

OPINION 6
THE NATIONAL
THEATRE OF ABSURD**WORLD 8**
TAIWAN DRILLS MILITARY AS
CONCERNS OVER CHINA GROW**SPORT 12**
VIRAT, RAHUL STATIC
AT 4TH & 6TH

CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2



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Govt OK's big telecom reforms

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

MAJOR REFORM PUSH

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

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

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



telecom players from payment of statutory levies

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

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

Delhi Govt moves SC against power to L-G

Says amendments to GNCTD Act kills 'principles of federalism'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

SC fumes at tribunal appointments, says Govt 'cherry-picked' names

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a strong indictment of the Government over non-filling of vacancies at the tribunals across the country, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said the manner in which appointments have been made clearly indicates "cherry-picking" of names.

Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices DY Chandrachud and L. Nageswara Rao came down heavily on Centre and told Attorney General KK Venugopal about their displeasure on the appointments in tribunals, especially on displacing of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Chairperson and appointing new person and non-adherence to the apex court's recommendations.

The apex asked the Centre to make appointments within two weeks to the tribunals which are facing severe crunch of presiding officers as well as judicial and technical members, and apprise it of reasons if persons from the recommended list are left out in the process.

"The appointment letters which have been issued clearly indicate they have selected cherry picking three names from the select list and others from the waitlist, ignoring others in the select list. In service law, you can't go to the waitlist ignoring the select list. What kind of selection and appointment is this?" the bench asked Attorney General KK Venugopal, who assured the bench that the Centre would make appointments in two weeks.

CAPSULE

RAJYA SABHA TMC MP ARPITA GHOSH RESIGNS

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

FAIRS, EXHIBITIONS TO BE ALLOWED IN DELHI

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

COVID LIKELY TO BECOME ENDEMIC IN INDIA: EXPERT

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

High alert in Punjab after 4 more held in Oil Tanker IED Tiffin Bomb blast case

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

High alert was sounded in Punjab on Wednesday after the arrest of four more members allegedly of an ISI-backed terrorist module involved in a bid to blow up an oil tanker with 'IED tiffin bomb' the previous month, making it the fourth case of a Pakistani terror module being busted in the state in the past 40 days.

Alarmed, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh ordered high alert in the State.

The state Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta said that the two Pak-based terrorists — including a Pakistani Intelligence Officer — have been identified and nominated in the case (FIR no 260 dated August 11, 2021, Ajnala police station), in which one person was arrested earlier.

The Chief Minister, taking a serious note of the increased attempts by terror groups to disturb Punjab's peace, directed the state police to be on high alert, particularly in view of

schools and educational institutions reopening, as well as the festival season and the Assembly polls ahead.

The state police chief have been asked to ensure high level of security arrangements to be put in place, especially in busy places, such as markets etc, as well as at sensitive installations across the State.

Sharing details of the arrests, the DGP identified Pak-based ISYF chief Lakhbir Singh and Qasim, a resident of Pakistan, and Lakhbir Singh Rode alias Baba, a native of village Rode, PS Samalsar, Moga district, who is currently based in Pakistan, as being behind the terror module.

"Those arrested yesterday have been identified as Rubal Singh, Vicky Bhutti, Malkheet Singh, and Gurpreet Singh alia Gopi. While Rubal, also wanted in a murder case of September 1, 2021, was picked up from Ambala around 5 pm yesterday, the other three were nabbed from their villages in Ajnala, Amritsar. Their fifth accomplice, Gurmukh Brar, was arrested earlier by



Kapurthala Police, on August 20," he said.

The DGP said that the Pakistani intelligence officer, identified as Qasim, and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) chief Rode had promised to transfer over Rs two lakh to the terrorist module for carrying out the blast. Investigations into the financial aspects are also being carried out to unravel the money trail, he added.

Gupta said that Rubal and Vicky Bhutti were in touch with Qasim, who was working in close collaboration with Rode.

"Rode and Qasim had reportedly tasked the four members of a terrorist module to blast an Oil Tanker for causing maximum damage to the people and property," he added.

TIFFIN BOMB AIMED AT CREATING BIG EXPLOSION, CAUSE MAX DAMAGE

The terror attempt was made on August 8, 2021, when, at about 11:30 pm, the Ajnala police received information that an Oil Tanker (PB-02 CR 5926) parked at Sharma Filling Station Ajnala, located on the

India assails 'failed State' Pak, OIC for Kashmir rant at UNHRC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday castigated Pakistan and the OIC for raising the Kashmir issue at the UN Human Rights Council, saying it does not need lessons from a "failed state" and the "epicentre of terrorism" and chided the 57-nation bloc for "helplessly" allowing itself to be held "hostage" by Islamabad.

At the 48th session of the UNHRC, India mounted a blistering attack on Pakistan, saying it has been globally recognised as a country openly supporting, training, financing and arming terrorists including UN proscribed terrorists as a "matter of state policy".

India's response was delivered by Pawan Badhe, the first secretary in its permanent mission in Geneva.

Exercising the right to reply to comments made by Pakistan



and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Kashmir, Badhe said India does not need lessons from a "failed state" like Pakistan which is the "epicentre of terrorism and worst abuser of human rights".

He also said the OIC has helplessly allowed itself to be held hostage by Pakistan, which holds the chairmanship of their Geneva Chapter, to "subserve its own agenda".

Badhe said it has become a habit for Pakistan to misuse the platforms provided by the council to propagate its "false and malicious propaganda"

against India.

"The council is aware of Pakistan's attempts to divert the council's attention from serious human rights violations being perpetrated by its government, including in the territories occupied by it," he said.

"India, as not only the world's largest democracy but a robustly functional and vibrant one, does not need lessons from a failed state like Pakistan which is the epicentre of terrorism and worst abuser of human rights," he said.

The Indian diplomat said Pakistan has failed to protect the rights of its minorities, including Sikhs, Hindus, Christians and Ahmadis.

"Thousands of women and girls from minority communities have been subjected to abductions, forced marriages and conversions in Pakistan and its occupied territories," Badhe said in his statement.

ing the day and placed the IED at about 11 pm, with the timer of the Tiffin Bomb IED set to eight minutes. The blast took place at about 11:30 pm, leading to the fire in the tank of the Oil Tanker.

All the five arrested operatives, along with Rode and Qasim, have been booked in FIR no 260 dated August 11, 2021, registered under sections 436, 427 of the IPC, 13, 16, 18, 18 B, 20 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and Section 3, 4, 5 of Explosive Substances (Amendment) Act, 2001.

The arrest is the fourth major Pak-backed terror module busted by Punjab Police since August.

Notably, on August 8, Amritsar (Rural) Police had recovered a sophisticated Tiffin bomb IED from Daleke village, Lopoke police station. The Tiffin bomb IED contained about two-three kg RDX and had three different trigger mechanisms, including switch, magnetic, and spring for operational flexibility.

Around August 15, the

police had arrested two militants, followed by the recovery of a cache of weapons, hand grenades etc.

Another terror module was busted on August 20, 2021, when Kapurthala police recovered one Tiffin bomb IED besides five hand grenades, one box of detonators, two tubes suspected to contain RDX, one .30 bore Pistol, four Glock Pistol magazines, and one high explosive wire from Gurmukh Singh Rode and Gagandeep Singh.

Recently, on September 7, Ferozepur Police arrested one Darvesh Singh of Ferozepur who disclosed that he had been in constant contact with Lakhbir Singh Rode and had collected consignments of weapons, Tiffin bomb IEDs, RDX and heroin, which had been dropped over drones from across the border in Ferozepur district. Darvesh Singh has been arrested in a criminal case registered at Mamdot police station under various sections of NDPS Act, Explosives Substances Act, and UA (P) Act.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

We Baljinder Singh S/O Amrik Singh & Punam W/O Baljinder Singh Both R/O #20 Raipur Khurd Chandigarh Declared Our Daughter Simran Kaur Is Out Of Our Control So We Disown Her From Our All Movable Or Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Her On Their Own Risk.

I, Sunita D/o Late Shiv Charan R/O Housing Board 233, Guru Nanak Nagar, Dasmesh Nagar, Ambala City inform that my four Sons Bhagat Singh, Chaman Lal, Sagar & Piyush all are out of my control. So I disown all of them from my movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them will do so his/her at their own Risk.

I, Jagdish Kumar, S/o Pritamchand, R/O H.No. 2603, Sector 15, Panchkula, declare here that my son Narender @ Dippu is totally out of my control. He never obeys me and his mother, So I disown him from my all movable and immovable property. If anybody deals with him will be responsible itself.

I, Roshan Lal S/o Mam Chand r/o 1185/24 Gobind Dham Colony, Chanarthal Road, Kurukshetra, have disown our son Balram from all our movable, immovable properties as he is out of our control. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Parasandi (existing name of spouse as per change of next of kin POR/Service documents/pension certificate), spouse of No. 252537 Ex Cpl Mahendra Singh resident of village Jhinholi Tehsil and Distt. Sonipat (Haryana), have changed my name from Parasandi (existing name of spouse as per next of kin POR/service documents/pension certificate) to Parsandi Devi (proposed new name) as per Affidavit dated 15.09.2021 and civil documents.

I, Geeta Nijhawan @ Geeta W/o Sh. Dinesh Kumar R/O Kalanaur Khurd (Part), Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my name Geeta Nijhawan is written in my Matriculation Certificate but my actual & correct name is Geeta W/o Sh. Dinesh Kumar as mentioned in Aadhar Card & other IDs. Geeta Nijhawan and Geeta is the name of same and one person. In future my name will be known as Geeta for all purposes.

