

**OPINION 6**  
HOW THE PARTITION HELPED INDIA

**WORLD 8**  
RUSSIA SUSPENDS ITS MISSION TO NATO: FOREIGN MINISTER

**MONEY 9**  
CHINA'S ECONOMY WEAKENS AS GDP IN Q3 DECLINES TO 4.9%

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WILL BAT AT NO. 3, SAYS: VIRAT KOHLI  
12 SPORT

## Dera Sacha Sauda chief awarded life for murder

Besides Gurmeet Ram Rahim, four others to spend life in jail for murder of Dera's ex-manager

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

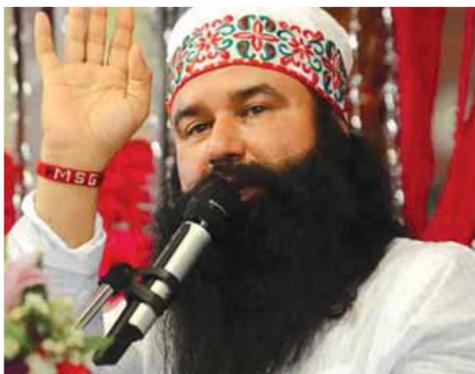
Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and four others were on Monday sentenced to life imprisonment for murder of a former sect manager nearly two decades back.

A Special CBI court in Haryana's Panchkula district pronounced the verdict, sentencing Ram Rahim and four others for murdering Ranjit Singh in 2002.

The CBI had sought the death penalty under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code for Ram Rahim, while the Dera chief pleaded for mercy, appearing via video conference from Rohtak's Sunaria jail, where he is serving sentence in two cases of rape and for the murder of a journalist.

The others convicted by the court for the crime are Krishan Lal, Jasbir Singh, Avtar Singh, and Sabdil.

The court also imposed a penalty of ₹31 lakh on Ram



Rahim, half of the amount will be given to the victim's family as compensation. The court has imposed a penalty on other accused as well.

The CBI court had held Ram Rahim and four others guilty under Sections 302 (murder) and 120 b (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code on October 8.

After the pronouncement of sentence, the victim's son Jagseer Singh while talking to the mediapersons said the family has finally got justice, though after much delay.

"My grandfather who fought the battle for justice for his son died in 2016. I was just eight-year-old when my father

was murdered in a cold-blooded manner. Today, after 19 years, my family can sleep in peace," he said.

Tight security arrangements were made at the Panchkula district court complex for the pronouncement of the judgement and the local authorities had imposed prohibitory orders.

Earlier, the CBI court had deferred the pronouncement of the quantum of sentence on October 12.

Ram Rahim had attended hearings relating to the pronouncement of sentences virtually. He pleaded for mercy on the plea of the charitable works that the sect carried out when

he was heading it.

The CBI, on the other hand, opposed the Dera chief's plea, saying the victim treated him as "god" and the accused committed offences against him. It said Ram Rahim had criminal antecedents and committed the offence in a cold-blooded manner.

Ranjit, a former follower of Ram Rahim, was shot dead by four assailants on July 10, 2002, at his native Khanpur Koliyan village in Kurukshetra. According to the CBI chargesheet, he was murdered as Ram Rahim suspected that he was behind the circulation of an anonymous letter highlighting the sexual exploitation of women disciples on the Dera premises.

The Punjab & Haryana High Court had earlier dismissed a petition seeking the transfer of the murder case from the special CBI court in Panchkula to any other special CBI court in Punjab, Haryana or Chandigarh.

Notably, the self-styled godman Ram Rahim was sentenced in August 2017 for 20 years in jail for raping two women. His conviction on August 25, 2017, had led to violence in Panchkula and Sirsa, leaving over 40 people dead and more than 260 injured in Panchkula.

## Above 70% non-vaccinated kids have Covid anti-bodies

69.8% in 6-9 age group, 73.2% in 10-17 years have antibodies, finds Haryana survey

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 were found among 76.3 per cent of the State's population in a third sero survey conducted in all 22 districts of Haryana.

The latest survey conducted last month showcases a steep increase in antibodies in the State's population as the current 76.3 per cent from just 14.8 per cent in October 2020 and 8 per cent seen in August 2020.

The sero survey report which was released by Haryana



Health Minister Anil Vij on Monday found a sero-positivity rate of 69.8 per cent in children aged 6-9 years and 73.2 per cent in adolescents aged 10-17 years in the State. It was for the first time that the participants aged 6 years and above were enrolled in this sero survey. In previous two rounds of sero surveys, people above the age of 18 years were enrolled in Haryana.

According to the findings, the overall sero-positivity was found to be 76.3 per cent (78.1 per cent in urban and 75.1 per cent in rural) but it varied from district to district, ranging from 64.2 per cent to 85 per cent in Faridabad district (lowest) and Kurukshetra (highest) respectively.

Kurukshetra district recorded highest sero-positivity followed by Rohtak (84.6 per cent), Mahendragarh (81.6 per cent) and Panipat (81.5 per cent). Faridabad had highest inconclusive samples (13.2 per cent) leading to the lowest sero-positivity following which the State Government has decided to conduct another sero survey in the district.

Sero-positivity of 75.3 per cent were reported in men, 77.1 per cent in women. Sero-positivity of 81.6 per cent was found in vaccinated people and a positivity of 75.5 per cent has been found in non-vaccinated people, stated the survey.

The survey also revealed that overall 57.08 per cent participants were vaccinated against Covid-19 out of which 52.6 per cent were males, 47.3 per cent were females and 0.07 per cent were transgender. Among vaccinated individuals, Covishield was administered to

91.1 per cent and Covaxin to 7.4 per cent of people in Haryana. Hypertension, diabetes, heart diseases, thyroid disorders & respiratory disorders were the most common co-morbid conditions present in the study participants.

Continued on Page 2

## Vector-mRNA jab mix more efficacious

Results published in Lancet based on study on Sweden population

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Suggesting that mix and match of vaccines can be a new game-changer for many countries, a nationwide study in Sweden has found that people who received a first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine followed by an mRNA vaccine shot had a lower risk of infection compared to those immunised with both doses of the AstraZeneca preventive jab.

The results of the study, published in The Lancet Regional Health-Europe journal, may have implications for



vaccination strategies in different countries, including India where Covishield and Covaxin vaccines are two major brands given under the nationwide inoculation drive.

The Lancet study is based on nationwide registry data from the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Board of Health and Welfare, and Statistics Sweden.

Continued on Page 2

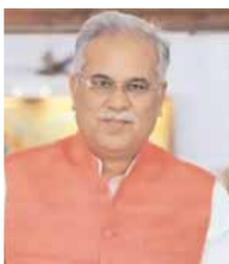
## Bhupesh Baghel emerges on top in race for best CM

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is the best performing Chief Minister in the country, facing the least anger of the electorate, as per the IANS-CVoter Governance Index. Only 6 per cent of the respondents are angry with Baghel and want a change. Conversely, Baghel enjoys highest popularity ratings among all Chief Ministers, as per the tracker.

In case of Chhattisgarh, anger is directed against the Central government and even state MLAs, but there is hardly any anger towards Baghel. As many as 44.7 per cent respondents in Chhattisgarh are angry with the Central Government, while 36.6 per cent are angry with the State Government.

Baghel has introduced a slew of welfare schemes in Chhattisgarh, including providing free education to children studying in private schools, who have lost parents/guardians to Covid-19. Under the Mahtari Dular Yojana, the Chhattisgarh government would bear the expenses of education of such children. Chhattisgarh was the top-performing state in India



on the gender equality parameter of the Sustainable Development Goals, according to the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index report 2020-21.

The index tracks the progress of all states and Union Territories on 115 indicators. Last year, Chhattisgarh scored 43 points on the gender quality parameter and was ranked seventh in India. This year, it scored 61 and topped the chart. Yashwant Deshmukh, Founder, CVoter, said, "The CEO working style of CMs is popular. People are liking CMs with centralised decision making."

"These are leaders who are not afraid of taking the blame. It is risky when things go wrong as in the case of former Punjab Chief Minister

Amarinder Singh. But there is a better rating for the CEO style. We are living in a Parliamentary democracy, but a Presidential system is becoming popular with the public," Deshmukh said. The CVoter Tracker is India's only daily opinion tracking exercise mapping more than a hundred thousand randomly selected respondents in a calendar year. The tracker run in 11 Indian languages has interviewed more than a million respondents in person and CATI over the last 10 years.

The quarterly report cards on CMs cover more than 30,000 across all the 543 Lok Sabha seats and has margin of error of +/-3 per cent at the national level and +/-5 per cent at the state level.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami ranks second in minimum anger of the electorate with 10.1 per cent, but since he is a new CM, he is getting the benefit of doubt even as a massive 61 per cent are angry with the state government. The earlier Chief Minister was drawing negative ratings, but now that has diffused though the anger against the state government remains high.

## Kushinagar crowns Buddhist circuit, PM to open airport

125 dignitaries, Buddhist monks, envoys from 15 countries to attend

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Kushinagar international airport in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday amid the presence of more than 125 dignitaries and Buddhist priests, including eight high priests from Sri Lanka. It is learnt that ambassadors of at least 10-15 countries, where Buddhism is both practised and preached, would attend.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Monday said that the inaugural flight will land at the Kushinagar airport from Colombo, carrying 125 dignitaries and Buddhist monks. Kushinagar is an international Buddhist pilgrimage centre where Lord Gautam Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana and which consists of pilgrimage

sites at Lumbini, Sarnath and Gaya.

After the airport's inauguration, the Prime Minister will also address a programme on Wednesday at the Buddhist site of Mahaparinirvana stupa and temple in which Sri Lankan Buddhist monks and Ministers of the Sri Lankan Government will take part, the Ministry said.

"Inauguration of the Kushinagar airport will facilitate the pilgrims from across different parts of the world by providing seamless connectivity to various Buddhist sites in the region. Direct aviation connectivity with South Asian countries will make it easier for tourists arriving from Sri Lanka, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, etc, to reach Kushinagar and experience the rich heritage of the region. Tourism inflow is expected to rise by upto 20% with inauguration of the flight," the Ministry said.

Continued on Page 2

## Targeted killings trigger ghar wapsi from Valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A series of attacks on migrant labourers in Kashmir valley has once again triggered a fresh wave of "ghar wapsi" ahead of the festive season.

Hours after the two labourers from Bihar were shot dead in Wanpoh area of Kulgam late on Sunday evening, panic-stricken labourers from different parts of the country fled Kashmir valley in the early hours of Monday.

Mostly daily wagers working in paddy fields and brick kilns decided to flee Kashmir to ensure their safety.

These labourers boarded private taxis and passenger buses with bare minimum luggage before bidding goodbye to the Kashmir valley.

On their arrival in Jammu, these migrant labourers claimed they were charged 800-1200 per head by the Kashmir-based tour operators to drop them in Jammu, a much higher charge.

A young mother, holding her minor child in her lap, told reporters in Jammu that Kashmir is no longer a paradise for her. "I don't want to return. I can earn my livelihood at any



Women security personnel frisk a pedestrian during a surprise checking in Srinagar on Monday

other place but not in Kashmir valley," she said.

Narrating her ordeal, she claimed they raised an alarm and sought help from the local authorities and others in the neighborhood but none came forward to help them. "We were scared after witnessing this mayhem and bloodshed in the valley, so we decided to pack our bags as we feared for our lives too," she said.

A labourer from West Bengal said, "I earned 800 per day by working in the paddy

fields. But after hearing the news, my family directed me to immediately return home. I had no other option left, hence I too decided to embark on the return journey," he said, adding, "For the last couple of days we were feeling insecure as terrorists were targeting non-locals randomly."

At Jammu railway station the majority of labourers with their families were seen struggling to organise food for their minor kids and women.

Continued on Page 2

### CAPSULE

**UP BUYING POWER AT ₹22 A UNIT FOR PUBLIC; YOGI Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has said that in this festive season, his government was buying electricity at a cost up to ₹22 per unit from outside sources because he did not wish to dampen the spirit of festivals. Yogi Adityanath said that on normal days the same power was purchased at ₹7 per unit.

**5 DEAD AS INCESSANT RAIN LASHES U'KHAND Dehradun:** Five people, including three labourers from Nepal, died and two others were injured with incessant rain lashing Uttarakhand for the second consecutive day on Monday as authorities advised Cherdham pilgrims not to proceed to the Himalayan temples till weather improves.

## Record 3.27 lakh domestic fliers a day post pandemic

Govt allows domestic airlines to fly at 100%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 3.27 lakh people flew on 2,372 flights within India on Sunday, the highest domestic air traffic on a single day after the Covid-19 pandemic set in. In a related development, the Government has allowed domestic airlines to run flights at 100 per cent capacity from Monday keeping in view of decline in Covid-19 cases and huge demand during the festive seasons.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia



said on Monday that a total of 3,27,923 passengers travelled on 2,372 flights within India on Sunday.

"Owing to the constructive policies of the Government, domestic air traffic has seen the highest level, post the onset of the pandemic," Scindia tweeted on Monday. "The civil avi-

ation sector in India thrives amidst unprecedented challenges, whilst we make every effort to return to normalcy as early as possible," he added. Before the pandemic struck, India's daily domestic air traffic was approximately 4.25 lakh passengers.

Continued on Page 2

## B'desh arsonists target 66 Hindu homes

PTI ■ DHAKA

A mob has damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh over an alleged blasphemous social media post amidst protests by the minority community against temple vandalism incidents during the Durga Puja celebrations last week, authorities said on Monday.

The arson by the mob happened late on Sunday on a village in Rangpur district's Pirganj upazila, about 255 kms from here, the bdnews24.Com reported.

The police rushed to a fishermen neighbourhood as tension mounted over a rumor that a young Hindu man of the village had 'dishonoured religion' in a Facebook post,



Hundreds of Hindus protest against attacks on temples and killing of two Hindu devotees in another district shout slogans in Dhaka, on Monday

Assistant Police Superintendent Mohammad Kamruzzaman told reporters.

"The incident took place after 10 PM yesterday but fire

fighters doused the blaze within a short period (and) the situation is now under full control," he said.

No casualties were reported.

ed but 66 houses were damaged and 20 burnt during the attack, the officer said.

As many as 52 suspects have been arrested while a manhunt was launched for more suspects under a "combining operation" in collaboration with other security forces, he added.

As the police stood guard around the man's home, the attackers set fire to other homes nearby, the report said. The Fire Service Control Room said that their report from the scene indicates that 29 residential houses, two kitchens, two barns and 20 haystacks belonging to 15 different owners were torched in Pirganj's Majhipara, it said, adding that an 'unruly crowd' has been identified as the cause of fire.

Continued on Page 2

# Five killed as incessant rain lashes U'khand

## Chardham yatra halted temporarily

**Dehradun:** Five people, including three labourers from Nepal, died and two others were injured with incessant rains lashing Uttarakhand for the second consecutive day on Monday as authorities advised Chardham pilgrims not to proceed to the Himalayan temples till the weather improves.

The labourers were staying in a tent at Samkhal near Lansdowne in Pauri district when the rubble flowing down from a field above due to the rains buried them alive, District Magistrate Vijay Kumar Jodgande said.

They were engaged in the construction of a hotel at Samkhal. Two labourers injured in the incident were admitted at the Kotdwar base hospital, he said. In another incident, two people were killed when their house collapsed, following a landslide in Selkholia in Champawat district, the State Emergency Operation Centre here said.

Chardham pilgrims, who had arrived in Haridwar and

Rishikesh by Sunday, have been asked not to proceed further till the weather improves while operation of vehicles for the Himalayan temples has been suspended temporarily.

Passenger vehicles are not being allowed to cross the Chandrabhaga bridge, Tapovan, Lakshman Jhoola and Muni-ki-Reti Bhadrakali barriers in Rishikesh. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited the state disaster control room at the secretariat here to take weather updates and know the conditions of roads and highways.

He appealed to the pilgrims to defer their further journey for two days until the weather normalises.

They are staying in safe locations spread over Haridwar, Rishikesh, Shrinagar, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Guptkashi, Ukhimath, Karnaprayag, Joshimath and Pandukeshwar.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Dhami on the phone to get an

update on precautionary steps being taken by the state government in view of the heavy rain alert and assured him of all possible help.

It has been raining in Kedarnath since Sunday night but the Mandakini river is flowing at its normal level. A Devasthanam Board official said regular prayers at the four Himalayan temples are continuing and pilgrims staying there are safe.

Pilgrims headed for Yamunotri have been asked to stay in Baddot and Jankichatti, whereas those en route to Gangotri have been asked to stay in Harsil, Bhatwari and Maneri, Uttarkashi District Magistrate Mayur Dikshit told PTI.

Kedarnath and Badrinath-bound pilgrims have also been requested not to proceed on their journey till the weather clears. Most of the pilgrims on way to Badrinath are staying in Joshimath and Chamoli, Chamoli district disaster management officer N K Joshi said



Tourists during fresh snowfall in Koksar area of Lahaul and Spiti district on Monday

## Record 3.27 lakh domestic...

**From Page 1**

The pandemic had struck the civil aviation sector badly with the Centre suspending all scheduled domestic flights from 25 March, 2020 to May 25, 2020 following the national lockdown.

Scindia, along with Minister of State for Civil Aviation, General Dr V K Singh (Retd.), Civil Aviation Secretary Rajeev Bansal, virtually flagged off six routes

expanding the aerial connectivity of North-East India. The routes commencing operations from today are Kolkata - Guwahati, Guwahati - Aizawl, Aizawl - Shillong, Shillong - Aizawl, Aizawl - Guwahati, and Guwahati - Kolkata.

“Eastern India tempts tourists with wonderful verdant valleys, hilly streams, lush green forests, vast tea gardens, snow-capped mountain peaks, mighty rivers, tribal culture, its colourful fairs and festivals. These flights will open a seamless gateway and smooth aerial access option for nature lovers, travellers, tourists,” Scindia said while speaking on the occasion.

# CBSE term 1 board exam from November 30

**New Delhi:** The term 1 Class 10 and Class 12 board exams conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will take place in November-December, 2021. While exams for Class 10 students would begin on November 30 and continue till December 11, the class 12 students, papers will be held from December 1 to December 22.

From the academic year 2021-2022 onwards, CBSE has shifted to the two-term board-exam pattern, following which many state boards are also deciding the same.

CBSE's controller of examinations, Sanyam Bhargava said that the date sheets for the minor subjects will be sent directly to the schools as those exams will be conducted by the schools but with the board's question papers. Minor subject exams begin on November 16 for Class 12 and November 17 for Class 10, the CBSE datesheet notification said.

Bhargava also said that for most of the students, the board is likely to assign their own schools as exam centres which will be sanitised before exams are held.

The CBSE has decided to go

with two-term board exams for its 2021-22 batch of students. Term 2 exams are scheduled for March-April, 2022.

Keeping in view the winter season, the board has decided to conduct papers from 11:30 am instead of 10:30 am. All students will get 20 minutes to read the question papers. Term 1 papers will have only objective-type questions. The duration of each paper will be 90 minutes.

The CBSE has divided board exam subjects into two groups - minor and major. First, exams will be conducted for minor papers, followed by major papers. Practical exams, internal assessment, and project work for 50 per cent of the total marks will be completed by schools before the term 1 exams are over, the CBSE said. The CBSE will not place candidates in "pass", "compartment" or "essential repeat" categories at the end of term 1 exams. The final result will be declared only after term 2 exams are held.

CBSE has divided the subjects for Classes 10 and 12 into major and minor. The minor subject exams will be conducted before the major subjects at the respective schools of the candidates. Since each minor sub-

jects are not offered by every CBSE school, schools will be grouped accordingly and every day, multiple minor subject exams will be carried out.

CBSE said this format was being done to prevent the learning loss of students. For CBSE Class 12, the major subjects include the compulsory chosen languages and the other core subjects of each stream.

The CBSE Term 1 paper will only test students on the rationalised syllabus like the last years due to Covid-19. That rationalised syllabus will be divided into two for the two terms.

The CBSE Term 1 exam will be of 90 minutes for each subject and MCQ-based. Students will get 20 minutes to read the paper instead of 15 minutes.

Practical and internal assessment exams will be held at the respective schools of candidates before the CBSE Term 1 exams end. The allotted marks will be 50% of the total and schools will be informed about the detailed scheme so they can plan accordingly. The Term 2 exam will be held in the month of March-April 2022 and will have a mix of subjective and objective-type questions.

# Alert in Assam over threats from ISI, al-Qaeda

**Guwahati:** The Assam Police have sounded an alert over possible terror strikes by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and terror outfit al-Qaeda over alleged persecution of Muslims in the state. A circular issued by the Assistant Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) on Saturday said the alert has been issued following reports received from the Special Branch of the state police. The circular said the ISI is planning to target "individuals including Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) cadres and army areas in Assam and other places in India".

There is also a "threat from global terror outfits to indulge in spectacular action by resorting to explosion of bombs/IEDs in places of mass gathering/ mass transport/ religious places,

etc".

Another input quoted in the circular said the al-Qaeda has called for "jihad in Assam and Kashmir".

The circular further said the general secretary of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has released a statement regarding the Dhalpur eviction drive in Assam's Darrang district, which had claimed the lives of two persons. Over 20 people were injured, including policemen, in the anti-encroachment drive against "illegal settlers" at Dhalpur in September.

In the statement released through Twitter, the OIC has condemned the 'systematic persecution and violence ramped up against the Muslim community in Assam'.

**Above 70% non-vaccinated kids have...**

**From Page 1**

Till date, around 2.47 crore eligible people have been vaccinated in the state.

A total of 36,520 samples were collected from all the districts of the state for the survey and testing of all samples was done in the laboratory of District Civil Hospital, Panchkula. The sero-survey analyses the blood samples of selected individuals for anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG antibodies.

According to the health

experts, a sero-survey can help in understanding what percentage of a population has developed immunity against the virus and how far are we from herd immunity. It can also help examining which groups are more exposed or have had higher rates of infection.

About 2200 officers and employees of the Health Department were engaged in the third round of sero survey.

Notably, in the first sero-survey conducted in August last year, when a total of 18,905 blood samples were collected, an overall 8 per cent of the samples had antibodies against the virus. The sero-positivity of SARS-CoV-2 was highest in Faridabad (25.8 percent) followed by Nuh (20.3 percent).

Four districts recorded sero prevalence between 10 per cent to 13 per cent while eight districts had prevalence between 5 per cent to 10 per cent. Overall, it was 6.9 per cent in rural areas and 9.59 per cent in urban areas.

Later, an overall sero-positivity in the state was recorded at 14.8 per cent (15,840 samples) during the second sero-survey conducted in October 2020. The highest prevalence of 31.2 per cent was reported in Faridabad followed by 28.6 per cent in Yamunanagar district. Six districts were found to have sero-positivity prevalence below 10 per cent namely, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Mahendragarh, Sirsa and Hisar.

**Vector-mRNA jab mix more efficacious**

**From Page 1**

Since the use of AstraZeneca's vector-based vaccine against Covid-19 was halted for people younger than 65 years of age due to safety concerns, all individuals in Sweden who had already received their first dose of this vaccine were recommended an mRNA vaccine as their second dose.

"Having received any of the approved vaccines is better compared to no vaccine, and two doses are better than one," said Peter Nordstrom, a professor at Umea University, Sweden.

