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Govt OK's big telecom reforms

Allows 4-year moratorium on dues, 100% FDI, PLI scheme for auto, drones

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved major reforms in telecom sector by handing out a four-year moratorium on payment of dues. The Cabinet also approved 100 per cent FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in telecom via the automatic route. The Government also came out with a ₹26,058 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries.

The four-year moratorium in the AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) dues is a major relief to telecom players Vodafone-Idea, facing acute financial problems, and Airtel. They have a combined dues of more than ₹80,000 crore.

The Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi also approved a slew of measures in spectrum usage charges, sharing of spectrum and 100 per cent FDI in telecom sector.

Briefing reporters on the decisions taken by the Cabinet, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said nine structural reforms for the telecom sector were approved. The definition

of AGR, which had been a major reason for the stress in the sector, has been rationalised by excluding non-telecom revenue of telecom companies.

AGR refers to revenues that are considered for payment of statutory dues.

The Minister said spectrum user charges will also be rationalised. In other measures expected to ease the cash flow issues being faced by most big telcos.

The FDI easing rule will apply to all areas of telecom, including the manufacture of infrastructure. Earlier, 100 per cent FDI was allowed in telecom equipment manufacturing and provision of IT-enabled services, but only 49 per cent came under the automatic route.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said that ₹26,058 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries will enhance India's manufacturing capabilities. The PLI scheme will incentivize the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India, added Thakur.



Union Ministers Anurag Thakur and Ashwini Vaishnav during a Press briefing on the Cabinet decisions at National Media Centre in New Delhi on Wednesday

MAJOR REFORM PUSH

• The four-year moratorium in the AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) dues is a major relief to telecom players Vodafone-Idea, facing acute financial problems, and Airtel. They have a combined dues of more than ₹80,000 crore

• In another significant decision, the Cabinet cleared 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the telecom sector through automatic route, which will encourage greater participation of players. However, all safeguards will apply, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said

• The Cabinet also rationalised definition of AGR by excluding non-telecom revenue of



telecom players from payment of statutory levies

• Bank guarantees have also been rationalised, while interest rates too have been modified with removal of penalties

• For future spectrum auctions, no bank guarantees will be needed. Also the spectrum tenure has been increased from 20 years to 30 years. Surrendering of spectrum will only be allowed after 10 years, the Cabinet decided

Tata Sons, SpiceJet bid for Air India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Sons and SpiceJet's Ajay Singh have emerged as bidders for the Air India disinvestment on the last day for putting in the financial bid on Wednesday.

If Tata buys Air India, the history will come full circle and this will mark the return of the airline to a group after 67 years which had built and nurtured it into one of the world's finest airlines until grasping and sloppy Governments run it into the ground.

Taking to Twitter, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, said the disinvestment process now moves to the concluding stage. "Financial bids for Air India disinvestment received by Transaction Adviser. Process now moves to concluding stage," Pandey tweeted.

The financial bids will be evaluated against an undisclosed reserve price and the bid offering the highest price above that benchmark would be accepted. The bid will be initially examined by the transaction advisor before the recommendation is sent to the Cabinet for approval.

If Tata wins, AI will return to it after 67 years



According to reports, a Tata Sons spokesperson has confirmed that Tatas have submitted a financial bid for Air India. Though Tata Sons have confirmed their participation in the financial bid, sources said the promoter of domestic carrier SpiceJet, Ajay Singh, also reported to have placed the bids for Air India disinvestment. Tata Group was among the multiple entities that had put in initial expression of interest (EOI) in December 2020 for buying the Maharaja.

Tata, who founded Air India in 1932, is seen among the front-runners for getting the airline back. The Government nationalised the airline in 1953. Tatas operate a premier full-service carrier, Vistara, in partnership with Singapore Airlines.

Delhi Govt moves SC against power to L-G

Says amendments to GNCTD Act kills 'principles of federalism'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court against the Centre's amendments to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act claiming the Centre is violating the "principles of federalism".

Importantly, the Centre, through its amendments, has given more power to the Lieutenant Governor than the elected Government of the people of Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government said in a Press



statement issued from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

Issuing a statement on the development, the Delhi Government said with GNCTD Act Centre's attempt to treat the Lieutenant Governor as the "default administering authority over the NCT of Delhi", encroaches upon the powers of the legislators. "The Centre's amend-

ments violate the basic structure of the Constitution; go against section 239-AA and constitutional bench order," quoted Delhi Government's statement.

The Delhi Government has challenged the constitutionality of Sections 21, 24, 33, 44 of the GNCTD Act, 1991 and Rules 3, 6A, 10, 14, 15, 19, 22, 23, 25, 47A, 49, 52 and 57 of Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993.

It is important to mention here that in 2016, following differences between the L-G and the Delhi Government in respect of powers, duties and governance, the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court had held that the Council of Ministers shall inform all its decisions to the L-G but that does not mean the accord of the L-G is required.

RS BY-ELECTION Notification issued for lone seat from MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

With issuance of a notification on Wednesday regarding by-election for a Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh, the process for submission of nomination papers commenced but no candidate did so on this day.

The by-poll was necessitated due to resignation of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Mr Thaaarchand Gehlot on July 7. Gehlot was appointed as Karnataka Governor.

"September 22 is the last date for submitting nomination papers, scrutiny is scheduled for the following day, September 27 is the deadline for withdrawal of candidature and voting — if required — will be conducted on October 4," Principal Secretary (State Assembly) AP Singh said.

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In the 230-strong Vidhan Sabha, the ruling BJP has 125 members, the Congress 95, Bahujan Samaj Party two and Samajwadi Party one. There are four independents and three positions are vacant. As the Congress announced that it would not field any nominee, the outcome is a foregone conclusion.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches a campaign 'War Against Dengue with the People' in Bhopal on Wednesday

CAPSULE

RAJYA SABHA TMC MP ARPITA GHOSH RESIGNS

New Delhi: TMC MP Arpita Ghosh has resigned from the Rajya Sabha and her resignation has been accepted by the Vice President, a notification from the RS Secretariat said on Wednesday. Ghosh was among those suspended during the ruckus in RS in the recently concluded parliament session where both MPs and marshals were allegedly injured.

FAIRS, EXHIBITIONS TO BE ALLOWED IN DELHI

New Delhi: Public fairs and exhibitions will be allowed in Delhi from Thursday, under a phased reopening of activities interrupted by the lockdown.

COVID LIKELY TO BECOME ENDEMIC IN INDIA: EXPERT

New Delhi: Covid will start becoming endemic in India in the next six months, a top expert has said, asserting that a new variant can't alone bring a third wave of infections. "This pandemic has defied most of our predictions but in the next six months, we will approach endemic status," Sujet Singh, the Director of the National Centre for Disease Control said.

Chouhan addresses Panch-Sarpanch Conference in Alirajpur district

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed the Panch-Sarpanch Conference at Chandrasekhar Azad Nagar in Alirajpur district. He reached the birthplace of its former immortal revolutionary Chandrasekhar Azad and paid homage to him. Chouhan said in the conference that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is engaged in building a prosperous and powerful nation. We should all work together in this work.

Chouhan said that he wants to come to this holy land of revolutionary Chandrasekhar Azad every year. The memories of the martyrs will be preserved in the state. He announced the construction of Azad Park and said that it would inspire patriotism among the citizens coming from all over the country. Minister in charge of the district Rajwardhan Singh Dattigaon, MP Guman Singh

Damore and other people's representatives and people's representatives of rural areas were present in the program.

The Chief Minister said that we have to make Madhya Pradesh self-reliant where social justice can be available to all with social harmony. He said that many schemes have been formulated to meet the basic needs of farmers and villagers like bread, cloth and houses. On the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an honor fund is being given to the farmers, in which the Government of Madhya Pradesh is also giving its contribution. The poor are being given free rations and their own house in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Chouhan described Baira brand of products of women's self help group in Alirajpur district as a good initiative. He said that women of self help groups will now become more empowered. The work of sewing school uniforms will be

done by women only and no contractor will be involved in this work.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the work of digging wells of Kapil Dhara in the fields of the farmers whose water has not reached the area will be done by running a campaign. He was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner Dr. Instructed Pawan Kumar Sharma that work like naming and distribution of farmers should run smoothly.

Chief Minister Chouhan directed that the students of the area should be given better training at the expense of the government for examinations like NEET and JEE. In the time to come, many opportunities will be provided to provide employment to the youth, including filling up government posts in the backlog. He said that development works in the district would be accelerated and the picture of the area would change positively.

India records 11.8% rise in cybercrimes in 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India recorded 50,035 cases of cybercrime in 2020, marking 11.8 per cent surge in such offences in contrast to 2019.

As many as 578 incidents of "fake news on social media" were also reported, according to official data released on Wednesday by the National Crime Records Bureau.

Among the States, the maximum 11,097 cybercrime cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh followed by Karnataka (10,741), Maharashtra (5,496), Assam (5,024) and Assam (3,530), it showed.

However, the crime rate was highest in Karnataka with 16.2 per cent followed by Telangana (13.4 per cent), Assam (10.1 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (4.8 per cent) and Maharashtra (4.4 per cent), the data revealed.

The rate of cybercrime



(incidents per lakh population) also increased marginally from 3.3 per cent in 2019 to 3.7 per cent in 2020 in the country, according to the NCRB data.

In 2020, 4,047 cases of online banking fraud, 1,093 OTP frauds and 1,194 credit/debit card fraud were reported. A many as 2,160 cases related to ATM were reported in 2020.

There were also 578 cases of fake news on social media,

the year with a crime rate of 0.8 per cent.

The NCRB, which is responsible for collecting and analysing crime data at the pan-India level as defined by the Indian Penal Code and special and local laws in the country.

972 related to cyberstalking or bullying of women and children, 149 incidents of fake profile and 98 of data theft in 2020, the data suggested.

In terms of motive, the maximum 60.2 per cent cyber crimes lodged in 2020 were done for fraud (30,142 out of 50,035 cases), the NCRB, which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs, stated.

It was followed by sexual exploitation with 6.6 per cent (3,293 cases) and extortion 4.9 per cent (2,440 cases), the data showed.

The national Capital Delhi recorded 168 such cases during

80 murders a day in India in 2020: NCRB

New Delhi: India reported an average 80 murders daily in 2020, totalling 29,193 fatalities over the year, with Uttar Pradesh topping the chart among States, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data issued on Wednesday.

Free refraction camp held for Bidi labourers

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital organized a free refraction camp for Bidi labourer in Chandbad Bhopal based Bidi Laborer welfare fund dispensary here today. This camp was organized in the joint collaboration of INGO Sight Savers and NGO Aarambh.

The camp was inaugurated by the Commissioner labor welfare organization Jabalpur B.R. Khemundu. Managing Trustee of SSEH L.C. Janiyani, Tulsu Adwani, Programme manager Manoj Dhavadia and Anoop Kishore Sahay of Aarambh were also mainly present.

Sr. Optometrist Eash Kumar Chaubey and Prakash Sharma examined the vision of ailing 102 patients as many as 93 persons were found of weak vision and they were advised to dispense the specs. While cataract were found in 13

patients. The surgeries of these patients will be done in SSEH on September 25th, 2021. Blood pressure and Glucose test of 40 people was also done in the camp.

Khemundu told that the timely examination of vision of Bidi laborer can save their vision and by this way they can be able to work for their livelihood for long time. He further said the organization regularly try for periodic health check-up of laborers.

Khemundu lauded the cooperation of SSEH in organizing free refraction camp. Managing Trustee L.C. Janiyani threw light on the activities and achievement of SSEH. He assured the organization to co-operate them in future also. Assistant Labor administrator Ajay Meena and Bidi Laborer welfare fund dispensary physician Dr. Harsh Vardhan Soman were also present on the occasion.

'Businesses must keep up with changing digital technology trend'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

With globalization and digital becoming increasingly popular in B2B and B2C, marketing automation is critical to providing distinct tailored customer experiences. Promoting, growing, and evolving the business, especially in pharma, requires an integrated digital marketing strategy.

Speaking on the importance of digital marketing, Puneet Singh, Senior Marketing Manager, StayHappy Pharmacy says, "In order to remain relevant, businesses must keep up with the changes brought about by digital technology. These disruptive trends are ubiquitous and are helping us to identify which digital technologies will add the most value, and will lead organizations as they develop a successful strategy."

Big data plays a pivotal role in digital marketing. The internet's massive volume of information is the driving force

behind digital transformation. It is being utilized for diagnostic and prediction purposes and is an enabler that can give insights into sales cycles, which can be useful for a new digital strategy in the early stages and on an ongoing basis.

Social media is another large influencer as many people rely on medical information acquired through social media. Social media can be optimized by using hash tags, sharing and commenting on company's website, and other social media platforms. Utilizing messaging applications like Facebook, Messenger, or Whatsapp helps pharma companies to hold personal discussions with consumers, patients, and partners.

Owing to its ability to significantly outperform humans, AI technology has become crucial to pharma companies. AI in the form of chatbots are being used to improve organizational efficiency, perform key tasks, and answer client, patient, or customer queries.



Students undergo thermal screening after the State Government reopened Colleges and Universities in Bhopal on Wednesday. Students have to submit a vaccination certificate to attend physical classes
Pioneer Photo

Life is synonymous with struggle: Bhadu

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Perhaps there will be no person in this world who does not have struggles and challenges in life. Each one has its own problems and different challenges. Some do not have food to eat and some have so much that they are unable to decide. Some women want to work outside the home, while some women are worried about working as a laborer. If there is money then there is no time, if there is time then there is no health. Overall, every single person constantly fights this war called life. The wonder is that victory over it comes in the form of death. Now it is a matter of relief that in this war one gets the taste of success from time to time. The life of Govind Badu presents a better example of this.

Govind Badu comes from a normal middle-class family. Dreaming big in childhood



was also a big thing for him. Today, Govind Badu has set an example in front of the youth by achieving success in his life, as well as he fills thousands of youth with the determination to do something through his countless stories like himself.

Govind says, "Life is synonymous with struggle and challenge. Never give up on this. The more we face it, the more we get to learn from it.

Experience, resources, support are all things to say. If there is determination in the mind, then a person can overcome the biggest challenge. When we decide that we have to do something in life, then lakhs of troubles come, we are not affected by it." How Govind narrates the stories of his countless youths so that the youths who are wandering in search of their destination get away.

MP, heart of India, known for innovations: Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Tourism, Culture and Spirituality Minister Usha Thakur said that Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India, is known for its innovations. This initiative of the tourism department to upgrade the skills and provide employment to the artists of the state will surely become the basis of Aatm-Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh. Thakur was addressing at the launch of the one-day educational and interactive session "The Expert Shots" workshop organised by the Department of Tourism at Minto Hall.

Thakur said that along with training and knowledge of various genres and techniques of cinema world in the workshop, youths would also get inspiration from the life struggles and experiences of experienced and eminent artists. During the production of films

in the state, employment will be available to the artists at the local level only.

She further said that contents like films and web series are not only means of entertainment but also medium of communication and protection of culture, traditions and nationalism. On the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Thakur urged the directors, producers and eminent artists associated with the state to produce film or web series based on the lives of the heroes, warriors who made sacrifices and great men of the freedom struggle belonging to the state. With this, the future generations of the state will be able to get acquainted with the life struggle, sacrifice and golden history of India of the brave revolutionaries and great men.

Principal Secretary Tourism Sheo Shekhar Shukla said that the film industry has appreciat-

ed the natural beauty, cordiality of people and work culture of Madhya Pradesh. In the last years, good film projects have been completed in Madhya Pradesh. The tourism department has started a new initiative for the education and training of the artists of the state with the belief that this film project and web series production should become a medium for the advancement of the youth. This workshop will prove to be a milestone in the creation of an organic eco-system of film making.

Shilpa Gupta, Additional Managing Director, Tourism Board, said that Madhya Pradesh Film Tourism Policy 2020 has been implemented to encourage state and international film production in the state. Under this policy, the process of grant and permission for film making has been simplified. Due to which there has been an increase in the



shooting of various films / web series / TV series etc. in the state. During the production of films, this workshop has been organised to increase employment opportunities to the artists and youth of the state and to enhance their institutional skills.

Renowned film director Anurag Basu said that eminent director Prakash Jha had started the process of film production in Madhya Pradesh.

Which drew the attention of all the big filmmakers of the film industry towards Madhya Pradesh. Now Madhya Pradesh has become the most favourite destination of film making. This workshop will not only be beneficial for the youth of the state, but the film industry will be able to get skilled artists at the local level. This is a win-win condition for both the film industry and the artists of the state.

Music and dance event organised under Gamak series

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under Gamak series, Ustad Alauddin Khan Sangeet and Kala Akademi organised music and dance event on Wednesday.

Mandira Halve and group from Bhopal performed classical music and Kathak was performed by Srishiti Gupta and group. The event was broadcasted live on the department's YouTube channel.

The presentation started with singing in which artist Mandira and group perform the raga Yaman Bada Khayal Ek Taal, Mero Kartar Sharan, and Chhota Khayal Madhyalay Trital Mero Kartar Sharan.

She was accompanied by Swapnil Bagul on Tabla, Satyam Sharma on Harmonium,

Shirao Khan on Sarangi and Parul Singh on Padant.

The next performance was Kathak dance in which Srishiti started the presentation with "Shiv Panchakshar". Next presentation Pure Kathak dance in Teentaal. In the presentation, the traditional bandish, practice, of Raigad Gharana were presented.

The presentation concluded with Thumri- Mohe Chhedo Nahi Shyam. This thumri was composed in Raag Mishra Peelu and Taal Deepchandi. It was sung by Rasika Kulkarni, while on tabla, Ashresh Upadhyay and on sitar, Anirudh Joshi accompanies.

The speedy footwork and wondrous expressions marked their beautiful performance.

ICCR Bhopal to organise presentations for art lovers

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Regional Office, Bhopal is organising presentations of various forms of art and music for the art lovers. In the same sequence, under the online Horizon series, the programme "Sur Tarang" was organized under the Kala Vishwa - special campaign. An from Bhopal Ambrish Gangrade gave his scintillating online performance in the musical evening of sitar playing at ICCR, Bhopal.

He performed Raga - Bhimpalasi, bilpiti bhaaptal, mahalaya, Dutlay - 16 matra Teen Taal. Ambrish Gangrade

was born in Gauharganj, District Raisen. The first gurus of music and spirituality, Puiya Vishwanath Prakash Brahmachari Maharaj and Puiya Ghanshyam Das Brahmachari Chinmaya Dham Nemavar district Dewas, he received formal education of music from childhood under the guidance of your father Ramprasad. The journey of music started with Balsabha Akashvani, currently you are a B-grade artist in sitar playing, and further analysis in the field of music is going on under the guidance of Guru Pandit Karthik Kumar. Pandit Ravi Shankar, Pandit Karthik Kumar, Ramji Gadre and

Pandit G.P. Bharadwaj has been your ideal teacher.

He also gave successful presentations on many prestigious forums at the national and international level. He has also received many awards and honors at the government / non-government level in the presentation of sitar playing. He has his own specialty on playing sitar in odd and out of date talas. He has also been honored in Rajbhasha, Tansen Rasik and Musician etc. Apart from this, he also made the blind school self-reliant by giving music training to the blind school as guest guru in Indira Sangeet Vidyalaya Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal under the Social Justice Department.

Webinar on Remote Sensing, GIS Mapping ends

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Webinar on Remote Sensing and GIS Mapping concluded in Radharaman

College on Wednesday. The daylong webinar on the topic of Remote Sensing and GIS Mapping was organized in Radharaman group. Students and teachers of the group's IT subjects participated in this webinar organized at the chief hospitality of Mukesh Gupta, subject expert and IT officer of the state government.

Radharaman Group's director R. Pandey and Head of Department of Civil Engineering Ajay Singh and Pankaj Rao Mahore discussed this topic in detail. Jaipal Singh Bisht, deputy

director of the institution said that GIS lab of latest technology will be set up in Radharaman Group soon, so that students of other branches including civil, computer, EC will be able to take advantage.

Mukesh Gupta explained that Remote Sensing provides us with a continuous and continuous source of information about the Earth, whereas Geographic Information System (GIS) is a methodology to handle all this geographical data.

The combination of these two disciplines allows us to conduct large-scale analysis of the Earth's surface and, at the same time, provide more and more detailed knowledge about many planets and improve our understanding of them. These analyzes are essential

for making decisions on sustainable management of natural resources, designing protected area networks, and addressing threats to global change.

He also told that through this we can easily know about the positioning of satellites and also the location of airplanes.

