

**OPINION 6**  
JOE BIDEN SLIPS  
WITH HIS SOLDIERS

**WORLD 8**  
FM SAYS TALIBAN GOVT WON'T  
ALLOW ATTACKS ON OTHERS

**AVENUES 10**  
CHOOSE THE  
RIGHT COURSE

BHUBANESWAR, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹4

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Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.17 Issue 252  
\*Air Surchage Extra if Applicable

## Modi praises Yogi's development efforts

With foundation stone for Raja Mahendra Pratap varsity in Aligarh, PM sounds bugle for UP 2022 polls

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University and reviewed the progress of work on the Aligarh node of Uttar Pradesh defense corridor, calling it a "big day" and sounding the bugle for the 2022 State Assembly polls.

Locks manufactured in Aligarh used to secure houses and now the defence equipment made in Aligarh will secure the nation's borders, he said.

In his 40-minute address, apart from introducing the youth to Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, Modi also highlighted the importance of Aligarh.

Praising the work of Yogi



PM Narendra Modi during foundation stone laying of the Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University in Aligarh on Tuesday PTI

Adityanath, he said the Chief Minister has created an environment of investment in UP, wooing a large number of investors to the State.

He said the Yogi Government has given a new identity to the locks and hardware industry of Aligarh.

Industries and SMEs will get special benefits from this, and in the next few years ₹900 crore will be invested, he said.

UP defense corridor is bringing huge investment and employment opportunities. This happens when the necessary environment for invest-

ment is created, the PM added.

Calling it a big day for UP, Modi said Aligarh, which was known to manufacture locks for securing houses will now play an important role in securing the boundaries of India by manufacturing defence equipment.

## 'Covid pushed 31 mn more into extreme poverty in 2020'

**'90% of advanced economies to regain pre-Covid per capita income by 2022'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns wreaked havoc on the economy and livelihoods, an addi-



tional 31 million people were pushed into extreme poverty in 2020 compared to 2019, according to a report that highlighted stark disparities caused by the crisis worldwide.

The annual Goalkeepers Report, co-authored by Bill

Gates and Melinda French Gates for their foundation, however, noted that while 90 per cent of advanced economies will regain pre-pandemic per capita income levels by next year, only a third of low and middle income economies are expected to do so. Hence, there is a need for investment in local partners to strengthen the capacity of researchers and manufacturers in lower-income countries to create the vaccines

and medicines they need, the report said.

"(The past year) has reinforced our belief that progress is possible but not inevitable," wrote the co-chairs. "If we can expand upon the best of what we've seen these past 18 months, we can finally put the pandemic behind us and once again accelerate progress in addressing fundamental issues like health, hunger, and climate change," they wrote.

## A'wadi worker's ₹4-crore assets detected in BBSR

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Tuesday conducted simultaneous searches on the properties of Kabita Mathan, Anganwadi Worker of Koradakanta Anganwadi Centre in Bhubaneswar, on the allegation of possession of assets disproportionate to her known sources of income.

The raids were conducted at six places in Khordha, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts by Vigilance teams comprising 10 DSPs, five Inspectors and other staffs.

Four buildings, including a four-storied one, a three-storied one and two double-storied ones, at Bhubaneswar, 14

**The raids were conducted at six places in Khordha, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts by Vigilance teams**

plots of land including 10 at Bhubaneswar, three at Talakusuma in Jagatsinghpur and one at Baliana in Khordha district were found.

Besides, a four-wheeler, three two-wheelers, insurance deposits of over Rs 2.2 lakh, gold ornaments weighing 212 grams worth over Rs 6.36 lakh and other movable and immovable properties, all totalling over Rs 4 crore, were unearthed till last reports came in.

## BBSR jail inmates now learn in distance mode

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Sa Vidya Ya BIMUKTaye" meaning that education is a weapon that can be used to free one from enslavement. To that end, the Odisha State Open University (OSOU) has established its 82nd study centre in the Jharapada jail in Bhubaneswar.

OSOU Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Das Mohapatra and DG (Prisons) SK Upadhyay inaugurated the study centre in the jail premises on Tuesday. He said the OSOU is working with the motto of reaching the unreached with special attention to the less privileged, including jail inmates. Upadhyay invited all the jail inmates to get enrolled as learners as well as the counsellors those who have qualifications.

Meanwhile 15 inmates have enrolled in various courses of the university at the study centre.

The OSOU is providing free education to the circle jail inmates at Choudwar, Sambalpur, Brahmapur and Jharpada. In future, it would open study centres in the other special and circle jails, said Dr Das Mohapatra.

**As OSOU study centre opened**

**Shri Naveen Patnaik**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha  
**announces**  
**New Smart Health Card**  
**with New Guidelines of**  
**Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana**

**Before 1<sup>st</sup> September**  
**70 Lakhs Families**

**More than 3 crore 50 lakh people covering 96 lakh 50 thousand beneficiary families in Odisha will be benefited**

**After 1<sup>st</sup> September**  
**96.5 Lakhs Families**

**Each beneficiary family will get health coverage of Rs.5 lakhs and additional Rs.5 lakhs for the women members of the family per annum in empanelled private hospitals**



# Row over idol height reaches HC

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Like last year, the Balubazar Puja Committee this year too has approached the Orissa High Court challenging the State Government's restriction on the height of Goddess Durga's idols for the ensuing

Dussehra festival next month. Terming the Government's restriction on the idol size as "arbitrary", the committee through its president Suryakant Sangneria has appealed to the High Court to direct the Government to withdraw the controversial norm.

Notably, the Government on August 9 announced the restrictions, among others, limiting the height of all idols at the puja pandals across the State to four feet or less in view of the prevailing pandemic. The Government again this month also refused to relax the

restrictions for the puja when a delegation of puja committees of Cuttack city met the Chief Secretary and the Special Relief Commissioner at Bhubaneswar. Several puja committees supported the BJP-called Cuttack Bandh on Monday and once again appealed to the Government to lift the restriction on idol size.

While the Mahanagar Puja Committee and the City Peace Committee have decided to appeal to the Chief Minister once again on September 16, the Balubazar Puja Committee, which had been sporting Durga idol of eight feet for over 500 years, has approached the High Court to allow it maintain its age-old tradition.

## Cuttack Durga Puja: 'Let State Govt honour people's feelings'

Discussions should be held again: Dharmendra

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government should take appropriate steps for a smooth conduct of the Durga Puja keeping in mind the emotions of the residents of Cuttack, said Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in a tweet on Tuesday.

torical city of Cuttack have a special place. But a few days ago, a dispute over the observance of Durga Puja has erupted. Discussions and agitations over the height of idols and other matters have cropped up, Pradhan pointed out.

The Cuttack Sahi, Puja and Peace Committees, intellectuals, social and cultural organisations are expressing different opinions. The State Government would seriously consider this and hold discussions with different stakeholders keeping in mind the emotions of the Cuttack people, hoped he.

The Covid-19 pandemic situation has improved slightly. Keeping in view the Covid restrictions, discussions should be held as to how the festivities can be carried out in a disciplined manner, he said.

"I came to know that a portion of the ceiling of the Cuttack Chandi Temple's Darshan Mandap fell off due to incessant rains. I hope the State Government would take steps for the safety and preservation of the temple," Pradhan further tweeted.

## 163 new Covid-19 infections in BBSR

Two more die; 142 recover

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar on Tuesday registered 163 Covid-19 cases. With this, the total tally in the State capital city increased to 1,09,791.

Notably, on Monday, 174 cases had been detected in the city. Out of the new cases, 131 were local contacts and 32 from quarantine. The active

cases stood at 3,494.

Two more patients succumbed to the disease in the city, pushing the total death toll to 1,011. However, 142 more patients recovered from the disease, increasing the total recoveries to 1,05,265.

## State reports 428 cases, 6 deaths

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State on Tuesday registered 428 Covid-19 cases in 22 districts and the State pool, with which the total tally rose to 10,17,261.

Of the new cases, 55 cases were detected in the 0 to 18 year age group.

In the last 24 hours, 48,086 samples were tested and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.89 per cent. The active cases stood at 6,290.

Khordha district reported the day's highest 179 cases followed by Cuttack with 46, Jagatsinghpur 20, Mayurbhanj and Baleswar 18 each and Puri 15.

The district which reported below-10 cases were Sambalpur nine, Nayagarh eight, Sundargarh six, Angul five, Ganjam, Rayagada, Nuapada and Deogarh four each, Bargarh three and Gajapati one.

Besides, 42 cases were reported from the State pool.

The State reported four more deaths, with which the total toll mounted to 8,108.

Khordha district reported two deaths and Puri and Cuttack one each.

However, 793 persons recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 10,03,603.

55 children among infected

## State on high Budget spending mode

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With more resources available from the State's Own Revenue sources, spending by the Government departments has increased and utilisation of the Annual Budget has risen.

While the Department of Finance is keeping a tab on the spending on various sectors, stress is on the expenditures in the sectors like social, infrastructure and other development areas.

While the Annual Budget Estimate is Rs 1,45,350 crore, the total expenditure during the first five months of the year of 2021-22 touched Rs 40,292 crore. This is much more than the corresponding period of previous year, officials pointed out.

**Rs 40,292 cr spent in first 5 months of 2021-22**

While the expenditure as on August 31, 2020 was Rs 33,770 crore, the Government has spent Rs 6,522 crore more during the corresponding period of 2021-22.

The expenditure as on July 31, 2021 was Rs 32,776 crore; and during the month of August more than Rs 7,500 crore was spent.

Notably, the Budget utilisation has gone up to 27.72% as compared to 23.9% during 2020-21. Similarly, programme expenditure during April-August 2021 touched Rs 18,827

crore compared to Rs 14,715 crore spent during the corresponding period previous year.

The Budget utilisation on programme expenditure was 24.43% compared to 19.34% during 2020-21.

The spending by the Departments of Food, Supplies and Consumer Welfare, Cooperation and Disaster Management tops the list of departments, the funds being mostly spent on welfare schemes.

Food security is one of the prime areas of the Government requiring a lot of spending; so, spending by the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department was 43.70%.

The spending in the infrastructure sector was a bit slow due to various reasons, includ-

ing rainy season. As more funds are provided in this sector, it is expected that the pace of spending would be accelerated.

However, the programme expenditure during the first five months of 2021-22 has gone up compared to the corresponding period of 2020-21.

Now stress is being given for more spending under the CAPEX programme as the level of spending in this sector requires improvement, officials admit.

While continuous monitoring of spending is being done, more field visits are needed to be undertaken by senior officials to boost spending at the field level, opine experts in Government spending.

## ₹1-cr brown sugar seized in BBSR, 2 inter-State drug peddlers held

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a major success in the crackdown against illegal narcotics trade in the State, the Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch seized more than one kg of brown sugar near Rasulgarh in Bhubaneswar and arrested two inter-State drug peddlers in this connection on Monday.

The market value of the seized contraband is more than Rs 1 crore.

The arrested peddlers were identified as Rakibul Laskar (30) and Sudhanya Gayen (44), both natives of West Bengal.

On the basis of intelligence inputs, a raid was conducted by an STF team, which zeroed down on the drug peddlers while they were striking a deal.

During search, brown sugar weighing 1.025 kg and other incriminating materials were recovered and seized from the possession of the duo. As they could not pro-

duce any valid documents in support of possession of the contraband, the accused were arrested. They were forwarded to the court of Bhubaneswar District and Sessions Judge. A case under Section 21(c)/29 of the NDPS Act has been registered against the two.

During preliminary investigation, West Bengal link as well as inter-State ramification has been established. Efforts were on to nab others involved in the racket, the STF said.

## Rains affect 19.53 lakh people in 11 districts



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Over 19.53 lakh people of 2,789 villages in 53 blocks and 14 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of 11 districts have been affected due to the incessant heavy rains since Sunday, said the office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC).

The districts are Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Cuttack, Jajpur, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Dhenkanal, Khordha and Angul.

SRC Pradeep Jena said that while the highest quantum of rainfall of 500 mm was reported from three blocks in Puri district, Nabarangpur district had the lowest amount of rainfall.

The Government said it has evacuated 3,819 persons from low-lying areas in five affected districts while 265 houses have been damaged in nine districts.

Highest 11.36 lakh people have been affected in

Jagatsinghpur district followed by 7.79 lakh in Kendrapada, over 15,000 in Puri, 10,000 in Kandhamal, 8,000 in Jajpur and 2,500 in Cuttack.

As per the report, 1,590 persons have been evacuated in Jagatsinghpur followed by Puri (1,584), Kendrapada (532), Cuttack (106) and Kandhamal (7). Major rivers in the State are in spate following the rains. The water level in the Mahanadi at Naraj, Devi (Alipingal), Ib (Sundargarh), Kushabhadra (Nimapada), Brahmani (Panposh and Jenapur), Baitarani (Anandpur and Akhuapada), Subarnarekha (Rajghat), Vansadhara (Gunupur) and Rushikulya at Purusottampur were rising.

The Jalaka river was flowing at 05.60 metres at Mahtani against the danger level of 05.50 metres. The Water Resources department has cancelled leaves of all employees in view of the heavy rains.

◆ Highest 11.36 lakh hit in Jagatsinghpur  
◆ Major rivers in spate

However, the SRC denied any possibility of flood situation in the State.

All the schools in Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Subarnapur and Bargarh districts were closed for two days on September 13 and 14.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the deep depression over north coastal Odisha moved further west-north-westwards and lay centred close to Keonjhar.

It is very likely to continue to move west-northwestwards across north Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during next 48 hours and weaken into a depression during subsequent 12 hours, the IMD added.

## Newspapers' Federation meet organised

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The general body meeting of the Odisha branch of the Association of Small and Medium Newspapers' Federation (ASMNI) was held in Bhubaneswar on Monday.

In the meeting presided over by State president Rabi Rath, it was decided that the biannual convention of the organisation would be held in Bhubaneswar on December 25 and 26. The election for electing the office-bearers of the organisation would also be conducted soon.

It was also decided that a delegation would meet the Information and Public

Relations Department officials regarding non-issuing of advertisements on annual foundation day and national days to the small and medium newspapers. The cooperation of all the editors was sought to make the organisation more proactive.

Two minutes of silence was observed for 11 editors who died in 2020-21.

Among others, convenor Akshay Kumar Patnaik, general secretary Jagdish Mishra, nation federation member Pradipta Kumar Parida, vice president Rajram Mahapatra, Atanu Kumar Nayak, Chittaranjan Swain and Atanu Mishra were present.

## BJP opposes CM visit to Rourkela

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Hundreds of BJP workers were arrested when they staged a demonstration protest

against the Chief Minister's visit to Rourkela on Tuesday.

The party had posed seven questions to the CM; but as there were no answers, the



## 'Kidnapped' BBSR delivery boy traced in MP

Detained by RPF along with girlfriend

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The kidnapping case of a Swiggy delivery boy Patitapaban Prusty took a major turn with police tracking him in Madhya Pradesh with a girlfriend while they were travelling in a train.

While the Railway Protection Force (RPF) have detained him and the girl, a team lead by the Dhauli police station IIC have left for Madhya Pradesh, to bring them here. The truth behind the incident would be unravelled after questioning the two, said city DCP Umashankar Dash.

But prima facie investigations it has been ascertained the youth had gone there on his own and was not kidnapped, said Dash.

During investigation, the Dhauli Police found CCTV footage which showed Patitapaban at the Bhubaneswar railway station and later his mobile number was put under surveillance and he was tracked.

The RPF detained him at a railway station in Madhya Pradesh.

This was contrary to the allegation of his family mem-



bers that he had been kidnapped at Lingipur near Daya river on the outskirts of the city on September 11 night.

Police had seized his footwear, bag, wallet, T-shirt and a knife from the spot. Moreover, Patitapaban's wife had received a voice message from him, in which he was heard saying that he was being abducted by four drunk youths in an auto-rickshaw.

It was suspected that he faked the kidnapping to make his kin believe that he was abducted.

The entire incident has become more mysterious as parents of a girl of Balanga area in Puri district have lodged a complaint with the Gop police

alleging that Patitapaban kidnapped their daughter, a college student.

They also claimed that Patitapaban had a relationship with their daughter before his marriage. He continued the relationship even after his marriage, they said.

Bonding between the two developed while Patitapaban used to come to his maternal aunt's house near the girl's residence, the complainants said.

Notably, Patitapaban had married Ahalya Parida of Maliatutha village under Ramachandi police station in Puri district, eight months ago. Later, the couple started staying at a rented house in the Dhauli area of the city.

## Top Maoist with ₹20L reward on head held in Koraput

PNS ■ KORAPUT/ CUTTACK

Another surrenders before police

In a major success in the fight against Leftwing Extremism, the Odisha police arrested a top Maoist leader Dubashi Sankar from the Boipariguda police station area in Koraput district on Monday.

"Dubashi Sankar, who was carrying a cash reward of Rs 20 lakh on his head, was arrested yesterday during a joint operation by the Special Operation Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) of the Odisha Police and the Border Security Force (BSF), DGP Abhay said on Tuesday.

He was nabbed from under the Baipariguda police station when he was conspiring to carry out violent activities with the help of other members, the DGP said.

"An Insas rifle, 10 rounds of ammunition and other articles were recovered from the possession of Shankar. The Koraput police forwarded him to court today," he added.

He said Shankar is the highest-ranking Maoist to be arrested or neutralised in the past 20 years by the Odisha Police. He was a member of the Andhra-Odisha Special Zonal Committee and involved in a series of violent attacks on security forces and killing of civilians in Koraput, Malkangiri in Odisha and

Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

"We suspect his involvement in the 2009 Maoist ambush in Damanjodi in which nine CISF jawans were martyred. He was also involved in Govindpalli landmine blast in 2010 in which 11 personnel of Odisha police were killed. Besides, he was part of Janiguda ambush under Chitrakonda in which four BSF personnel were killed," Abhay said.

"We will soon take him on remand for further questioning about the Maoist organisation and will try to p," he added.

The DGP further said that some other Maoists who were with Shankar and had fled after his arrest exchanged fire with the Odisha police on Tuesday afternoon. While no casualties were reported from either side, some arms and ammunition were recovered after the gun battle.

In another development, a member of Guma Area Committee surrendered before the DIG SP of Koraput. "He expressed his willingness to join the mainstream by shunning violence," the DGP said.



## 'Make Talcher Med College functional'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra on Tuesday urged Ministry of Coal Additional Secretary M Nagaraju and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) senior officials to make the Mahanadi Medical Science and Research Institute Hospital at Talcher functional.

Nagaraju informed that the construction of the facility at Talcher has been completed. The MCL has provided Rs 500 crore for the 500-bed hospital's construction, equipments and

CHIEF SECRETARY URGES CENTRE

furniture.

The management of the medical college would be done by a professional organisation. For this, a bid for expression of interest has been issued. A decision on this would be taken soon, said Nagaraju.

After the hospital becomes functional, the people of Angul, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal districts and nearby areas would get advanced healthcare services.



# Passing classified info to Pak: 4 ITR staffs held

Were engaged as drivers, generator operators under contract basis

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

Basing on intelligence inputs, four contractual employees engaged in the Integrated Test Range (ITR), a unit of DRDO, at Chandipur were apprehended by the police on the charge of passing classified information to foreign agents. The accused were apprehended in a Chandipur police station case under the Official Secrets Act by the Baleswar police for committing offence of causing serious harm to the security, sovereignty and integrity of the nation. Interrogation of the four detainees and some others is going on to unearth more evi-

dence in the case. In this case, we had got credible intelligence that some persons are wrongfully and willfully communicating the classified defence secrets to foreign agents, appearing to be Pakistani agents, being contacted from various ISD phone numbers and in exchange, they were getting wrongful monetary benefits from them," an official police release said. Basing on these inputs, multiple police teams were formed to apprehend the culprits. In the course of raids by Baleswar police, several incriminating materials were also recovered, it added. Reports said these employees were engaged as drivers and

generator operators. It may be recalled that a similar case in Baleswar district was earlier registered in Chandipur police station in which Iswar Behera, a native of Kantipur of Mayurbhanj district, a contractual photographer, was apprehended for passing classified information regarding the defence establishment(ITR) in 2014 and following trial, a sessions court here convicted him for life term in February 11. In Behera's case, during investigation it was found that money was transferred to his account through internet banking and money order from various places including Mumbai, Meerut, Ajmer Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Abu Dhabi etc. Behera was in touch with one Asif Ali of Meerut city, a suspected ISI agent.

