

OPINION 6
HOW AIR INDIA FELL
SHORT OF THE RUNWAY**WORLD 8**
SAUDI TO PROVIDE \$4.2 BN TO
PAKISTAN; IMRAN THANKS MBS**SPORT 11**
ENGLAND CRUSH BANGLADESH
BY EIGHT WICKETS

RAIPUR, THURSDAY OCTOBER 28, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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WE ARE
BACK: SAIF
ALI KHAN
10 VIVACITY

SC sets up Pegasus probe panel

Ex-SC judge to
supervise work
of 3-member
committee of
cyber experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday appointed a three-member panel of cyber experts to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for surveillance of politicians, journalists, corporates and judges, saying every citizen needs protection against privacy violation and mere invocation of “national security by state” does not render the court a “mute spectator”.

The committee comprising three technical members will be supervised by its retired judge Justice RV Raveendran to be assisted by Alok Joshi, former IPS officer (1976 batch) and Sundeep Oberoi, Chairman, Sub Committee in (International Organisation of Standardisation/International Electro-Technical Commission /Joint Technical Committee).

The three technical members of the committee are: Naveen Kumar Chaudhary Prabhakaran P and Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Maharashtra. The apex court rejected the Centre's plea to allow it to appoint an expert committee to investigate the allegations on the grounds that such a course of action would violate the settled judicial principle against bias. The top court urged its former judge Justice Raveendran to oversee the functioning of the three member panel and sought a report expeditiously from the committee.



Dean, National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Prabhakaran P is a Professor (School of Engineering), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri, Kerala, and has “two decades of experience in computer science and security areas”.

Third member of the technical committee Gumaste is Institute Chair Associate Professor (Computer Science and Engineering), Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Maharashtra.

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the domain of national security, no omnibus prohibition can be called for against judicial review.”

The top court said in this world of conflicts it is an extremely uphill task to find and select experts who are free from prejudices, are independent and competent, rather than relying upon any Government agencies or any private entity.

In the 46 page Judgment, the Bench reiterated the need of freedom of press in a democratic society. “Such a scenario might result in self-censorship. This is of particular concern when it relates to the freedom of the press, which is an important pillar of democracy. Such chilling effect on the freedom of speech is an assault on the vital public-watchdog role of the press, which may undermine the ability of the press to provide accurate and reliable information,” said the apex court highlighting freedom of press.

“We make it clear that our effort is to uphold Constitutional aspirations and rule of law, without allowing ourselves to be consumed in political rhetoric,” the bench said, adding that this court has always been conscious of not entering political thicket. “Members of civilised democratic society have reasonable expectation of privacy. Privacy is not singular concern of journalists or social activists,” the bench said.



Stating that “justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done,” the bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli rejected the Centre's vehement submissions on national security saying, “...This does not mean that the State gets a free pass every time the spectre of ‘national security’ is raised. National security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning. Although this court should be circumspect in encroaching

MEA flays China for new land border law

India asks China
to avoid actions
that can impact
bilateral pacts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has taken strong exception to China's decision to have a new land border law and said such “unilateral” legislation will have implications on the existing bilateral pacts regarding the border.

This response from the Ministry of External Affairs here came on Wednesday after reports said the new boundary law will become operational from January 1 next year. The legislation stipulates that “the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China are sacred and inviolable”.

Enunciating India's position, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, “We also expect that China will avoid undertaking action under the pretext of this law which could unilaterally alter the situation in the India-China border areas.”

“We have noted that China has passed a new land boundary law on October 23, 2021. The law states among other things that China abides by



In this file photo, an Indian Army convoy moves on the Srinagar-Ladakh highway at Gagangar, northeast of Srinagar AP

treaties concluded with or jointly acceded to by foreign countries on land boundary affairs. It also has provisions to carry out reorganisation of districts in the border areas,” Bagchi said.

India and China have still not resolved the boundary question. Both sides have agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution to the boundary question through consultations on an equal footing.

“We have also concluded several bilateral agreements, protocols and arrangements to maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC in India-China border areas. We also expect that China will avoid undertaking action under the pretext of this law which could unilaterally alter the situation in the India-China border areas,” Bagchi said.

“In this regard, China's unilateral decision to bring about a legislation which can have implication on our existing bilateral arrangements on border management as well as on the boundary question is of concern to us,” he said.

“Such unilateral move will have no bearing on the arrangements that both sides have already reached earlier, whether it is on the boundary question or for maintaining peace and tranquility along the LAC in India-China border areas. We also expect that China will avoid undertaking action under the pretext of this law which could unilaterally alter the situation in the India-China border areas,” Bagchi said.

CAPSULE

10 CONVICTED IN 2013 PATNA BLAST CASE

Patna: A special NIA court on Wednesday convicted 10 people in connection with the 2013 serial blasts that left six dead and scores injured at the venue here of a political rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was then the chief minister of Gujarat. Special NIA judge Gurvinder Mehrotra, who passed the order, also acquitted one of the accused for want of evidence.

WAQAR APOLOGISES FOR 'NAMAZ' COMMENT

Karachi: Waqar Younis on Wednesday apologised for his communal remarks during a television show following Pakistan's 10-wicket victory over India in the ongoing T20 World Cup as the former Pakistan pacer was castigated on social media for his “jehadi mindset”.

INDIA TESTS AGNI-V WITH 5,000 KM RANGE

New Delhi: In a major boost to its military might, India on Wednesday successfully test-fired surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5 that can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy, officials said. The test-firing was carried around 7:50 pm from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, they said.

Sonia calls up Lalu amid rupture in Bihar alliance

Lalu had rebuked
Cong for fielding
bypoll candidates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

Amid reports of a rift within the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, particularly between the Congress and the RJD, Congress president Sonia Gandhi reached out to RJD chief Lalu Prasad, who had rebuked the grand old party over fielding candidates in Bihar bypolls.

Lalu reached Patna after a gap of three years after serving a jail term in a fodder scam case. Talking to the media in Patna ahead of his bypoll campaign, Lalu said the Congress president enquired about his health and whereabouts.

Sonia called Lalu soon after a meeting of the Congress' State chiefs in which the party's problems in various States were discussed.

“I spoke to Sonia. She asked me about my well-being



Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad, along with son and party leader Tejashwi Yadav, addresses a by-election campaign rally at Kusheshwar Asthan constituency in Darbhanga on Wednesday PTI

and whereabouts. I told her that the Congress is an all India party and she should get all like-minded people and parties together to form a strong alternative (to the ruling party) and should call a meeting of all people,” said Lalu.

The RJD is one of the oldest allies of the Congress. Both the parties had an alliance in Bihar as well for the Assembly elections. However, in the bypolls for two seats, the RJD

decided to go solo which left the Congress fuming and the grand old party fielded its candidate from both the seats.

When questioned about differences with the Congress over bypolls seat sharing, Lalu made stinging remarks. “What is the alliance with Congress? Should we have left everything to the Congress for a defeat? For forfeiting deposits?” Lalu had said a few days ago.

Small LPG cylinders can soon be bought from ration shops

To be sold at
commercial rate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

You may soon be able to purchase small LPG cylinders at fair price shops at commercial rates. The Centre on Wednesday said it plans to allow the retail sale of small LPG cylinders as well as offer financial services through fair price shops as part of its measures to enhance the financial viability of these outlets.

These issues were discussed in a virtual meeting with State Governments, chaired by Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey.

Representatives from the Ministries of Electronics and IT, Finance, and Petroleum and Natural Gas attended the meeting. Officials from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) as well as CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC)



too were present.

After the meeting, the Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry in a statement said, “Proactive measures to be taken to enhance the financial viability of FPS. ...Plan of retail selling of small LPG cylinders through FPS in the anvil.” There are 5.26 Lakh ration shops in the country. Sources said that the small cylinders can be bought off the counter by simply producing an ID proof.

Representatives from oil marketing companies (OMCs) appreciated the proposal for

retail selling of small LPG cylinders through fair price shops (FPS), also called ration shops. OMCs said the necessary support would be provided for the same in coordination with interested state/UT Governments, it added.

In the meeting, the food secretary stressed the need for taking proactive measures for enhancing the financial viability of FPSs.

The State Governments said the collaboration with common service centres (CSC) will increase the viability of FPS.

5 tourists from Bengal killed as vehicle plunges down after crash

PNS ■ BAGESHWAR

Five tourists from West Bengal died while ten persons were injured when the Tempo Traveler they were travelling in crashed into another vehicle and fell off the road down the mountain in Bageshwar district on Wednesday. The police reached the site of the mishap and began the rescue operation with the help of locals.

According to officials, the tourists were going towards Munshyari after visiting Bageshwar when the accident took place near Farsali some distance from Kapkot. There were 12 people in the vehicle, out of which five people died on the spot, while seven were injured. Three persons in the other vehicle were also reportedly injured in the mishap. The injured persons were rescued and sent to hospital by ambulance.

The tourists who died in the accident include two men and three women. All the tourists in the group are said to be from Kolkata.

Party ready, several Cong leaders will join, says Capt

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Days after Capt Amarinder Singh alleged “humiliation” at the hands of the Congress party's central leadership leading to his unceremonious ouster from Punjab's Chief Minister's post, the scion of the Patiala royal family on Wednesday announced the launch of his “new party”, not disclosing the name, while claiming the “support of several Congressmen”.

Declaring that his political party was ready, Capt Amarinder maintained that the party's name and symbol are pending approval with the Election Commission of India. His decision, adding a new dimension to Punjab politics just about three months before the 2022 State Assembly elec-



tions, has resulted in a fresh bout of words between Capt Amarinder and his bete noire Navjot Singh

Sidhu, with the former calling him “dumb”, and Punjab Congress chief describing the former Chief Minister as “loyal CM of BJP”.

Not divulging any further details about his much talked about party, Capt Amarinder said, “Yes, I am forming a party. My lawyers are working on it. But I can't tell you the name. I will tell you when the Election Commission approves it. We have made a request for a symbol also.”

BSF not going to take over Punjab: Capt

Chandigarh: Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday strongly backed the BJP-led Centre's move of extending the BSF's jurisdiction and asserted that

the border force is not going to take over Punjab or its administration. Singh also slammed the Congress regime in the State for opposing it and denying any serious security concerns.

Schools in Delhi to reopen from Nov 1

Chhath Puja
allowed with
Covid protocol

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After 19 months of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, schools in the national Capital will reopen from November 1 for all Classes with 50 per cent student strength, though classes will continue in the hybrid mode and no student will be forced to attend them offline.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Wednesday allowed devotees to perform Chhath Puja at designated spots in Delhi amid



strict Covid protocols.

The DDMA, which devises Covid management policies for the Capital, had banned Chhath Puja celebrations at public places, including at Yamuna riverbanks, water bodies and temples in Delhi, after a meeting on September 30.

The ban on Chhath celebrations had triggered protests by Opposition parties the BJP and the Congress.

Aryan's co-accused challenge conspiracy charge in drug case

No relief as yet,
bail hearing to
continue today

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Adopting a similar line of arguments pursued by prime accused Aryan Khan's lawyer and former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi on Tuesday, the lawyers seeking bail for two other accused in the mid-sea drug bust case — Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha — on Wednesday vehemently contested the conspiracy charges slapped wrongly by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) against their clients.



On a day when one of the two lawyers complained that WhatsApp chats used in the case made it to the media even before they were placed on record before the court, senior counsel Amit Desai — appearing for Arbaaz — told the Bombay High Court that in the case of his client, who came to

be arrested along with Aryan and six other accused on October 3 on the charges of consumption, the offence of conspiracy under Section 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, came to be added later.

“Sections 27 and 20(b) of the NDPS Act are for consumption of drugs, that is what was there in the arrest memo. If there was no conspiracy on assessment then the punishment was for a year and there was inter se no conspiracy,” Desai told the court.

After hearing the arguments of Desai and Munmun's lawyer Ali Kaashif Khan Deshmukh, Single Judge Justice Nitin Sambre scheduled further hearing in the matter on Thursday.

Punjab calls special Assembly Session on Nov 8

To oppose extension to
BSF jurisdiction, and repeal
Centre’s three farm laws

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA

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ays after Punjab’s all political parties, barring the BJP, unanimously decided to press upon the Centre to withdraw its decision to extend BSF’s jurisdiction in Punjab besides repealing the controversial farm laws, the State Cabinet on Wednesday decided to convene the Vidhan Sabha’s special session on November 8.

As per the Cabinet decision, the 16th special session of 15th Punjab Vidhan Sabha has been convened on November 8, 2021, ‘to oppose Centre’s notification extending the jurisdiction of BSF from 15 kms to 50 kms along the international border besides repealing the three ‘black’ farm laws’.

Notably, all major political parties, except the BJP, attended the meeting convened by the Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi to discuss the two significant issues, where it was unanimously decided to convene a special session of Vidhan Sabha.

The decision was taken during the Cabinet meeting held at Ludhiana Circuit House — for the first time ever outside the state capital.

ANTI-RED TAPE RULES APPROVED

In another significant decision, the Cabinet also gave approval to the Punjab Anti Red Tape Rules, 2021, framed by the Governance Reforms and Public Grievances Department to carry out the

PRO-INVESTOR INITIATIVES, CONCESSIONS TO BOOST TRADE AND INDUSTRY

- Allows faceless assessment of GST and VAT, saving traders and industrialists from visiting Taxation offices for the purpose
- Reduces mobile squad, earlier comprising of 14 persons, to only four in Taxation Dept
- Abolishes Institutional Tax
- VAT’s pending cases, for financial years 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17, to be considered only 30% of the total demand. In such cases, 20% would be recovered in first year, and balance 80% in the next
- To introduce One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for defaulters in Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation (PSIDC), Punjab Financial Corporation (PFC), and Punjab Agro

- Industries Corporation (PAIC)
- To bring an Amnesty Scheme for plot holders of Punjab State Industries Export Corporation (PSIEC)
- Slashes fixed charges on electricity connections for medium scale industries to 50%
- To spent Rs 150 crore on the up-gradation of infrastructure in Industrial Focal Points• To relax condition of reducing passages to industry from current 6 to 4 karam
- To acquire requisite land for Patti-Makhu rail link, and handed over to the Union Ministry of Railways before next rail budget
- Exhibition Centre to come up at Amritsar
- Film City to be set up near Chandigarh

purposes of Punjab Anti Red Tape Act, 2021, which was notified and came into effect on April 6, 2021.

The Act shall be applicable to all departments and their attached or subordinate offices including all units of local self-government, boards, corpora-

tions, public sector enterprises, societies, trusts, commissions or autonomous bodies established or constituted by an Act of the State Legislature or whose expenditure is met from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

It shall also ensure that all

aforsaid entities would mandatorily simplify their process to reduce the burden of compliances by at least 50 percent within a period of six months of the commencement of this Act. Likewise, the Act would also provide for disciplinary as well as financial

penalties against erring official for violations committed under this Act.

FAST TRACK COMPLETION OF MSME’S EXPANSION

To promote ease of doing business in the State, the Cabinet also gave a go ahead to the amendments in Punjab Right to Business Act, 2020, for inclusion of expansion by existing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under the purview of the Act. The amendment in the Act provides an enabling eco-system for self-declaration, exemptions, speedier approvals, and inspections for existing MSMES to expand and operate in the State.

All the existing enterprises undertaking expansion shall be eligible to get Certificate of in-principle approval for seven services covered under the Act, to be issued within five working days to existing units in Focal Points and within 20 working days to existing units outside Focal Points.

Capt backs extension of BSF jurisdiction

Warns ‘something is going to happen’

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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trongly backing the BJP-led Central Government’s move of extending the BSF’s jurisdiction in Punjab from 15 to 50 kms, the former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday send alarm bells ringing by saying that “something is going to happen.”

“I am not an alarmist but my 10 years of experience in the Army and 9.5 years as home minister of the state told me that something is going to happen,” said Capt Amarinder while slamming the State Government over its repeated denial of any serious security concerns.

Asserting that the border force is not going to take over Punjab or its administration, Capt Amarinder said that such misconceptions were being spread by certain people to score brownie points in the run-up to the Assembly elections. “The BSF is here for helping maintain national security as we are a border state,” he said, calling for full support by the State to the Centre in the interest of national security.

Capt Amarinder asserted, “There is something very wrong and dangerous happening at the borders, which the State could ill-afford to ignore.”

“Sleepers cells of Pak ISI and Khalistani forces are creating trouble, technology is becoming more advance. The capacity and range of drones is increasing, first they came in just five to six kms from the border, now they reach 31 kms,” he pointed out, adding, “We have to be very careful of the clandestine war from across the borders.”

It was the duty of every responsible government to tackle such threats, Capt Amarinder stressed, countering those who mock his concerns of national security.

“The State Government should put the facts before the

people and take their help in getting information instead of denying the danger. It should own up and take necessary action to combat the threat,” he said, adding that even at the all-party meet held on the issue, it seems the political parties were not properly briefed.

AMARINDER TO MEET SHAH TODAY TO DISCUSS FARMERS’ ISSUE

Considering that Capt Amarinder Singh’s political renaissance depends on an “acceptable” resolution to the farmers’ ongoing agitation against the Centre’s three farm laws, the former Chief Minister is set to meet the Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday one more time to discuss the issue.

Capt Amarinder had earlier also met Shah, and the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on September 30.

He would be leading a non-political delegation of agricultural experts to meet Shah to discuss “possible solutions” to the ongoing farmers’ agitation.

“I have been discussing various options with the Union Home Minister and others...I think I can help in finding a solution as I have been the Chief Minister of Punjab and am also an agriculturist,” he said.

While there could be no pre-decided formula for the resolution of the farmers’ stir, something would emerge during the talks as both sides — the Central Government and farmers — want a resolution to the crisis triggered by the farm laws, he said.

Also clarifying that he had not met any farmer leaders, Capt Amarinder said that he had deliberately not interfered in the matter as the farmers did not want politicians involved.

The farmer leaders had four inconclusive meetings with the Union Government before February this year, but backchannel talks have been going on, he added.

Punjab CM announces to scrap 40,000 cases of VAT against traders

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA

I

n a much-needed reprieve to trade and industry of the state, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Wednesday announced to scrap 40,000 pending cases of VAT, out of total 48,000 cases related to Financial Year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, against traders and industrialists across the State.

Channi, addressing a galaxy of industrialists, traders and prospective entrepreneurs on the second day of fourth Progressive Punjab Investors’ Summit, said that only 8,000 remaining cases will be settled amicably by asking the concerned traders or industrialists to deposit just 30 percent of the total outstanding tax liability thus saving them from lot of inconvenience on this count.

By giving a further relief to them, Channi announced that they will only have to deposit 20 percent of the aforesaid tax liability during current fiscal and the balance 80 percent by the next.

He categorically said that this industrial-friendly initiative will go a long way in boosting their morale to invest

in a big way, and added that the State Government will act as a facilitator to promote industry at new heights of glory.

Assuring the best air connectivity to boost economic activity in the region, Channi also announced to lay the foundation stone of upcoming Green Field airport at Halwara (Ludhiana) on November 15 saying that prestigious airport will be completed within a period of eight months.

Reiterating his Government’s firm commitment to create a conducive ecosystem for ease of doing business in the State, Channi assured the trade and industry of fulsome support to emerge Punjab as the front runner state not within the country but across the globe.

Listing the major initiatives to repose confidence amongst the industrialists and traders to give further impetus to industrial growth, he said that the Punjab Government has already okayed several pro-investor initiatives and concessions to boost trade and industry in the state in a specially convened Cabinet held at the state’s industrial capital.

Capt Amarinder is proof of Congress’ and BJP’s double-standard: AAP’s Jarnail Singh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

H

itting out at former Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh following his announcement of forming a new party and backing the BSF’s jurisdiction extension in Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab affairs in-charge and MLA from Delhi, Jarnail Singh on Wednesday raised question on the Congress stating why the Congress High Command was silent and not expelling Captain, who was speaking the language of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In a statement, Jarnail Singh said Capt Amarinder, who is speaking in favor of the BJP today; is doing it with the consent of the Congress. “Capt Amarinder Singh is the

proof of the Congress and the BJP’s double-standard. The Congress and the BJP are working in collusion and the Akali Dal Badal is also part of the same group,” he said.