I No. JC144506N Ex RIS Jagbir Singh S/o Sh. Chandra Singh R/O VPO Nidana, Tehsil Mehram, Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) have changed my disabled son name from Virender Singh Kajal to Virender, Actual/Correct DOB is 22.02.1976 instead of 17.07.1982 for all future purposes. (as per Aadhar Card) Concerned note and Please make it correct in my Army record, vide Affidavit dated 14 Sept. 2021 before Notary Public Rohtak.

I, Bawa Singh S/O Ram Ji Dass R/O Majha, Teh. Bhawanigarh (Sangrur) declare that my son Iqbal Singh is out of my control. I Disinherit him from all my movable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him will be himself responsible.

It is for general information that I, Pooja D/o Kamal Nanda and W/o Late Shri Vishal Gupta residing at Ward No.-5, Lambi Gali, Mukerian, Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 144211 declare that my name of mine has been wrongly written as Pooja Nanda in my Passport No. -H2349800. The actual name of mine is Pooja, which may be amended accordingly

I Sukhdev Singh S/O Bachan Singh R/O Vpo. Singhanwala Distt. Moga Declare That My Son Manpreet Singh Is Out Of My Control. So I Disinherit Him From My All Movable And Immovable Property. Anybody Deals With Him At Their Own Risk And Responsibility. I And My Family Will Not Be Responsible. Concerned Please Note.

I, EX NO 4471125N Rank EX NK Dalbir Singh S/O Mohan Singh R/O VPO Leel Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana Punjab Have Changed My Son Name From Harwinder Singh To Harvinder Singh And Daughter Name From Lovline Kaur To Loveleen Kaur, Vide Affidavit No 9147 Dt. 10/9/2021.

That I, Smt. Sukhavinder Kaur spouse of No. 13861657-P Ex Nk Kabal Singh resident of Kula Road Patti Teh-Patti Distt. Tarn Taran (Pb) I have changed my name from Sukhavinder Kaur to Sukhwinder Kaur vide affidavit date 15-09-2021 before Distt. Court Tarn Taran.

ਮੇ ਜਰਨੈਲ ਕੌਰ (ਆਧਾਰ ਨੰਬਰ 985078173075) ਪਤਨੀ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਕਰਤਾਰਪੁਰ, ਸਬ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਮਾਜਰੀ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਖਰੜ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੀ ਧੂਹ ਮਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣ ਤੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੀ ਮੇਰੇ ਉੱਕਰ ਦੇਣ ਨਾਲ ਰਹੀ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰੱਖਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਮੇਰੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚਲ-ਚਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਨਾਲ ਬੰਦੋਬਸਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਮੈਂ, ਪ੍ਰਵੀਨ ਗੁਮਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਓਮ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਵਾਸੀ 68/ਜੀ, ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਨਗਰ, ਬਸਤੀ ਗੁਜਾਂ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੈਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਰਵੀ ਅੰਗੂਰਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਅੰਨਾ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਛੋਟੇ ਲੜਕੇ ਸਾਜੀਅ ਅੰਗੂਰਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਮਨੁ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚਲ-ਚਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੰਦੋਬਸਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਜਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਭਰਤਾ ਦੇ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਅਤੇ ਬੰਗੇ-ਮਾੜੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਵਾਰ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵਾਂਗੇ, ਉਹ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਣਗੇ।

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No JC-693042N Sub Hari Pal (Retd) R/O VPO Barian Kalan Tehsil Garhsankhar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed the name of my Son from Chandan Kumar to Amritgout Chandan. Concerned Note.

I, Sahib Singh S/o Bachan Dass Village Branda Po Garhdiwala Tehsil Dasuya Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) declare that name of my father written wrongly Gurbachan Singh in Revenue Record of Jamsher Chathial Hadd Bast No 453 and Bachan Ram in Revenue Record of Rajpur Hadd Bast No 449 According my metric certificate, Pass book Aadhar card, Passport and Army record my father's correct name is Bachan Dass be amended in Revenue Record of Jamsher Chathial & Rajpur.

I, No. 13698841N Rank Hav.Sangappa Waddar Residing At Village & Post Nivargi, Taluka Indi, District Bijapur State Karnataka-586205, Presently Residing At 18 Guards C/O 56 Apo, Kapurthala Punjab India. That I Want To Change My Son's Name As Kartik Waddar Instead Of Kartik Chougule.

I, Ranjodh Singh S/o Amrik Singh r/o H.No. 435/14, Committee Bajar, Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Ranjodh (Given Name) and Singh (surname).

I, Bharpur Singh S/o Surajbhan R/O Jhijnhar, Tehsil & Distt. Charkhi Dadri declares that in my Adhar card and other documents my name is mentioned as Bharpur Singh while in my passport (No. U 7440870) my name was wrongly mentioned as Bhaur Singh. Now, I want to make it correct as Bharpur Singh in my passport.

I, Anju Mehta W/o Sh. Sanjeev Kumar R/O H. No. 55, Char Marla Colony, Fatehabad hereby declare that I have changed my name from Anju Mehta to Anju Bala for all future purposes.

I, Sanjeev Mehta S/o Sh. Ishwar Dass R/o H. No. 55, Char Marla Colony, Fatehabad hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sanjeev Mehta to Sanjeev Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Sulochana W/o Sh. Sushil Kumar R/o H.No.1099-A, Main Gali, Near Karan Singh Atta Chakki, Azad Nagar, Hissar hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sulochana to Sulochna Devi for all future purposes.

I, No. 15578623L Rank Hav Gajanan Bhagwan Pawar of Unit 268 Br. Regt (PMS) C/o 56 APO, Ambala Cantt.Have Changed my Son Name from Punit To Punit Gajanan Pawar.

I, Vidya Patil W/O Service No. 1516124H Rank Hav (DMT) Khade Uttam Bandu Have changed My Name from Vidya Patil To Vidya Uttam Khade vide affidavit dated 15.09.2021 Before Court Ambala Cantt.

I, Baljinder Kaur W/o Col. Rajbir Singh Bath R/o 18, Kakru Fort, Teh. & Distt. Ambala do hereby declare that my name is Baljinder Bath alias Baljinder Kaur alias Baljinder Kaur Bath. In future I will be known as Baljinder Kaur Bath. The above said three names are one and same person.

I, Devender Singh S/o Satbir Singh r/o B-47 Divine City Ganaur Teh.Ganaur Distt Sonipat declare Devender and Devender Singh both are my name but in future my name is Devender Singh.

I, Sachin Shingla S/o Virender Singh r/o H.No. 73 Sukhdev Nagar behind bus stand Panipat declare Sachin Shingla and Sachin Singla both are my name but in future my name will be Sachin Shingla for all purposes.

I, Reena Shingla W/o Sachin Shingla r/o H.No. 73 Sukhdev Nagar behind bus stand Panipat declare Reena singla and Reena Shingla both are my name but in future my name will be Reena Shingla for all purposes.

I, Gurpreet Kaur W/O Manjeet Singh R/O H. No. 31 Village Nath Tehsil And District Ludhiana Have Change My Name Nardosh Kumari To Gurpreet Kaur.

I, Gurmeet Singh Army No.3207192 Rank Nk, S/o Pala Ram R/O Kharal, Teh. Narwana, Distt. Jind Haryana declared that my son's name in my army record has wrongly entered Kushmeet Singh. Whereas his correct name is Kushmeet Sihag. Concerned note.

I, Munni D/o Pale House- 800, New India Colony, Manimajra, Chandigarh have changed my name from Munni to Rajkali.

I, Smt Gurjeet Kaur W/O No.2487790N Rank Ex Hav Manmohan Singh R/O Vill- Dhamrai, Po- Dinanagar, Tehsil And Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab, That I Declare Changed My Name From Gurjeet Kaur To Gurjit Kaur And Date Of Birth From 17/12/1977 To 17/02/1974 In Army Record.

I, No.4475285I Ex Hav Paramjit Singh S/O Sh Mangta Singh R/O Mohalla Santokhpura Shri Hargobindpur Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab. Have Changed The Name Of My Son Jasskaranpreet Singh To Jaskaranpreet Singh And My Second Daughter Name Burnjeet Kaur To Varanjeet Kaur And Date Of Birth Of My Daughter 25-04-2006 To 20-01-2006.

I, No.1419526I Ex Hav Ranjit Singh S/O Sh Sulakhan Singh R/O Village Ucha Dhakala, Po- Behrampur Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab. Have Changed The Name Of My Son Gursaran Singh To Gursharan Singh.

I, No.13739345K Rank Ex Hav Dalbir Singh S/O Late Sh Saran Singh Resident Of Village Langha Palah Post Office Bhanguri Tehsil Dhar Kulan Distt Pathankot (Punjab), Have Change The Name Of My Daughter Anita Kumari To Anita Devi. Correct Date Of Birth Of My Daughter Anita Devi Is 05-10-1982 Instead Of 23-05-1983 Vide Affidavit Dated 14.09.2021 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot.

I, Sarabjit Kaur W/O Balwinder Singh R/O Village Nabipur Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur, Pin-143521, Punjab, India. Have Changed My Name To Sarbjeet Kaur.

I, Smt. Krishan Kaur W/o No 1554358L Ex Spr Rukhdev Singh R/O Village Kunta PO Bhunga Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Krishan Kaur to Krishna Devi Concerned Note.

I, Balwinder Anand S/o Om Parkash r/o H.No. 1297, Ward 10, Mohan Nagar, Kurukshetra, declare that I am known by two names Balwinder Anand & Balwinder Kumar.

I, Usha Devi W/o Sh. Rajbir Singh R/O Vill. Tangore, Distt. Kurukshetra declare that My School certificate my name is written as Usha Rani and in my Adhar card and other documents my name written as Usha Devi. Where as Usha Rani and Usha Devi are in the name of one person. Both are my names. All concerned please note.

