

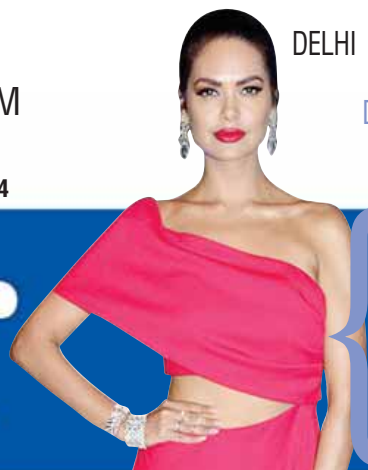
**OPINION 6**  
IN THE END, THE  
GAME IS THE WINNER**WORLD 8**  
ENCOURAGE AFGHANISTAN  
TO SHUN TERRORISM: XI**SPORT 12**  
HARMILAN KAUR SETS  
NATIONAL RECORD IN 1500M

BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹4



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# Record 2 crore get jabs on PM's b'day

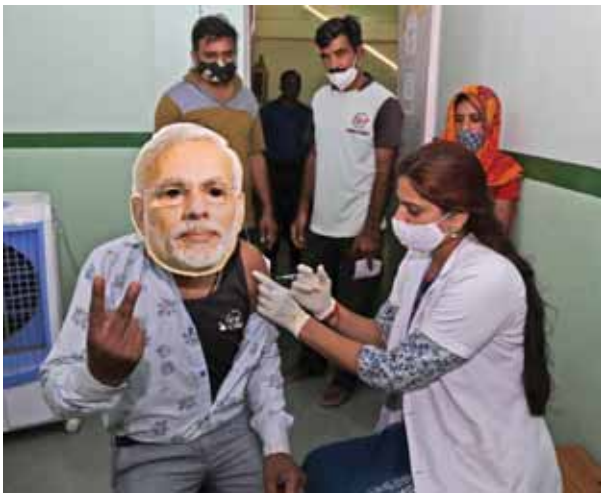
## India's total Covid shots is 78.72 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India crossed two crore Covid-19 vaccination in a day for the first time since the launch of the national inoculation programme almost eight months ago as the Government raced to set the landmark on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on Friday.

The one crore-mark was crossed by the afternoon itself, after which Ministers and BJP leaders put out tweets urging more to get their shots. Social media was also abuzz with congratulations wishes from a large number of supporters even as the Opposition mocked the event as "PR stunt" and fudging of data. Adding Friday's tally, daily vaccinations crossed the one-crore mark for the fourth time in less than a month.

Among States, laggard Bihar registered the highest



A health worker inoculates a Covid-19 vaccine dose to a beneficiary wearing face mask of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on PM's 71st birthday, during a mega-vaccination drive in Beawar on Friday

PTI

single-day vaccination at 16.28 lakh, followed by Karnataka at 15.47 lakh, Madhya Pradesh at 13.09 lakh, Uttar Pradesh at 12.12 lakh and Gujarat at 11.35 lakh.

Incidentally, Uttar Pradesh has registered the highest number of vaccinations in total so far at 9.18 crore, followed by Maharashtra with 71.3 crore, Madhya Pradesh 5.49 crore, Gujarat 5.47 crore and Rajasthan 5.23 crore.

"On PM @Narendra Modi Ji's birthday, till 1:30 pm, the country has crossed the mark of 1 crore vaccines, the fastest so far, and we are continuously moving forward. I believe that today we will all make a new record of vaccination and give it as a gift to the Prime Minister," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted with the hashtags "VaccineSeva" and "HappyBdayModiji". The

## 90% people in Mumbai have anti-bodies

**Mumbai:** As part of its latest sero-survey conducted in the country's commercial capital since the outbreak of the Covid-19 in March-April last year, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said on Friday that Covid-19 anti-bodies were found in a sizeable 90.26 per cent of Mumbaikars who were either fully or partially vaccinated. The study conducted between August 12 and September 9 found antibodies among the 79.86 per cent of unvaccinated citizens.

Government's tracker showed around 42,000 vaccinations in a minute, said a senior health officer.

"Celebrating the relentless efforts of India's vaccination against Covid-19, we have added a ticker to show vaccinations happening in near real-time. We are currently clocking over 42,000 vaccinations a minute or 700/second," tweeted National Health Authority chief RS Sharma.

# Must ensure radicalisation, extremism don't rise: Modi

## At SCO meet, PM asks members to encourage 'moderate Islam' in Af

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drawing attention to the developments in Afghanistan and the Taliban take-over there, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday gave a call to fight "extremism and increasing radicalisation" at the summit meeting of the nine-member forum of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). He emphasised on the history of "moderate Islam" in the Central Asia and also talked about "territorial integrity" in a veiled message to China.

Addressing the summit, the Prime Minister said, "The land-locked Central Asian countries can benefit immensely by connecting with India and its 'vast market' and indirectly took on China when he said "connectivity cannot be one way street" and affirmed that projects need to be "transparent", giving respect to "territorial integrity".

Modi was alluding to the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" or CPEC which India does not recognise as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Modi said India is helping to increase connectivity in Afghanistan via Iran's Chabahar Port. The Prime Minister also welcomed Iran as the ninth member of the forum.

Though the Prime Minister spoke through video-conferencing, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is physically representing India on at the SCO summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and discussed bilateral relations, particularly the situation at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.

In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted India's concerns over regional stability and asked the SCO member States, which includes China, Russia, Pakistan and central Asian countries, to ensure the grouping works closely together on issues like connectivity and trust.

Modi referred to "radicalization" many a times saying the biggest challenges before SCO are "peace, security and trust deficit" and sought the 21-year-old forum to take initiative and "fight radicalism



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the SCO Summit virtually on Friday

PTI

and extremism and develop a common template for it".

The SCO was formed in June 2001 with Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as members. India and Pakistan became full members in June 2017.

The Prime Minister said the Central Asia has been a region of moderation where "Sufism flourished", and asked SCO should take steps and work to develop a strong network of existing "moderate institutions" there. He called for encouraging "moderate Islam".

"Today, we can see what is happening in Afghanistan. As SCO members it is a must for us all to ensure that there is no radicalisation and extremism on the rise there. "If we take a look at history, we will find that

Central Asia has been a bastion of moderate and progressive cultures and values. Sufism flourished here over the centuries and spread throughout the region and the world. We can still see them in the cultural heritage of this region," the Prime Minister said.

## Jaishankar: Early resolution must for LAC peace

**New Delhi/Beijing:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that the two sides should work for an early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh to restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

## Rise: State adds 628 new Covid cases

### 96 children among infected; four more die; 681 recover

**BHUBANESWAR:** The State recorded 628 new Covid-19 cases in 23 districts and State pool on Friday, with which total tally mounted to 10,18,926. Among those infected were 96 children in age group of 0 to 18 years. Notably, State had reported 580 Covid cases on Thursday. Out of new cases, 367 were from quarantine cases and 261 local contacts. Khordha district reported day's highest 291 cases, Cuttack 72, Jagatsinghpur 26, Sundargarh 23, Baleswar and Mayurbhanj 22 each and Jajpur 19. The districts which recorded below-10 cases were Puri and Kendrapada nine each, Sambalpur eight, Bhadrak seven, Angul and Dehkanal five each, Rayagada four, Jharsuguda three and Keonjhar Balangir, Deogarh and Ganjam one each. Besides, 66 cases were reported from State pool. The active cases were 5,906. Four persons succumbed to disease in last 24 hours, with which total death toll rose to 8,122. However, 681 persons recovered on day, increasing total recoveries to 10,04,845.

# It isn't time to bring fuel under GST regime: FM

## 1st physical GST meet since Covid indecisive; Tax on Covid drugs cut till year end

VIRENDRA NATH BHATTA ■  
LUCKNOW

The Goods and Service tax council, comprising the Finance Ministers of all States and Union Territories and Union Finance Minister, which met here on Friday failed to arrive at a decision on the inclusion of petroleum products and diesel in the GST.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that it was not time for including petrol and diesel.

The council extended concessional tax rates on Covid-19 medicines, cut tax on cancer drugs and waived GST on import of highly expensive



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow on Friday

PTI

medicines for muscular atrophy.

The 45th meeting of the GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising State Finance Ministers, is the first physical meeting since the onset of the Covid-19 pan-

demic. The last such meeting took place 20 months ago on December 18, 2019.

The council's agenda included discussion on taxing petrol and diesel under the single national GST tax, extending tax concession to 11 Covid-19 drugs, and review tax rates

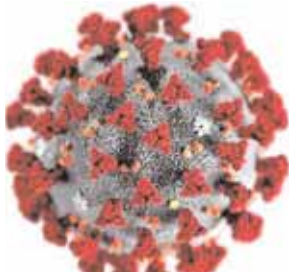
of over 4-dozen items, like oncology medicine and coconut oil among others.

The discussion on inclusion of petrol and diesel under GST was taken on the direction of the Kerala High Court. The court had directed the matter to be placed before the council for discussion. However, the Centre and the States failed to arrive at a decision regarding the inclusion of petrol and diesel under the ambit of GST regime.

Kerala Finance Minister vehemently opposed any move to bring petrol and diesel under the GST regime as that will further reduce revenue generation for the State and asserted that the Centre should reduce its levies on the two commodities to provide relief to the common people.

Central excise and State VAT (Value Added Tax) make up for almost half of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel. Bringing them under the GST would impact revenue generation for the States.

## 267 new infections in BBSR



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar on Friday registered 267 new Covid-19 cases. With this, the total tally in the State capital city increased to 1,10,453.

Notably on Thursday, 213 cases had been detected in the city. Out of the new cases, 214 were local contacts and 53 from quarantine.

The active cases stood at 3,674. One more person succumbed to the disease in the city, pushing the total death toll to 1,114. However, 165 more patients recovered from the disease, increasing the total recoveries to 1,05,744.

## AIIMS BBSR to host nuclear med conf today

### 550 docs from India, abroad to join



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Department of Nuclear Medicine, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, will organise the 19th Annual Congress of the Association of Nuclear Medicine Physicians of India on Saturday on online platform.

Dr Kanhaiya Agrawal, Associate Professor Nuclear Medicine is the organising chairperson and Dr Girish Parida the organising secretary. Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan will join the inaugural ceremony as chief guest. Prof B R Mittal, Director, Institute of Medical

Science, Banaras Hindu University, will be guest of honour.

"To update the ever-growing knowledge in the nuclear medicine, we have academic lectures on recent developments in the field of cancer. There is going to be approximately 48 lectures by faculties from India, the USA, the UK, Italy and Kuwait.

Approximately 550 doctors from India and abroad will join us. They are from the USA, England, Australia, SAARC countries, Egypt, UAE, Croatia, Kuwait, Italy, Iraq, Greece and other countries," stated a release by AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

# Mamata, not Rahul, can take on Modi: Trinamool Congress

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■  
KOLKATA

About a month after West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress head Mamata Banerjee underscored the need of Opposition unity rather than focusing on a face for the Prime Ministership, her party on Friday projected her as the only Opposition face that could take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The front page of the TMC mouthpiece *Jago Bangla* read, "It is not Rahul, but Mamata, who is the main face against Modi."

At a Trinamool workers' meeting too, senior leader and MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay summed up his party's mood saying, "We have great regards



for Sonia... again the TMC has nothing against Rahul Gandhi whom I have observed for so many years ... but I can say he has not measured up to the expectations... he has not been able to bring himself as an alternative to Narendra Modi ... In that case it is only Mamata Banerjee who is the main opposition face against Modi."

# HC rejects writ against idol height norm

**CUTTACK:** The Orissa High Court on Friday dismissed the writ petition which had challenged the State Government's order of August 9, wherein the Government, among others, has ordered that the height of the idols during the various pujas at mandaps shall not exceed four feet in view of the ongoing pandemic.

The court had reserved its verdict on Thursday after completing hearing. Observing that the court is of the view that no case has been made out for modifying the conditions in the Government order, a Division Bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar said that only for the petitioner-puja committee, the height of the idol should not exceed

four feet. The court, accordingly, dismissed the petition filed by Cuttack's Balubazaar Puja Committee. Appearing for the petitioner, Senior Advocate Pitambar Acharya had on Thursday argued that the idol size has nothing to do with the spread of Covid and added that limiting the idol height has hurt the religious sentiments of the people of Cuttack.

On the other hand, the Government counsel argued that relaxing a restriction for just one puja committee would trigger similar demands by other committees across the State and it would be difficult for the Government to strictly enforce the measures against the pandemic.

PNS

# Only medium floods likely in State

## IMD predicts more rains till Sept 21

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The official machinery in the State is on high alert due to a threat of low to moderate-level floods in the Mahanadi river system.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Jena on Friday said that even though the water levels in rivers like Baitarini and Jalaka rivers were receding, that of Subarnarekha was rising.

Though there are no threats of any major floods, it is expected that floodwaters might ingress into the low-lying villages in Bhograi and Baliapal blocks in Baleswar district. "The district administration is on alert. ODRAF and NDRF teams have been deployed to combat any emergency," said Jena. He said that around 5.5



lakh cusecs of water was entering the Hirakud Dam on Thursday, but it decreased to 4.70 lakh cusecs with an outflow of 4.84 lakh cusecs on Friday. The excess water was released through 28 gates of the dam.

"We are expecting a peak Mahanadi flow at Mundali by Saturday. As per the projection, around 7.5 lakh cusecs of water will pass through Mundali. We hope to keep the flow below 8 lakh cusecs. As per our assessment, there will be no problem in the tributaries of Mahanadi,"

Jena added. Water Resources Department Chief Engineer Dhiren Samal said the Hirakud Dam water level now stands at 628.79 feet and it is showing a decreasing trend as the excess water was released through 28 gates on Thursday night.

"By midnight today (Friday), we expect a peak flood of 7 to 7.5 lakh cusecs to pass through Mundali. There will be low to medium-level floods. As many low-lying areas in Kendrapada and other coastal districts are inundated by rainwater, normalcy would

return slowly," Samal said. "The floodwater will remain stagnant in low-lying areas and will be released slowly. As the sea condition is tidal, the discharge of water is getting delayed. After the lunar tide effect is over, the water will decrease automatically," he added.

Meanwhile, the Regional Office of the Indian Metrological Department (IMD) here said several parts of the State would experience heavy downpours from Saturday and the conditions would continue till September 21. Issuing a Yellow alert, the IMD said heavy rains are very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, Puri, Nayagarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Kandhamal, Malkangiri and Koraput.



# 2 Govt offices shut in BBSR as staff test +ve

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Commission (BMC) On Friday sealed offices of the Sub-Collector and the Tehsildar of Bhubaneswar for two days after several employees of the two establishments tested positive for Covid-19. "In larger public interest and to contain further spread of virus, both Government offices have been sealed for two days, i.e. September 17 and 18," read an order issued by civic body. The BMC issued order with following condition: Premises of both Government offices shall be sanitised immediately by respective office heads in strict adherence to guidelines issued by State Government and Centre. Except authorised per-

sonnel of BMC, no one shall be allowed to move into or from outside the premises of the two offices during the sealing period. The infected employees were directed to remain in isolation in their respective houses. Further, if any positive case needs medical attention, the heads of the offices were directed to intimate the same to the BMC immediately. The heads of the offices were also directed to contact the BMC in case of Covid symptoms in other staffs for their immediate testing and isolation, if found positive. An RT-PCR test camp shall be conducted for all staffs of the two offices on September 20, where all officers, staffs and housekeeping and security personnel shall be tested invariably

# 'Let Govt reopen schools with all Covid norms' Talk organised

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Government needs to open schools in the State, taking all Covid preventive measures as the education of the students, especially of the socially and economically disadvantaged population has been hit. The Government also need to increase budget for school education. This was stated by experts in a seminar held here recently on the theme, "The state of school education in Odisha at the time of Covid." The Odisha Right to Education Forum, Save the Children Odisha and the Odisha Child Protection Commission jointly organised it on Thursday. The focus was on a study conducted in 15 districts of the State under the guidance of the Odisha Right to Education Forum and the Odisha Child Protection Commission and with support from Save the Children Odisha. Speaking on the occasion, Odisha Right to



Education Forum convenor Anil Pradhan welcomed the dignitaries and participants and said that the Odisha Right to Education Forum, had already submitted a memorandum to the Government to protect the health and education of the children in the State and continue it in a cohesive manner without any disruption. Based on the memorandum and the findings of the study, the Government should make sure that schools are reopened as soon as possible so that children can get back to school and continue their edu-

cation, he told. Educationist and principal researcher Smruti Ranjan Jena highlighted how education of the children took a beating. "In a financially disadvantaged State like Odisha, where people are unable to support their families for food during Covid, we need to think about how far it is possible to teach school children through smart phones with internet," he stated. OSCPCR Chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan said that Government should pay special attention to safety, health and education of children.

# State gets ₹246 cr for urban bodies

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has received Rs 246.60 crore from the Centre as first installment of the tied grant for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for the year 2021-22. Odisha ranks 31st in the list of most urbanised States while in terms of actual urban population, it ranks 11th among the States with the largest urban populations. The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, on Friday released an amount of Rs 2,427 crore to 11 States for their ULBs. The 15th Finance Commission in its report for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 has divided the ULBs into two categories, Million-Plus urban agglomerations/cities (excluding Delhi and Srinagar) and all other cities and towns with less than one million population (Non-Million Plus cities) and has recommended separate grants for them.

# PM Modi's birthday organised as 'National Unemployment Day'

## Youth Cong stages demo in BBSR

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Odisha Youth Congress unit 'celebrated' Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on Friday as "National Unemployment Day" and organised a unique demonstration in front of the Directorate of Employment office here. Under leadership of Youth Congress State president Dr Smruti Ranjan Lenka, hun-

dreds of youths prepared pakoda and polished shoe in front of employment office and tried to enter inside office by confronting with police. Later, police stopped them forcibly. Lenka said PM Modi has completely failed in keeping his promise made before the 2014 general elections for providing two crore jobs per year to youths of country. Rather, he has snatched jobs from millions of youths. In August alone, around 1.5 million people lost jobs.



# In Dhenkanal Environment clearance to hazardous waste treatment decried

WSO apprehends more human-elephant conflict

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO) has objected to the grant of environmental clearance to set up a common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal plant at Patarpada village under Parjang block in an elephant habitat of Dhenkanal district. The WSO has sent the objections on September 4 to the district Collector, SEIAA Chairman, OSPCB Chairman and IDCO CMD citing reasons on how the plant would impact in a high elephant conflict



zone. The Summary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has grossly ignored the impact of the project on endangered elephants expected resultant escalation in human elephant conflict once the project is commissioned.

The EIA has a material omission by failing to mention the presence of a Scheduled I species (Asiatic Elephant) in the project site and adjacent landscape, the omission is despite the fact that there are about 25 resident elephants



living in adjacent Barabanka Reserve Forest (RF) and about 100 to 125 elephants congregate in the same forest every year during crop season, said the WSO in its petition. The Barabanka RF is their year round shelter and is spread

over 14 square kms elephants regularly emerge from here and move around for food, drink and bath in the Brahman river located about one km away. Patarpada under Mahabirod Forest Range

spread over 25 square km has recorded large numbers of human-elephant encounters and crop depredation in the recent past. In the last five years, there were 55 instances of such encounters reported, in which 26 humans lost their lives and 44 were injured. During the period, 12 elephants were killed in the area. Strangely, these incidents have not been mentioned in the EIA report, said WSO secretary Biswajit Mohanty. Mohanty said that as the human-elephant conflict peaked, the villagers in and around Patarpada pooled money from 900 families and constructed a 14-km-long

solar-powered fence to protect about 1,250 acres of farmlands from elephant raids. The Forest Department also constructed a six-km-long solar-powered fence around Barabanka RF and additionally about nine km of solar-power fence from the Parjang ITI to Mandiablo to provide protection to farmlands of neighbouring Kandarsingha village. Such mitigation measures by the Forest Department and local stakeholders have managed to reduce the human-elephant conflict to some extent. However, setting up the waste management plant is a sure shot recipe to escalate the conflict once again to unbearable

and tragic limits in which severe losses of human lives and property are apprehended. The summary EIA suggests that hazardous waste will be collected from 12 different districts of western Odisha such as Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Bargarh, Balangir, Sambalpur, Angul, Keonjhar and Deogarh, etc. This would mean a continuous flow of heavy transport vehicles, more so during nights when elephants move out of forests to feed. The heavy vehicular movement would disturb their free movement and compel them to enter other areas giving rise to more human-elephant conflicts, Mohanty stated.

# Olive Ridley missing in new B'kanika logo

Resentment among turtle lovers, researchers

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

Strong resentment is brewing among turtle lovers and researchers over a new logo released by the Bhitarkanika National Park authorities as the photo of endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle that has made the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary within Bhitarkanika a world-famous site is missing in it. Recently, Rajnagar Mangrove Forest and Wildlife Division DFO Dr Jangyadatta Pati tweeted sharing the new logo to lure more tourists to Bhitarkanika. The new logo carries the pictures of mangrove forest, dolphin, spotted deer, estuarine crocodile, king cobra, paw of fishing cat and



avian species. But that of Olive Ridley turtle is missing. Environmentalist Jagannath Das and turtle lover Dolagobinda Jena of Rajnagar are surprised over the development. "When the Chief Minister has been appealing for the conservation of Olive Ridley sea turtles, the Bhitarkanika authorities have excluded the photo from the new logo," they lamented.

# Modi birthday Puri man gives 600 cups of tea free

**PNS PURI:** A tea seller of Puri wished Prime Minister Modi on his birthday on Friday by distributing around 600 cups of tea for free. Besides tea, the customers also enjoyed snacks and sweets on the occasion which was inaugurated by Puri BJP MLA Jayant Sarangi. The tea-seller Akshay Jaysingh, a great fan of Modi, has been celebrating the latter's birthday by free tea distribution for seven years. Jaysingh said he used 60 kg of milk to prepare 600 tea cups. Fordiabetic persons, he arranged sugar-free tea also. Jaysingh runs his roadside wooden tea stall near Puri Urban Bank and sells 'Modi tea' as his signature product.

