

## OPINION 6

PORNOGRAPHY IS THE  
THEORY, RAPE PRACTICE

## WORLD 8

WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH MEMBER  
STATES ON AF ISSUE: CHINA

## MONEY 9

MARKETS MAINTAIN  
RECORD RUN

BHOPAL, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

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VALID AT TIMES:  
JACQUELINE  
10 VIVACITY

## Mega bid to bail out ailing banks

Govt clears ₹36,000 cr to solve bad loans, plans speedy disposal of stressed assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after imitating a major reform in the telecom sector, the Government on Thursday came out with a ₹36,000 package for acquiring stressed loan assets, paving the way for operationalisation of the bad bank. This will help ailing banks such as Yes bank.

While shares of Yes bank spiked by 16 per cent in stock market, Vodafone idea surged by 26 per cent on the back of the Wednesday announcement of relief measures for the telecom sectors.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that ₹30,600 crore Government guarantee for the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) would be for a period of 5 years. The NARCL would have to pay a fee for this.

The NARCL will purchase bad loans from banks under a 15:85 structure, where it will pay up to 15 per cent of the net asset value in cash and issue Security Receipts (SRs) for the rest. The Government guarantee would be invoked if there is loss against the threshold value.

The NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act and has applied to Reserve Bank of India for license as an Asset Reconstruction Company. PSBs will maintain 51 per cent ownership in the NARCL.

The decision to provide sovereign guarantee for secu-



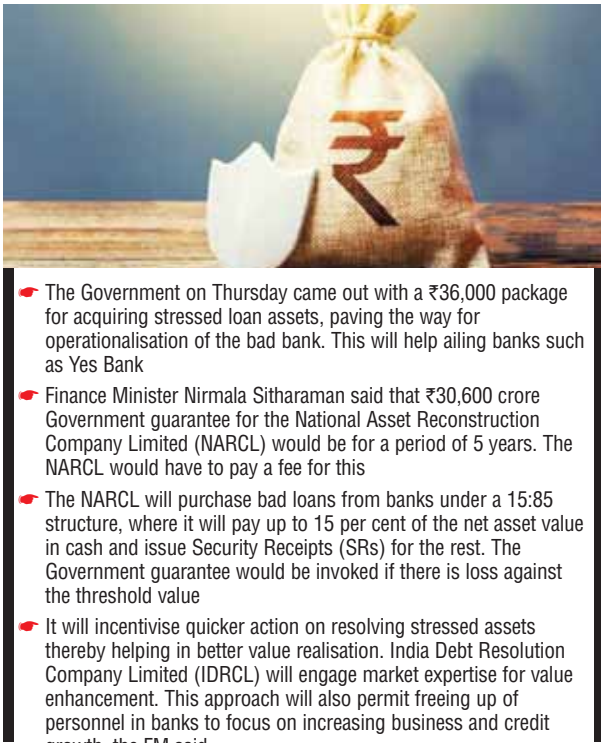
Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a Press conference at NMC in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

rity receipts (SRs) issued by the NARCL was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

The FM in Budget 2021-22 announced setting up of a bad bank as part of resolution of bad loans worth ₹2 lakh crore.

The NARCL will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85 per cent would be Government-guaranteed security receipts. The Government guarantee would be invoked if there is loss against the threshold value.



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- It will incentivise quicker action on resolving stressed assets thereby helping in better value realisation. India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) will engage market expertise for value enhancement. This approach will also permit freeing up of personnel in banks to focus on increasing business and credit growth, the FM said

“For the SRs to hold on and to have their value intact, there is a need for the Government to give the backstop arrangement and that’s why ₹30,600 crore has been cleared by the Cabinet yesterday,” she said.

“The SRs are getting the backstop through the Government funding only in as much as to pay the gap between the realised value (resolution/liquidation) and face value

of SRs and this will hold good for five years,” Sitharaman said.

The fee for the guarantee would be initially 0.25 per cent, which would progressively increase to 0.5 per cent in case of delay in resolution of bad loans, Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda said. This would enable speedy disposal of stressed assets and clean up banks’ balancesheets for further lending, he explained.

HC lifts stay on  
Char Dham Yatra  
with conditions

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The Uttarakhand High Court has lifted the stay it had ordered earlier on the Char Dham Yatra in the State. It has allowed the Government to facilitate the pilgrimage while also putting a cap on the number of pilgrims allowed to visit the shrines on a daily basis in view of the Covid-19 situation.

Hearing on the petition while considering the affidavit submitted by the State Government, the division bench of Chief Justice RS Chauhan and Justice Alok Kumar Verma directed the State Government to consider specific aspects before facilitating the Char Dham Yatra.

The court has permitted 800 pilgrims to visit Kedarnath per day, 1,000 in Badrinath, 600 in Gangotri and 400 in Yamunotri per day. The pilgrims should either have an RT-PCR negative report or a double vaccination certificate.

Centre reinstates  
NCLAT chairman  
after SC warningJustice Cheema to hold  
post till Mon; he was  
prematurely retiredPNS ■  
NEW DELHI

The Centre and the Supreme Court literally went for a showdown on Thursday on the issue of appointment to various tribunals and premature retirement of NCLAT chairman Justice Ashok Iqbal Singh Cheema.

The Centre climbed down after Chief Justice of India NV Ramana warned Attorney General KK Venugopal that the court would quash the new Act regarding appointments to various tribunals. Facing the Supreme Court’s ire, the Centre

said Justice Cheema would continue as NCLAT chairman till September 20.

The hearing reached a point when the bench headed by the Chief Justice warned the Centre that it would exercise its suo motu power to stay the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, which was referred to by Attorney General K K Venugopal as empowering statute to retire the NCLAT



head.

Justice Cheema, the former Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), was to superannuate on September 20, but Justice M Venugopal was appointed as the acting head of the tribunal with effect from September 11, creating a peculiar situation.

PM inaugurates Def Ministry  
buildings under Vista projectEase of living,  
doing biz reasons  
for Central Vista  
project: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the new Defence Ministry buildings, which is a part of the Central Vista project, and slammed its critics saying ease of living and doing business is the main objective to undertake this initiative.

Making this assertion after inaugurating the two new multi-storey swanky office complexes at Kasturba Gandhi Marg and Africa Avenue, he also said those opposing the project never bothered to find out about the working condition of the armed forces personnel and others in the old buildings and hutments.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Defence Offices Complex in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

“Today, in the 75th year of Independence, we are taking another step towards developing the national Capital according to the needs and aspirations of the new India,” he said.

The two buildings will

house more than 7,000 employees of the Defence Ministry and the armed forces. Modi said these new office complexes are going to “further strengthen our efforts to make the working of our forces more convenient and effective.”



BJP workers sit beside a 71-feet-long vaccine shaped cake on the eve of birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bhopal on Thursday

Pioneer photo

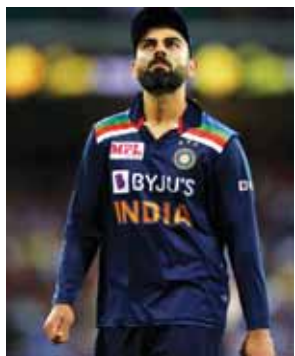
Virat to make way for  
Rohit’s T20 captaincy  
after World T20 event

PTI ■ DUBAI

Virat Kohli on Thursday announced he will step down as India’s T20 skipper after the T20 World Cup in UAE but will continue to lead the side in ODIs and Test cricket, a decision that paves the way for Rohit Sharma to captain in the shortest format.

“I’ve decided to step down as the T20 captain after this T20 World Cup in Dubai in October,” the 32-year-old Kohli, who is here to compete in the IPL that resumes on Sunday, said in a statement posted on his Twitter page.

“Understanding workload is a very important thing and considering my immense workload over the last 8-9



years playing all three formats and captaining regularly for last five to six years, I feel I need to give myself space to be fully ready to lead Indian team in Test and ODI cricket,” Kohli explained.

Detailed report on P12

Govt increases income of self-help group women by ₹10K/M  
CM announces ₹2550 crore bank loan to strengthen women self-help groups

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the income of every woman belonging to self-help group should increase by ₹10,000 per month. You move forward with hard work and authenticity, the Government is with you at every step. The State Government has set a target of providing ₹2,550 crore bank loan this year to strengthen women self-help groups. The responsibility of running ration (PDS) shops will also now be given to self-help groups.

Along with this, a reward of ₹1 crore will be given to the cluster level federation for best performance in increasing the income level of self-help groups.

Aajeevika Mart will be set up at Bhopal Haat in Bhopal for the sale of the products of the groups. Linkage with online commerce portal will also be



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a women self-help group orientation and dialogue programme at his residence in Bhopal on Thursday

Pioneer photo

done to increase business.

A special project will be made for the trade of singhada and fish for the women’s

group. Ayushman cards will be provided to all eligible members of the groups. Chouhan was addressing the orienta-

tion and interaction program of state level women self-help groups today.

The program organized at

the Chief Minister’s residence started with kanya puja and Madhya Pradesh Anthem. Chouhan visited the exhibition focused on the role of self-help groups in fighting the worst pandemic of the century, Corona Virus.

Chouhan also visited an exhibition focused on the role of SHGs in building a Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh. Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia, Minister of State for Panchayat and Rural Development Ramkhalawan Patel, public representatives and departmental officers were present in the program.

Chouhan said that an assistance of ₹1050 crore would be given by the state government to self-help groups for various activities. Self-help groups will have to pay only 4 percent interest on bank loans. The remaining interest will be paid by the

state government. The Chief Minister greeted all members of Women Self-Help Group who came to his residence.

He said that it is necessary to treat women with respect and equality. As the Chief Minister, I am working with the spirit on how to make progress, welfare and empowerment of women easily. Social, educational, economic and political empowerment of women is necessary. For this, 50 percent seats have been reserved for women in the elections to all the urban bodies and panchayats in the State.

Women are making achievements in all directions, either in the field of education or in the field of sports. Their self-confidence and social consciousness has increased. The capacity to fight against injustice has also increased. The attitude of the family and society towards women has also changed.



# MP to lead in wildlife conservation: Min

‘All Tiger reserves of State to meet Int’l standards; Satpura, Panna already hit world list’

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh is maintaining an edge over other States in the management and evaluation of wildlife conservation areas. Kanha, Satpura, Bandhavgarh and Panna have got international fame. Forest Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah while congratulating the staff related to wildlife management has said that just as Madhya Pradesh has been successful in many fields under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in the same way, it will bring glory in wildlife conservation throughout the country.

Shah informed that this evaluation is done in four phases of assessment of management of the tiger conservation on the basis of 17 main parameters and other related sub-components, jointly conducted by International



Committee on Conservation Assured Tiger Standards and WWF is recognized after completion of this process.

It may be noted that three phases have been completed by this committee in Panch Tiger Reserve, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and Sanjay Tiger

Reserve. Now the remaining tiger reserves of the State have to meet the international quality standards from the point of view of management according to CA / TS.

With this, Madhya Pradesh will be on the top position among all other States. The

Satpura and Panna Tiger Reserves have already got this international recognition. In this way all the 6 tiger reserves of the State will meet the international standards of quality.

In the past also, Panch Tiger Reserve has secured the highest rank in the country in the evaluation of effective management of Tiger Reserve. Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Sanjay, and Satpura Tiger Reserves have been considered as the best managed Tiger Reserves. Unique management plans and innovative methods have been adopted in these national parks.

There is a need for data relating to assessment of effective management by national and international organizations for policy based decision making on wildlife conservation matters. These data are kept at the World Conservation Monitoring Center of the United Nations Environment

Program.

The management powers of tiger reserves are assessed on several parameters such as planning, monitoring, vigilance, monitoring staffing patterns, their training, human-wildlife conflict management, community participation, conservation, protection and methods to check poaching.

The management of Panch Tiger Reserve has been recognized as one of the best in the country.

The frontline staff has been found to be excellent and energetic. Effective work has been done in punishing the accused in all the cases registered under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. In case of human-tiger and tiger-animal conflict, immediate financial relief is being given to the animal owners. Along with this, they are also being supported by World Nature Fund India.

# Seep Amber Complex project of irrigation on 9K ha in Sehore OK’d

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The 116th meeting of the Major Project Control Board was held at the Chief Minister’s residence auditorium. Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat attended the meeting virtually. In the meeting, approval was given by the Board for the works of Seep Amber Complex project of Sehore district.

Irrigation will begin for this project from November 2022. The project will irrigate a total of 9,000 hectares. This project has been approved in place of the previously proposed Sankota and Mograkhedha schemes in Sehore district. Out of the total proposed command area of 9,000 hectares from both the earlier schemes, 8,000 hectares of land will be

irrigated through Seep Amber Pressurized Irrigation Project. The remaining 1000 hectares will be irrigated by the Chhipaner Lift Project under construction under the Narmada Valley Development Authority.

The new project will save 526.09 hectares of affected forest land and displacement of 63 families under the submergence area of ??Sankota and Mograkhedha projects approved earlier. Apart from this, about 5,000 farmers of 31 villages of Nasrullaganj tehsil will be benefited.

The administrative approval for the project is Rs 174.94 crore. Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary SN Mishra and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

# MP Urdu Academy holds Sufi music under ‘Gamak’ series

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Bhopalites enjoyed the calm and spontanepus Sufiyana musical evening on Thursday.

Under Gamak series Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy organised Mehfil-e-Sufiyana. Zulfikar Ali of Bhopal and Haleem Taj Qawwal of Jabalpur presented Ghazal and music in Mehfil-e-Sufiana programme. It was broadcasted live on the Department’s YouTube channel.

The programme was moderated by Sharbani Banerjee. In the beginning of the programme Nusrat Mehdi, Director of Urdu Academy gave information about the program.

He said that as you all know that Sufism and Urdu poetry have a close relationship.

The poets have given expression to it with great artistry and skill and the singers and artists have given spiritual payoff.

Therefore, Sufiana programs are often part of Urdu Academy’s events. Even today, it is the endeavor of the Academy to connect Kalam associated with Sufism and the artists and ghazal singers associated with it in the Gamak programme.

The presentation was started by Bhopal-based artist Zulfikar Ali. He started off with Dushyant Kumar’s composition Yahan Marna toh laga rahega jee to lijiye, Faiz Ahmed Faiz’s Naqsh-e-Mazi Mitte Mitte ...., Zafar Gorakhpuri Main Akela chala jaa raha tha main kahin ajnabee rahguzar ajnabee.

Jigar Moradabadi’s Ishq Ki Dastaan Hai Pyare, Apni Apni Zubaan Hai Pyare..., ended his presentation with ghazals.

# IGRMS exhibits traditional Ladakhi kitchen

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the 66th series of its online exhibition by Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, today presented the Chansa- A Traditional Kitchen from Ladakh situated in the Himalayan Village open air exhibition of Manav Sangrahalaya has been presented online with its basic information and photographs and videos.

About this exhibition, Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that the coldest desert in India is the Ladakh region. It is also reckoned to be the rocky land or the land with many gaps. It is the highest uninhabited plateau in the world. The altitude of Ladakh ranges from 2750 meters to 7,672 meters. In the Ladakh



region, the temperature sometimes dips down to -45°C in winters. The traditional lifestyle of the residents of Ladakh has been adapted to their geographical location.

The local residents make their living by raising sheep and yaks and cultivating Barley on the banks of rivers in summer. People here are very much con-

nected to each other. During the period of cultivation, they share and co-operate one another in the farming activities.

Although the people here are linked with the Aryan civilization, still, most of the population believes in the Buddhism. In the area, none of the house could be seen where Prayer Wheel and Stupas are not

installed.

According to their religious belief, rotation of the prayer wheel with chants will dispel all their sins. The people here are joyous and they are akin to celebrate the events to commemorate their culture and history, either it may be a marriage or any festival, the celebration takes place according to their old customs.

About the KUNEMECHHE Shrikant Gupta, Sangrahalaya Associate told that – Most of the festivals are linked to their religion and agricultural cycle of the crops where the Losar, Surpula and the Ladakh Festivals being the prime festive events. The 15-day long Ladakh Festival offers a unique glimpse of the age-old culture, civilization, traditions and tribal lifestyle of the Ladakh region.



Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha State President Vaibhav Pawar addresses a press conference at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Thursday

# Movie ‘Training for Defense’ screened at Shaurya Smarak

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A movie ‘Training for Defense’ showcasing the training time of Indian Army was screened here on Thursday at Shaurya Smarak.

The movie was screened under the regular film screening held every day at open air auditorium of Shaurya Smarak. Produced by Films Division of India and directed by PRS Pillai, the movie showcases about the life of cadets and their training period.

From recruitment to training each and everything was showcased in the film Training for Defense. It is noteworthy that candidates are selected on the basis of written examination of UPSC, then admission into a course. The NDA offers only a full-time, residential undergraduate programme. Then at last the training session starts.

NDA has an excellent infrastructure for all-round training of cadets and a vast array of facilities. A cadet must undergo training for a total of six terms before graduating from the NDA.

It is to be noted that the National Defence Academy (NDA) is the Joint Services academy of the Indian Armed Forces, where cadets of the three services, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force train together before they go on to respective service academies for further pre-commissioning training. The NDA is located at Mahadikwala near Pune, Maharashtra. It is the first triservice academy in the world.

