below mentioned date calling upon the Borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice. The borrower's/guarantor's having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower's/guarantor's and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below. The borrower's/guarantor's in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **IDBI BANK LIMITED**, for amount mentioned below and interest thereon. The borrower's/guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl No.	Name & Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	Date of Demand Notice & Possession Notice	Claim Amount as per demand notice as on date	Description of the Property
1.	Borrowers- 1. Shri Rajeev Kumar Gupta 2. Smt. Purnima Gupta (Co-Appllicant), E-65, Behind Union Bank, Swami Atmanand Ward, 2nd lane, Samta Colony, Raipur (C.G.)	(1) 22.07.2021 (2) 08.10.2021	Rs. 41,70,913/- + Further Intt. & Other Charges w.e.f. 10.03.21	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of House E 65, Samta Sahkari Grih Nirman Samiti Maryadit, Swami Atmanand Ward ,Behind Union Bank, 2nd Lane, Samta Colony, Raipur (C.G.)
2.	Borrowers- 1. Shri Amit Babriya 2. Smt. Jignasha Babriya (Co-Appllicant) House No MIG-D/83 Sector-01 Devendra Nagar, Raipur Chhattisgarh-492001	(1) 22.07.2021 (2) 08.10.2021	Rs. 72,11,204/- + Further Intt. & Other Charges w.e.f. 10.03.21	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khasra No 580/1, PH No 104, Infront of Shri Vasu Logistic Pvt Ltd., Raipura, Madhav Rao Sapre Ward No 68, Chhattisgarh-492001. Bounded: North by: Plot of Aggarwalji, South by: Plot of Choubeyji, East by: Road, West by: Plot of Sanjay Tiwari, together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

Date : 13.10.2021, Place : Raipur

Authorised Officer, IDBI Bank Limited

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड बिलासपुर(छ.ग.)			
:: ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::			
जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन बिलासपुर की ओर कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सहायक सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंचायत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंचायत विकास कार्य हेतु प्रपत्र अ (प्रतिष्ठित दर) और लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य का नाम :- गौरीला- पेण्ड्रा - मरवाही जिले के अंतर्गत जल जीवन मिशन में स्वीकृत रेट्रोफिटिंग जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत रेट्रोफिटिंग ग्राम नल जल प्रदान योजना अन्य सम्पूर्ण कार्य (सलन शेड्यूल अनुसार)			
सिस्टम क्रमांक	निविदा क्र दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में )
82973	143/08.09.2021	गौरीला- पेण्ड्रा- मरवाही जिले के विकासखंड गौरीला के ग्राम नेवसा (बाल्को, गुर्राटिकरा-1, दहाई टोला, पथरटोला, मरवाही, लिखटोला-1, लिखटोला-2, सोमपुरी, गुर्राटिकरा -2, इंदिरा आवास)	227.24
82974	148/08.09.2021	गौरीला- पेण्ड्रा- मरवाही जिले के विकासखंड मरवाही के ग्राम गौरीगटोला (खस), डुमरखेला (देवराजटोला, खस), देवरीडांड (खस) दर्रा (हरटोला, भुसटोला, अरिहटोला, स्कूलटोला), करगोटोला (नंदियाटोला), बरो (अरिहटोला, दर्राटोला), बंधीरी (खस), पोपटोल (खस)	160.62
82975	149/08.09.2021	गौरीला- पेण्ड्रा- मरवाही जिले के विकासखंड पेण्ड्रा के ग्राम सोनवचवार (खस), सेवरा (खस), बंधी (खस), दमन (खस), लिखा (पटेलपारा), पोड़ा (पटेलटोला), बन्नी (लोहरटोला), विशेरा (खस), देवराजटोला, खस), देवरीडांड (खस), पोपटोल (खस), पोपटोल (खस), पोपटोल (खस)	115.02
82976	150/08.09.2021	गौरीला- पेण्ड्रा- मरवाही जिले के विकासखंड मरवाही के ग्राम कछार (स्कूलटोला, खस, सलकाटोला, अमलीगांव, बालमटोला) में	89000
82977	151/08.09.2021	गौरीला- पेण्ड्रा- मरवाही जिले के विकासखंड गौरीला के ग्राम नेवसा (लोहरटोला-1, लोहरटोला-2, जेलपन (नवाडीह, करियासर्द, गौरीगटोला) में	63.96
अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छ.ग. शासन के ई- प्रोक्ज्योरमेंट वेबसाइट <a href="https://leproc.cgstate.gov.in">https://leproc.cgstate.gov.in</a> पर दिनांक 15.09.2021 सुबह 10.30 बजे से उपलब्ध है तथा दिनांक 20.10.2021 समय 17.30 तक ब्रीड डाले जा सकते हैं एवं अन्य विवरण कार्यालयीन समय पर लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में देखे जा सकते हैं।			
कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)			
G- 64469/6 Ryp/Dtd 13.10.21			



# Centre to roll out world’s first DNA Covid vax soon



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin for 2-18-year-old children awaits DCGI nod, the Centre is all set to roll out the world’s first DNA vaccine ZyCov-D against Covid this month. The Government aims to procure a total of 60 lakh vaccines in October for this.

They said that the Government will procure over 28 crore vaccines in October. It includes 22 crore Covishield vaccine shots, six crore Covaxin and 60 lakh DNA vaccines. The Government is still negotiating the prices of Zydus Cadila vaccine that is being planned to be inducted in the vaccination programme.

The ZyCov-D vaccine was approved by India’s regulatory authority in August 2020. The three-dose DNA built vaccine has 66.6 per cent efficacy against Covid. Instead of a needle, it uses an applicator to inject the skin with lab-produced DNA.

The Zydus Cadila vaccine

was scheduled to be rolled out in the first week of October. On being asked about the delay in the vaccine roll out, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr V.K. Paul said last week that Zydus Cadila vaccine was not administered using conventional syringes or needles, but through an applicator, which will be used for the first time in the country.

Paul said, “We are working on the trainers. The training programmes are being conducted on the use of applicators. We are also sorting out the logistics issues of the vaccine and soon it will be a part of Covid-19 vaccination drive.”

On Tuesday, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19 had granted emergency use approval to Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin for children in the 2-18 years age group.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech had completed Phase-2 and Phase-3 trials of Covaxin on children below 18 years of age in September and submitted the trial data to the Drugs

**Experts say that Covid-19 vaccination for children is more necessary than ever as schools have reopened in many states. There has also been a gradual rise in paediatric cases across the country, they said**

and Comptroller General of India (DCGI) at the start of this month. The company is now waiting for a final go ahead from the DCGI.

Experts say that Covid-19 vaccination for children is more necessary than ever as schools have reopened in many states. There has also been a gradual rise in paediatric cases across the country, they said.

# Govt cuts custom duty on edible oils to check prices during fests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to control soaring prices of edible oils and increase availability during the festive season, the Government on Wednesday scrapped basic customs duty and slashed access on crude varieties of palm, soyabean and sunflower oil till March 2022. The high prices of edible oil in the international market have a substantial impact on the domestic edible oil prices. The Government has already imposed stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds for a period upto 31st March, 2022.

According to a notification, the duty cuts will be effective from October 14 and will remain in force till March 31, 2022. The notification was issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The base import tax on crude palm oil has been slashed to 2.5% from 10%, while the tax on crude soyoil and crude sunflower oil has been reduced to 2.5% from 7.5%. The base import tax on refined grades of palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil cut to 32.5% from 37.5%.

After the cuts, crude palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil imports will be subject to a 24.75% tax in total, including a 2.5% base import duty and other taxes, while refined grades of palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil would carry a 35.75% tax in total.

The move comes at a time when edible oil prices are hovering at record levels. According to the latest data available with the ministry,



the all-India daily average retail price of mustard oil reached ₹184.15 per kg, with at least 22 centres, including Mumbai and Lucknow, reporting ₹200 and above. Mustard oil is the costliest of the six edible oils for which the ministry monitors retail and wholesale price data. Retail prices of the other edible oils are ₹182.61 per kg for groundnut oil, ₹136.59/kg (vanaspati), ₹155/kg (soya), ₹169.53/kg (sunflower) and ₹132.91/kg (palm).

The country imports palm oil mainly from top producers Indonesia and Malaysia, while other oils, such as soy and sunflower, come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.

“The Government has slashed import duties on edible oils because of high retail prices in the domestic market and the festive season,” Solvent Extractors’ Association of India (SEA) Executive Director B V Mehta said.

As per the SEA, India’s imports of edible oils rose 63 per cent to 16.98 lakh tonnes during September, a monthly record, due to all-time high shipments of palm oil. The

total import of vegetable oils, comprising both edible and non-edible oils, increased 66 per cent during September to 17,62,338 tonnes compared to 10,61,944 tonnes in September 2020. “Import of edible oils during September 2021 has set a new record shipment of 16.98 lakh tonnes in a single month. Earlier in October 2015, India had imported 16.51 lakh tonnes.

“Palm oil import in September 2021 at 12.62 lakh tonnes is the highest in any single month since India started importing palm oil in 1996,” it said. Non-edible oils imports went up to 63,608 tonnes in September from 17,702 tonnes in the same month last year.

During November 2020 to September 2021 (11 months), the imports of vegetable oils increased two per cent to 1,24,70,784 tonnes compared to 1,22,57,837 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year. Out of the total vegetable oil imports, edible oil imports rose to 1,20,85,247 tonnes from 1,19,50,501 tonnes. Non-edible oils rose to 3,85,537 tonnes from 3,07,333 tonnes.

# Tomato prices soar to ₹72/kg in metros due to unseasonal rain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tomato prices in retail markets of metro cities have shot up to ₹72 per kilogram on tight supply due to unseasonal rains in key producing states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Among the metros, the maximum increase in the retail price of tomato was seen in Kolkata where the key kitchen vegetable was ruling as high as ₹72 per kg on October 12 when compared to ₹38 per kg during the month-ago period. Interestingly, India, the world’s second largest tomato producer after China, produces around 19.75 million tonnes from an area of 7.89 lakh hectares with an average yield of 25.05 tonnes per hectare. Similarly, onion prices have also been hiked and now, it is around ₹50 per kg which used to be sold earlier at around ₹35-40 per kg.

In Delhi and Chennai, retail prices of tomato increased to ₹57 per kg from ₹30 per kg and ₹20 per kg, respectively, compared to the month-ago period, according to data compiled by the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

In Mumbai, tomato prices in retail markets rose to ₹53 per kg from ₹15 per kg in the said period, the data showed. The retail prices of tomato vary depending on quality and locality where the commodity was sold.

“Unseasonal rains in producing states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have damaged the crop due to which the supply to consuming markets like Delhi has



**Tomato crop will be ready for harvest in around 2-3 months after planting and harvesting is done as per the requirement of the market**

been affected. This has led to a rise in prices, both in wholesale and retail markets,” Azadpur Tomato Association President Ashok Kaushik said on Wednesday. Azadpur Mandi in the national capital is the Asia’s largest wholesale market for fruits and vegetables.

Even the crop in hilly regions like Shimla has been affected due to the unseasonal rains, he said, adding that 60 per cent of the tomato crop has been damaged in producing states that received the unseasonal rains.

As a result, tomato prices in a month have almost doubled to ₹40-60 per kg at Azadpur Mandi as daily arrival of the commodity has halved to 250-300 tonne.

At present, harvesting is underway in key growing states of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Tomato crop will be ready for harvest in around 2-3 months after planting and harvesting is done as per the requirement of the market.

# Cong leaders meet Prez, seek Min sacking over Lakhimpur violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of Congress leaders, including former party president Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, on Wednesday met President Ram Nath Kovind demanding the immediate dismissal of Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra over the Lakhimpur Kheri vio-

lence, and an impartial judicial probe by two sitting judges of the Supreme Court. The delegation of senior Congress leaders also presented a memorandum of facts about the Lakhimpur Kheri incident to the President. The party is all set to discuss the crisis and several other issues concerning the nation at its apex decision making body Congress

Working Committee on Saturday.