# Gen Mohan visits Sainik School

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

SM VSM, General Officer Commanding, Madhya Bharat Area, Jabalpur Cantt Lt Gen S Mohan visited Sainik School Bhubaneswar for the first time since he had taken over his official responsibility. On his arrival he was received by Principal, Sainik School Bhubaneswar Gp Capt S Dominic Rayan, Cdr Pritika Sharma, Capt B Pradhan, Senior Master and staffs. During his visit Lt Gen Mohan inspected Martyrs' Memorial and other important units of cadets' training. Later in his address to the Cadets of Class X and XII he invoked them to make best

use of all the resources available in the school for their all-around development and join the National Defence Academy and serve the motherland.



# Caterers thank CM Patnaik for easing restrictions

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The All Odisha Caterers' Association has thanked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the State Government relaxing the restrictions and allowing 250 persons at social gatherings. Association president Binay Bhushan Patnaik said, "We are thankful to our Chief Minister, who considered our plight and allowed 250 guests in the social functions. It will help our members as well as the workers and their families who are associated with us. "We as responsible citizens, understand the critical situation and the dangers posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. We would take utmost care and strin-

gently follow the Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Government while organizing any social functions," added Patnaik. The association hosted the first annual general body meeting and held election to the Khordha District Caterers' Association here on

Wednesday. Aswin Kumar Mohapatra and Brundabana Mishra were elected as the first president and general secretary of the newly-formed Khordha District Caterers' Association. Srikanta Patnaik and Rabindra Kumar Patra were elected as joint secretaries.



# ULB, PRI polls BJD to continue to dominate with Naveen's TINA factor BJP may hinge on Aparajita for a tough battle; Congress to fight with Niranjana at the helm



LALIT MOHAN MISHRA

After lunching the first phase of the new Smart Health Card (SHC) programme under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana in Malkangiri district in August, Chief Minister and BJD Supremo, Naveen Patnaik, has distributed the SHCs to the people of Sundergarh district

on September 14, in the second phase. According to the State Government, 3.5 crore poor people of 92.5 lakh economically vulnerable families, who are the beneficiaries of the national and State food security schemes, shall be benefited under the health scheme. The State Government will bear the full cost of all health services of the beneficiaries in all State Government health-care facilities. In addition, all the BSKY Smart Card holders are eligible to avail free expenditure upto Rs 5 lakh for family and additional Rs 5 lakh for the female members after the exhaust of initial Rs 5 lakh, at any empanelled private hospitals. After the successful management of Covid-19 pandemic, the ruling party, BJD, is planning to harvest further good-will of the poor through implementation of SHC. It may be reminded, the BJD

Government is not implementing the Center's Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the State. Besides this health programme, the BJD led State Government has been running various welfare programmes in the rural and urban areas including the new MUKTA (Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan Yojana -scheme) for the urban poor women. The BJD has also strengthened the party- organisation in all districts, giving power to the young and the women leaders. The dissidents inside the party have been either punished or ignored for their vested-interests. The party has also been giving additional focus to the districts like Mayurbhanja, Sundergarh, Kalahandi and so on where it had performed badly in last Panchayat and

Parliament polls. The BJD has also declared 27% reservation for the OBCs in ticket-distribution in urban local body (ULB) and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) polls, as the new reservation amendments limit the overall reservation to 50% in elections. The 50% women reservation facility for the women in PRIs and ULBs shall fetch goodwill votes for the BJD as before. With all these preparations, the BJD is ahead of the opposition parties in facing the forthcoming PRI and ULB polls. Besides, the party is confident of having a victory in Pipli by-election and in the event it happens, it will give a positive message in the PRI elections for the party. In this situation, the TINA (there is no alternative)-factor of Naveen Patnaik that had brought the BJD above 45% votes in last general elections, is all set to increase in the forth-

coming local body polls. Coming to the Congress party in the State, after the approval of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) team last week, it is clear that the Congress High Command has reposed faith on Niranjana Patnaik to lead the State-unit for the forthcoming ULB and PRI elections. When Niranjana Patnaik was appointed as Odisha PCC-Chief in 2018, there were some leaders in the party who were opposed to him. While his critic, Srikant Jena, was dropped from the party before 2019 election, another critic, Bhakta Charan Dash, was made the campaign-committee chairman for the general election to work closely with Patnaik. Therefore, Niranjana Patnaik, went to 2019 general elections without any opponents. But he had only scored 9 MLAs, 1 MP and 15% vote

share in the general elections which are treated as a historic electoral disaster of the party. Presently, Patnaik, has almost no opponents to stand in his way while fighting the 2022 -PRI or ULB polls. The protest by Koraput Congress MLA, Tara Prasad Bahinipati, against the PCC president, was silenced by Dr Chellakumar, who gave a stern message to the anti-Niranjana camp to leave the party in case of dissident activities. But what is striking in Odisha Congress is that the party which was destabilised from power since 2000 for "parivarbad", is witnessing many leaders putting more than one family members in party's organisational posts now, a trend that started with the 2019 general election. Unless rigorously worked, the vote share of the Congress is all set to fall below the 15% level in next PRI and ULB

Polls. What about the BJP in Odisha? BJP has been growing in the State since 2014 general elections. It performed well in 2017 PRI polls, replacing the Congress as principal opposition. The party developed further in 2019 general elections and occupied the Leader of the Opposition role in Odisha Legislative Assembly with 23 Assembly seats. Union Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, played a crucial role in this development of the party. But the situation changed after 2019 general election. Factionalism erupted in the State unit like Congress, as the party could not achieve its mission of 120 Assembly seats. It got eight MPs, changing the earlier power-equation in the party. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, realising the weakness of the State unit, began to treat the BJD as his informal ally for the

smooth sailing in passage of bills in Parliament. Even the BJP MP and the Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was to be elected to the RS with the support of the BJD. How the BJP would fight the forthcoming ULB and Panchayat poll is a moot question? There shall be a vacuum in the State BJP, as Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been given the responsibility of the tightly-packed UP Assembly-election. In such situation, the BJP has no other option except to depend on Aparajita Sarangi, the Bhubaneswar MP, as its star-campaigner. Not only is Aparajita close to the Prime Minister but she is a popular leader as well as the credible woman leader to be at the helm of affairs in the State BJP unit. She can also bring together all MPs and left-out leaders to offer a strong and united fight in the local body polls.



# Espionage racket: ITR security chief questioned

**NIA team also arrives for probe**

**UBACHAK MOHANTY**  
■BALESWAR

Even as a National Investigation Agency (NIA) investigation team arrived to probe the spy ring at the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur in Baleswar district, officials of the NIA and the State Crime Branch met the Baleswar SP on Friday. The Chief Security Officer of DRDO was also at the Eastern Range IG office and questioned. However, the NIA officials have declined to comment at the investigations are

at a preliminary stage. The NIA team came a day after the Crime Branch took over the espionage investigation from the local police.

The agency would unearth information from the five arrested persons who reportedly leaked sensitive Defence secrets suspected to be Pakistani ISI agents, after being honey-trapped. The NIA would try to ascertain the mastermind of the espionage racket and whether he is reporting to any foreign handler.

So far, five persons have been arrested on charges of leaking sensitive information to foreign agents. The four accused Basanta Behera (52), Hemanta Kumar Mistri (52), Tapas Ranjan Nayak (41) and Sk Musafir (32) were earlier

arrested in connection with the case. However, the fifth accused arrested is a permanent staffer who worked as the driver of a top official of the ITR. The accused, Sachin Kumar Chatta, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, is a driver of the ITR Director. He was living in the ITR Colony.

He was sent to judicial custody after the court rejected his bail plea. It is suspected that Sachin passed secret information to the four other accused, who shared the data with Pakistani agents for monetary benefits. But was yet to be ascertained the source from where Sachin got the secret information. The involvement of some higher officials at the testing range cannot be ruled out at this stage.

# Jumbo kills man, injures another in Balangir

**SUDHIR MISHRA** ■ BALANGIR

In an unfortunate incident, an Elephant killed one Yadav Rana (45) of village Brahmani under the Harishankar Forest Range in Balangir district on Thursday night.

The jumbo, after coming to the village at around 9 pm, began damaging Rana's house.



When Rana came out of the house, the elephant killed him on the spot. The elephant stayed at the village overnight and attacked another person, Tarani Bhoi (35) on Friday morning leaving him seriously injured.

Harishankar Range Officer Sribatsa Kumara said, "getting information, we reached the

spot in the morning and facilitated shifting of injured person to the Khaphaphol medical for treatment." Since last two days, the elephant was moving in Chabripali, Bhanupali and adjoining villages eating paddy crop. "We believe the elephant has come from the Padampur side of Bargarh district and we are keeping a watch on its movement. The jumbo is now inside the forest near a village of Gandhmardan forest," said Kumara to this correspondent over phone. Balangir Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Nitish Kumar said, "We have initiated the compensation-giving process; and by today evening, Rs 40,000 (10 ten percent of the total amount) would be given to the deceased's family; and we would complete the payment of compensation within a fortnight."

# Three swept by floodwaters in K'jhar

**1 rescued, 2 missing**

**KEONJHAR:** Three persons were swept away by floodwaters at Baitarini Barrage near Anandpur in Kendujhar district on Friday morning when they were collecting firewood. While Fire Services personnel managed to rescue one of them, two were still missing. The trio, residents of a village near Anandpur, had gone to collect firewood near barrage when

tragedy occurred. Due to heavy downpours, the water level at barrage had risen. While collecting firewood from banks, the trio slipped and fell into waters. They were swept away in no time due to strong currents. The Fire Services personnel launched a search and rescue operation after being informed. Hours later, they managed to rescue one of them while there was no trace of other two. The searches were on.

# OSOU centre meet organised at Paradip College

**PNS** ■ PARADIP

The Paradip College organised a meeting for the inauguration of a Odisha State Open University (OSOU) study centre at the college premises on Wednesday.

OSOU, Sambalpur VC Prof Dr AK Das Mohapatra graced the occasion as chief guest while Prof Dr Dillip Kumar Nayak, officer in-charge, OSOU joined as chief speaker and Basant Kumar Biswal,

former chairperson, Paradip municipality joined as the guest of honour. The meeting was presided over by Principal Dr Suprema Kanungo. Dr Akshaya Chandra Mishra, HOD, History and coordinator of Paradip College OSOU study centre introduced the guests. The Chief guest and VC expressed satisfaction over the infrastructure of the study centre. At the end, HOD, English Ganeswar Patra extended vote of thanks.



# 'Rly engineers' demands ignored, talent suppressed

## ECoREA holds Engineers' Day

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

The railway engineers known as backbone of Indian Railways are neglected but other cadres are upgraded. Due to this engineers are frustrated and their talents are surpassed, said East Coast Railway Engineers Association (ECoREA) president Er Babin Mohanty. He was speaking in a seminar organised by ECoREA on the occasion of

Engineers' Day, which was held by the association in virtual mode on Wednesday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya

Mohanty demanded that the status of railway engineers with justified pay structures, promotional avenue and recognition of their federation are to be considered on top priority.

Chief guest and Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti Er Bishweswar Tudu told that for becoming good engineer, all should follow the path of M Visvesvaraya. He told that ministers, engineers & executives play a key role for nation's

buildings. He assured the engineers present in the webinar that he along with the delegates of association would discuss with Railway Minister and Finance Minister to accord justice to Railway engineers and for betterment of railways. Chief Speaker and Senior Deputy General Manager of South Eastern Railway Er Sankarsan Nayak underscored the need to implement new technology in Indian Railways.

General secretary of the association Er BP Dash said that the Railways is going to adopt different proposals i.e. joint venture with State Governments, PPP mode, etc. to raise the fund for moderni-

sation programme. He urged that the number of Group-B posts should be more than Group-A posts as followed in other ministries for smooth running of organisation. More

than 400 engineers from East Coast Railway and other zones participated in the virtual meeting. Er KP Dash and Er Dusan Sahoo organised the online meeting.



# Curtain raiser on Int'l Yr of Millets held at OUAT

**BHUBANESWAR:** Year 2023 is going to be observed as International Year of Millets. A curtain raiser programme with 'Campaign on Nutri-Garden and Tree Plantation' was observed at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) here on Friday in hybrid mode with deliberation by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of State, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Choudhary and Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR Dr T r i l o c h a n Mohapatra. Presiding over function, OUAT Vice-Chancellor Dr Pawan Kumar



Agrawal highlighted importance of millets as nutri-cereals, preparation of value-added products and inclusion of millets in daily food habit. He also emphasised upon development of nutri-gardens at household level and plantation of fruits and other tree species. Minister Tomar stressed on the leading role of India in promotion of millets as nutriceals in entire world. He said, "We have to see many

changes to ensure our food security, nutrition security and livelihood security." Dr Diptimayee Jena, Professor, College of Community Science, and Dr Pramod Kumar Panda, Professor, College of Agriculture, OUAT delivered talks on importance of nutri-gardens and tree plantation. More than 150 farmers, girl students, teachers, scientists, Deans and Directors of university participated in function. Followed by meeting, a plantation programme was also undertaken in campus. Similar events and farmers' meetings were organised at 31 KVKs in different districts of States involving over 5,000 farmers. **PNS**

# Roads in Maoist-hit N'pada villages still unfinished

## Locals draw DM's attention during her visit

**AJIT PANDA** ■ NUAPADA

Nuapada district Collector Swadha Deb Singh visited some remote villages of Maoist-affected Sosenang and Sunabeda gram panchayats in the district on Thursday to discuss with people about their problems. In a meeting she held with people at Sunabeda after her village visit, she was appraised about the problems in the area.

"We demanded that the PMGSY roads, left incomplete due to objection raised by wildlife department, be completed," said Biju Jhankar of Sanbaheli village.

There are as many as fifty human habitations in the two GPs in the Sunabeda plateau

area. Works for roads connecting to different villages were taken up under PMGSY for improvement and metal paving in some of those have already been completed when the wildlife department raised objections and stopped the work. As a result, at least eight road works have been left incomplete," adds Jhankar.

Residents of the plateau have been demanding resumption of the works since 2017, but the wildlife department is insisting on adoption of "due process" under the Forest Act, which has not been adhered to by the Rural Works Department.

"We have even met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and expressed our grievance, but the road works did not resume due to lack of permission from the Department of Forests and Wildlife," informed Sunabeda Sarpanch Tilingsh Jhankar.

According to the Forest Department's website parivesh.nic.in, the forest clear-

ance proposals submitted by the Rural Works Department for improvement of the roads were returned to the User Agency (UA) for further compliance in April 2019.

The EDS (Essential Details Sought) by the Nodal Office are yet to be complied. The online status of these proposals shows, "Pending with UA".

Local leaders of the two GPs said they brought these matters to the attention of the Collector. Some roads in

Kermeli panchayat located in the foothills of the Sunabeda plateau in Nuapada block also have not been taken for repair as the forest clearances are awaited.

Construction works of two small bridges between Golabandh and Kankermanji villages have been halted by the wildlife department due to same reasons. "The district administration needs to pay attention to all these issues," said the villagers.



# Sept 16 was Ozone Day

## Stratospheric ozone levels to be normal in 50 yrs

**MANAS RANJAN SENAPATI** ■ BHUBANESWAR

The ozone layer absorbs a portion of the radiation (UVB) from the sun, preventing it from reaching the surface of Earth. UVB is very harmful which can cause skin cancer, cataracts, genetic disorder, crop damage etc.

Experiments on fish suggest that 90% to 95% of malignant melanomas (a form of skin cancer) may be due to UV radiations. Plants are sensitive to UV radiation below 300 nm. Ozone depletion may also affect the climate.

With its depletion, spectrum of incoming radiation will change and hence may produce new molecular species which may change the radiation emitting and absorbing properties of atmosphere. This may cause formation of more tropospheric ozone. In the absence of

ozone layer the radiations will directly flow to the earth surface and hence change the vertical distribution of molecules in the troposphere and stratosphere which in turn change the rate of vertical circulation.

Numerous commonly used chemicals have been found to be extremely damaging to the stratospheric ozone layer. Halocarbons are chemicals in which one or more carbon atoms are linked to one or more halogen atoms (fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine).

Halocarbons containing bromine usually have much higher ozone-depleting potential (ODP) than those containing chlorine.

The man-made chemicals that have provided most of the chlorine and bromine for ozone depletion are methyl bromide, methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride and families of chemicals known as halons

and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 16 as the World Ozone Day, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol.

The theme for this year's World Ozone Day-2021 is "Montreal Protocol - Keeping us, our food and vaccines cool".

As an international response in 1987 an international meeting in Montreal, Canada, produced the Montreal Protocol on phasing out most use of CFCs by 2000.

The Montreal Protocol is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion. CFC production in most developed countries has fallen sharply since 1989. The Montreal Protocol has been

successful in reducing ozone depleting substances and reactive chlorine and bromine in the stratosphere. CFCs are being substituted by HCFCs (hydro chlorofluorocarbons) which release much less chlorine per molecule.

The 2019 ozone hole is indeed the smallest since recording of its size began in 1982 but the ozone is also influenced by temperature shifts and dynamics in the atmosphere through climate change. In 50 years or so, stratospheric ozone levels are expected to be back to normal. However the final recovery is expected to require several lifetimes.

(Dr Senapati is Dean (Science), BPUT, Professor of Chemistry, Trident Academy of Technology, Bhubaneswar-751024, E-mail: dr\_senapati@yahoo.com)

# Mind! Women are not for 'using and throwing'



**DISHASHREE SWAIN**

They banned single-use plastics. Yet today, women are still used. It's easy to be the victim, and that's true. But how can our women be empowered to stand strong as the threat of the conservative society stands

on the sidelines, ready to strike out at a single wrong move made?

**How many of these disposed bodies pollute our seas?**

The ongoing romance with traditional fantasies condones the backlash against 'westernized elitist feminists'. This means it's open season on any woman deemed to be liberated. Pummeled by globalization and its sought-after culture, social conservatives fancy the golden age of India, a shallow imagination of a so-called 'pure' and 'authentic' homeland.

This is actually a globalisation-inspired love affair with ancientness which legitimizes the curtailment of a woman's democratic rights. There are two dimensions here: On the

one hand, the sanctimonious inclination for a Sati-Savitri who will toe the line and quietly submit to everything a man may propel at her.

On the other hand, there is an interminable demand for sexual gratification in every form comprehensible as seen in the ascending demand for porn and commodifying women in entertainment media.

A different approach to the commodification of women has been ineradicable since the ancient ages- Kanyadaan and the traditional dowry system in the Indian 'vivah' or marriage has led people to the justification that women are property. Since childhood, a female is defined by numbers, inches, feet, pounds, appearances, net worth and beauty-

the hollow word still tailing us closely and never letting go. In social situations too, people still bear the shallow mindset of asking husbands about their work, and wives about their husbands.

Once again, women are compelled to wear something less provocative. If "she's too young to be wearing that", then she's too young to be sexualized, thank you very much. You should be teaching young girls to be proud of their bodies; we're all masterpieces in ourselves.

Why are we teaching girls to cover themselves up instead of teaching the men to have control over their attitude? And if someone says that girls wearing provocative outfits are really asking for it, there's a

solution. What if you're out in the public and not wearing protective headgear, doesn't that mean I can smash your skull if I want? I mean, you're really not wearing headgear, are you? "You're just really asking for it." When men are oppressed, it becomes a tragedy, and when women are, it's just a part of being a woman?

**We are people, not objects.**

Crimes against women continue to escalate; female foeticide remains common even among educated women; stray incidents of Sati still take place, with women either jumping or being thrown on to their husbands' funeral pyres. Arranged marriages are commonplace. The reason we need

feminism is because the world is still a place where a man in a room full of women is ecstatic, and a woman in a room full of men is terrified, and it's not something men should be proud of.

Just a few days ago, a woman was called out in Lucknow for slapping a cab driver who wasn't really at fault for an accident that was just stopped from happening.

The girl deserves punishment at the hands of law, but doesn't this very incident balance out with the hundreds of crimes that take place against women everyday? This incident did cause massive outrage and stirred up the debate for 'whether feminism in India made the men defenseless?' Feminism fights for the equal-

ity of genders in a society that is clearly unequal. How is the action of one horrible woman who isn't even endorsed as a feminist icon reflecting upon the entire feminist movement?

In that case, is it okay for calling every man out there a rapist because we come across dozens of cases of rape where men are the perpetrators? Feminism doesn't need women to be held superior to others; it just calls out for women to be held equal and on the same plane as men.

If we can learn how to work together, communicate, build each other up and work on our goals as a team, we can take over the world twice. But if we remain oblivious in the midst of escapist fantasies, we will only inflict suffering on

ourselves. Speak up. Scream, so that a hundred years later, another sister will not have to dry her tears and wonder where in history she lost her voice.

Unless we relentlessly demand governmental accountability, competent maintenance of law and order and destruction of caste prejudice, neither citizens nor daughters are safe, and females will remain to be termed as poisonous 'femi-nazis'.

**How many of these disposed bodies pollute our seas?**

We aren't for 'use and throw'

(The writer is a Standard-X student at DAV Public School, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar)

# India asks China for early resolution of LAC row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of restoring peace at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar urged his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to work for an early resolution and hold talks soon.

The two ministers met at the sidelines of the ongoing Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Thursday and Jaishankar also asked the Chinese to avoid viewing its ties with India through the lens of a third country.

The two ministers reviewed the current situation at the LAC in eastern Ladakh and agreed that military and diplomatic officials of both sides should meet again and discuss resolving the remaining issues at the earliest.

The 12th round of Corps Commander level talks were held on July 30 to find mutually agreed process of withdraw troops from the flashpoints at the LAC. The next round is likely to take place soon, sources said here on Friday.

On the meeting between Jaishankar and Wang Yi, the former told the latter India had never subscribed to any “clash of civilisations theory” and that Asian solidarity would depend on the example set by India-China relations, the external affairs ministry (MEA) said here on Friday.

He also said the two sides need to establish a relationship based on “mutual respect” for which it was necessary that China avoid viewing the ties with India from the perspective of its relations with third coun-



tries, it said.

On Twitter, Jaishankar said: “It is also essential that China does not view its relations with India through the lens of a third country.” While Jaishankar mentioned “a third country”, the statement by the MEA talked about “third countries”. It is learnt that the two sides also exchanged views on developments in Afghanistan after the Taliban’s takeover of the country.

The MEA in its statement said the two ministers discussed the situation at the LAC and took stock of the global developments. Jaishankar underlined that it was necessary to ensure progress in the resolution of remaining issues so as to restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC. He also said such an atmosphere in the border areas has been an essential basis for progress in the bilateral relations.

“In this regard, the ministers agreed that military and diplomatic officials of the two sides should meet again and continue their discussions to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest,” the MEA said.