I, Vinita W/o Sh. Vishal Tyagi R/O #1016/2, Sector-45, Burali, Chandigarh have changed my name to Vipin.

I, Geetika Ahuja W/o Munish Kaushal R/O #226 Housing Board Colony Sector-19 Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name to Geetika Kaushal.

I, Suneeta Devi W/o Service No. 15484864M Rank DFR Name Shamsheer Singh r/o VPO Masani Tehsil and Distt Rewari State - Haryana Pin 123126 of Unit 66 ARMD REGT c/o 56 APO Tibri Cantt Gurdaspur, Punjab, (India) have changed my name from Suneeta Devi to Sunita Devi due to wrong name recorded in my husband's Army service record before Kuljinder Singh Mann, Notary Public Gurdaspur (Pb) dated 15.09.2021.

I, Peenki Devi W/O Service No. 15495867A Rank LD Name Sunil Kumar r/o VPO Chitadungra Tehsil and Distt Rewari State -Haryana Pin 123102 of Unit 66 ARMD REGT c/o 56 APO Tibri Cantt Gurdaspur, Punjab, (India) have changed my name from Peenki Devi to Pinki Devi due to wrong name recorded in my husband's Army service record before Kuljinder Singh Mann, Notary Public Gurdaspur (Pb) dated 15.09.2021.

I, Jimmy Chhabra S/O Sri Ram Ditta Chhabra R/O 103, Shyam Nagar, Gohana Road, Kakroi Chowk, Sonapat declare that I have changed my son's name from Prahlit to Prahlit Chhabra (Aadhar No. 415224341660) for all future purposes.

I, Sunita Roy Wedded spouse of No. 14838380L RANK NK/HK Name Amresh Kumar R/O Vill - Jagannpura, PO - Delhiwa, Teh - Patna Sadar, Distt - Patna, State - Bihar, Pin - 800023 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sunita Roy to Sunita Devi vide affidavit dated 15 Sept, 2021 before Session Court, Hissar.

I, Satvinder Kaur W/O Jaspal R/O Vpo. Kheri Gulam Ali Distt. Kaithal I Have Changed My Name Satinder Kaur.

I, Savita Devi W/O Narbir Singh R/O Vpo. Ritauli Distt. Jind I Have Changed My Name Sabita Rani.

I, Jaspreet Singh Rao S/O Jasveer Singh R/O Village Jastana Kalan, Po. Lalru, Tehsil Dera Bassi Distt. Sas Nagar I Have Changed My Name Jaspreet Singh.

I, Ankkit S/O Suresh Kumar R/O Village Barsana Distt. Kaithal I Have Changed My Name Ankkit Kumar.

I, Sarabjeet Kaur W/O Jagrup Singh R/O Hno. 329, Kallar Majra Distt. Kaithal I Have Changed My Name Sarbjeet Kaur.

I, Toshak Das S/o Gyan Dass R/O Village Bhadurgarh Tehsil Safidon Distt Jind have changed my name from Toshak Dass to Toshak Das.

I, Phool Pati W/o Gyan Dass R/O Village Bhadurgarh Tehsil Safidon Distt Jind have changed my name from Phul Pati to Phool Pati.

I, Rakesh Sharma S/o Dwarka Nath Sharma resident of BX-80, Street Mehtian, Mohalla Mistrin, Sujampur Tehsil & District Pathankot in my Son Birth Certificate his name wrongly written as Anant instead of Anant Sharma. I Aslo Declare that Anant & Anant Sharma one and the same person.

I, Indu W/o Mr. Anand Mohan, Flat No. 401, Columbia III, Chandigarh Enclave, Zirakpur (SAS, Nagar), changed my name from Indu to Indu Kurejra.

I, Komal W/o Mannohan R/o # 4390, Mauli Jagran Colony, Chandigarh have changed my name to Komal Rani.

I, Chanchal W/o Satwinder Singh R/o # 2579-C, Ground Floor, Regal Homes 2, Sunny Enclave, Kharar, SAS Nagar Mohali. That in my Husband's passport my name wrongly mentioned Chanchal, but my correct name is Chanchal Kaur.

I, Surinder Pal Lakhotra S/O Thakur Dass Lakhotra, Kothi No.12 Nursery Square Nangal T/Ship, (Rupnagar) have changed my name Surinder Pal.

I, Jiwan Khanna S/O Ram Gopal Khanna R/O Hno 3 Basant Nagar Majitha Road, Amritsar Punjab Change To My Name Jeewann Khanna. All To Note

I, Arun Singla S/O Sita Ram Singla R/O # 74, Hira Nagar, Near 22 No. Phatak Patiala Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Aarishita Singla To Arishitha Singla.

I, Veena Rani D/O Late Kamlesh Rani D/O Late Muni Lal And W/O Jagdeep Singh Bassi R/O #3342, Sector 21-D, Chandigarh Have Changed My Name From Veena Rani To Interjeet Kaur After My Marriage.

I, Prince Garg S/O Ashok Kumar R/O Street No.18, Valmiki Chowk, Kacha Vass, Raman, Tehsil Talwandi Sabo, Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name From Uggarsain To Prince Garg.

I, Aditya Chaudhary S/o Suresh Kumar r/o village Kheri Ram Nagar Tehsil Thanesar Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name Aditya to Aditya Chaudhary.

I, S. Kalavalli, Spouse of No. JC - 388900H, Nb Sub, R Ranjan, Unit of 7 IDSR C/o 56 Apo, Permanent Address H. No. 4418-B Sakthi Nagar PO Theluchatha Nallur Teh. Paramakudi. Distt. Ramanathapuram, (TN) 623707 have changed my name from Mrs. Kalavalli Ranjan to S. Kalavalli and D.O.B from 12 July 1977 to 12 May 1977 Vide affidavit dated 10 September 2021 before at Executive Magistrate Ferozepur.

I, Puja Kumari, Spouse of No. 4585761F, NK, Dablu Kumar Thakur, Unit 7 Mahar Regt C/o 56 Apo, Presently Residing at Village Bawanganj, PO Binjee, Tehsil Katihar District Katihar State Bihar 854115 Declare that in my husband army Service Record my name is Wrongly mentioned as Puja Devi but my Correct name is Puja Kumari. Vide Affidavit Dated 15 September 2021 before at Notary Ferozepur.

I, Munish Sharma S/o Sh. Prem Chand Sharma & Smt. Sneh Sharma R/o 5671, Loharan Street, Patiala (Pb.) have changed my name to Munish Kumar.

I, Rakesh Rani W/o Lt. Karan Singh R/o Vill Naloh P.O. Bhatwan, Teh. Dhar Kalan, Distt. Pathankot declare that my actual name is Rakesh Rani instead of Rakesh Kumar and also my actual DOB is 21-04-1951 instead of 02-07-1951 vide affidavit dt. 10/9/2021 Sworn in the court of Judicial Magistrate.

I, Parmod Mehta S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Mehta R/o 131/2 Shanti Nagar, Karnal declare that in my daughter's Sehaj school record my name mentioned as Parmod. But in my other documents my name mentioned as Parmod Mehta. Please correct it.

I, Manju wedded spouse of No. JC-673331-F Rank NB/SUB Name Shio Kumar R/O Vill & PO - Bindaul, Teh - Danapur, Distt - Patna, State - Bihar, PIN - 801112 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Manju to Manju Devi vide affidavit dated 15 Sept, 2021 before Session Court, Hissar.

I, Daljeet Kaur W/O Dilbag Singh R/O Village- Ghot Pokhar Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur. Have Changed My Name To Daljit Kaur.

I, Service No.15621623F Rank L/Hav Sudesh Singh R/O Village Dikauli Post Office- Madhagarh, District- Jalaun, State Uttar Pradesh, Pin-285126, India. Declare That In My Army Service Record My Father Name Anil Singh Is Wrong. My Father Name Anil Kumar Singh Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No.8394149 Dated 14-09-2021. Before Notary Public Gurdaspur, Punjab.

I, Rupinder Kaur Spouse Of No.3402781N Hav Sukhjinder Singh R/O Village- Deol, Post Office Hemrajpur, Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur, Punjab-143521. Declare That My Dob 31-03-1983 Which Is Wrong But My Dob 04-03-1982 Which Is Correct. Vide Affidavit No. At385515 Dated 10-04-2021 Before Notary Public Gurdaspur, Punjab.

I, Manoj Walia S/o Mehar Pal Singh Walia R/O 1027, Chakk Husania, Lamba Pind, Chander Sain, Chogititi, Jalandhar declare that Manojpal Singh Walia as well as Manoj Walia is one and the same person.

I, hitherto Known as Shikha Sehgal R/O Akash Matta R/O 346, Lajpat Nagar, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shikha Matta.

I, Pardeep Chhottani S/O Devinder Nath R/O 86, Street No-3, Guru Harkrishan, Phagwara, Kapurthala, PB Have Changed My Name Pardeep Chhottani To Pardeep Chhottani.

I, Vandana Chhottani W/o Pardeep Chhottani R/O 86, Street No-3, Guru Harkrishan, Phagwara, Kapurthala, PB Have Changed My Name Vandana Chhottani To Vandana Chhottani.

I, Diksha Chhottani D/o Pardeep Chhottani R/O 86, Street No.3, Guru Harkrishan Nagar, Phagwara, Kapurthala Have Changed My Name Diksha Chhottani To Diksha Chhottani.

I Harpreet Kaur Dhalival W/o Harwinder Singh R/O Village Jandu Janda Post Office Nasralla District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Harpreet Kaur.

I Harwinder Singh S/O Prem Singh R/O H.No.108, Vikas Nagar Panj Mandri, Back Side Phagwara District Kapurthala Punjab India Have Changed My Name From Harwinder Singh To Harwinder Singh Walia.

I Gurjant Singh Jagpal S/O Karnail Singh R/O Vpo. Boparai Kalan, Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Gurjant Singh.