## School staff's body seized from campus

JAGATSINGHPUR: A middle-aged man, Kangali Charan Sahoo, who was working as a peon in Alando High School in Biridi block, was found dead in a schoolroom on Sunday. Kangali hailing from Batimira village was residing in the school. On Sunday morning when two school employees reached at the school, they found that Kangali's room was locked inside and he could not respond while calling him. Later school headmaster and local Sarpanch informed police. The police broke open the room and found Kangali lying dead on floor. Police began a probe taking assistance from scientific team and sent the body for postmortem. **PNS**

# Torrential rains wreak havoc in JSpur

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Incessant rains for last two days caused havoc in all eight blocks and two municipalities in Jagatsinghpur district. While many low-lying areas suffered worst flooding, roads and paddy fields were submerged. The district administration shifted as many as 1,590 people from coastal areas belonging to Erasama, Naugaon, and Balikuda blocks till Monday. The dist Emergency Department revealed that

**Worst submergence in many areas** about 1,590 people in low-lying villages were shifted to cyclone shelters and dry foods and medicines were provided to them at the rescue centers. The district was on red alert since Sunday which recorded 120 mm rainfall in the last 48 hours, putting the normal life to a standstill. With the sea continuing to remain rough, the IMD has advised fishermen not to venture into the sea in Paradip.

# Rains play havoc in Baleswar

PNS ■ BALESWAR:

Incessant rains and overflowing rivers created havoc in Baleswar district on Tuesday. The spectre of floods still loomed large as the major rivers were swelling. While the water level in the Subarnarekha and Budhabalanga rivers were below the danger levels, that of the Jalaka river was 6.33 meter with the danger mark being 5.5 meter near Mathani. Though the district administration said that the situation has not aggravated as the flood situation is strictly monitored in all places and preparation has been made to face any eventuality, people in many places are living with constant fear. The rains threw life out of gear in Baleswar town and many villages were water-logged.

# 'Kanpur irrigation project to be ready by 2023'

K'jhar forum submits memo to Union Min Tudu

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

On Monday the Keonjhar Citizen Forum handed over a memorandum to Union Minister of Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu, expressing their concern over inordinate delay in completion of the Kanpur Irrigation project on the Baitarani river near Basudebpur under Joda block of Keonjhar district. President of the forum Kiran Sahu revealed that the Kanpur irrigation project which



started in the year 1991-92 was estimated to be completed within a period of five years at a cost of Rs 428.62 crore. However, more than 30 years have passed but the project couldn't be completed although the project cost has escalated to Rs 1,801 crore

as per estimation in the year 2013 and out of this, Rs 1,583.11 crore has already been spent by March 31, 2018. It is expected that the project cost will cross Rs 2,700 crore in the coming days because extra Rs 500 crore is required to

be spent for correcting the faulty implementation of the design at the foundation level of the reservoir of the water at the catchment area, he told. Sahu further revealed that there is no certainty in the success of the renovation work because the technology which will be imported from German is going to be experimented for the first time in the Kanpur project. The project is expected to irrigate 48,000 hectares of land in 238 villages and two lakh farmers in the villages have been waiting for completion of the ambitious project. But the

prolonged delays have dashed their hope, the memorandum said. However, the Union Minister assured the forum that the project would be completed by 2023. He is said that there is no scarcity of fund from the Central Government but it is getting delayed due to poor implementation, which is duty of the State Government. Earlier, Tudu was accorded a grand welcome at the circuit house in Keonjhar by many BJP leaders and workers led by Sadar MLA Mohan Mahji and others.

# 1 more dies in Kendrapada wall collapse

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

Septuagenarian Kamala Nayak, 76, a resident of Koro under the Nikirai police station in the district died on Tuesday following a wall collapse due to incessant rains while she was going to have lunch. With this, the death toll because of wall



collapse in the district went up to three through the administration was yet to confirm the latest casualty. As many as 7, 79,241 people of 811 villages in 126 GPs in five blocks and 22 wards in two urban local bodies were affected by the rains. Ten roads including

Kundupur-Babar-Jambooroad, Marshaghai-Jambooroad, Cuttack-Chandabali, Kendrapada-Golarhaat, Katikata-Jaipur, Paika left embankment, Prabhakarpur-Kharanashi, Orta-Badhi, Aitipur Charichowk to Gopinathpur, Haladiagada-Patkura roads were cut off.

# Addl PHO held taking bribe in Subarnapur

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Tuesday caught Dr Nabakishore Behera, Additional District Public Health Officer of Subarnapur district red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 16,000. Behera had demanded the bribe from a complainant to favour him in his Performance Appraisal Report (PAR) for

extension of his contractual engagement with higher pay. Following the trap, simultaneous searches were carried out on Behera's residential Government quarter at Patabhadi and residential building at Dunguripali in Subarnapur and his house at native village at Phulbani, in Kandhamal district. Later, the accused was arrested and forwarded to court.

# Few takers for Vyasaganar drainage woes

PNS ■ JAJPUR ROAD

There is no river or canal at Jajpur Road. However, always rain creates havoc for the whole 26 Wards under Vyasaganar Municipality. Over several years it is said that efforts are on to streamline drainage system of the Municipality but nothing tangible happens. The Municipal authorities have been lending a deaf ear to the people's genuine problems. Due to lack of proper drains, many areas have been

experiencing waterlogging due to incessant rain in last 2-3 days. In Ward No.12 from Late Karam Chand Laha house to Building Centre Chhak through Priyadarsini Road, the road has been completely inundated. Similarly, in Ward No.03 from Upendranath Mohanty house to Sapagadia Chhak there is no drain. So waterlogging is a permanent issue here. The Vyasaganar Tehsil Office premises also witnessed flood like situation. Ward No.2 Panasia Basti, Bus stand area, Umapada,

Stadium area, Ganesh Bazar, Binapani Sahi and many areas of the municipality were lying submerged. A JE staying here for more than 10 years has been playing dirty games, alleged many. It is said that he has political connections. It is also alleged that he takes PC for every construction works. A senior citizen and social worker, Upendranath Mohanty has been demanding for a drain at Ward No.3 to Sapagadia Chhak for a long time, but no one is paying any heed.

the world, the Chief Minister announced that Odisha will continue to sponsor Indian hockey teams, for another 10 years. The State should also identify and promote raw talent from a tender age and provide them with the much needed support of international standards in terms of equipment, sports kit, coaching (team and individual) exposure and mental conditioning in order to nurture them for participation and podium finish at the international level.

Policies should be focussed more on encouraging the talent existing among poorer communities including tribal and Dalit communities as well as small farmer communities. Those belonging to fisher folk and boatman communities should in particular receive encouragement and training for aquatics, swimming, rowing sports while the talent of Adivasis should be identified for training in archery. Some circus artists' potential can be tapped for gymnastics. In particular encouragement should be given

to those team sports like football which do not require extensive equipment. There should be adequate space for playing in cities and villages, particularly for school children. Where schools are some what cramped, arrangements for adequate spaces for playing should be made. There should be special emphasis right from early training days on team sports and encourage team spirits. Trainers and sports schools which are sympathetic to the aspirations of sports students from weaker sections and pro-

vide them very encouraging conditions should be promoted. A "Sports mela" should be organised at village and district level for tapping talent across the State for different games. Selectors having national and State level stature should select the candidates. Inter- and intra-district sports competition on different games should be promoted. Besides, the Government needs to promote sports schools and colleges. Sportspersons who bring laurels for the State need to be honoured and the Government

should make concerted efforts for ensuring sustainable employment opportunities for all meritorious sportspersons. Apart from this, sports quota reservation in Government jobs for all medal winning athletes should be ensured. The message to our young sports persons should be: Do one's best for the game and enjoy every moment of the game. Above all, one should always play with the true spirit of sports as sports should always promote friendship.

# Demand for airport in Brahmapur mounts

ODF holds street corner meetings

PRASANT DAS ■ BRAHMAPUR

People from cross sections of the society and organisations expressed strong resentment over the silence of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra over the long-standing demand of the people of Ganjam for establishment of an airport at Rangeilunda. During his recent visit to the district, though Mahapatra spoke on various development projects, he didn't utter a single word about the airport issue, pointed out these organisations. They have demanded that the State Government acquire 1,500 acres of land near



Berhampur for establishment of a civilian and cargo airport. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

had laid foundation-stone at Rangeilunda for an airport in 2016, they pointed out.

The Odisha Development Forum (ODF) recently organised an awareness programme

and street corner meetings here and demanded an early establishment of an airport. The programme was attended by many eminent persons of the city. They argued that the city's importance for being home to people from major cities of the country and frequent movement of people from the city to metros like Delhi, Bombay, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar should be considered for establishment of an airport. The meeting was addressed, among others, by forum ODF vice-president Babita Patro, secretary Swarajya Sahu and senior members Laxminarayan Padhee and V Someswar Rao.

## BRIEFS

### RAINS: NANDANKANAN CLOSED FOR A DAY

**Bhubaneswar:** The Nandankanan Zoological Park was closed for visitors on Tuesday due to incessant rains that wreaked havoc in the wildlife habitat situated on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. The zoo authorities decided to close Nandankanan keeping safety of visitors and animals in mind. The zoo would reopen from Wednesday. During the closure period, the zoo authorities would review the damages incurred due to the rains, source said.



### SOA RESEARCHER PROF SUKLA HONOURED

**Bhubaneswar:** Prof LB Sukla, an acclaimed research professor at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here, has been honoured with the VDG00D International Scientist Award for 2021 in the field of engineering, science and medicine. The VDG00D has been working towards finding new innovations to make life easier in all aspects. Prof Sukla has been chosen for the Distinguished Scientist Award.



### RAJBHASA DIWAS OBSERVED AT PPT

**Paradip:** Coinciding with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav celebrations, the Rajbhasa Diwas was observed by the Paradip Port Trust on Tuesday. PPT Deputy Chairman AK Bose administered the Rajbhasa pledge to HoDs and other senior officials. The pledge was also administered in the offices by respective controlling authorities. A competition on creative writing using Rajbhasa was held among employees.



### MULTIPURPOSE HALL OF PLC INAUGURATED

**Paradip:** A multipurpose hall of the Paradip Ladies' Club (PLC) was recently inaugurated by PLC vice-president Suchismita Bose in the presence of Paradip Port Trust Deputy Chairman Asish Kumar Bose and other senior port officials. The new hall will be used for recreational and charitable activities of the club.



### DGP AWARD FOR GANJAM SI

**Brahmapur:** Ganjam police station Sub-Inspector Ajit Kumar Parida received the DGP award for his efficient management of court cases by proper and timely investigation as well as timely filing of charge-sheets and gentle behaviour. Parida was felicitated at the office of Ganjam Superintendent of Police. Ganjam SP Brijesh Kumar Rai handed over the Memorandum of Appreciation to him.



# B'ngir reels under floods as rains keep pounding

SUDHIR MISHRA ■ BALANGIR

Normal life was affected due to heavy rainfall in Balangir. A youth was swept away in flood water. Due to heavy rainfall, the nearby Laxmijore was in a spate and flooded Staynarayan pada and other adjoining areas. Waist deep water was flowing in many habitations while water entered into the low-lying houses. One of the major reasons for the flood was a small bridge over the Laxmijore through which water cannot pass as it remains clogged. So water overflowed, leading to flooding. The district administration had declared the bridge as technically unsound since 2019. The Laxmijore which was a major passage of drainage of rainwater also has been choked with garbage and due to silting.



People are in a panicky stage as rain was pounding till the report was filed last. Meanwhile, Laxmijore gates have been opened. District Collector Chanchal Rana in a tweet said measures were being taken to reach out to the worst hit. He also said water was being released from a ward in the DHH. Balangir MLA Narsingha Mishra visited various flood affected areas of the town. BJD leader Arkesh Singh Deo also visited various flood affected

**Youth swept away** areas and interacted with the people. In an unexpected incident, a youth of Phatkara(A) village was swept away in the torrential flood water, while he was trying to cross a culvert over Laxmijore near his village. ODRAFT and fire officials rushed to the spot and launched a search operation but the victim was not traced. However, flood water was gradually receding by evening.

# Tokyo Oly feats: Let there be talent haunt for athletes in Odisha

■ ASHOK KUMAR SAHAY/ SWATI THAKUR

Memories of the recently-concluded Olympics games in Tokyo have reflected how Indian sportspersons from humble backgrounds were overcoming every odd to perform well at the biggest international sports event. Whatever be the quantum result and number of medals, they have achieved through their hard work and perseverance, that resulted in winning medals and wide spread admi-

ration. Profiles of several sports persons, male and female, who were representing India at different games in general as well as male and female hockey players in particular in the recent Olympics reveal that they grew up in conditions of great economic hardships. This is true for many players who represented India in several games at the Olympics events. Their parents and siblings made immense sacrifices to save the pennies for their equipment, dress and training. They overcame very difficult situa-

tions to come up with flying colours. Efforts taken by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in setting up the high performance sports centres and sponsoring both men's and women's hockey teams since 2018 translated into better performances by both the teams at Tokyo Olympics. The Chief Minister has earned country wide admiration for transforming the performance of men's and women's hockey teams. In recognition of their achievement and their potential to be the top teams in

# PM to visit US for Quad summit

FIRST IN-PERSON MEET

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signaling the growing importance of the Quad combine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the US next week to participate in the first in-person summit of the four nation grouping including the US, India, Japan and Australia. He will also address the United Nations (UN) General Assembly session.

Modi will also hold summit level talks with President Joe Biden, who is hosting the Quad meeting of the Heads of State. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be participating, along with Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan and President Joseph R Biden of USA, in the Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework in Washington DC, USA, on September 24," the ministry of external affairs(MEA)announced here on Tuesday.

The agenda of the Quad summit will see the leaders taking stock of the progress made since their first virtual summit on March 12 and discuss regional issues of shared interest. "As part of their ongoing efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, they will review the Quad Vaccine initiative which was announced in



March this year," the MEA said.

The four leaders are also likely to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific. The navies of the four nations have so far carried two Malabar series of exercises including one last year and one this year. The latest drill was conducted in the Western Pacific while the exercise last year was conducted off the Indian coast.

China has all along opposed the formation of Quad and claims the naval exercises will lead to the militarization of the Indo-Pacific where it is now flexing its maritime muscle.

Modi will be visiting the

US for the first time since Biden assumed office early this year. Besides the Quad summit and bilateral talks with the US, Modi will also address the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in New York the next day. Modi is also expected to hold bilateral talks with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

The Modi-Biden bilateral meeting is expected to take place at the White House on September 23. Both leaders have spoken virtually on multiple occasions after Biden became president in January.

The last time Modi visited the US was in September 2019 when he and the then US president Donald Trump addressed

the Howdy-Modi event in Houston.

This will be Modi's first foreign visit in nearly six months and his second since the outbreak of the pandemic coronavirus. In March, Modi travelled to Bangladesh to attend events organised to mark the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 years of the war of liberation of that country.

The US is hosting the in-person summit of the leaders of Quad to boost practical cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as well as to send a strong signal about Washington's commitment to the grouping.

# Shah praises PM for speaking in Hindi at international forums

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's example of speaking only in Hindi at all international forums to call for shedding the hesitation over speaking the language. At the same time, he also maintained that Hindi is a friend of India's regional languages and all of them should be promoted and encouraged.

He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying, "If PM can speak Hindi internationally, what are we embarrassed about? Gone are the days when speaking Hindi was a matter of concern".

Addressing a function on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, Shah also appealed to parents to communicate with their children at home in their mother tongue even if they study in English medium schools. Otherwise, the children will be cut off from their roots, he said.

"Hindi has no difference with any regional language. Hindi is the 'Sakhi' (friend) of all Indian regional languages," he said.

Shah said all Indian regional languages complement and complete Hindi and all regional languages must be promoted and encouraged.

Since 2014, more MPs are speaking in their own regional language in



The Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah, addresses at the Hindi Divas Samaroh 2021, in New Delhi on September 14

Parliament and they are being translated verbatim to English and Hindi, he said and added that this has helped people's representatives to highlight the problems of their respective areas in the highest forum.

The home minister said people should not only be 'Atma Nirbhar' (self-reliant) in producing goods but also for languages. He cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's example of speaking only in Hindi at all international forums to convey his thoughts. The PM and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also extended their wishes on the occasion.

Referring to the New Education Policy (NEP) envisaged by Modi, Shah said it has provisions for promotion of regional and Hindi languages.

# BJP prevented me from visiting my constituency multiple times, alleges ex-Tripura CM Manik

BJP unleashing violence in Tripura, says Sitaram Yechury

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Tripura Chief Minister and CPI(M) leader Manik Sarkar on Tuesday alleged that he was prevented from visiting the State and his constituency by the ruling BJP multiple times.

Addressing the media here along with the party general secretary Sitram Yechury, Sarkar accused the BJP Government of unleashing political violence in Tripura.

"In Tripura, the Constitution of India doesn't work. CPI(M) MLAs, including me, aren't allowed to visit their constituency. In the 42 months that the BJP has been in power, I have been stalled 15 times from visiting various parts of the state and my Constituency," alleged Sarkar, who was Chief Minister from 1998 to 2018.

The two Left leaders claimed that there is a "huge discontent" against the BJP government in Tripura. "The CPI(M) is spearheading efforts to galvanise people's protest. They (BJP) do not want to allow this process and are unleashing violence?" Yechury alleged. A few days ago, in his letter to the Prime Minister, Yechury had alleged that the party's offices in Tripura were attacked by 'mobs of BJP men' in a 'pre-planned fashion' on September 8.

In the letter, Yechury has alleged the "impunity" with which the attackers operated shows the "connivance of the state government".



# Jamalpur Rly Workshop senior section engineer arrested by ED under money laundering law

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said it has arrested Chandeshwar Prasad Yadav, Senior Section Engineer and Custodian of condemned wagons of Jamalpur Railway Workshop, Jamalpur at the time of offence under money laundering law.

Yadav is allegedly involved in misappropriation of condemned wagons and wheel sets and other excluded fittings of Eastern Railway Jamalpur workshop. The total value of such misappropriated wagons, wheel sets and excluded fittings is ₹ 34 crore approximately.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR dated February 9, 2018 filed by ACB, CBI, Patna, which was registered after a complaint received from Eastern Railway against Shree Maharani Steels, Patna; unknown officials of Eastern Railway, Jamalpur and unknown private persons.

It has been alleged that misappropriation and irregularities were noticed in the disposal of condemned wagons and other excluded fittings from Dhoobi Ghat Siding of Eastern Railway, Jamalpur.

It has further been alleged that during a preventive check conducted by the Vigilance Department of the Eastern Railway, it was found that 100 condemned wagons and 3,220 wheel sets along with other excluded fittings having net value of ₹34 crore approximately have been misappropriated by an outside private agency in connivance with others.

"Throughout the investigation, Yadav had resorted to non-cooperation with the investigation and has not divulged any truth or information, the ED said in a statement.

# NHRC asks concerned States, Centre to submit report over complaints against farmers' protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of several complaints from the public about their business, livelihood, and daily life being adversely affected by the ongoing farmers' protests against the three Central Agriculture Laws, the National Human Rights Commission on Tuesday stepped in and issued notices to the Centre and Chief Secretaries UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Director Generals of Police, UP, Haryana, Rajasthan and Commissioner of Police, Delhi "calling upon them to submit their respective Action Taken Reports".

The NHRC said it had "received several complaints regarding the ongoing farmers' protest", including about 9,000 micro, medium and large companies being adversely affected.

"Allegedly, transportation is also adversely impacted, causing commuters, patients, physically challenged people and senior citizens to suffer due to the heavy congestion on roads. There are also reports that people have to travel long distances to reach their destinations and barricades have been put on the borders," the NHRC statement said.

"There is an allegation that there is breach of the COVID-19 protocols by the agitating farmers at the protest site. There is further allegation that the inhabitants are not being allowed to

move out of their houses due to the blockade of the passage. Since the agitation involves the issue of human rights, the right to agitate in a peaceful manner is also to be respected. The Commission needs to take care of various human rights issues," the statement read.

Also, the commission has requested the Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi, is to depute teams to conduct a survey and assess and submit a report on the disruption of livelihood, lives of people, impact on the aged, and inform persons due to protracted agitation by farmers. The institute has given a deadline of October 10 to send the report.

The NHRC said it had also sought reports from the National Disaster Management Authority, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Union Ministry of Health on the adverse impact on COVID-19 protocols at the protest sites.

Besides, it has issued notice to the district magistrate, Bhajjar in Haryana, in the case of alleged gang rape of a human rights activist at the protest site and asked a reply to it by October 10. In effect, it has issued a fresh reminder to the official to file a report.

The farmers have been picketing and staging indefinite sit-ins at a number of places in these states, including the outskirts of Delhi's borders.

# PM to inaugurate office complexes of Def Ministry, part of Central Vista project



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday inaugurate the office complexes of the Defence Ministry here. They are part of the Central Vista project.

These offices have been constructed at a cost of ₹ 775 crores provided by the Defence Ministry. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development undertook this project.

Over 7000 officers and staff belonging to 27 different organizations (attached offices of defence ministry, Service Headquarters and other subordinate offices) are going to get new office complexes. They were earlier functioning from hutments and buildings near the South Block.