“In this context, the external affairs minister recalled that Foreign Minister Wang Yi had in their last meeting noted that the bilateral relations were

at low ebb,” it said.

The MEA said both sides in the previous meeting had agreed that a prolongation of the existing situation was not in the interest of either side as it was impacting the relationship in a negative manner.

Jaishankar noted that since their last meeting on July 14, the two sides had made some progress in the resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh and had completed the disengagement in Gogra area. However, there were still some outstanding issues that needed to be resolved, the statement said.

Wang and Jaishankar had held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of another conclave of the SCO in Dushanbe on July 14. In the meeting, Jaishankar told Wang that any unilateral change in the status quo along the LAC was “not acceptable” to India and that the overall ties can only develop after full restoration of peace and tranquillity in eastern Ladakh.

Giving details about the latest meeting, the external affairs ministry said the two ministers also exchanged views on the recent global developments.

Jaishankar conveyed that India had never subscribed to any clash of civilisations theo-

# Oz defends alliance with US, UK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With China adopting an aggressive posture in the Indo-Pacific region, Australia on Friday defended its decision to forge an alliance with the US and UK known as AUKUS.

This alliance was unveiled on Thursday by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and US President Joe Biden.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were informed about this decision by their respective Australian counterparts before the formal announcement.

China criticised the security alliance saying it will gravely undermine regional stability and aggravate the arms race. Under the AUKUS, Australia will get nuclear powered submarines by other two countries.

France also took exception to the grouping and said its exclusion from the alliance reflected a lack of coherence when common challenges are being faced in the Indo-Pacific region. It was also cut up with Australia as a deal to build submarines for Australia was also cancelled.

Justifying his country joining the AUKUS, Australian High Commissioner to New Delhi Barry O’Farrell said here

China’s massive military modernisation programme, challenging strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific and intensification of great power competition in the region prompted Canberra to become part of the ambitious AUKUS partnership.

“The decision reflects a much more challenging strategic environment, an environment we share with India, where great power competition is intensifying, where territorial tensions in the South China Sea, Taiwan and elsewhere are becoming more challenging,” he said.

The partnership, seen as an effort to counter China in the Indo-Pacific, will allow the US and UK to provide Australia with the technology to develop nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

The High Commissioner said AUKUS will not affect the Quad coalition of India, Australia, US and Japan. He said the Australian prime minister, the foreign minister and the defence minister spoke to their counterparts in India to inform them of the decision before the announcement on the AUKUS partnership was made.

The envoy said the investment in the Indo-Pacific in expanding military capability is proceeding at an “unprecedented rate” and it is being driven by China, which has the largest military modernisation programme underway in the world.

He said India and China had to deal with each other on merits and establish a relationship based on mutual respect.

“For this, it was necessary that China avoid viewing our

bilateral relations from the perspective of its relations with third countries. Asian solidarity would depend on the example set by India-China relations,” the statement said.

# Taliban back in narco trade, dealing with US for release Al Qaeda man



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELH

The Taliban is back in the business of narcotics ‘trade’ and has created a new route for global supply by shipping the contraband to Turkey through Pakistani military and commercial aircraft for onward distribution to Europe and elsewhere.

The Taliban is also negotiating with the US for release of notorious drug lord Haji Bashir Noorjai, lodged in the US prisons since 2009 in exchange for releasing the Americans and Afghans stranded in Afghanistan. For this, the Taliban is willing to exchange abducted American civil engineer and military contractor Mark Randall Frerichs who had disappeared in Afghanistan in January 2020 from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, sources tracking the developments in Afghanistan said.

Noorjai is also well connected to Al Qaeda and its affiliates in South Africa like Al Shabab who could also be exploited for the arms trade in the continent besides expanding the spread of the contraband in the region.

While both the Taliban and the Pakistan Army-ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) combine are on the same page for reinvigorating the drugs trafficking, the current regime in Kabul is also claiming seizure of drugs consignment at Kabul airport with the twin agenda of an image makeover and checking any trafficking of the contraband by individuals and entities who bypass the regular channels for such illicit business. Such fake seizures will also help Taliban build a new image in line with international laws and help it gain international recognition of its governance structure, they said.

The new modus operandi has been activated as Pakistan is using its leverage with Turkey for transshipment of the contraband through regular civilian airways as well as military planes, they further said.

Amid the ongoing bargain for release of Noorjai, the Taliban is aiming to revive the traditional drug routes via the Middle East to South Africa and scale up the entire illicit drugs business chain to augment the funds crunch that Kabul is facing post-takeover of

Afghanistan on August 15. The development comes as the Taliban is facing dire financial crisis and the Afghan foreign minister had recently visited Islamabad to seek aid but Pakistan could not commit grants due to its bankrupt economy.

However, Islamabad agreed for active facilitation of the drugs trade.

Senior counter-terrorism expert of Afghan origin Ajmal Sohail said, “Drug trafficking has remained the mainstay of revenue generation for Taliban and the militia is back to its old tactic.

However, to keep the international community in good humour, Taliban is projecting itself as the good guy by showcasing the seizure of the contraband at Kabul airport as a measure of revamped Taliban.”

The Taliban also has begun taking payments for the supplies of drugs to Europe and countries in North as well as South America through African conduits in diamonds and generating revenue through white channels, added Sohail who is also founder of Afghanistan Republic Salvation Front.

# NIA conducts searches in Tamil Nadu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches in Tamil Nadu and arrested an accused in the Madurai Hizb-ut-Tahrir case.

The searches were conducted at two locations in Thiruvavur and Tanjore districts of Tamil Nadu after which an accused Bava Bahrudeen alias Mannai Bava, was arrested.

The case was initially registered at Thideer Nagar Police Station, Madurai City in which Mohammed Iqbal alias Senthil Kumar had used his Facebook account “Thoonga Vizhigal Rendu is in Kazimar Street” to upload posts that denigrated a particular community and fomented communal disharmony among different religions in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order, the NIA said.



“Investigation has revealed that the accused person Mohammed Iqbal conspired with others including Mannai Bava, in the name of Hizb-ut-Tahrir to re-establish Islamic State and implement Sharia globally including in India,” the agency said in a statement.

In furtherance of this conspiracy, they had participated in closed door Bayans (meetings) and created multiple accounts on various social media applications to upload posts intended to disclaim and disrupt the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of India. The conspiracy meetings / closed door Bayans were helmed by the arrested accused person Mannai Bava and conducted in Madurai, Erode, Salem, Tanjore districts in Tamil Nadu.

During the searches conducted in Mannargudi of Thiruvavur district and in Mansur Ali Thaikal area of Tanjore district, 30 books, handwritten documents containing incriminating literature related to Hizb-ut-Tahrir and establishment of Islamic State / Khilafat and three digital devices were seized, it added.

# NIA: Probed 37 ISIS-linked terror cases, 168 arrested

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday said it has investigated 37 cases of terror attacks, conspiracy and funding which have been inspired by the Islamic State ideology.

The most recent case was registered by NIA in June 2021. A total of 168 accused have been arrested in these cases and chargesheets have been filed in 31 cases. As many as 27 accused have been convicted after trial, it said.

“Investigation by NIA has revealed that IS (Islamic State) is trying to spread its tentacles in India through continuous propaganda online. Gullible youth are targeted on open social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Once a person shows interest, he or she is then enticed to communicate with online handlers based abroad using encrypted social media platforms,” it said in a statement.

**An appeal is being made that any such activity noticed on the internet maybe brought to the notice of the authorities**

Depending on the gullibility of the person, the handlers then use the person for uploading online content, translation of IS texts to local language, conspiracy, preparation of a module, collection of arms and ammunition, preparation of IEDs, terror funding and even attacks, it further said.

An appeal is being made that any such activity noticed on the internet maybe brought to the notice of the authorities. NIA may be contacted at telephone number- 011-24368800, it added.

# SC recommends 8 names for CJs for a number of HCs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court collegium headed by CJI NV Ramana is learnt to have recommended eight names of judges, including acting chief justice of Calcutta High Court Justice Rajesh Bindal, for their elevation as chief justices of different high courts. The Collegium including the senior most four judges of the apex court also decided to transfer five Chief Justices of High Court and 28 High Court Judges to other States.

Tripura High Court Chief Justice Akil Kureshi has been transferred to Rajasthan. Justice Kureshi, one of the senior-most high court judges in the country, was originally elevated as a judge in the Gujarat High Court and has been in news due to his non-elevation as a judge of the apex court. His decision to give CBI custody of Amit Shah in 2010 invited controversies.

Justice Bindal of Calcutta

High Court has been in news recently due to his administrative and judicial decisions in matters related to political stand-off between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. Chief justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court Justice Arup Kumar Goswami has been transferred to Chhattisgarh High Court, Chief justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court Justice Mohd Rafiq to the Himachal Pradesh High Court. The Collegium also recommended transfer of Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Justice Indrajit Mahanty to the Tripura High Court and Meghalaya High Court Chief Justice Biswanath Somadder to the Sikkim High Court.

Besides Justice Bindal, the Collegium has recommended names of Justices Prakash Srivastava, Prashant Kumar Mishra, Ritu Raj Awasthi, Satish Chandra Sharma, Ranjit V More, Aravind Kumar and R V

Malimath for appointing them as chief justices of different high courts across the country, the sources said. Sources said names of Justices Prakash Srivastava, Prashant Kumar Mishra and Ritu Raj Awasthi have been recommended for appointment as chief justices of high courts of Calcutta, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

After assuming charge as the CJI in April this year, Justice Ramana has recommended nearly 100 names for appointment to different high courts, sources said.

The 25 high courts of the country have a combined sanctioned strength of 1,080 judges and on May 1, 2021, the high courts were functioning with 420 judges only.

The series of recommendations have been made close on the heels of a historic decision to recommend 68 names in one go for judgeship in 12 high courts across the country.

**Haryana Public Service Commission**  
Bays No. 1 - 10, Block- B, Sector- 4, Panchkula

**Announcement**

It is hereby announced for the general information of the candidates who have applied for the following post that the Commission has decided to conduct Recruitment Test, as per schedule given below:-

Sr. no.	Name of the Post & Department	Advt. No.	Date & Time
1	Dental Surgeon (Class-II) in the Health Department, Haryana.	2/2021	26.09.2021 02:00 PM to 05:00 PM

The Candidates are advised to download their Admit Cards from the Commission's website i.e. <http://hpsc.gov.in> with effect from **18.09.2021**.

It is made clear that all the candidates who had applied for the above mentioned post are provisionally allowed to appear in the Recruitment Test subject to the fulfillment of all eligibility conditions as per advertisement. The eligibility of the candidates who will be declared qualified for interview will be checked later on.

**Notes:**

1. Candidates are directed that they may download the admit card and take black & white print of the same on A-4 size paper so that their photos & other particulars can easily be seen /verified. Candidates having small size Admit Cards with illegible photos /signatures will not be allowed to enter the Examination centre.

2. The candidates are advised to read all the instructions very carefully.

**Deputy Secretary**  
**Haryana Public Service Commission**  
**Panchkula**

**Date:** 17.09.2021  
**RO NO.** 4809 Dt. 17-09-2021

# Vitiligo patients finding succour in herbal remedies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Many patients with vitiligo which is an autoimmune disorder characterised by the loss of skin colour in parts of a body seem to be finding succor in herbal remedies like Lukoskin developed by government's premier research agency Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO).

Consider this. Till now, more than one lakh patients suffering from the skin condition, also known as leucoderma, have been treated with Lukoskin with an average success rate of 70 per cent, said Dr Nitika Kohli from AIMIL Healthcare which is manufacturing and marketing the drug.

An ayurveda expert herself, Dr Kohli said, that after DRDO transferred the technology, clinical trials were conducted on the patients and then in 2011 it was launched in the market. “In these ten years, over one lakh patients have been treated with the drug. We found a 70 percent success rate,” she said.

An estimated four to five per cent of the Indian population suffers from leucoderma.



The condition is characterized by patches of the skin losing their pigment. The condition is noticeable in people with dark skin.

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

Dr Kohli was speaking at a conference “Clinical management of tough skin diseases” held online to mark the ten years of launch of Lukoskin as well as of AIMIL Healthcare. Representatives and doctors from various medical streams including allopathy who had participated in the programmes

also highlighted the role of herbs in general and Lukoskin in particular in the treatment of leucoderma.

The ointment has seven herbal ingredients having properties such as anti-blister, anti-irritation, anti-septic, wound healing properties, while the oral formulation is designed to improve the auto immune system and supplement copper which checks the emergence of new spots, shared Dr Kohli.

Infact, in India, vitiligo has social stigma attached to it, as people confuse it with leprosy. However, experts made it clear that Vitiligo or leucoderma is neither contagious nor life-threatening.

# Cong wishes Modi on b'day, says country paying prices for his failures

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Friday wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 71st birthday but said the country is paying the price for his “failures” on several fronts and so the day is being observed as “unemployment day”, “anti-farmer day” and “high prices day”.

The party reminded that birthdays of former prime ministers are celebrated as different days, with Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday as “Children's Day”, Indira Gandhi's as “National Integration Day”, Rajiv Gandhi's as “Sadbhavana Diwas” and Atal Bihari Vajpayee's as “Good Governance Day” but Modi's birthday is being observed as “unemployment day”.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi extended his wishes to the prime minister on Twitter. “Happy Birthday, Modi ji,” said Rahul. For the Indian Youth Congress and the NSUI, it was “national unemployment day”.

**Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said she prays that God gives the prime minister the wisdom to realise what he has led the country to**

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said she prays that God gives the prime minister the wisdom to realise what he has led the country to. “It is the prime minister's birthday and from this platform, we wish him a happy birthday. We pray for his well being, but we do believe that this day is being celebrated in many parts of the country as unemployment day, anti-farmer day, high prices day, crippled economy day, as winning over your crony capitalists friends day, as ED, IT, CBI raid day, and the corona mismanagement day,” Shrinete said at AICC Press conference.



# Covid antibodies in 90.26% Mumbaikars: BMC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As part of its latest sero-survey conducted in the country's commercial capital since the outbreak of the Covid-19 in March-April last year, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said on Friday that Covid-19 anti-bodies were found in a sizeable 90.26 per cent of Mumbaikars who were either fully or partially vaccinated.

In the fifth sero-surveillance study conducted by the BMC between August 12 and September 9, 2021, antibodies were found among the 79.86 per cent of unvaccinated citizens, while the prevalence of antibodies in people from slum as well as non-slum areas much higher compared to previous sero-surveys.

Disclosing the findings of the fifth sero survey, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner I S Chahal said here on Friday: "Even if antibodies are found, Mumbaikars will have to take precautions like use of masks, hand Hygiene and safe distancing norms".

The BMC released the fifth sero-surveillance findings on a day when Mumbai recorded 387 infections and three deaths. As many as 434 Covid-19 patients were discharged from various hospitals after full recovery, the BMC pegged the total "active cases" in the metropolits at 4,658.

While the BMC had earlier conducted three Sero surveillance Studies for Covid-19 for all people, while it carried out one Sero-surveillance study only for Paediatric population

## SERO-SURVEY REPORT

previously. Anticipating the possible third wave of Covid-19, the fifth sero surveillance was conducted by the state public health department and LTMCMC & GH, Sion Hospital with the support from A.T.E. Chandra Foundation and IDFC Institute.

The results of the previous three Sero-surveys conducted by M.C.G.M concluded that the recent trends in Sero-positivity corresponded with the Covid-19 cases in the second wave. The fifth Sero-survey could be instrumental in identifying trends of probable upcoming third wave and exposure of the population to the virus.

The study was cross-sectional in nature and included participants above 18 years of

age, from all 24 wards of the city of Greater Mumbai. In all, 8,674 were samples were collected and tested. Anti-SARS-CoV2 Ig G antibodies was detected using an ELISA based assay.

Study participants were selected by systematic random sampling and those visiting Municipal Dispensaries and General Practitioners' Clinics in slum and non-slum areas respectively. The participants were recruited with informed consent. Data collection was done by the means of a mobile software application.

According to the fifth sero-survey, overall Sero-prevalence in the city of Greater Mumbai was 86.64 period, while the study estimated around 87.02 per cent prevalenc

in slums, while 86.22 per cent prevalence in non-slums in the 24 wards.

The sero-prevalence among males is 85.07%, sero-prevalence among females is 88.29 per cent which is higher as compared to males. Almost 65 per cent of those who participated in the study had received Covid-19 vaccines and 35 per cent did not receive any vaccine.

"Sero-prevalence amongst partially and fully vaccinated participants is 90.26 per cent. Sero-prevalence amongst those who have not taken Covid-19 vaccine is 79.86 per cent," Chahal said.

Of total samples, 20% were health care workers. Sero-prevalence in health care workers is 87.14%. The age-wise sero-prevalence varies from 80 per cent to 91 per cent among the

study subjects.

"Overall sero-prevalence in slum and non-slum areas in the city of Greater Mumbai is much higher as compared to the last sero-survey. There is no statistically significant difference in sero-prevalence of Mumbai City and Suburbs. In this survey, sero-prevalence in slum population is 87.02 per cent, while in non-slum population it is 86.22 per cent which is a meagre difference," Chahal said.

There is marginal difference in the gender-wise sero-prevalence with females showing 88.29% sero-prevalence as compared to males i.e., 85.07 per cent sero-prevalence was significantly higher in study subjects who received either first or both doses of Covid-19 vaccine as compared to their unvaccinated counterparts.

# Cop shot by ultras in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

In yet another targeted attack in Jammu & Kashmir police personnel was shot dead by 'unidentified' terrorists near Wanpoh in South Kashmir district of Kulgam late Friday evening.

The police cop, identified as Bantooji Sharma, was deployed with the Railway Police. Soon after hitting him from a close range the terrorists fled the area leaving behind police personnel in a pool of blood.

According to local police, a critically injured policeman was rushed to the GMC, Anantnag where doctors

declared him dead.

The entire area was cordoned off by the security personnel to track down the footprints of the terrorists behind the attack.

Searches were conducted in the nearby areas and special nakas were set up to regulate the movement of vehicles.

A young Sub Inspector on probation AA Meer was earlier shot dead from a close range in Khanar area of Srinagar on September 12.

Several politicians including former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Lone condemned the attack and offered their condolences to the bereaved family.

# Cong forms screening committee for UP polls

**New Delhi:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday constituted the party's screening committee for the upcoming high-stakes Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh next year.

Senior party leader and a former Union Minister Jitendra Singh has been named as the chairman of the committee, while Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda and Maharashtra MLA Varsha Gaikwad have been chosen as its members.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, state unit president Ajay Kumar Lallu and legislature party leader in state Aradna Misra have been appointed as ex-officio members of the screening committee. The ex-officio members also comprise all AICC secretaries for Uttar

Pradesh.

The committee will be responsible for shortlisting candidates for the elections. The Congress is eyeing to make a comeback in Uttar Pradesh after over three decades and is gearing up to contest the next year's election without forming any alliance.

In the 2017 polls, the Congress secured only seven of the 403 Assembly seats having joined hands with the Samajwadi Party (SP).

Last week, the Congress had invited applications from prospective candidates and days later, the party's Uttar Pradesh unit asked those seeking tickets for next year's election to deposit ₹11,000 with their applications.

"All applicants should submit their applications with the

authorised persons at the district/state level along with a 'sahyog rashi (contribution amount)' of ₹11,000 by September 25, 2021," an order issued by UP Congress chief Ajay Singh Lallu said.

The party said this step was taken to keep away candidates who were not serious about the election.

The party has also started the second phase of its training programme, titled 'Prashikshan Se Parakram Mahaabhiyan', to train party workers. Abouy 100 camps will be organised to make 30,000 workers battle-ready ahead of the crucial election. The programme will continue till the end of September.

During the first phase of the campaign, continuing for 11 days, the party trained 25,000 of its workers. **PNS**

# BSF DG reviews security situation along border

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

After taking stock of the prevailing security situation along the International Border across Jammu frontier the newly-appointed Director-General of Border Security Force, Pankaj Kumar Singh Friday wound up his maiden visit of Jammu frontier. During his stay, DG BSF toured the Ramgarh sector of Samba and RS Pura & Arnaria Sectors of Jammu frontier.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier NS Jamwal along with other senior officers visited several border posts where they briefed him on the spot.

According to the Public Relations Officer of BSF Jammu frontier, "DG BSF reviewed the overall deployment of BSF and also the domination plan with the senior officers of the Jammu frontier on ground zero"

DG BSF also visited the critical areas of Aik Nallah, Phalku Nallah and other areas of R S Pura and Arnaria Border area and held discussions



with sector/unit commanders on the ground and reviewed the security situation.

During his stay, DG BSF also interacted with jawans through sainik sammelan and was full of praise for

BSF Jawans for their dedication towards safeguarding the frontiers of the Nation.

DG BSF was impressed with the commitment of the border guards despite facing tough conditions.

# HC junks fake lawyer's bail plea

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Cessy Xavier, the glamorous lady who made hundreds of head turn in the district court premises of Alappuzha where she practiced claiming that she was a qualified lawyer, was asked by a single judge Bench of Kerala High Court to surrender before the authorities for interrogation. Judge V Shircy on Friday dismissed the anticipatory bail petition moved on behalf of Xavier who had no legal qualifications to practice as an advocate.

The controversial woman had been practicing in courts in Alappuzha for two years without any degree in law. She even managed to get elected as an office bearer of the district bar council using her friend's credentials.

The prosecution had opposed Xavier's bail plea on the ground that some of the offences alleged against her were non bailable and she should be subjected to custodial interrogation to know she managed to get enrolled as an advocate using fake credentials.

The prosecution along with the bar council told the Court that it was imperative to ensure that such fake activities are not repeated in future.



Workers put handloom fabrics for drying in a field at Shantipur in Nadia district on Friday

PTI

# Ex-top cop of Kerala hails new TN Guv

**CHENNAI:** When R N Ravi, the Central Government's interlocutor to Nagaland will be sworn in as the Governor of Tamil Nadu on Saturday morning, it would be celebration time for T P Senkumar, former chief of Kerala Police.

Senkumar, a 1983 batch officer of the Indian Police Service, was appointed to the Kerala cadre, his joy knew no bound as he was thrilled at the prospect of training and working under Ravi, an iconic figure among IPS officers in Kerala. "I had great dreams of getting trained under Ravi who was a hero among the people of the State as well as the police officials. But the senior official in charge of taking decision on such things had other ideas and I lost the race," Senkumar wrote in his autobiography "My Police Life".