Later talking to the media, Rahul said that he conveyed to the President that the MoS Home should resign to ensure an impartial probe in the Lakhimpur violence as his son Ashish is an accused in the matter. Ashish Mishra, who has been named in the FIR and is accused of mowing down



farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, was arrested on Saturday by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Four farmers were among eight people killed in the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri on October 3.

Rahul demanded that to ensure justice, two sitting Supreme Court judges should probe the incident and those who have committed the murders should be punished. “There cannot

be an impartial inquiry and justice cannot be given till the time the MoS Home is sacked. This is the voice of not just the families of those killed but of all the farmers and this voice is being suppressed,” he said.

The Congress delegation also included A K Antony, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mallikarjun Kharge.

Asked whether they have received any assurances from the president, Priyanka Gandhi claimed, “he (President) has assured us that he will talk to the government in this regard today itself.”

The Congress memorandum said the situation is unlikely to change without any intervention given that BJP leaders, including UP CM Yogi Adityanath, continue to make conciliatory statements towards Ajay Mishra.

“Ajay Mishra’s role is also yet to be investigated and the same is unlikely while he continues in office. Furthermore, which police official would dare to fairly investigate the son of Union

# 90K staffers of ex-Ghani Govt starving in Af

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Over 90,000 employees of the erstwhile Abdul Ghani Government in Afghanistan are starving as they have not been paid their salaries for the last three months post-Taliban takeover of Kabul in August.

Even the assistance received by Taliban from foreign donors is being unfairly distributed to the outfit’s cadres and the Government employees are left with no resource to survive, sources on the ground said.

The public distribution system under the control of Taliban has undertaken rationing amid shortage of essentials like food but the same is being unevenly and arbitrarily distributed the group’s cadres in a discriminatory manner, they said.

Besides the food crisis, that country is also staring at water shortage amid a sharp depreciation in value of currency leading to a spiral in food prices which is further leading to the woes of the public there.

While the situation is at the brink of collapse, the terror groups like the Al Qaeda and ISIS are eyeing at milking the donations from foreign donors through shell Non-Governmental Organisations.



Al Qaeda and ISIS have in the past registered shell NGOs and recruited their cadres to man these social welfare organisations and deputed them to other countries. The terror cadres spotted and recruited people in other countries in lieu of humanitarian relief.

Founder President of Afghanistan Republican Salvation Front (ARSF) and counter-terrorism analyst of Afghan origin Dr Ajmal Sohail said, “There is a need to do due diligence while apportioning relief materials to the NGOs and assistance should only be given to relief organisations only after background checks.”

In the face of the food crisis in Afghanistan, relief materials distribution is expected to attract large footfalls at the offices of the NGOs, a situation which could be exploited by the wrangling terror groups to execute blasts. Such places also need to be monitored, Dr Sohail further said.

India-based counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Mate said, “To add to the woes of the Afghan population staring at

**Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its terror cohorts like the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad could exploit the crisis situation to further expand the terror base**

food crisis, the Taliban’s inability to control the ground level cadres is leading to the elimination of doctors and engineers who considered moderate as per the Sharia laws in vogue there. The killing of the doctors, medical engineers and technicians could lead to a healthcare crisis as well for a starving population susceptible to diseases.”

Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its terror cohorts like the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad could exploit the crisis situation to further expand the terror base with recruitment of the starving population, including the erstwhile government employees, Dr Mate added.

# SC: Some act or omission should be attributed to a person in road accident

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Some act or omission should be attributed to a person in a road accident

against whom contributory negligence is alleged, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramanian made the observation on an appeal filed by a woman and her minor children against the findings of the Karnataka High Court that her deceased husband, who was driving the car which dashed into a lorry, was also guilty of contributory negligence.

The high court had said the woman and her minor children are entitled only to 50 per cent of the amount of compensation as determined.

The apex court held however that the mere failure to avoid the collision by taking some extraordinary precaution does not in itself constitute negligence.

“To establish contributory negligence, some act or omission, which materially contributed to the accident or the damage, should be attributed to the person against whom it is alleged,” the bench said while reversing the high court’s finding.

# ₹3.25 cr khadi products sold on Gandhi Jayanti in Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

This Gandhi Jayanti saw a massive sale of Khadi products in Gujarat, the land of the Mahatma. On 2nd October this year, the overall sale of Khadi products stood at ₹3,25,5000 (₹ 3.25 crore) across all 311 Khadi India outlets in Gujarat.

The sale of Khadi in Gujarat this year has increased by ₹33.12 lakh (11.32%) as compared to the year 2020, when the gross sale of Khadi in the state on 2nd October stood at Rs 2,92,38,000 (₹2.92 crore).

In order to give a special boost to Khadi sales, KVIC set up exhibition- cum-sales outlets at Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot railway stations as part of the “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” in which Khadi’s sale worth ₹ 5.14 lakh was recorded.



Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel and several other ministers also visited Khadi India outlets to purchase Khadi products.

KVIC Chairman VK Saxena attributed the massive Khadi sales to the frequent appeals of the Prime Minister to buy and promote Khadi and also the acceptance of Khadi among the masses in Gujarat. “Gujarat is the land where Babu first spun Khadi.

Therefore, Khadi has always found great support from the people of Gujarat.

The eco-friendly and natural benefits of Khadi have made it the most acceptable brand in not only Gujarat but also the other parts of India. KVIC is constantly adding new products to cater to the larger consumer base while maintaining the highest quality standards despite challenges,” Saxena said.

## GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT ASYM DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM

E-mail : medsupdhh@gmail.com

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Short Term Tenders affixed with Rs.5/- revenue stamps are invited for and on behalf of the Governor of U.T of Jammu & Kashmir, from the original Manufacturers/Firms registered with Health & Medical Education Department of J&K for the supply of Drugs/Medicines/Disposables as per the details/ specifications given in the tender documents. These tender documents can be had on written request during all working days up to 20.10.2021 (3.00 p.m.), against the Non-refundable cash amount of Rs. 500/- (Rupees five Hundred only) for which necessary G.R be collected from the office of the Medical Superintendent ASYM District Hospital Budgam as cost of tender, which should be enclosed while submitting Tender Documents, otherwise, the tender shall be rejected outrightly. The tender documents can also be seen & downloaded from the official website [www.dhskashmir.org](http://www.dhskashmir.org). The tender on the prescribed format shall be submitted for each item/s in a single (big size) envelope containing three envelopes one for “Eligibility Bid” second for “Technical Bid” & third for “Financial Bid, duly sealed and super-scribed as tender for the supply of Drugs/Medicines for the year-2021-22 addressed to Medical Superintendent District Hospital Budgam. Email address: [medsupdhh@gmail.com](mailto:medsupdhh@gmail.com) and should reach this office by or before 23.10.2021 (3.00 p.m.). The sealed tender(s) should be personally deposited in the tender box available in this office or can be sent by Registered Post. Short Term Tenders received after due date shall not be entertained. The tender(s) will be opened as per the dates given below against each item in presence of intending supplier/any other authorized representative who may be present. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or any part of the tender without assigning any reason/s thereof. The intending tenderer shall have to deposit an amount Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) for general bidders and Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five Thousand only) in case of SSI Unit holders for aforesaid group as token of refundable earnest money in the shape of CDR / FDR from any Nationalized / Scheduled Bank preferably Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. pledged to the Medical Superintendent ASYM District Hospital Budgam Officer Srinagar. The tender without earnest money deposit shall out rightly be rejected. In the event of any of mentioned dates above being declared as holidays/closed day, the Short Term Tenders will be sold / received/opened on the next working day at the scheduled time. The tenders for Drugs/Medicines/Disposables/Lab shall be submitted separately and will be opened on the following date.

S. No	Name of Item/s	Date	Time
1.	Drugs/medicines/Disposables	24/10/2021	3:00 pm

Sd/- Medical Superintendent  
ASYM District Hospital Budgam

No. DIPK-10581/21 Dated: 13.10.2021

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM				
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH
1	UHBVN	SUB- LT XLPE ARMoured CABLE OF SIZE SCX25 SQ.MM SHORT TERM NIT NO. 15/UH/MX/XEN/P-III (QST-II/2063) DATED 29.09.2021	PART-I OPENING DATE EXTENDED UPTO 19.10.2021	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>
2	UHBVN	EOI- 31Q/EMP/ PD&C/ PKJ/ 2021	CORRECTION IN PARAGRAPHS OF CLAUSE 1.1. OF SCOPE OF WORK MENTIONED AT PAGE NO. 8 IN BID DOCUMENT VOLUME- I. OPENING DATE 29/10/2021	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE				
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES
1	UHBVN	33 KV TRANSFORMER CTS AS PER NIGAM SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-XXXX/R-II/DH/ UH/P&D/2020-21 WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS. RATIO 600-300/5-5-5-5A. RATIO 400-200/5-5-5-5A 33 KV PTS AS PER NIGAM SPECIFICATION NO. CSC-XXXX/R-II/DH/ UH/P&D/ 2015-16 WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS. 33 KV CT/PT COMBINED UNITS.	CLOSING DATE 27.10.2021	1.43 CRORE

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**MID-SEA DRUG BUST CASE**

# Aryan Khan played role in procurement: NCB

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday alleged that Aryan Khan, the accused in the mid-sea drug bust case, had a role to play in the illicit procurement and distribution of drugs and that he was in touch with some persons linked to an international drug network, even as a Special Court adjourned the hearing on bail pleas of Aryan and others for Thursday after partly hearing the arguments.

On a day when the arguments on the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan and other accused in the case remained inconclusive, the NCB upped the ante by making a sensational allegation: "There is material on record to show that Khan was in touch with some persons abroad who appear to be a part of an international drug network for illicit procurement of drugs. The investigation is still in progress".

During the inclusive arguments, Aryan's senior lawyer Amit Desai, Advocate Taraq Sayed, who appeared for Arbaaz Merchantt, lawyer Ali Kashif Khan Deshmukh, who represented Munmun Dhamecha and Advocate Raman, who appeared for

Mohak Jaswal put up their side of arguments, pressing for bail for their clients. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, appearing for NCB, opposed the bail pleas.

The Special court is hearing the bail pleas of Aryan and four others -- -Arbaaz Merchant, Mohak Jaswal, Nupur Satija, and Munmun Dhamecha. Special judge under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) VV Patil adjourned the hearing on the bail applications for 11 am on Thursday.

Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and four others --- Arbaaz, Mohak, Nupur and Dhamecha – were among the eight persons arrested by the NCB on October 3, a night after the NCB officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of Charas, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) and Rs 1.33 lakh in cash from Goa-bound cruise ship off the Mumbai coast here.

The total number of arrests in the sensational drug bust case has gone up to 20, with the arrest of a foreign national Okara Quazma and a local person Shivraj Harihan.

Earlier, in its affidavit filed before the court, the bail applications made before Special Judge, the NCB stated:



that the material collected during investigation had primarily revealed that "Khan has played a role in so far as illicit procurement and distribution of contraband is concerned".

Rebutting the contention of Aryan's lawyers that since the offences arraigned against Khan are Sections 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29, 35 of the NDPS Act and that since no Narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance has been recovered from him, the bar against grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act would not apply, the NCB told the court: "The role of one of the accused cannot be dissected from another. Even if there is no recovery of small substances, the accused are involved in conspiracy".

The NCB also told the court : "Aryan (Khan) and Arbaaz (Merchantt) have been associated in close collaboration with each other which is sufficient to attract offences under Section 29 NDPS act. It is so far apparent that Aachit and Harijan (two

other arrested accused) supplied charas to Khan and Merchantt".