I Rita Verma W/O Ashish Verma R/O H.No.71A Satjot Nagar Dhandra Road Basant Avenue Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Rita.

I Onkar Chand S/o Sh. Charnjit R/O Raipur, Tehsil & Distt. Jalandhar Punjab have changed my minor son name from Gavin Poudwal to Gavin Chand.

I Rattan Priya W/o Kuldeep Kumar, R/O, Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana have changed the name of my minor son Subham Verma to Sarthik Verma.

I Parminder Kaur Daughter Of EX NO 1268818N HAV Joginder Singh R/O Village Kishanpura P.O Maloudh Teh. Payal Distt Ludhiana Punjab Pin 141119 Changed My Name From Parminder Kaur To Parminderjeet Kaur.

I, Gurpreet Singh S/O Amar Singh Saini R/O Dhamragarh, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab Changed My Name From Gurpreet Singh To Gurpreet Singh Saini, (Concerned Note)

I Narinder Pal S/O Rashbhinder Parkash Vil Jangiana. Distt. Barnala Have Changed My Name To Narinderpal Sharma.

I, Pamndee Kaur W/o Guljeet Singh Dhalival R/O Vpo. Burj Hari Singh (Ludhiana) changed my name to Pamndee Kaur Dhalival.

I, Guljeet Singh S/o Bikkar Singh R/O Vpo. Burj Hari Singh (Ludhiana) changed my name to Guljeet Singh Dhalival.

That i, No. 13861657-P Ex Nk Kabal Singh S/O Balbir Singh resident of Kula Road Patti Teh-Patti Distt. Tarn Taran (Pb) i have changed the name of my minor son from Gurgant Singh to Gurjant Singh.

I, Gurmell Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/O Jhorran (Ludhiana) changed my name to Gurmell Singh Gill.

I, Ranjit Kaur W/o Gurmell Singh Gill R/O Jhorran (Ludhiana) changed my name to Ranjit Kaur Gill.

I No. JC-572136H Sub Gurdeep Singh S/O Bahal Singh Vill. Kot Dharan Chand Khurd PO. Kot Dharan Chand Kalan Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran I Have Change My Wife Name Paramjit Kaur To Parmjeet Kaur.

I, Parmanjit Singh S/o Jagdish Singh R/o Vpo. Heon (SBS Nagar) my given name is Parmanjit and my surname is Singh.

I, Kulwinder Kaur W/o Jagdish Singh R/o Vpo. Heon (SBS Nagar) my given name is Kulwinder and my surname is Kaur.

I, Harjeet Kaur W/o Harnek Singh R/o Vpo. Gumtala Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) changed my daughter name from Sukhmanpreet Kaur To Sukhmanpreet Kaur Pahal.

I, Harjeet Kaur W/o Harnek Singh R/o Vpo. Gumtala Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) changed my minor son name from Yuvraj Singh to Yuvraj Singh Pahal.

I, Mohammad Javed S/o Mohammad Hadis R/o Mohalla Khattika Nurmahal Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) changed my name to Mohammad Javir.

I, Karamjit Kaur Dhillon W/o Gurmeet Singh Dhillon R/o Guru Nanak Nagri Malout (Sri Muktsar Sahib) changed my name to Karamjeet Kaur Dhillon.

I Ankur Gulati S/O Rajesh Kumar Gulati R/O 30/14 Krishna Lane, Mall Road Ferozepur City Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Sreshth To Shreshth Gulati. Please Note Near And Dear.

I Tejinder Kaur Alias Sheela Rani Gambhir Wife Of Baldev Singh Gambhir R/O House No. 251 Jodhu Colony St No 07, Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Tejinder Kaur Gambhir.

I Shalhu Khera Wife Of Sunil Kumar R/O Bathinda Road Near Canal Colony, Guru Teg Bahadur Enclave Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Shalhu.

I, Anoop Hans Son Of Victor Sakhi, R/O Village Alle Wala, Tehsil & District Ferozepur, Have Change My Son's Name From Noyal Hans To Noyel Hans.

I Parmanjot D/O Pawan Kumar R/O Village Sadhan Wala Po Golewala Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Sonia Arora.

I Sanjeev Kaur S/O Tek Chand Dhawan R/O Toori Bazar Ferozepur City Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Sanica To Sanica Dhawan.

I Sanjeev Dhawan S/O Tek Chand Dhawan R/O Toori Bazar Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Sanjeev Kumar.

I Shimla W/O Vijay Kumar R/O Shaheed Udharn Singh Nagar Chak Mannowala Tehsil Jalalabad West District Fazilka Have Changed My Name To Shimla Rani.

I Aprajita Setia W/O Vikas Setia R/O #813, Street No 8, Dhawan Colony, Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name From Aprajita Batra To Aprajita Setia After Marriage.

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Himachal CM presides over all party meeting

Reviews arrangements for proposed visit of Prez

PNS ■ SHIMLA

An all-party meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur was held here on Wednesday to review the arrangements for the proposed visit of the President Ram Nath Kovind from September 16 in the state.

The President will be on a four-day visit to the hill state and will address a special session of the State Assembly on Friday to mark the golden jubilee of Himachal Pradesh's statehood.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government had

planned to organize year-long celebrations to mark the golden jubilee

Punjab PCC chief Sidhu targets Badals, not Capt

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, addressing his first-ever press conference after his elevation to the party's top post on Wednesday, lashed out at the Badals for being "the main architects" of the Centre's "black" farm laws.

At the same time, Sidhu, who leave no chance to attack his party's Chief Minister, maintained a strategic silence over Capt Amarinder Singh's "lift your dharnas from Punjab" remarks for the protesting farmers.

Even as the farmers and the opposition parties, not only from Punjab but also from neighbouring Haryana, are targeting Capt Amarinder for his appeal to the protesting farmers to shift their dharnas to Delhi from Punjab for the sake of sake of Punjab's economy, his



bête noire Sidhu refused to comment. "No comments," replied Sidhu to the media's inquisitive queries.

Completely focussed on his line of attack aimed at the Badals and making conscious attempts not to attack his own

party's Government, Sidhu accused the previous SAD-BJP government in Punjab of laying the foundation of the Centre's farm laws over which the farmers are protesting at Delhi borders for the past 10 months now.

Sidhu minced no word to say that Akali Dal would again join hands with the BJP. The Akalis will once again be "back to Modi" after elections," he alleged.

"The three farm laws are the photocopies of Punjab's

Contract Farming Act, 2013, passed by the previous SAD-BJP government in the State...I say this with conviction that the blueprint of the Centre's three farm laws was prepared by the Badals. I will expose them so that everybody knows who the real culprit is," he said.

"They (Badals) implemented these laws in Punjab first. The former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal was the niti nirmata (policymaker) of the farm laws," said Sidhu.

Notably, the then Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal had tabled a bill on contract farming in the Punjab Assembly in 2013 and later it was enacted as the Punjab Contract Farming Act.

Presenting a copy of the Act to the media, Sidhu said that many salient features of the two Acts are similar. "In the Contract Farming Act, there is no provision that says farmers'

produce cannot be purchased below MSP. A list of 108 crops was attached saying that these crops could be procured below the MSP. The list also included wheat and paddy," he pointed.

"In both the laws, the farmers have no right to go to the courts as the complaints have to be disposed of by the bureaucrats. In case of defaults, it would be entered on the 'farm' of the farmers. This law has made Punjab the first state to impose a fine of Rs 5,000 to Rs five lakh if a farmer defaults on the contract," he said adding that the Punjab law is the soul, while the Centre's three black laws are the body.

Sidhu, giving clause-by-clause details of the Punjab Contract Farming law and how the BJP-led Central Government photocopied the clauses with minor changes as new agri laws, said: "BJP and

SAD are two sides of the same coin. The breakup of the alliance was a smokescreen. They were one and they will be one once again after the elections."

Also comparing some of the provisions of the Punjab law with the Centre's Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, Sidhu said that it is a "photostat copy" of the state law.

"There is no MSP guarantee in both laws, which mention dispute settlement by bureaucracy, bar on jurisdiction of the civil court, amount recovered as land revenue, period of agreement and registration authority," he said.

Sidhu said that as per these two laws, it was the corporate who would decide farm services and they could also procure crop directly from fields

that could kill the APMC mandis. Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) were given protection and no farmer could file any suit under these two laws, he said adding that these laws were framed only to benefit the corporate.

He also slammed the Badals for first backing the Centre's three farm laws and then taking a U-turn after criticism from farmers.

Also showing video clips of Badals on a projector, he questioned, "Why were they singing paeans of the laws? Why were they saying these laws are good for the farmers if they were not behind these laws?"

He pointed that the Centre's laws are still softer as there is no provision of imprisonment while in the Punjab's Act, there was a provision of both imprisonment and fine. The Centre's laws only have a clause for a fine.

Punjab to launch another mega recruitment drive

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Aiming to achieve the milestone of giving government jobs to one-lakh youth in the State, Punjab Government is going to launch another mega recruitment drive soon to fill the vacant posts in various departments and in turn employ the deserving and eligible youth.

The state Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan, chairing a meeting to review the State Employment Plan with the administrative secretaries, said that all administrative departments should share the vacant direct quota posts with the Employment Generation, Skill Development, and Training Department at the earliest to enable the launch of State Employment Plan's second phase.

Mahajan directed all the Department heads to expedite the process of sending requisition of the remaining vacancies in their respective departments for filling them up to provide seamless and hassle-free services to the public.

The state Employment Generation secretary Rahul Tiwari apprised the Chief Secretary that 34 administrative

departments have shared 22,441 direct quota vacancies for the second phase of the Punjab Government's recruitment plan, which were over and above 61,336 vacancies approved earlier by the Cabinet committee.