# XRC to help brands implement XR strategy

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

XR Central (XRC) is an Extended reality start-up based in India. XR(Extended Reality) is an umbrella term for all things which encapsulate Virtual, Augmented and Mixed Reality. XRC’s vision is to democratize the way XR experiences have been created, published and viewed.

It is pioneering in this with CUBE, an XR experience builder platform in a box which is inclusive of Augmented, Virtual, Mixed Reality & WebGL. At present XRC develops innovative XR solutions across industries such as IT& Tech, Retail, Pharmaceutical, Aviation, Industrial, Events& Entertainment.

Anshul Agarwal, Co-Founder, XR Central said, “Gone are those days, where businesses are only talking about AR strategy. Now they are talking about a much more holistic XR strategy. At XRC,

our vision is to help brands implement successful XR strategy by enabling them to create collaborative virtual worlds so called metaverses. Shaping the Retailtainment and iCommerce and how brands and end customers connect and collaborate in the metaverses is our mission.

We are constantly developing our technology with much more advanced and fully immersive tech spaces, and real time engagement/collaboration features that are highly scalable and robust for all business types.”

“We started our entrepreneurial journey in year 2014 when the concept of Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality were nascent in our market.

XR Central is a pioneer when it comes to creating immersive experiences for our digital first client base,” said Shrey Mishra, Co-Founder, XR Central.

# BHEL sets up India’s largest floating solar PV plant in AP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned India’s largest floating Solar PV plant. Located at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh, the 25 MW floating SPV project covers an area of 100 acres, leading to saving of valuable land resource and conserving water by reducing evaporation.

Notably, with its unique state-of-the-art design, the project is an engineering marvel, created by BHEL. Besides producing clean power, the project will also reduce water evaporation by providing shade to the covered area. It will also have a higher yield as compared to conventional ground-mounted projects due to the cooling effect.

BHEL has designed an innovative floating array to

meet the unique requirement of anchoring the support structures without touching or loading, either the reservoir floor or the bund structure.

This complex module array has been designed - for the first time in India - to withstand gusts of wind up to 180 km/hr. In view of the coastal location of the project site that leads to severe corrosion, all the platform structures and other equipment have been made corrosion resistant.

BHEL’s scope of work in the project included design, engineering, procurement and construction of the solar project and has been executed by the recently formed Solar Business Division.

BHEL’s portfolio of floating SPV projects is the largest in the country with more than 45 MW projects commissioned and around 107 MW under

execution. BHEL is the leading EPC player in the solar industry in India with an overall EPC portfolio of more than 1.2 GW.

The company offers EPC solutions for both grid-interactive and off-grid, ground mounted, rooftop, floating and canal top solar plants.

In addition, BHEL also manufactures space-grade solar panels and batteries for space applications. Backed by a committed and dedicated core engineering team, BHEL has in-house capability for the entire spectrum of high quality Solar PV products like solar cells, solar modules, solar inverters, and transformers, etc., in-house contributing to the Government of India’s AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

This breakthrough achievement is a major step towards self-reliance in floating solar technology.

# MP farmers to sell agri-produce from home through mobile app

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The farmers of Madhya Pradesh will be able to sell their produce from home, for this, initiative has been taken by the Mandi Board. Earlier, due to the closure of the mandis of Madhya Pradesh during the corona crisis, the Madhya Pradesh Government had given permission to the traders to buy agricultural produce from the farmers’ homes.

In order to maintain this system continuously, the Managing Director, MP State Agricultural Marketing Board, Bhopal issued a circular on September 15 regarding repurchase and sale of agricultural produce outside the market yard through the deal sheet Android Mobile App.

Instructions have been given to the market secretaries. It is to be mentioned here that in the Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi Act 1972, there is a provision to purchase agri-

cultural produce of farmers through deal sheets. In this arrangement, traders will be able to buy agricultural produce outside the market on the basis of the consent of the farmer.

In Madhya Pradesh, mainly wheat and paddy are procured through primary credit cooperative societies at minimum support price for the produce of the farmers.

Apart from this, traders buy agricultural produce by bidding in the mandi premises. In this regard, keeping in view the inconvenience caused to the farmers by the Mandi Board, a deal sheet.

Following the complete process by the Managing Director Vikas Narwal, instructions were given to all the mandi staff to take action with full devotion and dedication in relation to the sale and purchase of agricultural produce of the farmers through the Sauda Patrak Android Mobile App.

# SBI ‘home loans’ at concessional interest rate in festive season

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

State Bank of India (SBI) has come up with an attractive gift for the customers looking to buy their house in this festive season. From SBI, customers will now get home loans at attractive discounted rates. SBI Chief General Manager Umesh Kumar Pandey informed that this drive to provide home loans at concessional interest rates will be completed in two phases.

The first phase will be operated from September 01 to October 31 and the second phase from November 01 to December 31, 2021. Customers wishing to take a home loan during this period can



get it with a minimum floor rate of interest of 6.70 percent and they will not have

to pay any processing fee. In this campaign, customers will also get many other benefits.

The interest rates are linked with the CIBIL score. No distinction has been made between the interest rates of salaried and non-salaried customers and a genuine effort has been made to pass on the benefit of lowest interest rates to all.

Chief General Manager Pandey informed that the main objective of this campaign of SBI is to help more and more people to get their own home at low interest rate and without processing fee, making the home loan business simpler and more attractive.

# 50 YEARS OF INDIA-PAK WAR-1971 ‘Swarnim Vijay Mashaal’ commemorating India’s victory to arrive Mhow tomorrow

PNS ■ MHOW

The ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ Victory Flame, commemorating 50 years of India’s victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, will arrive in Mhow on Saturday 18 September. The ‘Swarnim Vijay Mashaal’, or the Victory flame will be received with full military honours. A guard of honour will be presented to the Flame, on arrival followed by a Wreath laying ceremony.

The celebration of 50 years of this historic victory — Swarnim Vijay Varsh — was flagged off from the National War Memorial in New Delhi on December 16, 2020.

Four victory flames, or the Swarnim Vijay Mashaal, lit from the eternal flame at National War Memorial, are being carried throughout the cities and villages across the nation, including the villages of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) and Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) awardees of 1971 war

and will converge back at New Delhi in December 2021.

The victory flame will be stationed in Mhow till 30 September. Indian Army is organising various ceremonial and cultural events at Mhow before the Flame’s departure. A ceremony at Mhow to felicitate Veterans and Veer Naris of the 1971 operations of the region by the Indian Army has also been

planned.

The Victory Flame will also be displayed at the Mhow Railway Station and at various schools in Mhow & Indore. Certain other commemorative events like the Victory March, Swarnim Vijay Diwas (SVD) Cyclothon, SVD Daud (run), Dare Devil Show, Band symphony, Heritage train are also being organised.

**REMCL Limited**  
(formerly known as Railway Energy Management Company Limited)  
(A Joint Venture of Indian Railways and RITES Limited)  
RITES Bhawan, Plot No. 1, Sector-29, Gurugram 122001(Haryana)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**NIT No: REMCL/CO/Solar/DPR/2021** Dated 16.09.2021  
REMCL Ltd. formerly known as Railway Energy Management Company Limited, invites bids for "Enrollment of Agencies/Consultants for Survey, Preparation & Submission of Feasibility Report, Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Solar PV based Projects in various states of INDIA".

Date of submission of bid: 06.10.2021 Cost of Tender Document: INR 2,500/-  
Empanelment Duration: 24 Months Empanelment Fees: INR 5,000/-  
Bid documents may be downloaded from website <https://www.bharat-electronicstender.com>. Bids may be submitted as per bid guidelines through online mode on e-bidding portal and offline mode at office of CEO/ REMC Ltd. at Ground Floor, RITES Bhawan, Plot No.1, Sector- 29, Gurugram 122001; Phone No. -0124-2818748 on or before bid due date.

Amendment/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the web site <https://www.bharat-electronicstender.com> only. (CEO/REMC Ltd.)





# Dhoni, Mahindra, Rathore part of NCC review panel



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former India cricket captain MS Dhoni, industrialist Anand Mahindra and Olympic medal winner and Member of Parliament Colonel (retired) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore are part of a committee to suggest way to improve the functioning of the National Cadet Corps(NCC), which has more than 12 lakh cadets. The Defence Ministry has constituted a High Level Expert Committee, under the chairmanship of former Member of Parliament Baijayant Panda, for a comprehensive review of the NCC to make it more relevant in changed times, officials said here on Thursday.

The Committee also includes Rajya Sabha member Vinay Sahasrabudhe, Principal Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry Sanjeev Sanyal and Jamia Millia Islamia Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar, former SNTD Women's University vice-chancellor Vasudha Kamat, Maj Gen (retd) Alok Raj, National Organising Secretary, Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, Mukul Kanitkar, Managing Director, SIS India Ltd, Rituraj Sinha and CEO of Databook Anand Shah.

Incidentally, Dhoni is an honorary Colonel in the Territorial Army and successfully completed parachute jumping course some years back.

The terms of reference of the Committee broadly provide for suggesting measures which can empower the NCC cadets to contribute more

effectively towards nation building and national developmental efforts in various sectors and propose measures for gainful engagement of its alumni for betterment of the organisation as a whole.

The panel will study and recommend best practices of similar international youth organisations for inclusion in the NCC curriculum.

The NCC is the largest uniformed organisation which aims at developing character, discipline, a secular outlook and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens. It also aims to create a pool of organised, trained and motivated youth with leadership qualities in all walks of life.

Dhoni's inclusion in the high-level panel came days after he was appointed mentor for India's T20 cricket world cup team.

## 8-lane Delhi-Mumbai expressway to cut travel time by 12 hrs: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the 1380-km eight-lane Delhi-Mumbai Expressway — passing through Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat — will reduce travel time between the cities to 12-12.5 hours. Gadkari also announced a six-hour drive on the Delhi-Katra expressway in two years.

The minister was addressing the Press in Lohatki, Sohna on Thursday after he reviewed the progress of a section of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway in Sohna. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh were also present at the occasion.

Calling it a matter of pride, Gadkari said the expressway will be the longest in India and connect urban centres of Delhi through Delhi-Faridabad-Sohna section of the corridor with a spur to Jewar Airport and Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Mumbai through a spur in Mumbai.

"The expressway will have wayside amenities — resorts, restaurants, food courts, fuel stations, facilities for trucks, logistics parks — at six points in Haryana. We have also envisaged a helicopter ambulance service for accident victims and there will be a heliport, which will use drone services for business as well. I

also want to build electric highways along the expressway," said Gadkari.

Developed at ₹98,000 crore, the expressway is expected to be completed by March 2023. The eight-lane access-controlled expressway can be expanded to a 12-lane expressway depending on the volume of traffic in the future.

The first phase from Delhi-Jaipur (Dausa)-Lalsot and Vadodara-Ankleshwar is expected to be open to traffic by March 2022. More than 160 km stretch of the expressway which passes through Haryana is being built at ₹ 10,400 crore, the minister said.

"This corridor will improve connectivity in Nuh and Palwal through multiple interchanges to connect the expressway with major highways like KMP and DND Sohna. To address the serious problem of air pollution and traffic congestion in Delhi-NCR, the ministry is undertaking 15 projects worth Rs 53,000 crore, of which 14 projects have been initiated. This expressway will lead to a reduction of 27 per cent in vehicular pollution in Delhi," he said.

He said that the soon to be opened Delhi-Meerut Expressway will reduce commute time between Delhi and Meerut to 40 minutes. "There was an issue with an overbridge, which has now been resolved. I will inaugurate it next month," he said.

On the occasion the Minister said another ambitious expressway is to connect the national Capital to Jammu and to reduce the distance from 727 to 572 kilometres to make you will reach Katra from Delhi in six hours. "We are also working on new roads from Delhi-Chandigarh, Delhi-Dehradun and Delhi-Haridwar, to take you there in two hours."

Gadkari said that the ministry had paid 1.5 times more than the market price to farmers for land acquisition, in a liberal approach. "I appeal to farmers to not sell their land to builders and developers, who usually profit when prices increase after road construction. They (farmers) will get more money if they develop the land," he said.

Responding to a question about toll taxes making travel costly on national highways, Gadkari said, "If you want good services, you have to pay for it. If one wants to conduct a programme in an air-conditioned hall, one will have to pay the rent (kiraya). Otherwise, a wedding can be conducted in a field (maidan) for free as well."

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, said, "With these road stretches being built, there will be economic prosperity in the region (Palwal, Nuh and Gurgaon) and bring employment opportunities, services and give a fillip to industry and growth. At least 73 villages in this region will benefit from this stretch."

## 'PLI scheme to create ₹900 cr turnover from drones manufacturing'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme will help create a turnover of ₹900 crores from drones manufacturing in the next three years, which would help in creating employment for 10,000 people in this sector. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday expects that the drone industry will have a total turnover of up to ₹15,000 crore by 2026.

Addressing a press conference, Scindia said that the current size of the drone manufacturing segment in India is around ₹ 80 crores and the Government will work towards making India a drone manufacturing hub by 2030. Scindia said that the drone sector will see investment worth Rs 5,000 crores in India in the next three years.

"Over a period of three years, Estimated investment

worth ₹ 5,000 crore for manufacturing sector drones will be done which in turn will bring a turnover of ₹900 crore, and 10,000 job opportunities will be created," Scindia said.

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a PLI scheme for drones and drone components with an allocation of Rs 120 crore spread over three financial years. The PLI scheme comes as a follow-through of the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021, released by the Centre on August 25.

Experts say Drones offer tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy. These include— agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, defence, and law enforcement to name a few. Drones can be significant creators of employment and economic growth due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India's remote and inaccessible areas.

## 62% Indian adults have got at least 1 Covid shot

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday said that at least three in five Indian adults—or 62 % — have now been covered with at least one Covid vaccine dose and while one in every five—or 20 % of the adult population is now fully immunised.

The latest data provided by the Union Health Ministry showed Chandigarh entering the coveted league of states and UTs to have ensured inoculation of their entire adult population with at least the first shot against coronavirus.

Further, as the festival season nears, ICMR DG Balram Bhargava at a press conference here said the need of the hour is vaccine acceptance, maintenance of Covid-appropriate behaviour, responsible travel and responsible festivities.

He also ruled out the introduction of booster doses of the vaccine saying that "these were not a priority for the government at this moment."

The country, by Thursday evening, had seen a total of 77.1 crore Covid jabs administered in India of which 58.26 lakh were administered in a day.

Commenting on the scale of inoculation, the Centre said that in the first 15 days of September over 11 crore doses—or about 76 lakh vaccinations in a day on an average—have been administered which is double of the doses given through the entire month of May.

## SC allows symbolic immersion of Ganesh idols in Hyderabad's Hussain Sagar Lake

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed immersion of Lord Ganesh idols, made from Plaster-of-Paris (POP) in Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad, during the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. A bench headed by chief justice NV Ramana made it clear that the court will allow it for the last time - the immersion of idols -- this year, and no more immersion from next year. The bench also comprising justice Surya Kant asked the Telangana government to make certain arrangements from next year. The bench added the idols should not be allowed to be left in the lake after immersion and they should be taken out immediately. The bench said: "Let them do symbolic immersion this year. A last chance for them. They say they will ensure no harm is caused to the pond."

## ED raids four firms in FEMA case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches at the office premises of four firms, Paul Merchants Ltd, Quick Forex Ltd, Supama Forex Pvt. Ltd. and Curo India Pvt. Ltd., and residential premises of their directors and associates in Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali, Jalandhar and Delhi in a FEMA

case.

The searches yielded foreign currency worth ₹3.88 crore and bullion worth ₹24.2 lakh besides incriminating documents, laptops, mobile phones and property documents. The ED had initiated an investigation under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) on the basis of credible information.

During the course of inves-

tigation, it is revealed that the said entities have sent outward remittances over ₹475 crore to Singapore, Hong Kong and UAE on behalf of shell/dummy entities namely Triple Streak Dream Holidays, Wangester Travels Pvt. Ltd., Peripatizo Travels Pvt. Ltd., Himalaya Tourism, Ezax Holidays and Great Journey Tours among other such firms, the ED said.

## 3,631 oxygen PSA plants being installed in country, says Centre



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Learning lessons from the second Covid-19 wave when the country faced severe shortage of Oxygen resulting in several deaths and serious illness across the country, the Centre on Thursday said that 3,631 oxygen PSA plants are being installed in the country—nearly half of which will be installed through central resources, a move planned amid a looming threat of the third Covid wave in India.

These plants will have the capacity to generate about 4,800 MT of medical oxygen. "Of the planned oxygen plants to be installed in hospitals, 1,595 or about 47% have already been commissioned," Union health secretary Rajesh

Bhushan said in a press briefing on Thursday.

As per the details shared, of the total 3,651 PSA plants sanctioned with 4,751 MT capacity generation when commissioned, 1,491 plants with 2,281 MT have been commissioned with central support.

Nearly 2,140 with 2,289 MT capacity on the other hand are planned with the states and other sources such as states, urban local bodies, MPLAD, and through CSR activities.