Taking a dig at Captain, Jarnail Singh said, “Whatever party Captain will form, it will be a destruction, not development of Punjab.” The AAP leader further said that the people of Punjab had witnessed the false promises and works of Capt Amarinder Singh for four-and-a-half-years; only then today Captain is out of power. He said that the Congress cannot put everything on Captain as the Congress itself was equally responsible.

Jarnail Singh said that Captain was trying to establish a political footing in the name

of farmers, but in reality has nothing to do with them. He has not even met the farmers till date and his relationship was only with Modi and Amit Shah; on whose orders he was doing everything during his tenure as the CM, he asserted. “All that the Aam Aadmi Party has been saying for a long time that Captain is working in collusion with Modi and the central government and was obeying their orders; has been exposed today,” he added.

Further lashing out at Captain, Jarnail Singh said that the former Congress Chief Minister, who became the spokesperson of the BJP on the extension of BSF jurisdiction; was the one behind bringing the same through the central government.

AAP CHIEF KEJRIWAL ON 2-DAY PUNJAB VISIT FROM OCT 28

AAP National Convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will be on a two-day visit to Punjab from Thursday. Jarnail Singh said that Kejriwal will reach Sangrur in a train and on the first day of his two-day visit; will hold a meeting with the farmers under a ‘Samwaad Programme’ in Mansa and on October 29, will hold a meeting with the traders and businessmen in Bathinda; to discuss their problems, suggestions and grievances. He said that the AAP is preparing a comprehensive roadmap with these meetings, which will later be added to the party’s election manifesto.

Channi lays foundation stone of sports stadium

PNS ■ RUPNAGAR

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unjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Wednesday laid foundation stone of Sports Stadium at Village Roadmajra in Chamkaur Sahib Constituency

in the presence of renowned environmentalist Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal.

The Sports stadium will be built in the memory of farmers who lost their lives during Farmers agitation for scrapping three laws made by the central

government. The Chief Minister also gave a grant of Rs one crore for building the stadium in the memory of farmers.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Minister said that this sports stadium which is being

built by the state government will be a real tribute to the farmers who had lost their lives in the agitation against black laws. He said that as per the unanimous decision taken during the all party meeting, the Punjab Government would

convene a special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on November 8 to unanimously reject the three black farmer laws imposed by the Union Government.

Chief Minister also said that 16 new sports stadiums are

coming up in the Chamkaur Sahib Constituency for which 2.50 Cr. a grant has already been released to start the work for the first phase besides rupees one crore grant to the sports stadium at village Roadmajra.

Ellenabad bypoll: Campaigning ends on a high note

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|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 12491280 | Home Loan | 1. Anil Shivhare 2. Shyam Lal | 16-10-2021 | INR 1094516.28/- | All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot Part Of Khasra No. 915, Admeasuring 1575 Sq. Ft, Situated At P.H. No. 105/60, Ward No. 63, Under Dr Shyama Prasad Mukharjee Ward, Mouja- Bhatagaon, Raipur Admeasuring Total Area Of 1575 Sq. Ft,And Bounded As: East: Rasta, West : Land Of Seller, North: Land Of Seller, South: Land Of Seller |
| 2 | 17382267 | Home Loan | 1. Arun Kumar Soni 2. Kumari Tarjan Soni 3. Arun Kumar Joshi | 16-10-2021 | INR 2867177.16/- | All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential Land Bearing Part Of Khasra No. 547/8, Comprising Area 3,000 Sq Ft, Situated At Mouja Kurud, P.H. No. 14/19, R.I.C Durg-1, Tahsil & District Durg (c.g.) And, Bounded As: East : Land Of Sahu, West : Seller Surplus Land, North : Seller Surplus Land, South : Road |
| 3 | 19102593 | Loan Against Property | 1. Mrs. Urmila Singh, 2. Mr. Rajesh Singh Kushwah, 3. Mrs. Sunita Singh, | 16-10-2021 | INR 935458.72/- | All That Part And Parcel Of Resedential House Part Of Khasra No. 459/1, Has Been Renumbered As Khasra No. 459/3, Comprising Area 1735 Sq. Ft Situated At Village Banarsi, Ph.No. 115, R.I.C Raipur-1, Raipur, Chhattisgarh And Bounded By As Following : North : Road, South: Buyer's Land, East: Buyer's Land, West: Buyer's Land |
| 4 | 14013868 & 21384725 | Home Loan & Loan Against Property | 1. V. Venu 2. Chhatishgarh Fuels 3. Vanka Mallika | 16-10-2021 | INR 11571934.70/- | All That Piece And Parcel Of Part Of Kh. No. 515/5, Admeasuring Area 11840 Sq. Ft. Situated At Wake Mouja-kurud, Bhilai, P.C. No. 14/19A, RIC-Durg-1, Tehsi & District-Durg (C.G.) And Bounded As: East : Lands Of Rungata, West: Lands Of Lala Ram Sahu, North : Land Of Aageshwar And Road, South: Lands Of Rungata |

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Date : 28.10.2021
Place : Raipur

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

T

he campaigning for high-stakes bypoll to Ellenabad assembly seat ended on a high note on Wednesday with the political heavyweights from ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-Jannayak Janata Party, Congress and Indian National Lok Dal addressing a series of public meetings to give one final push to woo the voters.

The Ellenabad bypoll, which is scheduled to be held on October 30, is witnessing a triangular fight with BJP-JJP joint candidate Govind Kanda, Congress candidate Pawan Beniwal and INLD nominee Abhay Singh Chautala in the fray. A total of 19 candidates are contesting the bypoll on the assembly seat.

The seat became vacant in January after INLD’s lone MLA Abhay Chautala had resigned in protest against the three farm laws.

INLD’s Abhay Chautala who is eyeing his fourth straight win on the Ellenabad seat on Wednesday, got support of farmers’ leader Rakesh Tikait and former state Congress chief Ashok Tanwar.

As a fitting end to BJP-JJP’s campaign, the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala addressed a series of public gatherings urging voters to support Govind Kanda in the polls.

Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja also addressed a series of public meetings in various villages of Ellenabad, seeking votes for Beniwal.

According to the political analysts, the outcome of the bypoll on November 2 will decide the fate of INLD in state politics while it is considered a referendum on the BJP-JJP Government after the completion of its two years tenure in the midst of ongoing farmers’ agitation against three central farm laws.

For the Congress, the victory will further consolidate its position as a key opposition party in Haryana, the political observers say.

The ongoing farmers’ protest was a key election issue in the bypoll.

CM, DY CM HELD CAMPAIGN IN LAST TWO DAYS

Both Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala held extensive campaigning for Govind Kanda during October 26 and 27. The Chief Minister

addressed over a dozen public meetings in the last two days in various villages in the constituency.

Highlighting the achievement of his government, Khattar sought votes for ensuring a corrupt free and transparent government for the people of the state.

He also highlighted the welfare schemes launched for welfare of farmers in the state.

With Ellenabad known as a stronghold of Chautala clan, Khattar while addressing a public meeting said now, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, JJP chief Ajay Singh Chautala and Power Minister and independent MLA Ranjit Singh Chautala are part of the BJP-led coalition government.

A big part of that (Chautala) family is with us, he added.

He also appealed to the voters to exercise their franchise without any fear.

Apart from Dushyant Chautala who addressed a series of election meetings in favour of Kanda, his father and JJP chief Ajay Singh Chautala and Power Minister and Ajay’s uncle Ranjit Singh Chautala also addressed the election meetings to seek votes for BJP-

JJP joint candidate. Haryana BJP chief OP Dhankar, several Cabinet Ministers and MLAs also campaigned for the party candidate on Wednesday.

Sirsa MLA and founder of Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP), Gopal Kanda, who is brother of Govind Kanda have also addressed a large number of meetings in the past one week seeking votes for the BJP-JJP joint nominee.

A BJP’s spokesman said that despite all the propaganda of the opposition, the BJP has been successful in holding public meetings in all the 78 villages of the Ellenabad assembly constituency. Except in one or two villages, there was no opposition to the BJP in any other place. However, there were many villages where people themselves organized programs of BJP-JJP alliance candidate, the spokesman said.

ABHAY GETS SUPPORT OF RAKESH TIKAIT AND TANWAR

Senior Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday hinted the farmers to support INLD’s Abhay Chautala saying that “Somebody has relied on the Samyukt Morcha...return the favour with something extra, only then will the relevance of

the khap panchayats, Gurudwaras and Samyukt Morcha be intact.”

Without naming Chautala, Tikait while addressing a gathering in Ellenabad constituency said, “Someone kept his bag with us. Today, he is seeking return of it. Return it to him now with additions.” The BKU leader then asked, “Did you understand what I said? Will you do it for sure?” To which the crowd replied in affirmative. Tikait also announced that the farmers will teach a lesson to the ruling BJP in the bypoll. He has held roadshows and public meetings in the constituency asking people to not vote for the BJP-BJP candidate.

Meanwhile, former Haryana Congress president Ashok Tanwar extended support to Abhay and appealed to voters in his favor. Tanwar, who is head of Apna Bharat Morcha addressed a joint press conference with Abhay to announce his support.

Abhay exuded confidence of his victory and said people of Ellenabad know that he has stood by them all these years.

Former CM and INLD chief OP Chautala has held an extensive campaign for his son Abhay in the last fortnight to ensure the party’s victory.

Haryana Agri Min: There will be no crisis of fertiliser in State

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A

midst the protests by farmers against the State Government over the shortage of DAP fertiliser, Haryana Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister, JP Dalal on Wednesday said that there will be no shortage of fertilisers in

the state.

“The state will soon get six more rakes of DAP fertilizer from the Central Government. The farmers should be prepared for sowing the next crop,” Dalal said while talking to the mediapersons here.

The Minister also hit out at the opposition parties and

alleged that they created panic among the farmers and spread wrong information about the shortage of DAP fertilizers. He said that it was opposition parties who held protests at few places in the state over the issue. It is true that at some places, long queues of farmers were witnessed to purchase

the fertiliser but they will not face any problem now, he added.

A day before, long queues were witnessed as farmers waited for hours to purchase the fertiliser in Charkhi Dadri and Shahabad in Kurukshetra. Opposition parties have alleged that farmers are running from

pillar to post as there is a shortage of DAP.

Earlier on Sunday, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had held a meeting to review the availability and demand of DAP. Khattar had urged the Centre for six additional (train) rakes of the fertilisers and the Centre had agreed to it.

Hemant Soren to open N'nal Tribal Dance Festival today

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The three-day National Tribal Dance Festival and Rajyotsava 2021 will be inaugurated on Thursday at the Science College Ground here.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren will be the chief guest and open the event while Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will preside over.

The programme will begin with an attractive march past by tribal dancers from different states and foreign countries.

In the inaugural, Gaur Singh dancers from



Nigeria, Palestine, and Hojagiri-Tripura will perform. An exhibition will be inaugurated after noon. Dance competitions

Dance competitions on the theme "wedding ceremony" will be held from 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm in which 11 troupes will take part.

on the theme "wedding ceremony" will be held from 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm in which 11 troupes will take part.

Governor Anusuiya Uike will be the chief guest in the evening programme in which dancers from Swaziland, Uzbekistan and Mali will perform.



Tribal dancers of Palestine and Sri Lanka on Wednesday performed a fusion dance with Chhattisgarh's artists at the Purkhauti Mukangan in Raipur.

Pioneer Photo

CM to open exhibition on Indira Gandhi, Sardar Patel



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will on October 31

inaugurate an exhibition on former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and former Union Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel.

A press communiqué on Wednesday said the programme is to be held at the Science College Ground here on October 31. Tourism Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu will preside over the event.

A seminar based on the personality, thoughts and vision Indira Gandhi will be held later. Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh and Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala will be guest speakers.

PWD to repair rural roads in Chhattisgarh



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Public Works department (PWD)

will carry out repair and re-tarring (asphaltisation) of rural roads in the state at a cost of Rs 200 crores.

The PWD has included the proposals of legislators apart from identifying roads which requires repair and betterment, an official statement said on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel called for repair of roads in the rural areas. The PWD was asked to identify the roads.

The PWD's proposal has been approved. Due to monsoon showers, the work could not be undertaken. Now, it will start soon.

World Bank praises C'garh for malnutrition control



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

A World Bank team on Wednesday praised Chhattisgarh for taking steps to combat malnutrition.

Team members inspected Kasahi village in Patan block in Durg district where they spoke to children, Anganwadi workers

and pregnant women, a statement to the media said.

A press communiqué said the team included South Asia Head, Trina Haque, and Senior Health Specialist Dr Dipika Choudhary.

Haque said they will report about the innovative schemes of Chhattisgarh and recommend the best of them to the entire country.

Chhattisgarh officials apprised the visitors that the government had introduced a software in which updates are made after weighing the children at the end of every month. Special attention is given to children suffering from malnutrition.

Haque praised the efforts of the Chhattisgarh government in combating malnutrition.



Chhattisgarh Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat on Wednesday inspected preparations at the Science College Ground in Raipur for the three-day National Tribal Dance Festival.

Pioneer Photo

PNB holds vigilance week



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Vigilance week of the regional office of the Punjab National Bank commenced here on Tuesday.

A press communiqué said the week started with an oath taking ceremony. Regional Head V. Srinivas presided over the programme. Srinivas urged officials and employees to maintain truth, honesty and transparency in work.

Special training for self-breast examination tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Women will be specially trained in self-breast and clinical examination at the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Medical College Hospital here on October 29 and 30, it was announced on Wednesday.

In view of the increasing cases of breast cancer across the world, October is observed as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Dr. (Prof.) Manju Singh, Head of Department, Surgery, told the media.

She said when there is a problem related to breast or breast lump, discharge from the nipple, sudden change in the size of breasts or any other symptom, women must



approach a surgeon first.

A special breast clinic is organized every day of the week for breast related diseases at the Ambedkar Memorial Medical College Hospital.

If there is cancerous lump in the breast, there is facility for breast oncoplasty, in which surgery is done while maintaining the beauty of the breasts, she said.

Pandemic shot up unemployment rate

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

During Covid-19, unemployment in India zoomed to 21 percent from 7 percent earlier, it was announced on Wednesday.

The Covid-induced lockdown caused migration of workers across the country, causing unemployment to shoot up. Now the situation is improving, S.L. Menaria, Additional Director General, Division Headquarters, NSO, said here.

It was found that instead of the organized sector, the most hit was the unorganized sector across the country.

Inflation was under control during Cong regime: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

When the Congress ruled India, there was control over inflation but the budget of the common man has been derailed today, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Wednesday.

He was addressing a public meeting at Arki in Himachal Pradesh in favour of Congress candidate Sanjay Awasthi. He urged people to vote for the Congress candidate.

Expressing confidence, he said that not only Arki but the Congress will win all four seats in the state because the people are seeking a change, an official communication said.

Baghel said inflation and unemployment are at their peak today. But the Modi



government was blind to it.

The security of the nation is also at stake and the farmers are on the roads for the last one year fighting for their rights, he said. Still, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi was ignoring them.

During the Congress regime, a cooking gas cylinder cost only around Rs 490. Today its price has exceeded Rs 1,000, he said.

SBI State Bank of India
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POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) [See rule 8 (1)]
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the STATE BANK OF INDIA 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 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice date as below mentioned date calling upon the Borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower 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 sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below. The borrowers 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 STATE BANK OF INDIA, for amount mentioned below and interest thereon. 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.

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|--------|---|---|---|--|
| 1. | BORROWER:- MR. SANJAY GUPTA S/O SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD GUPTA. | (1) 05.02.2020 (2) 26.10.2021 | Rs. 3,25,043.00 + Interest & Other Charges. | FLAT NO.-C-2, 3RD FLOOR, AREA-514 SQ. FT. SITUATED AT KHASRA NO.- 261/5, H.NO.22/572-3, SHIVVILLA, PLOT NO.14, FAFADIH, RAJIV GANDHI WARD NO.-22, PH NO.-108, RIC-RAIPUR, TAH. & DIST-RAIPUR (C.G.) BOUNDRIES:- NORTH-FLAT NO.C-1, EAST- HOUSE OF MR. PATEL, SOUTH-LAND OF MR. ARORA, WEST- PROPERTY OF MR. CHAUDHARY. |

Date: 26.10.2021, Place: Raipur
Authorized Officer, RACPC Raipur, State Bank of India

Modi India’s best admin, says Shah



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the most successful administrator of the country after independence, saying he has taken India into a different trajectory in the spheres of eradication of poverty, economic development, national security and foreign policy.

Shah was addressing a conference on “Delivering Democracy: Reviewing two decades of Narendra Modi as head of Government”, organised by BJP’s training and research centre Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.

Shah said Modi became Chief Minister of Gujarat two decades ago without having any administrative experience and proved himself as a successful administrator despite

facing a difficult situation at that time. The Home Minister said in 2014 when the Manmohan Singh Government was in power, there was a “policy paralysis everywhere” and every member of the Cabinet thought of himself or herself as the Prime Minister while the “Prime Minister was not considered as Prime Minister.”

“There was no national security policy. India’s honour had been lost. There were scams of ₹12 lakh crore and an impression had been created that Indian democracy will collapse,” he said. But when the Modi Government came to power in 2014, Shah said, people started thinking that “how things would improve, the system would improve”. He said India’s problems are not just of the administration or economic development but its honour has to be protected, the country’s cul-

ture should be preserved and its security should be ensured.

“Even though Narendra Modi considers himself as the ‘pradhan sewak’, I can say with conviction that he is the most successful administrator the country ever had after independence. Because he covered all these points and took India to a different level,” said Shah. Referring to a series of decisions taken by the Modi Government in the last seven years, Shah said when demonetisation was announced in 2016, they knew that there was a risk as the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election was due but people stood behind Modi and supported the decision. The people realised that it was announced to check black money and Modi had no other intentions, he said.

The Home Minister said the law against Triple Talaq, one rank and one pension and creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff were all difficult decisions. With the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, the Home Minister said, Jammu and Kashmir has been completely integrated with the union of India, not a single riot has taken place anywhere in the country and there has been no murmur after the Supreme Court decision on Ram Janmabhoomi.

Health Ministers’ meeting held over ramping up jab drive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday met the State Health Ministers to discuss ramping up the Covid-19 vaccination drive in the country among other measures such as ensuring stepping up health services in case infections start rising at a fast pace.

Mandaviya’s meeting with the State Health Ministers assumes significance as the Central Government on October 23 reviewed the status and progress of Covid vaccination with States/UTs. Health Ministers from around 18 States and health secretaries from remaining States had participated in the meeting. Sources said that Health Ministers pointed out people’s complacency towards Covid-19 for poor show on second doses status. So far just 30 per cent have been inoculated a second dose i.e. are fully vaccinated.

In the meantime, Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, reviewed the progress of Covid vaccination with health secretaries and mission directors of National Health Mission (NHM) of states and UTs, through video conference and urged them to increase the pace and coverage



India’s Covid-19 vaccination coverage has crossed 103 crore

of the second dose of Covid vaccines.

This came in the backdrop of the country achieving the milestone of administering 100 crore doses on October 21, 2021.

As per the latest data released by the Union Health Ministry, India’s Covid-19 vaccination coverage has crossed 103 crore landmark milestones (1,03,48,36,594). More than 51 lakh (51,56,054) vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm on October 26,” the Ministry stated in its release. So far, 41,10,37,440 first doses of Covid-19 vaccines and 13,11,13,078 second doses have been administered in the age group of 18-44 years.

India determined to protect its maritime interests, says Rajnath



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With China increasingly asserting itself in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean region, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said India is determined to protect its maritime interests. At the same time, it supports the maintenance of rule-based maritime systems, he said.