"However, our study shows a greater risk reduction for people who received an mRNA vaccine after having received a first dose of a vector-based, as compared to people having received the vector-based vaccine for both doses," Nordstrom said.

In the main analysis, about 700,000 individuals were included. During a 2.5-month average follow-up period after the second dose, the study showed a 67 per cent lower risk of infection for the combination of AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccine shots.

There was a 79 per cent lower risk of infection for AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccine shots, compared to unvaccinated individuals, the researchers said.

For people having received two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, known as Covishield in India, the risk reduction was 50, they said.

These risk estimates were observed after accounting for differences regarding date of vaccination, age of the participants, socioeconomic status, and other risk factors for Covid-19.

The researchers noted that the study estimates of effectiveness apply to infection with the Delta variant, which was dominating the confirmed cases during the follow-up period.

"The results of the study may have implications for vaccination strategies in different countries," said Marcel Ballin, doctoral student at Umea University, and co-author of the study.

"The World Health Organization has stated that despite the promising results from previous studies regarding immune response from mix-and-match vaccination, there is a need for larger studies to investigate their safety and effectiveness against clinical outcomes. Here we now have one such study," Ballin said.

There was a very low incidence of adverse thrombotic events, or formation of blood clots in blood vessels, for all vaccine schedules, according to the researchers.

The number of Covid-19 cases were severe enough to result in in-patient hospitalisation was too low for the researchers to be able to calculate the effectiveness against this outcome.

## DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Arcil") is an Asset Reconstruction company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and registered with the Reserve Bank of India under Section 3 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"); and Whereas the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors/Co-obligants & Consentors, as mentioned in Column No.3 of the below-mentioned chart obtained Loan from Various Bank and Whereas Arcil has acquired the financial assets relating to the Loan Accounts mentioned in Column No.2 of the below-mentioned chart and Whereas Arcil, being the secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under S.13 (2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors/Co-obligants & Consentors, as mentioned in Column No.3 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of Notice, but the Notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons.

Sr No.	Loan A/C No.	Borrower / Co-Borrower / Guarantor Name	Total Outstanding (In ₹) Due Date
1	30048266791	A Suryanaryan, Damar Singh	₹ 20,48,281.21/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> KH No-1169/2 Plot No-28 Farid Nagar Kohka Durg, City-Durg, State-CG, Pincode: 491001, Area Admeasuring 1250 Sq.ft. Butted & Bounded By: North: 30 Ft. Road, South: Plot No. 21 East: Other's Land West: Land of Prakash Tamaskar.			
2	LBLL100000350974	Amar Jeet, Asha Yadav, Satendra Kumar	₹ 39,72,536.11/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> Khaska No. 751/754 ~ 751/75 (New 1574/198) Karud Durg PH. No.55 Bhillai - 490023.			
3	LBLL100001088161	Appalaswamy, T Padmavati	₹ 41,92,091.25/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> KH No 120/18 (part), Ward No 8, PC No 13 MC Jamal Tal / Dist-durg Bhillai, City-Bhillai, State-CG, Pincode: 490002, Area Admeasuring 1200 Sqft. Butted & Bounded By: North: Land of Ramchandra South: Seller Land East: Road 20 Ft West: Seller Land.			
4	10823111485	Bhagwandass Khubchandani	₹ 3,84,146.38/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> Part of KH No 478/10, Plot No.5, PC No 104 Naharpara Raipur, City - Raipur, State-CG, Pincode: 492001, Area Admeasuring 3300 Sqft. Butted & Bounded By: North: Laxmi Poha Mill South: Road East: Land of Seller (Proposed Buyer Lalchand) West: Land of Seller (Sulochana Devi).			
5	63008937537	Bishelal, Shiv Kumar Soni	₹ 11,69,508.29/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> Khaska No. 1075/32, Ph. No. 12, Gram Khedmaria Jamul, Tehsil, & Dist. Durg, Area Admeasuring 1500 Sq.ft. Butted & Bounded By: North: Land of Arora South: Land of Desiram East: 20 Ft. Road West: Land of Amar Singh.			
6	5300671186	Churman Soni, Manthir Lal	₹ 10,38,482.58/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> Land & Proposed Building at KH No. 1075/16 (Part of 1075/1), Plot No. 4, Village Khedmaria, Ph. No. 12, Tahsil & Dist Durg C.G. Area Admeasuring 1500 Sqft. Butted & Bounded By: North: Land of Dr. Kavita Shrinivas South: Plot No. 5 Land of Bihar Ram East: 20 Ft Road West: Plot No. 17 Land of Seller.			
7	LBLL100000351340	Kamal, Pushpa Bai, Ram Singh	₹ 16,20,183.57/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> KH No 411/58~(Old No 411/1 Parted) PH No. 19~ (Old No 65/19) Chandra Vihar Risali~Tah & Dist Durg (CG) Bhillai 490021, Area Admeasuring 3000 Sq. Ft. Butted & Bounded By: North: Land of Sudha Singh South: Not Ascertained East: Land of K B Singh West: Land of N Singh.			
8	10823117329	Mohd Mukim Khan, Tausifa Khan	₹ 8,31,825.53/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> House No 26/957, New House No. 24/957, Part of KH No 189/4, Sheet No. 30, Plot No. 47/1, Vill- Pandri Talai, P.C No 109, Ravi Shankar Shukla Ward No 24, 700mts inside from the Nuranai Chowk to Pandri Crossing Bhagat Singh School Road Raipur, Raja Talab, Tahsil & Distt. Raipur, City-Raipur, State-CG, Pincode: 492001, Area Admeasuring 600 Sqft. Butted & Bounded By: North: Property of Md. Ali South: Property of Malka Begum East: Alley West: Property of Kamel Singh.			
9	LBKBA00001408834	Neyaz Ahmed, Rizwana Banu, Saif Ahmed	₹ 15,25,514.00/- 07-09-2021
<b>Property Description:</b> House No-8/E-1st Flr.-- Deendayal Awas Yozna - C G Housing Board - Boraspur, Korba - 495677.			

Notice is, therefore, given to the Borrowers/Mortgagors/ Guarantors/Co-obligants & Consentors, as mentioned in Column No.3, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in Column No.4 against the respective Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors, Co-obligants and Consentors within 60 days of publication of this Notice, as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective Loan Account as on the date shown in Column No.4. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with further interest and other amounts, which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, Arcil shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above Steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the Rules made thereunder.

SD/-  
Authorized Officer  
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited  
Date: October 19, 2021.

**ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.**  
CIN No.: U65999MH2002PLC134884 • www.arci.co.in  
Registered Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Mumbai - 400028. • Tel: 022-66581300 / 399.  
Branch Address: Chatterjee International Centre, 33A, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, 6th Floor, Room No.-4, Kolkata-700 071, West Bengal. • Tel: 033-022880224

# Farmers' rail roko against Lakhimpur hits 500 spots

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM)'s six-hour "rail roko" protest on Monday over the Lakhimpur violence affected over 500 locations across parts of country, including 150 in the Northern Railway zone, where running of 60 trains were affected. Farmers squatted on rail tracks at several places hampering train movement in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha.

The SKM, an umbrella body of farmer unions spear-

heading the agitation against the Centre's three agri laws, said "protests will be intensified until justice is secured" in the Lakhimpur Kheri case.

Train traffic was stopped from 10 am till 4 pm during the "rail roko" protest over the demand of the dismissal and arrest of Union Minister Ajay Mishra in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri case, the SKM said.

The trains that have been affected in the Northern Railway zone include the Chandigarh - Ferozepur

Express. Its scheduled departure from Ludhiana was 7 am, but it was stranded there due to a blockade, the official said.

The New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express was halted near Shambu station as protesters blocked railway tracks near Sahnewal and Rajpura. "So far, 150 locations in the Northern Railway zone have been affected and operations of 60 trains hindered. About 25 passenger and short distance trains have been cancelled," the Northern Railway CPRO said.

# Targeted killings trigger ghar wapsi from Valley

**From Page 1**

So far five civilians from outside Jammu and Kashmir have been shot dead in different parts of Kashmir valley. Out of these five, two were street vendors who earned their livelihood by selling "gol gappas".

A carpenter from Saharanpur and two others were also killed in cold blood by the terrorists. To prevent the situation from going out of hands, appeals were made to the non-local labourers not to flee Kashmir valley in panic. Local police authorities and local politicians have been reaching out to them to prevent their migration at this juncture.

mentioned. The terminal building at this airport is capable of handling 300 passengers during the peak hours, it noted. The inauguration of Kushinagar international airport will coincide with the city being linked with other Buddhist sites by dedicated trains for Indians and foreigners interested in pilgrimage or religious tourism.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Governor Anandiben Patel and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia will also be present at the airport's inauguration along with the Prime Minister, the ministry said.

Journey of Lumbini, Bodhi Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Rajgir, Sankisa and Vaishali of Buddhist circuit will be covered in lesser time after this airport's inauguration, it said.

Scheduled international passenger services have been suspended in India since March 23 last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-I  
(Now EE (M)-27 C/O ACE (M)-8)  
O.H.T. BERIWALA BAGH, SUBHASH NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110064

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

PRESS NOTICE TENDER NO. 34 W-I(2021-22)  
EE(WEST)-I (Now EE(M)-27 C/O ACE (M)-8)

S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender	E/Money (declaration form to be filled)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Providing and laying of 150mm, 200mm and 250mm water line from P-Block Vishnu Garden (Near Prakash Dairy) to J-Block Vishnu Garden at Khayala Road for Rejuvenation of Water Supply in Vishnu Garden Area and its adjoining area in Ward NO-008B in Rajpuri Garden AC-27 under (Presently under EE(M)-27) Tender ID: 2021_DUB_209747_1	Rs. 29,57,977/-	Nil	28.10.2021 up to 3.00 PM
2.	Renovation of old/damaged local UGR at block CSD.C4E and C2B Janakpuri Ward no 16 S AC- 30 Janak Puri under (Presently under AEE(M)-30) Tender ID: 2021_DUB_209747_3	Rs. 26,34,818/-		28.10.2021 up to 3.00 PM

Can view this particular statement in detail <https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

SD/-  
(RAMESH KUMAR GUPTA)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-I  
(O) 25125273

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 497(2021-22)

# Kushinagar crowns...

**From Page 1**

The Kushinagar airport's new terminal building, which is spread across 3,600 square meter, was built at a cost of Rs 260 crore by the Centre-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) in association with the Uttar Pradesh Government, it

nearby Begumbanji of Noakhali district. Muslim and Hindu protestors took to the streets at different areas of the country, including the capital Dhaka in the past several days. The Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Unity Council said at least 70 puja pavilions and temples were attacked in the previous three days of violence. The council alleges that at least four Hindu devotees have died in the attacks in Chandpur and Noakhali. Meanwhile, the elite anti-crime force Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has arrested two more men in connection with the looting and vandalism of temples and shops belonging to the Hindu minority community in Feni, about 155 kms from here. "They were arrested for their involvement in communal violence and inciting people on social media. They were handed over to the local police station," said Imran Khan, assistant director of the paramilitary force's Legal and Media Wing. Earlier on Saturday, one

**AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED** (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)  
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(II)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) 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 demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table: -

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor/Loan A/C No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060817713482 Nirdosh Tiwari (Borrower)	10-Jul-21 ₹ 1,84,808/- Rs. One Lac Eighty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eight only as On 7-Jul-21	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Situated At Property situated at Mig 1084 Mig 1084 N, Aditya Nagar Chhattisgarh Housing Board Colony vill Titurdih Ward No 20 Durg Chhattisgarh. Admeasuring 111.75 Square Metre. East: N/A West: N/A North: N/A South: N/A	13-Oct-21
(Loan A/C No.) L9001061121066526 Madan Lal Mishri Lal (Borrower), Mohanlal Khatri (Co-Borrower), Pawan Khatri (Co-Borrower)	13-Jul-21 ₹ 2,20,922/- Rs. Two Lac Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Two only as On 7-Jul-21	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Situated At Property situated at Kh No 403 Plot Of Mohanlal P.C No 05 23 Lormi Mungeli Chhattisgarh. Admeasuring 4309 Square Feet. East: N/A West: N/A North: N/A South: N/A	13-Oct-21

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said [Act 2002] read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table.

"The borrower'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."

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.

Date : 18/10/2021  
Place : Chhattisgarh

sd/-  
Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

# B'desh arsonists...

**From Page 1**

The fire service received a report of the fire at 8:45 PM and finally put it out by 4.10 am, the report said. The arson incident occurred amid rising communal tension over an alleged blasphemy incident at a Durga Puja venue in Cumilla which led to attacks on Hindu temples and clashes between vandals and the police in Cumilla, Chandpur, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Moulvibazar, Gazipur, Chapainawabganj, Feni and other districts. Dozens of people have been arrested over the attacks and the spread of communal hatred on social media, the report said. Four assumed Muslim bigots were killed in Haziganj, the worst scene of the violence, on Wednesday and Thursday, while the body of a Hindu devotee was found at a pond in

# 'Will develop human resources in Bastar'

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

While every state government builds roads, schools and buildings, the Chhattisgarh administration aims for an overall development of the human resources in Bastar, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Monday.

On the second day of his visit to Bastar on the occasion of Bastar Dussehra, he said this to priests, Sirhas, Gunias and heads of tribal society in village Girola in the premises of Mata Hinglajin temple complex. Earlier, he prayed at the temple.

## New Building for Bastar Press Club

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday approved the construction of a new building for the Press Club at Jagdalpur.

He made the announcement during a visit to Patrakar Bhawan at Nayapara in Jagdalpur. He held discussions with journalists from the print, electronic and web portals.



The journalists raised the issue of land for construction of houses. Baghel promised to take steps to solve the problem.

Baghel announced the operation of the Sub-

Divisional Magistrate's office for 15 days in a month and

construction of a stadium at the Bakawand tehsil head-

quarters.

The economic status of the people is being improved through procurement of paddy, maize, forest produce, cow dung and tendu leaves, he pointed out.

No tribal will be displaced from his land as industries will be set up in Bastar without acquiring tribal land. All factories and industries will be established on government land and 90 percent of the jobs in these industries will be given to the locals, he said.

He underlined that there would be no shortage of funds to develop Bastar.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday prayed at the Maa Hinglajin temple at Girola in Bastar district for peace and prosperity of the region. Pioneer Photo

## Bilaspur welcomes 'Vijay Mashal'



STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

The 'Swarnim Vijay Mashal' (Victory Torch) lit for the year-long 50th anniversary celebration of the 1971 India-Pakistan war was accorded a grand welcome at Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh on Monday.

The Torch will reach

Kanker and Dhamtari districts on October 19, the last leg of its passage through the state.

It was received by dignitaries at Bhojpur Toll Plaza on Raipur Road at Bilaspur. At 10 am, it was taken to the war memorial Amar Jawan Chowk (CMD Chowk).

Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik, Bilaspur

MP Arun Sao, Bilaspur Mayor Ramsharan Yadav, MLAs and defence veterans took part in the events organized to honour the Torch.

Contingents of the Indian Army, Railway Police Force, Central Reserve Police Force, District Police and National Cadet Corp saluted the torch.

## Baghel shunts out SP for beating driver

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday ordered the removal of the Narayanpur Superintendent of Police with immediate effect on charges of beating up his driver.

"Police officers are expected to deal strictly with criminals. It is unpardonable to beat up a subordinate employee. Instructions have been



issued to remove the Superintendent of Police of Narayanpur who behaves in an uncontrolled manner," Baghel tweeted.

On Monday, Jailal Netam, the driver of Superintendent of Police Uday Kiran, alleged that the officer thrashed him for not keeping the official car clean.

The officer denied the allegation and said he had only scolded Netam for negligence.

Meanwhile, a 2010 batch IPS officer Girija Shankar Jaiswal has been posted as Narayanpur SP after removal of Uday Kiran (2015 batch).

## Team to probe newborns' death

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government on Monday formed a team to probe the death of four newborns at the Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH) in Ambikapur.

The team will inspect the health facilities at the Out Patient Department (OPD), In Patient Department (IPD) and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the hospital.

The team will be led by Associate Professor, Pediatrics, at the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS), Bilaspur, Dr Samir Jain.



Associate Professors at the Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Raipur, Dr Virendra Kurre and Dr Shashikant Dewangan, will be members of the team.

## Man arrested with 145.5 mg of charas



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Monday arrested a 30-year-old man and seized 145.5 mg of charas valued at Rs 1.50 lakhs from him in Raipur city.

Superintendent of Police Tarkeshwar Patel identified him as Harish Rawat of Abhanpur town in Raipur district.

He was caught when he was looking for customers at the Goss Memorial grounds. He told the police that he brought the drug from Uttarakhand.

# Laxity will not be tolerated: Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ AMBIKAPUR

Chhattisgarh Minister Dr Shivkumar Daharia on Monday inspected the Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH) at Ambikapur where four newborns died and made it clear that laxity of any kind won't be tolerated.

Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo was present in the review meeting.

Daharia warned the medical staff of the hospital that the tragic incident should not get repeated.

He told the hospital that in leave should be given to pediatric doctors and Superintendents unless alternate arrangements were in place.

He sought mandatory biometric attendance for the medical staff. If there is a shortage of doctors, contractual appointments should be



made, he said. A baby died in the hospital on October 15 night while three others died the next morning. All four, aged 4 to 28 days, were referred from other hospitals. Parents of the deceased protested against the deaths.

# Dalpat Sagar lake beautification unveiled



STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel on Monday inaugurated a pathway, painting and electrification work in the northern part of Dalpat Sagar lake in Bastar costing Rs 1.92 crores.

Baghel also launched a water level maintenance scheme of Dalpat Sagar with 75 HP Viti Pump from

Indravati river under Amrit Mission. Accordingly, water from the river began pouring into lake, preventing it from drying dry up in summer.

Due to hyacinth, the historical Dalpat Sagar was only losing its beauty. Thanks to government efforts, it now boasts of clear water.

To keep Indravati and Dalpat Sagar free from pollution, a sewerage treatment plant has been set up at Balikonta at a cost of Rs 54 crores.

## Bastar CCI praises new industrial policy



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Bastar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) on Monday praised the new industrial policy of the Chhattisgarh government.

This was stated during the golden jubilee celebration of CCI at Bastar where Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was the chief guest.

Baghel, who was touring Jagdalpur to view the Bastar Dussehra, also attended the golden jubilee celebrations of CCI.

He felicitated former Presidents and members of CCI with shawls and mementos. A souvenir was released to mark 50 years of CCI.

Industries Minister and District In-charge Minister Kawasi Lakhma and CCI President Kishore Parakh attended the event among others.

**कार्यालय सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक**  
**जिला चिकित्सालय बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा (छ.ग.)**  
 ईमेल- cs-bbazar.cg@gov.in Tel. phone- 07727-223532

क्रमांक/स्टोर/2021/2890 बलौदाबाजार, दिनांक - 09-10-21

**नेत्र ऑपरेशन हेतु आवश्यक उपकरण, कन्ज्युमेबल्स एवं सामग्री क्रय करने हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना विज्ञापित**

जिला चिकित्सालय बलौदाबाजार में नेत्र ऑपरेशन हेतु आवश्यक उपकरण, कन्ज्युमेबल्स एवं सामग्री क्रय करने हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जा रही है। निविदा प्रपत्र की शर्तों एवं अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन समय में किसी भी दिवस प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

निविदा प्रपत्र की मूल्य रु.2000.00 (दो हजार रूपये का डीडी जीवन्दीप समिति जिला चिकित्सालय बलौदाबाजार)के नाम से जमा कर प्राप्त कर सकते है।

**अनुमानित राशि - 10,00,000 एक वर्ष हेतु**

निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक- 16.11.2021 को शाम 5.00 बजे तक  
 निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक- 17.11.2021 को शाम 3.00 बजे तक  
 निविदा खोलने की तिथि दिनांक- 17.11.2021 को शाम 4.00 बजे तक

निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय में अपरिहार्य कारणों से परिवर्तित किया जा सकता है, जिसकी सूचना कार्यालय के सूचना पोर्टल में चप्सा कर दी जावेगी।

सिविल सर्जन  
 सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक  
 जिला- चिकित्सालय बलौदाबाजारभाटापारा छ.ग.  
 G- 64512/3 Ryp/Dtd 18.10.21

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)**

**Durg Dated: 07.10.2021**

**e-Procurement Tender Notice**  
**1st Call**

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf Governor of Chhattisgarh dated 27-10-2021:-

Tender System & NIT No.	Name of work	P.A.C.(Rs. In.lacs)
224/85362	Road Safety measures in accidental places (Black Spot) on Various Place under Sub Division No 2 Durg	66.81
225/85363	W.B.M & B.T. PATCH REPAIR WORK IN VARIOUS Roads UNDER PWD SUB DIVISION NO. 2 DURG	77.24
228/85364	Annual Repair of Residential and Non-Residential Building under A/R work Sub-Division Pandariya Distt. Kabirdham	23.12
229/85365	Structural Strength of Residential and Non-Residential Building under A/R work Sub-Division Pandariya Distt. Kabirdham	24.90
230/85366	Annual of Residential and Non-Residential Building under A/R work Sub-Division Bodla Distt. Kabirdham	25.00
231/85367	Improvement of Junctions (Part 2) on Rajnandgaon Kawardha Pondi Road km 79/6 to 97 km	34.78
232/85369	Improvement of Junctions (Part 2) on Rajnandgaon Kawardha Pondi Road km 98 to 115/4 km	35.93

**Note -**  
 1- NIT No. 224 & 225 are under Public Works Department Durg Division Durg & NIT No. 228,229,230,231 & 232 are under Public Works Department Rajnandgaon Division Rajnandgaon.  
 2- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website e <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.  
 3- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Speed Post in this office.

**Superintending Engineer**  
**P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)**  
 G- 64492/7 Ryp/Dtd 18.10.21  
 Tel. 0788-2210876

# Cong committed sin by vilifying Patel, says BJP



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing its attack on the Congress Working Committee (CWC) and its proceedings, the BJP on Monday accused the Congress of committing a "sin" over reports that a leader at the recent CWC meeting made critical remarks about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and sought to know if the party leadership will take action against him.

Accusing the Congress of only promoting the dynasty leaders, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra cited reports that Tariq Hameed Karra, a Kashmiri leader and a perma-

nent invitee to the Congress Working Committee, had credited Jawaharlal Nehru for Jammu and Kashmir's integration with India and had alleged that the role of Patel was sidelined.

The BJP leader described the alleged comments in the CWC as "sin".

Patra wanted to know whether Congress president Sonia Gandhi or Rahul objected when Karra "vilified" Patel and presented India's first Home Minister as a "villain" while praising Nehru.

"Was Karra reprimanded? Will he be axed from the CWC," Patra asked, accusing the Congress of constantly insulting leaders like Subhas

# Nadda lauds party workers for excellent work during pandemic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chairing the key office bearers' meeting here on Monday to discuss upcoming Assembly polls in five States, BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda on Monday lauded the hard work done by party workers during the trying times of Covid-19 and urged them to be relevant to the people.



"Parivartan (change) is constant and an ongoing process. And I always say, only those succeed in politics who stay relevant," Nadda said in his address to the gathering, the first such addressed by him post-Covid-19 at the BJP headquarters after he took over as president in January 2021.

It has been called by Nadda to discuss the party's strategy for the upcoming Assembly polls next year and to assign responsibilities to the office-bearers, election-in-charge, state in-charge and other leaders playing key roles in the poll-bound States.