Senkumar told *The Pioneer* that Ravi left Kerala for central deputation within a few years. "Though he returned to the State after five years, he was again called back to the Centre and he was given very sensitive and significant assignments. I met him many times on an officer-to-officer basis and he was very cordial with me," said Senkumar who superannuated in 2017. Like his idol Ravi, Senkumar too had excelled in the field of Intelligence and is known as one of the best intelligence chiefs the State had seen.

The new Governor of Tamil Nadu would have many former Intelligence experts for company in Chennai city itself. M K Narayanan, former National Security Advisor who was also a former Governor of West Bengal, ESL Narasimhan, former chief of the Intelligence Bureau and Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, K V S Gopalakrishnan, former special director, IB are some of the leading lights of the intelligence community based in Chennai with whom Governor Ravi would be interacting regularly.

# Railway-focused skill development programme launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday launched a skill development programme with a special focus on jobs that are relevant to the Railways. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana, a programme under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), aims to train 50,000 candidates over the next three years.

"The aim of this initiative is to impart training skills to the youth in various trades to bring qualitative improvement," Vaishnaw said.

"Initially, the training will be provided to 1,000 candidates. The training will be provided in four trades namely Electrician, Welder, Machinist and Fitter and will comprise of initial basic training of 100 hours. Training programmes in other trades will be added by zonal railways and Production units based on regional demands and needs assessment," a Railway Ministry statement said.

"Training shall be provided free of cost and participants will be selected from applications received online, following a transparent mechanism on the basis of marks in matriculation. Candidates who are 10th passed and between 18-35 years shall be eligible to apply. Participants in the scheme shall however have no claim to seek employment in Railways on the basis of this training," the statement added.

Vaishaw also stressed that training in remote areas will be conducted under this programme.

The programme curriculum has been developed by Banaras Diesel Locomotive Works which will also standardize assessments and maintain centralized database of participants. The scheme will be launched for 1000 participants initially and will be over and above the training provided to apprentices under the Apprentice Act 1961. "Trainees shall be required to undergo a standardized assessment and will be awarded certificate in the allotted trade by the National Rail & Transportation Institute, upon conclusion of their programme. They will also be provided Toolkits relevant to their trade which would help these trainees utilize their learnings and enhance their capacity for self-employment as well as employability in various industries," a rail Ministry statement added.

# Kerala HC junks plea against administrative reforms in Lakshadweep

**KOCHI:** The efforts of Save Lakshadweep Forum, an all-party initiative launched by the residents of the Union Territory to stop the anti-people policies pursued by the Administrator of Lakshadweep Praful Patel came to a naught on Friday as the Kerala High Court nixed the last of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the forum challenging various reforms launched by the administration.

A Division Bench consisting of Chief Justice S Manikumar and Judge Shaji P Chaly on Friday dismissed the PIL petition filed by a Lakshadweep based lawyer challenging the Administration's decision to shut down the dairy farms in the islands and to remove meat from the menu of the daily noon-meal served in the schools in Lakshadweep Islands. The judges said that they concurred with the argument by the standing counsel of Lakshadweep Islands that the court should not interfere in policy decisions taken by the administration.

The decision to shut down the dairy farms in the islands was because of the more than Re one crore loss incurred by the administration every year in its efforts to

maintain the same. The administration also told the Court that the move to take meat off from the mid-day meal served in school was to ensure that the nutritional value stipulated in the rules. The court also agreed with the contention that any menu that met the nutritional value could be served by the government.

Interestingly, the Kerala High Court in June 2021 had stayed the operations of these decisions and had sought explanation from the administration. The islands witnessed massive protests and demonstrations demanding that Patel be called back from Lakshadweep. The Save Lakshadweep Forum leaders had said that thousands of BJP workers in the archipelago had quit the party to join secular parties against the move by the administration to saffronize the islands.

The SLF had contended that the decision of the administration to change the mid-day meals menu and shut down dairy farms in the islands infringed upon the ethnic culture, heritage, food habits and rights of the residents under Articles 19 and 300A of the Constitution of India. **PNS**

# Manipur's oranges, chillies get GI-Tag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terming it to be historic, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh took to Twitter saying, "What a great start to the day for Manipur! I'm really happy to share that 2 (two) products of Manipur viz Hathei Chilly & Tamenglong orange have been granted GI Tag.

This is a historic milestone in the history of Manipur which will increase the income of the farmers immensely." The GI status is an indication that identifies goods as produced from a particular area which has special quality attributable to its geographical origin.

Tamenglong orange is known to be the species of the mandarin group, which is a unique fruit crop found only in

Tamenglong district that contributes over 50 per cent of the state's annual production. It is famous especially for its well-blended sweetness and tart taste.

Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) applied for GI tags for Tamenglong orange and Sirarakhong Hathei chilli in 2019. In Manipur's Ukhrul, Hathei chilli is considered to be God's gift and the pride of the region.

Hathei chilli flourishes only in the hills of Mahadev surrounding the remote Tangkhul Naga inhabited Sirarakhong village in the Ukhrul district. Manipur has been promoting these two produce by celebrating the Orange Festival every December and Sirarakhong Hathei festival every August for over a decade now.



Tourists during a camel safari in the desert of Pushkar on Friday

PTI





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Unholy matrimony?

The issue of interfaith marriages in certain States, especially in UP, is a simmering cauldron

As Uttar Pradesh slowly gears up for next year's Assembly elections, there is a concern that any communal polarisation adopted by political parties can draw undue attention to interfaith marriages, instilling a sense of fear and apprehension in young couples in love. "Love jihad" is the pejorative term the right-wing groups use to describe such marriages. The phrase has a negative resonance all over the State and interfaith couples either wanting to marry, or immediately after marriage, seek the protection of the courts to escape the anger of the parents and the fury of the vigilante groups. The Allahabad High Court on Thursday for the umpteenth time reiterated that two adults have the right to choose whom they wish to marry, irrespective of their religion. A Division Bench of Justices Manoj Kumar Gupta and Deepak Verma passed the order while granting protection to an interfaith couple worried about the anger of their parents over their relationship. The court also clarified that since the two individuals are major, "nobody, not even their parents, could object to their relationship". It is significant to note that the said court receives numerous petitions from young couples every week. A survey of orders the court passed showed that it had granted relief to over 100 couples of interfaith and inter-caste marriages in the month of November 2020. Many of these cases related to interfaith marriages, involving the conversion of one of the partners.



These included some cases where the court quashed criminal cases filed against the male partner alleging the girl had been kidnapped. As "love jihad" theories abounded in UP around that time, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated his Government's decision to bring a law against it. The statement came in the wake of a single Bench of the Allahabad High Court saying in a case that religious conversion for the sake of marriage was invalid. However, a higher Bench of the same court overruled the verdict a few days later, stating that "the right to live with a person of his/her choice, irrespective of religion professed by them, is intrinsic to right to life and personal liberty". This order quoted a 2006 Supreme Court ruling that upheld the couple's right to marry partners of choice and that the couple is "not harassed by anyone nor subjected to threats or acts of violence". The UP Government promulgated the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Ordinance, 2020, criminalising religious conversion by marriage, around the same time. With a few other States also bringing in such a law, the Supreme Court was moved to review it. With the election fever gripping UP, interfaith marriages have the potential to draw the attention of vigilante groups on the question of conversion. In the case related to Thursday's verdict, the woman had also applied for conversion from Islam to Hinduism. However, it is cases where the girl applies for conversion to Islam from Hinduism that become controversial.

### PICTALK



Dense clouds form over the fields after a heavy rain spell, in New Delhi

Ranjana Dimri/Pioneer

## Love and hate

The influential Church is taking up cudgels against elements that seek to 'divide' people in Kerala

The virus of communal hatred has come out in the open in Kerala following the startling disclosure made by Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Pala Diocese. Addressing thousands of Catholic devotees who had gathered for a religious congregation at the ancient Marth Mariam Church in Kuravilangadu, the Bishop warned the laity about the dangers of "love jihad" and "narcotics jihad" that have done irreparable damage to the community. Thousands of Christian girls, many of them conservative Catholics, have fallen prey to these jihads over the last few years, said the Bishop. Elaborating on the *modus operandi* of the aggressors, the spiritual leader said that some elements of a particular religion were out in the open to liquidate the non-believers as part of their mission to establish a Caliphate in India. This is not the first time a statement like this is being made. The Christian community has been on a warpath against the State administration because of the alleged callousness of the police and other law-enforcing agencies towards their complaints that girls belonging to their sect were being



targeted through the two "jihads" and are trafficked to west Asian nations.

There were many instances of Christians staging demonstrations across Kerala to highlight their plight which were ignored by the mainstream media and liberals, labelling these as part of the "Sangh Parivar agenda" to divide Christians and Muslims. While Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan feigned ignorance about "narcotics jihad", Opposition leader VD Satheesan warned the Bishop from issuing irresponsible statements. But Bishop Kallarangatt was joined by Bishops of the Changanassery and Irinjalakuda dioceses, who too expressed their fear over the phenomenon haunting the laity. The Bishops' statements come immediately after the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council announced anxiety over the depleting Christian population in the State due to factors like family planning and migration. The Church even announced incentives, including financial as well as educational allowances, to couples who raise more children. Kerala is known for communal amity and this should not be overturned as part of appeasement and vote bank politics. Most of the de-addiction centres in Kerala are under the Church's management and they keep track of the number of persons getting addicted. Hence, the Bishops are speaking from a position of strength and the administration should listen seriously to what they say.

# In the end, the game is the winner

The controversy over the cancelled fifth Test in England notwithstanding, gentle nudges by well-meaning seniors mean that cricket is in happy hands



VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Cricket is a wonderful, Indian game and the point was driven home well by Virat Kohli and his ambitious team in an exciting summer season. The English came to admire the stuff that India produced during a phase that began with the World Test Championship in June and culminated at Old Trafford with the fifth and final Test being cancelled on account of COVID fears. India led the series 2-1.

When the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly revealed that the Indian team was reluctant to play, he was only confirming the backing the players had. Health and safety of the players is paramount but the decision did not go down with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) which insisted that the match be treated as forfeited by India and the result should go in their favour to tie the series. It hangs in balance as the matter rests with the International Cricket Council (ICC) following a claim by the ECB to grant them the match.

Overflowing audiences at the venues marked the fare. Test cricket was at its glorious best and it was just the advertisement to keep the administrators and the broadcasters happy. Cricket was entertaining. The royal battle between England's legendary James Anderson and the cream of Indian batting should rank as classic in the folklore of the game. It was breathtaking and evoked memories of some fascinating contests that India and England have been locked in, notably the 1971 thriller at The Oval in 1971 when India won on the strength of leg-spinner BS Chandrasekhar's striking blows to register their first ever win on English soil.

The 2021 series was projected as the most-awaited in a long time since it featured some of the modern greats of the game —Anderson and Virat Kohli — with charmers like Joe Root and Jasprit Bumrah bringing a touch of exciting personal rivalry. Root was exemplary and Bumrah unplayable at times, setting benchmarks to last ages. It was



hard to estimate the degree of excellence between Root and Bumrah.

Anderson won his personal battles with Kohli but the latter came out tops as he marshalled India to win two Tests in a remarkable show of temperament. Nothing was beyond India as the team once again established itself as an enviable combination. For India, the takeaways were rich.

There was much to celebrate in the rise of KL Rahul as an opener, who promises to make huge strides and the return to form of Rohit Sharma. The two hit a century each and importantly assured the selectors of their investment. With Cheteshwar Pujara coming to grips with his capabilities, India benefited at the opportune time to enjoy more dominating sessions than the home team.

True, England swept India off their feet at Headingley in an embarrassing innings defeat for the touring team but the match that stood out saw India win a regal contest at The Lord's. The home of cricket saw Rahul crack a majestic century and Mohammed Siraj produce



A REMINDER FROM FORMER CAPTAIN SUNIL GAVASKAR REKINDLED THE MEMORIES OF CRICKET FANS OF THE GESTURE BY ENGLAND WHEN THEY RETURNED TO COMPLETE THE TOUR HALTED BY THE MUMBAI TERRORIST ATTACK IN 2008

unforgettable spells of four wickets each in the two innings. India made a remarkable fightback through a last-wicket stand of 89 runs between Mohammed Shami and Bumrah. This pair highlighted the tenacity of the team on the final day of the match as England succumbed after having begun the day in a commanding position.

Two half centuries by Shardul Thakur at critical stages of the fourth Test at The Oval propelled the team into a position of strength to call the shots, courtesy the fast bowlers. Criticised for not playing off-spinner Ravinchandran Ashwin even once in a Test against England, Kohli stood tall for his decision to play four fast bowlers. They did not let him down and it was down to the final Test. Sadly, the circumstances played havoc and the match had to be called off.

It was an unprecedented development and reports emerged of the two Boards drifting away from their acclaimed healthy association to honour each other's commitments. A reminder from Sunil Gavaskar rekindled memories of the cricket fans

of the gesture by England when they returned to complete the tour halted by the Mumbai terrorist attack in 2008. The former India captain wants India to return the favour by travelling to England next year to play the cancelled Test.

In these difficult times, it is important to spare a thought for players' mental health, who were driven to take the decision of "refusing" to play the final Test. Their fears of getting infected were genuine and the Indians were not the only one to be compelled into taking such a stand. Australia postponing their tour to South Africa was among the prominent fixtures that failed to take off.

Spending long periods in quarantine has taken its toll on all sportspersons. The Indian Premier League 2021 has seen quite a few players withdrawing from the competition in Dubai. And Kohli deciding to quit T20 captaincy after the World Cup this year sums up the cricket in the pandemic — it is too exacting.

(The writer has been a sports journalist for 35 years with The Hindu and Sportstar. He has authored five books on cricket.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TAPPING THE RIGHT POTENTIAL

Sir — A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking because her trust is not on the branch but on its wings. Likewise, every business today is at the mercy of its IT infrastructure. A rigid infrastructure can render some organisations incapable of tapping into new opportunities. Server Message Blocks (SMBs) today are challenged by the increasingly complex and demanding modern requirements put on their IT infrastructure. To overcome these hurdles, SMBs are implementing next-generation Hyper Converged Infrastructure (HCI) solutions that bring increased agility, flexibility and growth to meet demands such as sustainable IT costs, better application performance and better data storage scalability and efficiency.

This enables SMEs to combine agility and flexibility with the control, visibility, and performance of an agile environment. Thus, you can streamline IT operations with fast, efficient, resilient and intelligent hyper-converged platforms when you choose consistency and simplicity. Having faced lockdown and other hurdles, it is time to look for a win-win situation. We should be able to win over a tight situation.

MR Jayanthi | Coimbatore

### THE BIGGER PICTURE

Sir — It is no doubt that Virat Kohli is India's most celebrated player in cricket. He, as a Captain, performs best in every format of the game, whether it be World Cup, ODI or T-20 series. But it is appreciative that he himself came forward to name Rohit Sharma, and decided to quit T-20 captaincy for the best of the team. Kohli made a good decision for the team by himself creating space for his comrade Rohit, who is also exceptionally successful in the T-20 format.

The trend of change in captaincy is the ultimate law of change. What earlier MS Dhoni and other captains did, needs to be done by Virat also. As a player, it is more important to ensure the victory of the team rather than personal records.

## Humanity proves costly



The raids, euphemistically called 'search operations' and 'surveys' at the houses and offices of Sonu Sood and Harsh Mander by the Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate respectively were politically motivated and typical of the Modi Government. These were just the latest in a series of raids conducted by central agencies as part of intimidatory tactics. Sonu Sood and Harsh Mander are patriotic men who serve their country well; they are much loved and highly respected for their service to the

society. Sonu Sood has been extolled as a 'real life hero' for arranging food and transportation to migrant workers during lockdowns and oxygen supply to hospitals treating Covid-19 patients amid the oxygen crisis.

It is unfortunate that the Government unleashes central agencies on those who do not side with it or toe its line as a matter of routine. It has not spared even a well-known public intellectual and a tireless campaigner for human rights as Harsh Mander. The Government seems to think that anyone who is not with it is against it and deserves to be proceeded against and painted in a bad light. The irony is that real economic offenders enjoy political patronage and get off scot-free. The raids of this kind smack of witch-hunt and do our democracy no proud. Sonu Sood and Harsh Mander deserve recognition for their good work; the Government can make amends to them for the raids by conferring them on them.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

After all, a player cannot place himself superior to his team. Placing Rohit Sharma as captain is a good decision. Rohit and Virat are almost equivalent in terms of talent and quality. Rohit Sharma is a calm and talent loaded player, no doubt that he will definitely lead the men in blue in a prominent way.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

### AN ALARMING PHENOMENON

Sir — Since time, immemorial man and environment are intrinsically linked as the progress and development of the former hinges on the latter. However, human activities over the last few decades like rapid urbanisation, excessive mining, vehicular pollution, indiscriminate cutting of forests etc have altered the balance beyond recognition. In recent years, the increasing trend of forest fires engulfing many parts of the world, floods, droughts and frequency of cyclones becoming a routine affair can be attributed to climate change. This has a tendency to alter our

biodiversity, which is an alarming signal.

Climate change is a universal phenomenon which can be gauged from the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). According to the report, global temperatures might rise by 1.5 per cent by 2030 due to excessive harnessing of nature. The global climate architecture is now governed by the Paris Agreement of 2015. The World Ozone Day is celebrated on September 16 every year to commemorate The Montreal Protocol signed in 1987 to limit and phase out man-made ozone-depleting chemicals like CFCs in a time-bound manner. The ozone layer lies in the stratosphere which prevents harmful ultraviolet rays from entering the earth's surface. The climate crisis can only be overcome by global cooperation and shifting to green and low carbon energy.

Vijay Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUNDBITE

The Indian Constitution has been amended as many as 127 times, so why can it not be amended once again to scrap the farm laws?



Punjab Chief Minister

—Amarinder Singh



If a comprehensive Government is not formed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran

will suffer more than any other country.

Iranian President

—Ebrahim Raisi

Success for me is offering listeners a song that transports them to the zone of the song. I think 'Kanta Laga' did just that.



Singer

—Honey Singh



Virat has been a true asset for Indian cricket. He is one of the most successful captains in all the formats.

BCCI president

—Sourav Ganguly

We can bring our start-ups and entrepreneurs together to create the innovative spirit towards making India a stakeholder in emerging technology.



Prime Minister

—Narendra Modi



## FIRST COLUMN AUTO-EUGENICS IN AMERICA

Most Americans dying of COVID are not vaccinated, and most of them are Republicans



GWYNNE DYER

Eugenics was a 20th-century pseudo-science that purported to improve the human breed by weeding out the 'least fit', often by measures like compulsory sterilisation or, in the case of the Nazis, death camps. But this is the 21st century, and now people can do it for themselves. 'Auto-eugenics' is the just-named phenomenon in which the excessively gullible and the intellectually challenged are weeding themselves out. It's most prominent in the United States, where 28 per cent of Americans say they do not plan to get vaccinated against coronavirus or are unsure whether they will do so. The only country in the developed world where vaccine refuseniks are more numerous is Russia, where they at least have the excuse that the state lies to them about everything all the time. Covid deaths in the United States last week were running around two thousand a day, whereas in Canada, right next-door, they were around thirty. President Joe Biden was on national television a few days ago urging unvaccinated Americans to



get the jabs, and declaring 'vaccine mandates' that oblige federal employees and companies that employ more than one hundred people to do so. He even allowed himself a little anger towards the more than 80 million Americans who are still refusing vaccination. But there's a puzzle here. Deep down, Biden must realise that the unvaccinated are doing him a favour by dying in large numbers. More than 97 per cent of those two thousand dead a day are not vaccinated, and it's a safe bet that at least 90 per cent of them are Republicans. The vast majority of anti-vaxxers who are still alive by next year's mid-term elections will vote Republican, and if they all make it that far then the present ultra-thin Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress could easily evaporate. In the circumstances, therefore, Biden's attempt to keep Republican voters alive borders on the quixotic. Or does it? A more cynical analysis suggests that he may be making a two-way bet. He is getting credit for doing his duty as president and trying to protect all Americans' lives, but at the same time the added pressure that his new measures put on anti-vaxxers is likely to drive them even deeper into their rejection of science and logic.

Republican governors from Georgia to Arizona are already planning to make legal challenges to his new vaccine mandates, and at the least they will probably manage to tie them up in the courts long enough to ensure that lots more Republican voters die. So in the end it comes down a kind of race. On the one hand, almost all Republican-controlled states are passing new voter-suppression measures to make voting harder for Democratic supporters, and especially for those who are poor and/or non-white. On the other hand, a significant proportion of Republican voters are striving to remove themselves from the gene pool by refusing to be vaccinated, and they can't vote Republican if they are dead. Losing an extra 50,000 guaranteed Republican voters to Covid-19 each month is bound to have an impact in at least some marginal elections next year. Which trend will shift the needle more strongly remains to be seen, but it is bound to a topic of furious in-house debate among Republican electoral strategists. You can safely assume that they have the relevant numbers at their fingertips, but that they are finding it almost impossible to shift the ideology. It's generally seen as insensitive to talk about this sort of thing in public, but admit it: wouldn't you like to be a fly on the wall when they debate this matter among themselves?

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

# Using science for a self-reliant India

From agriculture to artificial intelligence, Indian science has seen a resurgence over the last one year and made notable contributions to several domains



BIJU DHARMAPALAN KAPIL K. TRIPATHI

The clarion call for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan (self-reliant India campaign) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought about a tremendous transformation in the nation's scientific landscape. The scientists from our public sector research institutions took up the call and initiated many projects in mission mode to nurture an ecosystem that promotes research and innovation.

From agriculture to artificial intelligence, Indian science has seen a resurgence during the past one year. The scientists have come out with great innovations that can compete with any in the western world. The quantum of research output produced during the Covid-19 pandemic is commendable. India became the first country to come out with a DNA-based coronavirus vaccine.

Science will gather acceptance only if it reaches the masses. In order to disseminate these research outputs to public, the India Science Channel, the national Science channel of our country, is producing a series of short movies under the category 'Science for a Self-Reliant India' since January 2021, through OTT platform.