Making these observations, Rajnath said New Delhi backs systems as mandated under UN Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS), 1982. He also noted while the seas offer abundant opportunities for sustenance and growth of the mankind, they pose challenges such as terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking and climate change.

Delivering the key note address at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021, being held virtually from October 27-29, 2021, he also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s description of the Indo-Pacific as a natural region, where destinies of entities are interlinked.

Rajnath said the seas are a vital communication link to facilitate transport of goods, exchange of ideas, catalysing



innovations and contributing to bringing the world closer. “Although the Indo-Pacific is characterised by diversity, marked by a multiplicity of cultures, ethnicities, economic models, governance systems and varied aspirations, the oceans remain a common binding link,” he said.

On the issue of terrorism, the minister called for a cooperative response to these challenges which, he said, has considerable trans-national implications.

Sharing his views on the broad theme of IPRD 2021, ‘Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges and Way Ahead,’ Rajnath said, it dwells upon the region’s past, gauges the present and then arrives at tenets that will form the foundation of maritime strategies for the future.

First conducted in 2018, the IPRD is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy and is the

principal manifestation of the Navy’s engagement at the strategic-level.

Addressing the seminar, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said the Indian Navy is working on “tailor-made” solutions to help friendly countries confront pressing challenges in the maritime domain with a broader aim to emerge as a preferred security partner and make a real contribution for an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Without naming China, he also talked about some states applying “land-centric” territorial mindsets in the basic idea of global commerce in the Indo-Pacific with an attempt to seek greater domination and control that has created challenges to global rules.

He also said there has been a “day-to-day” competition for influence in the Indo-Pacific that brings with it attendant and evolving challenges, noting that the rules of game are “constantly changing”.

Cong, Left welcome SC move on Pegasus panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and the Left parties on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court order of setting up an expert committee on the Pegasus spyware issue and said it has negated alleged attempts of the Government to evade and divert attention in the name of national security.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said he was happy with the Supreme Court’s decision to order an independent probe into the Pegasus issue and it was a “big step” towards getting to “the truth”. “I hope they (Supreme Court) will do their job and provide justice.

“But this is a deeper problem. If the Prime Minister is using this as a personal tool... if the data is arriving on the Prime Minister’s desk, then it is totally criminal...”

“We will follow it up,” Rahul said, while claiming that the government of Karnataka “was toppled using Pegasus spyware”.

Attacking the Government, the CPM said the “Government had refused to give a categorical answer to the Supreme Court whether any State agency used Pegasus spyware or not.”

Rahul said the Congress

would continue to raise the issue in Parliament seeking answers from the government as tapping of constitutional functionaries and opposition leaders was a “criminal act” and “an illegal action”.

He added that only the Prime Minister or the Home Minister could have authorised tapping of phones using the Pegasus software.

Attacking further on the issue y Rahul said the Congress had been asking the Government three questions—who had authorised the use of Pegasus spyware, who all were targeted, and whether any other country was also in possession of the Pegasus data. But the government has not given a reply.

“Pegasus is an attempt to crush Indian democracy. It is an attempt to make sure that the vibrancy of the democracy, the conversations that take place in a democracy are crushed and people are controlled,” he said.

“There is the institution of Parliament where we will raise this again and we will try to have a debate in Parliament.

“I am pretty sure that the BJP will not like that debate. So, they will make sure that that debate is stalled. But we will try to hold that debate,” he said.

BJP flays Rahul over Pegasus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting-out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the BJP on Wednesday said that the Supreme Court’s decision to constitute an expert committee to look into the alleged use of the Pegasus software for surveillance is in line with the Government’s affidavit on the matter.

The party lashed-out at Rahul for his attack on the Government following the court’s judgment, saying is using the same vocabulary and repeats himself whatever be the issue to target the BJP Government.

“The Government had categorically said (in court) that we are of the opinion that in order to counter the false narrative of certain vested interest groups it would be fair if we establish a committee of experts to look into the issue. This is what has happened,” BJP spokesperson

Sambit Patra said, welcoming the order.

To a question that the court declined the Government’s submission to allow it to appoint an expert panel, Patra said this is not an issue as “experts are experts”.

The Supreme Court has appointed a three-member panel of cyber experts to probe

the alleged use of the Israeli spyware for surveillance of certain people in India, saying that the state cannot get a “free pass” every time the spectre of national security is raised and it cannot be the “bugbear” that the judiciary shies away from.

Declining the vehement submission of the Central Government to permit it to appoint an expert panel on its own, the court said such a course would violate settled judicial principle against bias as “justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done”.

Rahul alleged that the suspected use of Pegasus for snooping is an “attempt to crush Indian democracy”, and said it is a “big step that the Supreme Court has said that they are going to look into this matter. I am confident that we will get the truth out of this”.

Hitting back, Patra said, “Rahul Gandhi has a habit of speaking lies and spreading confusion. He has nothing new to offer, uses the same vocabulary and repeats the same thing like ‘democracy is in danger’ or ‘BJP is attacking ‘Constitution’ on everything. Such is his repetition you won’t be able to say which press conference of him was done on which issue.”

Elderly people require spl kind of care: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Elderly people in the country require a specific kind of care and treatment and they should get that, doctors and lawmakers on Wednesday said as they batted for a policy exclusively for the holistic welfare of the sector.

Dr Anil Jain, Rajya Sabha member promised that he will raise the issue in the next session of the Parliament to ensure that there are better old age homes and health services to ensure a dignified life to the elderly. “A majority of senior citizens don’t have the means to live a quality life and are spending their lives in old age homes. In fact, old age homes are not part of Indian culture,” he said at a national conference on ‘geriatric health care’ organised by DadiDada Foundation here. The organisation is working for the welfare of the senior citizens in the country.

Vijay Sampla, (Chairman, National Commission of Scheduled Castes) touched upon various issues confronting the senior citizens while Gopal Krishna Agarwal, BJP national spokesperson went on to talk about how the government is constantly trying to improve the geriatric health care system in the country. Though it is a slow



process, the government is keeping in mind the issue and moving towards fixing it, he said.

The aim for this National Conference was to raise awareness about the need for a geriatric health care system in a country where a huge population, around 18 crore, comprises the elderly.

The experts felt that with demographic transition underway in India, the elderly population is projected to rise to 12 per cent of the total population by 2025. “The ever-increasing elderly population poses social and financial challenges and puts immense strain on the health system due to a marked shift toward chronic non-communicable diseases,” they said.

“The elderly should be considered and a policy for efficient healthcare for them should be created” Muni Shankar Pandey, Director of Dadidada foundation said. “People of various age groups were being treated the same way, which was not advisable. The elderly require a specific

kind of care and treatment and they should get that,” he added. Health experts at the conference agreed.

Dr. Rahul Bhargava, hematologist from Fortis Hospital in Gurugram said that in India, the elderly people suffer from dual medical problems, i.e. both communicable as well as non-communicable diseases. “Cancer is becoming treatable now and at the same time it is one of the major issues among the elderly specifically. In elderly males, most common cancers are lung, prostate, larynx, oral cavity, and oesophagus. In females, most common cancers are breast, followed by

cervix and ovary,” Dr Bhargava said.

On the other hand, Dr LK Tripathi, nephrologist from Artemis Hospital talked about various metabolic disorders faced during old age and how to strengthen a person’s metabolism while Dr Rabin Chakrabarti, cardiologist, Medical Hospital in Kolkata dwelled in detail about the different forms of cardiovascular diseases and how they can affect the elderly.

Similarly, themes related to depression and anxiety were taken up by Dr Ashwani Kumar, psychiatrist from Max Hospital in Gurugram.

Centre notifies 4-year integrated teacher education programme



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In line with the New Education Policy (NEP), the Centre on Wednesday notified a four-year integrated teacher education programme. Now, the BEd course will be integrated and will be of four-year duration.

As per the Ministry of Education notification, students who pursue a four-year BEd degree will get BA and BEd or BSc and BEd or BCom and BEd degrees together. Usually, it would take students five years to complete these two degrees. The integrated degree would offer both degrees and save a year for students.

Earlier the Education Ministry had announced that the new integrated course will help create teachers who are in sync with the new education policy. As the education policy introduces several changes in the curriculum including teaching in regional language, teaching coding to school kids

among others, the new degrees will prepare teachers accordingly and will have a new curriculum.

The Government aims at making the four-year integrated BEd the minimum degree required for teaching by 2030. National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) under the Ministry of Education has devised the curriculum of this course in such a way that it enables a student-teacher to get a degree in education as well as a specialised discipline such as history, mathematics, science, arts, economics, or commerce.

The commencement of Four Year ITEP will be from the academic session 2022-23. Admission for the same will be carried out by the National Testing Agency (NTA) through the National Common Entrance Test (NCET). This course will be offered by multidisciplinary institutions and will become the minimal degree qualification for school-teachers.

Covid might act differently depending on time of day, claim scientists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In what could give new insight into how the coronavirus is being tested and treated, a team of scientists have claimed that the virus might act differently depending on the time of day and the body’s circadian rhythms.

In other words, Covid-19 virus shedding—when infected cells release infectious virus particles into the blood and mucus—appears to be more active in the middle of the day due to modulation of the immune system by our biological clock.

Their results also indicate that viral load is lower after 8 p.m. “If people choose to get tested at that time, there could be a higher chance of a false-negative result. False negatives can be harmful to the community and for the patient, who might not seek additional care due to their negative test result,” suggested Carl Johnson, Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Biological Sciences who collaborated with Candace McNaughton, former adjunct assistant professor of emer-

gency medicine, and Thomas Lasko, associate professor of biomedical informatics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, to determine if the percentage of people testing positive for Covid-19 varies based on time of day.

They found that the data support the hypothesis that Covid-19 acts differently in the body based on our natural circadian rhythm, which has also been implied by studies of other viral and bacterial infections.

“Taking a Covid-19 test at the optimal time of day improves test sensitivity and will help us to be accurate in diagnosing people who may be infected but asymptomatic,” Johnson said.

A difference in Covid-19 viral shedding throughout the day is important information that may inform how we test for and treat the virus. As Johnson and his co-authors report, the peak shedding in the afternoon, when patients are more likely to interact with others or seek medical care, could play a role in increasing the spread of the virus in hospitals and the wider community.

Air travel set to become easier for divyang

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air travel is set to become a bit easier for disabled people, if one goes by the draft ‘Accessibility Standards and Guidelines for Civil Aviation’, issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The ministry has given three weeks for people to send their comments and suggestions on the draft after which final guidelines will be issued. As per the draft, during the screening of prosthetics, the airport security—which is handled by the CISF at most of the airports—might use X-ray, explosive trace detection devices or visual checks according to their requirement. The move comes after dancer-actor Sudha Chandran posted a video, recounting her ordeal of removing her prosthetic limb every time during a security check at any airport.

In a video that went viral recently, Chandran narrated her ordeal of how she was made to remove her prosthetic limb every time during a security check at any airport and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for better treatment of differently-abled people at airports. After the incident, the CISF issued an apology on social media.

Increased communication with people marks 4 yrs of Venkaiah in office

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A manifold increase in public communication through media to keep the people aware of the functioning of the Rajya Sabha has marked the four years in office of M.Venkaiah Naidu as the Chairman of the House.

Since the assumption of Office as Chairman of Rajya Sabha in August, 2017 by M.Venkaiah Naidu, 491 Press Releases/Communication Products have been issued on various aspects of the functioning of the House and the Secretariat.

This comes to an unprecedented more than two such releases (2.36) per week. While the Media Unit of the Secretariat put out 263 releases, the Chairman’s Office circulated 228 during the last four years.

This order of communication output per week is four and a half times that of the preceding five years. During 2012-17, a total of 135 media communication products were issued which comes to two releases per week (0.519 per week).

A report in this regard was

submitted to Naidu by the Secretary General Dr.P.P.K. Ramacharyulu further to a review of the communication outreach during the last four years.

The Rajya Sabha secretariat noted during the review that the outreach effort has been intensified in pursuance of the direction of the Chairman to bring the House closer to the people by keeping them informed of various aspects of its functioning.

He thanked the media for keen interest shown in amplifying the messages about various aspects of the functioning of the House during the last four years.

A large number of the communication products issued were based on extensive research undertaken in respect of variation in the productivity of the House over time through time series analysis, total volume of legislation since 1952 including the landmark ones, time share of legislation and other items of the business of the House, changed dynamics of the House in terms of the strength of the ruling and opposition parties in the House.

LAKHIMPURI KHERI KILLINGS

SIT invites witnesses to depose without fear



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To facilitate the eyewitnesses to come forward and record their statements, the Special Investigative Team (SIT) formed to probe the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, on Wednesday, released the contact numbers of its members.

The SIT in a statement also assured protection to the witnesses, saying that details of such people would be kept confidential if they wanted and they would be given adequate security.

“This is to inform that a special investigation team has been constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government in the Lakhimpur Kheri district incident of October 3, 2021, headed by Deputy Inspector General of Police Upendra Kumar Agrawal. Therefore, it is requested to the people that if any eyewitness wants to provide his evidence in relation to this incident, then he can approach the SIT. The SIT will keep the name and address of the witness and eyewitness

confidential and will also provide security,” the statement reads.

The SIT has released the mobile numbers of members in the advertisements.

Sources said that the above move was made by the SIT after the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Uttar Pradesh government to provide protection to the witnesses in the October 3 violence in Lakhimpur Kheri where eight persons, including four farmers, were killed during a farmers’ protest.

NCB, Mumbai cops launch separate probes into ₹8 cr bribe charge against Wankhede

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

A vigilance team of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and a Mumbai police team headed by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACB) on Wednesday launched independent investigations into the allegation of ₹ 8 crore ‘extortion’ attempt and other excesses made by “panch witness” in the mid-sea drug bust case Prabhakar R Sail against the NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede.

While the NCB has launched the vigilance inquiry into Sail’s charges on the basis of a report submitted by its Deputy Director-General, South West Region Mutha Ashok Jain to the bureau’s Director General on October 24, the Mumbai police have begun the probe on the basis of complaints registered with at least four police stations in the metropolis.

Taking cognisance of “several vigilance-related allegations” made by Sail in his notarised affidavit released the media, Jain had said on Sunday: “....As some of the contents of the affidavit relate to the vigilance matters, I am hereby forwarding the affidavit to the Director General of Narcotic Control Bureau and

requesting for further action”.

Alluding to the affidavit released to the media by Sail, “a witness who has given details of movements and activities on October 2” -- the day the mid-sea bust was registered, Mutha Jain had also said: “As he is a witness in the case and as the case is before the honourable court and sub-judice, he needs to submit his prayer to the honourable court rather than (release it) through social media if he has anything to say. In addition, there are several vigilance related allegations against certain persons in the affidavit which are based on overhearing by Prabhakar”.

On his part, Wankhede has categorically denied the allegations against him.

Talking to media persons, Deputy Director General (DDG) of northern region Gyaneshwar Singh – who is heading the probe – said: “We have started the inquiry... This is a very sensitive investigation, too early to share anything... We shall enquire all aspects and later inform the media of the developments,”

In his sensational affidavit, Sail has among other things said that Wankhede’s colleague had taken his signatures on 10 blank papers.

Among other things, Sail

has made a serious allegation that he “overheard” Kiran Gosavi, for whom he works as a personal bodyguard” and who is also an “independent” witness in the case, while talking one Sam D’Souza, as saying: “you put a bomb of Rs 25 crore, let’s settle for Rs 18 crore and give 8 crore to Sameer Wakhende”.

Gosavi is one of the nine independent witnesses in the mid-sea drug bust case in which SRK’s eldest son Aryan Khan and seven others were detained on October 2 and formally arrested on October 3.

Gosavi is an “absconding accused” booked for allegedly duping a Pune-based man on the pretext of offering a job in Malaysia.

Sali also stated in his affidavit that he had seen Pooja Dadlani (Shah Rukh Khan’s manager) talking to Gosavi. He also claimed that on being told so by Gosavi, he went to a location some time later to collect Rs 50 lakh cash and that he collected “two bags filled with cash”.

Sail claimed that he carried the two bags of cash and delivered them to Sam D’souza near Trident Hotel in south Mumbai. “However, when he (Sam D’souza) counted the case, it was only Rs 38 lacs,” he stated in the affidavit.

Mamata does ‘chai pe charcha’ in Darjeeling, walks to meet people

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

For a change after the grand success in April-May Assembly elections it is the turn of Bengal Chief Minister to embark on Chai pe Charcha (dialogue over the tea cup).

The Chief Minister, who is on a four-day administrative trip of North Bengal, on Wednesday walked 16 km in Himalayan town of Kurseong in Darjeeling district interacting in the process with scores of hill people while during the walk and while sitting at a tea stall for a gossip over tea cup.

“She was quite fit and negotiated the hilly inclines very smoothly,” said one of the officials adding she asked passers by about their well-being,, problems and advised them about corona protocols.”

The Chief Minister who walked 8 km from the circuit house to Mahanadi and back will spend two nights in the hill town before coming down to Siliguri on Thursday. From Siliguri she will visit Goa for a 3-day political programme. Banerjee is being accompanied by her two ministers Indrani Ise and Arup Biswas.

“She connected very well with the people of the Hills and



File picture

they looked quite happy getting the Chief Minister in the midst of them...no other Chief Minister had done this before to them, they said,” Biswas was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress on Thursday demanded that arrest and questioning of Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari following Supreme Court order on Pegasus issue.

Party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that “the court order only vindicates our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s earlier views on the issue,” adding “the way Suwendu Adhikari had said that he had the recordings of all the leaders he should be arrested and questioned regarding the claim he made.”

Trekkers’ bodies arrive in Bengal amid pall of gloom

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A blanket of gloom tended to have descended on parts of Bengal including Kolkata following the death of 11 trekkers who perished in the last week’s inclement weather in Uttarakhand.

While five bodies were flown in on Monday the mortal remains of the remaining victims would soon be brought back to the State, State Government which was in constant touch with the Uttarakhand authorities said

According to sources some more trekkers were still missing and “we are in touch with the Uttarakhand Government to trace the victims,” said an official adding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had asked the administration to bring back the victims as early as possible. The 150 tourists who were stuck up in the mountain state would also be brought back at the earliest, they said.

According to sources those who perished while in their expedition to Harsil-Chitkul route were Sadhan Basak (63), Shibayan Das (28), Pritam Roy (22), Sagar De (27), Chandra Sekhar Das (34) and Sarit Sekhar Das (35). They were



from Thakurpukur, Kalighat and other areas around Kolkata.

Shibayan Das from Kalighat had left for Chitkul-Harsil route on October 11. He had called his brother, Subhojit, on October 14 to say he would climb to a higher altitude the next day. “He was to climb with other unknown trekkers and was supposed to return to lower areas by October 22 ... but who knew an avalanche would come and take them away,” he said.

Meanwhile bodies of another five trekkers have been recovered from the higher altitudes of Bageshwar, local district administration said on Tuesday adding the bodies would be sent back to Kolkata after postmortem. Tuesday’s retrieval of bodies take the total number of dead to 16, sources said.

MP bypolls golden opportunity for people to ask BJP about status of tall promises: Sachin Pilot

Khandwa (MP): Though the October 30 bypolls in Madhya Pradesh will not have any bearing on the stability of the State Government but they have presented a golden opportunity to the people to ask BJP about the status of various ‘tall promises’ made by it, especially doubling of the income of farmers, senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot said on Wednesday.

Pilot was addressing a meeting in Barwah town for the Khandwa Lok Sabha byelection where Congress has fielded former MLA Rajnarayan Singh Purni against BJP’s Gyaneshwar Patil. The high-decibel campaign for the bypolls to four constituencies, including one Lok Sabha seat and three Assembly segments, where 55 candidates are in the fray in the straight contest between ruling BJP and opposition Congress, ended on Wednesday evening.