Nadda from the five poll-bound States including UP, Uttarakhand, Goa and Punjab on the basis of which the party ticket allotment would be decided in the coming months.

After the day-long session BJP Vice-president Bajant J Panda briefed the press saying the BJP is "fully ready" for elections in five States.

Panda said party regularly took directions from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to march ahead for the future task. He said India is being globally praised for its vaccination drive and by IMF for the economic growth.

He said within a couple of days, the country will reach

the target of 100 crore Covid-19 vaccination.

The meeting was attended by the party's national general secretary (organisational) BL Santhosh, national general secretary Arun Singh and Dushyant Gautam, national secretaries Vinod Tawde and Harish Dwivedi.

Party's Uttar Pradesh in-charge and national vice president Radha Mohan Singh, BJP's Uttarakhand and Punjab in-charge and national general secretary Dushyant Gautam, Goa in-charge and national general secretary CT Ravi, along with other general secretaries, national secretaries, vice-president, morcha chiefs and national spokespersons of the party were also present at the meeting.

BJP's national executive council meeting is also scheduled for November 7.

Assembly elections are slated in UP, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur (all BJP ruled) and Punjab (Congress) in early next year.

# India has always favoured peaceful, rule-based world order, says Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As China is increasingly asserting itself in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region leading to tension, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said India has always favoured peaceful, rule based and stable world order.

He also said the "geographical location of our country is something that makes it unique in many ways. Surrounded by the vast expanse of ocean from three sides, our country is very important from the point of view of strategic, trade and resources."

Sharing this view here while inaugurating the four-day Navy Commanders' here, Rajnath said as a responsible maritime stakeholder India supports consensus based principles and a peaceful, open, rule based and stable world order.

India also envisions Indian Ocean Region (IOR) with the universal values of rule based freedom of navigation and free trade in which the interests of all participating countries are protected, he said.

Being an important country in this maritime route the role of our Navy becomes more important in ensuring the security of this region, he said adding the Navy is effectively carrying out these responsibil-

ities.

Speaking about the rapidly changing economic and political relations across the world, Rajnath said these economic interests do cause some stress in the relations. Therefore, there is a greater need to maintain peace and stability within the Indian Maritime Zones in order to boost the trade and economic activities. India Navy's role in ensuring maintenance of this peace and stability in the region is going to increase manifold in the times to come.

"Only those nations have been successful in gaining dominance across the world, whose Navies have been strong and I am happy to say that our Navy is playing an important role in our maritime and national security," he said.

Lauding the Navy's efforts on self-reliance, the defence minister noted

"It is worth mentioning that in the last five financial years, more than two-thirds of the Navy's modernisation budget has been spent on indigenous procurement."

He also said it was a matter of great pride to know that out of 41 ships and submarines ordered by our Navy, 39 are from Indian shipyards. This is a testament to the Navy's commitment to 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat', the minister said.

On this occasion, he also

launched the 'Integrated Unmanned Road Map for Indian Navy'. This publication aims to provide a comprehensive Unmanned Systems Roadmap in consonance with the Indian Navy's Concept of Operations and chart out a capability development plan for the Indian Navy. A reference version of this Roadmap will also be promulgated for the benefit of industry, which will promote India's 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' mission.

The Conference, held twice a year, will focus on addressing the contemporary security paradigms while seeking ways to enhance combat capability of the Navy and make operations more effective and efficient.

Detailed review of the performance of weapons and sensors, readiness of Indian Navy's platforms, ongoing Naval projects - with focus on ways to enhance indigenisation through 'Make in India' will also be undertaken by the Commanders.

The conference would also dwell upon dynamics of the geostrategic situation of the region in the backdrop of recent events.

The Chief of Defence Staff, and the Chiefs of Indian Army and Indian Air Force would also interact with the Naval Commanders to address convergence of the three Services.

# Fernandez skips appearance before ED in ₹200-cr money laundering case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Actor Jacqueline Fernandez again skipped on Monday her appearance before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in connection with a probe into an over ₹200 crore money-laundering case against alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekar.

This was her third summons and the agency may notify another date to secure her appearance.

The actor is learnt to have cited professional engagements as the reason for skipping the summons, sources said.

Fernandez, 36, has appeared before the federal agency once in August and recorded her statement in this case as a witness under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).



The agency wants to confront her with the main accused in the case involving Chandrasekar and his actor wife Leena Maria Paul, they said.

The agency is seeking to understand some trail of funds and transactions allegedly linked to Fernandez in this case, they further said.

Actor and dancer Nora Fatehi, 29, recorded her statement with the ED on Thursday in this case. Fatehi's representative had said that she has been the victim in the case and being a witness, she is co-operating and helping the officers in the investigation.

Chandrasekar and Paul were recently arrested by the ED while they were already

Chandra Bose, Patel and Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar.

The Congress, he alleged, is reduced to being a party of a family and works to advance

the family's rule.

"What sort of mindset is this that one family has done everything and others have done nothing. What the CWC has done is a sin," he said

adding "this is height of sycophancy".

Earlier this week, the BJP had described CWC as CPB-'Congress Parivar Bachao Committee'.

# Centre resorting to 'tax extortion': Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday attacked the Centre over auto fuel costing more than the rate at which aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is sold to airlines. Former party chief Rahul Gandhi alleged that the Centre was resorting to "tax extortion".

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹105.84 a litre and ₹111.77 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, diesel now comes for ₹102.52 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs ₹94.57.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also took a dig at the government, saying it promised to make those wearing 'hawai chappals' travel by air but it has hiked the prices of petrol and diesel so much that it has become difficult for the middle class to travel even by road.

Tagging a media report on auto fuels costing a third more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines, Rahul Gandhi tweeted that this is a very serious issue — "simple needs of the people that are not

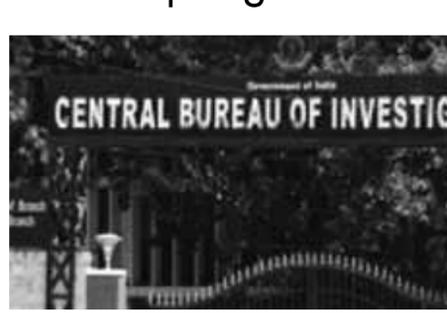
being fulfilled today come before election-vote-politics".

"I am with the people who are being cheated for the benefit of Modi's friends and will continue to raise their voices," the former Congress chief said in a tweet in Hindi. Priyanka Gandhi, in a tweet in Hindi, said, "Had promised that those wearing 'hawai chappals' (slippers) will travel by airplane. But the BJP government has hiked the prices of petrol and diesel so much that now it has become difficult for those wearing 'hawai chappals' and the middle class to travel even by road."

She used the hashtag 'BJP lai mehenge din (BJP has brought expensive days)' with her tweet. The Congress, from its official Twitter handle, alleged that auto fuels costing a more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines was a proof of the Modi government's "loot".

Petrol and diesel prices on Sunday were hiked again by 35 paise a litre and after this hike the auto fuel was now costing a third more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines.

# CBI arrests J&K Grameen Bank official for accepting bribe



IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested two persons including an official of J&K Grameen bank for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 to sanction a house loan.

The probe agency said that it has arrested one Jatinder Kumar and Kathua, Parliwand Grameen bank Branch Head Sanjay Kumar Sharma.

They received a complaint that the bank official has

demanding a bribe of ₹50,000 through Jatinder for processing and sanction of housing loan of ₹20 lakh of the complainant's father.

The CBI laid a trap and caught Jatinder while demanding and accepting the bribe of ₹20,000 —part payment of the total bribe.

Searches are being conducted at the premises of both the accused at Kathua (J&K), the probe agency stated.

The arrested accused will be produced before the Special Judge, CBI Cases, Jammu.

# Shah chairs security meet of DGPs, IGPs, intelligence officials



IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday presided over the National Security Strategy Conference (NSSC) through video conferencing to discuss the prevailing security situation in the country.

Top police sources said all the Director Generals of Police of States, Inspector Generals, selected field officers of the rank of Superintendents of Police and Inspector Generals, heads of Central Police Forces, intelligence agencies and police organisations are participating in this closed-door conference.

Apart from these police officials, the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Intelligence Bureau (IB) Chief Arvind Kumar and other officials of the IB, the DGPs of border guarding forces BSF, ITBP, and the SSB are also present at the NSSC along with the DG of CRPF, sources said.

According to the officials in the security agencies, during the meeting the prevailing security situation in the country is being discussed and strategy will be chalked out in view of the emerging new challenges threatening the national security.

They also said that the Kashmir situation will be discussed threadbare in the wake of recent individual killings of non-Kashmiris in the Valley and to discuss possible counter measures to effectively prevent these attacks.

The Maoist insurgency in the country will also be part of the discussion, sources added.

The crucial strategic conference gains significance amid several internal security challenges and it is expected that some new guidelines will be formulated to deal with these new challenges, including cross border crimes, drugs and issues threatening the national security at large.

Apart from the J&K issue, presentations prepared by the states on the emerging security challenges in their respective areas will also be discussed in details, a source in the security set up said, adding that many southern states like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu have received terror inputs by the central agencies, especially after the Taliban take over of Afghanistan in August this year.

The meeting started at 3 p.m. and is likely to continue till late evening, sources said.

# Infants, children equally capable of replicating SARS-CoV-2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

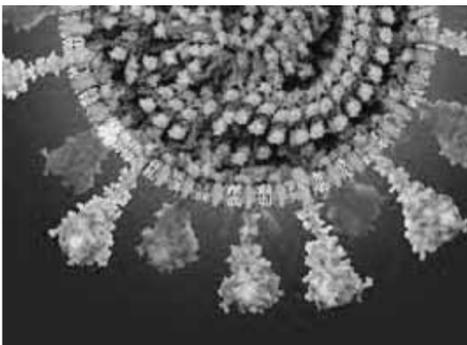
Infants, children and adolescents are equally capable of carrying high levels of life and replicating SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, in their respiratory secretions,

researchers have confirmed in a new study, emphasising that kids are an essential component of beating the pandemic.

According to the study, published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, the high levels of virus correspond with

the live, infectious virus, and that levels are highest early in the illness in both symptomatic and asymptomatic children.

The study was led by a team from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Brigham and Women's



those around them.

"Children can carry the virus and infect other people," said Lael Yonker, a pediatric pulmonologist at MGH.

"There had been the question about whether the high viral load in children correlated with the live virus. We've been able to provide a definitive answer that these high viral loads are infectious," Yonker added.

As Covid-19 variants continue to emerge, infected children are potential "reservoirs" for the evolution of new variants as well as potential spreaders of current variants, she said.

"Kids with Covid-19, even if asymptomatic, are infectious and can harbour SARS-CoV-2 variants. Variants could potentially impact both the severity of the disease and the efficacy of vaccines, as we are seeing with the Delta variant.

When we cultured the live virus, we found a wide variety of genetic variants. New variants have the potential to be more contagious and also make kids sicker," Yonker noted.

Further, the viral loads of kids in the hospital were no different from those found in hospitalised adults, according to the study.

Similar evidence was cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggesting that when compared to adults, children "likely have similar viral loads in their nasopharynx, similar secondary infection rates, and can spread the virus to others". The study called for increasing awareness of pediatric COVID and implementing broader testing programmes for children as they are an essential component in the fight against Covid-19.

# India, Israel agree to mutually recognise Covid vax certification



IANS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid on Monday agreed on the mutual recognition of the Covid-19 vaccination certificates.

Jaishankar, who is on a three-day visit to the West Asian country has been holding meetings with government officials, business leaders, and the Indian Jewish community there.

After the talks with Israeli Foreign Minister, Jaishankar said, he had a 'very productive' discussion on a wide range of regional and global issues.

"Very productive talks today with APM and FM @YairLapid. Discussed a wide range of regional and global issues. Agreed to resume FTA negotiations next month. Agreed in principle on mutu-

al recognition of Covid vaccination certification," Jaishankar tweeted.

"Last year, India and Israel have dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have helped one another amidst this crisis. This is how friends and partners behave", Lapid said.

He also thanked Jaishankar for his visit to Israel, saying a visit preceding events that will take place next year will mark 30 years of bilateral relations between the two countries.

After the meeting, Minister of Energy Karine Elharrar signed the agreement on the accession of Israel to the International Solar Alliance, a global initiative of India.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar unveiled a plaque commemorating the Bhoodan Grove planted by Sarvodaya workers in 1960.

**Ch. Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani**  
 चौबरी बंसीलाल विश्वविद्यालय, (बिहानी)  
 (A State University established by Govt. of Haryana Act No. 25 of 2014)  
**Admission Notice for Education courses 2021-22**

Online application form for admission to B.Ed./B.Ed. Spl./ M.Ed./M.Ed. Spl./ PGDRP/ M.A.SWDS (Regular Programme) offered by Colleges of Education affiliated to this University are invited w.e.f. 18.10.2021 for the session 2021-22. Prospectus containing all details and procedure for admission is available on University website [www.cblu.ac.in](http://www.cblu.ac.in) or [www.cbluonline.in](http://www.cbluonline.in). Eligible candidates may apply online and get themselves registered for counselling on the portal as per schedule given in the Prospectus. Updates/changes, if any, will be notified on the Ch. Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani Website. [www.cblu.ac.in](http://www.cblu.ac.in) or [www.cbluonline.in](http://www.cbluonline.in)

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR**  
 Tel:-0194-2474234 Fax - 2482032 - email :- kashflori@rediffmail.com  
**Subject:- Extension No. 02.**

In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No. 20 of 2021 dated.10.09.2021 for **Outsourcing of entry ticketing system of Akad Park** is hereby extended as per the details given below:-

1. Period of downloading of bidding document	18.10.2021 from 02:00 PM to 03.11.2021 up to 2:00 PM
2. Bid submission Start Date	18.10.2021 from 03:00 PM
3. Bid submission End Date	03.11.2021 up to 2:00 PM
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders	06.11.2021 at 2:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.  
 Sd/- Accounts Officer (Member secretary)  
 No. DIPK-10867/21 Dated:- 18-10-2021

# Kerala: Illegal constructions cause havoc

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Quarrying, deforestation and improper development activities along the Western Ghats are being seen as the reason behind the frequent landslides and deluge haunting Kerala, say environmental scientists and activists.

Monday began in a sad note in the State as six members of a family in Mundakkayam who were killed in the landslide were laid to rest under the auspices of Mar Joseph Kallarangattay. Marin, his mother Clara, wife Sini and their three children were given a tearful farewell by the entire citizens of the town. They were killed when the house in which they live was swallowed by the rushing floodwaters and hillock.

Heavy downpours unleashed the districts of Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta. Vehicular

traffic has come to a grinding halt as road connecting Idukki with the rest of the State was submerged in flood.

"There are 5,000 unauthorised quarries in Western Ghats falling in Kerala. We have nearly 300 small and medium dams out of which 80 are situated in ecologically sensitive areas. The quarrying is sure to create more problems in the coming days. Kerala will see a major disaster in days to come," John Peruvanthanam, environmental activist told *The Pioneer*.

The obsession of Governments (past and present) to build dams and airports are causing ecological damage, he said. "The Kerala Government's move to go ahead with the construction of an air strip in Idukki, allegedly with the blessings of the Union Government has surprised many because the impact of the construction would be felt in Mullaperiyar Dam," said John.

# Nitin Agarwal elected Dy Speaker in UP Assembly

**Lucknow:** BJP-backed Samajwadi Party rebel Nitin Agarwal was on Monday elected Deputy Speaker in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, defeating his party's official candidate Narendra Verma by 244 votes.

Agarwal got 304 votes compared to Verma's 60 in the polling held through ballot papers at a special one-day Assembly session here. Four ballot papers were declared invalid.

The Bahujan Samaj Party, which has 16 MLAs, and the Congress with its seven boycotted the election.

Carrying placards, Congress workers protested in front of the assembly building and accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of trying to divert attention from the problems faced by the State.

Agarwal is now the State's first Deputy Speaker in 14 years. Speaker Hriday Narayan Dixit called it an important post, saying the tradition goes dates back to the Vedic era.

Agarwal, a third-term MLA from Hardoi, is the son of former state minister Naresh Agarwal who recently switched over to the BJP from the Samajwadi Party.

BJP has 304 MLAs in the 403-member House at present and the SP 49, making it a no-contest election as the ruling camp was supporting the SP rebel.

Apna Dal (Sonelal) with its nine MLAs is a BJP ally. The Rashtriya Lok Dal and the Nishad party have one MLA each. There are three independent MLAs, while two are unattached. Seven seats are vacant.

The election, coming just months ahead

of the crucial assembly polls, highlighted the absence of any anti-BJP front in the state with Mayawati's BSP and the Congress refusing to side with the SP.

The three have already decided to fight the assembly polls separately.

The SP, however, seemed to have won the support of members of some regional outfits as it garnered 60 votes, 11 more than its strength of 49 including Agarwal.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has already made it clear that he will have no alliance with the bigger parties and is forging tie-ups with the smaller regional parties.

Back in 2004, BJP's Rajesh Agarwal was elected unopposed as Deputy Speaker during the Mayawati Government's term.

After the declaration of the results, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath justified supporting the rebel SP candidate.

He said the ruling party had backed a young person, but the opposition was unable to bring forward a young face in the past four and half years. He termed the SP an "anti-youth" party which was unable to accept its own member.

Adityanath reminded that technically Agarwal is a Samajwadi Party MLA.

Newly elected Deputy Speaker Agarwal said he will take all members along in the functioning of the House.

Apparently referring to Agarwal, Leader of the Opposition Ram Gobind Chaudhary said he was not made a minister but handed a "lollypop" when the term of the House was nearly over.

# Yogi blames SP dynastic politics for delay in Dy Speaker's election

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated Bharatiya Janata Party-backed Samajwadi Party candidate Nitin Agarwal on his victory for the post of deputy Speaker of the State Assembly, dubbing it as a picture of the 2022 assembly election results.

Yogi Adityanath also targeted the SP for its dynastic politics and its refusal to accept one of its own MLA as the deputy speaker.

The chief minister, in his address in the assembly after Nitin Agarwal was declared elected as deputy speaker on Monday, said the result had exposed the falacy of the opposition unity.

"The opposition, including SP, could not show unity even in the election of the deputy speaker and this result is a clear indication of the result of the 2022 UP assembly elections," he said.

Yogi Adityanath also expressed sympathy for SP candidate Narendra Singh Verma who polled only 60 votes. "Had

the SP made him a candidate four years ago, he could have possibly won," he pointed out.

Taking a jibe at SP's failure as the largest Opposition party, the chief minister said the BJP waited for a full four-and-a-half years but the SP did not put forward any names for the deputy speaker's post. He said finally, in view of the last six months of the House remaining, the BJP took steps towards fulfilling this tradition.

Expressing happiness over getting a young, energetic and experienced deputy speaker Nitin Agarwal, Yogi Adityanath said that "technically" Nitin was also a member of SP and thus the BJP had followed the tradition of the House.

Talking about the defeat of the SP in the 2022 assembly elections, the chief minister also exhorted the SP to rise above 'parivarvad' (dynastic politics). "For SP, the family is the State, whereas for the BJP, the entire state is a family," the chief minister asserted.

# BJP questions Didi's silence on Bangla riots

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The BJP on Monday launched a fierce attack on Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for not spending a word on the ongoing attacks on the Hindus in Bangladesh.

In a hard-hitting statement Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said "our Chief Minister is known for speaking out of turn and almost on all issues ... but here she has been mysteriously silent on the continuing attacks on the members of Hindu community in Bangladesh ... is this because she does not want to earn the displeasure of her vote bank... Is it because she is afraid of a particular section of voters in this part of Bengal ... is she more concerned about her personal interests and political convenience than the cause of the Hindus?"

Taking a dig at the Chief Minister, the BJP leader said that she often had referred to "a particular community (read the Muslims) as the proverbial milching cow whose kicks are to be tolerated for the sake of the milk it provides ... is it for the same reason that she is not uttering a word against the attack on the Hindus in Bangladesh ... is she quite because she does not want to alienate her milching cow?"

At least five people have been killed, Durga Puja pandals pulled down, an ISKCON temple vandalised and properties of Hindus torched over the past week in religious violence in about in 20 districts of Bangladesh.

Adhikari's statements came when the BJP staged state-wide protests against the Bangladesh incident. Protests were launched at several places in Kolkata, Siliguri, Baruiapur, Asansol, Cooch Behar, Balurghat, Hooghly and other places.

Curiously the Left Front too protested against the Bangladesh attacks but in a different manner even as its cadres made human chains comprising members from both Hindu and Muslim communities.

Quoting Banerjee the Opposition Leader said, "the Chief Minister always says that 'religion is a personal matter but festival belongs to all' ... so where is that spirit when the Hindus are attacked in Bangladesh and when their properties are destroyed and looted and their men killed?"

Though the Chief Minister maintained a studied silence Trinamool Congress leader and senior Minister Firhad Hakim condemned the Bangladesh incident hoping the "secular Government of Sk Hasina" would definitely take action to contain the riots.

"We have a friendly Government in Bangladesh which is known for its secular values ... we have been told that it is taking ample measures and we hope it will soon bring the situation under control and take measures against the perpetrators of this violence," Hakim said.

# Naravane takes stock of J&K security

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane on Monday took stock of the ongoing counter terrorist operation as it entered the eighth day in the thickly forested area of Nar Khas in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch.

The Indian army Chief is also scheduled to visit the forward areas of Rajouri and Poonch along with top brass of the Indian army deployed in the region to prepare their

counter strategy to neutralise these terrorists at the earliest.

The Indian Army on Monday tweeted, "General MM Naravane, COAS (Chief of Army Staff) is on a two day visit to Jammu Region where in GOC White Knight Corps will give an update on security situation and operational preparedness." "COAS will visit forward areas and interact with troops and commanders on ground," it added

Using Drone technology,

the Indian army is learnt to have spotted movement of a group of terrorists inside the forest area and has managed to localise these terrorists. Firefighting also resumed in the wee hours of Monday after a brief lull since Sunday afternoon.

The Indian army is taking all necessary measures to minimise the collateral damage.

Since October 11, the Indian army has pressed its resources including elite para commandos to hunt down the

heavily armed group of terrorists but no major success could be achieved.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir police, the terrorists were camping in the area for over two months and may have carved out safe hideouts taking advantage of the thick forest cover.

So far nine Indian soldiers including two Junior Commissioned Officers have sacrificed their lives during firefights with these terrorists.



Young women offer prayers in a paddy field during Kati Bihu celebrations at Uttar Para village in Baksa district of Assam on Monday

# Sena leader moves SC seeking judicial enquiry into affairs of NCB at Mumbai

**Mumbai:** A Shiv Sena leader has moved the Supreme Court seeking judicial enquiry into affairs of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) at Mumbai and its officials in the wake of the arrest of Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan in a case of alleged seizure of drugs from a cruise ship in Mumbai.

The petition has urged the apex court to take suo moto cognizance to protect the fundamental rights of Aryan who has been booked under the NDPS Act by NCB, Zonal Office, Mumbai. "I would like to point out towards the malafide style, approach and dirty vendetta affairs of NCB at Mumbai and it's officials targeting select film celebrity & few models since last two years and would like to request Your Honour to order to institute special judicial investigation & enquiry to unearth the role of NCB official," the plea filed by Mumbai-based Shiv Sena leader Kishore Tiwari said. Referring to the statement of NCP leader and Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik in which he had cast aspersions on NCB, the plea said it's high time the NCB is probed by a top court judge to unravel the truth.