Under the State Government's flagship employment generation programme 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar and Karobar Mission', the Punjab Cabinet had approved the State Employment Plan on October 14, 2020, with a mandate to give one-lakh government jobs to the eligible youth besides giving nod to fill 61,336 vacancies in various departments.

In less than a year, the State Government has been able to recruit 7,848 qualified candidates besides initiating the process of filling 44,543 vacancies in various departments.

Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary also instructed all the departments, boards and corporations under the State Government to ensure the implementation of e-office modules in their respective offices. She said the use of the e-office system will not only save time but will also help in doing the work in a paperless manner.

You have no moral right to speak on farmers' crisis: Capt to Harsimrat

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Amidst the politics hearing up on his appeal to the protesting farmers to "shift dharnas to Delhi from Punjab", Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday said that no Akali leader, especially former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, had the moral right to speak on the crisis triggered by the farm laws, which they could easily have averted when they were part of the Central Government and party to each of its anti-people decisions.

Capt Amarinder, in a hard-hitting response to Harsimrat's "irresponsible" claims and "baseless" allegations against him with reference to his statement on the impact of the prolonged farmers' stir in Punjab on the state's economy, slammed the Akali leader over her "politically motivated" remarks which were nothing but a cover-up of her and her party's failure to prevent the crisis that was of their own deliberate making.

Ridiculing the former Union Minister's remarks that he (Captain Amarinder) was speaking the language of the BJP leadership and the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister

It's like asking someone to go to the western front to fight an enemy that is standing at the eastern border

said that left to the ruling party at the Centre and in neighbouring Haryana, the farmers would not have even reached the Delhi borders to make their voice heard.

"I never asked the farmers to go to Delhi. They were forced to leave their homes and sit at the border of the national capital, facing the elements and even losing their lives, as a result of your coalition government's acts of commission and omission," he said, asking Harsimrat to stop lying about her brazen complicity in the imposition of the farm laws on the farmers, not just of Punjab but the entire country.

Dubbing as atrocious Harsimrat's suggestion that the farmers should protest in Punjab while their fight was against the BJP-led Government at the Centre, the Chief Minister quipped "It's like asking someone to go to the western front to fight an enemy that is standing at the eastern border."

Hry forms committee under ACS Home

To hold talks with SKM to clear road blockades at Kundli-Singhu border

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government on Wednesday constituted a state-level committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Rajeev Arora to hold talks with Sanyukt Kisan Morcha to get the road blockade removed on the Kundli-Singhu border near Sonipat district on national highway no-44.

The decision was taken during a high-level meeting presided over by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar here. The meeting was attended by Home Minister Anil Vij, DGP PK Agarwal, ACS Home

Rajeev Arora among other senior officers.

The meeting was held in view of directions of the Supreme Court which had asked the Sonipat District Administration to provide a way to common people in public interest on the Kundli-Singhu border near Sonipat on national highway no-44 where the farmers are protesting against the three central farm laws.

The Kundli-Singhu border between Delhi and Sonipat district in Haryana has been blocked due to farmers' protest for more than nine months now. After the meeting, Home Minister Anil Vij while talking to the mediapersons said that a state-level committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of ACS Home, Rajeev Arora to hold talks with SKM. DGP, ADGP (Law and Order), and many other officers will also be included, he

said.

The committee is constituted to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court and to ensure a passage on the Delhi border for common man, he said.

The Home Minister said that this committee will hold talks with the SKM regarding opening the way on the Delhi border which is blocked due to farmers' protest. The SKM will be apprised about Supreme Court directions and about the inconvenience faced by people traveling to and from Delhi, he added.

When asked whether the protesting farmers will be asked to shift to one side of the road or clear the entire road, Vij said that the decision will be taken after holding talks with the farmers' leaders.

Responding to a question regarding a notice being issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to

Haryana and other neighboring Governments acting on complaints regarding farmers' protest, Vij said that there was no discussion in this meeting regarding the notice of the NHRC.

The NHRC had issued notices to the Centre and State Governments of Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, saying it has received complaints that the ongoing farmers' protests have adversely impacted micro, medium and large industrial units and that Covid-19 safety norms have been breached at the agitation sites. The Chief Secretaries of the states were asked to submit an action taken report in this regard.

Notably, Sonipat District Administration had a day before also held talks with protesting farmers to give way to the common man and shift their protest to one side of the road.

'Link schemes with PPP by Nov 1'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday directed all Heads of Departments to link the schemes and services of their respective departments with Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) by November 1, 2021.

The Chief Minister presided over a meeting of the Heads of Departments here regarding the implementation of PPP in the state. He said that PPP is an ambitious scheme of the State Government, which aims to ensure the benefit of all the government welfare schemes and services to the eligible families. This flagship scheme of the State Government has been launched in the spirit of Antodaya, he said.

Khattar said that Haryana is the first state in the country to make such a scheme for making Parivar Pehechan Patra

of each family. So far, this scheme has neither been started in the country nor abroad.

Referring to the benefits of the PPP scheme, Chief Minister said that the immediate benefits of linking PPP in college admissions have been seen. The college principals themselves are appreciating this step.

After linking PPP with admission, the automatic verification of student data was done. With this, the work that used to take 15 minutes is now completed in just 5 minutes and the students do not have to go here and there for their verification work, he said.

Khattar said that the present era is of Information Technology (IT). Services are being simplified with the use of IT. With the introduction of PPP, it will be easy to know who is eligible to take benefit of which scheme and who has not got the benefit of these

schemes. Many times people, who are not genuine beneficiaries, are found taking benefits of schemes. Earlier there was no system to verify the beneficiaries, now there will be a complete transparency in the implementation of government schemes through PPP, he added.

The Chief Minister further said that now the benefits of government schemes will also be available through smart cards. Smart cards will be linked with PPP. Initially, Ayushman Bharat, Public Ration Distribution System, Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana and Pension Scheme are being linked with smart cards, he said.

HARYANA VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME TO BE LAUNCHED

The Chief Minister said that people working voluntarily in the state would be added

under the Haryana Volunteer Programme. There are many tasks for the government, in such a situation, services of volunteers including youth, retired employees, would be taken in the field of education, skill development, sports, agriculture etc.

He said that no programme or scheme is successful without the participation of the society

This Samarpan Yojana would be launched on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on September 25, he added.

During the meeting, a presentation related to the engineering works portal prepared as per the directions of the Chief Minister was also shown. Under this all the work related to the registration of the contractor, his performance, online works allotment, time-bound passing will be done transparently.

INTERNATIONAL DAY for the PRESERVATION of OZONE LAYER

16th September 2021

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8TH INDIAN ARMY CHIEF’S CONCLAVE

Army top brass to discuss Af, LAC situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



tions, people familiar with the matter said.

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

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

president of Turkmenistan and other invited guests.

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

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

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

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

Rajnath urges US def industry to transfer state of technology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

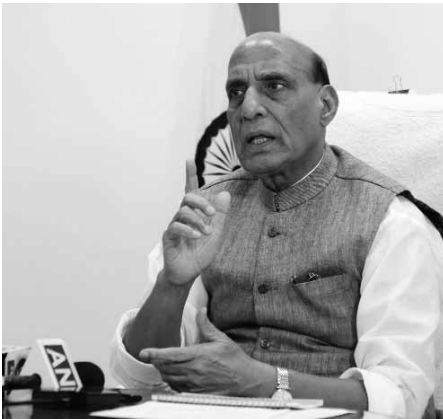
Speaking on the theme ‘Bouncing Back – Resilient Recovery Path Post Covid-19’, organised by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce through video conferencing, Rajnath said defence sector is an integral part of not just the security but overall growth of the country.

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

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

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

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



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

PIB

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

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

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

77 rapes reported daily in 2020: NCRB

Number of murders record a surge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Besides rape, there were 85,392 cases of “assault on outrage modesty” and 3,741 cases of “attempt to commit rape”,

the NCRB data showed.

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

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

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

There were a total 84,805 lodged cases of kidnapping and abduction in 2020 as against 1,05,036 in 2019, according to the NCRB statistics.

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

Delhi logged 472 murder cases in 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

Cong to raise price rise, unemployment issues through protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

Ahead of elections in several states, Sonia Gandhi on September 3 had set up a nine-member panel of party leaders headed by Rajya Sabha MP

Digvijaya Singh to plan “sustained agitations on national issues”. Besides Singh, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MPs Uttam Reddy and Ripun Bora, dalit leader Udit Raj, who switched over to the party from the BJP last year, party leaders Manish Chhatratha, Zuber Khan and BK Hariprasad are members of the panel.

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

Meanwhile, Rahul on

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

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

Record 44 students score 100 percentile in JEE-Main



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

ond in March.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Antiviral drug Umifenovir can check Covid virus multiplication: CDRI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

“In a study, double-blind mode

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

Studies by CDRI in collaboration with CSIR-IMT, Chandigarh, also showed that Umifenovir exhibits good cell culture inhibition of SARS-CoV-2, which suggests that the drug inhibits the entry of SARS-CoV-2 virus into human cells.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Anil Kumar MD of Patliputra Builders Ltd held under PMLA



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Kerala logs 17,681 new Covid cases

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

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

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

gives a figure of more than 18 per cent.

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

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

Bengal extends corona restrictions till Sept 30

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

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

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

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

Didi supports farm stir, asks Centre to withdraw farm bills

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

Speaking to a collection of Sikh gentry inside the most revered

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BJP MP Arjun Singh gets Z category security

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

about two years.

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

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



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

2 Kerala Cong leaders quit, join CPI(M)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

The Bishop while addressing a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"He worked as a driver and was

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Govt open for discussion on NEP: Karnataka CM

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

Mumbai cops file supplementary chargesheet against Kundra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maha: 16-year-old rape victim commits suicide

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

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

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

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

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

Kerala school teacher booked over minor student's suicide

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

The case was registered against Usman, a native of Adhur here, under the Section 12 of POCSO Act and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, days after the 12-year-old girl died by suicide. He is absconding now and a man hunt is on to trace him. According to police, the accused had sent inappropriate messages to the girl, a class eight student studying in the same school, via social media.