The new office complexes have come up at the Kasturba Gandhi Marg and Africa Avenue, officials said here on Tuesday. In addition to the office space for the officers and staff, there is provision for multi level car parking for over 1500 cars in these complexes.

The new buildings, which are under the Central Vista Development/Redevelopment Master Plan provide modern eco-friendly, green building environment. The total space in these buildings is 9.60 Lakhs sq ft as against 9.22 Lakh sq ft vacated in various hutments and buildings.

The new buildings also provide modern amenities, connectivity and welfare facilities like canteens and banks. The location and space of these buildings have been so designed that pre existing trees have not been disturbed.

The project has released 37 acres of land (as only 13 acres of land have been used for modern office complex as against the existing 50 acres of land) for office space for Central Vista Development Master Plan, they said.

# Naidu, Modi, Om Birla to jointly launch Sansad TV today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will jointly launch Sansad TV on Wednesday, the Prime Minister's Office said. The launch date coincides with the International Day of Democracy, the PMO noted.

The decision to merge Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV was taken in February, and the CEO of Sansad TV was appointed in March. However, during a Session, the two channels will live broadcast the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha separately. The PMO said Sansad TV programming will primarily be in four categories; functioning of Parliament and democratic institutions, governance and implementation of schemes, policies, history and culture of India and issues, interests, concerns of contemporary nature.

# SC dismisses plea seeking ex-gratia for family of deceased lawyers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea seeking directions to the Centre and others to pay ₹50 lakh ex-gratia to kin of advocates who have died within 60 years whether due to Covid-19 or other reasons, saying life of lawyers cannot be said to be "more precious" than others.

Observing that it cannot encourage filing of "bogus" public interest litigation (PIL) by lawyers, a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said the plea is a "public interest litigation" and not a single relevant ground has been raised in it.

The bench, also comprising Justices Vikram Nath and B V Nagarathna, said several people have died due to Covid-19 in the country and there is already a judgement passed by the apex court dealing with framing of guidelines for disbursement of compensation to kin of those who have died as a result of coronavirus.

"Are other people of the society not important," the bench told advocate Pradeep Kumar Yadav, who had filed the petition.

"This is a publicity interest litigation and just because you are in black coat does not mean your life is more precious than others," the bench observed, adding, "We must not encourage lawyers to file bogus PILs."

The top court, which observed that "cut-copy-paste" has been done in the plea, said it would not happen that lawyers will file PIL like this to demand compensation and the court will allow it.

It said several people have died of COVID-19 and lawyers cannot be an exception.

Yadav requested the bench that he will withdraw the plea and file it with better grounds.

The bench, however, dismissed the petition with a cost of Rs 10,000 payable to the Supreme Court Bar Association within a week.

# Covid cases remain below 30,000 for 3rd day in row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the third day in a row, the daily count of covid cases on Tuesday remained below the 30,000-mark with the country reporting 25,404 daily new cases pushing the overall coronavirus tally to 33,289,579. The count of active cases declined to 3,62,207, said the Union Health Ministry in a statement here.

Of the new cases reported, Kerala recorded Covid-19 cases and 99 deaths which pushed the total infections to 43,90,489 and the death toll to 22,650.

The death toll due to the disease has climbed to 4,43,213, with 339 daily fatalities being recorded, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The tally of active cases has declined to 3,62,207, which comprises 1.09 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 97.58 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 12,062, cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.78 per cent. This has been below three per cent for the last 15 days.

The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.07 per cent. The fig-



ure has been below three per cent for the last 81 days, according to the Ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,24,84,159, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.33 per cent.

The cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive has reached 75.22 crore, according to the ministry.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5, 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and the one-crore mark on December 19.

# Not going to reopen decision on grant of reservation in promotion to SCs, STs: SC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would not reopen its decision on granting reservation in promotions to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as it was for the States to decide how they implement it.

Taking up various pleas pertaining to alleged hurdles in granting reservation in promotions to SCs and STs in various States, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Nageswara Rao directed the Advocate on Records of State Governments to identify issues peculiar to them and submit those within two weeks.

"We are making it very clear that we are not going to reopen Nagraj or Jarnail Singh (cases) because the idea was only to decide these cases in accordance with the law laid down by the court," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai.

The top court noted that in its earlier order, the state governments were directed to finalise the issues which are peculiar to them so that court can proceed in the matter.

The issues framed by the Attorney General K K Venugopal and the ones circulated by others are enhancing the scope of cases, it said.

"We are not willing to do that. There are certain issues which are already decided in Nagraj that also we are not going to take up. We are very clear that we are not going to permit any arguments for reopening of cases or arguing that law laid down from Indira Sahney is wrong because the very scope of these cases is to apply the law as laid down by this court," the court said.

# SC asks AIIMS to give age determination report of girl recovered by police

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to give by September 17 its report on determining the age of a girl who went missing from Gorakhpur in UP since July 8 and was later recovered by Delhi Police earlier this month.

The apex court observed that further steps will be taken in the matter depending on the age determination report of the girl, who according to her mother is aged around 15-16 years while in Aadhaar her age is mentioned as 13.

A Bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar also permitted two lawyers assisting senior advocate K V Viswanathan, who was nominated by the top court to appear for the girl as she was not represented before it through a counsel, to interact with her.

"We direct the concerned authority of AIIMS, Delhi to ensure that age determination report is given before the next date of hearing which we sched-



ule on September 17," said the bench, also comprising justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar.

The top court had on September 7 handed over the investigation of the case lodged in Uttar Pradesh, after the girl was missing from Gorakhpur, to Delhi Police which recently recovered her and arrested the alleged abductor.

During the hearing on Tuesday, Viswanathan said that he has seen the two status reports and also the suggestions of Additional Solicitor General (ASG) R S Suri, who is appearing for Delhi Police, and the counsel appearing for the girl's mother.

He said age of the girl has to be determined as the report says pregnancy was detected but ultrasound does not show pregnancy.



# Akhilesh asks BJP to pick bulldozer as poll symbol

**Lucknow:** Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim about the crime situation in Uttar Pradesh, asking him to check data of the Home Department and other central agencies.

At a function after laying the stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh, PM Modi earlier in the day said UP was run by gangsters and mafias before 2017. The Samajwadi Party (SP) was ruling the State then.

In a scathing attack at the BJP, Yadav told reporters at a press conference here that it is good to set up a university but the party "runs the best training centre of telling lies".

He asked the BJP to pick

"bulldozer" as its election symbol, referring to the alleged demolition of houses of some Ayodhya residents.

Yadav also asked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to get his eyesight tested, replying to the CM's assertion that the Opposition leader lacked vision.

Yadav told reporters that the UP Government is not working according to the law and warned officials that his party is preparing a list of those who violated the law, stressing that they won't be spared once his party's Government comes to power.

When his attention was drawn to the PM's comment over the law and order, Yadav said, "He should ask for the data of the

Home Department or Dial 100 to see who is increasing the crime."

He asked the PM to go through the NCRB report and also see which state has been served maximum notices by the National Human Rights Commission.

Yadav said the PM should also ask the Uttar Pradesh CM who are the top 10 mafia in the state.

All are aware how the CM withdrew cases against himself, he said. He also accused the ruling party of failing to honour its own leaders, referring to the foundation laying of a university after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Lucknow in 2019 and asked about its status.



Boundary wall of the Aji river in front of the Ramnathpara temple collapsed due to heavy rains in Rajkot on Tuesday

PTI

# Priyanka slams UP Govt over crimes against women

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday attacked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the issue of crimes against women in the State and alleged that he was the champion of "anti-women mindset".

Her attack on Adityanath came as on this day, last year, the horrific Hathras incident took place in which a young Dalit woman was raped by four men. The woman died on September 29 at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital during treatment.

A year ago from today, a horrific incident of rape had happened in Hathras and instead of providing justice and security to the family, the Uttar Pradesh Government had threatened the family and also snatched away their right to give their daughter an honourable funeral," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.



Government officials and BJP leaders had made statements to the effect that there was "no rape" and the energy of the entire Government machinery was spent on character assassination of the victim, the Congress general secretary alleged.

How can you even expect sensitivity from the head of a Government that has such a horrible stance on crimes against women, Priyanka Gandhi asked.

"Anyway, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is the champion of anti-women mindset. He has said that 'women should not be independent'," she claimed.

The victim was cremated in the dead of the night near her home on September 30. Her family alleged they were forced by the local police to hurriedly conduct her last rites.

PTI

## DEFAMATION CASES

# Maha Min slaps ₹100 crore notice against Somaiya

Court issues process against him in another case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a double whammy for BJP leader and former MP Kirit Somaiya, Maharashtra Transport Minister Anil Parab of the Shiv Sena on Tuesday slapped a ₹100 crore defamation notice against him for making "false" and "reckless" allegations against the Sena leader, while a Mumbai court issued a process against him under section 500 of IPC for allegedly defaming NGO Earth. Reacting to several allegations made by Somaiya on twitter over the past few months, Parab — in a notice issued through his lawyer Sushma Singh — said that the BJP's former MP had, through his official Twitter handle, allegedly been carrying out a "defamatory, malicious and mala fide" campaign against him. Among other things, Somaiya had alleged that Parab owned two illegal resorts in "No Development Zone" of Murud sea shore at Dapoli in Ratnagiri district in coastal Konkan region, his secretary Bajarang Kharmate owned 40 benami properties in Pune and Sangli districts in western Maharashtra, and he owned an illegal office at Mahad land at Bandra in north-west Mumbai.

Among other things, the minister demanded that Somaiya stop making defamatory statements, withdraw all his baseless allegations and tender unconditional apol-

ogy. Parab said that in the event of Somaiya's failure to comply with his demands in the next 72 hours, he would launch civil and criminal proceedings, including claims of damages amounting to ₹100 crore against the former BJP MP.

Meanwhile, in another case registered by NGO Earth against, Metropolitan Magistrate, 25th Court, Mazgaon Sewree P 1 Mokashi ordered issuance of process against Somaiya under Somaiya under Section 500 of the IPC vide Section 204 (a) of the Cr PC.

In his order, the Metropolitan Magistrate Mokashi said: "It is also prima facie proved by the words spoken by accused Kirit Somaiya were such that, it had harmed the reputation of the NGO Earth".

The court summoned Somaiya to appear before it on September 22 and October 5. Somaiya had among other things alleged that Maharashtra Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad was using NGO Earth to collect money from developers. The complainant told the court that Somaiya had published posts and articles regarding a matter which is sub judice before the Court along with these posts and articles containing false, derogatory and defamatory statements about the NGO Earth (complainant), "which has lowered down the image of the NGO Earth (complainant) in the society".

# Maha: 11 family members drown in Wardha river

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking tragedy, 11 members of a family met a watery grave on Tuesday, as the boat in which they were travelling capsized in Wardha river in Narked taluka of Amravati district in eastern Maharashtra.

Till the evening, four of the 11 bodies had been recovered, while the search was on for the remaining people, all of whom are feared dead. The bodies of a boatman, two women and one man were recovered from the bed of the river where the mishap took place. From among the bodies recovered so far, the police identified three of them as Narayan Matare (45), Kiran Khandare (28) and Vanshika Shivankar.

The deceased were heading to the temple of Lord Shiva at Jhunj when the boat they were travelling overturned midway.

The family had gone to Gadegaon to attend the post-funeral rituals of a deceased relative. After the ritual, the family was on its way to Jhunj in a boat when the mishap occurred.

Following heavy rain in Wardha, Amravati, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts of eastern Maharashtra during the past one week, the Wardha river was in spate. After the mishap, the police have launched a massive search for the remaining seven missing persons who are all feared dead. The search is on in the downstream areas of the river.

# Bengal gets 4th AG in 10 years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Bengal on Tuesday got its fourth Advocate General in a decade Soumendranath Mukherjee was appointed the State's fourth AG in the place of Kishore Dutta who resigned earlier on the day citing "personal reasons".

The first three AGs in Mamata Banerjee regime were Barristers Anindya Mitra, Jayanta Mitra and Bimal Mukherjee following which Dutta a senior counsel took charge in 2017.

Reacting to his resignation BJP MP Arjun Singh said that "this TMC Government puts so much pressure on the AGs to do act in illegal way that no senior advocate one's salt can continue on the job... though Kishore Dutta tried to please Mamata Banerjee even he failed to do so... now there is a new incumbent".

Hitting back TMC Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Shekhar Roy wondered "why three Principal Advisors to the Prime Minister was and why we had three RBI Governors in so short span of a time... the BJP should look into its own issues before pointing fingers at others."

# Why change CM if Guj was on path of progress? asks Sena

**Mumbai:** The Shiv Sena on Tuesday said the sudden change of guard in Gandhinagar, where first-time BJP MLA Bhupendra Patel has been appointed the new Chief Minister, reflected the style of functioning generally associated with the Congress and claimed the move shows the 'balloon' of Gujarat's development model has burst.

An editorial in Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana' said the people of Gujarat were extremely angry over the "collapse" of healthcare system during the second wave of Covid-19, when Vijay Rupani was the Chief Minister, and the BJP also realized that the influential Patidar community, to which Patel belongs, is miffed with the party, leading to the change at the top in the adjoining state.

"The same thing takes place in the Congress and we have to call it democracy," quipped the Sena, a former BJP ally which now shares power with the Congress and the NCP in Maharashtra.

With the sudden leadership change, the editorial claimed the "balloon" of Gujarat's model of development, governance and democracy has now burst.

"Patel was not even made a minister in the last four years, but he was directly made the chief min-

ister. If Gujarat was truly on path of progress, then why did the BJP change its Chief Minister overnight?" the Marathi daily sought to know.

Amid the cacophony of 'vikas' (development), if leadership is suddenly changed, people raise doubts, it said.

"Is this the Gujarat model where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will actually have to call the shots by keeping Patel at the forefront ahead of the state polls (due in December next year)?" the editorial asked.

Patel is a staunch supporter of former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel while Rupani had the backing of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and this would make the coming days 'chaotic as well as interesting," the publication said.

"Replacing Rupani with Patel was a facile act. The BJP is convinced that it would face a backlash due to unemployment, closure of major factories, including carmaker Ford's plant near Ahmedabad," it said.

Gujarat's healthcare system "collapsed" during the second wave of Covid-19 and people are extremely angry over it, the editorial claimed, adding the closure of Ford plant has led to around 40,000 people losing their livelihood.

# OBC quota in Maha local bodies: Thane BJP to hold protest

**Thane:** The Thane unit of the BJP said it would hold taluka-level protests on Wednesday against the Maharashtra Government's 'failure' to protect OBC quota in local bodies.

The OBC quota was struck down by the Supreme Court, which had said reservation could not exceed 50 per cent of the total seats in local bodies.

Addressing a press conference here, Thane BJP chief and MLC Niranjan Davkhare and local MLA Sanjay Kelkar said the Uddhav Thackeray government's lack of efforts led to the legal setback.

The two leaders said the BJP wanted the MVA government to collect empirical data on Other Backward Classes as soon as possible and take every step to restore the quota.

# Kannada organisations stage protests

**Bengaluru:** In protest against the "imposition of Hindi", Kannada organisations on Tuesday held a twitter campaign and picketing in front of banks in several parts of Karnataka, on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.

The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) has organised a Twitter campaign with hashtag "#StopHindiImposition" from 10 am to 10 pm on Tuesday, while its activists staged picketing in front of banks in different parts of the State. KRV has tweeted pictures of its activists staging picketing in Sedam, Chincholi, Ron, Hungund, Hiriyur, Pandavapura, Bengaluru, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Chikkaballapura, Thirthahalli, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Kolar, Mandya and



Kannada activists raise slogans and burn a poster during a protest on 'Hindi Divas' alleging that the Government is forcibly imposing Hindi language in Bengaluru on Tuesday

PTI

Dharwad, among several other places. They submitted a petition to managers of the banks

urging them to stop alleged Hindi imposition and to provide services in Kannada. According

to Arun Javgal, state organisation secretary of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV), the intention behind conducting protests in front of nationalised banks is also to raise awareness among the masses and thereby tell the people of Karnataka about the way, "Hindi Imposition" has snatched thousands of jobs from Kannadigas in Banks operating in the State.

"Using the Taxpayers money from across the country and yet, giving undue importance only to Hindi in a multi-lingual country like India is something KRV opposes vehemently," he said in a tweet. KRV state President ?Narayana Gowdr T A termed Hindi Diwas celebrations as "anti-democratic and immoral".

# Minor detained for raping 5-year-old neighbour in Maha

**Palghar:** The police have detained a minor boy for allegedly raping his five-year-old neighbour in Boisar of Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Tuesday.

A case has been registered against the 12-year-old accused under relevant provisions of the IPC and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the official said. According to the police, the accused allegedly took the girl to the terrace of the residential building where they lived and raped her.

The girl, who sustained injuries to in her private parts, told to her



parents about the assault, following which a complaint was lodged with the police. While the victim is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital, the accused minor was detained and sent to a remand home, the official said, adding that the families of both children hail from Bihar.

PTI

# Pune food delivery agent molests woman; offence registered

**Pune:** An offence has been registered against an unidentified food delivery agent for allegedly molesting a woman while riding past her in Pimpri Chinchwad area of Maharashtra's Pune, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place in Wakad area of Pimpri Chinchwad late on Sunday night, an official said. According to the police, the woman runs a small eatery in the area with her husband.

"The complainant was on her way home after closing the eatery with her husband and son around 11.45 pm, when a food delivery man came on a motorcycle from behind and allegedly passed a remark and touched her inappropriately, outraging her modesty," an official from Wakad police station.

A case has been registered against the unidentified accused under relevant sections of the IPC, he said.

The police are examining the CCTV footage from the area to ascertain the identity of the accused, he added.

PTI

# Owaisi upset over hints that he likes the Taliban

**Patna:** AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday took umbrage over "suspicious" that he had a soft corner for the Taliban and dared the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre to declare the militant group a "terrorist organisation".

Addressing a Press conference here, the firebrand Hyderabad MP also demanded that the Government, given the fact that India currently headed the UN committee on sanctions, give an assurance that none of the Taliban leaders will be delisted from the list of terrorists. "Why do you raise suspicions (shaq) over me with regard to Taliban? Was it

Asaduddin Owaisi who had handed over jailed terrorists to secure the release of passengers of the hijacked plane in Kandahar", said Owaisi in response to questions about some BJP leaders having dubbed him as a man of "Talibani soch (mindset)".

Owaisi said he has made his stance clear about the Taliban on the floor of Parliament but his words of caution were not heeded.

"During the debate on CAA, I had requested the government to consider making the Act religion-neutral, warning them of a possible takeover by the Taliban. But for that strategic blunder, we would

have been in a position to grant safe asylum to Tajiks, Uzbeks, and members of other minority tribes", said Owaisi.

He also said that the Taliban takeover would "strengthen Pakistan and China" while giving India a lot to worry about which was regrettable since India had invested a lot in Afghanistan. "The country had spent Rs 35,000 crore in Afghanistan. Thousands of its youngsters have been provided education on our soil. We had so much at stake in that rugged country which lies en route to the Chabahar port in Iran we were developing", Owaisi lamented.

PTI

# Day after appearing for NEET, TN girl commits suicide

**Jayamkondam (TN):** A day after she appeared for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, a 17-year-old girl died by suicide at a village near here, police said on Tuesday.

The girl, Kanimozhi, took the extreme step when her parents were away on Monday night and they returned home to find her hanging, a police official here said.

Daughter of a lawyer, Kanimozhi is the 16th medical aspirant from Tamil Nadu to end her life fearing outcome of the test, coupled with dejection that their dream to pursue medical education may not fructify.

She appeared for the national test on Sunday and had told her parents that some questions were tough and that she was concerned about the outcome, he said adding "investigation is still on."

Another official told PTI that police received information early today and the body was sent for post-mortem to a Government hospital and later handed over to the family.

PTI



Crowded Sindhi Camp bus stand with candidates for Rajasthan Public Service Commission SI exam 2021, in Jaipur on Tuesday

PTI





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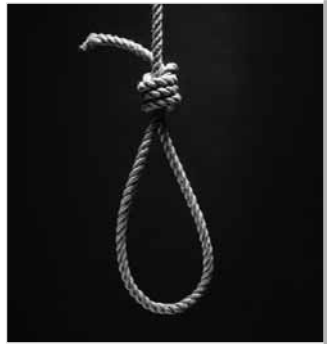
PAPER WITH PASSION

## Humane touch

The SC correctly favours suicide by COVID-19 patients to be treated as medical deaths

Continuing to keep a watchful eye on the rehabilitation of those devastated by COVID-19, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to consider suicides by COVID-19 patients as COVID-19 deaths so that their families can get compensation. Only extreme suffering from the infection could have led to the patients dying by suicide, the court reasoned. The Bench of Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna made the remarks while examining the Centre's guidelines for issuing COVID-19 death certificates and payment of compensation. The guidelines do not consider deaths due to poisoning, suicide, murder and accident as COVID-19 deaths even if the infection was an accompanying condition. The court was satisfied when the Government said it would re-examine the matter. The court's proposal is certainly a humane gesture but both the Government and the judiciary should first consider the issue in its totality because of the implications involved. To

cut to the chase, any suicide is the result of the victim being forced into taking the step due to extremely frustrating and depressing circumstances. The suicide leaves the family members without a bread winner if the victim was the only person employed and, in dire straits, if they were poor and disadvantaged. Technically speaking, it will be a challenge for the Government to prove that the suicide of a COVID-19 positive patient was owing to the infection and not any other reason. Secondly, several frustrating and compelling factors, as dangerous as COVID-19, force people to commit suicide.