Aryan is currently lodged in Arthur Road prison in central Mumbai in the case of alleged seizure of drugs from a cruise ship.

# Dry amusement parks to open in Maha from Oct 22

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As the Covid-19 crisis began to subside in Maharashtra, the State Government on Monday announced that all dry amusement parks would re-open along with cinema halls from October 22.

A day after Mumbai recorded zero Covid deaths for the first time since the break-out on March 26, 2020, the Covid-19 task force that met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray decided to lift the ban on dry amusement parks from October 22. However, the task force decided to defer the decision on re-starting water rides in these amusement parks to a later date.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said: "As the number of Covid-19 cases seems on the decline, we are gradually easing the restrictions. From October 22 onwards, we will reopen cinema halls and theatres, while we are increasing the timings of hotels and shops".

Uddhav directed the Public Health Department officials to obtain fresh stocks of the Centre and prepare a plan for starting the vaccination for children in the age group from two to 18 years. Meanwhile, Maharashtra recorded 27 deaths and 1,485

infections on Monday.

With 27 fresh deaths reported on Sunday, the total number of deaths in the state increased from 1,39,789 to 1,39,816, while the total infections -- with 1,485 new cases -- went up from 65,91,697 to 65,93,182.

As 2078 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 64,19,678 to 64,21,756. The recovery rate in the state rose from 97.39 per cent to 97.40 per cent. The total 'active cases' in the state dropped from 28,631 to 28,008. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 2.12 per cent.

Pune with 7,843 active cases emerged as the first in the state in terms of maximum number of 'active cases' in the state, while Mumbai with 5,703 stood second in the state, followed by Thane (3,672), Ahmednagar (3,320) and Satara (958).

Of the 6,08,613 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 65,93,353 have tested positive (10.79 per cent) for Covid-19 until Monday.

Currently, 2,08,613 people are in home quarantine while 961 people are in institutional quarantine.

# Schools in Karnataka to reopen for students of classes 1 to 5 from Oct 25

**Bengaluru:** With Covid-19 cases declining, Karnataka Government on Monday permitted re-opening of schools for students of classes 1 to 5 from October 25 by strictly adhering to precautions and guidelines against the coronavirus. Also, the Government announced certain relaxations for international arrivals at airports while allowing certain activities like throwing open swimming pools with certain conditions.

"Class from 1st to 5th standards permitted to re-open from October 25, 2021, by strictly adhering to Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and SOPs issued by the Department of Primary and Secondary Education. Parental consent letter for physical classes is mandatory," an order issued by Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar said.

It has laid down certain rules such as screening for Covid-19 symptoms on entry, 50 per cent of the capacity in a classroom, provision of hand sanitizers, physical distancing of a minimum of one metre as practically feasible, no crowding, particularly at school entry and exit, and disinfecting classrooms and restrooms daily using 1 per cent sodium hypochlorite solution.

Only teachers and staff who have been vaccinated with two doses of Covid-19 vaccines

would be allowed in classes 1 to 5, it said. There shall be additional use of face shield by teachers who are over 50 years of age.

"The operational guidelines on re-opening of classes 1 to 5 will be issued by the Department of Primary and Secondary Education," it added. The Government re-opened schools for students of classes 6 to 8 from September 6 and for students of classes 9 to 12 from August 23.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has given its report and a decision on re-opening schools for students from classes one to five would be announced soon.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh said SOP would be sent to all the schools probably by Wednesday, the day being a public holiday, officials also have been asked to take extra precaution as the children are too young.

Stating that schools have been functioning for higher classes for the last one-and-a-half months now, and there has not been even a single case of a child being infected by Covid-19 because of attending school, the Minister told parents that they can send children to school without any fear, and that cases are also declining.

# Lawyer shot dead in Shahjahanpur district court

**Shahjahanpur (UP):** A lawyer was shot dead allegedly by another on the district court premises here on Monday afternoon over an old rivalry, following which four cops were suspended for negligence, police said. The victim, Bhupendra Singh (58), had filed two dozen cases against Suresh Gupta. Upset over this, Gupta allegedly killed him, they said.

Taking strong exception to a serious crime like murder on the court premises, four police personnel, including an inspector, have been placed under suspension, Assistant Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar said.

Advocate Bhupendra Singh of Jalalabad tehsil had gone to the third-floor office of ACJM-1 of the district court in the afternoon to meet a clerk in con-

nection with some case when a gunshot was heard and he was found dead.

Quoting the clerk Singh had gone to meet, Superintendent of Police (SP) S Anand had earlier said that an illegal 315 bore pistol was found near the body. A case of murder was registered against advocate Suresh Kumar Gupta and his two sons Gaurav Gupta and Ankit Gupta. The accused advocate has been arrested, the police said. Advocates in the district had launched an indefinite strike, demanding the killer's immediate arrest. Bar Association general secretary Aneet Kumar Trivedi, who had led the protest, told *PTI* that since the accused has been arrested, the organisation would meet at 11 am on Tuesday to decide on further course of action.

# Kerala couple braves flood, sails in a cooking vessel to get hitched

**Alappuzha (Ker):** Love knows no bounds, not even nature's fury. Sailing along in a large cooking vessel through the flooded streets, a health worker couple from the district beat all odds to exchange their wedding vows on Monday here, keen not to miss the special occasion to usher in a new chapter in their life.

The couple's love story came as a pleasant news for the rain-battered Kerala, which has seen tragedy unfold in the last two days that was marked by the despair of death, with bodies being found following the heavy downpour and landslides.

For the newlyweds-- Akash and Aishwarya-- a large aluminium vessel doubled up as some kind of a boat to transport them to the venue where the wedding was slated to take place.

Akash, speaking to *PTI*, said theirs was an inter-caste relationship which was opposed by an uncle of Aishwarya and therefore, they had a registered marriage on October 5.

Subsequently, they decided to get married as per Hindu rites without much delay, but

most of the temples near his home at Thakazhy here were accepting bookings 15 days in advance.

Finally, they found a temple at Thalavady here which agreed to host the ceremony on Monday, he said, adding that it was supposed to be a small event attended only by close friends and family.

However, thanks to their journey in a cooking vessel to the wedding hall, now everyone knows about the marriage, Akash said, excited about how the entire episode turned out and the fame that has come with it.

He said on Sunday someone from the temple had called him up asking whether he was willing to postpone the wedding as the venue was filled with water.

But both of them are health workers who are on COVID duty and were unsure when they would get a holiday next to get married. Therefore, they decided not to postpone it and the temple authorities said they would make the necessary arrangements to ferry them to the venue.

On Monday, when they reached Thalavady, people were

ready with the cooking vessels, which belonged to the temple, to ferry the bride and groom and also the few family members who came with them. Akash said it was the only option available at such short notice.

With two men holding the cooking vessel for stability, Akash and Aishwarya sat down inside it, and with a cameraman in front, set forth to the venue.

Akash said he was comfortable travelling in the vessel as it was used for transportation in the Kuttanad area, as this region is also called, where he had grown up.

During the 2018 floods, this cooking vessel had seen extensive use as a mode of rescuing and transporting those stuck in their homes.

Entering wedlock in a flooded hall adjacent to the temple the couple were joined by a small group of relatives.

The couple told reporters -- who were covering the rising water levels in the district and had arrived at the hall after hearing about the nuptials -- that due to Covid-19 they had kept the invites to the minimum.



A dargah illuminated with lights during Eid Milad-un-Nabi, in Ajmer on Monday

# 4 family members killed, 5 hurt after car collides with truck in Rajasthan

**Barmer (Rajasthan):** Four members of a family were killed and five others injured when their car collided head-on with a truck in Barmer district of Rajasthan on Monday, police said. The accident occurred on a highway under Sindhari police station area when the family members were returning home in Gujarat after visiting Jasol dham in Barmer.

"Four persons were killed in the accident," SHO of Sindhari police station Baldev Ram said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Revival effort

Sasikala's attempt to make herself politically relevant again still lacks teeth

It is the golden jubilee year of the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, but the celebrations are muted. It lacks a unifying leader. It lost power to rival DMK. Its workers have been caught in factional fights ever since Jayalalithaa died. Can such a party dare think of a revival? A close aide of the late Puratchi Thalaivi, VK Sasikala, thinks so. She wants to revive, if not the party, at least her chances of becoming the leader. Coming out of prison after serving a four-year term in a corruption case, she used the occasion of the 50th year of the founding of the party to make herself politically relevant once again. Her political errands were low-key but not publicity-shy. She visited party mausoleums and museums in Chennai to pay her obeisance to MGR and Jayalalithaa. She talked to party workers about bringing back Jayalalithaa's legacy; it was not yet the time to address the people. She proposes to tour the State, to assess the mood of the workers. Sasikala's opening gambit is now complete. It is for the party's dual leadership — Edappadi K Palaniswami and Ottakarathevar Panneerselvam — to respond. The former has taken credit for the AIADMK avoiding a rout in the assembly elections and surprisingly getting 77 seats. He thinks that makes him a better leader than OPS. The latter is more susceptible to Sasikala's influence because they share the same caste. It is not a difficult task for her to break the dual leadership but she would not want the party to break. That would not serve her purpose. She



wants to see how the 2017 heist-cum-murder incident in Jayalalithaa's Kodanad estate affects the OPS-EPS duo. EPS, the then Chief Minister, did not order a special probe. The DMK Government now has. All this has left the party workers a confused lot. They do not know who among the three leaders has the staying power. They want to see if Sasikala has the advantage of a sympathy factor because of her association with 'amma'. They will wait to check if the Kodanad probe troubles EPS and OPS. That is why none of the leaders is in a hurry to make a move.

The person who can keep the AIADMK united and maintain the State's bipolar politics has a chance of succeeding Jayalalithaa. Not even the DMK wants a challenger in the state other than the AIADMK. MK Stalin has gone on record saying that. The Congress knows its place already. The BJP, however, is intent on joining the party. It had originally bet on the AIADMK's decimation in the elections, hoping to find a factional partner if the party broke up. That did not happen as OPS-EPS had a bigger objective: grabbing party reins. However, Sasikala recused herself from the elections as questions were raised about an invisible hand influencing her decision. Can she summon the courage to keep the national parties at bay like Jayalalithaa?

### PICTALK



Volunteers hold placards during the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign in Delhi

Ranjana Dimri | The Pioneer

## Flood and fury

Despite warnings and alerts from the IMD, official response in Kerala has been missing

Monsoon, the subcontinent's unique weather phenomenon, has inspired writers ranging from Kalidasa to Alexander Frater. While the former integrated the beauty and romance of monsoon in his 'Meghdoot', Frater informed the world about its vagaries and how it impacted the socio-economic lives of millions in his travelogue 'Chasing The Monsoon'. Till the early 1970s, the monsoon used to pass over the Indian landscape in an elegant pattern. But over the last few years, the monsoon's fury has started striking Kerala, and India at large, quite regularly. The year 2018 saw nature at its worst, claiming hundreds of lives and devouring thousands of houses and acres of farm lands in God's Own Country. Kerala was under the spell of heavy rains and winds over the last few weeks and this took a turn for the worse as the depressions in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea developed into downpours and heavy winds. Warnings issued by the Indian Meteorological Department and the local Cochin University of Science and Technology

do not seem to have been noticed by the persons who govern the State. Officials have confirmed that rains and landslides claimed more than 30 lives till Monday.

This is going to be the pattern of monsoon in coming weeks and months, according to Prof S Abhilash, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, CUSAT. He says there is a change in the pattern of rain distribution, intensity of rain and cloud structure. There has been no dearth of warnings and weather alerts from the IMD but something is missing in the official response to these timely bulletins. The cloudbursts and landslides are being seen as the fallout of the wanton destruction of the fragile ecosystem in the State. Since the 1960s, the rainforests were slaughtered to build dams and facilitate planting of cash crops like rubber and spices. P K Ramchandran, a veteran botanist with Rubber Board, laments over the report he made which made the Government to promote planting of rubber in thousands of hectares of rain forests. Policy makers forgot the State's proximity to the sea while the ecological devastation of Western Ghats led to flood and fury becoming regular events in Kerala. The land known for its serene nature has taken a vengeful persona, proving yet again that any unregulated action and irresponsibility by mankind will not go unpunished by Nature.

# How the Partition helped India

In an undivided India with no Pakistan or Bangladesh in existence, the larger population would have been only 60 per cent non-Muslim



PRAFULL GORADIA

Pran Chopra, who later rose to be the editor of the Statesman, was reporting on an election which said a lot. A public meeting was held at Jalandhar in the middle of which there was azaan or a call for prayer. The crowd went to pray but Jinnah sat down on a chair, pulled out a cigar and lit it. He smoked until the crowd returned and then resumed his speech in English. The only other language he could speak was Gujarati. He had had no leisure to learn Urdu. Whenever Jinnah shouted "Islam is in danger", the crowd endorsed him loudly. The instance of a Muslim leader shunning prayer and smoking is telling.

If not the leader, what was he who succeeded in dividing a sub-continent? Evidently, he was the advocate-general for Pakistan. He could see that Muslims in India were generally nervous, if not also frightened. They were less educated than the Hindus and were fewer in the total number in the country. Furthermore, not even their elite owned industries and Nehru's socialist Government would take away their land. Muslims, who had ruled India for centuries, would be reduced to servants and clerks of Hindus.

The Advocate had a formula of Pakistan which to Aligarh students meant a New Medina which could go on to throw up a Caliph. There was no reigning religious-cum-temporal head of Sunni Islam. The last one was the Sultan of Turkey whom Kemal Ataturk had dethroned and exiled in 1924. There had been no replacement. He planned a viable strategy for his clients — the Muslims — and got on with his job. He had been the highest-paid barrister in the British Empire for several years. For dividing the country, his fees would be a place in history's hall of fame.

To indicate his role as an advocate, when he went, for the first time, to Dacca in the Eastern wing of Pakistan in February 1948, the university students demanded Bengali also to be a national language. Jinnah insisted that it can only be one tongue namely Urdu. He was curt, he did not know the Bengali psyche, and sowed the seeds of what eventually became Bangladesh. A leader would have



been more tactful and conciliatory. He did something similar in Delhi as he was finally leaving for Karachi. Some local Muslims had gathered in anxiety to ask their Qaid-e-Azam what could happen to them now that Partition has taken place? His reply was hurried and curt; I have achieved for you what you wanted; now look after yourself. What more can I do? Again the attitude of an advocate and not a leader.

On the last day of his life in September 1948, his health was deteriorating at Quetta, where he had gone to rest. His sister Fatima was with him and a British doctor. As his plane landed in Karachi, an old ambulance was awaiting his arrival. Remember, he was the Governor-General. Within two or three miles, the vehicle stopped and would not move forward. So the doctor took another ambulance, which took an hour or so to arrive and take an ailing Jinnah to his residence. That same evening at say 10 pm, he died. The next day he was buried but reportedly in a Savile Row tailored suit. Coincidentally, he died in the city of his birth, namely Karachi.

Jinnah achieved what he had set out on March 23, 1940, at Lahore. His death was no tragedy, because it was not an end with unfulfilled aspirations.



WITHOUT JINNAH, THE PARTITION WAS UNLIKELY. MANY MUSLIMS BELIEVE THAT WITHOUT THE QAID-E-AZAM, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO ONE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BRITISH RULERS

Had he died unfulfilled, it would have been somewhat tragic for him, but more so for Hindus. The simple reason is that there would have been no Partition; without Jinnah, Partition was most unlikely. Many Muslims believe that without the Qaid-e-Azam, there would have been no one to negotiate with the British rulers. The Muslims had no other all-India leader. It is in this belief the Muslim League requested him to jettison his practice in a barrister in London welcome him back to India, as the League's life president.

To be convinced fully that Hindus needed the Partition, one has to digest the arguments laid out by Dr B R Ambedkar which are available in Volume VIII of his Complete Works. In his one blunt statement, Babasaheb declared, "An enemy without one's borders is more desirable than an enemy within". He went on to write that the Hindu provinces were paying much more tax, whose revenue was shared by the Muslim provinces. Yet because of their religious restrictions Muslim soldiers could not have fought for India, had the invading enemy been Muslim. The Khilafat Committee had endorsed this, as also the Muslim League.

In any case, in an undivided

India with no Pakistan or Bangladesh in sight, the larger population of the country would have been only 60 per cent non-Muslim. This 60 per cent would be too low to prevent either an Islamic takeover or an open civil war. In other words, Hindu civilisation would have found it difficult to survive. It is not improbable that the Hindus might have lost this civil war. For one, the Muslims in the Indian army exceeded the rest, especially if one counted only the fighting units minus the non-combatant ones. Secondly, Hindus particularly would have been reluctant to shed blood and take the lives of those when they looked upon as their brethren. Consequently, India would have gone back to being a Dar-ul-Islam, which it had been for many centuries until 1858. The last Mughal incumbent on the throne, Bahadur Shah Zafar was arrested and exiled to Yangon in Burma (then Rangoon), which was when the Islamic world recognised that we had ceased to be an Islamic State.

(This concludes the series on Muhammad Ali Jinnah's role in India-Pak Partition.)

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### THE WALL'S SECOND INNINGS

Sir — Adroit Rahul Dravid would make a dexterous head coach of the Indian cricket team. He has always been an asset for the team in every role be it of a player, a captain or a coach). Dravid has already coached the India-A and the U-19 team for six years. His vast experience is certainly an advantage for young players who need just the right guidance and discipline. His cricketing skills, dexterity, decision making and strategic moves have proven successful in various capacities.

A quality that differentiates a good player and a great player is discipline, and Rahul Dravid has always been known for his impeccable discipline and focus. His unwavering temperament, no matter how ferocious the bowler seemed, puts him ahead of the league. Our young, and even experienced players, can learn a thing or two about discipline from the master himself and become 'great' players. Dravid's forte are team building and team approach. He has the ability to build on strengths, suitability (batting, bowling, fielding, field placement). His system's students such as Rishab Pant, Avesh Khan, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari and Shubnam Gill are proof of the pudding. Nivriti Sreelekha | Secunderabad

#### RUSSIAN FILMMAKERS TAKE IT TO SPACE

Sir — The recent return of the Russian filmmakers from the International Space Station after finishing up their film shoot has increased the thrills of movie lovers manifold. It is extremely exciting to watch space scenes, which until now were artificially created with graphic designs. Shooting in space for 12 days must have been extremely hard to manage than a routine shoot on earth. Russians have historic success in space and now after finishing a shoot in space this time, Russia once again becomes the first country to do so.

Space has many endeavours to be explored by mankind. Space tourism and private space commercial capsule flights had already created a buzz and now a

#### Life in Kerala goes under



As ill luck would have it, Saturday noon saw Kerala reeling under torrential rains and resultant floods that left a long trail of disaster caused by many landslides. At least 26 people have so far lost their lives and in a heart-wrenching scene, bodies of three children of eight, seven and four years holding on to each other were also found buried under the debris by the rescue team in Idukki district. The India Meteorological

Department (IMD) officials have also expressed apprehensions of a cloudburst having caused these unseasonal heavy rains wreaking havoc.

The Army, the Navy and the IAF teams have also joined hands with the civil administrations while the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is going to deploy 11 teams to help in the rescue operations in the most affected districts. This bodes well for the bereft families that taking a serious view of the grim situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan assuring him of all the possible aid while simultaneously announcing a 100 crore immediate relief package for the State. Let's all pray to the Almighty to give strength to all those on the receiving end of this natural calamity to bear with these painfully hard times with immense courage.

Azhar A Khan | Rampu

movie shoot opens many more possibilities. But the alarm bell rings right here. It is good that man has made space more accessible than ever before, but we also must be aware that our vision to explore more may harm the ecosystem. Therefore it is a big achievement to successfully finish shooting in space, but we must pledge to not ruin it with anthropogenic debris and leftovers that were used in projects of various types.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

#### BEHIND THE GLAMOUR OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Sir — From pings and chat windows to pokes and emoticons, everything exists in social media platforms to bring people closer. It helps learn new things, make new friends, explore new opportunities and develop new perspectives. But every coin has two sides. Young teenagers spend a lot of time browsing social media apps, particularly, Facebook, as they find it the best form of communication. But it is treacherous for the teenagers as it directly affects

their mental health. It spreads toxicity among youths. It is also not safe for the nation as it can be used to steal sensitive data by the enemies. It damages youngsters beyond measure.

Nowadays, people of all ages are glued to their phones to browse through social media applications like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter and many more. Half cooked stories and false news being spread is adversely affecting the very roots of the society. Everybody feels lonely in spite of being a member of several groups on social media. It is addictive as well as toxic and affects the self esteem of individuals. It is crucial that parents teach their children the adversaries around such apps. Even in schools, kids should be made aware of the truth behind the glamour of social media which takes a toll on their health as they start to use it.

Somya Agrawal | Ujjain

### SOUNDBITE

To benefit a few friends of the Prime Minister, the public is being cheated and I will stand with the people.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi

Israel should stop all its measures against our people in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian President — Mahmoud Abbas

Most of my films are meant for families to come in and engage, take back an important message and be thoroughly entertained.

Actor — Ayushmann Khurrana

For me, Mahi is my brother. I respect and admire the fact that he was there when I needed him the most.

Indian all-rounder — Hardik Pandya

As a token of my sympathy, I would like to make a donation...towards the relief and rescue efforts in Kerala.

Spiritual leader — Dalai Lama

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN INFLATION AND THE GATI SHAKTI PLAN

The rising global fuel prices and a domestic policy of high taxation is a major concern



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The Gati Shakti plan is aimed at coordinating infrastructure schemes of various Central Ministries and State Governments to ensure quick and efficient completion of works. It was perhaps a long-term need for a nation that is on booster doses of revenue injection through borrowings to push growth. Gati plan would try to help in timely implementation of projects through coordination of 16 Central Government departments and avoiding duplication for cutting costs. The new plan is stated to check the expenses on different projects but not check galloping inflation. Though food prices were in check for about eight months, the latest reports suggest that food and vegetable prices are shooting up in many areas. Industry department data say that certain food items' contraction has brought down food inflation to 4.69 per cent in September. During the same time, manufactured products' prices soared to 11.41 per cent from 11.39 per cent in August. Pulses rose 9.42 percent and in October, onion and fruit prices have started soaring. Food prices are not decelerating across the board. In the manufactured category, prices of basic metals rose to 26.71 per cent and textiles remain elevated at 26.09 per cent. Interestingly enough, activities in different sectors have not yet picked up the pace needed to give the desired effect. A major reason is the



rising global fuel prices and a domestic policy of high taxation on petroleum products, a concern expressed by RBI. Overall, inflation also pushes up wages and other costs. Global fuel prices have started firming up now with an increase in demand. India takes a double hit as a result. Food grain doles are keeping the prices in check to a certain level. However, as activities increase so do domestic demand.