"All ingredients of crime that are preparation, intention, attempt and commission are present for this applicant. The allegation of false implication is untrue and misleading as there is sufficient material in the form of WhatsApp chats, pictures, etc," the NCB affidavit stated.

"A bare perusal of the panchnama clearly reveals that Khan and Merchant were apprehended at the international cruise green gate Mumbai. So the investigation becomes imperative as to how the accused were to enter the cruise without a Classic MV Empress card," the NCB told the court.

Making a strong case for his client, Aryan's lawyer Amit Desai read out from the panchnama and said: (Arbaaz) Merchant admitted that he is consuming charas with (Aryan) Khan. On asking (Aryan) Khan, he also said he consumes charas. The substance was sealed. Then, a combined search was carried out. They found 6 gms of charas from Merchant. The first fact which is relevant is on their own panchnama, there is no recovery of possession. There is no debate on this, it is admitted and undisputed".

Desai went onto tell the court that

the NCB had seized a small quantity from Merchant. "The starting point of information is use, sale and consumption, but there is recovery from three persons so far but no recovery from me (Aryan)".

At one stage of arguments, Desai said: ".... there is an active drug chain, the prosecution) says. We see illicit trafficking in this reply throughout. They dump it all on (Aryan) Khan. And I am sure they know that it is a serious offence. In the NDPS Act, illicit trafficking is a term of law. It is not a casual term.

"The NCB, which knows the NDPS Act inside out, should know what is illicit trafficking. This boy has been charged with illicit trafficking. In SC terms, it is'inherently absurd,'" Desai argued.

"There is no recovery against him, and they are saying there is recovery from Dhamecha and Gomit etc. Nothing from this boy, he was not even on the cruise and they say illicit trafficking!.... They are talking about cultivation, sale, purchase, there is nothing against him! And this is a responsible agency... They are saying illicit trafficking and the only provision which deals with that is Section 27A," Desai told the court.

## Maha Cabinet supports reservation in promotions in Govt jobs

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday decided to support reservation in promotions in government jobs after taking into account a report that has established under representation of SCs, STs and other reserved categories in higher posts.

An official statement said the cabinet, at its meeting here, decided to support the policy of reservation in promotions for state employees from reserved categories and will put forth the government's stand accordingly before the Supreme Court, where the matter is pending.

An additional affidavit will be submitted by the state government in the Supreme Court which will underscore the state's stand on the reservation in promotions issue, said an official.

The Cabinet discussed a report prepared by chief secretary Sitaram Kunte on the current representation of SCs,

STs and backward communities in higher posts in public jobs.

The report has stated that there is not enough representation of these communities in senior positions in the State cadre and thus the Maharashtra government has decided to support the demand of reservation in promotions, the official said.

The report and its findings will be mentioned in the affidavit that is proposed to be submitted in the apex court, he said. In early May, the General Administration Department issued an interim order removing reservation in promotions for public servants belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes and Special Backward Classes categories.

However, following strong protests, the state government later issued a circular staying the interim order. **PTI**

## Karunakaran’s daughter Padmaja alleges betrayal by Cong leader

**KOCHI:** Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of former Chief Minister late K Karunakaran has lambasted T N Prathapan MP for 'backstabbing' her during the 2021 Assembly election from Thrissur.

In a complaint to the Congress High Command, Padmaja, who lost narrowly to P Balachandran of the CPI by a thin margin of 946 votes, has alleged that a group led by Prathapan worked to ensure her defeat in the election as part

of rampant groupism in the party.

"Though I had lost the 2016 Assembly election from Thrissur, I stayed put in the constituency and worked for the Congress. It was because of the track record the party decided to field me from Thrissur. Many Left supporters had voted for me despite the efforts by a group led by Prathapan who represents Thrissur in the Lok Sabha," Padmaja had said in the complaint.

Interestingly, the Congress, which has strong presence in Thrissur district lost in 12 out of the 13 Assembly constituencies in the district. Padmaja has named six persons, all local leaders, who plotted against her. "I was denied permission to board the vehicle in which Priyanka Gandhi was holding a road show in my constituency," said Padmaja. All those named by her in the complaint were one-time acolytes of her late father Karunakaran. **PNS**

## Double life term for Sooraj in Uthara case

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

Sooraj, who got his wife Uthara killed by inducing a homicidal snakebite was sentenced by a Kollam Court to double imprisonment and fine of ₹five lakh . He was also slapped with two more imprisonment terms, 10 years and seven years respectively in two other cases of causing hurt by means of poison and destroying evidence. The sentences will run consecutively which means that Sooraj would have to remain in prison for the rest of his life.

Additional Sessions Court Judge M Manoj pronounced on Wednesday that he agreed with the contention of the prosecution that it was a rarest of the rare case and the maximum punishment is being awarded to the accused. Public prosecutor G Mohanraj told the media after the sentencing that it was Sooraj's age that saved the accused from the gallows.

The judge concurred with the prosecution's argument that it was the first time in the State wherein a living animal was used to murder a person.

Sooraj had married Uthara, a physically challenged girl after taking hefty dowry and decid-

ed to bump her off so that he could walk way with the properties worth crores, gold and brand new car.

The Court had on Monday found the accused guilty of offences under Section 302, 307,328 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This is the very first case in the entire country where a man has been found guilty of murder using a snake.

Although two similar cases have been reported in the past, both the cases resulted in the acquittal of the accused as their guilt could not be established. However, in the instant case, the Police had successfully cracked the case using a dummy reptile and recreating the entire crime scene.

Manimeghala, mother of Uthara, told reporters that she was unhappy with the verdict as the accused deserved nothing less than capital punishment. "Let us wait for the full copy of the verdict. We will definitely press for death penalty because we have to make the lives of our daughters safe and secured," she said.

Kerala has been witnessing an unprecedented increase in the number of dowry related deaths over the last few years.

## Kerala: Covid cases keep on increasing

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

Kerala Government's claims that the Covid-19 cases in Kerala are coming down suffered a setback on Wednesday as 11, 079 new cases were diagnosed out of 89,995 samples tested during the last 24 hours.

The day also saw 123 patients succumbing to the pandemic which took the death toll to 26, 571 till date.

Government doctors in Ernakulam said the hike in the number of patients is a matter of concern as the State is in a celebration mood with Navrathri and Vijaya Dashami festivities adding to the fervour. Temples are reporting reasonably good crowds and this has upset the rhythm of peoples movement.

Traffic snarls have returned to all thoroughfares across the State as shopping has picked up everywhere.

Test Positivity Rate also shot up to 12.31 per cent. Needless to say, parents and teachers are worried about the increase in the number of persons tested positive with Covid-19.

## President Kovind to celebrate Dussehra with jawans in Drass

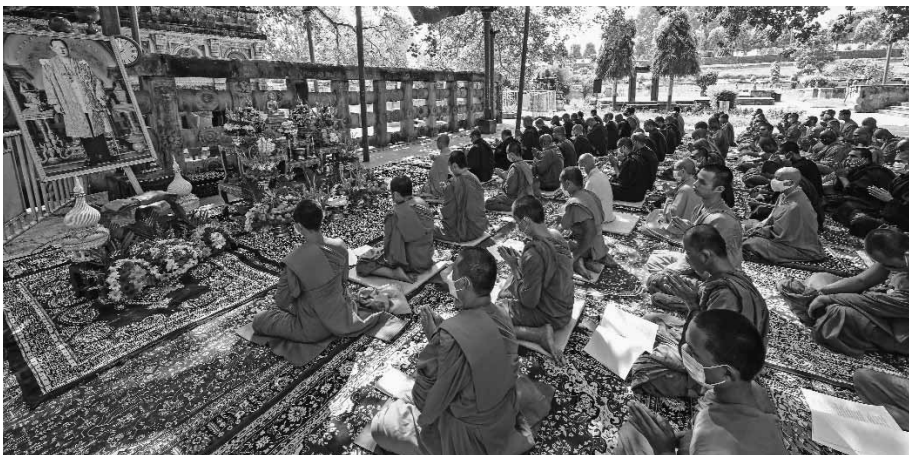
**New Delhi:** Breaking away from the tradition, President Ram Nath Kovind will celebrate Dussehra this year with jawans in Ladakh's Drass area.

Traditionally, the president has been participating in Dussehra celebrations in the national capital.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communiqué issued on Wednesday, the president will visit Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir on October 14 and 15. On Thursday, the president will perform Sindhu Darshan puja at Sindhu Ghat, Leh, the communiqué said.

He will also interact with troops at Udhampur (J-K) in the evening.

On October 15, Kovind will pay tributes at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass and interact with officers and jawans.Dussehra will be celebrated on Friday. **PTI**



Buddhist monks from Thailand offer prayers on the memorial day of Thailand's late king Bhumibol Adulyadej at Mahabodhi temple, in Bodh Gaya on Wednesday

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

## SC raps UP Bar Council for no action against lawyers submitting fake insurance claims

The Supreme Court has rapped the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh for not taking action against advocates who allegedly submitted fake claims under Motor Accident Claims Tribunal and Workmen Compensation Act causing loss in crores of rupees to the insurance companies. It is very unfortunate that in such a serious matter, where the allegations are of filing of fake claim petitions involving advocates, the Bar Council of UP is not giving instructions to them for making submissions, the apex court said.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna said it shows the

callousness and insensitiveness on the part of the UP Bar Council and asked Chairman of Bar Council and senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra to look into the same. "As such it is the duty of the Bar Council of the State to take action against the advocates who are found to have been indulged in such unethical manner by filing the fake claims under the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal and Workmen Compensation Act.

"As observed herein above, it appears that Bar Council of State is not interested in taking action and, therefore, now the Bar Council of India has to step in and take appropriate action against the erring advo-

cates, who are found to have indulged into filing of such fake claims," the bench said.

The top court also directed a Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted in compliance of the order dated October 7, 2015 passed by the Allahabad High Court, to submit report with regard to the probe in a sealed cover before it on or before November 15.

The apex court took note of a supplementary affidavit filed on behalf of UP Government stating that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted in compliance of the order dated October 7, 2015 passed by the Allahabad High Court.

## Yogi: UP an emerging economy, has best investment opportunities

**Gorakhpur (UP):** Uttar Pradesh is changing and it is an emerging economy in the country, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday.

"In about 44 schemes in the country, UP is number one," he said, and added that the state has the best investment opportunities.

"We all have to work jointly to establish it among the leading economies in the country," Adityanath said after inaugurating the Mahant Avaidyanath Mahavidyalaya in Jungle Kaudia block here.

"Uttar Pradesh is changing and it is an emerging economy in the country," the chief minister added.

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma and Minister of State Neelima Katiyar, along with MPs and MLAs of the area, were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister unveiled a 12-foot bronze statue of Mahant Avaidyanath and also inaugurated the monogram of the college.

The environment of security in the state "is the best in the country", Adityanath said.

"Over the last four years, 30,000 female police personnel are guaranteeing the safety of

women and girls in the state," he said.

The Chief Minister claimed that the state has successfully prevented the spread of the coronavirus.

"Earlier during festivals, the coronavirus spread was at its peak but we successfully prevented its spread," he said. Attacking the opposition Chief Minister said, "During the previous Governments, roads were not wide, power supply was erratic, poor were not getting rations and the guarantee of security to women was not there."

"When work is done with good intention, the result is also good. Earlier, farmers' produce was not purchased but now, farmers are getting the price of their produce at several purchase centres, and the government is sending the payment directly into their accounts," he added. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gorakhpur is becoming a hub of education and health services, Adityanath said.

"Within a month, the AIIMS will be inaugurated by PM Modi, and in Gorakhpur, Ayush University is being established," he added. **PTI**

## DMK MP held in connection with unnatural death of employee

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**

The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu despite scoring an impressive win in the local body election held last week is facing an embarrassing situation because of police cases against two Lok Sabha members of the party.