The programmes are telecast both in Hindi and English so that they reach the maximum viewers. During the pandemic, the channel has produced several programmes to disseminate information regarding the covid research coming out from our research laboratories. Programmes like Tackling Covid-19: Masks, Diagnostic kits, Ventilator, An indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, India's Battle for Oxygen Supply, Vaccine: India Fights Back, The Mystery of SARS-CoV-2 Mutations, Battling Covid-19: Dynamic Interventions, Covid-19 Vaccines and Road Ahead, highlighted the our efforts in tackling the deadly disease.

India has also developed an impressive track record in genomic research and biotechnology. The Department of Bio-Technology has been working on mission mode to provide a roadmap and an added impetus towards the growing field of genomics research in areas like cancer, hereditary diseases like diabetes to the sequencing of viruses like Covid-19.

The episode 'India's Genomics Mission' highlights the contributions of National Centre for Microbial Resource (NCMR), which is a part of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, Centre for Brain Research at the Indian Institute of Science and Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad.

The episode highlights some of the flagship programmes towards making India a leader in genomic research programmes like the Genome India Project, the Human Microbiome Initiative and the National Genomic Core.

Tremendous developments have



AS INDIA'S URBAN POPULATION RAPIDLY GROWS — THE COUNTRY FACES MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUANTUM AND KIND OF WASTE GENERATED EACH DAY. THE WASTE NOT ONLY HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR HEALTH AND THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, BUT ON THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM

(Biju Dharmapalan is a popular science writer. Kapil K. Tripathi is a scientist at Vigyan Prasara, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



made in the field of alternative energy sources like Solar Energy.

The episode on 'Solar Energy' tracks the science that propelled the indigenous photovoltaic cell and solar panel. In order to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels government has initiated e-mobility project. The 'Going Electric' focus on the movement to transition to electric vehicles in India, a critical move that will help both the environment and the economy.

The Government of India has a multipronged strategy to reduce imports by increasing indigenous production of biofuels in the Indian energy basket-like blending ethanol to petroleum by 20 per cent and biodiesel to diesel by five per cent. Multiple initiatives to increase indigenous production of biofuels have been taken up. The movie 'India's Push for Greener and Cleaner Fuel' highlights the contributions made by CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum in the field of biodiesel production.

Agriculture, including the animal husbandry sector, which is the back bone of our rural economy, also made tremendous developments to improve productivity. The programmes like 'Improving oilseed production', 'Transforming Lives Through Temperate Horticulture', 'The Fragrance Economy', 'The Cattle factor', 'High Altitude Animal Husbandry', 'Cold Water Fishery in Kashmir', 'India's Milk Story', etc., telecast on the channel highlighted how science is transforming rural economy.

The country has been at the fore front of developing assistive

devices for the disabled. The episode 'Assistive Devices for the Disabled' explores how technology can power assistive devices that help people with disability overcome some of the barriers they face in life.

As India's urban population rapidly grows - the country faces major environmental challenges associated with the quantum and kind of waste generated each day. The waste not only has a direct impact on our health and the country's economy, but on the entire ecosystem. The movie, 'India's Solid Waste Management Strategy', showcases few innovative techniques and technologies for Solid Waste Management (SWM) implemented by various municipal corporations as part of Swachh Bharat Mission.

Mobile usage in India is on the rise. By 2023, over 55 per cent of our population will be using not just any phone, but a smartphone.

The problem is that people are buying imported phones and accessories, not Indian ones, to meet our smartphone needs. The episode 'The Indian Mobile Phone Sector' track how India is upping her manufacturing capacity in the mobile phone sector.

Indian has made notable contributions in infrastructure developments especially in high altitude Roads, bridges and tunnels. They are of vital importance for a nation to grow, develop, protect and indeed become Atmanirbhar. The episode 'Sela Tunnel Project — Making the Impossible Possible' takes viewers to the Balipara-Chardwar Tawang Road

or BCT, which connects the hinterland to the border areas of Tibet and China. The episode also covers the Sela Tunnel Project being excavated and built at over 13,000 feet and highlights the contributions of Border Road Organization in nation building.

Science should be propagated among the children if we need to develop scientific temper in our society. Toys can be used as a perfect teaching model to promote science education among children, unfortunately most of scientific toys are imported. In the episode 'Science Through Play', the indigenous toy-making industries like Stemrobo and Smartivity are highlighted.

The future of science belongs to AI technology as it is going to transform our society. The episode 'Robotics in India' highlights the advancements made by India in this sector. The contributions of start-up companies like Gridbots from Ahmedabad, Asimov Tech from Kerala, are showcased in this episode.

The country has indeed made commendable achievements in every field of science and technology.

The India Science channel has been at the forefront in disseminating the scientific information and acts as a bridge between scientists and society. The channel within a short span of time has emerged as the most wanted source of reliable scientific content for the academic community as well as the common man. The channel also uses social media platforms effectively in its effort to make science more popular.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

BENGAL WILL PROTECT HINDUSTAN AND WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO BECOME PAKISTAN OR TALIBAN.  
—WEST BENGAL CM  
MAMATA BANERJEE



SHE SHOULD SAY THIS 'PAKISTAN THING' TO HER MINISTER FIRHAD HAKIM, WHO TALKS ABOUT 'MINI PAKISTAN'.  
—BJP LEADER  
PRIYANKA TIBREWAL

# India and Australia: Emerging global leaders

In the post-COVID order, the US alone may be unable to guarantee international peace and security, and India and Australia have to step in

The inaugural Australia India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between the Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton, Foreign Minister Marise Payne and their Indian counterparts Rajnath Singh and S Jaishankar was held when the constellation of bilateral and strategic determinants could not have been more favourably placed. Bilateral ties, elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in June 2020, have reached a historical high, emerged as an important cog in the rapidly evolving world hierarchy, as Jaishankar once argued.

New Delhi and Canberra have hitched on to the tide that propels bilateral, trilateral and quadrilateral engagements.



ASHUTOSH MISRA

(The writer is the CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement and Editor-in-Chief, India News Australia. The views expressed are personal.)

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has initiated a timely and well-advised review of the Peter Varghese's report, 2018, 'An India Economic Strategy to 2035, in the context of altered international diplomatic and economic settings. There was a need to recalibrate bilateral trade strategies and diplomatic engagements. On the other hand, India's Australia Economic Strategy authored by Anil Wadhwa has been launched at the right time.

The two reports together are critical for realigning business and trade strategies amid rising bilateral tensions with China and in sync with Australian Senator Simon Birmingham who said, "Australia must look into



alternative markets in the European Union and India'.

There is no denying that bilateral bonhomie has been driven by COVID-19's impact and Australia's growing tensions with China over the treatment of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang, Hong Kong crackdown, alleged foreign interference in Australia's internal political functioning, tariff wars and impact of the pandemic on the one hand, and India's

troubled ties with China, especially military conflict in Doklam and Ladakh, on the other. Senator Marise Payne has been a vociferous critic of China, and Member of Parliament Peter Dutton unsparing in accusing China for cyber-attacks on Australia. Jaishankar has reiterated that ties are independent of their respective relationships with China, and both sides have dismissed Quad as a future "Asian NATO".

Both the US-India and India-Australia ties are seen as "natural" partnerships, for upholding democracy, respect for territorial sovereignty and unrestrained access to global common goods.

Quad's evolution as a rising "concert of democracies", which Australia has described

as an "anchor of peace and stability in the region" has bolstered bilateral understanding. The 2+2 joint press statement reaffirms this realization, while anchoring the defence ties on three Cs - comfort (of the bilateral relationship in strategic and security spheres), convergence (over security matters) and commitment (to free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific). The re-entry of Australia in the Malabar exercise and the Mutual Logistical Support Agreement are two key developments denoting fresh thinking in not only New Delhi and Canberra, but also in Washington and Tokyo on the Indo-Pacific.

At a trilateral front, India's 'Act East' policy, Australia's 'Pacific Step-up'

and Indonesia's 'Global Maritime Fulcrum' (GMF) complement one another. India employs to elevate its Act East policy based on commerce, culture and connectivity, in sync with the seven-point Indo-Pacific Vision that PM Modi articulated at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018, and vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region). Act East policy complements Australia's 2018 Pacific-Step Up too in addressing challenges related to states' sovereignty and regional stability, security and prosperity. Similarly, Indonesia's 2014 GMF affirms Indonesia's vital interests as an archipelagic state at the crossroads of contending major power interests. The GMF prioritized the strength-

ening of the regional architecture to prevent the hegemony of major powers and promote comprehensive maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean, including the Indian Ocean Rim Association. Similarly, the Australia-Japan-India and the India-France-Australia trilateral also adhere to the Quad-based commitments.

In sum, while Australia and India ties turned a new leaf in the early 2000s, what has changed in 20 years is a growing convergence of bilateral and strategic interests and a realisation that in the evolving post-Covid-19 order, the US alone may not be able to guarantee international peace and security, for which they will have to step-up their desired roles.

# Encourage Af to shun terrorism: Xi

Chinese President says SCO nations should guide Afghanistan to develop an inclusive political structure

PTI ■ BEIJING

## 21ST SUMMIT OF SCO

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday said that the SCO countries should step-up coordination and encourage Afghanistan to put in place an inclusive political framework wedded to moderate policies and resolutely fight all forms of terrorism after the Taliban takeover of Kabul.

Addressing the 21st summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at Dushanbe via video link, Xi said, "Afghanistan has undergone drastic changes".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the summit via video link and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the meeting of the eight-member bloc comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

Xi, in his address without naming the Taliban, said: "the

withdrawal of foreign troops has opened a new page in its history. But Afghanistan still faces many daunting challenges, and it needs the support and assistance of the international community, particularly countries in our region."

"We, the SCO member states, need to step up coordination, make full use of platforms such as the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group and facilitate a smooth transition in Afghanistan.

"We need to encourage Afghanistan to put in place a broad-based and inclusive political framework, adopt prudent and moderate domestic and foreign policies, resolutely fight all forms of terrorism, live in amity with its neighbours and truly embark on a path of peace, stability and development," he said.

China, which has main-



tained contacts with the Taliban before and after it took over power in Kabul in mid-August, has announced a \$31 million aid for food and vaccines for Afghanistan.

Though it has not yet formally announced its recognition to the interim Government of the Taliban, China along with Pakistan and Russia has kept its embassy open in Kabul. Its envoy formally met the officials of the interim Government.

Xi also said that the SCO countries "need to follow the journey of upholding our com-

mon security". "Faced with complex and fluid security dynamics in the region, we need to pursue common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and take tough actions against terrorism, separatism and extremism," he said.

He particularly named the Uygur militant organisation, the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which is fighting for the independence of the volatile Xinjiang province where the US and the EU countries accuse China of committing human rights violations against the native Uygur Muslims.

China has asked the Taliban not to permit the ETIM in Afghanistan to stage attacks on Xinjiang which shares borders with the war-ravaged country.

Later, addressing the joint summit of the leaders of the SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) member states on the Afghanistan issue via video link, Xi called for efforts to promote a steady transition of Afghan situation, engage Afghanistan in dialogues and

help the Afghan people tide over difficulties.

Founded in 1992, the CSTO groups six former Soviet republics of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, with the aim of safeguarding peace and stability in Eurasia.

Member states of the SCO and the CSTO should join hands to safeguard peace and stability, which are "more precious than gold," Xi said.

Relevant parties in Afghanistan should be urged to resolutely crack down on and eradicate terrorist organisations and prevent terrorist forces in Afghanistan from wreaking havoc, the Chinese President said.

China will provide the Afghan people with timely humanitarian and medical support in fighting Covid-19, Xi said.

Xi, in his speech, said that the SCO countries need to strengthen cooperation on counter-narcotics, border control and security for major events, and speedily improve the SCO's security cooperation mechanism.

# Taliban orders male students, teachers to school

AP ■ THE HAGUE



Afghans play cricket at the Chaman-e-Hozari Park in Kabul on Friday

AP ■ ISTANBUL

The Taliban's Education Ministry says all male students grades 6 to 12 and male teachers should resume classes starting on Saturday.

The statement on Friday published on Facebook did not include girls of that age, and the lack of guidance highlighted ongoing concerns that the Taliban might impose restrictions on girls and women. The

Taliban previously allowed girls in grades one to six to resume their classes. In the past, the hardliner group that took over Afghanistan last month had forbidden girls and women from attending school and work.

In some of the provinces, women still are not allowed to continue their work, with exceptions for women who have worked in health departments, hospitals and education.

# 'New reality' established in Afghanistan: Pak PM

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said that a "new reality" has been established in Afghanistan after the Taliban seized power in Kabul and it is now in the international community's "collective interest" to ensure that there is no renewed conflict in the war-torn country and it will never again become a safe haven for terrorists.

Addressing the 21st Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS) Summit in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, Khan said it should be a matter of relief for the world that the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban and the full withdrawal of foreign forces from the country happened "without bloodshed, without civil war, and without mass exodus of refugees".

Pakistan, which had suffered due to the spillover of conflict and instability in Afghanistan, had an interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, he said.

"The sudden change of the previous government which surprised everyone, the takeover by the Taliban, and the full withdrawal of foreign forces, has established a new reality in Afghanistan.

"That all this happened without bloodshed, without



civil war, and without mass exodus of refugees, should be a matter of relief," Khan said, adding that it is now in the international community's collective interest to ensure that there is no renewed conflict in Afghanistan and the security situation is stabilised.

Equally urgent priorities are to prevent a humanitarian crisis and an economic meltdown, he said.

"We must remember that the previous government depended heavily on foreign aid and its removal could lead to economic collapse. This is a moment to stand by the Afghan people, firmly and unequivocally," he said.

He said that the Taliban rulers should make good on their commitments.

"The Taliban must fulfil the pledges made above all for inclusive political structure where all ethnic groups are represented. This is vital for Afghanistan's stability," he said.

# Armenia takes Azerbaijan to UN court alleging discrimination

AP ■ THE HAGUE

Armenia is taking its decades long territorial dispute with neighbouring Azerbaijan — that erupted into armed conflict again last year — to the United Nations' highest court.

Armenia filed a case at the International Court of Justice alleging breaches by Azerbaijan of an international convention that aims to eliminate racial discrimination, the court announced late on Thursday.

Armenia alleges that as a result of what it calls a "State-sponsored policy of Armenian hatred, Armenians have been subjected to systemic discrimination, mass killings, torture and other abuse," the court said.

The case centers of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan that has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian government for more than a quarter of a century.

During the Soviet era, the predominantly Armenian-populated region had an autonomous status within Azerbaijan. Long-simmering tensions between Christian Armenians and mostly Muslim Azeris boiled over as the Soviet Union collapsed. Conflict broke out in 1988 when the

region tried to join Armenia, and escalated into war after the 1991 collapse of the USSR, leaving an estimated 30,000 dead and displacing about 1 million.

Fighting that erupted again a year ago killed hundreds, making it the biggest flare-up in the conflict since 1994.

Armenia alleges that Azerbaijani committed "grave violations of the racial discrimination convention" during last year's fighting.

The Armenian case says that even after a Russia-brokered ceasefire came into force on Nov. 10, "Azerbaijan has continued to engage in the murder, torture and other abuse of Armenian prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons," according to the court. Azerbaijan is expected to file a similar case against Armenia next week at the world court.

"In the coming days, we will hold #Armenia to account for breaches of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination," Azerbaijan's deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov said in a tweet. "30 years of human rights abuses against Azerbaijanis during occupation will not be tolerated."

# UN Security Council extends mandate of UNAMA for 6 months

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council on Friday extended for six months the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), unanimously voting on a resolution that emphasises the importance of the establishment of an inclusive and representative government.

The 15-nation Council voted on the draft resolution that extended the mandate of

UNAMA until March 17, 2022.

The resolution, stressing the important role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, recognises the need for strengthened efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and the important coordination role of the United Nations, and reaffirming that the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance requires all parties to allow full, safe and unhin-

dered humanitarian access, for United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian actors.

It also reaffirms the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan, including those designated by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), and ensuring that the territory of Afghanistan should not be used to threaten or attack any country.

# Pelosi warns UK not to imperil N Ireland peace with Brexit

AP ■ LONDON

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned Britain on Friday that there will be no US-UK trade deal unless the British government solves post-Brexit disagreements with the European Union that risk destabilizing Northern Ireland's peace.

Britain and the EU are at odds over trade arrangements that have imposed checks on goods coming to Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK.

They were agreed by both sides in their divorce deal, to keep an open land border between the north and EU member Ireland — a key pillar of Northern Ireland's peace process.

Britain says the new checks are onerous and wants to rewrite the agreement, but the EU says it will not renegotiate.

The United States, which played a key role in securing Northern Ireland's 1998 Good Friday peace accord, has cautioned Britain against doing anything to undermine the peace settlement.

# Myanmar court sets Oct 1 for Suu Kyi corruption trial

AP ■ BANGKOK

A trial of Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi on corruption charges is set to begin on October 1, a member of her legal team said on Friday.

Lawyer Khin Maung Zaw said a judge declared the trial would be held at the Special Court in the capital Naypyitaw on every other Friday. He announced the decision after presentations in the court by Suu Kyi's lawyers and prosecutors from the central city of Mandalay, where the charges were originally lodged.

Suu Kyi, whose elected government was overthrown by an army takeover in February, is currently being tried on other charges by the Special Court. In the ongoing trial, she faces charges of sedition, two counts of flouting Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, illegally importing walkie-talkies that were for her bodyguards' use and the unlicensed use of the radios.

She also is due to be tried for breaching the official secrets



law in a case that was transferred earlier this week to Naypyitaw from Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city.

Suu Kyi's supporters as well as independent analysts say all the charges against her are politically motivated and an attempt to discredit her and legitimize the military's seizure of power while keeping her from returning to politics. Her lawyers deny any wrongdoing.

The army takeover was met with massive popular resistance, which is continuing despite harsh measures by security forces to quash it.

Suu Kyi, 76, has been charged in five cases under the anti-corruption law, four by the Mandalay Region High Court that will now be tried in Naypyitaw, and one by the Yangon Region High Court.

# Dutch Foreign Min quits over Afghanistan evacuations

AP ■ THE HAGUE

The Dutch Foreign Minister, Sigrid Kaag, resigned on Thursday after the Lower House of Parliament passed a motion of censure against the Government over its handling of evacuations from Afghanistan amid the Taliban takeover.

In a parliamentary debate on Wednesday night, Kaag acknowledged that the government's slow or muddled response to warnings about the situation in Afghanistan meant some local staff and people who had worked as translators for Dutch troops in the country had not been evacuated.

After the motion was passed on Thursday, Kaag immediately said she would tender her resignation, saying that parliament had decided "that the Cabinet has acted irresponsibly."

**GLOBE TROTTER**

# OPP UNSEATS PM IN BAHAMAS ELECTIONS

**San Juan:** A new Prime Minister will soon lead the Bahamas as the archipelago struggles with a spike in Covid-19 cases, a crumbling economy and the devastation of Hurricane Dorian. Philip Davis of the Progressive Liberal Party beat current Prime Minister Hubert Minnis, who conceded defeated late on Thursday. Minnis, of the Free National Movement Party, had been seeking a second five-year term.

# 9 KILLED IN FIRING OVER LAND DISPUTE IN PAK

**Peshawar:** At least nine persons were killed and 10 critically injured in a firing between two rival groups over a land dispute in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, police said. The firing between two groups occurred on Thursday at a funeral site in the Tormang area of the Dir Lower district of the province, killing nine persons.

# WOMAN SUES FOR RIGHT TO FREEZE HER EGGS

**Beijing:** After almost two years, an unmarried woman suing for the right to freeze her eggs in Beijing is getting her case heard in court on Friday in a rare legal challenge against the country's restrictions on unmarried women in reproductive health. Teresa Xu has been waiting since December 2019 for her second hearing at the Chaoyang People's Court in Beijing.

# PAK COURT SENTENCES 5 ULTRAS TO 5 YRS EACH

**Lahore:** An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan's Punjab province on Friday handed down five-year imprisonment each to five terrorists, including those belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). An official of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said the convicted terrorists — Muhammad Aslam, Basharat Khan, Muhammad Ali, Niaz Abbas and Adil Abbas — were arrested by the CTD early this year from Sargodha and Khushab districts of Punjab.



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Letter No. : 4219 / 41 M-2/2020-21 Dated : 16/09/2021

**National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)**

Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, Public Works Department Nainital on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites e-tender (Two bid system). For further details please log on to <http://www.ukttenders.gov.in> from **23.09.2021**.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (₹ (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Extension work of Ramnagar Transportnagar to Chikliya Motor Road in District Nainital Constituency Ramnagar Under Honourable C.M. Announcement No. 641/2019	5.00	5000.00 + 18% GST	120 Days	12 Month	Class A and above Class in any State Govt./ Central Govt. or any Govt. Undertaking in Road Works.
2	Reconstruction and Improvement work of Haiduwa Thari Kandla Motor Road on Ramnagar Kashipur Road District Nainital Constituency Ramnagar Under Honourable C.M. Announcement No. 640/2019	3.60	5000.00 + 18% GST	120 Days	12 Month	Class A and above Class in any State Govt./ Central Govt. or any Govt. Undertaking in Road Works.

# South Africa's top court rejects ex-Prez Zuma's application to rescind his jail sentence

**Johannesburg:** South Africa's top court on Friday rejected former President Jacob Zuma's application to rescind his 15-month-jail sentence for contempt of court. Zuma handed himself over in July after the Constitutional Court found him to be in contempt of court for repeatedly refusing to return to the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, where several witnesses have given details of his alleged role in a number of issues relating to the looting of state departments and parastatal organisations.

In a majority judgment of the Constitutional Court, Judge Sisi Khampepe dismissed 79-year-old Zuma's application of rescission with costs. Commenting on Zuma's conduct, Khampepe said that he had wilfully refused to participate in litigation and then reopened the case when it suited him.

"The majority emphatically reject any suggestion that litigants can be allowed to butcher of their own will judicial process which in all respects has been carried out," Khampepe said. **PTI**

# Expansion of Nepal Cabinet within a week: Senior leader

**Kathmandu:** The Nepal Government led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will take "full shape" within a week with the expansion of the Cabinet, a senior leader of the ruling coalition said on Friday.

Even two months after coming to power, Prime Minister Deuba has not been able to expand his Cabinet due to prolonged power sharing negotiations among the five-party ruling alliance. At present, Deuba is running the Government with five ministers, with himself heading 17 Ministries.