This is what a coordination committee has to look at. With crude prices hovering around \$80 a barrel and likely to firm up further, the inflation scenario may become grim. Whether the Gati-Shakti plan, using geo-mapping and real-time data, can check rising prices would be interesting to observe. Pressures like rising wage and transportation costs could increase further. The Bloomberg commodity index crossed 100 in the last week of September, first time since 2015, and continues to stay at that level. Prices of coal and crude oil have risen. The RBI's monetary policy committee expects inflation to start increasing from the October-December quarter onwards. The WPI inflation is to rise, the MPC forecasts. Technically measured by consumer price index (CPI), inflation is at a low. It grew at 4.35 per cent, but overall, it has come down by 195 basis points. Inflation also impacts purchasing power. Consumers are yet not flocking to the market. Sales are not increasing. Many units are unable to transfer the additional costs on fuel to the consumers. Even the truckers face this problem. They cannot let their fleet remain idle. So even at lower prices they agree to transport goods. Another aspect is a kind of stagnation in income levels and in some cases even rising income is not seeing the end of poverty. There is concern about inequality-driven inflation. While the Gati Shakti has raised high hopes of completing projects within the budgetary expenses, to give pace to it, another master plan to check inflation is needed. The administered prices of petroleum products along with the higher cost on road travel also have to be seen from the aspect of coordination. Coordinated pricing is key to the success of the Prime Minister's new master plan. At lower fuel prices, there would be more activities, more revenue generation and the aim of the NDA Government to have an overall development could be achieved.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

# The Air India sale : Better late than never

Persistent neglect of Air India for over a decade and even during the period when its sale was under consideration has cost the exchequer dear



UTTAM GUPTA

On June 28, 2017, the then Finance Minister, the late Arun Jaitley, had announced the 'in-principle' decision of the Union Cabinet for strategic divestment of Air India (AI) and five of its subsidiaries.

Over 50 months there after, on September 8, 2021, the Government has informed about its decision to privatise AI and its 100 percent subsidiary, Air India Express Limited (AIEL) and its 51 percent share in Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL). The iconic Maharajas gone back to the hangar of the Tata Group almost 68 years after the company was nationalized in 1953. The AI privatization saga reveals four major pitfalls.

First, the move has been half-hearted from day one. That is a manifestation of an inherent tendency amongst bureaucrats and the political class to retain some controls even after divestment as also to ensure that employees continue to enjoy a protective cover even under the new boss.

The first attempt in 2017-18 came a cropper because in that offer, the Government insisted on retaining 24 percent shareholding with itself, retention of the employees besides imposing other conditions such as a minimum lock-in period of three years, etc. An additional rider was a requirement that the acquirer will have to take over a major slice of the debt on the books of AI. The investors showed no interest.

Eventually, the half-heartedness has given way to whole-heartedness even as the Government decided to sell 100 percent of its stake as also letting the acquirer shed employees after one year. It has also allowed the bidders to quote the 'enterprise value' - financial jargon for letting them get away with very little debt on the balance sheet of the divested undertaking.

However, the delay has come at a heavy cost to the Union Government. When the disinvestment was initially mooted, AI had a debt of around ₹50,000 crore. According to the secretary, Department of investment and public asset management, AI has been making a loss of ₹20 crore per day. No wonder, its cumulative debt has now ballooned to around ₹77,500 crore.

Second, after a disinvestment plan is taken on board, the scale of indifference to the working of the concerned PSU gets perked up which deteriorates its financial health further. As on March 31, 2021, AI had a debt of ₹58,000 crore. During the next five months till August 31, 2021, an additional debt of ₹3500 crore accrued. Furthermore, the Maharaja has piled up 'unpaid bills' of oil PSUs, airport dues and dozens of other vendors aggregating to ₹16,000 crore.

Put together, AI has liabilities of ₹77,500 crore. Of this, Tata will pay only ₹18,000 crore by taking over debt of ₹15,300 crore and give ₹2700 crore as equity. That leaves a whopping liability of a minimum around ₹60,000 crore with the Union Government (this could increase further



WITH DOZENS OF PSU DIVESTMENTS LINED UP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT LEARNS THE RIGHT LESSONS FROM MISTAKES OF THE PAST. THAT WILL HELP MAXIMISE REALISATION FROM THE SALE OF PROFITABLE UNDERTAKINGS AND MINIMISE THE LIABILITIES ARISING FROM THE LOSSMAKING COMPANIES

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



as and when more unmet obligations come out of the cupboard) which will be transferred in its entirety to a special purpose vehicle named Air India Asset Holding Company Limited (AIAHCL).

The Centre will retain the non-core assets such as land, buildings, and housing colonies which, on sale, could fetch about ₹15,000 crore. Even if all of it is realized, the AIAHCL would be saddled with ₹45,000 crore. This amount will eventually come from tax payers' pocket and is over and above a whopping ₹110,000 crore already sunk since 2009-10 to keep it afloat.

Third, bureaucratic red tape rules the roost. Almost all processes starting from conception, getting approvals, Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM), Request for Proposal (RFP), inviting financial bids, selection of bidder, Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) and so on, crucial to successful completion of disinvestment are hamstrung by it. Add to this, the reluctance of bureaucrats to take timely decisions fearing they might be questioned after retirement.

The sale of AI has not remained unaffected by this malady. Some measures - reportedly under consideration - such as leaving decisions in regard to PIM, RFP and SPA to the DIPAM only (at present, these issues are decided by an inter-ministerial committee co-chaired by secretary, DIPAM and secretary of the concerned administrative ministry) are half-baked reforms.

Fourth, PSUs are often pushed

into a 'loss-making' situation by the political establishment (fully aided by the bureaucracy). This happens because of continuous interference by the latter in the working of these undertakings which is manifesting excessive manpower, high overhead cost, inflated payments to vendors etc. In case of AI, in 2007, it reached its nadir when the political bosses directed the management to procure 111 aircraft (for ₹70,000 crores) which was four times the requirement of only 28 put up by the management.

When a firm creates a huge liability (the aircraft purchases were funded by borrowings from a consortium of banks) with no matching business to put the assets to use, it inevitably leads to an unsustainable situation. The cash generation is bound to be too little vis-à-vis the requirement to amortize the loans. The irony is that the then Government did nothing to boost utilisation of the aircraft. Far from that, it gave away excessive bilateral seats and profitable routes to foreign/private airlines thereby ensuring that most of these aircraft sit idle. The other flawed decision was the merger of Indian Airlines with AI (2007). Even as there was little to gain by way of synergies (mergers are normally driven by this logic), vast differences in the work culture ethos, compensation packages, age profile of employees of the two entities led to operational inefficiencies thereby compounding losses and increasing debt of the combined entity.

To conclude, persistent neglect

of AI for over a decade and even during the period when its sale was under consideration has cost the exchequer dear. It is better late than never. By taking a call now (the deal is expected to be consummated by December, 2021), the Modi government has averted more drainage of resources besides garnering ₹18,000 crore (paid by Tata) plus another ₹15,000 crore being the value of non-core assets retained by it.

With dozens of PSU divestments lined up, it is imperative that the government takes the right lesson from mistakes of the past - as discussed above. That will help maximize realization from the sale of profitable undertakings and minimize the liabilities arising from abandoning the loss-making ones.

For instance, in case of AI, if only it had acted with alacrity in 2017-18 offering to offload 100 percent shareholding and no other encumbrance, it could not only have prevented further increase in debt but also successfully leveraged its lucrative assets (apart from 141 planes, it controls 4,400 domestic and 1,800 international landing and parking slots at domestic airports, as well as 900 slots at airports overseas, besides ownership of iconic brands like Maharaja) to secure a much higher valuation thereby reducing its burden.

Let us hope, henceforth Prime Minister Narendra Modi goes for a wholehearted approach and with a proactive and supportive bureaucracy he gets much better outcomes from the sales in the pipeline.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IF YOU (BJP) WANT TO FIGHT, FIGHT LIKE MEN. DON'T USE THE ED, CBI. THIS IS NOT MACHISMO. THIS IS UNMANLY.  
—MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER  
UDDHAV THACKERAY



HAD THESE AGENCIES BEEN MISUSED, THEN HALF OF YOUR MINISTERS WOULD HAVE BEEN IN JAIL.  
—BJP LEADER  
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

# Polexit? The Poles wouldn't want that

Poland has benefited enormously from grants and loans from the richer EU countries to the poorer ones: the country looks different already

It is possible that the tide which brought hard-right populist Governments to power in a number of Central European countries is starting to go out again.

In the Czech Republic, billionaire oligarch Andrej Babiš suffered a surprise defeat in his bid to be re-elected Prime Minister on Sunday. The last straw may have been the revelation in the 'Pandora Papers' only days before that he had set up an offshore company to secretly buy a \$17.6 million mansion in southern France.

In Hungary, Jew-baiting, Muslim-hating, ultra-nationalist President Viktor Orbán suddenly has to worry about winning re-election next year. The perennially split opposition parties managed to unite



GWYNNE DYER

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

last October and made their candidate mayor of Budapest, Hungary's capital. If they can manage to stay united, they might even bring Orbán down next year.

And in Poland, which has twice the population of the other two combined, the populist Law and Justice Party (PiS) is drifting into troubled waters too. It doesn't face re-election until 2023, but by then it may have managed to get Poland expelled from the European Union: Polexit. That would greatly upset the 88 per cent of Poles who want to stay in the EU.

The PiS is a deeply conservative party in the Catholic tradition, with populist trimmings like a Government subsidy of \$150



per month for each child under 18. Its voters are mostly rural and small town, deeply religious, older, and poorly educated. They respond well to racist, xenophobic and anti-semitic rhetoric, Donald Trump would feel right at home.

The PiS has been in power since 2015, but almost every recent election has been a hair's-breadth victory: it is as unpopular in the liberal cities as it is beloved in the deeply religious villages. So it set itself the task of

improving its chances in future elections.

One obvious measure was to take control of the media. That was easy with the state-owned media: they were supposed to be impartial, but the government controls their budgets. However, it proved impossible to take over or freeze out the independent media, especially the foreign-owned ones, because EU law defends free speech.

Polish courts upheld the EU laws, because every member country had to pledge when it joined that on such matters EU law takes precedence over national laws and constitutions. So, the PiS decided to get around this roadblock by 'reforming' the Polish courts: if you don't like the judgements, change

the judges.

First the PiS Government forced a lot of judges out by lowering the retirement age, and replaced them with PiS supporters. When the EU objected to this blatantly political tampering with the courts, it packed the Constitutional Tribunal with its own people - and they declared that Polish law is superior to EU law last Friday. At that point, the Play-Doh hit the fan.

The European Commission declared that rulings by the European Court of Justice are "binding on all member states' authorities, including national courts." France's Europe minister was blunter: "There is the risk of a de facto exit." He's right. The PiS is playing

a game of chicken with the EU, of course, and has no intention of actually leaving the EU. As the streets of Warsaw and other Polish big cities filled with young people chanting 'Zostajemy' ('We're staying'), Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki declared "The place of Poland is and will be in the European family of nations" - but he is already in over his head.

Reason and instinct both argue that this storm will blow itself out. Poland has benefited enormously from seventeen years of grants and loans from the richer EU countries to the poorer ones: the whole country looks different already.

Right now, Poland is awaiting approval of a \$65

billion transfer from Brussels as its share of the EU's \$865 billion post-Covid 'stimulus package'. But that and much else might not come if Poland is in revolt against the EU's rules.

Russia is still close, and although nobody is expecting a Russian invasion at the moment, all of Polish history is shouting that you don't want to be alone out there.

And nine out of Poles want to stay in the EU.

So, it really should all blow over, but games of chicken are tricky. You have to drive like you have a death wish, and then turn away at the last second - but just after the other guy did. It's really hard to get the timing right, and if you get it wrong, you drive off the cliff. Polexit.

# China's Communist Party all set to hold key meet next month ahead of 2022 leadership change

**Beijing:** China's ruling Communist Party will hold its key conclave in November ahead of next year's Congress which will pave the way for major leadership changes and a possible unprecedented third term for President Xi Jinping.

The 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee will hold its sixth plenary session in Beijing from November 8 to 11, during which a key resolution on the major achievements and historical experience of the party's 100 years of endeavours will be reviewed, an official announcement here said.

This was decided at a meeting of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau presided over by Xi, who is the General Secretary of the party besides heading the military and the Presidency.

The Political Bureau of the

party listened to a report on soliciting opinions for drafting the resolution and decided to submit the draft after revisions to the plenary session for deliberation, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The sixth plenary session is regarded as significant as it is the biggest party meet ahead of next year's leadership change.

Politically, it is regarded as a key meeting for Xi, 68, who has emerged as the most powerful leader after party founder Mao Zedong, as he is widely expected to take up an unprecedented third term in office.

China's all top leaders derive their power from the post of the General Secretary of the CPC. Xi's all predecessors retired following the mandatory rule of two five-year terms.

President Xi is widely regarded to be in power after

the end of his second tenure later next year, possibly for life in view of a constitutional amendment in 2018 which removed the two-term limit for the President.

He has also been made the "core leader" of the party in 2016, a status enjoyed only by Mao.

According to the agenda unveiled in August for the November 8-11 plenary session, the Political Bureau will present its work report to the plenary session, which will study the issue of comprehensively reviewing major achievements made and the historical experience accumulated during the party's 100 years of endeavour.

More than 370 full and alternate members of the Central Committee will take part in the plenum.

Over the past three

decades, the party has usually used the last plenary session to address party affairs, especially on key appointments, ideology and party-building matters.

Observers say that the key issue to be watched is to see if the party continues to follow precedent on its leadership changes, especially the informal retirement age of 68, besides the two terms for its top leadership set by party's founder Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping.

Along with Xi, Premier Li Keqiang too will be completing his two-term limit in early 2023.

Nearly a dozen of the 25 members of the Politburo will be older than 68 in October next year.

Since he took over the reins of the CPC in late 2012, Xi had consolidated his grip on

power with the high-intensity

anti-corruption campaign in which over a million officials, including many top military officials, were punished.

He has also launched several political initiatives, including the realisation of the Chinese dream broadly defined as reclaiming the lost greatness of the nation, making China a moderately prosperous society, elimination of absolute poverty, consolidation of the CPC power over the military and integration of Hong Kong.

In recent weeks, Xi has made a strong pitch for the reunification of Taiwan with the Chinese mainland amidst heightened tensions with the estranged island, saying that the "Taiwan question" will be resolved and peaceful reunification in the best interest of people of both sides.

The Taiwan issue brooks "no external interference", he

said on October 9 in the backdrop of the US and Japan stepping up their backing to the estranged island in the face of China's increasingly aggressive posture.

Xi's comments came after China sent a record number of military jets into Taiwan's air defence zone for four days in a row, in a public show of force.

Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state - but China views the self-ruled island as a breakaway province. Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to achieve unification of Taiwan with the mainland.

As he set for his third term, he recently launched a new initiative called "common prosperity for all" Chinese, which is widely reported to be the new policy of redistribution of wealth, ending the era of billionaires in the country. **PTI**

# Russia suspends its mission to NATO: Foreign Minister

**MOSCOW:** Russia's foreign minister said Monday that the country is suspending its mission to NATO.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that the move is in response to last week's expulsion by NATO of eight members of Russia's mission to the military alliance.

NATO said that they were secretly working as intelligence officers and halved the size of Moscow's team able to work at its headquarters. Lavrov also announced that NATO's military liaison and information offices in Moscow would be closed.

"As a result of NATO's deliberate moves, we have practically no conditions for elementary diplomatic work and in response to NATO's actions we suspend the work of our permanent mission to NATO, including the work of the chief military envoy, probably from Nov. 1. Or it may take several more days," Lavrov said.

The Foreign Ministry said in a separate statement that NATO's actions "confirm that they are not interested in an equal dialogue and joint work to deescalate military-political tensions. The alliance's line

towards our country is becoming more and more aggressive. The "Russian threat" is inflated in order to strengthen the internal unity of the alliance, to create the appearance of its 'relevance' in modern geopolitical conditions."

Lavrov said that contact between the Western alliance and Moscow could be done through the Russian embassy in Belgium.

The Russian mission isn't based at NATO's headquarters, but in a leafy neighborhood in the south of the Belgian capital, Brussels.

NATO suspended practical cooperation with Russia in 2014 after it annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, but has kept channels open for high-level meetings and for military-to-military cooperation. But the NATO-Russia Council, their preferred forum, has only met sporadically since then.

Russia and NATO also have been at odds over Moscow's nuclear missile development, aerial intrusions into NATO airspace and the buzzing of allied ships by fighter planes. Official talks between them have been limited in recent years. **AP**

# China: Tested hypersonic 'vehicle' not 'missile'

**Beijing:** China on Monday said it has tested a hypersonic "vehicle" and not a nuclear-capable hypersonic "missile" as reported by a leading British newspaper which had claimed that the advanced space capability caught US intelligence by surprise.

The Financial Times reported on Sunday that China tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile in August that circled the globe before speeding towards its target, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught US intelligence by surprise.

Five people familiar with the test said that the Chinese

**The Financial Times reported that China tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile in August that circled the globe before speeding towards its target**

military launched a rocket that carried a hypersonic glide vehicle which flew through low-orbit space before cruising down towards its target, the FT report said.

The missile missed its target by about two-dozen miles, according to three people briefed on the intelligence. But two said the test showed that China had made astounding progress on hypersonic weapons and was far more

advanced than US officials realised, according to the report. Asked for his reaction to the report, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that a test of a hypersonic vehicle was carried out.

"It is a vehicle not a missile," Zhao said.

"As we understand this test, it is just a routine space vehicle test to verify the repeated use of technology of the vehicle. This is of great significance to reducing the cost and can also provide an affordable and cheap return means for the peaceful use of space for humanity," he said. **PTI**

# 1st polio vaccination drive in Afghanistan since Taliban takeover

**Kabul:** A country-wide polio vaccination drive will begin in Afghanistan on November 8 for the first time since the Taliban took over the country in August, the Unicef announced on Monday.

In the years after the Taliban was overthrown in 2001 by a US-led coalition, vaccination campaigns made much progress in the country.

However, as the Taliban made inroads again, door-to-door visits by polio workers had been banned in Afghanistan, for three years now. The World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef welcome the decision by the Taliban, who support the resumption of house-to-house drive across the country, the UN agency said in a statement on Monday.

The campaign will be the first in over three years to reach all children in Afghanistan, including more than 3.3 million kids in parts of the country who have "previously remained inaccessible to

vaccination campaigns", Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying.

"A second nationwide polio vaccination campaign has also been agreed and will be synchronised with Pakistan's own polio campaign planned in December," according to the statement.

"This is an extremely important step in the right direction," said Dapeng Luo, WHO Representative in Afghanistan.

"We know that multiple doses of oral polio vaccine offer the best protection, so we are pleased to see that there is another campaign planned before the end of this year. Sustained access to all children is essential to end polio for good. This must remain a top priority," he said.

Besides restarting polio vaccination, a supplementary dose of vitamin A will also be provided to children aged 6 to 59 months during the upcoming campaign, the WHO said. **PTI**

# Man apprehended for bomb hoax call to South Korea's National Assembly

**IANS ■ SEOUL**

Police in South Korea apprehended a man on Monday for making a false threat to blow up the National Assembly.

The man, whose identity was withheld, allegedly called a lawmaker's office earlier in the day to claim he planted an explosive at the assembly complex, reports Yonhap News Agency.

He also said he was giving the tip-off only to the office. Police traced the caller and arrested him on Ganghwa Island off the west coast about an hour later.

After the call, police, rescue workers and a bomb squad searched the complex, but no explosive was found.

The man was quoted by police as saying he made the call "out of sudden anger".

He was also found to have no record of entering the complex in the past two weeks, officials said.

Police said they will book him for an investigation.

# Colin Powell has died of Covid-19, says family

**Washington:** Colin Powell, who served Democratic and Republican presidents in war and peace but whose sterling reputation was forever stained when he went before the U.N. and made faulty claims to justify the U.S. war in Iraq, has died of Covid-19 complications. He was 84.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Powell rose to the rank of four-star general and in 1989 became the first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that role he oversaw the U.S. invasion of Panama and later the U.S. invasion of Kuwait to oust the Iraqi army in 1991.

But his legacy was forever marred when, in 2003, he went before the U.N. Security Council as secretary of state and made the case for U.S. war against Iraq. He cited faulty information claiming Saddam Hussein had secretly stashed away weapons of mass destruction. Iraq's claims that it had no such weapons represented "a web of lies," he told the world body. **AP**

# Harris to discuss drought, climate change at Lake Mead

**WASHINGTON:** Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday will highlight the problems caused by Western drought as she visits Lake Mead in Nevada and makes the case for the Biden administration's infrastructure and climate change proposals that have stalled in Congress.

Harris will be briefed by Bureau of Reclamation officials about elevation levels at the manmade reservoir that supplies drinking water to 25 million people in the American West and Mexico, White House officials said Sunday.

After a tour, the vice president will make remarks and meet with officials from the Interior Department and other

federal and state agencies, including the Southern Nevada Water Authority. She will be joined by U.S. Reps. Dina Titus, Susie Lee and Steven Horsford of Nevada.

Water levels at Lake Mead — created in the 1930s by the damming of the Colorado River — have fallen to record lows. In August, federal officials declared the first-ever water shortage in the Colorado River. As a result, Arizona, Nevada and Mexico will receive less water than normal next year amid a drought gripping much of the West.

In September, Reclamation released projections showing an even worse outlook for the river.

Against this backdrop, the vice president is expected to promote President Joe Biden's big domestic policy agenda — originally billed at \$3.5 trillion — for which Democrats are struggling to win moderates' support. That agenda includes climate provisions the Biden administration has said would make the U.S. more resilient against the effects of climate change. Key elements include imposing new emissions restrictions through a federal clean energy requirement and providing tax breaks for the electrical vehicles industry.

Hoover Dam reservoir hits record low, in sign of extreme western US drought

The reservoir created by

Hoover Dam, an engineering marvel that symbolized the American ascendance of the 20th Century, has sunk to its lowest level ever, underscoring the gravity of the extreme drought across the West.

Harris will also emphasize that climate change is poised to make extreme weather events such as droughts and heatwaves more frequent, expensive and harmful, White House officials said.

Officials said Harris will discuss the separate \$1 trillion public works infrastructure deal that passed the Senate months ago and is awaiting House approval. That package contains roughly \$8 billion for Western water projects. **AP**

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**Last date 4th November 2021**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mr. Ashish Malhotra is owner of Second Floor with roof rights, area measuring 50 sq. yds., on Plot No. J-94, out of Kharsa No. 30/52, situated in the area of Village Khyala new colony known as Vishnu Garden in Block-J, New Delhi, vide sale deed dated 29.08.2017 registration No. 8008. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner is selling the said property in favor of Mr. Aamir Khan who want to take a Loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. if anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of Mr. Ashish Malhotra in respect of the said property its sale /Mortgage, and any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. For **Mrs Prasoona Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm)** Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301. EMAIL: sgassociatespp@gmail.com, Ph: 7011127264, 8130200837

**S. E. RAILWAY TENDER**

**E-Tender Notice No.: 4301-GRC-CE-C-50-41-2021, Dated: 11.10.2021.**  
e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer (Civil)/S.G.R.C. for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work which has been uploaded on website **www.irreps.gov.in**. The tender will be closed at 12:00 Hrs on due date. **Brief Description of Works:** Construction of Foundation, Substructure, Supply, Fabrication, Assembling, Erection/launching of Road Over Bridge of span 1x20m Bow String Girder (CG) + 1x24m (CG)+1x18m (CG) at Km: 40221-23 between Boradmanda & Bira in lieu of LC No. 207 (Kukuda gate in Rourkela-Bira Road) in the Chakradharpur division of S. E. Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 15.47 Crore. **Completion Period:** 15 Months. **Closing Date:** 03.11.2021. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.irreps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B.:** "Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.irreps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders" **PR-33**

**MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN-2021**  
In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming festival season, Northern Railway has decided to run the following additional Festival Special Express Train as per details given below :-

01664/01663 New Delhi - Patna Jn. - New Delhi Superfast Festival Special Express Train (Tri-Weekly)		26 Trips
TRAIN NO. 01664	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 01663
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 23:15	New Delhi	15:15 ---
17:30 ---	Patna Jn.	--- 22:30

**Days of Run :** 01664 from New Delhi on every Saturday, Tuesday & Thursday from 23.10.2021 to 20.11.2021 and 01663 from Patna Jn. on every Sunday, Wednesday & Friday from 24.10.2021 to 21.11.2021

**Accommodation :** Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)  
**Stoppages :** Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara and Danapur stations.