Any Government policy to compensate only families of COVID-19 positive patients committing suicide may be seen to be discriminating against suicides for other, equally terrible reasons. Thirdly, the Government and the courts will need to sensitise the people who continue to think that suicide is merely a crime and which colours their attitude towards the victims. Suicide is a crime under the archaic Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code. The section was not repealed even though its scope was reduced by the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, that said anyone who attempts suicide is presumed "to have severe stress and shall not be tried and punished" and calls on the Government to "provide care, treatment and rehabilitation" of the person in order "to reduce the risk of recurrence" of such an attempt. The humanitarian aspect of the law needs to be popularised to blunt indifference to circumstances that lead to suicides and encourage rehabilitation of survivors or families of victims. Thousands of farmers commit suicide in India because of bankruptcy, indebtedness and crop failure. There is a compensation plan in place for them though farmers who do not hold title to their land, like women farmers in most cases, are not yet eligible for compensation. A rational approach to the matter is perhaps hidden in the question of whether a healthy farmer who committed suicide because he became indebted after failing to save his crop during the COVID-19 lockdown would be eligible for compensation as well.

### PICTALK



A man on a rickshaw wades through a waterlogged street during heavy rain in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI

## Quad unity

Biden's 'shift of focus to China' must show at the Quad Summit if he means business at all

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) was formed with an aim to contain China's growing influence in Asia and ensure territorial integrity in the Indo-Pacific region. After US President Joe Biden quit the unresolved Afghan war in order to "shift focus to China", the dialogue becomes way more important to him than ever. Hence, he is all set to host the first ever in-person Quad Summit at the White House in Washington on



September 24 which shall be attended by the leaders of all four member countries — the US, India, Japan and Australia. The dialogue shall focus on areas such as combating COVID-19, addressing the climate crisis, partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace, and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. Biden has received multiple setbacks because of his soft stance lately, and this Summit could actually help rescue his lost relevance. A virtual meeting of the Quad leaders was also held in March this year, and the members pledged to work closely on COVID-19 vaccines and ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific. Quad is, by

all means, the need of the hour for the US, the Quad and the Asean countries, and it is high time that Biden realises what Trump had learned back in 2017. Trump helped revitalise Quad and had called Nato "obsolete" because of its little relevance now. At the inaugural two-plus-two ministerial dialogue with Australia held on Saturday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that Nato was a "cold war term" while Quad looks to the future. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's primary objective was to deal with the USSR and its main constituent Russia, which is economically in a battered state today, while China is economically as well as militarily the toughest rival. On the other side, Beijing's aggressive behaviour towards Taiwan and other surrounding countries and its dominance in international waters is a grave concern. The Taiwan issue is likely to be on the agenda, and it should be. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian lashed out at the upcoming Quad Summit and said, "The relevant countries should abandon the obsolete Cold War mentality and narrow-minded geopolitical rivalry and view correctly and respect people's aspiration in the region." Biden needs to show that he means business. The rising instances of global terror after the developments in Afghanistan and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific must be discussed by the leaders.

# Joe Biden slips with his soldiers

The POTUS, who managed five draft deferments from going to Vietnam, is again found wanting in his treatment of the US soldier in Afghanistan



BHOPINDER SINGH

Joe Biden is the 46th President of the United States, but not one of the 29 who served in the military, in some capacity. He had managed five draft deferments from going to Vietnam and equivocated on the Vietnam War *per se*, whilst politically opposing Richard Nixon's conduct of war. This flip-flop of positions was visible in Biden asserting that he was against authorising the Iraq War in 2002 as he was supposedly "against it from the moment it started", whilst contradicting himself with his vote for the Authorisation for Use of Military Force (AUMF) for the invasion, as the Chair of the Senate Relations Committee. Later, a chance duel against a decidedly racist, sexist and xenophobic Donald Trump (who clownishly and dangerously sought to usurp the imagery of the US military) ensured that Biden was sworn in as POTUS and, therefore, Commander-in-Chief of its Armed Forces. Clearly for many Veterans who traditionally supported the more rightwing Republican Party, Biden was the better of the two bad choices.

For a persistently combat-engaged nation with approximately 19 million Veterans as per the Department of Veteran Affairs, representing nearly 10 per cent of the total US adult population — the opinion of the 'Uninformed' fraternity matters. Biden frequently invoked the memory of his late son in his presidential campaign, Beau Biden, who served and rose to the rank of Major in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Beau tenanted Iraq from 2008 to 2009 and received a Bronze Star for his services. Biden's "sacred obligation" campaign towards military families entreated that sentiment, "As parents of a service member who was deployed to Iraq, Vice-President Joe Biden and (Dr) Jill Biden understand that it's not just military members who sign up to serve our nation, their families do too." Meanwhile the ham-handed approach of Trump, including upsetting the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, as also respected Veterans like Generals James Mattis and HR McMaster, swung the mood in favour of Biden — aided immeasurably by Trump's



guffaws and derelictions.

Today, over eight months as the POTUS, Biden has taken one substantial decision in the militaristic realm, ie, withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and his consequential approval ratings have plummeted. While ending the 20-year war in Afghanistan was much sought after, the unheroically defeated and hurried manner (with the casualty from the ISIL-K attack) in which they withdrew has diminished the image and perceptions of the US military, externally and internally. Comparisons of a Vietnam redux are inevitable and odious, and it is only the Veteran who will pay that ignominious price and humiliation over time. Despair is magnified by the unfiltered reality of having amateurly underestimated the speed of collapse, the obvious lack of an operational plan and the embarrassment of having to take permission from the 'enemy', ie, Taliban, to 'evict safely'. Unlike the militarily uninitiated and unconcerned politicians, the US soldier will suffer the additional and unimaginable moral injury in the know of what it has left behind in terms of allies (interpreters, drivers and support staff), and the sure fate that awaits them. The chaotic and mismanaged departure has left the uni-

“WHILE ENDING THE 20-YEAR WAR IN AFGHANISTAN WAS MUCH SOUGHT AFTER, THE UNHEROICALLY DEFEATED AND HURRIED MANNER IN WHICH THEY WITHDREW HAS DIMINISHED THE IMAGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE US MILITARY

formed fraternity pained, frustrated and shamed, and the blame is coming understandably on the POTUS.

Seemingly, Biden cannot seem to get much right with the 'uninformed' sentiments as he was seen disrespectfully checking his watch as casket after casket appeared during the somber "dignified transfer" ceremony for the 13 fallen US troops who were killed at the Kabul airport.

Many also commented on the inappropriateness of the President repeatedly invoking his late son's name, instead of that of those who had actually fallen under his watch. Many family members of the fallen soldiers refused to meet the President, while some others who did so, did some plain-speaking to his face. The mother of one called Biden "a dementia-ridden piece of crap who doesn't even know he's in the White House". Importantly, it is not a partisan divide as many of these families have equally slammed Donald Trump's ill-timed opportunism in politicising the soldiers' deaths, with many calling it "without honour", "disgusting" and "gross".

Trump with his patent cat-tiness has sought to spin grieving families predatorially into dangerous territory — insincere and qualified as his support always is, only to those

who back him politically, and smearing those who don't, like the Gold Star family of Captain Humayun Khan. The political tooling of the military is increasingly irresistible in democracies across the world with unwarranted usurpation of the narrative, parading and milking of raw emotions towards electoral harvest — even mature democracies like the US are prone to it.

In an unavoidably comparative sense, most Veterans know that the Commander-in-Chief requires selfless devotion to constitutionality, restraint, depth of character and principled leadership — and, therefore, they may still back Biden over Trump, but the recent handling of Afghanistan has led to the rightful questioning of Biden beyond partisanship. In the world of professional 'uniform', winning a "just war" is important and, if not that, then going down fighting with valour and dignity is the only other option — in Afghanistan, neither of the two was achieved, and the slip is clearly showing for Biden amongst the fraternity. He must be put to question, beyond partisan preferences.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BOOK LAUNCH PROVED COSTLY

Sir — During a pandemic, a certain amount of restraint is expected of everyone. Indian cricket team coach Ravi Shastri, along with the batting coach, fielding coach and physio contracted Coronavirus in England when the team was in the midst of a Test series and on the cusp of creating history. Shastri's book — *Stargazing: The Players in My Life* — has been hitting the headlines with its extracts being published in the media. But was it so important to release a book at a function where outsiders were allowed, and most of them did not adhere to personal protection, is the moot question?

It is said that no prior permission was sought from the BCCI by Shastri. The entire Indian team, too, was present at the book release in London on August 31, two days before the fifth Test at Manchester. The hugely anticipated fifth Test was called off. Obviously, Shastri knows he is not answerable to anybody, let alone the board. After all this, the Indian team's image has taken a beating. This comes at a time when the team seemed to have hit a purple patch.

Ganapathi Bhat | Nagpur

### UNREASONABLY NEET

Sir — The Tamil Nadu Government has passed the Anti-NEET Bill, 2021, in the Assembly to ban NEET exams in the State. The decision to pass the Bill was taken in the wake of the suicide by death of a medical aspirant. With the passing of the Bill, students would get admission to UG medical degree courses based on the qualifying HSC or class 12 marks. TN has been in strong opposition to NEET since its recommendation in 2013. The TN Government's move to ban the exam raises questions about its suitability for admission to medical courses.

Strong arguments have been put forward against the need of conducting the exam. NEET is an assault on the autonomy of private, unaided institutions. It is an example of over-centralisation of education and violates the rights of

## 'Oscar Anna' bids final adieu



With the passing away of Oscar Fernandes, the nation has lost a highly respected politician, a veteran parliamentarian and a Congress stalwart who made significant contributions to Indian politics over the last few decades. Fernandes became a close confidant of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi after the demise of Rajiv Gandhi and remained a disciplined party man throughout his political life. The veteran leader was a five-term member of the Lok Sabha and four served

four terms in the Rajya Sabha. From being a municipal councillor in the early days to serving as Union Minister from 2004 to 2009, holding a number of portfolios such as Statistics and Programme Implementation, NRI Affairs, Youth and Sports Affairs and Labour and Employment, he climbed up in the Congress hierarchy. After the late Ananth Kumar, if a leader from Karnataka could make a name in Delhi, it was Oscar Fernandes. He was a multi-talented personality with varied interests, he was a yoga enthusiast since childhood who had a penchant for playing mouth organ, harmonium, keyboard and *tabla*. People in all coastal districts of Karnataka had always seen him with great esteem and addressed him as 'Oscar Anna'. He has left an indelible mark in Indian politics and will be fondly remembered for his contribution. When such committed politicians depart, national polity becomes poorer. Rest in peace, Oscar Anna.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

unaided, private and minority institutions. As most of the institutions are in cities and the fees are very high, poor students from rural areas face disadvantage. Considering all these facts, it is of great importance to arrive at a decision whether the imposition of NEET is fair. If all State Governments conduct admission to medical courses in fair and transparent ways, the imposition of NEET would be unreasonable.

Venu GS | Kollam

### INUNDATED BY HEAVY RAINS

Sir — The schools in Odisha are closed for two days amid downpour; there is record rainfall in Puri and Bhubaneswar. The Odisha Government has shut down schools in 12 districts for two days as rain continues to lash the State for the third day due to a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal. The deep depression after crossing the coast has moved west-northwest and is now lying as a depres-

sion over north coastal parts of Odisha and adjoining BoB. The system will continue to move west-northwest towards Chhattisgarh in the next 24 hours and over southern parts of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Maharashtra in the subsequent 24 hours.

Heavy rainfall is expected during this period over these States till September 15. Slight breather is foreseen between September 16 and 19 as of now. The rainfall deficiency for Odisha will drop back to normal range from a whopping 30 per cent or even more till August. Some of the districts will possibly shift to surplus for the season. Heavy rainfall over the State will continue for 24 hours and reduce thereafter. It is indeed good news but the damage caused by rains has given the State Government sleepless nights.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

## SOUND BITE

The ED interrogated Abhishek Banerjee for nine hours. We cannot be threatened. We are not the Congress or Akhilesh Yadav or Sharad Pawar.



West Bengal CM

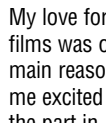
— Mamata Banerjee



The people of Afghanistan need a lifeline. After decades of war, suffering and insecurity, they face perhaps their most perilous hour.

UN Secretary-General

— Antonio Guterres



My love for horror films was one of the main reasons that got me excited to play the part in *Bhoot Police*, where I get 'possessed'.

Actor

— Yami Gautam



India did not respect this series and they did not respect Test cricket either in flouting COVID guidelines ahead of the fourth Test.

Former England cricketer

— Paul Newman

By making Telangana Dalit Bandhu scheme a success, we will become the ones who laid new tracks for the development of Dalits.



Telangana Chief Minister

— K Chandrasekhar Rao

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



## FIRST COLUMN SUPER-SPREADERS OF EDUCATION, NOT VIRUS

Life seems to be otherwise going normal but educational institutions still face restrictions



BRIJENDER SINGH **PANWAR**

States are still dilly dallying on opening educational institutions in the country. Non-vaccination of students or vaccine unavailability for children are the given reasons. Institutions are, therefore, seen as "super spreaders". And there is fear of the third wave of COVID-19. Yet, life seems to be otherwise normal all around us. Political parties are holding rallies, farmers are organizing protests, election commission is holding elections, market places and malls are open, recreational activities are going on full-swing. There is no restriction on domestic air and surface travel. Then why restrictions only for students and educational institutions? Across the world, India is among five countries where educational institutions have remained closed for long. Millions of students are deprived of active learning at pre-school level and break in education for older students. States are registering a high dropout of students from the school system, especially girl students. They may never get an opportunity to go back to school again. The gains made through enrollment of



through Right to Education may be lost. A group of 56 renowned academicians, doctors including epidemiologists and other experts have urged state chief minister to reopen schools and colleges. The signatories include Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, epidemiologist and public health expert, Professor Suneela Garg of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission, Dr Naveen Thacker of the International Paediatric Association, and Shaneen Mistri, Teach For India CEO Shaheen Mistri. The letter says, "There is an urgent need to bring children back to school. Since younger children are least at risk, we urge you to permit primary schools to open first, in line with Indian Council of medical Research (ICMR) recommendations, and then higher classes. Vaccination is not a prerequisite for reopening schools."

The purpose of vaccination is to prevent severe illness and death, and children are at relatively low risk of severe or fatal COVID-19. It is well known that the lack of education for students, particularly girls, affects the health and livelihood of next generation. These are extreme costs. Government and task forces must strike a balance of risks and such balance is overwhelmingly in favour of opening schools. NK Arora, senior member of the National COVID-19 task force said in a recent interview, "There are 44 crore children in India, out of which 12 crore are in the 12-17 age group... Based on Indian and global data, the risk of severe disease and death are rare in children. However, children can spread infection. Adults have almost 15 times higher risk of death and severe disease compared with children below 18 years. So, if adults around them at home or at school are vaccinated, it will form a protective ring around them. There will be limited virus and disease transmission in that condition. I strongly feel that parents should send their kids to school without waiting for Covid-19 vaccine for two reasons; one, their risk of developing a severe disease is rare; second going to school is important for their cognitive, physical and mental development." The Ministry of Home Affairs says the pandemic situation is stable. Experts justify arguing that if earlier prediction of India witnessing a rise of four-five lakh cases daily in a third wave was true, it would have happened by now. But it has not happened. On the contrary, our big cities are witnessing normal life with no substantial increase in cases, the reason being that on an average, over 67 per cent of our population have antibodies against the virus and the pace of vaccination is increasing every passing day. That is a good enough reason to consider reopening schools even if in a phased manner.

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

# Caste in UP polls: A case of Brahmins

Reported persecution of Brahmins is believed to be the new mantra of UP politics with all major parties out to woo this small but influential section



BISWAJEET **BANERJEE**

Political parties, gearing up for the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, are looking for new political strategies that could bring them back to power. Caste and religion are the two basic fundamentals on which this election would be contested and the parties are planning their strategies around these planks. In this melee, the biggest casualty is development as no political party is talking about it. "Sadak, pani, bijli" is no longer an issue for them, but caste and religion are.

Just a few months back the opposition parties were tearing apart the Yogi Government for its failure to prevent deaths of people in the second wave of COVID-19. Then there were issues of poor law and order and lack of governance which the opposition claimed will prove detrimental for the ruling BJP. We were expecting protests across the state, almost every day, highlighting people's issues. We were expecting the opposition would come up with a vision and project itself as an alternative to the BJP; nothing of that sort has happened so far.

For the last one month, dengue and viral fever have been raging in western Uttar Pradesh where over 100 children have died so far. Senior leaders have criticized the government by issuing statements through tweets but none of the top opposition leaders has visited the affected region. Opposition leaders of substance merely shared their agonies through press notes.

The shades of what we can expect in the elections have started emanating when Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed that it will start its Tiranga Yatra after "darshan of Ram Lalla" in Ayodhya. Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav has started hopping from one temple to another while in an attempt to invigorate Muslims, Asaduddin Owaisi, President of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), has raised the issue of the razing of a mosque in Barabanki. He even targeted the Samajwadi Party saying why it did not protest.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, on the other hand, is silently working on its Hindutva agenda. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has declared a 10 sq. km.-area around the Krishna Janmashtami around Mathura-Vrindavan as pilgrimage area thus prohibiting sale of liquor and meat in 22 wards of Mathura city. The Deepotsava in Ayodhya would be a grand affair this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend the program when the government will attempt to break the Guinness record by lighting over seven lakh diyas.

Then there is caste which is the fulcrum of elections in Uttar Pradesh since the Mandal days. The emergence of smaller caste parties that have influence in small pockets has changed poll dynamics. The big parties are too eager to align with them realizing that all small gains can catapult them into power. This is evident



WHY ARE THE  
POLITICAL  
PARTIES GIVING  
SO MUCH  
ATTENTION TO  
THIS VOTE BANK  
IN UP? FIRST,  
THE BRAHMIN  
MAKE UP  
A SIGNIFICANT  
SIZE OF THE  
ELECTORATE,  
AND, SECONDLY,  
THEIR STRONG  
SOCIO-POLITICAL  
HISTORY HELPS  
IN INFLUENCING  
OPINION DURING  
ELECTIONS.  
THIRDLY, THOUGH  
BRAHMIN  
LARGELY REMAIN  
WITH THE BJP,  
THEY DO NOT  
HESITATE TO  
SWITCH SIDES

*(The writer is Political Editor, Lucknow edition of The Pioneer.)*



the way Bharatiya Janata Party is trying to woo Apna Dal, a Kurmi based party and Nishad party, that has influence among Nishads - the boating community.

Akhilesh Yadav too has shown his willingness to align with smaller parties as he has publicly claimed that Samajwadi Party will not forge an alliance with big parties but his party's doors are always open for smaller parties. He has already declared an alliance with Mahan Dal and is also in touch with Om Prakash Rajbhar, an OBC leader whose Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, is an alliance with AIMIM but he is looking for greener pasture.

Castes like Sahus, Kashyaps, Sainis, Kushwahs, Mauriyas, Shakyas, Pals, Dhangars, Gaderiyas, Kumhars, Nishads, and Mallas are much in "demand". The BJP in 2017 had also expanded its reach among Other Backward Castes (OBCs), by allying with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and the Nishad Party in 2019. The SBSP, however, broke off ties after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections despite Rajbhar being made a cabinet minister in the Yogi Government and his son and other supporters given chairmanships of state-run corporations.

On the other hand, Samajwadi Party is focussing on Kurmis, Mauriyas, Sainis, Sahus, Kashyaps, and other such. There is a feeling in Samajwadi Party that it might give more tickets to non-Yadav OBCs in the coming elections.

The search for caste alliance is not limited to backward or Other Backward Caste (OBC) only even the upper caste, particularly Brahmins are now much in demand. Persecution of Brahmins is believed to be the new mantra of UP politics as Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party have declared that if their parties return to power, they will order a probe into the atrocities being committed against Brahmins during the Yogi Raj.