Group Chairman RR Saxena said that the purpose of this webinar was to make the students aware of the latest information about these cutting edge technologies. He said that his group keeps on acquainting the students with the aspects of practical knowledge along with academic knowledge through such events from time to time so that the students can become industry ready after completing their studies.



Film director Anurag Basu during an interactive session 'The Expert Shot' a film making training programme for the students organised by MP Tourism Board at Minto Hall in Bhopal on Wednesday
Pioneer Photo

Youth dies after falling from 3rd floor

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 21-year-old youth died after he fell from third floor while working at EWS building at Bhanpur on Tuesday; Nishatpura police have started investigation.

A youth was rushed to a nearby hospital after he fell from third floor while working where he was declared brought dead. The deceased was identified as Vishnu Prajapati.

After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem and a case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered. The police have started further investigation.

Meanwhile, a 35-year-old man died after he fell while painting at a building near Pranjal hospital under Ashoka Garden police station area on Tuesday.

A building painter was rushed to a nearby hospital after he fell from terrace while painting where he was declared brought dead. The deceased was identified as Santosh Vanshkar.

After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem and a case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered. The police have started further investigation. In the initial investigation police found that the deceased was painting at the third floor while his aide Dinesh was at the terrace holding the swing and during work deceased lost balance and fell which resulted in his death.

West Central Railway GM interacts with journalists

PNS ■ JABALPUR

West Central Railway General Manager Shailendra Kumar Singh today interacted with the journalists during the press conference at Satpura Club WCR, Jabalpur.

In this press conference Additional General Manager of Headquarters Shobhan Choudhury and Principal Chief Operating Manager Shri Rajesh Pathak, Head Chief Engineer AK Pandey, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction VK Agarwal, Chief Chief Security Commissioner Shri PK Gupta and Chief Commercial Manager (Passenger Services) Brijendra Kumar were present.

Chief Public Relations Officer Rahul Jaipuria told of 06 new MEMU trains (Satna-Katni, Katni-Itarsi, Katni-Bina, Bina-Bhopal, Satna-Manikpur

and Katni-Bargawan). Establishment of 03 Oxygen Generating Plants (Jabalpur, Bhopal and Kota) in NWR Created the first zone.

Madhya Pradesh's first automatic coach washing plant was set up at Habibganj, WCR. A total of 341 km has been commissioned after completing 132 km of triple work. PMRE this year

Commissioned in 2021-22 after completing 61 km doubling and 33 km doubling. WCR 100 percent electrification work completed 347 km in the year 2019-20 and 486 km in 2020-21. The stations are being redeveloped and Habibganj is being made a world class station.

Electricity savings of Rs 315 crore was made in Wi-Fi at 100% stations (272 stations) by WCR for and Lighting facility (60 stations) has been provided like airport.

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Miscreants steal valuables worth ₹55k

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the burglary the almirah which was having the valuables was targeted and the other valuables were not disturbed. The lock of the almirah was found broken and the jewelry were found burgled.

Police suspects that miscreants were aware regarding whereabouts of the family. The CCTV cameras of the area and nearby cameras have been checked and to establish the identity of the miscreants has been started as investigation is on.

Meanwhile, Ashoka Garden police have booked a miscreant for hacking an email and linking the account of victim; police have started investigation.

Ravi Kushwaha of Ektapuri lodged complaint with the police regarding hacking his email and linking the account. Based on the complaint police registered case under section 420 of the IPC against mobile phone user with mobile number 9692864092.

Miscreants targeted a house at Sundar Nagar and escaped with valuables worth Rs 55000 on Tuesday; Ashoka Garden police have started investigation into the matter.

Police said that the victim Naushad Ali with his family to attend an event and when he returned valuables were found missing and a complaint was lodged by the victim with the Ashoka Garden police.

In the complaint victim stated that they left house to attend an event and when returned valuables were found burgled. The victim claimed that gold and silver jewelry and the total loss in the burglary is around Rs 55000.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case of burglary against unidentified miscreants and have started further investigation.

Pilla Venkata Shekhar tops JEE Mains 2021

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal's Pilla Venkata Shekhar topped the State in JEE Mains 2021 and secured first rank on State-level.

A student of Two Year School Integrated Program (Pinnacle) Student of FIITJEE Bhopal Center is Madhya Pradesh (MP) State Topper with scoring 100 percentile in Physics and Math. He has secured 63rd All India Ranking.

While sharing his contentment, he said, "I was pretty prepared for such a result as I always worked towards it. I have put all my hard work for JEE as I had my plans and made my plans workout." As he shared more about his mantra of success, he said, "I had my goals set and so I planned my studies in such a manner that I never felt burdened with my studies."

The students got relief after a long wait. The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Wednesday afternoon uploaded the results of the fourth stage of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main on its website.

NTA would be calculating the ranks only after all the session of March, April and May

have also been conducted. Cut off for JEE Advanced 2021 would also be shared only at the time of the final result of JEE Main 2021.

With the JEE Main Feb 2021 Session results declared by NTA, India's premier institute in engineering training, FIITJEE has a reason to rejoice and celebrate its students' feat.

Yash Virani, A student of 4-Year classroom program at FIITJEE's Bhopal Center has been declared Bhopal City Topper, securing NTA score 99.9736073 in JEE Main Feb session 2021. He scored NTA Score 99.9648097 in Physics, 99.943 in Chemistry and 99.96 in Maths respectively.

He started his coaching with FIITJEE's 4 Year Classroom Program and switched to Pinnacle Program for class XI and XII. Yash Virani was also qualified NTSE in 2018. He is also KVPY fellow.

Shashwat Jha, another 4-year classroom program student of FIITJEE Bhopal center secured 99.9003736 NTA score. The other top performers from FIITJEE Bhopal Center so far are Sparsh Mittal with 99.89 NTA score, Utkarsh Maurya with 99.86 NTA score.

Delhi Govt bans sale, storage of firecrackers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday announced a complete ban imposed on the storage, sale and use of all types of firecrackers in view of the dangerous pollution situation.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to traders not to do any kind of firecracker stocking.

The decision has been taken after reviewing the pollution levels around Diwali in the last three years.

"It was essential for the Delhi Government to implement the ban in order to save lives. The decision has been taken at this juncture considering two critical factors. First, the pollution situation can prove to be fatal considering the trends of the previous years. Second, to prevent traders from indulging in any kind of stocking and sale/purchase preemptively," Kejriwal said.

Kejriwal took to Twitter to highlight the criticality of the timing of the ban and said, "In view of the dangerous condition of pollution in Delhi during the Diwali period for the last 3 years, like last year, a complete ban is being imposed on the storage, sale and use of



all types of firecrackers. So that people's lives can be saved. Last year, a complete ban on firecrackers was imposed late after assessing the seriousness of the situation. This caused losses to the traders. It is an appeal to all the traders that this time in view of the complete ban, please do not do any kind of stocking."

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that National

Green Tribunal (NGT) had called for a complete ban on the use of firecrackers during the pandemic period wherever the air quality levels fall in the poor category. He reiterated that the third wave can arise at any point of time and the decision has been taken to keep control over the fatality of the situation in that prospect.

Rai said, "the NGT had directed a complete ban on fire-

crackers during the Covid-19 pandemic, where the air quality falls under the poor category and beyond.

The data of CPCB for the last three years shows Delhi is almost in the poor pollution index. Last year, besides Delhi - Rajasthan, Orissa, Sikkim, West Bengal, Chandigarh, 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh had imposed a complete ban on firecrackers."

Meet held to discuss pollution in Yamuna river

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Water Minister and Chairman of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Satyendar Jain held a meeting with the senior officials of DJB and 'Irrigation and Flood Control Department' to discuss the inter-state pollution in the Yamuna.

Jain said "The drains coming from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh will be treated either by diverting to 'Sewage Treatment Plant' STPs or through in-situ drain treatment. This treated water will be used for rejuvenating lakes and water bodies, groundwater recharge and the rest will be discharged into the Yamuna River."

Yamuna receives 105 MGD of wastewater from Haryana through two major drains i.e. 90 MGD from Badshahpur drain coming from Gurugram



and Drain no.6 coming from Sonipat. Similarly, 50 MGD of wastewater from Uttar Pradesh falls into Ghazipur Drain in Delhi region which eventually drains into the Yamuna River.

"Cleaning the Yamuna is

the topmost priority of the Kejriwal Government. Thus, the government of Delhi will clean all the sources that pollute this holy river. Delhi Government has taken the task upon itself to clean the waste-

water generated from UP and Haryana within the boundaries of the national capital. This is the additional work that will be done at the expense of the Delhi Government," he said.

'Govt committed to promotion of Govt servants'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Home Minister Narottam Mishra has said that the government is committed to the promotion of government servants.

Mishra was presiding over a meeting of the group of ministers constituted at the Ministry on Wednesday to provide promotion opportunities to government servants of Madhya Pradesh during their service period as per eligibility.

The group of ministers unanimously decided that discussions would be held with Ajax, SPAX and other parties before the next meeting. In the meeting, Water Resources Minister Shri Tulsiram Silawat, Forest Minister Vijay Shah and Cooperatives Minister Arvind Bhadauria were present. Minister of State for

School Education and Minister of State for General Administration (Independent Charge) Inder Singh Parmar joined online.

In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary General Administration Vinod Kumar informed about the provisions made in Public Service Promotion Rules-2002 and New Promotion Rules-2021.

The Group of Ministers discussed in detail all the legal and constitutional aspects related to the promotion rules. In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary Home Rajesh Rajoura, Additional Chief Secretary Water Resources S.N. Mishra, Additional Chief Secretary I.C.P. Kesari and other officers including ADG Ashok Kumar Awasthi were present.

Man who cuts nose of his wife arrested by Khajuri Sadak Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Khajuri Sadak police have nabbed 39-year-old man who attacked and cut nose of his wife at their house at Barkheda Bondar; accused attacked after a fight with his wife at their house.

According to the police, victim Manisha Dohre was attacked with a sharp edged weapon by her husband Pritam Dohre. The sister and brother-in-law rushed victim to private hospital in Karond.

Police were informed and on the receipt a tea reached and based on the complaint arrested the accused. Police registered case under sections 323, 324, 326, 506 of the IPC and

started investigation and arrested the accused.

In her complaint victim stated that her husband Pritam Dohre is unemployed and used to fight frequently with her and on September 13 Pritam had a fight whole night and on the next she called her sister Rekha with her husband Pappu, the two came to house to pacify Pritam but they failed to pacify fight and frustrated over the fight Pritam attacked and attacked twice on her nose and later she was taken to hospital.

Police acted swiftly after receiving the information and searched the accused within next few hours from nearby area of the village where the accused was hiding.

Water Conservation Committee now in rural G'gram

Gurugram: To prevent wastage of water, water conservation committees will be formed in the rural area of all the four blocks (Farrukhnagar, Pataudi, Sohna and Gurugram) of the Gurugram district. In these, 30 percent of women's participation will be ensured.

For this initiative, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Gurugram, Dr Shiv Singh Rawat held a review meeting on Wednesday at the district level with the concerned officials about the Atal Bhujal Yojana, a joint program of the Central Government, the World Bank and the State Government.

Dr Rawat said that Jaipur Seva Foundation has been made District Implementation Partner (DIP) who will visit village to village in collaboration with ground water experts to strengthen the institutional framework of ground water management, capacity

building and awareness dialogue campaign through public participation.

He said that the initiative will help to collect the data of water sources like wells, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, water budget and water security plans have to be prepared at the village level.

"People will have to be made aware of the objectives and benefits of the scheme by visiting the 163 identified villages of Gurugram district," Dr Rawat said.

Dr Rawat told that 'Atal Bhujal Yojana, supported by the Central Government and the World Bank and implemented by the Government of Haryana, is such a participatory groundwater management scheme, which is related to groundwater and other government schemes related to agriculture such as 'Jalshakti Abhiyan, Mera Pani - Meri Virasat, Jal Jeevan Mission,' Micro irrigation system will also establish coor-

dination between MNREGA and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana.

"The main objective of the scheme is to ensure potable clean water to every person, farmers in rural areas to store sufficient amount of water for agriculture, rain water harvesting, conservation and prevention of depleting water level," he said.

Rawat informed that Haryana has been divided into nine clusters to fulfil these objectives. Gurugram has been placed in the fifth cluster.

Rawat instructed the officers that children of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Anganwadi, Asha worker, school, college should be included in the program for awareness so that the awareness campaign can be accelerated. The issues and challenges related to the declining groundwater level and its quality were also discussed in the meeting.

NEW EXCISE POLICY Delhi to earn ₹10K cr revenue, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said the Delhi Government has earned 23 per cent less revenue in the current financial year but it will gain ₹10,000 crore from bidding of liquor shops under the new excise policy.

Briefing media online, Sisodia who also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister in Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government, said that we will get ₹ 10, 000 crore revenue from bidding of liquor shops under the new excise policy and we have received nearly 225 bids for 32 zones of the city.

"This will be around ₹3,500 crore extra revenue from what we got in 2019-20. In the financial year 2019-20, the



Government had collected a revenue of ₹6,300 crore from bidding of liquor shops," Sisodia said.

He said the extra revenue is a result of reforms in the excise policy as earlier such revenue was stolen.

CEO directs to enroll young voters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi, Dr Ranbir Singh has directed all the District Election Officers (DEOs) to bolster the process of enrolling young voters between the age brackets of 18-19 years and 20-29 years to address the issue of their under-representation in the electoral roll.

Dr stressed on the participation of youth and women in electoral process and directed officials to improve gender ratio with active enrollment of

them. He also directed the DEOs to meet some third gender voters to understand and address any difficulties being faced by them regarding enrollment and it must be ensured that they are duly assisted.

"PwD voters should similarly be facilitated to enroll as voters and also get marked as PwD voters in the electoral roll for availing various accessibility services during election. Similarly, homeless citizens should also be facilitated so that no voter is left behind," said Dr Singh.

He directed that all 80+

and 100+ electors must be verified and necessary correction/deletion should be done to maintain an accurate list of such voters in order to provide suitable facilities to them during election.

He asked his department officials to clear the pendency of registration of service voters on the service voter portal. DEO, New Delhi was advised to work in tandem with defence authorities in Delhi Cantt to facilitate the enrolment of left out service personnel residing in the Cantonment area.

Wife kills husband along with lover

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a woman along with her lover and their associate for allegedly killing her husband in the national Capital.

The accused have been identified as Bhuri Devi and Dinesh, both residents of Badaun district in UP and Rajesh.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on September 8, information was received regarding the death of a labourer at a construction site near gate number 3, Malviya Nagar Metro Station.

"Police went to the spot and found body of Munish (21), a resident of Badaun district in UP. There were scratch marks on the neck of deceased. The post-mortem conducted at AHMS in which manual strangulation/homicide revealed as cause of death," said the DCP.

"During investigation, it was revealed that deceased and his fellow labourer Rajesh were sent for some work on the terrace at around 8 PM on September 7 by the contractor. After

finishing the work, Munish went to first floor and Rajesh went to ground floor to sleep," said the DCP, adding that on September 8 morning, Munish was found in an unconscious state.

"A team went to Badaun to the village of Munish. Local intelligence was developed where it came to know that Bhuri Devi, wife of deceased, was allegedly having an extra marital affair with Dinesh. When Munish came to know about her affair, he and his father had scolded Dinesh," said the DCP.

"Dinesh was brought to Delhi and interrogated where admitted his role along with Rajesh and in connivance with Bhuri in the murder of Munish. He disclosed that he wanted to marry Bhuri but Munish was against their relationship. So, he conspired with Bhuri and also took Rajesh in confidence," said the DCP.

"Dinesh sneaked into the construction site with the help of Rajesh. On September 8 around 2:30 am, he killed Munish by pressing his neck with the help of Rajesh and fled from the spot," said the DCP.

Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIT) Second Call

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

NIT No.PHQ /SCRB/STORE/2416/2021 Bhopal, Dated 09/09/2021

// e-TENDER NOTICE //

e-tender are invited by Addl SP State Crime Records Bureau, Police Head Quarters, Bhopal on behalf of IGP SCRB MP Bhopal for the following item on website <http://www.mpeproc.gov.in> :-

No	Name of Work	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD will be submitted online through website
1	AMC OF DATA CENTRE EQUIPMENT OF SCRB PHQ BHOPAL	2000/-	59000/- (Fifty Nine thousand only)

- Tenderer has to submit their proposal online on website- <https://mptenders.gov.in>
- Bidders must have to submit the tender fee and EMD.
- Tender fee must be submitted online on e-tender website <https://mptenders.gov.in> Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is not refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition.
- Schedule:**

Tender Activity	Date & Time
Last date of purchase online e-tender document	23/09/2021 up to 1700 hrs.
Last Date for online Submission of e-Tender	23/09 /2021 upto 1700 hrs.
Date of opening of online e-tender	24/09/2021 up to 1700 hrs.

Dy SP (SCRB)
For: IGP
SCRB, PHQ Bhopal

G-16903/21 पहला डोज रक्षा, दूसरा डोज सुरक्षा।

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भोपाल
विद्युत शाखा
प्रथम तल, आई.एस.बी.टी. भवन, होशंगाबाद रोड, हबीबगंज, भोपाल- 462011
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-प्र

क्र. 576/वि.शा./2021 भोपाल दिनांक 13.09.2021

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार मोहरबंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन टेण्डर नं.	कार्य स्थल का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र की कीमत	टेकेदार की श्रेणी	कार्य हेतु एम ओ आर अवधि
1.	2021_UAD_159373_1	CONSULTANCY CHARGES FOR PER KILO WATT AS PER RFP (SOLAR POWER PROJECT) FOR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL.	1,60,00,000/-	12,500/-	1,00,000/-	As per Tender Document	NON SOR ITEM 365 Days

नियम व शर्तें :-

- निविदा प्रपत्र को निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती हैं।
- किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

कार्यपालन यंत्री (विद्युत) नगर निगम भोपाल
नि.क्र. 597/021/022

संचालनालय पशुपालन एवं डेयरी विभाग
मध्यप्रदेश
द्वितीय निविदा सूचना

क्रमांक 8034/औषधि शाखा/2021-22 भोपाल, दिनांक 08.09.2021

संचालनालय पशुपालन विभाग की ओर से एलौपेथक औषधि हेतु वर्ष 2021-22 के लिए e-procurement प्रणाली Portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

स.क्र.	विवरण	निविदा जारी करने की दिनांक	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि
MPDAH 120/2021	राज्य स्तरीय संस्थाओं हेतु ई-टेण्डर के माध्यम से एलौपेथक औषधि हेतु निर्माता फर्म, से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निर्माता फर्म का टर्न ओवर रु. 5.00 करोड़ वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 का होना अनिवार्य है।	16.09.2021	1000+ Processing Fees	06.10.2021 धरोहर राशि ऑनलाईन mptenders.gov.in पर जमा की जाती है।

- निविदा प्रपत्र उषण वर्णित वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।
- निविदा का अनुमानित मूल्य रु. 6 करोड़ है।
- निविदा में कोई भी संशोधन होने की स्थिति में उक्त संशोधन www.mptenders.gov.in तथा <https://www.mpdah.gov.in> पर अपलोड किया जाएगा।

संचालक
पशुपालन एवं डेयरी विभाग
मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल

G-16889/21 पहला डोज रक्षा, दूसरा डोज सुरक्षा।

8TH INDIAN ARMY CHIEF'S CONCLAVE Army top brass to discuss Af, LAC situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Army top brass, including the Chief and former Chiefs, will take stock of security situation in the Indian subcontinent with fast changing scenario in Afghanistan in the three-day conclave here commencing Thursday.

The meet will also focus on the continuing face-off at some points at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and the ceasefire at the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan.

Giving details here on Wednesday, officials said the eighth edition of Indian Army Chief's Conclave, a gathering of serving and former Chiefs of Army Staff of the Indian Army, will also be the likely participation of former Chiefs of the Nepali Army, who were also Honorary Chiefs of the Indian Army.

The Conclave is a forum for exchange of ideas between the old guard and the current leadership of the Indian Army. It will involve discussions on

the rapid transformation of the Indian Army, self-reliance through 'Atmanirbhar' and 'Make in India' initiatives in defence manufacturing and skilling of the Indian soldier to fight modern wars.

The former Army Chiefs will pay homage to the fallen bravehearts during a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial on Thursday.

An interactive session with senior officers of the Indian Army is scheduled the next day for exchange of ideas and views on various administrative and human resource aspects of the Indian Army.