Note: The above Special Train will have the reserved accommodation only.

The Passengers are advised to please check the Time Table of this train at the stations enroute through RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or log on to the Railway enquiry website <http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or may download the NTES App.

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

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
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**WALK IN INTERVIEW**  
It is proposed to fill up the following Group 'A' posts at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi on contract basis for a period of one year or till the post is filled up on regular basis whichever is earlier. Accordingly applications are invited from the eligible and desirous candidates fulfilling the qualifications for the posts mentioned below. Applications on plain paper either typed or handwritten along with two passport size photograph, photocopy of the certificates of educational qualification, experience etc., may be submitted to the undersigned on or before 15.11.2021. After submission of application candidates have to turn up alongwith their original certificates on the date of interview. No interview letter will be issued separately.

The interview shall be held at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006, Jharkhand, on 16.11.2021 at 09.30 a.m.

Sl. No.	Name of post	Consolidated pay per month in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	No. of post
1.	Asst. Prof. of Psychiatry	Rs.95,000/-	10 (UR-6, EWS-1, OBC-2, SC-1)
2.	Asst. Prof. of Neurology	Rs.95,000/-	3 (UR-3)
3.	Asst. Prof. of Neurosurgery	Rs.95,000/-	2 (UR-2)
4.	Asst. Prof. of Anesthesiology	Rs.95,000/-	2 (UR-2)
5.	Asst. Prof. of Radio-diagnosis	Rs.95,000/-	2 (UR-2)
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>19</b>

Details of qualifications and age limit of the above posts are available on our website [www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in) Sd/-Director

# Australian Govt mounts legal challenge in Indian-origin teen's climate change court case

**Melbourne:** The Australian government on Monday began its legal challenge to a Federal Court's landmark decision that it has a duty of care to protect children from future personal injury caused by climate change, according to media reports.

In May, Anjali Sharma, a 17-year-old high-school student of Indian origin from Melbourne and seven other teenage environmentalists, led the legal battle against the Australian government.

Sharma and the group had argued the continued emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere would drive intense bushfires, floods, storms and cyclones and leave them vulnerable to injury, sickness, economic loss and even death towards the end of this century, news.com.au reported.

They urged the court to prevent Environment Minister Sussan Ley from approving a proposal to expand the Vickery coal mine in northern New South Wales. **PTI**

In his ruling, Justice Mordecai Bromberg approved the extension of the coal mine project.

However, he did find that the minister had "a duty to take reasonable care to avoid causing personal injury" to children when she decided on the project extension under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC Act), a report in news.com.au said.

The ruling was heralded as a significant win for the teenagers and the group of climate activists around the world.

Ley has since given the nod for the mine's expansion.

For Sharma, it was the concern for the environment, her family and future generations, which fuelled her legal charge against the Australian government, a Sydney Morning Herald report said. Born in India, Sharma and her family moved to Australia when she was barely 10-months-old. **PTI**

# Aus Deputy PM rules out support for greater 2030 climate target

**Canberra:** Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce has said it is "highly unlikely" his party will support an increased 2030 climate target.

Members of the National Party, which forms the governing Coalition with the Liberal Party, met to hear from Angus Taylor, the minister for energy and emissions reduction, on the Liberals' climate plan but were unable to reach a consensus position after four hours, Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.

It comes as Prime Minister Scott Morrison prepares to travel to Glasgow for the UN COP26 Climate Summit where he is expected to commit to a 2050 net zero target.

Members of the Nationals have pushed back against the move, warning it will jeopardise regional jobs in emissions-heavy industries such as mining and manufacturing. **IANS**

# Pak's Opp parties demand ISI chief's resignation at public rally

**Lahore:** In an unusual development, Pakistan's Opposition parties have demanded resignation of spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed at a public rally in Punjab province.

"Faiz Hameed istifa do (tender resignation) was the demand made in the Opposition alliance -- Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) -- rally in Faisalabad, some 180 kms from Lahore, on Saturday.

Even slogans were raised against the incumbent spy-master who has been accused by the Opposition especially Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of 'political engineering' to install the puppet regime of Imran Khan.

The local media censored the anti-Hameed slogans and content in the rally.

On Sunday, the video clip demanding resignation from Lt Gen Hameed went viral, prompting federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid to warn PML-N vice president Maryam

Nawaz against "playing with fire."

Faiz Hameed -Tender resignation' was one of the top trends on Twitter in Pakistan on Sunday. "I ask Maryam to refrain from bashing the armed forces in the public meetings. Her style of politics had already caused enough damage to her party, he said.

Since there has been a standoff between civil and military leadership on the appointment of the ISI chief as the prime minister is reportedly reluctant to replace Hameed, Maryam said Imran Khan is undermining state institutions to satisfy his selfish zeal.

"Khan used to blame Nawaz Sharif of locking horns with the state institutions but when his turn came, attacking the institution of the armed forces is one thing, he in fact carries out a suicide attack on them just to save one person (Hameed), she had told the rally. **PTI**

# Sense, Nifty race to new peaks as bulls rule

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Equity indices darted up for the seventh straight session on Monday to close at fresh lifetime highs as investors remained in risk-on mode despite a bearish trend overseas. IT, bank and metal stocks witnessed hectic buying, while profit-taking in pharma and auto counters capped the gains. After touching a lifetime peak of 61,963.07 during the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex finished 459.64 points or 0.75 per cent higher at its new closing record of 61,765.59. Similarly, the Nifty surged 138.50 points or 0.76 per cent to its all-time closing high of 18,477.05. It touched a new intra-day record of 18,543.15. Infosys was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 4.47 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, ITC, Maruti, SBI and Axis Bank. On the other hand, HCL Tech, M&M, Dr Reddy's, Asian Paints, Bajaj Auto, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel were among

the laggards, slipping up to 2.36 per cent. "The domestic market traded at record highs withstanding the weak trends in the global market due to disappointing Chinese GDP numbers and global inflationary pressure as a result of energy shortage. "Chinese GDP grew by just 4.9 per cent during the July-September quarter owing to lower-than-expected growth in industrial activity. However, the trend in the Indian market was bullish as PSU Banks, Metals, IT and Energy stocks took charge of the rally," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Narendra Solanki, Head-Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers, said the sentiment remains buoyant with early data showing Indian economy bouncing back strongly. "On the sectoral front, shares of metal companies were in focus on rising base metal prices amid higher demand expectations," he added.

## Rupee drops by 9 paise to 75.35 a dollar on high crude oil prices

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
The rupee ended 9 paise lower at 75.35 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a stronger greenback against key rivals overseas and rising global crude oil prices. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened on a steady note and later traded in a narrow range of 75.24 to 75.38 against the American currency. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 75.26 against the US dollar. The forex market was closed on Friday for 'Dussehra' holiday. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.19 per cent at 94.12. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.11 per cent to USD 85.80 per barrel.

# China's economy weakens as GDP in Q3 declines to 4.9%

**PTI ■ BEIJING**  
China's GDP grew by 4.9 per cent in the third quarter, down from 7.9 per cent in the second, confirming the slowdown of the world's second-largest economy which was under pressure from the crisis-hit property sector, curbs on energy and tardy recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Early to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, China's economy in the first few months this year staged impressive recovery but caught up in numerous headwinds, including a property sector slump, power crisis, increasingly weak consumer sentiment and soaring raw material costs. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the third quarter (Q3) grew 4.9 per cent year on year, slower than the growth of 18.3 per cent in Q1 and 7.9 per cent in Q2. The Q3 belied surveys of predicting five per cent growth. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 9.8 per cent year on year in the first three quarters, putting the average growth for the period in the past two years at



5.2 per cent, according to the data released from National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday. Releasing the Q3 data, spokesman of the NBS Fu Linghui said that consumption contributed around 64.8 per cent to China's economic growth in the first three quarters of the year. "We must note that the current uncertainties in the international environment are mounting and the domestic economic recovery is still unstable and uneven," Fu said. "The overall national economy maintained the recovery momentum in the first three quarters... however, we must note that the current uncer-

tainties in the international environment are mounting, and the domestic economic recovery is still unstable and uneven," the Hong Kong-based South China Morning quoted Fu as saying. "The Chinese economy has maintained the recovery momentum in the first three quarters with progress in structural adjustment and high quality development," Fu said. Nevertheless, NBS said the country's economic recovery remains uneven and unstable, and more efforts will be made to boost market vitality, release demand potential and keep the economy running within the reasonable range.

# Exports up 40.5 pc to USD 15.13 bn during Oct 1-14

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The country's exports rose by 40.5 per cent to USD 15.13 billion during October 1-14 on account of healthy performance by key sectors such as petroleum products, engineering and chemicals, according to preliminary data of the commerce ministry. Imports during the period grew by 60.72 per cent to USD 14.82 billion, the data showed. India's merchandise exports grew by 22.63 per cent year-on-year to USD 33.79 bil-

lion in September on better performance by key sectors, even as the trade deficit widened to a record high of USD 22.59 billion. Export sectors which are recording positive growth include coffee, cashew, petroleum products, handloom, engineering, chemicals, man-made yarn/fabrics, gems and jewellery, plastic and marine products. Cumulatively, exports rose by 57.53 per cent to USD 197.89 billion during April-September this fiscal as against USD 125.62 billion during April-September 2020.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Rekha Rani is owner of Plot No. 8 & area measuring 270 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 195/50m, situated at Rahul Vihar Phase-II, Village Mirzapur, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, (U.P.), vide sale deed dated 24.12.2020 registration No. 4043. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner along with Mrs Vikas Traders want to take a Loan from Fullerton India Credit company Ltd. if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mrs Rekha Rani in respect of the said property its sale Mortgage, and any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. For Mrs Prasoona Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm) Unit No. 7, Basement, Plot No C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301. EMAIL: sgassociatespp@gmail.com. Ph: 01171172764, 8150200837

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Smt. Rita Gupta W/o Ajay Kumar Gupta R/o 1055, Arun Vihar, Sector 29, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201301 was having commercial property in joint ownership along with her daughter Mrs. Sangita Goel W/o Mr. Akh. Goel in her property Vatika Towers, Gurgaon, having Flat No. 307A measuring 654 sq. ft. which her legal heirs (Ajay Kumar Gupta, H/o Rita Gupta R/o 1055, Arun Vihar, Sector 29, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. & Sanjay Gupta, S/o Rita Gupta, R/o L-61 RidgeWood Estate, DLF Phase IV, Gurgaon, Haryana, & Ravi Gupta, S/o Rita Gupta R/o 1055, Arun Vihar, Sector 29, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. & Sangita Goel D/o Rita Gupta R/o 863, Arun Vihar, Sector 29, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.), requested the company to transfer to her Daughter Sangita Goel D/o Rita Gupta R/o 863, Arun Vihar, Sector 29, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company office details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted. Vatika Limited Unit No. A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika IIT City Centre, Sector-83, Gurgaon, Haryana 122012 Contact: 9955930939

## Further investment liberalisation, structural reforms could help deepen integration in global value chains: IMF

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**  
Further liberalisation aided by structural reforms could help deepen India's integration in global value chains and its post-pandemic recovery, the International Monetary Fund said on Monday. Alfred Schipke, Director, IMF-STI Regional Training Institute and former IMF India Mission Chief said that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, India has attracted the highest amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). "Further efforts toward investment liberalisation aided by structural reforms could help deepen India's integration in global value chains and its post-pandemic recovery," Schipke told PTI in an interview. In recent years, policies to further liberalise FDI in agriculture, defence, telecommunications services and the insurance sec-



tor have helped India to attract FDI, which has also improved the current account financing mix and helped contain external vulnerabilities, the official said. "Going forward, further progress could be made on the FDI liberalisation such as in the biotechnology, defence, digital media and pharmaceutical sectors," he said. These efforts should be supported by structural reforms, including land reforms, labor reforms and reforms to reduce informality, and complemented by reforms to strengthen governance, the regulatory framework, and the rule of law, he noted.

## NCLT gives nod to creditors, shareholders of Reliance Retail to hold meetings for proposed Future Group deal

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Monday allowed the creditors and shareholders of Reliance Retail Ventures to hold meetings to seek approval for the company's proposed Rs 24,700 crore deal with the Future Group. The Mumbai bench of NCLT, led by Suchitra Kanuparth, allowed the application by Reliance Retail's creditors and shareholders to convene meetings to seek approval for the deal. Reliance Retail extended the long-stop date for the completion of its deal with Kishore Biyani-led Future Group by another six months to March 2022, due to the delays ensuing from the ongoing legal battle with the US-based Amazon.



on the company's deal with Future Group. Earlier, on a similar petition by the Future Group, the NCLT had allowed holding meetings of the creditors and shareholders for seeking approval for the transaction. On October 1, 2021, Reliance Retail extended the long-stop date for the completion of its deal with Kishore Biyani-led Future Group by another six months to March 2022, due to the delays ensuing from the ongoing legal battle with the US-based Amazon.

## Sebi official asks investors not to be carried away by unrealistic gains stories

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Investors should observe maximum due diligence while investing in stock market and should not be carried away by the stories of unrealistic gains being made by others, Sebi Whole Time Member G Mahalingam said on Monday. He, further, said that an investor should invest by taking into consideration his/her own risk appetite and should invest time in studying the fundamentals. "A rule of thumb for having exposure in the equity market is to subtract one's age from 100 and invest that percentage amount in the equity market and balance in diversified asset classes," he was quoted in statement issued by BSE. He was speaking at physical seminar on investor's awareness conducted in Chennai by BSE Investors Protection Fund (BSE IPF) in

co-ordination with markets regulator Sebi, depository CDSL and ministry of finance. The programme was conducted under the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" series. This was the first of 100 programmes planned to celebrate 75 years of India's independence and promote investor awareness and education to achieve financial independence.



### Aro granite industries ltd.

CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510  
Regd. Office : 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jassola, New Delhi - 110025  
Ph.: 011-41686169, Fax: 011-26941984  
Email: investor@arogranite.com, Website: www.arogranite.com

### NOTICE

Pursuant to Clause 29 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, the 29th October, 2021 *inter-alia* to approve the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half-year ended 30.09.2021. The above details of the said meeting are also available on the website of the Company [www.arogranite.com](http://www.arogranite.com) and also at the website of the Stock Exchanges [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com).

For **Aro granite industries ltd.**  
Sabyasachi Panigrahi  
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 19.10.2021

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Promila Mehra is the absolute owner of DDA Built-up Flat No. 39-A in Block-DB on Ground Floor situated at G-8 area, Rajouri Garden, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-84 vide Sale Deed dated 18/05/2020 (doc. No. 5988) executed by Kamal Nayan Chadha (he inherited the 1/2 undivided share of the aforesaid flat vide a dated 29/11/2010 (doc. No. 10392) executed by Veeranwali Chadha, And whereas Veeranwali Chadha & Kamal Nayan Chadha purchased the said flat vide sale deed dated 19/10/2010 (Doc No. 26889). All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting evidences at the address as mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Maruti Vihar-II, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810603351

### Public Notice

It is informed to the public that my client Smt. Anur Kaur Sembhy w/o Late Shri Sarwan Singh Sembhy R/o House No. 1936, First Floor, Pusthpa Nagar, Kolar, Mubarakpur is the owner/lessee of property having House No. 35, Block-A area 288 sq. mts. situated in Swam Nagri (Tnau), Greater Noida, District: Gautam Budh Nagar. My Client name has been written as 'Anur Kaur Sembhy' instead of 'Amar Kaur Sembhy' in Transfer Deed of the said property dated 19.06.2012 vide document no. 12324 & for this spelling mistake of my name, Declaration/Affidavit got registered in Sub Registrar Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar in Bahi no. 4, Jilo no. 834, Pages 121-164, vide document no. 12324 on dated 19.06.2012. Further, my client has also lost the following original documents of aforesaid property i.e. 1) Original Allotment cum Allocation Letter dated 20.11.1996. 2) Original Lease Deed favouring Smt. Namita Srivastava & Shri Srikrishna Srivastava dated 12.06.2003 vide document no. 4787. My Client has already published regarding loss of above documents on dated 20.08.2021 in Newspaper Hindustan. My Client has agreed to sell the said property in favour of Shri Pawan Kumar Lakh & Smt. Pusthpa Rani & the said property will be financed by Bank for the purchase of the said property to Shri Pawan Kumar Lakh & Smt. Pusthpa Rani. Anybody (Banking/ Financial Institutions/ Individuals) having any claim of interest/ claim/ title/objection on the basis of original title deeds mentioned at point No. 1 to 2 other above mentioned reason may submit the same to the undersigned within 7 days of the publication. Please note carefully that if any objection is not received within the notice period, the said property will be treated as un-encumbered, marketable and no claim will be accepted on the basis of aforesaid documents 1 to 3 here in above. It is further informed that if anybody dealing or misusing the above said property documents mentioned above, the said person shall not be responsible for the same. ANKUR JINDAL, (ADVOCATE) B-215, LOKH NAGAR GHAZIABAD-201001

## High oil prices to hurt world economic recovery: India to OPEC

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, has told Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations that high oil prices will hurt the nascent economic recovery the world is witnessing after the devastating pandemic and that they have to price oil at reasonable levels, a top official said on Monday. Petrol and diesel prices have shot up to record highs across the country after relentless price increases since early May. India, which imports almost two-thirds of its oil needs from West Asia, has told the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), that high oil prices will hasten the transition to alternate fuels and such rates will be counter-productive for the producers, the official said.

## India's mineral production rises 24 pc in August

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for August stood at 103.8, which was 23.6 per cent higher as compared to the year-ago month, the mines ministry said on Monday. The cumulative growth for the April-August 2020 period has increased 25.1 per cent as against the year-ago period, the ministry said in a statement. The production levels of important minerals in August 2021 stood at 539 lakh tonnes for coal, lignite (37 lakh tonnes), natural gas-utilised (2851 million cubic metres), petroleum-crude (25 lakh tonnes), and bauxite (17.37 lakh tonnes). The output of chromite stood at 1.75 lakh tonnes, gold (89 kg), iron ore (197 lakh tonnes), manganese ore (1.80 lakh tonnes), limestone (311 lakh tonnes), and phosphorite (1.23 lakh tonnes). The minerals whose production showed positive y-o-y growth during August 2021 were chromite, lignite, magnetite and bauxite. Other minerals that showed negative growth were diamond, gold and petroleum (crude).



## Indian startups raise \$10.9 bn in funding in July-Sept: Report

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Indian startups received a record funding of USD 10.9 billion across 347 deals in the third quarter of 2021, according to a PwC India report. This is twice the amount of funding received in Q3 of the calendar year 2020 and an approximate increase of 41 per cent compared to the second quarter of 2021. An increase in funding activity was witnessed across all sectors in terms of value and volume. However, FinTech, EdTech and SaaS are the top three hot

investment sectors in the calendar year 2021 (CY21), together accounting for approximately 47 per cent of the total funding activity, the report - Startup Perspectives - Q3 CY21 - said. In the first three quarters of 2021, investments worth USD 4.6 billion in the FinTech space were recorded, which is an increase of approximately three times from USD 1.6 billion in 2020, worth USD 2.5 billion for 53 deals closed in the FinTech segment were recorded in the third quarter of CY21 alone across various stages of investment, it said.

Approximately 84 per cent of the funding activity was driven by growth and late-stage deals. Around 61 per cent of the total deal activity consisted of early-stage funding rounds for USD 1.6 billion - (average ticket size per round USD 4 million), the report said. Bengaluru and NCR continue to be the key start-up cities in the country, together contributing around 76-78 per cent of the total funding activity in the first three quarters of both CY20 and CY21, followed by Mumbai and Pune, it said.

### RAM GOPAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Sultanpur, Tehsil-Farrukh Nagar, Near Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana  
Affiliated to Pt. B.D.Sharma University of Health & Sciences, Rohtak & Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) and State Govt. Haryana

### ADMISSION NOTICE FOR SESSION 2021-22

(For Management quota, Leftover seats, Vacant Seats)

### BACHELOR OF PHARMACY (4 YEARS)

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

### LEET (LATERAL ENTRY: 3 Years)

Admission Procedure: Candidate shall have passed D.Pharmacy with minimum 50% marks. Admission on Merit based only.

Last date of submission of application form - 22/10/2021 till 5:00 pm  
Display & merit list and deposition of fees - 23/10/2021 till 04:00 pm  
Website: [www.ramgopalcollege.com](http://www.ramgopalcollege.com) Mob.: 8920418745

### UJVN Limited

HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dahrudun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135- 2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

पत्र सं: 769 दिनांक : 18/10/2021

### Date Extension Notice-06

Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the e-NIT No. NCB/01/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 & NCB/02/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 invited by the office of the Executive Engineer Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar is being extended as below:  
Last Date & Time for submission of bids on the portal Upto 17:00 hrs of 25.10.2021  
Date & Time of Opening of bids on the portal at 11:00 hrs of 26.10.2021  
Information regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website.  
Full & Further Details of tender can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://ukntenders.gov.in>".  
Executive Engineer(PCM)  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely Bablu, S/o: Sh. Ashok, R/o: Jahid Pur, Narhada, Budherda, Meerut, UP has been reported missing/kidnapped since 08.10.2021 at about 11.00 am from GB Pant Hospital. In this regard DD No. 71A, dated 08.10.2021 has been registered at P.S. IP Estate, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped boy is as under:  
Name: Bablu, Age: 21 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Wearing: White Colour T-Shirt & Black Colour Pant and Sleeper in feet, ID Mark: Mentally Disturbed.  
If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped boy please inform to the following:-  
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO  
Police Station IP Estate, Delhi  
Ph: 011-23370928, 8750870426  
DP/1049/CD/2021

### LORDKANHIA INFOTECH LLP

LLPIN: AAF-4647  
Regd. Office: 68, Chanderlok Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034

### PUBLIC NOTICE

### "FORM NO. UR-2"

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act (Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014)

- Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar of companies at Delhi that LORDKANHIA INFOTECH LLP a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.
- The Principal objects of the company are as follows:-  
Carrying on the business of Traders, Merchandisers, Importers, exporters of computers, its parts, allied products and developing any type of software, giving of services
- A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the registered office at 68, Chanderlok Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 on any working day
- Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IIT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office. Name(s) of Applicant(s)  
1. Vijay Garg  
2. Ashish Garg

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

### AXIS BANK

Retail Asset Centre: Axis Bank Ltd. BG-1, BF-1, Aditya City Center Plot No-3 Vaibhav Khand Indrapuram Ghaziabad U.P.  
Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens, Ghaziabad (U.P.)-201301  
Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

### POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.  
The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.  
The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(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.