At the concluding session of the BSP's Prabudh Sammelan, Mayawati declared that if she was voted to power, a Commission would be set up to enquire into atrocities and injustice done to Brahmins by the BJP government. She even claimed that injustice was also done during Akhilesh Yadav's regime and her party will work to restore the "samman" of the Brahmins.

Remember, this is the same Mayawati whose party had coined the slogan "Tilak tarazu aur talwar, inkomaarojutteychaar" (Beat Brahmins, Vaishyas, and Thakurs with slippers). Such is her compulsion to appease Brahmins that she did not hesitate to go for identity politics when she accepted a trishul, conch shell, and a silver elephant, the election symbol of the party, as gifts during a Prabudh Sammelan from party leaders.

The Brahmins, who constitute around 10 percent of the vote share in Uttar Pradesh, have suddenly become very important in Uttar Pradesh. Not only opposition,

even the ruling BJP has started looking for Brahmin icons to appease this politically important community. This was probably the first time when a ruling party celebrated the birth anniversary of Govind Ballabh Pant, a Chief Minister of an opposition party. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself laid a wreath on the statue of the former Chief Minister.

Why are the political parties giving so much attention to this vote bank in UP? First, the Brahmins make up a significant size of the electorate, and secondly, their strong socio-political history helps in influencing opinions during elections. Thirdly, though Brahmins largely remain with BJP, they do not hesitate to switch sides.

The Brahmins can influence 104 assembly seats out of 403 seats. According to the Lokniti-CSDS survey data, more than half of the Brahmin electorate always voted for the BJP till 2004. However, the community's support for the BJP fell below 40 percent in the 2007 assembly elections when Mayawati's BSP won the majority. It stated that way till equations changed in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections when the BJP got almost 72 percent of the Brahmin votes. The trend was repeated in the 2017 assembly and the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when the party got 80 percent and 82 percent of Brahmin votes, respectively. After these three elections, Brahmin votes are to the BJP what Yadav votes are for the SP and Jatav votes are for the BSP.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WITH THE BLESSINGS OF SHRI RAMCHANDRA JI,  
WE WILL RAISE THE TRICOLOUR AND  
TEACH REAL NATIONALISM.  
— DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER  
MANISH SISODIA



THERE ARE LEADERS WHO EARLIER SPOKE  
AGAINST THE RAM TEMPLE AND ARE NOW SEEKING  
REFUGE IN THE LORD.  
— UP DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER  
KESHAV MAURYA

# Birthday bashes and the personality cult of leaders

Narendra Modi is aware of how important image-building is for a politician

Who does not want a birthday bash, particularly politicians? It has been in vogue for many years, particularly among the famous and populist leaders. There are dedicated birthday functions for Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, and so on.

It is normal practice for supporters to greet their leaders with flowers and cakes. The bigger the cake they get, the better the leader is pleased with his courtiers. RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav celebrates his birthday with secular cakes. On his 55th birthday, the cake was shaped like a church, masjid, and temple. Late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha once cut a cake in the shape of parliament, reveal-



KALYANI **SHANKAR**

*(The writer is a retired Indian Railways professional and consultant. The views expressed are personal.)*

ing her ambition for a national role.

Mayawati uses her birthday for crowdfunding and gets enormous amounts for her party on January 16. Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav was presented an 81-kilo "laddoo" when he turned 80 in November 2019. On Narendra Modi's birthday in 2019, a Surat bakery baked a 700-foot-long cake. In Delhi, BJP MPs cut a 370 kg cake to celebrate the revocation of Article 370.

The BJP too has found novel ways of celebrating birthday events. For instance, the silver jubilee function of the party held in Mumbai in 2005 had BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee emerging from a vast lotus built for the occasion at the Shivaji stadium.



The BJP plans to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday as a mega event. A flurry of events is scheduled from September 17 (his birthday) till October 7 (when he became Gujarat Chief Minister 20 years ago). Last year, there were no grand birthday celebrations when Modi turned 70 because of the pandemic.

In the past, his birthday was marked as "Seva Saptah".

The drive this year has been widened as "Seva our Samarpan Abhiyan" in tribute to his service and dedication. This period will also include the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2) and Deen Dayal Upadhyay (September 25).

The campaign will focus on how Modi had handled the aftermath of the Bhuj earthquake and how he managed to create brands such as the Gujarat Model and Vibrant Gujarat. Five crore 'Thank You Modiji' postcards will be mailed directly to him as a token of gratitude. Fourteen ration bags with Modi's picture will be distributed. Videos and documentaries will be shown projecting Modi as the messiah of the poor.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over. Then why these gala functions?

Internationally, Modi has much to be pleased about. Morning Consult, a US research firm has recently given Modi the highest approval rating of 70 per cent among global leaders. He led the chart that tracked 12 other leaders. Japan's Yoshihide Suga was at the bottom.

No doubt the opposition, which is looking for an issue, has criticised this mega programme when people still suffer from Covid-19. They point out that mishandling the pandemic is one of the significant failures of the Modi government, particularly the second wave, which took everyone unawares. The econ-

omy is down, and there is massive unemployment, inflation and price rise. So, what is there to rejoice, they ask.

Modi is aware of how important image-building is for a politician. Elections are scheduled in half a dozen states, including UP, early next year. The party's election machinery has already been activated. The birthday celebrations will give a boost to the party cadres and prepare them to face the elections.

Further, they are intended to make Modi a cult figure, through BJP's parent organisation, RSS, is against such culture. Many regional leaders practice personality cults, including Mamata Banerjee, Mayawati, Kejriwal, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and others who have their own fiefdoms.

These little tinpot dictators coexist in a democracy with their personality cults, which is indeed a paradox.

Modi is presently in the mid-term of his second stint. Despite fulfilling most of the RSS-BJP core agenda like revoking Article 370 and building of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, Covid-19 has unexpectedly ruined the BJP's plans for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. His courtiers argue what is wrong with using the birthday as an occasion to project Modi as pro-poor. They contend that one should not grudge Modi his birthday bashes. After all, it is now clear that Modi is BJP and BJP is Modi and damage to one will damage the other. Birthday bashes are indeed a show of strength.

# Donors pledge \$1.2 bn for helping Afghans

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA

The international community has announced over \$1.2 billion in aid for the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis, with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres underlining the importance to engage with the Taliban to ensure continued humanitarian assistance in the country and address other concerns including terrorism, human rights and the nature of the Government.

The United Nations on Monday convened a high-level ministerial event in Geneva on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan to highlight the acute needs in the country and underscore the urgent funding support and actions required by international partners to support the people of Afghanistan.

UN agencies and non-governmental partners launched a flash appeal seeking \$606 million for the remainder of the year to bring vital relief to 11 million people in the war-torn nation.

In his closing remarks to



the meeting, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said more than \$1.2 billion in humanitarian and development aid has been announced by “very generous member States” for the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis. This includes funding for the flash appeal as well as for the regional response.

“This conference has fully met my expectations in relation

to the solidarity with the people of Afghanistan,” Guterres said at a Press conference.

“Considering the flash appeal, considering the support to neighbouring countries and other programmes that several countries mentioned, today we already heard clearly more than \$1 billion of pledges. It is impossible, as I said, to say how much of these will be for the flash appeal; but in any case, it represents a quantum leap in relation to the financial commitment of the international community towards the Afghan people,” he said.

The UN chief emphasised that “it is impossible to provide” humanitarian assistance inside Afghanistan “without engaging with the de facto authorities of the country.”

“It is very important to engage with the Taliban at the present moment for all aspects that concern the international community, be it about terrorism, be it about human rights, be it about drugs, be it about the nature of the Government, our attitude is to engage,” he said.

# FM says Taliban Govt won’t allow attacks on others

AP ■ KABUL

The Foreign Minister in Afghanistan’s new Taliban-run Cabinet on Tuesday said the Government remains committed to its promises not to allow militants to use its territory to attack others.

The first Press conference by Amir Khan Muttaqi since the Taliban formed an interim Government a week ago comes as governments around the world — and many Afghans at home — are searching for indications on how it will rule Afghanistan after sweeping out the US-backed Government and taking over Kabul a month ago.

The US and its allies have pushed the Taliban not to repeat its harsh rule of the 1990s, when it monopolised power and imposed its harsh interpretation of Islamic law, including severe restrictions on women and minorities.

Mottaqi gave little sign whether the Taliban will bend to the international pressure. He would not give say how long the



Foreign Minister in Afghanistan's new Taliban-run Cabinet, Amir Khan Muttaqi AP

interim Government would be in place or whether it would eventually be opened up to other factions, minorities or women.

He repeatedly insisted other countries must not interfere in Afghanistan’s internal issues, including in response to a question on whether elections would eventually be held.

Mottaqi, a longtime Taliban negotiator, did make the first confirmation by a member of the new Government of its commitment to the Taliban deal last year with the United States that opened the way for the American withdrawal from Afghanistan.

# China slams upcoming Quad summit

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday hit out at the upcoming first-ever Quad summit to be hosted by US President Joe Biden, saying the formation of “exclusive cliques” targeting other countries runs counter to the trend of the times and is “doomed to fail”.

President Biden would host the first in-person Quad summit on September 24 in Washington which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia and Japanese premier Yoshihide Suga.

Asked for his comment on the upcoming Quad summit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that cooperation between the countries should not target third parties.

“It is China’s consistent belief that any regional cooperation mechanism should follow the trend of peace and development, and help pro-

mote mutual trust and cooperation among regional countries rather than target a third party or undermine its interests,” Zhao said.

“Forming closed and exclusive ‘cliques’ targeting other countries runs counter to the trend of the times and deviates from the expectation of regional countries. It thus wins no support and is doomed to fail,” he said. China is not only a major engine of economic growth in the Asia-Pacific, but also a staunch defender of regional peace and stability, he said.

“China’s development is a force for world peace and a boon for regional prosperity and development. Relevant countries should discard the outdated zero-sum mentality and narrow-minded geopolitical perception,

view China’s development correctly and respect people’s aspiration in the region and do more that is conducive to solidarity and cooperation of regional countries,” he said.

# Qatar won’t take responsibility for Kabul airport without clear Taliban agreement

AFP ■ DOHA

Qatar warned Tuesday it would not take responsibility for Kabul airport without “clear” agreements with all involved, including the Taliban, about its operations.

Doha has become a key broker in Afghanistan following last month’s withdrawal of US forces, helping evacuate thousands of foreigners and Afghans, engaging the new Taliban rulers and supporting operations at Kabul airport.

“We need to make sure that everything is addressed very clearly otherwise... we are not able to take any responsibility

of the airport (if) all these things are not addressed,” Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said at a press briefing.

“Right now the status is still (under) negotiation.”

Since the US pullout, Qatar Airways planes have made several trips to Kabul, flying in aid and Doha’s representatives and ferrying out foreign passport holders.

The two-decade US intervention in Afghanistan ended with the hurried airlift of more than 120,000 people from Kabul as the Taliban returned to power.

# Modi, Biden to address UNGA in person next week

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden will address the UN General Debate in-person next week, as over 100 heads of state and Government arrive in New York to attend the annual high-level General Assembly session, which had gone virtual in 2020 due to the Covid-19.

Modi will address world leaders from the iconic UN General Assembly hall on the morning of September 25, a day after he participates in the Quad Leaders’ Summit in Washington DC hosted by Biden on September 24.

Modi, Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga will participate in the Leaders’ Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework in

Washington and “review progress made since their first virtual Summit on 12 March 2021 and discuss regional issues of shared interest,” the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Modi will address the General Debate of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 25. “The theme for this year’s General Debate is ‘Building Resilience through hope to recover from Covid-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations,’” the MEA statement said.

As per the second provisional list of speakers for the General Assembly, about 109 heads of state and government will address the General Debate in person.

# India voices disappointment over ‘unwarranted remarks’ by UN human rights chief on J&K

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA

India on Tuesday expressed disappointment over “unwarranted remarks” made by the UN human rights chief on Jammu & Kashmir, saying her comments do not reflect the ground reality and any shortcomings in upholding human rights must be addressed in an impartial manner and anchored in non-interference in a country’s internal affairs.

“We take note of references to India in the oral update by the High Commissioner and express our disappointment over her unwarranted remarks on the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, which do not reflect the ground reality,” Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Reenat Sandhu said on Tuesday while delivering India’s statement under the General Debate on Oral Update of the High Commissioner at the 48th

Session of the Human Rights Council. Sandhu said India’s approach to global promotion and protection of human rights is based on “our own experience as a pluralistic and inclusive society and vibrant democracy.”

She said India believes that promotion and protection of human rights are best pursued through dialogue, consultation among States and through provision of technical assistance and capacity building.

“Any shortcomings in upholding human rights must be addressed in a transparent and impartial manner, anchored in respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of States,” she said.

UN high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet on Monday described as “worrying” India’s use of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act as well as “frequent” temporary communication blackouts in J&K.

# Japan, America, South Korea urge North Korea to return to arms talks

AP ■ TOKYO

Senior diplomats from Japan, the United States and South Korea urged North Korea on Tuesday to return to talks over its missile and nuclear development, a day after it announced it successfully tested new long-range cruise missiles, indicating an advancement of its military capabilities.

The three-way meeting in Tokyo was attended by US Special Representative for North Korea Policy Sung Kim, South Korea’s Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Noh Kyu-duk and Japanese Director-General for Asian and Oceanian affairs Takehiro Funakoshi.

US Envoy Kim said the three countries were open to diplomacy with North Korea “to make tangible progress that increases the security of the United States and our allies.”

# GLOBE TROTTER

## PUTIN TO SELF-ISOLATE DUE TO COVID CASES

**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin is going into self-isolation because of coronavirus cases in his inner circle, the Kremlin said on Tuesday, adding that he tested negative for Covid.

## OPPOSED TO UNHRC INITIATIVES: LANKA

**Colombo:** Sri Lanka on Tuesday said that it is opposed to the UNHRC initiatives adopted through its latest resolution on the country’s human rights accountability, stressing that any such move will “polarise” the society. Foreign Minister GL Peiris made the comments during an oral submission at the on going 48th session of the UNHRC, which got underway in Geneva on Monday.

## HAITI OMBUDSMAN SEEKS PM RESIGNATION

**Port-Au-Prince:** Haiti’s Office of Citizen Protection posted a video on Monday demanding that Prime Minister Ariel Henry step down as authorities seek to interview him about telephone calls he allegedly had with a key suspect in the President’s assassination.

## EGYPT OPENS ANCIENT TOMB OF KING DJOSER

**Saqqara (Egypt):** Egypt on Tuesday showcased an ancient tomb structure belonging to the cemetery complex of King Djoser, a pharaoh who lived more than 4,500 years ago, following extensive restorations of the site. The structure - known as the Southern Tomb - is largely underground and includes a labyrinth of corridors, decorated with hieroglyphic carvings and tiles. A central funeral shaft houses a massive granite-clad sarcophagus from Egypt’s Third Dynasty.

## OZ PREDICTS RECORD FARM PRODUCTION

**Canberra:** Australia is forecast to reap record farm revenues this year despite pandemic challenges, a mouse plague and a trade dispute with China.

## DESPITE COVID, S AFRICA TO HOLD KEY LOCAL POLLS

**Johannesburg:** After uncertainty if Covid-19 would force South Africa to postpone local Government elections, the courts have ruled that the crucial polls should move ahead. Despite concerns about political rallies spreading the disease, South Africa’s courts ruled earlier this month that the Independent Electoral Commission should hold the polls on November 1. The elections may see erosion of support for the ruling party.

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03 MACHADOLI**  
**DISTT.-KORBA (C.G.)**  
**e-Procurement Tender Notice**  
**eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>**  
**(FIRST-CALL)**

**SYSTEM TENDER NO. 82043/ NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 01 /SAC/2021-22 DATED: 10-09-2021**

System Tender No.	Group No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
82043		EPOXY PAINTING OF RADIAL CREST GATE (11NOS.), WITH STOP LOG (3 SET) AND PAINTING OF 35 TON & 70 TON GANTRY CRANE. GARAGING PLATE FORM. (2 NOS.) D/S FOOT BRIDGE (2 NOS.) WITH ACCESSORIES OF MINIMATA BANGO DAM. MACHADOLI UNDER HASDEO BANGO PROJECT.	Rs.279.63 Lakhs

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directly from the Govt. of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement portal ( <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from dated **17-09-2021 at 17.31 hours (IST)** onwards.  
**Note:** All eligible/interested contractors /bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor, supplier registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the Subsequent bidding process.

sd/-  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
RO.NO.: 63599/5  
MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO.03  
RO.DATE:13.09.2021  
**MACHADOLI DISTT-KORBA (C.G.)**

**SALE NOTICE**  
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on “**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS**” and “**AS IS WHAT IS BASIS**” for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Muneer Khan, Case No- 222/2020	Vehicle No- UP16AH0220, Make and Model- FORD INDIA LTD, Endeavour XLT Manu Yr- 2011	1,00,000/-	10,000/-

**Auction Date & Time : September 27, 2021, From 11 AM To 2 PM**  
**Venue:** JCS Financial Services & Parking Security Plot No. 112, Old Raipur Road Pakri, Near Kishan Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, Pin 209304, Uttar Pradesh  
**Contact Person-** Avinash Srivastava (8953652366)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)  
**EMD:** DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Rahul Yadav, Case No- 222/2020	Vehicle No- UP14ET0642, Make and Model- TATA ACE, Manu Yr- 2014	40,000/-	4,000/-

**Auction Date & Time : September 27, 2021, From 11 AM To 2 PM**  
**Venue:** A.N. Motors14 KM- Stone, Agra- Mathura Road Runkata Agra- 282007  
**Contact Person-** Vijay Sharma (9372730494)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)  
**EMD:** DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.

**Terms of Sale**  
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participants are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original DD/PO of EMD amount along with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction. Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/ RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Tower Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005.** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

**EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAINS**  
**This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Special Trains as under:-**

Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Extended Up to
02583 Hatia - Anand Vihar (T) Special Express	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	04.10.2021 to 30.12.2021
02584 Anand Vihar (T) - Hatia Special Express	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	05.10.2021 to 03.01.2022
02579 Hatia - Anand Vihar (T) Special Express	Sunday, Wednesday, Friday	01.10.2021 to 31.12.2021
02580 Anand Vihar (T) - Hatia Special Express	Monday, Thursday, Saturday	02.10.2021 to 01.01.2022
02585 Santragachi Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) Spl. Superfast	Monday	04.10.2021 to 27.12.2021
02586 Anand Vihar (T) - Santragachi Jn. Spl. Superfast	Tuesday	05.10.2021 to 28.12.2021
08103 Tata Nagar - Amritsar Jn. Special Express	Monday, Wednesday	04.10.2021 to 29.12.2021
08104 Amritsar Jn. - Tata Nagar Special Express	Wednesday, Friday	06.10.2021 to 31.12.2021

**Note:- All the above trains will run fully reserved.**

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

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

**RailMadad Helpline No. 139**

**Visit RailMadad website: [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)**  
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Visit us at : [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
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**"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"**

**Deputy General Manager, Rajasthan State Guest House, 13, Veer, Tikenderjeet Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021**  
F-14/RSQH/2021/181 Date : 06.09.2021  
Bid for Yearly Providing the Services of Security Guard & Security Supervisor on Job Basis at Rajasthan State Guest House situated at 13, Veer Tikenderjeet Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi are invited from interested Bidders starting from 09.09.2021 at 04:00 P.M. till 21.09.2021 at 04:00 P.M. The Tender value is Rs. 26,00,000.00 and other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://sppp.rajabstn.gov.in> and <http://eproc.rajabstn.gov.in>) of the State.  
NIB : GAD2122A0017  
UBN : GAD2122SLOB00019  
Sd/-  
Deputy General Manager,  
Rajasthan State Guest House  
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.  
DIPR/C/9205/2021

**कार्यालय वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़**  
**(अरण्य भवन नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, तृतीय तल,**  
**कक्ष क्रमांक-TR/07, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर)**  
**ईमेल – [ccfmis.cg@gov.in](mailto:ccfmis.cg@gov.in)**  
**वेबसाईट : [www.fmisonline.org](http://www.fmisonline.org), <https://www.cgforest.com>**

**CORRIGENDUM**  
वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली वनमण्डल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.) के कार्यालयीन पत्र क्रमांक / FMIS/Tender/2021/1017 दिनांक 02.09.2021 द्वारा जारी **Tender for Supply and Installation of IT & Electronic Goods** निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणवश एतद् द्वारा आगामी आदेश पर्यन्त निरस्त किया जाता है।  
हस्ता / –  
उप वन संरक्षक,  
वन प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली,  
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)  
R.O. NO.: 63585/3  
R.O. Date : 13/09/2021

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: **NAME OF THE WORK: Part Outsourcing of WAG9H Loco Shell painting at Paint shop - 16. Quantity: 100 no Loco Shells. (Year – 2021-2022).** (a)TENDER No.- Dy.ELA /20/Shell paint/Pt-I.(b) TENDER Accepting Authority: Dy.CME/ELA/CLW. (c)Approx. Value of the work (Tender Value): ₹49,91,400/- (Rupees forty nine lakh ninety one thousand and four hundred only) incl. GST. (d)Duration of Contract: one year from date of issue of LOA. (e)Tender Submission & Closing Date: 11.10.2021 at 13.00 hrs. (f) Tender Opening Date & Time: 11/10/2021 at 13.15 hrs. (g) Complete details of tender can be seen in the Railways website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) & [www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in).  
DY.CME/ELA,  
CLW/Chittaranjan  
PR2-218  
Like us on: [www.facebook.com/clwrailways](https://www.facebook.com/clwrailways)

# Putin slams presence of foreign troops in Syria

**Damascus:** Russian President Vladimir Putin criticised the presence of foreign troops in Syria, saying they are there against the will of the Syrian Government and are blocking the consolidation of the war-torn country.