The Chiefs will also interact with members of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers where they will be apprised of the institutional symbiosis between the Indian Army and indigenous private defence manufacturers. The Chiefs are also scheduled to meet the prodigious soldiers who earned laurels for the Nation in the recently concluded Olympic Games at Tokyo, 2017.

Afghanistan to be main focus of PM's address at SCO meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The current situation in Afghanistan and the scourge of terrorism is likely to figure prominently during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) heads of state summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Friday.

He will participate virtually in the high-profile conclave and underline the dangers of terrorism in the presence of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chinese president Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to Dushanbe to represent India at the SCO meet.

Modi's speech comes days before he travels to the US to take part in the first in-person Quad summit hosted by US President Joe Biden there next week. The Prime Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with Biden in Washington and address the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York the next day on September 25.

Jaishankar will take part in meetings of the SCO expected to extensively deliberate on the Afghan crisis and its internal as well as external implica-



tions, people familiar with the matter said.

"The 21st meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State will be held on September 17 in Dushanbe in a hybrid format. The meeting will be chaired by the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the Indian delegation and address the plenary session of the summit via video-link," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Wednesday. "At Dushanbe, India will be represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar," it said in a statement.

The MEA said the summit will be attended by the leaders of the SCO member states, observer states, secretary general of the SCO, executive director of the SCO regional anti-terrorist structure, the

president of Turkmenistan and other invited guests.

In Dushanbe, Jaishankar will attend a meeting of Afghanistan of the heads of state of the SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation.

It will be the first SCO summit being held in a hybrid format and the fourth summit that India will participate in as a full-fledged member of the bloc.

Jaishankar is also likely to hold a series of bilateral meetings at the Tajik capital city with his counterparts from Iran and Tajikistan among others. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi are expected to be in Dushanbe for the SCO meetings. However, there is little possibility of Jaishankar meeting his Chinese and Pakistani counterparts, sources said.

The SCO, seen as a counterweight to NATO, is an eight-member economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

Rajnath urges US def industry to transfer state of technology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With growing strategic and defence ties between the two countries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday urged the US defence industry to forge joint ventures here and transfer state of the technology.

Making this pitch while addressing the 18th India-US Economic Summit, he also said the Government is open to new ideas to create business-friendly environment in India.

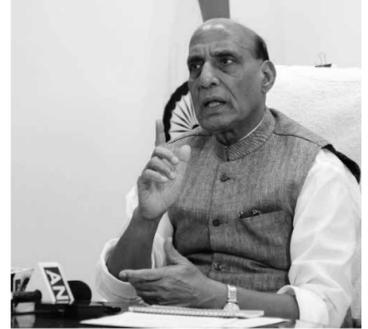
Speaking on the theme 'Bouncing Back - Resilient Recovery Path Post Covid-19', organised by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce through video conferencing, Rajnath said defence sector is an integral part of not just the security but overall growth of the country.

Highlighting some initiatives, the Minister said these have transformed India into a strong and reliable investment destination. He said, India is now home to stable and secure Government which focuses on economic growth through series of reforms.

He called upon the industry leaders to focus on transfer of technology through joint ventures to realise the country's true potential in defence sector. The foreign original equipment manufacturers can set up manufacturing facilities individually or partner with Indian companies through a joint venture or technology agreement to capitalise on the 'Make in India' initiative, he added.

Rajnath exhorted them to begin the process of research and development with the young minds of the country which will increase the linkages among the industries and create an ecosystem through equal contribution from academia and research.

Rajnath emphasised that there is a lot of scope for the American and Indian defence



The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh virtually delivering the inaugural address at the 18th India-US Economic Summit, organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, in New Delhi on September 15

Industries for co-production and co-development, adding that Indian industry can supply components to American Industries.

Shedding light on the growing ties between India and US, Rajnath said the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, 2+2 Dialogue, Quad Security Dialogue and agreements like Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) have taken the bilateral relations to greater heights.

He, however, emphasised that the relations are yet to receive its full potential, saying that several progressive policies have been put in place in the last two years that have given the defence sector an unexpected growth trajectory.

77 rapes reported daily in 2020: NCRB

Number of murders record a surge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Number of rapes recorded a decline in 2020 that was mostly under Covid-induced lockdown but murders reported a surge during the same period. Nearly 77 rape cases were reported across India on an average every day totalling 28,046 such incidents during 2020, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

The country reported an average 80 murders daily in 2020, causing 29,193 fatalities last, with Uttar Pradesh topping the list among the States.

Overall, 3,71,503 cases of crime against women were reported across the country last year, down from 4,05,326 in 2019 and 3,78,236 in 2018, according to the NCRB data.

Of the total cases of crimes against women in 2020, there were 28,046 incidents of rape involving 28,153 victims, according to the NCRB data for 2020.

Out of the total victims, 25,498 were adults, while 2,655 were below the age of 18 years, it stated.

The number of rape cases, as defined in Indian Penal Code section 376, stood at 32,033 in 2019, 33,356 in 2018



, 32,559 in 2017 and 38,947 in 2016, according to NCRB data from corresponding years.

Among states and Union Territories, the maximum 5,310 rape cases were lodged in Rajasthan in 2020 followed by Uttar Pradesh (2,769), Madhya Pradesh (2,339), Maharashtra (2,061) and Assam (1,657). National capital Delhi logged 997 such cases during the year, the data showed.

Of the total crimes against women last year, the maximum 1,11,549 were under the category 'cruelty by husband or relatives', while there were 62,300 cases of kidnapping and abduction also, it showed.

Besides rape, there were 85,392 cases of 'assault to outrage modesty' and 3,741 cases of 'attempt to commit rape', the NCRB data showed.

There were 105 cases of acid attack logged across the country during 2020, it added.

The NCRB data suggested that on an average 80 murders were reported daily in 2020 in the country. A total of 29,193 fatalities were reported during the year, an increase of one per cent over the total 28,915 murders in 2019, with a daily average of 79 killings during the year, the data revealed.

Cases of kidnapping and abduction, however, went down by over 19 per cent in 2020 as compared to 2019.

There were a total 84,805 lodged cases of kidnapping and abduction in the country last year. Of these, the majority 56,591 victims were children while the remaining were adults, it added.

Among the States, the maximum 3,779 murder cases in 2020 were lodged in Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar (3,150), Maharashtra (2,163), Madhya Pradesh (2,101) and West Bengal (1,948), the data highlighted.

Delhi logged 472 murder cases in 2020.

Of the total murder victims in the country, the maximum 38.5 per cent belonged to the 30-45 years age group followed by 35.9 per cent in the 18-30 years category, the NCRB stated.

According to the figures, 16.4 per cent murder victims were in the 45-60 years age category and four per cent older than 60 years, while the rest were minors.

Among the States, the maximum 12,913 kidnapping and abductions cases in 2020 were lodged in Uttar Pradesh followed by West Bengal (9,309), Maharashtra (8,103), Bihar (7,889) and Madhya Pradesh (7,320), the data suggested.

Delhi registered 4,062 kidnapping and abduction cases during 2020.

The NCRB stated that there were 88,590 total victims in 84,805 cases of kidnapping and abduction in the country last year. Of these, the majority 56,591 victims were children while the remaining were adults, it added.

Cong to raise price rise, unemployment issues through protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress is chalking out a strategy for conducting regular nationwide agitations to take on the BJP Government ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections and highlight several issues, including price rise and unemployment among others. The party is also mulling over to rope in civil societies and social organisations in the protests.

AICC sources said senior leaders of the party led by Digvijay Singh on Tuesday late night discussed issues to be highlighted during the protests at the meeting of the Congress committee constituted by the party president Sonia Gandhi last early this month. It was also suggested in the meeting that party leader Rahul Gandhi should take over as the Congress president and lead the agitations, sources said.

The panel chaired by Digvijay Singh will prepare the plan for agitations after identifying the issues and will present the report to Sonia Gandhi for approval. Panel members Ripun Bora and Udit Raj also suggested that a senior leader like Rahul Gandhi should take over as party chief and lead protests across the country to make them a success.

Udit Raj also suggested that social organisations and civil society groups should be involved in such agitations and



their support would make the protests a success. AICC source said price rise and unemployment have been identified as the issues to be taken up first, but the timelines will be decided by party chief.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also participated in the meeting that was held at the party's 'war room' office at Gurudwara Rakab Ganj road. She also called for raising the issue of plight of MSMEs due to 'wrong' economic policies, sources said.

Ahead of elections in several states, Sonia Gandhi on September 3 had set up a nine-member panel of party leaders headed by Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh to plan 'sustained agitations on national issues'. Besides Singh, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MPs Uttam Reddy and Ripun Bora, dalit leader Udit Raj, who switched over to the party from the BJP last year, party leaders Manish Chhatrath, Zuber Khan and BK Hariprasad are members of the panel.

The nine-member panel has been mandated to 'plan sustained agitations on national issues'. The formation of the committee came days after the Congress, along with 18 other Opposition parties, announced to hold nationwide protests from September 20 to 30.

Meanwhile, Rahul on Wednesday attacked the BJP-RSS, alleging that they were 'fake Hindus' who use religion for their benefit. Addressing the foundation day of the All India Mahila Congress here, Rahul Gandhi said that the ideology of the Congress was completely opposite of the BJP-RSS and only one of the two ideologies can rule the country.

Asserting that Goddess Lakshmi stands for the power that helps one attain one's goals and Goddess Durga stands for the power that protects, the former Congress chief said while his party had strengthened these powers when in government, the ruling BJP dispensation have diminished these powers..

Record 44 students score 100 percentile in JEE-Main



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A record 44 candidates have scored 100 percentile in the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main this year while 18 candidates have shared the top rank, according to National Testing Agency (NTA). The result for the crucial exam was announced post midnight on Tuesday with the website crashing for several hours after that.

Last year, 24 candidates had scored 100 percentile. On account of using unfair means, a total of 20 candidates have been debarred from appearing in future examinations for a period of three years. Their results have also been withheld.

Starting this year, Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main was conducted four times a year to offer flexibility to students and a chance to improve their scores. The first phase was held in February and the sec-

ond in March.

The next phases were scheduled for April and May but those were postponed in view of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that raged through the country affecting lakhs. The third edition was held from July 20-25 while the fourth edition was conducted from August 26 to September 2.

The examination was conducted in 13 languages -- English, Hindi, Gujarati, Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

Over 9.34 lakh candidates appeared in four editions of JEE-Main. A total of 2.52 lakh common candidates had appeared for all four editions of the exam. A total of 6.58 lakh male candidates had appeared for the exam while the number of female candidates appearing for the exam was 2.80 lakh.

Sputnik Light gets DCGI nod for conducting of phase III trials in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted permission for the conducting of the Phase III bridging trials of Sputnik Light on the Indian population. The Sputnik Light is a single-dose Covid-19 vaccine of the Russian vaccine Sputnik.

The nod comes after a recent study published in the medical journal The Lancet said that Sputnik Light showed 78.6 to 83.7 per cent efficacy against Covid-19, significantly higher than most two-shot vaccines.

The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the top drug regulator in July had refused to grant emergency-use authorisation to Sputnik-Light, ruling out the need for the conduct of the phase III trial of the Russian vaccine in the country.

The committee had noted that Sputnik Light was the same as component-1 of Sputnik V and its safety and immunogenicity data in the Indian population was already generated in a trial.

The study was conducted on at least 40,000 elderly people in Argentina. Sputnik Light also reduced hospitalizations among the target population at 82.1-87.6 per cent, the study said.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) last year partnered with Dr Reddy's Laboratories to conduct the phase III trials of Sputnik V vaccine in India. In April, Sputnik V received an emergency use authorisation in India. Reddy's administered the first dose of the vaccine in Hyderabad under a limited pilot on May 14.

Antiviral drug Umifenovir can check Covid virus multiplication: CDRI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CSIR lab, Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), has claimed that the clinical trials of antiviral drug, Umifenovir, in treatment of Covid-19, can effectively reduce viral load to zero in mild or moderate symptomatic and asymptomatic patients by checking multiplication of the virus.

The trial of Umifenovir on 132 Covid patients showed that the dose was given twice daily for five days.

Titled 'Phase III, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of efficacy, safety and tolerability of antiviral drug Umifenovir vs standard care of therapy in non-severe Covid-19 patients', the clinical trial was conducted at three institutions.

These were KGMU, Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS) and Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital (ELMCH).

CDRI director Prof Tapas Kundu said, "Since Umifenovir is a broad-spectrum antiviral and is being used as a safe over-the-counter drug for influenza and pneumonia for over 20 years in Russia, China and other countries. The first two trials were not mandatory."

The CDRI, therefore, directly went for phase-III trial, conducted on 132 patients either admitted in hospital or in home quarantine under the supervision of these hospitals," the CDRI director said.

"In a study, double-blind mode

improves reliability of results by preventing bias when doctors evaluate patient outcomes. The results showed that viral load in mild, moderate or asymptomatic patients after being given two doses of Umifenovir (800mg), twice a day, became zero in an average of five days. Patients did not experience any side-effects and their symptoms also did not turn severe," he said.

Studies by CDRI in collaboration with CSIR-IMT, Chandigarh, also showed that Umifenovir exhibits good cell culture inhibition of SARS-CoV2, which suggests that the drug inhibits the entry of SARS-Cov2 virus into human cells.

Kundu said the institute was getting the dosage plan patented as it had not been used earlier for Covid-19.

"The DCGI has evaluated the clinical trials report and in view of the highly encouraging results and he has asked the team to continue the studies on more mild, asymptomatic patients for grant of emergency approval of the drug," he added.

CDRI chief scientist Prof R Ravishankar, who led the team, said, "Umifenovir will be economical for treating Covid-19 patients as it is around 54 per cent cheaper compared to current medication. The drug is safe for pregnant women and children. We are also looking into the possibility of Umifenovir syrup for children and also in powder form for puff inhalers."

Members should observe high discipline inside, outside legislatures: Om Birla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday said that the credibility of legislatures is linked to the conduct and behaviour of their members and so the members are expected to observe the highest standards of discipline and decorum, both inside and outside the legislatures.

Inaugurating the 81st All India Presiding Officers Conference, Birla expressed his anguish that incidents of unparliamentary behavior of public representatives have increased in recent years, which have tarnished the image of the democratic institutions. Birla said that the credibility of legislatures is linked to the conduct and behavior of their members and that is why the members are expected to observe the highest standards of discipline and decorum, both inside and outside the legislatures.

Birla expressed his anguish that incidents of unparliamentary behavior of public representatives have increased in recent years, which have tarnished the image of the democratic institutions.

The Speaker noted that being an elected public representative, a member has certain privileges and these privileges, which come with responsibilities, are meant for performing their duties as parliamentarians in an effective manner and without any hindrance. He urged for introspection by members, individually and collectively, about their conduct, discipline and decorum, as public representatives.

Anil Kumar MD of Patliputra Builders Ltd held under PMLA



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Anil Kumar alias Anil Kumar Singh, Managing Director of Patliputra Builders Limited and other group companies, under Prevention of Money Laundering Act. in a cheating case.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIRs and charge-sheets filed by Patna Police under the sections of Indian Penal Code and Arms Act against Anil Kumar.

"In the FIR, he has been alleged for defalcation of public money and non-allotment of flats to the buyers even after receiving money for allotment of flats. During the investigation by ED, Proceeds of Crime have been identified and quantified at Rs.6 crore," the ED said in a statement.

Throughout the investigation, Anil Kumar has resorted to non-cooperation with the investigation and has not divulged any truth or information.

Kerala logs 17,681 new Covid cases

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala on Wednesday reported 17,681 fresh Covid-19 cases and 208 deaths, which took the total caseload to 44,24,046 and fatalities to 22,987.

The number of people who recovered from the infection since Tuesday was 25,588 which brought the total recoveries to 42,09,746 and the number of active cases to 1,90,750, a State Government release said. While the release said that 97,070 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, it did not state what the Test Positivity Rate was.

However, 17,681 fresh positive cases, reported in the last 24 hours, out of 97,070 samples tested during the same period,

gives a figure of more than 18 per cent. Among the 14 districts, Thiruvananthapuram recorded the highest with 2,143 fresh cases followed by Kottayam (1,702), Kozhikode (1,680), Ernakulam (1,645), Thrissur (1,567), Palakkad (1,558), Malappuram (1,372), Kollam (1,348), Alappuzha (969) and Kannur (967), the release said. Of the new cases, 97 were health workers, 47 from outside the state and 16,656 infected through contact, with the source of the contact not being clear in 881 cases, it said.

There are currently 5,61,239 people under surveillance in various districts, of whom 5,33,190 are in home or institutional quarantine and 28,049 in hospitals. **PTI**

Bengal extends corona restrictions till Sept 30

Kolkata: The Bengal Government has further extended the pandemic restrictions to September 30 allowing limited relaxations on traffic movement and other facilities.

While night curfew would continue between 11 pm and 5 am only essential services will be allowed to continue during that period.

Besides local trains and all educational institutions shall remain closed. No public or political gathering would be allowed too, save in places where by-elections were on the way. In places like Bhawanipore where by-elections will take place on September 30 campaigning will go on according to prescribed protocol, officials said.

An order released from State administrative headquarter Nabanna said: "All outdoor activities, including the movement of people and vehicles, shall be strictly prohibited between 11pm and 5am except for health services, law and order, essential commodities, including agricultural produce and other emergency services. **PNS**

Didi supports farm stir, asks Centre to withdraw farm bills

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday reiterated her stance against the Farmers' Bill and asked the Centre to withdraw it pledging her support for the Punjab farmers.

The Chief Minister who was visiting the Bhawanipore Gurudwara on a public relations exercise ahead of the September 30 Assembly by-elections for the Bhawanipore seat said reacting to posers from a group of Punjabi ladies "I have always stood by the farmers' cause ... in this case also I have expressed my opinion and have asked for immediate withdrawal of the Farmers' Bill ... I have already told the agitators that I will always remain by their side in their fight against the oppressive laws."

Speaking to a collection of Sikh gentry inside the most revered

Gurudwara in Kolkata Banerjee said amid Khela Hobey slogans from a section of the assemblage that she always expected a close interaction between the Bengalis and Punjabis --- the communities that share a long mutual history.

Even as a section of the people said how the Punjab villagers too wanted Khela Hobey Banerjee said "Our mutual relationship goes back to the date of Azad Hind Fauz and the Indian freedom struggle ... I had a chance of visiting the Andaman Cellular Jail where I saw that the most of the prisoners were from Bengal and Punjab."

Banerjee is seeking election from the Bhawanipore seat after she was defeated at Nandigram by the BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari by 1,900 votes.

Banerjee has been trying to woo the non-Bengali population in Bhawanipore that constitute about a

sizeable 42 percent. Out of this the constituency has a good 5,000 Punjabi voters.

The Chief Minister is likely to address a meeting of non-Bengalis on Thursday.

Out of 5 seats where by-elections were to be held the Election Commission of India has allowed polls in Bhawanipore seat only. Apart from Bhawanipore elections will be held to Jangipur and Rezinagar seats in Murshidabad district as well. In these seats a Congress and a Left candidate had died of corona well before the polls were conducted.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission is deploying 52 companies of central forces to ensure smooth elections, sources said.

While 15 companies will be deployed in Bhawanipore, 18 and 19 companies will be deployed at Jangipur and Rezinagar respectively.

BJP MP Arjun Singh gets Z category security

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The Union Home Ministry has upgraded Bengal BJP strongman and MP Arjun Singh's armed security cover to Z category.

The TMC-turned-BJP leader who from Barrackpore who had expressed threat to his life after crude bombs were hurled in front of his house the Centre has upgraded his security cover, sources said.

At least two close lieutenants of the saffron MP had been murdered in the past

about two years.

The CISF has been providing 'Y+' security cover to Arjun Singh since March 2019 when he left the Trinamool Congress and switched over to the BJP to win the Barrackpore parliamentary seat defeating then sitting MP Dinesh Trivedi. In fact Trivedi also crossed over to the BJP early this year.

The decision of the Home Ministry comes days after National Investigation Agency was given to investigate the triple blast in front of the MP's house.



A pair of Macaw passing out time inside an enclosure at Alipore Zoological Garden that reopened for the public as it was closed due to a surge in coronavirus cases, in Kolkata on Wednesday **PTI**

2 Kerala Cong leaders quit, join CPI(M)

KOCHI: The ruling CPI(M) is on a mission to decimate the Congress in Kerala, if the latest developments in the State are any indication.