The counting of votes will be taken up on November 2.

“Though these bypolls will neither make nor destabilise the present government, it gives us a golden opportunity to give a message to the nation by asking BJP what has happened to the tall promises made by it? Whether farmers’ income doubled?” Pilot asked the audience.

Farmers have been agitating for the repeal of three farm laws for the last one year (at the borders of Delhi) but the government’s eyes and ears are closed. There is a crisis of power and fertilizers in MP, he alleged.

“The BJP government has a plan to



put a lock on mandis through these black laws,” Pilot, who holds considerable clout in the Gurjar community of Rajasthan, said.

Farmers are the backbone of the economy but the BJP government has no concern for the people.

“People have seen the truth of the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. They (BJP) are hellbent on provoking people in the name of religion and language whereas Congress always believes in uniting people in the name of brotherhood,” the former deputy CM of Rajasthan said.

Pilot also slammed the government over the rising prices of fuel, LPG, vegetables and other essential commodities.

“Inflation is rising but the government is busy doing politics of publishing photos and advertisements,” he alleged.

Pilot said they (BJP) talked about wiping out corruption, “but everybody knows the situation in the country and only a few capitalists are getting benefitted whereas farmers are suffering”.

PTI

Rajbhar announces tie-up with SP, says Akhilesh Yadav will be next CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar announced his party’s alliance with Samajwadi Party and claimed that Akhilesh Yadav would be the next Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Rajbhar said in a public meeting in Mau district on Wednesday that Akhilesh Yadav would become the Chief Minister of UP in 2022.

In the presence of SP president, Rajbhar said if SP-SBSP alliance came to power it would waive domestic electricity bills for five years. He said after “khela hobe” in Bengal, “khade-da hobe” (wipe out) in UP as people of the State were waiting for BJP’s farewell.

“If BJP leaders come to ask for votes, then question them about inflation. If the Akhilesh government is formed, the poor will get free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh, police personnel will do duty for eight hours, policemen will be deployed near home districts, old government pension schemes will be restored and government schools will provide facilities like private schools,” he said.

Addressing the public meeting in Haldarpur in Mau district, Rajbhar said, “I have brought the next chief minister Akhilesh Yadav here.”

“The electricity bills of the poor will be waived as soon as our government is formed. The biggest liars

in the world are Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh. Now, Yogi’s departure from Uttar Pradesh is a foregone conclusion.”

Raising the problem of the government employees, Rajbhar said that the anomalies in the pay scales of government employees in the state had to be removed and the duty of police personnel would be for eight hours and one day’s holiday every week.

Attacking the BJP, Rajbhar said, “After tomorrow, the BJP will start spreading rumours that Om Prakash Rajbhar said that now our party SBSP has decided that the next chief minister of Uttar Pradesh will be Akhilesh Yadav. He said that at this time not Hindus but the country, the Constitution, the government property is in danger. We will save it by forming a government with Akhilesh Yadav. PM Narendra Modi used to say that the country will not let it be sold and is slowly selling it,” he said.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said, “The rights of the poor, oppressed, exploited, deprived, Dalits, backward, minorities, workers, farmers, women, youth, teachers, businessmen, employed and professionals would be protected. Against the false and BJP power for defence, Mau’s Haldharpur Maidan will prove to be the Kurukshetra of a political great war”.

Re-enactment of the Indian Army’s landing in Srinagar in 1947 carried out

PNS ■ JAMMU

A re-enactment of the Indian Army’s landing in Srinagar in 1947 following Pakistani tribal raids was carried out at Air Force Station in Srinagar on Wednesday.

The re-enactment of the historic event was organised at Old Air Field, Srinagar to pay obeisance to the brave soldiers and people of Jammu & Kashmir who laid down their lives, and also to honour the next of kin of war heroes who participated in the 1947-48 War.

27 October is celebrated as ‘Infantry Day’ by the Indian Army to commemorate the arrival of the Indian Army at Budgam Airfield to protect Jammu & Kashmir after the ‘Instrument of Accession’ was signed on 26 October 1947 between Maharaja Hari Singh and the Republic of India.

The historic event marking the Infantry day was organised as part of celebration for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and 75th year of Air landed operations of the Indian Army at Budgam Airport.

1st SIKH, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Dewan Ranjit Rai, who later laid down his life at Baramulla, changed the course of the war, wherein people and soldiers of state forces of Jammu & Kashmir and the Indian Army fought alongside valiantly, to evict Pakistani forces, driving them out of most of Jammu & Kashmir till ceasefire on 05 January 1949.

The event was witnessed by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, Air Marshal Amit Dev, Air



Officer Commanding-In-Chief, Western Air Command, Lieutenant General Devendra Pratap Pandey, General Officer Commanding 15 Corps along with several other civil and military dignitaries. In addition, the next of kin of war veterans who travelled from across the country to be a part of this mega event were felicitated.

On the occasion, ‘Saviours of Kashmir’ war memorial at ‘Ground Zero’ of 27 October 1947 was also dedicated by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Srinagar International Airport.

The memorial commemorates the arrival of Indian Army in Indian Air Force aircrafts at Srinagar Airport in 1947 and

the stellar role played by Major Somnath Sharma, Param Vir Chakra, Brigadier Rajinder Singh, Maha Vir Chakra Maqbool Sherwani, the gallant son of Kashmir, in India’s historic victory in its 1st war after independence.

The memorial has been recently renovated to include the busts of Brigadier Rajinder Singh, Mahavir Chakra and Maqbool Sherwani, alongside the existing bust of Major Somnath Sharma, Param Vir Chakra, as a tribute to the invaluable contribution of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and erstwhile State Forces of Jammu & Kashmir in evicting Pakistani Army and Qabaili invaders.

NIA raids 17 locations in J&K in Jamaat-e-Islami terror funding case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at 17 locations in seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir in Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) Terror Funding Case.

The searches were conducted at 17 locations in Anantnag, Kulgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam, Kishtwar and Jammu districts of Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said.

The case was registered by the NIA on February 5, 2021 in connection with the separatist and secessionist activities of JeI, an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act even after its proscription on February 28, 2019.

“The members of the organisation have been collecting funds domestically and abroad which are being used for violent and secessionist activities. JeI has also been motivating impressionable youth of Kashmir and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K to participate in disruptive secessionist activities, the NIA said in a statement.

Searches conducted on Wednesday included the premises of office bearers and members of JeI. During the searches, various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects, it further said, adding investigation in the case continues.

In August, the agency had conducted similar searches at multiple locations in fourteen districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with JeI terror funding case.

The searches were conducted in conjunction with the Jammu and Kashmir police and CRPF at 56 locations in Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar and Rajouri districts the Valley.

The agency conducted the searches at the premises of office bearers of the proscribed association, its members and also offices of trusts purportedly run by JeI. During the searches, various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects.

T20 WC: Rajasthan teacher, who celebrated Pak victory against India, arrested

Jaipur: A private school teacher in Rajasthan’s Udaipur was on Wednesday arrested, a day after she was sacked by the school management for allegedly posting a WhatsApp status celebrating Pakistan’s victory over India in a T20 Cricket World Cup match.

Police had registered a case against her on Tuesday.

Nafeesa Attari, a teacher at Neerja Modi School Udaipur, had posted a picture of Pakistani players with the caption, “Jeeet gayeeeee, We wonnn,” after India’s loss to Pakistan.

After screenshots of her WhatsApp status went viral on social media, the school management had on Tuesday terminated her from the job.

“The teacher was arrested today morning,” Amba Mata Station House Officer Narpat Singh said.

He said Attari has been arrested under IPC Section 153 (B) (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration).

Earlier, apologising for her WhatsApp post, Attari had released a video statement saying she did not intend to hurt anyone’s sentiments.

“Someone messaged me asking whether I supported Pakistan. As the message contained emojis and it was a fun environment, I replied, ‘Yes’. However, that doesn’t mean that I support Pakistan. I am an Indian and I love my country. I love India as much as everyone else does,” Attari said in her video message.

“As soon as I realised that I have made a mistake, I deleted the post. I am sorry if I have hurt anybody’s sentiments,” she said.

India lost its first match of the T20 World Cup, against Pakistan, by 10 wickets on Sunday.

PTI



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Right to marry

If same-sex couples can live together and adopt children, they can also marry

The Union Government is unlikely to support legal sanctions to same-sex marriages. Its stand in the Delhi High Court hearing a bunch of cases to approve such marriages is consistently against them. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta explained the Government's stand in the Court once again this week. He is clear that marriage is permissible only between a biological man and a biological woman as per the law. For him, a spouse means husband and wife, as in a heterosexual couple. In the same case this February, the Centre said marriage depends on "age-old customs, rituals, practices, cultural ethos and societal values". The Centre put forth four arguments. One, it is for the legislature, not judiciary, to enforce "social morality" based on "Indian ethos" that sanctions marriage. Two, marriage happens between two individuals and does not fall under an individual's domain of privacy. Three, marriage is a public recognition of a relationship and statutory rights and obligations are attached to it. The final argument is clinching: same-sex individuals living together is incomparable with the concept of "Indian family unit" which means husband, wife and child. The Centre insists that the marriage of same-sex individuals can neither be a fundamental right nor can the right to privacy be extended to it.



The Centre's argument draws strength from what the Supreme Court did not say in its landmark 2018 judgment in the Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India case. The Court struck down section 377 of the IPC that criminalised consensual sex between same-sex individuals. It said the Section "prohibits LGBT persons from expressing their sexual orientation and engaging in sexual conduct in private...." The Court decriminalised such consensual sex in 'private' but did not legalise 'public' actions like marriages between such couples. Legalising these marriages is a natural corollary to decriminalising sexual relations between same-sex individuals. Homosexuals, by extending the same logic, cannot be deprived of the reality of falling in love, getting married and living just like heterosexual couples. Denying them the right to marry is to stigmatise their relationships and that is a parochial and conservative approach in a world with fast-evolving social mores. Hitherto, Indian society lived by traditions that defined people's limits, behaviour and duties according to their gender. However, things have changed. The rights and choices of the individual matter more than gender. Glass ceilings are being broken by women and now by members of the LGBT community. Adoption of children is as legal as natural procreation. Live-in relationships may be considered immoral by some but that they are not an offence in the eye of law. If same-sex couples can live-in and adopt children, revolutionising the concept of "family", they can also marry. Society is made up of all kinds of individuals with exclusive rights to none. And no tradition is ever written in stone.

PICTALK



Grey-headed Swamphens fight at a pond in Ghaziabad

PTI

Good lord!

Kejriwal is going all out to woo Hindu voters ahead of the UP Assembly polls early next year

After heartily wooing the minority community, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is now seeking the blessings of Lord Ram to make a mark, if not win, in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh election. A day after he visited Ayodhya for Ram Lalla *darshan*, the Delhi Government has added Ayodhya as one of the destinations in its popular free pilgrimage scheme, 'Mukhya Mantri Teerth Yatra Yojana'.



By doing so, Kejriwal is taking on the BJP head-on and hopes to beat it in its own game. Under the scheme, the Delhi Government bears the expenses of about 77,000 pilgrims above the age of 60 every year. This scheme was frowned upon by the seculars for playing to and abetting religious sentiments. The Ram Mandir construction and resolution of the temple dispute by the court are likely to be a major poll plank in Uttar Pradesh. Though the AAP has largely kept Hindu-related issues at an arm's distance, this move shows a paradigm shift in its strategy. Even earlier, Kejriwal has been criticised for not honouring his secular credentials. He was often called out for not doing enough in the recent Delhi riots and named the "B-team of the BJP" by his political opponents.

Though UP is still a few months away from elections, the stakes are so high that almost all parties, including the BJP, are not letting up their efforts. The AAP is enthused with its initial success in Punjab and Goa and has made forays into other States, too. Now betting big on UP, it formally kicked off its poll campaign in September this year. Right from the start, the AAP seems to be giving a clear message that it is not against the construction of the Ram temple. By doing so, it wants to reach out to the Hindu voters disgruntled with the BJP. To send a clear message to these voters, senior AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh had offered prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi and Hanumangarhi shrines in the temple town before Kejriwal's visit. The AAP knows well that freebies work. So along with the endorsement for the Ram temple, it is also offering 300 units of electricity free of cost to all domestic consumers and promised to waive outstanding bills of 38 lakh families in UP if it wins the Assembly election. The AAP will contest all 403 seats in UP.

How Air India fell short of the runway



PRAFULL GORADIA

People in Government seldom appreciate that overheads can bring down companies. That made Air India a treasure trove for too many employees

The plight of Air India would not have dipped so low had a 1983 advice given in a national daily been followed. The company might be Government owned but three or four, preferably six or seven or more financial institutions beginning with LIC, Unit Trust, IDBI and nationalised banks should have held Air India through share. They would be entitled to dividends, if any. The company would be a member of the stock exchanges as well as chambers of commerce. Their senior representatives would attend the shareholders' meetings et al.

The premier airline was a business and it should have been run as such and not like a zamindari. The acting zamindar was usually a joint secretary of the Government of India. He might have been a perfect bureaucrat but was likely to be wedded to the correct procedure and not oriented towards profit. He would have worried more about the audit than about results. That is not how a business is run. Companies owned and run by the Government are euphemistically called "public sector" without the realisation that it is an appendix of State capitalism. Where is the public as an owner, either direct or indirect?

The joint secretary, being from a cadre, was obliged to upgrade passengers free of charge. I have once travelled to London business class with my family. Many of the seats in the aircraft were filled at the last minute, before departure, with odd persons with whom I did not enjoy travelling. Mind you, I am not a snob; I have brushed shoulders with all kinds in politics. These appeared to be mostly relatives or friends of trade union leaders who had been obliged so as to maintain industrial peace. In a Government, one had to do so; any effort to solve any case of industrial tension needed the blessings of senior officers, if not the Board of Directors. For officers, it was best to maintain good relations with trade union leaders, if necessary with soft peddling.

To travel with such elements



was irksome enough for us. For European travellers, one can imagine, it would be anathema. If say, 20 per cent shareholding was also sold to the public, it would appear in public perception to be a company like any other. Industrial action would then be easier to take. For years Larsen & Toubro was 54 per cent financial institution held and yet ran like a private company and gave decent returns to its shareholders. It was only when Reliance Industries bought out some shares from some of the financial institutions that the 54 per cent came into public limelight.

Another set of contributors to the sickness of Air India was the VIPs and ministers, whose recommendations had to be implemented. Whether the person was required or not, he or she generally had to be appointed. Whether he was qualified was rarely commented upon. People in Government seldom appreciate that overheads can bring down companies. That has made Air India a treasure house of too many employees, at least four times more than required.

VVIPs climbed even higher heights. As soon as UPA-I



YES, INDIA HAS A LARGE TRADING CLASS AND SMALL TO MEDIUM INDUSTRY RUNNERS. BUT FOR THE SIZE OF ITS ECONOMY AND THE DIMENSION OF ITS NEEDS, THERE ARE NOT MANY CANDIDATES AROUND

came to power in 2004, a minister took off to Europe and bought a large number of aircraft. He repeated his performance soon thereafter by flying to the USA to acquire Boeing aircraft for Air India. The earlier lot of Airbus planes were for Indian Airlines. To top up his exploits, he had both the airlines amalgamated. No questions were really asked nor answered. The cost of borrowing drove the final nail on the coffin.

The bitter Air India experience need not forever condemn public money being invested in industry. For a simple reason, India does not have a sizable and sufficient number of industrialists to industrialise the economy. Any old trader is not a potential industrialist. Yes, India has a large trading class and small to medium industry runners. But setting up a large industry requires a longer vision, a modicum of integrity, the ability to build the project rapidly before inflation overruns the cost, and ultimately the ability to manage a large industry.

For the size of our economy and the dimension of India's needs, there are not many candidates around. In

the liberal days of Indira Gandhi onwards, it was easy to borrow money from the bigger banks. Quite a few big, impressive houses, apparently successful, owe more they own. That is alright when a substantial part of the debt is from one's own shareholders and not from bankers. Hence, let the Government play its part as an indirect shareholder in a reputable house. Additionally, invite, induce and attract foreign houses but not in consumer products.

Let the foreign company suggest what they would like to manufacture. Thereafter, the Government can verify whether the particular product is required in India. If it is, let the foreign firm decide how much and what percentage it wishes to invest. Then a public issue could be launched. What does not get subscribed can be filled up by the institution or banks. If the foreign firms, to feel secure, request the institution to fill the gap between 51 per cent and what it invests, say 15 or 17 per cent, it should be done.

(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

A FAIR PROBE INTO THE PEGASUS ISSUE

Sir — The apex court setting up an independent probe panel with a retired Supreme Court judge at the helm, to investigate into the Pegasus snooping affair in India is welcome. With this decision, it has apparently given utmost importance to the protection of fundamental rights of the individual, as the ultimate custodian of the Constitution. The Union Government has not come clear, when asked by the Court on the issue of Pegasus — an Israeli snooping software that was allegedly used to spy on political rivals. In this snooping affair, under the guise of threat to national security, the fundamental right to privacy of the citizen and right to freedom of the press are being seemingly subverted by the State or by some private entities, which is a dangerous sign for a healthy democracy.

The Government has every right and duty to snoop into the activities of suspected terrorists or their supporters in a legally sanctioned manner. But it has no right to infringe upon the fundamental rights of citizens; overtly or covertly at its whims and fancies. Now the apex Court has settled the issue by reconfirming the primacy of fundamental rights and their place at high pedestal on the ladder of democracy.

DVG Sankararao | Vizianagaram

BIGOTRY DISGUISED AS SENTIMENTS

Sir — The celebrated filmmaker Prakash Jha had to face the wrath of the self-righteous group the Bajrang Dal, over the making of web series Ashram in Madhya Pradesh. This is not a healthy precedent to any civilised society and the nation. The attacks on film directors and writers over petty issues isn't a new phenomenon but a new trend in our country taken up by the pseudo champion of moral policing. The self-righteous group Bajrang Dal should have first registered the complaint to the administration over the objectionable materials and raised complaints on Ashram nomenclature per se, instead of resorting to hooliganism to grab the attention for a wrong reason.

The Captain wants a payback



Captain Amarinder Singh has declared that he is going to form a new political party and the Election Commission will soon clear its name and symbol. The Captain has announced that his party will contest on all the Assembly seats and will have seat adjustment with other like-minded parties. He is likely to meet Amit Shah on Thursday on the issue of farmers' agitation. He also informed that he has not met any farm leader and also confirmed that talks

are already going on between farm leaders and the Government and is hopeful of some concrete solution on the issue very soon. The former Punjab Chief Minister has been successful in conveying the message that he was deeply humiliated by the Congress high command; challenging that the grand old party will have to pay for it.

In UP, 40 per cent seats will be allotted to women (as per Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi) and today, Harish Rawat declared that the same formula may be adopted in Uttarakhand. Apparently, it can not be denied that the same formula may be applied in Punjab also. Punjab has become a ground for personal and sentimental politics. Earlier, Navjot Singh Sidhu was acting like an 'unguided missile' and now the Captain appears to be a wounded and desperate lion who is moving ahead on the lines of revenge and payback.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

It is meaningless they are now trying to object and interfere in the making of web series when it has already completed two seasons successfully. The veteran film director was caught in a bind of political fury and discourse for trying to mirror the true image of our society through his film. All this unnecessary ruckus created by the Bajrang Dal including the Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra, over nomenclature of fictional film is a dire attempt to look at the piece of an art with a parochial mindset and for a political mileage.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Bagrakote

SHOWING SOLIDARITY THROUGH SPORTS

Sir — South Africa opener Quinton de Kock has triggered a needless controversy by refusing to take a "knee" before the start of the T20 World Cup game against West Indies. If De Kock's stance is an objection to the directive issued by Cricket South Africa (CSA), it could mean the end of his participation in the

World Cup, and possibly cost him his international career. Taking a knee has become a popular symbol to show solidarity with the 'Black Lives Matter' movement which gained momentum following the brutal killing of the African-American George Floyd by a white Minneapolis police officer.