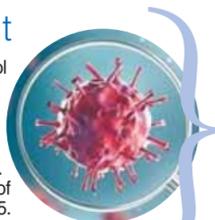
Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1.Mr. Hamir Choudhry S/O Sh. Vijay Singh Choudhry R/O House No.2072 Sec-4c Vashundhara Ghaziabad-201010	A Residential Flat No. 1105, 11 Floor, Annapali Village Phase-II KM Block Situated at Village Makapur Ghaziabad Super Area 1425 Square Feet	1.23-04-2021	2.13-10-2021	1)Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Nine Only)
Also At: Mr. Hamir Choudhry IC-20 Chandan Van Mathura Up- 281001Also At: Hamir Choudhry Flat No. 1105, 11th Floor Amrapali Village Phase-II Village Makapur Ghaziabad-201014 Also At: Mr. Hamir Choudhry C-5640 Sec 62 Noida 201301	105.91 Square Meter One-Cover Car Parking With Roof Right Etc. East & West as per site deed. East: Road 30' Feet wide and West: Gal 4 Feet wide. North: Other Land. South: Other Land.	1.23-04-2021	2.13-10-2021	1)Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Nine Only)
2.Mrs. Niam Choudhry W/O Sh. Hamir Choudhry R/O House No. 2072 Sec-4c Vashundhara Ghaziabad-201010 Also At: Mrs Niam Choudhry Flat No. 1105, 11th Floor Amrapali Village Phase-II Village Makapur Ghaziabad-201014	105.91 Square Meter One-Cover Car Parking With Roof Right Etc. East & West as per site deed. East: Road 30' Feet wide and West: Gal 4 Feet wide. North: Other Land. South: Other Land.	1.23-04-2021	2.13-10-2021	1)Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Nine Only)

The above-mentioned Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
Date : 19-10-2021, Place : Delhi & NCR  
Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.



Statin treatment

Generally used to lower the cholesterol level — slightly lowered COVID mortality, finds a study. Statins are a recommended and common intervention for preventing cardiovascular events by reducing levels of lipoprotein cholesterol in the blood. Researchers followed 9,63,876 residents of Stockholm above the age of 45.



LET NUTRIENTS SHOW WAY



Skin loses its glow with time due to constant exposure to the blue light and pollution.

DR PRITI SHUKLA shares ways to increase your collagen production naturally

How many times have you thought that your skin is losing out its sheen and elasticity due to the over-exposure to the blue light and pollution? Many times, right? So, all these skin issues are actually indicating that the collagen production in your body is declining. Collagen is a crucial protein that serves as one of the main building blocks for your bones, skin, hair, muscles, tendons, and ligaments. The best part of collagen is that its production can be stimulated in the body through natural and minimal-invasive ways. Consuming foods that contain nutrients needed to stimulate collagen production can naturally help increase collagen levels in the body. Apart from it, the new prohilol treatment also works wonders.

Nutrients for collagen synthesis

Vitamin C

Consuming food items that are rich in vitamin C and amino acids has the evidence of increasing the levels of hyaluronic acid and collagen in the body as both are important for skin. Oranges, red peppers, kale, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and strawberries are rich in vitamin C.

Aloe vera gel

This leads to the stimulation of the cell-growth and can help boost collagen production in your skin. You can apply aloe vera directly to the skin in pure form, or in the form of the products on the market that contain it.

Zinc

Zinc deficiency in the body can reduce the amount of collagen produced. A man should consume 11 milligrams of zinc daily and a woman eight milligrams. The zinc-rich food contains cacao, pumpkin seeds, watermelon seeds, sesame seeds, spinach, almonds, cashews, chickpeas, kidney beans, lentils and oats.

Copper

Copper helps in the formation of red blood cells, bone, and connective tissue. Copper activates lysyl oxidase, an enzyme required for collagen maturation, which helps to form the fibers that support your tissues. It is recommended to consume about 900 micrograms of copper daily. Sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, almonds, cashews, spirulina, shiitake mushrooms are the richest source of copper.

Prohilo

Prohilo is a series of injections of pure hyaluronic acid, which hydrates the skin and triggers collagen and elastin production. It results in the bio-remodelling of the skin and dramatically improves the quality of the skin. Do not expose your skin too much in the sun or in a tanning bed. Be mindful about smoking. It's also one of the reasons behind skin ageing prematurely. Getting time outside with the protection of sunscreen is one way to maintain a healthy glow.

Collagen supplements are also used but it has side effects like calcium overproduction, allergic reactions, and joint pain.

The writer is Consultant Plastic and Cosmetic Surgeon, Ambrosia Clinics

All about endometriosis

According to the Endometriosis Society of India, the estimated number of women suffering from the disorder is about 25 million and this number is increasing every year. DR SHOBHA GUPTA tells you more



There are many campaigns and awareness programmes that run in our country that educate women about various health issues. Endometriosis is one such condition that needs to be highlighted. Endometriosis is a medical problem or a common disorder that has emotional consequences for women.

It is a disease that occurs when tissue that normally grows inside the uterus grows outside it. During a normal menstrual cycle, the body sheds the endometrium via the vagina. In endometriosis, rather than flowing out, this lining flows backward and enters other parts of the body.

Around 89 million young women in the reproductive age group worldwide are suffering from endometriosis. According to the Endometriosis Society of India, the estimated number of women suffering from the disorder in India is about 25 million and this number is increasing every year.

A lack of knowledge around the condition causes many women to simply believe their symptoms are a natural result of their period.

Endometriosis affects an estimated one in 10 women during their reproductive years. You can say that it is the main reason for stomach pain and the inability to conceive in women between 25 to 30 years of age.

Though it's not always the case, the condition has been linked to a higher risk for infertility because it may influence egg quality, disturbs

your menstrual cycle, or might cause higher levels of inflammation.

In endometriosis, the tissue which appears in the womb is found growing in abnormal locations such as the ovaries or around the uterus. Every time a woman's menstruation starts, there is bleeding also inside this tissue. As a result, thick dark blood accumulates in the ovaries and becomes cysts which is also one of the reasons for painful periods.

Pain in the lower abdomen or the pelvis is the most common symptom of endometriosis, often during or just before your period. Pain may also be felt during ovulation, while passing urine, during or after sexual intercourse, in the lower back region, in the lower back or in the legs. One may experience heavy and painful periods with symptoms gradually worsening over time.

**Other symptoms**  
♦Diarrhea or constipation (in connection with menstruation)  
♦Heavy, irregular menstruation

♦Chronic/recurring pelvic pain  
♦High blood pressure  
♦Coughing up blood  
♦Blood in the urine or the stool

♦Frequent or urgent urination  
♦Difficult or prolonged menstruation  
♦Irregular bowel movements  
♦Dysmenorrhea (menstrual cramps)  
♦Nausea and vomiting (in severe cases)

Diagnosing endometriosis is more difficult in Indian women. It



ENDOMETRIOSIS AFFECTS AN ESTIMATED ONE IN 10 WOMEN DURING THE REPRODUCTIVE YEARS. IT IS THE MAIN REASON FOR STOMACH PAIN AND THE INABILITY TO CONCEIVE BETWEEN 25 TO 30 YEARS OF AGE. ADOPT NATURAL WAYS TO TREAT IT LIKE HEALTHIER EATING HABITS BY ELIMINATING CAFFEINE, SUGAR, AND ALCOHOL AND CONSUMING ORGANIC FOOD AND NUTRIENTS

generally affects the age group of 25-30 yrs but these days, it is found in the age group of 11-19 as well. So, it is very important to be aware of the symptoms of endometriosis and the treatments available for it.

Treatment

Nearly 30-40% of women with endometriosis can be infertile. The endometriosis treatment depends on several factors like the age of the lady, severity of the symptoms and desire to have children.

In some cases, over the counter drugs are enough to manage the symptoms. A hormonal intrauterine device (IUD) is another option that can be inserted to help reduce pain and bleeding.

Young women with endometriosis who want to conceive may require specialized treatments like IUI or IVF (test tube baby). If the patient is older and has had repeated surgeries, a total hysterectomy with oophorectomy (removing uterus and ovaries) is the final solution.

You can also go for natural treatments to treat endometriosis, such as adopting healthier eating habits - like lessening or eliminating caffeine, sugar, and alcohol and consuming organic food and supplementing essential nutrients such as Vitamin B complex may help lower your estrogen level. You can also do exercise, yoga, and meditation to improve your general and reproductive health.

The writer is Medical Director, Gynecologist and IVF Specialist at Mother's Lap IVF Centre, Pitampura, New Delhi

DOCYARD

DR GAURAV PRAKASH BHARDWAJ



Director - Sports Injury, Joint Preservation & Replacement Surgery

PSRI HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI

Early diagnosis is important



COVID the epidemic was widely perceived to play havoc with lungs, severely compromising the immune system which in two percent cases led to death. Worldwide it has caused such havoc that something like this has not been seen by mankind at least in the last one hundred years. If there were epidemics, they were limited to one continent (Ebola in poor African countries), one country, one region, one state, or town. It was never worldwide and engulfed the entire world at the same time. It has caused immense physical, mental and financial hardship to all of us.

Those who have had severe cases, post negative reports, many of these patients post-recovery have complained of blood clots, the onset of diabetes, chronic fatigue weakness and severe pain in the bones. In bones, it has been found to be causing avascular necrosis or osteonecrosis which is in a common language known as death of bone tissues due to lack of blood supply. This is not a new disease but detection of this in the patient post COVID is a cause of concern.

Take Avascular Necrosis (AVN) seriously

The loss of blood supply to bone tissues puts serious pressure on bones which can lead to the breakdown of a single bone or multiple bones ultimately may cause a collapse of the bone. The highest risk is to the hip bone, which is one of the strongest in the body but is most vulnerable. It can happen due to excessive use of steroids for treatment of fibrosis during COVID.

**An early diagnosis of AVN is important to arrest the disease's progress and prevent subsequent femoral head collapse. Patients are advised not to rush daily activity post-recovery**

Most of the time it is seen to be caused by excessive use of steroids during the treatment, a short period that is for usage 5-10 days should not trigger AVN. One cannot make a sweeping statement that AVN is caused by excessive use of steroids as it has not been seen in all the patients who were administered a strong dose of steroids for treatment. Further, a clinical study is required to come to a definite conclusion. It can also be related to a patient's health condition before catching the virus.

What we can say with certainty is that it damages blood vessels which can cause clotting in multiple parts which are hastened by steroid use. The intravascular clot can cause damage to the femur leading to its collapse. All we need is further studies to establish this.

Diagnosis and treatment

An early diagnosis of AVN is important to arrest the disease's progress and prevent subsequent femoral head collapse. If diagnosed early in Ficat-Arlet stage I or II, 92%-97% of the patients do not require surgery and can be managed with bisphosphonate therapy. Hence, it is crucial to diagnose AVN early to decrease the morbidity and the requirement of surgery. Patients are advised not to rush daily activity post-recovery. Some patients try to hurry into an exercise regime, it should be avoided as the body is still in recovery mode and has proper rest. Certain anti-inflammatory and non-steroidal medicine can also be given which can also help in alleviating the pain in some cases bone grafting is suggested. As a last option hip replacement surgery can be undertaken wherein prosthetics are used to remove and replace the damaged bone.

SUMMER COOLER

KIWIFRUIT: Originated in eastern China, kiwifruits are mostly cultivated in New Zealand. This large berry grows on a species of woody vine in the genus Actinidia. Do not fall for the bright green flesh alone because the fuzzy covering is edible too. This fruit is a hand-bag of vitamins, antioxidants and dietary fibres with a sweet, tart and bold taste. It is beneficial for heart health as it contains properties capable of lowering blood pressure and reducing the risk of stroke and

heart diseases. Rich in dietary fibre, it can stimulate regular and healthy digestion and helps in building immunity by providing vitamin C that in turn stimulates the body's immune response. High in antioxidants, it works in eliminating free radicals within the body and reduces oxidative stress hence, keeping inflammation and diseases at bay. Include it in breakfast, lunch or even snacks, sides or a dessert because this fruit is blessed with low calorie count.

Time to build coalitions and partnerships

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with DR DALBIR SINGH about the challenges facing India to eliminate TB and ground-breaking innovations

What is the biggest challenge facing India in treatment of TB?

Our greatest challenge in TB elimination would lie in successfully building coalitions and partnerships with private sector and civil society, adopting multi-sectoral approach in engaging local communities and institutions of local governance besides strategising to address issues of social determinants like malnutrition, poverty, social discrimination, planned urbanisation, hygiene and sanitation, comorbidities like Diabetes and smoking also have to be factored in our overall strategy of TB elimination as they contribute hugely to its mortality.

What are the measures taken at international level?

Driven by the urgency of crises, the first ever UN General Assembly High Level Meeting in 2018 endorsed an ambitious and powerful political declaration to accelerate progress towards END TB Targets and evolve urgent global response to Global Epidemic. It followed a very successful Inter-Ministerial Conference on Elimination of TB in Moscow in



Dr Dalbir Singh President, Global Coalition on TB

2017 which resulted in firm commitments from world leaders from 120 countries to upscale the diagnosis and treatment as well as to pursue the Universal Health Coverage and social protection. The WHO has developed the END TB strategy with an overall goal of a 90% reduction in Incidence and 95% reduction in TB deaths from 2015-2035. Around 70% of Indian

patients are treated in private sector. It's only in the last decade that we have been able to evolve appropriate public-private partnership models which have been replicated across the country.

What are ground-breaking innovations?

Today, there are over 200 districts across the country where Public Private Partnership programs called Patient Provider Support Agency (PPSA) models are ongoing which are ensuring free diagnosis and treatment. TB programme embraced use of ICT for treatment adherence and monitoring and real time community led initiatives. During COVID we promptly evolved Rapid Response Plan by introduction of bidirectional screening for TB and COVID and initiating measures for door step delivery of drugs and mass level community engagement and awareness campaigns.

What has been the cause of growing TB rate?

The social conditions and comorbidity that fuel TB epidemic have not been adequately addressed. Poverty, malnutrition stigma and

unplanned proximal living spaces have aggravated the management of TB. Spurt in Diabetes and tobacco, smoking have also been strongly associated with higher risk of TB mortality.

What are the gaps that exist?

The critical gap that exists today is between the estimated incidence and the actual notifications being reported to the Government. It will be most important to close this gap and this has been a focus for our national TB programme. We need to engage aggressively with the private sector and help create a unified health system where patients may receive standardised and free care, regardless of the sector they go to. Third, greater district-level monitoring and tracking will be crucial.

What more needs to be done?

We need to continue to innovate, strengthen our political will, research and development, build Inter-sectoral approach, learn from cross pollination of Ideas and proven interventions. TB cannot be eradicated unless determinants like stigma, poverty, pollution control and malnutrition are addressed.

IN BRIEF

Retinal diseases detection with AI

Retinal examinations can detect a number of diseases that affect the eye. Fundus photography is a process of taking photographs of the interior of the eye through the pupil and is a way to screen and monitor such retinal diseases. The introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) technology to fundus photography has improved the platform and enabled it to detect and monitor retinal diseases on a large scale.

The Comprehensive AI Retinal Expert (CARE) system was developed by an international group of researchers from Sun Yat-sen University, Beijing Eaglevision Technology (Airdoc), Monash University, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Beijing Tongren Eye Centre and Capital Medical University.

Associate Professor Zongyuan G.e Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, Monash University, Monash Data Futures Institute, said the researchers trained a clinically applicable deep-learning system for fundus diseases using data derived from real world case studies, and then externally tested the model using fundus photographs collected from clinical settings in China.

"The CARE system was trained to identify the 14 most common retinal abnormalities using 207,228 colour fundus photographs derived from 16 clinical settings with different disease distributions," said Ge.

# ALES OF UNLIVED LIVES

TANMAYA DAS tunes in to the unheard recollections portrayed by contemporary artists through their artworks



Satellite images of mining sites by Philippe Calia



A sample of Arpan Mukherjee's work

The combination of dim lighting, binaural music created a mysterious ambience and drew me into a room where strategically placed pictures told a thousand stories. The setting is Alliance Francaise de Delhi, where the *Unsealed Chamber — The Transient Image*, where the work of four contemporary artists — Aparna Nori, Arpan Mukherjee, Indu Anthony, and Philippe Calia — is being exhibited in both analogue and digital formats, to explain the transition in self-reflection during the pandemic. The artists experimented with creative hybridity by combining traditional and new media techniques to reflect on oneself, society, ecology, and representation.

I am drawn to the wall, where the Bangalore-based artist, Aparna Nori, who has not just placed her work but also discussed and described the hues and texture of her skin. The pictures represent the emotional state and anxieties of women in a patriarchal culture. Her piece, *Nalla Pilla* (little dark girl), examines the relationship she formed with her body as she questioned its concerns, folds, and imperfections. She chose a salt-paper technique because she felt it was the most natural expression of textured personal narrative. Furthermore, according to her explanation, using photography is about more than just collecting photographs; it is about participating with the medium (photography) itself.

Moving right I come face-to-face with the Bengal-based artist Arpan Mukherjee's collection of alternative photography. *Gola Vora Dhan*, typified by themes of dislocation, displacement, and

exile takes up an entire wall. Some of his photographs depict a lonely girl sitting under a tree, others portray village sights. On the wall, the artist describes that his family is a part of large scale migration from village to city in Bengal from 1980s onward. Through research and documentation, the artist, who is currently in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, frequently challenges and condemns the discrimination, political, and economic state of society.

But soon a collection of satellite images of different mining locations that have been exploited over the years clamoured for attention. When I asked about the

photographic method, the curator, Rahaab Allana, reveals that he took the printouts of the images and used chemicals to dissolve them, resulting in a new landscape of the satellite images to come up with the collection named, *The Shape Of Clouds, 2021*. The exhibition displays various rocks from around the world, such as those found in Australia, Tanzania and more, which helped in the production of minerals like gold, copper, aluminium, uranium and so on. A picture of the disintegrated artwork placed on the walls, supported by two short iron rods showed the new landscape

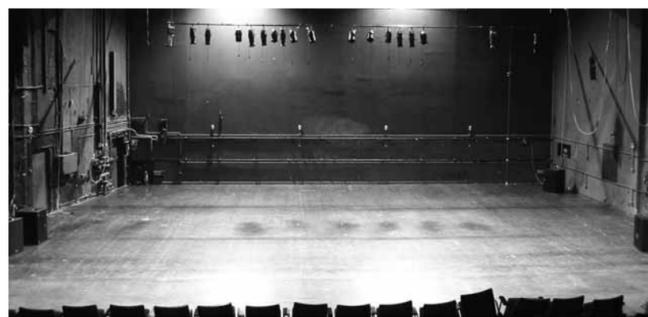
formed by the chemical solution. Then, there is a video display of his family photograph being clicked on the beach in the 1970s, just before his birth, exactly in front of the left corner. The image, which was zooming in and out, outlined his father's memories.

On the extreme left, a photo collection of anonymous women by Indu Anthony that has been accumulated over time is titled, *Ivar*. It refers to people within one's home or vicinity while probing the relationship between self-expression and discarded photographs of women. The 25 black and white photographs

placed along with an unusual and unfamiliar silence have a calming effect. The distinct impression that each photograph creates is that of telling a series of stories while the video installation — where Nori has scribbled texts in Telugu and English, describing flaws and scars through the pictorial description — evokes contemplation about all the situations and insecurities that women suffered throughout the ages. All of the images are linked together, revealing previously untold stories about a multitude of incidents that occurred many years ago.

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In the wake of Covid-19, lack of funds and fewer audiences, theatre artists have switched to confined and experimental spaces in Delhi's suburbs and smaller cities, leaving the Mandi House area — the national capital's hub for performing art students and actors — with a deserted look.

"The theatre groups which earlier used to perform at Mandi House have now moved to residential areas like Laxmi Nagar, Mayur Vihar to perform. These places used to be our rehearsing spaces earlier but now since some theatres are not taking up shows and others have increased their booking rates, we are compelled to move to such places," Harshvardhan Chaturvedi, an actor best known for his performance in the play *Ek Aur Dronacharya* and *Bloody Bombay*, shared.

Akashara Theatre is the only prominent name amongst the newer substitutes.

There might not be any sector that has not been hit by the pandemic and Delhi's theatre community is no exception. "Our community has people from all castes, classes, religions and regions in India. However post-pandemic-induced-lockdown, many were forced to leave for their hometowns to help their families and themselves. Others, who did not, switched to some other occupation. And those who had somehow managed to survive the first lockdown broke down after the second wave. However, our plight still remains to be

## To act, or not to act?

In a post-pandemic world, where every sector has been affected, theatre artistes switch to Delhi's suburbs and smaller cities to keep the show going

heard," Chaturvedi added. Just as all the public spaces in the city started opening up after the devastating second wave of Covid-19, the Delhi government had issued orders allowing cinemas, theatres, multiplexes to reopen with 50 per cent capacity from July 26 onwards.

"This 50 per cent bar had further given rise to another set of problems as some theatres despite having all the resources had refused to take bookings for they were sceptical of being able to cover their expenses with just half the percentage of audience," a theatre administrator revealed, on the condition of anonymity.

However, Shobha Deepak Singh — the director of Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra said that they could book Kamani Auditorium, but there weren't enough shows to begin with.

Meanwhile, Sri Ram Centre for Performing Arts has increased its booking rates by almost '10,000 to '20,000. "This has further rendered the community, especially those with a limited budget, helpless," Saif Ansari — an actor and producer, best known for his adaptation of William Shakespeare in *Hamlet* — shared, adding that SRCPA is an autonomous body and

is therefore not accountable to anyone.

"Due to all of these reasons, we are now performing in smaller cities like Lucknow, Kanpur, Bareilly in Jaipur," Harshvardhan added.

Saif said although they have come up with new places, audiences do not appear in large numbers. "First of all these are lesser-known spaces in suburbs. Secondly, they are confined so people are sceptical of sitting closer due to Covid-19."

The number of audiences has reduced from pre-Covid times of 500 to a mere 60-70. "Cinema has moved to OTT platforms but we cannot rely entirely on that as well because of lack of funds, thereby, the equipment due to which it will be next to impossible to stream the live show," he shared.