TRVS Ramesh, representing Cuddalore constituency in the Lok Sabha who is also a leading industrialist, surrendered before the Judicial Magistrate Court in Panruti on Monday in connection with a suspected murder case. Ramesh was on the run from the Police but surrendered as per the dictate of the DMK supremo, Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin, the chief minister.

The MP was sent to judicial custody for two days and he is likely to be questioned by the CB-CID of Tamil Nadu Police.



Ramesh has been listed as the prime accused in the unnatural death of K Govindarasu (60), a supervisor working in the cashew nut factory owned by the former.

The Police have already arrested five persons in connection with the case. Ramesh alleged that certain political parties were indulging in politics of vendetta and that was why he decided to give in to the Court. "As a sincere functionary

of the DMK and having great regard for my leader, I am surrendering before the court. I will legally prove with evidence that the complaint against me is baseless," Ramesh said in the statement.

But A Ashvatham, a Chennai based lawyer, who is one of the spokespersons of the BJP, who has been pursuing the case told *The Pioneer* that the death of Govindarasu was a clear case of murder.

## 11 more die of Covid in WB

**Kolkata:** The Covid-19 toll on Wednesday rose to 18,935 after 11 more people succumbed to the disease, while 771 fresh cases pushed the tally to 15,78,482, a bulletin released by the state health department said.

North 24 Parganas accounted for four deaths, followed by three in Kolkata.

Of the 771 new cases, 203 were recorded in Kolkata and 128 in North 24 Parganas.

At least 775 more patients recuperated from the infection, thus taking the total number of people who have recovered from the disease to 15,51,890.

West Bengal currently has 7,657 active cases. The positivity rate stands at 2.74 per cent. **PTI**



People get themselves registered in order to get a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at a free vaccination camp at Kajupada, in Mumbai on Wednesday

**PTI**





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Bailed out

After its decision to ban Chhath puja, the Delhi Govt writes to the Centre seeking guidelines

Politics, as expected, mars the festival season, more so in Delhi. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party are locked in a fistfight over people's participation in the Chhath Puja, scheduled for November 10. Both have deliberately dragged the "uttaranchalis" -- people of Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh -- into the imbroglia. In 2020, when the country was under the deathly spell of the COVID-19 pandemic, politics took a back seat as the Union and State Governments banned the public celebration of all festivals. Neither the AAP nor the BJP or any of the fringe religious outfits thought of politicising the festivals. This time around, the pandemic situation has improved, and politics has reared its head once again. It began with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee on September 29 ordering a complete ban on the sale and bursting of firecrackers till January 1, 2022.



Rajasthan and Haryana followed suit though Uttar Pradesh is still silent on the issue this year. As the fireworks issue is directly linked to pollution, parties saw little scope for deriving political mileage. The Supreme Court, too, said it could not endanger people's right to life by allowing the use of crackers containing chemicals.

The Delhi Government followed up the cracker ban with an order that the Chhath Puja will not be allowed in public places, public grounds, riverbanks, and temples. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) cited the pandemic and advised

the people to celebrate it at home. Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal chaired the DDMA meeting in which, apart from Delhi ministers, AIIMS Delhi, senior officers of NITI Aayog, ICMR, and the NDMA were present. Strangely, the same DDMA lifted restrictions on large gatherings for Ramleela and Durga Puja, though with safety protocols in place. Crowds were allowed at these events if they adhered to social distancing and other COVID appropriate norms. The BJP, which was agreeable to the Delhi Government permitting crowds at Ramleela; however, protested the ban on Chhath Puja. It raised the bogey of "uttaranchali" people of Delhi and lodged several protests. As politics heated up in the national Capital, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, wrote to the Centre asking it to issue Chhath guidelines. Perhaps aware of the political implications of angering the sizeable population of "uttaranchalis" in Delhi, Sisodia recalled that Chhath is a historic festival and sought Central guidelines in order to facilitate these people to celebrate it. Did he forget, conveniently, that his Government had banned the celebrations and that the meeting was attended by the Lt Governor and Central COVID task force members? Or was he obliquely shifting the responsibility to the Centre? In any case, the safety guidelines during festivals have long proved ineffective because they are illogical. There is no way of a crowd maintaining social distancing, for instance.

### PICTALK



Devotees at the Sri Govindaraja Swamy temple, in Tirupati

PTI

## Blood and gore

Kashmiris wake up to ferocity again after two years of silence in the Kashmir Valley

Autumn, the golden season of Kashmir that paints the Valley in the shades of chinar's fallen leaves, is turning 'red' this season. The rustling of fallen chinar leaves has been overshadowed by the 'bloodletting' in different parts of Srinagar. Palpable tension is in the air. The targeted killings of members belonging to minority communities a few days ago, has once again triggered a fresh wave of insecurity among the larger population of Kashmiri migrants and non-locals staying in different parts of the Valley to earn their livelihood. A large number of them have immediately shifted their families to safer locations in Jammu and are waiting for the situation to return to normalcy before rejoining their duties. After the abrogation of Article 370, the overall security scenario in Kashmir Valley seemed to be improving. The Union Territory administration was focusing on hard selling 'Kashmir' as the favorite tourist destination. However, the recent targeted killings in the Valley have raised questions over the safety and security of locals as well as tourists.

It has also triggered outrage from the Opposition leaders who blamed the Centre administration for not being able to curb such attacks.

The year started with the killing of a famous Punjabi jeweller in the heart of Srinagar. It was followed up with the killing of the son of a Dhaba owner in a high security zone. The trend continued and in response, top commanders of different terrorist outfits were neutralised. Adopting a shift in their strategy, the Pakistan-based terrorist groups are employing 'hybrid terrorists' to disrupt the stability and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the forthcoming Assembly polls. Majority of these hybrid terrorists are not on the radar of the security forces, making their job more difficult to track down their footprints. With the recent killings of Makhan Lal Bindroo, a street vendor from Bihar's Bhagalpur, school teacher Deepak Chand and principal Supinder Kaur in the Valley, the terrorist handlers have attempted to create a communal divide aimed at triggering a fresh round of exodus. We have to fight these beasts. Whether this violence is a statement by the much dreaded Taliban remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency has detained over 500 people after civilian deaths in the area. The culprits will eventually be held; however, in the meantime, the Kashmiriyat must speak up for the victims.

# Lakhimpur Kheri— Was it avoidable?

A protest must have a specific purpose and an endpoint resolution of conflict. It cannot be an open-ended exercise free of any stipulations



VIVEK GUMASTE

The Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which 8 people lost their lives during the farmer's protest was a colossal tragedy that was avoidable. Paradoxically, it was also a calamity waiting to happen. A political cauldron of noxious ingredients had been brewing for some time. Dogged stubbornness and thoughtless provocative utterances had heightened the tension; the bottled-up frustration of a jaded and over-stretched protest was waiting to explode. A frontal collision was inevitable.

The spark came on October 3 when a cavalcade of Union Home Minister of State Ajay Mishra allegedly ploughed through a group of protesting farmers killing four of them. Angered by the killing it is alleged that the protestors went on a rampage. dragged the BJP members out of cars and mercilessly beat 4 of them to death.

Details of this gruesome incident are murky. As per an FIR lodged by Jagjit Singh, a farm protestor, "We were holding a peaceful protest at Maharaja Agrasen Inter College ground...when the Union MoS for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish came in an SUV along with two other four-wheel vehicles, with arms and weapons, at a high speed. Ashish Mishra, while sitting on the left side of the Mahindra Thar car, fired shots and crushed people while moving forward."

This version is contested by Ajay Mishra who claims, "Stones came flying at the vehicle when it was on the way to receive the chief guest, the driver lost balance...and some could have died in that accident. My driver and three BJP workers who were in the vehicle were chased and attacked with rocks, sticks and swords...they were lynched."

He had earlier denied that his son was at the scene of the incident. Which of these two conflicting versions is true is difficult to ascertain at this stage. However, a series of sequential videos that surfaced online suggest that pelting of stones was the initial trigger for this mayhem.

Nevertheless, a proper enquiry is warranted so that the guilty may be tried and punished

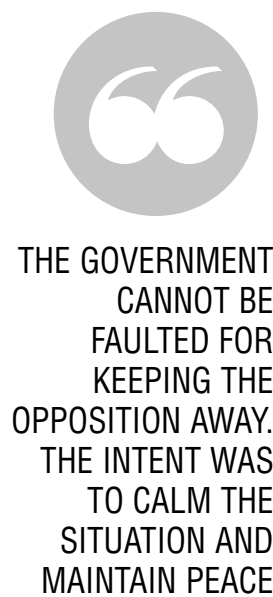


as per the law. Accordingly, CM Yogi Adityanath has announced a judicial inquiry headed by a retired judge to look into the incident.

In parallel with a call for an enquiry, however, a dangerous and mischievous narrative is being played out in certain sections of the media that is disturbing and concerning; a partisan description that tends to favor one side over the other and places a premium on one set of lives in comparison to the other - all with an intent to put the Government in the dock for an offence, the culpability of which is yet to be determined.

A well known newspaper avers: The BJP Government has a playbook...vis a vis popular protest...Let the issue fester, and try to tire out the protesters, while actively seeking to delegitimise them, by labelling them "anti-national" and calling them other names. Then, if matters escalate, bring out the barricades and the force. Treat it like a law-and-order issue in a police state, and don't let leaders of the Opposition come to the site of the protest or the violence, to do what is surely their job as politicians and people's representatives.

First to invoke presumptuous theories to pre-deter-



THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE FAULTED FOR KEEPING THE OPPOSITION AWAY. THE INTENT WAS TO CALM THE SITUATION AND MAINTAIN PEACE

mine guilt in a sensitive case like this devious. Second, by using the phrase, 'bring out the barricades and the force' to describe the BJP's modus operandi, the editorial has sealed the BJP's guilt without a trial. Such statements uttered without evidence are reckless and misleading.

Additionally, the Government cannot be faulted for keeping opposition leaders away. The intent was to calm the situation and maintain peace. In fact, it was done at the behest of farm leader Rakesh Tikait who feared that the politicians were there to exploit the situation as indicated by some news reports.

Coming to the million-dollar question: Was this incident avoidable? Dissent and protest are an integral part of democracy. However, one must also realise that protest is only a means to an end and not an end in itself. A protest to be valid must have a specific purpose and an endpoint resolution of conflict. It cannot be an open-ended exercise free of any stipulations. A prolonged directionless protest becomes a fertile ground for frustration, violence and even killings as illustrated by this incident; anti-social elements are also

likely to take advantage of the situation.

Justice Khanwilkar of the Supreme Court on October 1, when responding to a farmer's outfit seeking permission to hold a protest in Jantar Mantar rightly posed this question to the farmers "You are saying you want to protest, protest what? The Act has been stayed by the Court. The Centre has said it will not be implemented." Referring to the deaths in Lakhimpur, the honorable judge had also stressed the lack of accountability: "When such events happen, no one takes responsibility."

And this is not the first time that violence has overtaken the farmer's protest - January 26 is still fresh in our minds. The farmers' protest has outlived its utility. Prolongation inadvertently provided a fertile milieu for this ugly altercation. With a little good sense, it could have been avoided. It is time to call off the protest to prevent more Lakhimpurs. Concomitantly, all those guilty for each of the 8 deaths, whoever they may be, must be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

(The writer is an academic and political commentator. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IT'S ALL FAIR IN POLITICS

Sir — The old adage 'all is fair in love and war' perhaps should go now with an addition — 'all is fair in love, war and politics' — given that politics after the independence has undergone a sea-change vis-a-vis its broad objective of leading the country in the right direction, safeguarding its boundaries and serving all its people and their political leanings. Ironically, this comprehensive goal has narrowed down to a mere *raison d'être* of attainment of power — be it either by hook or crook — harboured by the political parties who shrink from doing what is right for various political reasons.