Of the 1,595 PSA plants commissioned so far with a capacity of 2,088 MT medical oxygen generation, 731 (with 1024 MT) PSA plants have been set up with central resources.

These plants are of utmost

importance given that the second wave of the pandemic had triggered a massive shortage of the crucial oxygen supply in most parts of the country during April-May this year.

The official, while noting that situation in Mizoram with Covid cases surging, also urged states to prepare ahead for any potential spike highlighting that as the situation is stable with cases reducing even in Kerala, the months of October and November would be critical given the festive season.

"The next quarter will be critical. We advise states and municipal corporations to prepare ahead to ensure best models of home care and also to prepare infrastructure," V K Paul, Niti Aayog member said.

## Priyanka to finalise 'Pratigya Yatra' programme next week in Lucknow

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will visit Lucknow next week to give a final shape to the "Pratigya Yatra" programme to be launched by the party unit ahead of the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh next year.

She will have scheduled

meetings with the manifesto committee and with the election committee to assess the party's poll preparedness in the state, sources said.

Priyanka is likely to participate in one of the training programmes being organised by Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee.

On Thursday, she targeted the Yogi Adityanath gov-

ernment and said, "The government is doing drama ahead of polls while withdrawing cases of stubble burning."

The Congress in Uttar Pradesh will take out a 'Congress Pratigya Yatra' with the tagline — 'Hum Vachan Nibhayenge', ahead of the Assembly elections, due early next year.

## Vitiligo patients finding succour in DRDO herbal cure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Many patients with vitiligo, which is an autoimmune disorder characterised by the loss of skin colour in parts of a body, seem to be finding succour in herbal remedies like Lukoskin developed by the Defence and Research Development Organization (DRDO).

Till now, more than one lakh patients suffering from the skin condition, also known as leucoderma, have been treated with Lukoskin with an average success rate of 70 per cent, said Dr Nitika Kohli from AIMIL Healthcare which is manufacturing and marketing the drug. An ayurveda expert herself, Dr Kohli said, that after DRDO transferred the technology, clinical trials were conducted on the patients and then in 2011 it was launched in the market. "In these ten years, over one lakh patients have been treated with the drug. We found 70 percent success rate," she said.

An estimated four to five per cent of the Indian population suffers from leucoderma. The condition is characterized by patches of the skin losing their pigment.

The condition is noticeable in people with dark skin.

For better success rate and with an aim to reach out to more patients, the AIMIL is in the process of launching the advanced version of the drug. DRDO is already working in this direction.

Dr Kohli was speaking at a conference "Clinical management of tough skin diseases" held online to mark the ten years of launch of Lukoskin as well as of AIMIL Healthcare.

has also been attached.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation, on the basis of an FIR registered by the NIA under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against Sarith PS, Swapna Prabha Suresh, Faisal Fareed, Sandeep and others.

The customs department had registered a case relating to the seizure of 30.24 kg of 24 carat gold worth ₹14.82 crore at Trivandrum International Airport. The said gold was camouflaged as diplomatic baggage to UAE Consulate, which has immunity from checking at airport as per Vienna Convention.

The consignment was to be

received by the accused Sarith PS, who had worked in UAE Consulate earlier as Public Relations Officer in complicity with Swapna Prabha Suresh, Sandeep Nair and others.

In the NIA case, accused Sarith PS, Swapna Prabha Suresh and Sandeep Nair were arrested by the ED on July 22 last year and the PMLA Court had remanded them to ED custody from August 5 to 17, 2020. They were subsequently remanded to judicial custody.

Another accused M Sivasankar, IAS, then Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Kerala was also arrested by the ED on October 28, 2020 and was remanded to ED custody from October 29 to

## Congress seeks probe into alleged data fudging by ICMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday demanded that an inquiry should be conducted into the alleged data fudging by the ICMR to keep the political masters happy which led to the loss of human lives.

Addressing media persons, party's General Secretary Ajay Maken alleged that senior scientists, who worked with the ICMR, and other organisations, are now coming forward to point out serious irregularities in Covid management.

"The Congress demands a criminal investigation against the Prime Minister, the then Health Minister, and also against management of ICMR. The inquiry should be conducted by a sitting judge," Maken said.

He said that the party will raise the issue in and outside Parliament. "Now, as the time goes by, more and more scientists who worked with the Indian Council of Medical Research are coming forward with startling facts of political interference and arrogance which was not only against science and democracy, but also caused millions of preventable deaths. These scientists, to name a few, include Dr Anup Aggarwal, Dr Naman Shah, Dr Somdatta Sinha, Dr Shahid Jameel and some others, are gradually opening up in social media and foreign publications," Maken alleged.

"In June 2020, a study commissioned by the ICMR concluded that Modi's lock-



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down had slowed but would not stop the virus spread. Within days, the authors withdrew it and ICMR tweeted the withdrawal. Some of the scientists now say that they were forced to withdraw the report. In July 2020, DG, ICMR, Dr Balram Bhargav forced ICMR scientists to withhold data, based on serological studies, which suggested that virus was spreading to 10 cities. This deliberate blunder led to loss of lakhs of lives."

Maken said, "The second Covid wave hit India severely in April 2021 and the Modi Government was caught unprepared, people of India were left to fend for themselves. "Black Marketing of drugs like Hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, Fabiflu, Dexona, Tocilizumab, Remdesivir, Paracetamol was galore. A single injection of Remdesivir was selling between ₹50,000 and ₹1 lakh, Tocilizumab injection for up to ₹10 lakh in black market."

"People gasped for breath and died as there was no oxygen. People died as there were no ventilators. People died as there were no hospital beds. Lakhs of bodies floated in the Ganga and other rivers."

The Modi Government abandoned India as close to 50 lakh people died," he further said.

October 12, 2020 and all four persons continue to undergo judicial custody.

"During the PMLA probe, it was revealed that accused persons had obtained the Proceeds of Crime in the form of 30.245 kg of smuggled gold valued at ₹14.82 crore. The accused/suspects illegally routed the sale proceeds of previously smuggled gold to Dubai which was further used for purchase of next consignment of gold intended to be smuggled into India and recycled this process throughout the operations and thereby proceeds of crime generated out of gold smuggling previously was used to purchase the said 30.245 kg gold," the ED said in a statement.

It was further revealed that the accused Sarith PS and Swapna Suresh had obtained the Proceeds of Crime to the tune of Rs 14.98 lakh.

## Country to see extended monsoon spell

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As rainfall activity is still continuing over north, northwest and central parts of the country, India will witness an extended monsoon spell and withdrawal is expected to be delayed by the end of September.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Dr Mrutunjay Mohapatra, "There are no signs of monsoon withdrawal from north India for the next 10 days. This means the monsoon spell will continue till the end of September. If low pressure forms, this will be further delayed."

The normal date for the monsoon's retreat from Rajasthan is September 17 but this may not be realised. In recent years, the overall completion of monsoon withdrawal from the entire country has shown a delaying trend. India received 781.4 mm rainfall as against the normal of 813.2, a deficiency of almost four per cent so far. At least 19 states and union territories have witnessed less rainfall this year.

According to the IMD, southwest monsoon withdrawal from northwest India takes place if there is cessation of rainfall activity over the area for continuous five days.

An anti-cyclonic wind has to form over the lower troposphere, and there should also be considerable reduction in moisture content. "The conditions are not likely to be favourable for the commencement of withdrawal of monsoon from parts of Northwest India before the end of the second week of this month (September 16-22).



# CBI grills Didi’s poll agent in murder case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A team of CBI officials on Thursday subjected Mamata Banerjee’s election agent at Nandigram Abu Sufiyan to four hours intense grilling in relation to a murder case that took place soon after the April-May Assembly elections.

Sufiyan the vice chairman of the East Midnapore district board was summoned by the CBI following allegations that Debabrata Maity a BJP worker was murdered by alleged TMC goons a day after the Bengal election results were declared.

The victim died at SSKM Hospital in Kolkata on May 13. The CBI lodged a case in this connection on August 31 following the August 19 Calcutta High Court order directing

the Agency to probe all the post-election murder cases.

Though the CBI has questioned many TMC district leaders during the investigation, this is the first time a leader known to be close to the Chief Minister was interrogated.

When contacted the Sufiyan denied his involvement with the murder saying “any death is unfortunate but implicating an innocent man for political mileage is no less deplorable... The BJP is implicating me in this case because they want to derive political mileage out of it... it is the handiwork of Suwendu Adhikari who has left the Trinamool Congress giving into the pressure of the central agencies whereas we have refused to get cowed down by the BJP and are continuing our

fight under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee ... this is the reason we are being harassed like this.”

Sufiyan a former protégé of Adhikari said “the harassment we are being subjected to is the result of keeping our spines straight and not giving into the pressure of the BJP which is threatening the entire country with agencies.”

The CBI which has registered three dozen cases and filed charge sheet in at least three related to post-poll violence has formed several teams comprising DIGs and SPs --- forensic experts, CISF personnel --- from Delhi, UP, Punjab, Karnataka etc. The CBI team is headed by a joint director.

In an unrelated development a team of National Investigation Agency on Thursday reached the house of

BJP MP Arjun Singh at Jagaddal in North 24 Parganas to investigate bomb attacks on the parliamentarian’s house.

Some NIA officers led by an SP-level officer “conducted investigations in my house at Jagaddal,” the saffron MP who claimed to have been a target of the Trinamool Congress goons said adding he was cooperating with the investigating team.

The NIA officials also spoke to the local police officers, sources said. Crude bombs were hurled on two consecutive days at the Barrackpore MP’s house a few days ago, Singh claimed adding he and his family members were under threat of being eliminated by the TMC “which is finding it difficult to wrest back its organizational in Barrackpore till I am there.”

Two of Singh’s close associates had been shot dead in the past less than two years.

“These attacks are being orchestrated by the Trinamool Congress and its leaders ... they will kill me in the first instance and opportunity,” the BJP strong man who left the TMC before the 2019 general elections --- after being denied nomination from Barrackpore by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee --- and went on to defeat the then sitting MP Dinesh Trivedi by about 15,000 votes said. Singh has been three-time TMC MLA before he quit that party.

Earlier the Union Home Ministry upgraded the BJP MP’s security from Y+ to Z category following the bomb attacks and he is currently being protected by a posse of CISF personnel.

## TMC MP resigns on ‘personal grounds’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid theories flying thick and fast in the Trinamool Congress over the sudden resignation of Arpita Ghosh a party Rajya Sabha MP the parliamentarian on Thursday said she had not been under pressure to put in her papers and that the “decision to resign was very much my personal decision.”

The dramatist-turned-TMC leader was a two-time Lok Sabha MP from the party before she was defeated by the BJP candidate from Balurghat constituency in 2019. She was subsequently sent to the Rajya Sabha.

When asked to comment on the reason behind her sudden resignation, Ghosh said that she wanted to “concentrate more on the organizational work and my theatre which was getting hampered ... and so I have tendered my resignation.”

When asked as to whether she was forced to resign because the party leadership was try-

ing to vacate the seats for other bigger leaders from other States whom Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was trying to use for her national designs Ghosh said “the leadership will answer about the policy decisions ... but as for my decision to resign it was solely based on my personal reasons.”

After Ghosh’s resignations there are talks inside the party that some more Upper House members may be asked to resign to make way for some national level names so as to afford the TMC and the Chief Minister a national image. Inside sources said that Ghosh was not happy at being robbed off the Rajya Sabha post. Sources also said that she had a conversation with party national secretary Abhishek Banerjee a day before the resignation.

The junior Banerjee is known to have promised a priced party post. When asked to comment on her future plans she said “in a few days you will get to know whether I am given any organizational post or not.”

### PUNE-SATARA TOLL COLLECTION FRAUD CASE

## HC to hear criminal PIL against Reliance Infra next week

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court is likely to hear early next week a criminal public interest litigation seeking it to direct the CBI to register a case under IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act against Messrs. Reliance Infra for alleged irregularities in the Pune-Satara toll collection project.

The petitioners – Advocate Pravin Wategaonkar and Sanjay Shirodkar –had moved a praecipe before the high court seeking an urgent hearing of their PIL on September 20 (Monday), following the Maharashtra Government’s failure to permit the CBI to register a case against M/s Reliance Infra in the Pune-Satara toll collection project.

In their petition, Wategaonkar and Shirodkar stated that on October 1, 2010, a six-laning contract of the National Highway section of Pune-Satara with Toll collection rights was awarded to M/s. Reliance Infra – which formed

a SPV M/S Pune Satara Toll Road Pvt Ltd for the project -- for 24 years including construction period of 2.5 yrs/ 30 months.

The NHAI rejected a pre-bid request for a longer construction period of 3.5 yrs 42 months. M/s. Reliance Infra formed SPV M/S Pune Satara Toll Road Pvt Ltd for the project. Six laning construction remained incomplete about ten years later in January 2020, about the time a complaint was filed with CBI.Earlier, in December 2013, the Centre had amended rules and provided that no user fee would be levied for the delayed period between the date of completion as per the agreement entered into with the concessionaire and the date of actual completion.

“As per the contract, Contractor’s equity, bank loans and fees collected were to be used strictly in order laid down in the contract essentially for project related purposes. For use of funds in any other order or purpose, prior written permis-

sion of NHAI was required,” the petitioners told the court.

As per agreement, Pune-Satara six-laning construction was to be completed by March 2013. As per a government circular, NHAI has authority to extend completion date by entering into supplementary agreement with Contractor within 28 days of date of completion as per agreement.The petitioners alleged in their petition that after CAG reported fund diversion to Mutual Fund investments by Contractor in April 2014, NHAI belatedly and in violation of its own policy circular, entered into a supplementary contract with Contractor in October 2014 for extension of Construction period till December 2015. Thereafter there is no supplementary contract for further extension.

User fee collection on the said Highway since January 1, 2014 and more particularly since January 1, 2016, is ultra vires of the rules in the matter and amounts to cheating vehicle owners using the said road.

# HC dismisses Mumbai ex-CP’s plea seeking 2 probes launched against him

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major setback to Mumbai’s former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh, the Bombay High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition challenging two preliminary inquiries launched against him by the Maharashtra Government for alleged violation of service rules and another for alleged corruption.

While dismissing Singh’s petition on the ground that it was “not maintainable,” a HC division bench comprising Justices SS Shinde and NJ Jamdar said that “it is a service matter” and asked him to approach the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which is an appropriate forum.

“(When) the petitioner approaches the appropriate forum, then the same shall be heard and decided without any prejudice to the HC’s order,” the HC bench said.

The HC had on July 28 reserved its order on Singh’s petition seeking quashing of his petition challenging two preliminary inquiries launched against by the Maharashtra Government on April 1 and April 20,2021 respectively for alleged dereliction of duty and misconduct and for alleged corruption.

While Maharashtra’s former Home Minister had on April 1 2021 had passed an order launching a preliminary against Singh for alleged violation of some All India Services (Conduct) Rules, his successor and current State Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil had ordered another preliminary against the former police commissioner over the allegations of

corruption levelled against the latter by Inspector Anup Dange.

Describing himself as a ‘whistle-blower’ who had sought to highlight corruption in the highest public office, Singh had stated in his petition that the inquiries came to be launched against him a month after he had accused the then Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of allegedly extorting Rs.100 crore per month from Mumbai hoteliers through a dismissed Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze.

Opposing Singh’s plea, Senior Advocate Darius Khambata – representing the Maharashtra government – told the high court that the (CAT was the “appropriate forum” for petitioner’s grievances as the inquiries were of administrative nature pertaining to his conduct as the police commissioner.

However, senior Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, representing Singh, argued that these were criminal Inquiries as there was a reference to the section 32 of CrPC and hence he could expect a remedy only from the high court.

The inquiries pertain to alleged violation of services rules in the sensational Antilia case and allegations of corruption levelled by a policeman Anup Dange who accused Singh of shielding people with mafia links and that one alleging the top cop’s relative of demanding a ₹2 crore bribe to reinstate him in the police force.

Khambata told the court that Singh’s contentions on the maintainability ground as they contradicted his own plea in which he accepted that these are administrative

inquiries and said writing letters would not ‘immunise’ him from the same.

Khambata also said that Singh’s primary grievance related to the Director-General of Police Sanjay Pandey conducting the inquiries and said that the IPS officer (Pandey) had recused himself from the enquiries which have been assigned to different officers now.

Among other things, Jethmalani contended that Pandey was an ‘emissary’ of the government trying to convince Singh to withdraw his complaint and offering to mediate on the issue.

It may be recalled that three days after he was shunted and posted in a relatively insignificant post as the Commandant General of Home Guards, Singh had in an eight-page sensational letter written to the chief minister Uddhav Thackeray On March 20 alleged that State Home Minister Deshmukh had asked now arrested and suspended police officer Sachin Vaze last month to “collect” a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources.

Vaze -- who was on March 13 in connection with the gelatine sticks laden Scorpion recovery case and later booked for the murder of businessman and vehicle’s owner Mansukh Hiran in March -- is being prosecuted in the sensational twin cases.

Vaze had allegedly parked the Scorio car laden with 20 gelatine sticks near Mukesh Ambani’s residence in Mumbai. He was allegedly involved in the conspiracy to murder Hiran.