Speaking at the inauguration of the newly-formed party's central office in Aloknagar-Baneshwor area in the outskirts of Kathmandu, Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist) Chairman Madhav Kumar Nepal said, "The Cabinet would get full shape within a week." **PTI**

# After fires, Europe's Med leaders pledge climate cooperation

**Athens:** The leaders of Europe's Mediterranean countries pledged on Friday to expand cooperation against climate change, at a meeting in Athens held in the aftermath of massive wildfires that ravaged parts of southern Europe.

They expressed their "strong conviction that urgent and ambitious global action (is needed) at national, regional and local levels", according to a joint statement issued after the talks got underway.

"It is absolutely the right move at the right time because we all see that climate change is heavily affecting the Mediterranean region," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. Attending the talks were President Emmanuel Macron of France, Italian PM Mario Draghi, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and leaders and senior representatives from Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Slovenia, Croatia and Portugal. **AP**

# Chinese astronauts safely return to earth after 90 days

## Mission to build space station successful

**Beijing:** China on Friday announced that the manned mission to construct its first space station was a complete success after three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth after 90 days, concluding the country's longest crewed mission.

The Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship carrying astronauts Nie Haisheng, Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at around 13:35 local time, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said. The mission to construct the space station was a complete success, it said.


The three astronauts from the Shenzhou-12 manned spaceflight mission are in good

condition after landing on Earth, official media reported. They spent 90 days at the Tianhe module on China's space station, some 380km above Earth.

Earlier, the main parachute of the re-entry capsule of Shenzhou-12 was deployed successfully ahead of the spacecraft's landing in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The three astronauts entered the space station module in June this year on a three-month mission to build many of its components.

Billed as the most prestigious and strategically important space project for China after the country's recent Mars and previous Moon missions, the low orbit space station would be the country's eye from the sky, providing round the clock bird's-eye view for its astronauts on the rest of the world. **PTI**



**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

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

Whereas

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (₹.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sanjay Madan LBMND00001491835	Flat No- 502, 5th Floor Tower/ Block No- 3, Unitech Cascade, Greter Noida Uttar Pradesh/ September 15, 2021	Jan. 31, 2020/ Rs. 6,48,196/-	Himachal Pradesh

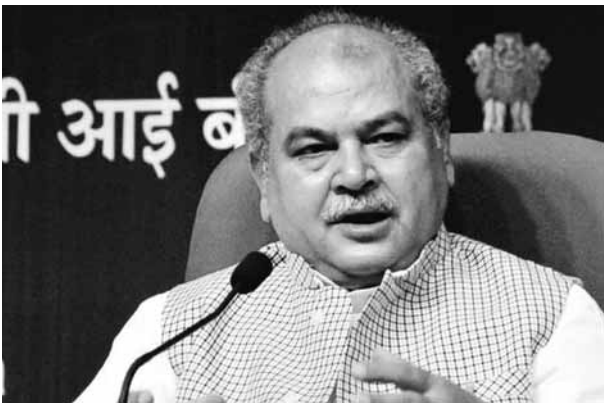
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules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

Date : September 18, 2021 Place: Delhi/MCR (Noida)

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited



## Centre taking steps to achieve nutritional security: Agri Min Tomar



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the Government is taking necessary steps to achieve nutrition security along with food security.

Inaugurating a two-day conference at Hyderabad, the minister said it was upon India's initiative that the United Nations declared year 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Tomar urged the present generation to understand the importance of nutritious foodgrains like millets and make it a part of their daily diet, according to an official statement. The Minister highlighted that the Centre has announced the Agriculture

Infrastructure Fund worth ₹1.5 lakh crore to fill the gaps in the farm sector.

He said the Centre has launched special mission for oilseeds and oil palm cultivation from which the farmers in Telangana would greatly benefit as land here is suitable for cultivation of these crops.

To encourage the next generation to invest in agriculture and to ensure profitable yields for the crops, Tomar said the Centre has enacted three new farm laws. The Government will spend ₹6,850 crore to set up 10,000 new farmer-producer organisations (FPOs) and as a result lives of about 86 percent of farmers would be transformed, he added.

## Markets pull back from record highs on profit-booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks surged to fresh lifetime peaks on Friday but finished with modest losses, snapping their three-session winning streak, as investors rotated out of RIL, metal and IT stocks at higher levels.

After gyrating 866 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 125.27 points or 0.21 per cent lower at 59,015.89. It had surged to a lifetime high of 59,737.32 in the morning session. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 44.35 points or 0.25 per cent to close at 17,585.15, after touching an intra-day record of 17,792.95.

## Govt working on setting up backstop facility for corporate bond market: Finmin official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to deepen the corporate bond market, the Government is working on setting up a 'backstop facility' as announced in the Budget, a senior government official said on Friday. Speaking at an event organised by CII, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Anand Mohan Bajaj said the government in consultation

with RBI has increased foreign investor participation ceiling in corporate bonds from 9 per cent to 15 per cent.

On the corporate bond market, he said a lot has been done over the years and a lot needs to be done. "We are working on a very comprehensive facility. It will certainly instil confidence among the participants in the corporate bond market," he said.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FISHERIES DEPARTMENT**  
O/o Commissioner of Fisheries, Matsya Bhavan, Street No-4, Shantinagar, Masab Tank, Hyd-28  
Date:16-09-2021  
Commissioner of Fisheries invites Bid on e-Procurement Platform For Supply of Fresh water Scampi Juveniles (Macrobrachium rosenbergii) for selected reservoirs and tanks in the state of Telangana during 2021-22. Time schedule of various tender related events (1) Bid calling date:- 18-09-2021 at 11.00 AM (2) Pre-bid : Queries regarding the bid to be accepted through online to the mail id : [tsenders.prawnseed@gmail.com](mailto:tsenders.prawnseed@gmail.com) upto 10.00AM on 20-09-2021 (3) Last date/time for issuing clarification 20-09-2021, 05.00 PM (4) Bid submission starting date/time : 21-09-2021, 10.00 AM (5) Bid closing date/time : 27-09-2021, 2.00 PM (6) Bid opening date/time : 27-09-2021, 03.30 PM (7) Bid Document Fee : Rs.10,000/-, Contact person name and phone number : Sri. T. Srinivas, Deputy Director of Fisheries (Inland) Ph:9849403752. If you are interested in participation, please visit website at [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in) and bid document can be downloaded free of cost from the above website and also [www.fisheries.telangana.gov.in](http://www.fisheries.telangana.gov.in). Phone No.040-223376251, E-mail: [dtf@telangana@gmail.com](mailto:dtf@telangana@gmail.com).  
Sd/- Lachiram Bhukya  
Commissioner of Fisheries

**उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग**  
हरिद्वार  
फ़ोन कॉड - 249404  
संख्या :: 141 / 06 / डीओआर / प-04 / एफओआरओ / 2021-22  
दिनांक: 17, सितम्बर, 2021  
लघु विज्ञप्ति  
वन क्षेत्राधिकारी परीक्षा-2021  
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि वन विभाग में वन क्षेत्राधिकारी के रिक्त पदों पर सीधी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गये अध्याचन पत्र संख्या-1029 /X-1-2021-04(28) / 2001, दिनांक 26 जुलाई 2021 में उल्लिखित श्रेणीवार/उपश्रेणीवार रिक्तियों के अनुसार ही आयोग कार्यालय द्वारा विज्ञापन संख्या: A-1/E-4/2021-22 दिनांक 11 अगस्त, 2021 प्रकाशित किया गया है। शासन ने प्रसन्नगत पद पर चयन हेतु आयोग कार्यालय को उपलब्ध कराये गये संशोधित अध्याचन पत्र संख्या-1567 /X-1-2021-04(28) / 2001, दिनांक 10 सितम्बर, 2021 में श्रेणीवार/उपश्रेणीवार रिक्तियों की संख्या को संशोधित/परिवर्तित कर दिया है। शासन द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गये संशोधित अध्याचन के आलोक में ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र स्वीकार किये जाने की अंतिम तिथि को विस्तारित करते हुए 08 अक्टूबर, 2021 (रात्रि 11:59:59 बजे तक) निर्धारित किया गया है। संशोधित अध्याचन में श्रेणीवार/उपश्रेणीवार संशोधित/परिवर्तित रिक्तियों की संख्या संबंधी विस्तृत विज्ञप्ति आयोग की वेबसाइट [www.ukpsc.gov.in](http://www.ukpsc.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है। विज्ञापन की अन्य शेष शर्तें याथावत रहेंगी।  
(कर्मन्द् सिंह) सचिव

## Fuel prices maintain stability

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Auto fuel prices in the country have maintained stability amidst volatility in global oil prices with crude on the boil again rising sharply for past few days.

The oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Friday kept pump prices of auto fuels petrol and diesel unchanged, the 12th consecutive day of no revision, as they preferred to watch the global oil situation before making any revision in prices.

Accordingly, the price of petrol and diesel remained unchanged at ₹101.19 and ₹ 88.62 per litre in Delhi, as per Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest fuel retailer.

In Mumbai, the petrol price is stable at Rs 107.26 per litre on Friday, while diesel rates also remained unchanged at ₹96.19 a litre.

Across the country as well, petrol and diesel prices remained static on Friday but their retail rates varied depending on the level of local taxes in a particular state.

Fuel prices have been hovering at record levels on account of 41 increases in its retail rates since April this year. Under the pricing formula adopted by oil companies, rates of petrol and diesel are to be reviewed and revised by them on a daily basis.

## Edible oil prices showing decline in wholesale price but retail are high

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Friday claimed that prices of eight types of edible oils in the wholesale markets across the country are showing a declining trend over the last week after it took several measures to boost domestic supply and curb hoarding. As per the data shared by the ministry, the wholesale price of palm oil fell 2.50 per cent to ₹12,349 per tonne as on September 14 from ₹12,666 per tonne a week ago. Similarly, wholesale rate of sunflower oil fell 1.30 per cent to ₹15,965 per tonne as on September 14 from ₹16,176 per tonne a week ago. Wholesale rate of groundnut oil dropped 1.38 per cent to ₹16,839 per tonne, while that of mustard oil and vanaspathi declined by less than 1 per cent to ₹16,573 per tonne and ₹12,508 per tonne.

While wholesale price of sesame oil slipped 2.08 per cent to ₹23,500 per tonne, coconut oil eased by 1.72 per cent to ₹17,100 per tonne.

The price monitoring division's data of the ministry showed that the highest price of groundnut was reported of ₹247 a kg in Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh while the minimum rate was ₹120 a kg in Rampurhat.

## Gadkari gets ₹4 lakh royalty per month from YouTube for lecture videos

PTI ■ BHARUCH

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said he gets ₹ 4 lakh every month as royalty from YouTube, as viewership of his lecture videos posted on the platform has increased during the pandemic period.

While reviewing the progress of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (DME) in Bharuch, Gadkari further said his ministry has started rating road construction contractors and consultants.

During Covid-19 times, the road transport and high-ways minister said, he did two things. "I became a chef and started cooking at home and giving lectures through video conference. I delivered more than 950 lectures online, including lectures to foreign universities students, which were uploaded on YouTube. "Viewership of my YouTube channel increased and YouTube now pays me ₹ 4 lakh per month as royalty," he said. Gadkari, who is known for his frank views, said that in India, those who do good work, don't get appreciation. The minister also emphasised on the importance of network of modern and high-quality roads for economic development and creating employment opportunities.

**EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAIN**  
**This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of Train No. 02871/02872 Islampur-New Delhi-Islampur Magadh Superfast festival Special Train as under:-**

Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Extended Up to (JCO)
02871 Islampur - New Delhi Magadh Superfast Special	Daily	Upto 01.01.2022
02872 New Delhi - Islampur Magadh Superfast Special	Daily	Upto 02.01.2022

**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., passengers 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)  
Download RailMadad App

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Your Convenience - Our Concern  
Visit us at : [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Please join us on

**"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known that my clients Smt. Shakuntla W/o Shri Jagbir and Shri Jagbir @ Jagbir Singh S/o Late Shri. Budhu R/o H.No. 57, Jalalabad Jalalpur, Inholi, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh-250001, has debarred and disinherited his son Shri Gopal aged 44 yrs & daughter in law Smt. Asha aged 41 yrs, from all his properties, both movable and immovable , my client has no control over his said son & daughter in law who have no respect and regard for my client & his family members. my client will not be responsible for any act & deeds of above named person in manner.  
Sanjay Kumar (Advocate ) 112, Lawyer Chamber Block, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
PARADIP -754142, ODISHA (INDIA)   
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)  
**No. AD/RSC-1-21/16/2013(Pt.I)/2225 Date: 15.09.2021**  
**ADVERTISEMENT**  
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of 05 (Five) General Duty Medical Officers on contractual basis in Paradip Port Trust.  
For further details, visit our website: [www.paradiport.gov.in](http://www.paradiport.gov.in)  
PPT/PR/109/21-22, Dt.16/09/2021 **Dy. Secretary**

**Revised Extension of Periodicity of Special Train**  
**In continuation to the notice "Extension of Periodicity of Special Trains" which was published in various newspapers on 15.09.2021. The following amendments are being issued:-**

Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Earlier Published	Revised Extended Period
02584 Anand Vihar (T) - Hatia Special Express	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	05.10.2021 to 03.01.2022	05.10.2021 to 31.12.2021

**Note:- Above train 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., passengers 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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Please join us on

**"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"**

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**ICICI Bank**  
Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Subodh Choudhary/ Sunita Devi A/c No- 25500001227 A/c No- QZPTU00005264384	House No- E-1304 (old No. WZ-480-C), LHS 1st Floor Without Roof, Kharsa No- 659 & 660, Vill. Basai Darapur, Sudershan Park Delhi/ 15-Sep-2021	December 11, 2019 Rs. 21,59,468/-	Delhi

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

**Date : September 18, 2021 Place: Delhi/ Ncr**  
**Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**

## 64th annual general meeting of NAFED held

The 64th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was held at New Delhi today.

Welcoming the participants, Bijender Singh, Chairman NAFED thanked to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, MoS for Agriculture, Shri Kailash Choudhary, Shri Rupala ji, Secretary (A&C), Additional Secretary (A&C) and other senior officers in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for their constant



guidance and support to NAFED from time to time and reposing confidence in NAFED by entrusting various tasks. He assured the Government that NAFED would strive hard to accomplish the tasks assigned by the Government to the best of its


ability. Hon'ble Chairman also extended his gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for creating a separate "Ministry of Cooperation" and giving it under the able and dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Shri Amit Shah Ji.

**DHFL** National Office: HDL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanker Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051. Branch Office: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.


**DEMAND NOTICE**  
Under Section 13(2) of the securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) Under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) the "said Borrower(s)", to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	PROPERTY ADDRESS
(LC No. 00001858 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Mid Istiyak (Borrower) Firuz Khan (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1462484 /- ( ₹ Fourteen lakh Sixty Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Four ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Gali No. 01, Phase-2, Vill-Meerpur Hindu Pargana & Teshil-Loni, Gaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201012
(LC No. 00044743 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Ram Sarikh (Borrower) Rahul Kannoja (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1420438 /- ( ₹ Fourteen lakh Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Eight ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Flat No-19, Fourth Floor, Pocket-3, Block-C8, Sector-58, Narela Dda Flat, Delhi New Delhi - 110040
(LC No. 000044529 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Chotey Lal (Borrower) Geeta Devi (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1022943 /- ( ₹ Fourteen lakh Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Three ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Prop.No. T-92, Flat.No. 7 Ugf Front, Side Comer Lhs Portion Kh No.1151/3 Chaudhary Dayaram Apt. Ward-6 Mehrauli New Delhi- 110030
(LC No. 00000923 of Cannanaga Place Branch) Sunil Lohani (Borrower) Manju Lohani (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1326943 /- ( Thirteen lakh Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Three ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	231 Third Floor Front Side With Roof T-Block Extension Uttam Nagar New Delhi- 110059
(LC No. 00000416 of Dwarka Branch) Praveen Chandran (Borrower) Sudha Chandran (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1295878 /- ( ₹ Twelve lakh Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Kh No.55/16 And 54/21/1 Village Palam,Raj Nagar-2 Delhi New Delhi- 110045
(LC No. 00042365 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Sanjeet Kumar (Borrower) Sonli Devi (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1257038 /- ( ₹ Twelve lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Thirty Eight ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Flat No 419, Second Floor Block C Pkt 11 Jasola Delhi New Delhi - 110025
(LC No. 00001046 of Rohtak Branch) Gobind Narayan Jha (Borrower) Sudha Jha (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1185765 /- ( ₹ Eleven lakh Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Five ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Without Roof Rights, Gali No-8, Kh No.58/23/2 Vill-Palam Raj Nagar-2 New Delhi Raj Nagar-2 New Delhi North West Delhi - 110077
(LC No. 00011227 of Ahmedabad Branch) Vinaykumar Radhamohan Singh (Borrower) Rangina Singh (Co Borrower 1) Shantilal Dabhi (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1170359 /- ( ₹ Eleven lakh Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Nine ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Flat No-A4/06, Shalin Heights-4, Nr-Omshantinagar, Lambha - Vatva Road, Narol Narol Ahmedabad Gujarat- 382405
(LC No. 00001104 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Lekhray (Borrower) Asha Rani (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1160221 /- ( ₹ Eleven lakh Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Portion With Roof Rights, Block-A Gali No. 19 Kh No. 109/14 Vill Palam, Uttam Nagar, Delhi Palam, Uttam Nagar, Delhi New Delhi - 110045
(LC No. 00001106 of New Delhi-west Branch) Ramesh Chand Boyat (Borrower) Sheshank Boyat (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 116180 /- ( ₹ Eleven lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Flat No. 3 1St Floor Tower 15-204Aavaas Sector 104 Sector 104 Gurgaon Haryana - 122001
(LC No. 00002454 of Noida Branch) Alam Parkash (Borrower) Chirag Kathuria (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1053397 /- ( ₹ Ten lakh Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Seven ) NPA ( 11-03-2021 )	Dda Lig Flat P-168A Ground Floor Block-Qu Near Dda Market Pitampura Delhi Pitampura Delhi New Delhi - 110034
(LC No. 00041742 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Tarun Kumar (Borrower) Mayra Rani (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1043143 /- ( ₹ Ten lakh Forty Three Thousand One Hundred Forty Three ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Plot No- 86 Upper Ground Floor Rear Side Kharsa No. 380, Gali No. 2 Vill. Bindapur, Subhash Park Extension Block -B New Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00001258 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Uma Kant Tiwari (Borrower) Preeti (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 997680 /- ( ₹ Nine lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eight ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Nr-B-Block Park, Dlf Ankur Vihar, Loni, Gaziabad Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No. 00001167 of Bhubaneswar Branch) Biswaji Rout (Borrower) Phadunakar Nayak (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 994634 /- ( ₹ Nine lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Four ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Flat No-210, 2Nd Floor, Block A Tulsig Garden, Manguli, Mz-Badakeshapur Pht No-69/373, 69/374, 67, 68 Pht No-69, 69/373, 69/374, 67, 68 Cutchak Orissa - 753001
(LC No. 00042774 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Ashutosh Kumar (Borrower) Khushboo Singh (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 9935309 /- ( ₹ Nine lakh Ashutosh Kumar (Borrower) Khushboo Singh (Co Borrower 1) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Unit No -1208 Tower No-4 Pyramid Urban Homes Sector-70A, Sohna Gurgaon Haryana - 122001
(LC No. 00000801 of Cannanaga Place Branch) Prem Kumar (Borrower) Kanchan (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 912465 /- ( ₹ Nine lakh Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five ) NPA ( 09-01-2021 )	Property MdZ No.34-C Unit No.1, Upper Ground Floor Rear Side Kh No.491/421 Arjun Nagar Kh No.491/421 Arjun Nagar-Vill. Humayunpur Delhi New Delhi-110029
(LC No. 00000199 of Gurgaon Branch) Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Dimple D (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 892784 /- ( ₹ Eight lakh Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Four ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Flat No-25, Second Floor, Dda Janta Flat, Pocket-6, Sunrise Apartment, Nasir Pur, Dwarka Nasir Pur, Dwarka Delhi New Delhi - 110075
(LC No. 00001699 of Noida Branch) Ravinder (Borrower) Krishan Choudhary (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 852304 /- ( ₹ Eight lakh Fifty Two Thousand Three Hundred Four ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	H No A41 Ground Floor Block A Pocket 11 Jasola Jasola New Delhi - 110001
(LC No. 00000776 of Gaziabad Branch) Maya (Borrower) Balbir (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 795723 /- ( ₹ Seven lakh Ninety Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Plot No- C-137, Block- C-1 Ground Floor, Front Side Flat ( G-1) Dlf Ankur Vihar, Loni Dlf Ankur Vihar, Loni Gaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201022
(LC No. 00000932 of Haridwar Branch) Kuldeep Singh Bhandari (Borrower) Vinod Singh Bhandari (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 738410 /- ( ₹ Seven lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Ten ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Gram Suman Nagar, Pargana Roorkee Haridwar Uttaranchal - 249402
(LC No. 00000969 of Rohini Branch) Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Dimple (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 661147 /- ( ₹ Six lakh Sixty One Thousand One Hundred Forty Seven ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Flat No 25 2Nd Floor D D A Janta Flat Pocket 6 Nasir Pur Nasir Pur Dwarka New Delhi - 110075
(LC No. 00000594 of Faridabad Branch) Sachin Bajaj (Borrower) Ankur Bajaj (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 533181 /- ( ₹ Five lakh Thirty Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty One ) NPA ( 11-03-2021 )	Flat No 902 7th Floor Tower A2 Type B S Pms Palam Homes Sector 7 Srs Palam Homes Sector 7 Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121102
(LC No. 00044454 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Mohit Taneja (Borrower) Uma Taneja (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 484271 /- ( ₹ Four lakh Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy One ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Plot No.11 1St Floor (L.H.S) Kh No. 80/5 Roop Vihar Om Vihar Phase V Village Hasaul Uttam Nagar New Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00001582 of Rohini Branch) Jaspreet Singh (Borrower) Manpreet Singh (Co Borrower 1) Jaswant Kaur (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 446360 /- ( ₹ Four lakh Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Plot No.R-142, 2Nd Floor Western Side Portion, Kh No. 75,76,85To 89,92 To 97, 106,120 Block R Vill Bindapur, 106,120 Block R Vill Bindapur Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00000723 of Gurgaon Branch) Puneet Goswami (Borrower) Ramesh Giri (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 100752 /- ( ₹ One lakh Seven Hundred Fifty Two ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Property No. B-110 C-3 Tronica City Loni Gaziabad Loni Gaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201001
(LC No. 00000776 of Rohini Branch) Surender Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Gaurav Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Meena Sharma (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1732456 /- ( ₹ Seventeen lakh Thirty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Six ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Plot No-A-61, Ground Flr, New No-C-13 Kharsa No-828/2, Village Mandawali Fazal Gali No-6, West Vinod Nagar, Gali No-6, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi New Delhi - 110092
(LC No. 00001234 of Rohini Branch) Suneel Sharma (Borrower) Gaurav Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1646295 /- ( ₹ Sixteen lakh Forty Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Five ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Flat No -L6/05, Sixth Floor, Block L, Aerogram, Village Badli, Rajpura Tehsil Roorkee Tehsil Roorkee Haridwar Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh - 247663
(LC No. 00043583 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Vandana (Borrower) Jeevan Singh (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1555774 /- ( ₹ Fifteen lakh Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Four ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	P.No.Rza-10, 3Rd Floor, Without Roof, (With Roof), Kh.No.16/6/2, Vill Asalapur,Mahindra Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00000246 of Noida Branch) Tahir Noor (Borrower) Sabista (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1373312 /- ( ₹ Thirteen lakh Seventy Three Thousand Three Hundred Twelve ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Prop. S-221/169, Flr Without Roof, Block-S, Galino, 4, Kh. 20/5, Village Khyala, Vishnu Garden Khyala, Vishnu Garden New Delhi - 110018
(LC No. 00042766 of Noida-sector 2 Branch) Neera Verma (Borrower) Alka Verma (Co Borrower 1) Subhash Chand Gupta (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 960554 /- ( ₹ Nine lakh Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	1/5405, Second Floor, Without Roof, Plot No-30, Kharsa No-156,158 & 159, Gali No-14-A,Balbir Nagar Extn Shahrada New Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 00000482 of Bahadurgarh Branch) Sohan Singh (Borrower) Pushpindra Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 560953 /- ( ₹ Five lakh Sixty Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Three ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	Wz 9/1, 2Nd Floor, Without Roof Right, Kharsa No 23/5, Village Keshopur, Bhupinder Nagar Delhi New Delhi - 110001
(LC No. 00001306 of Rohini Branch) Saraswati Devi (Borrower) Shashank (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 528592 /- ( ₹ Five lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two ) NPA ( 11-04-2021 )	1/9969 A First Floor, Gali No. 3C West Gorakh Park Shahrada Shahrada Delhi New Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 00003398 of New Delhi Branch) Ajay Sharma (Borrower) Anita Devi (Co Borrower		







**BADSHAH**  
'Bad Boy X Bad Girl is a groovy, playful tease that makes you want to let your guard down, break those boundaries and have some fun! All of us have an unexplored wild side and sometimes it is great to leave all your worries behind and enjoy the every single moment.'