With the Assembly polls in six States drawing closer, the tempers are higher and the political activities getting more hectic in the most politically significant Uttar Pradesh, in particular, where the ruling regime is busy with the damage limitation exercise following the recent Lakhimpur Kheri violence. The incident could not have come for all the Opposition parties at a more opportune time as they have found a common plea to castigate in union the Government in a bid to brighten their respective electoral prospects in the upcoming elections. In politics, with scenes changing kaleidoscopically has become a new norm and any prediction may fall on stony ground.

Azhara Khan | Rampur

### SOFT DRINKS ARE HARD ON HEALTH

Sir — Amitabh Bachchan once disclosed at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad about him not advertising for cola drinks after a student drew his attention towards the harmful ingredients in such drinks. Even the cola companies voluntarily stopped selling colas in schools worldwide in view of increasing obesity in school-going children. The Indian Government should not only ban advertisements but also ban the sale of colas. Earlier, too, soft-drink manufacturers were asked to remove an oil from their products which was found to be harmful for health. It is noteworthy that such drinks are prohibited in Parliament canteens.

## Vaccine on the way



If the Drugs Controller General of India accepts the recommendation of the Subject Experts Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) to grant the emergency use authorisation for Covaxin among children in the 2-18 age group, it will mark a new phase in the process of vaccinating the population against COVID-19. Vaccinating the paediatric population will take the ongoing nationwide immunisation drive one stage further. The green signal which the Drug Controller is currently considering, if (and when) given, will

make Covaxin the first COVID-19 vaccine anywhere in the world for administering to children as young as 2 years. Scientific rigour should determine if India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine proves to be safe and effective in children as in adults. The clinical trials data must be placed in public domain so as to instil confidence in the general public, especially parents, that children can be inoculated with Covaxin against COVID-19. It is understood that Covaxin now recommended for children and adolescents is the same as the one currently being used among adults. It must be confirmed that Covaxin is equally good for children despite their distinctness in terms of anatomy and physiology by virtue of them being children. Clinical trials data that the vaccine has produced similar results in children and teenagers in the process of growing up and grown-ups must be sound enough to ensure that no risk is taken.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

It is time that the Union Government, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and soft-drink manufacturers introduce healthier options which not only replace cola-drinks in India, but also dominate global-market by breaking the monopoly of harmful cola drinks in tune with ambitious 'Make in India' vision. Children should also be made aware of healthier drinks like *lassi*, *chhachh*, coconut water etc. It may be recalled that almost half a century back, a famous rose-drink manufactured by a private confectionary company registered at Gwalior was a popular drink for persons of all ages.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

### RESPECT IS GREATER THAN WORSHIP

Sir — A murderer takes a life, but a rapist destroys a life. "Sexual intercourse done by a man with a woman without her valid consent is rape" as defined under the Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. Sexual assault is the most heinous crime against women. The aftermath of rape

## SOUNDBITE

Nevertheless, I congratulate Fadnavis. Because of him I remembered that I was the CM for four times.



NCP president —Sharad Pawar



VT-4 Tank is another symbol of Pakistan-China strategic cooperation and defence collaboration. Its introduction will boost our capabilities.

Pakistan Chief of Army Staff —Qamar Javed Bajwa

I did a lot of research at my level for *Rashmi Rocket*, apart from what was going on at the scripting level.



Actor —Taapsee Pannu



My advice to Rishabh Pant is to play with freedom and have that air of arrogance and confidence.

Former Australia cricketer —Shane Watson

Only two or three per cent of farmers in Punjab are part of the agitation. Most people in Punjab are peace loving.



BJP national general secretary —Dushyant Gautam

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FIRST COLUMN

CHANGING INNOVATION LANDSCAPE IN INDIA

India needs a futuristic approach to trigger innovation at the base of the pyramid



MOHIT GAMBHIR

Innovation in India has always been human centric. We innovate to resolve the problems of mankind, and to create a better life for the common people. Today, the scope of innovation and entrepreneurship spreads across all facets of life. Students, researchers and intellectuals are actively pursuing innovation and entrepreneurship as career options. India should move from coveted innovation to the open innovation model. Open Innovation model is a futuristic approach to instigate the innovation and entrepreneurship at the base of pyramid — at the level of society and educational institutions. The growth of new India can only be achieved by making open innovation pervasive and fuelled by the right kind of training, skill upgradation, reskilling, and apt infrastructural support at school and institutional level. As an interventional initiative, Ministry of Education has established an innovationcell at the All-India Council for Technical Education in 2018. Since then, the Ministry



of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) has taken multiple policy and program initiative to establish the world's biggest open innovation model at global stage. The Cell works on four pillars of excellence: Policy intervention; handholding of HEIs and schools, faculty and students; impact assessment and facilitating national and international platforms for Indian and global students. Initiatives like the Innovation Council in higher educational institutes has been purposed to streamline the ground level ecosystem and handholding of ideas from students.

The beginning of Smart India Hackathon, Toycathon, Singapore-India Hackathon, ASEAN India Hackathon between 11 countries, SAMADHAN Challenge, Ideathon for pandemic, Drug Discovery Hackathon, and Innovation Contest has set the foundation for world's biggest open innovation model and it is scaling at a rate where India could assimilate its new age innovative and aspirational human resource. As India is working relentlessly towards a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, it must look for alternative career opportunities in term of innovation and entrepreneurship. Incubating the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in our youth is a challenging job and it cannot be simply achieved by flooding the market with investment opportunities, subsidies and grants. It requires a keenly calibrated system of innovation management, especially championing open innovation management at school and higher education level. For impact assessment, MIC has started Atal Ranking for Institution's on Innovation Achievements to measure the major indicators at the higher educational institute level. At industry and ecosystem level, NITI Aayog has started India Innovation Index on the line of Global Innovation Index by adapting non-traditional approaches for measuring innovation such as patents per million of population, publication in scientific journals, percentage of GDP spending on research. Empirical evidence suggests that innovation enables social welfare. Health innovations like penicillin use, transplants, and artificial limbs have saved and improved the quality of life of millions. Satellites, television and radio technologies are being used for the welfare of farmers and in disaster management. Modern farming equipment, fertilizers, Grameen Bank, microfinance and crop insurance schemes have raised agricultural productivity, improving food security and freeing up labour which can participate in other industries.

Nothing can progress without innovation and everything of today exists because of yesterday's innovation and invention. We need to innovate to accommodate evolving situations and needs and prepare a wonderful place to live in, not only for us but for our future generations as well.

(The writer is Director in the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The views expressed are personal.)

# Extending sympathies to the new laureate

Abdulrazak Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa



BALAKRISHNAN SATYAM

The French poet, Rene Proudhomme, who was the first Nobel Literature laureate in 1901, wrote in his famous 'The Broken Vase': Thus often does the hand we love, barely touching the heart, wound it. Then the heart cracks by itself and the flower of its love dies.

He's speaking of a delicate and vulnerable aspect of us, and how easily it can dry up. Literature has always been about sensitivity and sensitization. It nourishes and rekindles the soul to fellow feeling. In the hurly-burly of our daily lives, and competitiveness and ambition, and the pursuit of profit, we are indifferent to the outcome for others, to their sentiments, or even their deprivation. There is an inherent conflict among us as we focus on our goals, and marginalise others whose interests don't hold concern for us.

But there are witnesses compiling every injustice, recording every protest, and kindling people's memories about glory and decline. A few of these observers serve not only to voice the experience of the victims, but give us insights on how humanity at large can live more sensitively. Their words stir us, find their way inside to lash at our conscience, and refocus our thinking on what it is to be essentially human.

Another Frenchman, especially famous for declining the Nobel prize for Literature, Jean Paul Sartre, declared: 'Hell is other people'. There is a constant challenge to try to understand and empathise with others, further aggravated by differences in language, custom, and traditional beliefs. It is here that writers often build bridges by establishing commonalities and explaining away differences.

As the celebrated 1950 Literature laureate, Bertrand Russell, said at the Stockholm Concert Hall, "...sympathy is a genuine motive, some people at some times are made somewhat uncomfortable by the sufferings of some other people. It is sympathy that has produced the many humanitarian advances of the last hundred years."

There are many literary prizes, so how is the Nobel Prize for Literature different, apart from perhaps, having the largest bounty? Because it is given out at the same time as awards in sciences — it accords the same prestige and acclaim to novelists, poets, and futurists as is enjoyed by biochemists, astrophysicists and developmental economists.

It also reflects the Nobel Foundation's outlook of recognizing a broader contribution to modern human heritage. Rudyard Kipling was the youngest to win it at 42, but generally the prize recognises much older writers with eight or more books behind them. In terms of sheer number of copies sold, and cultural impact, Harper Lee could have been considered for her 'To Kill A Mockingbird', but that's not how this prize is awarded - for one, that was her only novel, till she



THERE ARE MANY LITERARY PRIZES, SO HOW IS THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE DIFFERENT APART FROM, PERHAPS, HAVING THE LARGEST BOUNTY? BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN OUT AT THE SAME TIME AS AWARDS IN SCIENCES — IT ACCORDS THE SAME PRESTIGE AND ACCLAIM AS IS ENJOYED BY BIOCHEMISTS, ASTROPHYSICISTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL ECONOMISTS

(The writer is a Creative Director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)



published a sequel several decades later with nothing in between.

The committee has also not looked towards any trailblazing authors in the sci-fi category despite it being the fastest evolving genre as technology itself has been racing at the speed of Moore's Law. What the jury does seem to endeavour to do is to cast its net far and wide to ensure authors from many corners of the world are considered.

Possibly the most interesting reference to Zanzibar in the world of literature was in 1968, when Brunner wrote an imaginative sci-fi novel titled, "Stand on Zanzibar". The book's title refers to how large an island could hold the planet's population if everyone had to get just enough standing space. Brunner's speculation was that the Isle of Man (about 600 sq. km) wouldn't suffice in the future and that by 2010, it would take a Zanzibar (about 1600 sq.km) to hold everyone. The theme of his Hugo award-winning novel was overcrowding, which is a common urban fear when there is an influx from faraway lands.

Which brings us to this year's Literature laureate, Abdulrazzak Gurnah, born in Zanzibar in 1948. Being on an important trade shipping route in the Indian Ocean, besides Bantus, there are people of Omani, Yemeni, southern Iranian, and even Indian descent. At the same time, it has been known as a hub of the slave trade where Arabs sold natives from Malawi and Mozambique to visiting ships.

When the Zanzibar Revolution of 1964 overthrew the traditional oppressors, Gurnah fled as a teenager and started his life anew in the British Isles. So, he has experienced how complex and burdensome our identities can be.

In the early pages of his novel 'Desertion', he says about a character, Hassanali: "He could not disguise his anxiety and people who had known him all his life knew this about him, and made a joke out of it. They said it was something to do with his jinsi, his ancestry. Indian people are cowardly, they said, hopping about like nervous butterflies. His father was not timid. He had been a hothead in his youth, who sang and danced and raced the streets with anyone, and he was the Indian in his jinsi. It was God who made him like this, nothing to do with jinsi, and who was he to argue."

Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity - as a Tanzanian (Zanzibar opted to merge with Tanzania after the Revolution) -- and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa. He has taught in Nigeria, which also has ethnic as well as acute communal strife. And he's known since his mid-teens what it is to adapt to life in a European culture.

As the last few years have caused waves of migrants out of West Asia and North Africa, and very recently, Afghanistan - the travails of the uprooted and the kinds of baggage they bring into their new places of residence will

be in the spotlight.