It is part of a long history of players and athletes using sport as a platform to draw attention to the racial inequalities that communities experience. Systemic racism exists across the world and cricket is not immune to the scourge, as it commits itself to bring changes amid the BLM Foundation, whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy. Meanwhile, the situation which has now exploded at a World Cup, is an indictment of the leadership of CSA, which was racked by management issues over the last couple of years.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

I was fortunate that I got the chance to bow before Ram Lalla and I wish everyone must get this chance.

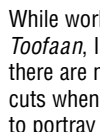


Delhi Chief Minister
— Arvind Kejriwal



It isn't enough just to invest in our physical infrastructure — we also have to invest in our people.

US President
— Joe Biden



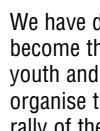
While working on *Toofaan*, I realised there are no short-cuts when you want to portray a character like Aziz.

Actor
— Farhan Akhtar



I've heard a lot of good things about the Pakistan Premier League from other players. It's something to consider in the future.

New Zealand skipper
— Kane Williamson




We have decided to become the voice of youth and will organise the biggest rally of the country against unemployment.

RJD leader
— Tejashwi Yadav

FIRST COLUMN

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND SKILL FRAMEWORK

Vocational courses and community colleges are a viable alternative to tertiary education



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

India does not have enough higher educational institutions to accommodate even half of its young population. When it comes to vocational training, only 10 per cent of the workforce in India is formally trained, compared to 96 per cent in Korea, 80 per cent in Japan and 68 per cent in the United Kingdom. There are two important issues which need to be addressed. First, there are not enough vocational education providers. Secondly, the current public perception of vocational courses is problematic; such courses are often seen as a refuge for those who have failed to make a mark in mainstream education. We have to change this perception by creating awareness about vocational education and providing career counseling at an early age in schools. India has an ambitious goal to train 500 million of its citizens by 2022 with skills and competencies for participation in the present and future labour market. Therefore, the viable alternative to formal tertiary education is Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Community Colleges which will directly contribute to skilled workforce and the nation's economy. We have to give due emphasis to the role of Community Colleges in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, through National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). Although the concept of Community college has not been accepted by the educational system of India as such, it has created its own history in the last two decades. At present, there are more than 500 community colleges in the country. How are Indian Community colleges different from the two existing vocational systems — the two-year Industrial Technical Institutes and the three year Polytechnics? Both these programmes are skill and job-oriented and supply trained personnel to industries. Community colleges should have a clear mandate and agenda of its own which is to prepare the youth for the workforce in a year or two by giving them skill-oriented education along with some life skills.

There has to be some other motivating factor to attract students to Community Colleges. It is the responsibility of Community Colleges to identify such factors and project them as their Unique Selling Points. The difference lies in the fact that the collegiate level vocational education offers only apprenticeship training and vocationalization of first-degree level whereas Community colleges offer a range of multi-focused programmes in occupational and technical and in continuing education. The courses offered by the colleges are designed to meet the workforce needs of the regions in which the colleges are located. Another purpose of Community colleges is to offer "bridge" courses to complete higher certifications, ensure employability and competency of the individual trained, teach life skills and communication in English and provide training in personal, social, language, communication and creative skills. The role of Community Colleges in implementing NVEQF is crucial for the development of vocational education and skill development. NVEQF is a descriptive framework that organizes qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge along with the skills. These levels are defined in terms of learning outcomes or competencies the learner must possess regardless of whether they were acquired through formal, non-formal or informal education and training. Given the framework of the NEP, having a strong emphasis on skill-based vocational education, the role of Community Colleges in implementing NSQF would be significant as it will follow a modular, credit-based system that keeps abreast of technological and other workforce changes.

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

Taliban: Sanctions and recognition



RAKESH K SINGH

Given the reach and lethality of ISIS, the Taliban may not withstand pressure from the international terror group in the long run unless Al-Qaeda is roped in for countermeasure

The Taliban's outreach to the international community is driven mainly by the existential crisis the outfit is facing back home due to both the presence and lethality of the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) that holds the potential to challenge and overthrow the current regime in Kabul essentially supplanted by Pakistan's covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The Taliban is seeking to first get the Interim Cabinet members' designated terrorist tag removed. At least 14 members of the Interim Cabinet are designated terrorists of the UN as well as the US sanctions lists. With such a designation, Taliban cabinet representatives cannot move around freely amid apprehension of fatal drone strikes against them. The Taliban is also vying for international recognition from the global community or at least as many countries as possible in the region and beyond.

Once recognized by the international community, the Taliban will be able to put across its viewpoints at various forums of the UN as also seeking funding assistance for its messed-up economy from the IMF and WB.

The Taliban will then also be able to negotiate military assistance from the UN member-states in the name of counter-terroring terrorism on Afghan soil by anti-Taliban groups like ISKP.

The Taliban is habituated to survive on illicit financing through extortion and garnering proceeds from sale of narcotics. The recognition of its regime will help Taliban in transforming the black economy into white money channels.

These factors have compelled the Taliban to pitch in for international recognition and portray itself as Taliban 2.0, radically dissimilar from the outfit's regime that ruled the roost in Afghanistan till 2001.

Notwithstanding the Taliban propaganda ruling out any threat from ISIS, the fact is that ISKP is a profound and dangerous competitor to Al Qaeda to whom the Taliban owes allegiance.

The Taliban is essentially a local terror group with influence being limited to Afghanistan and completely unlike the ISIS that has a cadre and funding base from multiple ethnicities and geographies.

In a worrying fact, the ISIS has some significant presence on the ground and has been able to inflict four major terror attacks on the Afghan soil post-takeover of Kabul by Taliban on August 15, including the deadly Kabul airport hit amid the then ongoing US troops' withdrawal and fatal attacks on Shia mosques in Kunduz and Kandahar.

With active connivance and assistance from the ISI, the Taliban has been able to deceive the international community in seizing power in Afghanistan in a swift advance and without any resistance either from the erstwhile Afghan National Defence Force or any militia.

But the Taliban cannot deal with the



THE TALIBAN HAVE BEEN MAINLY TRAINED IN PERPETRATING INSURGENCY BUT TACKLING INSURGENCY IS AN ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT BALLGAME. THE ISI MASTERMINDS DELIBERATELY KEPT THE OUTFIT AWAY FROM GAINING SUCH CRAFT

(The writer is a Special Correspondent, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)



situation at the international level on its own after it has grabbed power in Kabul.

By engaging in multilateral meets like the Moscow format, the Taliban is buying time to gain international recognition and keep the anti-Taliban forces at a relative bay by participating in such overtures.

Taliban has been mainly trained in perpetrating insurgency but tackling insurgency is an altogether different ball game. The ISI masterminds have deliberately kept the outfit away from gaining such craft.

The Taliban apprehends that if ISIS continues with its bombing spree and spreads traction among the Afghan society and enlarges the area of influence, all the other anti-Taliban forces will rally under it to overthrow the current regime in Kabul.

Given the reach and lethality of ISIS, the Taliban may not withstand the pressure from the international terror group in the long run unless Al Qaeda is roped in for the countermeasure.

In this backdrop, the Taliban is left with two broad choices for survival—one to get recognition for its regime in Kabul and subsequently get military assistance to counter ISIS or ally with Al Qaeda which can pool in its fighters from various countries to check ISIS or its Afghan affiliate ISKP.

In its bid to seek international recognition, the Taliban is also portraying that it does not want Al Qaeda fighters and this is the reason why it is seeking sanctity from the global comity of nations for its regime in Kabul.

For its international recogni-

tion project, the Taliban has fielded Anas Haqqani, the Home Minister of the interim government and Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Foreign Minister, for addressing the internal and external dimensions of the Afghan challenge.

While Haqqani is seeking to update the international community on the need to check dissidence in the Afghan society as well in the pockets on the Afghanistan-Pakistan region dominated by a large population of the Pakhtun ethnicity who could come in handy for taking refuge in the event of the international community or a group of countries deciding to decimate the Taliban to protect their own sovereign interests.

Haqqani is also tasked with the onus to keep Baloch insurgents in check so as to deny foreign agencies like the Mossad and Research and Analysis Wing the opportunity to carry out anti-terror action in Pakistan from Afghan soil.

Muttaqi is tasked to ensure external security by checking Iran from attacking Afghanistan through the ISIS or bombings by the Russians who see the turmoil in the war-ravaged country as a threat to their respective sovereign interests.

The Taliban leadership is also clear that it has reached the stage of forming an interim government with ISI help but is also aware of the need to balance between the ISI and the international community.

Taliban is further aware that despite being helped by the ISI to control Kabul, it cannot be seen as a puppet of Pakistan beyond a point as international recognition eludes the regime.

Despite its overtures and

pledge to form an inclusive government in line with the desire of the international community, Taliban has so far been getting help exclusively from China because of its strategic location and Pakistan's back-channel support in roping in Beijing to rescue the Taliban from the plethora of mess it is facing.

Now, the Taliban is aiming to have a direct communication with China to maximize the cooperation it is getting from Beijing and simultaneously sideline Pakistan to shed its image as an ISI puppet.

Fully aware of the Pakistani machinations in both Kabul and within Taliban, Russia did not invite the Pakistani pointsman Gulbuddin Hekmatyar heading the Hizb-e-Islami faction of Taliban for the Moscow format dialogue underway in the Russian capital. Hekmatyar has issued a statement that Moscow talks would fail as all sections of Afghan society have not been represented in the talks.

While 10 countries including India and China participated in the Moscow talks, none of the countries, not even China, is willing to grant recognition to the Taliban.

The Taliban was initially buoyant over the vast number of American equipment left behind by the allied forces but now it is realizing that these machines could threaten its existence if ISIS gets hold of them. The Taliban cannot use American weapons due to lack of training.

The complexity of the Afghan problem makes the situation in Afghanistan pregnant with all possibilities including bombing by the Russians or an onset of a Shia insurgency.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT


I WILL BE FORMING A NEW PARTY. THE NAME AND THE SYMBOL WILL BE ANNOUNCED ONCE THE ELECTION COMMISSION CLEARS IT. —FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER CAPT AMARINDER SINGH




THE LAST TIME YOU FORMED YOUR OWN PARTY, YOU GARNERED ONLY 856 VOTES. THE PEOPLE OF PUNJAB ARE WAITING TO PUNISH YOU AGAIN. —PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU

The need today: Localising solutions

An inclusive process of planning and programme deployment is the only way to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to benefits



RWITWIKA BHATTACHARYA



KRISHNA LAVU

(Bhattacharya is the CEO of Swaniti Initiative. Lavu is a Member of the Lok Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

ately for treatment. While we were able to help him out then, we wondered how many more Krishnas were out there. Krishna's situation pointed to a systemic issue where the willingness to want to deliver basic services remains but a top-down program design is becoming a hindrance in accessing these programs.

From loan waivers to scholarship for marginalized communities, there is no dearth of programs that serve vulnerable populations. However, with the programs being designed by those sitting in the State and national Capitals often means a disconnect to reality. The result is that these programs become hard to operationalize and ultimately do not yield intended benefits. Therefore, it is



critical to work with communities to develop solutions, provide local talent who can help design and deliver on problems and create a culture of bottom-up planning.

An inclusive process of planning and program deployment is the only way to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to benefits.

Consider for example the District Minerals Trust Fund that uses the cess of mining companies in to address com-

munity needs. Districts who have been adversely affected by mining have complete discretion on how they want to use resources for hyperlocal needs. In Ramgarh and Chattra, the administration conducted Gram Sabhas and local stakeholder meetings and recognized the need for more sustainable and high paying jobs than those offered by the mining industry.

Thus, rather than look for jobs with skills that might not be easily available, these districts brought in green and renewable opportunities like solarization of agriculture sector and created related jobs. The result is higher paying local jobs with sustainability. A culture of identifying local needs with the flexibility of using funds has allowed these

districts to create hyperlocal solutions. Rather than routing funding through schemes, there is significant merit in providing discretionary funds for districts as well.

Resources are often not enough. It is important to match them with personnel on the ground who can provide feedback about community condition. Andhra has designed the village volunteer program with similar intentions in mind. Every 100-200 households have a young person helping them with access to programs and benefits. When lockdown was affecting most of the country with no one being able to access banks, government offices, etc. village volunteers accessed this pressing gap and were mobilized to withdraw the cash and deliver

er the amount to each household. The money became the lifeline for most families who continue to remain dependent on pensions and social welfare to ensure a functioning household. It is critical to have people within communities who can identify errors and work with the government to help overcome them. While in some situations local NGOs are stepping in to provide needed support, there needs to be systems and human capital to do so.

Finally, in order to ensure such a model comes into play, it is important to have a culture of appreciating the local opinion. The second wave of the covid pandemic highlighted the importance of letting communities decide the most appropriate response. In

the process, models emerged of how districts were able to mobilize resources and talent to bridge this gap. We saw districts with a strong agricultural belt being willing to keep mandis open over the week-end. Whereas others choosing to go in to complete lockdown. The diversity within India demands for each community to adopt to local needs. There needs to be a strategic shift toward providing much assistance and insights to districts.

Only when we empower our local administrations with the resources to take independent decisions can we design and implement effective solutions. Otherwise, the stories of more Rama Krishnas will continue to emerge, plagued by systemic issues.

GLOBE TROTTER

SUDAN ARRESTS 3 CRITICS AS PRESSURE MOUNTS
Cairo: Sudanese security forces detained three prominent pro-democracy figures overnight, their relatives and other activists said on Wednesday, as pressure mounted on the country's military following its coup.

EGYPTIAN FLIGHT RETURNS AFTER THREAT MESSAGE
Cairo: A Moscow-bound EgyptAir flight returned to the Egyptian capital shortly after takeoff Wednesday after a threatening message was found onboard, authorities said.

US ISSUES ITS PASSPORT WITH 'X' GENDER MARKER
Denver: The United States has issued its first passport with an "X" gender designation—a milestone in the recognition of the rights of people who don't identify as male or female — and expects to be able to offer the option more broadly.

NATO's Afghan mission hit by 'mission creep,' official says

AP ■ BRUSSELS

NATO's security operation in Afghanistan became a victim of "mission creep" as the military organisation allowed itself to be dragged into helping rebuild the impoverished, conflict-torn country, the official leading a process of drawing lessons from the mission said on Wednesday.

Assistant Secretary-General for Operations John Manza and NATO's 30 deputy national envoys are compiling a report on almost two decades of work in Afghanistan. They were tasked with the job after the Afghan president fled and the NATO-trained Afghan army collapsed when President Joe Biden announced that he

was pulling U.S. troops out, paving the way for the Taliban to seize power.

Manza told European Union lawmakers that of the big lessons being discussed by his team – which also includes input from military and political experts, including from Afghanistan – "the most obvious one is mission creep."

NATO took over the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in 2003, almost two years after a U.S.-led coalition invaded the country to oust the Taliban for harboring Osama bin Laden, the deceased al-Qaeda leader.

Manza explained that it initially had around 5,000 troops based mostly in and around the

capital Kabul, but that within 3 years its focus shifted to "tackling the root causes of terrorism" by helping to rebuild a landlocked country riven by ethnic and tribal divisions and with a poorly educated population.

NATO troop numbers increased to around 60,000 by 2006, with military-civilian teams spread around the largely lawless country trying to foster economic growth and better governance in almost every province.

"This really substantial increase did not have the desired effects," Manza said. "The insurgency was still gaining strength. The nation was still suffering greatly from corruption and governmental performance was not improving."

Saudi to provide \$4.2 bn to Pak; Imran thanks MBS

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide \$4.2 billion worth of assistance to cash-strapped Pakistan to support its economy, it emerged on Wednesday after Prime Minister Imran Khan held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in Riyadh this week.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry took to Twitter to announce the assistance which came just two days after Khan paid a three-day visit to the Gulf kingdom.

"Saudi Arabia's announcement supports Pakistan with 3 billion US dollars as deposit in Pakistan central bank and also financing refined petroleum



products with 1.2 billion US dollars during the year," he said in a tweet.

Prime Minister Khan thanked Crown Prince Salman for the generous aid when Pakistan's economy was facing difficulties.

Nepal's Chief Justice refuses to step down

Kathmandu: Nepal Supreme Court Chief Justice Chandra Shumsher Rana has refused to resign from his post amidst allegations that he helped his brother-in-law secure a berth in the Sher Bahadur Deuba-led Cabinet, triggering an unusual judicial crisis.

A section of the Supreme Court justices has demanded Chief Justice Rana's resignation while some lawyers have decided to boycott the apex court.

During a meeting with 15 apex court justices, Rana said that he is not going to step down just because voices were raised in the streets and in the media for him to quit the top post. **PTI**

Blast in Myanmar city highlights escalating violence

Bangkok: Midday bombings near a busy government office injured at least nine people in Myanmar's second biggest city on Wednesday, in what appeared to be the latest high-profile attack by militants opposed to the country's military rulers.

Other attacks by foes of the government were also reported on social media sympathetic to the opposition.

Shootings and bombings in Myanmar's cities and armed clashes in the countryside are daily occurrences, and UN officials and other observers have warned that unrest triggered by the military's seizure of power in February is spinning toward civil war. **AP**

Watchdog: 30 recent cases of violence to Afghan journalists

Islamabad: More than 30 instances of violence and threats of violence against Afghan journalists were recorded in the last two months, with nearly 90% committed by the Taliban, a

media watchdog said. More than 40% of the cases recorded by The Afghanistan National Journalists Union were physical beatings and another 40% were verbal threats of violence. **AP**



Lava flows from a volcano as it continues to erupt on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain on Wednesday **AP**

US asks UK court to permit extradition of WikiLeaks' Assange

AP ■ LONDON

The United States asked Britain's High Court on Wednesday to overturn a judge's decision that Julian Assange should not be sent to the United States to face espionage charges, promising that

the WikiLeaks founder could serve any prison sentence he receives in his native Australia.

In January, a lower court judge refused an American request to extradite Assange on spying charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret military documents a decade ago.

District Judge Vanessa Baraitser denied extradition on health grounds, saying Assange was likely to kill himself if held under harsh US prison conditions.

An attorney for the US government, James Lewis, argued Wednesday that the judge was wrong to conclude

that Assange's mental health was too fragile to withstand the US judicial system.

Assange "has no history of serious and enduring mental illness" and does not meet the threshold of being so ill that he cannot resist harming himself, the lawyer said.