Putin was referring to hundreds of US troops stationed in eastern Syria and working with Kurdish-led fighters in battling the militant Islamic State group, as well as Turkish forces.

Speaking during a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Bashar Assad, he said the presence of the foreigners is illegal because they don't have permission from the United Nations or Syria's Govt. AP

# Israel PM in first official trip to Egypt in over a decade

AP ■ CAIRO

The leaders of Egypt and Israel have met as part of the first official trip to Egypt by an Israeli Prime Minister in over a decade, and rising tensions in the Gaza Strip at the top of their agenda.

Gaza is sandwiched between Israel and Egypt, and both countries have enforced a border blockade of the territory to varying degrees since 2007 when the Islamic militant group Hamas took control there.

The meeting between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Monday signalled a warming in a relationship that had security-focused but somewhat cool under

Bennett's predecessor, Israeli hard-liner Benjamin Netanyahu.

El-Sissi and Bennett met in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh, according to an official statement from the Egyptian presidency. Egypt's state television showed both leaders sitting side by side in front of both of national flags, with the Israeli army's chief of staff and Egypt's foreign minister and the head of its intelligence service also in attendance.

It was the first official visit by an Israeli premier since 2010, when then Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak hosted a summit with Netanyahu, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

# UK to roll out Covid booster jabs for over-50s

PTI ■ LONDON

The British Government will be accepting an expert panel's recommendation and begin the rollout of booster vaccine shots across England for over-50s from next week, UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid told Parliament on Tuesday.

Tabling the government's winter strategy to tackle Covid-19, Javid told the House of Commons that the National Health Service (NHS) in England is preparing for the rollout following the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's (JCVI) recommendation earlier.

Wales has also accepted the JCVI advice, with other devolved regions of the UK —

Scotland and Northern Ireland — also expected to follow.

"I can confirm that I have accepted the JCVI's advice and that the NHS is preparing to offer booster doses from next week," said Javid.

"There's evidence that the protection offered by Covid-19 vaccines reduces over time, particularly older people who are at greater risk, so booster doses are an important way of keeping the virus under control for the long-term," he said.

Among the other announcements for the government's winter strategy of "living with the virus" without the need to resort to further full lockdowns, Javid also outlined a "Plan B" of contingency measures, including working from home and face coverings.

# Nicholas, now tropical storm, may cause flash floods

**Houston:** Hurricane Nicholas, now a tropical storm, made landfall along the Texas coast on Tuesday, bringing the threat of up to 20 inches of rainfall to parts of the Gulf Coast, including the same area hit by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and storm-battered Louisiana. The storm could also cause life-threatening flash floods across the deep south.

Nicholas touched down on the eastern part of the Matagorda Peninsula and is now about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south southwest of Houston, Texas, with maximum winds of 70 mph (110 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

AP



# Council's Fri meet to mull fuel under GST

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council might on Friday consider taxing petrol, diesel and other petroleum products under the single national GST regime, a move that may require huge compromises by both central and state governments on the revenues they collect from taxing these products.

The Council, which comprises central and state finance ministers, in its meeting scheduled in Lucknow on Friday, is also likely to consider extending the time for duty relief on Covid-19 essentials, according to sources in the know of the development.

GST is being thought to be a solution for the problem of near-record high petrol and diesel rates in the country, as it would end the cascading effect of tax on tax (state VAT being levied not just on the cost of production but also on the excise duty charged by the



Centre on such output).

In June, the Kerala High Court, based on a writ petition, had asked the GST Council to decide on bringing petrol and diesel within the goods and services tax (GST) ambit. The sources said bringing petrol and diesel within GST would be placed before the Council for discussion in the light of the court asking the Council to do so. When a national GST subsumed central taxes such as excise duty and state levies like VAT on July 1, 2017, five petro-

leum goods – petrol, diesel, ATF, natural gas and crude oil – were kept out of its purview for the time being. This is because both central and state government finances relied heavily on taxes on these products. Since GST is a consumption-based tax, bringing petroleum products under the regime would have mean states where these products are sold get the revenue and not ones that currently derive the most benefit out of them because of they being the production centre.

# WPI inflation rises to 11.39 pc in Aug on costlier mfg goods; food prices soften

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation rose marginally to 11.39 per cent in August, mainly due to costlier manufactured goods, even as food prices softened.

Snapping the two-month easing trend, WPI inflation rose in August and remained in double-digit for the fifth consecutive month.

In July 2021, WPI inflation was 11.16 per cent, while in August 2020 it was 0.41 per cent. “The high rate of inflation in August 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of non-food articles, mineral oils; crude petroleum and natural gas; manufactured products like basic metals; food products; textiles; chemicals and chemical products etc as compared the corresponding month of the previous year,” the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles eased for the fourth straight month, recording (-) 1.29 per cent in August, against zero per



cent in July, even as onion and pulses prices spiked.

Inflation in onions was high at 62.78 per cent, while that in pulses was 9.41 per cent. In vegetables it was (-) 13.30 per cent in August.

Inflation in crude petroleum and natural gas was 40.03 per cent in August. In manufactured products, inflation stood at 11.39 per cent in August, against 11.20 per cent

in July. The manufactured goods inflation has remained in double digit for the fourth month in a row.

The RBI, which mainly takes into account retail inflation, in its monetary policy last month kept interest rates unchanged at record lows. It projected CPI or retail inflation at 5.7 per cent during 2021-22, up from its earlier projection of 5.1 per cent.

# India needs \$8 trillion new greenfield assets to be \$5 trn economy by FY27: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will need USD 8 trillion (around ₹ 588 lakh crore) of gross capital formation or new greenfield assets to become a USD 5 trillion (around ₹368 lakh crore) economy by FY2027, a report said.

The report by Deloitte said despite the Covid-19 disruption, FDI inflow into the country provides necessary optimism and display underlying strengths of the Indian economy.

In FY2020-21, FDI inflows (including equity, re-invested earnings, and capital) amounted to a record USD 81.72 billion, 10 per cent higher than the previous financial year, it said.

While India remains a favoured foreign direct investment (FDI) destination, the country must enact more reforms to ensure FDI flows not only continue but also play a meaningful role in attaining the USD 5 trillion economy target, the report compiled based on the survey response of 1,200 business leaders of multinational corporations in the US, the UK, Japan and Singapore said.

It found that India remains an attractive destination for investments, scoring highly for its skilled workforce and prospects for economic growth.

It also suggested that the country must continue to enact reforms and initiatives that drive improvement, building confidence in and enhancing the competitiveness of India's economy.

While these inflows were driven primarily by the services sector, a more proportionate contribution to gross capital formation and the increase in exports can be achieved through greater FDI in manufacturing, it said, adding, average FDI from FY15 to FY21 in manufacturing was USD 8.6 billion compared to about USD 25 billion for services.

“Our analysis shows that India will require at least USD 8 trillion of cumulative gross capital formation to grow into a USD 5 trillion economy, assuming we are on the fastest growth track. Based on past trends, our research suggests India needs approximately USD 400 billion of foreign capital cumulatively over the next six years,” it said.



# India for early start of FTA review with ASEAN bloc

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and the 10-member ASEAN bloc should strive to announce the review of the free trade agreement (FTA) between them before the year-end, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel suggested on Tuesday.

The issue came up for discussion during the 18th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations.

The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement was signed on August 13, 2009. It came into force on January 1, 2010.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members are -- Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines,

Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei and Laos.

Patel resolved to complete the scoping process expeditiously to make the agreement trade facilitative, user-friendly with contemporary and streamlined customs and regulatory procedures, the commerce ministry said in a statement.

She stated that the trade arrangement has to be reciprocal, mutually beneficial and should balance the aspirations of all the partners.

Patel emphasised on the need for securing the FTA provisions to prevent misuse of preferential treatment and also highlighted the non-tariff measures faced by Indian exporters in accessing ASEAN market, especially in agriculture and auto sectors.

# Markets eke out slim gains; Nifty closes at new high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices resumed their climb on Tuesday after a day's pause following gains in IT, bank and engineering stocks amid a muted trend overseas.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 69.33 points or 0.12 per cent higher at 58,247.09. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 24.70 points or 0.14 per cent to its fresh closing record of 17,380.

IndusInd Bank topped the Sensex gainers chart with a jump of 4.07 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, Kotak Bank, Bajaj Auto, Tech Mahindra, L&T, Titan and TCS.

In contrast, HDFC, Nestle India, UltraTech Cement, HUL, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv

and Bajaj Finance were among the prominent laggards, shedding up to 1.07 per cent.

“Despite a bullish opening, domestic indices closed flat with a positive bias amid mixed sentiments among global peers. India's retail inflation softened to 5.3 per cent in August, staying within RBI's comfort zone, which was led by lower food inflation.

“However, the wholesale price inflation accelerated to 11.39 per cent, snapping the two-month easing trend owing to non-food articles. Global markets traded cautiously ahead of the US consumer price index to be released today,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

# Zomato co-founder Gaurav Gupta quits

**New Delhi:**Co-founder of online food delivery platform Zomato Gaurav Gupta, a key figure in the run-up to the company's IPO in July, has resigned. In an email sent to staff at Zomato, Gupta - who was the head of supply - said he will be starting a new chapter after spending six years at the company. “I am taking a new turn in my life and will be starting a new chapter, taking a lot from this defining chapter of my life - the last 6 years at Zomato. We have a great team now to take Zomato forward, and it's time for me to take an alternate path in my journey,” Gupta said. **PTI**

# Tata Steel commissions India's first plant for CO2 capture from blast furnace gas

**Jamshedpur:**Tata Steel on Tuesday commissioned a 5-tonne per day (TPD) carbon capture plant at its Jamshedpur Works, making it the country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology that extracts CO2 directly from the blast furnace gas.Tata Steel will reuse the captured CO2 on site to promote circular carbon economy.

This carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) facility uses amine-based technology and makes the captured carbon available for onsite reuse. The depleted CO2 gas is sent back to the gas network with increased calorific value. This project has been executed with technological support from Carbon Clean, a global leader in low-cost CO2 capture tech-

nology. The CCU plant was inaugurated by T.V. Narendran, CEO and MD, Tata Steel, in the presence of company officials and other dignitaries. “In alignment with the Tata group's pioneering values, we have taken this strategic step in our journey towards decarbonisation. We will continue our quest to remain an industry leader in sustainability by setting new benchmarks for a better tomorrow,” Narendran said. “The operational experience gathered from this 5 TPD CO2 capture plant will give us the required data and confidence to establish larger carbon capture plants in future. As a next step, we aim to establish scaled up facilities of CO2 capture integrated with utilisation avenues,” he added. **IAN S**

# Cement production falls 12 pc in June qtr as lockdowns impact demand: Report

**New Delhi:**Cement production declined 12 per cent to 82 million tonne in April-June 2021-22 compared to the previous quarter as Covid-induced lockdowns in various states impacted demand, a report by Icra said. However, year-on-year, the output was 54 per cent higher helped by a lower base on account of nationwide lockdown in April 2020, the rating agency said.

“The production in 4M FY2022 (April-July) is lower by 2 per cent compared to pre-COVID levels (4M FY2020),” it said. Though Icra expects total production in the country to go up by 12 per cent in the current fiscal year supported by factors like pent-up demand, rural housing demand and pick-up in infrastructure activity. **PTI**

# FinMin gives nod to 11 States to borrow additional ₹15,721 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has permitted 11 states to borrow an additional amount of ₹ 15,721 crore after these states achieved the capital expenditure target set for the June quarter.

These states are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

“11 states.... Have achieved the target set by the Ministry of Finance for the capital expenditure in the 1st Quarter of 2021-22. As an incentive, these States have been granted permission by the Department of Expenditure to borrow an additional amount of ₹15,721 crore,” the Ministry said in a

statement.

The additional open market borrowing permission granted is equivalent to 0.25 per cent of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Additional financial resources thus made available will help the States in pushing their capital expenditure further.

The Ministry said capital expenditure has a high multiplier effect, enhances the future productive capacity of the economy, and results in a higher rate of economic growth.

Accordingly, out of the net borrowing ceiling (NBC) of 4 per cent of GSDP for the states for 2021-22, 0.50 per cent of GSDP was earmarked for incremental capital expenditure to be incurred by the States during 2021-22.

# 11 States meet Q1 capex target, get to mobilise ₹15,721 Cr

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Eleven states have achieved the capex target set by the finance ministry in the 1st Quarter of 2021-22 thereby getting permission to borrow an additional amount of ₹ 15,721 crore as an incentive.

The 11 states include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

The additional open market borrowing permission granted to states under the programme is equivalent to 0.25 per cent of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Additional financial resources thus made available will help the States in pushing their capital expenditure further, the finance ministry said in a statement.



**UJVN LTD.**  
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508  
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No. 674 **Tender Notice** Dated : 14.09.2021  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation) Chibro Power House, Chibro, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :  
**Tender No. 12/EE(G)/CPH/2021-22** for "Annual maintenance of generators & associated equipment of unit-2&4 including valve replacement of unit-2 at Chibro Power House".  
**Tender No. 13/EE(G)/CPH/2021-22** for "Annual maintenance of the coolers and pumps of 4\*69 MVA Generator Transformers at Chibro Powerhouse"  
Estimated cost: Rs 24,97,462/- GST ExtraRs 4,83,120/-GST  
Date of availability of tender on website: 15-09-2021 from 11:00 Hrs.  
Last date for submission of tender: 06-10-2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)  
EE(G),Chibro

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"



**Baiju Paswan**  
Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'6" Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue & White Colour Full Sleeve T - Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans & Plastic Chappal in feet.  
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO Anand Vihar, Delhi at E-mail [ld-cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:ld-cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

General Public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Baiju Paswan S/o Laxmi Paswan R/o H.No. C-M-76, JJ Camp, Anand Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 01.09.2021 from his house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 233/21, U/s 363 IPC dated 03.09.2021 has been registered at Police Station Anand Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
**Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'6" Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue & White Colour Full Sleeve T - Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans & Plastic Chappal in feet.**  
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO Anand Vihar, Delhi at E-mail [ld-cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:ld-cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

**Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639 Shahdara Distt., Delhi**  
**DP/562/SHD/2021 Ph. No. 8595888677, 7065036022**

**Sale Notice**  
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs. Ashutosh Vashishth Case No. CS (COMM) NO.: 613/19	Vehicle No. UP14DH3223, Make and Model- Hyundai Motors Ltd.- i10 Magna 1.1, Manu Yr- 2017	2,60,000/-	26,000/-

**Auction Date: September 27, 2021 from 11 am to 2 pm**  
**Place of auction:** <https://auctions.cardekho.com/>  
**EMD:** DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi.  
**Manager:** Mr. Avinash Srivastava (8953652366)/ Mr. Jitendra. Kumar (7304914763)  
Terms of Sale  
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participants are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to submit original DD/PO of EMD amount along with self-attested KYC proofs to participate in the online auction on or before **September 24, 2021 before 03 PM**  
The intending bidders may call us for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.



**NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (UP)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NoidA Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <http://etender.up.nic.in>  
Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount
1	01/OSD(I) (Call Center)/ 2021-22	Call Center Services	Rs. 38,91,168/-

Which can be uploaded by date **21.09.2021 upto 5.00 PM.**  
Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **22.09.2021 at 11.00 AM.**  
**AGM (Reception)**  
**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**PIONEER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED**  
Corporate Identity Number: L15319PB1993PLC012975  
Registered office: Chhoti Nehar, Malakpur, Pathankot, Punjab- 145028  
Tel. No. +91-186-2345352/53/54,  
Email ID: [complianceofficer@pioneeragro.co.in](mailto:complianceofficer@pioneeragro.co.in) ,  
**Website: [www.pioneeragro.co.in](http://www.pioneeragro.co.in)**

**Notice of 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, Book Closure and Remote E-Voting information**

NOTICE is hereby given that the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Pioneer Agro Extracts Limited will be held on Thursday, the 30th September, 2021 at 2.00 p.m. at Chhoti Nehar, Malakpur, Pathankot, Punjab-145028 to transact the Ordinary Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Notice of the Meeting, Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2021 and remote e-voting details have been sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository The date of completion of email of the notices to the shareholders is 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021.

In case you have not registered your email ID with the Company/ Depository, please follow below instructions to register your email ID for obtaining annual report for FY 2020-21 and login details for e-voting.

Physical Holding : Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, Abhipra Capital Limited at [ra@abhipra.com](mailto:ra@abhipra.com) providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN/ Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address.

Demat Holding : Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP.

These documents are also available on Company's website [www.pioneeragro.co.in](http://www.pioneeragro.co.in) for download by the members. Notice is hereby given in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Company has offered e-voting facility for transacting all the business by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) through their portal [www.nsdl.co.in](http://www.nsdl.co.in) to enable the members to cast their votes electronically. The remote e-voting period commences on Monday, September 27, 2021 (09:00 am) and ends on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 (05:00 pm). No e-voting shall be allowed beyond the said date and time. During this period members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of September 23, 2021, may cast their vote by remote e-voting. Any person, who acquires shares and becomes member of the Company after despatch of the notice and holding shares as of the cut off date i.e. September 23, 2021, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or RTA, Abhipra Capital Limited at [ra@abhipra.com](mailto:ra@abhipra.com) However, if the members are already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then they can use their existing user ID and password for casting their vote. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. Members may note that the facility for voting through ballot paper will be made available at the AGM for members present at the meeting. The members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. CS Baldev Singh Kashtwal, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. FCS 3616 & CP No. 3169), has been appointed as Scrutinizer for the voting at the AGM and e-voting process. The detailed procedure for remote e-voting is contained in the letter sent with the Notice of the AGM. Any query/grievance relating to e-voting may refer to Frequently asked Questions (FAQ's) for Shareholder's and e-voting user manual for shareholders available at the download section of [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or send a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or call on toll free no. 1800-222-990. NOTICE is also hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Tuesday, the September 21, 2021 to Thursday, the September 30, 2021 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of taking record of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

For Pioneer Agro Extracts Limited  
Sd/-  
Dikshant Singh Panwar  
Company Secretary  
and Compliance Officer M. No. : 42741

Place : Pathankot  
Date : 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021



Education has completely moved on from its traditional setup and reskilling is vital in a post pandemic scenario. COVID-19 has opened up a new way of studying and therefore, returning to normal comes with multiple challenges. It also presents an ocean of opportunities to improve skills. Ongoing global pandemic brought to light various issues, and concurrently created a sense of urgency for both students and professionals to accelerate their growth towards the future.

As Class XII Board result is out now, the students are in chaos about what to opt for a better future and also, it is a crucial time for students as the choices made at this stage may define what they do in their long-term career. At this point of time approximately 80% students feel pressured to take up a course just because their parents think it is best or just because their friends are going for it. Before investing your time, money and efforts into pursuing a course, you should keep a steady head and weigh all the options carefully.

As the world is adopting the digital paradigm, there is a growing need to polish the old skills and learn new ones. Before finalising the admission in any course, here are some demanding courses with alluring career options for students.

#### ✉️ CYBER SECURITY

As the persistent rise in the cases of cybersecurity in India, now as Governments and organizations are facing cyber threats, hackers target Government agencies because of its interwoven systems contain vast amounts of information from citizens. Not only government but private or public organisations are also at risk.

As per the source, country's demand for cybersecurity professionals is likely to rise 200 per cent by 2024. Cybersecurity has become one of the most in-demand careers for students. Those who are interested in working as a cybersecurity professional, rest assured there will be no lack of jobs for you. To kickstart a career in cybersecurity, one needs to start off with a background in Information Technology. To embrace a career in Cybersecurity to pursue after Class XII following are your options:

- B.Tech (Information Technology)
- B.Tech (Information Science & Engineering)
- B.Tech (Cyber Security and Forensics)
- B.E. (IT)
- B.Sc.(Forensic Science)
- Diploma in Cyber Security

#### ✉️ ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

India will play a pivotal role in the AI revolution and nowadays AI is being used across various industries.