### 17-year-old girl raped at gunpoint in Shamli



**Muzaffarnagar (UP):** A 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped at gunpoint by two people in a village in Shamli district, police said on Thursday. A case has been registered and one of the accused arrested, they said, adding that the minor was sent for a medical examination.

According to the complaint lodged by the victim’s father, the two accused raped her at gunpoint on Wednesday and threatened to kill her, the police said. **PTI**

### Man held for rape after teenage girl found pregnant

**Palghar:** A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped repeatedly by a man residing in her neighbourhood here in Maharashtra following which she became pregnant, police said on Thursday.

The offence took place between January and May this year and the 20-year-old accused was arrested on Wednesday, they said.

The girl recently complained of abdominal pain following she was taken for a medical examination which revealed that she was pregnant, an official from Palghar district rural control room said.

Her parents filed a police complaint against the accused on Wednesday. **PTI**

## Price rise continuous process, announce special financial package to people in distress: Kumaraswamy

**Bengaluru:** Terming price rise as a ‘continuous process’ JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday urged the Karnataka government to announce a special financial package to those in distress, and announce relief to common man, who is finding it difficult to lead life.

He asked the government to use the revenue that was generated out of levying cess and taxes on petrol, diesel and others items, to come to the rescue of the people. “Price rise, according to me, is a continuous process.

Since independence, on several instances price rise has been inevitable to improve the financial condition of the government and to raise money for implementing programmes. Whichever party may be in power, it is natural,” Kumaraswamy said.

Intervening during the debate on price rise in the legislature assembly, he said opposition parties protesting against price rise is also a continuous process in the democracy. Kumaraswamy, during his speech highlighting the trouble faced by common man, especially the poorer section, said it is a double whammy for them with both price rise and COVID-19 pandemic. “This is not the issue to be discussed in a partisan manner and to make allegations against one another to score political brownie points.

We should rather look at what can be done to get relief to those in distress from the government in power,” he said. Asking Karnataka to become model for the entire country, Kumaraswamy urged the government to announce a special financial package and come to the rescue of poor and weaker

sections.

“The government has got revenue from the cess, people have filled your coffers. Now the same people and farmers are in distress. Announce a special financial package for the poorer and weaker sections, who are struggling to lead life. Announce 25,000 each to about 55 lakh such families.”

The former Chief Minister also conceded that populist schemes announced by the governments to reach out to the common man with election in mind, without knowing about its financial implications, has led to loss of taxpayers money at several instances.

“It is the duty of the government to rebuild the lives of the common man, the taxpayers who fill the coffers of the government and now are in distress,” he said, as he advised the government to postpone the schemes, including the Amrit schemes announced it recently, by a year, and come to their rescue.

“I’m not saying the BJP government has to do it, it is our government, the government of the 6.5 crore Kannadigas, all of us have the responsibility. We are ready to give all the cooperation, kindly come to the rescue of the poor and those in distress,” he said, adding that government should also come to the aid of small scale industries that have given jobs to lakhs of people.

Hitting out his old alliance partner and Congress leader Siddaramaiah, who on Wednesday had claimed that the government led by him had given 7 kgs free rice to poor, Kumaraswamy said Siddaramaiah in his last budget had announced 7 kg, but had kept money only for 5kg.

## AP logs 1,367 new cases

**Amaravati:** The Covid-19 caseload in Andhra Pradesh increased to 20,34,786 as 1,367 were added afresh on Thursday.

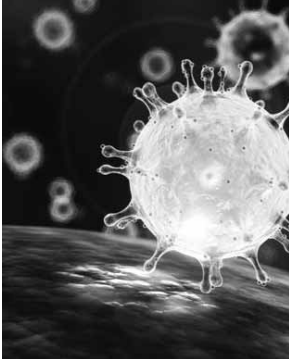
In the 24 hours ending 9 am today, 1,248 infected persons got cured while 14 succumbed, leaving 14,708 active cases, the latest bulletin said.

The total recoveries increased to 20,06,034 and deaths to 14,044, the bulletin said. East Godavari district reported 288 fresh infections and Chittoor 217 while six other districts added between 100 and 160 each. **PTI**



Devotees gather to offer prayers during Teja Dashami celebrations amid coronavirus pandemic in Beawar on Thursday

PTI



**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala on Thursday reported 22,182 fresh Covid-19 cases and 178 deaths, which took the caseload to 44,46,228 and fatalities to 23,165.

The number of people who recovered from the infection since Wednesday was 26,563 which brought the total recoveries to 42,36,309 and the number of active cases to 1,86,190, a State Government release said.

While the release said that 1,21,486 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, it, again for the second day running, did not state what the Test Positivity Rate was. However, 22,182 fresh positive cases, reported in the last 24 hours, out of 1,21,486 samples tested during the same period, gives a figure of 18.25 per cent. Among the 14 districts,

Thrissur recorded the highest with 3,252 cases followed by Ernakulam (2,901), Thiruvananthapuram (2,135), Malappuram (2,061), Kozhikode (1,792), Palakkad

(1,613), Kollam (1,520), Alappuzha (1,442), Kannur (1,246), Kottayam (1,212), Pathanamthitta (1,015) and Idukki (973).

Of the new cases, 105 were health workers, 89 from outside the state and 21,122 infected through contact, with the source of the contact not being clear in 866 cases. There are currently 5,54,807 people under surveillance in various districts, of whom 5,27,791 are in home or institutional quarantine and 27,016 in hospitals. **PTI**



## Terror and hunger

Apart from the dread, hunger and lack of nutrition are gnawing at the Afghan people

It is time to strike a balance between terror and hunger in Afghanistan. Millions of lives are at stake as the UN organisations involved in relief activities say food stocks may last not more than a month in the vast rural stretches. Hunger and lack of nutrition are the bywords as the country's economy is in a downward spiral. Essential commodities are already out of stock in urban stores. Scarce vegetables are selling at double the prices. Panic buying in the aftermath of the Taliban takeover on August 15 cleaned up shelves in stores with no replenishing. Flour and oil are already out of limits for the poor. In the villages, the situation is worse as families are falling back on grain and wheat stored for future crops. Drought and famine have anyway hit the country for the umpteenth time. The risk of displacement adds to the pangs of hunger for a large section of the population. The fighting before August had made over 600,000 Afghans flee homes.



The UN agencies estimate that around 3.5 million people are internally displaced. At least 10 million children, a sizeable section of them malnourished, depend on humanitarian assistance just to survive. The UN's World Food Programme has said many Afghans did not have access to cash to afford sufficient food. That is because banks had closed down after August 15. The Taliban are now negotiating with banks for re-opening branches. However, they have set a cap on weekly withdrawal of \$200 to avoid a run on banks.

Afghanistan's economic experts, now in exile, insist that the situation will lead to a weaker currency, faster inflation and capital controls. Most civil servants have not been receiving salaries for months. Many more claim they have suffered pay cuts as high as 75 per cent since the Taliban took over. There is no indication that the Taliban are bothered about the dire straits. No proactive economic decisions have been forthcoming. Their contribution has been limited to appointing an obscure official to head the central bank to address the crisis. Little is known about his actions. The Taliban cadres though appear unfazed as it is rumoured that there is enough drug and opium money in their coffers. They are currently embroiled in internal squabbles that appear to have worsened after the interim set-up was announced. The Taliban are preoccupied with settling an existential debate — their Achilles' heel, actually — between their urban political face and orthodox armed command represented by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani, respectively. The question is whether the Taliban are playing a blinking game with the rest of the world, holding the latter responsible for restoring economic order. Do they await the international community to pour money into rehabilitation works? Or expect it to recognise their interim governance apparatus? That is linked to lifting the freeze on Afghan assets worth billions of dollars; only a recognised government can take control of the funds.

### PICTALK



Haitian migrants walk towards boats that will take them from Necocli to Acandí, Colombia

PTI

## AAP eyeing UP

Can it alter the script and make a mark in the upcoming Assembly elections?

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is seriously trying its luck in the forthcoming Assembly election due next year. The party recently kicked off its campaign with a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ayodhya. Enthused by the response, the party is likely to hold more such yatras in the coming months in other districts of Uttar Pradesh. Though the elections in Uttar Pradesh are a little away, most parties have already started activities to woo voters. And it makes sense as the stakes are high. Uttar Pradesh has 80 parliamentary seats. It is generally the Congress, BJP, Samajwadi Party and the BSP that fight the elections. But now the AAP is making inroads into the State. It has been consistently trying to make its presence felt in several States, including Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Goa. The party seems to be filling up the vacuum created by the missing Congress. The BJP and the BSP have their cadre on the ground in 'Jan Sammelan Yatras'. The SP is holding a 'Shiv Sevak Sammelan'. The Congress is conspicuous by its absence. Most

of the parties are trying to woo the Brahmin voters who are disgruntled with the incumbent Government, which is seen favouring the Thakurs.

Brahmins, who make up 12 per cent of UP's population, are significant from the poll point of view. The AAP is also planning 'Chanakya Sammelans' to engage Brahmins. The 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ayodhya was led by Manish Sisodia along with the party's UP in-charge, Sanjay Singh. So far, the AAP has not had a very good response in Uttar Pradesh. Arvind Kejriwal fought against Narendra Modi and lost. During the 2014 Lok Sabha election, the AAP contested 77 seats and lost the deposit on 76. The party then contested the 2017 local body elections. It had 3,400 candidates in the fray but only 44 won. It was at number five. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the party failed to open its account and all its candidates lost their deposit. For the 2022 Assembly polls, it has decided to contest all the seats on its own. But the situation could change as the AAP is trying a tie-up with OP Rajbhar's Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha. Sanjay Singh is in talks with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. He is also trying to build the party at the grassroots and strengthen the organisation. It might not win as yet but it can be a spoilsport for the ruling party.

# Pornography is the theory, rape practice

The easy access to online obscene content is making an increasing number of people getting hooked on to the extent of perversion



HASAN KHURSHID

Online pornography has literally created a 'porn pandemic' as deadly as 'COVID-19'. Experts trace a marked correlation between watching pornography and sexual crimes. Pornography is a Greek word, which originally meant "writing about prostitutes".

Today, according to modified version of *Kuhn et al-2007*, "Pornography is a communication material provided for the purpose of arousing or gratifying a user in isolation from others or in company of others." Pornography is "perversion". It provides a field for deviant and violent fantasies to be developed eventually leading to some viewers acting out those fantasies in practice. Before the advent of online pornography, the compulsive voyeur used to haunt public places, parks and bedroom windows from where he could surreptitiously watch courting couples. Now the voyeur is privileged to watch couples on screen. After getting constantly aroused, he would prowl around in search of a soft target, mainly the tender-aged child, as many a time the voyeur has low level of sexuality and finds himself partially impotent with a grown up woman.

Alfred C Kinsey considered voyeurism to be limited solely to men, but in the US, the 1971 Commission of Pornography and Obscenity revealed that women responded to visual stimulation, pictures of nudes, in the same way as men do. According to a recent survey, a large number of users of these porn sites is not adults but adolescents.

Does online pornography have the destructive power to turn a simple normal, everyday man into rapist or murderer? Why this alarming question does not surface every time a rape with murder, especially of children and infants, hits the headlines. Ironically, there is no stringent law in India on full viewing of sexual acts online; whereas, on the contrary, the law of the land showed its utter sensitivity on obscenity under the provisions of Section 292 and 293 of IPC.

This is evident from the fact that Kamlesh Vaswani, Advocate,



filed in the Supreme Court a petition seeking to ban pornography in India and praying for direction to the Government to treat watching of porn videos and sharing as non-bailable and cognisable offence, but the Government supported pornography in the court.

The Attorney General submitted that if someone wished to watch porn within their bedroom, how can the State interfere with such an activity? He asserted that the Government did not want to do moral policing and that we (India) cannot become a totalitarian State by banning all pornographic websites because clampdown would infringe the "Right to freedom". The State's action may raise issues regarding privacy rights.

Chief Justice HL Dattu, who had used a similar line during the previous hearing, interrupted and said: "Mr Attorney, why are you using our lines?" The Attorney General further contended: "Simply viewing an obscene object is not an offence. It becomes an offence only when someone has in possession such objects for the purpose of sale, hire, distribution, public exhibition or putting it into circulation."

Petitioner's counsel Vijay Panjwani argued that "criminal

activity is a criminal activity", whether carried out in private or public. Moreover, when the obscene object has come on the internet, it has already been circulated and automatically becomes "public". Subsequently, on February 26, 2016, Additional Solicitor General Pinky Anand told Justice Dipak Misra: "It is difficult to ban pornographic websites as they do not fall under any country's jurisdiction."

Differing, the Bench said: "When obscenity is an offence under the criminal law, then why can't you define it accordingly? It has already been decided that freedom of speech and expression is not absolute." The petitioner's counsel contended: "There is technology available to block such sites. In India, there are 11 towers which receive signals from under water cables of foreign countries. A technologist from Banaras Hindu University has undertaken to block all those 11 points that receive porn contents. It is a very low-budget technology, provided the Government agrees to it." A committee under the leadership of then Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had been constituted to review this matter but he gave the statement: "We are not a control freak Government and

strongly object to the word 'Talibanisation'."

In fact, there is enough evidence available about the link between serial killers/rapists and their addiction to pornography. The accused of the Delhi gang rape case of December 2012, in their 164 Criminal Penal Code statement, had admitted that before committing the ghastly crime, they had consumed liquor, watched pornography, and then decided to have a party (they meant committing rape).

In his interview to Games C Dobson, notorious American serial killer Ted Bundy seven hours before his execution in the electric chair documented: "I was a normal person. I led a common life except for this one segment. Pornography can reach in and snatch a kid out of any house today. It snatched me out of my home 30 years ago. I deserve, certainly, the most extreme punishment society has. And I think society deserves to be protected from me and from others like me." According to Government's figures in December 2017, a child is sexually abused every 15 minutes, still the authorities are more concerned on 'naked capitalism'.

(The writer is a legal journalist and author. The views expressed are personal.)

“THE ACCUSED OF THE DELHI GANG RAPE CASE OF DECEMBER 2012 HAD ADMITTED THAT BEFORE COMMITTING THE GHASTLY CRIME, THEY HAD CONSUMED LIQUOR, WATCHED PORNOGRAPHY, AND THEN DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SANSAD TV GOES ON AIR

Sir — The start of Sansad TV will mark another lesson in India's democratic history. Inaugurated on the day of International day of Democracy, the new media channel will voice out the truth of India's democratic system. We all know that Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV have been dedicatedly telecasting relevant issues of our democracy with quality information and facts. In fact, both the LS and the RS TV are especially watched by UPSC aspirants for quality preparations. Both these channels have telecasted the functioning of the two houses of the Parliament individually.

Now with Sansad TV in the picture, we can expect more quality content and information on a single platform. Sansad TV will merge the quality and technology of India's two state of the art media channels, so as to deliver the best information to its viewers. We hope that with Sansad TV, every Indian is empowered to get faithful news and right information at the right time so that citizens do not get misled by false information. Right information will empower citizens to make better decisions over the issues of national, social, economical and political importance.

Dimple | Kanpur

### RAHUL'S 'FAKE HINDU' JIBE

Sir — There is substance in Rahul Gandhi's statement that the RSS and its political arm the BJP, are 'fake Hindus' and 'brokers of religion'. The Congress leader has shown the courage to call a spade a spade. BJP's role in Indian politics validates Rahul Gandhi's charge of 'Dharam ki dalali'. The way he saw it, BJP is 'disrespecting and insulting goddesses 'Lakshmi and Durga'. He elaborated that the ruling party was busy transferring wealth from people to a few corporate houses and it did not believe in *nari shakti* (women's power). Rahul Gandhi's metaphorical speech provoked the BJP to call him the 'son of a Catholic mother and a Parsi father' and ask him 'to stop lecturing on Hinduism and hurting Hindu sentiment'. The use of religion, a centre of devo-

## Telcos get a respite



The Union Cabinet has cleared a set of structural and procedural reforms for the telecom sector in hope of rejuvenating its cash-strapped companies. The key measures announced by the Cabinet include a four-year moratorium on payment of statutory dues by telecom companies and a change in the definition of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) to exclude non-telecom revenue. The change in the definition of AGR

is momentous as it was at the centre of a long and arduous legal battle between the telecom companies and the Centre. The companies had disputed the Department of Telecommunication's definition of AGR as including revenue from non-telecom sources as well.