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



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



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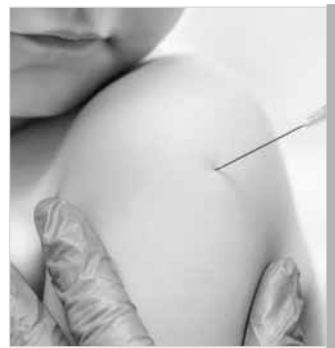
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Get that jab

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

As educational institutions re-open tentatively in India, parents are worried that unlike most of them, their children are not yet vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus and they may be vulnerable to infection at school. The concern is natural and understandable but clear-cut answers to their queries are not forthcoming. The States, the Centre, the state task forces, the national task force, and the host of experts need to be on the same page and clarify by when can children be expected to get the jabs, if they would be divided into age groups for the purpose, and whether the healthy among them need immediate vaccination at all. Paediatricians say healthy children are at low risk from the virus but there is no unanimity on whether it is safe for them to attend school unvaccinated. The United Kingdom is still disinclined to vaccinate healthy children in the 12-15 years age group. The doses will only offer



a marginal benefit and the jabs can instead be diverted to vulnerable adults and children with co-morbidities, like chronic heart, lung and liver conditions, it argues. The British committee's hesitation arises from the concern over a rare side effect of heart inflammation from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. In India, out of 44 crore children, around 12 crore are in the 12-17 age group. The national COVID-19 task force is of the view that children with comorbidities should receive priority jabs, meaning thereby that healthy children are not at high risk. In any case, even though over 19 States have re-opened

schools and the rest will shortly decide on sending children back to classes, there is no indication that the vaccine for children will be available in the coming few weeks.

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

PICTALK



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

Taking wings

If all goes well, the debt-ridden Air India could have a new owner by December end

The Union Government has finally found bidders for the sought-after Air India disinvestment after Tata Sons and SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh submitted their financial bids to the transaction adviser on Wednesday as the process now moves to its concluding stage. The new owner will be entitled complete stake in Air India and Air India Express and a 50 per cent stake in the ground handling capacity of the Air India



SATS Airport Services (AISATS). Besides, as per Air India's Expression of Interest shared in January, out of the airline's total debt of ₹60,074 crore as on March 2019, the bidder would be required to absorb the "signing debt" of ₹23,286.5 crore. The rest would be transferred to Air India Assets Holding Ltd, a special purpose arrangement. Tata Sons had in 2001 expressed their interest in acquiring the Indian Airlines which JRD Tata had founded in 1932 as Tata Airlines. The proposal was not received well by the Government back then. But times have changed and the Government now views Tata as the frontrunner in the disinvestment bid which

was delayed due to the pandemic. Therefore, Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had made it clear that September 15, 2021 would be the last day for submitting the bid and would not be changed. The Government's previous attempt at the bidding failed badly in 2018 after not even a single bid was received for the airline. It had offered 76 per cent stake but higher crude oil prices, insane debt and, of course, the "involvement of the Centre" were some of the reasons the bid failed. Now after having tweaked the offer, it has managed to attract two bidders. Disinvestment is just a safer alternative to the word privatisation, and the Government's promise to "facilitate air travel even for a person wearing *hawai chappal* (slippers)" seems arguable under this umbrella. Also, Air India has not only been a commercial air travel facility but also holds strategic importance to India. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when Indian citizens were stranded in different parts of the world, only Air India was in operation and evacuated thousands of Indian and foreign nationals. Air India would not remain the same once the private players get hold of it. Air travel can no longer be viewed as a luxury but a common amenity that is intrinsically part of our day-to-day connectivity as the last-mile auto or rickshaw trip.

The national theatre of absurd

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



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



BUT THEN WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF NATIONALISM OR LITMUS TEST OF ONE'S NATIONALISM? THEY SHOULD PRAISE THE DEAR LEADER AND THE RULING PARTY. THE SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM IS THE ULTIMATE TEST OF ONE'S NATIONALIST CREDENTIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEAT OF THE 'MYSTERY FEVER'

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

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

G David Milton | Maruthancond

A FUEL FOR THE FUTURE

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

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

A vision beyond religion



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

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

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

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

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

Krishna K Vepakomma | Hyderabad

TOO MANY NAMESAKES

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

The Infosys case is an eye-opener. It is a \$100 billion company. A reputed company which employs more than two 2.5 lakh people become anti-national overnight. Infosys ranked number 3 on 2019 Forbes' World's Best Regarded Companies list. Surely for argument's sake, it doesn't matter if it is the big company, it can still indulge in anti-national activities. But then it is not an underground company.

Go arrest them all and seal the premises. That is how easy it is. But that is not the idea. The idea is to arm-twist and make it fall in line. Now the onus is on the individual or the company to prove that it is not anti-national.

A couple of weeks back, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal targeted the Tata Group. He said that its business practices went against national interests. Yet another well established corporate paying the price of being not conforming to the Government's dictates.

Recently, the Twitter CEO donated generously to an RSS-supported NGO. To put it in perspective, Jack Dorsey, CEO of Twitter, donated \$2.5 million in his personal capacity to Sewa International, an affiliate of the RSS. Dorsey's announcement sparked off controversy on Twitter itself but that proved nothing more than a storm in a teacup. What is interesting is that the grant came at a time when Twitter had suspended accounts of the right-wingers for hate speech. It included an account of actress Kangana Ranaut's. It was seen as an attempt to stifle right-wing voices; interesting coincidences there.

A couple of days from now is September 18, which happens to be the birthday of Samuel Johnson who once said that patriotism is the last resort of scoundrels. He was so damn right. Was he talking about us? By the rate we are branding people and organisations anti-nationals, the country would soon have more anti-nationals than nationals in the country. And that would be a self-defeating proposition.

The nationalists would become a minority and thus vulnerable so they shouldn't do it. An absurd argument, isn't it? It is, but then what is sane about our times!

(The writer is a columnist and documentary filmmaker. The views expressed are personal.)

SOUND BITE

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



Delhi Chief Minister

— Arvind Kejriwal

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

South African President

— Cyril Ramaphosa

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

Actor

— Ketki Dave

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

Former England cricketer

— Gautam Gambhir

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

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister

— Manish Sisodia

FIRST COLUMN

NOW IS THE NEED FOR A REALITY CHECK



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

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

There are many ways in which decision-making can be structured or planning can be done. There are many ways in which the struggle for the control of the decision-making process takes place. Ultimately, those who emerge victors in the various competing ways of doing something carry the day. The articulate in the group become cheer leaders and those who care or dare to oppose are either eliminated or left to languish or perish. This happens in matters big and small. The last few weeks have seen the emasculation of an army which was proclaimed to be one of the finest equipped in the world. The current ruling elite in Afghanistan have made no bones about their distaste for matters such as democratically elected governance. They are in control and some of the mightiest powers in the world are ready to encourage this regime. Clearly the jury has not even convened, let alone 'be out' for a decision. The international system has yet again proved its ineptness in sufficiently holding out values and making worthwhile moves to push for them. Even the so-called cause of women's rights in Afghanistan has not echoed much in any significant part of the world. Staunch proponents of gender equality can be seen occasionally demonstrating in some city, somewhere. Indeed, counter collectives reportedly have gathered of women in Afghanistan proclaiming, in effect, that the country's establishment's views on the status of women is indeed correct and must prevail. Philosophy has little scope to sort out a seemingly contentious views especially when there are few listeners. The international bodies including the United Nations are observing a thundering silence on this issue. Almost all of the global women's movements have suddenly dried up in the dreary desert sands of abject disinterest.

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

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

Import duty cutback on Tesla is no good



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

nents manufacturers.

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

Taxing the new-age digital companies

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

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

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

This inconsistency has led to an urgent need to amend



HIMA BINDU KOTA

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan Govt open to pardon TTP members

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters here that the US has no legitimate reasons to freeze Afghanistan’s assets. Asked about the Taliban’s demand that the US should unfreeze Afghanistan’s assets stating that they belong to the people of Afghanistan and the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Afghan female footballers evade Taliban, reach Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

The move to bring the 32



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

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

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

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

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

1. INVITATION:-
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer (Distribution), JPDC, ED-I, Parade, Jammu, hereinafter referred as ‘Employer’, invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class ‘A’ registered contractors for **“Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 11 KV line including dismantling of existing HT Line 0.250 Kms. of Jagti local feeder to avoid crossing in the Premises of IIM, Jammu and Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 11 KV line including dismantling of existing HT Line 0.250 Kms. of feeder at IIT Jagti to avoid crossing over the IIM, Jagti Under the jurisdiction of Electric Division Div.-I (JPDC) Jammu. On Turn Key basis.”**
(on Turn Key basis)
1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
2. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:
A. Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date :- 11.09.2021; (10:00 AM onwards)
B. Tender Document Sale/Download End Date :- 04.10.2021; (upto 02:00 PM)
C. e-Bid submission (start) date & time :- 13.09.2021; (10:00 AM onwards)
D. e-Bid submission (end) date & time :- 04.10.2021; (upto 02:00 PM)
E. Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee & EMD Instrument (End) date & time :- 04.10.2021 (upto 04:00 PM)
F. Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time :- 05.10.2021; 02:00 PM
G. Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders):- Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.
H. Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids :- Office of Executive Engineer, JPDC, Ed-I, Parade, Jammu
I. Tender Value - Rs. 26.11 lacs (funds in pipeline)
J. Cost of e-Bid document - Rs. 10000 (Rupees one thousand only) (Non-Refundable)
K. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :- Bid securing declaration form as per Format enclosed (In reference to Circular No. A/Misc.(2018)-III-895/J Dated 22-12-2020 issued by Finance Department Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir)
**Sd/- Executive Engineer
JPDC, Electric Division-I
Parade Jammu.**

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

ISIS bride wants chance to face UK courts, fight terror

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

UK bans Chinese envoy from Parl; angry Beijing condemns move

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

Govt. of Bihar

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Email address- cetransom.bsptcl@gmail.com
Mob. No.7763817721 Website- www.bsptcl.in
Tender Notice (NIT) NO.- 35/PR/BSPTCL/2021
(Through e-procurement mode only -www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

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

Description of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Cost of B.O.Q. (Non-Refundable)(Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee(Rs.)	Completion period
Design, Manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of 33KV, 1600A, 25KA, C2-M2 Class Vacuum Breaker with support structures, marshalling boxes, terminal connections (suitable for ACSR Moose) etc.- 150sets	3,77 Cr	7,54,728.00	11,800	5,900	6(Six) Months from NOA

Bid submission Start Date and Time	From 15:00 Hrs. of 29.09.2021
Date of Pre-bid meeting (via online mode)	On 11:00 Hrs. of 04.10.2021
Bid submission End Date and Time	Up to 15:00 Hrs. of 20.10.2021
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I):	After 16:00 Hrs. of 22.10.2021
Date of opening of price part	To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. “Bid Processing Fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS”.