Two high ranking leaders of the Congress quit the parent party and joined the CPI(M) during the last few days. K P Anil Kumar, former general secretary of the party, who has considerable following in the State, resigned from the primary membership of the Congress and joined the CPI(M) on Tuesday. He was welcomed by polit bureau members Kodyeri Balakrishnan and s Ramachandran Pillai at the AKG Centre and was received with red shawls.

Anil Kumar is the second leader of the Congress to join the CPI(M) in the last fortnight. P S Prasanth, another regional satrap from Thiruvananthapuram., who was the

party's candidate from Nedumangadu assembly constituency, too had shocked the Congress leadership by joining the CPI(M).

It is the fall out of the organisational restructuring of the Congress, with the appointment of K Sudhakaran as president of the KPCC and V D Satheshan as Leader of the Opposition which led to a cascading effect in the party. Interestingly, no senior leaders from the Congress had joined the CPI(M) since T K Hamza, the then DCC president of Malappuram in 1987.

The CPI(M) had never encouraged party hoppers to join them. But the latest trend has come as a surprise to political pundits in the State. "They may be preparing for a clean sweep in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and the 2026 assembly election. The 2021 election results has

enthused the second wrung leadership of the party to go for what the CPI(M) did in Bengal where they remained in power for more than three decades," said a CPI(M) fellow traveller.

A Vijayaraghavan, acting secretary of the CPI(M) said the party was keeping its fingers crossed over the developments in the Congress. "There are chances of more and more leaders from the Congress joining the CPI(M). All those who accept and recognise the policies of the CPI(M) are welcome to join us," said Vijayaraghavan.

Even former chief minister Oommen Chandi and former LoP Ramesh Chennithala who felt let down by the Congress High Command during the reorganisation of the DCCs are upset and are on a warpath with the party leadership. **PNS**

Cong retracts from stance on Love Jihad, calls for truce with Bishop

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Congress in Kerala is on a fire fighting mode as the party's criticism of Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Pala, for his speech against Love Jihad Narcotics Jihad has led to a consolidation of the Catholic Church behind the former.

Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan, who had lambasted the Bishop by declaring that persons in responsible positions should not make statements that would communally divide the society, has retracted from his earlier stance and has called a truce. Satheesan wrote a letter to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan with an offer that he was ready to mediate with the spiritual leader of the Christians in Kerala.

The Bishop while addressing a

religious congregation in an ancient Church in Kottayam district had warned the laity of Love Jihad and Narcotics Jihad which had claimed thousands of girls in the last two years in Kerala.

Vijayan said that he was hearing the term Narcotic Terrorism for the first time. But Catholic leaders in both the ruling LDF and the opposition UDF called on the Bishop and expressed solidarity with the latter. P J Joseph, chairman, Kerala Congress (J) and Jose K Mani, chairman, Kerala Congress (M), though do not see eye to eye on any issues were the first ones to call on the Bishop.

The BJP, struggling to get a foothold in the State and the leaders of which are under investigation by the State Police for financial

impropriety, rushed to the Bishop's Palace in Pala and declared their support to him on the issue.

But the activists of SDPI, an extremist outfit representing the Muslim community, undertook a procession to the Bishop's Palace to condemn the latter's statement. On Wednesday, the CPI(M) joined hands with the SDPI to pull down the local self government led by the UDF in Eerattupetta Municipality.

Interestingly, the BJP, which had condemned the Church in the past for its support to religious conversions, has openly extended support to the Bishop for his condemnation of the Love Jihad. Two more Bishops (who are heading Iringalakkuda and Changanassery dioceses) have declared support to their Pala counterpart.

No recce in Mumbai, weapons or explosives not found: Maha ATS chief

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

On Wednesday when a Mumbai link to the busting of an ISI-backed terror module by the Delhi police surfaced, the Maharashtra Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) denied that any reconnaissance had been done in Mumbai by the arrested terrorists and said that the country's commercial capital was "absolutely safe".

After the Special Cell of the Delhi police arrested six persons, the Crime branch sleuths of the Mumbai police and Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) said that one of the six arrested persons -- Jaan Mohammed Shaikh alias Sameer Kalia - who was part of a "Pakistan-based terror module" -- was from the financial capital of Mumbai.

Talking to media persons, State ATS Chief Vineet Agrawal said that

no reconnaissance had been done in Mumbai nor had any weapons or explosives found in the wake of the Delhi Police Special Cell busting a terror module.

"We keep getting terror alerts, but as far as this case is concerned, Mumbai and Maharashtra are safe," Agrawal said.

According to the ATS chief, Shaikh took a train from Mumbai Central for Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi on September 13 and he was arrested by a Delhi Police team at Kota in Rajasthan on Tuesday. "It was their case and operation," Agrawal said.

"We are coordinating with Delhi Police in this regard on a regular basis and a team is leaving for the national capital to seek Shaikh's custody for interrogation by the Police here," r the State ATS chief said

"We have asked for a FIR copy from the Delhi police to know

more about the case. We want to know the exact conspiracy or terror plans and will also share whatever information we have with Delhi Police," Agrawal said.

Meanwhile, the Mumbai crime branch sleuths and State ATS have learned that Jaan Mohammed Shaikh, a resident of Dharavi slum in north-central Mumbai, lived with his family in a small one-room tenement and worked as a driver.

Jaan Mohammed Shaikh's wife and two daughters were taken to the Dharavi police station and questioned. Shaikh is allegedly linked to the family of fugitive underworld don and 1993 Mumbai serial blasts mastermind Dawood Ibrahim, who is a designated global terrorist.

Official sources said that Shaikh was in touch with Anees Ibrahim, the younger brother of Dawood Ibrahim.

"He worked as a driver and was

a quiet fellow...this news comes as a big shock to us," said Fayyaz, who is his friend said. Shaikh was brought up in Dharavi. "His parents stayed here, they have passed away," a lady neighbour said.

In a related development, Maharashtra home minister Dilip Walse-Patil held a high-level meeting with officials including Mumbai Police commissioner Hemant Nagrale and additional director general of police and State ATS chief Vineet Agarwal.

"Some terror suspects have been arrested from Delhi & other parts of the country. A meeting was held in which officials gave me all the necessary information," the State Home Minister said.

"The matter is sensitive in nature and we cannot reveal any more information at this time as it may hamper the investigation," Patil said.

Maha: 65-year-old man rapes minor girl in Jalna, held

Jalna: A elderly man allegedly raped a 12-year-old girl at a village in Maharashtra's Jalna district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday following which the 65-year-old accused, who has five children and grandchildren, was arrested late at night, an official from Badnapur police station said.

The victim used to live in the house of her maternal uncle and the accused also resided in the neighbourhood.

While the girl was feeding hens on Tuesday, the man allegedly gagged her and forcefully took her to his house where he raped her, the official said, adding that the accused then fled from the village.

The girl later informed about the incident to her uncle who lodged a police complaint, he said. **PTI**

Govt open for discussion on NEP: Karnataka CM

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Amid Opposition to implementation of the new National Education Policy in the state, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said the Government is open for discussion on it, and there is no need for anyone to worry.

"Government is open to discuss the NEP. There is good intention behind NEP, it is aimed at providing education that is in accordance with today's needs for the good future of our youths. There are several revolutionary changes in it, we will make students understand about it," Bommai said in response to a question about lathi-charge on students protesting against NEP.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, there have been several discussions about NEP, even at the University level.

"Regarding primary and secondary education, we will have a committee regarding how to implement it (NEP) there. We have not yet taken any decision on it. We are ready to discuss all this.

There is no need for anyone to worry," he added. Police yesterday resorted to 'mild' lathi charge on students, protesting against the NEP, who had gathered here, under the banner of Campus Front of India, as they tried to march towards Vidhana Soudha, where the legislature session is on, and caused inconvenience to the public. Some student organisations and opposition Congress have opposed the implementation of NEP in the state. Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah had recently urged the state government to withdraw its decision to implement the NEP.

Mumbai cops file supplementary chargesheet against Kundra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai police on Wednesday filed a comprehensive supplementary charge-sheet against Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty's husband and businessman Raj Kundra in the in the alleged pornography content case.

The Crime Branch-CID of Mumbai Police, which has been investigating the case for the past few months, filed the first supplementary charge-sheet in the case, before a city court. The charge-sheet ran into 1,500 pages.

Kundra, who was arrested on the night of July 19 in connection with a complaint registered by the Crime Branch in 2021, has been booked under Sections 292, 293 (sale of obscene material) under the

Indian Penal Code, Sections 66E, 67, 67A (transmission of sexually explicit material) under the Information Technology Act and provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act.

Kundra, who lives in Mumbai with his wife Shilpa Shetty and two children, had earlier told the court that there was no evidence to link him against the HotShot App and was being made a 'scapegoat'. He had submitted to the court that he had been falsely implicated in the case while the Cyber Cell was making an attempt to connect him with the crime.

Kundra, who is the founder Viaan Industries Ltd, and his United Kingdom-based brother-in-law Pradeep Bakshi, the

Chairman of Kenrin Group, London, have been named masterminds of the porn content racket.

In April this year, the police had filed its first charge-sheet in the case against nine persons originally accused. After subsequent investigations, the police arrested two more accused, including Kundra.

Earlier, nine persons had been arrested. They comprised television actress Gehna Vashisht (32) Yasmin Khan (40) Monu Joshi (28) Pratibha Nalavade (33) Atif Ahmed (24), Dipankar Khasnavis (38), Bhanusurya Thakur (26) Tanvir Hashmi (40) and Umesh Kamat (39).

Kundra is the owner of Viaan Industries Ltd, jointly promoted by the couple, while

Bakshi -- a British citizen, who is married to Kundra's sister -- is the Chairman of Kenrin Ltd., London.

The HotShots app --- described as the "world's first 18+ app" showcasing some of the hottest models and celebs globally in exclusive photos, short films and hot videos (implying soft-to-hard porn) -- was removed from mobile platforms.

Similarly, Apple and Google have removed the app because of the pornographic content in it.

On his part, 46-year-old Kundra has denied any involvement and has claimed that he had sold the "Hotshots" app to Pradip Bakshi. However, the police said Mr Kundra was kept in the loop about the finances of the app.

4 life convicts get 7 years' jail term in 2009 abduction-cum-murder case in UP

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A special court on Wednesday sentenced four life convicts, including a woman, to seven years under sections of the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act for the abduction and murder of a cement trader from Muzaffarnagar in 2009.

Special Judge Radhey Shyam Yadav convicted Kajal, Manjit Khokar, Suleman, and Niraj Mishra to seven years each and also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on each of them.

According to prosecution officer Sandeep Singh, the four convicts were already sentenced to life imprisonment a few years ago for abducting and murdering cement trader Madan Garg, a resident of Muzaffarnagar, over ransom back in 2009.

As the police had also booked the four life convicts under the Gangsters Act, the court pronounced the additional punishment based on the charges. Garg was murdered in Uttarakhand's Roorkee in 2009 and his body was thrown in the Ganga Canal. **PTI**

Maha: 16-year-old rape victim commits suicide

Nagpur: A 16-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide after the man accused of raping her was recently released from jail on bail in Maharashtra's Nagpur city, police said on Wednesday.

The girl, who lived with her father, stepmother and brother, allegedly hanged herself from the ceiling at her home in Jaripatka area on Monday, senior inspector Nitin Phatangare of Jaripatka police station said.

According to the police, the girl was allegedly raped by a relative of her stepmother in June, following which a police complaint was lodged and the accused was arrested, the official said.

The accused, who was charged for rape, was recently released on bail from the central jail, he said, adding that the girl had been depressed ever since.

The deceased teen's body has been sent for post-mortem and a case of accidental death has been registered, the official said. **PTI**

Kerala school teacher booked over minor student's suicide

Kasaragod (Ker): A case has been registered against a 29-year-old private school teacher in connection with the death of a minor girl student by suicide in this northernmost district of Kerala, police said on Thursday.

The case was registered against Usman, a native of Adhur here, under the Section 12 of PPOCSO Act and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, days after the 12-year-old girl died by suicide. He is absconding now and a man hunt is on to trace him.

According to police, the accused had sent inappropriate messages to the girl, a class eight student studying in the same school, via social media.

A senior police officer told PTI that the victim's parents had come across the chat messages exchanged by the duo and warned the girl against it. Her father also brought the issue to the notice of the school management who in turn took up the matter with Usman, he said. "The messages were improper for a teacher to send to a 12-year-old student. The girl was suspected to have ended the life out of mental tension as her parents read the chat messages," the officer said adding that these all were assumptions and they could arrive at a conclusion only after a detailed probe. **PTI**



A view of the Pushkar Lake in Ajmer district on Wednesday **PTI**

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Get that job

In the fight against COVID-19, our line of defence must be to vaccinate the kids

As educational institutions re-open tentatively in India, parents are worried that unlike most of them, their children are not yet vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus and they may be vulnerable to infection at school. The concern is natural and understandable but clear-cut answers to their queries are not forthcoming. The States, the Centre, the state task forces, the national task force, and the host of experts need to be on the same page and clarify by when can children be expected to get the jabs, if they would be divided into age groups for the purpose, and whether the healthy among them need immediate vaccination at all. Paediatricians say healthy children are at low risk from the virus but there is no unanimity on whether it is safe for them to attend school unvaccinated. The United Kingdom is still disinclined to vaccinate healthy children in the 12-15 years age group. The doses will only offer a marginal benefit and the jabs can instead be diverted to vulnerable adults and children with co-morbidities, like chronic heart, lung and liver conditions, it argues. The British committee's hesitation arises from the concern over a rare side effect of heart inflammation from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. In India, out of 44 crore children, around 12 crore are in the 12-17 age group. The national COVID-19 task force is of the view that children with comorbidities should receive priority jabs, meaning thereby that healthy children are not at high risk. In any case, even though over 19 States have re-opened schools and the rest will shortly decide on sending children back to classes, there is no indication that the vaccine for children will be available in the coming few weeks.



The ZyCoV-D vaccine has received Emergency Use Authorisation for use in 12-17 years and the field trials are on. Bharat Biotech says its Covaxin for children has tested safe in trials. Biological E's Corbevax has got the approval to conduct trials on children above five years. Covovax vaccine of Serum Institute and Novavax is conducting trials at the moment. Johnson & Johnson has applied for trials in children in the 2017 years age group. Scientists are hedging their bets on child vaccines. They say they are absolutely safe, but add a rider that the risk-benefit ratio needs to be weighed carefully. They say that infections in children are nearly always mild or asymptomatic. However, there is no doubt they still need vaccinations just as they have already been immunised against various diseases. Where do they stand on the priority list, is the question. It is not an easy question to answer as two arguments pull the Government in the other direction. One is the obvious need to prioritise vulnerable adult and children's groups. Two, how far to heed the observation of the World Health Organisation that by vaccinating their children, some countries will deprive frontline workers and high-risk of poor countries of vaccines.

The latest to fall is Infosys. The company that led India's "make in India" campaign has hit the quagmire. Even before Prime Minister Narendra Modi coined the "local pe vocal" slogan, Infosys was at it and is now being dubbed "anti-national". That is if we are to believe *Panchjanya*, the RSS mouthpiece. This is hilarious as well as a sad commentary of the state we are in. The self-styled nationalists are not only shouting nationalism but also handing out certificates of nationalism. God forbid, if you falter on your promise to deliver a project on time, you join the rank and file of anti-nationals. Reminds one of the scientists in Stalin's Russia who could not deliver on tight deadlines and ended up in Gulag. Timeline goes — Infosys gets a contract of ₹4242 crores to roll out a new income tax portal. It fails to deliver on time and problems dog the system. The Minister calls Salil Parekh, the CEO, something transpires and the meeting fails in fiasco. Lo and

PICTALK



Army personnel during a practice session ahead of the celebration of 'Swamim Vijay Varsh', at Polo ground in Jaipur. PTI

Taking wings

If all goes well, the debt-ridden Air India could fall into the hands of a new owner by December end

The Union Government has finally found bidders for the sought-after Air India disinvestment after Tata Sons and SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh submitted their financial bids to the transaction adviser on Wednesday as the process now moves to its concluding stage. The new owner will be entitled complete stake in Air India and Air India Express and a 50 per cent stake in the ground handling capacity of the Air India SATS Airport Services (AISATS). Besides, as per Air India's Expression of Interest shared in January, out of the airline's total debt of ₹60,074 crore as on March 2019, the bidder would be required to absorb the "signing debt" of ₹23,286.5 crore. The rest would be transferred to Air India Assets Holding Ltd, a special purpose arrangement. Tata Sons had in 2001 expressed their interest in acquiring the Indian Airlines which JRD Tata had founded in 1932 as Tata Airlines. The proposal was not received well by the Government back then. But times have changed and the Government now views Tata as the frontrunner in the disinvestment bid which was delayed due to the pandemic. Therefore, Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had made it clear that September 15, 2021 would be the last day for submitting the bid and would not be changed.

The Government's previous attempt at the bidding failed badly in 2018 after not even a single bid was received for the airline. It had offered 76 per cent stake but higher crude oil prices, insane debt and, of course, the "involvement of the Centre" were some of the reasons the bid failed. Now after having tweaked the offer, it has managed to attract two bidders. Disinvestment is just a safer alternative to the word privatisation, and the Government's promise to "facilitate air travel even for a person wearing *hawai chappal* (slippers)" seems arguable under this umbrella. Also, Air India has not only been a commercial air travel facility but also holds strategic importance to India. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when Indian citizens were stranded in different parts of the world, only Air India was in operation and evacuated thousands of Indian and foreign nationals. Air India would not remain the same once the private players get hold of it. Air travel can no longer be viewed as a luxury but a common amenity that is intrinsically part of our day-to-day connectivity as the last-mile auto or rickshaw trip.

The national theatre of absurd

The public mood these days borders beyond logic; moodiness and absurdity rather than rationalism is the norm



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

It is time to sit back and relax. It is time to watch the theatre of the absurd. The country which is now run on the theatrics is turning into one. The dictionary meaning of the phrase aptly describes what we are witnessing right now: "A theatre in which conventions of plot and theme are distorted to convey the irrational and fictive nature of reality. It leads to isolation of humanity in a meaningless world." We are all watching it play right here right now!

People are trying hard to create a country where absurdity is the norm rather than the exception; in the zeal to outsmart opponents, stupidities galore. We are turning ourselves into laughing stock. The latest fad — nationalism — is now reaching a feverish pitch. Nothing is sacrosanct; not even your flawless past and it applies to all and sundry — individuals, organisations and now even the home-grown companies. Even the ones touted as the pride of the country are not spared. One posturing against the Hindutva joint family can lead you in trouble. The onus would be on you to prove your innocence.

The latest to fall is Infosys. The company that led India's "make in India" campaign has hit the quagmire. Even before Prime Minister Narendra Modi coined the "local pe vocal" slogan, Infosys was at it and is now being dubbed "anti-national". That is if we are to believe *Panchjanya*, the RSS mouthpiece. This is hilarious as well as a sad commentary of the state we are in. The self-styled nationalists are not only shouting nationalism but also handing out certificates of nationalism. God forbid, if you falter on your promise to deliver a project on time, you join the rank and file of anti-nationals. Reminds one of the scientists in Stalin's Russia who could not deliver on tight deadlines and ended up in Gulag.

Timeline goes — Infosys gets a contract of ₹4242 crores to roll out a new income tax portal. It fails to deliver on time and problems dog the system. The Minister calls Salil Parekh, the CEO, something transpires and the meeting fails in fiasco. Lo and



behold, in a couple of days, *Panchjanya* comes out with the story branding Infosys as anti-national. Please draw your own conclusions and spare the writer.

The nationalists' brigade indeed has come a long way. First, they started small branding anti-Hindutva ideologues as "love jihadis", "urban Naxals" and what have you. Now anti-national is in. The latest is branding corporate which don't bow as anti-national.

But then what is the definition of nationalism or litmus test of one's nationalism? They should praise the dear leader and the ruling party. The singing of the National Anthem or chanting "*Bharat Mata ki Jai*" is the ultimate test of one's nationalist credential. That makes both Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore anti-national. Mahatma Gandhi did not celebrate Independence. There was no flag hoisting in the Sabarmati Ashram on Independence Day. Tagore wanted universal brotherhood. He even warned about the dangers of nationalism. Tagore's fear came alive during the Delhi riots when people were made to sing the anthem while being beaten with sticks by the police.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEAT OF THE 'MYSTERY FEVER'

Sir — Before people in parts of Uttar Pradesh and several other states could have a sigh of relief over the subsidence of COVID-19, they have been hit by another tragedy in the form of the outbreak of a 'mystery fever'. Epidemiologists could not clarify if it were really a mystery fever or it was so described for convenience and evasion of responsibility. In most cases it is attributed to dengue — The ICMR has found 2D strain of dengue that impacts platelet count, causes hemorrhaging and proves fatal in many samples — and in others, malaria and leptospirosis.