As students hustle to choose the right course at this time of the year, PC CHHABRA shares five demanding courses which may help shape your future path

## RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU

trial sectors (Healthcare, agriculture, automobile, education and transport) etc. AI enters our professional lives and it entails the amazing career opportunities for freshers and professionals. To be part of the AI profession, you will know about the future growth of Artificial Intelligence and its various aspects that can be inculcated in a machine using Artificial Intelligence.

The advancements in technologies also fuel the future scope of Artificial Intelligence in India in subsets of AI like Deep Learning, Machine Learning, etc. One can opt for a course in AI after Class XII is:

- B.Tech. in Computer Science
- B.Tech. in Robotics and Automation
- B.Tech. in Electronics Engineering
- B.Tech. in EC Engineering
- B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering

#### ✉️ PHARMACEUTICALS SCIENCE

In India the pharmaceutical market is one of the few sectors that have shown double-digit growth rate (CAGR) in the last few years. India is a rapidly growing its presence in the global pharmaceuticals industry. In the ongoing pandemic,

Cybersecurity has become one of the most in-demand careers for students. The country's demand for such professionals is likely to rise 200 per cent by 2024

ic, the demand for medicines are increasing day by day, so the employment in the pharmaceutical sector is also increasing at an increasing rate. The sector is growing at a consistent rate in India and offering great career opportunities to thousands of students. After completing Class XII, candidates can opt for:

- Bachelor in Pharmacy
- Bachelor in Pharmacy (Lateral Entry)
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Ayurveda)
- Diploma in Pharmacy

#### ✉️ NURSING

Nursing career is one of the most lucrative career options for students because there are no restrictions for students irrespective of their academic background. As medical facilities are rising in India, the demand for nursing courses has also increased immensely. Nurses are one of the pillars of the healthcare systems and Indian nurses are the most trusted health care professionals in the world.

Nursing offers different courses after Class XII:

- B.Sc. Nursing
- ANM

#### ■ GNM

#### ✉️ DATA SCIENCE

Data has become an essential part of our life. In current scenario, each and every industry has opened their doors for the role of data analytics professionals.

The scope of data science is wide and has emerged as an attractive and top most career option in India because of its vast future offerings and opportunities.

Candidates who are passionate about research and computers through data analytics, will find the option of pursuing data science as a lucrative career option. For this interested candidate needs to opt for one of the courses mentioned below:

- B.Sc Data Science
- B.Tech Big Data Analytics
- BCA Data Science
- IBM Data Science professional Certificate
- Applied Data Science with Python Certifications

Before making a decision, keep searching top courses and demand in your desired fields.

The writer is Executive Director, Sanskriti University, Mathura

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.  
— Marian Wright Edelman

### CERTIFICATE COURSE IN FIRE TECHNOLOGY & SAFETY MANAGEMENT

The Delhi College of Fire and Safety Engineering announces the commencement of admissions for its one-year certificate course in Fire Technology Industrial and Safety Management, one-year-and-six-month course in Health Safety Environment and six-month certificate course in Fire Fighting.

The study of this programme is incorporated to train candidates to gain knowledge about the preventive measures to be applied during times of emergency.

#### Eligibility:

This full-time diploma course has been thoughtfully designed for those who have recently cleared Class X or 10+2 from any recognised Board and want to work in Fire and Safety Management Industry can enroll for these courses.

**How to apply:** To apply please visit [www.dcfse.com](http://www.dcfse.com) or the application forms brochure may be obtained from admission office of Delhi College of fire and safety Engineering, Mundka, New delhi-110041

**Application deadline:** September 30, 2021.

### DIPLOMA, UG & PG COURSES' AT SU

The Sanskriti University (SU), Mathura invites online applications for admission to Diploma, Under Graduate, and Post Graduate Programmes in Engineering, Management & Commerce, Education, Special Education, Humanities & Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Fashion Designing, Law and Legal Studies, Yoga and Naturopathy, Tourism & Hotel Management, Medical & Allied Sciences, Basic & Applied Sciences, Ayurveda, Unani, and Nursing courses.



#### How to apply:

Applicants seeking admission are required to fill an online application form available on [www.sanskriti.edu.in](http://www.sanskriti.edu.in).

The submission of the application form can be done online or in-person at the university by depositing ₹1000. For online submission, use the link <https://www.sanskriti.edu.in/register>. The admission prerequisites will be in accordance with the various regulatory bodies as amended from time to time.

#### Admission process:

Applications for academic year 2021-22 are open to applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (10+2) from any recognised Board of Education like ICSE/AIISSE/IB/ICSE/CBSE, or equivalents. For admission to diploma programmes, students are required to have passed the Class X examination from any state or central board like CBSE/ICSE.

**Application deadline:** September 30, 2021.

### COURSE IN EXPORT IMPORT BUSINESS

The 11th batch of the Certificate Course on Export Import Business held under MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai will commence from September 18, 2021.

The course will be held virtually or online thrice a week.

To register kindly visit: <https://forms.gle/6F51Q9u84UtZK8uEA>.

# Communication is key

Communication plays a vital role in our lives. Be it within the family, within friends, or in public dealing, the role of the way and manner of communicating is very important. Corporate working is no exception. The emergence of new technologies and the power of digital platforms have made companies realise the significance to maintain the integrity of corporate communication, and allow stakeholders and shareholders to view its existence positively.

Corporate communication can take many forms, depending on the target audience. An organisation's communication strategy usually consists of written text like internal and external reports, announcements, website text, promotional materials, emails, notes, press releases, speeches, conferences, interviews and videos. Corporate communication techniques and management functions are intertwined to bring benefits to the organization and achieve desired goals.

#### Courses

With increased competition, the companies are much concerned about maintaining an impeccable image. Corporate image conveys everything about a company through visual communication, product advertising etc. and also strongly influences the company's identity. Graphic Design is an emerging creative career in India with ample of job and growth opportunities where one creates and designs visual concepts for the company.

A big number of colleges offer these courses. Besides, a degree in journalism & mass communication can help one get an easier access into this sector. The Indian Institute of Management has an Executive Program in Communication



strategies for corporate leaders. Many private institutions provide short term courses for public relations managers, business and workplace communication, writing skills etc. Students may choose to specialize in various fields like advertising, public relations, internal communications, investor relations, crisis management, brand management and event management.

#### Scope and job prospects

For fresh grads in corporate communication, scope is not restricted to a specific industry. If communication is your strength and you have an ability to understand the intricacies then a career awaits. There are good job opportunities for budding individuals like business spokespersons, marketing specialists, technical copywriters, public speaking trainers, publicity managers, campaign directors, social media handlers, HR, Digital Marketing Specialists, Event Managers, or media planners.

One can work as communication

specialist in private companies, Public Administration, Non-Profit Organisations, Government & Corporate Affairs, MNCs, or Ministry (MIB).

#### Essential skills requisite

❖ Corporate Communications is rapidly gaining ground. To proclaim information, both internally and externally, or to market their products and services companies require expert professionals who have effective communication skills.

❖ A Company's reputation is intangible but it is a powerful asset that attracts sizable talent, builds consumer loyalty, allows businesses to influence stakeholders belief and positively impact premium customers. One needs to have an Inherent Interest in Current Affairs and Trending Stories.

❖ The Pandemic has changed the world. Old ideas, pitch and approaches to the business world just won't cut in.

Multitaskers can have a bright scope in

this sector.

❖ One should have good interpersonal skills, have passion for public speaking, have leadership quality and ability to motivate colleagues and others, has an in-depth understanding of social media, possesses analytical skills and has an ability to successfully organize events, then one is already on course for a career in corporate communications.

#### Pandemic affect

The ongoing pandemic has been a rare and perhaps most uncertain period for corporate communication. Besides the forced lockdowns and subsequent global slowdowns, the executives face information disorders. The companies realized the importance of a crisis-response team in an emergency situation, which needs to monitor the situation constantly, be transparent and regularly update the communication chain. Particularly the need to timely inform the employees about the prevailing situation and the policy changes. Importantly they need to be motivated to get over the anxiety of uncertainty. Communication with customers should focus on empathy rather than trying to sell them products or services. Companies need to rethink advertising and promotion strategies to be more in line with the current times. The communication needs to be transparent with shareholders and stakeholders. When dealing with uncertainty one needs to keep honest communication going without having the fear of doing something wrong. As Charles Darwin has said, "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

The writer is Dr Mukesh Kwatra, founder of Smiling Tree

# Curbing tech giants monopoly

The monopoly war has become prevalent in tech companies. PRABHAT SINHA shares how the Government is curbing the monopoly of these companies

During the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, big IT companies like Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Microsoft have accelerated their activities of business expansion and gaining a monopoly. As a result, governments in several major countries, including the US and India have started amending old laws and enacting new laws to curb the monopoly of these companies.

The monopoly war has become very prevalent in tech companies. Google, funded Apple and other mobile manufacturing companies, carriers, and browsers to put its search engines and other apps as the default apps. This led to fewer consumers of other search engines and a drastic surge of Google's search engine subscribers. There are also allegations that Google and Apple have teamed up to outplay competition like Nokia and BlackBerry. Most apps are now downloaded from Google's Play Store or Apple's App Store, for which Google and Apple charge up to 30 percent commission from App Manufacturers.

Leading E-commerce companies like Amazon & Flipkart continue to have a different game of monopoly in India. These companies are controlling

their operations and product prices by promoting selected vendors on their platforms. The Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh, an organization of retailers, had filed a complaint to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) accusing Amazon and Flipkart of trying to end competition by using wrong means. After which the CCI had directed the Director-General for Preliminary Inquiry of the allegations. Amazon and Flipkart also approached the Karnataka High Court and the Supreme Court to avoid these investigations but could not find any relief. Microsoft is known for ruining its competitors since the success of Windows as an operating system. A successful browser named Netscape was made incompatible and Internet Explorer was promoted to swipe the business.

Similarly, whether it is search engine business or cloud computing, or social media, Microsoft never shied away from using unethical tactics to derail competitors in every business line they are into. As a result, Microsoft has already been prosecuted for antitrust in 2001 as well.

Major cases of antitrust have taken place in the past and

hard steps have also been taken. In 1911, John D. Rockefeller's company Standard Oil was split into 34 parts for an antitrust violation. Realizing the urgency of the occasion, the US Congress passed five new antitrust bills in June 2021 - the American Innovation and Choice Act, The Platform Competition and Opportunity Act, The Ending Platform Monopoly Act, the Access act, The Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act. The European Union has proposed two bills to control anti-competition and illegal content in December 2020 itself.

In India, MRTP Act 1969 - Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practice Act was already in practice since 1969. However the rule was too old to control the antitrust after the 90s globalization, so the Competition Act was passed in 2002 under which the Competition Commission of India was constituted in 2009. New IT law - Intermediary guidelines and digital media ethics code 2021 and amendment into Consumer protection (e-commerce) Act 2020 are the few major steps to curb the tech giants and protect the interest of consumers.

The writer is IT Expert and author of Innovate & Seize Your Success

# Faculty development programme

#### PNS ■ NOIDA

The Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Noida organised a Faculty Development Programme on the topic of "Personal and Professional Ethics for Teaching Effectiveness." The keynote speaker was Dr Parin Somani,

Philanthropist Motivational Speaker and author and Dr Kulneet Suri Senior Director IMS Noida.

While addressing the session Dr Kulneet Suri, Senior Director said: "Effectiveness is the quality of being successful in producing an intended result. Especially, the teaching profession is

expected to evolve a set of ethical principles to guide the conduct and behaviours of its members."

The ethical principles provide the basis to differentiate between desirable and undesirable professional conduct and behavior of the teachers.

Further, she added that the importance of

having an effective teacher with professional ethics in the process of education is one of the important needs of society.

"In terms of teachers ethics, educators should possess good qualities and avoid vices. The survey method is adopted for the college teachers," Suri said.

# AI platform to find vaccine targets

#### PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Amity University and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM-Houston, US) researchers have developed a powerful Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform to find clinically important vaccine targets and epitopes that could transform vaccine discovery process for deadly infectious diseases like COVID-19 and Chagas disease.

The results of this study have

been published in UK based journal *Scientific Reports*, and *PubMed*, titled Identification of Vaccine Targets in Pathogens and Design of a Vaccine Using Computational Approaches by Dr Kamal Rawal, scientist, Associate Professor and Project Director, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University.

Dr Peter Hotez, (Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine), Dr Maria Elena

Bottazzi (Co-Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine, BCM) and Dr Ulrich Strych (Associate Professor, BCM) are senior co-authors.

According to Dr Rawal, "The key innovation is using artificial intelligence to combine several hundred parameters to mine several thousand proteins and genes to reach to the right targets and design vaccine using these proteins."

Researchers tested this plat-

form on several known experimental vaccine targets including those that are already available in the market.

The team have long standing interest in neglected diseases of poverty so they opted to analyse the whole genome and proteome. These are a set of all protein sequences in a cell of an important pathogen which is popularly known as Trypanosoma cruzi or as (T. cruzi).





# BE A FORENSIC EXPERT

The study of forensic science is used everywhere around the world to enforce criminal laws and regulations. A career in this field can be lucrative, says DR RANA SINGH

The work of the forensic experts captivated us. Many people are drawn towards human anatomy and study of forensic science. The study of forensic science also known as criminalistics is used everywhere around the world to enforce criminal laws and regulations to protect public health and to resolve civil disputes. India has 37 States and seven central forensic science labs, 29 fingerprint bureaux, several regional forensic science labs and district mobile forensic units. We also have an advanced Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and Central Forensic Science Laboratory which facilitates DNA profiling. The country also has private sectors at several places providing opportunities in this field. Even with so many opportunities in the field of criminalistics in India, there are only 0.33 forensic scientists per 0.1 million population. The need for forensic scientists is immense. Here are the

opportunities in this field.

**Crime Scene Investigator:** Students wanting to have a career in this field should at least have a bachelor's degree, mostly a master's degree is preferable. One should have a degree in the field of science and criminal justice. The role of a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) is to conduct analysis, help in investigating crime scenes, work with body parts and many more.

**Forensic Ballistics Expert:** A ballistic expert is basically a firearm examiner who is trained in criminal justice. The duty of a ballistic expert is to collect and analyse evidence on live ammunition, bullet fragments, firearms and other tools associated with it. Another work of a ballistic expert is finding out the point of origin of fire rounds, examining if a gun was fired recently, identifying the type of bullet and more. Students wanting to pursue a career in this field should hold a bachelor degree in forensic science and have knowledge in Maths, Physics and

**Students wanting to pursue a career as a polygraph examiner should have a degree in psychology, law enforcement or criminal justice. The work includes conducting lie detector examinations and working with investigators**

Chemistry. A background in human anatomy and biology is compulsory.

**Forensic DNA Analyst:** A DNA analyst plays a vital role in the field of Forensic Science. The work of the DNA analyst is to examine the samples of victims, suspects, and various people as it helps in identifying whether the given person was present at the crime scene or not; DNA results are more accurate than fingerprint testing. A career in this field should be taken by students who are passionate and determined. Students should have at least a four-year degree having educational qualification in one of the streams. The fields that one can gain qualification in order to become a DNA analyst is biology, criminalistics, biochemistry, genetics and chemistry.

**Lie Detector Examiner:** Students wanting to pursue a career as a polygraph examiner should have a degree in psychology, law enforcement or criminal justice. The work of a lie detector

examiner includes conducting lie detector examinations, working with investigators, testifying in court and many more.

**Digital Forensic Expert:** To become a digital forensics expert, students should have a bachelor's degree in one of these courses like computer engineering, applied mathematics, cybersecurity information technology, and many others. To have a superior position in this field a master's degree is required. Due to an increase in cases in cybercrimes, there is a great demand for digital forensics experts. The work of digital forensics includes analysing information in investigations and solving crimes related to computers. As the career scope of criminalistics is vast, the students can get employed in hospitals, institutes, forensic labs, pharmaceutical MNCs and Government and private agencies. There are endless opportunities for those who wish to have their forensic practice and forensic service office. The writer is VC, Sanskriti University

## Tips on how to crack ISB entrance

Are you looking to apply for admission at Indian School of Business? SUMIT SINGH GANDHI shares tips that can help an aspirant

The Indian School of Business (ISB) is a private business school founded in 2001. ISB is the first business school in India to be accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). However, ISB is not accredited by the Indian statutory body and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) as ISB has chosen not to apply for its accreditation.

**Programmes offered**

- Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP)
- An incisive one-year programme designed for mid-career professionals
- Post Graduate Programme for Working Professionals (PGPpro)
- A weekend residential MBA programme designed for mid-career working executives
- Post Graduate Programme In Management for Senior Executives (PGPMAX)
- Fellow Programme in Management (FPM)
- Executive Fellow Programme in Management (FPM)
- 3-year Doctoral level programme designed for working executives
- Executive Education Programmes
- Programmes for working professionals that are designed to provide timely learning interventions that help them progress in their careers.

**Exams to pass**

**For PGP**  
GMAT/GRE (TOEFL/IELTS/PTE score required if language of instruction at UG study level was not English)

**For FPM**  
GMAT/GRE/CAT/GATE/JRF (TOEFL for applicants whose language of instruction at UG level is not English).

**For PGPpro, PGPMAX, EEP, AMP**  
**How to prepare for these exams**

- GMAT Examination: The Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) tests you across various skills, but can primarily be split into 4 different sections: Verbal, Quant, Integrated Reasoning and Analytical Writing. The best method to understand what the GMAT is testing you on is to take a Diagnostic Test. Mock tests will enable you to understand the overall context of



Sumit Singh Gandhi  
Founder-CEO, CATKing

the subject areas involved in the GMAT. And your score should be 720

- GRE Preparation: The GRE exam has two test formats - GRE General Test and GRE Subject Test. The GRE syllabus is different for each
- GRE General Test: General Test is the standard exam that tests students' verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing skills
- GRE Subject Test: For more specific courses a GRE Subject Test might be required by the college, as the GRE Subject Test focuses on judging the candidate's expertise in specific fields
- CAT preparation: CAT syllabus 2021 can be divided into three sections: Quantitative Ability; Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning and Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension
- **ISB Eligibility: (PGP):**
- The candidate must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent in any discipline
- The candidate must have at least 24 months of full-time post-qualification work experience as of March 31 of that year
- Valid GMAT/GRE score
- **GMAT** (TOEFL/IELTS/PTE required if language at UG was not English)

July 24, 2021 was an incredible day for India at the Tokyo Olympics. She celebrated hoover first medal as Mirabhai Chenu bagged silver in weightlifting. Around 5,000 years back, a distressed Arjun in the middle of the Kurukshetra battlefield, unable to bear his thoughts, driven by grief, decided not to fight even if he was attacked by the enemy. He was terrified thinking about the outcome of the war by fighting his own kith and kin. He expressed his internal dilemma and mental distress and collapsed in the middle of the battlefield. He then surrendered to his friend Krishna for guidance. Bhagavan Krishna then became his Guru as Arjun awakened

to discipleship. Thus followed the wisdom of *Bhagavadgita*. Bhagavan Krishna told Arjun that it is the fundamental duty of a human being to perform his duties. It is also important that those duties be performed with the right attitude, following Dharma. Krishna reminded Arjun that as a warrior, it was his duty and nature to fight the war. Bhagavan Krishna also explained the nature of action (*karma*) to be performed and the approach to the result. The right attitude while performing duties is when we do it sincerely with maximum effort, without pondering over the result. Tokyo Olympics this year has seen the

## MIND IT

emotional breakdown of many of its biggest star athletes. It was the fear of failure at the game that brought internal turmoil to the participants. Many athletes withdrew at the last minute, overwhelmed by stress. When the time to perform came, they lost self-confidence and lacked courage. Let us look at an example from *Mahabharat*. Abhimanyu is one of the key personalities known for his competence, fearlessness and wisdom. He knew his death was certain the moment he set out to

penetrate the *chakravyuh*. But his confidence, courage and commitment were so strong that he was not ready to give up. What was his motivation? To fight for what is right, irrespective of whether he had the might to do it alone. We may come across many situations in our life that are beyond our control. In such circumstances, we often create a *chakravyuh* in our own minds, with negative thoughts and tendencies. Many times, it is our response to these situations that makes the problem worse.

Instead of overthinking, we can always try to plan and control our response to these adverse situations. We should remember that we have the option of fighting like Abhimanyu without losing our inner strength rather than running away from the circumstances. We should face every challenge with confidence rather than fear, like the brave Abhimanyu. The real Kurukshetra war does not happen externally, it happens internally, in our minds. We must realise this and change our attitude towards the situations we face, instead of trying to change the external factors that contribute to it. Satguru Mata Amritanandamayi Devi,

(Amma) says: "*The Gita* is not teaching us to worship a God who resides up in the sky on a golden throne, nor to strive to get into heaven after we die. It teaches us to experience peace and happiness. *The Gita* helps us to realise our true self." The Olympic creed says: The most important thing in the Olympics Games is not to win but to take part. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well. This is an important life lesson for us all. Sometimes we stumble, and get wounded, heartbroken or scared as well. Only if we win over our inner conflicts and challenges, can we bag a gold medal in the Olympics of life.