2. The Cost of EMD may be paid through either Online or Offline mode. In case, Cost of EMD is opted to be paid through Offline mode, Bank Guarantee/Demand Draft for EMD in favor of “Accounts Officer, BSPTCL, Patna” must be submitted to Chief Engineer (O&M), BSPTCL, Vidut Bhawan, Patna positively up to 15:00 Hrs. of 20.10.2021 failing which the tender shall be summarily rejected. For online submissions of Cost of EMD, bidder shall must submit details of intimation to this Office by 15:00 Hrs. of 20.10.2021.

3. “Bid along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/> before the date & time specified in the NIT. The department doesn’t take responsibility for the delay/ Non submission of Tender/ Non Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/ Holidays or any other reason”.

4. **Pre-Bid meeting for the Tender shall be conducted via online mode. Interested bidders must provide the details viz. contact and email address to the Mob no.-7763817768 before schedule pre-bid meeting date.**

5. Tender may be cancelled at any stage by the competent authority without refunding the Cost of BOQ.

6. Bidder should have valid GST and all other applicable tax registration certificate and copies of the same duly attested shall be furnished.

7. No separate transportation cost shall be paid and the bidder shall have to quote the rate inclusive of transportation cost and all taxes.

8. Eligibility Criteria, tender documents along with General/Special condition, bids and any corrigendum/addendum of the tender are available only at website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

Chief Engineer (O&M)

E-tendering introduced in BSPTCL for tenders above Rs. 25 lacs. For registration log in to www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and e-Procurement Help Desk Toll free No: 1800 572 6571 , Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in
Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays).
While participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to get them registered to get user ID, Passwords and digital signature. This will enable them to access the Website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in only.

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

PR. No. 006205 (NI.NI) 2021-22
नोचल कोरोना के संघर्ष में विलुप्त जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

GLOBE TROTTER

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

PAK: 7 SOLDIERS, 5 ULTRAS KILLED IN GUN BATTLE
Peshawar: Seven Pakistani soldiers and five terrorists were killed in a gun battle in Pakistan’s restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province bordering Afghanistan on Wednesday, the military said.

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

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

Iran’s nuclear chief admits removal of damaged IAEA cameras

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

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

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

Eslami’s comments come days after

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

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

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

Taiwan drills military as concerns over China grow

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

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

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

and strategizing over an effective response.

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

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

TENDER NOTICE

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

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

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

**শিক্ষার অধিকার**
সর্বজনীন শিক্ষা, জ্ঞান
সমসাময়িক পদ্ধতিতে শিক্ষা

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

Janasanyog/CF/1344/21

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Benchmarks surge to all-time highs TELECOM, AUTO STOCKS RALLY ON REFORMS PUSH

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Rising for the second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 476.11 points or 0.82 per cent to close at its new all-time high of 58,723.20. It touched an intra-day record of 58,777.06.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 139.45 points or 0.80 per cent to its fresh closing record of 17,519.45. During the session, it touched an all-time peak of 17,532.70.

NTPC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 7.16 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel at 4.53 per cent.

HCL Tech, Titan, SBI, PowerGrid, TCS and IndusInd Bank also notched up gains.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FinMin asks IBA to play pivotal role in resurgence of economy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

“At this juncture I would urge the IBA Chairman to scout for good competent resources and technology adoption for capitalisation.

IBA should not be merely an association that passes banking issues to the RBI, it must rather strive to integrate with economic reforms for boosting growth,” Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda said.

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

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

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

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

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

Govt to sell 5% in Hindustan Copper via OFS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Reconfigure agricultural producer support: UN report

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
Regional Office: 4, Nehru Place, Tonk Road, Jaipur-15 (Rajasthan)
E-Tender Notice
An e-tender notice is invited, under two-bid system for appointment of regular Road Transport Contractor on **GeM Portal** for two years from various dispatching Centers to various receiving centers of Rajasthan region.
Under e-tender notice **ROJ/CONTRACT/RTC/03/2021**, the bids shall be accepted **ONLINE** from 16.09.2021, 02.30 PM to 06.10.2021, 02.00 PM. All the Terms & Conditions and other details are available on **Government E-Marketplace (GeM) Portal website https://gem.gov.in** and Corporation's website www.fci.gov.in.
General Manager (Region)

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone:- 0135-2763808, Fax:- 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com
RO No. 671 **Date Extension Notice- 05** **Date: 14.09.2021**
Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the e-NIT No. **NCB/01/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22** & **NCB/02/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22** invited by the office of the Executive Engineer Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar is being extended as below:
Last Date & Time for submission of bids on the portal Upto 17:00 hrs of 18.10.2021
Date & Time of Opening of bids on the portal at 11:00 hrs of 19.10.2021
Information regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website.
Full & Further Details of tender can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in".
Executive Engineer (PCM)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Sunny, S/o Vinod, R/o Jhuggi near Sai Baba Mandir, Madipur Metro Station, Delhi, Age: 10 years, Height: 3'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, wearing Multi colour T-Shirt, Half Blue colour Jeans Nikkar and Blue colour Chappal in feet,** has been missing from nearby area of Ashoka Park Metro Station since 03.09.2021. In this regard a **FIR No. 835/21 U/S 363 IPC, dated 05.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi
DP/551/WD/2021 Ph. No.: 8287641531, 8750871124

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

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Md. Usman Qureshi** S/o Md. Haji Mustkin Qureshi R/o H. No. 98A, DDA Flat, Shastri Park, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 118/18 U/s 63/65 CR Act dated 19.05.2018 registered at P.S. Seelampur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Md. Usman Qureshi** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Md. Usman Qureshi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Md. Usman Qureshi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.10.2021**.
By Order
Sh. Arun Kumar Garg,
DP/1029/NE/2021 Metropolitan Magistrate - 03, Room No. 68,
(Court Notice) Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 65 Yrs., Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, ID Marks: Something written on right hand but unreadable., Place of Recovery: Near Elect. Room PF No. 11, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 15 A, U/s 174 Cr.PC, Dated 12.09.2021** has been lodged at **Police Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.** Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.
SHO P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/254/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23961522

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The Cabinet has announced several reforms for the telecom sector, including redefining adjusted gross revenue (AGR) that will now include revenues earned only from telecom services. The government calculates various levies on AGR.

“The telecom sector is one of the prime movers of the economy and the key enabler for making India a Digital Society, I welcome the Government of India’s announcement of reforms and relief measures that will enable the industry to achieve the goals of Digital India. I thank Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) for this bold initiative,” Ambani said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED
Corporate Identity Number: L17226HR1984PLC033384
Regd. Office: Behrampur Road, Village Khandasa, District Gurgaon, Haryana-122001
Phone: 0124 4809755; **E-mail:** atml_delhi@yahoo.com; **Web:** ashnoortext.com
NOTICE OF 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, INFORMATION FOR REMOTE E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE
Notice is hereby given that the 38th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to transact the business as set forth in the notice of the AGM, in compliance with General Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13th January, 2021 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs(MCA) read with General Circular No. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020, General Circular Nos. 14 & 17/2020 dated 8th April, 2020 and 13th April, 2020 respectively, Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated 15th January, 2021 and No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12th May, 2020 (collectively referred as ("relevant circulars")) permitted convening AGM through VC / OAVM, without the physical presence of the members at a common venue. In accordance with relevant circulars the AGM of the Company through VC / OAVM shall be deemed to convene at the registered office of the Company. Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC/OAVM or view the live webcast at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>. All the members participating through VC / OAVM facility shall be counted for the purpose of quorum under section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.
In compliance relevant circulars notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021 has been sent on September 6, 2021 only through electronic mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories. Members may note that the Notice and Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021 will be available on the Company's website www.ashnoortext.com, website of the Stock Exchange, i.e., BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, and on the website of Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, Link Intime India Private Limited at www.linkintime.co.in.
The Company is providing to its members facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM by electronic means (e-voting) either remotely before the AGM or during the AGM in respect of all the businesses to be transacted at the aforesaid meeting using electronic voting system to be provided by Link Intime India Private Limited. Remote e-voting period will start on Monday, 27th September, 2021 (9:30 A.M. IST) and ends at Wednesday, 29th September, 2021 (5:30 P.M. IST). During this period shareholders of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date (record date) of Thursday, September 23, 2021 may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter. Detailed procedure for voting by electronic means is given in the notice of the AGM. The members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again in AGM.
Pursuant to Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant Rules he Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Friday, September 24, 2021 to Thursday, September 30, 2021 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.
Any person becomes a member of the Company after mailing of the of notice of AGM but before cut-off date may obtain login ID and password by sending request to Mr. Swapan Kumar Naskar, AVP-North, Link Intime India Private Limited at Noble Heights, 1st Floor, Plot NH 2 C-1 Block LSC, Near Savitri Market, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 (Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent) at email ID swapan@linkintime.co.in or phone number: +91 11 49411000 for obtaining the credentials for remote e-voting. However, a person is already registered with LIPL for e-voting than existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.
In case of queries/grievances regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-Voting manual available at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>, under help section or write an email to delhi@linkintime.co.in / enotices@linkintime.co.in or may call at: Tel: +91 11 49411000 / 022 49186000 or write to Mr. Swapan Kumar Naskar or write to the Company at atml_agm@yahoo.co.in.
For and behalf of Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited
Sd/-
Suneel Gupta
Managing Director
DIN-00052084
Place: Gurugram, Haryana
Date: September 11, 2021