**ESHA GUPTA**  
'Playing the role of a cop is an honour. I have always been fascinated by women in uniform. It's a challenging yet an exciting character to portray in *Nakaab*. Women have made great strides in all fields. I am glad that actors now finding their way in web series and films in the Indian entertainment industry.'



**WAMIQA GABBI**  
'My father is a writer and he always made sure that I watch all the plays that were happening in the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh. He has always encouraged me. He is my pillar and it is because of him that I am an artiste today.'



**VIVEK OBEROI**  
'It (*PM Narendra Modi*) traces journey from his modest origins to his historic victory as the Chief Minister of Gujarat and eventually his nomination as the Prime Minister of India. I feel immense pleasure that this inspirational story will now have a wider reach.'



**HELEN MIRREN**  
'I knew someday I would get a role in the Harry Potter universe, and I'm so pleased to take part in the 20-year film celebration by hosting the forthcoming quiz show *Harry Potter: Hogwarts Tournament Of Houses*. The film has inspired such enchantment, it will be amazing reignite that magic for the fans.'

VOGUE

RISING TO THE OCCASION

NATASHA BHARADWAJ confesses that she took workshops with her mother's help to get into the skin of Dr Diya. By KHUSHBU KIRTI





her mettle. That is when Dr Diya puts everything aside, focusses at the humongous task at hand and really pulls through.

□I read somewhere that your mother is a doctor. Did that help you engulf the essence of the role?

Yes, my mother is a doctor and she has always been my inspiration. She has really helped me groom into the character. I was blessed to have her beside me, who could talk me through this because her experiences were something that I actually fed off. She has treated so many patients and there are innumerable stories that are unbelievably inspiring and heart wrenching. I cannot define the take-away really but this has helped me tremendously in creating Dr Diya, undoubtedly. I remember I used to visit the hospital with her, as a kid. She would go to operate and I used to sit around in her cabin. I enjoyed looking at the slides placed under the microscope and for the longest time that I can



remember, I've always been in a hospital environment. However, this show needed something completely different. It's a government hospital. There are entirely different kinds of obstacles that occur at a government hospital and when everything breaks loose, how these hospitals really get affected was what we needed to portray in the show.

□Acting is something inspired from reality...how much and what kind of research did you do? How did you prepare for the finer details which were reflected on screen while playing a resident doctor?

Getting into the skin of the character was extremely (elongates on the word, emphasising on it) important. Mr Nikhil Advani, our director, and the co-director, Mr Nikhil Gonsalves, both had such a clear vision of what they wanted and the way they wanted it. Before our medical workshop started for the web series, I began my own workshops. I discussed with my mother her experiences, and the manner doctors function in reality. I tried to soak the medical



Prepping to shine

RAKUL PREET SINGH enrolled for medical classes for her new comedy film *Doctor G*

Actress Rakul Preet Singh, whose look from the forthcoming Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer *Doctor G* was unveiled recently, had to enroll for medical classes to get into the skin of her character in the film.

To essay Dr Fatima, Rakul had to learn medical terminology and also nuances of some important surgical procedures for this family entertainer directed by Anubhuti Kashyap.

In order to make everything related to the medical world appear authentic on screen, the makers had arranged for experts to conduct special sessions with the cast — Rakul, Khurrana and actress Shefali Shah and train them as part of their characters' prep.

"Shooting for *Doctor G* has turned out to be an interesting experience. Since I play a doctor, the mannerisms and actions needed to be precise. It was mandatory to learn important things related to the medical world to make it look real on screen," expressed Rakul.

"The journey of becoming Dr Fatima was an amazing process which I will cherish forever," she added.

Rakul said that she and the makers wanted her character to seem genuine and relatable.

"We did multiple look tests to get her look right. The idea was for her to look as close to real as possible and bring out the endearing quality of her character. By just wearing the doctor's coat, you suddenly get a sense of responsibility even though I was only playing a character," Rakul continued.

The actress admitted, "While treating patients for scenes, one truly understands how much responsibility doctors have on their shoulders and how difficult their life is."

The film *Doctor G* is a campus comedy drama, co-written by Kashyap, Sumit Saxena, Vishal Wagh and Saurabh Bharat.

—JANS

Think Bhangra and the first name that comes to everyone's mind is Daler Mehndi. The voice behind popular hits, from *Bolo Ta Ra Ra Ra*, *Tunak Tunak* to *Ho Jayegi Balle Balle*, is not just restricted to the upbeat genre, though. Someone who is popular for his exuberant energy in all his music videos, he has also lent his voice to some iconic songs that were featured in Bollywood such as *Jiyo Re Bahubali*, *Zor Ka Jhatka* and the title track for *Dangal*.

Paying homage

On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, singer, songwriter, author and record producer DALER MEHNDI released a new song. CHRISTY VARGHESE uses the opportunity to talk about his devotion and more



to ask him from where does he obtain his signature energy and whether he is always like that, full of life? "You know, you are not the first person to ask this," he says with a smile, "Right before my last performance the organisers asked me what's my poison, and when I told them I would like a cup of hot tea, they were surprised. I am used to that reaction, when people see me, they might think that I drink. To them that is the source of unrestrained energy; however, for me, music is the substance of choice. I would say that at least 99 per cent of my life is spent being energetic. And the remaining one per cent? It might be more than one per cent, I think, but whenever I turn away from music, I see the troubles and strives of our fellow people. Otherwise, I believe I have a lot to be thankful for, and that alone is enough to keep me happy."

Speaking about *Chintamani Ganesha* and Ganesh Chaturthi, he went on to reveal, "*Bolo Ta Ra Ra Ra*, my first album, released in 1995 during Ganesh Chaturthi. It broke all records back then and I have never looked back, since. My own sentimental connection with the festival aside, I think this 10-day festival Ganesh Chaturthi offers respite from monotony to people. Against the backdrop of the pandemic my own sentimental connection aside, it is one of the



festivals which bring happiness, and respite from the monotony of life, something we all could use in these pandemic times, which is why I released the song *Chintamani Ganesha* — *wo sab ki chinta door karte hai*..."

Mehndi is someone who is openly religious and can be seen periodically celebrating occasions with songs of worship across the country. Earlier this year, he penned and performed an exclusive bhajan at the Vaishno Devi shrine, to signify the commencement of Navratri. He expresses his belief that all religions promote the same message of love and harmony, and if he receives the opportunity to celebrate a god with his god-

from the script, like most good conversations do, he went on to reminisce about the distant past, grateful for everything, including the people he met and had a hand in Daler Singh becoming Daler Mehndi. "I ran away from home in 1982 to learn music from Rahat Ali Khan from Gorakhpur, who was kind enough to teach me the finer nuances of the Patiala *Gharana* style of Indian classical music. Another teacher was ghazal maestro Parvez Mehdi, from whose name, the celebrated suffix Mehndi got added to my name. Back then I wanted everything that one would have wanted in those times. My name and photograph on hoardings, and the likes, I am sure you know what I mean. I am glad fame came knocking on my door much later, in 1995, after *Bolo Ta Ra Ra Ra*, because then I did not let it get to my head," he ruminates thoughtfully, before adding, "Now my only dream is to share different types of music with the world. I am not one to brag but when big names of the west, like Deadmau5 or Marshmello, come to India they seek me out, all by the grace of God. And if God wills, I will go a long way, yet. I am still hungry to showcase my energy with a lot more music."

One thing that was on our script, and that we did not forget to ask about was a little story concerning *Tunak Tunak*, which is arguably Mehndi's biggest hit. The song's video, which was made on a then unprecedented budget of \$610,000, features hundreds of CGI versions of the singer dancing to the catchy beat of the song. We found a lot of anecdotes on the internet, but no original quotes by the singer behind the hit. Well, the story is as follows, in the words of the living legend himself, "Certain popular journalists had said that I became

popular only since women are dancing with me in my videos. And I don't remember what happened, I suppose I was just extremely angry with them and took it personally. I challenged them that I will release a song which will feature only my voice and only me in the video. And all credit goes to the supreme power above us all, that song was a hit. The very first day witnessed the sale of over 10 lakh units of cassettes being and two lakh CDs."

Well, it is clear who won that challenge. The beats of *Tunak Tunak* happen to be a cult hit in South Korea, with just about every kid having heard that tune at least once since it is played in the background of advertisement of food items in the country.

Since he had to prepare for his next performance, we had to cut our conversation short with one last question — as a record producer, what does he expect from emerging talent? "Well, kids these days are versatile. The current young generation is extremely lucky; everything is just the swipe on a smartphone away. Whatever information you seek, is available through multiple reliable sources. The talent that is emerging is extremely talented. My only advise to someone who wants to make something of themselves in the music industry, is that they should stay away from drugs and liquor. And another factor I don't compromise on is that the person should be down to earth, and be willing to learn," Mehndi concludes with a warm smile.





Prashant Tripathi, also popularly called Acharya Prashant, is an Advaita teacher and author. His recent book *Karma: Why Everything You Know About It Is Wrong* has hit the Amazon bestsellers' list and there's only infinite definitions of the concept of 'karma' that Acharya unveils. The IIT-IIM alumni teaches 17 forms of *Gita* and 60 forms of *Upanishads*. The intellectual and deeply philosophical leanings of the author have attracted a wide audience of readers.

Here are certain excerpts from the interview:

**□Your book *Karma: Why Everything You Know About It Is Wrong* is supposed to shatter the prejudiced notions of 'karma'. Could you summarise your definition of the same?**

The definition I propose of 'karma' does not place the action or the thing being acted upon at the centre, as is the case with the popular definitions of the concept. It, on the contrary, places the actor, the self at the centre, and then studies the action in light of the actor itself.

**□This generation is still so much influenced by the ideals of Western philosophy, how do you propose to bring them back to the roots? And, is that your aim?**

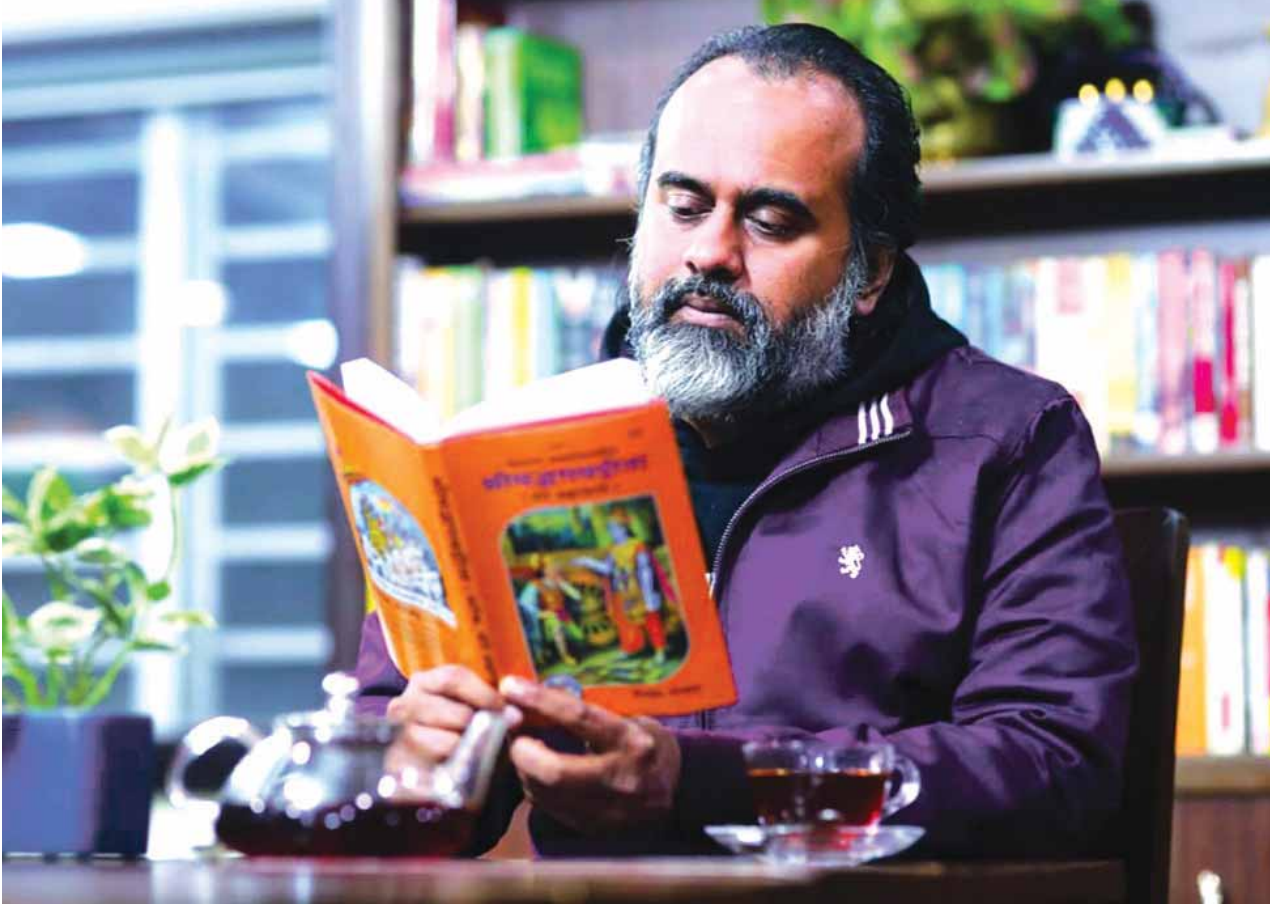
The bias is not towards the East or the West, but towards the Truth. In this context, I clearly see that Indian philosophy has a lot to offer. Whereas the Western view preoccupies itself with the world as an objective fact, the Indian approach is to explore into the consciousness that perceives the world. The Indian approach is, thus, inward looking and more intimate.

**□The concept of binaries, so prevalent in the West, stands opposite to the Eastern idea of '*aham Brahmasmi*'. Care to weigh in?**

In the common normal world of the ego, binaries do exist. The first dualistic binary is me and the world - 'I am not the world and the world is not me', and that becomes a binary.

'I feel the world exists and I feel I exist'. In general, my notion of myself, as well as my notion of the world both are false. I am conditioned and the world that I perceive is, therefore, an illusion. Just as a person, with misty and cloudy eyes, perceives nothing but illusions.

So, the beginning is *aham* and the *sansaar*, and both are false. The spiritual process brings the self to a point where it is cleansed of conditioning. So this pure self, cleansed of conditioning, then perceives the world



# EXPLORING THE TRUTH

ACHARYA PRASHANT decentres action in the totality of karma, in a heart-to-heart with KHUSHBU KIRTI

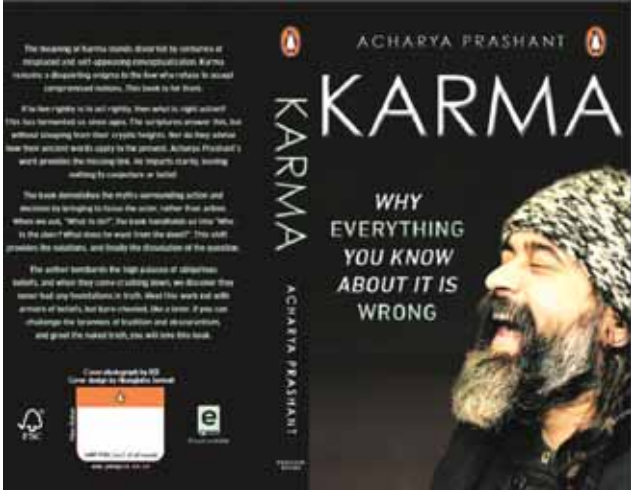
in a dimensionally different way.

Now it is the Truth within shining as the Truth outside. Only now, can one say '*aham Brahmasmi*'. So, the notion is not something that is rightfully available to the common ego state to utter. In the common state, *aham* is just *aham*, not Brahma; and when *aham* is just *aham*, obviously *aham* and *sansaar* are two ends of duality, together but never in union.

A deeply spiritual person alone has the right to say, '*aham Brahmasmi*'.

**□As an Advait philosopher/practitioner, you are known to propagate the teachings of Upanishads and the Gita, what challenges have you faced in teaching the modern audience?**

Popular modernity is a lot about belief in the self and a blanket repudiation of the past. Together these two form a lethal, self-destructive combination. Firstly, the belief in the self as a genuine, original or authentic entity is misplaced; secondly, a



lot that can dispel that belief is stationed in the past. So, when you have a strong, even if false, belief coupled with an aversion to that which can probe and dispel this belief, then you are in a situation that is not only false but also designed to keep the false secure, and that is the challenge that I face with the so-called

modern mind and that is the problem that modern mind faces with itself. One of the problems with popular misinterpretations of modernity is that they accord the self and its desires a very high, actually the highest value, without ever bothering to enquire where the self comes from and whether it

deserves such a high value. So, the ego's nature is such that it is extremely self-protective and the notion that convinces it of its infallibility becomes very valuable and indispensable to itself. So when it is faced with the oriental scriptures whose central idea is the falseness of the ego self, the first reaction of the ego is to resist them, find faults with them and declare them outdated.

**□Who are the seminal philosophers you follow and why?**

Philosophy is authentic only when it makes one come to the self. Therefore, philosophy has to be spirituality; and philosophy has to be a way of life, not merely a structure of thought. The philosophers who appeal to me would include the Rishis of the Upanishads, Sage Ashvatkara, Adi Shankaracharya, Plato, Socrates, Gautama Buddha, Kabir Saheb, Krishna, Lao Tzu, and Nagarjuna from the Buddhist tradition.

# A style statement

In a tête-à-tête with TANMAYA DAS, ace fashion designer ANJU MODI shares her thoughts on the evolution of the Indian fashion industry

In the year-2020, the fashion industry was trying to hold back its position, as the concept of work from home (WFH) became inevitable. Most of the people started working from home. Retail shops were shut down due to the pandemic and online shopping increased to encourage social distancing. Due to cost-cutting and new responsibilities, expensive purchases were curtailed, which subsequently affected the fashion industry.

Now that the world is slowly returning to normalcy, we have all started to regain and reshape ourselves in the new economic sphere. Renowned designer Anju Modi speaks of the challenges that the Indian fashion industry is facing currently.

She says, "The designers have to come forward in terms of competitive clothing. You use Indian handloom fabric to make it an anti-fit loose dress or a simple shift dress. It is more comfortable as it absorbs sweat. So, I make dresses that can be worn at home all day long. However, for now, designing competitive clothing is a challenge."

Also, it is undeniable that clothes shape our personality, bringing out the best version of ourselves. Our clothes and jewellery have always been inspired by our cultures and traditions. On this note, she says, "As humans started to get civilised, presenting oneself was always a prime psychological and emotional point within a human being. Even our kings and royal families were all extremely conscious of how they should be wearing their clothes, the jewellery, turbans, attire, shoes, and/or makeup." Moreover, she adds that the psychology of presenting oneself lies at the core of human existence.

On being asked about her fascination with historical characters, she points out that everything has been shaped by history. She expresses, "We get inspired by classical music, 500-year-old Amir Khusrow's poetry, and Mughal influences in our craft. So, I feel that in today's generation, our lifestyle is a reference to previous cultural influences. However, we need to reinvent and make garments that are wearable and relevant in today's time. So, as a designer, I am interpreting our Indian designer traditions and culture."

During the 90s, people were clueless about fashion. Since childhood, Anju used to be surrounded by several art forms, and music. Such an atmosphere created a natural inclination towards arts and designs. Afterwards, she went on to understand the culture as well as the lifestyle of weavers and their philosophy. Of all young designers, Rahul Mishra and Pero are some of her favourite brands. She shares, "My son and daughter-in-law made a promising mark in the fashion industry with their label, AMPM. They will take the craft much further."