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पत्रांक-3089 / नि०ब्रा०शि० / स्टोर कन्स्यू / 2021-22 दिनांक-27 अक्टूबर 2021

ई० निविदा सूचना

निदेशालय, प्राविधिक शिक्षा, उत्तराखण्ड के अधीन विभिन्न राजकीय पॉलीटेक्निक संस्थानों में कम्प्यूटर्स के क्रय हेतु ई० निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई० निविदा दिनांक 28/10/2021 से उत्तराखण्ड शासन के ई० निविदा पोर्टल www.uktenders.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। ई० निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 11/11/2021 है। विस्तृत जानकारी उत्तराखण्ड शासन की ई० निविदा पोर्टल www.uktenders.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

निदेशक प्राविधिक शिक्षा, उत्तराखण्ड

जनसंपर्क संचालनालय छत्तीसगढ़ शासन इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़

क्रमांक / 4082 / जनसं / वि.अ.प. / 2021 फोन- 0771-2221616 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक : 26/10/2021

गणतंत्र दिवस परेड 2020 के अवसर पर नई दिल्ली में व्यनित होने पर प्रदर्शित की जाने वाली छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य की झांकी निर्माण के लिए अल्पकालिक द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जनसंपर्क संचालनालय, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, नवा रायपुर की ओर से नई दिल्ली में आयोजित होने वाली गणतंत्र दिवस 2022 की राष्ट्रीय परेड में चयन होने पर प्रदर्शित होने वाली झांकी की डिजाईन/मॉडल प्रस्तुत करने तथा अनुमोदन प्रस्ताव तथा खा मंत्रालय के निर्देशानुसार फेब्रिकेशन आदि कार्य कर झांकी तैयार करने हेतु टर्न-की आधार पर अनुभवी झांकी/टेब्ल्यू निर्माताओं / फर्मों से गृहबंद अल्पकालिक द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

इच्छुक (झांकी) टेब्ल्यू नर्माता / फर्म जनसंपर्क विभाग की वेबसाइट www.dprcg.gov.in & www.cg.nic.in/dpr से निविदा प्रारूप,नियम-शर्तें डाउनलोड कर निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क राशि रु. 2,000/- (दो हजार रुपए मात्र) (वापसी योग्य नहीं) का "संचालक, जनसंपर्क संचालनालय/रायपुर" के नाम से रायपुर में देय डिमाण्ड ड्रॉफ्ट टैक्निकल विड लिफाफा के साथ जमा करना अनिवार्य है। उक्त निविदा में किसी प्रकार परिवर्तन अथवा संशोधन होने पर जानकारी उक्त वेबसाइट में प्रदर्शित की जायेगी। संशोधन सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदाकर्ता जिन्होंने पूर्वे में प्रथम निविदा भरा है, उनके निविदा प्रपत्र ग्राह्य होंगे।

- (1) पूर्णतः भरे प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 08/11/2021 दोपहर 2 बजे तक।
- (2) तकनीकी प्रस्ताव प्रपत्र खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 08/11/2021 सायं 3 बजे से।

आयुक्त जनसंपर्क संचालनालय छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

R.o.No. 64748/3
R.o.Date. 26/10/2021

Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora

Letter No. : 7829/ Nivida-01/2021 Dated : 27/10/2021

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)

E-TENDER NOTICE

The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Single Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 01/11/2021 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

| Sl. No. | Name of Work | Cost of Tender Form | Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh) | Validity of Tender | Time of Completion | Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering |
|---------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Construction of Road from Kanda- Saniudiyar Motor Road to Bhadora- Bajiroad under State Sector in District Bageshwar (Phase- 2 Stage- I) Length - 5.00 Km. | Rs. 4000.00 + 18% GST | 1.42 Lakh | 120 Days | 12 Months | Category "D" & above (Road Works) |
| 2 | Construction of Khadlek- Bhanar- Dana- Tikta Motor Road in Kapkot Constituency Distt- Bageshwar Under State Sector Length - 4.00 Km. (Phase- 2 Stage- I) | Rs. 3000.00 + 18% GST | 0.81 Lakh | 120 Days | 9 Months | Category "D" & above (Road Works) |

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas

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

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

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number | Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|---------|--|--|--|----------------|
| 1. | M/s Shivam Jewellers/ Narmada Devi/ Krishan Kumar Verman/ A/c No. 629205027350/ 629260003833 | Residential Property Of Krishan Kumar Verman and Narmada Devi Situated at House No- 65, SF, Block AH, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi- 110088/ October 26, 2021 | June 19, 2021 Rs. 36,52,642/- | Delhi |

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

Date : October 28, 2021
Place: Delhi/ Ncr

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to upgrade the Rail infrastructure, Railways have decided to undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking and Non-Interlocking work at Hindupur and Devarapalle stations for doubling of Yelahanka and Pendukonda section from 15.11.2021 to 20.11.2021. To execute this work following trains will be diverted as per the details given below:

| Train No. & Name | Diverted Via | Skipping Stoppage | Date (from the Originating Station) |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 06078 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Coimbatore Jn. SF Festival Special | Via - Gooty, Kadapa, Renigunta Jn., Jolarpettai Jn. & Salem Jn. | Anantapur, Dharmavaram Jn., Hindupur, Yelahanka Jn., Krishnarajapuram | 17.11.2021 |
| 02684 Lucknow - Yesvantpur Jn. Festival Express Special | Via -Dhone Jn., Pendekallu Jn., Guntakal Jn., Bellari Jn., Chikijaur Jn., Tumakur & Yesvantpur Jn. | Gooty, Anantapur, Dharmavaram Jn., Hindupur & Yelahanka Jn. | 18.11.2021 |

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

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

Visit RailMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app.

24/10/2021

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

QUOTATION NOTICE

Quotations are invited affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 from the manufacturer/dealer for supply of the following verification equipments indicating rates as per specification below for the year 2022. The quotation will be received by the Controller of Legal Metrology, Assam, Guwahati-7 up to 2 PM of the 16th Nov'2021 and will be opened on the same day at 4 PM in presence of the Quotationer or their representatives.

| Item | Particulars | Font Size |
|---|---|----------------------|
| A. (i) Year Punch, 2022 4 nos in a set. (Size 1,2,3 & 4) | (I)Size 1. length = 9.5 cm. 2. length = 9.0 cm. 3. length = 10.5 cm. 4. length = 12.0 cm. | 12 18 24 27 |
| (ii) Year Plier dies, 2022 4 nos in a set. (Size A,B,C & D) | (II) Size- 12 mm diameter. | |

General Condition.

- The verification equipments should be made of best Steel and well tempered. If any defect is found in the aforesaid item within six month from the date of use then the replacement will have to be made free of cost.
- The Quotationer should deliver the articles in good conditions at the office of the Controller of Legal Metrology, Assam, Guwahati within 30 days on receipt of the formal supply order at their own cost.
- The rates should be valid up to 12 months from the date of acceptance of the quotation.
- The rates and taxes payable should be indicated against each item separately and should be F.O.R. destination.
- The Quotationer must furnish attested copy of the income tax clearance certificate (Pan Card) and GST Certificate along with their quotation.
- The Controller of Legal Metrology, Assam is not bound to accept the lowest or any other quotation.
- The decision of the Controller of Legal Metrology, Assam will be final in all respect.

Sd/- (S. N. Baishya)
Controller of Legal Metrology (I/C),
Assam : Guwahati.

Jansanyog/C/7158/21

US, China sparring over Taiwan heats up anew

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States and China are stepping up their war of words over Taiwan in a long-simmering dispute that has significant implications for the power dynamic in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Amid a surge in Chinese military activity near the island that China regards as a renegade province and has vowed to reclaim by force if necessary, Washington and Beijing have launched new campaigns for global support for their respective positions, each using the stern and lofty language of sovereignty and international precedent. And neither is backing down.

While the disagreement over Taiwan isn't new and has long vexed relations between the countries, recent developments suggest the two are coming closer to confrontation. Last week, President Joe Biden

set off alarm bells in Beijing by saying the U.S. has a firm commitment to help Taiwan defend itself in the event of a Chinese attack.

China protested and the Biden administration sought to play down the comments. White House, State Department and Pentagon officials all said the president did not mean to imply any changes in the U.S. "one-China policy," which recognizes Beijing but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei.

The officials took pains to say that America's commitment to Taiwan remains steadfast but continues to be guided by a policy of "strategic ambiguity" over military-related specifics that falls short of a treaty-enshrined mutual defense pact. Since then, however, the administration has upped the ante on the diplomatic front.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
This is notified for the information of Rail Pasengers that Railways have decided to restore the stoppage to the following trains at Getor Jagatpura Railway station from the dates shown as under:

| Train No. & Name | Additional Stoppage | Arr. | Dep. | Effective from |
|---|---------------------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 04311 Bareilly- Bhuj Express Special | At Getor | 17:18 | 17:20 | From 28.10.2021 |
| 04321 Bareilly- Bhuj Special | Jagatpura station | 17:18 | 17:20 | From 29.10.2021 |

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

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

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download Railmadad App

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Sumita Devi is owner of Property bearing No. N-130, New No. 14-130/A, area measuring 49 sq., Ydg. off of Rect. No. 21, Kila No. 23, Situated in the area of Village Khyasia, Delhi State Delhi colony known as Vishnu Garden, North Block Gali No. 7, New Delhi, vide a registered Gift Deed dated 18.01.2021, registration No. 640, executed by Mr. Ramend Kumar. All persons are hereby informed that, above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Aale Raaz Khan who is taking a Loan from Fullerton India Home Finance company Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the owner ship of Mrs. Sumita Devi in respect of the said property is sale /Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
201, 1st Floor, 23 Shivaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-110028, Ph: 011-4112527-28, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Clients **Radhey Shyam Paharia S/o Shiv Singh & his wife Seema W/o Radhey Shyam Paharia R/o M-298, 1st floor, Guru Harkishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar,ND-87** have debarred & disowned their Son **Joginder Paharia & his wife Aarti** from their movable and immovable properties due to their misbehavior to my clients. My Clients have also severed all their relation with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk.
Ramesh Chander Anand (Adv.) C1-56, Western Wing, Tis Hazari

ADMISSION NOTICE
Applications are invited for DPSE (2021-23) under Management Quota for Affiliated Institutes of SCERT (Govt. of Delhi)

For further details, please contact:
Satyam International Polytechnic
GD Block, Near Pitampura Metro Station, Pitampura, Delhi-110088 Ph: 27317069

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Bin Bahadur Thapa S/o. Gang Bahadur Thapa R/o. B-104, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110049 since 1992 do hereby declares that I have applied for Indian Citizenship & before that reside at Pandara Road, New Delhi, India since 1984 to 1992. Kindly Provide the Citizenship of India.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)

| Name of work with its location | Improvement work of MOZ, THJ, NGL and TPZ stations of Delhi Division. |
|--|--|
| App. Cost of the work (₹) | ₹ 42,04,534/- only |
| Address of the office | Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055. |
| Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender | Tender uploading / closing date & time - 17.11.2021 up to 15.00 hrs. |
| Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. | See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. |

Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1367 Dated: 26.10.2021. 2438/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Bid No. E-33/2021-22 E-TENDERS Dated: 23.10.2021

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the president of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registrations on **IREPS** The details of tenders are in the following sequence S.No., Tender No.(Due Date), Description and Quantity. (1) 10211290, (18.11.2021) Bearing Asm. Part No. 16080609, 339 Nos. (2) 10211282, (24.11.2021) Seal Ring Assembly Part No. 16080567, 922 Nos. (3) 10211293, (24.11.2021) Bearing Spherical Seal Thrust Part No. 16150442, 437 Nos. (4) 10211292, (24.11.2021) Bearing Part No. 16150430, 1784 Nos. (5) 10211210B, (16.11.2021) 0240A, 0241A/0453 to PL No. 29176204 QTY: 569 Nos. (16) 02211046 (25.11.2021) E-Type Coupler, P L No. 29130037, 453 Nos. (17) 03211045 (25.11.2021) High Capacity Draft Gear, P L No. 29130049, 478 Nos. (18) 03211007A (19.11.2021) Brake Control System, P L No. 29180016, 290 Set. **Note:** For Complete details of EMD and downloading of tender documents and Hindi Version also available at www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in. Corrigendum Notice - Date: 25.10.2021, Bid No.: E-29, Tender No. 09210123 FL LAMP CORROD LIGHTING PL No. 2961010, Revision-1, Details of Corrigendum- The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 12.11.2021 instead of 03.11.2021. Note: All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.

P.R.O./BLW-S-38

PCMM

blwvaranasi Website- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in

10% power outage likely due to coal shortage: Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Crisil Rating on Wednesday warned that despite the respite from a temporary fall in power demand, a tenth of the thermal capacity is still vulnerable to the outage as it sees coal-stock remaining in single-digit days through the rest of the year.

Recently, the agency had said that the ongoing coal shortage could debilitate corporate India if it lingers on for long.

About 10 per cent of the 209 gw, to be precise 20 gw capacity of coal-based private power stations remain vulnerable to outage amid surging coal demand. Despite the recent dip in demand (10 per cent over October 16 and 17) due to heavy rains, coal shortage persists as their inventory is only for 5 days, the report said.

Over half of these capacities do not have fuel supply

agreements, which increases their reliance on coal, either through imports or through e-auction where prices remain elevated, both these may force these plants to shutter operations for a few days as their operating cost may outweigh revenue.

Coal shortage is acute despite domestic supply rising 16 per cent in Q2FY22 over the same period in the pre-pandemic FY20, partly due to substitute non-coking coal imports falling over 20 per cent and depleted coal stock at the plants.

Another problem is the erratic domestic supplies due to seasonal rains impacting mining. Overall coal supply grew around 8 per cent.

Meanwhile, domestic e-auction premia have jumped over 130 per cent over the Coal India notified rate in September, from 80 per cent in September 2019 due to the supply shortage.

'MoRTH giving enormous thrust on improving nation's logistics'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) is giving enormous thrust on improving Logistics in the country and taking steps to bring efficiency into logistics management.

Delivering a talk on "Improving Operational Efficiency in Logistics Infrastructure; Multimodal Integrated Logistics Parks; Technologies..." at 'Smart Mobility Conference 2021' at Pragati Maidan in the Capital, Joint Secretary (Logistics), Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Suman Prasad Singh, said: "Our present focus to have integrated planning of transport network development. We should not develop it in silos. That's why the "GatiShakti" portal has already come." "So far as infrastructure of MoRTH is concerned, our basic purpose is to reduce the travel time.

There are instances near ports, when a distance of 10 km, sometimes takes more than 24 hours to cover. The reason is not the distance but many other factors like traffic restrictions," he said.

Skilling varsity venture to create 3,000 jobs

New Delhi: With an aim to create 3,000 jobs within next 36 months by creating a pool of qualified job-ready skilled resources in the diagnostic sector, Healthians in collaboration with Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) has announced the launch of the on-the-job training programme of selected youth candidates. "With an initiative like this, we intend to create a robust training platform for aspiring healthcare professionals," said Deepak Sahni, founder and CEO, Healthians. The SVSU CV said the collaboration will provide opportunities for sharing and emulating best practices and learning from each other, to address public health challenges.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abir Thapa S/o. Bin Bahadur Thapa R/o. B-104, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110049 do hereby declares that I have applied for Indian Citizenship & residing at the above mentioned address as born and brought up here in, since 2001. Kindly Provide the Citizenship of India.

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007 (Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

Summons For Filing Reply & Appearance By Publication
O. A. No. 455/2021
Date: 14/10/2021

Summons to defendant under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

Original Application
No. 455/2021

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
MR. SACHIN KUMAR KAUSHAL & OTHERS ...Defendants

To,
1. MR. SACHIN KUMAR KAUSHAL
C-517, NRI CITY, Greater Noida-201308, U.P.

Also At: Flat No-004, Floor No. 0, Avion Rose wood, Tower B4, Village Khanpur Tehsil Tizara City, Bhiwadi 301019.

Also At: Yatharth Wellness Hospital N H 32, Sector- Omega 1st Gr. Noida, Noida-201308.

2. MRS. SWATI GUPTA
C-517, NRI CITY, Greater Noida-201308, U.P.

Also At: Flat No-004, Floor No. 0, Avion Rose wood, Tower B4, Village Khanpur Tehsil Tizara City, Bhiwadi 301019.

3. AVALON PROJECTS PVT. LTD.
Registered Office: 64, Scindia House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

Corporate Office: 9th Floor, SAS Tower, Near Medicity, Sector- 38, Gurgaon-122001

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **24.11.2021 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal,
Lucknow

LPG price may be hiked next week

PETROL, DIESEL RATES UP AGAIN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cooking gas LPG prices may be hiked next week after under-recovery on the fuel widened to over ₹100 per cylinder, sources said insisting that the rate hike, including the quantum of increase, is dependent on Government permission.

If allowed, this will be the fifth increase in cooking gas rates across all categories — households using subsidised gas for cooking and heating purposes, non-subsidised fuel and industrial-sized gas.

LPG rates were last hiked by ₹15 per cylinder on October 6, taking the total increase in rates since July to ₹90 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

Sources with direct knowledge of the matter said state-owned oil marketing companies have not been allowed to align retail selling price with the cost, and no government subsidy has so far been approved to bridge the gap.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This if for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of AAM AADMI PARIVARTAN PARTY The office of the party is located at SATYA SAI COLONY, PREET VIHAR, NEAR SUMERVILLE SCHOOL, CHHAPRAULA, GAUTAM BUDD NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH- 201009. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Name/address of the office-bearers of the party are as follows:

President/ MANOJ KUMAR DAHIYA
Chairman: S/O SHRI RAGHVI SINGH DAHIYA, VILLA LAKHAN MAJARA, DIST-ROHTAK, HARYANA-124512

General SAGAR SHUKLA S/O SHRI
Secretary/ AJAY SHUKLA, H.NO.29/63,
Secretary: CHHUPI TOLA, THANA, RAKABGANJ, TEHSIL- AGRA, DIST- AGRA, UTTAR PRADESH- 282003.

Treasurer: REKHA W/O MANOJ KUMAR DAHIYA VILL-LAKHAN MAJARA, DIST-ROHTAK, HARYANA-124512

If any one has any objection to the registration of AAM AADMI PARIVARTAN PARTY they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007 (Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

Summons For Filing Reply & Appearance By Publication
O. A. No. 450/2021
Date: 13/10/2021

Summons to defendant under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

Original Application
No. 450/2021

ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
MR. VAIBHAV RAMASHANKAR SHARMA & OTHERS ...Defendants

To,
1. MR VAIBHAV RAMASHANKAR SHARMA (Borrower),
Flat No. 906, 9th floor Meghdutam Encore- Tower A Sport, Sector- Adjoining Techzone- IV, Plot no. GH-05, Greater Noida- 201307

Also At: E-4 1405, Rutu Towers, Patli Pada, Ghod bundar Road, Thane- 400607

2. MRS. PUJA SHARMA (Co-Borrower),
Flat No. 906, 9th floor Meghdutam Encore- Tower A Sport, Sector- Adjoining Techzone- IV, Plot no. GH-05, Greater Noida- 201307.

Also At: Flat No. 10A, Tower B Viceroy Park, Thakur Village, Kandiwali, Mumbai Kannad- 431103

3. PALM DEVELOPERS PVT LTD.
Registered Office at : 304 Sitaram Mansion, 718/21 Joshi road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005. Corporate Office at : 6th Floor, Matrix Tower, B-4, Sec-132, Expressway, Noida- 201301, U.P.

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **22.11.2021 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal,
Lucknow

1.5 bn Indians to be connected to internet in 2 yrs; country's AI tech to lead globally: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to almost double its internet user base in the next two years with the BharatNet project connecting more homes across rural India, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday.

He said India, not China, is the world's largest connected nation on the internet in the world as China has more intranet connectivity and they have walled off their internet.

"India is going to be one of the largest connected nations in the world. I already think India is the largest connected country in the world because China is not connected because it has an intranet, walled off island that pretends to be the internet. "Even if you believe for a

minute that they are on the internet, we are going to be one of the largest nations in the world," Chandrasekhar said at an ASSOCHAM conference.

He added that the country has around 800 million people on the internet at present.

"As the rural broadband internet connectivity programme of the BharatNet starts kicking in and lighting up homes in the villages, we will have 1.5 billion Indians being connected to the internet over the next two years," Chandrasekhar said.

He said internet connectivity is going to drive the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem in the country and will get preference globally as it will be developed with ethics under the guidance of data privacy rules.

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, India
Phone No. 0141-2228066, 2228064 Website: <http://rmssc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>
CIN: U24232RJ2011SGC035067 E-mail: edprmsc@nic.in

Ref. No.: F.02 (338)/RMSC/PROCUREMENT/DRUGNIB-27/2021/11658 Dated:- 22/10/2021

Notice Inviting E-Bid

E-bids are invited upto 06.00 PM of 11.11.2021 for E-BID FOR RATE CONTRACT CUM SUPPLY AND EMPANELMENT OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES. Details of NIB may be seen in the Bidding Documents at our office or at the website of State Public procurement Portal <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> (UBN: MSC2122GLOB000099) www.dipronline.org, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://rmssc.health.rajasthan.gov.in> and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement) RMSC/

Raj.Samwad/C/7650/2021-22

UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H. O. "UJJWAL", MAHARANI BAGH, CMS ROAD, DEHRADUN -248006, CIN No. U40101UR200310GC023896
Toll: 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, website: www.ujvnl.com

No. 795 Tender Notice Date : 27.10.2021

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

Tender No. -05/EE(G-MB-I)/2021-22 & 06/EE(G-MB-I)/2021-22

Name of work: (1) Gardening Plantation & other associated miscellaneous work at Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi for the period of one year. (2) Testing of Transformer Oil of various Transformers installed at Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi.