Since the licence fees and spectrum usage charges that the telcos have to pay the department are calculated based on AGR, there was much at stake. After nearly 15 years of legal battles, the Supreme Court upheld the DoT's definition, leading to a Rs.1.6 lakh crore payment backlog for the telcos. The change in definition does not wipe out these past dues as it does not have retrospective effect. The relief on this front is from the four-year moratorium on payments, though the companies still have to pay interest. It is a right step in the right direction. These fresh reforms will further boost efforts to invest in the digital future.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

tion for the multitudes, by the BJP to achieve its political ends has become the salient and striking feature of politics in today's India. The encroachment of religion into politics has been so normalized with the nomenclature 'Hindu nationalism' over the decades that anyone who is against defining nationhood on the basis of religion is branded 'anti-national'. The retreat from secularism diminishes our identity as a pluralist democracy and our capacity to prosper.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

### PLANET EARTH IS HEATING UP

Sir — A new survey by the BBC has found that the number of days when the temperature reached 50 degrees centigrade has doubled over the last 40 years. The study found that between 2010 and 2019, the temperature reached 50 degrees for 26 days on average. Between 1980 and 1990, that figure was just 14 days. The analysis shows that the frequency of exceptionally hot days is increasing every year. Every 10 years, the

overall number of days with temperature hitting the 50 degrees centigrade mark has risen. Urgent action must be taken by world leaders to control global temperature rises. It must be understood that even below 50 degrees, high temperature and humidity could create severe health risks. As a consequence of extreme heat, disasters such as droughts and wildfires have become more frequent. Global warming, depletion of the natural sunscreen — the Ozone layer, and melting glaciers are more common than ever. Unless the countries wake up to the severity of the situation and adopt measures to mitigate global warming, our existence on this planet will be in peril. Reversing the already caused damage might be a lost cause but doing our bit can delay the onset of tragedies we're not prepared for.

Venu GS | Kollam

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

Within 24 hours of coming to power, the AAP will provide 300 units of free electricity for residential use to every single person in UP.



Delhi Deputy CM

—Manish Sisodia



We were like a hired gun. We were supposed to make the US win the war in Afghanistan, which we never could.

Pakistan Prime Minister

—Imran Khan

I lived alone so it was like cake, ice cream, anything crispy and then starving for a week. I had a terrible relationship with food.



Actor

—Jacqueline Fernandez



We are excited to have fans back at the IPL. It's been too long to hear that roar of KKR fans at Eden Gardens.

KKR captain

—Eoin Morgan

With the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, employment opportunities will increase in Haryana and its connectivity with other States will improve.



Haryana Chief Minister

—Manohar Lal Khattar





## FIRST COLUMN BUILDING BLOCKS OF DEVELOPMENT

India has its task cut out to make itself heard in global affairs concerning its interests



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

A bunch of regional and multilateral dialogues are coming India's way between September and the last quarter of 2021. As a follow up to the BRICS summit, India participated in the Shanghai Cooperation organization (SCO) meeting in Dushanbe this week. External affairs minister S Jaishankar travelled there and Prime minister Narendra Modi addressed the meeting virtually.

In the wake of the developments in Afghanistan, any opportunity for India to spread its diplomatic clout on the events unfolding in Central Asia is crucial. The SCO has a formidable bunch of representation from nearly all countries that have a say in Central and South Asia. However, therein lies its biggest failure to develop as a regional dialogue platform for Central Asia.

The SCO has a whole laundry list of ambitious goals such as promoting mutual trust and neighbourliness among members, ensuring peace, stability and security in the region based on principles of non-



alignment and "non-targeting any third country and openness". The events in India's eastern border with direct military interventions by China in 2020 and the on-going tensions may seem contradictory to any of the goals. The SCO, like another regional platform BRICS, was primarily a body sponsored by China and Russia to challenge the US in a "unipolar" world and establish the centrality of these powers. When it was conceived, India was still aligning itself to the suddenly new unipolar world having been indecisive about the path it ought to choose for a prosperous future. However, in the last decade or so, a strategic shift has been made to migrate to a US-India strategic relationship based on mutual economic interests and security specially in the Indo-Pacific region. There is growing confidence among the two largest democracies to deal with the new challenges of the global order based on shared targets and economic prosperity.

Coming back to SCO, India focussed on the Afghanistan crisis during its dialogue with SCO leaders. It is significant since this is the second time in a fortnight that top leaders of Russia, China and India spoke to one another on Afghanistan and the overall security situation in the region. The External Affairs minister held bilaterals with his counterparts of Russia and Iran on the situation prevailing in the region. Earlier, India had reiterated its position on providing non-discriminatory and direct distribution of humanitarian assistance to all groups in Afghanistan under the UN banner.

It may be recalled India held the presidency of the security council in August and managed to get a resolution passed on Afghanistan with Russia and China abstaining. The pressure from China and some other SCO members to formally recognize the Taliban government exists. India needs to watch its step. The SCO in its current avatar also needs to bring in democratic reforms and work towards mutual trust of its member-states and dialogue partners before it can challenge alliances like Nato.

Next up in September is the high-level personal dialogue of Modi with President Biden during the Quad summit. In the wake of an aggressive China emerging as a threat for the four large economies of the US, Australia, Japan and India, the Quad grouping has significant potential. The agenda of the summit consists of dialogue on critical and emerging technologies, connectivity and infrastructure, cyber security, maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, climate change, and the Indo Pacific region. Any five of these strategic goals, if followed through, have a huge potential to create significant economic opportunities for Quad members. Its leadership needs to start publicizing its targets in their respective media for more broad-based participation.

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

# Mighty challenges in Indian agriculture

India has all the means to become an agricultural power in the world but we are currently tapping only a fraction of our strength and letting the rest slide



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY

Current focus of public discourse in agriculture is on marketing system in the backdrop of the three contentious farm laws enacted last year. Early this year, the Supreme Court ordered a temporary stay on their implementation and appointed an expert committee whose report is lying unacted since March. The Government's offer to seek suggestions on specific changes in the law have fallen on deaf ears and the protests seeking outright scrapping of laws have now turned distinctly political.

This focus on marketing has eclipsed attention on important issues of growing water deficit, soil erosion and environmental degradation - particularly nitrogen pollution or air and water — caused by current farming practices. Here is a brief explainer of issues and concerns.

In a pandemic-stricken world, time-bound eradication of hunger and malnutrition by 2030 in an environmentally sustainable manner is an international priority and commitment under United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Food Systems Summit is due to be convened soon to review global preparedness. Action is required to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; shift to sustainable consumption patterns; boost nature-positive production; advance equitable livelihoods; and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

India has offered to use its over-flowing granaries to tackle extreme hunger but India can do much more and be an agricultural power but we are presently tapping only a fraction of our strength. Here are some suggestions to achieve this mission.

By the mid-1960s, hit by back-to-back droughts, India was a "ship to mouth" economy waiting for PL480 wheat imports from USA. Today, India is the largest exporter of rice and the second-largest producer of both wheat and rice, after China. Except for oilseeds and pulses, the country is now self-sufficient in foodgrain production.

This feat has been achieved by ushering 'Green Revolution' in the 1960s. One of the important fallouts of Green Revolution was increased use of chemical fertilisers, mainly urea for nitrogen and others to provide potassium and phosphorus.

Textbook science tells us that bacteria in the roots of leguminous plants (pulses) help in 'nitrogen fixation', conversion of atmospheric nitrogen into nitrogenous compounds that serve as fertilisers. These plants therefore naturally increase the nitrogen content of soil. Traditional agriculture practice of 'crop rotation' was to sow the legumes in between other crops to restore depleted nitrogen content of soil.

Green Revolution changed many of these practices. It boosted production with three major failings. First, its impact was confined to a few cereal crops — mainly wheat and rice — and to water surplus regions of Punjab, Haryana and parts of UP. These are no more water surplus and the water table has gone very deep. Further, the



THEN THERE IS THE ISSUE OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY CHEMICAL FERTILISERS AND PESTICIDES. SCIENTISTS FOUND THAT CROPS GENERALLY USE UP ONLY 30 PER CENT OF NITROGEN FERTILISERS SPRINKLED IN THE FIELDS; THE REST SEEPS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT, HARMING HEALTH AND ADDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

*(The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI. The views expressed are personal.)*



new varieties require chemical fertilisers and pesticides and there is a risk of the chemicals seeping into air and water.

Three crops (rice, wheat and sugarcane) corner 75 to 80 per cent of irrigated water. Diversification of cropping patterns towards millets, pulses, oilseeds, horticulture is needed for more equitable distribution of water, improving sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and most important of all, addressing the problem of nutrition deficit. Too much of cereals and sugarcane at the cost of pulses, fruits and vegetables is not good for health.

At a time when some misguided environmentalists have aligned with misguided farmers in perpetuating over-production of cereals in an environmentally unsustainable manner, it is apt to recall the report released by UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, WHO, UNICEF, WFP) on State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World on July 13, 2020.

The UN Report has estimated that if last five years' trends persist, the number of undernourished people will exceed 84 crore by 2030 whereas the goal is to reduce it to zero under SDGs.

Then there is the issue of pollution caused by chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Nitrogen pollution has implications for global warming as well.

The farmers were initially impressed by four-to-ten-fold increase in productivity of wheat and rice. They kept on increasing fertiliser use, particularly of cheaper urea. The soil kept losing its natural health and became 'addicted' to urea. With the fertiliser use efficiency on the decline, farmers used more fertiliser (than minimum

required] in the hope of raising yield. Scientists found that crops generally use up only 30 per cent of nitrogen fertilisers sprinkled in the fields; the rest seeps into the environment, harming health and adding to climate change.

The "nitrogen use efficiency" of the global food system integrating crop and livestock production systems is very low, just about 15 per cent. This means that 85 per cent of nitrogenous chemicals used are lost to air, groundwater or surface runoff, threatening the quality of air, soils, and fresh waters, driving climate change, and thereby endangering ecosystems and human health (2013 Study).

Nitrous oxide is a particularly potent greenhouse gas as it is over 300 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Agriculture leads to about 70 per cent of nitrous oxide emissions in India. Of this, 77 per cent is contributed by fertilisers, mostly urea, according to the Indian Nitrogen Assessment published in 2017.

Cereals consume over 69 per cent of nitrogen fertilisers in India and fertilizer consumption shows a continuously growing trend, with a yearly increase of about six per cent since 1970.

Concerned about excessive use of urea and its adverse effect on environment, a major policy intervention has been introduction of neem-coated urea — coating of *Neem* on urea granules means the urea does not readily dissolve in water and the soil gets additional natural insecticide.

This should help but eventually we need to gradually return to chemical-free agriculture.

Obviously, we cannot proceed like Sri Lanka which banned import of chemical fertilisers in the face of a serious shortage of dollars with them. It has affected food production and supply leading to imposition of emergency.

Chemical-free farming or organic farming or zero budget natural farming is yet to pick up in a big way. Currently, 38 lakh hectares of cultivable area is organically farmed by 30 lakh farmers with an export and domestic demand of Rs.7,000 crore and Rs.4,400 crore, respectively. The domestic market is growing at 17 per cent and the projected demand of organic food market is likely to cross Rs. 87.1 crore by 2021 from Rs. 53.3 crore in 2016. The export market size of organic products has increased by 42 per cent during 2021 compared to last year and the volume of organic products exported from April 2020 to February 2021 was 819,250 MT with value of \$948 million.

'Sresta Natural Bioproducts' is a sustainable livelihood venture that has enabled 45,000 farmers turn to practicing organic farming across the country. The company has converted two lakh acres of land across 15 states. Over 200 products are sold in 10,000 stores and exported to 50 countries under the brand name 24 Mantra. A 'jaivik khetai' web portal in fact connects farmers to consumers for better prices. These are encouraging but still baby steps. Organic farming, perceived as a fad of the rich and expensive, cannot become a mass movement unless organic products are verifiable and affordable.

When shall we see a 'mahapan-chayat' discussing these challenges before Indian agriculture?

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THEY (THE BJP) ARE FAKE HINDUS. THEY USE RELIGION, THEY ARE BROKERS OF RELIGION, BUT THEY ARE NOT HINDUS. —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



RAHUL GANDHI SHOULD NOT MAKE THESE STATEMENTS. HE IS TOTALLY DISCONNECTED FROM THE GROUND AND HAS NO INFORMATION. —BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY ARUN SINGH

# As NaMo turns 71, the world turns to him

The universal farsightedness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ability to foresee challenges places him well above others

On September 17 this year, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi turns 71, his fans cutting across political lines remind themselves how he has proved to be a visionary and charismatic statesman, a role model for others to follow.

Even his detractors have to acknowledge that his public image shines, as evidenced by a recent Morning Consult survey judging him the most popular among 13 world leaders.

With an acceptance rating of as high as 70 per cent, he was crowned as the tallest leader, followed by Mexican president Andres Manuel López Obrador with a score of 64 per cent. They were followed by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi (63 per cent), German



JASIM MOHAMMAD

*(The writer is Professor and Founder Chairman, Centre for Narendra Modi Studies, Aligarh. The views expressed are personal.)*

Chancellor Angela Merkel (52 per cent), US President Joe Biden (48 per cent), Australian PM Scott Morrison (48 per cent), Canadian PM Justin Trudeau (45 per cent), UK PM Boris Johnson (41 per cent), Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro (39 per cent), South Korean President Moon Jae-In (38 per cent), Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez (35 per cent) and French President Emmanuel Macron (34).

No doubt, on September 24 when Modi visits the United States for a Quad summit, he is likely to meet President Biden for bilateral talks on subjects including Afghanistan for the first time after Biden rose to presidency.

There are many reasons why Modi has achieved globally what many other Indian



PMs failed to. One of them is universal farsightedness that he is credited with. He can foresee the challenges lying ahead and has solutions ready for them. This quality not only made him different from his predecessors but put him ahead of other top world leaders.

Take the case of the Covid-19 pandemic that brought the world to a standstill last year. Braving the criticism of the opposition parties at home,

Modi emerged as a global messiah by reaching out to other countries with vaccines while ensuring that the vaccine supply to Indians was not adversely affected. If this was not enough, he turned health into a key global agenda at the BRICS summit that he chaired on September 9.

He "stressed the need for accelerating 'buildback' by enhancing speed and accessibility of vaccination, creating 'resilience' by diversifying pharmaceutical and vaccine production capacities beyond the developed world".

Another major success of Modi as the host of the BRICS Summit was his affirmation in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping about the global stand against terrorism and the unprecedented situa-

tion that has dramatically unfolded in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of troops by the US.

In the wake of the stand of Communist China, which has decided to hobnob with the Taliban in league with Pakistan to expand its presence in Afghanistan not only for commercial interests but also for secret strategic purposes, a development that can pose a serious threat to India, Modi has been able to tie smartly four other countries to the New Delhi Declaration.

The joint resolution underlined: "We follow with concern the latest developments in Afghanistan. We call for refraining from violence and settling the situation by peaceful means. We stress the need to contribute to fostering an

inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue so as to ensure stability, civil peace, law and order in the country. We condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks near the Hamid Karzai Kabul International Airport that resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries. We underscore the priority of fighting terrorism, including preventing attempts by terrorist organizations to use Afghan territory as terrorist sanctuary and to carry out attacks against other countries, as well as drug trade within Afghanistan. We emphasise the need to address the humanitarian situation and to uphold human rights, including those of women, children and minorities."

Significantly it also came a day after Russia and India discussed coordinating among

themselves on Afghanistan during NSA-level talks in New Delhi. The New Delhi declaration also carries a veiled yet strong warning from Modi to Pakistan, which is not part of BRICS but is aligned with China and has been chiefly responsible for overthrowing a democratically elected and India-friendly government in Afghanistan by supporting a terrorist outfit like the Taliban militarily.

If China, at the behest of Pakistan, dares to play any mischief from Afghanistan targeting India in future, Modi and leaders of the three other nations would have every right to confront Jinping for violation of the agreement. And that would certainly not be a good experience for the leaders either Beijing or Islamabad.

# AHEAD OF SCO SUMMIT

# China says will work closely with member States on Af issues

**Beijing:** Ahead of the SCO summit, China on Thursday said it is ready to have close communication and coordination with the bloc's member states and jointly work on Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure in the war-torn country controlled by the Taliban.

The eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan will hold its 21st summit on Friday at Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe.

Afghanistan is an observer in the SCO.

The SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) comprising Russia and Central Asian States will hold a joint summit meeting on Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Chinese

President Xi Jinping would address the summit via video link.

Asked about the SCO and CSTO summit on Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that "the Afghan situation bears on regional security and stability".

"Members of the SCO and CSTO are all close neighbours of Afghanistan and they all actively support the peace and reconstruction and reconciliation process in Afghanistan," he said.

"China is a member of the SCO which is ready to have close communication and coordination with relevant countries, jointly work on Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, make a clean break with all forms of terrorist groups and live on friendly terms with other countries."

"We are ready to continue to have good neighbourliness and friendly cooperation with Afghanistan, and play a constructive role in its peace and reconstruction," he said.

China, which has kept its embassy open in Kabul along with Pakistan and Russia, has maintained close communication with the Taliban's interim government though it has not formally recognised it.

Beijing has announced a USD 31-million aid for the war-torn country.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US' complete troop withdrawal on August 31 after a costly two-decade war. This forced Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country to the UAE. **PTI**

## Taliban hand over seized cash, gold to Af central bank

**IANS ■ KABUL**

The Taliban have handed over about \$12.3 million cash and some gold to Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the country's central bank, a statement said on Thursday.

The cash and gold bars found from the houses of former administration's officials and local offices of former government's intelligence agency have been returned to Da Afghanistan Bank's treasury, Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying.

"The officials of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan by handing over the assets to national treasury proved their commitment to transparency," it added.

## Afghans long for better life as Taliban manage to run country

**IANS ■ KABUL**

While the security situation in Afghanistan has remained stable since the Taliban takeover in August, the country is now facing economic and humanitarian challenges, with its people longing for a better life and the new Government calling for international assistance.