Exiles who had to flee from their native lands are already distrustful of fate, and suffer to some extent from PTSD. Their attention is split between what's still going on in the places they have departed from, and the challenges in their new environment. They haven't the preparation that a graduate student has had before he or she lands up overseas on a good campus. Such exiles find themselves usually in less friendly locations than a university. Gurnah has been lucky in that regard.

The expatriate experience is very different depending on one's age at arrival, line of work — whether a specialist in demand or unskilled, level of affluence, and aptitude for networking. Openness towards the way of life in the adopted country does help in integrating better, and gaining acceptance. An exile could have a sense of betrayal of their native culture when they move closer to a sense of belonging in their land of arrival.

In the future, we might think differently about the elements of identity, given the limitations that our instinctive ones about language, ethnicity, creed, and district have. We'll then identify Literature laureates less by language of writing or nationality and instead emphasise their literary genre and individuality more. We'd then also be narrowing the 'gulf between cultures and continents' that the Nobel citation refers to in 2021.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

LIES WERE SPREAD ABOUT SAVARKAR. IT WAS MAHATMA GANDHI WHO ASKED HIM TO FILE MERCY PETITIONS. —UNION DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH



THE BJP IS PRESENTING DISTORTED HISTORY. IF THIS CONTINUES, THEY WILL MAKE SAVARKAR THE FATHER OF THE NATION. —AIMIM CHIEF ASADUDDIN OWAISSI

# Healthcare infrastructure needs a check-up

Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised and harmonised to truly transform the healthcare infrastructure



HARSH VARDHAN

Reports of shortages of hospital beds, ventilators, medical equipment and doctors and nurses to cope with growing cases of COVID-19 infections have thrown into sharp focus the need to accelerate digital transformation of healthcare infrastructure worldwide.

Modern medicine has been enriched by genomics, telemedicine, virtual reality for surgery and many biopharmaceutical advances. But behind the many medical advancements, true digital transformation of health infrastructure — hospitals, blood and vaccine banks, centres for dialysis, ambulatory surgery, imaging and radiology — is slow. Unlike for other sectors, digital transformation to

enable Internet of Things (IoT), 5G connectivity, and artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) is much more complex for healthcare.

Healthcare infrastructure innovation has been and remains curtailed by three main issues: firstly, compliance with regulatory standards at national and international levels; secondly, multiple forms of medical data, from patient records to X-rays, CT scans and other analogue or digital data; and thirdly, reluctance to change which prevents a clear digital dashboard to allow administrators to respond, plan and predict in real time.

Many hospitals have sophisticated equipment have yet to fully capture and update medical records to enable clinical



decision support and real-time hospital workflow, let alone combine them seamlessly with long-term care and disease management.

How can planners and administrators improve information technology (IT) infrastructure to prepare for a true digital transformation for the healthcare sector? Several key steps can kick-start or accelerate the process. The first is to build or enable real-time data

capture at every touchpoint of healthcare hardware. This means installing sensors, and embedding IoT and high-speed communication throughout each facility down to the last piece of equipment.

The second is to break down information silos once and for all. Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised, harmonised and shared, from patient records, X-rays and CT scans to data on the functioning of each piece of equipment and machinery within the infrastructure.

This roadblock has eluded decades of effort by IT consultants and systems integrators. A protocol of "golden data" in a common format will enable visibility of the entire healthcare enterprise.

Third, the same visibility can facilitate interoperability of different healthcare systems — electronic patient health records can be analysed alongside COVID-19 infection trends and the demand for vaccines and the cold-chain infrastructure needed to store or deliver them.

Fourth, healthcare assets, be it CT scanners, operating rooms or ventilators, have to be tracked on usage and location levels. This can help predict breakdowns, plan for maintenance and help the next shift of medical staff to locate them.

Fifth, such tracking will support more vital C-suite decisions such as scenario planning which can calibrate potential equipment shortage, availability of spares, and service-level agreements with

suppliers with hospital manpower planning. By standardising protocols for maintenance — helped by cloud-enabled real-time data — productivity will improve.

Sixth, there are lessons to be drawn from a concept known as inventory technical management practised by MRO service providers. Those who are more digitally enabled have upscaled to the next level — flexible pooling of inventory to prevent duplication and to share hardware more intelligently.

Finally, the guardians of healthcare hardware can take tentative steps in AI/ML without sacrificing medical outcomes. These include sensors that can monitor health data of each patient more frequently than checks by nurses, and the

use of chatbots to allow nurses or junior doctors to ask questions when certain patient symptoms occur or to check when a piece of equipment needs to be sent for servicing.

Through AI/ML, healthcare hardware can be "trained" to self-correct. It can learn prescriptive maintenance through protocols that can predict failures and recommend actions to take. Over time, each major piece of equipment can instruct itself on when to prepare for maintenance, the possible risks, and the pre-emptive measures it should take.

Covid-19 has triggered a once-in-decades shift in the thinking behind healthcare administration. It is time for the hospital to get out of the sick bed and embrace digital transformation.

(The writer is President and Head of ERP Solutions, Ramco Systems. The views expressed are personal.)



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# EXPLORING HERITAGE AND FOLK MUSIC

SPIC MACAY has been giving a glimpse into the rich cultural legacy and art forms over the years. TANMAYA DAS finds out the true essence of Indian culture by exploring what has changed in the post-pandemic world

Having your day started with mesmerising folk music and traditions may help you to appreciate the charm of Indian history and culture. To gain some insights on Indian values, I attended an online series of programs, organised by SPIC MACAY, ANUBHAV-3, where more than 14,000 students have participated in several workshops globally. The seven-day online sessions and workshops are helping people to understand the core values of rich classical music and Indian heritage. The event will continue till October 15.

#### ◆First day

The first day of the event started with the line-up of yoga and meditation sessions on *nada* yoga or meditation on sound. After *shramdaan* (donation of labour) as a part of selfless service to society, the screening of Oscar-winning film *Gandhi* by Richard Attenborough was shown, followed by a discussion on the movie with Professor Gita Dharampal of Heidelberg University. In the afternoon, a holistic lunch was organised where participants were advised to eat sattvic food. Then, an orientation programme was held, in order to brief the students on the cultural extravaganza. In the evening, the early holistic dinner was prepared to help the students to wake up early the next day. The first day concluded with the two classical music concerts by Indian vocalists Sheik Mahboob Subhani, Kaleeshabi Mahaboob (*nadaswaram*) and Begum Parveen Sultana.

#### ◆Second day

The second day marked the beginning of five-day classical dance, music and craft workshops by eminent Gurus, for selected students.

The day started at 4 am or brahma *muhurta* with yoga and meditation sessions on *naad* yoga by Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, who descends from a 20 generation-long line of *dhrupad* musicians from the Dagar *gharana*. In tranquil succession, the session of hatha yoga began under the guidance of Amit Shamnani, which began with the visualisation of the ultimate source of energy to boost the concentration power, which was followed by the Surya namaskar session.

After the yoga sessions, participants were asked to perform *shramdaan*. The students were urged to do household chores and cleaning before having a holistic and sattvic breakfast from 7 to 8:45 am. After the holistic breakfast, the first intensive was to give an unparalleled platform to the participants to deeply inquire into art-forms of their interest, vis-a-vis with maestros and legends of their respective fields. The yoga series was followed by 150 workshops conducted simultaneously by eminent artists, spanning art-forms of classical music, dance, painting, and crafts where more than 15,000 students across the globe attended 150 workshops. More than 750 schools and colleges from India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, S Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, UAE, are participating. Students will attend Carnatic and Hindustani classical music, all eight classical dances, folk music and dance, traditional paintings, theatre led by established artists. Next followed the *nidra* session, where the students were instructed to stay in the yogic posture of rest and calm down their senses and minds, listening to the soothing voices and instructions. For 15 minutes, the participants were guided into a relaxed state of mind, post which they were



rejuvenated, full of energy and mindfulness. The afternoon session saw a wonderful performance by acclaimed folk singer Shri Prahlad Singh Tipaniya, a performer of Kabir bhajans in *malavi* folk tradition (Madhya Pradesh). Along with his entourage of proficiently adroit instrumentalists.

Next in schedule was the thought-provoking theatre performances that proffered a vivid reflection of society, which was brilliantly exemplified by Padma Shri awardee, Dr Neelam Mansingh. Commemorating the interim of events in the evening, participants were dismissed to consume their holistic dinner of sattvic food in preparation for the closing events of the evening.

Later, the Indian instrumentalist Bhajan Sopori ran his dexterous fingers all across the century of delicately suspended strings of santoor. The euphonious reverberations of *ragas marwa* and *puriya kalyan* pierced into the hearts of every listener, evoking an array of emotions by the sleight of each *swar*'s rhapsodic hand.

The second day was concluded with a sattriya dance performance of Ganakanta Bora, who gracefully took centre stage, as he mesmerised



the audience with his inescapably masterful expressional emittances, conveying a plethora of abstract emotions without a word escaping his jowl.

#### ◆Third day

The third day started with a blissful nada yoga session by Padma Shri awardee, Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar (*dhrupad* vocalist), who taught the students to master *mandra*, *saptak*, and *kharaj* through raag bhairav. This was followed by the traditional *hatha* yoga sessions by Amit Shamnani from Bihar School of Yoga, to instil vitality. It started with mantra *ucharan* and ended with pranayama, *nadi shodhan* and *prarthan*.

At 6 am, a meditation session started to calm down the restless senses. Later, the audience was blessed with *Gurbani* Live from Sri

Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple). The next session was Shramdaan and after breakfast, the students joined more than 150 intensive/workshops by various master craftspersons, masters, Gurus of classical music, dance and other forms of art from all over India.

Post lunch, a *yog nidra* session was conducted by the founder of SPIC MACAY, Dr Kiran Seth, who guided the students to lay in the yogic posture of rest (*savaasana*), to relax and meditate on their senses and calm down their minds, listening to his soothing voice and instructions.

The afternoon session opened up with legendary puppeteer, Dadi Pudumjee. He is the founder of Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust and president of UNIMA. The theme revolved around introducing and educating the students about the nuances of puppetry. An interesting part of the discussion was about how puppets are known in the world around us.

The afternoon session concluded on a calm and serene note with an enlightening talk by Sister Shivani of the Brahma Kumaris movement. Her pearl knit words revolved around the need to kill the Ravana within us, reflecting on the habits and thoughts of humans.

The evening session commenced with a Bharatanatyam recital by the most graceful Padmashri Malavika Sarukkai. The wisdom in her words about her ideology and passion for her art captured the audience. Later on, the beauty of auspicious veena played by Suma Sudindras, who is the recipient of Karnataka's highest civilian award, Rajyotsava Award, along with Charulatha Ramanujan on violin, Anoor Ananthkrishna on Mridangam and SN Narayanamurthy on Ghatam, set a mystical aura for the last concert of the day.

#### ◆Fourth day

The fourth day again began with a meditation session at Brahma muhurta followed by *shramdaan*, holistic breakfast, workshops, lunch and yoga *nidra*. The afternoon was followed by several lectures around whirling dervishes (Turkey), gregorian chants (France) and Gurbani.

The evening sessions featured live concerts by Umayalpuram K Sivaraman (Mridangam) and Abhishek Raghuram (Carnatic Vocal), along with the symphonies of Abhishek Raghuram with K Sivaraman, the awardee of Madras Music Academy's Sangeetha Kalanidhi on Mridangam. The audience was enthralled by the enriching aalaaps paired with the soulful violin by HN Bhaskar and Kanjira by Sundar Kumar. It was followed by a live concert by the Dhrupad and torchbearer tradition of Rudra Veena instrument, Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, who is the recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi award.

#### ◆Fifth day

After Brahma *muhurta* followed by meditation and yoga, the participants had candid discussions with gurus, and together they delved deep into the aspects of life and learning the art-forms.