Estimated cost: ₹ 665395.00 (Taxes Extra) & ₹ 99550.00 (Taxes Extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website : 28.10.2021 at 16:00 hrs.

Last date of submission of tender : 18.11.2021 at 16:00 hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com".

Executive Engineer (Generation)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Namely: Sanjay Rai, S/o Ram Singh Rai, R/o: H.No.- 2003, Street No. 57, Block-B, Sant Nagar, Burari, New Delhi** has been missing since **18.10.2021** at 06:00 pm. from A-59, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi from the area of P.S. Naraina, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 42A dated 19.10.2021** has been registered at P.S. Naraina, New Delhi. The description of the missing male is as under: **Age: 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'11", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Strong, Wearing: Green colour shirt, black colour pant and brown colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.**

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/600/WD/2021 **Tel.No. 011-25891181, 8750871122**

SHO
P.S. Naraina, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Amrita Kumari D/o Shri Awadesh Pashwan R/o H.No. B-129, Jawahar Camp, Kirti Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 16.10.2021 from the area of P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No 462/21 U/s 363 IPC dated 17.10.2021 has been registered at Police Station Kirti Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 14 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Hair: Long & Black, Wearing: White & Grey Colour Suit & Salwar and Black Colour Shoes (School dress).

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Kirti Nagar, Delhi at E-mail ld-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: **SHO**
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/598/WD/2021 **P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi**
West Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-25438719, 25190462

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely : Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : about 30-35 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Shallow Face : Oval, Identification : A Tattoo of "ॐ" on right hand Wearing : Hospital dress** has been found dead at AIMS Trauma Center Hospital, Delhi on 21.10.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 18A dated 21.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at Subzi Mandi, Mortuary, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about this dead person may kindly inform to the following:- **SHO : P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi**

Tel. No. 011-24356743, 8750871311

DP/358/RLY/2021

Air India asks Govt depts to clear dues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Air India stopped the credit facility for buying of air tickets after sale, the Department of Expenditure has issued an order directing all ministries and departments to clear its dues immediately. The department has also ordered that air tickets from Air India may be purchased in cash till further instructions. "Recently, the Government of India has decided to disinvest Air India, the process of disinvestment of Air India and Air India Express is ongoing. Air India has

stopped extending credit facility on account of purchase of air tickets. Therefore, all ministries and departments are directed to clear Air India's dues immediately. Air tickets from Air India may be purchased in cash till further instructions," the department said in an office memorandum on Wednesday. The department has further directed ministries and departments to brought out these instructions to the notice of their subordinate offices/institutes, under the administrative control for further compliance.

Rising tea imports cause of concern: Planters' body

Kolkata: A body of tea planters on Wednesday expressed concern over rising imports of the commodity and said a minimum price should be fixed for shipments arriving from overseas to protect the domestic units.

Indian Tea Association said imports in 2020 increased by 47 per cent as compared to 2019, and by 176 per cent in the first six months of the current calendar year as against the corresponding period.

BSES
BSES Yamuna Power Limited

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Date: 28.10.2021

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs:

| NIT No. | Brief Work Description | Estimated Cost (₹) | Cost of EMD (₹) | Due Date & Time of Submission | Date & Time of Opening |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| CMC/BY/21-22/RS/SV/29 | SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 11 KV DRY TYPE PACKAGE SUB-STATION OF 1.6 AND 2 MVA DT RATING | 5.50 crore | 5,50,000 | 20.11.2021, 15:00 HRS | 22.11.2021, 15:00 HRS |
| CMC/BY/21-22/RS/SV/32 | SUPPLY OF SINGLE PHASE OIL FILLED COMPLETELY SELF PROTECTED (CSP) TRANSFORMER OF RATING 25KVA 6.35/0.240KV | 2.55 crore | 5,10,000 | 20.11.2021, 15:00 HRS | 22.11.2021, 16:00 HRS |

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submitment of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com --> **BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD --> Tender --> Open Tenders.**
Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-41247111 | Fax: 011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

ICICI Bank

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

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

Date : October 28, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Chola
Enter a better life

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001
Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005.

POSSESSION NOTICE - Under Rule 8 (1)
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been included in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.
The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column[E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.
Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges & expenses before notification of sale.



With Covid-19 being a distant memory, and every Indian state throwing their borders wide-open for tourists, we Indians are back at it, travelling, with vengeance. Thomas Cook India, a leading integrated travel services company, conducted a study which revealed some surprising insights.

The pandemic had virtually thrown the travel and hospitality industry in a state of disarray last year, and it wasn't expected to improve anytime soon. However, on that particular count, most of us were wrong. Bookings, done with the assistance of Thomas Cook India, reflect a 60 per cent month-on-month growth, ever since the Covid situation was taken stock of, with vaccinations, shared Romil Pant, the senior vice-president of Leisure Travel at Thomas Cook India recently.

"There has been a jump of over 300 per cent, with respect to bookings, when we compare the data from September 2019, much before the pandemic, with the numbers generated for September 2021. This surge can best be attributed to lockdown fatigue and pent-up urge to travel," he postulated, before sharing other noteworthy trends.

A surge in demand for the forthcoming festive and winter season, Expo 2020 Dubai and honeymoon travel due to the marriage season in the North is powering travel growth from Delhi. "At this point in time, Thomas Cook India is back to

BACK IN BUSINESS

India's travel industry has been witnessing a strong surge in the past few months, contrary to expectations, says ROMIL PANT, senior vice-president of Leisure Travel, Thomas Cook India. By CHRISTY VARGHESE

65 per cent of pre-pandemic level bookings; with domestic travel at an impressive 290 per cent and international at 55 per cent," he revealed.

As per Pant, travelling with India is the best possible option, for those who seek leisure, "With the most prominent factor being ease of communication, it might take a while before we see international travel achieving pre-pandemic numbers. Let's consider you test positive for Covid in India, away from your hometown, the language divide does not play a huge role and all our packages are equipped with TravShield — a comprehensive safe travel programme, in association with Apollo Clinics. TravShield gets you free rescheduling and cancellation, if you are afflicted with



Covid, you are entitled to insurance; in short, we are here for you. However, while travelling overseas, it is not as simple as that. Getting the permissions in place from the embassy/consulate, that might take a while."

He went on to elaborate on some details that one might overlook while travelling, for instance, the cost of the RT-PCR test. "You might be surprised by how easier it is back home, here in India, when it comes to dealing with RT-PCR tests. Every country of the European Union has different costs for the RT-PCR tests, with the cheapest being ₹50. When travelling overseas, you need to take every factor into account. Something Thomas Cook India would be happy to help you with," he shared with a smile.

Other notable trends that he touched upon was how homestays and farm-stays have emerged as the preferred place of stay, after the Covid pandemic. It was not very surprising, though, as tourists opted to stay in places with less people, with many booking a villa for multiple families to stay in, together. He also chose the occasion to clarify that Thomas Cook has been misunderstood as an organisation which exclusively facilitates overseas travel. "To the contrary, we have our agencies spread across the country to help those who wish to see more of our beautiful country. With winter approaching, we have seen a surge in pre-bookings for places and experiences in the Andamans, Goa and Kerala. Even though the number of cases in Kerala might be high, the mortality rate is low. And throw in an administration which pulls all stops for its tourists, no wonder Kerala remains a hot destination."

Currently, as per the study, which takes into account numbers from September 2019 to September 2021, Maldives, Switzerland, France, Russia, Spain, Egypt are the top international destinations. Maldives, with no restrictions throughout, was no surprise on the list. The ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai is also seeing a brisk demand currently, Pant noted.

So, what are you waiting for? Go on and satiate that travel bug, but do your research first and travel safe, whenever you do.

DIY bridal hacks

CHANDNI GOYAL lists five effective home-remedies for brides to glow on their big day

Wedding season is upon us and the brides are excited, nervous and busy. The sheer amount of arrangements can be challenging. There may be no getting around the work, but letting it rob you of your bridal glow is something we just cannot allow. Self-care will have to take top priority in order to get your hair and skin looking their best for your big day. Luckily, this doesn't have to mean expensive spa days or elaborate treatments with an aesthetician. There are many beauty routines that are both simple and affordable that can be practised at home. They can help treat any specific skin problem or be the extra love that your skin needs to help you look fantastic.

Below are a few tips that can be easily incorporated in your routines to glow:

◆Aloe vera gel

Aloe vera gel is the component inside the aloe vera plant that is one of the most commonly used natural remedies, especially as an anti-inflammatory warrior. It helps calm irritated skin, including eczema, dry skin and even minor cuts and burns. Its gel-like texture makes it easily absorbing, making it particularly beneficial to those with oily skin, and its moisturising power makes it a go-to solution for those with dry skin alike. The plant is very easy to grow at home, but in case this is not possible you can choose from a number of pure aloe vera or aloe vera-based products available to buy. For those who have the plant, slice in half an aloe vera leaf and squeeze out the gel. Apply the fresh gel onto your face every day in the evening. Its collagen boosting and anti-scarring properties will help achieve well-hydrated and glowing glass-like skin. For silky and shiny hair, it can also be applied as an overnight hair pack.

◆Get rid of the tan

Sun exposure not only leads to tanning but also harmful UV rays, dark spots and dullness. One simple yet very effective home-remedy to reverse the harsh effects of the sun is a DIY face-pack which is a combination of cucumber, potato and lemon juice mixed together with *besan* (for binding) to be applied on the face. Cucumber calms the skin, potato helps remove a stubborn tan, dark spots and acne marks, whereas lemon juice has a bleaching effect and helps in skin-brightening.

◆Pure almond oil

Pure almond oil when massaged around the eyes for two minutes before bedtime works very well to reduce dark circles and puffiness. Almonds are rich in vitamin E which is healing and also have anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and skin-lightening qualities. Gentle massaging helps improve the blood circulation. Almond oil is particularly gentle on the delicate skin around the eyes. Remember to choose a high quality, preferably cold-pressed version. Consistency is the key here, by including this ritual in your daily night time skin care routine, you should be able to see results after a month or so.

◆Pink lip colour on cheeks

A nice bright pink lip colour is great to



have in your clutch as a last-minute touch up. Warm up the same lip colour on your fingertips and lightly apply on your cheeks for that natural, healthy flush of colour. There is an amazing range of pink lipstick shades — nudes, rosy, peachy — and you can go ahead and play around with it, from choosing something that is closer to your natural lip colour to experimenting with a more striking one.

◆Heal your smile

Our lips work super hard for us. From drinking and eating to talking and smiling they are in constant use and naturally suffer a lot of damage. Add to that the harsh effects of environmental pollution. Dry, cracked or discoloured lips are the result. Adding lip care to our beauty routine should not be overlooked, but it is very important to remember not to overdo it either and also to use a light touch. Over-exfoliation or being too aggressive while scrubbing leads to injury and bleeding. A good homemade remedy to heal your smile is to use honey mixed with granular sugar to scrub your lips. Clean with a soft fibre cloth to reveal lips that don't look chapped or rough. Apply a lip balm or a clear gloss on top so your lips look plump and naturally pink. Once in a while consider taking a complete break from all lip products — including lipsticks, glosses, scrubs and packs — and just let them breathe. During this time, you can just use a little balm to keep your skin nourished and soft.

(The author is the training manager of House of Beauty and Boddess.com.)

Pandemic festivals have grown to be more intimate and close-knit, glorifying the small spaces and their homely vibe. The introverted twist in the celebrations focus on finding joy in the simpler things in life — minimal themes and hygge lifestyles are embraced by people all around the country. Although, a certain part of this new lifestyle tends to miss the laughter-filled gatherings, the ring of the chorus of ceremonial songs, the exchange of wishes with the loved ones and other fanfare that is a part of the package of festivities. A festival dated at this time of the year will turn positive when it strikes a balance between the new and old ways of celebration, with decorated indoors, flower ornamented nooks, diya-lit doors, aesthetically composed pooja rooms and other details that stand out in person or form the backdrop during the video calls with the distant family.

□Reorganising kitchens

Festivities come with an aesthetic tone of their own. The pooja mandates as in mandaps, *torans*, and so on, are sure to fill a major part of the décor. But the secret lies in the details. The extravagance of the pooja calls for a reorganised kitchen and a complete dining makeover. Fresh tablecloths in bright Indian hues shall lay the carpet for the ethnic tableware in pure silver or brass. More traditional statement shall be brought in with pre-loved antique wood showpieces, traditional wall art, motif-patterned throw pillows, bright-hued upholstery, intricate handwoven

Post-pandemic festivities

PUNAM KALRA curates a list of minimal themes and creative ideas to light up your home this Diwali

carpets and more. Artisanal weaves, like ikat and *shibori*, made in breathable cotton, luxurious silk, or warm wool, make for unique upholstery, curtains, carpets and bed linen. They have an inherent pattern play, showing off textures and colours to the fullest.

□Revamping living rooms

The living room calls for a sophisticated, indulgent palette with a touch of mauve, beige or a darker brown. A pastel intervention in the neutrals tend to contemporise the décor, making it ideal for the new ways of celebrating — powder blue, mint green or peach hints leave a trail of playfulness and relaxation in the spaces planned for minimal poojas. Strong colours like blue and red, accented with tonal shades like lime and tangerine look feisty. Muted shades like blush, teal and lilac, create a gentle yet suave ambience. Vivid forest-inspired colours and motifs in wall finishes further add a sensorial freshness. Accompanied by conversational pieces of furniture, lively décor pieces and a lavish choice of luminaires, the space is set in the festive mood.

□Apt sanitisation

In the wake of the pandemic, the mod-



ern-day setup is incomplete without sanitising points and socially-distanced seats. There are virtual celebrations. Online meetings shall be set in a central frame and the numbered guests can be a part of a thoughtful celebration, with the same love and affection as ever. The pandemic celebrations are only a reminder of kindness and gratitude that long for hosting a festival that is safe and undisturbed.

□Adding statement accessories

This festive season can be a celebration of our individualistic dreams and personalities, expressed through an experiential interior aesthetic. A play of minimal maximalism adds a raw and intimate textural feel to the décor. Imaginative furniture forms with statement accessories, chic coffee tables, lively indoor planters and metallic cushions in copper and gold add a touch of glamour and snugness to the room.

Begin with a backdrop that blends with the colour theme of the home, experiment with lattice screens, a carved wooden *jali* or an embossed frame. Group the brassware into a large embellished plate, lined with fresh flowers. When the florals go overwhelming, tone down the colour game with the greens — there are vines, foliage and other contemporary elements that give a whiff of ethereal beauty in the indoors.

□Using exotic scents

Incense sticks in sandalwood, jasmine or other fragrances, along with freshly-

plucked flowers, leave an indulgent vibe. A mix of statement lighting, floor lamps and diffused lighting add to the enchantment of the festivities. A combination of fresh flowers, aroma diffusers, *urulis* and fragrant candles enhance the décor by adding a pleasing aroma to the house. Decorative experiments with choices between handcrafted pieces and minimal origami details draw the fine line between the traditional and modern décor choices. Finely-set orchestrated elements as in the artisanal ware, with or without a rich inlay of semi-precious stones step up the opulence levels. There is a soft spot for everything aureate and glistening. An unmissable layer of diyas, bells or flowers, with a stand-out arch frame or modest wooden alcoves, wraps up the aesthetic of a contemporary festive setup.

□Being eco-conscious

This festive season can be a celebration of our individualistic dreams and personalities, expressed through an experiential interior aesthetic. Imaginative furniture and statement accessories in eco-conscious elements like wood, stone, ceramics and metallic shades, like coffee tables, minimal indoor planters, can add an elegant festive feel to the room. A lasting statement comes from more conscious choice in the décor which goes beyond visual appeal.

(The author is an interior designer and the creative director of I'm the Centre for Applied Arts, a design studio in New Delhi.)

TREND BLAZER



SAIF-RANI DUO IS BACK WITH A BANG

Actor SAIF ALI KHAN, who will be seen shaking a leg with actress Rani Mukerji after over a decade in the forthcoming film *Bunty Aur Babli 2*, says they needed a hit track such as *Tattoo Waaliye* to dance again.

"Every on-screen *jodi* over the decades has had a unique calling card for audiences. For Rani and me, it has been romantic comedies and we have been lucky to have had chartbusting songs. *Hum Tum* had blockbuster music. Rani and I had a blast filming and dancing to them," he expresses.

fairtalk BADSHAH



"What genuinely inspired me to make the song, *Jugnu*, was just the need of giving something absolutely different from what is going on or what is being heard at this moment. I am talking internationally, because now with what you find on YouTube, the consumption of music has gone universal. It is difficult to stand out as an artiste."

dailytalk REMO D'SOUZA



"The past year has not been the easiest one for the world and for me, but my family and I have courageously battled through it and here we are. That being said, we had a fabulous season of *Dance+* this year. We always have something new to offer with every season. I hope the audiences are all set to groove with us again."

MEGAN SET TO GRADUATE SOON

The Grammy winning-rapper, MEGAN THEE STALLION, has revealed that she's set to graduate soon, after studying for her degree in health administration at Texas Southern University.

"I want to do this because I really want my mom to be proud. She saw me going to school before she passed away," she said. "My grandmother used to be a teacher, so she's been after my life about finishing school. I'm doing it for me, but I'm also doing it for the women who made me who I am today," the 26-year-old added.



ENGLAND CRUSH BANGLADESH BY EIGHT WICKETS

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

England dished out a thoroughly clinical display with both the bat and the ball to steamroll Bangladesh by eight wickets in a Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Explosive opener Jason Roy anchored the paltry 125-run chase, with a 38-ball 61 (5x4, 3x6) to make his 50th T20I appearance memorable as England cantered home in just 14.1 overs to give their net run rate a huge boost.

Dawid Malan remained unbeaten on 28, while Jonny Bairstow (8 not out) finished off the chase, pulling Shoriful Islam for a boundary.

With two wins in a row, England now lead Group 1 table with four points.

Defending a below-par total, Bangladesh never showed any aggressive intent and their bowlers lacked discipline.

On a two-paced pitch, their pacers, led by Mustafizur Rahman, were guilty of bowling short as the England opening duo of Roy and Jos Buttler (18) never had any trouble, cruising to 37 for no loss in four overs.

Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed



gave the much needed breakthrough by dismissing Buttler but Roy kept up the rampage as England cruised to 90/1 at the halfway mark -- needing

just 35 off 60 balls.

Roy was in full control of the innings and reached to his fifty -- his second in T20 World Cup -- off just

33 balls, hammering Nasum Ahmed over the rope.

Shoriful dismissed Roy in the 13th over but by that time the explosive opener had made the equation completely in favour of his side as England needed 11 runs from 43 balls.

Earlier, England bowlers capitalised on a fine start given by off-spinner Moeen Ali to restrict Bangladesh to a paltry 124 for 9.

Opting to bat, Bangladesh were sloppy and failed to apply themselves as they lost wickets at regular intervals.

Moeen took two wickets in two balls inside the powerplay en route to another fine outing (2/18 from 3 overs) with the ball.

Pacer Chris Woakes was also on the job inside the powerplay as he dismissed star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, reducing Bangladesh to 27/3 in first six overs.

On a day leg-spinner Adil Rashid -- fresh from his match winning figures of 4/2 against the West Indies -- returned wicketless and was their most expensive bowler, utility spinner Liam Livingstone did the job in the middle middle overs by taking 2/15.

Pacer Tymal Mills later wreaked havoc at the death with figures of 3/27 as Bangladesh could never recover.