There has been no major security incident or armed clashes since August 15 when Taliban took over 33 of the country's 34 provinces, except a deadly suicide bomb blast and shooting outside the Kabul International Airport, which killed over 170 Afghan civilians and 13 US soldiers, while injuring nearly 200 others, Xinhua news agency reported.

On September 6, the Taliban announced that its fighters had captured Panjshir, the only province that had remained out of the group's control, days after sporadic clashes were reported in the mountainous province.

There were no civilian casualties during the fighting in Panjshir, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said, adding that electricity and internet service would resume in the province soon.

No major clashes have been reported in Panjshir since then, although the so-called National Resistance Front of Afghanistan led by Ahmad Massoud, the son of former anti-Taliban leader Ahmad Shah Massoud, has denied the Taliban's claim of capturing Panjshir.

"The war is over, and insecurity and fighting are not a concern among the Afghans anymore," Mujahid said.

Afghanistan would soon have a regular army to defend the country, Taliban's army chief of staff Qari Fasihuddin said Wednesday.

"Afghanistan would have a regular, disciplined and strong army in near future to defend and protect the country and consultations in this field continue," Fasihuddin said at a gathering in Kabul, adding members of the proposed army would be well-trained and disciplined to defend and protect Afghanistan.

## Over 634,000 Afghans displaced this yr: UN agency

**Kabul:** More than 634,000 Afghans have been internally displaced by conflicts in 2021, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the war-torn nation said on Thursday.

A total of 634,800 people had been verified as having been displaced by conflicts as of September 12, 2021, out of which 282,246 displaced people had received assistance, Xinhua news agency quoted the OCHA as saying in a report.


The report came as the security situation in Afghanistan has remained stable since the Taliban's takeover of the country in mid-August.

Afghan officials and humanitarian agencies have expressed concern over the living condition of the displaced families in the country since the it affected the life of women and children as they do not have access to health facilities and schooling.

More than 28,000 Afghans have been also affected by natural disasters across Afghanistan starting this year, according to the figures provided by OCHA.

On Monday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the possibility of a complete economic collapse in Afghanistan was "serious" and highlighted an urgent need for funding support at a high-level ministerial meeting on Afghanistan's humanitarian situation in Geneva.

On Tuesday, the UN appealed to the countries pledging \$1.2 billion in relief for Afghanistan to take action quickly. **IANS**

**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813  
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Mobile No. 96461-07205)

**E- Tender Enq. No. 336/P-1/EMP-W-11858 dated 13-09-2021**  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roonnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2021\_POWER\_72014\_1 for Mtc. of railway track in GGSSTP railway yard (equated length 35.266 KM) and railway track from Ropar railway station to GGSSTP railway station (RTP Block Section) equated length 7.506 KM. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from **17-09-2021/ 11.00 AM** onwards.  
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.  
RO NO. 76155/12/442/2021/7926 RTP-31/21

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

**e-Tender Notice**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-III), Vaysi Project, Dakpathar, UJVNL Ltd. invites online bid from interested parties Brief summary of tender is given below  
**NIT No : 05/EE(E&M-III)/VP/2021-22**  
**Name of work :** Annual contract for Operation, routine Maintenance and upkeeping 33/11 KV substation & 500KVA DG Set at Hathiyari  
**Estimated cost :** **₹2,86,221.00 (Taxes Extra)**  
**Date of Availability of bid document on website:** 21.09.2021 from 11:00 hrs.  
**Last date for submission of bids on website:** 11.10.2021 upto 17:00 hrs.  
For fuller & further details kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>  
RO No 682 dt. 16.09.2021  
**Executive Engineer (E&M-III)**  
**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**O/o FOREST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM, RAIPUR (C.G.)**  
Aranya Bhawan, North Block, Sector-19, 3rd Floor, Room No. TR-07, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar  
Email - [cfmis.cg@gov.in](mailto:cfmis.cg@gov.in) Website - [www.fmisonline.org](http://www.fmisonline.org), <https://www.cgforest.com>  
**No./FMIS/IT/Tender/2021/1086 Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar Raipur,**  
**Dt.14/09/2021**

**Tender in Envelopes super-scribing "Tender for Supply and Installation of IT & Electronic Goods"** are Invited from reputed IT firms. The Tender document can be purchased from the office of DFO, FMIS by paying Rs.1000/- per form by DD in the name of DFO FMIS till 18.10.2021 during office hrs (If Tender is not finalized on due date 18.10.2021 then 2nd round of Tender will be on 25.10.2021, If 2nd round of Tender is not finalized then 3rd round of Tender will be on 01.11.2021). The document shall be received till 18.10.2021/25.10.2021/01.11.2021 at 12.00 PM and will be opened on same day at 2.00 PM  
The bid document is available at [www.fmisonline.org](http://www.fmisonline.org) for viewing purpose only.

**Sd/-**  
**Conservator of Forest,**  
**Ro. No. 63712/2 Forest Management Information System,**  
**Ro. Date. 16/09/2021 Nawa Raipur, Atal Nagar (C.G.)**

**MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI**  
**Tender No.: Re-CAMC-EOT-2021-22-8A Due on 04/10/2021**  
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/M&P, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli for and on behalf of president of India, invites **ONLINE** open tender based on two packet system from reputed firms through Indian Railways portal [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) for Tender notice no. **Re-CAMC-EOT-2021-22-8A, Due on 04/10/2021** on prescribed format for the under mentioned work- **Description of Work:-** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 35 Nos. EOT cranes along with DSL for 02 year as per scope of work. **Approx. Value (in Rs.)** 1,14,24,750.00 (Rs. One Crore Fourteen Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Only); **Earnest Money** :- Nil; **Cost of Tender Document** :- Rs.5,000.00 **Completion period from the date of commencement of work:-** 24 months (02 years) **Date and Time of closing of tender - 04.10.2021 at 15:30 hrs.** • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms and conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal : [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in).  
**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (M&P)**

**e-Advertised Tender Notice No. 33/ET/2021-22 Dated: 13.09.2021**

SN	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Due Date
01	12211097	Brake Support	6799 Nos.	11.10.2021
02	12211069	Wear Plate	6852 Nos.	30.09.2021
03	05201033	LED Light Fitting for Doorway / Gangway Area	2944 Nos.	01.10.2021
04	15195229C	SMF VRLA Battery, Sealed MF Rechargeable	120 Nos.	11.10.2021
05	11211079	Stiffening Plate	6405 Nos.	11.10.2021
06	12211048	Roll Link	3801 Nos.	13.10.2021
07	11211167	End Construction for LHB High Capacity Parcel Van Coach	268 Nos.	11.10.2021
08	05211190	Led Light fitting for Toilet Indication in LHB AC Coaches.	2241 Nos.	08.10.2021

**Corrigendum**

01	Corrigendum No.03 Dated 01.09.2021	Tender No. 04211266	Due date may be read as 22.09.2021 instead of 08.09.2021
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**e-Advertised Tender Notice No. 34/ET/2021-22 Dated: 15.09.2021**

SN	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Due Date
1	05211338	Aluminum Pipe	118605 MTR	18.10.2021
2	05211339	Battery Box Assembly (Installation and Commissioning Not Required)	984 Nos.	22.10.2021
3	12211035	Bogie Bolster Assembly for Air Spring Type Flat Bogie	723 Nos.	25.11.2021
4	05211362	Cable Duct L= 3 M	19440 Nos.	12.10.2021
5	05211371	Set of Panel (for LHB Non AC Coaches) Without LV Panel	129 Set	12.10.2021
6	05211376	Cable Duct as per Drg. No. LW44174 Item 6 ALT C with length 3 mtrs.	10591 Nos.	08.10.2021
7	12211146A	Male Stud Connector	4000 Nos.	07.10.2021

**Corrigendum**

01	33/ET/2021-22 Dated 13.09.2021	Tender No. 04211266	Due date may be read as 30.09.2021 instead of 22.09.2021
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**Website Address: [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) & [www.mct.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.mct.indianrailways.gov.in)**  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## 3 dead, 60 hurt in 6.0-magnitude China earthquake

**Beijing:** Three people were killed and 60 others injured on Thursday after a powerful 6.0-magnitude earthquake jolted Luxian county in China's Sichuan province, authorities said.

China Earthquake Administration has dispatched a work team to guide on-site disaster relief work, reports xinhua news agency.

A total of 890 commanders and fighters from nearby fire-fighting and rescue brigades have been mobilised, while another 4,600 rescue workers are on standby.

There were a total of 737 collapsed houses, 72 houses with serious damage, while 7,290 with damage to some extent.

Collapsed walls and houses were seen on the way to rain-battered Jiaming township in the epicentre area.

Electricity in most of the houses in the town has been suspended.

Amid heavy rain in Fuji township, rescue workers were going door to door searching for people in the damaged houses and moving them to temporary shelters.

More than 6,900 affected residents have been relocated, and over 10,000 people were shifted to temporary shelters as of early Thursday morning, according to the local government.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre, the earthquake occurred at 4.33 a.m.

The epicentre was monitored at 29.2 degrees north latitude and 105.34 degrees east longitude. The quake struck at a depth of 10 km.

Approved by the provincial government, the earthquake relief headquarters of Sichuan has activated a level-II response, the second highest in China's four-tier earthquake emergency response system.

Some telecommunication base stations and cables were damaged.

The Luzhou high-speed railway station has been closed, according to railway authorities.

All coal mines have been ordered to halt underground operations and evacuate miners in shafts. **IANS**

## 'New AI tool can help treat Covid patients globally'

**PTI ■ LONDON**

A team of international researchers has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that can predict how much extra oxygen a Covid-19 patient might need during hospital care.

To check the accuracy of the AI tool, it was tested out in a number of hospitals across five continents.

The results showed it predicted the oxygen needed within 24 hours of a patient's arrival in the emergency department, with a sensitivity of 95 per cent and a specificity of over 88 per cent.

The outcomes of around 10,000 Covid-19 patients from across the world were analysed in the study published in the journal Nature Medicine on Thursday.

The technique, known as federated learning, used an algorithm to analyse chest X-rays and electronic health data from hospital patients with coronavirus symptoms.

To maintain strict patient confidentiality, the patient data was fully anonymised and an algorithm was sent to each hospital so no data was shared or left its location.

Once the algorithm had 'learned' from the data, the analysis was brought together to build the AI tool.

"Federated learning has transformative power to bring AI innovation to the clinical workflow," said Professor Fiona Gilbert, from the University of Cambridge in the UK, who led the study.

"Usually in artificial intelligence development, when you create an algorithm on one hospital's data, it doesn't work well at any other hospital," said study first author Ittai Dayan, from Mass General Brigham in the US.

By developing the model using objective, multimodal data from different continents, the researchers were able to build a generalisable model that can help frontline physicians worldwide.

Bringing together collaborators across North and South America, Europe and Asia, the study took just two weeks of AI 'learning' to achieve high-quality predictions.

## 'Menstrual changes after Covid vax plausible, must be investigated'

**London:** A link between changes in the menstrual cycle and Covid-19 vaccination is plausible, and must be investigated, according to an editorial published in the peer-reviewed British Medical Journal today.

In the editorial, Victoria Male, a reproductive specialist at Imperial College London, UK noted that periods or unexpected vaginal bleeding are not listed as common side effects of Covid-19 vaccination.

Over 30,000 such reports had been made to the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) surveillance scheme for adverse drug reactions by September 2, she said.

The expert, however, noted most people find that their period returns to normal the following cycle and, importantly, there is no evidence that Covid-19 vaccination adversely affects fertility.

"One important lesson is that the effects of medical interventions on menstruation should not be an afterthought in future research," Ms Male said. MHRA states that its surveillance data does not support a link between changes to menstrual periods and Covid-19 vaccines, since the number of reports is low in relation to both the number of people vaccinated and the prevalence of menstrual disorders generally.

However, Ms Male said the way in which data is collected makes firm conclusions difficult.

She argues in the editorial that approaches better equipped to compare rates of menstrual changes in vaccinated versus unvaccinated populations are needed.

Reports of menstrual changes after Covid-19 vaccination have been made for both mRNA and adenovirus-vectored vaccines, she said.

This suggest that, if there is a connection, it is likely to be a result of the immune response to vaccination, rather than to a specific vaccine component, Ms Male said.

The editorial also noted that the menstrual cycle may be affected by the body's immune response to the virus itself, with one study showing menstrual disruption in around a quarter of women infected withS-CoV-2. **IANS**

## New Zealand launches vaccine buses

**Auckland:** Three mobile vaccine buses launched in New Zealand's Auckland city on Thursday to help people fasten their Covid-19 vaccination.

According to local media, 12 such buses in total converted from airport Park and Ride vehicles will be provided to suburbs where access to vaccinations is more difficult, reports Xinhua news agency.

The converted black and orange airport buses have vaccination signs posted on their sides. One reads "Roll up your sleeves, Auckland", and another "Vaccinate for Auckland".

Auckland is experiencing the fifth consecutive week of Level 4 lockdown, the longest period since Covid-19 outbreak in the country. **IANS**

## Several patients with Black Fungus detected in SL

**Colombo:** Sri Lanka's Health Ministry said patients with the Black Fungus had been detected from several areas of the country amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Deputy Director General of Health Services Hemantha Herath told the media on Wednesday that the Black Fungus had been detected on patients infected with Covid-19, who were under treatment in the Colombo National Hospital, Kurnegala Hospital and Ratnapura Hospital, among others, reports Xinhua news agency.

"The symptoms of this disease develop depending on the place where the fungus appears on the body. The fungus can be found on the skin, around the eyes, nose, brain and lungs," Herath said. **IANS**

## Countries in South Asia should make efforts for peace: China

**PTI ■ BEIJING**

China said on Thursday that all countries in South Asia should make efforts to maintain peace, security and stability in the region as it reacted to media reports on India's plan to test nuclear-capable ICBM Agni-V ballistic missile, which has a range of 5,000 kms.

"Maintaining peace, security and stability in South Asia meets the common interests of all, where China hopes that all parities would make constructive efforts," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here, replying to a question about reports that India plans to test Agni-V missile.

The missile, with a strike range of 5,000 kms, could reach several Chinese cities and was expected to significantly bolster India's military prowess.

The missile, which is capable of carrying nuclear warhead, has been successfully tested five times and is in the process of induction into the Army. All the five trials were successful.

Very few countries, including the US, China, Russia, France and North Korea, have intercontinental ballistic missiles.

"As for whether India can develop ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, the UNSCR 1172 already has clear stipulations," he said.

The UNSC resolution of 1172 is related to 1998 nuclear tests by both India and Pakistan.

It condemned the nuclear tests conducted by India and by Pakistan and asked the two countries to refrain from further nuclear tests. It also urged India and Pakistan to cease development of ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

China has come up with similar reactions during past tests of Agni-V by India.

## US, UK, Australia announce new security partnership

**Washington:** The US, the UK, and Australia have announced the creation of a new trilateral security partnership.

US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison made the announcement during a virtual event, reports Xinhua news agency.

In a joint statement, the three governments said the partnership, called "AUKUS", will help "significantly deepen cooperation on a range of security and defence capabilities".

The first initiative under AUKUS will be delivering a nuclear-powered submarine fleet for Australia and the three countries will spend as many as 18 months discussing how this capability will be delivered, according to the statement.

Australia intends to build the submarines in Adelaide, a coastal city in the country's south, in cooperation with the UK and the US, Morrison said in his remarks. **IANS**



# Markets maintain record run

## SENSEX BREACHES 59K FOR FIRST TIME

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmark Sensex scaled the 59,000-mark for the first time on Thursday as investors remained in risk-on mode following the government's policy support measures for various sectors.

Advancing for the third consecutive session, the 30-share BSE index climbed 417.96 points or 0.71 per cent to its new closing peak of 59,141.16. It touched an intraday record of 59,204.29.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 110.05 points or 0.63 per cent to finish at its fresh lifetime high of 17,629.50. During the session, it scaled an all-time peak of 17,644.60.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 7.34 per cent, followed by ITC, SBI, Reliance Industries, Kotak Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

In contrast, TCS, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech and Dr

Reddy's were among the laggards, slipping up to 1.32 per cent.

"Driven by reforms, the Indian market kept raising its bar and traded to new record highs.

Today's market rally was driven by strong buying in Banking stocks especially in PSBs.

The banking sector is expected to perform well in the coming days as the sector which failed to fairly participate in the ongoing rally due to fear over asset quality is gaining traction.

"Asian markets traded with cuts as the fall in Chinese property stocks pushed Asian stocks down while European markets traded with positive sentiments," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said, "Ahead of the operationalisation of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), banks provided the much needed ammunition to the bulls to notch up record highs of 59K on the Sensex. The charge of the energised bulls took India's market capitalisation ahead of France as PSU banks lent the

firepower."

BSE bankex was the biggest sectoral gainer, jumping 2.12 per cent, followed by energy, finance, FMCG and oil & gas indices. Metal, teck, IT and basic materials were among the losers.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap and smallcap gauges rose up to 0.48 per cent.

Asian equities sank after liquidity crisis at Chinese real estate major Evergrande Group fanned fears of a broader contagion.