It is not clear what effective intervention has been made by the health departments to combat and control the infections. It is sad to notice that an air of helplessness has set in on the health front. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath makes tall claims about his governance in addition to rabidly communal speeches. Perhaps, he has a peculiar idea of governance. Sanitation, fumigation, prevention of waterlogging in the monsoon season, draining out stagnant water, equipping hospitals to provide medical care for all without turning anyone away and food for kids from poor households to reduce vulnerability to diseases are low on his agenda.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

A FUEL FOR THE FUTURE

Sir — The announcement of the National Hydrogen Mission by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a welcome step in justifying India's commitments to the Paris Agreement that would help mitigate the imminent global warming crisis. The last two years have witnessed increased momentum for green hydrogen, with many countries around the world implementing national hydrogen strategies. India is moving ahead with its hydrogen policy. Green hydrogen is being hailed as a potential miracle fuel that could help reduce carbon emissions.

The environmental impact of using green hydrogen is anticipated to be tremendously positive. Hydrogen, a zero-carbon fuel and a promising alternative to fossil fuel,

A vision beyond religion



Kudos to the Chief Justice of India NV Ramana for asking the nation to embrace the sane, tolerant and humanitarian vision of Swami Vivekananda. While the child Narendranath experimented with *hookahs* used by different communities to experience how one "loses" his caste or religion, the matured Swami Vivekananda advocated for universal brotherhood and equality of all human beings. Though Vivekananda was a proud Hindu as well as Indian, that did not deter him from pointing out the vices that had plagued the religion and the nation. Neither

did he paint an imaginary story revolving around "glory" of ancient India by "discovering" a test-tube baby, Rama's arrows being "missiles" and Kuber's *Pushpak Rath* an "aircraft". Nor he tried to impose his religious belief upon other communities by projecting Hinduism and India superior to others; rather his true love for his own religion and country got translated into love and respect for all religions and humanity as a whole.

It is indeed a disgusting sight when the rabid orthodox pseudo-nationalist merchants of hatred, who have emerged as the self-declared "guardians" of Hindus and "holy cows" and can't hold a candle to the liberalism of the great sage, dare to project the humanitarian harmony-personified Swami Vivekananda as one of their "icons". Let India be guided by the Constitutional spirit of secularism and equality of all along with the humanitarian light of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

is an abundant source that gives off no emissions and can make a real contribution to the fight against climate change. Though we have various renewable energy sources, the perfect one to use for vehicles is hydrogen. Hydrogen, when used in a fuel cell, the only exhaust it emits is mere clean water. A big advantage of hydrogen and fuel cells is that the cycle is fully sustainable. Big changes are needed to utilise green hydrogen in various industrial establishments. A holistic approach is needed to develop infrastructure and formulate policies to encourage the use of hydrogen-based energy sources.

Krishna K Vepakomma | Hyderabad

TOO MANY NAMESAKES

Sir — Only old-timers know that since western part of pre-independent Bengal came to India, the state was named as West Bengal, and East Bengal turned into East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The Central Government should accept the demand of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta

Banerjee for passing of a long-pending resolution of the State Assembly to rename the state as *Bangla*, thus removing the ever-confusing prefix 'west'.

There has been gradual change in names and spellings of cities but the process still remains incomplete even after decades of independence. Distorted spellings such as *Jullender* and *Simla* by the British have been rectified to Jalandhar and Shimla. But spellings of cities like Delhi and Bareilly as per actual pronunciation are still to be modified. Delhi is a distorted version of *Dehli*, meaning entrance. Countries like Bangladesh and China have already respelled names of their capitals as per actual pronunciation. There are too many *Rampurs* and *Bilaspurs* in India which require renaming to avoid confusion. These places can be renamed after the heroic characters from India's history.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

SOUNDBITE

In view of the dangerous level of pollution during Diwali in Delhi, we are imposing a ban on the storage, sale and usage of firecrackers.



Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal

We have reaped the benefits from the membership of BRICS, most notably in the area of economic cooperation.



South African President — Cyril Ramaphosa

The role of *Maadi Baa* in *Balika Vadhu* fits the criteria. I have been waiting a long time for something like this to come my way.



Actor — Ketki Dave

If Chris Gayle is in your playing XI, he has to open the batting because he is not going to waste balls.



Former England cricketer — Gautam Gambhir

Post the implementation of the new excise policy, Delhi Government will earn an extra revenue of 3,500 crore in a year.



Delhi Deputy Chief Minister — Manish Sisodia

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN
NOW IS THE NEED FOR A REALITY CHECK

Almost all of the global women's movements have dried up in the dreary desert sand of disinterest



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

There are many ways in which decision-making can be structured or planning can be done. There are many ways in which the struggle for the control of the decision-making processes takes place. Ultimately, those who emerge victors in the various competing ways of doing something carry the day. The articulate in the group become cheer leaders and those who care or dare to oppose are either eliminated or left to languish or perish. This happens in matters big and small. The last few weeks have seen the emasculation of an army which was proclaimed to be one of the finest equipped in the world. The current ruling elite in Afghanistan have made no bones about their distaste for matters such as democratically elected governance. They are in control and some of the mightiest powers in the world are ready to encourage this regime. Clearly the jury has not even convened, let alone 'be out' for a decision. The international system has yet again proved



its ineptness in sufficiently holding out values and making worthwhile moves to push for them. Even the so-called cause of women's rights in Afghanistan has not echoed much in any significant part of the world. Staunch proponents of gender equality can be seen occasionally demonstrating in some city, somewhere. Indeed, counter collectives reportedly have gathered of women in Afghanistan proclaiming, in effect, that the country's establishment's views on the status of women is indeed correct and must prevail. Philosophy has little scope to sort out a seemingly contentious views especially when there are few listeners. The international bodies including the United Nations are observing a thundering silence on this issue. Almost all of the global women's movements have suddenly dried up in the dreary desert sands of abject disinterest.

This is the story not just of women's rights. It is also the story of other human rights. The existence in China of alleged concentration camps, meant for certain religious minorities, is another subject of popular global neglect. Globally, even their co-religionists are rarely raising any attention about this. This is in sharp contrast to other kinds of concerns that are being raised. One wonders whether 'politics' predominantly determines what is flagged for attention and what is not. Like the gender movement, the cause of human rights for all, including minorities, is conspicuously marked by selective outrage. In the meanwhile, the expenditure on armaments amongst the so-called super powers continues to escalate. Some media channels have been showing the might of certain super powers to link power of artificial intelligence and incredible destructive capacity of nuclear devices. The powerful nations write their own rule books. In the last three decades or so, proclaimed aggression has been practiced to eliminate the so-called 'weapons of mass destruction' and more. Reportedly, the armorial dash was for control of oil resources. The sheer ability to cover up crass commerce with lofty principles of progress seems to be the hallmark of many powerful. The time has come to realise some of the underpinning driving the truth of our times. Unless the truth is placed, squarely, on the table, any reversal of this sorry logic — where the powerful grab what they want with or without attempts at camouflage — is likely to continue.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant. The views expressed are personal.)

Import duty cutback on Tesla is no good

Lower duties on EVs will incentivise companies to merely import from foreign markets and sell in India, and that does not add value to the Indian economy



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

Proposed import duty concessions for the import of electric cars manufactured by Tesla, an American electric car manufacturing company, is in public debate, having linkages with the domestic automobile industry. Whereas lobbying efforts are on for this proposal, the domestic automobile industry is vehemently opposing the same.

The American electric car company has sought lowering of import duty to 40 percent from the current 60 percent on fully assembled electric cars priced below \$40,000 and 60 percent from the current 100 percent on vehicles valued above that amount. The interesting part of the story is, there is no tangible offer from the company to begin manufacturing of this car in the country.

From newspaper reports it is being learnt that several ministries of the government have supported Tesla's proposal to lower import tariffs. Today, the Indian automobile industry is worth ₹8.2 lakh crore. Nearly 49 percent of manufacturing GDP comes from this sector, which constitutes 7.1 percent of overall GDP. The sector provides direct and indirect employment to nearly 3.7 crore people. It exports nearly \$27 billion worth of automobile products in different segments. It provides 15 percent of the total GST collected, apart from catering to the needs of the country with regard to vehicles of different types and in different segments. Along with this, a substantial auto components manufacturing sector has simultaneously developed, with significant production, employment and exports.

Today, electric vehicles account for less than one percent of the annual car sales. The Government of India has been giving a big push to the manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country aiming to reduce dependence on the imported fossil fuels and to reduce carbon foot prints. To achieve this objective of manufacturing EVs, import duty on EV parts and components, batteries, etc., is kept between 10 and 15 percent, which is much less than import duty on components for conventional automobiles. Using this duty concession, the established Indian companies and start-ups have started creating local value additions in the country. Efforts are also being made towards long-term localisation program.

Looking at the push given by the government to EVs, it seems that India will soon be able to start meeting domestic requirements of these vehicles. If the past is any guide, we understand that protection given to the domestic automobile sector has been the key to the development of this sector, which today is not only meeting the domestic requirements, but is also exporting automobiles to the rest of the world. It is also successfully procuring most of the components from within the country. It is notable that the Indian auto components industry is also worth ₹3.95 lakh crore. The Indian auto component turnover constitutes 2.3 per cent of GDP and provides employment to five million people and exports to



TODAY, ELECTRIC VEHICLES ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE ANNUAL CAR SALES. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GIVING A PUSH TO THE MANUFACTURING OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOSSIL FUELS AND REDUCE CARBON FOOT PRINT

(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



the tune of \$15-16 billion or ₹1.06 lakh crore.

India's luxury car market is relatively very small. In the year 2019-20, the total number of luxury cars sold was 40,637, which was down to 19700 during the COVID-hit 2020-21. This is because a very small section of the population can afford these luxury cars beyond rupees ₹15 lakh or, say, \$20,000. And a very minuscule segment of the population can afford to buy cars beyond ₹30 lakh. If duty concession is given to Tesla, those who can afford will obviously buy imported Tesla electric cars and there will hardly be any incentive for the company to establish a manufacturing facility in India; and the country would be deprived of capacity creation in EVs.

India has launched a flagship Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to give a boost to domestic production of goods for which, so far, the country is dependent on foreign nations. Thirteen sectors have been included in this scheme. Prior to this, the phased manufacturing programme (PMP) was launched. It is a known fact that in telecom and IT hardware sectors, Indians lost the opportunity to become a manufacturing hub due to faulty policies of lowering of tariffs, and dumping by China and other countries. Thanks to PMP earlier and now PLI scheme, this sector has started showing some gains in domestic manufacturing.

If we reduce tariff on fully-assembled electric cars and cars of other companies, say, Volkswagen — who have also started staking

claim for lower tariffs on their cars — would we not be committing the same mistake of the past and miss the bus in manufacturing and technology development of electric vehicles, which we are looking forward to?

First, any reduction in custom duty on EVs will incentivise companies to merely import from the foreign markets and sell in the Indian market. This will not help in any value addition to the economy and such a move would jeopardise India's efforts to increase domestic manufacturing.

Secondly, domestic automobile companies and start-ups are consistently investing in R&D and product development and contributing to the growth of the sustainable economy. Rather than creating a disturbing policy atmosphere of favouring imports of electric cars, it would be appropriate to support and leverage the local component ecosystem by long-term policy of the central and State Governments.

Thirdly, Ola company backed by venture capitalists has launched its first electric scooter, with more than one lakh bookings on a single day. Ola and other two-wheeler (Original Equipment Manufacturers) OEMs are on the verge of setting upstate-of-the-art manufacturing plants. Any tariff reduction for Tesla will discourage future endeavours in this direction.

Fourthly, we should not also forget that Tesla's business model company does not give any opportunity to the domestic auto compo-

nents manufacturers.

In the words of Elon Musk, "We have a massive amount of internal manufacturing technology that we built ourselves.... It's like okay, what are the things we want to make, design a machine that will make that thing, then we make the machine." Firstly, we do not need lowering of tariffs on assembled cars; we rather need leveraging fiscal and non-fiscal support for EVs. Lowering GST, registration fee, permit fee, road tax, PLI, tightening of regulations to motivate shift to EVs are some such measures.

Secondly, rather than discouraging investment in Research and Development by allowing direct imports of EVs, we should create an environment to increase investment in R&D. If we allow Tesla Cars to be imported with tariff reduction, we would be hampering the development of the EV ecosystem.

Thirdly, we must leverage the fastest growing unified market in the world to our advantage of long-term technology building in and by Indian companies. There is a larger opportunity and value capture in developing not-yet-mature technologies such as EVs. For example, we could have been leaders in mobile phones if we had developed our capabilities in India for mobile phones in the early 2000s. We require this technological foundation to cater to global markets in the future, and increase the exports by the automobile sector to record highs; and in any case not reduce import duty on Tesla cars.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

HOW CAN THE TMC TAKE OUT A RALLY IN TRIPURA IN VIOLATION OF THE COVID NORMS IMPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION?
— WEST BENGAL BJP PRESIDENT
DILIP GHOSH



THE BJP HAS LOST THE MORAL RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT THE APPROPRIATENESS OF HOLDING POLITICAL RALLIES IN COVID TIME.
— SENIOR TMC LEADER
FIRHAD HAKIM

Taxing the new-age digital companies

Foreign digital companies sell goods in India but do not pay taxes as they are not physically present in the country and that is a key concern

Digital technology has not only changed the way the world works, it has also made inroads into the country's taxation system.

For years, any company which is a resident of India came under the purview of taxation laws. However, a company need not now be a resident of a country to engage in economic activity. Technology and internet have made it possible a company to be present in one country and operate in another. This has caused concerns for countries where the consumers are located as they are deprived of their share of tax collection due to archaic laws requiring physical presence of companies to levy taxes. This inconsistency has led to an urgent need to amend



HIMA BINDU KOTA

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international taxation laws. To work around this issue, several attempts have been made by international organisations to derive some common consensus, particularly by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) under Base Erosion and Profit Sharing (BEPS) Action Plan I, which recommended certain interim opportunities to tackle tax challenges arising out of the new age digital economy.

One such option is the concept of 'significant economic presence' (SEP) that could be defined in two ways. First, any transaction in respect of any goods, services, or property carried out by a non-resident with any person in India, including provision of download of data or software



in India, if the aggregate of payments arising from such transaction or transactions during the previous year exceeds ₹2 crore. Secondly, systematic and continuous soliciting of business activities or engaging in interaction with 300,000 users in India. The concept of SEP was introduced within the ambit of 'business connection', which is an on-going and continuous business relation between any

two enterprises resulting in the profit of a non-resident entity.

According to the recommendation of BEPS Action Plan 1, a non-resident enterprise would be taxable if it has a SEP in that country, engaged in a focussed, continuous and sustained engagement with the economy with the help of technology and automation.

Interestingly, India has been one of the early movers in this direction. As amending the existing tax laws is a time-taking process, a committee was set under the guidance of the Central Board of Direct taxes (CBDT), the apex tax administrative body in India, that recommended, in 2016, an equalization levy of six percent as a viable option for India in online advertising and ancillary services. Later on, by

2020, the domain was extended to include online sale of goods and services. This will become effective from 2022 onwards.

For example, Alibaba, the internet giant, selling goods worth millions of dollars in India, is presently not taxed as an enterprise because it is not physically present in India. With the introduction of the concept of SEP, Alibaba would be taxable for the sales made in India. In addition, according to the second condition of SEP, the mere act of soliciting business from Indians and not even actual sales can subject any enterprise to taxation in India. This brings companies driven by information feeds and news like Facebook and Instagram, and social networks and other engagement-

based platforms, like Whatsapp, WeChat and Tiktok, under the ambit of Indian taxation rules, subject to their incomes or user base crossing the prescribed thresholds.

The SEP is also applicable to any liaison office set up in India as they are also involved in the continuous soliciting of business, bring them under its purview. This may push several foreign companies to set up their wholly owned subsidiaries to circumvent these conditions and to take advantage of lower tax rate of 25 percent as compared to 40 percent tax rate for foreign companies.

Overall, the business connection and significant economic presence will be applicable subject to the Double Taxation Avoidance

Agreement (DTAA) India has with the home country of the business enterprise in question. DTAs generally have specific clauses defining the conditions under which a host country can tax foreign companies located in their countries. And since DTAs override any domestic tax regulations, it would be complicated taxing foreign companies in situations when the concept of significance economic presence in not mentioned in the same. However, such a move shows the intent of India to tax companies in this new age of digital technology. A global consensus in determining the commonly accepted thresholds for defining significance economic presence will go a long way in taxing new age digital companies.

Pakistan Govt open to pardon TTP members

If they give up terror activities, submit to Govt and Constitution of Pakistan: Qureshi

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Government would be "open to giving" a pardon to members of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) if they promise not to indulge in terrorist activities and submit to the country's Constitution, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said.

Qureshi made the remarks during an interview with Britain's online newspaper 'The Independent' and the video of the interview was posted on social media by the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan on Wednesday, Dawn reported.

Voicing concern about the reports of TTP figures being released from prisons in the

wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, Qureshi said, "If those guys come and start creating problems for us over here, it will affect innocent lives and we don't want that."

Pakistan is fighting a major domestic insurgency in the form of local Taliban offshoot the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, or the TTP, as well as al-Qaeda and the ISIS.

Qureshi said if the new Afghan setup could use its influence and talk to the TTP, and "if [the TTP] are willing to mend fences and not take the law into their hands and not get involved in terrorist activities and they submit and surrender to the writ of the Government and the Constitution of Pakistan, we are even open to giving them a pardon."

"But as long as they do not come and start undertaking terrorist activities [in Pakistan]. That is our concern," the minister emphasised. Qureshi termed as "positive" the Afghan

Taliban administration's announcement that they would not allow any terrorist groups to use their soil against any country, including Pakistan.

He said Pakistan had been "continuously" pointing out TTP sanctuaries to the previous Ashraf Ghani-led Government, "but they wouldn't move". It remains to be seen whether the Afghan Taliban act on their assurances, Qureshi added.

His comments come days after President Arif Alvi suggested during an interview with Dawn News that the Government could consider giving an amnesty to those TTP members who had not remained involved in "criminal activities" and who laid down their weapons and agreed to adhere to the Pakistani Constitution. For years, the TTP unleashed deadly attacks on urban centres across Pakistan from their bases along the Afghan border.

China backs Taliban's demand to America to unfreeze Af's assets

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Wednesday supported the Taliban's demand that the US should unfreeze Afghanistan's assets and said that America has no legitimate reasons to do so as the Chinese envoy to Kabul called on acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and congratulated the interim Government.

According to reports from Washington, the US has frozen about \$9.5 billion in assets belonging to Afghanistan's central bank and stopped shipments of cash to Kabul, in a bid to keep the Taliban Government from accessing the money.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters here that the US has no legitimate reasons to freeze Afghanistan's assets.

Asked about the Taliban's demand that the US should unfreeze Afghanistan's assets stating that they belong to the people of Afghanistan and the

interim Government will take a legal action possible to get the funds released, Zhao said, "I think that the (Taliban's) spokesperson is right".

"The assets belong to Afghanistan and should be spent for the Afghan people."

"The US should not freeze them without justification. The US should face up to the legitimate demand of Afghanistan, abandon pressures and sanctions and stop creating obstacles to the economy, livelihood and peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan," Zhao said.

After the Taliban's seizure of power in Afghanistan last month, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank halted their aid to the war-torn country which largely depends upon the flow of foreign funds. According to reports from Kabul, Afghanistan's economy is near collapse even as the United Nations has made hectic efforts to galvanise global efforts to rush food and essential supplies.

Over \$12m seized from ex-officials as cash crunch hits Afghanistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Kabul: Afghanistan's central bank said on Wednesday that the Taliban had seized more than \$12 million in cash and gold from the homes of former Government officials, as it called for all transactions to be made in local currency.

A foreign exchange crunch in the aid-dependent country threatens the Taliban's rule one month after they seized power. Most government employees have yet to return to work — and in many cases salaries had already not been paid for months — leaving millions scrambling to make ends meet. Even those with money in the bank are struggling, as branches limit withdrawals to the equivalent of \$200 a week — with customers having to queue for hours.