**Application deadline:**  
It is September 18, 2021.

**The University of Birmingham Dubai announces scholarships for Indian students domiciled and living in India.** The University of Birmingham is a global top 100 university and a member of the elite Russell Group of UK universities. It is atop most targeted university by leading employers with its own campus in Dubai.

The scholarship is available for all students. Once the student has submitted the application and if they receive an offer from the university, the value of the scholarship will be advised based on predicted grades or on meeting the offer conditions. The scholarships supports applicants who wish to experience the high-quality education we deliver in Dubai. Applications for Fall 2021 are open until late September, provided applicants have all documents.

The value of scholarship will be advised based on predicted grades or on meeting offer conditions.

**Award:** Up to 40% of tuition fees (2021 entry). For scholarship inquiries, please contact: [dubai-queries@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:dubai-queries@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

For more information visit: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/dubai/index.aspx>

**How to apply:** Please visit: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/dubai/study/apply/index.aspx>.

**The Anant Fellowship for Climate Action invites applications for the year 2021-22.** It also announces the first set of Fellows for its 2022 cohort. The Fellowship received 2,614 applications from 46 countries, with candidates as young as 16 and as old as 59 applying to be one of the 30 fellows.

The fellowship gives fellows the chance to work with top climate pioneers in the world. It is a unique one-year international climate education programme based on a mentor-mentee framework. It is designed to help fellows develop the skills required to lead large scale solutions to mitigate climate change.

The first set of seven fellows for the 2022 cohort, announced, will arrive at the fellowship, having already made a mark in their fields ranging from Microbiology and Biotechnology to AI and Data Science and Forestry and Environmental Sciences.

The Anant Fellowship for Climate Action is a member of MIT Solve, an initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US, to solve world challenges.

**How to apply:** Visit: <https://anu.edu.in/programme/anant-fellowship-for-climate-action/>

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT TRIVY TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/324060](https://internshala.com/i/324060)  
Deadline: September 25, 2021

### GRAPHIC DESIGN AT SOLERA LIFE SCIENCE

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/740791](https://internshala.com/i/740791)  
Deadline: September 25, 2021

### HR AT OST PLACEMENT SEARCH

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/0d3426](https://internshala.com/i/0d3426)  
Deadline: September 25, 2021

### SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT FITKIN

Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/e66c05](https://internshala.com/i/e66c05)  
Deadline: September 22, 2021

### CONTENT WRITING AT PROMOTEDIGITALLY

Location: Lucknow  
Stipend: ₹7,500 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/520d97](https://internshala.com/i/520d97)  
Deadline: September 22, 2021

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT SCHOOLBELLO\* SERVICES

Location: Bhubaneswar  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/931628](https://internshala.com/i/931628)  
Deadline: September 22, 2021

### DIGITAL MARKETING AT JARVICS TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Chandigarh  
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹12,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/bda0e1](https://internshala.com/i/bda0e1)  
Deadline: September 22, 2021

## IN BRIEF

### APPRENTICESHIP-BASED BVOC COURSE

The University of Trans-disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU) has launched vocational education programmes leading to Bachelor of Vocation (BVoc) and Post-Graduate Diploma degrees. These programmes, inspired by Gandhiji's *nai talim*, are based on work-integrated training and are fully apprenticeship/

internship enabled. They empower students with the earn-while-you-learn feature that makes the programme affordable to them.

The Students will work full-time as apprentices/ interns at the premises of industries and businesses for eight hours a

day, five days a week, and take theory courses during the evenings and weekends. The apprenticeships/ internships are provided to students in the towns and cities where they live, through local industries and businesses. TDU also arranges to deliver the theory courses to them locally.

This programme will give students an edge over their contemporaries in other conventional courses such as BA, BSc, and BCom, since they will have three years of work experience by the end of their course which makes them highly employable.

Students will also learn in real-life situations, on functional, state-of-the-art, infrastructure available with their employers.

### ORIENTATION AT MU-SOM

The Mahindra University School of Management (MU-SOM) welcomed its first batch of UG students in a day long orientation

programme. The school is launched in collaboration with SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University, US. Ninety students

from B.A. in Economics and Finance, BBA in Digital Technologies and BBA in Computation Business Analytics were welcomed.

### RESEARCH IN BIOENERGY

The National Institute of Technology Andhra Pradesh is encouraging its faculty and researchers towards advancements in the field of Bioenergy.

The institute organised a five-day online faculty development programme on

'Waste to Bio-energy: A Sustainable solution from September 13-17, 2021.

The programme aims to bring advancements in the field of Bioenergy through waste utilization and minimise the dependency on fossil-based fuels to improve energy security.

### SRIAS' HYPER MODEL FOR ASPIRANTS OF 2022 UPSC

The Shubhra Ranjan IAS (SRIAS), coaching institute for Civil Services Exams has launched a resilient hyper model to coach its students. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the institute has deployed technology and innovation to facilitate learning beyond traditional classrooms.

The model gives aspirants the choice to either avail online coaching or attend classes physically

at any of its centres. It also gives them the flexibility to combine both online and offline modes. The institute will be conducting live classroom programmes for GS and optional subjects at Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad by connecting the Delhi classroom directly.

Teachers will conduct separate Q&A sessions for all three centres to clear doubts. The SRIAS has also launched a GS

prelims-cum-Mains tablet course wherein the student is provided a T295N Samsung 8-inch tablet configured to use its app.

The course lectures are relayed on the tablet, followed by Q&A sessions. Over 300 GS course lectures are also available in recorded format on the tablet with 2,250 hours of viewing. Other tablet courses like Sociology + GS Prelim-cum-Mains, are also available.

### GOVERNING COUNCIL TO EXPAND RESEARCH FOOTPRINT

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Hedera Hashgraph, the most used, sustainable, enterprise-grade public network for the decentralized economy announced the newest member of its Governing Council.

The globally-renowned technology university joins a rotating council of up to 39 global organisations that are from a

diverse array of industries and geographies, and each runs an initial network node that enables the decentralized governance model for the Hedera public ledger.

IIT Madras will also use its term on the Hedera Council to ramp up its R&D efforts in the DLT space, testing use cases leveraging key services.

### FIITJEE TO CONDUCT BIG BANG EDGE TEST

The FIITJEE's Big Bang Edge Test will be conducted across the country in proctored online mode on October 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17, 2021. Students can appear in the test only once on any date convenient to them.

It is a unique platform for students aspiring all-round excellence as it will help students realize and maximize their current potential for National and

International Level Competitive as well as Scholastic exams.

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or aiming for success in NTSE, X/XII Boards, KVPY, Sr Olympiads & Jr Science Olympiad, or having an inclination towards any stream – Arts, Commerce, Humanities, Medical or are interested in doing Bachelor's in Science then this test can put them on the right suitable path to achieve their goals through FIITJEE's life changing classroom and integrated school programme.



# Malinga retires from all forms of cricket

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka pace veteran Lasith Malinga on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after terrorising the world's best batsmen for over a decade and a half d with his toe-crushing yorkers delivered from a low and distinct sling-arm action.

A white ball legend in his own right and one of the greatest T20 bowlers, the 38-year-old was captain of Sri Lanka's 2014 T20 World Cup winning team. He posted a message on his social media account announcing his decision.

"Hanging up my T20 shoes and retiring from all forms of cricket! Thankful to all those who supported me in my journey, and looking forward to sharing my experience with young cricketers in the years to come," Malinga tweeted.

"I want to give 100 per cent rest to my T20 bowling shoes. While my shoes will rest, my love for the game will never ask for rest," a smiling Malinga added in the video.

Malinga last played a T20I match for Sri Lanka in March 2020 against West Indies in Pallekele.

Malinga, who took a total of 546 wickets across all formats for Sri Lanka, had already retired from Test cricket in 2011 and after that from ODIs as well but continued to

play T20Is for the national side.

He wasn't named in Sri Lanka's squad for upcoming World Cup.

Last year, he had expressed his desire to lead Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup, which was originally scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November 2020 but will be held next month after a COVID-forced postponement.

"I am looking forward to help youngsters and guide them in the coming years," he said as he thanked his national team and all the franchises that he has played for, including IPL team Mumbai Indians.

Malinga, who has played a staggering 122 IPL matches, has 170 wickets to his credit, the highest in the cash-rich league, with the best bowling figures of 5/13.

He picked up 107 wickets in 84 T20 Internationals, 338 scalps in 226 ODIs and 101 wickets in 30 Tests.

He was the first bowler to bag 100 T20I wickets and finishes fourth in the highest wicket-taker category in the list behind Dwayne Bravo, Imran Tahir and Sunil Narine.

The Sri Lanka pacer had also announced his retirement from franchise cricket in January this year after being released by Mumbai Indians.

Malinga, one of the best T20

bowlers of all time, was a key figure in the teams he played for in the Indian Premier League, the Big Bash League, the Caribbean Premier League and other franchise tournaments.

During his 12-year stint at Mumbai Indians, he was part of MI's four of the five IPL title triumphs but had opted out of the 2020 tournament due to personal reasons at a time when his father was not keeping well.

"The experience that I have gained through the past 17 years will no longer be needed in the field since I have decided to retire from T20I cricket marking my retirement from all formats of cricket," said Malinga in a video on his YouTube channel.

He added, "But I will be continuously supporting the younger generations who strive to uplift the spirit of the game and I will always be there with all who love the game."

A fearsome pacer known for his menacing yorkers, the leading wicket-taker in T20I also has two T20I hat-tricks to his name.

Malinga also picked up three hat-tricks in ODI cricket, with his performance against South Africa in the 2007 World Cup in West Indies etched in history.

"Today is a very special day for

me," he said.

"I want to thank each and everyone who supported me throughout my T20 journey. I want to thank the Sri Lankan cricket board and team members. And Mumbai Indians cricket team, especially the team owners and officials.

"I would also like to thank the team members and staff at Melbourne Stars, Kent, Rangpur Riders, Kayana Warriors, Maratha Arabians and Montero Tigers. When I played with you all, I got many experiences through my cricketing journey."



## Ulsan - Kawasaki rivalry headlines Asian Champions League

AP ■ SEOUL

Japan and South Korea may have wobbled in World Cup qualification earlier this month but their clubs are dominant in Asian competition. Between them, the two two countries have won 10 of the last 15 Asian Champions League titles and also provide seven teams in the Round of 16 of the 2021 tournament.

The eastern zone of the competition starts the knockout stage Tuesday with a clash between two of the title favorites: defending champion Ulsan Horang-i and Japanese champion Kawasaki Frontale.

"I came to Ulsan because I want to win titles," Ulsan midfielder Valeri Qazaishvili told the Asian Football Confederation's website.

"I've heard a lot about Kawasaki and I know they're a very good team who play good football," Qazaishvili said.

"It's a huge advantage for us to have this match at home in Korea with our fans behind us; to play at home is always special."

Both teams are top of their domestic leagues. When the Asian Champions League group stage finished in May, Kawasaki was way out in front at the top of the J League but one win from the last five games has left the club just one point clear and



out of the Levain Cup.

"We really wanted to win in the cup game and progress to the next stage so it is a painful feeling," coach Toru Oniki said.

"We have no time to think about that as we have to look forward to a tough game in Asia against the champion Ulsan and that gives us a chance to put the cup exit behind us."

The other two meetings between clubs from Japan and South Korea feature Nagoya Grampus hosting Daegu FC and Pohang Steelers, three-time Asian champion, traveling to Cerezo Osaka. Korea's Jeonbuk will host BG Pathum United of Thailand.

In the western zone, Tractor of Iran asked the Asian Football Confederation for its game with Al-Nassr of Riyadh to be postponed.

The team is struggling to put together the required 18-man roster as it has been hit by injuries and an outbreak of COVID-19.

# Covid situation had us petrified: McCullum



PTI ■ DUBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Brendon McCullum says they were "paralysed a little bit by fear" when coronavirus struck the first half of the IPL in India.

It was KKR spinner Varun Chakravarthy and seamer Sandeep Warrier, who first tested positive for COVID-19 in May in the middle of the League, which was eventually postponed. The Purple and Gold brigade led by England white-ball skipper Eoin Morgan had an underwhelming first half. They are languishing at the seventh spot but McCullum is hopeful for a strong showing when action resumes from September 19 in the UAE.

"In regards to the tournament which is upcoming (second half of the IPL phase), we can end it right. We can take the game on and we're in a situation where we need things to go our way," McCullum was quoted as saying by the KKR website.

## E-bidding for new IPL teams planned on October 17

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BCCI is planning to have an e-bidding for the two new IPL teams on October 17 and the bids to buy the sides can be made till October 5.

"The Board is planning to have the bidding on 17th October and it will be an e-bidding," sources in the know of things told PTI on Tuesday. The BCCI had on August 31 invited bids to own an IPL franchise with "Invitation to Tender" available for purchase till October 5.

"The Governing Council of the IPL invites bids to acquire the right to own and operate 1

(one) of the 2 (two) new teams proposed to be introduced to take part in the Indian Premier League from the IPL 2022 season, through a tender process," the BCCI had said in a statement.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT."

"However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid," the cricket body had said.

"We need to hit the ground running, challenge one another privately, support one another publicly and try and get the best out of one another in the next 4-5 weeks. Who knows where we can go with this."

"There were sometimes throughout the season when I just felt we were being paralysed a little bit by fear," he added.

The virus had wreaked havoc in India at that time, claiming thousands of lives.

The 39-year-old former New Zealand skipper, who started his IPL journey as a player with KKR, is hopeful the team will be able to get rid of the angst that had been built in the first phase of the league.

"I wasn't able to free the guys up enough to understand

## Indian women's team has improved since T20 WC defeat: Mandhana

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana says her side has improved "massively" since the World T20 final defeat to Australia last year and will be "extra competitive" during the upcoming series here which also features its first day-night Test outing.

India and Australia are set to lock horns in a multi-format series comprising three ODIs, the day-night Test and three T20s, starting on September 21. The Test will be played from September 30 to October 3 in Canberra.

The last time the two sides met was at the women's T20 World Cup final at the MCG last year where the hosts had hammered India by 85 runs to lift the trophy.



"The team has grown massively (since the T20 World Cup)," Mandhana told "The Scoop" podcast.

The Indian squad finished its 14-day hard hotel quarantine on Monday. "COVID was a big break after the T20 World Cup and a lot of girls had a chance to go back and understand more about their games, where they lack as an individual and come back stronger."

The stylish southpaw said that after the COVID-19 enforced break, the Indian team is slowly getting back into the rhythm of playing cricket. "The whole team has worked on their fitness and skills...We are still getting into a rhythm of playing matches continuously but the last five, six months we have been playing cricket and now we are getting back into the match mindset."

## Pele recovering, set to leave intensive care: Daughter

IAN S ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

The eldest daughter of Brazilian football legend Pele has said that her father is expected to move out of intensive care this week as he recovers from surgery to remove a tumour from his colon. The 80-year-old underwent the procedure at Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein hospital on September 4 after the tumour was found during routine tests. "He is doing well post-surgery, he is not in pain and is in a good mood (annoyed that he can only

eat jello but will persevere!). He will move into a regular room in the next day or two and then go home," Kely said in a post on Tuesday morning (IST). Kely said the three-time World Cup winner has been buoyed by the support of fans from around the world and praised the work of doctors. "He is strong and stubborn and with the support and care of the brilliant team at Einstein and all of the love, energy and light that the world is sending, he will get through this," she added.

# Yuriy Sedykh, hammer throw world record holder, dies at 66



AP ■ MOSCOW

Yuriy Sedykh, a two-time Olympic champion in the hammer throw whose world record from 1986 still stands, has died. He was 66.

The Russian track and field federa-

tion said Sedykh died early Tuesday following a heart attack. "Deeply mourn the loss of Yuriy Sedykh," World Athletics senior vice president and pole vault great Sergei Bubka wrote on Twitter. "For me, Yuriy was a friend, a wise mentor."

Sedykh won gold at the 1976 and 1980

Olympics, but missed the 1984 Los Angeles Games because of a Soviet boycott. He returned to win a silver medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and won a world title in 1991.

Sedykh threw a world record 86.74 meters at the European Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, a mark which still stands. At this year's Tokyo Olympics, all 12 finalists in the men's hammer were born after Sedykh set the record.

Sedykh made his huge throw at a time when track and field was starting to realize the scale of performance-enhancing drug use. Former Moscow anti-doping laboratory director Grigory Rodchenkov wrote in a book last year that Sedykh was "a huge steroid abuser" who benefited from a Soviet cover-up. Rodchenkov said one of Sedykh's samples contained such large traces of the steroid stanozolol that it contaminated laboratory equipment.

Sedykh denied doping. In a 2015 interview with Russian newspaper Sport Express, Sedykh said athletes' big throws in the 1980s were because of better coaching and the Soviet Union's intensive talent scouting program.

After retiring, Sedykh worked in France as a physical education teacher. He was married to another Soviet world record holder, shot putter Natalya

Lisovskaya. Their daughter Alexia won hammer gold for France at the 2010 Youth Olympics.

**OCCASION OF EKADASHA & DWADASHA**

**Late Smt. Bishnu Priya Samantray (BHARATI)**

D.O.B:-24.6.1975.  
D.O.Demise:-4.9.2021

She always be remembered for her amiable nature and contribution to the family. Let her holy departed soul rest in peace. Your bereaved husband, family friends and relatives.

**Khordha, Jagannathpur**

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, COLLEGE OF NURSING BRAHMAPUR-760004, GANJAM, ODISHA**  
No.01-CN-STORE-12/2021 Dt. Berhampur the 13.09.2021.

**TENDER CALL NOTICE**

Sealed tenders are invited from the registered firms for "Supply of Books (Nursing) for the financial year" 2021-2022 for tender value of Rs.5.00 Lakhs. The details can be obtained on payment of Rs.1000/- at college office or the tender documents can be downloaded from the following websites:-www.ganjam.nic.in/ www.nursingodisha.nic.in/ www.odisha.gov.in and submit same with a draft amount of Rs.1000/- drawn in favour of PRINCIPAL COLLEGE OF NURSING BERHAMPUR payable at SBI Berhampur(0033) during the period from 16.09.21 to 30.09.21. The last date of receipt of tender through Regd. Post/Speed Post/Courier is 30.09.2021 upto 5 P.M. The Principal, College of Nursing, Berhampur reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel any or all the tenders in full or part at any stage of the process without assigning any reason thereof. The technical bid will be opened in the office of undersigned on next working day and the financial bid on the following working day.

**Sd/-Principal, College of Nursing, Berhampur (Ganjam)**

OIPR : 10024/11/0001/2021

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, BALANGIR.**

Ph. No - (06652 - 234647)  
Email. ID - cepbhgr@yahoo.co.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

**Bid Identification No. SE PH BGR 25/2021-22 Dt. 07.09.2021**

01. Name of the Work	: 02 Nos
02. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 92.05 to 96.31 Lakhs
03. Period of Completion	: 06(Six) Calendar Months
04. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt. 14.09.2021 to 5.00 PM of dt. 28.09.2021
05. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5 PM of dt. 28.09.2021
06. Date & Time of opening of bids	: At 11.00 AM of dt. 29.09.2021
07. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Balangir, At- Tulsinagar, Dist- Balangir-767001

Further details can be seen from the web site <http://tenders.ori.nic.in> or [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

OIPR-13005/11/0017/2122

Superintending Engineer P.H.Division, Balangir

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHUBANESWAR (R&B) DIVISION NO III BHUBANESWAR**  
bbsrrandb03@yahoo.com  
**Estd. No - 5425 Date - 06/09/2021**  
Government of Odisha "e-Procurement Notice No [ 17 ] of 2021-22  
Bid Identification No: - C.C. (R&B) 03

1 Name of the Work	E.I. work
2 Total No of works	1 no. work
3 Estimated Cost	<b>Rs. 28,02,645.00</b>
4 Class of Contractor	Original Equipment / Authorized Dealer
5 Period of Completion	45 (Forty Five) Days
6 Type of Tender	Single Cover System.(Online)
7 Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 14/09/2021 at 10.00 Hours to 23/09/2021 at 17.30 Hours
8 Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids in the Portal	<b>23/09/2021, upto 17.30 hrs</b>
9 Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Himansu Sekhar Sarangi, Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No.III, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>  
**N.B: Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above**

**Sd/-**  
Superintending Engineer Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No.III, BBSR

OIPR-3489/11/0006/2122