Bourses in Shanghai, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended with significant losses.

However, equities in Europe were trading with robust gains in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude rose 0.16 per cent to USD 75.58 per barrel.

The rupee slipped 2 paise to close at 73.52 against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking a strengthening greenback in the overseas markets.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets as they purchased shares worth Rs 232.84 crore on Wednesday, as per provisional exchange data.

## Rupee edges 2 paise lower at 73.52 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee closed marginally lower at 73.52 against the American currency on Thursday, tracking a rebound in the US dollar index.

Forex traders said a bullish trend in the domestic equities and sustained foreign fund inflows supported the local unit, but firm crude oil prices and stronger dollar against key currencies weighed on overall sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened flat at 73.51, witnessed an intra-day high of 73.34 and a low of 73.52 against the American currency during day trade.

The local unit finally settled for the day at 73.52, down 2 paise over its previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.24% higher at 92.77.

# GST Council to meet on Friday

## Rate review, tax concession to 11 Covid drugs on cards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on Friday, which among other things may review tax rate of over four-dozen items and extend till December 31, tax concessions on 11 Covid drugs.

Also, taxing petrol and diesel under the single national GST tax and a proposal to treat food delivery apps such as Zomato and Swiggy as restaurants and levy a 5 per cent GST tax on supplies made by them would be taken up by the Council at its meeting in Lucknow on September 17.

"Finance Minister Smt @nsitharaman will chair the 45th GST Council meeting at 11 AM in Lucknow tomorrow. The meeting will be attended by MOS Shri @mppchaudhary besides Finance Ministers of States & UTs and Senior officers from Union Government & States," the Finance Ministry tweeted.

The Council, comprising

central and state finance ministers, will deliberate on the proposal of extending the existing concessional tax rate structure on Amphotericin B, Tocilizumab, Remdesivir and anti-coagulants like Heparin, till December 31, 2021, from the present September 30.

Tax rate on Amphotericin B, Tocilizumab was cut to 'Nil', while Remdesivir and Heparin was reduced to 5 per cent in June 2021.

The Council on Friday may also discuss the proposal of reducing GST from 12 per cent to 5 per cent to seven more drugs till December 31, 2021. These are Itolizumab, Posaconazole, Infliximab, Bamlanivimab & Etesevimab, Casirivimab & Imdevimab, 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose and Favipiravir.

To curb tax evasion, the proposal to make the food delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato liable to pay the Goods and Services Tax on restaurant services supplied through them would also be considered by the Council.

## BRIEFS

### DR SANJAY KUMAR LAL JOINS AS DIRECTOR (FIN) – DELHI TRANSCO LTD

Dr Sanjay Kumar Lal, an officer of 2001 batch of Indian Revenue Services has recently joined Delhi Transco Limited as Director (Finance). He has done his Doctorate from prestigious Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, Delhi. Besides this, he is also a Law Graduate. Dr Sanjay Kumar Lal has a vast experience in the field of Taxation, Account and Finance and his expertise will be of immense use in Delhi Transco. He has worked in various capacities in the Income Tax Department in its different wings such as Investigation, International Taxation, headquarters etc. He has also rendered his services in the Ministry of Finance. During his tenure in the investigation wing, he had conducted various highly successful searches.



### GOVT SEEKS ₹8-10 LAKH CRORE VALUATION FOR LIC

New Delhi: India is seeking a valuation of between ₹8 trillion and ₹10 trillion for the state-backed Life Insurance Corporation in what's slated to be the nation's biggest initial public offering, Bloomberg reported. The government is considering selling a 5-10 per cent stake in the company, which could raise between ₹400 billion and ₹1 trillion, according to the people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified as the matter is private. The potential valuation is based on preliminary talks and may change after further discussions, due diligence and an official valuation report, the report said.

### LOWER GST ON TETRA PACKS CAUSED ₹948 CR LOSS: THINK TANK

New Delhi: Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Manch, a Delhi-Mumbai based think tank, has highlighted that tetra pack is incorrectly categorised in the 12 per cent GST slab as a paper based aseptic packaging, while other aseptic packaging containing plastic or aluminum or multi-materials like tetra-pack attract 18 per cent GST rate. The think tank has appealed to the GST council, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the Finance Ministry to amend the GST slab of Tetra pack from 12 per cent to 18 per cent. "Due to the GST anomaly, tetra packs have become a source of unethical tax saving for brands," said Vinod Shukla, president of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Manch and nephew of Deendayal Upadhyay.

## Shorter settlement cycle is in interest of all market participants: Sebi chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst concerns raised by brokers' association and FPIs over the implementation of the shorter settlement system, Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi on Thursday said the T+1 (trade plus one day) settlement cycle is in the interest of all market participants.

T+1 means that market trade-related settlements will be cleared within one day of the actual transactions taking place. Currently, trades on the Indian stock exchanges are settled in two working days after the transaction is done (T+2). "Early settlement will be good for all market participants. It is in the interest of everyone," Tyagi said in an event organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), earlier this month, allowed exchanges to move to the T+1 settlement cycle on an optional basis.

## Niti Aayog Vice Chairman emphasises need to reduce carbon footprint in urbanisation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday emphasised the need to reduce carbon footprint in urbanisation and said urban India will be powering the country's economic growth.

Releasing a report on 'Reforms In Urban Planning', he said there is a compelling need to plug the gaps in urban-planning capacity in the country. Otherwise, a huge opportunity for rapid, sustainable and equitable growth would be at risk of being missed, he added.

Kumar also highlighted the shortage of town planners, saying experts are needed to provide services to about 4,700 urban local bodies.

There is a need to build smart and carbon positive cities with a view to reduce carbon footprint, he noted.

Speaking on the occasion, Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra said urban planning



holds the key for economic development and optimum utilisation of available infrastructure, especially in sectors like water, sanitation, health-care and education.

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said urbanisation is the driving force of the Indian economy, adding that the country has reached a turning point in its transformation.

This is the first time in the history of India that the question of urban planning capacity has been dealt with in-depth, Kant said about the report.

## PLI scheme for auto sector to build self-sustaining framework for e-mobility industry: SMEV

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Electric vehicle manufacturers' body SMEV on Thursday said the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto and auto-components will build a self-sustaining framework for the e-mobility industry.

The Union Cabinet has on Wednesday approved a ₹ 26,058 crore PLI scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities.

The scheme will incentivise the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India, with incentives worth around ₹26,000 crore to be provided to the industry over the next five years.

The scheme is especially beneficial for existing large players engaged in the automotive business and new entrants, as it will renew the interest of traditional players and motivate them to invest in

the sector, Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) Director-General Sohinder Gill said in a statement.

It is estimated that over the five years, the PLI scheme for the automobile and auto components industry will lead to a fresh investment of over ₹ 42,500 crore, incremental production of over ₹2.3 lakh crore and will create additional employment opportunities of over 7.5 lakh jobs. The move will strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem and build a self-sustaining framework for the e-mobility industry, Gill noted. However, he said, most of the existing small and medium OEMs engaged in the EV automotive business and new startups may not be able to qualify for the scheme and will have to operate under the existing norms. Policies supported by fiscal and non-fiscal incentives are the pillars that drive consumer sentiment and accelerate the adoption of new products in the market, he said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all the concerns that my client VIMAL JYOTI SO LATE SH. MURARI LAL R/O A-253-254, GALI NO.5, WEST VINOD NAGAR, DELHI-110092 have severed all of his relation and debarred his unmarried Son MAYANK JYOTI From his moveable or immovable properties in Delhi due to disobedient attitude. My client and his other legal heirs shall not be responsible for any of his act, deeds done by him in future in any manner and anybody dealing with him shall be at his own risks and consequences.

Seema Sharma (Advocate) Ch.No.D-418, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas my clients, (1) Mrs. Anju Sachdeva W/o Mr. Mahesh Kumar & (2) Mr. Mahesh Kumar S/o Sh. Tuls Das both R/o A-128, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-68, hereby declare that they have disowned, disinherited & debarred their Son Mr. Mohit Sachdeva & their Daughter-in-law Mrs. Sakshi Arora from their Property No. A-108, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-68, & all moveable, immovable & other properties w.e.f. from today & if anybody deals with them, shall do so at his/her/their own risk, cost & responsibility, my clients & their family members shall not be responsible in any manner. My Clients shall not responsible if any person shall any type of deal with son Mr. Mohit Sachdeva & their Daughter-in-law Mrs. Sakshi Arora both R/o A-108, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088.

Saty Kumar (Advocate) Ch.No.118, Rathi Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas my clients, (1) Mrs. Kanika Devi W/o Mr. Ved Ram & (2) Mr. Ved Ram S/o Late Nekki Lal both R/o Jhuggi No. N-77/C-419, Sawan Park Extn, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-52 hereby declare that they have disowned, disinherited & debarred their Daughter Mrs. Anrita W/o Mr. Raj Kumar and their Son-in-law Mr. Raj Kumar from their Property / Jhuggi N-77/C-419, Sawan Park Extn, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-52 & all moveable, immovable & other properties w.e.f. from today & if anybody deals with them, shall do so at his/her/their own risk, cost & responsibility, my clients & their family members shall not be responsible in any manner. My Clients shall not responsible if any person shall any type of deal with daughter Mrs. Anrita W/o Mr. Raj Kumar and their Son-in-law Mr. Raj Kumar R/o H.No.418, Near MC Primary School Metro South, Hosiabi Khurd, Delhi-110082.

Saty Kumar (Advocate) Ch.No.118, Rathi Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd.3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005  
**Whereas** The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
**As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.**

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Roop Narain Kaushik/ Chanchal Kaushik/ Frames Twenty Four Communications Pvt Ltd/ LBFDB00003334292	Plot No A 10A, Basement Rear Front Side, And 2nd Floor Rear Side With Terrace Green Park, Delhi/ Sep 13, 2021	June 24, 2021 Rs. 3,09,85,833/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

**Date : September 17, 2021**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
**GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD**  
"Sagar Bhavan", Sector 10/A, Chh Road, Opp. Air Force, Gandhinagar 382010 Phone 079-2323 8346/47/48/51  
On behalf of Chairman, Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) invites E-tenders from the NABET accredited consultants for the following works.

Name of Work	
"obtaining amendment in existing Coastal Regulation Zone Clearance for the Project of construction of administration building and staff quarters at Okha, District-Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat"	
Details	
Bids downloading commencement Date	18-09-2021 from 15:00 hrs
Last Date for On-line submission of Bids through <a href="http://www.nprocure.com">www.nprocure.com</a>	22-10-2021 up to 18:10 hrs

Detailed terms and conditions and other related information is given in Bid documents. For Bid documents and more details, please visit website [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com) or [www.gmbports.org](http://www.gmbports.org) or contact Deputy General Manager (Env), Environment Cell, Gujarat Maritime Board, Gandhinagar.

NO/INF/VPN/2021/G/1084

**POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, ATAL NAGAR, NAVA RAIPUR**  
**Re-tender Notice**  
No.PHQ/Sec-10/Kit-Clo/3893/21 Nava Raipur, Dated: 14/09/2021  
**Sealed tenders are being invited from original equipment manufactures (OEM) Or authorized by manufacturer (only one) for the following item :**

Sl.No	Name of Item	Qty	Specification	EMD in Rs.	Remarks
1	Long Range Tropical 5 Inch Ankle Trekking Boot	2000 Pair	AS Per Section -IV	2,400,000/-	The tenders shall submit Three pair untested samples of Trekking Boot as per the specification. <b>Sample-1:</b> must be Embossed/stamped with the manufacturers name or his recognized trade mark, size and month/year of manufacture in outside. <b>Sample- 2 &amp; 3:</b> without any trade mark of manufacturer in outside. <b>Lab test can be performed by the department from any government lab.</b>

**Note -1-** Tender document fee of Rs. 3000/- & Testing charges for shoes of Rs. 22,000/- (Rs. Twenty Two Thousand only) will be paid at the time of bid submission of Tender, in the form of Demand Draft of State Bank of India/ Scheduled Bank (other than Cooperative Bank) payable at Raipur in favour of A.I.G. of Police (Accounts), PHQ Nava Raipur, Atal nagar or State Govt. Challan to be deposited in the Head of A/c- 0055- Police-800- other receipt, Tender fee and Testing fee is non refundable and can't be exempted in any condition.

**2-** Quantity will be variable.

**SCHEDULE FOR TENDER**

a)	Address for submission of Tender Document :-	A1G of Police(P&P) ,Block no 03, Room No.309 Police Headquarters Headquarters,Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur.
b)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender Document	13/10/2021 till 03.00 pm
c)	Place, Time and Date of Opening Technical Bid :-	A1G of Police(P&P) ,Block no 03, Room No.309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur. 13/10/2021 at 04.00 pm
d)	Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid :-	Shall be intimated.
e)	Date till which the Bid to remain valid	120 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid.

**Note:-**  
1. In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day.  
2. Tender documents can be downloaded from our website [www.ecpolice.gov.in](http://www.ecpolice.gov.in).  
3. Modification/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised on the news paper but shall be published in the aforesaid web site only.  
4. If any bidder sends tender documents through Courier/Speed post. The tender documents will be accepted till 3.00 pm on 13/10/2021 at Block no. 03, Room No.309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur only. Received tender documents in any other address at PHQ on stipulated Date and time, will not be accepted.

Sd/-  
**R.O. NO.: 63683/3**  
**R.O. Date :- 15/09/2021**  
**A.I.G of Police (P&P)**  
**For-Director General of Police**

## Prospects brightening for economy as 2nd Covid wave wanes: RBI bulletin

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Prospects are brightening for the Indian economy achieving "escape velocity" from the pandemic as the second wave of Covid-19 wanes and preparedness for future remains on war-alert status, according to an RBI bulletin published on Thursday.

An article on the state of the economy, published in the September bulletin, said aggregate demand is gaining firmer ground, while on the supply side, IIP and core industries mirror improvement in industrial activity and services sector indicators point towards

sustained recovery.

"In August, we believe that India passed a turning point which consolidates and thrives come September," said the article authored by a team lead by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

It further said the trajectory of inflation is shifting down more favourably than anticipated.

"As pandemic scars heal and supply conditions are restored with productivity gains, a sustained easing of core inflation can be expected, which will reinforce the growth-supportive stance of monetary policy," it said.

## India second-largest technology hub for Amazon globally: India Head

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is the second-largest technology hub for Amazon globally and its teams are powering innovations not only for customers in the country but globally as well, a top company executive said on Thursday.

Speaking at Amazon India Career Day, Amazon Global Senior Vice President and Country Head India Amit Agarwal said the e-commerce company employs over one lakh professionals in India across diverse areas from engineering, supply chain, content creation, marketing, video and others. "India is also the second-largest technology hub for

Amazon globally, with some of the most talented software developers, product managers, machine learning scientists, and research scientists as part of the team," he said.

The teams are powering innovations not only for India, but also for customers globally, building services that practically touch every aspect of the customer journey with Amazon, he added.

Agarwal cited the example of its team in Bengaluru that has built a cloud-based warehouse management system to help sellers streamline their warehouse operations, and ship orders to customers fast and reliably.

**उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुसूचण खण्ड**  
निकट विकास भवन लडाडी, उत्तरकाशी-249193, दूरभाष नं०- 01374222206 (कार्यालय) 01374222370 (फैक्स)  
ई-मेल: eeuksi-uj-s-uk@nic.in, ujsuttarkashi@gmail.com  
पत्रांक : 1044 / ई-निविदा / 2021-22 दिनांक : 16 / 09 / 2021  
**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
अनुसूचण खण्ड उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान उत्तरकाशी द्वारा ई-निविदा (टू बिड सिस्टम) के अन्तर्गत निविदायें पुनः आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सं०	कार्य विवरण	धरोहर धनराशि रु०	ई-निविदा द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र की तिथि एवं समय	ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	रकमों की बिड खोले जाने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	टि-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय
1	विकास क्षेत्र डुण्डा में जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत बड़े पेयजल योजना का पुनर्गठन कार्य	As per LT/ No. 42/SPMG/ Namami Gange/ fund Demand Dt. 12-01-2021 & TE-160111/22 020-0lo	17.09.2021 from 11:00 a.m	04.10.2021 upto 17:00 p.m	05.10.2021 upto 14:00 p.m	06.10.2021 at 11:00 a.m	90 Days at 11:00 a.m
2	विकास क्षेत्र डुण्डा में जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत बौन पेयजल योजना का पुनर्गठन कार्य	PSNMG Dt. 24.11.2020					
3	विकास क्षेत्र डुण्डा में जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत मातृली पेयजल योजना का पुनर्गठन कार्य						

अर्हता:- पाइप लाइन laying हेतु मुख्य महानगरिक उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून में "ए" श्रेणी के अन्तर्गत फजीबल टेकरावर / फर्म हो निविदा में प्रतिभाग कर सकती है।  
ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
"जल संस्थान-जीवन संस्थान"  
अधिशासी अभियन्ता



# HAVE YOUR BACK

MEENAKSHI MOHANTY suggests nine easy stretches to relieve your backache

We all experience back pain and now it has become one of the most common issues especially due to the increased work-from-home situation. Also, continuously sitting in front of our laptops can further make your back feel sore. While many of us continue to live with back pain, the consequences cannot be good. It not only disrupts our daily lives but also holds us back from doing the things we love. The good news is there are some simple stretches that you can incorporate in your daily routine to help ease your back pain—

**Child's pose/ prayer stretch**  
Rejuvenating both the body and mind. Its great for relieving tension in the lower back and lengthening the entire spine.