And while remittances have resumed from abroad, customers awaiting funds at international chains such as Western Union and MoneyGram complained on Wednesday that branches they visited had run out of cash.

Afghan female footballers evade Taliban, reach Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Thirty-two women football players from Afghanistan, who were facing threats from the Taliban, have reached Pakistan along with their families after the Government issued emergency humanitarian visas to evacuate them, according to a media report on Wednesday.

The footballers belonging to the national junior girls' team had been originally due to travel to Qatar, where Afghan refugees have been housed at a facility for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, but were left stranded after a bomb blast at the Kabul airport that killed 13 US service members and at least 170 Afghans on August 26.

These women were facing threats from the Taliban due to their involvement in the sport, Dawn newspaper reported.

The Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August. These women football players had since been in hiding to evade the Taliban, according to the report.

The move to bring the 32



Afghanistan's national women's football team arrive in Lahore

footballers to Pakistan was initiated by British-based NGO Football for Peace in cooperation with the Government and the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF), which is not recognised by FIFA.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino had visited the Afghan refugees during his trip to Doha last week, but the global football body has been criticised for its inaction in aiding the female footballers who were still in Afghanistan.

The footballers will proceed from Peshawar to Lahore where they will be housed at the PFF headquarters.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (JPDC), JAMMU POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Tel/Fax No: 0191-2562593, e-Mail: xened1power@gmail.com
e-NIT No: ED-I/e-NIT/42 of 2021-22
Dated: 11.09.2021

1. INVITATION:-
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer (Distribution), JPDC, ED-I, Parade, Jammu, hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for "Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 11 KV line including dismantling of existing HT Line 0.250 Kms. of Jagti local feeder to avoid crossing in the Premises of IIM, Jammu and Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 11 KV line including dismantling of existing HT Line 0.250 Kms. of feeder at IIT Jagti to avoid crossing over the IIM, Jagti Under the jurisdiction of Electric Division Div.-I (JPDC) Jammu. On Turn Key basis."

(on Turn Key basis)

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A. Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date :- 11.09.2021; (10:00 AM onwards)
B. Tender Document Sale/Download End Date :- 04.10.2021; (upto 02:00 PM)
C. e-Bid submission (start) date & time :- 13.09.2021; (10:00 AM onwards)
D. e-Bid submission (end) date & time :- 04.10.2021; (upto 02:00 PM)
E. Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee & EMD Instrument (End) date & time :- 04.10.2021 (upto 04:00 PM)
F. Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time :- 05.10.2021; 02:00 PM
G. Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders):- Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.
H. Venue of opening of techno-commercial bids :- Office of Executive Engineer, JPDC, Ed-I, Parade, Jammu
I. Tender Value :- Rs. 26.11 lacs (funds in pipeline)
J. Cost of e-Bid document :- Rs. 10000 (Rupees one thousand only) (Non-Refundable)
K. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :- Bid securing declaration form as per Format enclosed (In reference to Circular No. A/Misc.(2018)-III-895/J Dated 22-12-2020 issued by Finance Department Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir)

Sd/- Executive Engineer
JPDC, Electric Division-I
Parade Jammu.

No. DIP/J-2927-P/21
Dated :- 15-09-2021

ISIS bride wants chance to face UK courts, fight terror

PTI ■ LONDON

Shamima Begum, the London-born Bangladeshi-origin woman who fled the UK to join the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist network in Syria as a teenager, said she is sorry "from the bottom of my heart" and pleaded with Prime Minister Boris Johnson for a chance to face the UK justice system.

In her first live interview from the Al Roj refugee camp in Syria for ITV's 'Good Morning Britain' programme on Wednesday, the 22-year-old said she would accept any sentence handed down if she were tried in a UK court as she would "rather die than go back to ISIS" and also offered to help Britain combat terrorism.

She insisted she was "groomed and taken advantage of and manipulated" and that her role with the terror outfit was only to be a "mother and a wife".

"The reason I came to Syria was not for violent reasons. At the time I did not know it was a death cult, I thought it was an Islamic community I was joining," she said.

"I am willing to go to court and face the people who made these claims and refute these claims, because I know I did nothing in IS but be a mother and a wife. These claims are being made to make me look worse because the government do not have anything on me," Begum said, with reference to claims she engaged in terrorist acts.

UK bans Chinese envoy from Parl; angry Beijing condemns move

PTI ■ LONDON

China's Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang has been barred from the UK Parliament over sanctions imposed on some British MPs for their remarks on alleged human rights violations against Uyghur minorities in Xinjiang, triggering an angry condemnation from the Chinese Embassy here.

Zeguang was due to attend a meeting organised by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on China recently, but a letter from the sanctioned members of Parliament and House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle resulted in its cancellation.

The letter flagging the meeting was signed by Conservative Party MPs Ian Duncan Smith, Tim Loughton, Nusrat Ghani and the Chair of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee Tom Tugendhat — among those on the sanctions list. In their letter, the MPs argued: "The Chinese Government has so far made no attempt to reverse the sanctions."

Rishi Sunak, Priti Patel retain top jobs as Boris shuffles Cabinet

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday undertook a reshuffle of his top team, keeping two of his senior Indian-origin Cabinet Ministers Rishi Sunak and Priti Patel in their posts.

Sunak will remain next door to Johnson at Downing Street as his Chancellor of the Exchequer and Patel, who had been at the centre of some speculation of being moved, remains in her post as Home Secretary. Sunak, the son-in-law of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, has been in his post since February last year and has led the UK's financial response to the Covid-19.

Patel, whose parents are of Gujarati-Ugandan descent, has been the Home Secretary since July 2019. However, among the senior ministers being shuffled around include Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who accepted a demotion to take charge as the new Justice Secretary, alongside his other roles of Lord Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister.

Khalistanis gaining ground in US: Report

India's appeals to curb them fall on deaf ears

India's appeals to curb them fall on deaf ears

objective is to establish an "independent and sovereign country" in Punjab.

In its 'Pakistan's Destabilization Playbook: Khalistani Activism in the US' report published on Tuesday, the Hudson Institute examines the conduct of "Khalistan and Kashmir separatist groups within the United States" to investigate their support by Pakistan.

The report looks at these groups' ties to militant and terrorist outfits in India, and the possible detrimental effects of their activities on US foreign policy in South Asia.

The report demonstrates that "like Pakistan-based Islamist terrorist groups, the Khalistan groups can emerge under new names."

"Unfortunately, the United States government has shown no interest in violence committed by Khalistan activists, even though the Khalistan campaign's most ardent supporters are located in western countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA
(A subsidiary company of Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd., Patna)
CIN- U40102BR20125GCO18889

Head Office, Vidhut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna- 800021
Email address- cetransom.bsptcl@gmail.com
Mob. No. 7763817721 Website- www.bsptcl.in
Tender Notice (NIT) NO.- 35/PR/BSPTCL/2021
(Through e-procurement mode only -www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Online-Tenders are invited by Chief Engineer (O&M) for the followings:-

Description of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Cost of B.O.Q. (Non-Refundable)(Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee(Rs.)	Completion period
Design, Manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of 33KV, 1600A, 25KA, C2-M2 Class Vacuum Breaker with support structures, marshalling boxes, terminal connectors (suitable for ACSR Moose) etc- 150sets	3.77 Cr	7,54,728.00	11,800	5,900	6(Six) Months from NOA

Bid submission Start Date and Time
Date of Pre-bid meeting (via online mode)
Bid submission End Date and Time
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I):
Date of opening of price part

From 15:00 Hrs. of 29.09.2021
On 11:00 Hrs. of 04.10.2021
Up to 15:00 Hrs. of 20.10.2021
After 16:00 Hrs. of 22.10.2021
To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

- "Bid Processing Fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS".
- The Cost of EMD may be paid through either Online or Offline mode. In case, Cost of EMD is opted to be paid through Offline mode, Bank Guarantee/Demand Draft for EMD in favor of "Accounts Officer, BSPTCL, Patna" must be submitted to Chief Engineer (O&M), BSPTCL, Vidhut Bhawan, Patna positively up to 15:00 Hrs. of 20.10.2021 failing which the tender shall be summarily rejected. For online submissions of Cost of EMD, bidder shall submit details of intimation to this Office by 15:00 Hrs. of 20.10.2021.
- "Bid along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/> before the date & time specified in the NIT. The department doesn't take responsibility for the delay/ Non submission of Tender/ Non Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/ Holidays or any other reason".
- Pre-Bid meeting for the Tender shall be conducted via online mode. Interested bidders must provide the details viz. contact and email address to the Mob no.-7763817768 before schedule pre-bid meeting date.
- Tender may be cancelled at any stage by the competent authority without refunding the Cost of BOQ.
- Bidder should have valid GST and all other applicable tax registration certificate and copies of the same duly attested shall be furnished.
- No separate transportation cost shall be paid and the bidder shall have to quote the rate inclusive of transportation cost and all taxes.
- Eligibility Criteria, tender documents along with General/Special condition, bids and any corrigendum/addendum of the tender are available only at website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

Chief Engineer (O&M)

E-tendering introduced in BSPTCL for tenders above Rs. 25 lacs. For registration log in to www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and e-Procurement Help Desk Toll free No: 1800 572 6571, Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays).
While participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to get them registered to get user ID, Passwords and digital signature. This will enable them to access the Website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.

‘विवादों के निषादन के लिए लोक अदालत का काम उद्योग परस्पर सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करसमय एवं खर्च की बचत करें।’
For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR. No. 006205 (NI.NI) 2021-22

नौचल कोसना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No. 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

GLOBE TROTTERING

2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED, IN CZECH GAS BLAST

Prague: Two firefighters were killed in a gas explosion that leveled a family house in southeast Czech Republic, officials said on Wednesday. The head of the regional government, Radim Holis, also said two other firefighters were injured. The regional rescue service said a total of four people were injured in the explosion that occurred in the town of Korycany shortly after noon. One was taken to hospital for treatment by a helicopter.

PAK: 7 SOLDIERS, 5 ULTRAS KILLED IN GUN BATTLE

Peshawar: Seven Pakistani soldiers and five terrorists were killed in a gun battle in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PKP) province bordering Afghanistan on Wednesday, the military said.

SMALL PLANE CRASHES IN INDONESIA'S PAPUA

Jakarta: A small cargo plane crashed in a steep mountainous forest in Indonesia's Papua province on Wednesday, killing all three people on board, officials said. Timika rescue agency chief George Leo Mercy Randang said rescuers had reached the crash site of the Rimbun Air plane and confirmed that all three crew members were dead.

SRI LANKAN PRISONS MINISTER RESIGNS

Colombo: Sri Lankan Prisons Minister Lohan Ratwatte resigned on Wednesday after an uproar over his alleged remarks to kill Tamil prisoners during his recent visit to a jail in the island nation's north central region. Ratwatte, the Minister of State for Prisons Management, tendered his resignation after outrage from the Tamil political parties which sought his exit from the Cabinet and arrest over the remarks.

Iran's nuclear chief admits removal of damaged IAEA cameras

Tehran: Iran acknowledged on Wednesday that it had removed several surveillance cameras installed by UN nuclear inspectors at a centrifuge assembly site that came under a mysterious attack earlier this year.

The chief of the country's nuclear program, Mohammad Eslami, sought to portray the removal of cameras as Tehran's response to world powers renegeing on their commitments under the tattered 2015 nuclear deal.

"The parties did not implement their commitments so there were no necessity for the cameras' existence," Eslami said after a meeting with lawmakers — remarks apparently aimed at his own domestic audience under the country's new hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi.

Eslami's comments come days after a confidential International Atomic Energy Agency report that revealed the nuclear watchdog found four surveillance cameras to be destroyed and damaged after their removal from the centrifuge manufacturing site in Karaj, a city about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Tehran.

In June, Iran accused Israel of mounting a sabotage attack on the site, which makes components for machines used to enrich uranium. Without disclosing details of the assault, Iranian authorities acknowledged the strike had damaged the building.

Addressing swirling questions about the agency's broken surveillance cameras, Eslami said Wednesday they were damaged during recent "terrorist operations," without elaborating.

Taiwan drills military as concerns over China grow

Jiadong (Taiwan): The F-16 screeched across the sky on Wednesday before landing on a highway cut through pineapple fields in southwestern Taiwan to refuel quickly and take off again.

The Taiwanese military exercise envisioned a Chinese attack taking out the island's main airfields, necessitating the use of rural roads as runways to carry on the fight.

War is not imminent, but as China has grown increasingly assertive in both the East China and South China Seas, Taiwan is stepping up its defense. Across the region, the United States and its allies are deepening military cooperation and strategizing over an effective response.

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, flies fighter jets toward Taiwan on a regular basis in an effort to warn and intimidate the island's air force. Last month, Chinese fighter jets, anti-submarine aircraft and combat ships conducted joint assault drills near Taiwan with China saying the exercise was necessary to safeguard its sovereignty.

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced a meeting next week with key regional players that form the so-called "Quad" — India, Australia and Japan together with the US — for in-person talks.

Kim Jong Un's sister warns of 'destruction' of South Korean ties

AP ■ SEOUL

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday criticised South Korea's President and threatened a "complete destruction" of bilateral relations after both of the countries tested ballistic missiles hours apart.

The launches of missiles underscored a return of tensions between the rivals at a time when talks aimed at stripping North Korea of its nuclear program are stalled.

Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, criticised South Korean President Moon Jae-in for comments he made while observing his country's missile tests, including its first of a submarine-launched ballistic missile. Moon said South Korea's growing missile capabilities will serve as a "sure deterrence" against North Korean provocations.

The tests came hours after the South Korean and Japanese militaries said North Korea had fired two ballistic missiles into the sea.

TENDER NOTICE

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-Lumding/264/2020/7584 Dated - 14/09/2021

The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following work from registered contractors [Class - I (A, B & C)] under A. P. W. D. (Building) Assam, having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 16/09/2021(04:30 PM) to 06/10/2021 (2:00 PM) The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Name of Work	Package No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
CONSTRUCTION OF KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (CLASS VI TO X) (ACADEMIC BLOCK ASSAM TYPE WITH RCC HOSTEL BUILDING (G+2) (KGBV-TYPE-II), SSA, ASSAM	1L	Lumding, Hojai	Rs.1,91,28,900.00 [Per site]	12 (twelve months)	Rs.3,82,578.00 (for General) Rs.1,91,289.00 (for reserved Category) [PER SITE]	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati -19	Rs.5000.00

Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/1344/21

AUTOMOTIVE, DRONE INDUSTRIES Govt approves ₹26k crore PLI scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday announced a Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the drones and drone component industries that offers an incentive of 20 per cent of the value addition made by a manufacturer of drones and drone components. The PLI scheme for drones and drone components spread over three financial years, will lead to investments worth ₹5,000 Crore, increase in eligible sales of ₹1500 crore and create additional employment of about 10,000 jobs.

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur on Wednesday announced that the Cabinet has approved the PLI scheme for drones and drone component industries, saying that ₹120 crores to the drone industry under the budgetary provision for the PLI scheme.

"A product specific PLI scheme for drones with clear revenue targets and focus on domestic value addition is key to building capacity and making these key drivers of India's growth strategy.

The PLI for Drones and Drone components industry, will over a period of three years, lead to investments worth ₹5,000 Crore, increase in eligible sales of ₹1500 crore and create additional employment of about 10,000 jobs," the Government said in a statement.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation expects the annual sales turnover of the drone manufacturing industry to grow from ₹60 crore in 2020-21 to over ₹900 crore in 2023-24. According to the Ministry, the PLI scheme covers a variety of drone components which Airframe, propulsion systems (engine and electric), power systems, batteries and

associated components, launch and recovery systems, Inertial Measurement Unit, Inertial Navigation System, flight control module, ground control station and associated components.

The Ministry has notified the rules for the drone industry last month, relaxing the rules specifying no security clearance requirement before any registration or licence issuance for operating the drones.

Under the new rules, several approvals are abolished. These comprise unique authorisation number, unique prototype identification number, certificate of conformance, certificate of maintenance, operator permit, authorisation of R&D organisation, student remote pilot licence, remote pilot instructor authorisation, drone port authorisation, and import permission for drone components.

Benchmarks surge to all-time highs

TELECOM, AUTO STOCKS RALLY ON REFORMS PUSH

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty vaulted to fresh lifetime peaks on Wednesday, boosted by telecom and auto stocks which saw brisk buying after the government announced packages for the sectors.

A rebounding rupee and persistent foreign capital inflows added to the momentum, traders said.

Rising for the second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 476.11 points or 0.82 per cent to close at its new all-time high of 58,723.20. It touched an intra-day record of 58,777.06. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 139.45 points or 0.80 per cent to its fresh closing record of 17,519.45. During the session, it touched an all-time peak of 17,532.70.

NTPC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 7.16 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel at 4.53 per cent. HCL Tech, Titan, SBI, PowerGrid, TCS and IndusInd Bank also notched up gains.

On the other hand, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Nestle India, Sun

Pharma and HDFC Bank were among the laggards, shedding up to 0.38 per cent.

In big bang reforms, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a relief package for the telecom sector that includes a four-year moratorium on payment of statutory dues by telecom companies as well as allowing 100 per cent foreign investment through the automatic route.

The Cabinet also approved a ₹ 26,058 crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the auto, auto-components and drone industry to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities. "The measures announced for the telecom and auto industry are sweeping with potential for far-reaching beneficial impact. A four-year moratorium on dues of the telecom sector which covers AGR, spectrum dues and interest payment will bring big relief to the cash-strapped sector.

This is positive for banks, too, since banks' exposure too will decline significantly," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

The ₹26,058 crore PLI scheme for automobiles, auto components and drones is a major initiative to attract advanced auto technology and supply chains into India, he noted.

"This is a timely policy when global supply chains are looking for markets outside China for shifting supply chains. The PLI scheme's goal of investment of ₹42,500 crore in 5 years is ambitious but achievable. In brief, bold reforms," he added.

All BSE sectoral indices closed in the green, led by telecom (3.45 per cent), utilities (2.29 per cent), power (2.01 per cent), teck (1.81 per cent), and consumer durables (1.62 per cent). In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and smallcap gauges advanced up to 0.86 per cent. On the global front, markets were weighed by weak China retail sales data amid a resurgence of Delta variant cases in the country. However, US inflation data showed a slower-than-expected rise in prices, giving room to the Fed to continue with its accommodative stance.

Relief measures will enable telecom industry to achieve Digital India goals: Mukesh Ambani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh D. Ambani on Wednesday said the latest reforms and relief measures will enable the telecom sector to achieve goals set under the Digital India mission.

The government has given the option to telecom operators to pay the interest amount arising due to deferment of payment by way of equity.

The minister said 100 per cent FDI (foreign direct investment) in telecom via the automatic route was approved by the Cabinet. Earlier, automatic investment routes were limited to 49 per cent level and approval from concerned authorities was required for foreign investment beyond the 49 per cent level.

The Cabinet has approved the allocation of spectrum through an auction for a period of 30 years compared to the 20-year period prevalent at present.

Telecom operators will also be allowed to surrender spectrum that will be acquired in future auctions after 10 years of the lock-in period. "There will be no spectrum usage charges levied for spectrum acquired in future auctions.

"We look forward to working with the Government of India and other industry players in reaching all the goals and milestones of the Digital India vision, so that we can collectively make every sector of the economy productive and enhance the ease of living for every Indian," Jio said.

RIL's telecom arm Jio said the government's telecom sector reforms will encourage it to bring newer and greater benefits to the customers.

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that as part of the reforms in the telecom sector, the Cabinet has allowed a four-year moratorium on all dues that telecom operators have to pay to the government, including annual payments of

dues arising out of the AGR judgment and spectrum purchased in past auctions excluding the March 2021 auction.

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ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED

Corporate Identity Number: L17226HR1984PLC033384
 Regd. Office: Behrampur Road, Village Khandas, District Gurgaon, Haryana-122001
 Phone: 0124 4809755; E-mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com; Web: ashnoortext.com

NOTICE OF 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

INFORMATION FOR REMOTE E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE
 Notice is hereby given that the 38th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to transact the business as set forth in the notice of the AGM, in compliance with General Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13th January, 2021 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) read with General Circular No. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020, General Circular Nos. 14 & 17/2020 dated 8th April, 2020 and 13th April, 2020 respectively, Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated 15th January, 2021 and No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12th May, 2020 (collectively referred as "relevant circulars") permitted convening AGM through VC / OAVM, without the physical presence of the members at a common venue. In accordance with relevant circulars the AGM of the Company through VC / OAVM shall be deemed to convene at the registered office of the Company. Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC/OAVM or view the live webcast at <https://instemet.linkintime.co.in>. All the members participating through VC / OAVM facility shall be counted for the purpose of quorum under section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

In compliance relevant circulars notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for the financial year 2020-21 has been sent on September 6, 2021 only through electronic mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories. Members may note that the Notice and Annual Report for the financial year 2020-21 will be available on the Company's website www.ashnoortext.com, website of the Stock Exchange, i.e., BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, and on the website of the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, Link Intime India Private Limited at www.linkintime.com.