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO.13/UH/MM/XEN/PTV/QHT/2061 DATED 29.07.2021_HRC_181696_1	PROCUREMENT OF GI HEXAGONAL NUTS AND BOLTS UHBVN & DHBVN. DATE OF SUBMISSION UPTO 20.09.2021 (13.00 HRS.)	www.uhbvn.org.in	ccm@uhbvn.org.in

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

Lost & Found
Notice here by given Tejpal Singh Kohli S/o Kulbir Singh Kohli R/o L-7 Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-27.a member of The Panchsheel Cooperative House Building Society office at House no.107, Telephone exchange colony Zirakpur Distt Mohali Punjab membership no.7, Plot no. 84 The Panchsheel Cooperative House Building Society Ltd Ajitgarh, Distt Mohali Punjab declare that I have lost original receipts Rs 3000 and Rs 5110 and share certificate in my favour and I have applied for duplicate share certificate, receipt of payment and allotment letter. If anyone have objection please contact within 15 days to secretary of the society.
SHO P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/254/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23961522

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
TENDER NOTICE **Date: 16.09.2021**
Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

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

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For any query call on 011-49107235 ore-mail on Brpl.Eaucton@reliancecda.com
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com
Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | E-mail : brpl.eaucton@reliancecda.com | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

Virat, Rahul static at 4th & 6th | Limited spectators allowed at IPL

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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



mat.

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

places to 20th) have also made notable progress.

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

In the ODI rankings for batters, Jaskaran Malhotra of the United States,

who struck sixes in an over from Papua New Guinea's Gaudi Toka in a World Cup Super League 2 match, has rocketed 169 places to 132nd.

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

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

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

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

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

Last year, the league was played behind closed doors in the UAE while the first half of the 2021 edition was also played inside a strict bio-bubble.

Delhi Capitals include net bowler Khejroliya in main squad

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

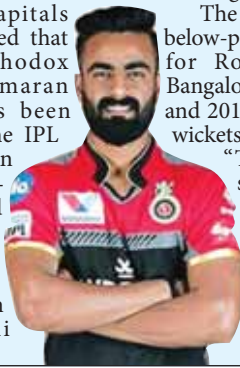
"Delhi Capitals today announced that left-arm orthodox bowler Manimaran Siddharth has been ruled out of the IPL 2021 due to an injury. The 23-year-old incurred a quadriceps strain during training in Dubai," Delhi Capitals said in a release.

Left-arm medium fast bowler Khejroliya, who is already part of the Delhi Capitals team's bio-bubble as a net bowler, was readily included in the main squad.

Khejroliya, who plays domestic cricket for the Delhi state side, has so far taken 17 wickets in 15 T20 matches at an average of 23.29.

The 29-year-old had a below-par IPL debut season for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL 2018 and 2019 seasons, taking 3 wickets in 5 IPL matches.

"The DC support staff is currently overlooking Manimaran Siddharth's rehabilitation programme in Dubai," the release added.



Although the league organisers did not specify the exact number of fans who

would be let in but sources said their presence would be 50 per cent of the stadium capacity.

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell believes having the Indian Premier League in the UAE will level the playing field "a fair bit" in the T20 World Cup to be held at the same venue next month. The IPL will resume on September 19 in the UAE after being suspended in May due to the second wave of COVID-19 in India, which led to multiple cases inside its bio-bubble.

It will be followed by the T20 World Cup from October 17.

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

"Probably makes it a little bit easier for there not to be as much of a home ground advantage. For the IPL to be there to have a lot of international players that are potentially going to

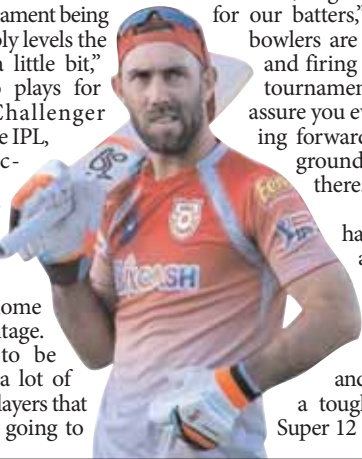
be in that World Cup over there playing, I think it's probably levelled the playing field a fair bit."

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

Maxwell said the IPL stint will help the preparation of the Australian players.

"The fact we've got a lot of guys going over for the IPL as a preparation, get a few games in those conditions, it's going to do wonders for our batters," he said. "Our bowlers are going to be up and firing by the time the tournament starts. I can assure you everyone is looking forward to hitting the ground running over there."

Australia will have to battle it out against defending champions West Indies, world number one England and South Africa in a tough group in the Super 12 stage.



Manika Batra not in India squad



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star paddler Manika Batra was on Wednesday left out of the India squad for the Asian Championships beginning September 28 in Doha after she did not attend the mandatory national camp in Sonapat.

In the absence of the world number 56th player, 97th-ranked Sutirtha Mukherjee will lead the women's team. The other members are Ayhika Mukherjee (ranked 131) and Archana Kamath (132).

Veteran Sharath Kamal (ranked 33) will spearhead the men's challenge in the company of G Sathiyar (38), Harmeet Desai (72), Manav Thakkar (134) and Sanil Shetty (247).

Powerhouse China is not taking part in the event, raising medal hopes in the men's team event. Singles and doubles competitions will also be conducted. The Table Tennis Federation of India had made it clear that any player not attending the camp will not be considered for selection.

The team was picked on Wednesday and was subsequently published on TTFI website.

The federation had made attendance in camps compulsory following the Tokyo Olympics.

Manika had informed the federation that she would like to continue training with her personal coach in Pune.



The Khel Ratna awardee has also made match fixing allegations against national coach Soumydeep Roy for asking her to throw a match during the Olympic qualifiers. TTFI has formed an inquiry panel to probe the allegations.

Sathiyar, Desai and Sutirtha joined the national camp late due to different reasons. Sathiyar was playing in Poland, Harmeet wasin Germany while Sutirtha had fever.

Men's team: Manav Thakkar, Sharath Kamal, G Sathiyar, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty.

Men's doubles: Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyar; Manav Thakkar and Harmeet Desai.


Women's team: Sutirtha Mukherjee, Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee, Archana Kamath.



WHY DEplete WHAT COMpleTES US? SAVE OZONE, SAVE LIFE

WORLD OZONE DAY

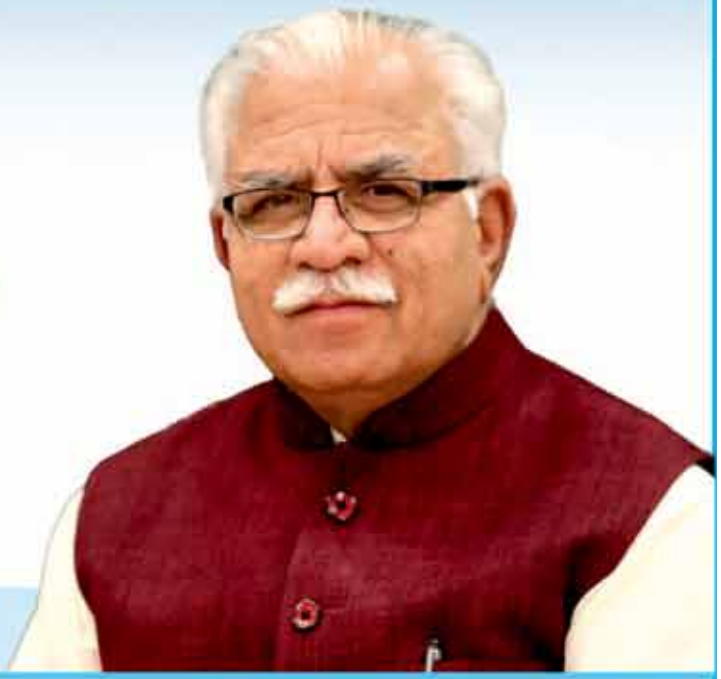
16th September, 2021




OZONE KEEPING US, OUR FOOD AND VACCINES COOL

On this World Ozone Day, let's celebrate and acknowledge the Montreal Protocol for its wider efforts for slowing down climate change and helping to boost energy efficiency in the cooling sector, which contributes to food security

*Earth without Ozone is like a house without roof,
Let's take oath to protect it and save life on earth.*



“
The world community has joined hands to preserve the Ozone layer and the job has been done well. Let us all take inspiration from this success and work with same enthusiasm towards protecting the environment and to create a bright, healthy and joyful world for the future generations.”
– Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, HARYANA

SCO 1-3, Sec 17-D, Chandigarh, Phone Numbers: 0172 - 2701628, 2709462
Website: www.harenvironment.gov.in | Email-id: environment@hry.nic.in

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [y](#) [w](#) [h](#) [a](#) [t](#) [t](#) [@DiprHaryana](#)