Shobha Deepak Singh, the director of Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra shared similar woes. "The community at large is doing very badly as there is no money left. There are salary cuts," she said, adding, "In the middle of all this, we try to take back people as per requirements hoping that something would happen." "There is no help from even the government on this front," Singh added. —IANS



Meghna Patpatia

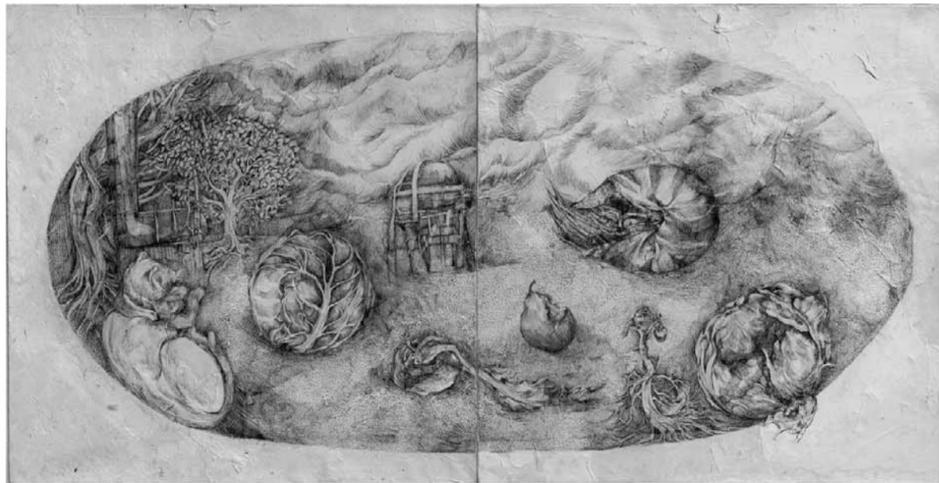
## Transcending borders

TEAM VIVA explores the premise of the joint-exhibition, *Dreamscapes*, which will be featuring the works of Argentinian artist JULIA ROMANO and Mumbai-based MEGHNA PATPATIA

Tao Art Gallery - one of the oldest galleries in Mumbai, will be hosting a unique two man show called 'Dreamscapes'. *Dreamscapes* will showcase works by Argentinian Artist (represented by Basu Foundation for the Arts, Kolkata) Julia Romano, finalist of Arte Laguna Prize 2021, Venice and Bombay based, Meghna Patpatia. Previewing on October 21, 6 pm onwards and the show will be on display till November 25, 2021. The exhibition will be inaugurated by the Consul General of Argentina, Mr Guillermo Eduardo Devoto.

At *Dreamscapes*, audiences will witness the merger in the expression of the two artists from diverse cultures and geography. Both take existing realistic elements and combine them with the surreal aspects of mythology and ancient anthropology. The endeavour is to create these dreamscapes that question what is real and fiction, physical and metaphorical—this intricate relationship with the scape: a universally experienced relationship by all on this planet.

Sanjana, the India ambassador of



Confinement by Meghna Patpatia

Arte Laguna Prize, hopes to juxtapose Julia's digital landscapes with Meghna's artworks. Commenting on the upcoming show, Sanjana Shah, Creative Director, Tao Art Gallery, said, "Dreamscapes pairs together two artists

from different cultures and geographical landscapes, but who share the same desire to explore the synergy between humans and the land they inhabit.

She also added, "As a curator, I found this thematic overlap between the two to

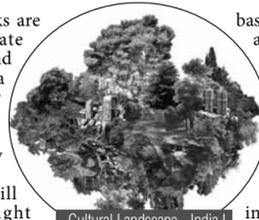
be interesting and relevant: Romano explores the impact of past ancestral generations on land while Patpatia envisions a surreal alternate reality or dystopian future as a result of it. The seed of the idea is the same, but the techniques and

treatment of the works are different. Both create beautifully stunning and poignant works as a result! I am excited for the audience to come and experience the show and this synergy live in action."

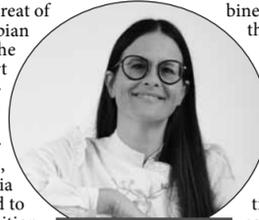
'Dreamscapes' will beautifully highlight aspects of co-existence and cultural synergy with a subtle undertone of the threat of depletion in a dystopian future. Much like the land around us, the art is layered, multifaceted and deep in composition.

Talking about her first show in India, Argentinian Artist, Julia Romano, "I am thrilled to be part of this exhibition, working with such great people as the Tao gallery team. I am showing my series of landscapes made with different parts of places photographed by me and painted by classical European artists; these oases are a mixture of time, space and culture. I made one work especially for the show with images taken from my surroundings here in Córdoba (the mountains, trees and plants from my neighbourhood and my garden) and put them together with a panoramic view of Mumbai. So, challenging this union! Only art can be this magical. I strongly believe that by doing this in collage, we are also bonding in real life."

Taking it a step further by using the past to imagine the future, Bombay



Cultural Landscape - India I



Julia Romano

based Artist Meghna Patpatia added, "Tao has a wonderful space that merges visuals seamlessly with narratives and the ability to collate artists worldwide. Sanjana's curatorial foresight and ability to weave a juxtapositioning of Julia and my art practices have intuitively brought about *Dreamscapes*. Super excited to see it unfold. These combined artistic dreamscapes of this two man show help in bringing the world a little bit closer and opening our minds a little bit wider.

The world around us plays a distinct role in formulating our perceptions, ideas and inspirations. The scape is defined as any extended view or the picture/representation of one. Be it a landscape, cityscape or seascape, each represents the inextricable relationship humans tend to form with their geographical surroundings. Argentinian artist Julia Romano and Indian artist Meghna Patpatia, though divided by geography and culture, merge in their expression of this intricate relationship with the scape: a relationship that is universally experienced by all on this planet. Both take existing realistic elements and combine them with the surreal elements of mythology and ancient anthropology. The endeavor is to create these dreamscapes that question what is real and what is imagined, what is physical and what is metaphorical.

### A BOUQUET

Anjali Mittal, a self-taught, senior artist, who has undertaken art courses in various institutions like Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi. Anjali has been a part of several curated group shows in renowned art galleries like



AIFACS in Delhi, Lokayata Art Gallery Delhi, KNK Art Gallery Delhi, Somya Tiles community Centre Haryana, UCHAAN Art Gallery Gurgaon, to name a few. would be showcasing her works at the India Habitat Centre from today through an exhibition titled, *A Bouquet*.

**When:** October 19-21  
**Where:** Convention Centre Foyer, IHC

### INDIAN BLUE

Following the previous exhibitions that looked at artistic practices across the decades of 1950s, '60s and '70s, DAG now presents an exhibition that examines how artists have addressed their work through the prism of the colour blue that has been imbued with nuances particular to the country and its culture.

Featuring over 150 works, *Indian Blue* uncovers a range of artistic practices from the realistic to the abstract, from landscapes and portraits to history paintings and figurative narrations, across an equally astonishing range of mediums — oils, watercolours, acrylics, printmaking, sculpture — and periods.

*Indian Blue* in an effort to examine the relationship civilisations share with the colour blue, not only helps the viewers understand the artistic responses to its hues and tones at a subliminal level — something it achieves through the chosen colour under investigation in this exhibition — but also goes beyond it to examine the role colours play in human lives.

And what better way to explore this rich sensory archive than through the world as visualised by artists.

**When:** Open till December 1  
**Where:** DAG, The Claridges



### PEN, INK, ACTION: SATYAJIT RAY AT 100 (FILM-SCREENING)

To celebrate the centenary year of Satyajit Ray, legendary filmmaker, writer, illustrator and music composer, a festival of classic black and white feature films; films from the Calcutta Trilogy; period pieces; a children's film; and Ray's all-time favourite films.

The screenings will be held as part of *The IIC Experience: A Festival Of The Arts*, from October 22-26.

*Jalsaghar (The Music Room)* (100 min; 1958; dvd; b/w; Bengali with English subtitles)  
 Director: Satyajit Ray

Indian landowner Biswambhar Roy (Chhabi Biswas) lives in luxury, but his fortune is slowly slipping away.  
**When:** October 23, 8:30 pm  
**Where:** CD Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre



### SOULSCAPES

Indian classical music has an enigmatic charm, with an immense power to draw a person one step closer to the ultimate divine power. It's not just an art to entertain the audience and listeners, but a sacred and intelligent way to connect to the divine, as per Vidushi Shalmalee Joshi from the Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana.

For Joshi, a disciple of Padma Talwalkar and of the late Pandit Ratnakar Pai, music has the potential to unite the mind and the soul, which is much needed in today's turbulent society, since it does not recognise boundaries and is therefore unifying in nature.

Tune in to her Hindustani vocal recital at IIC, accompanied by Tejovrush Sunil Joshi on tabla; and Vinay Mishra on the harmonium.  
**When:** October 24, 6:30 pm  
**Where:** Fountain Lawns, IIC main building



# Will bat at No. 3, KL to open with Rohit: Kohli

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli on Monday said he will bat at number three instead of opening the innings in the ICC T20 World Cup with KL Rahul having sealed the second opener's slot alongside Rohit Sharma.

The Indian skipper kept it open-ended when asked about the team's top-six batters going into the opening match of the tournament against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 24.

"Things were different before IPL, now it's difficult to look beyond KL Rahul at the top of the order. Rohit is a no-brainer. World-class player, he's been solid up front. I will be batting at 3. That's the only news I can give to start off," Kohli said at the toss before the warm-up game against England.

Rahul emerged as the third highest scorer in the IPL with 628 runs besides hitting the most number of sixes (30) in the tournament.

"We are pretty sorted in terms of how we are going to start in the first game (versus Pakistan)."

The objective behind the two warm-up matches is to give game time to everyone as they get back into the groove after a short break.

"Outside of that we just want to give opportunity to guys in these games as much as possible. We will look to give game-time to most of them. The idea is to create some energy and momentum as a team.

We have played in different teams recently (in the IPL)," said the Indian captain.

While the IPL has been



competitive, Kohli didn't forget to mention that it's Indian cricket that is paramount.

"We have had success in the past. So we want to create that same energy, fielding is the best place to start I reckon when eleven guys are together. The IPL is right up there in terms of level and competitiveness, but this is

paramount. Indian cricket is the priority for everyone. That has to be the case."

It all boils down to adaptability, said Kohli.

"Adaptability is what matters. People play different roles in their IPL teams. It's about adapting quickly to this team now, who plays where is what matters."

# T20 WC biggest challenge: Hardik

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya considers the ongoing T20 World Cup the biggest responsibility of his career as a finisher because "everything is on my shoulders" in the absence of "life coach and brother" Mahendra Singh Dhoni from the playing line-up.

In an interview to ESPNcricinfo's Cricket Monthly, the 28-year-old superstar, whose fitness is a concern heading into the event as he did not bowl in the IPL, spoke about the many challenges of his life, his acceptance of the not-so-perfect self and the extraordinary bond he shares with Dhoni.

This would be India's first World Cup campaign since Dhoni retired in 2020 and the side will open its campaign against Pakistan on October 24 here. Dhoni has been appointed the team's mentor for the mega-event.

"The biggest so far, I will say, because this time I don't have Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Everything is on my shoulders - I like to think that way because it gives me an added challenge. It is going to be exciting, a cracker of a tournament," he said.

Speaking of Dhoni, a fiercely private person whose life outside cricket is as enigmatic as his persona on the field, Pandya said the two-time World Cup-winning captain is someone he turns to in times of adversity,

turmoil and even to understand his own mind. "MS was someone who understood me from the start: how I function, what kind of a person I am, what are the things I don't like, everything," he said.

Pandya recalled how Dhoni reached out to him on his return to the side during the tour of New Zealand in 2019 after a suspension for some sexist remarks on a TV show.

"...Initially there were no hotel rooms (for Pandya in New Zealand). But then I get a call, saying, 'You just come. MS has told us, I don't sleep on the bed. He will sleep on my bed and I will sleep on the floor.'"

"He (Dhoni) was the first person who has been always there. He knows what kind of an individual I am. He knows me quite deep. I am very close to him. He is the only person who can make me calm.

"When all this (the TV remarks controversy) happened, he knew that I needed support. I just needed a shoulder, which he provided multiple times in my cricketing career. I never saw him as MS Dhoni the greatest. For me, Mahi is my brother," he asserted. Pandya said there are times when he struggles to understand his own thoughts and it is Dhoni who comes to his rescue.

"...I have to call him and say, 'Yeh soch rahan hoon, kya chal raha hai, batao.' (This is on my mind. What do you think?) Then he will explain. So, yes, in a lot of ways he is a life coach. "Staying with him, obvious-

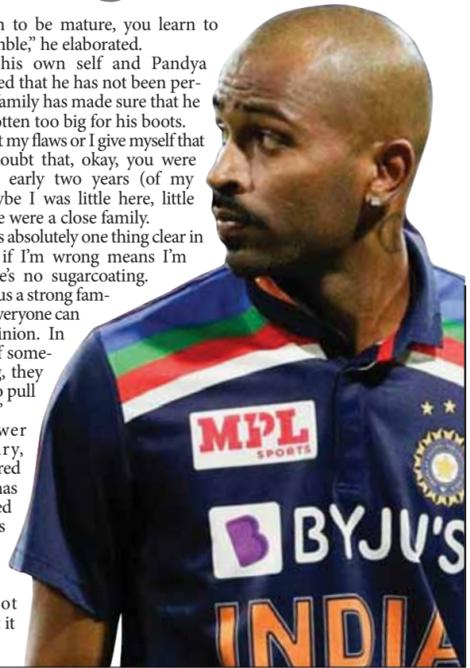
ly, you learn to be mature, you learn to become humble," he elaborated.

On to his own self and Pandya acknowledged that he has not been perfect but his family has made sure that he has never gotten too big for his boots.

"I accept my flaws or I give myself that benefit of doubt that, okay, you were young. The early two years (of my career), maybe I was little here, little there, but we were a close family.

"There is absolutely one thing clear in our family: if I'm wrong means I'm wrong; there's no sugarcoating. That makes us a strong family because everyone can have an opinion. In our family if someone is flying, they make sure to pull them down."

A lower back injury, which required a surgery, has all but ended Pandya's chances of playing Test cricket but he does not worry about it too much.



# 2023 Asia Cup in Pakistan will be 50-over affair: Raja

PTI ■ DUBAI

The 2023 Asia Cup in Pakistan will be a 50-over event with the Asian Cricket Council continuing its tradition of holding the tournament in the same format as that particular year's ICC global event, PCB chairman Ramiz Raja said on Monday.

However, the former Pakistan captain also dropped enough hints that there is very little chance of having a bilateral series against India in near future as a "lot of work still needs to be done" to reach a



"comfortable level." Raja recently attended the ACC meet in Dubai where he discussed the

modalities of Asia Cup and also had a meeting with BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and sec-

retary Jay Shah.

**India-Pak bilateral cricket**

On his meeting with the BCCI officials, Raja said: "A lot of work needs to be done to revitalise Pakistan-India cricket but there needs to be some comfortable level between the two boards and then we can see how far we can go. So overall, we had a good discussion."

"I met with BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah on the sidelines of the ACC meetings. We need to create a cricketing bond, while I have also believed that politics

should stay away from sport as much as possible and this has always been our stance," he reiterated.

Raja understands that ACC as a body has no power to dictate terms to a giant like BCCI and that's the reason he sounded a word of caution for the continental body knowing that their could be a shift of Asia Cup by the time 2023 arrives.

"The ACC was set-up to create a unified approach and collective stance so that we had one voice and if there was a situation, all stood together."

# Ireland beat Netherlands by 7 wickets

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Johannesburg-born seamer Curtis Campher became only the third bowler to claim four wickets in four balls in T20Is as a superior Ireland beat Netherlands by seven wickets in their first round Group A T20 World Cup match here on Monday.

Thanks to Campher's exploits with the white ball, Ireland bundled out Netherlands for 106 after the Dutch had decided to bat.

Ireland chased down the target with as many as 29 balls to spare at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Gareth Delany (44) and Paul Stirling (30 not out) were the significant contributors with the bat for the Irish team that had lost its T20 World Cup games to the same opponents in 2014 and 2016.

Earlier, bowling the 10th over of the Netherlands innings, the 22-year-old Campher left the Netherlands innings in disarray when he dismissed Colin Ackermann, Ryan ten Doeschate, Scott Edwards and Roelof van der Merwe off successive balls. He was bowling his second over for the day, having gone for 12 runs first up.

Ackermann was out caught behind on review, having played an



attempted pull off a shortish ball that seemed to be going down leg.

The seasoned Ten Doeschate, best remembered for his incredible century against England in the 2011 World Cup, was out for a duck, trapped in front by a full and straight one.

Edwards too fell lbw as DRS (decision review system) tracked the ball hitting the leg stump.

For his final wicket, van der

Merwe played on to his stumps a wildish delivery, leaving the Irish camp in a state of frenzy.

Netherlands were in all sorts of trouble at 51 for six after Campher's multiple blows but opener Max O'Dowd (51) battled on amid the slide at the other end.

During his 51-ball knock, O'Dowd hit seven boundaries.

The day, however, belonged to Campher who had started poorly in

his spell, got a lucky breakthrough down the leg side before claiming his hat-trick, only the second player after former Australia speedster Brett Lee to achieve the feat in a T20 World Cup.

In the next ball, Campher did what only two people could do before him in T20 international cricket before him, joining Lasith Malinga and Rashid Khan to take four wickets in successive balls.

# Lanka Premier League 2021 to kick off on December 5

IANAS ■ COLOMBO

The Lanka Premier League 2021 will commence on December 5 here with the inaugural game scheduled to be played between Galle and Jaffna.

The first round of the tournament, which will consist of 20 games, will be played at the RPICS, before it moves into MRICS, Hambantota to proceed with the final round games.

The finals of the League will be played on December 23 at the MRICS, Hambantota, whilst this year's tournament has December 24, as a 'Reserve Day' dedicated for the finals.

The Lanka Premier League which is Sri Lanka's topmost domestic tournament, with an international flavour, will consist of 24 games and will see the participation of top-most domestic and international cricketers.

The Final Round Games will see the top two teams in the points table playing the qualifier 1, whilst the 3rd and 4th placed teams on the table playing in the 'eliminator'.

The winner of 'qualifier 1' will directly go into the finals, whilst the loser of 'qualifier 1' will play against the winner of the 'eliminator' in the 'qualifier 2' and the winner of that game will go into the finals.

# Barcelona rallies to beat Valencia 3-1

AP ■ MADRID

Ansu Fati is quickly becoming Barcelona's go-to player in the absence of Lionel Messi.

The 18-year-old Fati made his first start for Barcelona after a long injury layoff on Sunday, scoring a goal and earning his team a penalty as the Catalan club halted its losing streak by rallying to beat Valencia 3-1 in the Spanish league.

Memphis Depay and Philippe Coutinho also scored for Barcelona as it moved to seventh place, five points behind leader Real Sociedad and with a game in hand.

Fati returned to action last month after being sidelined for more than 10 months because of a knee injury, coming off the bench in three straight matches before getting his first start on Sunday and giving fans more hope that the club can rebuild around him after Messi's departure to Paris Saint-Germain. He had already scored a few minutes after entering the game against Levante.

"We've always said we need players like him," said Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman, who was back on the bench after a suspension of two league matches following a red



card for complaining.

"It was his first start and it was already decided with the doctors that he would only play for about an hour. We don't want to overwork him in such an important week for us."

Barcelona was coming off two defeats before the international break — 2-0 at Atlético Madrid in the league and 3-0 at Benfica in the Champions League. It had won only once in its last six matches in all competitions.

Barcelona has begun a three-game home stint that Koeman called key to getting

the team back on track. It will next play a critical Champions League game against Dynamo Kyiv on Wednesday and then the first "clásico" of the season against Real Madrid.

"It was a very important win, we are in a key week in the season," Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong said.

"We started it well by earning points and gaining confidence, that's very important for the club right now."

The loss extended Valencia's winless streak to five matches. It dropped to ninth place in the league.

# Sindhu eyes good outing on return to action

PTI ■ ODENSE

Double Olympic medallist and reigning world champion P V Sindhu will look for a good outing as she returns to competitive action after a break, at the Denmark Open World Tour Super 1000 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, a bronze medallist at the Tokyo Olympics, had taken a break due to the hectic schedule during the Games, but she would be itching to make a winning return to the USD 850,000 event, which will also restart the BWF World Tour following a suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also in action will be London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal, who has recovered from her groin injury, which had forced her to retire midway through her first match at the Uber Cup Final last week.

While Sindhu, seeded fourth, will look for a rampaging start when she opens against Turkey's Neslihan Yigit, Saina will have to work hard to get past Japan's Aya Ohori in her opening round.

Sindhu, the 2016 Rio Games silver medallist, is likely to cross swords with Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan in the second round and a win there could put her face to face with fifth seed Korean An Seyoung.

All eyes will also be on



Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy as the seventh seeded Indian pair open its campaign against English combination of Callum Hemming and Steven Stallwood.

The duo has been in impressive form, having won all its four matches at the Thomas Cup final in Aarhus, Denmark.

In the men's singles, young Lakshya Sen, who finished second best at Dutch Open on Sunday, will look to continue his good run when he faces compatriot Sourabh Verma in his cam-

panion opener. Lakshya had failed to make the Indian team for the Sudirman Cup and Thomas Cup Final after losing his only match in the trials and would be eager to prove a point.

The women's doubles pair of N Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa and Meghana Jakkampudi and S Ram Praveena are also in the fray. Ashwini will pair up with Satwik in the mixed doubles category to face China's Feng Yan Zhe and Du Yue.

## SINGLES

**RAHANE TO LEAD MUMBAI**

**Mumbai:** India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane will lead a strong 20-member Mumbai squad that will take part in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament with the flamboyant Prithvi Shaw being his deputy. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) announced the squad, picked by the committee headed by former India pacer Salil Anka, on its website on Monday. On the day, India's former hockey captain Olympian Viren Rasquinha had a session with the Mumbai team where he spoke about the success stories of India's celebrated Olympians.

**WRESTLER VINESH PHOGAT MEETS PM**

**New Delhi:** Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who recently underwent an elbow surgery, on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with her family. The 27-year-old had made a shock first-round exit from the Tokyo Olympics. She entered the Games as one of India's strongest medal contenders. The former world championship bronze-medallist was part of meetings that Modi had with Tokyo Games athletes. "Great meeting the honourable @narendramodi sir today. His enthusiasm and love for sport is truly boundless. Genuinely touched by your concern for athletes. A big thank you sir for sparing time from your busy schedule to fulfill your promise of interacting with me and my family," Vinesh tweeted.

**WORLD ESPORTS CUP TO FEATURE GAMERS**

**New Delhi:** Gamers from India, Nepal and Pakistan will compete in the inaugural World Esports Cup starting November 25, the organisers announced on Monday. The tournament, sponsored by Infinix Smartphones, will see a massive prize pool of Rs 75 lakh approximately, according to a media release. Esports athletes from the three countries will compete virtually in open qualifiers to take a shot at becoming the champion of the region. World Esports Cup (WEC), WEC Director, Vishwalok Nath said: "We all know how intense it becomes when it comes to any India-Pakistan match and we want fans to witness this epic clash in esports as well."

**MARY KOM TO SKIP NATIONALS**

**New Delhi:** Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom will not compete in the upcoming National Women's Boxing Championships in Hisar. The 38-year-old, who reached the pre-quarters of Tokyo Olympics before bowing out with a hard-fought loss, is, however, training for the world championships in December. Even though the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has announced that only gold medal winners from the Nationals will make the squad, it is reliably learnt that trials could be held in a couple of weight categories, including the 48kg division, which Mary Kom would prefer to compete in.

**BHAVANI'S WIN IN FRANCE**

**New Delhi:** Fencer Bhavani Devi, who made history at the Tokyo Olympics by becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport at the Games, has won the Charelleville National Competition in France in the individual women's sabre event. The 28-year-old fencer tweeted about the same. "Won the Charelleville National Competition, France in the Women's Sabre individual. Many thanks to coach Christian Bauer, Arnaud Schneider, and all teammates. Congratulations to all for a great start of the season," she tweeted after winning the competition. At the Tokyo Olympics, she won her round of 64 match 15-3 against Tunisia's Nadia Ben Aziz before going down to eventual bronze-medallist, Manon Brunet of France in the round of 32.