The Company is providing to its members facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM by electronic means (e-voting) either remotely before the AGM or during the AGM in respect of all the businesses to be transacted at the aforesaid meeting using electronic voting system to be provided by Link Intime India Private Limited. Remote e-voting period will start on Monday, 27th September, 2021 (9:30 A.M. IST) and ends at Wednesday, 29th September, 2021 (5:30 P.M. IST). During this period shareholders of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date (record date) of Thursday, September 23, 2021 may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter. Detailed procedure for voting by electronic means is given in the notice of the AGM. The members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again in AGM.

Pursuant to Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant Rules the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Friday, September 24, 2021 to Thursday, September 30, 2021 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

Any person becomes a member of the Company after mailing of the notice of AGM but before cut-off date may obtain login ID and password by sending request to Mr. Swapan Kumar Naskar, AVP-North, Link Intime India Private Limited at Noble Heights, 1st Floor, Plot NH 2 C-1 Block LSC, Near Savitri Market, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 (Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent) at email ID swapann@linkintime.co.in or phone number: +91 11 49411000 for obtaining the credentials for remote e-voting. However, a person is already registered with LIFPL for e-voting than existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

In case of queries/grievances regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-Voting manual available at <https://instemet.linkintime.co.in>, under help section or write an email to delhi@linkintime.co.in or enotices@linkintime.co.in or may call at: Tel: +91 11 49411000 / 022 49186000 or write to Mr. Swapan Kumar Naskar or write to the Company at atml_agm@yahoo.co.in.

For and behalf of Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited

Sd/-
 Suneel Gupta
 Managing Director
 DIN:00052084
 Place: Gurgaon, Haryana
 Date: September 11, 2021

Govt to sell 5% in Hindustan Copper via OFS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will sell 5 per cent of its stake in state-owned Hindustan Copper through an offer for sale (OFS) this week, according to a regulatory filing. The OFS will take place on Thursday and Friday through a separate, designated window of the BSE Ltd and NSE, Hindustan Copper said in a filing to BSE. "The

President of India, acting through and represented by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, is the promoter of Hindustan Copper Ltd," the filing said. The Govt will sell 48,351,201 equity shares representing 5 per cent of the total issued and paid up equity share capital of the company. "The Promoter...Proposes to sell up to 48,351,201 equity shares of

the company (representing 5 per cent of the total issued and paid up equity share capital of the company...On September 16, 2021 (for non-retail investors only) and on September 17, 2021 (for retail investors and non-retail investors who choose to carry forward their un-allotted bids) with an option of additionally sell 48,351,201 equity shares...Through a separate,

designated window of the BSE Ltd and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE)," Hindustan Copper said in a filing to BSE. The floor price for the offer will be ₹116 per equity share, the filing said. Hindustan Copper Ltd, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, was incorporated in November, 1967.

FinMin asks IBA to play pivotal role in resurgence of economy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Wednesday asked Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to play a pivotal role in the resurgence of the economy in the 75th year of India's independence.

"At this juncture I would urge the IBA Chairman to scout for good competent resources and technology adoption for capitalisation. IBA should not be merely an association that passes banking issues to the RBI, it must rather strive to integrate with economic reforms for boosting growth," Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda said.

Inaugurating the Delhi office of IBA, the secretary suggested that the Association can also look at providing training

and skilling to middle management banking professionals so as to unburden banks in the same task.

"IBA has a pivotal role to play in terms of research and key banking issues and a significant role to play in the resurgence of the economy in the 75th year of India's independence," he said.

During the occasion, IBA Chairman Rajkiran Rai said IBA's transformation started in 2018 and is now more closely involved in the business side operations than mere advocacy.

IBA is involved in finding new solutions for the customers especially during the pandemic and has come up with guidelines for the cohesive functioning of the entire banking system, IBA CEO Sunil Mehta said.

Reconfigure agricultural producer support: UN report

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

Calling for repurposing of damaging incentives to the agriculture sector that is price distorting and environmentally and socially harmful, a new United Nations (UN) report has said reconfiguring agricultural producer support rather than eliminating it will help fight climate change better.

The report, 'A multi-billion dollar opportunity: Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems,' launched late on Tuesday night by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme

(UNEP) has found that the current support to producers mostly consists of price incentives. These price incentives such as import tariffs and export subsidies, as well as fiscal subsidies are tied to the production of a specific commodity or input. "These are inefficient, distort food prices, hurt people's health, degrade the environment, and are often inequitable, putting big agribusiness ahead of smallholder farmers, a large share of whom are women," the report said.

Global support to producers in the agricultural sector amounts to \$540 billion per year, making up 15 per cent of total agricultural production value.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
 Regional Office: 4, Nehru Place, Tank Road, Jaipur-15 (Rajasthan)

E-Tender Notice

An e-tender notice is invited, under two-bid system for appointment of regular Road Transport Contractor on GeM Portal for two years from various dispatching Centers to various receiving centers of Rajasthan region.

Under e-tender notice ROJ/CONTRACT/RTO/03/2021, the bids shall be accepted ONLINE from 16.09.2021, 02.30 PM to 06.10.2021, 02.00 PM. All the Terms & Conditions and other details are available on Government E-Marketplace (GeM) Portal website <https://gem.gov.in> and Corporation's website www.fci.gov.in.
 General Manager (Region)

UJVN LIMITED
 H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC029866, Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 671 Date Extension Notice- 05 Date: 14.09.2021

Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the e-NIT No. NCB/01/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 & NCB/02/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 invited by the office of the Executive Engineer Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar is being extended as below:

Last Date & Time for submission of bids on the portal Upto 17:00 hrs of 18.10.2021

Date & Time of Opening of bids on the portal at 11:00 hrs of 19.10.2021

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

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

Executive Engineer (PCM)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Sunny, S/o Vinod, R/o Jhuggi** near Sai Baba Mandir, Madipur Metro Station, Delhi, **Age: 10 years, Height: 3'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, wearing Multi colour T-Shirt, Half Blue colour Jeans Nikkar and Blue colour Chappal in feet,** has been missing from nearby area of Ashoka Park Metro Station since 03.09.2021. In this regard a **FIR No. 835/21 U/S 363 IPC, dated 05.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi.**

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
 E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639

SHO

Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi**
 DP/551/WD/2021 Ph. No.: 8287641531, 8750871124



An MoU was signed by Pramit Kumar Garg, Director (Business Development), DMRC, and Rituraj Vyas, GM(Planning), YEIDA, for preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Greater Noida-Noida International Airport Metro corridor and a Feasibility Study for extending the Delhi Metro Airport Express line beyond New Delhi Railway Station to Greater Noida for connecting Terminal 3 of IGI Airport

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Md. Usman Qureshi S/o Md. Haji Mustkin Qureshi R/o H. No. 98A, DDA Flat, Shastri Park, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 118/18 U/s 63/65 CR Act dated 19.05.2018 registered at P.S. Seelampur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Md. Usman Qureshi** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Md. Usman Qureshi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Md. Usman Qureshi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.10.2021.**

By Order
Sh. Arun Kumar Garg,
 Metropolitan Magistrate - 03, Room No. 68,
 Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi

DP/1029/NE/2021 (Court Notice)

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 65 Yrs., Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, ID Marks: Something written on right hand but unreadable., Place of Recovery: Near Elect. Room PF No. 11, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.**

In this regard **DD No. 15 A, U/s 174 Cr.PC, Dated 12.09.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.** Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
 DP/254/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23961522

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT No.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO.13/UH/M/XENP-IV/QH/2061 DATED 29.07.2021, HRC_181696_1	PROCUREMENT OF GI HEXAGONAL NUTS AND BOLTS UHBVN & DHBVN. DATE OF SUBMISSION UPTO 20.09.2021 (13.00 HRS.)	www.uhbvn.org.in	cem@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO No. 4740

Lost & Found

Notice here by given Tejpal Singh Kohli S/o Kulbir Singh Kohli R/o L-7 Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-27. a member of The Panchsheel Cooperative House Building Society office at House no.107, Telephone exchange colony Zirakpur Distt Mohali Punjab membership no.7, Plot no. 84 The Panchsheel Cooperative House Building Society Ltd Aitgarh, Distt Mohali Punjab declare that I have lost original receipts Rs 3000 and Rs 5110 and share certificate in my favour and I have applied for duplicate share certificate, receipt of payment and allotment letter. If anyone have objection please contact within 15 days to secretary of the society.

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 16.09.2021

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/21-22/RB/RJ/952	SUPPLY OF 4 WAY O/D MOTORISED RMU WITH FRU IN BRPL	6.20 Crores	6,20,000/-	29.09.2021 15:30 HRS	29.09.2021 16:00 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/RB/RJ/953	SUPPLY OF 630 KVA DRY TYPE DT IN BRPL	5.70 Crores	5,70,000/-	05.10.2021 15:30 HRS	05.10.2021 16:00 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
 For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@reliancesada.com
 For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40103DL2001PLC111527
 Telephone No.: +91 11 4920 7235 | E-mail: brpl.eauction@reliancesada.com | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com



SLUMBER, THE BEST MEDICINE

Digital health technologies are the vehicles of change and awareness for ensuring a good night's sleep, says DR SIBASISH DEY

The ongoing pandemic has spurred the adoption of digital health technologies across the country. People far and wide have resorted to online consultations and remote monitoring tools to treat diseases. The government of India also launched the National Digital Health Mission to advance the healthcare ecosystem and fuel the adoption of telemedicine and telemonitoring. Digital healthcare tools and techniques enable remote monitoring of patients, bridging the accessibility gap between the doctor and the patient. They also help reduce the impact of the dismal doctor-patient ratio in India, which currently stands at 1:1445 (one doctor for every 1445 patients). The ideal ratio, as prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), is 1:1000. Overall, digital healthcare and the data collected helps the medical community to predict health problems, develop effective solutions and advance medical research. Digital healthcare has also given sleep awareness an exponential boost. More people willingly are undertaking sleep tests and subsequent therapies today.



Though our work schedules and lifestyle highly impact our sleeping patterns, negligence is the biggest cause of unhealthy sleep cycles. We respect the importance of food and exercise in our lives but do not give sleep the attention it deserves. Ironically, sleep tends to be way more critical. Another vital aspect to consider here is the quality of sleep. We may sleep for over seven hours each day; still, if it is interrupted, the purpose is lost. This leads to sleeping issues such as insomnia and sleep apnea. Sleeping disorders like sleep apnea have detrimental effects on our bodies, making their diagnosis and treatment even more critical. In a country with over 1.3 billion people, sleep awareness remains an unspoken subject to date. India is the second most sleep-deprived country globally, with an average of seven hours, one minute of sleep and is only ahead of Japan.

As evident from the data above, India is a sleep-deprived country. Apart from the unimportance given to it, the primary reason is the awareness gap and unavailability of suitable infrastructure to support sleep testing. Polysomnography, the study of sleep, requires a sleep laboratory. It is expensive and a tedious process, so people do not willingly undertake it. The introduction of digital solutions for sleep disorder testing and treatment has given manageable and easy to apply devices that are now available in the comfort of our homes. They are user friendly, cost-effective, and enable remote monitoring of the patient. For example, continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy has proven to be an effective connected treatment option for sleep-disordered breathing, commonly known as Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA), at home. Administered with the help of a modest size device,

it pushes air into the patient's breathing system with a calibrated pressure that opens the obstructed airway. Similarly, testing of sleep disorders has transitioned from sleep labs to our bedrooms with simple wearable devices. The easy access and increasing awareness about overall well-being have also encouraged people to undertake sleep tests even on experiencing mild symptoms of sleep disorders. India's medical fraternity has also begun considering sleep disorders as a possible cause of multiple chronic ailments such as hypertension and cardiovascular issues and have started recommending sleep testing and therapy to their patients.

An erratic lifestyle and long working hours resulting from the pandemic have put our health at significant risk, making it essential to monitor our sleep hygiene.

A healthy sleep cycle impacts our overall well-being in numerous ways. Apart from keeping our productivity in check, it also improves our cardiovascular system, blood pressure, mental health, keeps obesity in check, and multiple other things. The key takeaway here is that we must practice a healthy sleep routine. If anyone experiences morning headaches, daytime fatigue, and other associated symptoms, they should consult a sleep-specialist. A night of sound sleep leads to a healthy mind and a healthy body.

(The author is the head of medical affairs at ResMed, a medical equipment company, in India and South Asia.)

Innovation in digital technologies



Confidence and comfort over style

SIDDHARTH GROVER highlights why women's closets are incomplete without a good collection of lingerie

In the present times, modern women prefer possessing lingerie that is comfortable and size appropriate. *Passé* are the days when inner-wear was solely the dire need for females. It is no longer a dream for them to own colourful and seductive lingerie. Rather, it has now become a style quotient symbol that helps them gain happiness and confidence beyond comfort and coverage.

The consumer psyche has undergone a major shift and women prefer variety not only in clothes but in lingerie as well. Their innerwear now occupies a prominent position in their closet. In fact, they have a lingerie wardrobe that they regularly maintain and wish to own lingerie that is simple, comfortable, and skin-friendly!

The rising prominence of a lingerie wardrobe amongst females

Lingerie is now recognized as modern times' trendy underclothing product that helps boost the self-morale and enhances the beauty of a female rather than just acting as a mere coverall. Females nowadays are independent, bold, and explicitly share about their choices and preferences. Well-fitting lingerie has become their ideal companion now and hence they want nothing but the best.

Just like the branded clothes, intimate wear also has its dedicated space in the females' closets. Rather, they now have a lingerie wardrobe that simply refers to having a variety. Women are always on the lookout for options that offer comfort and yet are voguish in design. However, they also desire to have innerwear that is vibrant, attractive, and sexy at the same time. Variety in fabric, design, style, and colors is something that they vouch for!

Since following fashion seems to be the new fad, with the change in dressing styles and fashion statements, the need for a variety of innerwear is also driven. The female community in ultra-modern times loves to experiment. They are also aware that lingerie can make or break your outfit and that the right pieces can impose a remarkable impact. Hence, they opt for matching their innerwear or contrasting it with their clothes.

Their collection now has t-shirt bras specifically for t-shirts and shirts, sports bras for workout sessions, backless and off-shoulder bras for designer tops and dresses along with a diverse variety of thongs and bikini bottoms as well as other underwear variants for special occasions. They also own innerwear in nude, white, black, along with neon and other colours that pop out and add stylish hues to their outfits. Camisoles, spaghettis, and so on, to be worn under dresses are a part of their lingerie wardrobe nowadays as well. The sole reason for this is that any single type of innerwear won't suffice their requirement and won't compliment the kinds of clothes that modern females wear. Hence, owning a lingerie wardrobe with diversity is important

Summing up

The innerwear industry is also leaving no stone unturned so as to bring about innovations and cater to the rising as well as diverse requirements of the female consumers. It is proliferating significantly in order to match up with the surging demands.

Lingerie is the first thing we put on while dressing up. A good experience with the right innerwear can be mesmerising but a bad one can turn out to be horrifying or even a nightmare. Hence, females now love their innerwear immensely. They choose the one that fits their bill of comfort, style, and fitting and are dedicating their attention towards building their lingerie closet rather than providing it a space in their existing wardrobe!

Lingerie can be of various types ranging from daily wear, bridal, nightwear, sporty, and occasional wear comprising of camisoles, bralettes, bikinis, stickies, pasties, etc. It is suggested that one should do a thorough research and select the one as per the usage and the requirement. Also one should be open to experiment and flexible enough to try out varieties. Building up your lingerie wardrobe is indeed a gradual process. Hence, one should give it time and patience.

(The author is the director of Groversons Paris Beauty, a high-end lingerie brand.)



Healthy transformation

ARJUN KAPOOR reveals how he became fit through social media chat sessions. By TEAM VIVA



Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor has been the talk of the town recently because of his physical transformation. The actor says he feels encouraged with the appreciation that he has been receiving and that it is motivating him to constantly work towards being better each day. Arjun, who has battled obesity for the longest time, wants to share the wealth of knowledge that his trainer and food-curator has to offer through his social media so that people benefit from it.

The actor confesses, "It is really encouraging to see people appreciative of the hard work that I'm putting in. It feels great to constantly try to become better. I have to give a lot of credit to my trainer Drew Neal and Akshat Arora, who has taken care of my nutritional needs with his inventive dishes, for keeping me on track. I'm really lucky that I have them to keep me focussed on my fitness goals every single day."

He adds, "A lot of people have been asking me to share how I have transformed myself and so, I'm thinking of starting chat sessions on social media with my trainer, my food curator, among others, to discuss how transformation can be achieved without pushing your body close to the edge, without doing it in a harmful way that can have adverse effects on one's body and health. One should have long-term planning to stay fit and healthy and not look at short-term results."

Arjun's social media is highly engaging as he has some unique IP's like *Arjun Recommends*, through which he suggests high content films and shows for people to enjoy. He recently started another social media property called *Bak Bak with Baba* in which he hosts fun and engaging chat sessions with his friends and colleagues. This talk show is different from the other chat shows that have existed so far as it's more personal, anecdotal and steers clear from addressing controversies.

Transforming education: One podcast at a time

DUSHYANTT KOHLI discusses the future of knowledge delivery for young and growing brains

In the older times, audio was the only means by which people learned and passed on learning. In fact, even before the TV was invented, wireless radio-communication was a part of everyday life to communicate and share information.

Can audio still play a vital role in literacy? Will listening to audio or podcasts help students become better readers? Or will it simply be a rather passive way to consume content? Currently, research highlights that a growing number of young minds are choosing to listen to audio stories or content, when travelling or in their leisure time, instead of reading books.

Having said that, now the question that arises here is, can audio learning become the future of knowledge delivery for these young and growing minds?

The fact- At present, the population of India is 1.4 billion, and 1.1 billion have mobile devices or smartphones. Out of 1.1 billion people, 622 million are active internet users. That makes 43 per cent of the population. All these people using the internet can access audio as all it requires is a basic mobile handset and minimal internet bandwidth. Considering the convenience of minimal infrastructural need to be able to consume audio content and fast-growing internet penetration in tier-3 and 4 markets of India, one can agree that the potential of content consumption through audio is better. Therefore, the possibility of audio-led digital education in our country is immense.

Let's take a look at another aspect; 850 million people are below 35 years old and 70 per cent of them live in rural India. If we talk



about educating this lot, digital mediums with a focus on audio platforms are the way forward.

Rising demand for audio content- At present, India is witnessing a rapid digital revolution. A large part of the population is getting accustomed to the use of several digital platforms. It has been flooded with a variety of content. Moreover, with the fast adaptation of digital content consumption and impressive growth of OTT platforms in the past two years, people got habitual of consuming content on their personal devices at the time of their choice.

At the same time, knowing the ill effects of increasing screen time, people are now turning to audio content especially for gaining knowledge and fulfilling their learning need through podcasts, audiobooks, and so on. In fact, India's podcast market is growing at 34.5 per cent CAGR and will continue to grow at the same rate till 2023, as per a KPMG report.

Moreover, the demand for audio content in Indian regional languages has increased considerably in the last few years. The pan-



parts of India, who are only acquainted with vernacular languages. On the other hand, it is also true that people enjoy listening to the news and stories in their regional languages.

There is also a wide range of options available to choose from, according to the listening interests and needs of people like educational or inspirational audio, news, stories, entertainment clips, and so on. All these are enough to provide the required exposure that anyone might need.

It is not just eliminating the language barrier, but further empowering students, from even the remotest parts of the country, to receive a quality education. When it comes to passive learning, audio has its peculiar benefits ensuring that students get a holistic understanding and more time for learning. Audio content can also be easily understood by anyone, including children.

Audio content is mostly engaging and has the potential to increase the concentration power of the students. Overall, it has made learning an easy and joyful experience. The cost-effectiveness of podcasts is also an added advantage.

Therefore, the large-scale adoption of audio content can be the 'revolution in education' in India. And so, we must rethink education and develop more innovative ways of learning with audio in mind. This format is already showing its potential to cater to the needs of digital learning. It has paved its way in delivering knowledge for India's diverse, young and growing brains.