In the afternoon, the music brought peace in the environment with whirling dervishes, which is a part of sema ceremony and the participants are properly known as semazens. The physiological goal of the whirling is for the dervish to 'empty' himself of all distractions. The

session was insightful with the talks of Mr Fahri Özçakil, the dervishes' spiritual leader, who spoke about its significance. The Indian Ambassador to Turkey Mr Sanjay Panda also spoke on the occasion about similarities in Sufi traditions in India and Turkey.

Next on the list was the Gregorian chant, which is the central tradition monophonic, an unaccompanied sacred song in Latin of the Roman Catholic Church. Professor Igor Reznikoff, a well-known specialist in ancient music/early Christian chant, shared some insights. Finally, a Gurbani session by Bhai Gurdev Singh, a hazoori ragis from Harminder Sahab (Golden Temple), enthralled the afternoon.

The evening sessions were graced with live concerts by Padmabhushan Dr L Subramaniam, followed by a Koodiyattam presentation, a traditional performing art-form in Kerala, by the very learned Kapila Venu.

#### ◆Sixth day

After the regular yoga, *gurbani*, *shramdan*, workshop sessions, the evening will be followed by mesmerising presentations of Hindustani and classical music. Musicians, such as Ashwini Bhide Deshpande (Hindustani vocal), T V Sankaranarayanan (Carnatic vocal), Sudha Ragnathan (Carnatic Vocal), Prabhakar Karekar (Hindustani vocal) and Ritwik Sanyal (*dhrupad*).

#### ◆Seventh day

On the last day, after breakfast, interactions with sculptors about the art installation, and lunch, there will be a virtual heritage tour of the Taj Mahal by the historian Ram Narayanan. The next on the list will be a holistic dinner followed by some western classical music.

During the sessions, the students have been kept away from the usual distractions of the world that is bombarded with too much knowledge and information. Participants are advised to go on a social media and TV fast' and slow down to savour, understand, and introspect, to derive their outlook of Indian heritage and its ethics.

## Adjusting with the new normal

KANCHAN RAI suggests ways to turn your work-related stress and anxiety into accomplishments



accommodates their additional task efficiently. Employees should keep in mind that saying a no is not the problem, but over-committing and not being able to deliver might create a bad image and affect their overall performance.

#### \*Talk it out

Venting out what you feel is important. There would be times when you feel a certain way, and letting it out will only help you get clarity. It eases you out and helps eliminate the feeling of isolation.

Socialising also helps reduce physical and mental exhaustion. As it is rightly said, "A problem shared is a problem half-solved".

#### \*Let's bond

To know more about whom you work with and spend almost nine hours of your day with them, it is important to initiate a conversation with your colleagues during lunch or tea-breaks. The topic of conversation need not be related to work, but just a casual talk to break the ice can do the charm. This forms a

sense of comfort and ease amongst the co-workers and also helps to create a friendly working environment.

#### \*Create a to-do list

Simple hacks like making to-do lists will help you understand the amount of work you have and need to accomplish. The list should be in the order of priority, so all the tasks can be completed on time with utmost efficiency. This can help to be more organised and enjoy the work instead of stressing over the deadlines.

#### \*Take appropriate breaks

One should take enough breaks during their work hours. A break as simple as a brisk walk can do wonders as it releases natural mood-boosting painkillers called endorphins. It keeps the mind fresh and helps to be more focussed during work. Breaks not only assist in de-stressing and relaxing your mind but also monitors stress-levels. It increases productivity and re-charges you for the rest of the work-day.

All these mental health ailments have a deeply-rooted seating in your mind. Though these simple practices might not completely eradicate them, they can surely make you feel comfortable and improve your mood. By imbibing these effective measures, one can convert their stressors into accomplishments successfully.

(The author is the founder of Let Us Talk and a mental and emotional well-being coach.)

## TRENDBLAZER



### 'WOMEN SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT'

Actress **MALAIKA ARORA** is going to be in the judge-panel along with Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur in the upcoming dance reality show, *India's Best Dancer*.

The fitness enthusiast expressed, "I believe independence is the core of my being. I am very happy and fortunate to meet people who give me the right backing and the right push to do something."

"I am very headstrong like that. And, I think all women should be emotionally and financially independent," she added.

#### fairtalk

BANI J



'The way I'm living my life right now is my happily ever after. I have people that I care about and who reciprocate. We can express love and appreciation for each other. I train whenever I want. I travel, spend time with people I love, create projects that I care about and be a part of those that fulfill me creatively, which I think is the best thing in the world.'

#### dailytalk

DHEERAJ DHOOPAR



'TV shows cater to a different segment of audience. It eventually makes you a household name, whereas OTT projects have a good scope in experimenting with great content and storylines. In OTT, as an artist, one has freedom when it comes to acting, story or direction. TV is the toughest sector. A lot of hard work is involved to be a success.'

### EX-SUPERMAN IS NOT IMPRESSED

Actor **DEAN CAIN**, who played Superman in *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*, from 1993 to 1997, is unimpressed by the news that the superhero Clark Kent's son, Jon Kent, will be bisexual.

He shared, "They say it's a new direction, I say they're bandwagoning. Robin came out as bi. The new Captain America is gay. My daughter in *Supergirl* was gay."

"If they had done this 20 years ago, perhaps, that would be bold or brave. Brave would be having Superman fighting for the rights of gay people in Iran where they'll throw you off a building for the offense of being gay," the ex-Superman added.





# DC set 136-run target for KKR in 2nd IPL Qualifier



PTI ■ SHARJAH

Kolkata Knight Riders, led by mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthi, produced a clinical bowling display on a slow pitch to

restrict Delhi Capitals to 135 for 5 in their IPL Qualifier 2 here on Wednesday. Sent in to bat, DC batters struggled on a sluggish pitch with the KKR bowlers bowling a tight line and length.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan top-scored with a 39-ball 36 while Shreyas Iyer remained not out on 30 off 27 balls. Chakravarthi took two wickets for 26 runs while Lockie Ferguson and Shivam Mavi got one each.

After seven dot balls in the first two overs, DC took 12 runs from the third with Shaw hoisting Shakib Al Hasan for a big six.

Dhawan joined the party in the fourth over, smacking two consecutive sixes off Sunil Narine as DC amassed 14 runs from the veteran West Indian.

Chakravarthi broke the dangerous-looking partnership by having Shaw LBW with his first delivery of the day with the batter playing a wrong line to his googly.

Ferguson was impressive as he conceded just nine runs from his first two overs as DC reached 38 for 1 at the end of Power Play overs.

After a quiet period during which Mavi, Narine and Chakravarthi bowled a tight line and length, Dhawan got a boundary in the 10th over to reach 65 for 1 at the halfway mark.

With odd ball skidding low, it was getting difficult to get runs and DC were dealt a blow when Mavi, who was bowling beautifully, got rid of Marcus Stoinis who was playing only his second match in the UAE leg.

With pressure building on the DC batters, Dhawan fell in the 15th over while going for a big shot. He could only get an outside edge off a Chakravarthi delivery for Shakib Al Hasan to take a diving catch at backward point.

DC were 83 for 3 in the 15th over when captain Rishabh Pant (6) came in and he disappointed in a crucial match as he went for a big shot the next over only to balloon a Ferguson delivery for Rahul Tripathi to take a regulation catch.

There was no lack of drama as Shimron Hetmyer was caught by Shubman Gill off Chakravarthi in the 17th over but it turned out to be a no ball.

DC managed to score 36 runs in the last three overs to put up a decent total in the end.

## Shardul Thakur replaces Axar Patel in India's main squad for T20 World Cup



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fast bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur on Wednesday replaced Axar Patel in India's squad for the T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE and Oman from October 17.

The 29-year-old Thakur has impressed with his 18 wickets in the ongoing IPL for Chennai Super Kings. With this, India completed the announcement of its final squad for the marquee tournament. Teams are allowed time till October 15 to finalise changes.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee after a discussion with the team management has added Shardul Thakur to the main squad. All-rounder Axar Patel, who was part of the 15-member squad will now be on the list of stand-by players," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

With pace all-rounder Hardik Pandya not bowling during the IPL because of fitness issues, the selectors wanted a cover for him. The Mumbai Indians star's workload management is a major concern for the team management.

"The selectors felt that they were one pacer short and also with Hardik Pandya not bowling, they needed an all-rounder in the main squad," a source close to the selection committee told PTI.

"Axar remains in stand by and if Ravindra Jadeja gets injured, he will again be back in main team. Till Jaddu (Jadeja) plays, Axar won't be required."

As reported by PTI, the selectors also included Harshal Patel among the net bowlers for the Indian team.

"The following cricketers will join the team bubble in Dubai and assist Team India in

their preparations: Avesh Khan, Umran Malik, Harshal Patel, Lukman Meriwala, Venkatesh Iyer, Karn Sharma, Shahbaz Ahmed and K. Gowtham," the statement said.

Among the stand-by players, Railways leg-spinner Karn Sharma, who is part of the CSK right now, was a surprise inclusion.

Considered a close confidante of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has been roped in as mentor of the national side for the World Cup, Sharma is retained year after year by CSK without playing too many matches as it is believed that he has been the franchise's "Lucky Mascot"

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal could not find a place despite an impressive IPL with Royal Challengers Bangalore. He claimed 18 wickets in 15 matches. India will open their campaign on October 24 against Pakistan.

## BCCI extends date for buying ITT for new IPL teams



IANIS ■ MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has further extend the date for purchasing the 'Invitation to Tender' (ITT) document for the two new Indian Premier League (IPL) teams -- which will be added from the 2022 season -- to October 20, 2021.

A BCCI statement said that interested parties can purchase the ITT document on receipt of payment of the "non-refundable tender fee of Rs 10 lakh plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax". All other terms contained in the Invitation document shall be applicable, said the BCCI. The IPL Governing Council had on August 31

this year announced the release of tender to "own and operate" two new IPL teams, which will compete in the 2022 edition of the lucrative tournament.

Subsequently, the date was extended to October 10 and now the date has been further extended by 10 days.

"Interested parties are requested to email at [ittp2021@bcci.tv](mailto:ittp2021@bcci.tv) to get further details for purchasing the ITT. The email requesting the ITT should have the subject line 'ITT for the Right to Own and Operate One of Two Proposed New IPL Teams,'" said a BCCI statement.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT. However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid," the statement added.

## Fan-inspired Team India jersey for T20 World Cup unveiled



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming to be inspired by the fans, the Indian cricket team's jersey for the upcoming T20 World Cup was unveiled on Wednesday, days before the country opens its campaign with a much-awaited clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in Dubai.

The tournament will be held from October 17 to November 14 in the UAE and Oman. The new shirt, called the 'Billion Cheers Jersey', has been inspired by

fans and was unveiled by MPL Sports, the official kit sponsor of the Indian men's, women's, and Under-19 teams.

"This is the first time in the history of Indian cricket that fans have been memorialised on a jersey. It carries their chants and cheers from iconic past matches, transformed into unique soundwave patterns," stated a release from ML Sports

The jersey comes in shades of prussian blue and royal blue.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said, "The Indian cricket team enjoys support not just in India but around the world, and there's no better way to celebrate their excitement and energy than through this jersey. "This will undoubtedly provide the team with the much-needed enthusiastic support in their quest to emerge as the T20 champions of the world.

We are also pleased to see that MPL Sports continues to deliver merchandise that is widely affordable and accessible."

The board's secretary Jay Shah echoed the view.

## Amandeep leads 10th leg of Hero WPGT

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Amandeep Drall lived up to her top billing with a flawless 4-under 68 that put her on top of the leaderboard at the end of the first round in the 10th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Wednesday.

After day one at the Chandigarh Golf Club, Amandeep was one shot ahead of the highly rated amateur Avani Prashanth (69), who had four birdies against one bogey.