**How to do** – Start on all fours. Ensure your knees are hip width apart and toes together. Now with palms facing towards the floor, extend your hands in front of you while pushing your hips back toward your heels until you feel a mild stretch in the back. Hold this position for 30 seconds.



**Cobra stretch**  
This stretch is beneficial if you are looking to decrease the stiffness in your lower back.

**How to do** – Lie down flat on the floor on your belly. Place your palms flat on the ground directly under your shoulders and press your elbows against your ribs. Now inhale and slowly stretch your arms while lifting your chest from the floor. Ensure your lower back is relaxed. Hold for 10 seconds and release.

**Lower back rotational stretch**  
This increases flexibility in your lower back.  
**How to do** – Begin by lying on the floor with your knees bent. Now keeping your shoulders firmly on the ground, take both your knees are roll it over to the right side. Hold for a few seconds and return to the starting position. Repeat on the other side.



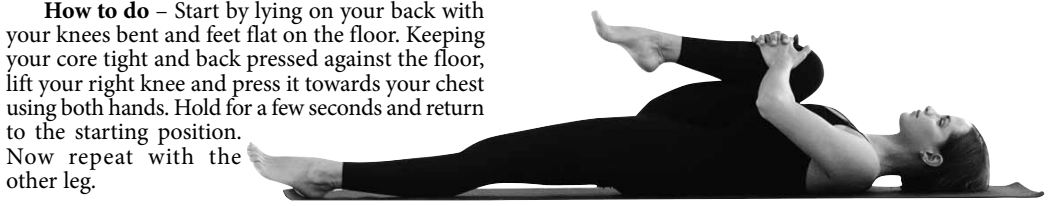
**Cat/ cow stretch**  
This pose is ideal for those dealing with back pain and helps to improve posture and balance.

**How to do** – Start on all fours with your hands in line with your shoulders and your knees beneath your hips. Now exhale and gently arch your back like a cat. Hold for 10 seconds and move back to normal position. Repeat 20 times and remember to move slowly in between movements.



**Knee-to-chest stretch**  
Ideal for lower back muscles and helps relieve pressure on the spinal nerves.

**How to do** – Start by lying on your back with your knees bent and feet flat on the floor. Keeping your core tight and back pressed against the floor, lift your right knee and press it towards your chest using both hands. Hold for a few seconds and return to the starting position. Now repeat with the other leg.



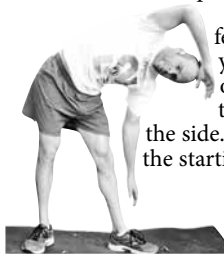
**Bridge**  
Benefits your hamstrings, lower back and abs. It is also great for people suffering from back, hip, or knee pain.  
**How to do** – Start by lying on the floor with your knees bent. Now raise your hips till your knees to your shoulders are in line. Hold this position for five seconds and return to the starting position. Repeat three-four times.

**Pelvis stretch**  
A simple way to improve flexibility and release tight muscles.  
**How to do** - Lie on your back with knees bent and hands by your sides. While tightening your abdominal and buttock muscles, push your pelvis upwards. Hold for a few seconds and relax.

**Shoulder blade squeeze**  
An easy way to improve your posture.  
**How to do** – Stand straight with your arms by your sides. Now squeeze your shoulder blades together and hold for a few seconds. Release and repeat five-10 times.



**Side bend stretch**  
Helps to strengthen the intercostal muscles which supports the ribs.  
**How to do** – Stand upright with your feet, hip-width apart and hands down your side. Now raise your right arm overhead and bend your upper body to the left. You should feel the stretch along the side. Hold for 10-15 seconds and return to the starting position. Repeat on the other side.  
(The author is a fitness expert at Meenakshi, an eclectic Delhi-based fitness platform.)



## Wait and watch

The Indian workforce is rebooting to find a work-life balance, says SUJIT PATIL

From an office built to bring people closer to collaborate and have an in-person engagement, the pandemic, by bringing work from home (WFH) in vogue, has apparently pushed organisations to rejig their working styles to meet social distancing norms. Virtual working has become the de-facto model. As the industry struggles to find a balance and experiments with hybrid models, on the brighter side, the Indian workforce has slowly started to adapt itself to strike a work-life balance with the new conditions.

A Godrej group's research, named 'The little things we do', revealed how professionals across all age-groups have balanced working from home with their personal lives. During the first nationwide lockdown, working professionals struggled to manage their work deadlines and household chores. For some, it was challenging, while others chose to adapt and adjust to it.

The study found that nationally on the personal front, working from home has helped more than one in three persons to spend more time with family due to the removal of the long commute time to their workplace. This trend wasn't far off from the expected lines in metros and tier one cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, and Kolkata. However, tier two cities such as Lucknow and Kanpur (56 per cent), Kochi (46 per cent) reported better figures than the national average.

Connect this insight with the MoveInSync study of 2018-19 which found that, on an average, Indians spend seven per cent of their day commuting to the office, and the picture becomes clearer. Similarly, Uber's Movement data in 2020 pointed out that an average *Mumbaikar* wastes about 11 days stuck in traffic each year. With working from home, these are the precious hours earned back by people. The choice, therefore, is between utilising this time for enhancing productivity, spending time with family and friends, or exploring creative pursuits.

It was also found that more than one in five have explored their creative side and nurtured it to become home-cooks, painters, sketchers and pursue other hobbies. But one of the most delightful insights was the movement towards freshly cooked food. Over 45 per cent of people said that now they loved indulging in little pleasures like freshly cooked breakfast every day. For mental health and stress management, 29 per cent of respondents took regular breaks throughout the day to de-stress themselves.

As we are at the crossroads of deciding whether work from home would continue or there

would be a hybrid model as the impact of the pandemic wanes, we must take a pause and evaluate the benefits.

As many as there are benefits of adopting a work from home model, there are also numerous impediments that it causes. For instance, circadian rhythms of co-workers is an inherent lacuna of the WFH model. People are susceptible to household distractions and it puts the onus on employees to create a conducive environment that helps them focus on their work goals.

With work from home becoming a day to day affair for the working force, only 19 per cent of people who participated in the research reported that they have improved at work efficiency and end tasks within the stipulated working hours. Additionally, only 16 per cent consider that working from home has assisted them in increasing their time-management skills.

For Asian countries, and especially India, perhaps WFH may not a very conducive model. The Indian workforce, traditionally and culturally, has always valued social interactions. However, they were thrust involuntarily towards the model with little time to adjust to the changed environment, triggering a feeling of social isolation due to the touch-less and faceless work environment.

An independent study, authored by Michael Gibbs from Chicago Booth, Friederike Mengel and Christoph Siemroth from University of Essex have validated this phenomenon. The team surveyed 10,000 employees of an unnamed major IT company based in Asia over 17 months before and during work from home trend set in. The primary finding was that total work hours by an employee surged by about 30 per cent in order to achieve the same goals set in pre-WFH period.

Responsible organisations, therefore, are exploring a hybrid model or adopting a wait-and-watch policy towards resuming entry to offices. Meanwhile, they have stepped in with the necessary support for mental and physical health of their employees through various programmes and initiatives. Similarly, employees, too, are slowly adjusting to the changing environment by doing little things which can help them attain a work-life balance.

But only time will tell whether the hybrid model will prove to be successful in India or will we revert to the traditional model of offline office environment.

(The author is the vice president of Godrej Industries Limited and Associate Companies.)



## PAVING HER OWN PATH: BERRY

Oscar-winning actor **HALLE BERRY** has debunked the notion that she has had an easy life, suggesting people are quick to judge her on the basis of her good looks.

She shared, "This is another battle that I have had to fight my entire life. That because I look a certain way that I've been spared any hardship. I've experience abuse, loss and a lot of pain in my life."

"Despite winning the Oscar for *Monster's Ball*, I still had to fight to make my way in life," Berry further revealed.

## Culture sees no borders

KAJAL NAINA discusses the social and cultural cross-border relationship between India and Nepal

Countries in South Asia, while having their own peculiarities, share common cultures and ways of life. The norms and values of Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Sikhism are deeply rooted in South Asian societies. Although the number of followers of these religious and cultural mainstays vary from country to country, their presence and influence in local arts, cultures and traditions, are distinctly visible in every country and society in the region. Nepal, too, has its unique geography, history and cultural heritage, and still is an integral part of the broader cultural history and tradition of the Indian sub-continent.

While being parts of broader South Asian culture, Nepal and India share a special bond and similarity in cultural tradition. They are so closely knit by social life and cultural tradition that nobody can imagine them apart. Both have made great contributions in enriching religious and cultural heritage in this region, and beyond.

Lord Buddha for instance, born in Nepal, has left his footprints not only in South Asia but all over the world. Another example is Sita, the daughter of Nepal, who was married to Ram, the crown prince of Ayodhya in India, has made a special place in the hearts of Hindus living anywhere in the world. The contributions made by Indian philosophers and

saints need no further elaboration. It is these great personalities of this region that have helped evolve, develop and spread the cultural heritage that is proudly known today as South Asian culture.

The cultural links between Nepal and India have many facets. Religion is, perhaps, the most important factor, and plays a predominant role in shaping the cultural relations between these two countries. This is manifested in the large number of people from both countries visiting each other's countries for pilgrimage. Thousands of Nepalese nationals visit pilgrimage sites in India every year. The *char dham* yatra (visit of four dhams in India, viz. Badrinath/Kedarnath in Uttarakhand, Jagannath (Puri) in Orissa, Rameshwaram in Tamilnadu, and Dwarka in Gujarat) is a life-time aspiration of almost all Hindus. There are many other places in India which are considered sacred sites by Nepalese people. They include Haridwar, Rishikesh, Varanasi, Gaya, Vaishnodevi, and many more. Similarly, there are a number of religious sites in Nepal which are con-



sidered very sacred and important, and are attractions as 'must visit' religious destinations for Indian nationals. Such sites include Pashupatinath in Kathmandu, Lumbini (the birth-place of Buddha) in Rupandehi district, Ram-Janaki temple in Janakpur (the

birth place of Janak and Sita), and many more. As the people of both countries share common religious faiths and philosophies, and revere and worship the same gods and incarnations, their cultural ties are very strong and inseparable.

Except for the seamless exposure to the cultures, these countries also share a lot of traditions and ways of doing things. Following Indian traditions, Nepal is catching up quickly on the use of ornaments that are given religious and symbolic importance like *rudraksha*, *mangalsutra*, et al. *Mangalsutras* are getting a lot of attention and being used in marriages across Nepal. The trend was started by a Nepali actress with a special piece designed for her wedding day to give a meaningful, unique and relevant touch to modern day brides that has changed the game for this piece of jewellery amongst Nepalese women and abroad. This tradition is riding a big wave in Nepal and will give rise for many more to come.

Another component of Nepal-India cultural relations is cinemas and music. Indian movies are popular in Nepal; and so is Indian music. Similarly, Nepali cinemas and music are popular in India, especially in places with concentration of the people of Nepalese origin, mainly in Northern and North-eastern India.

Between Nepal and India,

there have been frequent exchanges of ideas, personalities and groups of people representing the areas of art, culture, music, literature and sports. These kinds of events are not limited to government entities alone, but are taking place even more at the grass-root level. Nepal's diverse cultural heritage of dance and music (both classical and folk), theatre, fine arts, and sports have been interacting with their counterparts in India, and have been contributing to foster friendly ties and generate a better understanding and appreciation of each other's traditions. Every facet of art and culture has become a way of life, and is expressed in carvings, paintings, architecture, sculptures and performing arts like music, cinema and dance. Every form of art in these countries is heavily influenced by the respective religious traditions and mythologies, and has helped shape religious norms and values in Nepal and India.

Having a seamless exposure to both the countries' traditions, cultures and ways of life; these two will have better mutual understanding. These waves, including religion, traditions, clothing and jewellery, will surely promote the existing ties and enhance the Indian touch reaching Nepal.

(The author is the founder and CEO of Kajal Naina Fine Jewellery, a Hong Kong-based jewellery store.)

## TRENDBLAZER



## 'A SIMPLE YET MAGICAL STORY'

As his short film, *Shimmy*, releases today, actor **PRATIK GANDHI** expressed how deeply he connected with the story wherein he plays the father of a teenaged daughter.

"It is the story of an aloof father and a daughter with a secret and how they embark on a journey to some uncomfortable destinations. Disha Noyonika Rindani, the director, knows how to lend a magical touch to the simplest of moments," expressed Gandhi.

You can watch *Shimmy* on Amazon Mini TV.

### fairtalk

ZOYA HUSSAIN



'I think the toughest thing is to stay patient and motivated between projects, however, that is a choice you have to make as an actor. Thankfully, after my debut in *Mukkabaaz*, I have been working constantly. As a professional actor, it is important to keep on working, because which film will get what amount of visibility is not really in our hands.'

### dailytalk

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ



'I have come across numerous instances on social media where someone is saying something mean about me. It's ok we all get it. I have read accounts of how terrible I sound, how terrible my accent is and the way I speak Hindi, and some criticism on my appearance. I try to take it positively, at times I think that some of the criticism is valid.'



**SD/-, Pankaj Kumar Beley, Authorised Officer  
For Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited**





श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

# जन कल्याण और सुराज अभियान



श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

17 सितम्बर से 7 अक्टूबर, 2021  
कार्यक्रम विवरण

## जनभागीदारी से पर्यावरण के संरक्षण का सबसे बड़ा अभियान



### पर्यावरण

स्थान : स्मार्ट सिटी पार्क, भोपाल

17 सितम्बर 2021

- विद्यालयों में छात्रों द्वारा पौधारोपण
- वन विभाग द्वारा वृक्षारोपण

## मध्यप्रदेश में वैक्सीनेशन महाअभियान 3.0



टीकाकरण 3  
महाअभियान

मध्यप्रदेश तैयार - 100% इस बार



### महिला एवं बाल विकास

21 सितम्बर 2021

- आंगनवाड़ियों का लोकार्पण
- पोषण वाटिकाओं का लोकार्पण
- कुपोषित से सामान्य श्रेणी में आये बच्चों की माताओं को पोषण अधिकार सूचना पत्र वितरण
- मातृ वंदना योजना के हितग्राहियों को राशि वितरण
- लाइली लक्ष्मी योजना में छात्रवृत्ति वितरण



### महिला सशक्तिकरण

29 सितम्बर 2021

- महिला स्व-सहायता समूहों का क्रेडिट लिंकेज



### नगरीय प्रशासन

22 सितम्बर 2021

- विकास कार्यों का लोकार्पण



### औद्योगिक विकास

30 सितम्बर 2021

- उद्योगों को भूमि आवंटन के लिए आशय पत्र (लेटर ऑफ इन्टेंट) जारी करना
- सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्योगों को भूमि आवंटन के लिए आशय पत्र (लेटर ऑफ इन्टेंट) जारी करना



### किसान कल्याण

23 सितम्बर 2021

- बीज ग्रामों का शुभारंभ
- किसान उत्पादक संगठनों का गठन
- कृषि अधोसंरचना निधि के अंतर्गत राशि वितरण
- मिनी किट वितरण



### ग्रामीण विकास

01 अक्टूबर 2021

- प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत निर्मित आवासों में गृह प्रवेश
- पंचायत भवनों का भूमि पूजन



### स्वास्थ्य

24 सितम्बर 2021

- प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों का भूमिपूजन
- उप प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों का भूमिपूजन



### जल जीवन मिशन

04 अक्टूबर 2021

- जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत योजनाओं का भूमि पूजन



### ऊर्जा

27 सितम्बर 2021

- विद्युत उपकेन्द्रों का भूमिपूजन तथा लोकार्पण
- संबल योजना के हितग्राहियों को राशि वितरण



### स्वामित्व योजना

06 अक्टूबर 2021

- स्वामित्व योजना के अंतर्गत आबादी भूमि के अधिकार पत्रों का वितरण



### शिक्षा

28 सितम्बर 2021

- बालिका छात्रावासों का भूमिपूजन
- विद्यालयों में अतिरिक्त कक्षाओं का भूमिपूजन
- विद्यालय भवनों का लोकार्पण



### कोविड बाल सेवा योजना

07 अक्टूबर 2021

- कोविड बाल सेवा योजना के नये प्रकरणों को स्वीकृति एवं राशि वितरण
- कोविड बाल सेवा योजना से लाभान्वित बच्चों से भेंट
- कोविड अनुकम्पा नियुक्ति योजना में नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण
- अन्न उत्सव के सभी पात्र हितग्राहियों को राशन वितरण
- जनकल्याण तथा सुराज के लिए सीएम जनसेवा तथा मोबाइल गवर्नेंस सेवाओं का विस्तार

LIVE

DDMP व क्षेत्रीय चैनल्स  
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