(The author is the co-founder and COO of Khabri, an Indian vernacular audio platform.)

TRENDBLAZER

'DON'T MISUSE SOCIAL MEDIA'

Actor **ANIL KAPOOR**, who is very active on social media, during a conversation with actor-filmmaker Arbaaz Khan on the chat show *Pinch Season 2*, shared his views about the same.

"My advice is, don't be trigger-happy, use social media positively. It can be a great platform for spreading love and positive messages. Don't exploit it for sensationalism," Kapoor cautioned. "When you don't have much knowledge about a matter, why do you comment on it? It is better to remain silent and mind your own business," he added.

fairtalk

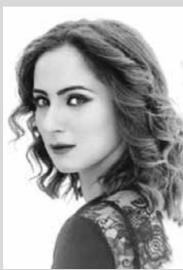
SANJAY DUTT



'I was nervous. I was a newcomer, think about the kind of pressure that was on me. The shooting of *Rocky* was in Kashmir and my first shot was to jump and scream 'help'. Mr. Suresh Bhatt (choreographer) didn't think I could pull off the stunt in one go. I assured him I can. There were some 50 to 60 people around and I was very nervous.'

dailytalk

LAVINA TANDON



'I do believe in the ultimate supremacy of God, and I am a person full of faith. So, it gets easier for me to get into the emotion of the character because to play the role of Mirabai who is a devotee of Lord Krishna is a blessing. To bring out the character, I am seen in a yellow-coloured saree donned with intricate flower jewellery.'

CHALLENGES PUSH ME FORWARD: COMER

Actress **JODIE COMER** was thrilled by the opportunity to work with Shawn Levy and Ryan Reynolds in their forthcoming project. "Ryan is one of the funniest people on earth, and knowing I would mostly be doing scenes with him, working as his partner, was terrifying," she expressed.

"What I loved about *Free Guy* was the aspect of it being live-action," Comer said. Comer plays Millie, a beautiful and brilliant video-game designer and programmer who comes into Guy's life.



BEING VOCAL FOR LOCAL

VIDUSHI SAHANI and DIVYA SINGH RATHORE discuss key strategies to increase rural tourism in India

Martin Luther King Jr once said, "A visit to India was not just tourism but a pilgrimage..." And not just him, but travellers like Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Tavernier, Francois Bernier were so fascinated by the grandeur and attraction of real India. Today, we might have moved beyond, but the essence of that Indianness is still visible in our villages. Rural India holds the potential to change the face of India's economy and with 65 per cent of us living across seven million villages, rural India is a force to reckon with. With a maddening rush to urban areas and the rat race to go cosmopolitan, we are ignoring the real India we grew up in. If *atma nirbharata* is the ultimate goal, then, building a self-sustaining rural economy is the key. Undoubtedly, rural tourism is one of such bright avenues.

For the first time India has come up with a draft of the national strategy for the development of rural tourism. If executed well, it would create several job opportunities and sources of livelihood in rural areas.

A proper governance structure and institutional mechanism at the national and state level will help to address the most persistent factors ailing the tourism sector — coordination. With this direction and political will, it is expected that the hidden opportunities for tourism in India's hinterlands would see the light of the day.

Another remarkable feature is the adoption of a cluster-based approach. This will ensure that the natural and cultural heterogeneity of India is leveraged, which cannot be accomplished in the case of blanket schemes. What would be interesting to note is how clusters that should not disturb their natural potential vis-à-vis the administrative boundaries would be identified. In short, the rural tourism strategy has emphasised all key aspects of tourism such as model policies and best practices, digital technologies and building clusters, providing marketing support, creating capacity of stakeholders, governance, and institutional framework.

Most of all, the policy has come at an opportune time, when the global tourism industry is gasping for a fresh start. The burden of protocols, the fear of contagion, and the lack of preparedness have crippled the sector. However, what must also be noted is that tourism is something that is innate to society and cannot be contained for long.

The pandemic has redefined many things along with the existing structures. It might feel sudden, but



the shift was imminent nonetheless. However, the pandemic-ridden psyches of urban India have brought forth interesting insights. People are desperately looking out for an urban and digital detox. Having spent the last two years digitally caved up, there is an urge to move from mechanical cities to a more earthy lifestyle without compromising one's health.

However, we have witnessed that these city dwellers planned short trips to rural offbeat locations which were already overburdened with tourist footfall, draining their originality and exclusivity. This trend highlights the dire need for a policy intervention to ensure tourist dispersal to lesser-known but equally attractive destinations.

Across the globe, tourist dispersal has become a priority. Nations are taking concrete steps to divert tourist traffic to the least-visited destinations and rural areas. For instance, nations like Australia and New Zealand have national level policies and strategies for encouraging tourist dispersal across the nation.

Another important aspect is the need to overcome financial bottlenecks in the implementation of the strategy. For instance, countries like Sweden, Germany, and so forth have



public spending on rural tourism within their rural development programs. On the other hand, we have China's case where a major government policy has ensured the unhindered flow of funds and prioritisation. Now that India is heading towards strategic rural tourism, we can expect bigger gains. The strategy addresses all the pain points of tourism in India, be

it lack of coordination, work in silos, a scattered skill ecosystem, and skewed private participation. Interestingly, the strategy embeds tourism as a component of rural development. With this, we depart from the current scheme of things where random rural tourism projects are undertaken across the nation without a strategic direction or accountability for other states and

departments.

Distinctively, the strategy note mentions that the process of identification of rural tourism clusters should be broad-based, involving stakeholders from Government, industry, NGOs, rural community and local businesses. This would be a progressive step in acknowledging the critical role of private stakeholders and local communities especially rural youth in tourism development. However, a formal mechanism would be needed to elicit this cooperation in real terms.

Even globally, local communities are the fulcrum of rural tourism policies. Countries like France, Austria, and the United Kingdom have a long-established tradition of farm tourism, giving impetus to farming communities and their livelihood. Then, there are countries like Cambodia and Costa Rica where rural communities have been made key stakeholders for tourism development. Tortuguero village of Costa Rica is a rare example of how an entire population was involved in travel-related activities, with sea turtles conservation at the epicentre. Conservation efforts, policy changes, and behavioural changes made the village a globally recognised ecotourism hub.

This brings us to another important aspect, environmental protection. While sustainability remains at the heart of rural tourism, this is one area that is missing from the draft strategy document. Before embarking on any rural tourism plans, it is extremely important to chalk out an ecotourism strategy.

The success of the strategy would greatly depend on how the centre, states and all the private stakeholders can strike a synergy and overcome all the administrative bottlenecks. Tourism is one area which is spread across multiple domains and ministries and thus cannot function without appropriate convergence.

The rural tourism strategy is nevertheless a step in the right direction. For any nation, tourism is a story of its culture and its originality. Undoubtedly, our villages, some pristine and untouched, still hold that unique cultural and natural wealth. They are the reflection of our past and our Indianness.

As Mahatma Gandhi rightly said, "The future of India lies in its villages. If pampered and tended to, our villages can lead India as a global tourist destination, thriving on its sheer originality and Indianness." (The authors are independent policy researchers.)

Ajit Sharma takes charge as DMRC's new director (Finance)

Ajit Sharma has taken charge as the new director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's (DMRC) Finance department. Prior to joining DMRC, Sharma was working as the Finance director of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.



He is an electrical engineer from PEC, Chandigarh and MBA from the faculty of management studies in Delhi University and has a vast experience of 32 years with distinction in various capacities in the Indian Railways as well as in areas of planning and dealing with multilateral development banks in procurement and

financing during his tenure in Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation. He has extensively studied railways systems across the world and has in-depth knowledge of both suburban and non-suburban railway systems.

Alka Arora is NSIC's new CMD

Alka Nangia Arora, IDAS (91) has assumed the additional charge as the chairman cum managing director (CMD) of The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC), on September 14, 2021.

On the occasion, she interacted with senior officers of NSIC and encouraged all employees to continue giving their best performance during 2021-22.

Arora is an industry veteran with over 30 years of experience in diverse activities across the country. She is serving as a joint secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and she has also served in major positions in organisations under Government of India such as the additional commissioner of Handicrafts, in the Ministry of Textiles, the MD of Cottage Emporium, and the integrated financial advisor to the Western Air Command (Subroto Park) and FA Army Hospital (R & R).

She has also served in various capacities with the Navy; as a financial advisor to the Naval Dockyard and the joint-controller of defence accounts in Mumbai and as an FA to the Eastern Command Army, Kolkata.

PFC wins Rajbhasha Kirti award



Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), the country's leading non-banking financial company in the power sector, has won first prize in the prestigious Rajbhasha Kirti for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21. PFC has won these prizes in the category of PSUs, in the region 'A', for best performance in the official language implementation.

Home Minister Amit Shah presented both awards to Ravinder Singh Dhillon, the

CMD of PFC, during the Hindi Diwas celebrations that is organised at Vigyan Bhawan. PFC has been conferred this award for the eighth time in a row (winning first place for the sixth time).

PK Singh, the director of Commercial & Projects (additional charge), Parminder Chopra, the director of Finance, G Jawahar, the CGM of PFC, and Arun Shrivastava, the general manager of PFC, were also present on the occasion.

POWERGRID's CorpCom team commended

The Corporate Communications team of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has featured in Reputation Today's 'India's Top 30 Corporate Communications teams'. The team is ranked 18th in the list which features only two PSUs from India.

The team was felicitated by the CMD of POWERGRID, K Sreekanth for this achievement in the presence of V K Singh, the director of Personnel, Mohammed Taj Mukarrum,



the director of Finance and Abhay Choudhary, the director of Projects yesterday.



Sri Lankan delegation visits NAFED to explore mutual business avenues

SRM and HCL collaboratively open an in-vitro diagnostic lab

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, has tied up with HCL Technologies Limited to open an in-vitro diagnostic lab on their premises.

The facility was inaugurated by the vice-chancellor of SRMIST, Dr C Muthamizchelvan and the senior vice president of HCL, R Balamurugan.

SRMIST has signed an MoU with HCL to undertake collaborative device and assay development programmes along with



other collaborative R&D programs, verification and validation and other suste-

nance activities. As a part of the MoU, HCL IVD Lab was established and inaugurated in the SRMIST Kattankulathur Campus.

Also, SRMIST's registrar, Dr S Ponnusamy, the dean of Research, Dr B Neppolian and the coordinator of IISM, Dr R C Satish Kumar were present on the occasion. From HCL Technologies Ltd Mohammed Farid, Praveen Kumar Mavila and M Chockalingam were present during the inauguration.

Hindi Diwas celebrations at PNB's head office

Multiple departments of the organisation were rewarded under the Lala Lajpat Rai Shield Scheme for excellent implementation of the official language

Punjab National Bank (PNB), the country's leading public sector organisation, celebrated Hindi Diwas yesterday with great zeal and enthusiasm in all the administrative offices and branches. On this occasion, Hindi Diwas Samaroh and cultural event was organised at the bank's head office in Dwarka, New Delhi, which was presided over by the bank's MD and CEO, S S Mallikarjuna Rao. Executive directors of the bank, Sanjay Kumar, Vijay Dubey, Swaroop Kumar Saha, as well as chief general managers and general managers were also present on the occasion. A cultural programme was also organised by the staff members, in accordance with Covid-19 protocols and Rao felicitated the winners of Lala Lajpat Rai Shield competitions which were organised by the Bank.

While addressing the gathering, Rao heartily congratulated all the employees of the bank for being awarded Rajbhasha Kirti's first prize for the fourth consecutive year, which was conferred by the Department of Official



Languages under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, while highlighting the importance of Hindi Diwas. He further said that the use of Hindi in banking is not only a constitutional requirement but also a commercial necessity. That's why PNB has adopted Hindi by heart and all digital products of the organisation such as net banking, mobile banking and the PNB One app have been made available in Hindi as well as other regional languages for the benefit of the customers. He urged all the staff

members to continue pursuing the work done for implementing the official language with the same zeal and enthusiasm in the future.

Sanjay suggested using the simple and easy official language in banking operations and enriching the Hindi dictionary by including words of other regional languages in it. Additionally, he administered the *rajbhasha* pledge to all staff members.

Congratulating all the award winners, the chief general manager, Rajbhasha, B S Mann requested them to contribute in the

progress of Hindi language and to keep the bank at the topmost level in the field of official language.

Oh the occasion, Manisha Sharma, the assistant general manager, Rajbhasha, apprised all the staff members about the work being done by the official language department of the bank for the propagation of Hindi and informed about the achievements of the bank in this field.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by S K Dash, the general manager, Rajbhasha.

Working and growing together

The Uganda High Commission in India, with the support of PHD Chamber of Commerce (PHDCCI), is working to improve the balance of trade between the two countries

The Uganda High Commission in India, with the support of PHD Chamber of Commerce (PHDCCI), is organising a three-day road show from September 16-18, at Hotel Clarks Amer in Jaipur to discuss the immense investment and business opportunities in Uganda and invite investors from India to encash the same in Uganda. A press briefing was organised yesterday for the same.

Speaking on the occasion, Digvijay Dhariya, the chairman of PHDCCI's Rajasthan chapter, informed about the century-old friendly Indo-Ugandan relations. Large number of Indians settled in Uganda have contributed significantly to the growth and development of trade and industry and through its robust policy framework and other facilities, Uganda is attracting foreign investment and entrepreneurs so that the existing adverse balance of trade can be improved, Dhariya informed. Both the countries are committed for this and the road show at Jaipur is being organised in this direction, he added.

During the briefing, Mohammad Kajala, Uganda High Commission in India's deputy high commissioner, informed about immense business opportunities in different sectors for



the investors. The prospective sectors include oil and gas, infrastructure, agriculture, food processing, dairy, mines and minerals, healthcare, education, skill development, tourism, film-making, information and communication technology, Kajala informed. At present the total exports from India to Uganda is to the tune of \$800 million as against the meager import of \$47 million, resulting in a very adverse balance of trade; both countries are committed to improve the same.

Through its investors-friendly policies and ease of doing business, Uganda is striving to achieve maximum value-addition of its resources in the country. During the three day hybrid road show, senior ministers

and government officials of different departments would be interacting with the Indian investors and industry leaders and provide details of opportunities, facilities and incentives, legal and policy framework for the investors while looking for new partnership and collaborations from Indian investors and entrepreneurs to harness opportunities, Kajala added. The rich cultural heritage of Uganda would also be experienced through various cultural performances, he added.

During the road show, detailed deliberations would be held on investment-climate and other opportunities in ICT, oil and gas, manufacturing, SME, trade-promotion, tourism and film-making sectors to attract Indian investors.

Virat, Rahul static at 4th & 6th

Limited spectators allowed at IPL



New Delhi: Limited spectators will be allowed into the stadiums when the much-awaited Indian Premier League resumes in the UAE this weekend, the event's organisers announced on Wednesday.

The IPL, which was suspended midway in May due to COVID-19 cases in its bio-bubble, will resume from Sunday with defending champions Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. "This match will be a momentous occasion as IPL will welcome the fans back to the stadiums after a brief hiatus owing to COVID-19 situation," an IPL statement said.

"Matches will be played at Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi with limited seating available keeping in mind the COVID protocols and UAE government regulations," it added.

It will be the first time since 2019 when the IPL will be played in front of an audience.

Last year, the league was played behind closed doors in the UAE while the first half of the 2021 edition was also played inside a strict bio-bubble. Although the league organisers did not specify the exact number of fans who would be let in but sources said their presence would be 50 per cent of the stadium capacity.

"Fans can buy tickets starting September 16 for the remainder of the tournament on the official website www.iplt20.com. Tickets can also be purchased on PlatinumList.Net," the league organisers said.



Delhi Capitals include net bowler Khejroliya in main squad

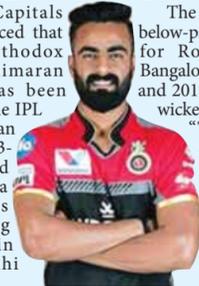
PTI ■ DUBAI

Delhi Capitals on Wednesday inducted left-arm seamer Kulwant Khejroliya in the main squad for the upcoming second half of this year's IPL after left-arm orthodox spinner Manimaran Siddharth was ruled out of the tournament due to quadriceps strain.

"Delhi Capitals today announced that left-arm orthodox bowler Manimaran Siddharth has been ruled out of the IPL 2021 due to an injury. The 23-year-old incurred a quadriceps strain during training in Dubai," Delhi Capitals said in a release.

Left-arm medium fast bowler Khejroliya, who is already part of the Delhi Capitals team's bio-bubble as a net bowler, was readily included in the main squad. Khejroliya, who plays domestic cricket for the Delhi state side, has so far taken 17 wickets in 15 T20 matches at an average of 23.29.

The 29-year-old had a below-par IPL debut season for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL 2018 and 2019 seasons, taking 3 wickets in 5 IPL matches. "The DC support staff is currently overlooking Manimaran Siddharth's rehabilitation programme in Dubai," the release added.



PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli and star batsman KL Rahul maintained their fourth and sixth place respectively among the batsmen while no Indian bowler featured in the top-10 in the ICC T20 rankings.

The top seven batsmen led by England's Dawid Malan maintained their rankings while South African keeper-batter Quinton de Kock is now ranked eighth while West Indies Evin Lewis has dropped a place to be

ninth in the list.

Among bowlers, Tabraiz Shamsi still holds the pole position followed by Wanindu Hasaranga and Rashid Khan.

India's top ranked bowler in the list is veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar at 12th while injured off-spinner Washington Sundar is the other in the top-20 at 18th place. Yuzvendra Chahal is the only bowler who has shown improvement and is now 25th although he has been dropped from the Indian team for the T20 World Cup.

In the all-rounders' list, the only Indian among the top-20 is Hardik Pandya, who is just about managed to make the list with 98 points.

The Indians last played a T20 series in Sri Lanka and hence haven't played any games in the shortest format.

Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman has moved up two places to eighth after finishing with eight wickets in the series against South Africa while Nasum Ahmed (up 25 places to 15th) and Mehedi Hasan (up four

places to 20th) have also made notable progress.

However, Shakib Al Hasan has conceded the top spot for all-rounders to Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi.

In the ODI rankings for batters, Jaskaran Malhotra of the United States, who struck sixes in an over from Papua New Guinea's Gaudi Toka in a World Cup Super League 2 match, has rocketed 169 places to 132nd.

In the bowlers' list, Nepal leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane is now in top-100 at 91st place.

IPL in UAE will level playing field for T20 World Cup: Maxwell

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell believes having the Indian Premier League in the UAE will level the playing field "a fair bit" in the T20 World Cup to be held at the same venue next month.

The IPL will resume on September 19 in the UAE after being

suspended in May due to the second wave of COVID-19 in India, which led to multiple cases inside its bio-bubble. It will be followed by the T20 World Cup from October 17.

"The tournament being in UAE probably levels the playing field a little bit," Maxwell, who plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, told 'icc-cricket.com'. "Probably makes it

a little bit easier for there not to be as much of a home ground advantage. For the IPL to be there to have a lot of international players that are potentially going to be in that World Cup over there playing, I think it's probably levelled the playing field a fair bit."



Australia's top players, including Steve Smith, David Warner, Aaron Finch and Pat Cummins, have not competed in the last few months and will be back in action at the IPL. Maxwell said the IPL stint will help the preparation of the Australian players.

"The fact we've got a lot of guys going over for the IPL as

a preparation, get a few games in those conditions, it's going to do wonders for our batters," he said.

"Our bowlers are going to be up and firing by the time the tournament starts. I can assure you everyone is looking forward to hitting the ground running over there."

Australia will have to battle it out against defending champions West

Indies, world number one England and South Africa in a tough group in the Super 12 stage.

With their key players missing, Australia suffered 1-5 series losses against the West Indies and Bangladesh but Maxwell has no doubts they'll manage a better performance at the big competition.

Talking about Australia's chances at the World Cup, Maxwell said: "I think they're very good. When this team comes together, I think we'll slip straight back into us being in a great position. We're all looking forward to it. You look through our line-up, we've got a team full of match winners and guys that on their day can take the game away from the opposition."

महिला स्व-सहायता समूह उन्मुखीकरण एवं संवाद कार्यक्रम

श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

माँ, बहन और बेटियों के सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण का अभियान मध्यप्रदेश में लगातार जारी रहेगा।

शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

मुख्यमंत्री श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान प्रदेश के स्व-सहायता समूहों से करेंगे संवाद

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