Livingstone, who is capable of bowling both leg and off-spin, grabbed the crucial wickets of Bangladesh top-scorer Mushfiquir Rahim (29) and skipper Mahmudullah (19).

Livingstone trapped Rahim with a successful use of DRS.

It particularly hurt Bangladesh in the middle overs as Mushfiquir and Mahmudullah were looking to rebuild their innings with a 37-run partnership from 32 balls.

But Livingstone had Rahim plumb in front of wicket with his leg spin to break the partnership.

Ahif Hossain departed after a comical run out for the addition of 10 runs to leave Bangladesh tottering at 83/6 with five overs to go.

Earlier, Liton Das, who looked ultra aggressive by smashing Moeen for two boundaries, took a top edge in the England off-spinner's second over.

Moeen then grabbed a second with Mohammad Naim falling tamely with a mis-hit to once again take two wickets inside the powerplay.

Woakes claimed the prized scalp of Bangladesh ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan with Adil Rashid taking a brilliant catch running backwards.

► Scoreboard

| BANGLADESH (BATTING) | ENGLAND (BOWLING) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mushfiquir Rahim (29) | Tymal Mills 4 (27, 3wkt) |
| Nasum Ahmed (19) | Liam Livingstone 3 (15, 2wkt) |
| Mahmudullah (19) | Moeen Ali 3 (18, 2wkt) |
| Total 124 (9 wickets, 20 overs) | |

| ENGLAND (BATTING) | BANGLADESH (BOWLING) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jason Roy (61) | Shoriful Islam 3.1 (26, 1wkt) |
| Dawid Malan (28) | Nasum Ahmed 3 (26, 1wkt) |
| Jos Buttler (18) | Mahedi Hasan 2 (21, 0wkt) |
| Total 126 (2 wickets, 14.1 overs) | |

► Scoreboard

| SCOTLAND (BATTING) | NAMIBIA (BOWLING) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| M.Leask (44) | R. Truempelmann 4 (17,3wkt) |
| C.Greaves (25) | J. Frylinck 4 (10, 2wkt) |
| M.Cross (19) | JJ Smit 4 (20, 1wkt) |
| Total 109 (8 wickets, 20 overs) | |

| NAMIBIA (BATTING) | SCOTLAND (BOWLING) |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| In Progress.. | |

Total

► points table

| Group A | Team | Matches | NRR | Points |
|---------|--------------|---------|--------|--------|
| | England | 2 | +3.614 | 4 |
| | Sri Lanka | 1 | +0.583 | 2 |
| | Australia | 1 | +0.253 | 2 |
| | South Africa | 2 | +0.179 | 2 |
| | Bangladesh | 2 | -1.655 | 0 |
| | West Indies | 2 | -2.550 | 0 |

| Group B | Team | Matches | NRR | Points |
|---------|-------------|---------|--------|--------|
| | Pakistan | 2 | +0.738 | 4 |
| | Afghanistan | 1 | +6.500 | 2 |
| | Namibia | 0 | +0.000 | 0 |
| | New Zealand | 1 | -0.532 | 0 |
| | India | 1 | -0.973 | 0 |
| | Scotland | 1 | -6.500 | 0 |

Namibia restrict Scotland to 109/8

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Left-arm pacer Ruben Truempelmann struck thrice in a sensational first over as debutants Namibia restricted Scotland to a below-par 109 for eight in a Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old got the ball to shape back into the right-hander from the word go and the one that went away with the angle also troubled the Scotland top-order.

George Munsey played on the first ball of the match before Truempelmann had Calum Macleod caught behind



off an angled delivery as the batter anticipated a lethal inswinger.

The next ball was the inswinger and Richard Berrington, who is leading Scotland in place of injured Kyle Coetzer, could do little about it. He reviewed the on-field umpire's decision but DRS found the ball clipping the leg-stump.

Scotland were reeling at 18 for four after all-rounder David Wiese trapped Craig Wallace in front of the stumps with a ball that skidded on to the batter's pads.

With their opponents in dire straits, Namibia could have attacked more after the first six overs. Michael

Leask (44 off 27) joined opener Matthew Cross (19 off 33) in the middle and the duo steadied the ship with a 39-run stand.

Another left-arm pacer, Jan Frylinck, found Wallace stumps' from around the wicket to reduce Scotland to 57 for five.

Leask got the much-needed boundaries to take the team closer to the 100-run mark before falling to JJ Smit in the 17th over.

Considering their disastrous start, Scotland did well to get past 100.

Nambia were also brilliant in the last five overs, conceding only 25 runs and taking three wickets.

Kohli, KL Rahul slipped slots in ICC T20 batter rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli dropped one place to fifth despite his half century against Pakistan for a lost cause in the ongoing T20 World Cup while team-mate KL Rahul slipped two slots to eighth in the ICC men's T20I Player Rankings issued on Wednesday.

Kohli (725 rating points) had hit 57 off 49 balls, while Rahul (684) scored 3 runs in India's total of 151 for 7 which Pakistan chased down with 13 balls to spare for a 10-wicket win in the blockbuster Super 12 match here on Sunday.

Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan is three places up to fourth -- his career best ranking -- following his match-winning 79 not out against India and 33 in their second win against New Zealand on Tuesday.

South Africa batter Aiden Markram, who struck 40 and 51 not out against Australia and the West Indies respectively, also attained his career-best ranking. He gained eight slots to reach third position, only behind Dawid Malan (831) of England



and Paksitan captain Babar Azam (820).

Markram's previous best was ninth place last month and he now averages nearly 40 with a strike rate of 147.29 in his career.

Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz rose nine places to a career-best 12th position after notching up 46 against Scotland, while Bangladesh opener Mohammad Naim has moved up 11 places to a career-best 13th position after his 52-ball 62 against Sri Lanka.

Pakistan fast bowler Shaheen Afridi with a haul of three for 31, is up 11 places to 12th position.

Waqar Younis apologises for 'Namaz in front of Hindus' comment

PTI ■ KARACHI

Waqar Younis on Wednesday apologised for his communal remarks during a television show following Pakistan's 10-wicket victory over India in the ongoing T20 World Cup as the former Pakistan pacer was castigated on social media for his 'jihadi mindset'.

Appearing on the A Sports channel, Younis had spoken about not just the blockbuster match but also how opener Muhammad Rizwan had taken time out during a break in the Pakistan innings to offer prayers on the ground.

"What I liked the most was what Rizwan did. 'Usne Hindoon ke beech mein khade ho ke Namaz padhi (He stood in the middle of the ground and offered prayer in front of Hindus). That was something very very special for me," Younis had said.

Waqar's comments evoked a strong reaction in both the countries with former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad berating him for his remarks.



"Takes jihadi mindset of another level to say this in a sport.

What a shameless man," Prasad tweeted. Realising his blunder, Younis came out with an apology.

"In the heat of the moment, I said something which I did not mean which has hurt the sentiments of many. I apologise for this, this was not intended at all, genuine mistake. Sports unites people regardless of race, colour or religion," he tweeted.

He also apologised on the same channel.

"Commenting on religious

matters is something I never do as I respect every one's religion. I got caught up in the moment and I didn't mean to hurt the sentiments of Hindus in Pakistan, India and anywhere in the world.

"I was very excited after Pakistan's win and those words came out in the heat of the moment. I apologise for it," he added.

Noted cricket analyst Harsha Bhogle too expressed his disappointment.

"For a person of Waqar Younis' stature to say that watching Rizwan offering namaz in front of Hindus was very special to him, is one of the most disappointing things I have heard. A lot of us try hard to play such things down and talk up sport and to hear this is terrible," Bhogle tweeted.

"I really hope that a lot of genuine sports lovers in Pakistan are able to see the dangerous side to this statement and join in my disappointment. It makes it very difficult for sports lovers like us to try and tell people it is just sport, just a cricket match."

Martin Gupthill suffers toe injury, doubtful for India clash

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Experienced opener Martin Gupthill has been rendered a doubtful starter for New Zealand's Super 12 match against India on Sunday after he suffered a toe injury during their clash against Pakistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Gupthill hurt his toe after being hit by a Haris Rauf delivery during his side's five-wicket loss to Pakistan here on Tuesday night.

New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said Gupthill, who scored 17 runs from 20 balls before being cleaned up by Rauf, was not

feeling comfortable after the match.

"Gupthill was looking in a little bit of discomfort at the end of the match and the next 24 to 48 hours will be decisive," Stead told reporters after the match.

"We'll see how he scrubs up overnight. He looked in a little bit of discomfort at the end of the game and it might take 24 to 48 hours to see how he goes."

If Gupthill is ruled out of the India clash, it will be a big blow for the Kiwis, who had lost their pace spearhead Lockie Ferguson before the Pakistan match due to a calf muscle injury.

Rodrigues, Mandhana slam fifties in WBBL

PTI ■ LAUNCESTON

Jemimah Rodrigues stole the thunder from her Indian teammate Smriti Mandhana as Melbourne Renegades defeated Sydney Thunder by nine runs in the Women's Big Bash league here on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old



Rodrigues, a top-order batter for the Indian women's team,

slammed nine fours during her 56-ball 75 to power Melbourne to 142 for five.

Chasing the total, Mandhana, who opens the innings for India, smashed a 44-ball 64, studded with four hits to the fence and one maximum but it went in vain as Sydney were limited to 133 for 8 in their 20 overs.

| Match 22: ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2021 | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Oct 28, 7:30 pm IST | | | |
| Australia vs Sri Lanka | | | |
| Dubai International Stadium | | | |
| ICC Rank 6 | ICC T20I Rank 6 | ICC Rank 9 | ICC T20I Rank 9 |
| Head-to-Head in T20s | | | |
| AUSTRALIA | 16 Played | 16 Won | 16 Sri Lanka |
| AUSTRALIA | 8 Won | 8 Lost | 8 Sri Lanka |
| 263/3 Highest Total 198/3 | | | |
| In T20 World Cup | | | |
| AUSTRALIA | 3 Played | 3 Won | 3 Sri Lanka |
| AUSTRALIA | 2 Won | 1 Lost | 2 Sri Lanka |
| 168/5 Highest Total 160/4 | | | |
| K&K SportsGraphics | | | |

OTHER SPORTS

Srikanth's fight ends at French Open

PTI ■ PARIS

Kidambi Srikanth suffered a heart-breaking defeat against top seed Kento Momota to make a second round exit but India's mixed doubles team of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini

Ponnappa advanced at the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament, here on Wednesday.

The Rio quarterfinalist played his heart out to match the Japanese and also held two-point lead towards the end of the decider but ended up losing the men's singles second round in 79-minute match.

Srikanth had lost to Momota last week also at Denmark Open but he produced a much better display here and came agonisingly close to outwitting the two-



time world champion only to fall short in the end.

Rankireddy and Ponappa, the world number 24 pair beat Denmark's Mathias Thyrrri and Mai Surrow in 37 minutes.

They are likely to face second seeded Indonesian pair of Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti next.Srikanth ran up a 4-0 lead but Momota clawed back to level the score.

He again moved to a 8-5 advantage only to see the Japanese eke out a slender 11-10 lead at the break.

Milan beats Torino 1-0

AP ■ MILAN

AC Milan again struggled in a 1-0 win that saw it move three points clear at the top of Serie A.

Olivier Giroud scored the only goal of the match in the 14th minute to help Milan move clear of second-place Napoli, which hosts Bologna on Thursday.

"We take the three points, that's the most important," Giroud said.

"We play every three days and it's very difficult for the body. Everything was not perfect, but we are very pleased with the win tonight. Torino is a tough team to play against."

The Rossoneri were still dealing with an injury crisis, but defender Theo Hernández was fit for a place on the bench after recovering from the coronavirus.

Milan was the only team in the top six in Serie A to win over the weekend but only narrowly avoided embarrassment as two late goals helped it beat nine-man Bologna 4-2.

It seemed as if matters had improved when Milan took the lead after Rade Krunic nodded on a corner for Giroud to tap in from a couple of yards.

However, the Rossoneri barely had another sight of a goal in a mediocre match.

11 athletes recommended for Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold at the Tokyo Olympics, and silver medal-winning wrestler Ravi Dahiya were on Wednesday recommended for the Khel Ratna as an unprecedented 11 athletes were selected for the country's highest sporting honour.

Boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who won a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics, seasoned hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and woman cricket Test skipper

Mithali Raj were also recommended for the Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna by the selection committee.



Iconic Sunil Chhetri also became the country's first footballer to be selected for the honour.

Last year, five athletes were picked for the award while four were selected after the 2016 Rio Games.

The announcement of the national sports awards was delayed in order to consider the performance of the para-athletes in the Tokyo Paralympics (August 24 to September 5).

Indian boxers continue unbeaten run

PTI ■ BELGRADE

Debutant Nishant Dev (71kg) became the seventh Indian boxer to enter the second round of the AIBA men's World Championships with a confident 5-0 triumph over Hungary's Laszlo Kozak here on Wednesday.

Dev will next fight Mauritian Mervyn Clair, who got a bye in the first round, and his victory maintained the unbeaten run of the country's pugilists at the ongoing showpiece.

Dev's win was a perfect start to the day for the country after Sumit (75kg) and Narender Berwal (+92kg) advanced to the second round of their respective categories with fine victories late last night.



An Ode to the
Rich, Diverse and Unique
Tribal Culture of the World

Three Day NATIONAL TRIBAL DANCE FESTIVAL

28th-30th October, 2021

More than 1000 artists from
7 Countries | **27** Indian States & **6** Union Territories

Artists from Uganda, Nigeria, Uzbekistan,
Swaziland, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Palestine & Syria
to showcase their unique dance forms

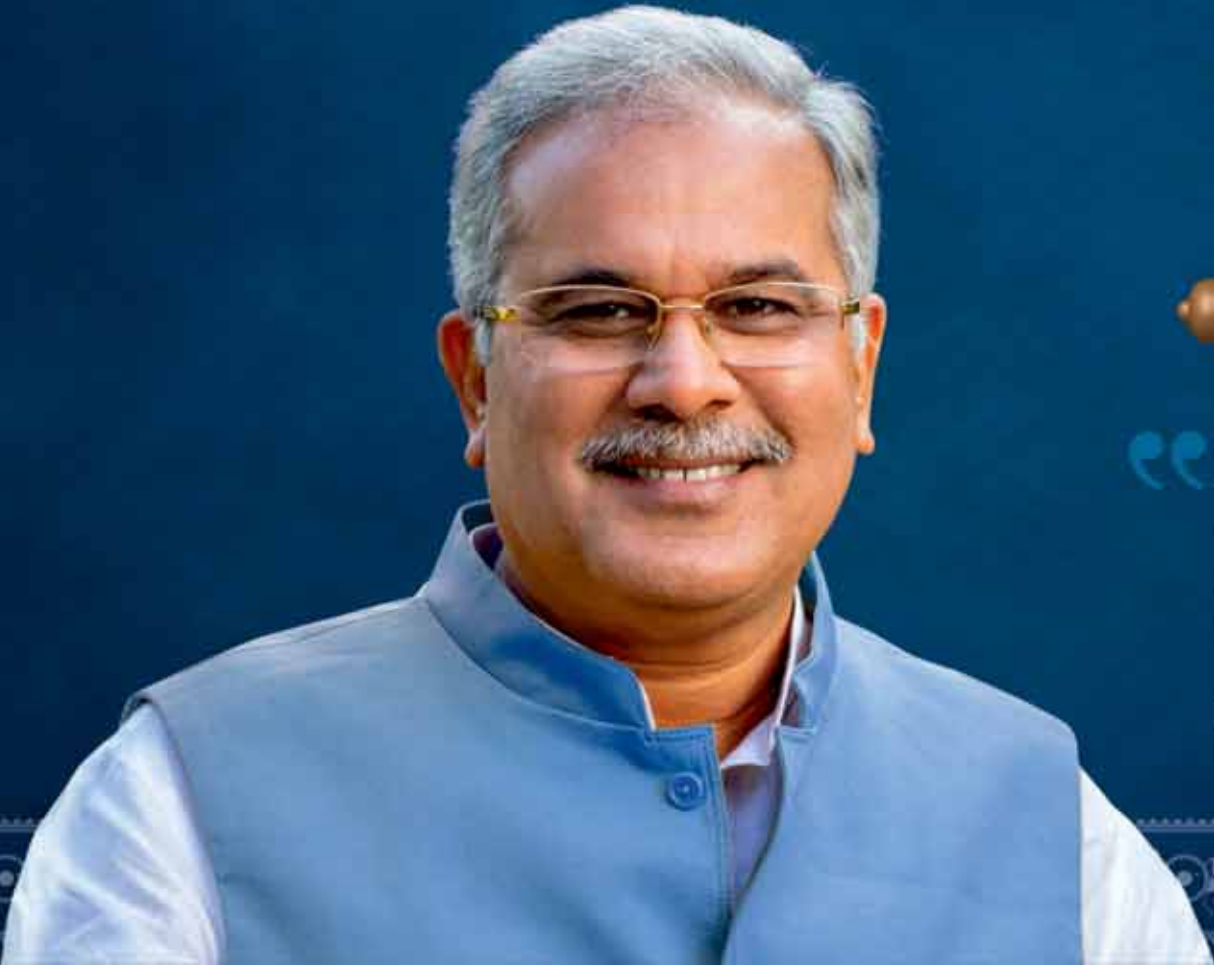
Dance Performance in 2 Categories
Wedding Ceremonies & Traditional Rituals

Prize Money in Each Category

1st Prize
5
Lakh

2nd Prize
3
Lakh

3rd Prize
2
Lakh



OPENING CEREMONY

11 am | 28 October 2021
Science College Ground, Raipur

Chief Guest

Shri Hemant Soren

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand

Presided by

Shri Bhupesh Baghel

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Guests of Honour

Shri K.C. Venugopal, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha

Shri P.L. Punia, Hon'ble Former MP, Rajya Sabha

Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha

Dr Charan Das Mahant

Hon'ble Speaker, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly

Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala

Hon'ble Former Minister, Govt of Haryana

Shri B.K. Hariprasad, Hon'ble Former MP, Rajya Sabha

Shri Bhaktacharan Das, Hon'ble Former Union Minister

Shri Manoj Mandavi

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly

Shri Mohan Markam, Hon'ble MLA

Other Distinguished Guests

Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu, Hon'ble Minister

Shri T.S. Singhdeo, Hon'ble Minister

Shri Ravindra Choubey, Hon'ble Minister

Dr Premsai Singh Tekam, Hon'ble Minister

Shri Mohammad Akbar, Hon'ble Minister

Shri Kawasi Lakhma, Hon'ble Minister

Dr Shivkumar Daharia, Hon'ble Minister

Smt. Anila Bhendia, Hon'ble Minister

Shri Jaisingh Agrawal, Hon'ble Minister

Shri Guru Rudra Kumar, Hon'ble Minister

Shri Umesh Patel, Hon'ble Minister

Shri Amarjit Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister

Shri Sunil Soni, Hon'ble MP, Raipur

Shri Chintamani Maharaj, Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary

Shri Vikas Upadhyay, Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary

Shri Kunwar Singh Nishad

Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary

Shri Dwarikadhish Yadav, Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary

Shri Satyanarayan Sharma, Hon'ble MLA

Shri Dhanendra Sahu, Hon'ble MLA

Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, Hon'ble MLA

Shri Kuldeep Juneja, Hon'ble MLA

Smt. Anita Sharma, Hon'ble MLA

&

All Hon'ble MPs, MLAs, Parliamentary Secretaries Hon'ble
President, Vice President of Corporations, Boards, Commissions,
District Panchayats and Hon'ble Mayors will
Grace the Occasion with their Presence

You all are Cordially Invited to the
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Chhattisgarh is home to many indigenous tribes which have
been an integral part and pride of our ancient cultural heritage.
This National Tribal Dance Festival aims to promote and
celebrate the uniqueness of tribal culture and showcase the
richness and diversity of tribal life on a global platform

Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