Kapurthala golfer Amandeep leads the combined Hero Order of Merit for 2020-21 despite missing out on the last few legs of the Tour because of busy schedule in Europe.

Both Amandeep and Avani had a bogey-free 3-under 33 each on the back nine. They also had a birdie each on the front nine, but Avani also dropped a shot on the ninth, while Amandeep stayed error-free.

Avani was the winner of the third leg and runner-up in the seventh leg in 2021. Amandeep is yet to taste a win in 2021, though she had two in 2020. She was runner-up to Avani in the third leg, so she has a score to settle with the youngster.

Seher Atwal and Jahanvi Bakshi also carded under par rounds of 1-under 71 each to be Tied-third. Seher and Jahanvi had contrasting rounds producing similar scores.

## Narine won't be added to West Indies World Cup squad: Pollard

PTI ■ SHARJAH

West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard says they will resist the temptation of adding Sunil Narine to their T20 World Cup squad despite the spinner's sublime form in the ongoing IPL, where he played a key role in Kolkata Knight Riders reaching the Qualifier-2. The 33-year-old Narine reminded the fans of his vintage past with his four-wicket haul and impact batting in the eliminator against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday. He has taken 11 wickets in eight IPL matches since the league's resumption in the UAE.



He went wicket-less against Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad and in an earlier

match against RCB but took three wickets in the team's two-wicket defeat to Chennai Super Kings. However, he has not played any international cricket since August 2019, forcing defending champions West Indies to ignore him while announcing their World Cup squad on grounds of fitness.

The ICC deadline to make changes in the squad ends on Friday. "If I add my two cents or my words on how his non-inclusion came about, then it could be spun - just like how he's bowling on these Sharjah wickets - in all different directions," Pollard told ESPNcricinfo.

## Golfers Aditi, Tvesa and Diksha to play in New York leg of Aramco Series

IANIS ■ NEW YORK

Indian golfers Aditi Ashok, Tvesa Malik and Diksha Dagar will compete at the third leg of the Aramco Series in New York beginning this week. Only Tvesa has played both earlier legs in London and in Spain, while Diksha was in the winning team in London and missed the event in Spain.

Aditi, fourth at the Olympics, will be playing the Aramco Series for the first time this season. Tvesa has had numerous solid finishes this season, but Aramco Series events have not given her a good finish. Diksha Dagar was part of the winning team in London and was

T-12 in the individual standings.

A stellar field includes Olympic champion Nelly Korda with her sister Jessica, Lexi Thompson, Lizette Salas, Angel Yin, Alison Lee and Lindsey Weaver. Others including Danielle Kang, Cheyenne Woods and Natalie Gulbis will be getting a taste of the Series for the first time.

The top Europeans are Catriona Matthew Emily Kristine Pedersen, Charley Hull, Anna Nordqvist, Sophia Popov. Bronte Law, Caroline Masson and Anne Van Dam. The two individual winners from London (Marianne Skarpnord) and from Sotogrande, Spain (American Alison Lee) are also in the field.

## Ronaldo scores hat trick, Denmark qualifies for World Cup

AP ■ PARIS

Another hat trick for Cristiano Ronaldo, another win — and qualification for the World Cup — for Denmark.

And yet more crowd trouble in a game between England and Hungary.

There was a sense of familiarity to the World Cup qualifiers in Europe on Tuesday, not least in Faro where Ronaldo extended his men's record tally of international goals to 115 by scoring the 58th hat trick of his career for club and country in Portugal's 5-0 win over Luxembourg.

Denmark became the second European nation to qualify for next year's tournament in Qatar, after Germany on Monday, by securing an eighth straight



win in group play by beating Austria 1-0.

The decisive win — sealed by Joakim Maehle's second-half goal — came at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen where star playmaker Christian Eriksen collapsed in June during a European Championship game. It is still unclear if Eriksen can resume his career to play at the World Cup in 13 months' time.

England is likely to be there, but was made to wait before booking its place after being held to a 1-1 draw by Hungary at Wembley Stadium.

Events on the field were overshadowed by clashes between police officers and Hungary supporters at the start of the match, sparked — according to police — by a visiting fan making "racially aggravated" comments toward a steward.

## SINGLES

### NEYMAR'S TEAM URGE HIM TO PLAY WCUP

Sao Paulo: Neymar's Brazil teammates are still hoping the 29-year-old striker will remain with the national team after next year's World Cup, despite saying the tournament in Qatar could be his last. Neymar said in an interview aired this week that he doesn't know whether he will be able "mentally to endure" more international soccer after the 2022 World Cup and that he's approaching the tournament as if it is his last. His teammates rallied around the Paris Saint-Germain player on Tuesday, saying they understand the pressure Neymar faces as Brazil's biggest star. "We want him to stay with us for many years," midfielder Fred said. "But it is hard to talk about someone else's head. Sometimes people face a huge pressure."

### FIFA ASSESS PUNISHMENT FOR CROWD UNREST

Zurich: FIFA is analyzing the crowd unrest and assessing punishments after condemning disorder involving Hungary and Albania fans in separate World Cup qualifiers. At Wembley Stadium in London, Hungary supporters fought with police in the stands just after kickoff on Tuesday as officers sought to arrest a spectator on suspicion of racially abusing a steward. Hungary drew 1-1 with England. Another Group I game in Tirana was suspended for around 20 minutes. Karol Swiderski had just scored for Poland in the 77th minute when he was apparently struck by a bottle thrown from the Albania fans. Poland's players walked off but returned to the field and held on to win 1-0. .

### HIMA DAS TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID -19

Ace Indian sprinter Hima Das, who is making a comeback from a hamstring injury, on Wednesday revealed that she has tested positive for COVID-19 but is stable in isolation. Das, 21, reported to the national camp at National Institute of Sport (NIS) in Patiala recently. "I would like to inform everyone that I have been tested positive for Covid-19. I am stable and at the moment in isolation. I look forward to utilising this time to recover and come back stronger than before," Das tweeted. "A gentle reminder for everyone to stay safe and wear mask." Das could not make the cut for the Tokyo Olympics after missing the 200m qualification mark of 22.80s as she clocked 23.21s in the Federation Cup in March this year.

### INDIA REACH THOMAS CUP QUARTERS

Aarhus (Denmark): The Indian men's badminton team hammered Tahiti 5-0 to enter the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup for the first time since 2010 but the women's team suffered a crushing 0-5 defeat against a strong Thailand in its last group match here. It was the first defeat for Indian women after beating Spain (3-2) and Scotland (4-1). The women's team has already reached the quarterfinals. The men's team, on Tuesday, recorded its second straight 5-0 win, having beaten the Netherlands with an identical margin.

### AIFF NAMES 28 INDIA PROBABLES

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday announced 28 probables, including Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem and Aniket Jadhav, for the national team's qualifying campaign for next year's AFC U-23 Asian Cup. India have been drawn alongside Oman, Kyrgyz Republic, and hosts UAE in Group E of the Qualifiers, with the matches set to be played between October 25 to 31 at the Fujairah Stadium in Fujairah, UAE. The AFC U-23 Asian Cup is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan. The Blue Colts are set to assemble in Bengaluru on October 17, before leaving for the UAE on October 20 for their matches.

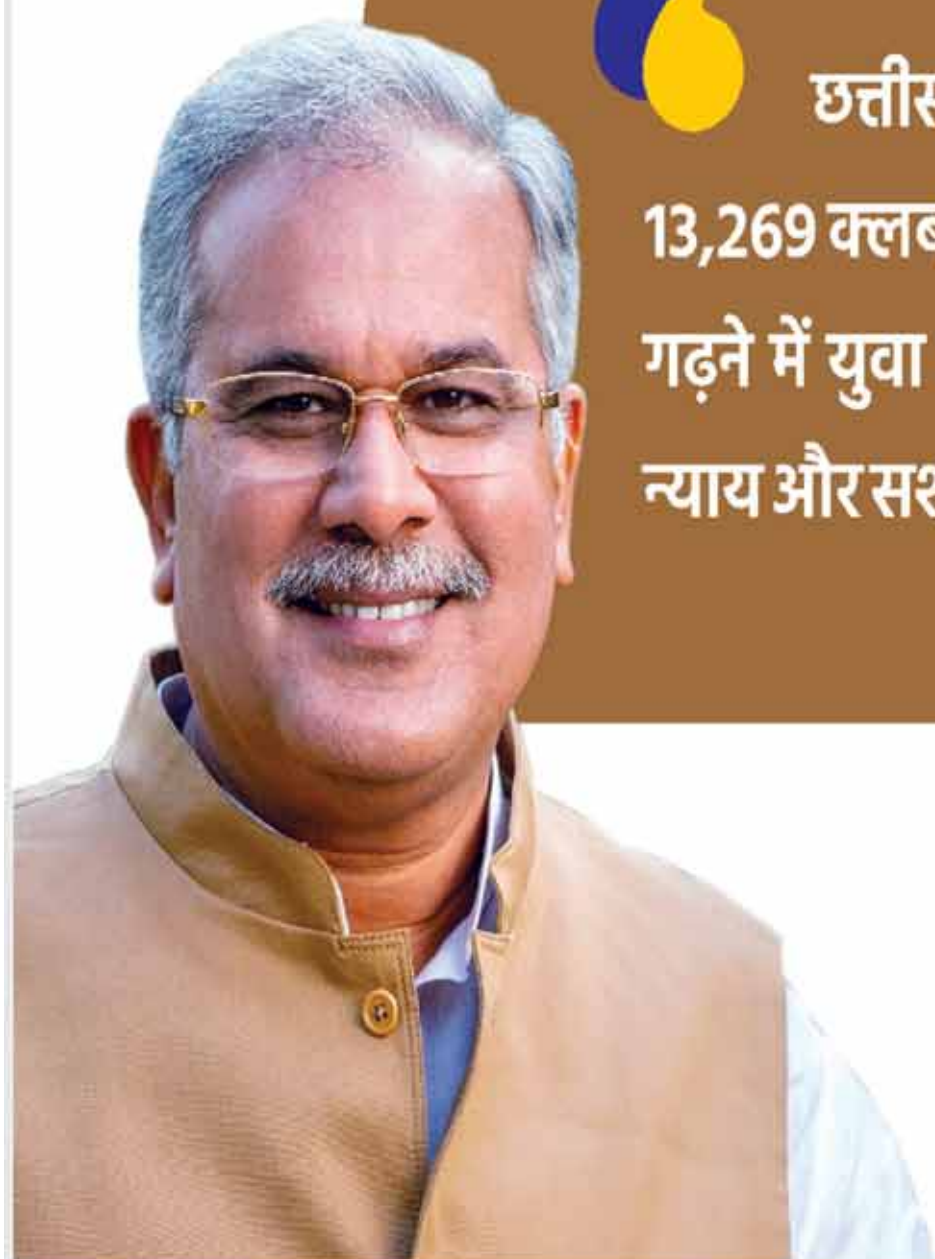


# न्याय > सब्बो बर : सब्बो डहर



## राजीव युवा मित्रान क्लब

- ▶ ग्राम पंचायतों तथा नगरीय निकायों में 13,269 क्लबों का गठन
- ▶ प्रत्येक क्लब को प्रति वर्ष 1 लाख रु. का अनुदान
- ▶ रचनात्मक सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक व सेवा भावना से होंगे ओतप्रोत



छत्तीसगढ़ में युवाओं को रचनात्मक योगदान हेतु प्रेरित करने के लिए 13,269 क्लबों का गठन एक ऐतिहासिक कदम सिद्ध होगा। नवा छत्तीसगढ़ गढ़ने में युवा ऊर्जा की बड़ी भूमिका सुनिश्चित की जाएगी। वहीं युवाओं के न्याय और सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में यह क्लब बड़ी भूमिका निभाएंगे।

— भूपेश बघेल मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