To her, the fashion industry in India has explored many avenues, but the real challenge is to make clothing more relevant to the modern lifestyle. "I cannot say that something is not unexplored. Everybody has



worked in each region, including lehengas, cholis, anarkali, Hyderabad and Pakistani shararas, and farshi. So, a lot of areas have already been explored. The question here is how do we take out the traditional attire and make it relevant in today's lifestyle. Since the younger generation is fast-paced, they don't want so much fabric and weight on themselves. One needs to select the best textile and make it into a stylish garment. So, I sincerely believe that styling garments for today's generation is one area which needs more exploration," she elaborates.

Our workspaces influence our productivity levels so we need to choose the elements in our workspaces wisely. On being asked about redefining home spaces during the pandemic, she observes, "Everyone has become a home-conscious person. In this endeavour, I collaborated with an interior designer, Rajiv Goel who is providing workspaces at home. People have created their own WFH spaces. They have all the required gadgets, a library, and books. WFH has become a part of our lifestyle in these uncertain times."

Currently, she is engaged with Sanjay Leela Bansal for his first-ever web series, Heera Mandi. Simultaneously, there are several projects lined up that have been experiencing some hiccups due to the Covid. "The pandemic has taught us a huge lesson. It has given us time to rethink and reinvent ourselves. Our perspectives on life, relationships, and emotions have changed. So, my only message is that one should not lose one's equilibrium again. Relax! Enjoy the music, dance, and all the classical textiles. Be an art lover!" she concludes with a wide smile.

# Devotion as she knows best

ANKITA LOKHANDE talks about the significance of the festival in her life as she is all set to perform a mesmerising Ashtavinayak act during *Ganesh Utsav With Zee TV*. By TEAM VIVA

With festivities around the corner and the restrictions limiting the celebrations across India, Zee TV has a surprise coming your way! The channel is all set to give you the look, feel, and flavour of Ganesh Chaturthi from the comfort of your homes as it presents an extravagant celebration through a special episode of *Ganesh Utsav with Zee TV*. This unique celebration will see lots of fun, dance, *masti* and conversations with top telly stars celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi with all of you.

Viewers are in for some amazing performances. While *Kumkum Bhagya* and *Kundali Bhagya*'s iconic duos — Abhi (Shabir Ahluwalia)-Pragya (Sriti Jha) and Karan (Dheeraj Dhoopar)-Preeta (Shraddha Arya) — will make you fall in love with them all over again as they showcase their adorable chemistry, actor Ankita Lokhande will ensure that this Ganesh Utsav is memorable for one and all, as she performs a breathtaking Ashtavinayak dance act. The actress left no stone unturned when it came to her performance for Bappa.

Talking about Ganesh Utsav with Zee TV, Ankita shared, "I have come for Zee TV's Ganesh Utsav after a long time, and there are so many memories that I have of this annual event, which came rushing back to me as soon as I came on the set. To be honest, being a dancer, I am always excited about my performance, especially when I am going to perform for Ganpati Bappa. It's truly a different feeling altogether. I remember when *Pavitra Rishta* was on air, the Ganesh Chaturthi event used to start with our show, but this time around, I've joined the Zee Kutumb for my special act. I am excited as well as nervous about my performance because I am doing a solo act for Lord Ganesha and can't wait to see everyone's reaction towards my act."

Ankita, who is known for her dancing skills, will surely take your breath away with not just her mesmerising act, but also her angelic



avatar. Talking about her plans for this Ganesh Utsav, she added, "I have always had Bappa at my house since my childhood and this year as well, I have welcomed him home for 11 days. There is so much preparation that we do, from decorating the

house to making Bappa's favorite *modaks*, *ladoos*, *puran poli* and I am very excited for it this year."

(To watch the grand celebration, tune in to Ganesh Utsav With Zee TV on September 19 2021 at 12 pm, only on Zee TV)

Season two of *The Morning Show*, starring Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon, had filmed just 13 days when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down production in March 2020.

The writers for the show, which revolves around the behind-the-scenes drama of a morning news program, soon decided that the scripts should reflect what was happening in the world. Instead of diving right into the chaos of the early days — lockdowns and quarantines — the new season, which debuted yesterday, unfolds in the first months of 2020 leading up to the declaration of a pandemic. Before that, the Coronavirus had been looming but seemed like a problem far removed.

"Everything that you're doing while you don't know what's about to hit you is exactly what we were trying to capture," said Witherspoon.

These script changes were a sense of déjà vu for the writers. The planned plot of season one had also changed course. That revision incorporated the Time's Up and #MeToo movements that exposed misconduct by men in media and entertainment, most notably disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The first season saw Aniston and Witherspoon's characters often pitted against one another. In season two, there's less time to spar because everybody's got their own problems. Each character confronts questions of identity, in both how they're seen by the world at large and how they view themselves.

Desean Terry plays disenfranchised news anchor Daniel, who is told outright that he's as big as he's ever going to get so he should be satisfied. As a black man, he feels a responsibility to represent people of color and share their stories, and he's not getting the opportunity to do so.

"I hope people see those nuances that can happen," said Terry. "The system wears on you and it starts to actually really impact you in this very deep and personal way and you take on the cost. We see him call out the system but also an insecurity creeps in."

Mark Duplass' character, Chip, who could have been a walking

# Keeping up with times

Cancel culture dominates the latest season of *The Morning Show*



advertisement for Pepto-Bismol in season one as the executive producer of the programme, now isn't sure where he fits in when he's not the boss.

"He's being pulled back to the power that he used to have that he no longer has," said Duplass. "I think white men are struggling a lot right now with the loss of that, and they get real fussy when they lose it. They don't know how to deal with it."

The complexities of cancel culture are examined as well. *The Morning Show* looks at what can happen next for someone who has been publicly outed for their behavior, the paranoia over being guilty by association to a canceled person, and how it's easier said than done to erase someone from your life.

"My question always was, 'What happens to these (cancelled) people?'" says Aniston. "The beauty of the writing is just the head-on honesty. Saying what people say behind closed doors."

Aniston's portrayal of Alex Levy, a beloved, trusted TV personality who runs hot and cold off screen, earned her an Emmy and

Golden Globe nomination and a SAG award win.

"She's a labyrinth of a human being," said Aniston of her character, adding that she's met people like Alex "along the way."

"I've worked with them, where you just don't know what you're gonna get. They always scare me," Aniston said.

Some of the best moments of season two are Aniston's scenes with Duplass. Their characters have a long, shared work history and in seconds can go from friends without filters to spewing deep, cutting vitriol.

"I think part of the reason why people respond to Chip and Alex and their relationship like they do is because of the way that Jen and I really like each other," said Duplass. "We imbue that relationship with a playfulness and a love that also layers into the darkness and the toxicity that's on the page. So as hard as some of those scenes are, I look forward to them."

There's one scene with the two in a car that is hilarious and horrifying to watch.

Aniston says she told director

Mimi Leder, "I think I've got about two (takes) in me" but calls the end result "fantastic" and "a purging."

Billy Crudup, who plays enigmatic TV executive Cory Ellison, says his Emmy-winning role on *The Morning Show* has afforded him a delicious opportunity he thought was long gone.

"When you get into your 50s, there's a notion that you might have one or two more of these (roles) in your career," said Crudup. "To get to do something that's as extravagant as this character is otherworldly."

Season two adds Hasan Minaj (from *The Daily Show* and *Patriot Act With Hasan Minaj*) and Julianna Margulies, of *The Good Wife* fame, to the cast.

"We had the best time," said Witherspoon of Margulies. "I've always been a fan of hers. I've known her a little bit socially, but just getting to spend that time with her is so meaningful to me. And can I say I loved working with Hassan because he made me laugh so hard."



# NZ put off Pak tour over security



SIANS ■ RAWALPINDI

New Zealand have called off their white-ball tour of Pakistan because of security concerns ahead of the first of three ODIs at Pindi Cricket Ground in Rawalpindi on Friday. New Zealand were visiting Pakistan for the first time after 18 years for a white-ball tour featuring three ODIs which were to be followed by five T20Is in Lahore.

Players and support staff members from both sides did not come out of the hotel and were asked to stay in their rooms. Spectators were not allowed to enter the stadium. After a period of uncertainty and chaos caused by the delay apart from rumours of COVID-19 outbreak in either camp, a statement from New Zealand Cricket (NZC) was issued.

"However, following an escalation in the New Zealand Government threat levels for Pakistan, and advice from NZC

security advisors on the ground, it has been decided the BLACK-CAPS will not continue with the tour. Arrangements are now being made for the team's departure," read the NZC statement.

The chief executive of NZC David White said it was simply not possible to continue with the tour given the advice he was receiving. "I understand this will be a blow for the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board), who have been wonderful hosts, but player safety is paramount and we believe this is the only responsible option."

New Zealand Cricket Players Association chief executive Heath Mills echoed White's sentiments. "We've been across this process throughout and are fully supportive of the decision. The players are in good hands; they're safe -- and everyone's acting in their best interests."

NZC also said it will not comment on the details of the security threat nor the updated

arrangements for the departing squad. New Zealand, led by Tom Latham, had arrived in Islamabad on September 11 after losing a five-match T20I series to Bangladesh 3-2. Since the start of this century, New Zealand first came to Pakistan in 2002 under Stephen Fleming. They had to abandon the tour on the morning of the second Test in Karachi after a bomb exploded outside their team hotel. The last time New Zealand toured Pakistan was in 2003 for a five-match ODI series, which they lost 5-0.

The PCB issued a statement shortly after NZC released one, saying that no security threat of any kind existed for the visitors. "Earlier today, New Zealand Cricket informed us they had been alerted to some security alert and have unilaterally decided to postpone the series."

"Pakistan Cricket Board and Pakistan Government made foolproof security arrangements for all visiting teams. We have

## Pak Minister links New Zealand tour cancellation to Afghanistan

SIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the New Zealand cricket team called off its tour of Pakistan just before the start of the first ODI in Rawalpindi, Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad said on Friday that the tour was cancelled under an international 'conspiracy', Express Tribune reported.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Ahmad said that he will not name the conspirators. However, he added that some forces want to make Pakistan a scapegoat



after what has been happening in Afghanistan.

The New Zealand authorities do not have substantive proof of a threat in Pakistan, the minister said, hours after the Kiwis cancelled their tour of Pakistan, Geo TV reported.

## 'Which world is NZ living in?' PCB chief

SIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The newly-appointed Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, Ramiz Raja on Friday lashed out at the New Zealand Cricket for abandoning their international series at the last minute after claiming to have received a security alert from their government back home.

New Zealand have called off their white-ball tour of Pakistan because of security concerns ahead of the first of three ODIs at Pindi Cricket Ground in Rawalpindi. Raja warned NZC that the matter will be taken up before the International Cricket Council (ICC). He took to Twitter to express his anguish.



## National Open Athletics: Harmilan Kaur sets national record in 1500m

AP ■ WARANGAL

Punjab's Harmilan Kaur Bains stole the thunder from the sprinters by breaking Sunita Rani's long-standing national record in the 1500 metres on the second day of the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda on Thursday.

The 23-year-old start-to-finish specialist cruised home in 4:05.39 to erase the mark set by Sunita Rani at 4:06.03 in the Asian Games in Busan in 2002. She also shattered OP Jais's meet record of 4:11.83 set in Delhi in 2006. Delhi's KM Chanda gamely shadowed Harmilan until the Punjab runner sped away at the bell to win by a sizable margin. Harmilan, undefeated in eight national-level 1500m races since January 2020, has shown rapid progress, improving from 4:14.68 in the Khelo India University Games in Bhubaneswar last year to 4:08.70 and 4:08.27 in the Federation Cup (March 16) and Indian Grand Prix 4 (June 21)

respectively in Patiala. On Thursday, she capped it with a National mark, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said in a release on Thursday.

It needed such a strong effort to push a couple of good sprint events to the shade. Naresh Kumar (Andhra Pradesh) and Delhi's Tarandeep Kaur took the honours as the fastest male and female athlete of the meet by winning the 100m dash Naresh Kumar's 10.30 seconds win came with the second-fastest time by an Indian in 100m this year behind Gurindervir Singh's 10.27 seconds in Patiala on June 26. It also gave the 23-year-old from Guntur a place among the five fastest sprinters in Indian history. Quite inevitably, it gave him the meet record, improving on Anil Kumar's 10.37 seconds set in 2001.

The race produced personal bests for Assam's Amlan Borgohain and Harjit Singh (Services) with times of 10.34 seconds for both, a photo finish separating them by six-thousandths of a second to secure the silver medal for the former.

## Sharath named chairman of BCCI junior selection committee

SIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket board (BCCI) on Friday appointed the national junior selection committee with former Tamil Nadu batsman Sridharan Sharath as its chairman.

While S. Sharath is the representative selector from South Zone, former Gujarat wicket-keeper-batsman Pathik Patel is the selector from West Zone and former Bengal medium-pacer Ranadeb Bose is from East Zone. Former Punjab batsman Krishan Mohan, who is now with Himachal Pradesh in coaching capacity, is the North Zone selector while ex-Madhya Pradesh pacer Harvinder Singh Sodhi is the selector from Central Zone.

"Former Tamil Nadu captain Mr Sharath Sridharan will head the committee," said a statement from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The first cricketer to play 100 Ranji Trophy matches for Tamil Nadu, Sharath scored 8700 runs, including 27 centuries and 42 half-centuries in 139 first-class matches with an impressive average of 51.17, during his 15-year-long domestic career.



## Not getting selected for T20 World Cup not the end of it all: Pacer Siraj



SIANS ■ MUMBAI

Indian pace bowler Mohammed Siraj has said that the recently-concluded Test tour of England was a "great experience" and that he was happy that he could repose the faith of his captain Virat Kohli during the series.

Siraj played a key role in India taking a 1-0 lead in the series, notching eight wickets in the Lord's Test, which led to the visitors winning the tie by 151 runs.

"The England tour was a great experience by any stretch of imagination. I am glad that I could repose the faith of my captain Virat bhai, head coach Ravi Shastri, the support staff and the entire team," the 27-year-old, who has so far amassed 30 wickets in the nine Tests, told Sportstar on Thursday.

Siraj though said that he was a bit disappointed at not being selected in the side for the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE and Oman in October-November this year.

"Well, selection is not in our hands. It was certainly a dream to play in the T20 World Cup. But, again, that is not the end of it all. I have many more goals -- the biggest being to play a lead role in helping the team to win matches," said Siraj.

"I will take things as they come for I believe in destiny and be content in whatever opportunities I get even as the pursuit for excellence at the highest level continues," he added.

Siraj said that sharing the ball with the likes of pace stalwarts Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami was a great experience.

## England's tour of Pakistan next month in doubt now: Reports



SIANS ■ NEW DELHI

England's tour of Pakistan next month was thrown into doubt on Friday after New Zealand abandoned their international series there on security grounds.

According to a Daily Mail report, the Black Caps did not leave their hotel for the first one-day international and no spectators were admitted to the stadium in Rawalpindi after the country's cricket board received security advice. Before the scheduled time of the toss for the day-nighter, confirmation came that the tourists would be returning home before a ball

had been bowled. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) then said that they will decide on whether next month's tour of Pakistan can go ahead in the next 48 hours.

"We're aware of New Zealand's decision to pull out of the Pakistan tour due to a security alert," a spokesperson was quoted as saying by standard.co.uk. "We are liaising with our security team who are on the ground in Pakistan to fully understand the situation. The ECB Board will then decide in the next 24-48 hours whether our planned tour should proceed."

## Shiva sails into last-16, Gaurav Bidhuri bows out of National Championships

PTI ■ BELLARY

Five-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) stormed into the pre-quarter-finals with a knockout victory but former world championship bronze-winner Gaurav Bidhuri (57kg) exited after an opening loss in the men's National Boxing Championships here on Friday.

Representing Assam, Thapa knocked out Shubham Mamta of Steel Plant Sports Board (SPSB) in the opening round of his bout. Shubham was attended to by the medical team after the body shot threw him off balance in the ring.

"There is pain but he should be alright. He will be assessed again tomorrow," a top official at the tournament told PTI. However, Bidhuri (Railways Sports Promotion Board) was upstaged by Haryana's Sachin, who prevailed 4-1 in the bout. Sachin is the reigning world champion. Another Haryana pugilist and South Asian Games champion Ankit Khatana made his way into the 75kg quarter-finals after he



out-punched Himachal Pradesh's Dharm Pal in unanimous victory.

Telangana's Savio Dominic Michael (54kg) and Goa's Ashok Patil (67kg) too progressed to the last-eight stage with identical 4-1 victories.

While Savio defeated Jharkhand's Krishna Jora, Ashok Patil got the better of

Himachal Pradesh's Mohan Chander.

Chandigarh's Kuldeep Kumar (48kg) and Sachin were among the other boxers to make progress on the third day of the Championships.

Kuldeep booked a berth in the quarter-finals after an easy 4-0 win over Rajasthan's Sushil Sahran.

## Elyse Perry set to return to new-ball role against India women

SIANS ■ MACKAY

Australian women's team pace bowler Elyse Perry, who is set to return to her role as new-ball bowler after her career over the past 18 months was hampered by hamstring injury, has termed the forthcoming ODI series against India as an opportunity.

"With Megan Schutt missing for this series, there might be more opportunity there with the new ball, especially initially," said Perry ahead of the ODI series against Indian women's team that begins on Tuesday (September 21).

Perry, who has picked 298 international wickets across 246 Tests, ODIs and T20s, is just one of seven bowlers to have taken 150 wickets in women's ODIs.

She barely bowled during the one-day series against New Zealand in March-April, sending down just six overs in the first two matches as first change. She didn't bowl in the third ODI.

## F1 drivers Vettel, Stroll to remain with Aston Martin for next season

SIANS ■ LONDON

Formula 1 team Aston Martin have confirmed an unchanged pairing of Sebastian Vettel and Lance Stroll for next year.

Vettel had joined Aston Martin from Ferrari at the start of this season, netting the team's first podium at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. The four-time champion will continue his journey with the British team next year alongside Canadian driver Stroll, as Formula 1 moves into its new era of regulations. "I am really looking forward to racing the new generation of Formula 1 cars," said Vettel. "Their look is very different and the new technical regulations should give us cars that can race much more closely than recently," the German told formula1.com on Thursday.

"More exciting racing will be great for the drivers as well as for the fans. The changes are so big that every team will be starting from a new beginning, so it will be a great opportunity for us at Aston Martin? I believe in the strength of our new growing team, so I am already looking forward to 2022."

Stroll, meanwhile, added, "Next season I will be embarking on my sixth year in Formula 1, alongside my teammate Sebastian? and I greatly look forward to continuing the journey with him



next year. We have not achieved what we set out to do this year, but that has only amplified our hunger and drive for success next season."

Vettel was signed to Aston Martin on a 'one plus one' contract, giving the team an option on his services for 2022, which they decided to take up. Speaking of his driver line-up for 2022, Team Principal Otmar Szafnauer said, "Lance is one of the most gifted drivers in modern Formula 1, and to that raw talent he is now adding serious racecraft."

"A four-time world champion, having driven 271 Grands Prix, of which he has won 53, Sebastian is also a massive asset to our team, and next year we expect both of them to race well in what will be a very different formula from the current one."

## Academic & sporting excellence achievable: Paralympic medallist & IAS officer Suhas

SIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Suhas Yathiraj lives by the philosophy of 'sports helps you conquer your own self'. And he lived by his own words by clinching a silver medal in badminton at the Tokyo Paralympics. Significantly, his achievement also helped break a common stereotype in India that does not equate sporting excellence with academics.

Yathiraj is an officer in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), having achieved success in one of the toughest examinations in the country at the very first attempt.

It was only in 2015/16 that he turned into a professional para-badminton player and has since then been managing his duty as the District Magistrate of Gautam Buddha Nagar and his training as a sportsperson to good effect.

"I think this (Tokyo Paralympics) medal was

celebrated by everyone in the country. The amount of reception that we got in New Delhi airport (shows that)," Yathiraj told Olympics.com. "I think the myth that studies and sports can't be pursued together has been broken. Many are surprised that a person can be good in both studies and sports."

Parents also want their children to be good in studies and sports. They look at studies as the more stable option. I think many of the youth can at least get the confidence to pursue both," he added.

The celebration at home around his achievement at the Paralympics medal also makes him believe that the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics was a watershed moment for India as it helped to develop a sporting culture.

"The amount of support, love that everyone is showing is great. There was a time when celebrities in the country used

to be film stars and only cricketers," Yathiraj said. "But I think now, the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics would be a watershed moment in the history of India, because of the amount of adulation and recognition the Olympians and Paralympians are getting. I think it's definitely heart-warming," he added. And badminton remains a spiritual experience for him. He, however, is extremely methodical in his approach towards the sport and likes to work on its crucial details.

"Badminton is meditation for me. I am extremely methodical. I develop my attack skills, defense skills, my reach. I work minutely on that part and also how I would cope up in the match. I visualize matches in my head. So yeah, I do have methods that give me comfort while playing," Yathiraj explained.

Moreover, he is not active on social media

and stays away from it, in part because of his professional role and because he believes that it doesn't add value to his life. "I am not at all a reserved person.

Because of the administrative job that I hold, I have intentionally kept myself away from social media because I don't see any value addition through it.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORK DIVISION, GUNUPUR					
O-702		E-Procurement Notice Email: eerwgunpur@gmail.com			
Bid Identification No: EERWGNP - Online - 02/2021-22					
Letter No: 3816,		Date: 06.09.2021			
1	Name of the Work	:	Building Works		
2	Total No. of Works	:	04 Nos (Percentage rate tender)		
3	Estimated Cost	:	Varies from Rs. 4.42 lakhs to Rs. 27.24 lakhs.		
4	Class of Contractor	:	As mentioned in Col. 5 of Annexure		
5	Time of Completion	:	Specified in DTGN.		
6	Other details:				
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of works	Availability of Tender online for Bidding		Date & Time of opening of tender
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Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur	EERWGNP On line- 02/2021-22	04 (Four Nos)	20.09.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	01.10.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.	04.10.2021 at 12.00 Hrs.
7. The amount put to tender is exclusive of 12% GST. The intending bidder should offer their rates which shall be exclusive of GST applicable as per norms. GST as applicable on works contract shall be paid over the bill amount at the time of payment of bill.					
Further details can be seen from the website: <a href="http://www.tendersorsisa.gov.in">www.tendersorsisa.gov.in</a> . OIPR-25170/11/0002/2122					Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur